Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

June 4, 2020

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Approval of the Minutes of May 26, 2020
IV. Consideration of proposed revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*
V. Consideration of an Update on the Status of Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana in Response to COVID-19
VI. Adjournment

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139

Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs

As of April 2020, the unemployment rate in Louisiana was over 14%. In addition, child care is critical in economic recovery; therefore, CCAP is seeking to include job search as an eligibility criteria for CCAP.

Bulletin 139 §509 - The proposed changes would allow families to qualify for CCAP while seeking employment or enrolling in school.

- The changes address a gap in support that the program presently does not address.
- The need for this change is exacerbated by COVID-19 due to the drastic increase in unemployment.

Revised language provides clearer detail on the process of job search including the 24 month denial. There are other ways a household could qualify after the initial use of this option (attending school, etc). The Department will reassess the 24 month denial, including available funds, and bring back revisions to the Advisory Council for consideration if the needs exists.

Update on the Status of Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana

Status of ECCE in Louisiana

Status of Early Childhood Closures

The LDOE is tracking closures and availability of care daily. The number of child care provider closures has decreased since April.

	April 22, 2020		May 22, 2020		June 1, 2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Type III Centers	706	70%	541	53%	413	41%
Type I, II, and III Centers	1,024	70%	776	53%	604	41%
Family Child Care	37	20%	33	17%	30	15%
In-Home	2	40%	2	20%	2	20%
Family Child Care/In-Home	39	21%	35	17%	32	15%
All Providers	1,063	64%	811	49%	636	38%

Early Childhood Updates
OPH Guidelines for Child Care

On Monday, Gov. Edwards announced that following continued improvement in Louisiana's COVID-19 outlook and a significant increase in testing capacity and contact tracing, Louisiana is ready to move to Phase 2 of the White House's reopening strategy on tomorrow June 5.

- The Office of Public Health and the Department of Education developed required and suggested guidelines for child care centers to use as they reopen, informed by the latest guidance from the CDC.
- In order to ensure the health and safety of children and staff, centers are expected to follow the guidelines detailed in this document.

Early Childhood Updates
LaCAP Relief Grants

The Department released a second round of the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) relief grants for eligible child care providers.

As child care providers become operational again, they will face increased costs related to increased cleaning and sanitation, required adult-child ratios and group sizes detailed in the Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care, and other activities necessary to maintain operations.

To support providers, the Department released a second round of LaCAP Relief Grants:

- **LaCAP Relief Grants Round 2**: Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who were operational by June 1, 2020 are eligible to receive $187.50 per child in licensed capacity. Approximately $9M in grant funds are expected to be released by the second week in June.
- **LaCAP Relief Grants Round 3**: Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who become operational later in summer 2020 may be eligible to receive a later grant.

Status of ECCE in Louisiana
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies are coordinating with local communities for the distribution of essential supplies to early education providers across the state that began this week.

Close to $1M worth of health and safety supplies is being distributed to 1,649 providers. Start-up supplies include:

- **Health screen equipment** including a no-touch thermometer and hand sanitizer
- **Sanitizing supplies** including bleach
- **Hand hygiene supplies** including hand soap and paper towels
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** such as masks and gloves

Deliveries of disinfectant will take place once supply chain issues are resolved.

Early Childhood Updates
COVID-19 Child Care Community Recovery Grants

The Department released a [request for applications](#) for COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants for lead agencies to apply to support the recovery of the child care sector in their communities.

- This funding can be used for a variety of activities to support child care, including:
  - Providing workforce incentive bonuses for teachers returning to work in child care
  - Awarding subgrants to child care providers
  - Purchasing additional PPE and/or supplies for child care centers
  - Providing other community-level supports focused on recovery
- Lead agencies have requested a total of $5,680,000 to support child care recovery in their communities.
- Final applications will be due on June 12, and funding will begin July 1.