

How Advocates Can Guide Cities and Parishes to Invest in Early Care and Education as a COVID-19 Response

Cities and Parishes Can Apply for COVID-19 Relief Funds through SB 189

- **Louisiana is making funds available to cities and parishes for COVID-19-related expenditures through the recently passed SB 189.** Those expenditures must be made before December 30, 2020—meaning, cities and parishes cannot use these funds for long-term budget projects, but have an opportunity to use them to support early care and education.
- **Cities and parishes must submit applications to the Louisiana Division of Administration for reimbursement for their COVID-19 responses.** Local governments should act swiftly to assist their communities with recovery efforts, while funds are available.

Cities and Parishes Can Invest COVID-19 Relief Dollars Into Early Care & Education

Governments can use COVID-19 relief dollars to do the following:

- Provide grants to child care centers to help them reopen or stay open; or
- Fund child care seats for certain children ages birth to three, specifically children of parents who are essential workers, employed by the municipal government, working, or looking for work.

Advocates Can Urge Their Cities & Parishes to Invest in Early Care & Education

Advocates can mobilize their networks to share two handouts with local government officials (e.g., the Mayor's Office, City Council, Chief Financial Officer, etc.) via email.

- **[One-Pager: Invest in Early Care and Education as a COVID-19 Response](#)**
- **[Guide: How Governments Can Invest COVID-19 Relief Dollars from SB 189 in Early Care and Education](#)**

Advocates can set up meetings with local government officials to review these handouts and make the case for investing in early care and education as a COVID-19 response measure.

If advocates need support or have additional questions, they may contact Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children at sonniernetto@policyinstitutela.org.

