



# Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health

National Webinar

January 21, 2026  
2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

X@HealthyAmerica1  @tfah.bsky.social  
 tfah.org



## Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health:

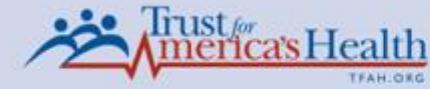
OPPORTUNITIES, BARRIERS, AND STRATEGIES

*A Report of the Promoting Health and Cost Control in States Initiative*



ISSUE REPORT

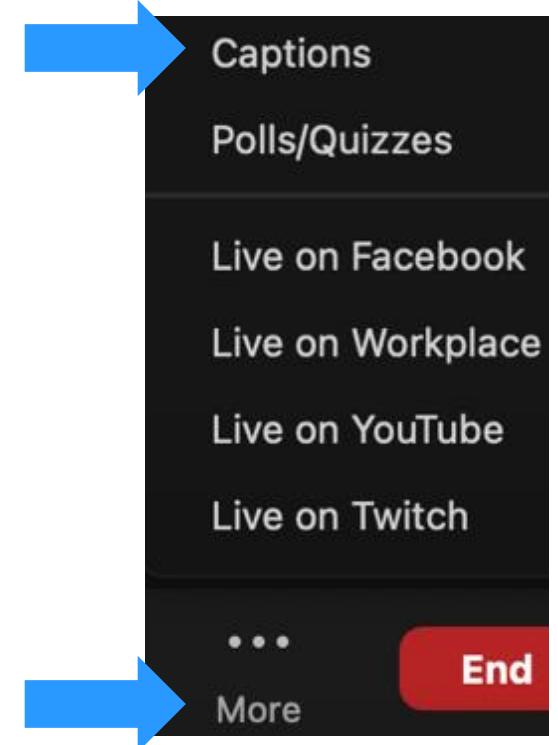
DECEMBER 2025



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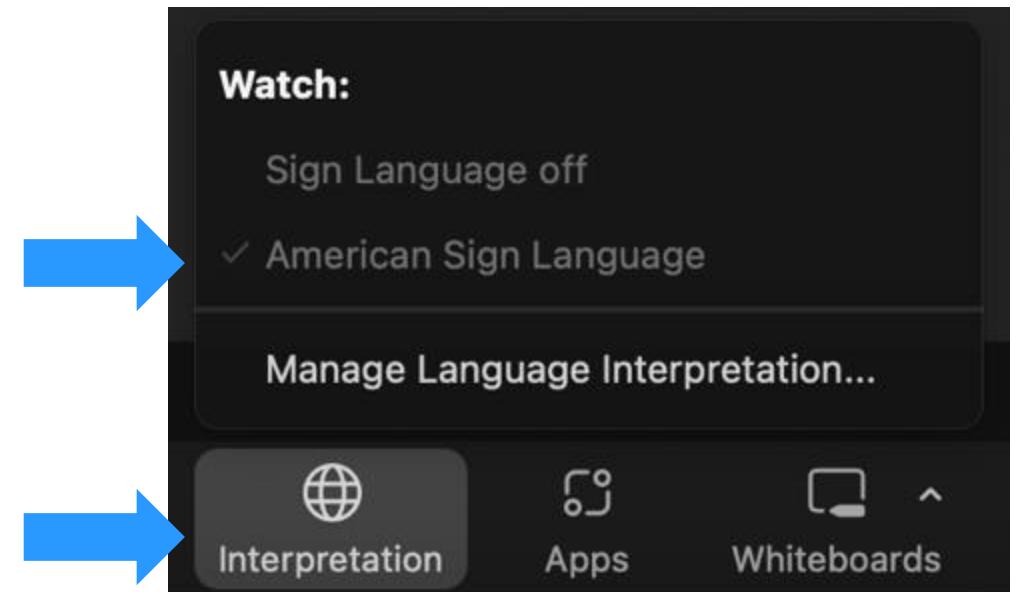
1. At the bottom of your screen, click to open **More**
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# ASL Interpreting

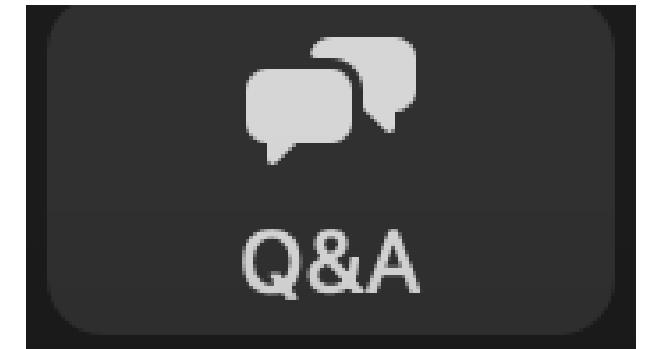
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## Q&A Feature

1. At the bottom of your screen, click to open the Q&A panel
2. Type your question in the **Q&A box**
3. Hit **Enter**





# Moderator

**Breanca Merritt, Ph.D.**

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Director of Policy

Trust for America's Health

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# Agenda

- Welcome and Overview of ***Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health***
- Panelist Presentations
- Q&A
- Closing



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# ***Report Overview: Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health***

## **A Report of TFAH's Promoting Health and Cost Control in States (PHACCS) Initiative**



# Background: PHACCS Initiative

Began in 2018 as initiative to support states in identifying primarily SDOH-related, evidence-based policies to reduce costs and inequities.

Goals	Policies
<b>Support the Connections Between Health and Learning</b>	Universal pre-K, school nutrition
<b>Employ Harm-Reduction Strategies</b>	Syringe access
<b>Promote Healthy Behavior</b>	Smoke-free policies, tobacco and alcohol pricing
<b>Promote Active Living and Connectedness</b>	Complete streets/equitable transportation
<b>Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Housing for All</b>	Housing rehabilitation loans, rapid re-housing
<b>Create Opportunities for Economic Well-Being</b>	Earned Income Tax Credits, paid sick and family leave, fair hiring (Ban the Box)

Goals	Policies
<b>Supporting access to high-quality health services</b>	Medicaid expansion, home visiting, community health workers
<b>Promoting economic mobility</b>	EITC, living wage, paid sick and family leave
<b>Ensuring access to affordable housing</b>	Low-income housing tax credits, housing choice vouchers, legal supports for eviction
<b>Promoting safe and healthy learning environments for children</b>	High quality ECE, more access to national school meals, school-based health centers
<b>Health-promoting excise taxes</b>	Tobacco, alcohol, sugar-sweetened beverages



# 2024-25 Updates

## Question:

- How are states progressing in implementing the evidence-based policies in PHACCS?

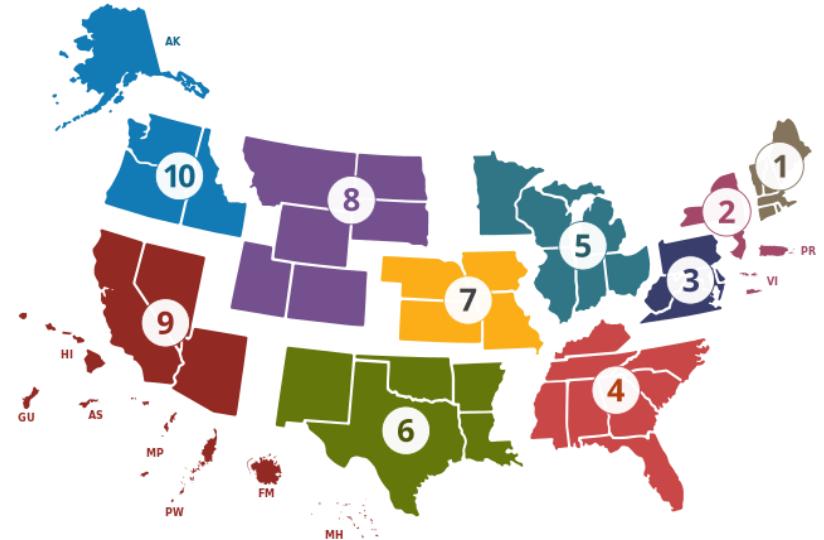
## Goals:

- Identify challenges, opportunities, and progress in enacting and implementing PHACCS policies
- Understand support needed by states and organizations in identifying shared goals, barriers, and facilitators in advancing these policies



# Analysis and Perspectives from Community Partners

- **Listening sessions** with advocates, direct service providers, local and state government, research institutions, tribal entities across HHS regions
- **Convening** with national organizations that support local leaders and advocates
- **Thematic analysis** of discussions and **policy analysis** of specific efforts and ongoing budget challenges



# Section I: A Changing Policy Environment

- **Policy Context Since 2020:** Lists out primarily COVID-19 investments including investments outside of CDC
- **Federal Changes and State Opportunity Environment:** Documents shifts in federal capacity and funding that may affect PHACCS policy adoption and implementation, targeted to agencies and offices that support drivers of good health.



# Section I: A Changing Policy Environment

- **Preemption:** Documents how preemption hinders local efforts in employment, smoke-free air policies, alcohol sales, and housing
- **Laws limiting health equity efforts:** Health equity incorporated throughout the first reports; important to update how the policy environment has shifted since then
- **State budget limitations:** With recent and proposed federal funding cuts, states will be called to stretch their budgets. Provides a glance into how some states are facing those pressures in the context of PHACCS policies.



# Section II: What's Working for States

## Strategies that Support Adoption and Implementation



Use local/community evidence to support need for policy



Build effective  
collaboration across  
key partners



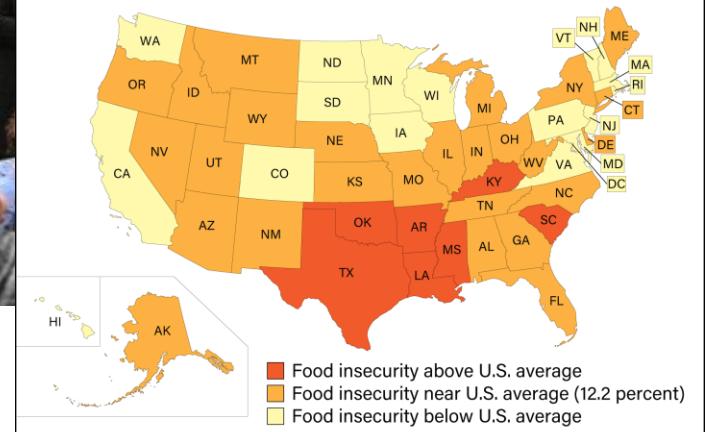
## Ensure community buy-in



Effectively communicate  
importance of an issue



Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2021-22



Note: States that are categorized as near U.S. average have prevalence rates not statistically significantly different from the U.S. average.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

# Section II: What's Working for States

## Challenges in Adopting and Implementing Policies



Insufficient funding



Unsupportive  
political environment



Lack of community  
buy-in



Administrative and legal  
barriers



**“ For the last year, the New Jersey Senate has sat on Senate bill S1493. Casino workers are forced to breathe toxic air daily. New Jersey lawmakers have the opportunity to finally right this wrong by passing Senate bill S1493 now.**



Cynthia Hallett, MPH  
President & CEO, ANR/F

# Section III: Progress & Highlights of PHACCS Policies

- Background on each policy
- Updates on health & economic benefits
- Federal supports & recent structural changes to those supports
- Proposed budget & policy changes
- State examples from listening sessions

## Goal 1. Support the Connections Between Health and Learning

	FY 24	Agency's Proposed Budget	FY26 President's Budget	FY26 Senate	FY26 House
<b>Head Start</b>	12,271,820,000	12,271,820,000	12,272,000,000	12,356,820,000	12,271,820,000
<b>National Lunch Program</b>	18,150,000,000	18,096,297,000	18,096,000,000	17,183,209,000	17,183,209,000
<b>National Breakfast Program</b>	6,140,966,000	6,675,168,000	6,675,000,000	6,675,168,000	6,675,168,000

 KSAT  
San Antonio's Complete Streets policy lands top ranking in nationwide report 

Jun 27 • By Mason Hickok

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 Louisiana Illuminator  
Louisiana adopts paid family leave for 70,000 state workers 

Nov 9, 2023 • By Julie O'donoghue

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 The Virginia Independent  
Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoes bill to allow workers to take paid family and medical leave 

May 23 • By Josh Israel

# Takeaways and Additional Resources

- Though complex, cross-sector collaboration more important than ever to advance the public's health
- Similar policy strategies and challenges exist across states and communities
- Bipartisan opportunities still exist to advance PHACCS policies...
- ...There is a limit to how much states can pursue without federal support in some cases

## PHACCS State Profiles

Trends within states about their progress on policies supported by PHACCS

## *Seven Strategies to Support State-level Health Promoting Policies*

Guidance for national orgs to engage state advocates and government

Ongoing research into best practices



# Speakers



**Jovanna Archuleta**

Early Childhood Program Director  
LANL Foundation



**Francis Torres**

Director for Housing and Infrastructure  
Bipartisan Policy Center



**Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW**

Chief Executive Officer  
Louisiana Public Health Institute





## **Jovanna Archuleta**

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Early Childhood Program Director  
LANL Foundation

[lanlfoundation.org](http://lanlfoundation.org)





## Francis Torres

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Director for Housing and Infrastructure  
Bipartisan Policy Center

[bipartisanpolicy.org](http://bipartisanpolicy.org)





## **Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW**

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Chief Executive Officer  
Louisiana Public Health Institute

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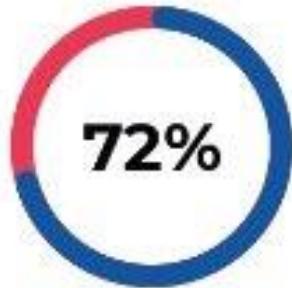
## Our Mission

The Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) is committed to ensuring all Louisianians have fair and just opportunities to be healthy and well.

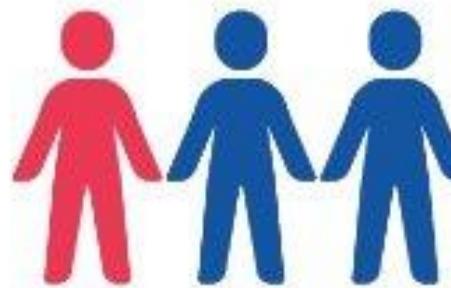
# Why Paid Leave?

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## PFML Fast Facts



Seventy-two percent of working people in Louisiana do not have paid family and medical leave through their jobs - about 1.5 million workers.<sup>[2]</sup>



Nearly one in three seriously ill workers either lose their jobs or have to change jobs because of their illness. [5] PFML can help workers balance their health needs with work and keep their jobs.

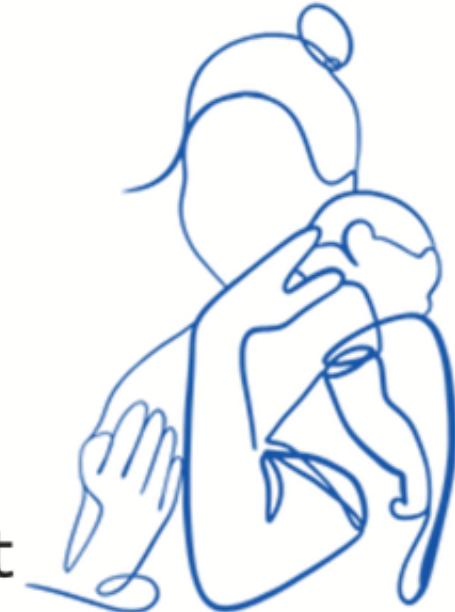
## PPL improves **health outcomes** through:

- Reduced rates of infant mortality
- Increased rates and duration of breastfeeding
- Decreased symptoms of postpartum depression

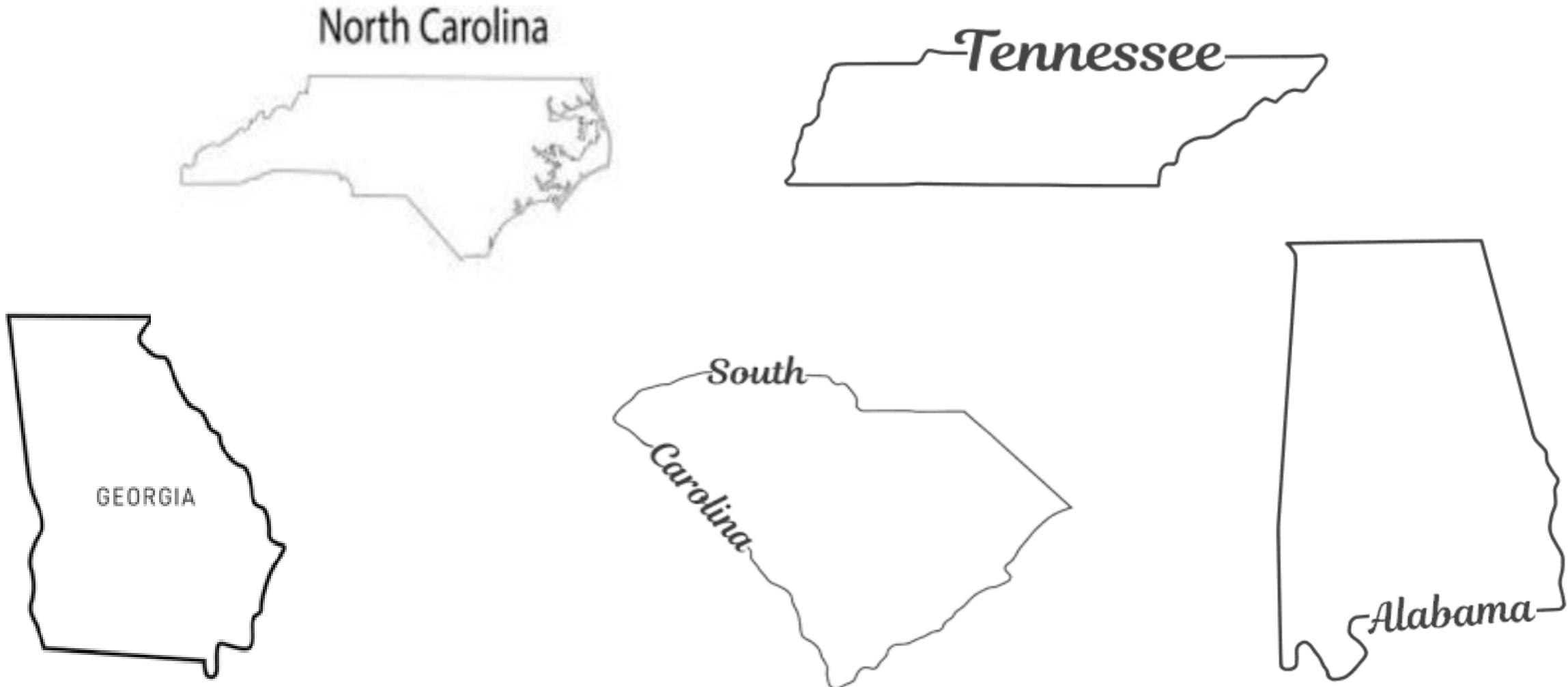
# Highlights & Wins



- ◆ **2019 President Trump** Signs the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act granting 12 weeks of paid leave to federal employees
- ◆ September 2023 State **Civil Service passed rule** creating 6 weeks of paid parental leave for 35,000 classified state employees
- ◆ November 2023 **Gov. Edwards extended** that benefit to 35,500 unclassified employees
- ◆ **2024 Gov. Landry** preserved benefit for unclassified employees in September 2024
- ◆ Next step: K- 12 Educators



# Paid Parental for K-12 Staff in Peer States



# Time to Care LA



Mary Amelia Center  
for Women's Health  
Equity Research



United Way of  
Southeast Louisiana



# Submit Questions for Our Moderator and Panelists



**Breanca Merritt, Ph.D.**

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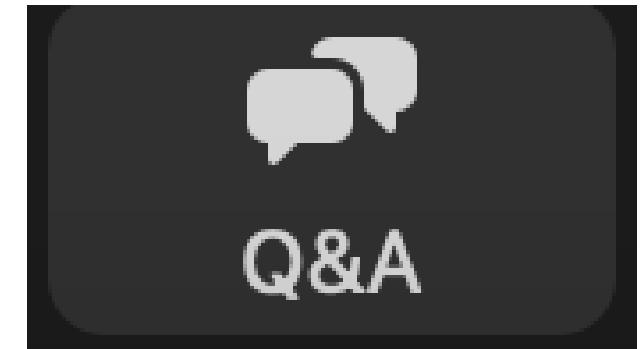


**Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW**

Chief Executive Officer  
Louisiana Public Health  
Institute

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# Thank You to Our Moderator and Panelists



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Director of Policy  
Trust for America's Health



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Early Childhood Program  
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- Wellness and Prevention Digest
- Health Security and Preparedness Newsletter
- Well Being Working Group Write Up
- Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Newsletter



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# THANK YOU!

**The recording and slides will be available at  
[tfah.org](http://tfah.org)**

