Early Childhood Provider Updates

February 4, 2021
Agenda

• Welcome
• COVID-19 Resources for Early Childhood
• COVID-19 Updates for Providers
  • Update on Federal Stimulus Funding for Child Care
  • COVID-19 Vaccine Update
  • Guidance on Grant and Loan Programs
• Child Care Program Updates
• Teaching and Learning Updates
Welcome!
COVID-19 Resources

- LDOE COVID-19 landing page and library
- LDOE Strong Start 2020 landing page and library
- COVID-19 FAQ for early childhood
- Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care
- Questions regarding COVID-19, contact LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov
Believe to Achieve

The Department recently released *Believe to Achieve: Educational Priorities*. This priorities plan serves as the Department’s roadmap to improving outcomes for all Louisiana children.

*Believe to Achieve* includes the Department’s new belief statements, state data to help track progress toward Louisiana’s six critical goals, and the new priorities that will direct the LDOE’s efforts as they work toward achieving the critical goals. Each priority outlines focus areas for the key actions and initiatives.
COVID-19 Updates for Providers
Federal Stimulus Dollars

Louisiana will receive $198 million to support child care as the field begins to recover from the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department’s plan includes soliciting data from the field and providing direct supports:

- The LDOE has developed a [survey](#) for providers to offer their feedback and input on how the funding should be spent
- The Federal Consolidations Appropriations Act (CAA) stipulates that states must use this funding to support all child care provider types (including Type I and Type II centers) so we are working with the Governor’s Office to allow for this
- The Department’s preliminary plan is to use the large majority of the grant award to fund direct financial supports for child care providers

Please stay tuned to the [Early Childhood Connection Newsletter](#) for more information.
Vaccine Updates

LDH has been working closely with the public and private sector in making vaccines available at locations for prioritized groups in both urban and rural communities within the state.

- Early care and education providers, including home- and center-based child care providers, Head Start/Early Head Start providers, and Preschool, are all included in Phase 1B, Tier 2.
- Support staff, including custodial, transportation, kitchen, and other staff are also eligible for the vaccine under this priority group.
- Vaccine distribution is occurring at the local level. LDH has published a list of vaccination sites.
- The Department will continue to update child care providers as the state moves through the vaccine distribution plan.
Struggling to Recover Report

To learn more about how Louisiana families with children under the age of 5 have been impacted by, and managed during, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Louisiana Policy Institute (LPIC), with partners, conducted a survey of Louisiana parents and guardians in the fall of 2020.

- Download Full Report
- Download Report Summary
- Virtual Press Conference Recording
### Understanding Recovery Grant and Loan Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EIDL Loan</th>
<th>PPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What type of funding is it?</strong></td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>Forgivable Loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will I need to pay it back?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly, depending on how the funding is used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where do I apply?</strong></td>
<td>Directly from the SBA</td>
<td>From a bank that administers the program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How much money can I apply for?</strong></td>
<td>6 months of operating capital</td>
<td>2.5x your average monthly payroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the repayment period?</strong></td>
<td>1st payment deferred 1 year; Interest accrues during deferral period; 30 years to repay</td>
<td>Up to 24 weeks to use the funds; 10 months to apply for forgiveness; Up to 5 years to repay any unforgiven portion of the loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the interest rate?</strong></td>
<td>3.75% APR (fixed): Businesses 2.75% APR (fixed): Non-profits</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)

EIDL is a long-term direct loan program SBA designed to provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue due to COVID-19.

EIDL provides up to **6 months of working capital** to cover a wide array of working capital needs and normal operating expenses, such as rent, utilities, payroll, accounts payable, and other fixed debt payments.

**Eligibility /Loan Quote or Acceptance is dependent upon:**
- Credit History, Repayment ability, Collateral for EIDL loans over $25,000 and the SBA will require applicants to pledge what is available but will not decline a loan for lack of collateral

Applications must be submitted online through the SBA: [SBA](https://covid19relief.sba.gov)
Payroll Protection Program

The Payroll Protection Program is:

A federally funded forgivable loan program administered by banks.

- Banks interpret SBA regulations and may also have their own policies.
- Ask your banker questions throughout the process.
- The SBA will not contact you directly about your PPP loan.

Designed to help small businesses maintain their payroll.

- Businesses will be eligible for loan forgiveness if at least 60% of the funding they receive is used to cover eligible payroll costs, and 40% or less is used to cover other eligible business expenses.

The application period opened January 19, 2021, and closes on March 31, 2021. Since there is limited funding, it is crucial to submit applications early.
Recommended Practices for Borrowers

1. Learn as much as you can about each opportunity. First Children's Finance (FCF) led a recorded webinar that provides additional details and information on Payroll Protection Program (PPP) & Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL).

2. Only apply once.

3. Monitor your email, voicemail, and physical mail; be responsive.

4. Be your own advocate. Call and email your loan lender until you receive confirmation that your PPP application has been successfully submitted.

5. If you received a state grant that was designed to cover operating costs, talk with the administering agency in your state about how that state grant will interact with these loans.

6. Prepare copies of all materials so that items can be easily resubmitted should anything be lost.
Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) 2021

A refundable payroll tax credit has been extended into the first two quarters of 2021.

Business owners may be eligible for a payroll tax credit effective January 1, 2021, based on several factors:

- business operations were either **fully** or **partially** suspended by a COVID-19 lockdown order, **OR**
- the business owner had a significant decline in gross receipts beginning in 2020.

Small businesses can retroactively apply for the ERTC if they took advantage of PPP; however, a credit may not be claimed for wages paid with the proceeds of a PPP loan that have been forgiven.

Look for additional guidance from the [Internal Revenue Service](https://www.irs.gov) and your accountant to determine if you may be eligible.
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Department will extend CCAP payments to providers based on enrollment through December 31, 2021.

While CCAP has extended payments based on enrollment until December 31, 2021, providers are still required to use either the Tracking of Time Services (TOTS) Point of Service (POS) device or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to track attendance.

Failure to do so may jeopardize provider payments based on enrollment. If future grants are available, providers failing to use TOTS or IVR will not be considered for the grants.
Positive Changes for Families and CCAP Providers

BESE has approved changes to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) that will increase the benefits of serving CCAP families.

1. **CCAP Rate Increase**: CCAP reimbursement rates were increased to a higher level than ever before, a rate equal to 75% of providers across Louisiana.

2. **Payments to Providers at State Maximum Rate**: If the provider’s daily rate is lower than the newly increased state maximum rate, providers will now be reimbursed at the higher state rate.

3. **Update to CCAP Income Eligibility**: Income eligibility was increased to approximately 200% of the federal poverty level, or $43,440 for a family of three, allowing families to make more income and qualify for CCAP.
## CCAP Rate Increase: Regular Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider Type</th>
<th>Regular Care for 3 year olds and above</th>
<th>Regular Care for Toddlers</th>
<th>Regular Care for Infants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OLD RATE</td>
<td>NEW RATE</td>
<td>OLD RATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type III Early Learning Centers</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$23.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Providers</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Providers</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Child Care Providers</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Child Care Centers</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$23.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# CCAP Rate Increase: Special Needs Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider Type</th>
<th>Special Needs Care for 3 year olds and above</th>
<th>Special Needs Care for Toddlers</th>
<th>Special Needs Care for Infants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OLD RATE</td>
<td>NEW RATE</td>
<td>OLD RATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type III Early Learning Centers</td>
<td>$27.72</td>
<td>$37.80</td>
<td>$29.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Providers</td>
<td>$21.42</td>
<td>$31.50</td>
<td>$22.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Providers</td>
<td>$22.05</td>
<td>$31.50</td>
<td>$22.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Child Care Providers</td>
<td>$20.79</td>
<td>$30.24</td>
<td>$20.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Child Care Centers</td>
<td>$27.72</td>
<td>$37.80</td>
<td>$29.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CCAP Rate Increase

• New CCAP rates will be reflected in the payment issued during the week of February 15, 2021.

• The state max reflects the maximum daily rate at which the Louisiana Department of Education will reimburse providers.

• If you have any questions, please contact the provider helpdesk at 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543 or email deccap@la.gov.
CCAP Updates

LaCAP Grant Recipients

• As indicated in assurance statements in the LaCAP grants, the Department will conduct random audits in this upcoming year of grant recipients.

CCAP Providers

• In the months ahead, the Department will conduct an underutilization process where we reach out to families who are not using CCAP regularly as indicated by the TOTS/IVR system. If they do not need care, they will be removed as an eligible CCAP family. The Department will keep providers close regarding this timeline and will ask for help in reaching these families.
Licensing Updates

Minimum Clock Hours

- The BESE approved waiver issued July 2020 for §1721.A.1 of Bulletin 137: Continuing Education requirements will expire on February 28, 2021.
- Therefore, effective **March 1, 2021**, the Department will require Early Learning Centers to obtain a minimum of 12 clock hours of continuing education per center anniversary year.
- As a reminder, all trainings shall be conducted by trainers approved by the Department.
Licensing Updates

Upcoming Training Opportunity:

*Bulletin 137: Child Care Criminal Background Check* trainings will be held this winter and spring. This training is for providers and center staff who are new or need a refresher on licensing regulations and CCCBC requirements. Attendees will receive 2 continuing education hours.

- February 23, 2021 from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm - FILLED
- March 2021 - Date and time to be announced. Please stay tuned to the [Early Childhood Connection Newsletter](#) for more information.
Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC)

Prior to sending a potential staff to obtain fingerprints, center staff should keep in mind the following:

- Some fingerprint locations may close unexpectedly due to potential COVID exposure.
- It is best to call the nearest location in advance to ensure the location is open. If the location is closed, use the Fingerprint Location list to find the nearest alternative location.
- Department fees will continue to be waived through June 30, 2021.
Teaching and Learning Updates
Early Learning and Development Standards Review

The Louisiana Department of Education is inviting stakeholders to join in a review of the state’s Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS).

These standards are intended to help early childhood educators and families across Louisiana deepen their understanding of how children grow and develop in order to best prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.

The Department has opened an application to participate in the standards review committee. All interested early childhood educators, leaders, experts, families, and community members are encouraged to apply.

- The deadline for submissions is February 12.

Please contact leslie.doyle@la.gov with questions.
Contact Info

Child Care Licensing
• Call 225-342-9905
• Email ledelicensing@la.gov or email licensing consultants directly

Child Care Assistance Program
• Call 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543
• Email ldccap@la.gov or enter a ticket at the Provider Help Desk

Child Care Provider Certification
• Email providercertification@la.gov

Child Care Criminal Background Checks
• Call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 or email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov

General Early Childhood Support
• Email earlychildhood@la.gov