

Justice from the Start, Supporting Prenatal-to- Three with Federal Relief Funds: Early Childhood Education

Thursday, September 30, 2021





Supporting Prenatal-to-Three with Federal Relief Funds

July 2021

Today's Speakers



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2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Stakeholder Engagement

The Department conducted listening sessions and a survey with stakeholders from April to June and used feedback in the development of Louisiana's ARPA plan.

Stakeholders participating in these engagement opportunities included:

- Child care providers
- Lead agencies
- Families
- Child Care Resource & Referral agencies
- The Mental Health Consultation program
- Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and Advisory Council members
- Other early childhood advocates and policymakers, including DCFS and LDH

Common themes from the feedback received include the need for additional workforce incentives for recruitment and retention, incentives for expanding infant and toddler care, affordable rates for families, and more.

Overview of Louisiana's Plan to Support Child Care

Based on feedback from the statewide survey and listening sessions with stakeholders, the Department plans to focus on the following priorities to support more families to access high-quality child care for their children.

- **Priority 1:** Louisiana develops and implements a long-term strategy to **build a better child care system** that meets the needs of all families and supports the stabilization of the child care sector.
- **Priority 2:** Louisiana **empowers communities to expand supply and access** to high-quality early childhood options for families and to identify opportunities to sustain that expansion long-term.
- **Priority 3:** Louisiana ensures that **teachers are prepared and supported** to lead classrooms and provide **high-quality interactions** that meet the developmental needs of children every day.
- **Priority 4:** Louisiana establishes a **statewide family engagement framework and empowers families** to access tools and resources to support their children's development.



Discussion

Priority 1: Build a Better Child Care System

Proposed Activities

Louisiana develops and implements a long-term strategy to build a better child care system that meets the needs of all families and supports the stabilization of the child care sector.

1. **Stabilize Child Care:** Offer ARPA Stabilization Grants to child care providers
2. **Strengthen Child Care Financing:** Explore key revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to support the long-term stability of the child care sector and set payment rates and structures to better cover the actual cost of operating a quality child care program
3. **Recruit and Retain a Qualified Child Care Workforce:** Offer child care providers grant funding to support the early childhood workforce and explore ways of supporting the field to increase child care teacher compensation and benefits
4. **Strengthen Child Care Businesses:** Grow and strengthen business practices, including by launching an RFP for statewide child care business consultation, trainings, and loans
5. **Support Family Child Care:** Expand strategies to support the expansion of registered and certified Family Child Care and provide additional quality supports via optional Academic Approval for those providers
6. **Modernize Data Systems:** Replace outdated systems and provide greater data integration

Priority 2: Expand Supply and Access Proposed Activities

Louisiana empowers communities to expand supply and equitable access to high-quality early childhood options for families and to sustain that expansion long-term.

1. **Launch LA B to 3:** Fund Ready Start Network grant requests to expand supply and access to high-quality child care for roughly 3,000 children birth to age three and sustain until end of grant period and ensure local networks plan for sustainability
2. **Match Local Funding for B-3 Seats:** Incentivize local investment in projects that expand supply and access to high-quality child care for B-3 seats by offering a 1:1 match for all local dollars raised until there is sufficient funding in the ECE Fund or the end of the grant period
3. **Fund Community-Level Child Care Supply Building Planning and Activities:** Fund communities to develop and implement plans to expand child care supply and access locally
4. **Ready Start Transform:** Provide exemplar Ready Start Networks the opportunity to accelerate their work and develop innovative plans to achieve equitable access to high-quality early care and education at the community-level
5. **Codify Ready Start Networks:** Define the roles, responsibilities, and guardrails for Ready Start Networks in policy

Priority 3: Support Classroom Quality

Proposed Activities

Louisiana empowers communities to expand equitable access to high-quality early childhood options for families and to sustain that expansion long-term.

1. **Support the Development of a Statewide Child Care Coaching Model:** Ensure that every child care teacher receiving coaching in Louisiana receives consistent support for improvement that reflects best practice in both early instruction and child care coaching
2. **Provide High-Quality Instructional Tools:** Ensure all early childhood classrooms are utilizing high-quality curriculum and receive professional development to support effective implementation of instructional tools
3. **Support Social-Emotional Learning:** Support the social and emotional wellness of children and teachers with additional mental health resources and trauma-informed supports
4. **Expand Developmental Screening:** Prepare communities and teachers to identify children in need of intervention through a universal developmental screening process and provide the supports needed to prepare children for school success
5. **Strengthen Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) Program Quality:** Develop a system for measuring and reporting the quality of BESE-approved BESE programs and align supports to promote quality improvement

Priority 4: Bolster Family Engagement

Proposed Activities

Louisiana establishes a statewide family engagement framework and empowers families to access tools and resources to support their children's development.

1. **Develop the Statewide Family Engagement Framework:** Plan strategies, in conjunction with families and the organizations who support them most closely in communities, to engage and communicate more effectively with families
2. **Launch Family Engagement Website:** Connect families to critical resources, from a centralized and family-friendly location, to support families in meeting the developmental needs of their children
3. **Support Communities to Pilot Family Engagement Strategies:** Provide community networks with opportunities to offer at-home learning and support activities that meet the individualized needs of families
4. **Coordinate Child Developmental Support Services for Families Locally:** Link families directly with support in their community for assessing their children's development and receiving intervention services that will better prepare children for future success

Join Us!

Improving Birth Outcomes:
Strengthening Awareness of and Support for State and Community Doula Networks

October 5 at 1:00 PM ET

Justice from the Start,
Supporting Prenatal-to-Three with Federal Relief Funds: Family Support

October 20 at 1:30pm ET

Justice from the Start,
Supporting Prenatal-to-Three with Federal Relief Funds: Health

October 28th at 3pm ET



NCIT XChange

- Join the XChange
- Keep the conversations and learning ongoing
- Use the NCIT Hub Help Desk to get expert help
- Link to TheNCIT.org for resources
- <https://ncitxchange.org>

The screenshot shows the NCIT XChange website homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with the NCIT XChange logo, a search bar, and links to Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions, Hub Leads, Pritzker Fellows, Communities of Practice, My Dashboard, TheNCIT.org, and BUILD. Below the navigation bar is a grid of six featured images with text overlays: 'Join the Discussions' (a baby's face), 'Community How-Tos' (a woman holding a baby), 'Join the NCIT XChange Community' (a woman at a desk), 'Prenatal-to-Three Events' (a baby's face), 'Latest Announcements' (a woman holding a baby), and 'New Resources' (two babies). Below this grid is a 'Welcome to the NCIT XChange!' section with a paragraph about the community and a link to join the Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions neighborhood. To the right is an 'NCIT HUB Help Desk' section with a 'Submit your request to the NCIT HUB Help Desk' button and a paragraph about the help desk's services. At the bottom is a 'Discussions' section with a table of recent posts.

Discussion Title	Views	Replies	Started	By
New blogs on strategies to improve health outcomes for moms & babies	4	0	Started 3 days ago	by Chelsea Kiene
NCIT Clips Digest 4/23-5/5	3	0	Started 5 days ago	by Taseen Shamim
COVID-19 Recovery Clearinghouse	5	0	Started 10 days ago	by Arabella Piuta-Ehlers
New, Free 6-Part Early Head Start RISING: Summer Learning Series from NHSA!	2	0	Started 10 days ago	by Kent Mitchell

Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions

- Ask questions and join discussions with peers and experts
- Find timely resources and events
- Share resources with the network
- Learn from what others are doing

The screenshot displays the website for the Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions neighborhood. At the top, the NCIT Change logo is visible, along with a search bar and navigation links for Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions, Hub Leads, Pritzker Fellows, Communities of Practice, My Dashboard, TheNCIT.org, and BUILD. The main header includes a sub-header for the neighborhood and a list of navigation links: Announcements, Discussions, Resources, State & Community Spotlights, Events, Ideas, Members, Sub-Groups, and Topics. A large orange button labeled '+ New' is also present.

The main content area features a large graphic with the text: "Welcome to the Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions Neighborhood". Below this, a paragraph encourages engagement: "Engage with others working in the prenatal-to-three field to share resources, engage in discussions, offer information and insights and post questions and answers. Stay abreast of the latest news and events in the PN-3 network by checking the Announcements and Events Calendar. And stay connected with timely, daily and/or weekly alerts from the neighborhood." Two orange buttons, "Start A Discussion" and "Upload A File", are provided.

Below the main content, there are sections for "Announcements" and "Discussions and Resources". The "Announcements" section includes two posts: "Monthly webinars from ACF/HHS: Biden-Harris Administration's First 100 Days and What Comes Next" by Cheryl McAfee, and "New Neighborhood Podcast, Episode 4: 'Meeting the Needs of Children Under Three'" by Ngozi Lawal. The "Discussions and Resources" section shows a post by Chelsea Kiene dated 7 May 2021, titled "New blogs on strategies to improve health outcomes for moms & babies".

On the right side, there is a "Search Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions" bar, a "Post a Discussion" section with links to Child Care, Family Child Care, General Discussions, Parent/Family Engagement, PN-3 Successes, and Questions & Answers, a "Post a Job Announcement" button, a "Latest Job Announcements" section with two job openings, and an "Upcoming Events" section with three events: "Step Up to T.E.A.C.H.," and "Step ...", "PCI Webinar: Communications Infr...", and "Sorenson Impact Summit".

Thank You!

