



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding Our Future with LA B to 3: Sustaining and Advancing a Thriving Early Care and Education Sector

We must invest now to stabilize and strengthen the early care and education sector so Louisiana parents can join and remain in the workforce, local economies can thrive, and all young children can get on a path to lifelong success. **To this end, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission recommends the Louisiana State Legislature:**

1) Invest \$200 million now and annually to replace expiring federal relief dollars.

Why? If the state does not act now, more than 16,000 children will lose access to quality early care and education, which will compromise their parents' ability to work and will hurt our economy.

2) Make an additional \$115M down payment to decrease the number of unserved children and working families in Louisiana.

Why? Without an ongoing investment from the public sector, early care and education providers cannot balance the cost of delivering quality early care and education with working families' capacity to pay the true cost of that care.

3) Appropriate 10 percent of state excess funds from the 2022-2023 fiscal year to the Early Childhood Education Fund in 2023 to match and incentivize local investment.

Why? The Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund (ECE Fund) offers a dollar-for-dollar state match for non-federal and non-state funds secured by local entities. The state must continue to incentivize robust local investment by ensuring there are sufficient funds available to motivated communities.

In looking forward, the Louisiana State Legislature should support efforts by local governments to generate local revenue for access to high-quality early care and education as well as encourage collaboration across the state to identify and implement solutions to the growing workforce crisis of low pay and benefits for early care and education teachers and professionals.

[Read the full report online.](#)

