



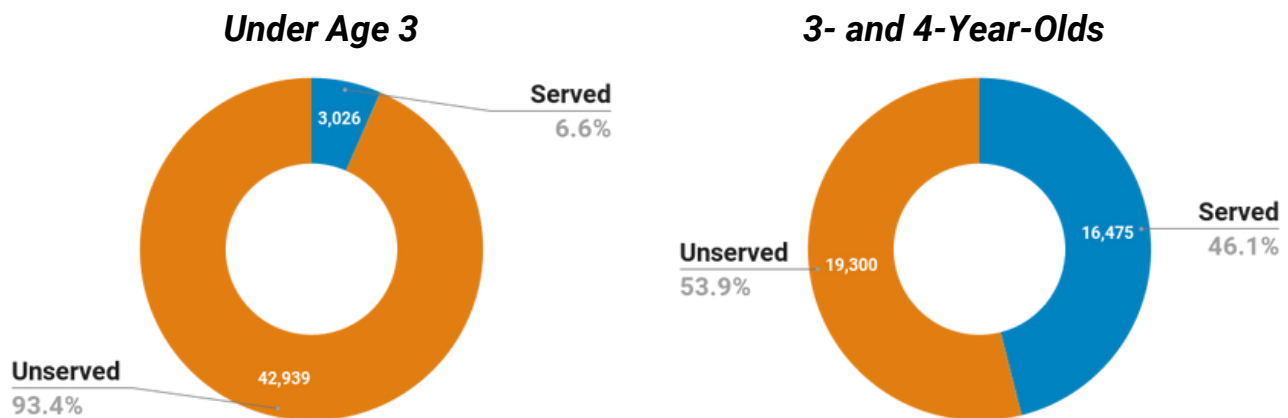
# More Louisiana Children Need Access to Early Head Start & Head Start Programs

## In Louisiana:

- Overall, the state of Louisiana serves only **29% of in-need children 4 and under** in all publicly funded early care and education programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, and state-administered programs such as the Child Care Assistance Program.
- The cost of early care and education can be as expensive as **in-state college tuition**, with infants in a center costing over **\$8,700 per year** on average.
- Only **40%** of Louisiana kindergarteners begin school meeting benchmarks, meaning **60% school-aged children** are **in need of remediation on Day 1**.

## Early Head Start and Head Start:

Louisiana has one of the **highest poverty rates** for children 4 and under in the country (28%). An estimated **80,073 children 4 and under are eligible** for Early Head Start and Head Start programs, yet only **24%** of these children are being **served**.



## The Impact:

**Lack of access** to quality, reliable child care for working parents with young children:

Costs Louisiana employers **\$762 million** a year.



Results in a **\$1.3 billion loss** for Louisiana's economy.

Notes: Children served and unserved in Early Head Start and Head Start calculated from Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) 2020 Annual report and the 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Table S1701.