



Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

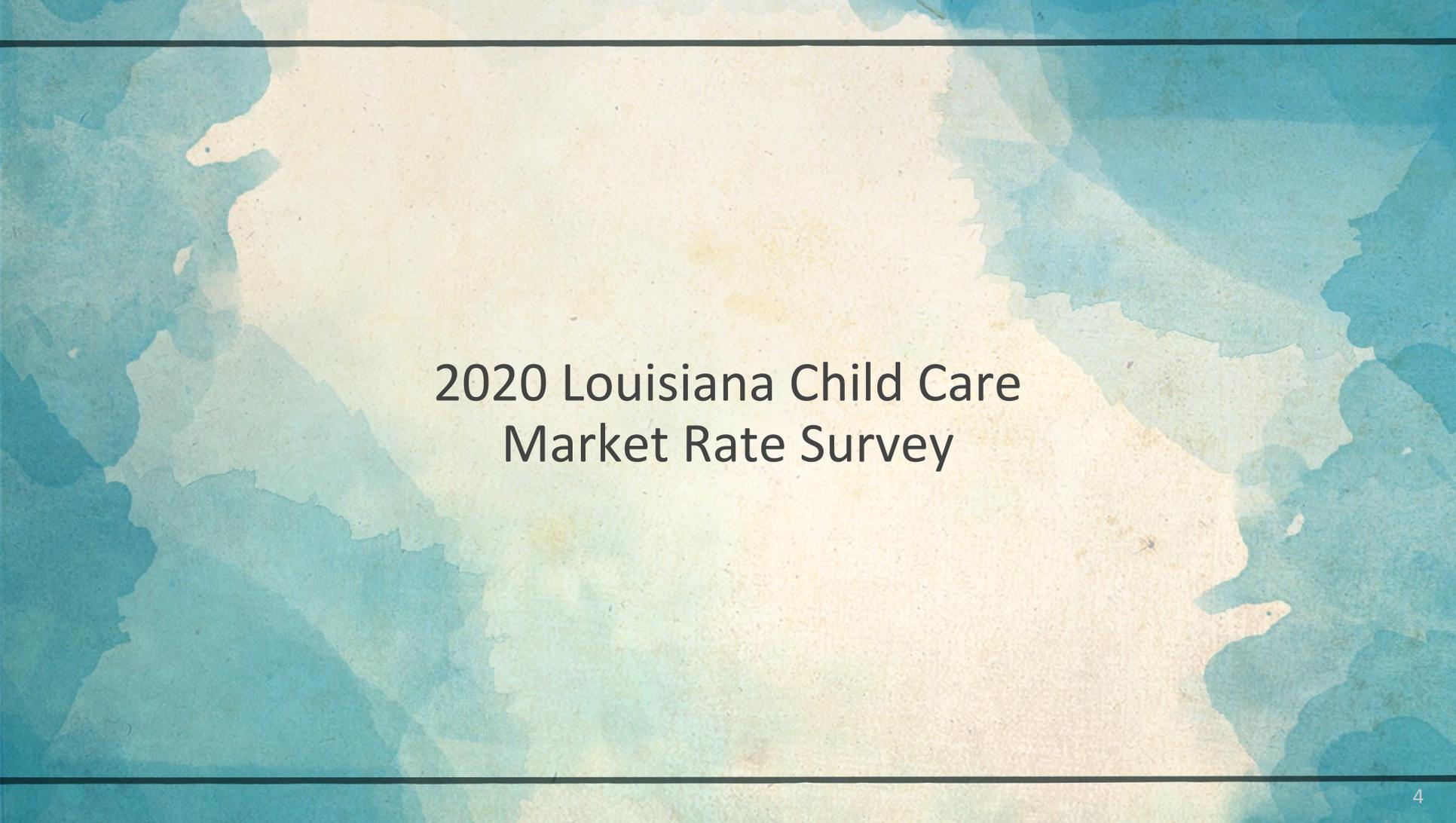
July 22, 2020

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Certification for Lack of Quorum
- IV. Approval of the Minutes of June 4, 2020
- V. Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council membership
- VI. Results of Market Rate Survey 1 and plans for Market Rate Survey 2
- VII. Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report – Quarter 2
- VIII. Adjournment

Welcome
Dr. Jenna Chaisson





2020 Louisiana Child Care
Market Rate Survey

2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey

Discussion Topics

- Purpose for the Market Rate Survey (MRS)
- Presentations of results from MRS 1 by Emergent Methods
- MRS 2 Changes from the previous survey
- MRS 2 Timeline

2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey

Purpose for the Market Rate Survey

The Department launched the first 2020 MRS in February. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the survey was stopped and a new survey will be given in fall.

- The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization Act of 2014 requires Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) lead agencies to certify that payment rates ensure equal access.
- Equal access means that children from low income families who qualify for a subsidy can access care comparable to children who are not eligible for the subsidy.
- Emergent Method will be presenting the limited results received from MRS 1, which has a low percentage of responses due to the pandemic but gives useful information.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2020 MARKET RATE SURVEY INTERIM REPORT

BACKGROUND

LDOE is required to conduct a market rate survey every three years

- As an administrator of CCDF funds, this survey is required to analyze the prices and fees charged by child care providers for services in the priced market.

BACKGROUND

LDOE engaged Emergent Method in December 2019 to complete its 2020 Market Rate Survey

- The survey was utilized as an opportunity to better understand the price of child care paid by consumers as well as the cost to providers of providing quality child care.

BACKGROUND

The online survey was distributed to 1,408 Louisiana child care providers by email on Feb. 17, 2020

- The survey fielding loosely coincided with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana. Based on guidance from the CCDF, the survey was closed on April 27, 2020, with the intention of re-fielding it later in 2020.

BACKGROUND

This document serves as an interim, topline report of the responses gathered during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Given the unique context in which these responses were gathered, these findings and data points should be used for internal review should not be considered representative.

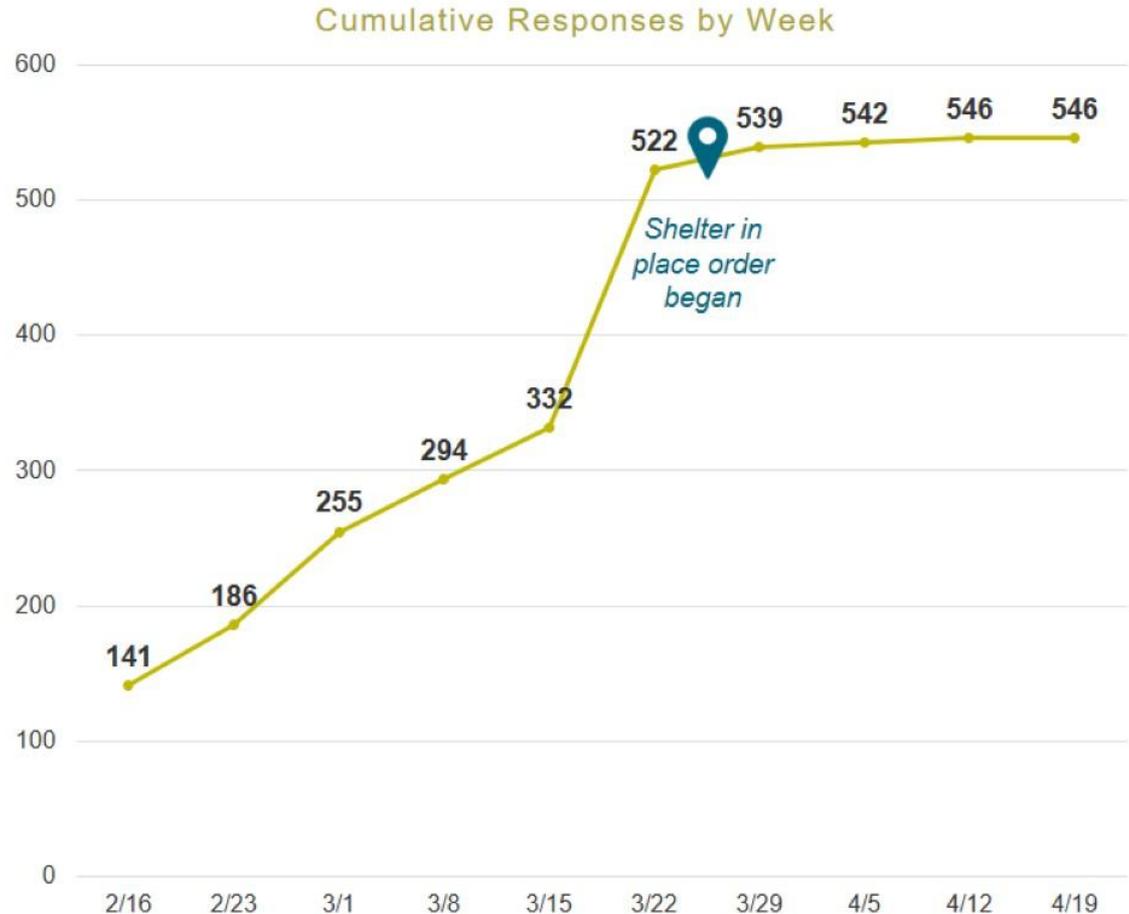
SURVEY FIELDING

Child care respondents were sent the online survey on Feb. 17, 2020, in addition to the following communication:

- Postcard notifying them of the survey launch
- Weekly email reminders to complete the survey
- A letter with an enclosed paper survey, allowing them to complete and return the survey offline

Survey responses increased steadily for the first six weeks of fielding until the week of March 22, when the statewide stay-at-home order went into effect.

**Dates are representative of entire week*



546

Total responses
received

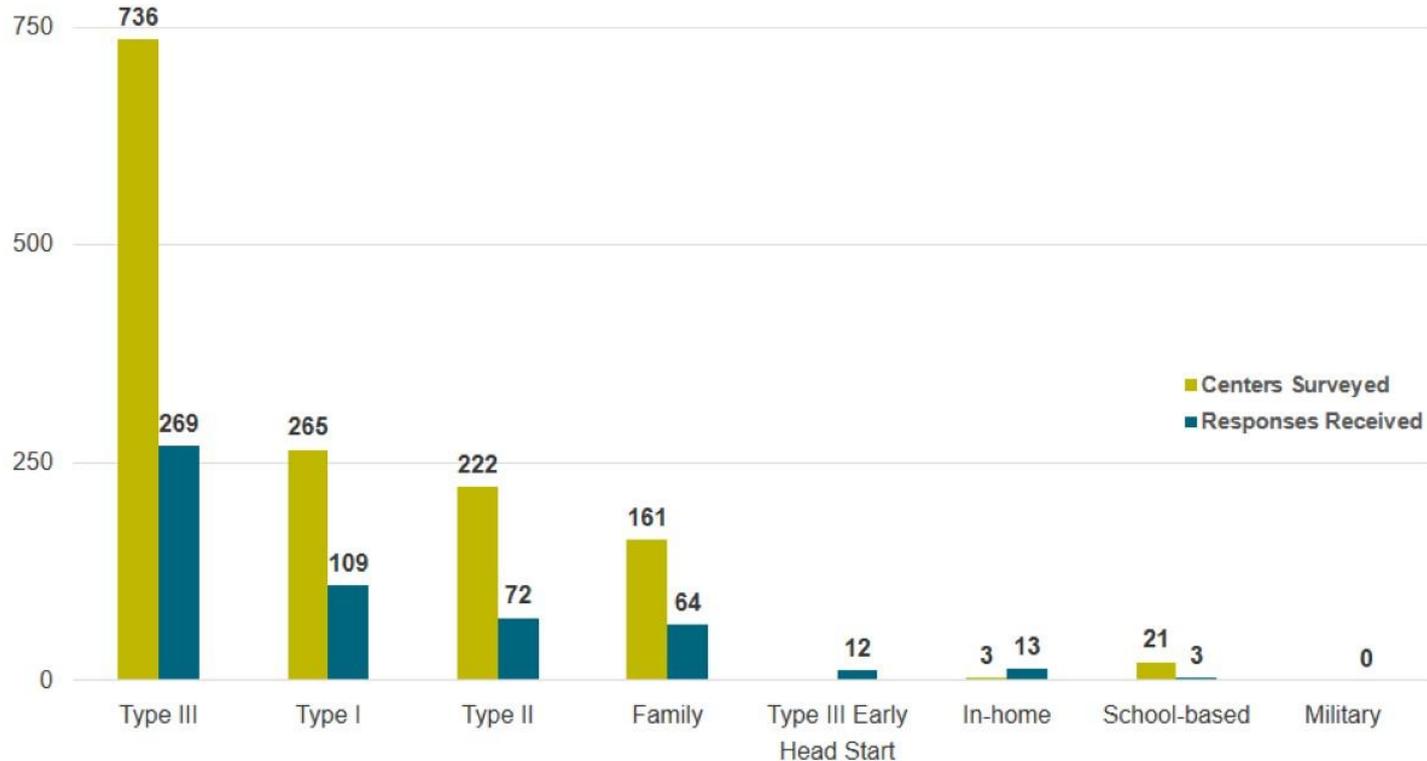
- 38.8 percent overall response rate
- 92.5 percent completed survey responses

482

Responses matched back to
current child care centers

- 34.2 percent matched response rate

RESPONSES BY CHILD CARE CENTER TYPE



The responses by center largely mirrored the distribution across types of center, with Type III centers being most represented within the survey.

For the purposes of distribution, Type III Early Head Start centers are considered a subset of Type III centers. Military centers are centers located on a military base; these centers are not directly licensed by LDOE.

CURRENT STATE-WIDE ENROLLMENT

CHILD	CURRENT ENROLLMENT	CURRENT CENTER WAITLIST	CURRENT VACANCIES
INFANT	2,854	1,760	502
TODDLER	9,261	1,993	1,168
3 YEAR OLD	6,135	981	1,057
4 YEAR OLD	4,831	461	1,163
5 YEAR OLD AND OLDER	4,607	215	857
TOTAL	27,688	5,410	4,747

AVERAGE FULL-TIME RATES (ALL PROVIDERS)

CHILD	COMBINED AVERAGE DAILY RATE*	2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES	AVERAGE RATE & DAILY LA CCAP RATE DIFFERENTIAL
INFANT (N = 399)	\$28.81	\$25.00	-\$3.81
TODDLER (N = 445)	\$27.93	\$23.75	-\$4.18
3 YEAR OLD (N = 457)	\$27.09	\$22.00	-\$5.09
4 YEAR OLD (N = 440)	\$26.37	\$22.00	-\$4.37
5 YEAR OLD AND OLDER (N = 325)	\$22.23	\$22.00	-\$0.23

*Respondents were given the option of providing their rates as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly. The combined average daily rate was calculated by combining and averaging hourly (assumes 10 hour/days), daily, weekly (assumes 5 days/week), and monthly (assumes 20 days/month) rates.

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE PERCENTILES

	INFANT	TODDLER	THREE YEAR OLD	FOUR YEAR OLD	FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
25%	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$22.99	\$16.00
50%	\$28.00	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$25.73	\$22.00
75%	\$32.50	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$26.40
2019 DAILY MAXIMUM LA CCAP RATES*	\$25.00	\$23.75	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00

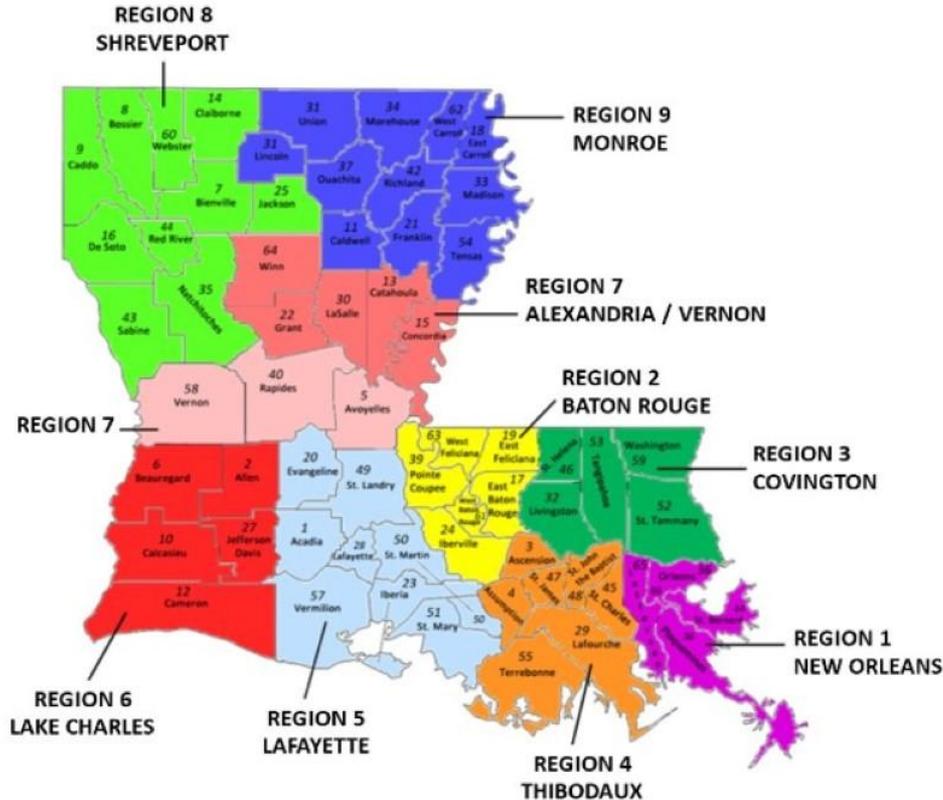
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*Note: Current LA CCAP rates are at the following 2017 MRS percentiles: infant – 40th percentile; toddler – 31st percentile; three year old – 25th percentile; four year old – 25th percentile; five year old – 25th percentile.

DAILY FULL-TIME RATE COMPARISON



REGIONAL DIFFERENCES



- 1 – New Orleans
- 2 – Baton Rouge
- 3 – Covington
- 4 – Thibodaux
- 5 – Lafayette
- 6 – Lake Charles
- 7 – Alexandria
- 8 – Shreveport
- 9 – Monroe

INFANT RATES, BY REGION



TODDLER RATES, BY REGION



3 YEAR OLD RATES, BY REGION



4 YEAR OLD RATES, BY REGION



5 YEAR OLD RATES, BY REGION



DIFFERENT AND INCREASING RATES

204 RESPONDENTS (37.4%)

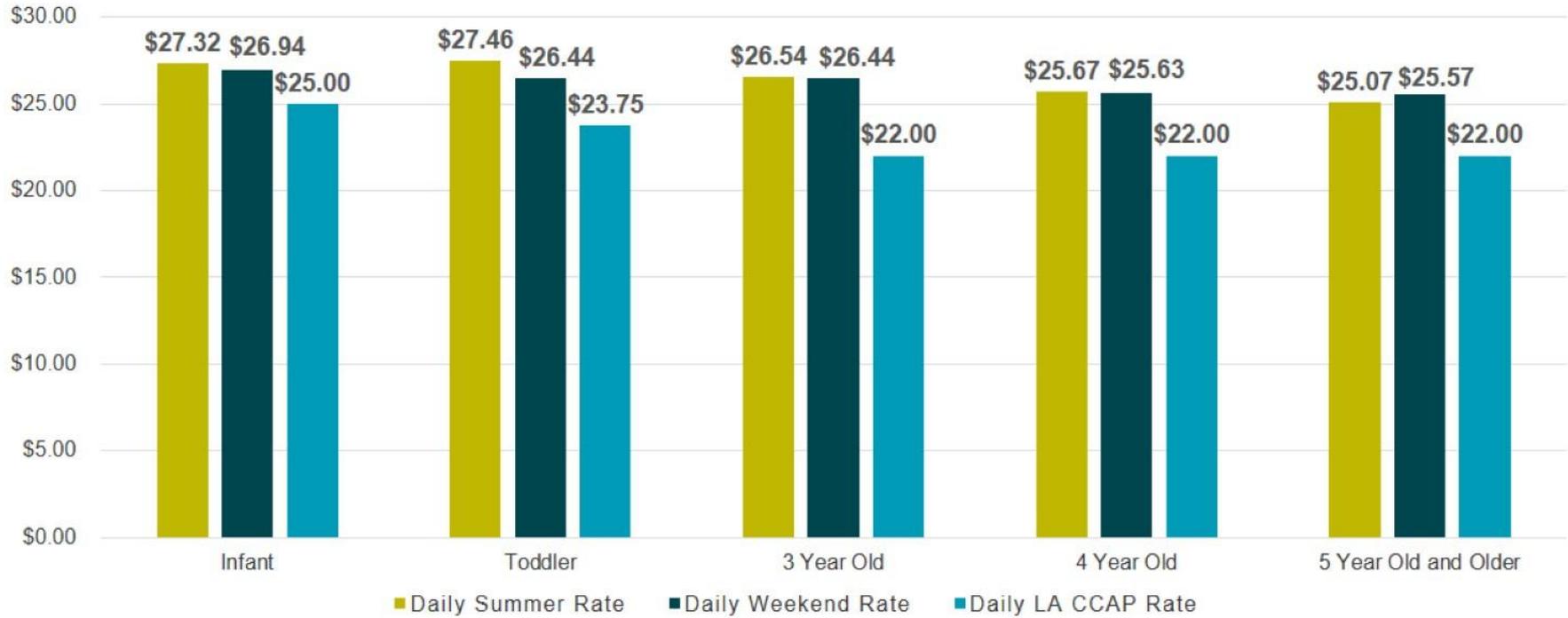
ANTICIPATE INCREASING THEIR
RATES IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

AVERAGE ANTICIPATED RATE
INCREASE OF **\$12.23 PER WEEK,**
OR **\$2.45 PER DAY**

162 RESPONDENTS (29.7%)

CHARGE DIFFERENT SUMMER
AND/OR WEEKEND RATES

SUMMER AND WEEKEND RATES*



*Calculated based on child care providers who indicated that they charge different rates for weekend care (N = 23) or summer care (N = 155)

ADDITIONAL FEES

FEE TYPE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	AVERAGE YEARLY FEE AMOUNT
REGISTRATION*	436 (79.9%)	\$108.88
SUPPLY	174 (31.9%)	\$93.77
FIELD TRIP	59 (10.8%)	\$115.54
TRANSPORTATION	18 (3.3%)	\$49.72
TECHNOLOGY	10 (1.8%)	\$130.50
OTHER	45 (8.2%)	\$96.60

82.8

PERCENT OF
RESPONDENTS
CHARGE AT
LEAST ONE FEE
IN ADDITION TO
TUITION

20

*CCAP currently pays registration fees for participating families once a year.

INVESTMENTS IN STAFF TRAINING

53.6% HAVE AN ANNUAL TRAINING BUDGET

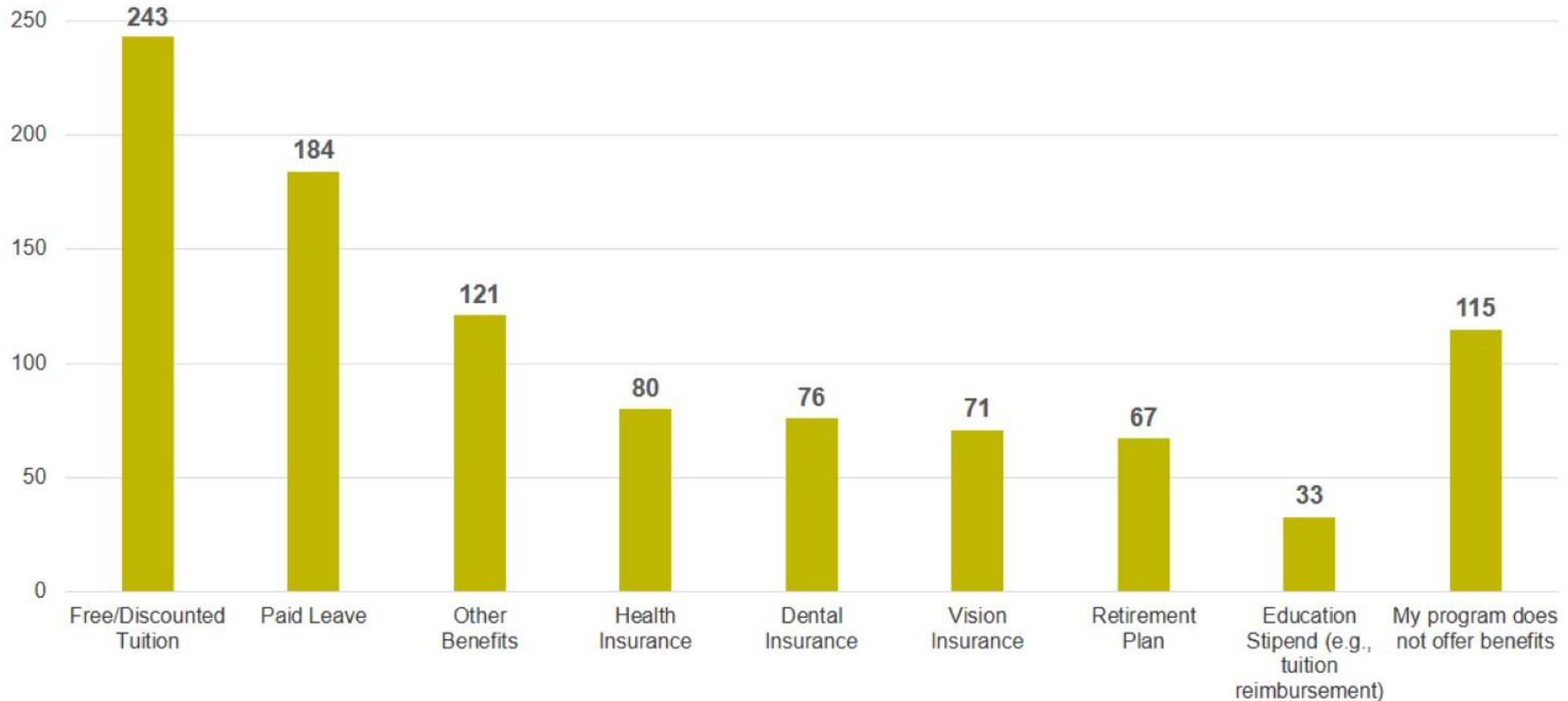
20.3% HAVE A PER PERSON TRAINING BUDGET

26.2% DO NOT PAY FOR STAFF TRAINING AND/OR DEVELOPMENT

AVERAGE STAFF WAGES BY CENTER

POSITION	AVERAGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN POSITION	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY
DIRECTOR	1.1	\$14.07	\$36,883
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (DIRECTOR DESIGNEE)	0.6	\$13.20	\$30,025
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	.33	\$11.69	\$23,855
LEAD-TEACHER (FULL-TIME)	5.1	\$14.95	\$22,653
ASSISTANT TEACHER (FULL-TIME)	3.3	\$9.17	\$16,065
ALL OTHER STAFF (FULL-TIME)	1.0	\$9.31	\$25,431
ALL OTHER STAFF (PART-TIME)	2.7	\$9.01	\$10,024

OFFERED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



AFFECTS FROM COVID-19

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic ultimately resulted in the low response rates, and a premature termination of the survey distribution.

While these results should not be considered representative, they provide a snapshot against which the re-fielded Market Rate Survey results may be compared in the future.

Key Takeaway One

- Type III providers were best-represented within the survey, loosely mirroring the profile of the population

Key Takeaway Two

- Across center types, average daily tuition rates exceed current CCAP rates by \$3.54

Key Takeaway Three ¹

- 37.4 percent of respondents plan to increase their rates in the next year

Key Takeaway Four ²

- Just under one-third of respondents (29.7 percent) charge different summer or weekend rates

Key Takeaway Five

- 82.8 percent of respondents charge some type of fee in addition to tuition

Key Takeaway Six

- Roughly three-quarters of respondents make some type of investment in staff training

1. *The average planned increase is \$12.23 per week, or \$2.45 per day*
2. *On average, daily weekend rates exceed current CCAP rates by \$3.25. On average, daily summer rates exceed current CCAP rates by \$3.46.*

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Next steps for this analysis should include a complete re-fielding of this survey once the immediate threat of the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided.

This re-fielding should be conducted with the intention of gathering a more robust sample size by which the results may be more effectively benchmarked.

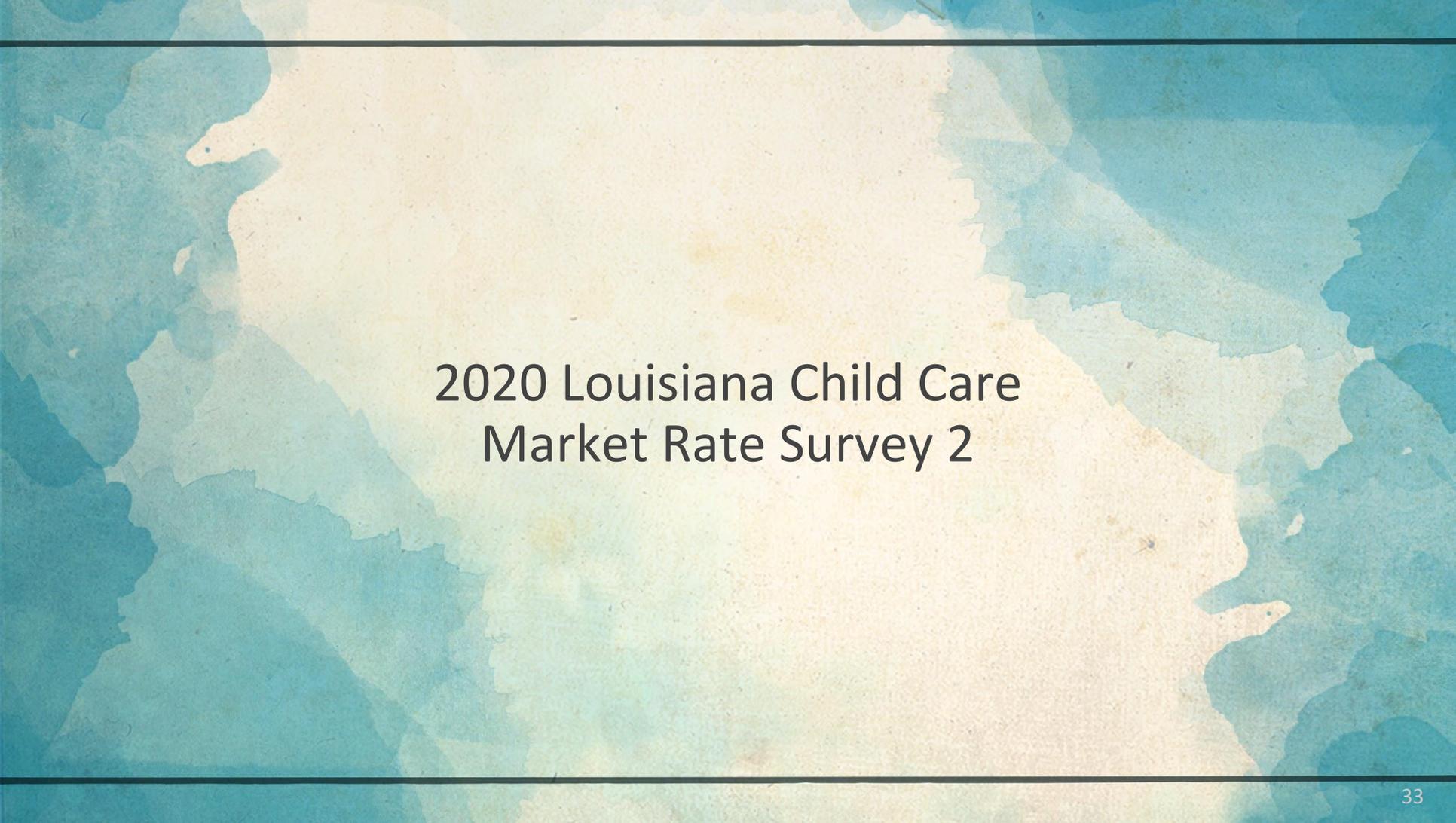
f  @EMERGENTMETHOD

QUESTIONS?

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2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2

2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2

Changes from Market Rate Survey 1

Questions regarding COVID-19 recovery were added to MRS 2 in order to get a sense of where child care centers will be, or expect to be, as a result of the pandemic.

The Market Rate Survey will be redone in the fall with a few adjustments.

- Some questions were edited for clarity based on responses.
- Questions were added to capture how rates may change as providers adjust to a post-COVID world.
- The MRS 2 will also seek guidance on how the Department can support providers.

2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2

Narrow Cost Analysis

Focus groups will be asked in-depth questions regarding operating costs and CCAP participation.

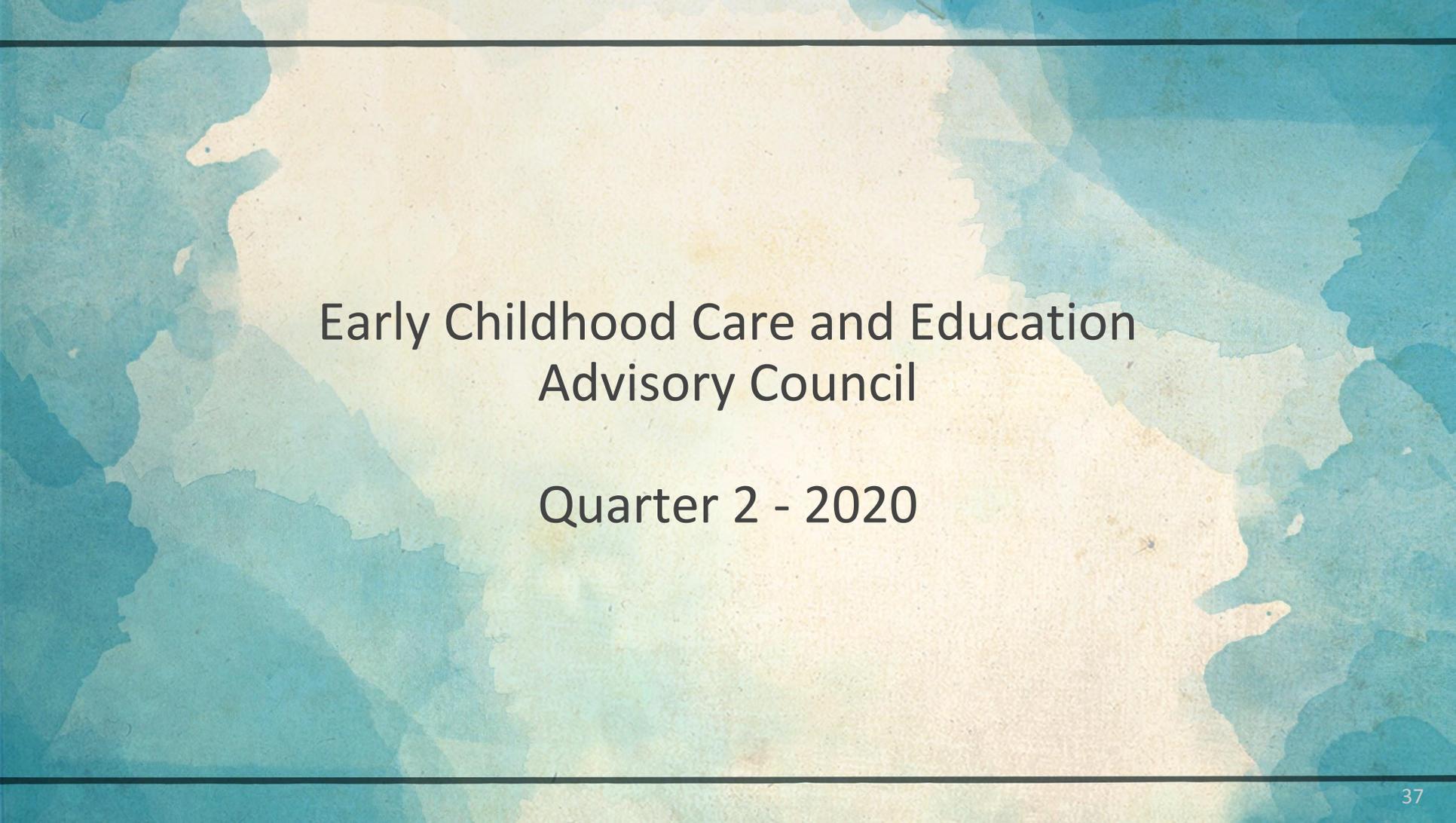
Purpose: To evaluate the gap between costs and payment rates as part of a strategic approach to rate setting. Cost information assessments will be used to narrow the difference between costs and rates.

- Narrowing the difference between costs and rates
 - (1) reduces barriers to families in accessing care, and;
 - (2) maintains an adequate supply of providers.

2020 Louisiana Child Care Market Rate Survey 2

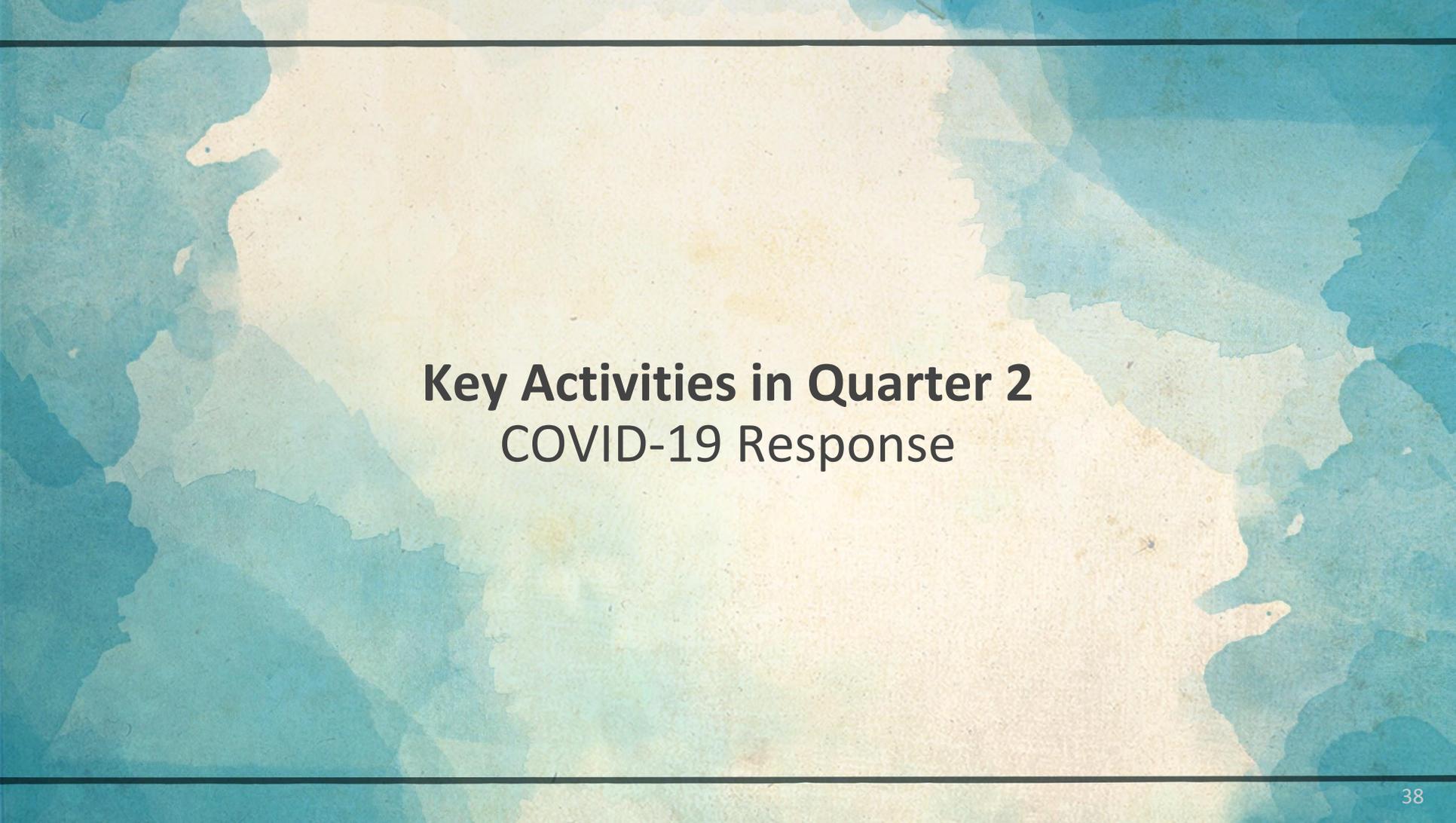
Timeline

Timeframe	Task
August 31 - October 30, 2020	Survey fielding – postcards, weekly emails, paper copy surveys, and outbound calls
September 2020	Focus group preparation
October 2020	Focus group facilitation
October - November 2020	Survey analysis
November - December 2020	Draft, review, design, and complete final report
January 2021	Deliver final report



Early Childhood Care and Education
Advisory Council

Quarter 2 - 2020



Key Activities in Quarter 2
COVID-19 Response

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response

The Department has supported early childhood providers and families from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in several ways.

- Communication
- Licensing and CCCBC Supports
- OPH Guidelines for Child Care
- CCAP Supports
- Meal Support
- Family Support
- Child Care Support

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Communication

The Department:

- Held frequent webinars to inform providers of health and safety guidelines such as group sizes, grant opportunities, business resources, PPE availability, OPH Guidelines and Strong Start resources while responding to live questions;
- Developed a dedicated COVID-19 [landing page](#) and [resource library](#) on the Louisiana Believes website focused on preventing and responding to COVID-19 in schools and early learning centers and a centralized [email address](#) for questions or concerns;
- Developed an up-to-date [FAQ document](#) for child care centers and providers;
- Surveyed and communicated with centers on needs and addressed those needs (e.g., grants, PPE, etc);
- Tracked provider closures while [listing open sites and seat availability](#) for [families seeking child care](#); and
- Maintained a [list schools providing feeding services](#) during school closure.



Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Communication

The Department notified all provider types on monetary assistance such as the following:

- Unemployment claims
- Small Business Administration loans
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and information on paid sick leave
- Payroll Protection Program
- Louisiana Loan Portfolio Guaranty Program (LGPG)
- Save Small Business Fund Grants
- USDA Resources for Rural Communities

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Licensing and CCCBC Supports

The Department has supported child care centers in a number of ways regarding health and safety requirements and certification.

- The Department:
 - Absorbed fees for license renewals, change requests and CCCBC fees;
 - Extended dates for license renewals;
 - Streamlined change requests (age ranges, hours of operation) to allow quick turn around;
 - Obtained BESE waiver to allow 16 and 17 year olds to be included in the child-to-staff ratio if the person works under the direct supervision of an adult staff member; and
 - Streamlined registration and certification of family home and in-home providers.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - OPH Guidelines for Child Care

CHILD CARE • GUIDELINES •

- 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.
- The [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#) apply to **all phases** of Reopening Louisiana.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - CCAP Supports

The Department has supported child care providers and families in many ways in relation to CCAP.

The Department:

- Paid all authorized children on enrollment rather than attendance;
- Paid CCAP at the maximum daily rate;
- Waived CCAP copayments for families;
- Extended family redeterminations for three months;
- Extended reporting deadlines for eligibility determinations;
- Moved all CCAP authorizations that were part-time to full-time; and
- Established a pandemic CCAP application for families of “essential critical infrastructure workers” working in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to allow quick CCAP eligibility (3/23/2020 - 5/31/2020).

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 - Child Care Supports

The Department provided a variety of resources to support child care providers, such as:

- PPE (no touch thermometers, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks) to all child care providers via Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCR&Rs);
- LaCAP Relief Grants;
- Community Grants;
- An authorized letter requesting Louisiana retailers to consider allowing early learning centers to purchase basic supplies that exceed the rationed amounts; and
- Mental Health Consultations via telephone or telehealth web-based platform.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Family Support

The Department provided a large variety of helpful resources to support families in facilitating learning at home.

- [Guidance for Early Learning at Home](#) is a guidance document that walks families step-by-step through the process of creating a productive daily schedule, along with age-appropriate, play-based learning activities to enhance learning at home.
- [The LDOE Continuous Education Toolkit](#) for School Systems contains academic resources to support learning for all grade levels, including early childhood. The early childhood resources include information on child development and lists of high-quality instructional materials.
- [Louisiana Public Broadcasting \(LPB\)](#) has partnered with the LDOE to launch an online hub of at-home learning supports, as well as to broadcast high-quality educational programming.
- [Noggin Cares](#) has partnered with the LDOE to offer a free app subscription to Louisiana families loaded with read-aloud e-books, learning games, songs, and other engaging content.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - The Numbers

By working in partnership with CCR&Rs, LDH, and child care providers around the state, the Department helped to ensure that essential workers had access to child care during the early stages of the pandemic.

Emergency CCAP	New In-Home, FCC, and Type III Providers	Respite Care Contracts
<p>Since expanding CCAP eligibility to accommodate essential workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 5,200 critical personnel and over 7,600 children have been approved for emergency CCAP. 56 Type I and II providers have converted to Type III to support these families. 	<p>Since expediting the process to become a CCAP provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59 individuals have become newly certified as in-home or family child care providers, and more are in process Since the beginning of the Pandemic, there have been 14 new type III providers to become licensed 	<p>LDOE worked with CCR&Rs to identify child care centers for respite care contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 child care centers contracted with the LDOE to provide respite care Each center served an average of 15 children per day Respite care services ended May 17 and contracts ended on June 30

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Respite Care Summary

From March 24 to May 15, there were a total of 356 unique children served in 26 centers providing contracted respite care across 17 parishes and 4 CCR&R regions.

Parish	# of Respite Centers	# of Unique Children Served	Parish	# of Respite Centers	# of Unique Children Served
Ascension	1	48	Rapides	1	22
Caddo	1	25	St. Bernard	2	20
Calcasieu	1	14	St. Charles	1	8
East Baton Rouge	2	46	St. Tammany	3	54
Evangeline	1	10	Terrebonne	1	40
Jefferson	1	1	Washington	1	16
Lafayette	1 (not needed)	0	West Feliciana Parish	1	9
Lafourche	2	10	Grand Total	26	356
Orleans	5	33			

CCR&R	Number of Respite Centers
Agenda For Children	17
NSU	2
VOA 2,3,4	4
VOA 5,6,7	3
Grand Total	26

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Site Closures Over Time

During April 2020, 70% of all child care providers were closed.

Date	Number of Closed Sites	Percent of Total Sites
3/15/2020	159	11%
4/1/2020	931	64%
4/22/2020	1024	70%
5/1/2020	1002	68%
6/1/2020	604	41%



Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Licensed Early Learning Centers

The 2020 Star Ratings are based on the 2019-2020 Performance Profile ratings.

Licensing/Registration Type

	Type I	Type II	Type III	FCC	In-home
April 2020	251	197	1014	186	6
May 2020	245	185	1025	197	10
June 2020	245	186	1030	204	9

2020 Star Ratings:

	0 Star	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
2020	8	19	197	604	582	110

Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Early Childhood Strong Start 2020

To sustain the progress Louisiana has made as a state and to prepare for a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year, the LDOE emphasized the critical need for early childhood communities to take steps in supporting the childcare sector and ensuring that children continue to learn and thrive.

The Early Childhood Strong Start 2020 Framework outlines priorities and funding opportunities to ensure:

- **All child care centers have the tools and resources they need to reopen safely** and in accordance with Office of Public Health guidelines;
- **Communities sustain and/or increase access** to opportunities for early childhood care and education in the near and long-term;
- **Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions** for children every day;
- **Families are supported to re-enroll** children in early childhood programs **or to provide quality care and education in their homes** if programs are unable to reopen or remain open.



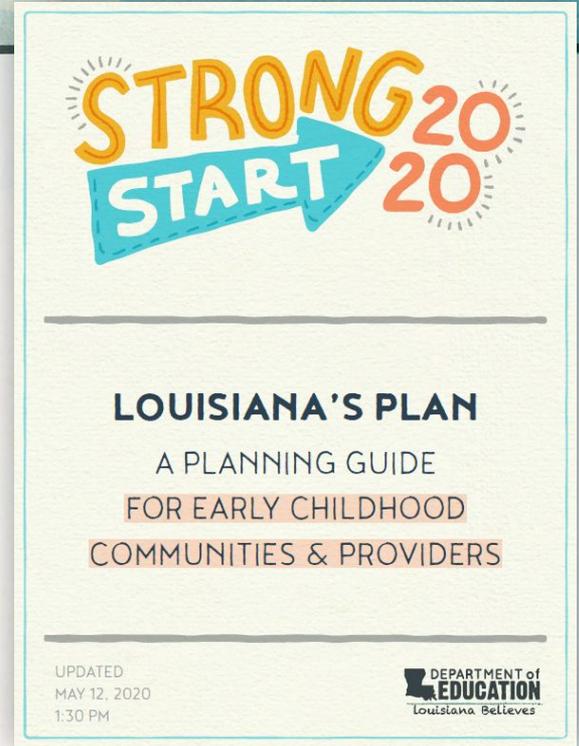
Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Strong Start 2020

To support the work of early childhood communities as they plan for recovery, the Department released [the Strong Start 2020 Early Childhood Planning Guide](#).

The Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide describes the priorities communities should consider and guidance regarding available funding sources:

1. Lead Agencies: [COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants](#)
2. Center Providers: [Child Care Assistance Provider \(LaCAP\) Relief Grants](#)
3. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

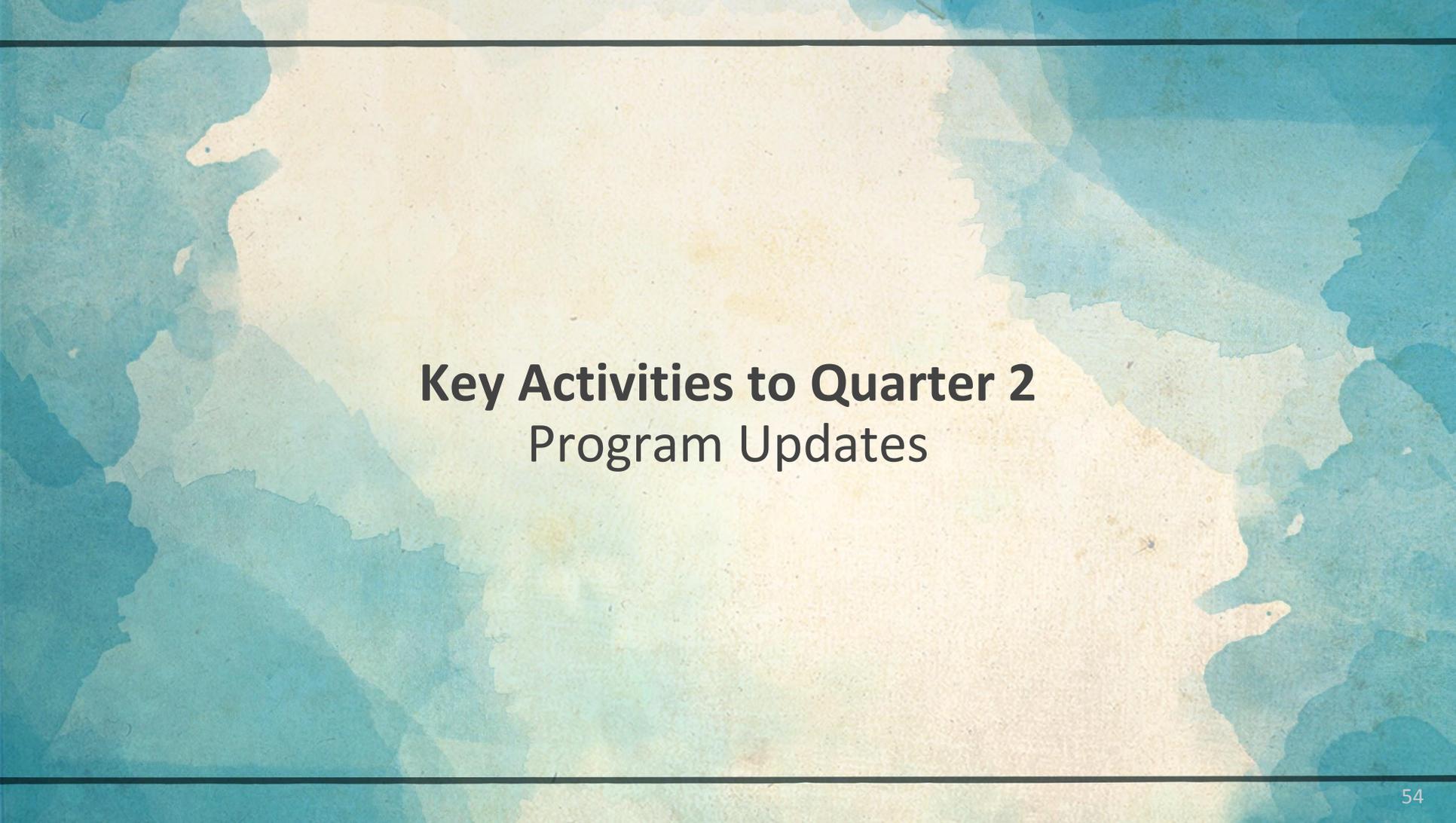


Key Activities in Quarter 2

COVID-19 Response - Community Recovery Grants

Early childhood lead agencies applied for COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants to support the recovery of the child care sector in their communities.

- Early childhood lead agencies were invited to complete an application for funding 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
- BESE allocated 57 networks a total of \$5,680,000 to support child care recovery, and additional funding may be allocated to communities during August BESE.
- The Department will provide support, feedback, and technical assistance to communities implementing these community-level grants.



Key Activities to Quarter 2
Program Updates

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Lead Agencies

The Department and Community Networks worked together to close out the 2019-2020 school year.

Close Out of the 2019-2020 School Year:

- On March 20, LDOE received federal approval to waive assessment requirements for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. *TeachingStrategies GOLD*® documentation for the May checkpoint was not required.
- The Department worked closely with lead agencies to provide information updates and problem solving opportunities through the weekly lead agency webinar.
- Professional development was offered to lead agency staff, program administrators and teachers via the [2020 Teacher Leader Summit](#).

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Community Networks

The Department and Community Networks have continued to support local sites to implement the early childhood accountability system.

Early Childhood Accountability for 2019-2020:

- [Bulletin 140](#) provides flexibility in how Performance Ratings are issued for “severe impact sites,” including those impacted by extended closures and reductions in group size and attendance.
- Based on policy, sites **can opt into** receiving a 2019-2020 Performance Rating, in order to be eligible for CCAP Bonus Payments and School Readiness Tax Credits in 2021.
- The Department will compare each site’s Performance Score based on 2019-2020 observations with the 2018-2019 Performance Score, and **will use the higher of the two.**

Coordinated Enrollment Activities:

- Communities developed creative approaches to coordinated enrollment such as:
 - Transitioning to virtual pre-K roundup to enroll children;
 - Scheduling phone appointments with teachers and staff to complete enrollment applications;
 - Using [DirectMatch](#) as a contact-free method of determining income eligibility; and
 - Preparing for a potential increase in demand and/or eligibility for pre-K this fall.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Community Networks, Infant CLASS[®]

Teachers in infant classrooms need high-quality feedback and support to grow. To increase the quality of infant care and provide a pathway to improvement, Louisiana added Infant CLASS[®] to the state's quality rating and improvement system over four years.

2017-2018 & 2018-2019 Infant CLASS[®] Pilot	2019-2020 Infant CLASS[®] Learning Year	2020-2021 Full Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead agencies identified all infant classrooms and set up those classrooms in the portal• Sites participated in year two of the Infant CLASS[®] Pilot• Revisions to Bulletin 140 to include Infant CLASS[®] will be submitted to BESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All infant classrooms will be observed for a learning year• Performance Profile ratings released in fall 2020 will not be impacted by Infant CLASS[®] results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infant CLASS[®] is fully incorporated into the unified quality rating system• Performance Profile ratings released in fall 2021 will reflect Infant CLASS[®] observations

Key Activities in Quarter 2

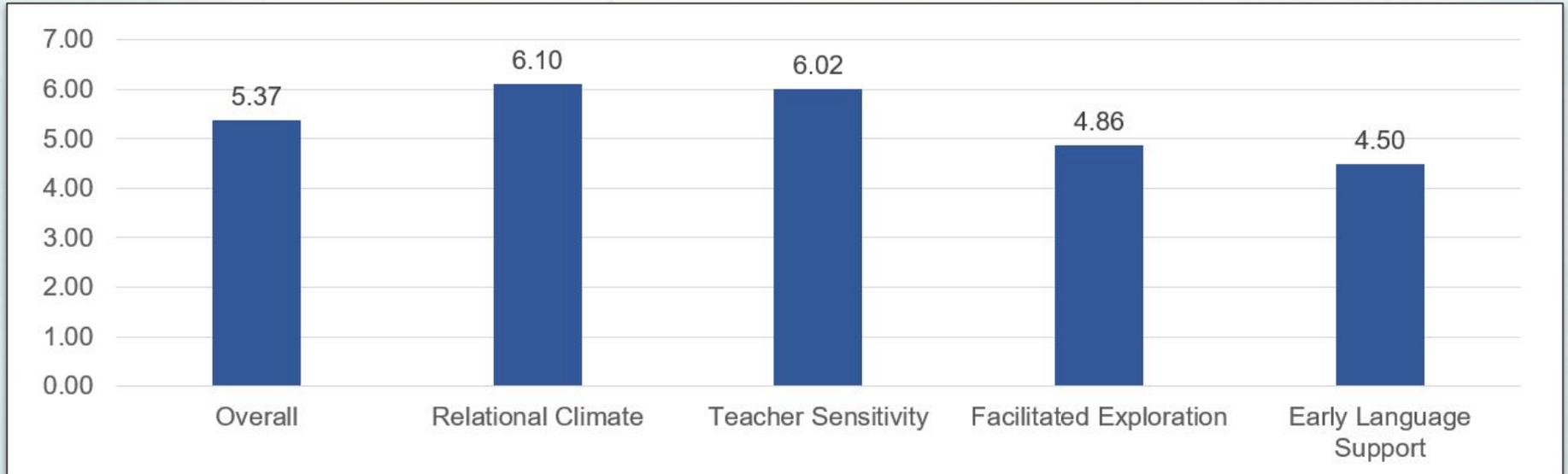
Early Childhood Community Networks, Infant CLASS®

2017-2018 Pilot	2018-2019 Pilot	2019-2020 Learning Year (Fall Data)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 40 classrooms at 27 sites across 10 networks signed up to participate in the Infant Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 264 classrooms at 204 sites across 39 networks signed up to participate in the Infant Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 837 classrooms at 591 sites across 50 networks were observed using the Infant CLASS® tool
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 48 local Infant observations were conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 216 local Infant observations were conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 834 local Infant observations were conducted
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 38 third party Infant observations were conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 146 third party Infant observations were conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 241 third party Infant observations were conducted
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The average Infant CLASS® score was 5.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The average Infant CLASS® score was 5.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The average Infant CLASS® score was 5.37

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Infant Dimension Level Scores from Fall 2019

The dimension-level results from the 1,075 Infant CLASS® observations that were conducted in fall 2019 across Louisiana suggest that infant teachers need the greatest level of support in Facilitated Exploration and Early Language Support.



Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Community Networks

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

- **Infant CLASS® Video Library (Coming FALL 2020):** 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 (Coming FALL 2020):** 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.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Preschool Development Grant Seats

Community networks submitted bold, ambitious seat requests developed in partnership with program partners, district leadership, and community leaders.

- In Super App early childhood community networks requested funding for **nearly 5,000 additional birth through three-year-old seats** based on an analysis of their community's need and capacity.
- Of the 65 early childhood community networks in the state, 50 (or 77%) requested these additional birth through three-year-old seats.
- **BESE allocated 13 Ready Start Networks a total of roughly 600 seats** that they will administer in child care centers this fall.
- Seats will be placed in high-quality (Proficient or above) centers that offer infant care and in classrooms with certified teachers or teachers working toward their ECAC.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Guides

The Department is launching a pilot to work with Ready Start Networks to employ individuals at the community level to provide support to families during the CCAP application process.

An Early Childhood Guide will recruit and support eligible families to submit complete applications for child care assistance. Key responsibilities of EC Guides include

- **recruit families** who are eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP);
- **create community partnerships** to identify family outreach and engagement opportunities;
- **coordinate the application process** with families to improve accuracy and eligibility for the program;
- **collaborate with early childhood community network** to build a community-level waitlist of families eligible for CCAP and other early childhood programs.

Five Ready Start Networks have signed up to participate for the 2020-2021 school year. If successful, the Department hopes to scale this pilot to include more networks in the future.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Early Childhood Guides

EC Guides will help expand access to high-quality early childhood education by reducing the barriers families face when applying for child care assistance.

Who will benefit?	How will EC Guides offer benefits?
Families	EC Guides will provide families with a more individualized process that has fewer barriers and challenges when they apply for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and provide direction for other resources.
Child Care Providers	EC Guides will reduce burdens placed on child care providers by becoming the primary point of contact for families completing the CCAP application process.
Ready Start Networks	By recruiting families and reducing bureaucracy, EC Guides will help Ready Start Networks achieve the access goals outlined in their blueprints.
Communities across Louisiana	Through this work, more children will be able to enroll in a high-quality early childhood program and more families will be able to advance their careers and/or education, strengthening communities across the state.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Ready Start Networks



Now more than ever, [Ready Start Networks](#) continue to bring together partners to improve the quality of and access to early childhood opportunities in their community.

- Ready Start Networks (RSNs) continue to be meaningfully engaged in conversations about how to best address the recovery efforts due to COVID-19, particularly considering how to leverage their positions as RSNs.
- The Department is working to develop policy recommendations for Ready Start Networks, which will be brought to the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council prior to recommendation to BESE.
- BESE approved [13 new Ready Start Networks to form Cohort 3](#), who begin work in July.
- Ready Start Networks have begun planning the implementation of over 600 PDG Seats in child care settings.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Ready Start Networks



Ready Start Networks are meaningfully and strategically using Strong Start guidance to address community needs in response to COVID-19.

Aligned with Strong Start priorities, many Ready Start Networks:

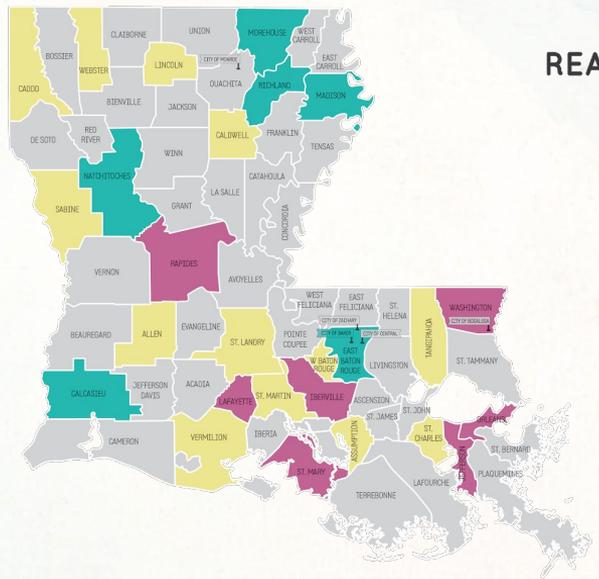
- Are allocating funding for additional health and safety supplies
- Plan to facilitate professional development including focuses on:
 - maintaining high-quality teacher-child interactions
 - social emotional development
 - trauma-informed care
 - understanding distance learning and how to effectively interact with children
- Are providing direct supports to child care centers, enabling them to compensate employees with workforce incentives returning to work and bonuses to retain employees over the course of the school year

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Ready Start Networks

13 additional community networks joined Cohort 3 of Ready Start Networks in June, which means that a total of 26 communities are now considered Ready Start Networks.

- ### Ready Start Networks Cohort 3
- Allen
 - Assumption
 - Caddo
 - Caldwell
 - Lincoln
 - Sabine
 - St. Charles
 - St. Landry
 - St. Martin
 - Tangipahoa
 - Vermilion
 - Webster
 - West Baton Rouge



READY START NETWORK

- COHORT 1
- COHORT 2
- COHORT 3

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Directors to be Successful

The Louisiana Early Leaders Academy completed its year one pilot, graduating 28 fellows in an online ceremony. 60 participants for year two will come from across Louisiana and were announced in June.

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.

Participants in year one of the pilot reported a high degree of satisfaction with LELA, as a result of training, coaching and connection with peers.

The program will shift to a 100% virtual program for the 2020-2021 cohort, who come from 22 parishes across the state.



Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Family Child Care (FCC) Providers

The Department has continued to re-engage, learn from, and support family child care providers by reconvening stakeholders and continuing work with the family child care pilot.

Supporting Family Child Care Providers:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has offered support by providing resources, expanding access to mental health services, and including family child care providers in supply distribution and state-sponsored grant opportunities.
- Volunteers of America and Children's Coalition continue to offer one-on-one coaching, group trainings, and network meetings to FCC Pilot participants virtually.
 - Pilot participants are still participating in the pilot by receiving coaching and attending network and training meetings virtually.
- The LDOE will continue to support family child care by continuing the FCC Pilot for a second year, and is planning to expand into areas served by Agenda for Children, On Track by 5, and the other VOA region.

Key Activities in Quarter 2

Supporting Teachers to be Successful

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.
- In 2019-2020, the LDOE awarded \$137,309 to support this initiative.

Teacher Leader Summit:

- On May 28-June 5, the LDOE virtually convened more than 6,000 Louisiana educators for the [8th annual Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit](#), which was held online instead of in-person as a result of the ongoing public health crisis.
- This year's event focused on how schools and centers can ensure meaningful growth for every child, every day.
- All recorded sessions, along with supporting materials, are posted to the Department's [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Questions or Public Comment