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**2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant  
Request for Applications  
Due: May 26, 2021**

Even prior to the pandemic, Louisiana served fewer than seven percent of birth to two-year-olds, and less than 33 percent of three-year-old children who are economically disadvantaged. Part of what drives the lack of access in the state is that many communities lack child care supply and capacity to develop child care supply. In response, the aim of this opportunity is to help communities build local capacity to support new child care supply and to increase access to high-quality early childhood care and education.

As part of efforts to increase access, the Louisiana Department of Education is requesting applications focused on community-level strategies and solutions to increase supply of, and access to, quality early childhood care and education. The Department recognizes that the methodology to increase access may be differentiated based on community need and current level of resources. For this reason, the Department is offering a phased grant opportunity executed over a two year period to provide funding to support initiatives focused on building child care supply and increasing access at the local level that can be tailored to the specific needs of each early childhood community network.

Funding will be provided for community network lead agencies to pursue activities that build supply and increase access including, but not limited to:

- Establishing partnerships with existing child care providers to expand access
- Expanding infant and toddler child care classrooms in existing facilities
- Leveraging community-based facilities to expand child care options
- Building child care supply in areas with limited to no options for early childhood care and education

**Grant Phases**

The 2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant will be implemented in three phases over a two year period. Funding and technical assistance will be provided at each phase to support community networks and identified partners in the completion of a set of deliverables. A set of deliverables is also required within each phase. Each set of deliverables must be executed in order to qualify for the next phase of the grant process and to receive the subsequent round of funding.

Phase	Grantee Deliverables**	Funding
Phase 1 - Community Access Analysis, Strategic Planning and Design  (within 3-6 months of the initial award)	Grantees will submit a plan to increase access to early childhood care and education that is aligned with community needs.	\$100,000 per network for project staffing, business supports, consultants, etc.  This funding may be renewable for year two of the project.
Phase 2 - Strategy Implementation & Sustainability Planning  (within months 4-12)	Grantees will implement the strategies they developed to build supply and increase access to early childhood care and education.	Up to \$500,000*  *Subject to change based on needs determined in Phase 1 of grant
Phase 3 - Long Term Sustainability and Evaluation of Strategy Implementation  (within months 5-18)	Grantees will submit a long-term sustainability plan inclusive of information related to scalability to meet additional community-level gaps in access.	Grantees that successfully create new child care supply will be given opportunities to apply for additional funding for seats.

*\*\*Community networks and identified partners will participate in ongoing technical assistance opportunities and will meet with the LDOE team for scheduled check-ins throughout each phase of the process.*

## Application

All lead agencies are invited to submit an application. The Word version of the RFA and application will be sent to lead agency contacts on April 1. Those intending to apply need to submit an Intent to Apply via [Google Form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on April 28. Complete the application below and submit via [Google Form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on May 26. Please save the document as a Word file and name the document: 'NETWORK\_AccessExpansionGrant\_Application.pdf'

## Timeline

<b>March 30</b>	The Department releases the Request for Applications for the 2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant.
<b>April 1</b>	The Word version of the application will be sent to all lead agency contacts.
<b>April 28</b>	Applicants submit an Intent to Apply via <a href="#">Google Form</a> by 5 p.m.
<b>May 26</b>	Applicants submit a final application via <a href="#">Google Form</a> by 5 p.m.
<b>Week of May 31</b>	The Department notifies recipients of the grant.

If you have questions about this RFA or need further assistance, please contact [amy.poirier@la.gov](mailto:amy.poirier@la.gov).

## 2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant Application

Please upload a complete version of the following application via [Google Forms](#) by 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2021. Please save this document as a PDF file and use the following naming convention prior to submission: 'NETWORK\_AccessExpansionGrant\_Application.pdf'

**Community Network:** [Insert response here]

**Lead Agency Contact Name:** [Insert response here]

**Contact Email and Phone Number:** [Insert response here]

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

#### I. Current State of Access:

- a) What is the current supply of, and level of access to, high-quality early childhood care and education within the community network? At minimum the answer should reflect the current state of access to early childhood care and education within the community, inclusive of the following:
- Current access by age (infants, ones, twos, threes, fours)
  - Current access by provider type (Type III early learning centers, HS/EHS, school-based pre-k, Family Child Care, etc.)
  - Current funding for access (tuition, CCAP, LA 4, NSECD, PDG, etc.)

Responses should also indicate where specific gaps in access exist.

(Insert response here)

- b) Considering the community's access needs, what are the top three priorities for supply building and access expansion?

1. (Insert response here)
- 2.
- 3.

## II. Access Strategy

What is the community’s proposed strategy to address access needs at the local level? At a minimum, describe how the network proposes to address the current gaps in supply of, and access to, high-quality early childhood care and education within the community by addressing the top 3 priorities described above. The response should indicate which of the following activities the network plans to pursue as part of the efforts to build supply and increase access:

- Establishing partnerships with existing child care providers to expand access
- Expanding infant and toddler child care classrooms in existing facilities
- Establishing new partnerships to leverage community-based facilities to expand child care options
- Building child care supply in areas with limited to no options for early childhood care and education
- Additional innovative solutions

*(Note: The 2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant cannot be used to purchase or improve land, or for the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building or facility. However, funds may be expended for upgrading child care facilities to ensure that providers meet state and local child care standards, including applicable health and safety requirements. Technical assistance and potential loan opportunities will be provided during Phases 1 and 2 of the grant process to assist networks in determining how to fund these costs, if applicable.)*

(Insert response here)

## III. Community Partnerships

Briefly describe how you engaged your program partners and solicited feedback for this application.

(Insert response here)

## IV. Letter of Support

Networks are required to submit a letter of support from their superintendent or executive director in conjunction with this application. This letter can be submitted as an attachment along with the application within the [Google Form](#).

V. Acknowledgements

Networks are required to attest to the following acknowledgements as part of the application for the 2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant:

<b>Network Administrator Initials</b>	<b>Acknowledgement:</b>
	Community networks leaders will participate in ongoing technical assistance opportunities and will meet with the LDOE team for scheduled check-ins throughout each phase of the process.
	The 2021 Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant cannot be used to purchase or improve land, or for the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building or facility. However, funds may be expended for upgrading child care facilities to ensure that providers meet state and local child care standards, including applicable health and safety requirements.
	All networks receiving this grant will be required to create a sustainability plan to ensure that the child care supply and seats created are tenable and lasting beyond the timeframe of the grant.
	Networks will have an additional opportunity to apply for, and receive, additional funding to support the implementation of sustainability planning in Phase 2.
	Networks will have an additional opportunity to apply for, and receive, additional funding to support new birth through three-year-old seats in Phase 3.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Network Administrator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Network Administrator Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

This page may be submitted as an attachment along with the application within the [Google Form](#)