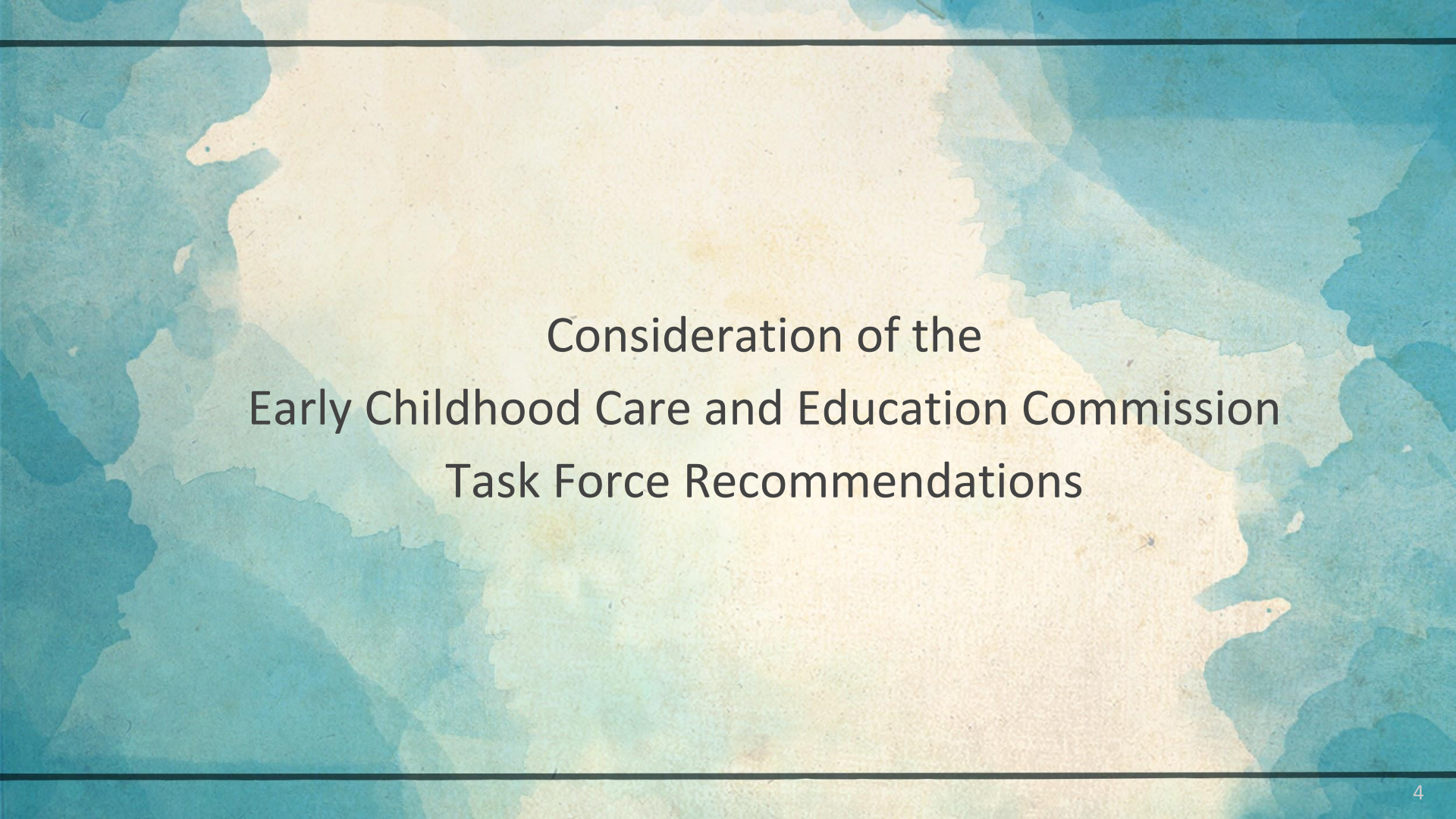


Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Meeting January 21, 2021

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Minutes of October 26, 2020 Meeting
- IV. Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Task Force Recommendations
- V. Consideration of the Process to Develop the 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Report
- VI. Consideration of a Proposal for the Louisiana Early Childhood Family Website
- VII. Consideration of the ECCE Commission Workgroup on Family Child Care
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2020 Meeting



Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Task Force Recommendations

Early Childhood Care and Commission Task Force

Findings and Recommendations

January 21, 2021



Task Force Members

Rep. Stephanie Hilferty

Commission Chair

Sen. Beth Mizell

Commission Chair

Illeana Ledet

GNO Inc.

Jan Moller

Louisiana Budget Project

Michael Tipton

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation

Steven Procopio, Ph.D.

Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (PAR)

Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D.

Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

Alí R. Bustamante, Ph.D.

Roosevelt Institute

Melissa Goudeau

Parent Representative

Overview

- Key Findings
- Recommendations
- Exploration of Revenue Options

Key Findings



Key Findings

1

Early care and education is a critical infrastructure for a successful economy and society.

2

There is considerable economic benefit to investing in early childhood.

3

The financing of the child care sector is insufficient and overly complex, and requires immediate stabilization.

4

Currently, far too few in-need families with infants and toddlers have access to high-quality, affordable child care options in our state.

5

The time is now to make a meaningful investment in children.

Key Finding 1: Critical Infrastructure

Early care and education is critical for Louisiana **children, families, and the state's economy.**

173,000

birth to three-year-old children economically in need currently living in Louisiana

Less than 7% of in need children birth to two-years-old, and less than 33% of three-year-olds can access quality child care in Louisiana.

(Source: LA Department of Education)

90%

of a child's brain is fully formed before turning five

Participation in high-quality ECE has long-lasting positive impacts for children that lead to higher IQ and achievement test scores, fewer grade retentions and placements in special education, higher levels of college graduation and job-holding, and healthier outcomes as adults.

(Source: [Yoshikawa et al 2013](#))

1 million

women are currently in the Louisiana workforce

2 out of 3 children under the age of 5 have both parents or their single parent working.

(Source: LA Workforce Commission)

85%

of Type III child care centers in Louisiana are rated Proficient or higher

As a result of quality and improvement efforts, the vast majority of child care centers eligible to enroll children through public funds are offering high-quality care.

(Source: LA Department of Education)

Key Finding 2: Economic Impact

The immediate costs of inaction on this issue are substantial, and Louisiana cannot afford to **not** invest in high-quality early childhood care and education.

Even prior to the pandemic, Louisiana research found that **the costs of inaction are high** ([“Losing Ground,” 2017](#)).

- Louisiana’s economy lost an estimated \$1.1 billion annually due to absences and turnover resulting from child care issues
- Louisiana employers lost an estimated \$816 million due to child care issues

The costs of have undoubtedly increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- A [survey conducted in June 2020 by LPIC](#) found that 77% of the child care business owners who responded reported losses, averaging \$110,000 per business and totalling \$137.5 million statewide.

**\$1.1
billion**
In yearly
economic losses

Key Finding 2: Economic Impact

Updated research finds that every dollar spent on high quality, birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children delivers a **13% annual return on investment**.

13%

Return on Investment

The **13% ROI** is substantially higher than the 7-10% return previously established for preschool (3- to 4-year-olds) programs alone.

These substantial economic benefits of investing in early childhood are a result of:

- Reduction in costs for remediation and special education services
- Improved health outcomes
- Reduction in participation in criminal justice system
- Reduction in use of other social services

In addition to these long-term gains, there will be immediate benefits to Louisiana's economy as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. **An investment in child care is an investment in Louisiana's working families, small businesses, and workers.**

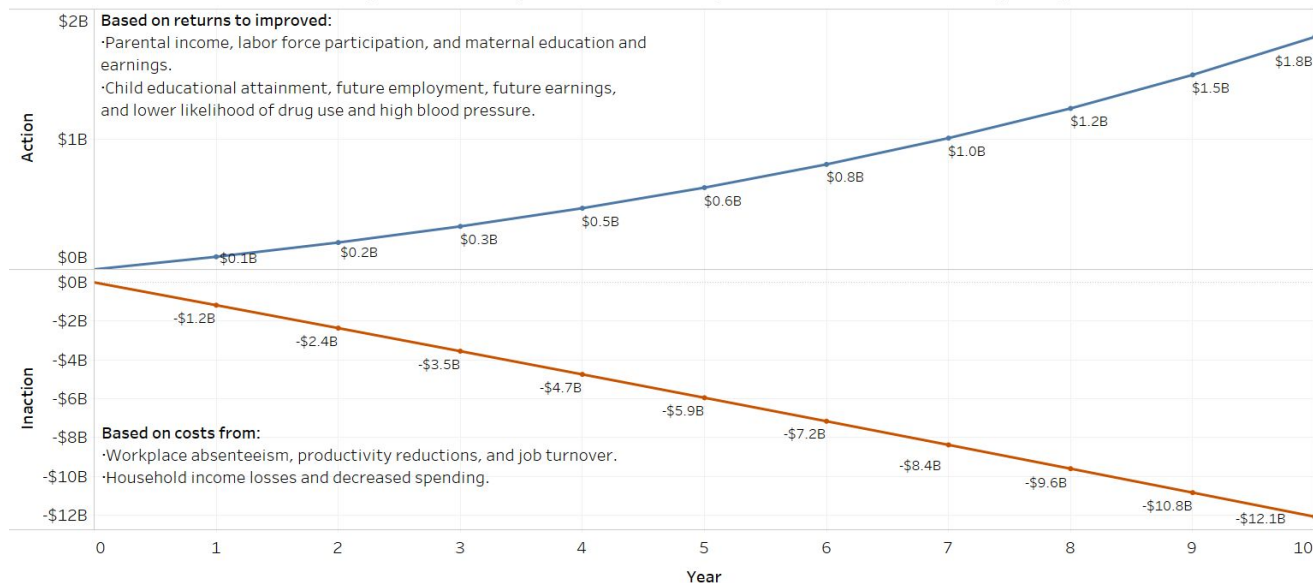
(Source: Heckman Equation)

Key Finding 2: Economic Impact

Preliminary economic impact forecasting demonstrates that if the state were to invest **\$85.8 million in early care and education now**, it would see **an economic benefit of \$1.8 billion in ten years.**

By contrast, if **no investment is made**, the state could see **a compounded economic loss of \$12.1 billion in ten years.**

Louisiana 10-year Economic Impact Forecast from Early Childhood Care and Education Spending



Sources: Author analysis of García, J.L., Heckman, J.J., Duncan, E.L., & Prados, M.J. (2016). The Life-cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program. Davis, B., Bustamante, A. Bronfin, M., & Rahim, M. C. (2017). Losing ground: How Child Care Impacts Louisiana's Workforce Productivity and the State Economy.

Notes: Cost of inaction is based on the compound annual losses of \$1.168 billion and the 5-year average of Louisiana gross domestic product (GDP) of 0.62% from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2015-2019. Cost of action is based on the compound annual spending of \$85.8 million in quality early childhood care and education and the estimated 13% annual rate of return from García et al.

Key Finding 3: Financing of Child Care

The financing of the child care sector is insufficient and overly complex, and requires immediate stabilization:

- The provision of high-quality early care and education relies on child care centers, which are small businesses.
- Child care centers operate on razor-thin margins and depend on public funding and support to serve low-income families successfully.
- Although child care is the largest monthly expense for families with young children ([ALICE, 2020](#)), fees families pay seldom cover the true cost of quality care, especially for younger children.

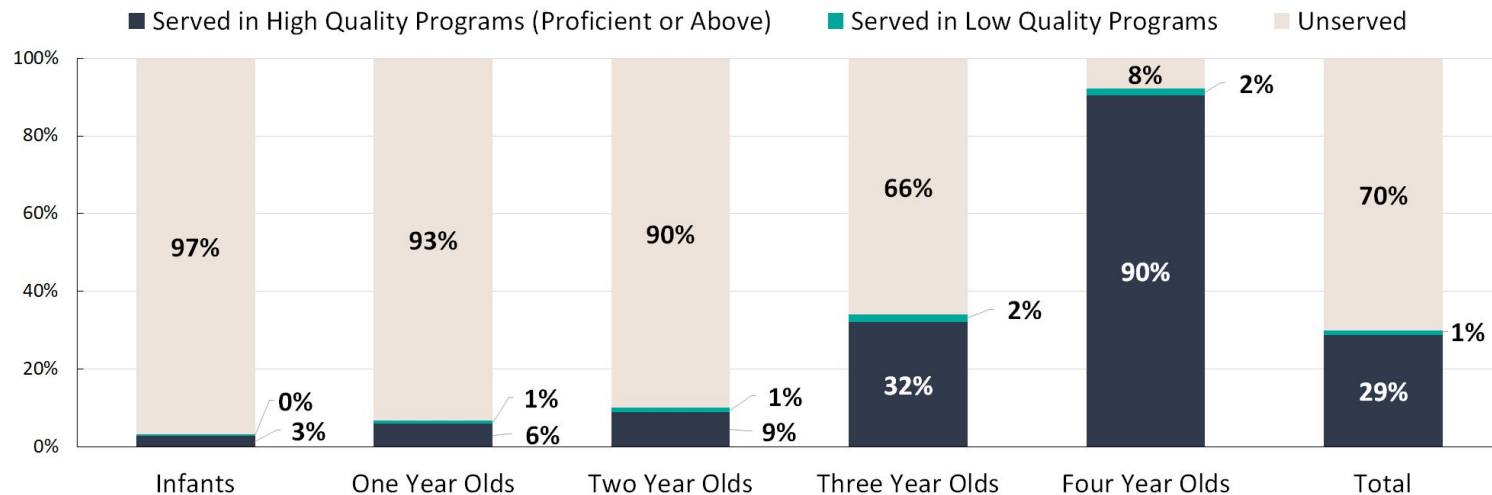
The cost of child care for families in Louisiana is high— **as much as \$15,000 annually** for a family with 2 young children.

Reliable and high-quality child care is often **out of reach for low-income working families** in Louisiana. This is especially true for families with infants and toddlers, for whom care is more costly.

Key Finding 4: Access to Quality Crisis

Even prior to the pandemic, **fewer than 7% of in-need children birth to two years old, and less than 33% of three year olds**, had access to high-quality child care in Louisiana.

Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Children Served, by Age (Fall 2019)



(Source: LA Department of Education)

Key Finding 5: The Time is Now



NOW!

While there may be no 'perfect' time to invest in a new public good, **the time is now to begin investing in our smallest children.**

Polling in April 2019 (commissioned by the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children) found that **86% of likely voters in Louisiana said that quality, affordable child care and education is an important issue** in their communities and 6 in 10 support increasing state funding for quality early care and education that would benefit working families.

Supporters of early childhood education sit on both sides of the aisle, and Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has consistently confirmed that early childhood is a top priority.

All of this was true prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, more than ever, **the child care sector, families, young children, and our economy require bold investments in early care and education to recover.**

Recommendations



Task Force Recommendations

The Louisiana Legislature should:

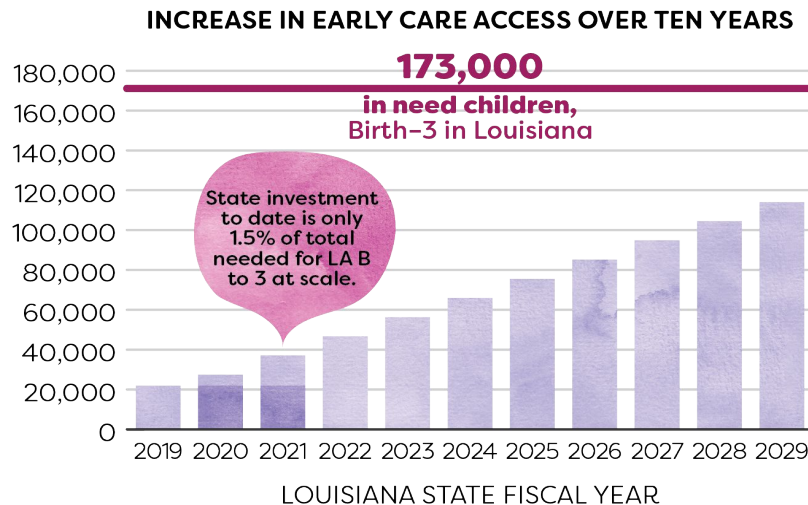
- 1** **Increase the state budget for early childhood by \$85.8 million in the next state fiscal year.**
- 2** **Ensure the Early Childhood Education Fund is sufficiently funded to match revenue raised by local entities.**
- 3** **Facilitate local revenue generation, or consider ways to do so in the long-term.**

Recommendation 1: State Investment

While the long-term funding need is much greater, a **state investment of \$85.8 million** in the next state fiscal year will provide quality child care for more than 9,000 children as families in Louisiana get back to work.

Only through a significant state investment and efforts to incentivize local investment will meaningful change be achieved.

The Task Force agrees with the Commission's original recommendation of an initial state investment of \$85.6 million and an increase of nearly that amount annually over a ten year period.



Recommendation 2: Incentivize Local Match

To continue to incentivize the local 1-to-1 match it requires, Legislators should **identify new revenue sources for the Early Childhood Education Fund** that will, at a minimum, equal current local investment.

Funding Source	Revenue Amount	Estimated Annual Funding (Local Match Required)
Harrah's Casino (*Land-based casinos)	Harrah's annual revenue must exceed \$60 million in 2020-2021 (and \$65 million beginning in 2022-2023) before tax revenue is dedicated to the fund.	Estimates for Harrah's FY21 revenue were \$60.4 million (prior to COVID), thus only \$400,000 would have been allocated to the incentive fund. FY21 revenue is now projected to be \$0 due to COVID-19 revenue loss.
Taxation of Hemp-derived CBD Products	A 3 percent tax rate, in addition to applicable State and local sales taxes, will be applied and is earmarked for the fund.	In 2020, gross sales has been ~\$642,000 per month, resulting in an average of only ~\$19,260 per month contributed to the trust fund, or an estimated \$231,120 per year.
Fantasy Sports	An 8 percent tax will be levied upon net revenues of fantasy sports contests monthly.	Estimates from other states suggest that this revenue may generate \$375,000 annually, beginning in FY22 and beyond.

Localities are currently generating revenue at a rate that is outpacing the state investment in the incentive fund.

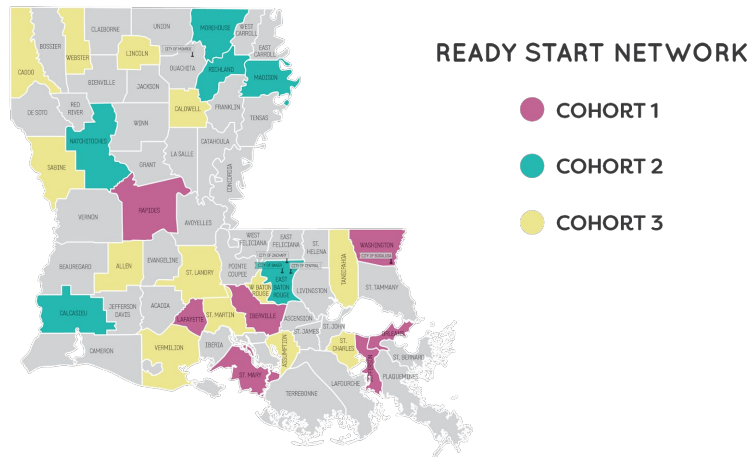
Early estimates show that revenue to fund early care and education **at the local level is likely to exceed \$1.5 million** in the 2021-2022 academic year.

As of now, the **funding in the incentive fund is projected at less than \$700,000 in FY22 and will be insufficient** to match local revenue in the next year.

Recommendation 3: Facilitate Local Investment

As the incentive fund grows, the Legislature should consider ways to **facilitate local entities to generate revenue at the community (e.g., parish or municipal) level.**

- There are opportunities for the state to enable or facilitate revenue generation at the local level to fund locally-administered B-3 seat programs.
- Ready Start Networks are community-based early childhood coalitions that are working to expand access to early care and education at the local level.
- These Ready Start Networks are well set up to administer these seat programs locally, with program quality and governance structures in place.



Note: In the coming months, the Task Force will continue to study opportunities to enable localities to raise revenue more easily to make more specific recommendations for legislation in the future.

Exploration of Revenue Options



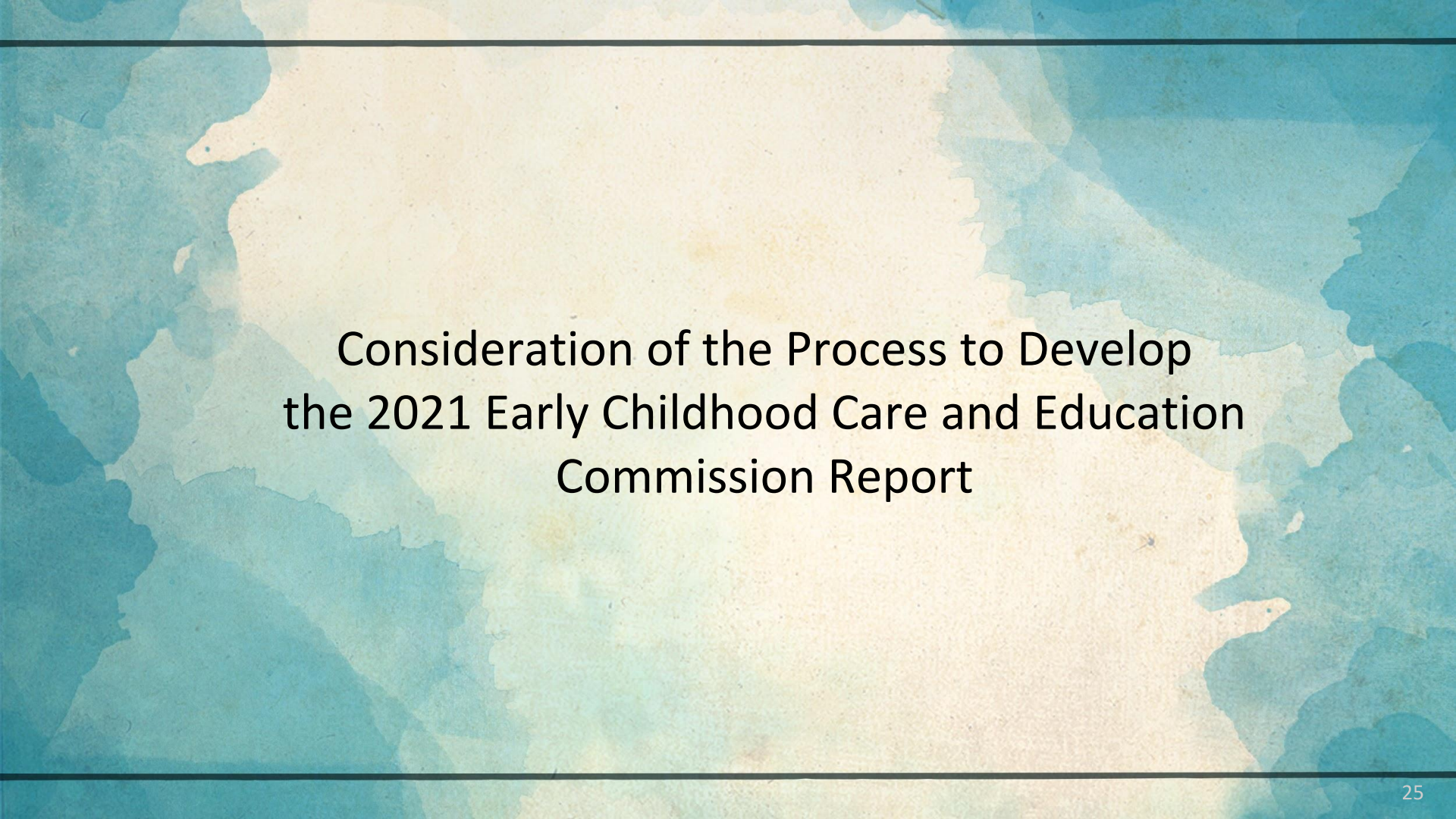
How to Fund Early Childhood at the State Level?

To achieve the recommendations to increase state funding for early care and education and identify new revenue sources for the Early Childhood Education Fund, the Louisiana Legislature should:

1. Prioritize early care and education for **funding generated by annual economic growth**.
2. **Take advantage of settlements** (e.g., opioid, tobacco, etc.) as they occur, to fund early care and education.
3. Identify the most feasible and sustainable **options to raise new state revenue**. At a minimum, the Legislature should consider:
 - Earmarking **revenue raised from legalized sports betting** to support early care and education.
 - Prioritizing early care and education for funding during **ongoing tax reform efforts**.

Questions?





Consideration of the Process to Develop the 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Report

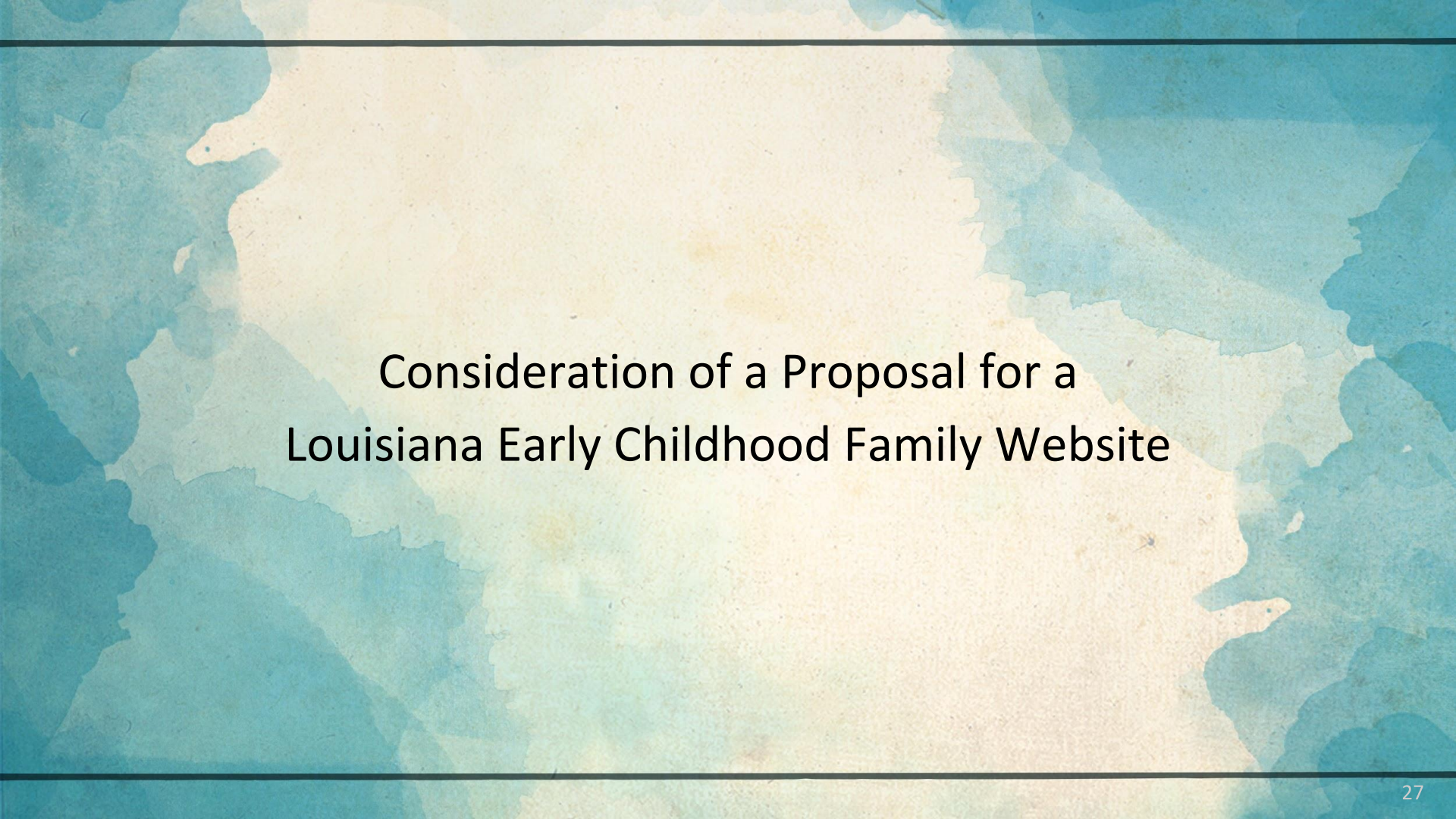
Commission Report Workgroup Overview

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission will convene a workgroup of Commission and Task Force members to develop a draft of the report to present at the March 2, 2021 meeting.

Commission and Task Force members interested in participating in the workgroup will:

- Participate in a one-hour Zoom call
- Refine report content
- Participate in additional reviews of report language by email, as needed
- Present final report to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission on March 2, 2021

Please contact Leslie.Doyle@la.gov if you are interested in participating or for more information.



Consideration of a Proposal for a Louisiana Early Childhood Family Website

Early Childhood Family Website Overview

In 2019, the Commission raised concerns about the challenges families with young children face in accessing resources, which resulted in a plan to develop an early childhood family website.

The LDOE has initiated a plan to develop an early childhood family website to address particular challenges articulated by the Commission:

- Families are not aware of all the resources that available to them
- Families do not always participate in formal early care and education, but still require supports for caring for and educating their children

The website will provide streamlined information and tools for families with young children that could increase their awareness and engagement with research, resources, and community supports.

Early Childhood Family Website

Purpose

The family engagement website supports improved outcomes for young children in 1) promoting school readiness, 2) empowering families, and 3) increasing access to health and safety resources.

The family engagement website will improve the coordination of resources to support families with children birth through five by:

- Providing cross-sectors guidance related to care and education, child development, healthcare, parenting supports, human services, family services, etc.
- Streamlining information and resources related to early intervention, developmental screening, and supports for vulnerable children.
- Promoting community-based family engagement opportunities in a centralized location to encourage families to learn, engage, and lead.



Early Childhood Family Website

Interagency Approach

Families with young children that are experiencing poverty need supports and resources from more than one sector (e.g., care and education, health, social services, etc.) to help them close the opportunity gap.

How do multiple agencies improve awareness of available services to in-need families?

Using an interagency approach to coordinate resources for families and children across one platform will:

- **help alleviate barriers** faced by many when searching for assistance.
- **expands and increases use of programs and related services** as information is more readily available.
- **encourage** system-level coordination.
- **promote interdependent problem solving** that focuses on improving services to children and families.

Early Childhood Family Website

Stakeholder Engagement

The Department of Education will coordinate the website planning, development, and engagement of diverse stakeholders to incorporate feedback throughout the development of the website.

The LDOE will engage multiple stakeholders for input, feedback, and support:

- Families
- Organizations with a focus on early childhood (e.g., Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, United Ways, American Academy of Pediatrics, children's hospitals, etc.)
- Community-based organizations that provide resources for families

Additionally, the LDOE plans to work closely with the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Children and Family Services to implement an inter-agency approach.



Early Childhood Family Website

Website Content to Include

By Ages	Learning At-Home	Child Care	Family Center	Resource Map
<p>Information will be provided by age group.</p> <p>Birth to Five Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental Milestones EC Learning Standards Healthcare resources Family resources Developmental Screening Guidebook <p>School Readiness Supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood transition process K-readiness checklist Kindergarten Countdown Transition activities 	<p>Helpful websites and Apps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Read Alouds by Age Growing Readers Subscribe Learning Apps (e.g. Vroom and Bedtime Math) Other (At-Home Activities that we develop/contract to develop) <p>Family Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Engagement Parenting classes Family leadership Parent-Teacher Organization information Volunteer activities in the area 	<p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What to look for in quality care? Quality of Child Care Sites Louisiana School and Center Finder Determine eligibility and apply for Child Care Assistance Early Steps program description, services, and family resources Tulane Mental health consultation Child Care Licensing Information -Inspections, reporting, etc. Understanding Child Care Types Emergency preparedness for site and families 	<p>Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility Calculator <p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Home visiting Dental, hearing, vision supports Food including WIC SNAP and Medicaid Mental health Evidenced Based Programs (EBP) Family organizations Families with disabilities Adult Education and Job Training LA Works, WorkReady-U English Language Learners Emergency, Disaster and Safety Planning 	<p>Community Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent organizations Tutoring services Family resource centers Healthcare clinics Dental and vision clinics Community centers Mental health facilities Families with disabilities support organizations Museums Playgrounds and parks Public libraries

Early Childhood Family Website

Service Eligibility Calculator

Families will have the opportunity to answer a series of questions that would provide them with a pre-eligibility for various state or local service programs or services.

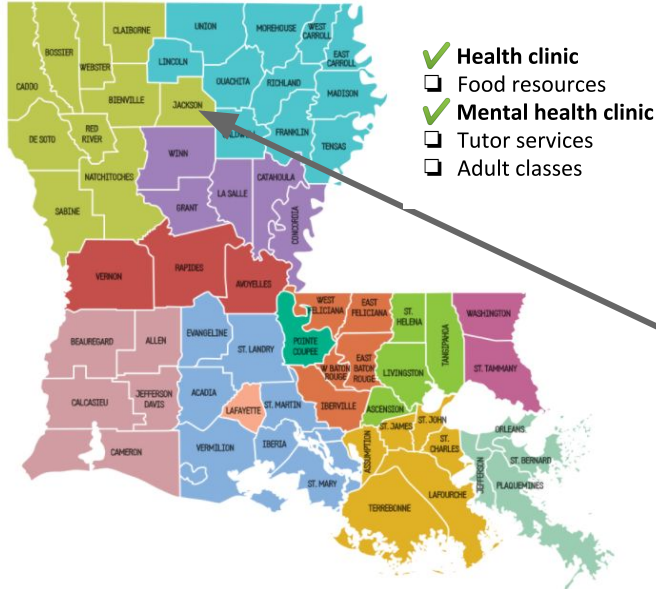
An Eligibility Calculator will use family responses to determine a pre-eligibility status for various federal, state, and local programs.

- **Input Information:** Families will provide information (e.g. demographics, income, members of household, etc.)
- **Calculate Pre-Eligibility:** The calculator will use user-entered information to determine a pre-eligibility status for various programs.
- **Connect to Programs:** The calculator will provide families a list of programs for which they met pre-eligibility criteria, program contact information, and next steps.

Early Childhood Family Website Community Resource Map

Please select a Parish Name below or select a Parish on the map to continue

Acadia	Caddo	East Baton Rouge	Jackson	Madison	Red River	St. Landry	Vermilion
Allen	Calcasieu	East Carroll	Jefferson	Morehouse	Richland	St. Martin	Vernon
Assumption	Caldwell	East Feliciana	Jefferson Davis	Natchitoches	Sabine	St. Mary	Washington
Avoyelles	Cameron	Evangeline	Lafayette	Orleans	St. Bernard	St. Tammany	Webster
Beauregard	Catahoula	Franklin	Lafourche	Ouachita	St. Charles	Tangipahoa	West Baton Rouge
Bienville	Claiborne	Grant	LaSalle	Plaquemines	St. Helena	Tensas	West Carroll
Bossier	Concordia	Iberia	Lincoln	Pointe Coupee	St. James	Terrebonne	West Feliciana
	DeSoto	Iberville	Livingston	Rapides	St. John	Union	Winn



The resource map will search social service programs and resources from LDOE, LDH, and DCFS. Families will choose their parish and the type of resources they need. The resource map will generate a list of state and local programs and resources.

Local resources

Family Health Unit
312 North Street, City, LA
504-333-4343

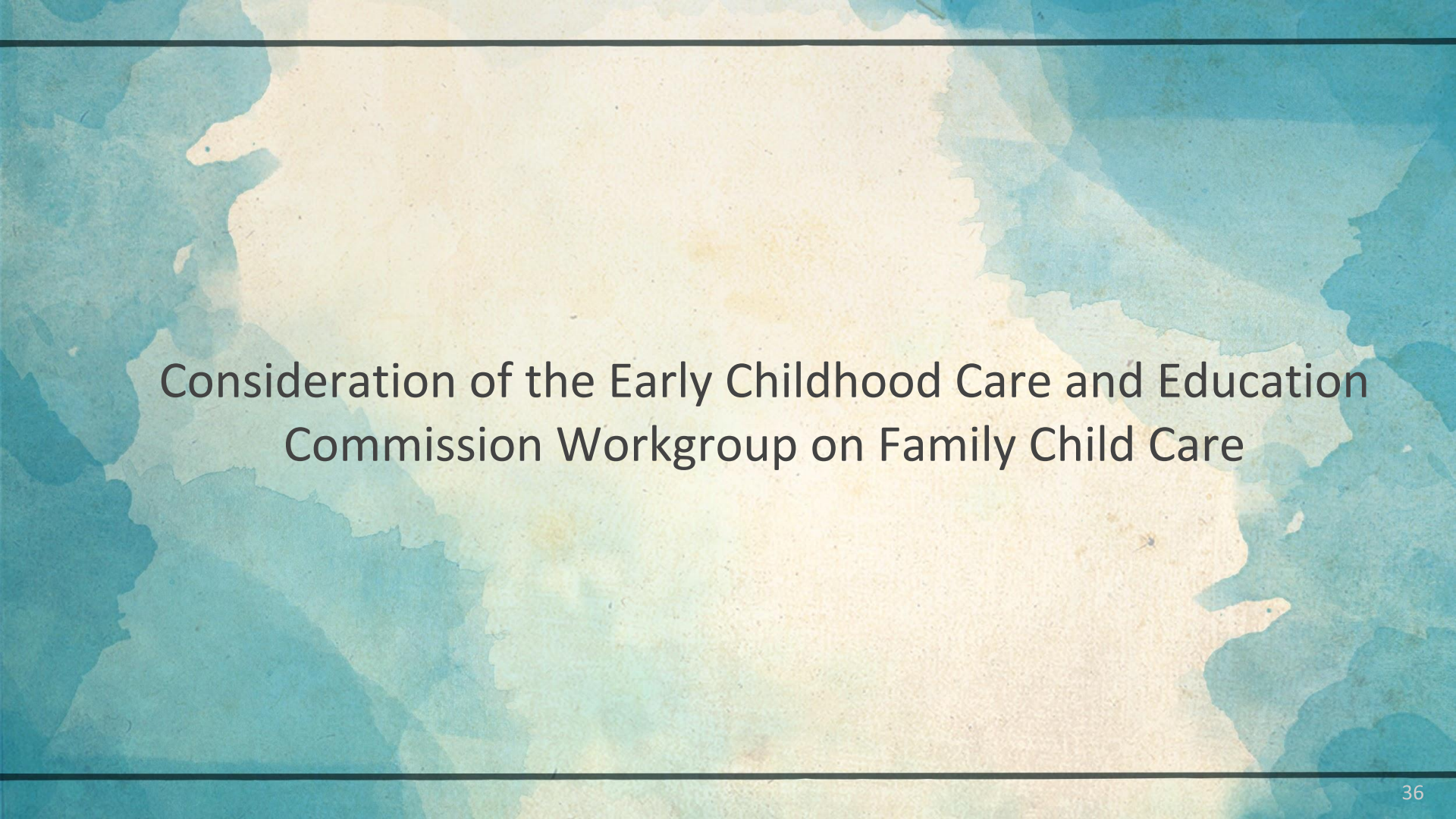
Mental Health Consultation for Families
256 Thomas Drive, City, LA
504 333-9187

Early Childhood Family Website

2021 Major Milestones

The LDOE hopes to launch the early childhood family website, in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders, in October 2021.

Month	Action steps
December 2020	Plan website development
January to February 2021	Identify and plan stakeholders engagement
March to May 2021	Ongoing stakeholder engagement, building website, and developing content
June to August 2021	Upload data, integrating stakeholder feedback, functionality testing, and style/branding
September 2021	Promotional planning
October 2021	Website launch



Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Workgroup on Family Child Care

Family Child Care Workgroup Overview

The LDOE will convene a workgroup of Commission members to discuss a plan for incorporating family child care into the statewide early childhood strategy, in order to share findings at the March 2, 2021 meeting.

Commission members interested in participating in the workgroup will:

- Participate in a minimum of one hour-long Zoom call
- Discuss the LDOE's current efforts to support family child care providers
- Discuss potential legislative and policy solutions

Please contact Leslie.Doyle@la.gov if you are interested in participating or for more information.

Public Comment

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Reminders for Commission Members

Next Steps

- Contact Leslie.Doyle@la.gov if would like to participate in the Commission Report or Family Child Care workgroups.
- Plan to attend the next Early Childhood Care and Education Commission meeting:
 - **Date:** March 2, 2021
 - **Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - **Location/Format:** TBD

Adjournment