

CONTINUING THE INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

FY 2024-25 Proposed Executive Budget Analysis

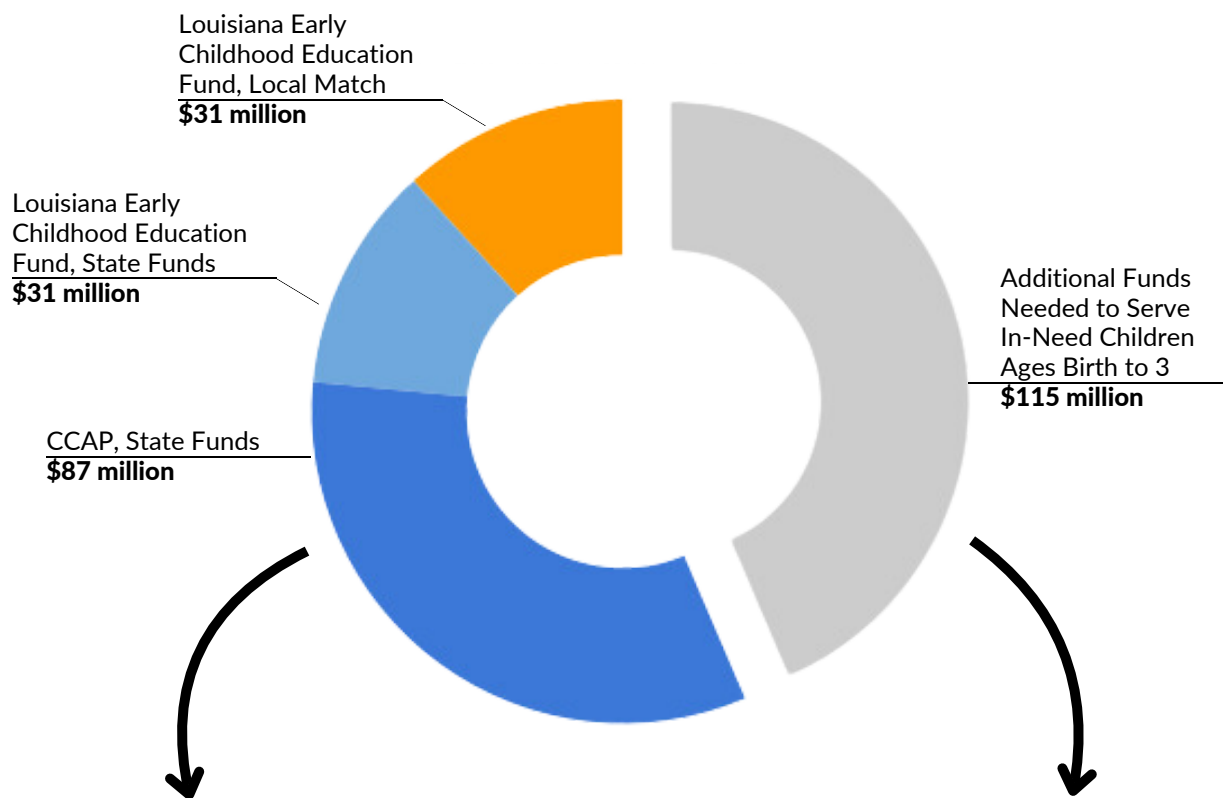


Early care and education is a two-generation investment: when families can access high-quality early care and education for their children, parents can go to work and strengthen our economy now.

The proposed executive budget maintains the state funding levels for early care and education programs, including the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Maintaining the funding level means that in-need children who are currently being served would continue to be served, allowing for families to participate in school or in their careers and employers to have a reliable workforce.

Yet approximately **78,000 in-need children birth to age 3 still do not have access to early care and education** in 2024.¹ Without further investment, too many Louisiana families will not have access to affordable, quality child care and too many children will arrive at kindergarten behind.

FY2024-25 Proposed State & Local Funding for Programs Serving Children 0-3²



In 2023, Louisiana served less than one quarter of in-need children ages birth to 3.

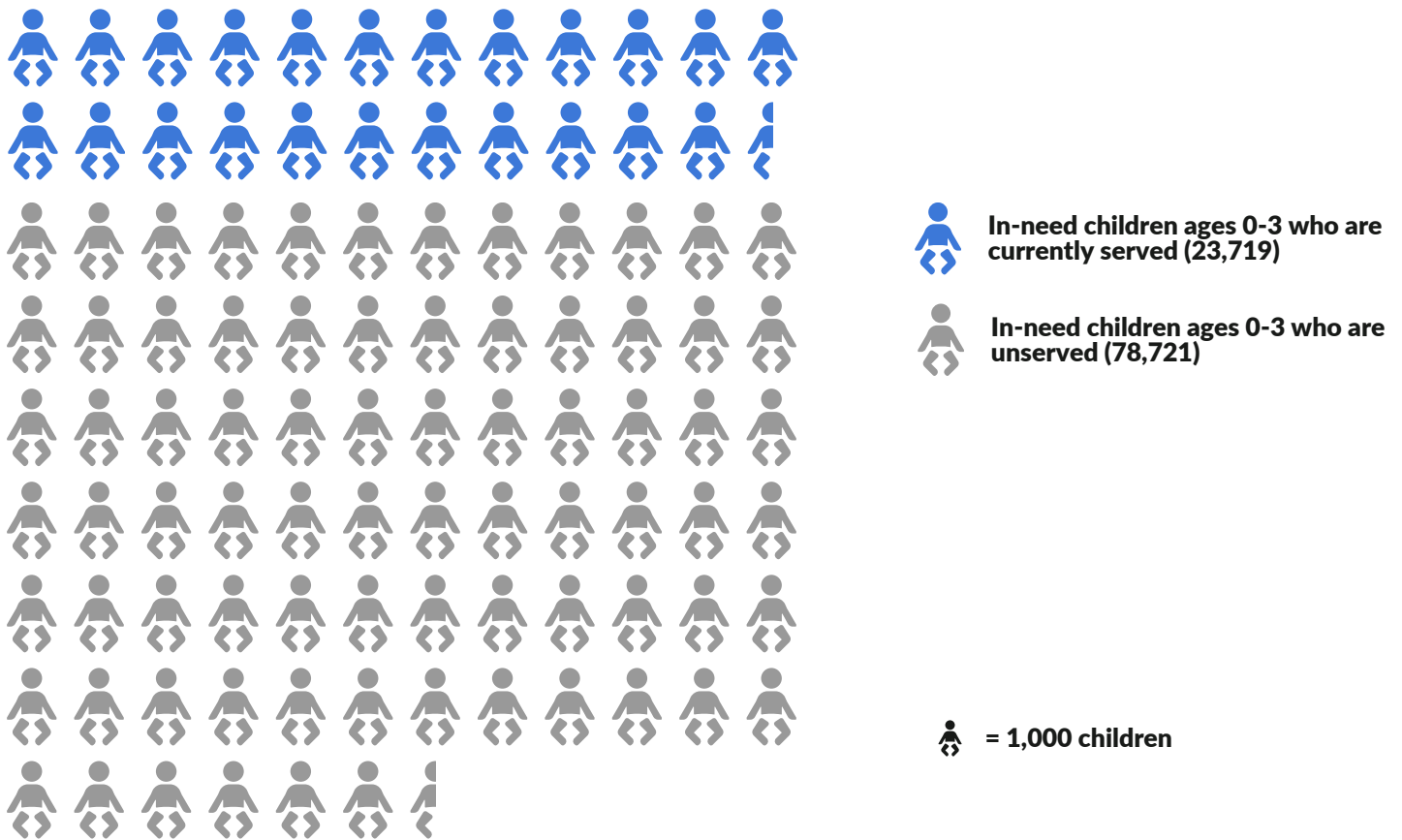
In order for Louisiana to serve the remaining in-need children by 2032, an additional investment of \$115 million in recurring funding is needed each year.

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There are approximately 103,000 in need children, ages birth to 3, in Louisiana



National longitudinal research has found that children in quality early childhood programs are more likely to have higher income earnings, less likely to experience adverse health conditions, and less likely to engage in criminal activity in adulthood. From these studies, it is clear that supporting children earlier in life alleviates burdens on our education, health, and economic systems — both in the immediate and long term. Parents of young children also rely on quality early care and education to go to work, look for work, or go to school.

¹ Louisiana Early Care and Education Commission, *Maximizing our Resources: Our Smartest Investment for Louisiana's Future*, February 2024

² The FY2025 executive budget includes approximately \$150 million in federal CCDF funding for early care and education (not shown on chart)