Early Childhood
Care and Education Commission:
Update on Legislative Recommendations

November 18 , 2019

Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

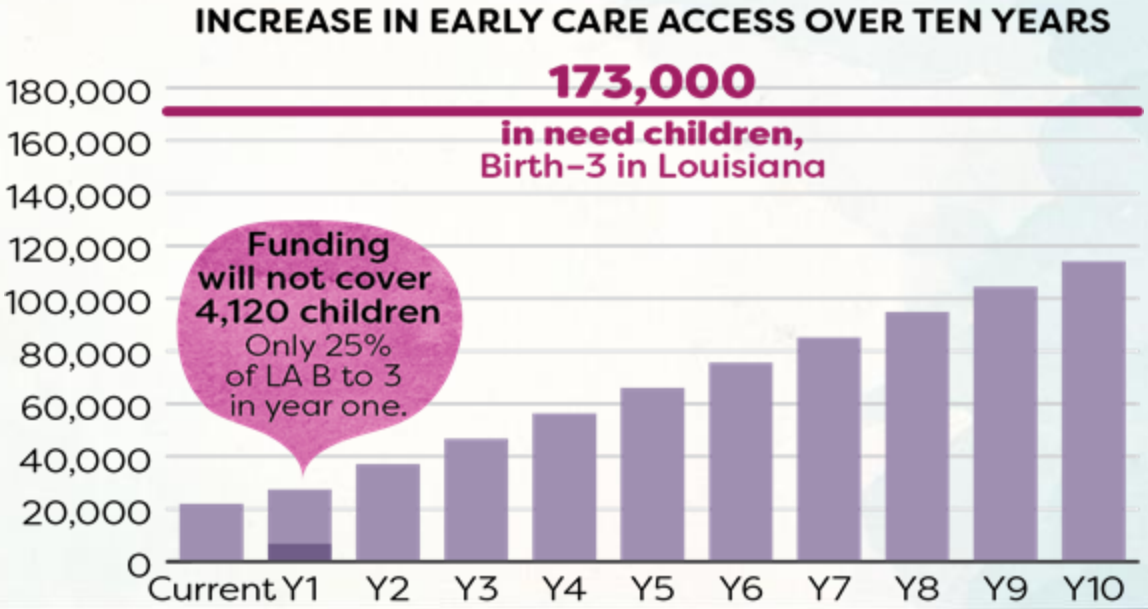
Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Consideration of a Report on Strategies for Local Funding
IV. Consideration of a Report on Support for All Families
V. Public Comment
VI. Adjournment

The Legislative Charge of the Commission

The commission is charged with developing the vision of the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana, building on the work of Act 3 (2012).

In response to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission's recommendations, the 2018-2019 Louisiana Legislature increased funding in the annual state budget for early childhood education. However, a significant access to quality care remains.



Considerations for Year Two

The Commission report named four key areas for study in year two, to strengthen early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

Meeting date	Areas of Focus
August 20, 2019	Public Awareness and Collaboration through stakeholder engagement Affordability and Access through increased efficiency, including shared services
September 19, 2019	Locally-driven decisions through Ready Start Networks Public Awareness and Collaboration toolkit for LA B to 3
November 18, 2019	Explore revenue sources to support families to access quality evidence-based programs Explore quality resources to support families in their homes
January 30, 2020	Review and vote on report appendix

Consideration of a
Report on Strategies for Local Funding

Local Governance
Challenge and Approach

Challenge:
There has been improvement in quality and access statewide, but the access gaps remain large, particularly at the youngest ages.

Approach:
Communities, empowered with increased authority, responsibility, and resources in the form of Ready Start Network Pilots, will drive faster rates of improvement and access expansion through local plans.

What success looks like:
Community networks develop and execute a vision for expanded local access and quality.

Ready Start Networks

Four Pillars

Children’s Funding Project

Elizabeth Gaines

Funding Our Future: Generating State and Local Revenue for Quality Early Care and Education

Presented by Elizabeth Gaines, Founder and Director, Children's Funding Project

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Agenda

- Objectives and Introductions
- Tax Options and Guiding Questions
- State and Local Authority
- Other Innovative Financing Methods
- Discussion

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

The Children's Funding Project

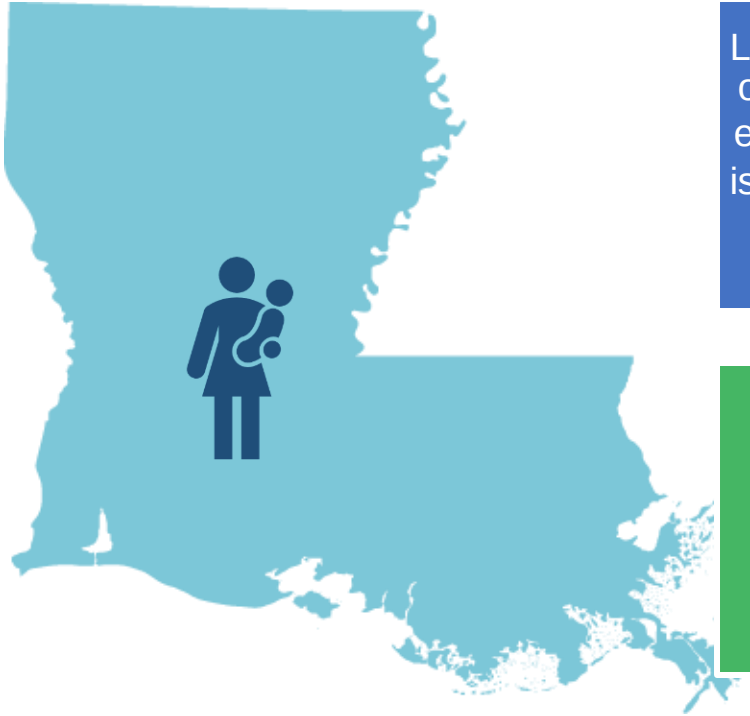
FIND. ALIGN. GENERATE. ACTIVATE.

The Children's Funding Project is structured to:

- Increase understanding of the *Find, Align, Generate, Activate* policy levers.
- Showcase communities that map their resources, blend and braid funding, create new dedicated revenue, and assess effectiveness of funding.
- Strengthen local capacity by providing training, tools, and coaching.
- Build momentum for a more pro-active approach to children's funding.

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Early childhood education in Louisiana



Louisiana spends less than ½ of 1% of its general funds on early care and education and is serving less than 15% of its children in need under age four

State funding for ECE has decreased over the last ten years, while costs have gone up.

In Louisiana, families with one infant and one preschooler experienced a 35% increase in childcare costs between 2010 and 2016.

Two-thirds of young children in Louisiana have both parents — or their single parent — working.

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Making a case for investment in early childhood education

- ✓ When parents can afford to put their children in high quality care, they can go to work with peace of mind and confidence that they are providing the best possible start for their kids.
- ✓ High quality early care and education is associated with better social-emotional development outcomes—including attentiveness, engagement, and ability to forge friendships.
- ✓ Every dollar invested in high quality early childhood care and education yields up to $13 in return.

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Why focus on state and local revenue generation?

- ✓ Economic and political relevance of ECE is on the rise at all levels of government.
- ✓ States and localities are well-positioned to empower ECE workforce by providing much needed funding for fair wages, professional development, and other supports.
- ✓ Especially for infants and toddlers, the gap between what is currently funded and what is needed is significant.
- ✓ Success begets success. Builds a children's constituency.

CHILDREN'$ FUNDING PROJECT

Find, Align, Generate, Activate

FIND

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF ITS FULL SET OF INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH?

ALIGN

HOW DO WE MAKE POLICY DECISIONS THAT ENCOURAGE THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE FUNDING WE ALREADY HAVE?

GENERATE

WE HAVE BIG GAPS IN OUR FEDERAL, STATE AND PRIVATE FUNDING, HOW DO WE GENERATE NEW LOCAL RESOURCES?

ACTIVATE

WHAT METHODS CAN WE USE TO ADMINISTER FUNDS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT?

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

GENERATE

Once states and communities identify gaps in their funding landscape they may choose to explore a wide variety of other funding options, though many leave the majority of these strategies for generating new funding on the table.

Common

- City or County budget
- State budget
- Federal budget
- Local United Way
- Local Foundation
- National Foundation
- Individual Donors
- Corporations
- Fee Based Services

Innovative

- Special District Governments
- Local Dedicated Fund
- Community Benefit Agreements
- Individual or Business Tax Credits
- Pay for Success/Social Impact Bonds
- Community Reinvestment Act
- PILOT Recapture
- Community Benefit Obligations from Non-Profit Hospitals
- Reforming Tax Exemptions
- Profits from Publicly-Held Assets
- In-Kind Facilities Usage

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Florida Children's Services Councils

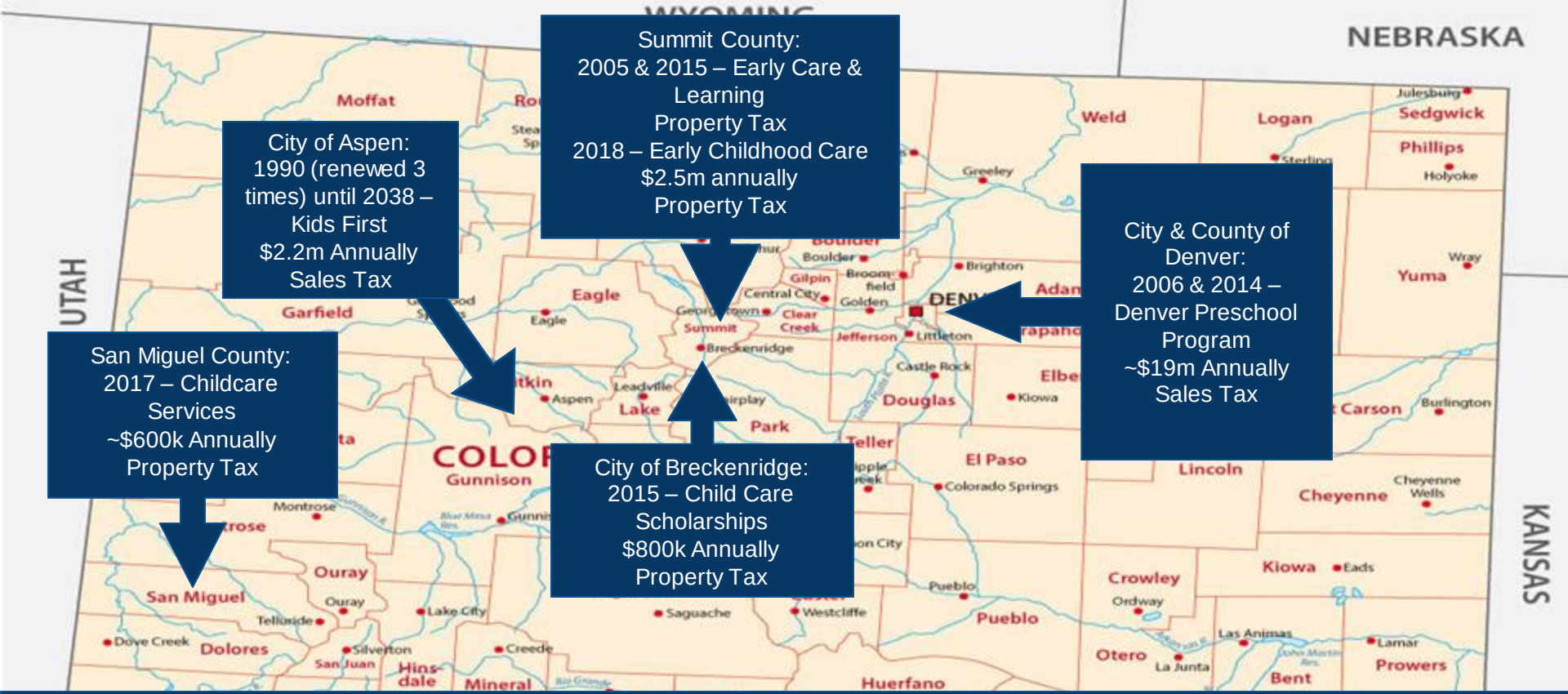
Until April 2019, Florida was the only state in the nation with a law enabling communities to create a local government with the sole purpose of investing in children's services. Colorado just joined Florida with legislation allowing the creation of special taxing districts to fund early childhood services.

- A Children's Services Council (CSC) is a government entity approved by the taxpayers (special taxing district) to fund children's services in the county where it exists
- Chapter 125.901 of Florida Statutes governs the creation and operation of CSCs. This legislation gives each CSC ad valorem taxing authority up to .5 mill

Florida Children's Services Councils

Revenue Generated

- ✓ The funds generated are predominately associated with **population** and **property value**.
- ✓ The higher the assessed property value, the higher the tax levied. **Typical annual cost to property owners is $20-$60 per year.**
- ✓ Therefore, total collected in current communities with a CSC range from **$7.7 million to $122.6 million annually.**



Early Childhood Education Taxes Across Colorado

RECENT COLORADO STATE LEGISLATION

10+ years ago passed legislation enabling creation of Early Childhood Councils: foster cross-sector, regional collaboration, but *no taxing authority*

- Today: 34 Early Childhood Councils in

Early Childhood Special Districts Bill: Enable the creation of special districts – regional collaborations with taxing authority – to fund ***local priorities*** in Early Childhood Development

- Broad definition of early childhood: "…including

Introduced and almost passed 2018; Passed 2019

- Bi-partisan Support
- Key Messages: Local Control, Proven CO Model

Special Districts (Income & Property Taxes) & Sin Tax in CO

- **Special districts in Colorado**
  - Not all communities are defined by existing political boundaries
  - HB 19-1052 (http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1052) created EC Development Special District authority
  - Intersection between “Special Government Districts” and “Personal Income”/ “Property Taxes”

- **Sin taxes for preschool expansion**
  - Historical role of statewide sin taxes vs. statewide other taxes in Colorado
  - HB 19-1333 (http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1333)
  - Tobacco and nicotine & creation of a fund to support preschool access & quality

FUNDING OUR FUTURE:

Generating State and Local Tax Revenue for Quality Early Care and Education

Build Initiative — Strong Foundations For Our Youngest Children

Center for American Progress

Children's Funding Project

ITEP

University of Maryland

Guiding Questions and Examples

Tax Policy Areas

Corporate and Business Taxes

Estate and Inheritance Taxes

Personal Income Taxes

Property Taxes

Sales Taxes

Sin Taxes

Special District Governments

Build INITIATIVE

Guiding Questions for Revenue Generation Mechanisms

- **What jurisdiction will levy t tax?**
- Is the tax legally feasible?
- **Can the tax be dedicated to ly care and education?**
- Is the tax politically feasible?
- **Is the tax progressive or regressive?**
- Does the tax h e communication powe related to early care and education?
- **Who pays for the tax? Who benefits from the tax?**

Innovative Financing to Expand Services So Children Can Thrive

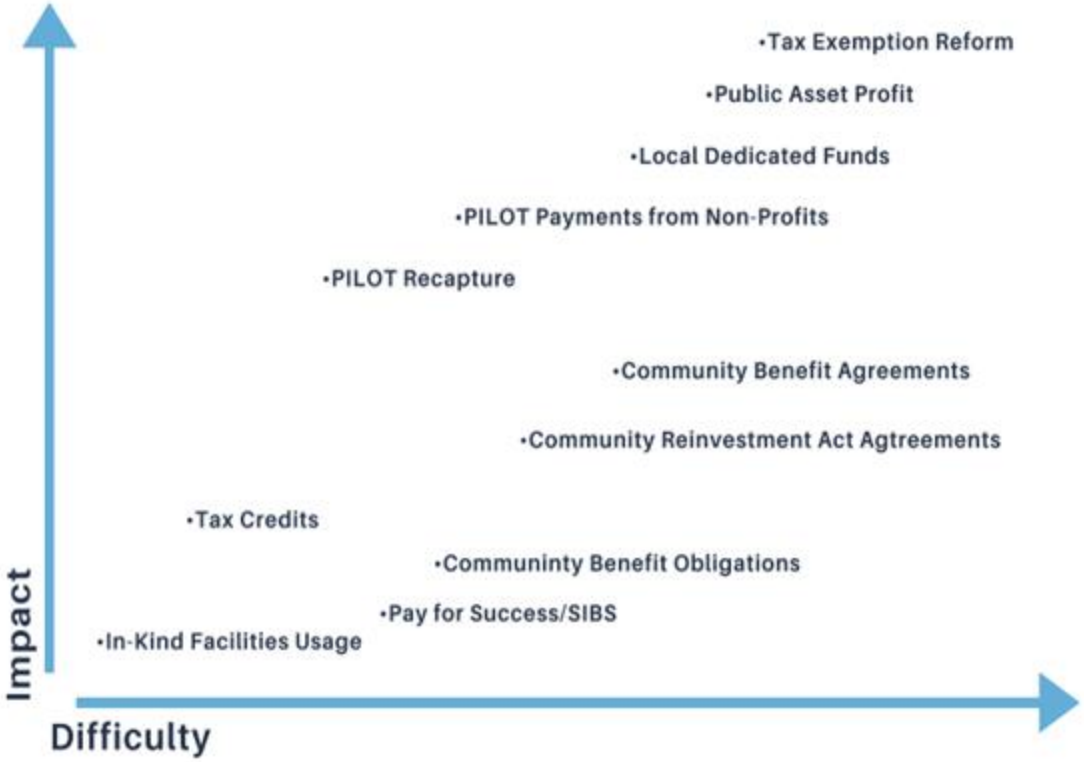
- Local Dedicated Funds
- Community Benefit Agreements
- Community Reinvestment Act Agreement
- PILOT Recapture / Voluntary Payments
- Tax Credits
- Reforming Tax Exemption
- Profit from Publicly Held Assets
- Pay for Success/Social Impact Bond
- In-Kind Facilities Usage
- Link to Report

Innovative financing example: Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreements

- PILOT is a voluntary agreement entered into between a local government and a business to create jobs or build facilities. Instead of paying the normal property and/or sales taxes the business would owe under the law, the PILOT allows the business to pay some fixed yearly contribution over a set period of time

- In 2018, Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland and members of the Memphis City Council committed to recapture revenue from expiring PILOT agreements to provide increased funding for pre-k programming.

Innovative Financing Methods Impact v. Difficulty



CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Gaines at elizabeth@childrensfundingproject.org

CHILDREN'S FUNDING PROJECT

Consideration of a Report on Support for All Families

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Family Support and Coaching Program

Overview

The Department is providing an informational one-pager and contact information as resource to Ready Start Networks about the home visiting programs available in the community.

- Housed in the Bureau of Family Health (BFH), Office of Public Health, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)
- Home Visiting (Family Support and Coaching)
  - Voluntary, supports and services provided to pregnant and parenting families with children 0-5 in their homes
  - Specially trained professionals support parents in developing the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to support their child's healthy development
  - Different programs/models available, most deliver a combination of parenting and health education, child abuse prevention, early intervention and education services and provide linkages to community resources for young children and their families

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Family Support and Coaching Program

Overview

The Department is providing an informational one-pager and contact information as resource to Ready Start Networks about the home visiting programs available in the community.

In Louisiana, we implement two-evidence based models:
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

- 1st time moms, enrolled before 29th week of pregnancy
- Reside in parish where NFP is implemented (available in all 9 regions)
- Eligible for Medicaid, WIC, SNAP, TANF or SSI
- Support provided from pregnancy until child's 2nd birthday

Nurse home visitors help parents improve:

- Pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices
- Children's health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care
- Parent's economic self-sufficiency by supporting them in developing a vision for their own future, continuing their education and/or finding employment

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Family Support and Coaching Program

Overview

The Department is providing an informational one-pager and contact information as resource to Ready Start Networks about the home visiting programs available in the community.

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

- Pregnant or parenting families with children 24 months old or younger, priority provided to pregnant women and families with children 12 months old or younger and NFP graduates that would like to continue receiving services
- Reside in a parish where PAT services are provided (Greater New Orleans Region and North Louisiana)
- Eligible for Medicaid, WIC, SNAP, TANF or SSI
- Parent educators help families identify their needs, hopes, concerns and build on families' strengths and skills to help them provide environments that promote healthy child development.
- Support is provided from pregnancy until children enter kindergarten

Program Goals:

- Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices.
- Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues.
- Prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Increase children's school readiness and school success.

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Family Support and Coaching Program

Overview

The Department is providing an informational one-pager and contact information as resource to Ready Start Networks about the home visiting programs available in the community.

Additional Team Members

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical Specialists

- Licensed mental health providers are embedded in each of the home visiting teams to provide consultation to home visitors around the social, emotional, and behavioral health challenges experienced by client families
- Work with home visitors to identify emerging problems in parent-child relationships, navigate mental health concerns in the family and provide resources and referrals for additional support.

Outreach Specialists

- Work within Louisiana communities to make connections with eligible families, increase program visibility and support, and build collaborative partnerships with providers and maternal and child health organizations in order to link families to LA MIECHV's supports and services.
- Build reciprocal relationships with community partners
- Available in every region

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Family Support and Coaching Program

Opportunities

As Ready Start Networks strengthen their family support and engagement processes, connecting families in need to home visiting providers can provide additional services for families and children.

Opportunities:

- Community Networks can develop collaborative partnerships with MIECHV teams in their communities.
- Coordinated enrollment can provide a conduit or hub to share community resources with families.
  - MIECHV teams can participate in coordinated enrollment events, like the early childhood round-up, early childhood informational events, community registration.
  - MIECHV teams and Ready Start Networks can share program information with families and make referrals.

Improving Early and Accurate Identification
Overview and Opportunities

LDOE is partnering with LDH to support communities to coordinate screening and assessment processes from birth through Kindergarten

Overview:

- LDOE created the Lighthouse Screening Pilot in 2018 to pilot strategies to support all children receive the instructional, supports, appropriate intervention for children ages 3-5, and services that they need when they need them.
- LDOE is collaborating with BFH and EarlySteps on co-branding child development information from CDC's *Learn the Signs. Act Early,* aimed at providing networks with resources to promote developmental monitoring among families in their communities and referral information when families have concerns about their child's development.

Opportunities:

- Community Networks can build their capacity to improve the early and accurate identification of children with developmental delays, coordinate screening and evaluation processes, and engage families through effective outreach to support across key transitions points.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
Overview and Opportunities

Ready Start networks can work in collaborative consultation sessions with mental health consultants to support teacher and children as well as strengthen early identification and screening procedures.

Overview:

- The LDOE and LDH provide Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation services and supports.
- The LDOE provides support to early care and education providers.
- The Bureau of Family Health' provides support through home visiting services.
- Region 4 (previously known as Project LAUNCH) supports EarlySteps providers and primary care providers.
- Louisiana Mental Health Perinatal Partnership, working with Tulane, provides psychiatric consultation to health care clinicians working with pregnant/post-partdum women

Opportunities:

- Ready Start Networks can promote and increase availability of ECMHC in their communities.

Young Child Wellness Collaborative
Overview and Opportunities

The YCWC serves as an early childhood interagency collaborative team that engages in coordinating initiatives to streamline family supports across community networks.

- YCWC provides leadership that drives shared priority setting and planning, in order to improve outcomes for children and help Louisiana families thrive.
- YCWC is coordinated through LDH and is comprised of staff from LDH, LDOE, DCFS, and community leaders.
- The YCWC created several workgroups to support integrating data, family leadership and engagement, and early identification.
- The YCWC can continue to identify opportunities to launch and promote shared projects through Ready Start Networks who can support these joint early childhood priorities.

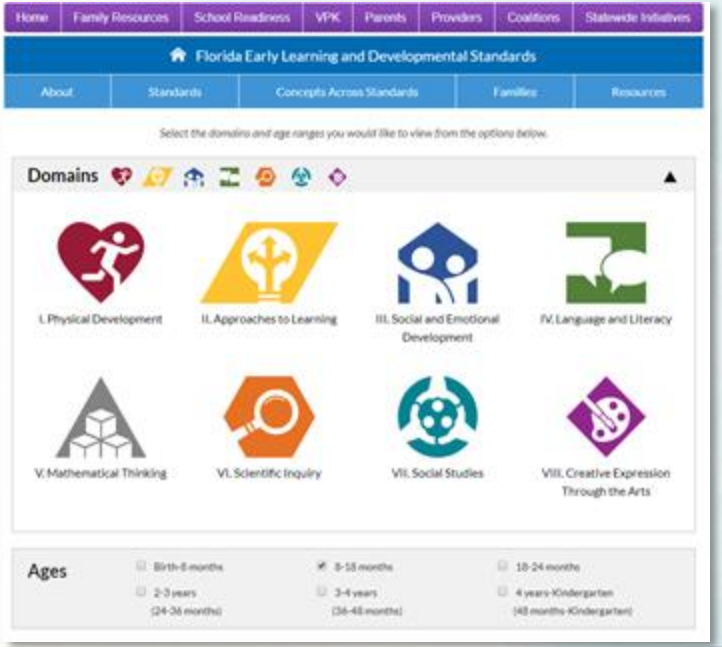
Opportunities for Supports for all Families

There are several additional opportunities Louisiana could pilot, both statewide and through Ready Start Networks. Example opportunities are included below.

- **B-5 website:** Multiple states have developed comprehensive websites for families that include interactive information about child development, parent activities and book lists, services in their communities, and free apps and resources available to families
- **LENA Start:** Communities across the country, including Georgia, Alabama, and Virginia, have begun offering 10-week parent education courses on adult-child interactions that are paired with talk pedometers used in the family's home, providing real time data
- **Providence Talks:** Piloted in RI and expanded to multiple states, this combines the talk pedometer with home-embedded coaching to provide individualized support
- **BB3 (formerly Colorado's Bright Beginnings):** This program texts families free resources, games, and information based on the age of the child.

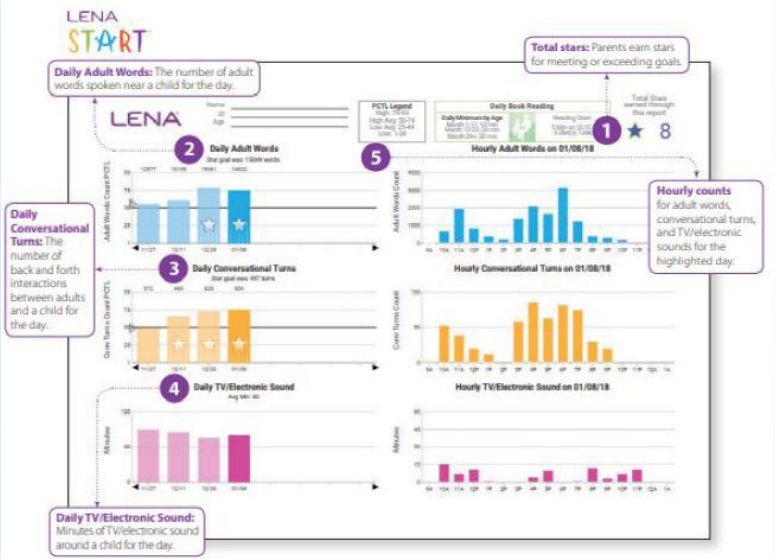
Opportunities for Supports for all Families

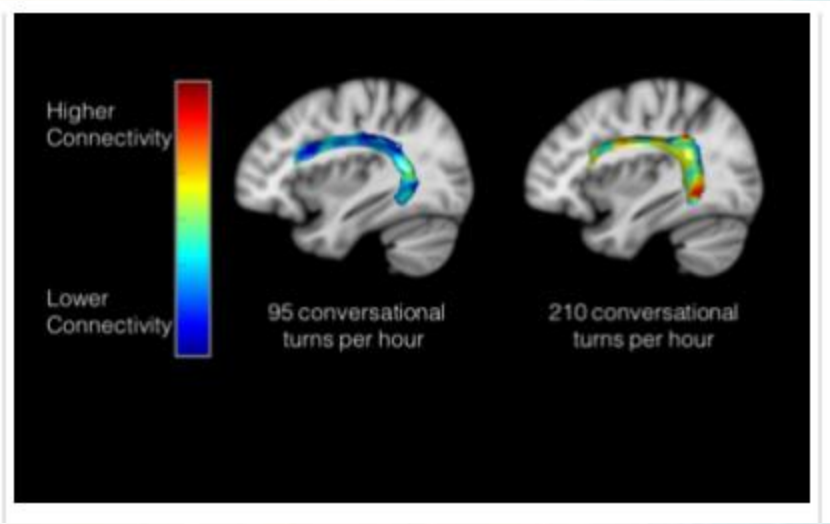
Louisiana could develop a multi-agency, family friendly website to support families of young children.



Opportunities for Supports for all Families

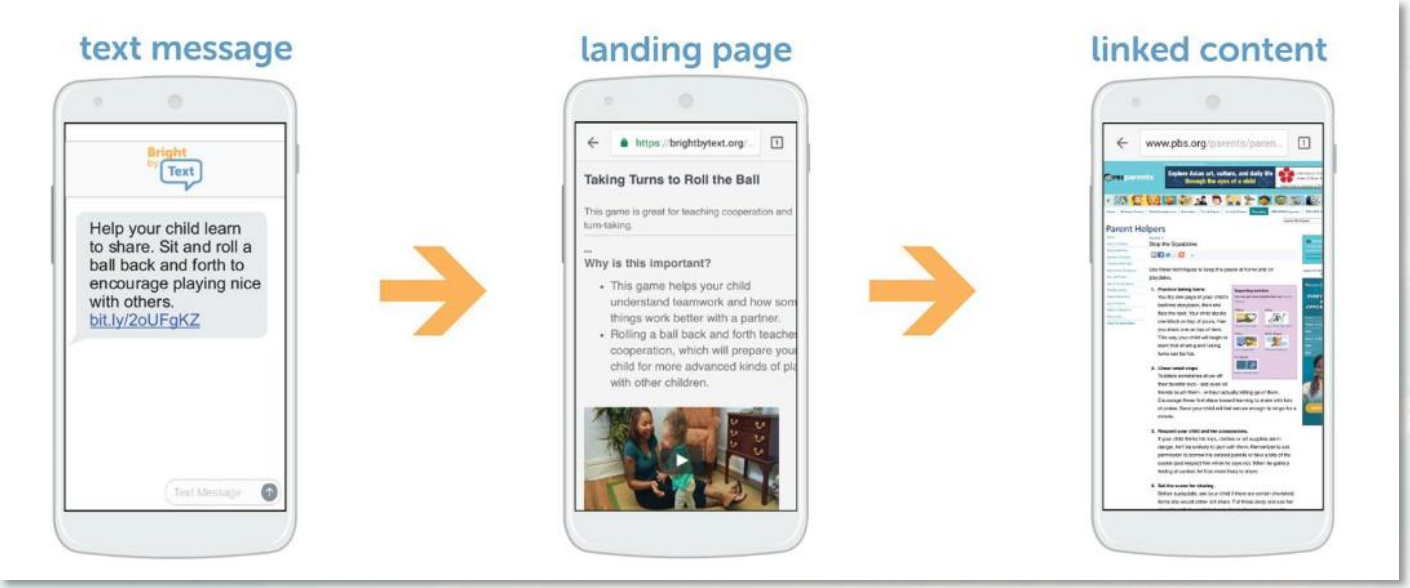
Louisiana communities could pilot LENA Start, a 10-week parent education course on adult-child interactions that incorporates information from the family's interactions with their children, or Providence Talks, which includes a coaching component.





Opportunities for Supports for all Families

Louisiana could pilot BB3, a free text program that provides families with age appropriate resources, games, and information based on the age of the child directly to their phone.



Opportunities for Supports for all Families

Online courses and applications support families to help children learn and develop.

Talk With Me Baby is an online course that empowers and supports families to engage in meaningful conversations with their young children, to advance their language and learning.

Vroom offers free, easy-to-use learning tips for children 5 and under delivered daily directly to your phone.

Closing

Next Steps and Adjournment

Workgroup: December 5, 2019 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Email Leslie.Doyle@la.gov if you are interested in serving on the workgroup and available to meet at this date and time.

Next full group meeting: January 30, 2020 12:00-3:00 pm.