

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges to our communities and to our ongoing work to support children and families. As we begin to emerge from this crisis, however, we are also being presented with remarkable opportunities for recovery. One new opportunity is the [American Rescue Plan Act](#), or ARPA, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. The bill includes nearly \$15 billion in flexible Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidy dollars and a child care stabilization grant fund of nearly \$24 billion.

Louisiana anticipates receiving nearly \$300 million in flexible CCDF funds and more than \$475 million for additional child care stabilization, totaling more than \$770 million of further support for Louisiana child care providers and families. We know from [research](#) conducted by the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children that from March 2020 to January 2021 the state's child care sector experienced an estimated \$245 million loss. This equates to a decrease in revenue of nearly \$200,000 per center over the course of less than one year. Without continued stabilization efforts, child care providers are still at risk of closing their doors permanently. This would be devastating to children, families, and our economy, and Louisiana cannot let this happen.

These ARPA funds will build upon the previously received 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA); and the 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, to provide further stabilization to the industry from the prolonged economic impact experienced due to the pandemic. Additionally, these new funds will provide our state with an unprecedented opportunity to rebuild our child care industry so that we will emerge even stronger and even more successful than before the pandemic.

It is critical that our state determines how to utilize these funds most effectively, in order to generate sustained improvements in child outcomes. To assist the state in prioritizing this recovery spending in alignment with the goals identified in the [Believe! Early Childhood Planning Guide](#), the Department will survey stakeholders, including child care providers, to gather feedback regarding the ongoing needs of the sector. This survey will be released May 6, during the monthly Early Childhood update [webinar](#), and we ask that all early childhood stakeholders participate and share insight.

Thank you for your continuing dedication to the children and families of our great state. Together we will provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment and ensure children enter school ready to learn and succeed, in Kindergarten and beyond.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Upcoming Deadlines

- April 23: Deadline to submit [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy \(LELA\)](#) applications
- May 6: Deadline to submit Ready Start Network Cohort 4 [applications](#)
- May 12: Deadline to complete the Louisiana Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan feedback [survey](#)

Upcoming Events

- April 16: [New Director Webinar](#)
- April 16: [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy \(LELA\) Informational Webinar](#)
- April 23-24: Families First Engagement Forum, Shreveport
- April 30: Families First Engagement Forum, Alexandria
- April 30: [New Director Office Hours](#)
- May 6: [Early Childhood Provider Updates Webinar](#)
- May 7-8: Families First Engagement Forum, Monroe
- May 19: Louisiana Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan Public Hearing
- May 25-27: 2021 Teacher Leader Summit
- June 1–11: 2021 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

More Important Dates

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

Monthly Mental Health

Focus on kindness and gratitude - an act of appreciation of kindness produces positive emotions. “Look for the helpers,” as Mr. Rogers once said. Build a mental health safety net for yourself, your staff, the children, and the families in your program. Know whom you can call on for informal as well as professional support, stronger social connections, and improved well-being.

Updates for COVID-19

NEW: Guidance for Child Care Providers During COVID-19

The CDC released new resources for child care providers. The [guidance for operating child care programs during COVID-19](#) and [toolkits for child care programs](#) provide information to help child care professionals protect children, their families, and staff; slow the spread of COVID-19; and keep children

healthy. The guidance and toolkits are intended for all types of child care programs, including child care centers, family child care homes, and other child care settings.

For more information, visit the [CDC website](#).

NEW: Upcoming Early Childhood Provider Updates Webinar (May)

The Department will be hosting monthly webinars for early childhood providers. These webinars will include important updates relating to COVID-19 and reminders for all provider types.

Providers can access the next provider webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date and Time: May 6 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/6456458090>

Phone Number: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 645 645 8090

NEW: Webinar Recording for Early Childhood Provider Updates Webinar (April)

On April 1, the Department hosted a webinar for early childhood providers which included important updates relating to COVID-19 and reminders for all provider types. [Presentation slides](#) and a [recording](#) of this webinar are available on the [COVID-19 Landing Page](#) on the Louisiana Believes website.

Reminder: COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

The Louisiana Department of Health, or LDH, has provided a variety of information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Currently the state is distributing vaccines to [additional individuals](#). Early childhood centers and school employees continue to be included in the state's vaccine rollout. Please refer to the following resources for more information:

- [Where Can I Get Vaccinated?](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine - What You Need to Know](#)

For more information, visit the [LDH website](#).

Reminder: Louisiana BFH COVID-19 Family Stress & Resilience Survey

The Louisiana Department of Education is partnering with the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health to [survey](#) families of young children to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, weather emergencies, and financial hardship that have placed significant stress on people living in Louisiana. The purpose of this survey is to collect data on the challenges Louisiana families with young children are facing, better understand the internal sources of resilience within families, and review the resources and services that families are accessing to determine adequacy in meeting mental health needs. Responses are confidential.

Please share this [survey](#) for distribution to families.

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Le at Jennifer.Le@LA.gov.

Updates for Teaching and Learning

NEW: Supporting Preschool Children in Authentic Learning

The [Early Childhood Technical Assistance \(ECTA\) Center](#) developed a [COVID-19 website](#) with resources for states and local programs serving young children with disabilities and their families. ECTA has developed a [series of short videos](#) for the families of children attending preschool and the staff that support them. A brand-new episode, Episode 13, is a two-part series focused on authentic learning in remote preschool.

For more resources on supporting young children with disabilities in Louisiana, contact brittany.braun@la.gov.

NEW: Applying for the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate

The [Initial Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate \(ECAC\) application](#) packet has been updated. Effective May 1, 2021, the new application packet must be used to apply for the Initial ECAC. Older versions submitted to the certification office will be closed without processing and an e-mail notification will be sent. Also effective May 1, 2021, a transcript from a BESE-approved CDA training program must be included with an initial ECAC application when qualifying with a CDA. Required supporting documents will be a copy of the CDA issued by the Council for Professional Recognition in Infant/Toddler or Preschool, a transcript reflecting completion of a BESE-approved CDA training program, and a copy of a high school diploma or equivalent.

If training began and at least 36 hours were completed prior to July 1, 2018, a transcript verifying the courses completed prior to July 1, 2018, and the Qualifying Training for CDA Addendum (found in the CDA Competency Standards) may be submitted in lieu of the transcript from a BESE-approved program. A copy of the CDA issued by the Council for Professional Recognition in Infant/Toddler or Preschool and a copy of a high school diploma or equivalent are still required.

Please contact pheriche.perkins@la.gov with any questions.

NEW: Teacher Leader Summit T-shirt Contest Winner Announced - Shirts Now Available for Purchase

The Department announces with great pleasure that for the first time a student has won the Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design contest! Ayla Voitier, an eleventh-grade student at Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts in St. Landry parish and a student of Kimberly Nelams-Becnel, won the contest, which was open to both students and educators.

T-shirts are now available for [purchase](#). The vendor producing the t-shirts will donate back to Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts \$1 from each t-shirt sold. The t-shirt design is inclusive of both the in-person Teacher Leader Summit and the Virtual Series. One does not have to be registered for either event to purchase a t-shirt.

T-shirts will be available for purchase on the website until early May to account for shipping time needed to ensure all t-shirts arrive in advance of the in-person event. It has not yet been determined whether the t-shirt vendor will be able to be onsite during the mornings of the in-person event; thus, those interested in purchasing a t-shirt are encouraged to do so via the website.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Registration

To maximize the [delivery of content](#) and educator development, The Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from June 1 - 11, and sessions will be accessed remotely. The format will be similar to the Virtual Series offered during Spring 2020.

There will be a maximum overall registration limitation of 8,000, for which the Department is not allocating seats. [Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Paid ticket holders of the Teacher Leader Summit in-person event will receive an access code allowing them to register for and participate in the Virtual Series at no additional cost. These codes will be sent in advance of registration opening on April 1 and weekly thereafter. Each code will be one-time use and must be used only by the original ticket holder. Codes are not transferable.

[Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will occur in two phases:

- Early Bird Registration (April 1 through April 25)
- Regular Registration (April 26 through sellout)

Ticket Type	Purchasing Window	Ticket Price
Early Bird Registration	April 1-25	\$50.00
Regular Registration	April 26 - sell out	\$65.00

Tickets are inclusive of all days of the event. The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on May 10 and on May 12 for regular registrants. More information on the Virtual Series can be found in the [overview](#).

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours

To best support Louisiana educators, the Department has scheduled six office hours in which our team will be on hand to offer guidance and support related to the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit and 2021 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series. The office hours will have no set agenda but will function as a question-and-answer opportunity. The next office hours will take place on April 13. Webinar details are listed below.

Webinar Date and Time: May 4 at 3 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92284785653>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 922 8478 5653

Passcode: 332148

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Teacher Leader Summit (In-person) Session Scheduling

[Registration](#) for the in-person Teacher Leader Summit is underway. The session schedule and app were released to early bird ticket holders on April 7 and on April 9 for regular registration ticket holders.

Session scheduling will be done via the same method the Department has utilized in the past. To ensure ease of scheduling, registrants are encouraged to delete the 2020 app from their phones. A new version of the app will need to be downloaded to register for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. A newsletter entry will be forthcoming when the new app is available for download.

New this year, educators have the opportunity to download graphics to share across their social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. The graphics can be found in the *"I'm Going Passes"* section of the [Summit Materials page](#). Be sure to use the #LATeacherLeaders in social posts.

More information regarding the in-person Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [Overview](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Updates for Funding and Enrollment

NEW: Public Meeting Notice

The Louisiana Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan outlines how CCDF funds will be used to provide access to and improve the quality of child care in Louisiana. Each State Plan is in effect for three years. Louisiana's plan for the next three years will be submitted by June 30, 2021, and will be in effect from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2024. Early childhood providers, stakeholders, and any interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback on the [draft State Plan](#) by entering your comments through this [survey](#) by May 12 at 5 p.m. On May 19, the Department will hold a public hearing to receive feedback and accept public comments regarding the provision of child care services under the proposed CCDF Plan. This public meeting will be held in the Claiborne Building, Thomas Jefferson Room A/B (room 1-136 A/B), 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 at 10 a.m.

Questions can be directed to earlychildhood@la.gov.

NEW: 2020 Market Rate Survey

The [2020 Market Rate Survey](#) is completed and posted on the Louisiana Believes website. This survey was conducted to identify both the typical rates charged by child providers across the state as well as to better understand the cost to those providers of providing quality child care. Thank you to all who participated.

Questions can be directed to earlychildhood@la.gov.

NEW: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Forums

CCAP is planning a series of quarterly forums across the state designed to connect families and providers with valuable resources and support as they work towards rebuilding amidst the effects of COVID-19.

These opportunities are inclusive of three forum types:

1. Families First Engagement Forums (April - June) - New applicants apply for child care services while learning about their role as a CCAP recipient. Parent Resource packages include community resources to aid parents as they work towards self-sufficiency. The following are upcoming forums.

- April 23-24: Families First Engagement Forum, Shreveport
 - April 30: Families First Engagement Forum, Alexandria
 - May 7-8: Families First Engagement Forum, Monroe
2. Professional Collaboration Forums (July - September) - CCAP will collaborate with health and education agencies to proactively provide families with Child Care Assistance information.
 3. Provider Forums (October - December) - All CCAP provider types may attend and participate in an interactive presentation of CCAP updates and processes.

Questions can be directed to earlychildhood@la.gov.

Reminder: Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grants

LaCAP Relief Grant Round 5 payments for CCAP-certified Type III and Family Homes are in the process of being disbursed. While initial payments began the week of March 29, the supplemental portion of the grant can be expected the week of April 12.

Payments for Round 1 of the LaCAP Relief Grant for non-CCAP-certified providers are anticipated to begin the week of April 19 with the supplemental portion of the grant being issued the week of May 3.

Additional LaCAP grant opportunities for CCAP-certified Type III and Family Homes, as well as non-CCAP-certified providers, are anticipated to be released in June and September of 2021.

Questions can be directed to the [Provider Ticket System](#) or the Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635.

Reminder: Additional Grant Opportunities

The Department anticipates making two additional grant opportunities available to Type III centers. More information will be provided this spring regarding the grant amounts and the grant application deadline

- Early Childhood Teacher Stipend Grant: Type III centers will be eligible to apply for a grant to provide teacher stipends to supplement teacher pay during the pandemic.
- Accountability Participation Grant: Type III centers that participate in CLASS® observations this year (local and Picard) will be eligible to apply for a grant to offset additional costs and administrative burdens of participating in the accountability system this year.

Questions can be directed to earlychildhood@la.gov.

Reminder: Underutilized Authorizations

Effective June 1, CCAP will conduct an underutilization review of children who have not attended child care for the months of March, April, and May 2021. The Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) attendance for March, April, and May will be reviewed as a part of this process. 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 June 30, 2021, and they will need to reapply for CCAP.

Questions can be directed to the [Provider Ticket System](#) or the Provider Help Desk at 225-250-7635.

Updates for Licensed Centers, Family Child Care, and In-Home Providers

NEW: CPR/Pediatric First Aid with Demonstration

At least fifty percent of staff members on the premises of a center and accessible to children, or four staff members on the premises and accessible to children, whichever is less, shall have current certification in infant and child CPR, adult CPR, and/or pediatric first aid. This training can be completed online during the pandemic and must include a visual demonstration by the instructor that is observable via Skype, Zoom, or another live platform. As a reminder, First Aid/CPR certification is now available through [Child Care Research and Referral Agencies \(CCR&Rs\)](#) to all directors, director designees, and center staff working in Type III centers and Registered Family Homes, at no cost. Please refer to your local CCR&R training calendar for course offerings. Space is limited.

Contact michelle.demeulenaere@la.gov with questions.

NEW: TIKES Mental Health Consultation

The Division of Licensing continues to see an increase in reports of inappropriate discipline by staff caring for children. Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Parents; Type I, II, and III child care centers; Family Child Care and In-Home providers; respite care center caregivers; and others caring for young children can request a consultation. Requests are typically answered within hours and scheduled for the next day.

Complete the request form to request services:

<https://medicine.tulane.edu/departments/clinicalsciences/psychiatry/research/tikes>

NEW: Bulletin 137 Orientation

The purpose of a new employee orientation is to welcome new employees, communicate important policy, and introduce the employee to their new workplace. Within seven calendar days of the first day present at the center and prior to assuming sole responsibility for any children, each staff member must receive orientation to the policies and practices of the center, that at a minimum shall include knowledge of the [licensing regulations](#).

During the orientation process, directors should ensure staff members are familiar with the [Child Care Facility Licensing Information](#) page on the [Louisiana Believes website](#) for access to both an electronic version of Bulletin 137 and the free Bulletin 137 Licensing Regulation courses. A physical or electronic version of [Bulletin 137](#) should be available for quick reference. When meeting with either your licensing specialist or consultant in regards to clarification on any section of the regulations, the Division of Licensing staff will ask that Bulletin 137 is referenced with all inquiries.

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or ldelicensing@la.gov.

NEW: Safety Box

A current copy of the [Safety Box Newsletter](#) issued by the Louisiana Office of the Attorney General shall be posted in licensed centers at all times. Providers and directors should review the items listed in the newsletter and immediately remove any recalled products or toy hazards from center premises.

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or ldelicensing@la.gov.

NEW: Early Learning Center Policies

Policies are an essential part of day-to-day operations. Not only do policies ensure compliance for staff, they also give guidance for decision-making. According to [Bulletin 137](#) Section 1509, early learning centers must 1) establish in writing, 2) prominently post or show the parent's signature of receipt, and 3) implement the policies and minimum provisions below. Providers should review each policy and ensure all requirements are included in their center's policy.

Required Policies		
Child Abuse and Neglect Policy	Non-Discrimination Policy	Admissions Policy
Disclosure of Information Policy	Complaint Policy	Parental Access Policy
Parental Involvement Policy	Behavior Management Policy	Electronic Devices Policy
Computer Practices Policy	Programs, Movies, and Video Games Policy	Monitoring Policy

Questions can be directed to a [Licensing Consultant](#) at 225-342-9905 or ldelicensing@la.gov.

Updates for Directors



NEW: Louisiana Early Leaders Academy (LELA)

The Louisiana Early Leaders Academy (LELA) is a 10-month competitive, executive leadership development program for directors of Type III centers. LELA is coming to Northern Louisiana (Regions 7, 8, and 9) and will cycle through regions across the state every year. Central Louisiana (2022) and Southeast Louisiana (2023) will be targeted in later years as indicated. LELA will return to Northern Louisiana in 2024, so directors in that region are encouraged to take advantage of this 2021 opportunity if interested. Applications opened on April 2 and will close on April 23.

Directors who are interested in learning more can explore the following:

- Review the [LELA Initiative](#) on the Louisiana Believes landing page.
- View the LELA [short video](#).
- Read the [Application Guide](#) to find information on how to apply.
- Learn more about LELA by attending the informational webinar.

Directors can access the informational webinar using the information below:

Webinar Date and Time: April 16 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96527904976>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 965 2790 4976

Questions can be directed to emmy.odwyer@la.gov.

NEW: New Director Webinar

New directors are encouraged to attend this opportunity to better understand Louisiana's approach to quality teaching and learning. The New Director Webinar is designed to provide an overview of early childhood quality initiatives including the role of community networks, the CLASS® observation tool, Pathways scholarships, School Readiness Tax Credits, and additional resources to help new directors better understand Louisiana's system.

Webinar Date and Time: April 16 at 12:30 pm

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98523637703>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 985 2363 7703

Questions can be directed to emmy.odwyer@la.gov.

NEW: Learn About Shared Services - Human Resources

The human resources arena is filled with many challenges. Fair, consistent, and equitable systems are key. Reviewing articles and research related to human resources will help to build your [knowledge around these concepts](#). There are free practical [tools that you can use right now to improve your business and administrative functions](#). Please visit the LDOE's [Director Support Toolbox](#) for even more tools and resources to support your business.

Please contact shallan.jones@la.gov with any questions.

NEW: Opportunity for Free or Low-Cost Health Insurance for the Child Care Workforce

According to the [2019 North Carolina Early Care and Workforce Study](#), 52% of the child care workforce employed in child care centers have no (not full or even partial) health care coverage through their jobs, and 16% of family child care providers do not have health care coverage. A number of important changes were made under the American Rescue Plan Act to help make health insurance more affordable for individuals and families purchasing health care coverage through the federal marketplace, [HealthCare.Gov](#). These changes went into effect on April 1, 2021, which means anyone signing up for a health plan through [HealthCare.Gov](#) can begin receiving health care coverage as soon as May 1.

What can free or low cost health insurance mean for the workforce? Please visit [HealthCare.Gov](#) for more information.

Please contact shallan.jones@la.gov with any questions.

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 School Readiness Tax Credits and how they relate to the center Performance Profile rating.

Webinar Date and Time: April 30 at 10 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99928176003>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-346-248-7799

Meeting ID: 999 2817 6003

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

Updates for Lead Agencies**NEW: 2021 Spring Collaboratives Resources**

The presentation decks and resources from the 2021 Spring Collaboratives were shared with all lead agencies via email.

Please contact amanda.colon@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

The Early Childhood Team provides Office Hours every Tuesday for lead agency contacts. The purpose of the webinars is to provide updates and answer questions for lead agencies.

Upcoming Schedule for Weekly Webinar for Lead Agencies

- April 20 - Designing a Transition Program - extended webinar from 3 - 4 p.m.
- April 27 - General Updates
- May 4 - Developmental Screening - extended webinar from 3 - 4 p.m.

Contact amanda.colon@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Ready Start Network Cohort 4 Applications

Ready Start Network Cohort 4 [applications](#) are due on May 6 by noon. Applications should be mailed to amy.poirier@la.gov.

Questions about the Cohort 4 application process can be directed to amy.poirier@la.gov.

Resources**Reminder: TIKES Mental Health Consultation**

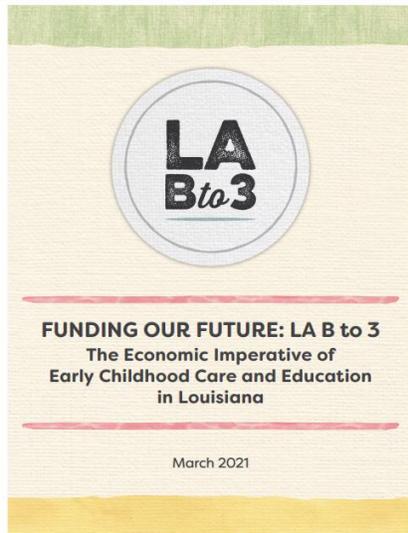
Tulane offers TIKES Mental Health Consultation via telephone or secure video platform to Louisiana caregivers in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Type I, II, & III child care centers, parents, respite care center caregivers, and others caring for young children can request a consultation by completing a [request form](#).

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

Other

NEW: ECCE Commission Report

The Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Commission has released [Funding Our Future: The Economic Imperative of Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana](#). For the third year in a row, the report calls for a state investment of \$85.8 million and an increase of nearly that amount annually over the next decade, to expand access to affordable, high-quality early care and education for thousands of working families in need, particularly those with children below age three.



NEW: Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

The [Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council](#) met on March 17. [Presentation slides](#) and a [recording](#) of this meeting can be found online.

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

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Early Childhood in the News

[Commission Again Urges State to Invest in Early Childhood Education for Children Birth to Age 3](#)
(Louisiana Department of Education)

[Commission: Sports Betting Revenue Should Go to Early Childhood Education](#) (Greater Baton Rouge Business Report)

[Early Childhood Advocates Renew Plea: Nearly \\$1 Billion Over a Decade](#) (The Advocate)

[Early Childhood Education and Childcare Programs Are Popular among Louisiana Residents Even If It Means Raising Taxes to Support Them](#) (Avoyelles Today)

[Majority of Louisianans Support Increased Spending for Early Childhood Education](#) (Greater Baton Rouge Business Report)

[Universal Preschool in Baton Rouge? Superintendent Said COVID Relief Money Could Make It Happen](#) (The Advocate)



Contact

For questions regarding COVID-19, school closures, or other concerns, please contact LDOECOVID19@la.gov.

For questions regarding licensing or child health and safety, please contact LDELicensing@la.gov.

For questions regarding 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.