High-quality early care and education (ECE) is proven to dramatically improve a child’s opportunities for a better future while offering parents greater job stability and overall economic security.

The Economic Impact
Access to affordable, high-quality child care can increase parental labor force participation and family economic stability. However, widespread problems finding and paying for child care adversely affect both state and national economies. As a direct result of child care issues, the national economy loses $122 billion annually in the form of lost earnings, productivity, and revenue. In Louisiana: The estimated annual economic impact of the infant-toddler child care crisis: $1.3B.

There are several early learning programs that provide working families with access to high-quality, affordable ECE opportunities, but currently the demand for care far outweighs the supply, and funding constraints leave many eligible children unserved. Each of these programs has its own eligibility requirements, purpose, and service delivery model. Together they form a mixed-delivery system that supports parental choice and aims to meet children's individual needs.

Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
15,366 Children Birth Through Age Five Served
10% Eligible Children Birth Through Age Five Served
Learn more about CCDBG in Louisiana here.

Early Head Start
3,596 Children Enrolled
5% Eligible Children Served

Head Start
14,978 Children Enrolled
30% Eligible Children Served

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
2,144 Families Served
Learn more about MIECHV in Louisiana here.

State-Funded Pre-K
17,995 Children Enrolled
15% of three- and four-year-old children attend public ECE

IDEA Part C
5,029 Children Served

IDEA Part B, Sec. 619
8,382 Children Served

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC)

Learn more about CDCTC here.
Federal and State ECE Funding in Louisiana

Federal funding is foundational to providing ECE.

$210M ● Head Start and Early Head Start

$155.4M ● CCDBG and Mandatory Funds

$10.4M ● MIECHV

$10M ● IDEA Part C

$10M ● IDEA Part B, Sec. 619

$56M ● TANF Early Learning and Care Expenditures

$4M ● PDG B-5

$90.7M ● State-Funded Pre-K

$12.1M ● CCDBG State Match

$1.2M ● PDG B-5 State Match

Louisiana received an additional $1B through COVID-19 relief.

Spotlight: ECE Successes in Louisiana

COVID-19 Relief:
Throughout the pandemic, there was strong bipartisan support for federal relief funding to keep the child care sector afloat.
• As a result, 2,105 child care programs in Louisiana received support, impacting up to 150,200 children.
• These funds also allowed states to demonstrate what would be possible when equipped with additional resources. Funds have been used to support and stabilize the early childhood sector. The base amount awarded is $1,256 per child in license capacity and there is a bonus amount per child (maximum of $628 per child), awarded to programs that serve CCAP-certified children (depending on the allocation), offer nontraditional hour care, and serve infants and toddlers, among other groups.*

Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5):
PDG B-5 is a competitive federal grant designed to improve states’ early childhood systems. In their 2023 planning grant application, among other uses, Louisiana noted that they would use funding to:
• Embed family engagement strategies into at least 80% of the state’s 64 local early childhood community networks, including by launching the Ready Start Families website and piloting Family Academies to promote family leadership.
• Complete an exploratory study to expand the reach of local early childhood community networks to serve more rural parishes with fewer resources.**

Early Care and Education (ECE) in Louisiana Snapshot

Accessibility
Many families struggle to find the care they need.
• 42% of Louisiana residents live in a “child care desert.”
• Hispanics/Latinos and rural families are disproportionately represented among those who live in a “child care desert.”
• 3% of children under age 3 receive early intervention services.

Affordability
The cost of ECE is too expensive for many families.
• The annual price of center-based infant care is $8,580, and home-based infant care is $6,825.
• Families receiving a CCDBG subsidy pay between $2 and $3 per month for one child in care.
• A two-parent household spends 7% of their income on child care, while HHS defines spending over 7% to be a burden.

ECE Workforce
Early childhood educators have some of the lowest paying jobs in the United States, earning poverty-level wages.
• $22,100 child care worker annual salary ($10.63 per hour).

Program Quality
Program quality varies substantially across and within states.
• Met 7.9/10 of NIEER’s Quality Standards Benchmarks for state-funded pre-K programs. Only 5 states met all 10 benchmarks in 2022.
• 26% of children received developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months in the past year.

For full sourcing information, visit here.

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