

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

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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 highquality 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

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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

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

October 20 at 1:30pm ET

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

October 28th at 3pm ET



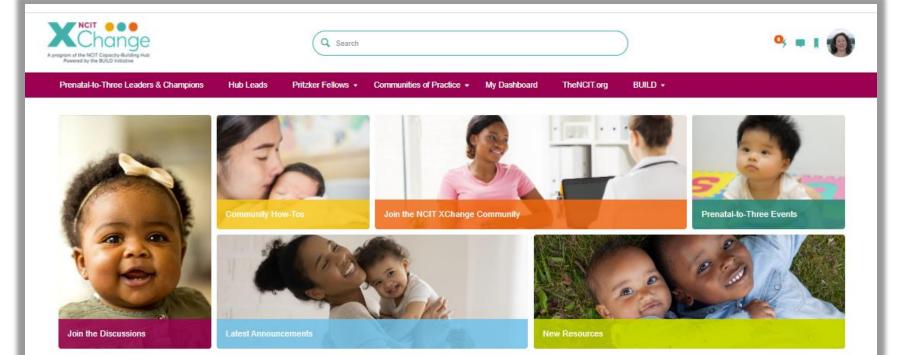
October 5 at 1:00 PM ET



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
- <u>https://ncitxchange.</u>
 <u>org</u>





Welcome to the NCIT XChange!

The NCIT XChange is an dedicated online community focused on prenatal-to-three networks across states and communities.

Join the Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions neighborhood to engage in discussions, pose questions, raise ideas, share successes, find events and receive timely advice from peers in the prenatal-to-three community.

We are more successful the more we work together to advance better policies, systems, and supports for our youngest children. The XChange can support your work by connecting you to the deep network of prenatal-to-three expertise available through the NCIT.

Dis	Discussions				
	New blogs on strategies to improve health outcomes for moms & babies	4	0	Started 3 days ago	
	new blogs on stategies to improve neurin outcomes for monis a bables	views	replies	by Chelsea Kiene	
-	NCIT Clips Digest 4/23-5/5	3	0	Started 5 days ago	
		views	replies	by Taseen Shamim	
	COVID-19 Recovery Clearinghouse	5	0	Started 10 days ago	
2		views	replies	by Arabella Pluta-Ehlers	
_	New, Free 6-Part Early Head Start RISING: Summer Learning Series from	2	0	Started 10 days ago	
1	NHSA!	views	replies	by Kent Mitchell	

NCIT HUB Help Desk

Submit your request to the NCIT HUB Help Desk

The Help Desk addresses PN-3 challenges faced by states and communities and helps solve challenges that get in the way of children and families experiencing healthy beginnings, family support, and quality child care. Its "request and response" format that connects communities with PN-3 experts allows you to submit an online request detailing the challenge you are facing. Technical assistance may come in the form of written documents, tools, peer matches, phone consultations, and/or facilitation.

833.Ask-NCIT (833-275-6248)

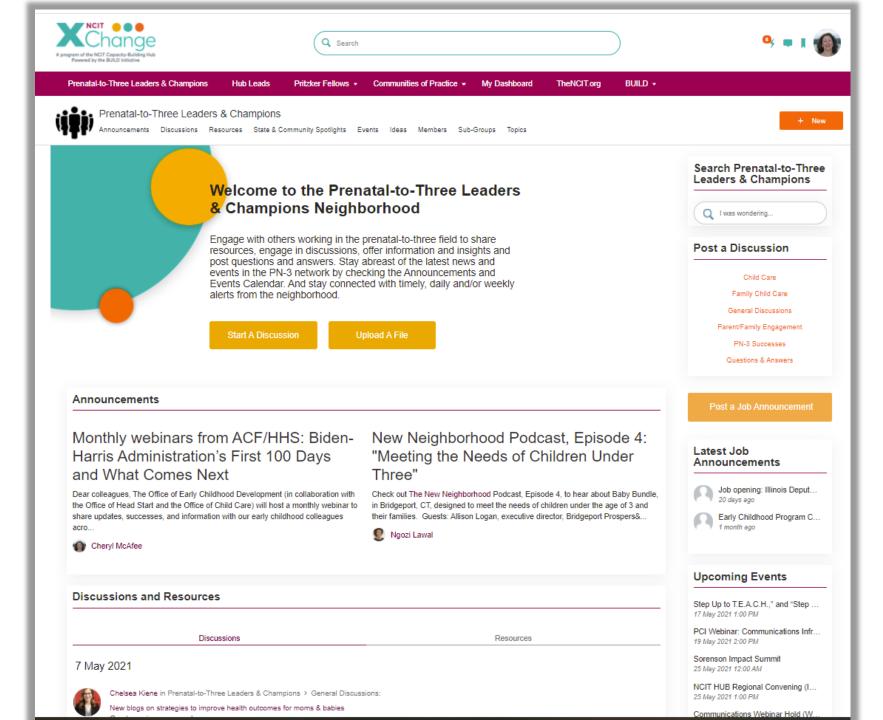
Call the dedicated, toll-free NCIT

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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





Thank You!



