



Dear Partners and Friends,

As a psychologist and infant mental health specialist, I've sat with many families during their most vulnerable moments: new parents navigating depression, toddlers struggling with anxiety, caregivers carrying the weight of trauma they never asked for. One mother I met early in my career told me through tears that she felt invisible. She had survived a childhood marked by neglect, and now, with a newborn in her arms, feared she was destined to repeat the cycle. Supporting this mother in her desire to create a more loving, responsive bond with her child was a privilege.

I think we all know, deep down, that the first months and years of life are powerful, and that a child's emotional foundation is shaped by the care they receive early on. Research over the last few decades has confirmed this again and again, and yet our systems of care haven't caught up; only a tiny percentage of families are able to access the supports that would be transformative to them during the perinatal period. Perigee was created in 2018 to help fix that.

In our first 6 years, we've funded over 200 grantee partners across the country--from grassroots organizations to national institutions. Their bold leadership, vision, and commitment is helping shape a future where families are supported, relationships are nurtured, and healing is possible. These partners inspire us every day. The progress we celebrate today is possible because of their dedication.

There is more work ahead, but today we pause to reflect and celebrate. Thank you for building this movement with us.

With deep appreciation,

Lisa Mennet, Ph.D. FOUNDER, PERIGEE FUND



A Future Built on Early Relationships

One belief has guided Perigee from the beginning: early relationships shape lifelong health. Babies thrive when the adults who care for them are supported. Healing, equity, and mental health must be central to how we build systems, shape policy, and support families.

The first years of the Perigee Fund laid a strong foundation. Now, we're deepening our commitment through a clear strategic framework:

- **Expand access** to trauma-responsive, relationship-based mental health care—so every family can receive support when and where they need it.
- **Strengthen the workforce** with professionals equipped to deliver effective, culturally grounded care for infants, young children, and caregivers.
- **Relieve financial stress** through direct cash support during pregnancy and early parenting, giving families space to bond and recover.

We envision a world where mental health begins before birth, systems are shaped around families, and every caregiver has what they need to thrive.

This work spans generations. And it's just beginning. Let's keep shaping what's next, together.



Why "Perigee"?

Perigee is the moment when the moon orbits closest to Earth, symbolizing closeness, connection, and the power of relationships. For babies and caregivers, these early bonds form a secure base from which children can safely explore their world, venturing out with confidence, then returning for comfort, reassurance, and connection.

When these early interactions flow smoothly, they nurture growth, curiosity, and trust. But when trauma, stress, or systemic barriers disrupt this vital cycle, exploration feels less safe, and the return less comforting, challenging both parent and child.

At Perigee Fund, our mission is aspirational: we strive to support families in creating these secure, nurturing relationships from the very start. We invest in models of care, community support, and policies designed to ease the impacts of trauma and promote emotional safety. This is why we center our work in maternal mental health (MMH) and infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), ensuring that caregivers and babies have the right supports to thrive together.



How Trauma Is Passed Down and How We Can Interrupt the Cycle

Decades of research confirm what many families have long understood: trauma does not always stop with the person who experiences it. It can be passed down biologically, behaviorally, and through the systems that surround us, affecting children and even grandchildren.

One way trauma is passed down is through the body's stress response. When a pregnant person experiences chronic stress or untreated mental health conditions, it can raise levels of cortisol, the body's primary stress hormone. Elevated cortisol during pregnancy can cross the placenta and influence the developing brain and stress-response systems of the baby. Over time, this can leave children more vulnerable to anxiety, hypervigilance, and difficulty forming secure attachments.

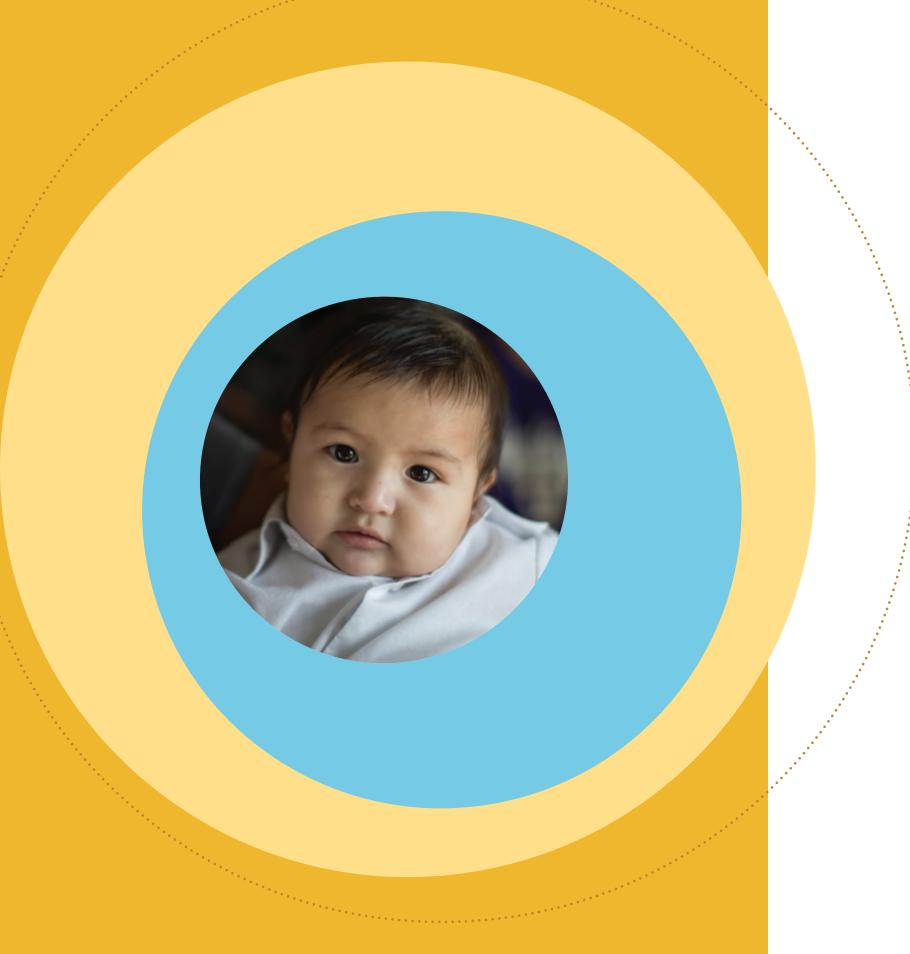
Resilience can also be passed down when families are surrounded by consistent support, trusted caregivers, and culturally grounded care. This is why investing in maternal mental health (MMH) and infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) matters. The right support at the right time can improve outcomes across multiple generations.

But that cycle can be interrupted. When families are met with understanding, stable relationships, and culturally grounded care, healing becomes possible. Services like home visiting, perinatal mental health support, and early childhood consultation provide caregivers the tools to bond with their children, regulate stress, and respond with warmth and confidence.

This is the vision we are working toward alongside our partners: a robust, equitable system of care where every family can access these supports, starting in pregnancy and continuing through early childhood. The right help at the right time can disrupt harmful cycles and plant seeds of resilience that grow for generations.

"The parent-child connection is the most powerful mental health intervention known to mankind."

BESSEL VAN DER KOLK,
AUTHOR OF THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE



UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE OF THE CRISIS

The Urgency Behind the Work

Mental health challenges during pregnancy and early childhood are among the most pressing and prevent-able public health issues. Yet they remain underrecognized and underfunded. One in five families faces significant mental health challenges each year, shaping a child's future before they even say their first words.

This is the challenge we are confronting with our partners. Perigee invests in policies, care models, and community supports that put early relationships at the center. Mental health begins before birth, and we all have a role to play in helping families thrive from the very start.

PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

1 in 5 mothers experience a mental health or substance use disorder during or after pregnancy, with higher rates in underserved communities.

75% of those who screen positive for postpartum depression never receive treatment.

Pregnant mothers with a history of trauma are at greater risk for depression, anxiety, and PTSD.

Suicide is among the leading causes of maternal death in the first postpartum year.

About 1 in 10 fathers experience postpartum depression, with higher rates when their partner also struggles.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

Over 10% of young children in the U.S. face mental health challenges. That number rises to 22% for babies in poverty.

Children in the child welfare system are 3 to 4 times more likely to have a mental health Early trauma rewire the developing brain conditioning infants for fear instead of

SYSTEM-LEVEL FAILURES

Most pediatric providers lack training to identify infant and early childhood mental health needs.

Fewer than 30% of wellchild visits in the first year include maternal mental health screening. Fewer than 15% of OB-GYNs and primary care providers feel confiden addressing perinatal

ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL COSTS

Untreated maternal mental health conditions cost approximately \$32,000 per mother-infant pair. Nationally, untreated perinatal mental health conditions amount to an estimated \$14 billion annually in avoidable healthcare, lost productivity, and child development costs.

Investments in early relational health programs yield returns of up to \$15 for every \$1 spent by reducing future costs across healthcare, education, and justice systems.



A Movement in Motion

Working with our partners, including advocates, providers, and fellow philanthropies, we have seen this field make significant strides over the past seven years. Here's a snapshot of what that progress looks like.

THEN 2017–2018		NOW 2024–2025
MMH and IECMH were rarely mentioned in state or federal policy conversations	\rightarrow	MMH and IECMH are now named in national strategies, budget proposals, and state policies across 40+ states
First \$5M in federal grants awarded for infant mental health	\rightarrow	Over \$100M in new federal IECMH funding and \$180M in MMH funding secured through advocacy
No federal maternal mental health hotline existed	\rightarrow	A national 24/7 hotline launched, staffed by professionals, and serving tens of thousands of families
Only 7 states had perinatal psychiatry access programs	\rightarrow	29 states now offer programs that improve care through provider consultation and training
Limited field recognition of racial and cultural diversity in MMH and IECMH fields	\rightarrow	Diverse PMH and IECMH leaders increasingly recognized, resourced, and connected
Community-rooted models were underfunded and overlooked	\rightarrow	Dozens of BIPOC-led models are now funded, visible, and influencing policy and practice
Funders worked in silos	\rightarrow	300+ philanthropic leaders are now aligned through MMH and Early Relational Health collaboratives co-led by Perigee
State-level wins were isolated and under-resourced	\rightarrow	Washington is now recognized as a national leader in Medicaid expansion, doula reimbursement, and early relational health strategy

Impact by the Numbers

A celebration of growth, momentum, and the families at the heart of it all.

In our first five years, Perigee Fund has partnered with more than 200 extraordinary grantees to advance the field of infant and maternal mental health. Their leadership and vision have fueled new care models, deeper investment, and greater visibility for a once-overlooked area. These figures reflect both our direct funding and the broader momentum we've helped catalyze together. We've made important strides, but much remains to ensure every family has the support they need.

DIRECT INVESTMENTS AND GRANTMAKING

\$112.7M+

in grants distributed since 2018

576

grants to organizations advancing infant and maternal mental health and family wellbeing

150

families supported through The Nest pilot, an Indigenous-led guaranteed basic income program, receiving \$1,250 per month for over 3 years

\$500M+

of new annual funding in WA state for early childhood systems

CATALYZING BROADER SYSTEMS CHANGE

\$180M+

in new federal MMH funding secured through advocacy partnerships

\$100M+

in new federal IECMH funding advanced by national coalitions

29

states with perinatal psychiatry access programs, up from only 7

300+

philanthropic partners engaged in collaborative networks focused on early relationships and mental health

\$13.3M

in wage replacement reached WA families through PFML outreach. Perigee helped more families access paid leave during pregnancy and early parenting.

\$5.8M

pooled from 13 funders for the MMH Equity Fund. Perigee launched and co-led this national fund supporting BIPOC-led maternal mental health care.

3,000

3,000 new clinicians and peer supporters trained to expand culturally grounded, trauma-informed care nationwide.

Highlights from the Field

A selection of partnerships from Perigee Fund's investments between 2018 and 2024.

Where
Change
Takes Root



Care

GROWING A DIVERSE AND EQUITABLE FIELD

For decades, mental health care has been designed around systems that often overlook or misunderstand the cultural strengths and needs of families of color. Providers are scarce, training opportunities are limited, and models of care that honor culture and identity have historically been underfunded and overlooked. These inequities leave many families without access to trusted, culturally sensitive support during pregnancy and early childhood, when help matters most.

Perigee Fund invests in building a stronger, more diverse, and better-prepared workforce while resourcing culturally sensitive care models that prioritize identity, healing, and connection. By supporting programs grounded in cultural understanding, expanding training opportunities for professionals of color, and growing peer-based support networks, we are helping to ensure that families have access to providers who see them, understand their context, and meet them where they are.

Perigee Fund invests in community-led models and a workforce that reflects the families it serves. Centering cultural wisdom, identity, and connection, these efforts strengthen trust and equity in mental health care. By advancing training, leadership, and trauma-informed practice, Perigee is helping build a field rooted in cultural humility and relational care for all families.

Culturally Specific Models

Birth Justice Models and Initiatives

HealthConnect One, Open Arms, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services, Indigenous Birth Justice Network

Supported women-of-color and Indigenous-led organizations to expand services and elevate community-defined birthing and parenting models, helping attract multimillion-dollar philanthropic investment.

Community is Here to Intervene for More Equitable Solutions/ "CHIMES" Prevention Program

Institute for Black Justice

Offers trauma-informed support to Black families to prevent or heal from child welfare involvement.

I.N.S.P.I.R.E Method

Shades of Blue Project

Expanded a maternal mental health journaling and group support model for Black birthing people nationwide.

Latine Parent, Infant, and Early Childhood Mental Health

La Cocina, Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants and Refugees

Launched trauma-informed mental health programs reflecting Latine and immigrant/refugee cultural values.

Mind Body Culture Program

Voices of Tomorrow

Built a trauma healing approach tailored for the mental health needs of East African refugee and immigrant families.

Integrative Cultural Treatment Model

Colville Confederated Tribes, Empire
Health Foundation, and the Tribal Leadership
Alliance

By and for Indigenous families, this model merges traditional healing with mental health care in a community-defined support system.

Workforce Development

Advanced Clinical Training Program/"ACT"

University of Washington Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Expanded clinical training for early childhood mental health professionals across WA.

Certificate Programs in IECMH

Georgetown University Thrive Center

Launched virtual and in-person trainings for clinicians and parent leaders.

Perinatal Mental Health Alliance for People of Color

Postpartum Support International

Strengthened leadership and expanded workforce diversity in perinatal mental health.

Diversity Collective and IMH Clinical Fellowship

ZERO TO THREE

Resourced IECMH leaders who are breaking new ground and advancing the field.

Mothers and Babies Depression Prevention Model

Northwestern University Center for Community Health

Adapted and spread an evidence-based depression prevention model for use by home visitors in public health and community settings.

Perinatal Support Washington and Center for Early Relational Health

Akin 🐙

Funded organizational development for two core field support organizations in Washington state.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

LA LIFT Medical-Financial Partnership

Healing at the Intersection of Money and Medicine

In LA, clinics partnered with financial counselors to integrate economic support into prenatal care. With Perigee's support through Pediatrics Supporting Parents, this approach eased maternal stress and empowered families. One parent, after avoiding eviction with help from her counselor, said, "It felt like I could breathe again."



For too many families, mental health care is something they must search for in moments of crisis, rather than something seamlessly woven into the places they already turn for help. Systems are fragmented, providers are under-resourced, and support is often out of reach, especially for families facing systemic barriers. This leaves parents navigating pregnancy and early childhood without the care that could help them thrive.

Perigee Fund invests in bringing mental health support into the everyday systems where families already are—pediatric clinics, OB visits, childcare centers, home visiting programs, and community-based services, so help is accessible, stigma is reduced, and care feels natural, trusted, and timely.

Connection

EMBEDDING MENTAL HEALTH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Think Babies and Strolling Thunder Campaigns

ZERO TO THREE

Too often, babies are left out of policy conversations that shape their futures. These campaigns elevate family voices to advance policies supporting babies' healthy development and caregiver wellbeing. Perigee invests in this national effort to ensure families are seen, heard, and supported from the start.

Maternal Mental Health Advocacy

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance, MomsRising, Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health, and Shades of Blue

Families have long struggled to find mental health care during pregnancy and postpartum. Perigee supports partners driving policy change to expand access through OB visits, home-based care, military health services, and employer benefits, bringing help closer to families when they need it most.

Washington Families Together Initiative

Pierce County Early Childhood Network, Institute for Black Justice, YWCA Homeward House, and Evergreen Recovery Center

Many families in the child welfare system face overwhelming challenges with limited support.

Launched in 2020, this five-year initiative expands caregiver mental health services, peer support, and culturally responsive care—helping families stay together and heal during difficult times.

Integrating Relational Health into Pediatric Care

Pediatrics Supporting Parents

Pediatric visits often overlook families' emotional and relational needs. This national collaborative is redefining well-child care by centering caregiver-child connection and emotional well-being. With five demonstration sites, including one in Washington, it's proving that early relational support leads to better long-term outcomes.

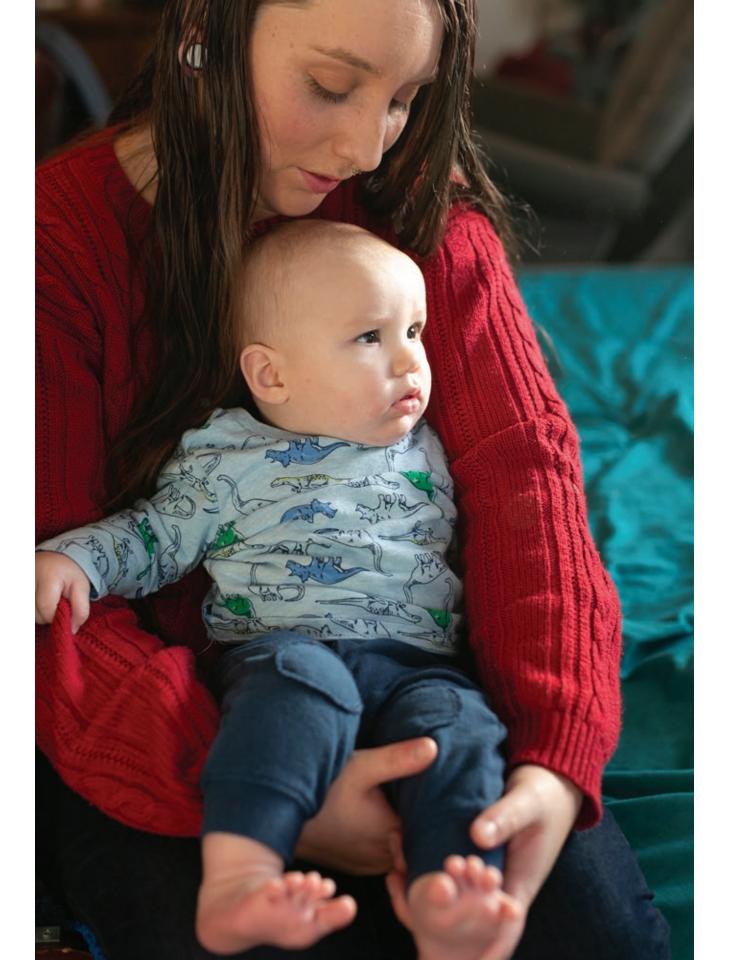
NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Homeward House

A Path to Reunification

Facing housing instability, substance use recovery, and separation from her toddler, Melissa risked losing custody of her newborn. Homeward House surrounded her with peer advocates, mental health care, and relational support. She kept custody of her baby, reunited with her older child, and now serves as a parent leader, guiding other families through reunification.





NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Perinatal Support WA

Meeting Parents Where They Are

Once a volunteer-run warmline, Perinatal Support WA has grown into a statewide hub offering support groups, clinician training, and referrals in multiple languages. In one call, a mother phoned the warmline at 2am, unsure if she was having a crisis. "They didn't rush me. They helped me breathe. They helped me see I wasn't broken."

Lifeline for Moms Network of Perinatal Psychiatric Access Programs

UMass Chan Medical School

Many general practitioners are hesitant to treat pregnant and postpartum patients with mental health concerns, unsure where to turn for guidance. With few specialized providers and limited training, OBs and pediatricians often face these challenges alone. Perigee supported the expansion of psychiatric access programs connecting frontline providers with perinatal mental health experts through real-time consultation. Now active in 29 states, this model helps ensure mothers get timely, informed care, wherever they live or whoever they see first.

Holding Hope Consultation

Child Care Aware of WA

Childcare providers are often on the front lines of infant and toddler development but rarely have access to mental health expertise. Holding Hope brings infant mental health professionals into childcare settings to support staff, reduce expulsions, and strengthen the bonds between caregivers and children. With Perigee's support, this model is now improving care environments across Washington State.

Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

University of California San Francisco, Child Trauma Research Program

When trauma affects a young child, it often impacts the caregiver too, and healing requires support for both. CPP treats the parent and child together, helping them process trauma, rebuild trust, and form stronger bonds. Perigee helped launch and sustain CPP in Washington by funding the state's first trainers and partnering on long-term integration. Today, CPP is embedded across early childhood systems, offering evidence-based healing to families navigating trauma.

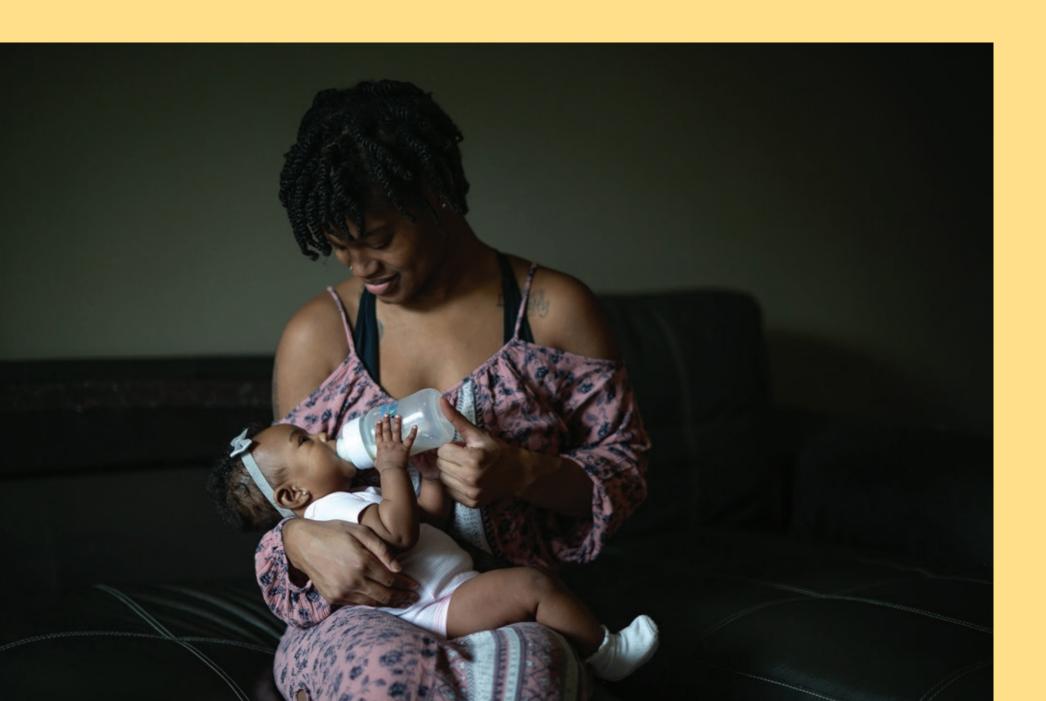
Nurture Connection

CSSP and Georgetown University

Families often leave pediatric visits without support for the emotional and relational needs of early childhood. Nurture Connection is building a national network to change that, centering strong, nurturing relationships in pediatric practice. With Perigee's support, the initiative is advancing policies and practices that help babies and caregivers thrive together.

Catalyst

TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS IN WASHINGTON STATE



In Washington State, families raising young children have long faced a patchwork of supports, with gaps in health coverage, underfunded childcare, and systems that too often leave parents navigating early childhood without the resources they need. These challenges are even greater for families experiencing poverty, systemic racism, or rural isolation. Lasting change requires more than programs alone. It demands policy shifts, sustained funding, and systems that center the voices of those most impacted.

Perigee Fund partners with advocates, policymakers, and community leaders to drive these changes, building a foundation where mental health, early learning, and family well-being are treated as essential. By aligning resources, amplifying lived experience, and investing in long-term partnerships, we are helping to transform the systems that families count on during their earliest and most formative years.

Policy Changes

Fair Start for Kids & Capital Gains Tax •

Families across Washington have long struggled to find affordable, high-quality child care and early support. Beginning in 2018, Perigee invested nearly \$5M to help strengthen advocacy, research, and organizing efforts. Alongside many other funders and advocates, and with strong legislative leadership and the unique COVID-era momentum, this work contributed to the passage of the Fair Start for Kids Act and a new capital gains tax. Together, these policies now direct \$500M annually toward child care, home visiting, and mental health consultation, supporting more families during the earliest, most critical years.

Continuous Medicaid Eligibility for Children Birth to Age 6 ■

Young children often lose health coverage due to bureaucratic hurdles, creating harmful gaps in care during critical developmental years. Perigee supported policy strategy that helped Washington become the second state to guarantee continuous Medicaid eligibility through age six, ensuring uninterrupted access to care during early childhood.

Postpartum Medicaid Extension

Many birthing people lose health coverage just weeks after giving birth, despite the heightened risk of mental health challenges during the first year postpartum. Backed by Perigee-supported policy work, Washington became one of the first states approved to extend Medicaid coverage to 12 months after birth, ensuring families receive consistent care during this vital period.

Doula Medicaid Reimbursement

For years, community doulas provided essential care without adequate recognition or compensation, limiting access for families who needed them most. Starting in 2018, Perigee supported a coalition of birth workers whose advocacy led to state credentialing and, in 2024, the highest Medicaid reimbursement rate in the country, advancing equity and expanding access to culturally grounded perinatal support.

"Policy change means more families can reach care before they reach a breaking point. Every parent deserves support, compassion, and the chance to heal."

PERINATAL SUPPORT WASHINGTON

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Open Arms Perinatal Services



Walking With Families, Every Step of the Way

Perigee's investment helped Open Arms expand its culturally matched doula model, supporting families through labor, postpartum recovery, and emotional healing. The funding enabled the organization to secure public contracts, build evaluation systems, and engage in advocacy. One mother shared, "She was the only person who made me feel seen," recalling how her doula helped her reconnect with her baby after a traumatic birth.

Advocates Driving Change

Prenatal-to-5 Relational Health Subcommittee

Washington State Legislature 📜

Policymaking often overlooks the voices of those closest to the work: parents, caregivers, and early childhood professionals. Perigee helped establish this legislative subcommittee to ensure that policies supporting infant and caregiver mental health are shaped by lived experience and on-the-ground expertise.

Perinatal & Infant Mental Health Team

Washington State Health Care Authority

Medicaid systems have historically lacked the specialized focus needed to address the mental health needs of infants, toddlers, and new parents.

Perigee's seed funding supported the creation of a dedicated perinatal and infant mental health team, helping to shape Medicaid policy for children through age five and enable developmentally appropriate assessments statewide.

Parent Ambassadors

Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

Parents often face decisions about early learning and child wellbeing without a voice in the systems that shape those choices. Perigee invested in expanding and diversifying a network of trained parent advocates through the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, ensuring that those with lived experience are leading efforts to improve outcomes for children and families.



Cash

INVESTING DIRECTLY IN FAMILIES

For too many families, the earliest months and years of a child's life are marked by financial stress, limited time to bond, and a constant scramble to meet basic needs. These pressures can intensify the challenges of early parenting and affect a child's development from the very start. Parents need stability, dignity, and the freedom to focus on nurturing their children without fear of falling behind.

Perigee Fund invests in models that put resources directly into families' hands, trusting them to know what they need most. By providing consistent cash support, these programs reduce toxic stress, create space for healing, and help ensure that children's earliest relationships are built on a foundation of security and care.

A Groundbreaking Model Rooted in Trust

The Nest – Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) for Indigenous Families ■

Too many Indigenous families face compounding barriers during pregnancy and early parenting, including systemic underinvestment, poverty, and a lack of culturally rooted support. With early investment from Perigee, Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services launched The Nest, the first Indigenous-led GBI pilot in the U.S. for perinatal families. Up to 150 Indigenous and Pacifica families receive \$1,250 per month from pregnancy through age three, offering stability, dignity, and the time to bond and heal.

Time to Bond

Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

In the earliest months of a child's life, families need time to heal, bond, and find their footing. Yet too many parents, especially in underserved communities, can't afford to take that time. Perigee invested \$3.6M to help launch Washington State's PFML program, focusing outreach in Pierce and Yakima counties. Within a year, \$13.3M in wage replacement reached families, reducing financial strain and making space for connection and recovery.

Cash as Prescription

Rx Kids - Rural Expansion of Cash Support

Too many families struggle to meet basic needs during pregnancy and a baby's first year, a time when stress can affect development. Rx Kids provides \$1,500 during pregnancy and \$500 per month through the first year of life. Groundbreaking new research shows that this investment reduces parental stress, improves food security, and strengthens infant and caregiver well-being. With Perigee's support, this Michigan-based program is expanding from Flint to rural communities, demonstrating how unconditional cash during the perinatal period can improve health and developmental outcomes.

Flexible Funds, Healthier Outcomes Abundant Birth Project (ABP)

Black and Pacific Islander mothers face some of the highest rates of maternal health disparities in the country. The Abundant Birth Project offers unconditional cash during pregnancy to reduce toxic stress and improve birth outcomes. With Perigee's support, the program has expanded from San Francisco to five counties, advancing birth equity through direct, dignified support.

"When we give families the resources they need, we're doing more than meeting material needs. We're restoring justice, rebuilding trust, and creating the space for families to thrive in wholeness and strength."

HUMMINGBIRD INDIGENOUS FAMILY SERVICES



PERIGEE FUND MILESTONES

A Journey of Purpose & Growth

How Perigee Fund evolved strategically, operationally, and in partnership to center families and systems.

Perigee Fund launches with a mission to strengthen early relationships as the foundation for lifelong mental health. Begins grantmaking in Washington State and nationally.

Joins Seattle Foundation and opens first office in Capitol Hill.



Policymakers Used to Ignore Child Care. Then Came the Pandemic.

Experts who sounded the alarm about the care economy were often shunted to the side of policy discussions. Not anymore.

By Emily Peck



Adopts Equity North Star to guide strategy and partnerships.

Supports culturally rooted and peer-led programs in Washington.

Helps launch new communications and early relational health training programs.

Co-founds a national maternal mental health funder network.

Fully aligns grantmaking with equity-centered strategic outcomes.

Adds staff to lead systems change, learning, and policy work.

Expands and deepens state-level partnerships.

Celebrates 5-year staff anniversaries and moves into a new office in Pioneer Square.

2018 2019 2020 2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

Team grows to seven.

Launches first pooled advocacy fund for state policy work.

Begins partnerships with public agencies, Tribal communities, and local coalitions.

Elevates mental health and equity issues through research and public writing.

Responds to COVID-19 with emergency grants focused on child care and family wellbeing.

Initiates new campaigns and grant programs on paid leave, family preservation, and guaranteed income. Increases national investment in maternal mental health and birth equity.



Expands support for Indigenous, Black, and immigrant-led care models.

Launches the Maternal Mental Health Equity Fund with funding partners.

Completes strategic plan and upgrades grantmaking systems.

Launches Health Systems and Workforce portfolios to drive systems change.

Grows MMH Equity Fund to \$5.8 million and supports seven community-led models. Explores somatic healing, care integration, and story-based learning.



Growing Together: A Story of Healing

While no single family's path is the same, this story imagines what it could look like for new parents to have access to a strong, connected system of care. It draws on real experiences from families and providers to illustrate how timely support can change the trajectory for both parents and children.

Jasmine remembers the first time she held Ayana, a tiny bundle gently placed into her exhausted arms. She was flooded by equal waves of love and fear. She had imagined motherhood as a joyful season, but reality was more complicated.

Throughout pregnancy, Jasmine felt anxious and unsettled as difficult memories from her own childhood resurfaced. Moments when she had felt unseen or afraid as a little girl came back in vivid detail. Her partner, Michael, was excited about becoming a father, yet he quietly carried his own memories of a childhood marked by criticism and unpredictability. These unspoken ghosts shaped the way they reacted to every small challenge: Jasmine often believing she was failing, Michael withdrawing when he feared he could not protect his family.

When Ayana was born, Jasmine initially felt relief, but soon anxiety returned stronger than ever.

Overwhelmed one evening, she called the Perinatal Support WA Warmline. The compassionate voice reminded her she wasn't alone and encouraged her to accept help.

That call connected her with a postpartum doula whose steady presence helped Jasmine see she was more than her fears. The doula showed them how to soothe Ayana and gently encouraged Michael to share what he was feeling. As the weeks passed, Jasmine and Michael realized how much of their tension came from old patterns, not from anything wrong with their daughter or themselves.

Thanks to Paid Family and Medical Leave, Jasmine spent months at home learning to trust herself, supported by the doula's guidance. Still, she noticed

how quickly she and Michael slipped into silence or blame when stress rose. They decided to begin Child-Parent Psychotherapy, where for the first time, they spoke openly about their childhoods and how those experiences shaped their worries as parents.

Slowly, therapy helped them understand that their "ghosts" did not have to define their family. They learned to name their feelings, to apologize and reconnect after arguments, and to see each other with compassion rather than judgment. This new understanding didn't erase their struggles, but it changed how they met them.

When Ayana began childcare, Jasmine still felt a knot in her chest, afraid her daughter would feel alone as she once had. The child care provider's Holding Hope consultant became another steady ally, reassuring Jasmine that Ayana's caregivers knew how to support her emotional needs.

Three years into their parenting journey, Jasmine and Michael feel proud of the progress they have made. They watch Ayana play with bright curiosity, knowing she is growing up in a home where feelings can be spoken and met with care. They still have moments of doubt, but they now have the tools to face them together. And when they think about the possibility of another child, they do so with a quiet confidence, knowing that healing the past has made room for hope.

They are learning that the cycle of pain does not have to repeat itself. The love and awareness they are building with Ayana is already proving that intergenerational trauma can end with this generation.

With Gratitude to Our Partners in Progress

The milestones we celebrate were made possible by the bold leadership, vision, and commitment of over 200 grantee partners across the country. From grassroots organizations to national institutions, each one has played a role in shaping a future where families are supported, relationships are nurtured, and healing is possible. Thank you for the work you do and the world you help build.

2020 Mom/Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health (former 2020 Mom)

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership

All In WA Child Care Initiative (fiscal sponsor: Seattle Foundation)

Alliance For Children's Rights

Alliance for Health Policy

Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health

Amara (with Community and Family Services Foundation, Olive Crest, and Catholic Community Services)

American Academy of Pediatrics -National

American Indian Community Center

Arizona State University, Children's Equity Project

Asia Pacific Cultural Center

Asia Pacific Islander Coalition

Asian Counseling and Referral Services

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

BabyCakes and Brunch, Shades of Blue Project

Baby's First Years (fiscal sponsor: Columbia University Teacher's College)

Bank Street Graduate School for Education, National Center for Children in Poverty Behavioral Health Catalyst (fiscal sponsor: Panorama Global)

Bridge Project Inc

Brigid Collins Family Support Center

CARE Fund (fiscal sponsor:
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors)

Catholic Charities of Central Washington

Center for Indigenous Midwifery (fiscal sponsor: Consultants for Indian Progress)

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for the Study of Social Policy

Center for the Study of Social Policy (fiscal sponsor: Silicon Valley Community Foundation)

Center for the Transition to
Parenthood at Columbia University

Child Care Action Council of Thurston County

Child Care Aware of Washington

Child Care for Every Family Network (fiscal sponsor: New Venture Fund)

Children's Alliance and the Early Learning Action Alliance

Children's Home Society of Washington, Clark County Infant Baby Partnership

Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation Chinese Information and Service
Center

Chuckanut Health Foundation

Collaborations for Growth

Columbia Basin Foundation - New Hope-Kids Hope

Communities in Schools Tacoma

Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants and Refugees

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Diversity Uplifts Inc

Early Childhood Investment Corporation, Think Babies Michigan Initiative (TBMI)

Easterseals Washington

Economic Opportunity Institute

Educare Seattle

Elephant Circle

Empire Health Foundation

Empire Health Foundation, Healing Families Together Spokane

Enterprise for Progress in the Community

Erikson Institute

Evergreen Recovery Centers

Excel by Eight Foundations
Collaborative (fiscal sponsor:
Arkansas Community Foundation)

Expecting Justice, Abundant Birth Project (fiscal sponsor: Heluna Health)

Families of Color Seattle (fiscal sponsor: RVC)

Family Impact Network (fiscal sponsor: Empire Health Foundation)

Fathers, Families, & Healthy Communities

First 5 Fundamentals, Pierce County Early Childhood Network First Step Family Support Center Friends of the Children-Seattle **GEEARS** Georgetown University Georgetown University, Center for Children and Families Global Perinatal Services Greater Destiny Church Greentrike Groundswell Fund Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health dba AIMH HI Health and Justice Recovery Alliance HealthConnect One Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies -The Montana Coalition, Inc Hełmxiłp Indigenous Birth Justice HopeSparks Horn of Africa Services **Hummingbird Indigenous Family** Services Indigo Cultural Center Institute For Black Justice, CHIMES Program Institute for Family Development Iraqi Community Center of Washington Irving Harris Foundation Kittitas Valley Healthcare Korean Women's Association (With Greater Destiny Church and Answers Counseling)

La Casa Hogar

Luminary Impact Fund

La Cocina

Pathwaves Washington Lumos Transforms Lydia Place Pediatrics Supporting Parents (fiscal sponsor: Silicon Valley Community Mamatoto Village Foundation) Massachusetts Post-Partum People for People Depression Fund Perinatal Support Washington Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance Philanthropy Northwest - The Philanthropist's Forum Medstar-Georgetown Medical Center Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates Mi Centro Policy Institute for the Children of Minneapolis Foundation Louisiana Inc MomsRising Education Fund Postpartum Support International MomsRisingEducation Fund Program for Early Parent Support Movement for Family Power Project HOPE, publisher of Health Movement for Family Power (fiscal Affairs sponsor: Social and Environmental Raising Child Care Fund (fiscal Entrepreneurs) sponsor: TSNE) Multicultural Child and Family Hope Raze Development Center Regents of the University of Michigan, Multicultural Child and Family Hope Zero to Thrive Center PFML Collab (with Tacoma Reproductive Health Impact (former: Recovery Café) National Birth Equity Collaborative) National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association Room One Nonprofit Finance Fund Rx Kids Rural Expansion (fiscal sponsor: GiveDirectly, Inc.) Northwest Justice Project Salish School of Spokane Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Mothers and Save the Children **Babies** Seattle Foundation Nuestra Casa Shades of You, Shades of Me (fiscal One Heart Wild Education Sanctuary sponsor: PSI Wisconsin) OneAmerica South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association Open Arms Perinatal Services Southwest Human Development, Opportunities Industrialization Reflective Supervision Center of Washington Collaborative Parent Trust Spokane Tribal Network Pathwaves WA (fiscal sponsor: St Louis Integrated Health Network Southeast Seattle Education Coalition) Start Early Washington

Step By Step Family Support Center Steps (former Toddler Learning Center) Supporting Access Through Funding Equity (Portland State University Foundation) Surge Reproductive Justice (fiscal sponsor: RVC) Tacoma Community House Tacoma Housing Development Group Tacoma Pierce County Health Department The 19th News The Anchor Center for Perinatal Mental Health Advancement The Century Foundation The Makah Birth Justice Collective (formerly Makah Tribe) The Maternal Coalition The Regents of the University of Colorado, ALMA Program The Shades of Motherhood Network Ttáwaxt Birth Justice Center Tubman Center for Health and Freedom United Indians of All Tribes United Way of Central Washington United Way of Pierce County University of California San Francisco, Child Trauma Research Program University of Massachusetts Medical School, Lifeline for Moms University of Washington, Barnard Center for Infant Mental Health and Development University of Washington, PERC Center Vanessa Behan

Voices of Tomorrow WA Department of Social & Health Services - WA Economic Justice Alliance Washington Association for Infant Mental Health Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Washington Community Alliance Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP Washington State Budget and Policy Center Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families Washington State Employment Security Department Washington State Health Care Authority Washington Therapy Fund Foundation West African Community Council West Valley School District Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island Yakima Neighborhood Health Services Yakima Valley Community Foundation Yale School of Public Health, Elevate MH + Disrupt Poverty Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights Youth and Family Link YWCA Seattle, Homeward House Zero to Three ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

With Gratitude to **Perigee Staff** This work is only possible because of the people behind it. To the Perigee Fund staff past and present: thank you. Your vision, care, and commitment have shaped every strategy,

partnership, and outcome we've celebrated. You've nurtured a culture of equity, curiosity, and deep integrity. And together, you've helped build something powerful: a legacy of relationships, trust, and change that extends far beyond these pages.

BOARD MEMBERS Ceil Erickson Kirstin Sandaas Lisa Mennet Mary Rennekamp

CURRENT STAFF Becca Graves Brooke Magnusson Cara Priestley Edward Lee Elizabeth Krause Kim Gilsdorf Leslie S. Ramirez Clemente Marcy Miller Mariel Mendez Payton Bordley Sophia Rangel Tamar Magarik Haro Tammi Taylor

EARLY CONTRIBUTORS David Willis Gloris Estrella Jim Bialick Lauren Hipp Meron Kasahun Olivia Thai Teresa Gonzales Uma Rao

Photos by Paul Joseph Brown

