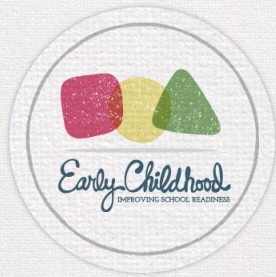


LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

February 24, 2021

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# Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Minutes of December 9, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting
- IV. Consideration of proposed revisions to *Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*
- V. Consideration of proposed revisions to *Bulletin 139, Louisiana Child Care Development and Fund Program*
- VI. Consideration of Louisiana's Child Care and Development Fund State Plan Amendment
- VII. Consideration of Louisiana's Plan for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2021 (CRRSA) funding to support child care
- VIII. Consideration of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report – Quarter 4
- IX. Adjournment



## I. Call to Order



## II. Roll Call





### **III. Approval of the Minutes of December 9, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting**



**IV. Consideration of proposed revisions to *Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations***



# Bulletin 137 Overview

*State law requires a review of licensing regulations every three years.*

- According to RS 17:407.40, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall conduct a comprehensive review of all standards, rules, and regulations for licenses every three years.
- Work Group members were requested to review the current revision of BESE Bulletin 137 for changes from the groups they represent, while keeping health and safety in the forefront.





# Bulletin 137 Objective and Process

*Health and safety was the main focus for the review of licensing regulations.*

- In response, the Louisiana Department of Education launched a Work Group to review and provide input on changes to Bulletin 137 - Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations.
- Over a two month period, the Work Group met multiple times to produce recommendations on how to improve regulations for all licensed early learning centers to keep Louisiana's children safe and healthy.
- The Department, after today's EC Advisory Council meeting, will bring the revisions to April 2021 BESE.



# Bulletin 137 Work Group Members

*The Work Group included a diverse set of representatives from providers to child safety advocates as well as state agency staff.*

- Paula Polito - EC Advisory Council Chairperson and Chairperson of the Work Group
- Alan Young - Type II and III Centers (CCAL)
- James Evans - Louisiana Head Start Association
- Lesley Corban - Type I Center
- RuthAnne Oakey-Frost - Nonprofit Child Advocacy Organization
- Maria Blanco - Children with Disability Advocacy Organization
- Toni Ledet - Children with Disabilities, Louisiana Department of Health
- Dan Wallis - Louisiana State Fire Marshal
- Al Mancuso - State Sanitarian, Louisiana Department of Health
- Nora McCarstle - Family Health, Louisiana Department of Health
- Shelia Campbell - Licensing, Louisiana Department of Education



# B137 Chapter 1 - Definitions

*Definitions in Chapter 1 were added or revised to provide clarification, correct federal findings, or for technical purposes.*

## 1. Section 103:

- CBC and Right to Review - removed for technical change and deleted as it is no longer valid
- Child Day Care Center - added reference to R.S for clarification
- Key Orientation Training Modules - added to meet federal review findings
- Office of Public Health - changed to reflect current name of Louisiana Department of Health
- Student Trainee - changed for technical reasons
- Transportation - changed to provide clarification
- Written - changed to provide clarification to include electronic form



## B137 Chapter 3 - Exemptions from Licensure

*One section of Chapter 3 was revised to provide clarification and technical change.*

1. Section 303 - correction to the name of Louisiana Department of Health and clarification to include U.S. Department of Defense in exemption.



# B137 Chapter 7 - Initial Inspection Process, Initial Application Process and Validity of Licenses

*Three sections of Chapter 7 were revised to provide clarification, technical changes, and flexibility.*

1. Section 701 - correction to the name of Louisiana Department of Health.
2. Section 703 - provide flexibility in initial inspection process to allow the Department to work closely with centers to become licensed.
3. Section 709 - correction to the name of Louisiana Department of Health and provided flexibility to allow the Department to issue a single license for a location with multiple buildings, but with technically different addresses.



# B137 Chapter 9 - Change of Ownership

*One section of Chapter 9 was revised to provide flexibility.*

1. Section 903 - provide flexibility on what constitutes a change of ownership.



# B137 Chapter 11 - Critical Incidents and Required Notifications and Identified Violations and Fines

*Two sections of Chapter 11 were revised to provide clarification, technical changes, and flexibility.*

1. Section 1103 -
  - a. Removed reportable infectious diseases and conditions as this falls under the purview of Louisiana Department of Health.
  - b. Provided clarification to include:
    - i. a child left unsupervised for any amount of time,
    - ii. use of prohibited behavior management, allegations or suspicion of child abuse or neglect by center staff, and
    - iii. an accident involving the transportation of children.
  - c. Provided clarification on appropriate state agencies to be notified within 24 hours of the critical incident.
2. Section 1105 - correction identified by auditor to allow flexibility in the process of resolving regulation violations.



# B137 Chapter 13 - Posting of Notice of Revocation

*One section of Chapter 13 was revised to provide clarification.*

1. Section 1305 - Provides clarification to indicate that if the Department refuses to renew a license, a Refusal to Renew notice would need to be posted (same process for a license revocation).



# B137 Chapter 15 - Daily Attendance Records, Policies, and Child Records and Cumulative Files

*Three sections of Chapter 15 were revised to provide clarification, technical changes, and flexibility.*

1. Section 1507 - changed to reduce records retention (daily attendance) to two years and provide clarification that electronic records are allowable.
2. Section 1509 - technical change identified by judge to include following the policies listed. Also provides clarification that alleged or suspected child abuse are to be reported to the Louisiana Child Protection Statewide Hotline.
3. Section 1515 - changed to reduce collection of information that is not used in practice (child's physician/dentist) as the parent is contacted. Also reduces records retention (records of children) to two years and provide clarification that electronic records are allowable.



# B137 Chapter 17 - Supervision, Records, Orientation, Child Neglect & Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training

*Eight sections of Chapter 17 were revised to provide clarification, correct federal findings, and flexibility.*

1. Section 1711 - Child-to-Staff Ratio - have 4 children before needing a second staff person
2. Section 1715 - reduces records retention (staff records and personnel files) to two years and provide clarification that electronic records are allowable.
3. Section 1717 - reduces records retention (records for independent contractor and student trainees) to two years and provide clarification that electronic records are allowable.
4. Section 1719 - clarifies topics in Orientation training, Key Orientation Training Modules and documentation of completion required in order to correct federal finding.
5. Sections 1721, 1723, 1725 - provides clarification that electronic records are allowable for Continuing Education, CPR/First Aid, and Medication Management.
6. Section 1727 - per Act 272 of the 2020 Legislative session, adds annual completion of Mandated Reporter Training provided by DCFS.



# B137 Chapter 18 - Child Care Criminal Background Checks

*Three sections of Chapter 18 were revised to provide clarification and technical change.*

1. Section 1805 - language added to allow the Department to receive information for rap backs.
2. Section 1811 - provides clarification that electronic records (monitoring log for provisionally-employed staff) are allowable.
3. Section 1813 - removed for technical change as it is no longer valid (CCCBC transition period).



# B137 Chapter 19 - Environment, Furnishings & Equipment, Care of Children, Food/Nutrition, Emergency Prep

*Four sections of Chapter 19 were revised to provide clarification and flexibility.*

1. Section 1901 - provided clarification that a dedicated working phone with a number that is dedicated to the center and is capable of incoming and outgoing calls. Removes the prohibition of cellular phones.
2. Section 1907 - provides clarification of sanitation of cots, cribs and mats.
3. Section 1911 - provides clarification that electronic records (daily reports for infants) are allowable.
4. Section 1919 - provides clarification that electronic records (menus/substitutions or additions) are allowable.



# B137 Chapter 21 - Field Trips

*One section of Chapter 21 was revised to provide clarification.*

1. Section 2105 - provides clarification that electronic records (field trips) are allowable.



**V. Consideration of proposed  
revisions to *Bulletin 139, Louisiana  
Child Care Development and Fund  
Program***



# B139 Overview

*All audits ensure CCAP compliance in serving children and families.*

- The Federal Office of Child Care monitored the Department in the spring of 2019 and modifications are needed to correct the findings.
- The majority of the findings applied to license-exempt providers.





# B139 Objective and Process

*All stakeholders share input on the proposed regulations.*

1. Over several months, the Department met to devise recommendations that improve regulations for CCAP certified providers to keep all Louisiana children safe and healthy.
2. The proposed regulations address changes to correct federal monitoring findings and detail out regulations that were being done in practice. Health and safety related items are removed from the CCAP Provider Agreement and added to Bulletin 139.
3. The Department has engaged key stakeholders prior to bringing the recommendations to the February Advisory Council and April BESE meetings.



# B139 Chapter 1 - Definitions

*One Definition in Chapter 1 was added or revised to provide clarification and correct federal findings.*

## Section 103:

1. Child Health Consultant - provides definition for clarification
2. Group size - provides definition for clarification
3. Non-vehicular excursions - provides definition for clarification
4. Key Orientation Training Modules 1,2,3 - provides definition for clarification
5. Supervision - provides definition for clarification
6. Water Activity - provides definition for clarification
7. Water Play Activity - provides definition for clarification
8. Written - provides definition for clarification



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for Family Child Care Providers

*Several sections of Chapter 3 were revised to provide clarification and correct federal findings.*

## Section 309:

1. Medication Administration Training - added to meet federal requirement.
2. Pre-Service Orientation Training - includes the Key Orientation Training and DCFS Mandated Reporter Training to meet federal requirement.
3. Continuing Training - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to include 12 hours of annual training.
4. Children's Daily Attendance - added requirement from the Provider Agreement.
5. Transportation - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to provide clarification.
6. Medication Administration - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to provide clarification.
7. Hazardous materials, and Building and Physical Premises- tweaked for numbering.



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for Family Child Care Providers

Section 309 (continued):

8. Emergency Preparedness Disaster Plan - technical change to provide clarification.
9. First aid supplies and Inspections- tweaked for numbering.
10. Supervision - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and reduced verbiage.
11. Behavior Management - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and provided clarification.
12. Group Size - added to meet federal requirement.
13. Child-to-Staff Ratio - added to meet federal requirement.
14. Safe Sleep Practices - added to meet federal requirement.
15. Health Related Policies - added to meet federal requirement.
16. Immediate Parental Notification - added to meet federal requirement.
17. Items that Can Be Harmful to Children - added to meet federal requirement.
18. Critical Incident and Reporting Notification - added to provide clarification.
19. Deficiency Review Process - added to provide clarification.



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for In-Home Providers

*Several sections of Chapter 3 were revised to provide clarification and correct federal findings.*

## Section 311 :

1. Medication Administration Training - added to meet federal requirement.
2. Pre-Service Orientation Training - includes the Key Orientation Training and DCFS Mandated Reporter Training to meet federal requirement.
3. Continuing Training - added to meet federal requirement and tweaked to include 12 hours of annual training.
4. Children's Daily Attendance - added requirement from the Provider Agreement.
5. Transportation - Took requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to provide clarification.
6. Medication Administration - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to provide clarification.
7. Hazardous materials, and Building and Physical Premises- tweaked for numbering.



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for In-Home Providers

## Section 311 (continued):

8. Emergency Preparedness Disaster Plan - technical change to provide clarification.
9. First aid supplies and Inspections- tweaked for numbering.
10. Supervision - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and reduced verbiage.
11. Behavior Management - added requirement from the Provider Agreement.
12. Group Size - added to meet federal requirement.
13. Child-to-Staff Ratio - added to meet federal requirement.
14. Safe Sleep Practices - added to meet federal requirement.
15. Health Related Policies - added to meet federal requirement.
16. Immediate Parental Notification - added to meet federal requirement.
17. Items that Can Be Harmful to Children - added to meet federal requirement.
18. Critical Incident and Reporting Notification - added to provide clarification.
19. Deficiency Review Process - added to provide clarification.



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for Public & Nonpublic School Child Care

*Several sections of Chapter 3 were revised to provide clarification and correct federal findings.*

## Section 313:

1. Brumfield v Dodd Approval - technical change.
2. State Fire Marshal - added to meet federal requirement.
3. Determination of Eligibility for Child Care Purposes - added to meet federal requirement.
4. CPR - added requirement from the Provider Agreement.
5. Pediatric First Aid - added requirement from the Provider Agreement.
6. Medication Administration Training - added to meet federal requirement.
7. Emergency Preparedness Disaster Plan - moved to a different section for clarification.
8. Pre-Service Orientation Training - includes Key Orientation Training and DCFS Mandated Reporter Training to meet federal requirement.
9. Continuing Training - added to meet federal requirement and tweaked to include 12 hours of annual training.



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for Public & Nonpublic School Child Care

Section 313 (continued):

10. Children's Daily Attendance - added requirement from the Provider Agreement.
11. Transportation - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to provide clarification.
12. Medication Administration - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and tweaked to provide clarification.
13. Immunizations - added to meet federal requirement and to be consistent with other provider types.
14. Hazardous materials, and Building and Physical Premises- added to meet federal requirement.
15. Emergency Preparedness Disaster Plan - technical change to provide clarification
16. First aid supplies and Inspections- tweaked for numbering.
17. Supervision - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and reduced verbiage.



# B139 Chapter 3 - Specific Certification and Registration Requirements for Public & Nonpublic School Child Care

## Section 313 (continued):

18. Behavior Management - added requirement from the Provider Agreement and provided clarification.
19. Child-to-Staff Ratio - added to meet federal requirement.
20. Group Size - added to meet federal requirement.
21. Health Related Policies - added to meet federal requirement.
22. Immediate Parental Notification - added to meet federal requirement.
23. Items that Can Be Harmful to Children - added to meet federal requirement.
24. Inspections and Monitoring - technical change to allow renumbering.
25. Determination of eligibility for child care purpose - removed as it is covered in B 137.
26. Critical Incident and Reporting Notification - added to provide clarification.
27. Deficiency Review Process - added to provide clarification.



**VI. Consideration of Louisiana's  
Child Care and Development Fund  
State Plan Amendment**





# Louisiana's CCDF State Plan Amendment

*The State Plan serves as the agreement between the Department and the Federal Government as to how Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) programs will be administered. Amendments are required when there is a substantial change.*

The following updates need to be added to the CCDF State Plan:

1. **CCAP Rate Increase (4.3.1):** BESE approved an increase to the daily CCAP reimbursement rates based on results from the updated 2020 Market Rate Survey.
2. **Payments to Providers at State Maximum Rate (4.4.1):** BESE approved a change to Bulletin 139 that would allow providers to be reimbursed at the state's maximum daily rate, irrespective of their own rates.
3. **Update to CCAP Income Eligibility, State Median Income (3.1.3):** BESE approved an increase in the income eligibility for CCAP to 65% of the State Median Income (SMI) in order to align with other funding types.





**VII. Consideration of Louisiana’s  
Plan for the Coronavirus Response  
and Relief Supplemental  
Appropriation Act, 2021 (CRRSA)  
Funding to Support Child Care**



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Overview

*The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2021 (CRRSA) awarded Louisiana \$198,319,710 to support child care recovery on December 27, 2021.*

As the Lead Agency for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the Louisiana Department of Education will be the agency responsible for administering CRRSA funds.

A preliminary plan for how these funds will be spent must be submitted to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care by February 25, 2021.

All funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022 and liquidated by September 30, 2023.



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care

## Importance of Child Care

*Child care is essential for children, families, employers, and Louisiana's economy as a whole.*

**“We see child care as a two-generation workforce issue, crucial for our workforce of today and workforce of tomorrow. Access to affordable, quality child care is essential for working parents to enter, re-enter, or stay in the workforce, yet it is hard to come by. The first years of life are critical for children to build a strong foundation upon which future learning is built, yet current supply cannot meet demand.”**

**- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation**



# CCRRSA Funding for Child Care

## Impacts of COVID-19 on Child Care

*This new federal funding will be critically important to ensure child care centers do not close their doors permanently, thereby removing the ability of families to enter, re-enter, or stay in the workforce in Louisiana.*

A survey conducted by the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children (LPIC) in January of 2021 found that **76% of responding providers reported experiencing financial losses.**

- The average reported loss per center from March 2020 to January 2021 was **\$198,565, placing the estimated collective loss to the child care industry in Louisiana at \$245 million.**
- This amount is likely an underestimate of the impact because it does not capture reported losses from centers that closed prior to the survey.
- Additionally, while LPIC does not currently have data on how many or which providers were able to offset their losses with grants from the Department, SBA loans, or PPP, it must be noted that those financial resources were available to providers and there was still a substantial loss reported.

# CRRSA Funding for Child Care

## Intended Use of Funding

The funding is one-time funding and is to be used for the purpose of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs, including for fixed costs and increased operating expenses.

Although direct services are technically allowed by these funds, the intent of these funds is to keep child care providers in business in order to allow families to enter, re-enter or remain in the workforce. In addition, due to the fact that these are one-time funds and CCDF does not allow the Lead Agency to remove families once qualified, it is not prudent to use these funds for direct services.



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care

## Intended Use of Funding

The funds can be used for the following:

- Supporting the **stability of the child care sector** to help providers afford increased operating expenses;
- Continued **payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures**, and to assure the providers are able to remain open or reopen;
- **Delinking provider reimbursement rates from child attendance** and closures due to COVID-19;
- Costs of providing **relief from copayments and tuition payments for families** and for paying that portion of the child care provider's cost ordinarily paid through family copayments;
- **Technical assistance to help child care providers implement practices in line with guidance from State and local health departments** and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- Providing **child care assistance to essential workers** during the response to the coronavirus, without regard to income eligibility; and
- Any other allowable CCDF uses.



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

*In early February, the Department administered a public survey to solicit feedback from providers and other early childhood stakeholders.*

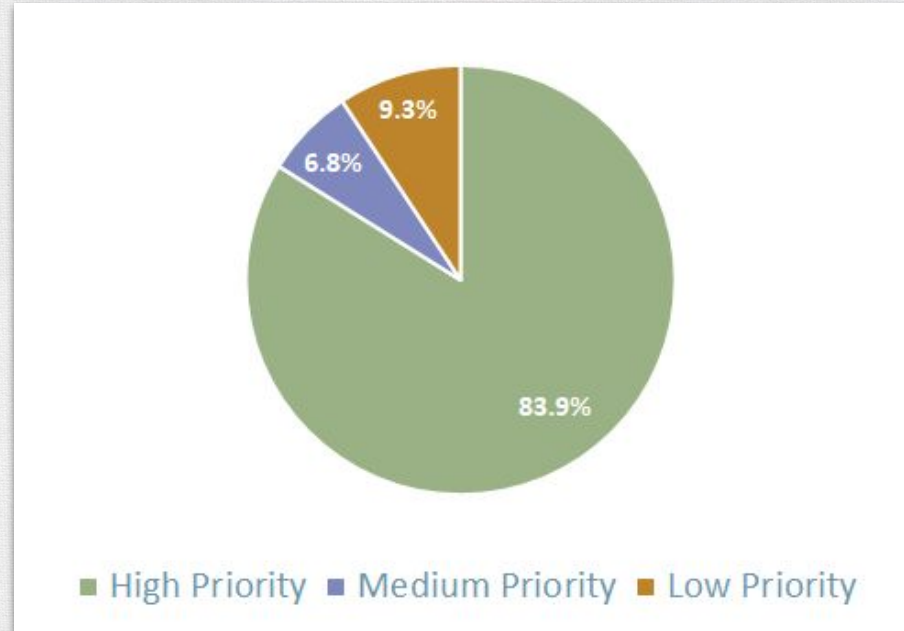
The Department received 548 responses to the survey, of which:

- 400 (73%) were child care owners or directors
  - 335 (78%) from Type III centers
  - 54 (12.1%) from Type I or Type II centers
  - The remaining responses were from other provider types
- 41 (7.5%) were teachers
- 20 (3.6%) were lead agency representatives
- The remaining responses came from parents, early childhood advocates, child care resource & referral staff, and other early childhood stakeholders



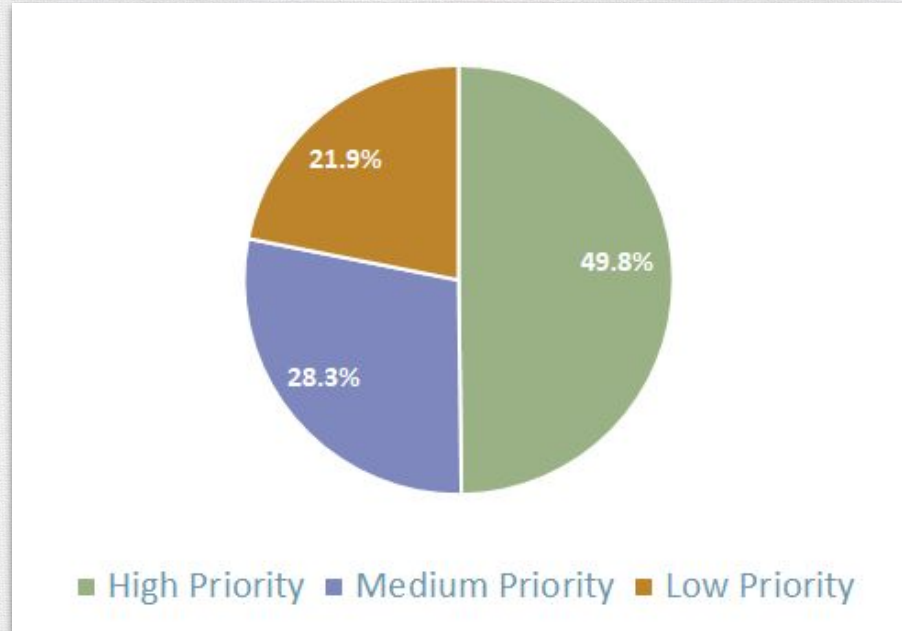
# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

Offering direct financial support to child care provider (e.g., LaCAP grants, CCAP payments based on enrollment, etc.)



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

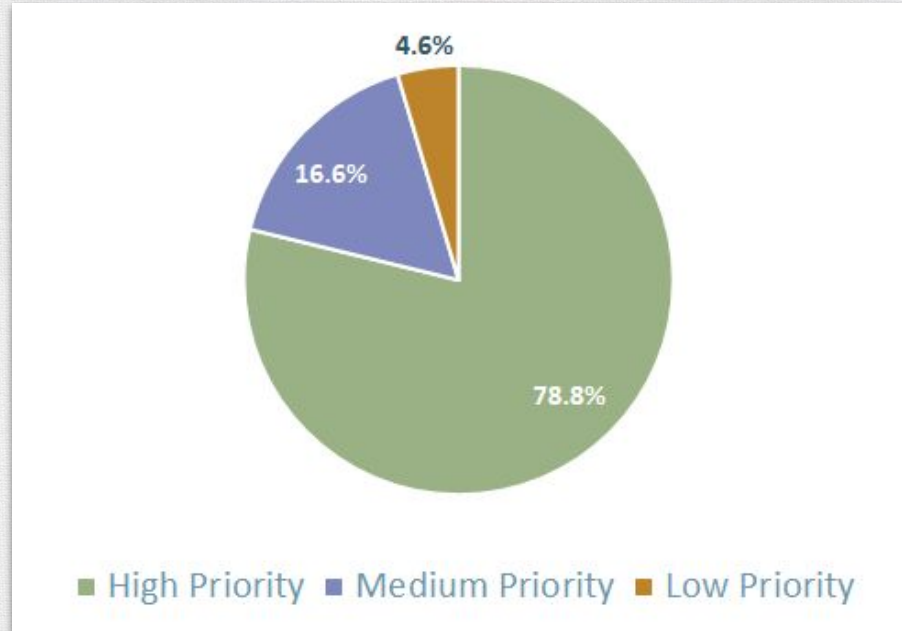
Providing technology (e.g. laptops, internet connectivity, etc.) and tech support to child care providers





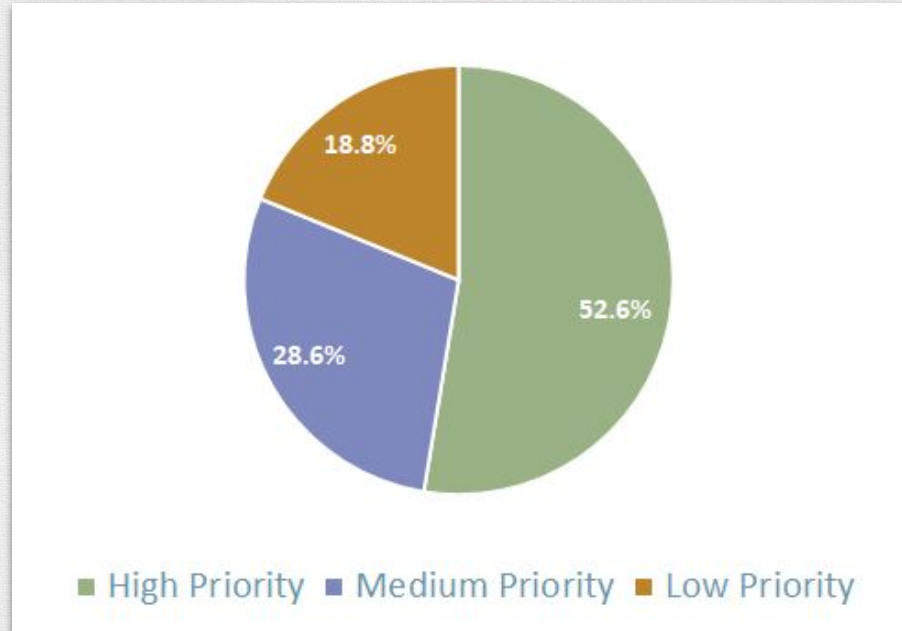
# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

Providing funding to support child care quality (e.g. funding for facilities improvements, instructional materials, etc.)



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

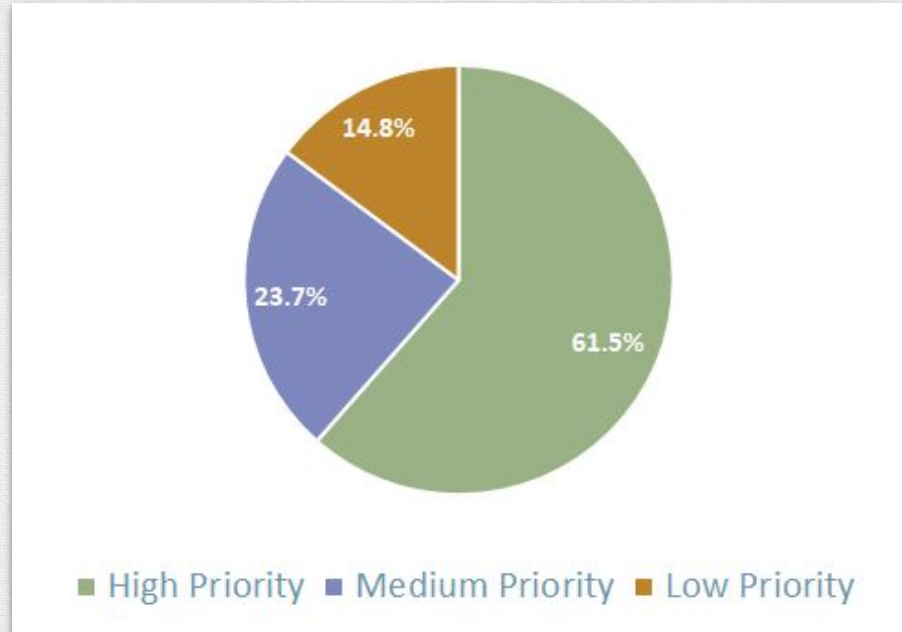
Providing additional  
mental health supports to  
child care directors,  
teachers, and families





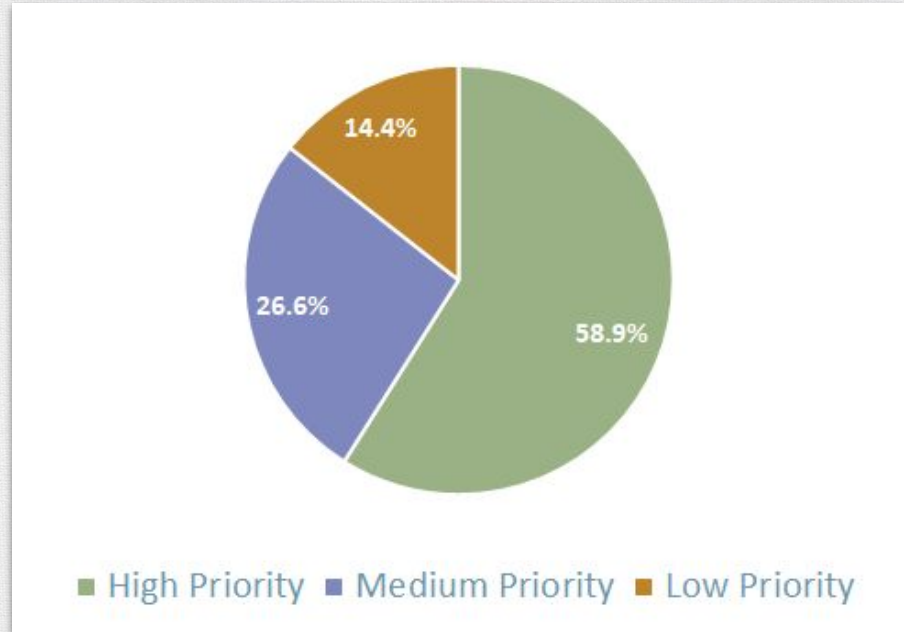
# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

Supporting communities to expand access to child care by funding new child care opportunities in child care deserts, where there is a lack of infant/toddler care, etc.



# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

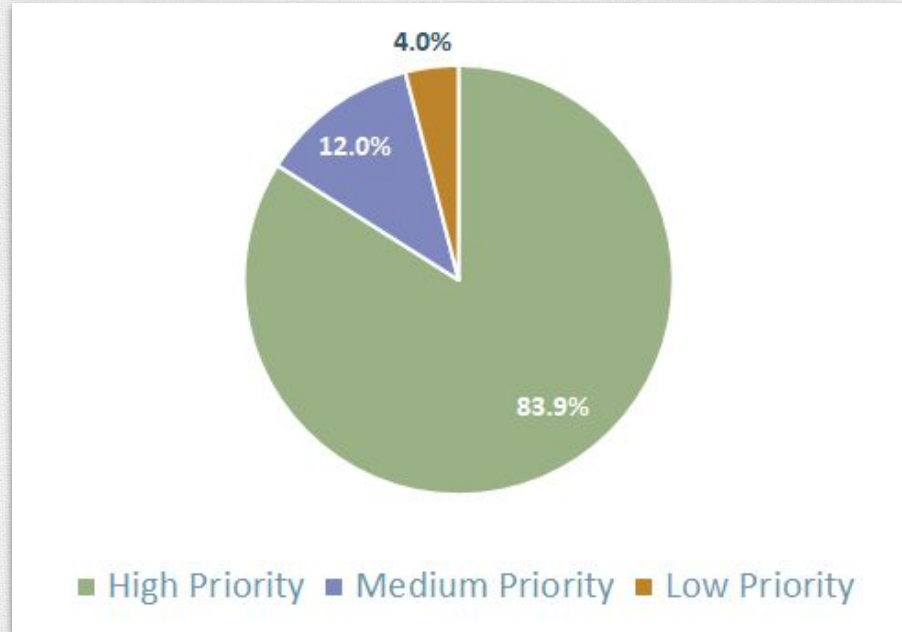
Providing business supports and trainings to child care providers





# CRRSA Funding for Child Care Public Feedback

Providing stipends to  
supplement child care  
teacher wages





# **The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood Families, Providers, and Communities**



# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood

*Based on feedback from the public and stakeholders, the Department is planning to focus on the following priorities when administering CRRSA funding and planning for transitions to the next school year.*

- **Focus Area 1: Child care is stabilized immediately**, with a focus on providers and the early childhood workforce.
- **Focus Area 2: Communities expand child care supply and increase access** to opportunities for high-quality early childhood care and education this year.
- **Focus Area 3: Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions** for children every day.
- **Focus Area 4: Families with young children who experienced unfinished learning this year are given opportunities and support.**



# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood Focus Area 1

*Child care is stabilized immediately, with a focus on providers and the early childhood workforce.*

**The Department plans to use the large majority (~90%) of CRRSA funding to support the stabilization of the child care sector and workforce, including by:**

- Continuing to reimburse CCAP based on enrollment at least through the end of 2021
- Providing at least four additional rounds of grants for CCAP providers, including:
  - Base LaCAP grants in an amount of \$300 per child in licensed capacity
  - Additional grants based on CCAP authorizations and participation in CLASS observations
  - Grants to cover the costs of a teacher wage enhancement for six months
- Providing at least four rounds of grants for Type I, Type III, and non-CCAP family child care and in-home providers in an amount of \$150 per child in licensed capacity
- Establishing a child care microloan program and offer business supports and trainings
- Providing additional community recovery grants to lead agencies to support child care recovery locally



# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood Focus Area 2

*Communities expand child care supply and increase access to opportunities for high-quality early childhood care and education this year.*

**The Department plans to release a unique grant opportunity for early childhood community networks that will allow community networks to apply for funding to:**

- Develop a plan to address gaps in access to child care through supply building, which could include:
  - Starting up new child care centers in existing child care deserts;
  - Developing partnerships to pilot microcenters;
  - Supporting existing providers to offer new infant/toddler seats; and/or
  - Maintaining existing supply by funding new operators to start up child care in recently closed facilities.
- Access national TA that will help communities complete a gap analysis and develop a strong implementation plan.
- Implement the early phases of the supply building plan.



# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood Focus Area 3

*Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions for children every day.*

**The Department plans to provide additional coaching and training supports for teachers to include:**

- The development of a research-based coaching model that includes joint planning, reflection, and feedback from teachers
- Coaching pilot to develop professional learning communities, coaching certification, and coaching competencies
- Technology grants to assist with virtual coaching and training
- Virtual online coaching platform to provide ongoing feedback and support to teachers
- Training and supports for teachers that include:
  - Curriculum and curriculum training to optimize learning in the classroom
  - Trauma-related stress and the impact that it may have on classroom learning
  - Application of developmentally appropriate practices in a classroom setting



# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood Focus Area 4

*Families with young children who experienced disruptions in learning this year are given opportunities and support.*

The Department plans to release guidance on how communities and school systems can utilize CRRSA and/or Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II ([ESSER](#)) funds to support children's:

- Transition into a traditional in-person pre-K or kindergarten setting;
- Social and emotional development which may have been impacted by multiple transitions, breaks in routines, and/or disruptions in relationships with their caregivers; and
- Continuous learning through the summer to ensure kindergarten readiness.

The Department plans to launch a family-facing website that connects families to resources and supports in their communities and to support learning at home.

# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood CRRSA Funding Plan

*The Department will submit its plan to the Administration of Children and Families this week.*

Activity	Estimated Funding Amount
Direct financial support to Type III centers and CCAP certified FCC providers via grants	\$78.5 Million
Continue to pay on enrollment through end of calendar year	\$46 Million
Type III early childhood teacher stimulus pay for six months	\$26.9 Million
Direct financial support to Type I/Type II centers and non-CCAP certified registered FCC providers via grants	\$23.8 Million
Community Recovery Grants	\$6.4 Million
Supply Building Grants for Communities	\$5.3 Million
Package of operational/quality supports for providers, including quality improvement supports, technology supports, and additional PPE	\$4.6 Million
Package of business supports for child care, including a microloans pilot program	\$2.7 Million



# The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood Next Steps

- The Department will its preliminary plan to the US Administration of Children and Families tomorrow, February 25.
- The application first round of child care provider grants will release in March.
- In the coming weeks, the Department will release a more specific plan and accompanying guidance for providers and communities.

If you have questions about CRRSA funding or the Department's plan, please email [earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@la.gov).

**VIII. Consideration of the Early  
Childhood Care and Education  
Advisory Council Quarterly Report  
– Quarter 4**





## Key Activities in Quarter 4

- Updates on early childhood community networks
- Updates on Ready Start Networks
- Supporting Teachers to be Successful
- Supporting Directors to be Successful
- Child Care Assistance Program
- Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers



# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Early Childhood Community Networks

*The Department has facilitated collaboration with lead agencies and sites to implement October 2020 Child Count, Fall CLASS® observations, and early coordinated enrollment.*

- Sites worked with lead agencies to complete child count, counting every publicly-funded child enrolled at a site within the network.
- Lead agencies worked with sites to transition observations by external observers to all-virtual formats and to submit waivers for any classroom unable to receive an observation in the Fall 2020 observation period.
- Community networks began planning for the coordinated enrollment process for the 2021-2022 year.



# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Early Childhood Community Networks

*The Department and Community Networks have continued to support local sites to implement the early childhood accountability system.*

- Sites completed the fall *GOLD* checkpoint, setting up students and classrooms in the online system.
- Lead agencies coordinated over **4,922 observations**, observing over 350,000 minutes of early childhood instruction.
- Lead Agencies conducted 681 Infant CLASS® observations, 1,331 Toddler CLASS® observations, and 2,910 Pre-K CLASS® observations.
- Observations were conducted at **1,425 sites** during the Fall 2020 semester.
- The Department processed classroom-level waiver requests for 673 classrooms where, despite lead agencies best efforts, classrooms could not be observed.

# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Early Childhood Community Networks

*School systems planned for the 2021-2022 academic year with their early childhood community network lead agency to complete the early childhood components of Super App.*

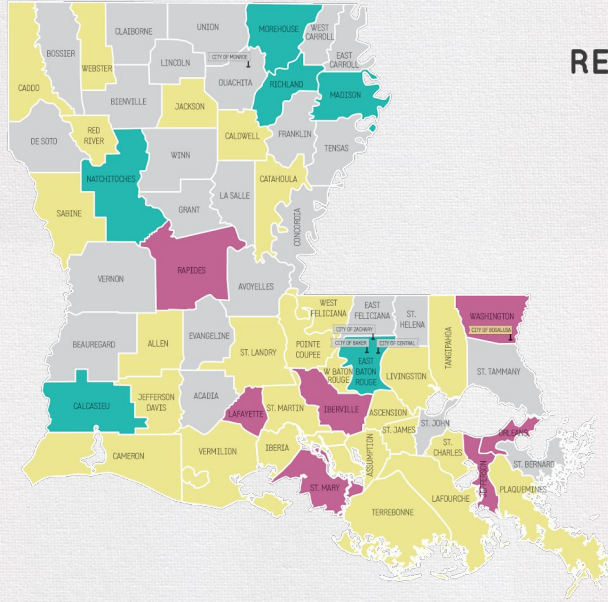
Topic	Early Childhood Vision	Description Super App Questions
Local Governance	Communities drive faster rates of improvement in access and quality at the local level.	School systems linked the community network's blueprint.
Access	More children birth through age three should be able to access publicly-funded spots in high-quality child care centers.	School systems worked with networks to identify strategies to increase access for targeted age groups.
		School systems uploaded the network's Coordinated Funding Request
Quality	All early childhood classrooms in the state should be offering high-quality care and education for all children.	School systems requested funding for B-5 high quality curriculum, professional development, and specialized supports.



# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Ready Start Networks

*Ready Start continues to build interest and gain traction across the state. There are now twenty-six Ready Start Networks. The application for the fourth cohort was released in early February.*



### READY START NETWORK

- COHORT 1
- COHORT 2
- GET READY COHORT



# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Supporting Teachers to Be Successful

*The Department increased instructional supports for child care teachers.*

The [Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate](#) (ECAC):

- Two new ECAC programs began offering cohorts: LSU and Fletcher.
- This brings the total number of ECAC Programs up to 27 available options statewide.
- The Department has partnered with TPI and a total of 8 on-site reviews have been completed. These onsite reviews provide programs tangible opportunities for improvement.



# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Supporting Directors to Be Successful

*The Department has launched several business related trainings and a workgroup to focus on everyday challenges faced by early learning center owners and directors.*

The LDOE facilitated eight **business trainings** below, with 116 providers signing up to participate:

- Budgets training
- Finance training
- Saving money through state contracts training
- Marketing training
- Regulations management training
- Human Resources training
- New Director training
- CACFP training

# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Child Care Assistance Program

*The Department has supported child care providers and families in many ways in relation to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).*

In response to the pandemic, the Department has

- Reimbursed all authorized children on enrollment rather than attendance;
- Paid CCAP at the maximum daily rate; and
- Waived CCAP copayments for families.

<i>CCAP Children Served in Quarter 4</i>		
October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
19,502	19,059	19,105



# Key Activities in Quarter 4

## Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers

### Licensing Type

	Type I	Type II	Type III	FCC	In-home
<i>October 2020</i>	235	189	1029	228	10
<i>November 2020</i>	237	181	1027	224	6
<i>December 2020</i>	236	182	1029	225	6

### Star Ratings:

	0 Star	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
<i>2020</i>	8	19	197	604	582	110

*\*This does not include new, unrated sites.*

## IX. Adjourment

