

The coalition supports the following policy pillars as a blueprint to build and strengthen a culture of life in our nation:

| Providing Parents with Flexible Resources to Support Birth and Early Childhood:

Parents consistently report the financial burden of childbearing and childrearing, more than half of abortions take place among low-income families, and women choosing abortions consistently cite financial limitations as a reason for choosing to abort the child. A greater culture of life would minimize the financial burden on parents to underscore the moral and societal value of preserving such life. To do so, the coalition promotes two core policies: **extension and expansion of the child tax credit** (including greater levels of refundability) and institution of a **federal paid family leave policy** to get more resources in the hands of parents in the fourth trimester.

| Making Childcare Possible:

Many pregnant moms and new parents face the dual stressors of being present for a new child and ensuring they have the resources to support their families. Safe and affordable childcare is essential to making this possible, particularly for low- and middle-income families who cannot meet their needs under a single earner. The coalition supports **increasing resources for childcare, ensuring that faith-based providers have access to such resources, and leveling the playing field for families that would prefer a stay-at-home parent or relative care.**

| Meeting Healthcare Needs:

Healthcare challenges are at the forefront of pregnant moms' and new parents' minds. The coalition supports strengthening healthcare resources and services for children and parents, mainly by examining services available under SCHIP and the WIC program, expanding Medicaid to cover post-partum care, and greater support of community health **and pregnancy resource centers.**

| Supporting Adoptive Parents:

Supporting adoption is one of the most important ways to create communities of care and a culture of life. The availability of adoptive services can be a significant motivator for mothers to carry a child to term. The coalition supports reducing the financial burdens of adoption by expanding **the adoption tax credit** and taking steps to **simplify and streamline the adoption process, strengthen the foster care system through nonprofit partnerships,** and **harmonize resources available to biological and adoptive parents with young children.**

| Increasing Information Availability to Pregnant and New Mothers:

Many pregnant and new mothers are unaware of the array of federal, state, and local resources available to them to support them in their pregnancy and parenting journey. The coalition supports greater clarity and availability of resource information by creating **a national “one-stop” online resource website** and **increasing information available on college campuses and workplaces**.

| Ensuring Information Access and Greater Partnership Between Government, Faith-Based, and Nonprofit Partners:

Churches, nonprofits, and other private organizations are essential players in a culture of life and already account for billions of dollars of care-related resources. These organizations provide crucial resources and offer relational networks needed to support new parents and children and set them up for lifelong growth and care. The coalition supports **greater information-sharing between government and faith-based/nonprofit organizations, resources to support nonprofit and faith-based social services initiatives, and more robust legal protections for faith-based organizations partnering with government actors**.

| Strengthening mentorship opportunities and relational networks:

Research consistently shows that strong relational networks and dedicated mentoring are among the most effective means of advancing upward mobility and helping families navigate the complexities of post-pregnancy life. Children and new parents need these relationships, not just financial support, to ensure long-term flourishing. The coalition supports **mentoring initiatives in partnership with local and faith-based organizations and a greater focus on mentoring partnerships in schools and social services programs**.



The coalition supports robust advocacy for these pillars on both a federal and state level, recognizing that in many cases, states have greater capacity to pass laws suited to their residents and context than the federal government. As such, the coalition encourages states to examine these pillars and implement policies advancing them as they work to **protect and defend life**.