

Overview of Wait List for Child Care Assistance in Louisiana

Summary:

- The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is a federally-funded program that enables Louisiana parents to work or attend school by helping them afford child care. Families who can place their children in stable, high quality care are more likely to be successful in work or school.
- CCAP currently serves more than 17,000 Louisiana children with working parents or parents in school. Due to limited funding, Louisiana will establish a wait list for families as of July 1, 2017.
- Applications received on or after July 1, 2017, will be screened for eligibility and, if eligible, placed on the wait list until enrollment slots or additional funds are available.
- Families currently receiving CCAP will **not** be placed on the wait list when asked to re-certify their eligibility.
- Children who are experiencing homelessness, children of families participating in STEP or Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, children in foster care or children requiring special needs care will be immediately eligible and will **not** be placed on the wait list.

Background:

- At its peak, CCAP in Louisiana served nearly 40,000 families. Reductions in funding and more stringent eligibility have since decreased participation by more than half. Since 2015, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Early Childhood Advisory Council, have increased funding and eligibility in order to serve more working families.
- Having a wait list is not unusual. Presently, at least 20 states, not including Louisiana, have a wait list or are no longer taking new applicants.

How the Wait List Works:

- Prior to June 30, 2017, there will be **no** changes for families that apply. Complete applications received by 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2017 will be processed and, if eligible, families will be able to participate in CCAP.
- As of July 1, 2017 families will be notified of the wait list when applying online or on paper.
- Households will only be placed on the wait list once they submit a complete application and are determined eligible.
- The wait list will be a statewide wait list and applications will be prioritized by date the application was received by the Department.
- When funding becomes available the waitlisted household will be notified by phone, mail, and email.
- If funding becomes available, the waitlisted family may be required to submit additional verification information if they have been on the wait list for more than 30 days.
- Eligible households may be placed on the wait list for up to one year. After one year of being on the wait list, families will need to reapply. Households will be provided notice and will be directed to reapply if they still need assistance.
- Families will be provided notice 30 days in advance of being purged and will be directed to reapply if they still need assistance

Supporting the Field:

- Updated information about the CCAP Wait List will be posted on the Department's website at <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/child-care-assistance-program>. Information provided on the site will include information for families, FAQs, and the number of active waiting list households per parish and statewide.
- The Department will work closely with Lead Agencies and Resource and Referral Agencies to support families to identify alternative options if available.
- The Department will also work closely with the Early Childhood Advisory Council and partners in the field to communicate updates on the wait list.
- For additional information or questions, please contact the Department at 1-877-453-2721 or email ldeccap@la.gov.