

# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: The Best Solution for Louisiana's Economy and Children

By appropriating **\$94 million** of state funds to early care and education programs, the Louisiana Legislature will:

1. **Prepare our youngest children** for a smart start in life;
2. **Enable families to be productive** in the workforce, and;
3. **Serve as an economic engine** for communities across Louisiana.

**\$94M will give thousands of parents the support they need to be productive members of the workforce while choosing the high-quality early care and education programs that work best for their children.**

Access to high-quality, reliable child care helps **parents work today** and **prepares children for tomorrow**. **Children only get one chance at childhood** and one chance at learning the fundamentals—how to count, how to talk, how to process.

## More in-need children from birth-to-three will be served, however a large gap still remains



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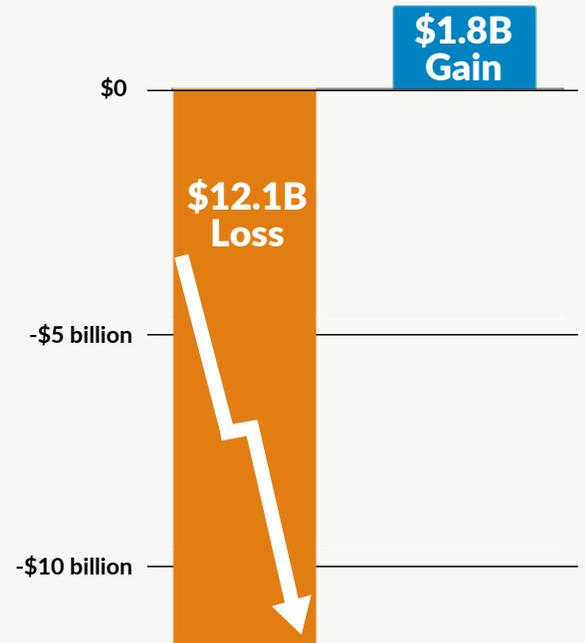
**\$94M will strengthen Louisiana's economy, which loses \$1.3 billion a year due to the impacts of child care breakdowns on working parents.**

Child care instability costs Louisiana businesses **\$762 million** a year from **missed work, turnovers, and other related costs** such as paying other workers overtime to make up for lost productivity or hiring replacement workers, temporary workers, or contractors. Without significant investment in high-quality early care and education, **Louisiana will experience a collective loss of at least \$12.1 billion** in the next decade. Alternately, **if we begin investing today, the state will see economic gains of at least \$1.8 billion** over the next decade.

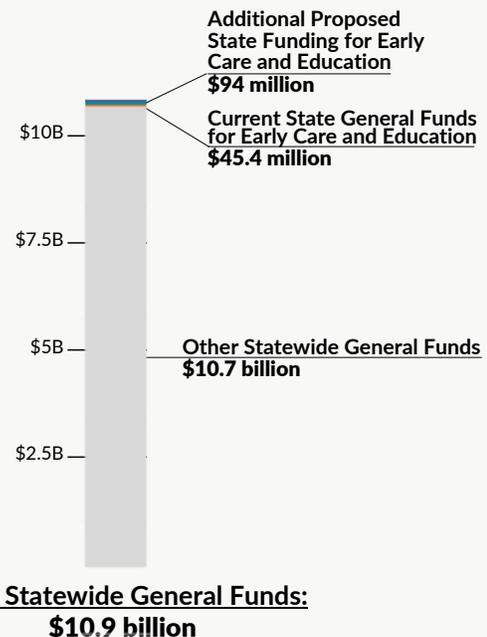
**\$94M will incentivize local investment in early care and education by using one-time funds to offer communities a dollar-for-dollar match on their efforts.**

How? When local entities in Louisiana **invest local dollars in expanding high-quality early care and education, they are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match** from a state matching fund known as the Early Childhood Education Fund, which as of January 31, 2022, has **\$1,084,303**. While this state fund has several revenue sources, not all of them generate money, and the need is significant.

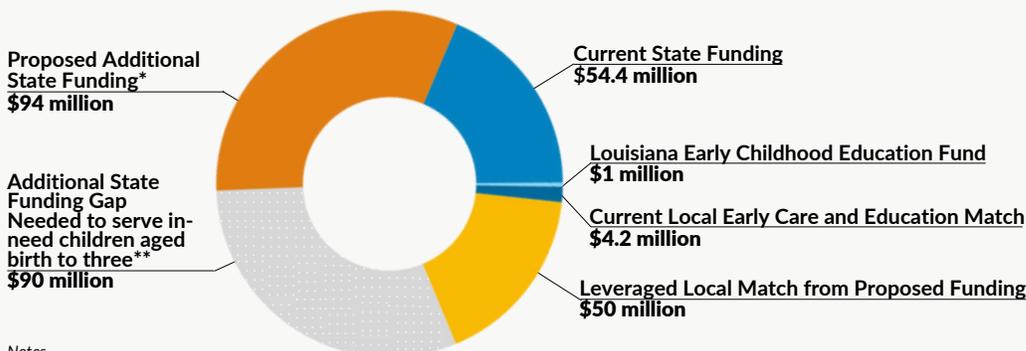
**Without investment, Louisiana loses \$12.1B vs \$1.8B gain with investment**



## Breakdown of State General Funds for Early Care and Education



## State and Local Funding for Early Care and Education in Louisiana



**Notes**

\*Proposed Additional State Funding (\$94 million) includes \$50 million for the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund and \$44 million for expanding birth to three seats

\*\*In 2022, the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Commission recommends an initial investment of \$115 million of state funds to serve in-need children aged three followed by additional increasing investments of that amount every year for 10 years.

• Current federal funding for early care and education totals \$481.6 million