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## Early Childhood Care & Education Commission

September 25, 2023

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# Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Introductions
- IV. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 24, 2023
- V. Consideration of an update report regarding the 2022-2023 Commission work and 2023 Regular Legislative Session
- VI. Consideration of a status report regarding early childhood program enrollment - served and unserved data
- VII. Consideration of the 2023-2024 goals and objectives for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission
- VIII. Consideration of an appointment to the membership of the Commission Task Force



## I. Call to Order



## II. Roll Call





## III. Introductions

**IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held January 24, 2023**







**V. Consideration of an Update  
Report regarding the  
2022-2023 Commission Work and  
2023 Regular Legislative Session**



**2022-2023**

**Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)  
Commission**





# ECCE Commission 2022-2023 Goals

*2022 legislation reauthorized the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.*

This legislation continued to charge that the Commission do the following:

- Study and make recommendations relative to establishing a vision for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana.
- Establish and appoint members to a task force.
- Provide a report, that incorporates the task force findings and recommendations, to the governor, members of the legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education no less than thirty days prior to the first day of the regular session (April 10, 2023).



# ECCE Commission Task Force

## 2022-2023 Goals

*In addition to reauthorizing the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, 2022 legislation also required the Commission to establish and appoint members to a Task Force.*

The Task Force was charged with the following:

- identify and recommend alternative state and local funding strategies for quality early childhood care and education; and
- identify and recommend strategies to address workforce compensation and benefits issues within the early childhood care and education field.



# ECCE Commission & Task Force

## 2022-2023 Activities

*In 2022 the ECCE Commission and Task Force discussed topics related to both early childhood care and education revenue generation and workforce needs.*

Commission and Task Force members discussed reports on topics including the following:

- the current landscape of the Louisiana child care workforce;
- early childhood workforce supports and strategies in Louisiana;
- early childhood workforce initiatives around the country;
- the growth of the Early Childhood Education Fund;
- local revenue generation efforts by Early Childhood Care and Education Community Networks; and
- alternatives for local public support of child care through local taxation opportunities.



# ECCE Commission

## 2022-2023 Overview

*The 2023 Commission report noted that Louisiana has an opportunity to invest wisely in support of a bright future for Louisiana children, working families, early childhood teachers, and employers.*

The Commission report highlighted the following key points:

- Louisiana can prevent more than 16,000 children from losing quality early care and education, which will compromise their parents' ability to work and will hurt our economy, with an investment now and annually to replace expiring federal relief dollars.
- The state can and should fully support local governments in finding innovative ways to bolster the sector and expand access to early care and education for working families and employers.
- Louisiana can encourage collaboration across the state to identify and implement solutions to the growing workforce crisis of low pay and benefits for early care and education teachers and professionals.



# ECCE Commission

## 2022-2023 Recommendations

Prior to the beginning of the Legislative Session, the ECCE Commission released a report for the Louisiana Legislature with the following recommendations :

- **Recommendation 1:** Invest \$200 million now and annually to replace expiring federal relief dollars.
- **Recommendation 2:** Make an additional \$115 million down payment to decrease the number of unserved children in Louisiana.
- **Recommendation 3:** Appropriate 10 percent of state excess funds to the Early Childhood Education Fund in 2023 to match and incentivize local investment.
- **Recommendation 4:** Support efforts by local governments to generate local revenue for access to high-quality early care and education.



# 2023 Legislative Session





# Early Childhood Care and Education Commission & Early Care and Education

*The Legislature passed HB 338, which modifies the duties of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and requires them to look at a formula to fund early care and education, much like the MFP funds k-12. Special thanks to Representative Barbara Freiberg, who authored the bill.*



# \$52 million for early care and education in the state budget

*The Legislature passed the state budget (HB 1), which includes \$52 million in new funding for early care and education. This is the largest investment of state dollars into the Child Care Assistance Program in over a decade.*







## Improving Data Systems at the Louisiana Department of Education

*The Legislature passed HCR 43, which urges and requests the Department of Education to update its early care and education data management systems as soon as possible. Special thanks to Representative Ken Brass, who authored the resolution.*

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# Creating Accessibility During Public Meetings

*The Legislature passed SB 201, which utilizes technology when conducting public meetings, especially for those who find it difficult to attend in-person but whose experiences would improve the process. Special thanks to Senator Sharon Hewitt, who authored the bill.*





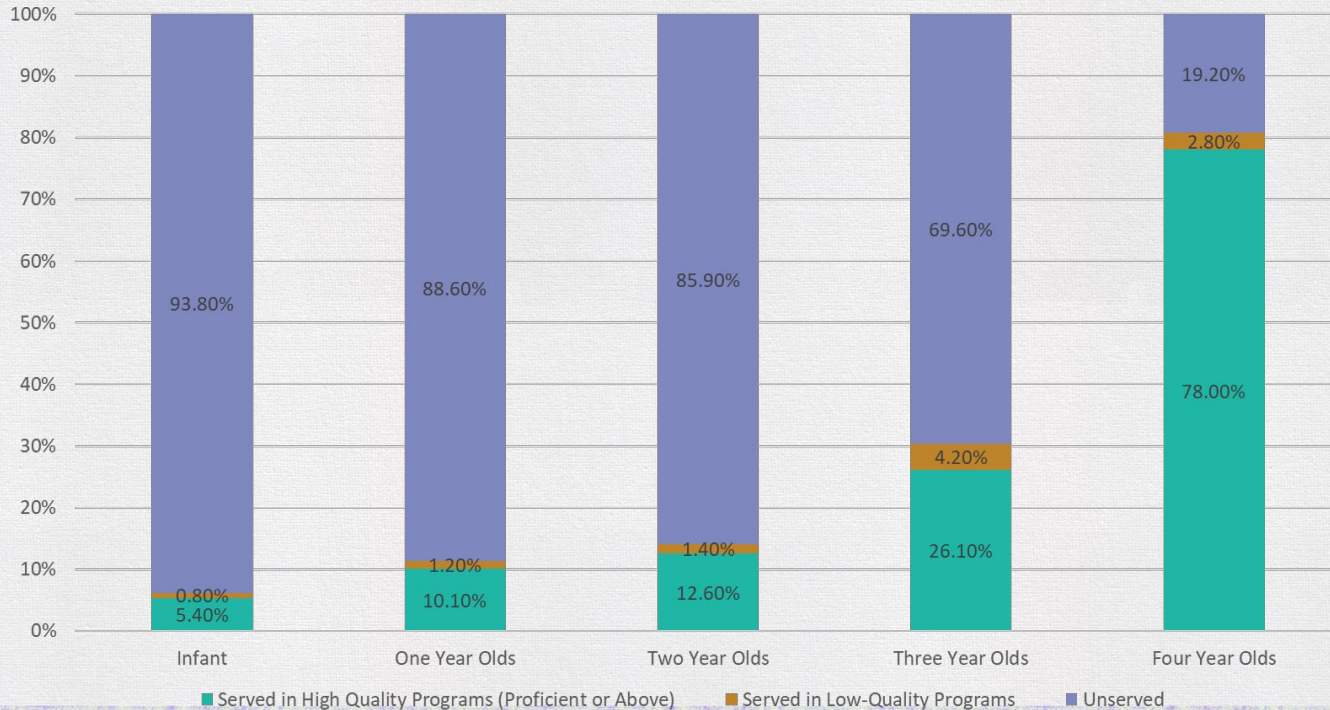
**VI. Consideration of a Status Report regarding Early Childhood Program Enrollment - Served and Unserved Data**



# Early Childhood Program Enrollment

## Access by Age Group & Funding Source, October 2021

Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Children Served, by Age (Fall 2021)





# Early Childhood Program Enrollment

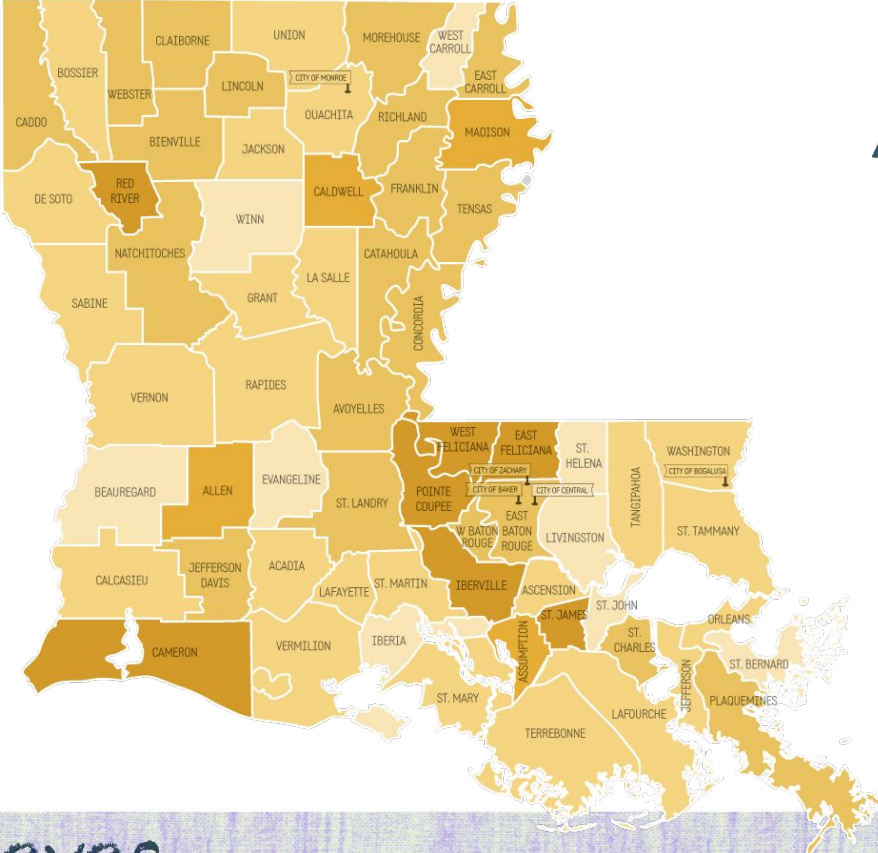
## Access by Age Group & Funding Source, October 2022

		Infants	Ones	Twos	Threes	Fours	Totals
<b>Estimated Need</b>	At-Risk Estimate (Medicaid Eligibility by age group, October 2022)	20,443	28,368	32,318	35,235	37,241	153,605
<b>Estimated Served</b>	Child Care (CCAP Oct. 2022)	1,569	3,609	4,219	3,873	2,950	16,220
	LA B-3 (Oct. 2022 served)	412	722	944	1,107		3,185
	Head Start and Early Head Start (Oct. 2022 served)	288	869	1,274	6,869	4,127	13,427
	Title I (Oct. 2022 served)					4,284	4,284
	IDEA Preschool, Part B				319	668	987
	LA 4 (Oct. 2022 served)					15,731	15,731
	Early Childhood Education Fund	39	64	48	55		206
	NSECD (Oct. 2022 served)				155	846	1,001
	<b>Total Served Estimate</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>6,485</b>	<b>12,378</b>	<b>28,606</b>	<b>55,041</b>
	<b>Percentage Served</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Estimated Unserved</b>	Gap Estimate	<b>(18,135)</b>	<b>(23,104)</b>	<b>(25,833)</b>	<b>(22,857)</b>	<b>(8,635)</b>	<b>(98,564)</b>





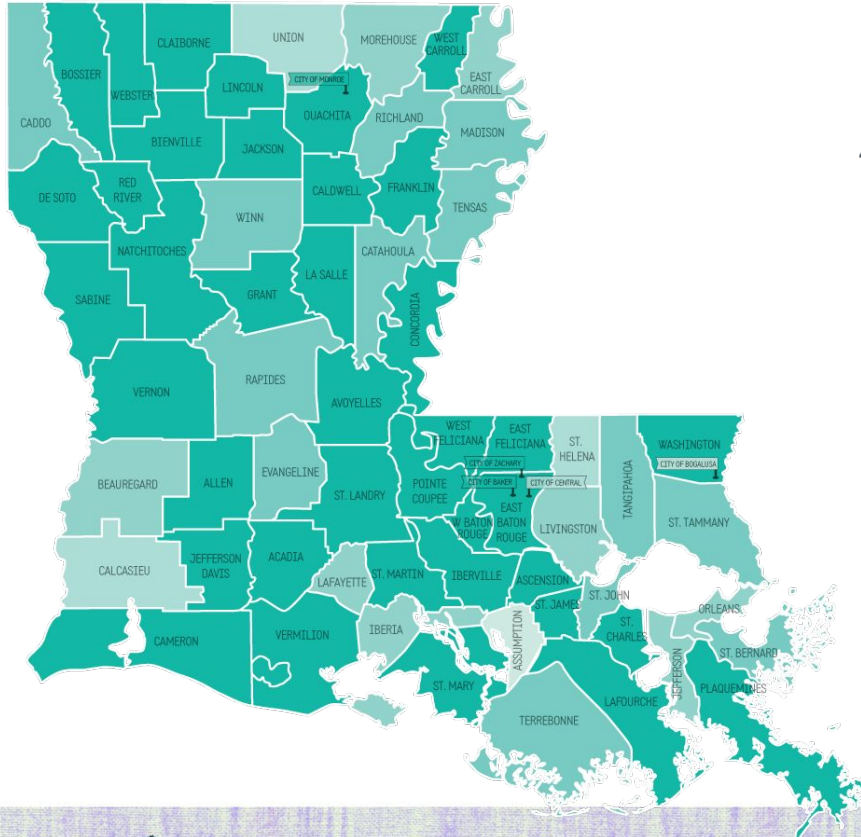
# Early Childhood Program Enrollment (10/2022)



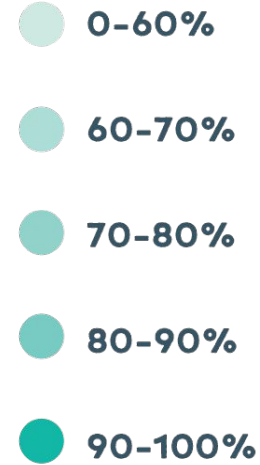
## THREE-YEAR-OLD ACCESS ACROSS LOUISIANA

- 0-20%
- 20-40%
- 40-60%
- 60-80%
- 80-100%

# Early Childhood Program Enrollment (10/2022)



## FOUR-YEAR-OLD ACCESS ACROSS LOUISIANA





# Early Childhood Program Enrollment

## Early Childhood Education Fund

*In 2023-2024 the Louisiana Department of Education allocated funding to seven Network Lead Agencies that raised qualifying local funds for the Early Childhood Education Fund.*

Network Lead Agency	State Match Funds Allocated	Total Funds For Seats (State Match + Local Funds)	Total Anticipated Children Served by Local and State Funds in 2023-2024
<b>Ascension</b>	\$954,000	\$1,908,000	136
<b>Bossier</b>	\$43,910	\$87,821	18
<b>Caddo</b>	\$2,800,000	\$5,600,000	450
<b>Jefferson</b>	\$399,700	\$799,400	99
<b>Orleans</b>	\$21,449,919	\$42,899,838	1,810
<b>Pointe Coupee</b>	\$1,000	\$2,000	1
<b>Sabine</b>	\$5,315	\$10,630	1

# Early Childhood Program Enrollment

## Early Childhood Education Fund 2024 & Beyond

*Additional communities are also working to implement revenue-raising mechanisms at the local level.*

- In the 2023 Regular Legislative Session Representative Moore authored a bill that “Allows the City of Monroe to place an ad valorem tax on the next regularly scheduled election ballot for the purpose of funding early childhood education.”
- St. Landry Parish was added to the list of parishes authorized to use juvenile justice millage dollars for early childhood education
- Rapides Ready Start Network has partnered with the Rapides Chamber of Commerce, the LSUA Cenla Leadership Group, and the Rapides Foundation to promote a new local funding plan that takes advantage of the Early Childhood Education Fund.

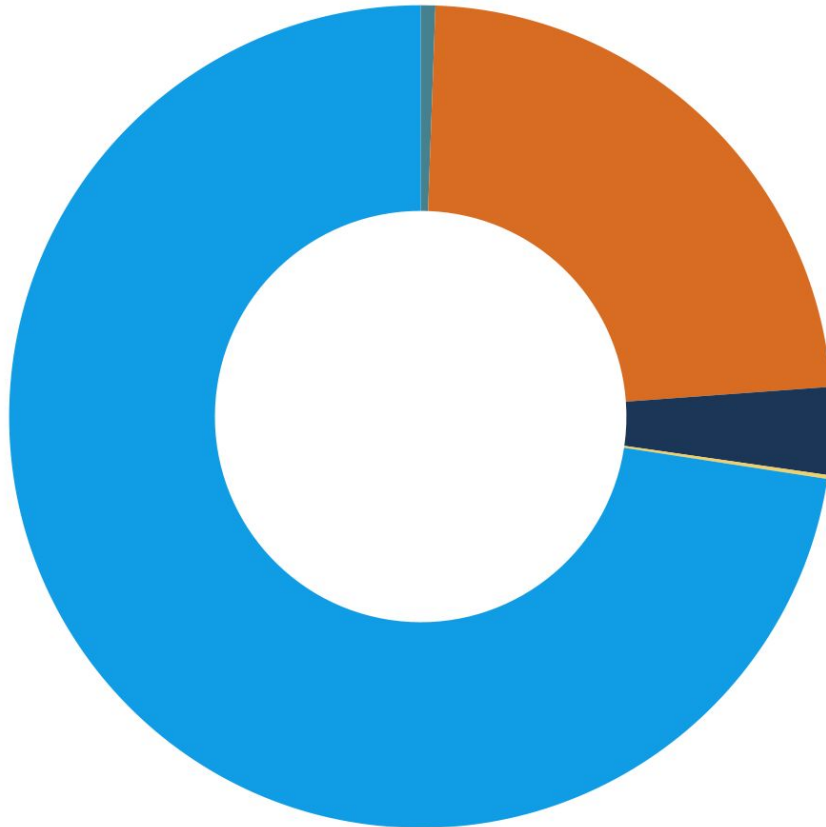




**Early Childhood Program Enrollment**  
Capacity & Sources for Early Childhood Education Fund



## All-Time ECE Fund Revenue by Source



- Fantasy Sports Betting - \$324,877.11
- Sports Betting - \$13,241,282.60
- Industrial Hemp-Derived CBD - \$1,948,490.61
- Interest Earnings - \$87,277
- One-Time State Funding Appropriation & Transfers - \$41,287,788.62

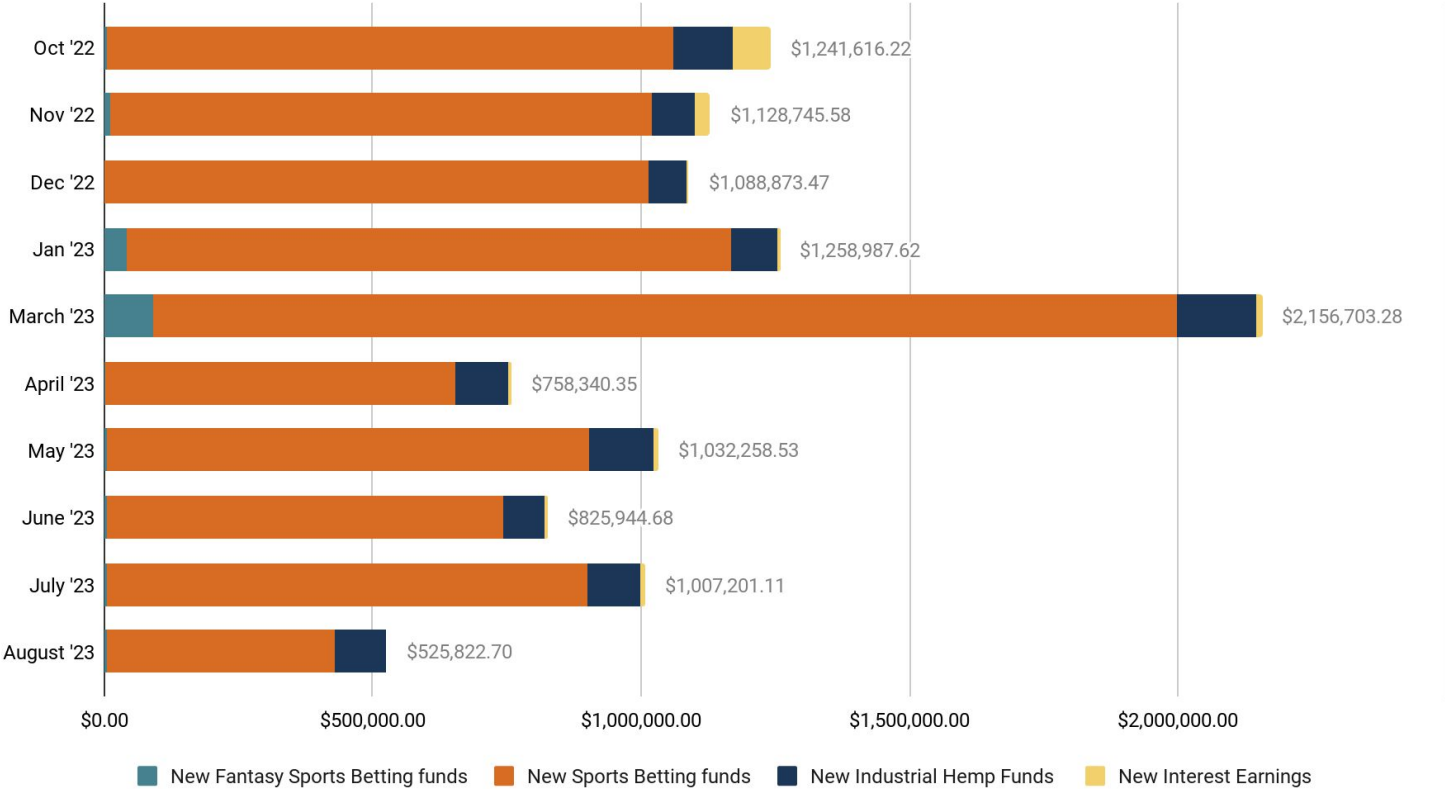
*Fund Balance as of 9/1/23:*  
**\$53,418,804.94**

*For the first time, in FY 22-23, the LDOE drew on the ECE Fund in the amount of \$3,470,911.00. Not shown in this chart.*

*The Legislature has authorized a budget of \$25,653,844 from the Fund for FY 23-24*

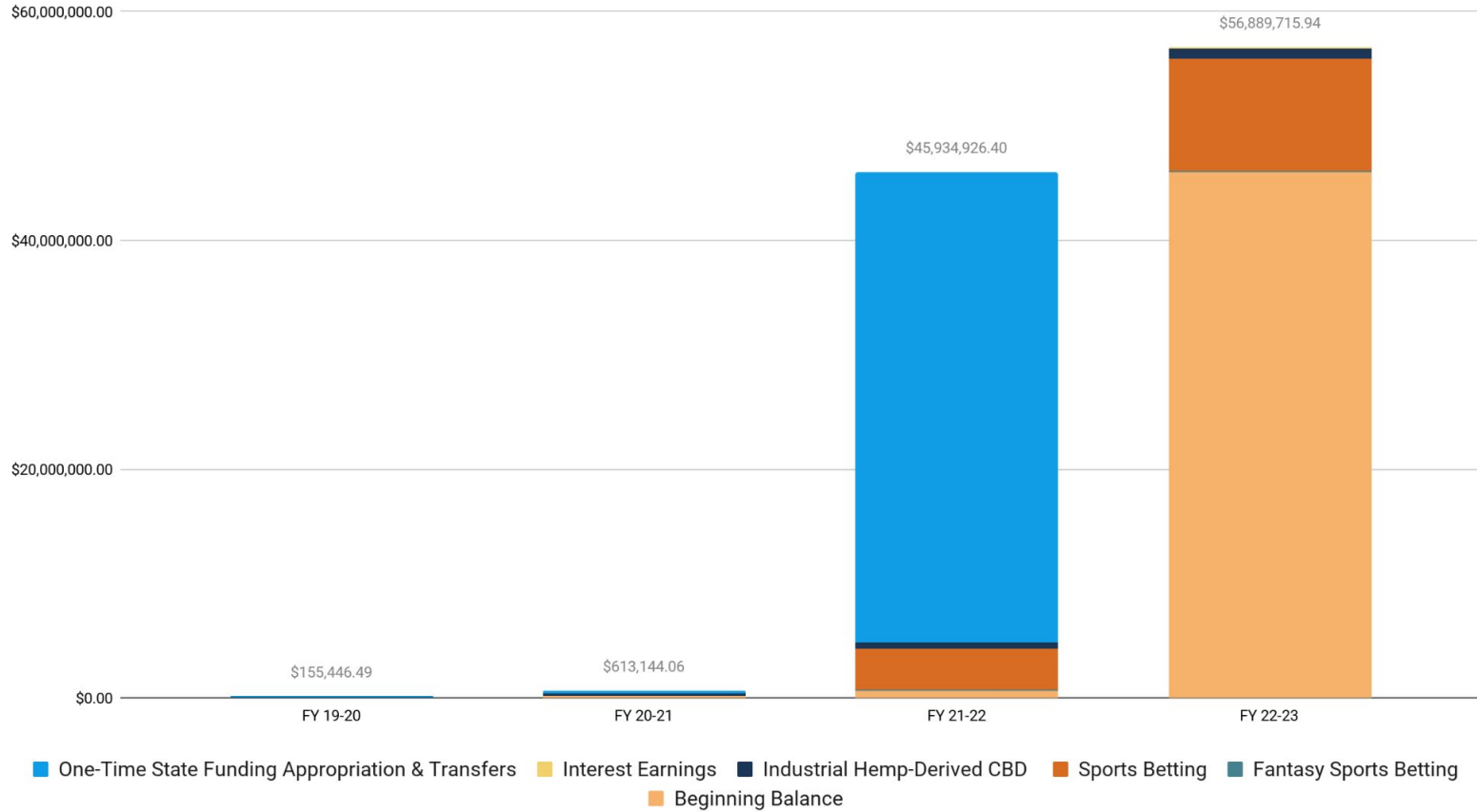


# New Funding by Source Each Month FY22-23



Please note, March 2023 data is inclusive of February and March 2023

# Annual Fund Growth





# Early Childhood Program Enrollment CCAP Voucher Seats 2023

*The Department is currently serving approximately 11,730 B-3 children through the CCAP voucher program.*

- The CCAP voucher program has served an average of 11,730 B-3 children from January to August 2023. This is approximately 2,500 fewer children than 2022 due to the natural attrition during the waitlist period.
- As children are being rolled off the waitlist, we can anticipate seeing the decline continue until the majority of the children are rolled off the waitlist. At that point the natural attrition will be less than the number of children being added, and the number of children being served will begin to rebound.



# Early Childhood Program Enrollment

## CCAP B-3 Allocated Seats 2023-2024

*The Louisiana Legislature invested more than ever in early childhood care and education, enabling the Department to allocate funding for the 2023-2024 CCAP B-3 Seats Pilot program.*

The B-3 Seats pilot began in 2020-2021 and was projected to end as of June 30, 2023, prior to State investment.

By the close of Quarter 2 and the 2022-2023 academic year, B-3 Seats were serving 3,560 children across 30 networks:

- 553 Infants, 811 one year olds, 1,025 two year olds, 1,171 three year olds

The Department is currently developing strategies that will transition the original B-3 Seats pilot into a permanent program with sustained funding. This work will codify the CCAP B-3 Seats Pilot program into policy and formally incorporate it into Louisiana's CCDF State Plan.



# Early Childhood Program Enrollment CCAP Voucher Seat Waitlist

*The Department has begun rolling children off of the CCAP Voucher Seat Waitlist that was implemented October 1, 2022.*

- Families certified to the Waitlist from October 1 - December 31, 2022, have been mailed a Waitlist Verification Form; families certified to the Waitlist in January-June 2022 will also be mailed a Waitlist Verification Form over the next two months.
- Families applying since July 1, 2023 will continue to be placed on the Waitlist if they submit a complete CCAP application with all documentation and are determined eligible. As slots become available, these children will be moved into care.
- Children who are experiencing homelessness, children of families participating in TANF/STEP or Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships, children in foster care, and eligible children with disabilities have not been and will not be placed on the waitlist.



## **VII. Consideration of the 2023-2024 Goals and Objectives for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission**



# ECCE Commission

## 2023-2024 Goals

*The charges from the 2022 legislation remain in place for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.*

This legislation continues to charge the Commission with the following:

- Study and make recommendations relative to establishing a vision for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana.
- Establish and appoint members to a task force.
- Provide a report, that incorporates the task force findings and recommendations, to the governor, members of the legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education no less than thirty days prior to the first day of the regular session (March 11, 2024)



# ECCE Commission

## 2023 Legislative Changes

*2023 legislation adds some additional stipulations for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.*

Act 83 includes the following revisions to prior legislation regarding the ECCE Commission:

- Changes “one representative of a special-needs advocacy organization” to “one representative of a disability advocacy organization.”
- Adds responsibility to the Commission Task Force to “identify and recommend...a formula that could be used on an annual basis to determine the funding necessary to sustain and grow the early childhood care and education system and any necessary legal changes needed to implement such a formula.”
- Adds “one person with significant experience in the generation and administration of state government revenue” to the Commission Task Force.



# ECCE Commission

## 2023 Legislative Changes

*2023 legislation adds some additional stipulations for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.*

Act 83 includes the following revisions to prior legislation regarding the ECCE Commission:

- Changes Commission meetings to “four times per year,” rather than the original “twice between consecutive regular sessions of the legislature” meeting requirement.
- Changes the date for the Commission report of findings to “Not later than ninety days following the end of each fiscal year,” rather than the original “thirty days prior to the beginning of each regular session of the legislature.”



# ECCE Commission Task Force

## 2022-2023 Goals

*The charges from the 2022 legislation remain in place for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Task Force.*

The Task Force is charged with the following:

- Identify and recommend alternative state and local funding strategies for quality early childhood care and education.
- Identify and recommend strategies to address workforce compensation and benefits issues within the early childhood care and education field.



# ECCE Commission Task Force

## 2022-2023 Focuses

Proposed topics for the 2023-2024 Task Force meetings include the following:

- current and additional potential local measures for revenue generation,
- additional potential sources of stable funding for the Early Childhood Education Fund
- the development of a formula to fund early care and education (e.g., something like the MFP for K-12 funds)
- whether any legal changes would be needed to implement such a formula
- workforce compensation and benefits issues

# Upcoming Meetings

## ECCE Commission Meeting Dates: Thomas Jefferson A/B Rm 1-136

**September 25, 2023**  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**November 28, 2023**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**January 22, 2024**  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**June 10, 2024**  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

## ECCE Task Force Meeting Dates: Marbois Rm 1-137

**October 16, 2023**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**November 1, 2023**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**February 19, 2024**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



## **VIII. Consideration of an Appointment to the Membership of the Commission Task Force**



# Task Force Members

**Rep. Stephanie Hilferty**  
*Commission Chair*

**Sen. Beth Mizell**  
*Commission Chair*

**Stephen Barnes**  
*Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center*

**Melissa Goudeau**  
*Parent Representative*

**Ruth Lawson**  
*Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce*

**Jan Moller**  
*Louisiana Budget Project*

**Steven Procopio, Ph.D.**  
*Public Affairs Research Council of  
Louisiana (PAR)*

**Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D.**  
*Louisiana Policy Institute for Children*

**Michael Tipton**  
*Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana  
Foundation*



# Adjournment

