



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

March 10, 2022

Upcoming Events

- March 23: ECCE Advisory Council Meeting
- March 24: [ARPA Round 2 Opening Webinar](#)
- March 25: [Monthly Office Hours for New Directors](#)
- March 30: [ELDS Review Committee Meeting](#)
- April 7: [Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar](#)

More Important Dates

Please see the [LDOE School System Support Calendar](#).

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UPDATES FOR COVID-19

NEW: Early Childhood Provider Update Webinar

On March 3, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers. [Presentation slides](#) and a [recording of this webinar](#) are available in the [Quality Providers Library](#) on the Louisiana Believes website. Providers can access the upcoming April provider webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date and Time: April 7 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872>

Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 935 9774 5872

Passcode: 641464

REMINDER: Operation Expanded Testing

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has established [Operation Expanded Testing](#) to provide fully-funded COVID-19 PCR testing for K-12 schools, child care providers, HBCUs, congregate settings, and underserved populations. Through an agreement with HHS and the Department of Defense (DOD), Eurofins Clinical Enterprise is able to offer no cost COVID-19 testing to states throughout the northeast and south regions as well as D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To register your site or school please visit the [Operation Expanded Testing website](#).

REMINDER: TIKES Mental Health Consultation

Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation at no-cost via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need of support during the COVID-19 crisis. Type I, II, and III child care centers, family and in-home child care providers, parents, respite caregivers, and others caring for young children can request a consultation by completing a [request form](#).

For more information visit the [TIKES](#) webpage.

UPDATES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

NEW: Resources from Teachstone®

[The CLASS Learning Community](#) is a group of educators dedicated to helping every child reach their full potential by measuring and improving teacher-child interactions. Join for free and browse the available resources. Resource documents, recorded webinars, discussion boards, and blog posts are available. New resources include:

- [Teaching Children Empathy](#) - This downloadable resource outlines all of the highlights from Teachstone's *Teaching with CLASS* podcast episode, "Teaching Children Empathy."
- [Baby Talk: Building Stronger Relationships with Infants and Toddlers](#) - This on-demand webinar offers strategies that early childhood educators can use to promote brain-building skills for infants and toddlers. It provides concrete examples of what impactful interactions look like in different child care settings.

REMINDER: Teacher Leader Summit

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event. [Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The following educators would directly benefit from the sessions provided:

- Teachers
- Teacher Leaders
- Early Childhood Directors
- Teacher Preparation Providers
- Arts Teachers
- Librarians

- Counselors
- School Leaders
- System Leaders

Based on participant feedback, enhancements have been made to the Teacher Leader Summit, including:

- An improved event app, “Whova,” that allows networking with other attendees
- Increased registration value by including a t-shirt and tote bag in the ticket price
- Networking opportunities throughout the event, including evening socials
- Length of day adjusted to meet the needs of participants

The Education Expo returns with high-quality professional learning partners and non-profit organizations. Contact LDOEvents@la.gov with any questions.

REMINDER: Early Childhood State Conference for Child Care Providers and Teachers

Save the date for the first Early Childhood State Conference which will be held on July 22 - 24, 2022 in New Orleans. The audience for this conference will be child care owners, directors, teachers, and families. More information can be found on the [Powering Up](#) webpage.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Applications

The certification office only accepts online application submissions effective May 1, 2019. Paper applications and handwritten applications for the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) will not be processed. Please use [Teach LA Live!](#) to submit any future applications or questions to the certification team. The [User Guide for Educators](#) is available on the main page of TeachLALive! for more instruction.

To contact certification, please submit your request at <https://doe.force.com/s/ask-certification>.

REMINDER: Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year (TOY/LOY) Application Deadline Extended to March 11

The deadline for the [application](#) for the inaugural Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year (TOY/LOY) Awards is almost here. Any applicants should use the remaining time leading up to the deadline of **March 11 at 5 p.m.** to finalize their application.

You can find all supporting information for the application on the [Louisiana Believes Awards Page](#) under the “Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year” section. If your teachers and leaders need technical assistance with the application, please reach out to devon.camarota@la.gov.

NEW: TIKES Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Conference on Tuesday April 5, 2022

Celebrate 15 years of TIKES support for early childhood care and education providers and parents across Louisiana with a free, full-day, online conference. Multiple morning and afternoon

sessions will include interactive events empowering caregivers with information and discussion in support of children's emotional, physical, and intellectual development. Louisiana early educators will be able to earn Pathways credit for each education session. The Keynote address will feature Tulane professor Charles H. Zeanah, Jr., M.D., an internationally-recognized expert in the field of Infant Mental Health. Session topics include the following:

Available Sessions

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

- Nutrition for Early Childhood: A Happy Healthy Me
- The Power of Play

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

- Diversity, Inclusivity & Anti-Bias Learning Environments in Early Childhood
- Occupational Therapy for Early Childhood
- Self-Care During COVID

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

- Saying What You Mean: Effective Communication Strategies for Avoiding Conflict
- Yoga and Mindfulness in Early Childhood Learning Spaces

3:00 p.m.

- Bonus Panel Discussion

For more information or to register for the conference, visit the [TIKES](#) webpage.

UPDATES FOR FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

REMINDER: School Readiness Tax Credit (SRTC) Updates

Type III licensed providers will receive their Provider Tax Credit notice in March. This notice shows the average number of CCAP children and an amount for the children served at your center in 2021. This notice will be mailed to your center.

Teachers and directors should have received tax form R-10615 "For Child Care Director and Staff Member" from Louisiana Pathways. For 2021 tax credit amounts for teachers and directors visit [Louisiana Pathways](#). Also, remind your families of their SRTC eligibility by using this [flyer](#).

For tax filing assistance, please dial 211 to learn more about the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program and make an appointment to file your tax return.

To request an email notice for your Provider tax credit, additional family tax credit forms (R-10614) for "Child Care Expense Credit," or additional School Readiness Tax Credit questions, please contact demita.walker@la.gov.

REMINDER: CCAP Family Redetermination Extensions

To ensure families continue to receive CCAP services, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic redetermination cases have been extended for a three month period:

- January cases have been extended to April 30, 2022
- February cases have been extended to May 31, 2022
- March cases have been extended to June 30, 2022

For additional assistance, please contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 250-7635 or (225) 252-9543 or via the [Provider Ticket System](#).

NEW: America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grant - Round 2

The ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 will be released March 24, 2022 and will close April 7, 2022. Payments will be released on a rolling basis beginning May 2022. Providers must be operational and serving children by March 31, 2022. Please note that for all grants, providers must keep receipts and documentation of expenditures for the items paid from these funds. Also, providers must submit audit documentation upon request even if the provider has closed.

ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Dates:

March 24, 1 p.m.	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Application release and webinar
March 28, 9:30 a.m.	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Application Office Hours
April 4, 9:30 a.m.	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Application Office Hours
April 7	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 Application closes
Week of May 9-13, 2022	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released in Regions 3 (Covington), 6 (Lake Charles), and 7 (Alexandria)
Week of May 16-20, 2022	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released in Regions 2 (Baton Rouge), 5 (Lafayette), and 9 (Monroe)
Week of May 23-27, 2022	ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds released in Regions 1 (Orleans), 4 (Thibodaux), and 8 (Shreveport)

Application Release Webinar Information:

Webinar Date and Time: March 24 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97189336163>

Meeting ID: 971 8933 6163

Passcode: 288754

REMINDER: Information on Timeframe and Uses of ARPA Grants

The Department issued this [letter](#) in response to questions about the timeframe of use of the ARPA Stabilization Grants. Included in the letter is the list of allowable uses with additional details. Please be reminded that ARPA Stabilization Grant funds may not be used for construction or major renovations, including land purchases.

REMINDER: Federal and State Taxes on LaCAP Grants, ARPA Grants, Etc.

Grants provided through the stimulus funds (CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA) are subject to the same tax rules as regular CCDF funding. State tax rules apply; regarding federal rules, please contact the Internal Revenue Service for guidance. In some cases, funds used to cover operating expenses may be exempt from taxation.

NEW: LaCAP Grant Provider Survey - Next Stage

The Department has partnered with Postlethwaite and Netterville (P&N) to collect information regarding the use of Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grant Round 6 funds for CCAP certified providers and Rounds 1 & 2 funds for Non-CCAP certified providers.

The survey was released March 8 - 10, 2022 and is to be completed by March 24, 2022. Release of ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 2 funds will be delayed for providers who have not complied with audit survey 1, 2 and/or P&N assessment request.

REMINDER: CCAP Underutilized Authorizations for Families and Paying on Enrollment

CCAP conducts a monthly review of underutilized authorizations of children who have not attended child care within the previous month. The Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) attendance records are examined as part of the underutilization review. If a CCAP child has not attended at least one day in the month, the family is pulled for underutilization review.

The Provider Help Desk staff has been informing providers of the importance of families completing check in/out transactions when children are in attendance to maintain CCAP certification. If CCAP children are not attending, the Department will contact families to assess the need for continued child care services. If families are not reached during this period, their CCAP authorizations will be discontinued at the end of the month, and they will need to reapply for CCAP.

As a reminder, CCAP payments are based on enrollment, not daily attendance. **Again, the Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) must be used for CCAP children every day they are in attendance.**

For assistance, please contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 250-7635 or (225) 252-9543, or enter a [ticket](#) in the Provider Ticket System.

UPDATES FOR LICENSED CENTERS, FAMILY CHILD CARE, AND IN-HOME PROVIDERS

NEW: Email Contacts for Providers

All providers should ensure that the center's email address shared with the Department is an e-mail address specific to the center rather than specific to the center director or other staff member, in the event the director is no longer associated with the center. To request an update to your center's email address, please email your licensing consultant or ldelicensing@la.gov.

NEW: Motor Vehicle Passenger Checks

It is imperative that vehicles are adequately inspected for children before staff exit the vehicle, especially as temperatures rise outside.

A staff person shall

- physically walk through the vehicle and inspect all seat surfaces, under all seats, and in all enclosed spaces and recesses of the vehicle interior.
- record the time of the visual passenger check and sign the log indicating that no child was left in the vehicle.

Please ensure staff have received proper training and repeated training if needed.

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email ldelicensing@la.gov.

NEW: Decrease in Two-Year-Old Child to Staff Ratio for All Center Types

Effective July 1, 2022, the child to staff ratio for two-year-olds will decrease from 11:1 to 10:1. Ensure you have sufficient staff to meet this requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905 or email ldelicensing@la.gov.

UPDATES FOR DIRECTORS

REMINDER: Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMSi)

Would you like to save time on administrative tasks? Would you like to get paid more quickly? Using specialized software (Child Care Management Software, or CCMS) can help you save time and improve your cash flow and a whole lot more! CCMS tracks child attendance, automates electronic tuition collection, eases daily parent communication, and so much more! If you are a Type III or a CCAP-certified family child care provider, you can purchase a new subscription to an approved CCMS identified in the LDOE [CCMS Guidebook](#) and receive a one-time reimbursement of up to 80% (for a maximum reimbursement of \$1,000). [Apply online today!](#)

To support our current and future automation initiatives, the Department asks that providers **of all license types** (I, II, III and FCC's) fill out this [short survey](#). Thank you in advance for your participation.

For more information about the CCMSi, contact shallan.jones@la.gov.

REMINDER: Tax Consultation

Child care providers have experienced changing finances that directly impact their taxes. The Department has contracted with tax professionals to provide support services to licensed early learning centers and CCAP-certified family child care providers. These early childhood-trained tax professionals will provide up to two hours of tax consultation, at no-cost, to early learning providers of all license types (I, II, III and FCCs).

Consultation can help you:

- Understand how loans and grants have impacted or can impact your taxes
- Use or understand payroll systems and bookkeeping software such as QuickBooks
- Proactively prepare for the current tax season
- Handle or develop a plan to handle any tax concerns or questions you might have

Interested providers can complete this [interest form](#) to schedule their consultation. For more information contact Shallan.Jones@la.gov.

REMINDER: Early Learning Provider Business Training

The Department is offering business trainings through First Children’s Finance through March 2022 for all licensed child care types and CCAP-certified family child care providers. Additionally, business consultation hours are available through June 2022.

These business training and consultation offerings are intended to help providers grow their businesses, stay on top of finances, increase earning potential, and so much more. The one-on-one consultation hours offer providers a unique and valuable opportunity to ask even more in-depth questions about their individual business.

Training and consultation participants surveyed by the Department have reported 100% overall satisfaction in the content knowledge received and have noted that “without a doubt this knowledge has helped” them to be “better leaders” of their programs and “better business operators.”

[Registration](#) is now open for these Louisiana Pathways-approved training opportunities. For more information on these business trainings, contact shallan.jones@la.gov.

REMINDER: Monthly Office Hours for New Directors

Every month, the LDOE team will hold a webinar that focuses on a topic related to early childhood quality while also helping to expand directors’ network of peers. Office hours are targeted towards new directors. Come learn about Type III requirements, connect with other directors, and stay up-to-date with upcoming events and deadlines. This month’s topic will be an overview of the CLASS® Tool.

Webinar Date/Time: March 25 at 12 p.m.
Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99075363953>
Webinar Phone Number: 1-346-248-7799
Passcode: 126700
Meeting ID: 99075363953

Please contact tella.henderson@la.gov with any questions.

UPDATES FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCIES

REMINDER: Weekly Webinar for Community Network Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team holds Office Hours every Tuesday at 3 p.m. for community network lead agency contacts. The purpose of the webinars is to provide updates and answer questions for community network lead agencies.

Missed an Office Hours Webinar? Find presentations from Community Network Lead Agency Office Hours located in the Community Network Lead Agency Library:

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/lead-agencies>

The upcoming schedule for Weekly Webinars for Community Network Lead Agencies can be found below:

- March 15: General updates
- March 22: General updates
- March 29: General updates
- April 5: General updates

Please email amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

OTHER

NEW: ELDS Review Committee - Upcoming Meeting, March 30

The next meeting for the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) Review Committee will take place on March 30 at 1 p.m. This final committee meeting will include an endorsement of Louisiana’s revised Early Learning and Development Standards. It will be conducted [virtually through Zoom](#) in accordance with R.S. 42:17.1. Meeting materials can be found in the [Standards Review Library](#) under “Early Learning and Development Standards Review Process.”

For additional information, please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

The Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council met on February 23. [Presentation slides](#) and the [agenda](#) of this meeting can be found online. The next meeting for the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council will take place on March 23 at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. Third Street in Baton Rouge.

For additional information regarding the ECCE Advisory Council, please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

NEW: ECCE Commission Meeting

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission met on February 17. The meeting [agenda](#) and [presentation slides](#) can be found online. During this meeting, the Commission unanimously endorsed the 2022 report, [Forging a Bright Economic Future - LA B to 3](#).

For additional information, please email leslie.doyle@la.gov.

NEW: ZERO TO THREE Case Study

ZERO TO THREE released a series of five state case studies of early childhood systems, [Strengthening Connections: State Approaches to Connecting Families to Services](#). One case study on [Louisiana's Coordinated Enrollment](#) illustrates the lessons learned, highlights, and future goals.

IN THE NEWS

[Louisiana does something right in schools, starting with pre-K education](#) (The Advocate)

[Expansion of early childhood education could reduce youth crimes](#) (The West Side Journal)

[\\$1.2 billion needed over next decade to improve child care in Louisiana](#) (The Advocate)

CONTACT US



- For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact LDOECOV19@la.gov.
- For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact LDELicensing@la.gov.
- For questions regarding community network lead agencies, please contact leadagencysupport@la.gov.
- For all questions regarding child care criminal background check processing, please contact LDEccbcprocessing@la.gov.

- For all other questions regarding early childhood, please contact earlychildhood@la.gov.

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