Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

Quarter 2 - 2019

Early Childhood Community Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department and Community Networks worked together to close out the 2018-2019 school year.

Close Out of the 2018-2019 School Year:
- Teachers completed the third and final checkpoint for Teaching Strategies *GOLD*®.
- This spring, lead agencies coordinated 5515 local *CLASS*® observations while programs reviewed scores and provided debriefs to sites.
- The Department worked closely with lead agencies to provide information updates and problem solving opportunities through the weekly lead agency webinar.
- Top-notch professional development was offered to lead agency staff, program administrators and teachers via the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit.

Coordinated Enrollment Activities:
- Communities conducted Coordinated Enrollment activities to fill program seats with some communities receiving additional support through in-person meetings with Department staff to continue to improve their system.

Early Childhood Community Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has multiple initiatives to support communities to prepare for statewide implementation of Infant CLASS®.

- **Infant *CLASS*® Community Grants:** The Department awarded over $730,000 in grant funding to 27 lead agencies in order for them to conduct high-quality Infant *CLASS*® professional development.

- **Infant *CLASS*® Video Library:** The Department is contracting with the ULL Picard Center to create 3-4 vignette videos for each dimension of the Infant CLASS tool. These videos will be published on the Department's website and will provide examples of high-quality interactions in each of the areas measured by Infant CLASS.

CLASS VIDEO LIBRARY

- **Infant *CLASS*® Calibration Videos:** The ULL Picard Center is also using Louisiana classrooms to create four Infant CLASS calibration videos to be used by Louisiana observers at no cost.

Early Childhood Ready Start Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has prioritized resources to support the seven Ready Start Networks in Cohort 1 as they work to implement formal local governance to improve quality and access across their community.

- With support from the Department, RSNs began developing strategic plans to expand and enhance their local coalitions, address stronger local governance, improve program quality and access, and future funding and fundraising strategies.
- The Department awarded Cohort 1 RSNs over $400,000 for materials and supports to enhance community classrooms.
- Bi-weekly community of practice webinars continued to share ideas and accomplishments.
- The Request for Applications for Cohort 2 was released with a mid-July submission date.

Cohort 1

Iberville
Lafayette
Jefferson
Orleans
Rapides
St. Mary
Washington

The Request for Applications for Ready Start Cohort 3 will be released during 2019-2020.

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Ready Start Networks
Full Model

Each Ready Start must develop a strategic plan that addresses the following four pillars:

Ready Start Blueprint	Ready Start Coalition	Ready Start Governance	Ready Start Fundraising Strategy
What are you building?	**Who do you need to build it?**	**How will you make decisions?**	**How will you raise funds?**
Establish the plan for your community's early childhood work. *Communicate clearly what will be true for your community if you successfully execute your plan.*	*Identify the necessary participants to achieve your plan.* *Consider carefully who needs to be informed, invested, involved, and/or held accountable.*	*Determine the structures necessary to execute your plan.* *Collaborate with your partners to establish how you will share responsibility.*	*Survey all resources available to support your strategic plan, and determine what else is needed.* *Establish a plan to secure additional resources to achieve your vision.*

Supporting Teachers to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 2

Of the 983 centers that have submitted their Academic Assurances, 74% verified that their lead teachers were ready to meet this requirement.

- **ECAC Requirement**: Beginning July 1, 2019, directors are responsible for verifying that lead teachers in Type III early learning centers have the ECAC as a minimum credential within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher. **Directors who cannot verify this must assure they have a plan to meet this requirement by July 1, 2020.**
- **Training for the ECAC:** Teachers must attend a BESE-approved ECAC program,which offer enhanced quality and practice opportunities.
  - There are 23 **BESE-Approved ECAC Programs** around the state, with current programs expanding their service areas and new programs still being approved.
  - The Early Learning Louisiana (University of Florida, Lastinger Center) online program will begin statewide implementation in July, offering programs in all areas of the state.
- **Supports for the ECAC:** Scholarships are available to attend approved training programs and for the application fee for a CDA.

Supporting Teachers to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has increased access to instructional supports for child care teachers.

Child Care Curriculum Initiative:
- The Department will continue supporting the Child Care Curriculum Initiative over the next year, providing ongoing financial support to child care programs seeking to expand their investment in high-quality instructional resources by purchasing a Tier I curriculum.

Teacher Leader Summit:
- More than 600 early childhood leaders and teachers, representing every community network, attended professional development and collaborated with peers at the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit.
- The Early Childhood track featured over 140 interactive sessions focusing on improvement efforts at the classroom, program, and community levels.

Supporting Teachers to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 2

Teachers and directors across the state will soon be able to access trainings that leverage local and national expertise to expand consistent, quality opportunities statewide.

What are Louisiana Early Childhood Key Training Modules?

Louisiana Early Childhood Key Training Modules are a set of accessible, high-quality trainings designed by experts on best practices in the field of early childhood and shared with key professional development vendors across the state to be used for redelivery.

Focus Training Area	RFA Release Date	Trainings Available
Early Childhood Tools and Standards	**February 2019**	**August 2019**
Effective Adult-Child Interactions	**May 2019**	**October 2019**
Management and Leadership	**Tentative Release August 2019**	**TBD**

Supporting Directors to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department is exploring how to stretch early learning centers' time and money through the sharing of resources and services.

- **Cost Savings for Early Learning Centers through State Contracts:** The Department has created a website to simplify the process for centers to take advantage of significant cost savings through state purchasing contracts on everything from milk to school buses.

- **Substitute Teaching Pools**: This summer, the Department will launch a targeted pilot to explore substitute teaching support for early learning centers. Partner entities will recruit, screen, train and dispatch substitute teachers to early learning centers participating in the pilot. Centers will compensate subs and maintain licensing compliance. The pilots will help identify any policy barriers that impede adequate staffing for centers.

- **Online Resources:** The Department is refining its online resources to provide directors with useful tools that will save time.

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Supporting Directors to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department is undertaking new activities to support child care directors in meeting standards for high quality learning and leadership.

The Louisiana Early Leaders Academy addresses the need for child care directors of Proficient centers to develop and strengthen their use of tools and strategies to guide teachers to improve quality in their program.

- In June, the Department launched an executive-level leadership program for Type III directors in Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany parishes. The pilot region is being extended to include St. Bernard, Lafourche, St. Charles, Plaquemines, and St. John parishes.
- The ten month program will help develop instructional leadership skills to improve quality and build the skills necessary to be an early childhood leader in your community, state and nation.
- Applications are currently being reviewed, and finalists notified.
- Learn more about the program here.

Supporting Child Care Centers (Site Improvement Planning)
Key Activities in Quarter 2

In August 2018, low-performing sites scoring below 3.75, based on 2017-2018 preliminary performance scores, were notified regarding their mandated participation in Early Childhood Site Improvement Planning.
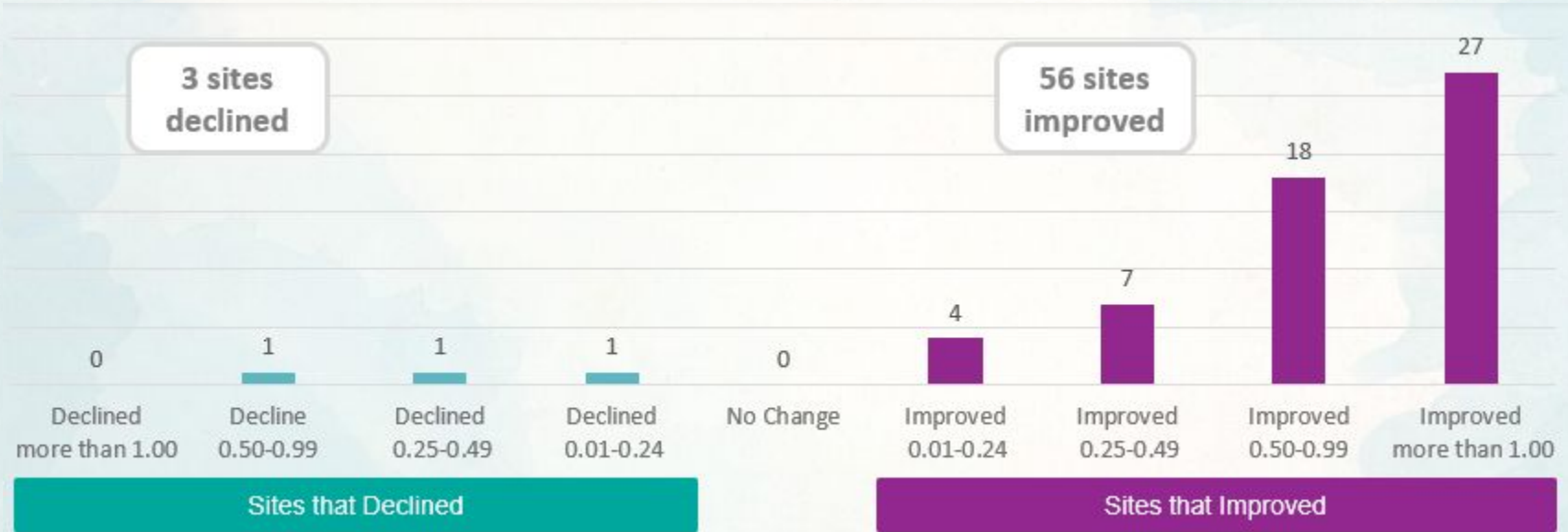
April 2019	• Improvement plans were reviewed and modified as needed. • Each Child Care Resource & Referral agency participated in a Spring Case Study with the Department.
May - June 2019	• Field Support Consultants (FSCs) re-administered the Site Self-Assessment and analyzed individual site growth. • FSCs reviewed spring data with sites and provided them with support documents to close out the Site Improvement Planning year. • 2018-2019 performance scores will be used to determine whether a site continues in the Site Improvement Planning process for the upcoming academic year.

Supporting Child Care Centers (Site Improvement Planning)
Key Activities in Quarter 2

Based on preliminary results, 95% of the low-performing sites that participated in the Site Improvement Planning process this year showed improvement, and 46% displayed growth of 1 point or higher.

Supporting Family Homes
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department will research and study family homes to inform a strategic plan to incorporate family homes in the statewide ECE network.

Challenge: While family homes represent an important source of affordable child care for families in Louisiana, very few families are able to access family homes through CCAP funds. And, currently family homes do not participate in quality measurement and improvement efforts.

PDG Approach: A year-long pilot to engage registered family homes in a family home network designed the support collaboration and quality improvement in Southwest and Northern Louisiana, which will include provider collaboration opportunities, job-embedded coaching, trainings, child developmental screening, and CLASS.

What success looks like: More family homes are certified for CCAP, and providers are supported to improve the quality of care provided and to strengthen their business operations.

Supporting Family Homes
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Family Home Pilot will be located in two regions of the state, and will be primarily administered by the two CCR&Rs.
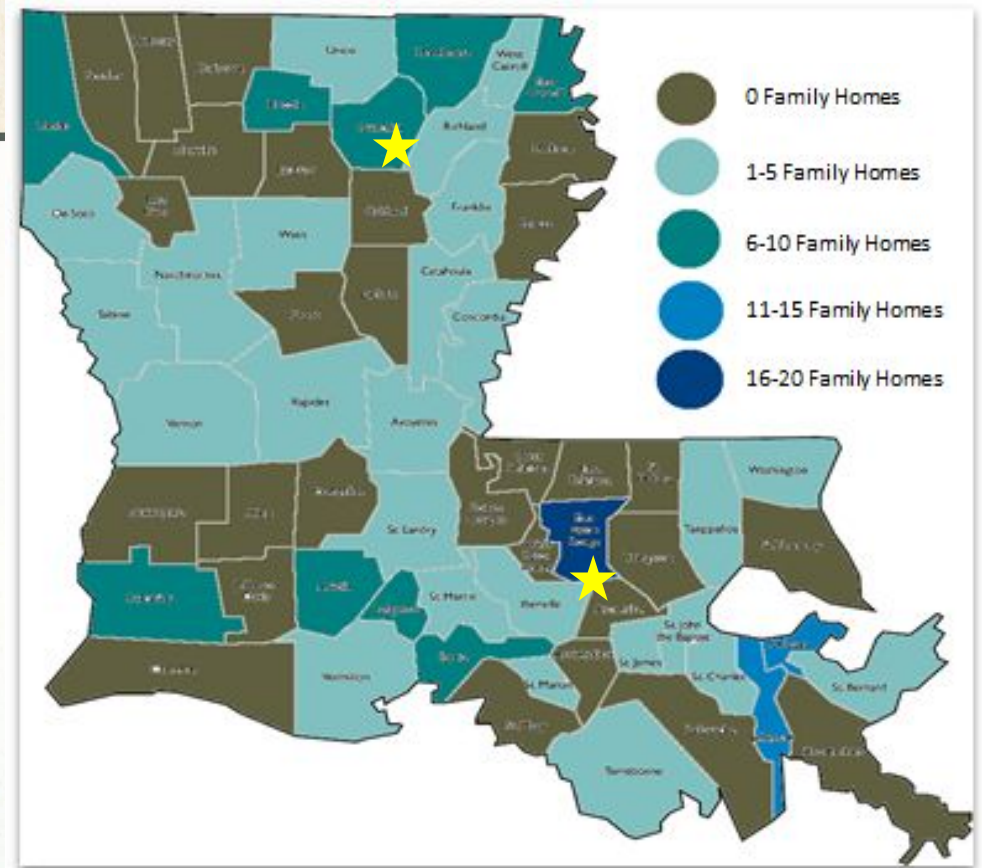
North Louisiana
- Children's Coalition
- Captain: Amy Clancy

Greater Baton Rouge
- Volunteers of America
- Captain: Karen Powell

The Department is hoping to recruit 20-30 family homes from both regions of the state to participate in the 2019-2020 Family Home Pilot.

Legend:
- 0 Family Homes
- 1-5 Family Homes
- 6-10 Family Homes
- 11-15 Family Homes
- 16-20 Family Homes

Supporting Early Childhood (2018-2019 Legislative Updates)
Key Activities in Quarter 2

This June the Louisiana Legislature, for the first time in a decade, increased funding in the annual state budget for early childhood education.

$8.8 million to fill the void of an expiring federal grant that provides pre-kindergarten services to four-year-old children	✓ These funds were allocated at June BESE, and communities are working to enroll 873 children
$8.9 million to fund more than 1,400 additional seats for children birth through age 3 currently on the waitlist for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	✓ Letters were mailed to families now eligible for a funded CCAP seat in July
$2.3 million to support an important, federally-required increase in the CCAP rate.	✓ The rate increase will take effect by September 30, 2019.

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Licensing Updates
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has supported child care centers through sharing information about licensed center requirements.

Supporting Centers:

- The Licensing Division provided webinars on the Louisiana Believes website relating to Bulletin 137 Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations. The 4 supporting webinars can be found on the Licensed Centers Library page in the Webinars section.

Updates for Child Care Criminal Background Checks:

- The Child Care Civil Background Check System has been enhanced to provide more efficient processing times, increased security, and more search options.
- Check out the new features in the updated User Manual. You may also view the webinar recording or review the webinar slides.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Updates
Key Activities in Quarter 2

The Department has supported child care centers and families through CCAP.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):

- The CCAP Waiting List Statistics and Monthly Enrollment have continued to be reported and posted on the Department website.

  - There were 3,231 families (4,651 children) on the CCAP Wait List as of June 2019.
  - Letters sent to 1,339 children birth through 3 years from the waiting list.

- CCAP Provider Help Desk and Provider Certification continue to be available to assist providers with understanding the CCAP process and help them navigate areas within Early Childhood.

Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers
Monitoring Change Over Time

There has been little change in the number early learning centers. The 2019 Star Ratings are based on the 2017-2018 Performance Profile ratings.

Licensing Type

	Type I	Type II	Type III
April 2019	273	197	1,001
May 2019	272	196	1,000
June 2019	271	200	996

2019 Star Ratings:

	0 Star	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
2019	15	53	243	403	200	11

Revisions to Bulletin 139

Bulletin 139 Revisions

The Department has 2 key changes to Bulletin 139.

Section 319 - Caregiver's Ineligibility for CCAP Payments

- Adds in an exception so a caregiver can received CCAP payments for foster children in the caregiver's custody.

Section 515 - Payments Made on Behalf of Households

- Split Infant and Toddler rates as Infant care is more expensive
- Using more current figures for projections, the rates for infants and toddlers can be increased higher than the 25th percentile.
- More accurate data on the 25th percentile for family homes, in-homes and schools was available in the CCAP provider agreements collected in January 2019.
- Special needs rate are set at 26% higher than the base rate as allowed by Bulletin 139, Section 103.

Bulletin 139 Revisions
CCAP Rate Changes for Regular Care

Child Care Provider Type	Regular Care	Regular Care for Toddlers	Regular Care for Infants
Current Type III Early Learning Center	$21.50	$22.50	$22.50
NEW Type III Early Learning Center	**$22.00**	**$23.75**	**$25.00**
25th Percentile of MRS	$22.00	$23.00	$24.00
Current Family Child Care Provider	$15.00	$16.00	$16.00
***NEW Family Child Care Provider**	**$17.00**	**$18.00**	**$18.00**
25th Percentile of TIPS	$17.00	$18.00	$18.00
Current In-Home Provider	$14.50	$15.50	$15.50
***NEW In-Home Provider**	**$17.50**	**$17.50**	**$17.50**
25th Percentile of TIPS	$17.50	$17.50	$17.50
Current School Child Care Center	$15.00	$16.00	$16.00
***NEW School Child Care Center**	**$16.50**	**$16.50**	**$16.50**
25th Percentile of TIPS	$16.50	$16.50	$16.50
Current Military Child Care Centers	$21.50	$22.50	$22.50
****NEW Military Child Care**	**$22.00**	**$23.75**	**$25.00**

*25th percentile of the rates reported to LDOE in January 2019 via CCAP provider agreement

** Same as Type III rates

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Bulletin 139 Revisions
CCAP Rate Changes for Special Needs Incentive

Child Care Provider Type	Special Needs Care Incentive	Special Needs Care Incentive for Toddlers	Special Needs Care Incentive for Infants
Current Type III Early Learning Center	$27.00	$28.25	$28.25
NEW Type III Early Learning Center	**$27.72**	**$29.93**	**$31.50**
Current Family Child Care Provider	$18.75	$20.00	$20.00
*NEW Family Child Care Provider	**$21.42**	**$22.68**	**$22.68**
Current In-Home Provider	$18.25	$19.50	$19.50
*NEW In-Home Provider	**$22.05**	**$22.05**	**$22.05**
Current School Child Care Center	$18.75	$20.00	$20.00
*NEW School Child Care Center	**$20.79**	**$20.79**	**$20.79**
Current Military Child Care Centers	$27.00	$28.25	$28.25
**NEW Military Child Care	**$27.72**	**$29.93**	**$31.50**

*As allowed by Bulletin 139, section 103 Definitions - rate is set at 26% above regular rate

** Same as Type III rates