

January 16, 2020



Early Childhood Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, Louisiana currently serves nearly all 4-year-old children from low-income families in publicly-funded early childhood programs. But our state only serves 7 percent of in-need children ages birth to 2 and only 33 percent of in-need 3-year olds. Fortunately, before the holiday break Louisiana again was named a winner of the competitive federal Preschool Development Grant, worth more than \$11 million each year for three years, dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities available to the youngest children.

The grant first creates at least 600 new seats in child care centers for children ages 0 to 3. These seats will be prioritized for child care programs that provide infant care, that meet all teacher certification requirements, and that achieve solid quality rating scores. The grant will also double the number of [Ready Start Networks](#). These locally-led pilot programs are increasing access to high-quality early childhood education in their communities. Currently there are 13 pilots statewide under the leadership of local school systems and non-profit organizations. These agencies have led the important early childhood work across Louisiana that helped to secure this important grant for our state.

The grant will also provide new, unique supports directly to parents of the youngest children. Early Childhood Education Guides will recruit and support families to apply for child care assistance and will develop community-specific waiting lists for families who have applied for seats and are awaiting services. The grant will also allow Louisiana to establish regional networks of family child care home providers, which provide approved child care services from their homes, offering support for improvement efforts for pilot participants. This is a voluntary and novel means of assisting a large and important component of the child care industry that often goes overlooked.

Thankfully, there is real energy in Louisiana for supporting early childhood services. The issue is complex, and solutions will be complex. To assist all families seeking services, we will need to look for ways to support our youngest children. While not a complete solution, the Preschool Development Grant gives us reason again to innovate and to expand the services we provide to the newest members of our communities.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

[@LouisianaSupe](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **January 23-** For CCR&Rs- Child Care Support Meeting- *Baton Rouge*
- **January 30-** ECCE Commission Meeting- *Baton Rouge*

Upcoming Deadlines

- **January 17-** LA 4 Support Services and Transportation Report

- **February 7**-Super App and Coordinated Funding Request
- **February 28**-For Lead Agencies: February Child Count due
- **February 28**-Coordinated Enrollment Plan due
- **March 1**-Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Early Bird Registration ends

More Important Dates

- Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#).
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Teaching and Learning

GOLD® Tip of the Month

With the GOLD® winter checkpoint fast approaching, please reflect on how empowered teachers are when they are Interrater Reliability certified. Finalizing checkpoint ratings can be difficult, and completing the Interrater Reliability Certification may feel daunting, but teachers who have successfully completed this important certification can proceed with the confidence (and proof!) that they can accurately evaluate where children's knowledge, skills, and abilities are along each progression in GOLD®.

Take a few moments to review [this support article](#) that offers teachers tips on completing the Interrater Reliability Certification, as well as [this support article](#) for administrators on ways to support their teachers through this critical process.

Reminder: GOLD® winter checkpoint due February 28.

Resources for CLASS® observers:

CLASS® observers: Teachstone recently released additional support that CLASS® users need to observe, certify and recertify reliable. These resources can be accessed [here](#).

Additionally, CLASS® observations for spring are now available for scheduling in the CLASS® portal.

Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Registration

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 27–29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Department has published an [overview document](#) to address the most frequently asked questions. Early Bird Registration opens on January 10 for the Summit with the two phases below to follow:

- Regular registration (March 2 through May 11)
- On-site registration for those who do not register by May 11

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the Department will charge a small registration fee for the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit. This fee will cover:

- admission to conference,
- conference sessions, and
- lunch May 27 and May 28.

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not eat the lunch provided, but may not opt-out of the registration fee. More information regarding pricing is [available](#).

New for 2020 - Group Registration

School system supervisors may now purchase tickets for up to 10 of their educators in one transaction. School system supervisors who elect this option should be prepared to answer questions specific to each registrant (e.g. email address, content area) at the time of purchase. The supervisor will receive a receipt showing 10 ticket purchases, and each individual registrant will receive an email confirmation with their ticket information.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest

The Department is seeking inspiration for 2020 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 7** to ldoecommunications@la.gov. The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold. Last year's school, Montegut Middle, was awarded \$968 from The Inkwell Press.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Funding and Enrollment

LA 4 Support Service and Transportation Report

LA 4 LEAs are required to report their support services and transportation information twice a year. This information must be submitted by school systems and charter organizations who receive direct LA 4 allocations. **Reports should be submitted through this survey: [LA 4 SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT](#) which is due no later than close of business January 17.**

Questions should be directed to Lindsey.Bradford@la.gov

Child Care Assistance Program aids families affected by substance abuse

To support families affected by opioids, heroin, or other substance abuse, the [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)](#) provides financial assistance to low-income families while they are in a transitional living program. A transitional living program includes, but is not limited to, substance abuse treatment facilities.

For more information, please reach out to dawnielle.broussard@la.gov.

Child Safety and Welfare

Supervision and Transportation Campaign

There has been a significant increase in reports of children being left unsupervised in licensed centers, on play yards, and in vehicles. The Division of Licensing will work closer with early learning centers to support their efforts to keep children safe and to improve providers' knowledge of the supervision requirements.

Starting this month, the Division of Licensing will be at early learning centers to closely observe the supervision of the center, play yards, and transportation. If there are any serious deficiencies, the early learning center will be referred to receive on-site technical assistance.

License Renewal Documents

The Division of Licensing has seen an increase in the number of renewal applications being received on time through CAFÉ. Thank you!

As a reminder, in order to ensure that renewal applications are processed in a timely manner, the following accompanying documents should be provided as soon as possible to help make the renewal process a breeze. These documents include:

- Current approval from the Office of Public Health
- Current approval from the Office of State Fire Marshal
- Current approval from the City Fire (if applicable)
- Current copy of General Liability Insurance
- LDOE Office of Early Childhood Academic Approval (for Type III centers).

Please contact the assigned Licensing Consultant at (225) 342-9905 or e-mail ldelicensing@la.gov with any questions.

Update for Child Care Criminal Background Checks

Fee increases and additional fingerprint locations

The fingerprint fee of the Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCBC) will increase from \$49.25 to \$49.65 beginning January 22, 2020. The Department was also informed that beginning March 1, 2020 a \$5.00 fee will be charged for the Louisiana Sheriff Association (LSA).

The Department fee and fees from other state agencies remain the same. Through a new statewide civil scan system, there will soon be 18 additional fingerprint locations. Be sure to check the [LDOE-](#)

[approved fingerprint location list](#) for updates. Note, if a sheriff location is listed as an optional location, there may be an additional \$5.00 charge for fingerprinting services.

An Overview of the Child Care Criminal Background Check and a fee chart can be found [here](#).

Please contact valerie.black@la.gov for more information.

Director Support

Director Support Toolbox launches!

The job of a director covers a lot of territory, from licensing to accountability. The Department has created a [Director Support Toolbox](#) to put all the resources directors need at their fingertips. Check it out!



CDA Renewal Amnesty Program

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the Council for Professional Recognition will be celebrating 45 years of the CDA®! To celebrate, the Council will offer a limited-time CDA® Renewal Amnesty Program. This program will allow anyone with a CDA® credential expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010, an opportunity to complete the renewal process and make their credential active again.

ELIGIBILITY

- Expiration date as far back as January 1, 2010
- Must meet all current renewal requirements
- Apply online using [YourCouncil](#) (click here to learn about account access)

The program will run from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020. All applications and payments (\$125) must be submitted online by March 31, 2020. No exceptions or extensions will be granted. Start preparing today by downloading the free [CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide](#) available on the Council's website. The [CDA® Renewal Procedures Guide](#) provides detailed information about the renewal requirements

New Directors Webinar

Learn everything you need to know about Louisiana's early childhood system.

Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, February 6 at 12:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/690975659>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Webinar Meeting ID: 690 975 659



This month, we share the story of [Carrie Henry](#), a fellow in the Louisiana Early Leaders Academy, and the director of Creative Kidz. Carrie shares how she is leading for excellence by ensuring that high quality curriculum is implemented in all her centers.

"I'm ready to take our center to the next level, said Carrie. "We have the knowledge and materials to reach for the stars with our children."



Lead Agency Support

Early Childhood March Collaboration Meetings

The Department would like to announce the dates for the Early Childhood March Collaboration meetings. All early childhood lead agencies are required to be represented at the March

Collaboration meetings. Registration is not required for these meetings and lead agency representatives may attend at any of the locations noted below.

- March 9- Baton Rouge
- March 10- Jefferson
- March 17 -Bossier City
- March 20- Lafayette

Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team holds a weekly webinar/conference call question and answer session for lead agencies. The half-hour sessions are held on most Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. The Early Childhood Team will provide updates and reminders. Additional topics will be determined by caller questions. A meeting invitation containing the connecting information to the new Zoom webinar account has been sent to all lead agency contacts.

Contact amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar/Conference Call for Lead Agencies

- January 14 at 3:00 p.m.
- January 21 at 3:00 p.m.
- January 27 at 3:00 p.m.

Bi-weekly Community of Practice Webinar/Conference Call for Ready Start Network Lead Agencies

Every other Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Ready Start Network Lead Agencies convene to discuss their progress and solve problems. Lead agency contacts who are interested in “listening in” to learn more about what Ready Start Networks are doing, please email lizzie.cosse@la.gov to receive the information to connect to the webinar.

Other

Key Training Modules Request for Applications (RFA) Released

The Louisiana Department of Education is offering another funding opportunity for highly qualified trainers.

In an effort to share the highest quality training opportunities available to Louisiana’s early childhood workforce, the Department has released a third Request for Applications (RFA) for experts to develop ready-to-go presentations and professional development that will comprise Louisiana’s Early Childhood Key Training Modules.

This RFA is seeking proposals for trainings that are related to Management and Leadership. The [application](#) must be submitted by **January 24, 2020**. Louisiana Early Childhood Key Training Module applications should be emailed as a PDF document to meredith.eckard@la.gov.

Additionally, information is provided in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#).

In Case You Missed It

[State getting \\$33 million from federal government to improve early childhood education](#) (The Advocate)

[Science Shows Benefits from Conversational ‘Turn-Taking’ with Babies](#) (New America)

[Why These School Districts Serve Children Beginning at Birth](#) (EdSurge)

[Early childhood education gaining political steam ‘like apple pie and the Fourth of July’](#) (The Advocate)

[‘Not Just Tummy Time’: A Preschool Professionalizes ECE](#) (Edtopia)

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