



# Local Actions on Early Care and Education in Louisiana

The Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund (“Fund”) offers local entities in Louisiana a dollar-for-dollar match on investments made to expand access to quality early care and education for children who need it most. This state fund, which has several dedicated sources of revenue, has been growing and the first distributions from this fund were distributed in 2022. Last year Louisiana made a historic \$40 million one-time investment in the Fund. In addition to recurring dedications, this investment was a step in the right direction. In 2023, the legislature has an opportunity to allocate 10% of recognized state excess funds to the Fund to continue supporting the youngest children in our Louisiana communities.

In the meantime, several Louisiana communities have committed to addressing early care and education at the local level. The following is a sampling of these local efforts:

- **Jefferson Parish** allocated \$220,000 in 2020, another \$275,000 in 2022, and most recently an additional \$300,000 in 2023 to its parish budget to support expanded quality early care and education offerings to local residents.
- **New Orleans** passed a new millage to raise \$21 million annually for 20 years beginning in 2023. The tax would create 1,000 more seats in the City Seats program, an additional investment on top of funds the city previously dedicated to this program. City Seats provides quality early care and education to local families as well as some wrap-around services and is modeled after Early Head Start.
- **Pointe Coupee Parish** leveraged school readiness tax credits to encourage greater local investment in quality programs benefiting 3-year-olds. While Louisiana averages serving  $\frac{1}{3}$  of at-risk 3-year-olds statewide, Pointe Coupee Parish serves over 90%.
- **Shreveport** engaged with local business leaders and philanthropic organizations to fundraise \$1 million to support expanded quality early care and education offerings to local residents. In 2021, the Shreveport City Council additionally appropriated \$215,000 in city funds to add more seats to the program, and in 2022 allocated an additional \$3 million for early childcare scholarships.

The Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, created by state statute, has charged a task force with examining potential funding mechanisms for local entities to utilize in raising revenue to support early care and education in their communities. A 2021 report from the Commission and Task Force can be found [here](#) and an illustrative list of local funding options can be found in Appendix F [here](#). The [2022](#) and [2023](#) reports can be found [here](#) and [here](#).