

Child Care Business Supports

The Office of Teaching and Learning Early Childhood Strategy Team is creating supports that strengthen centers' business practices for stability and longevity. The LDOE is hosting a number of trainings and opportunities designed to address early learning center fiscal health:

Business Training Series

This summer, the LDOE will host a series of business trainings led by [First Children's Finance](#). The series will focus on improving fiscal practices including budgets, fiscal operations and controls, etc. Business training offerings will be communicated via the [Early Childhood Connection Newsletter](#).

Tax Consultation

The LDOE is working with a tax consultation firm who will provide free 1:1 consultations with tax accountants to discuss best practices in recording business losses, grants, and loans received during COVID-19. Providers at Type III early learning centers can schedule free online one- to two-hour consultations by completing an [interest form](#).

Monthly Shared Services Supports

Every month, tips and resources are shared in the [Early Childhood Connection Newsletter](#). These monthly tips are based on current information collected from the field, LDOE pilots and initiatives using information from the [Opportunities Exchange](#) website for reference. The Shared Services supports are aimed at providing helpful suggestions to early learning center providers to strengthen their businesses.

Substitute Directory

The Substitute Directory is an online platform connecting providers to individuals interested in working at early learning centers as-needed. The Directory utilizes the Child Care Criminal Background Check System (CCCBCS) to provide a listing of names of individuals who may be available for work.

- The Directory will list possible early learning teachers for directors to screen, interview, and potentially hire, if suitable for work in their center.
- Early learning centers provide on-site orientation to ensure that substitutes can implement site-specific policies and respond to issues.
- The LDOE will begin recruitment for teachers in April, and will pay for the first 300 CCCBCs. Providers can expand the capacity of the Directory by completing a [form](#).
- The LDOE will host a webinar in May to provide guidance on how to use the Substitute Directory.

Child Care Management Software (CCMS)

Child Care Management Software (CCMS) is specifically designed to help child care providers automate their day-to-day operations so that staff have more time to spend with children and are able to monitor and manage their program proactively. Examples of CCMS include Procure, Smartcare, Brightwheel, etc.

In an effort to bolster efficiencies in early learning centers across Louisiana, the Department is promoting the use of CCMS for early learning centers in a few different ways:

1. **Learn about Child Care Management Software.** Review the [All About CCMS Webinar](#).
2. **The Child Care Management Software Initiative (CCMSi).** This initiative will reimburse 80% of a center's subscription to an LDOE-approved CCMS vendor up to \$1,000. The LDOE is developing a guidebook with vetted vendors, and will host demonstrations of products in late spring.
3. **CCMS implementation support.** Once a center selects a CCMS, child and teacher data will need to be added to the CCMS. The Department will provide technical assistance through a consultant to support data entry on a rolling basis. Communities can sign up through their [Child Care Resource and Referral agencies](#).