



2022-2023
Early Childhood
Planning Guide

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

To support early childhood community networks with planning for and budgeting stimulus funds, the LDOE has launched the *Believe! Early Childhood Planning Guide*. This guidance document focuses on Believe! and provides community networks with new and ongoing prioritized activities, funding opportunities, and resources to develop community plans in alignment with the priorities and focus areas outlined in [Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities](#).

Overview

New federal funding provides an opportunity for the state of Louisiana to address early childhood care and education at a systemic and impactful level. Despite ongoing efforts to strengthen the early childhood system at the state and local level since the passage of Act 3 in 2012, fewer than seven percent of birth to two-year-olds and approximately one third of three-year-olds have access to high-quality care. To this point, the state of Louisiana is dedicated to using stimulus funds to address these gaps in access and to strengthen the overall early childhood system. This *Believe! Early Childhood Planning Guide* outlines activities and funding opportunities for early childhood community networks to develop plans and partnerships to ensure that Louisiana achieves the following:

- **Strengthens the child care system** to meet the needs of all families and support the stabilization of the child care sector.
- **Expands supply of and access to high-quality early childhood options** for families and to identify opportunities to sustain that expansion long-term.
- **Prepares and supports teachers** to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions that meet the developmental needs of children every day.
- **Empowers families** to access tools and resources to support their children's development.

How to Use the Believe! Early Childhood Planning Guide

The Guide is organized as follows:

- **Category:** The four early childhood planning categories include the most critical areas for a strong start: strengthening child care; expanding supply and access; classroom quality; and family engagement & support.
- **LDOE Priority:** Each category is aligned to an LDOE priority found in [Believe to Achieve](#), which is listed here.
- **Activity:** Each category is further subdivided into prioritized activities for communities. While these activities are not required, they are recommended for communities and may be supported through competitive funding.
- **Funding Guidance:** Early childhood community networks are eligible to apply for funding to address all four priorities in one consolidated application, the Early Childhood Believe! Request for Applications, which will be released in October 2021. School systems and early childhood community networks may also be able to support these priority activities with additional funding provided through Super App or Achieve!
- **Resources:** New and updated resources aligned to each prioritized activity are linked to support early childhood communities in planning. All resources can be found in the [Believe! and Achieve! Library](#). Email earlychildhood@la.gov with any questions.

Timeline

September 2021	October 2021	February 4, 2022	April 2022	May 2022	July 2022
<i>Believe!</i> Early Childhood Planning Guidance is released.	<i>Believe!</i> Application is released for early childhood lead agencies to apply for funding for the 2022-2023 school year.	<i>Believe!</i> Application is due to the Department.	The Department brings <i>Believe!</i> allocation recommendations to BESE.	<i>Believe!</i> allocations are available to budget in eGMS.	Lead agencies may begin drawing down <i>Believe!</i> funds in eGMS.



BELIEVE! PLANNING FRAMEWORK

BELIEVE! PLANNING FRAMEWORK		
Category 1: Strengthen the child care system to meet the needs of all families and support the stabilization of the child care sector.		
Linkage to LDOE Priority: Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.		
Activities	Funding Opportunities	Resources
Communities understand the challenges their child care providers are facing—including financial challenges and challenges related to health and safety—and develop a plan to support child care providers during the 2022-2023 year.	Part 1 of the Believe! Application	Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care Health and Safety Resource Guide CDC’s Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19
Communities identify key workforce challenges child care providers are facing and develop a plan to support providers to recruit and retain a qualified workforce.	Part 1 of the Believe! Application	Early Childhood Workforce: Recruiting and Hiring Toolkit Guidance on Teacher Compensation
Communities strengthen child care providers' ability to access business consultation, training, and other resources, including potential state/federal grant, loan, tax credit, and other financial assistance programs.	Part 1 of the Believe! Application	Child Care Business Supports



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Category 2: Expand supply of and access to high-quality early childhood options for families and to identify opportunities to sustain that expansion long-term.

Linkage to LDOE Priority: Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

Activities	Funding Opportunities	Resources
Communities develop and implement plans to secure sustainable local funding for B-3 seats offered in high-quality, diverse delivery settings.	<p>Note: Funding for this activity is not included in the <i>Believe!</i> Application.</p> <p>All B-3 seat requests should be made in the 2022-2023 Coordinated Funding Request through Super App, P5.9.4.</p> <p>Communities interested in accessing funds to support this activity should apply to become a Ready Start Network (the RFA for Cohort 5 will be released Spring 2022).</p>	<p><u>Funding Plan Guidance for Ready Start Networks</u></p> <p><u>Coordinated Funding Request Template</u></p>
Communities develop and implement plans to build new child care supply in their community, which may include creating new infant/toddler classrooms at existing centers, partnering with family child care providers, or establishing innovative child care partnerships.	Part 2 of the <u>Believe! Application</u>	<u>Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant Guidance</u>
Communities partner with school systems to identify opportunities to expand access to pre-K through local or school system funding.	<i>Achieve!</i> Application	<u>Guidance for Expanding Access to High-Quality Early Childhood Education for School Systems</u>
Communities create and implement transformative strategies for achieving equitable supply and access to high-quality early care and education.	<p>Note: Funding for this activity is not included in the <i>Believe!</i> Application.</p> <p>Ready Start Networks can apply separately for funding via the Ready Start Transform application.</p>	<u>Ready Start Transform Overview</u>



BELIEVE! PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Category 3: Prepare and support teachers to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions that meet the developmental needs of all children every day.

Linkage to LDOE Priority: Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment from birth through graduation.

Activities	Funding Opportunities	Resources
Communities ensure all early childhood classrooms are equipped with high-quality curriculum and developmentally-appropriate learning resources and materials.	Communities can apply for funding for all program types in P3.4.1 - P3.4.2 in Super App. Additional funds will be available in Part 3 of the Believe! Application to support Type III early learning centers.	Tier 1 Curriculum Center Enhancement Checklist
Communities provide early learning educators with professional development to support high-quality interactions and effective implementation of instructional tools.	Communities can apply for funding for all program types in P4.5.1 in Super App. Additional funds will be available in Part 3 of the Believe! Application to support Type III early learning centers.	Louisiana Academic Content PD Vendor Guide Supporting Early Learning and Literacy PD Guide
Communities support the social and emotional wellbeing of children and educators by providing additional mental health resources and trauma-informed supports.	Part 3 of the Believe! Application	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program Louisiana Student Well-Being Vendor Guide
Communities develop a plan to identify children in need of intervention through a universal developmental screening process.	Part 3 of the Believe! Application	Partnerships for Success Guide Early Childhood Developmental Screening Early Childhood Developmental Screenings Guidebook Supporting Early Learning and Literacy PD Guide
Communities and school systems provide high-quality direct and related service support for young children with IEPs to increase inclusive opportunities within the least restrictive environment.	Part 3 of the Believe! Application	Partnerships for Success Guide Early Childhood Inclusion Guide



BELIEVE! PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Category 4: Empower families to access tools and resources to support their children’s development.

Linkage to LDOE Priority: Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children

Activites	Funding Opportunities	Resources
<p>Communities use strategies to support child development through at-home learning and family engagement programs.</p>	<p>Part 4 of the Believe! Application</p>	<p>Louisiana’s Be Engaged Birth-12 Framework</p> <p>Family Engagement Supporting Early Learning</p> <p>Family Literacy Engagement Strategic Plan</p> <p>Supporting Early Learning and Literacy PD Guide</p>
<p>Communities link families with support for monitoring their children’s development and provide coordinated support services to better prepare children for future success.</p>	<p>Part 4 of the Believe! Application</p>	<p>Early Childhood Developmental Screening</p> <p>Early Childhood Developmental Screenings Guidebook</p> <p>Supporting Early Learning and Literacy Vendor Guide</p> <p>Supporting Early Learning and Literacy PD Guide</p>
<p>Communities develop plans in partnership with families, school systems, and program partners to support early childhood transitions.</p>	<p>Part 4 of the Believe! Application</p>	<p>Guidance for Early Childhood Transitions</p> <p>LDOE Early Childhood Transition Process</p>

