



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 are expected to be distributed in 2022. 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:

- **East Baton Rouge School District** is exploring expanding their offerings for four-year-olds and expanding coverage of three-year-olds by utilizing empty classrooms in the district and partnering with local, quality-rated child care providers to staff those classrooms. The project is currently being funded with federal relief dollars, including federal dollars dedicated to developing a strategic plan to finance the expansion long-term after relief aid expires.
- **Jefferson Parish** has allocated \$250,000 in their parish budget to support expanded quality early care and education offerings to local residents.
- **New Orleans** has allocated \$3 million in their City budget to create the “City Seats” program. This program provides quality early care and education to local families as well as some wrap-around services and is modeled after Early Head Start. New Orleans first dedicated city money to this program in 2017 and doubled its investment annually between 2018 and 2020.
- **Pointe Coupee Parish** leveraged school readiness tax credits to encourage greater local investment in quality programs benefiting three-year-olds. While Louisiana averages serving $\frac{1}{3}$ of at-risk three-year-olds statewide, Pointe Coupee Parish serves over 90% of theirs.
- **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.

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 at Appendix F [here](#).