With initial support from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, a project of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, The University of Texas at Austin established the national Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. The Impact Center is led by Dr. Cynthia Osborne, Associate Dean and Director of the Child and Family Research Partnership at the LBJ School.

The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center aims to serve as an integral resource that policy leaders, scholars, advocates, and funders can turn to for comprehensive reviews of the evidence on policies that strengthen outcomes for infants, toddlers, and their families. The Impact Center will also provide new opportunities for collaboration and facilitate the critical exchange of information between research, policy, and practice. These insights will help states shape early childhood policies related to maternal and child health, parenting and family supports, and early learning environments.

WHY PRENATAL-TO-3?

The period from prenatal development to age three (PN-3) is the most sensitive period for the developing brain and body, and one that lays the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. Limited exposure to adversity and the presence of safe, stable, loving relationships are the keys to healthy early development. Yet this period is often challenging for parents, and families can benefit from a strong early childhood system of care to help their children thrive.

States are actively working to support early development by implementing policies and programs that enhance maternal and child health, foster parenting skills and family supports, and strengthen early care environments. However, state leaders, advocates, and funders often have little access to researchers who can help define where to start when prioritizing policies that promote strong systems of care. These leaders are seeking evidence from science and evaluation research to guide their policy development so that it is cost-effective, impactful, and reduces disparities in children’s health and wellbeing.

"Science is telling us that better outcomes for very young children facing adversity can be achieved by strengthening caregiver-child relationships, building core skills in parents, and reducing stresses on families. This new center will provide a powerful platform for making those scientific insights actionable, informing new, state-level investments that produce greater impact at scale”

-- Dr. Jack Shonkoff, member of Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center National Advisory Council and founding director of Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

Strengthening the Earliest Years through Research and Collaboration
PN-3 STATE POLICY ROADMAP

Based on a collaborative process with leading voices from the early childhood field, the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at The University of Texas at Austin will provide an annual Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap to help states and communities build effective PN-3 systems of care. The PN-3 State Policy Roadmap will provide information on effective state-level policies that have a strong evidence-base for promoting healthy beginnings, strengthening families, and providing quality care environments for children. Each year, the Impact Center will measure the progress in each state toward improving the health and well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families through a comprehensive and transparent analysis of PN-3 policy development and implementation. Through the development of the Roadmap, scholars, program evaluators, policymakers, and advocates will work together to:

- Interpret complex academic research and often nuanced program evaluations;
- Identify gaps in research and evaluation, and
- Conduct new research to understand the full impact of PN-3 solutions.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A National Advisory Council (NAC) comprised of leaders from the early childhood field will guide the development of the PN-3 State Policy Roadmap and foster rich dialogue among scholars, practitioners, state leaders, advocates, and funders. The inaugural National Advisory Council includes:

- **Christina Altmayer**, First 5 LA
- **Joia Crear-Perry**, National Birth Equity Collaborative
- **Libby Doggett**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning, U.S. Department of Education
- **Greg Duncan**, University of California at Irvine
- **Janet Froetscher**, J.B. & M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation
- **Libby Gonzales**, New Mexico Department of Health
- **A.J. Griffin**, former Oklahoma State Senator
- **Thomas Hedrick**, Dillon Joyce Ltd
- **Iheoma Iruka**, HighScope Educational Research Foundation
- **Brenda Jones Harden**, University of Maryland
- **Ruth Kagi**, former Washington State Representative
- **John King**, The Education Trust
- **David Lakey**, The University of Texas System
- **Joan Lombardi**, Early Opportunities LLC
- **Michael Lu**, UC Berkeley School of Public Health
- **Tammy Mann**, Campagna Center
- **Ron Mincy**, Columbia University
- **Geoff Nagle**, Erikson Institute
- **Jessie Rasmussen**, Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- **Jack Shonkoff**, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University
- **Margaret Spellings**, Texas 2036
- **Jim Spurlino**, Spurlino Materials
- **David Willis**, Center for the Study of Social Policy

A multidisciplinary UT Austin Scholars Group will also connect the work of the Impact Center to scholarship and resources across the premier academic institution of The University of Texas at Austin and beyond.

To facilitate the ongoing collaboration between those who research early childhood and those who implement PN-3 policies and programs, the Impact Center will:

- Host an annual state-of-the-field meeting;
- Create learning collaboratives between scholars and practitioners;
- Develop an interactive website to exchange information, and
- Provide dashboards for state policymakers and advocates to monitor their progress toward creating a strong PN-3 system of care.

Learn more and sign-up for email updates at childandfamilyresearch.utexas.edu/pn3.