Early Childhood Education in Louisiana

State and federal funding enables more than 65,065 children and families in Louisiana to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.¹

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in Louisiana

- **$197.7M** Head Start and Early Head Start²
- **$150.3M** CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³
- **$8.9M** CCDBG State Match⁴
- **$1.0B** CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁵ | CRRSA⁶ | ARPA (CCDF + Stabilization)⁷
- **$91.5M** State-Funded Pre-K⁸
- **$10.4M** MIECHV⁹
- **$10.1M** IDEA Part C¹⁰
- **$10.0M** IDEA Part B, Sec. 619¹¹
- **$63.8M** TANF¹² Early Learning and Care Expenditures¹³
- **$14.5M** Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five¹⁴

Louisiana Quick Facts

- **13,952** Children Enrolled in Head Start¹⁵
- **19.15%** Eligible Children Served by Head Start¹⁰
- **3,037** Children Enrolled in Early Head Start¹¹
- **3.87%** Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start¹²
- **15,366** Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²³
- **10.3%** Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds²⁴
- **17,463** Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K²⁶
- **2,186** Families Served by MIECHV²⁷
- **4,679** Children Served by IDEA Part C²⁷
- **8,382** Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 619²⁸
- **29.50%** Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE²⁹

Early Childhood Education Economic Impact

In addition to the benefits to young children, access to affordable, high-quality child care can increase parental labor force participation and family economic stability. Child care problems, however, adversely affect both state and national economies. As a direct result of child care issues, the national economy loses upward of $57 billion annually in the form of lost earnings, productivity, and revenue.¹⁶

In Louisiana

8.8% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.¹⁶

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 increased from 63.8% in 2019 to 64.6% in 2021.¹⁷

Nationwide¹⁸

The percent of families that reported difficulty finding space in a home- or center-based program increased dramatically from 22% in December 2021 to 58% in January 2022.

71% of parents report that difficulty finding child care has impacted their ability to work.
Louisiana Early Learning and Care Snapshot

Need
• Population Under Six: 363,043
• Under Six Living in Poverty: 27.93%
• 65.51% of children under six have all available parents in the workforce

Access
• 42% of Louisiana residents live in a “child care desert”
• For Hispanics/Latinos and rural families, this percentage is even higher

Affordability
• The average price of child care is $7,426 per year
• The median household income is $95,486

Quality
• Met 7.9/10 of NIEER’s State Preschool Quality Standards

High Price of Care
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in Louisiana
Center-Based ___________ $8,580 per year
Married Parents
Percent of Median Income
9.0%
Single Parent
39.4%

Home-Based _________ $6,825 per year
Married Parents
Percent of Median Income
7.1%
Single Parent
31.4%

Low Compensation for Early Educators
Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.

$9.13 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate
$18,990 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary
$15,080 Federal Minimum Wage
Poverty Line*
Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding
In Louisiana, 67,524 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

Of providers who received stabilization grants:
92% said funding helped them stay open.
46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including
75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.
63% of those in family child care homes.

1 This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, Sec. 619 and C. In some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.
40 The Century Foundation
41 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)