

Early Childhood Updates

- In response to critical staffing shortages, LDOE, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, opened the CCAP Pandemic Application to incentivize essential personnel to work in acute hospital settings and processed 2,184 Pandemic Applications to support essential hospital personnel in those settings.
- The Department has issued several stabilization grants to child care providers to address higher costs and keep them operational.
- The Department is researching an increase CCAP income eligibility threshold to 85% SMI in 2022.
- The Department is researching an increase CCAP payment rates for infants and toddlers, to better meet the true cost of care.
- The [Early Childhood Guides](#) pilot continues to expand access to high-quality early childhood education by reducing the barriers families face when applying for child care assistance. Since the launching of the EC Guides initiative in July 2020, 1,070 new cases have been certified by Guides in local communities.
- The Family Child Care (FCC) Pilot has expanded to include 80 family child care providers in 20 parishes across the state.
- In an effort to support communities in utilizing universal screenings to identify children in need of intervention, the Department has launched a [developmental screening initiative](#).
- Tulane's TIKES program has a free tele-mental health consultation line, funded by the Department and available to parents and other family members and caregivers of young children (0-5 years old), to provide a safe place for caregivers to express concerns related to young children and receive support on managing challenging behaviors, coping with stress, navigating resources, recognizing developmental concerns, and more. To request a free meeting call 504-264-1287 or go to <https://medicine.tulane.edu/departments/clinical-sciences/psychiatry/research/tikes>.

