

Teammates,

I was remiss last week in not wishing all the moms on our team a Happy Mother's Day! Celebrating Mother's Day is a great opportunity for us to acknowledge the steps Governor Ricketts' administration has made to make the State a family-friendly employer, and specifically a premier workplace for moms. At the Department of Administrative Services, we've been proud to be the lead agency in this objective. Last year, [DAS implemented four initiatives](#) with this goal in mind:

- **Mothers' rooms for nursing mothers:** We have provided mothers' rooms in state buildings managed by DAS that will be exclusively dedicated to nursing mothers. As of today, we have 22 facilities within State government that have the ability to accommodate mothers' rooms, with 21 [full-time functioning mothers' rooms](#) throughout these various facilities, with three more scheduled to be built this summer.
- **Enhanced maternity benefits:** We bolstered our maternity benefits by cutting the cost for maternity and childbirth health care by 75%. This plan allows for a \$500 copay and 100% coverage, following inpatient maternity related hospital charges that are medically necessary. Since this became a part of our WellNebraska (with Incentive) Health plan, we have seen a 15.45% increase in total births for state teammates from 7/1/20 to 3/31/21. For more information on our State wellness plans, [visit here](#), and remember Open Enrollment ends May 18th!
- **Priority parking for expectant mothers:** Expectant mothers may request a Special Use Placard granting them [priority parking for one year](#). Further questions about this initiative can be directed to our Parking Director Roxie Earnest at Roxane.Earnest@Nebraska.gov.
- **Workplace for Families Pilot Program:** This program was piloted by DAS last year and allows new mothers, fathers, or legal guardians the ability to bring their children into the workplace. While the pandemic impacted our ability to truly measure the positive impacts of this program, we are excited to expand this program to other agencies in the future. See the attached document to learn more about the Workplace for Families Pilot Program.

These initiatives also compliment the maternity leave donation program that [we launched in 2018](#). Collectively, these initiatives are contributing directly to making State government the leading employer in the State for new moms. I want to thank all of our teammates who are working hard every day to ensure these mother and family-friendly initiatives are implemented in State government. And once again, Happy Belated Mother's Day to all our Moms!

Regards,