

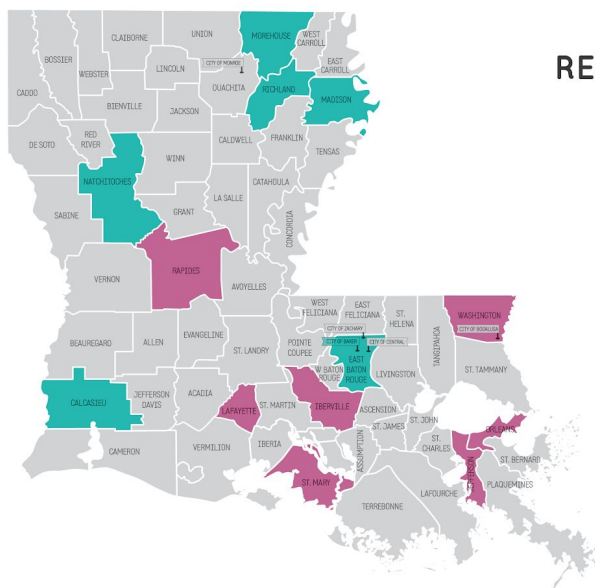
## Ready Start Networks Cohort 3 Request for Applications

### Section I - Background

Prior to the passage of Act 3 in 2012, Louisiana had no statewide unified system of early childhood care and education. Louisiana’s unified system of 65 community networks helps to maximize resources for early childhood, streamline enrollment processes for families, and support teachers across diverse settings. In 2018, legislation passed that allowed the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to create and fund pilot programs, called Ready Start Networks, to expand those local responsibilities to include access to quality. Lessons from the Ready Start initiative will inform future policymaking.

Ready Start Networks (RSNs) build on Louisiana’s success by bringing local community members together to create, implement, and support early childhood to address challenges. RSNs are committed to creating and implementing a bold local vision for early childhood and are driven by a community’s need to improve opportunities and inspire change for children birth to age five.

Each RSN brings together partners to continuously improve the quality of and access to early childhood opportunities in their community. Driven by local data and context, they do this in four key ways: develop a blueprint, build their coalition, establish local governance, and develop fundraising strategies. With effective implementation of RSNs, families will have the information they need to make the best decision for their children. More children will have access to quality early childhood opportunities as a result of support from new community partners, foundations, corporations, and local, state, and federal governments to support early childhood education in their communities.



### READY START NETWORK

● COHORT 1

● COHORT 2

## Section II -- Opportunity to Participate

### A. Eligible applicants

All currently established Early Childhood Community Networks are eligible to apply to become a Ready Start Network in Cohort 3 through their lead agency.

### B. Application and Selection Process and Timeline

February 27	The Department will release the Ready Start Network Cohort 3 application.
March 4	The Department will host an <a href="#">informational webinar</a> at 12 p.m. and answer questions about the application.
March 11	Potential applicants send a voluntary Notice of Intent to Apply to <a href="mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov">lizzie.cosse@la.gov</a> .
April 9	Initial applications are due to the Department. Email application to <a href="mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov">lizzie.cosse@la.gov</a> by noon.
April 13-17	Initial applications are evaluated by the Early Childhood Team.
April 20-24	Feedback is provided to all applicants.
April 29	The Department will host an <a href="#">informational webinar</a> to review general feedback for all applying networks.
May 18	Second round applications are due to the Department. Email application to <a href="mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov">lizzie.cosse@la.gov</a> by noon.
May 18-22	Second round applications are evaluated by the Early Childhood Team.
June 16-17	Applications for approval for Cohort 3 are voted at June BESE.
Tentative: June 18 - 19	Cohort 3 Orientation will be hosted in Baton Rouge.

## Section III -- Application

The application can be found [here](#). Voluntary Notice of Intent to Apply should be submitted to [lizzie.cosse@la.gov](mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov) by March 11. The initial application is due April 9 at 12 p.m. Please name the file "Network name RSN C3 app – initial" and email to [lizzie.cosse@la.gov](mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov). The subject of the email should be the same as the file name. The second round application is due May 18 at 12 p.m. Please name the

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file "Network name RSN C3 app – second" and email to [lizzie.cosse@la.gov](mailto:lizzie.cosse@la.gov) Again, the subject of the email should be the same as the file name.