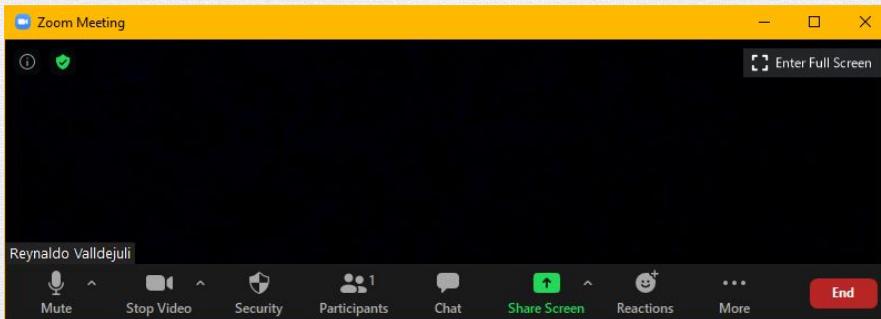


Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Agenda

- 
- Goals and Priorities
 - Believe! Early Childhood Planning Guide
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Framework Overview
 - Closing
 - Timeline
 - Support

Louisiana Believes...



Children are our highest priority



Equity matters



Families are our partners



Choice expands opportunities



Educators are valued professionals



Schools are invaluable to communities



Graduates must be ready



Our future is bright

Louisiana's Goals and Priorities

SIX CRITICAL GOALS

Students enter kindergarten ready.

Students will achieve mastery on third-grade assessments and enter fourth grade prepared for grade-level content.

Students will achieve mastery on eighth-grade assessments and enter ninth grade prepared for grade-level content.

Students will graduate on time.

Students will graduate with a college and/or career credential.

Students will graduate eligible for a TOPS award.

EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.

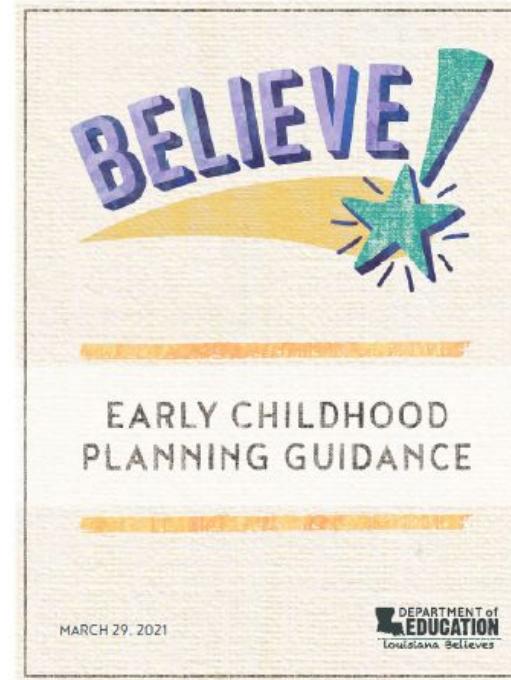
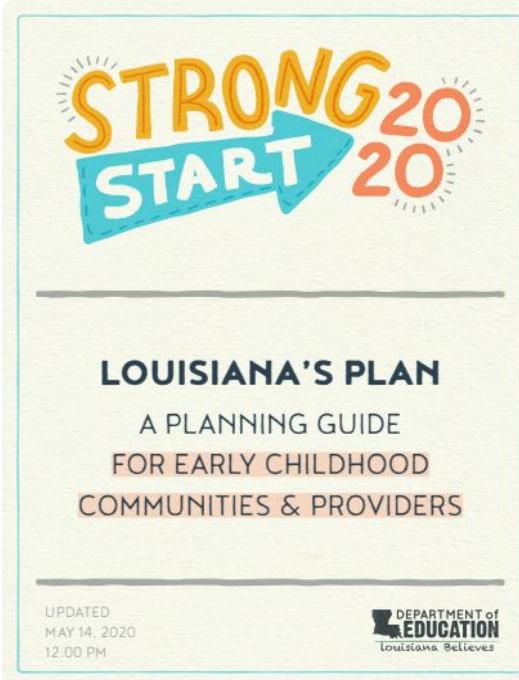
Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.

Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.

Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

From a Strong Start to Believe!





Early Childhood Planning Guide

Overview

To support school systems and community networks with planning for and budgeting new funds under the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations \(CRRSA\) Act](#) and the [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#), the LDOE has launched *Achieve! (pre-K-12)* and *Believe! (Early Childhood)*.

Believe! (Early Childhood) and provides community networks with prioritized activities, funding opportunities, and resources to develop community plans in alignment with the priorities and focus areas outlined in [Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities](#).



COVID-19 Impacts on Child Care

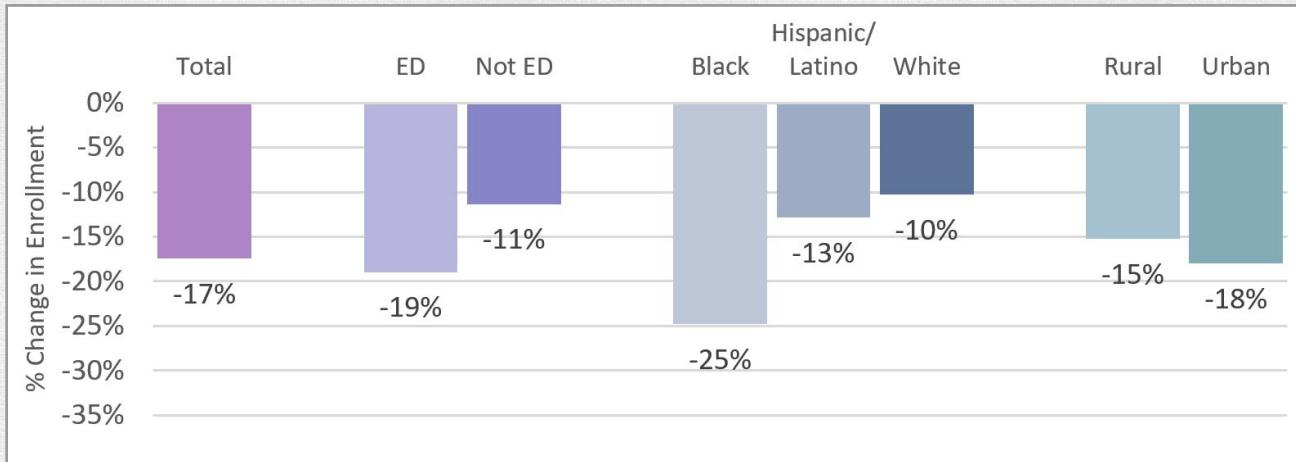
The impacts of COVID-19 on the early childhood field, and the child care sector in particular, are significant.

[*New Year, Same Challenges: The Continued Impacts of COVID-19 on Louisiana's Child Care Providers*](#), a report released by Louisiana Policy Institute for Children (LPIC) today, found that from March 2020 to January 2021, the child care sector experienced an estimated \$245 million loss (nearly \$200,000 per center).

Without immediate stabilization, child care providers are still at risk of closing their doors permanently. This would be devastating to children, families, and our economy; and Louisiana cannot let this happen.

COVID-19 Impacts on Pre-K Enrollment

Statewide pre-K enrollment in October 2020 was 17% lower than in October 2019, and that decline was larger for certain subgroups of students.



Ensuring Readiness

The Believe! Early Childhood Planning Guide outlines activities and funding opportunities for early childhood community networks to develop plans and partnerships to ensure:

- **Child care is stabilized immediately**, with a focus on providers and the early childhood workforce.
- **Communities increase access** to opportunities for high-quality early childhood care and education this year.
- **Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions** for all children every day.
- **Young children who experienced disruptions in learning this year are given opportunities** to prepare for school.



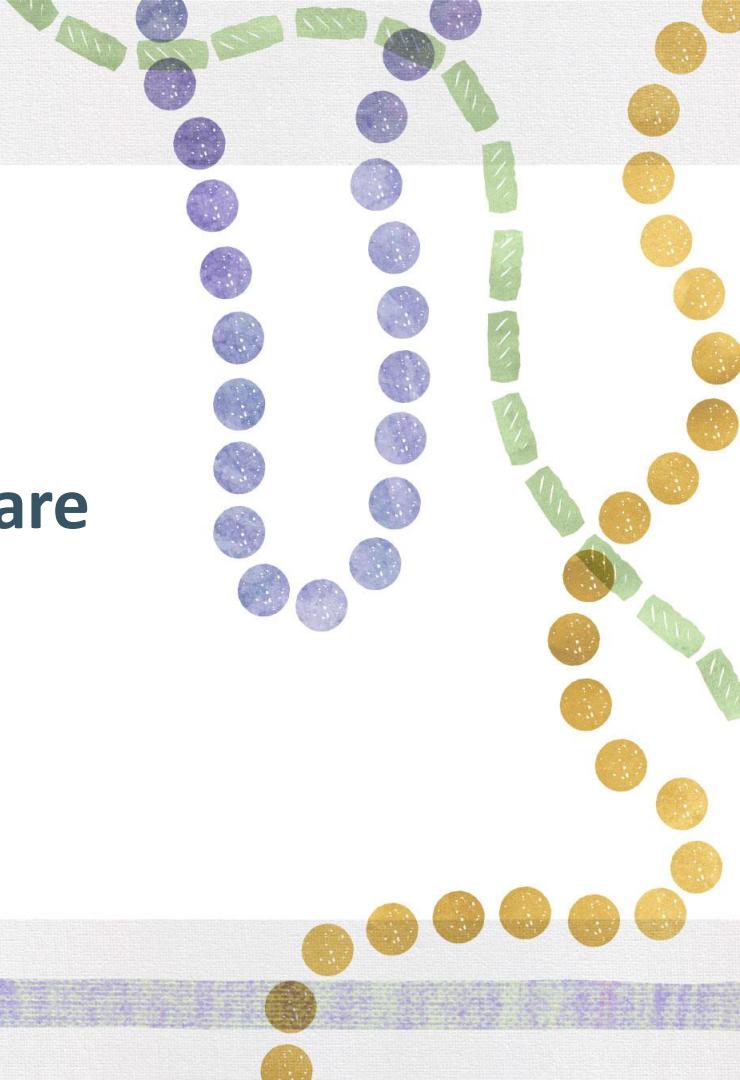


Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

| Entity | Funding Opportunities |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Early Childhood Community Networks | <p>In addition to lead agency and Ready Start Network allocations, there are two funding opportunities that community networks should apply for to support the child care needs of their community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2021 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants○ 2021 Community Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant |
| School Systems | <p>School systems have access to new funds under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The LDOE has launched Achieve! to provide guidance to school systems for creating budgets in alignment with the priorities and focus areas outlined in Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities. This funding includes early childhood through grade 12.</p> |
| Child Care Providers | <p>The Department is releasing ongoing grant opportunities to support and stabilize child care in the state. More information on all of these grant opportunities will be shared in the Early Childhood Newsletter. These opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grants○ Teacher Support Grants○ Accountability Participation Grants |

2021 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants



2021 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants

Early childhood lead agencies are eligible to apply for a second round COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants to support activities aligned to the 2021-2022 Believe! Guidance.

The Department recommends the following allowable uses as best practices for this grant:

- Providing financial supports (e.g. bonuses, incentive pay, etc.) to encourage and incentivize the early childhood workforce to return to work or continue working in this sector
- Purchasing and distributing additional PPE/sanitation supplies
- Providing direct financial support to providers to support them to stay open or re-open
- Promoting enrollment through additional informational campaigns or other outreach to families
- Supporting quality of child care centers, through means such as professional development, coaching and training, and observations
- Supporting families with continuous learning at home, as a result of temporary facility closures
- Purchasing and implementing curricula or programs focusing on social-emotional development and/or trauma informed instruction
- Providing supports to families who are not currently enrolled in early childhood care

Funding Amounts

Lead agencies should base their total requested funding amount on the number of current CCAP providers in the network and other unique impacts COVID-19 has had on the community.

| Size of Network | Suggested Funding Range |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fewer than 5 CCAP providers | \$25,000 - \$50,000 |
| 5 to 10 CCAP providers | \$50,000 - \$100,000 |
| 11 to 20 CCAP providers | \$100,000 - \$150,000 |
| 21 to 40 CCAP providers | \$150,000 - \$200,000 |
| 41 to 50 CCAP providers | \$200,000 - \$300,000 |
| More than 50 CCAP providers | \$300,000 - \$400,000 |

*Note: Community networks can apply for amounts that fall outside of these suggested ranges if they provide justification in their application.

Application Process

Lead agencies are eligible to apply for COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants to support activities aligned to the priorities contained within the Believe! 2021-2022 Guidance.

To complete the application, lead agencies must:

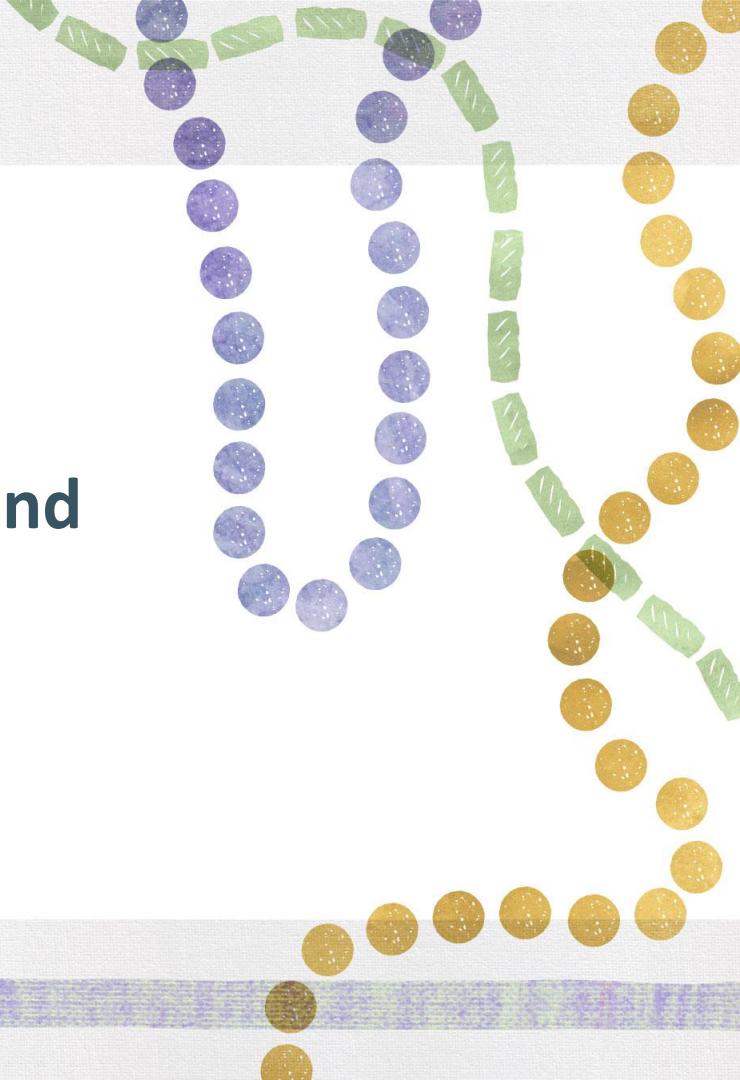
- Review the [Request for Proposals](#)
- Assess and communicate the needs of their community in responding to COVID-19
- Make a funding request based on the number of current CCAP providers in the network and the demonstrated need
- Provide an estimated budget for the funding request, including all anticipated uses of the funds
- Demonstrate methods of community outreach that helped inform the funding request

Believe! Funding Opportunity Timeline

| Date | Early Childhood Community Network Key Activities |
|----------------|---|
| March 30 | The Department releases <i>Believe!</i> and the Request for Applications for the two community network funding opportunities. |
| April 1 | The Word versions of the applications for each opportunity will be sent to all lead agency contacts. |
| During April | The Department will use the April Collaboratives and lead agency office hours to provide additional guidance and answer questions |
| April 28 | Applicants submit an Intent to Apply via Google Form by 5 p.m. |
| May 26 | Applicants submit a final application via Google Form by 5 p.m. |
| Week of May 31 | The Department notifies recipients of the grants. |

- **LaCAP Child Care Relief Grants:** The first round of these grant funds in 2021 will be in April. Additional grant opportunities for child care providers are anticipated to release in **June, September, and December** of 2021.
- **Additional Child Care Grants:** the Department anticipates making two additional grant opportunities available to licensed Type III centers, related to teacher supports and accountability participation, in May of 2021.

2021 Community Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant



2021 Community Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant

As part of efforts to increase child care infrastructure to expand access, the Louisiana Department of Education is launching an innovative, [new funding opportunity](#) focused on community-level strategies and solutions to increase supply of, and access to, quality early care and education.

This is a phased grant opportunity executed over a two year period to provide funding to support initiatives focused on building child care supply and increasing access at the local level that can be tailored to the specific needs of each early childhood community network.

| Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 |
|---|--|--|
| Community Access Analysis, Strategic Planning and Design | Strategy Implementation & Sustainability Planning | Long Term Sustainability and Evaluation of Strategy Implementation |

Phase Deliverables and Funding

| Phase | Grantee Deliverables | Funding |
|--|---|--|
| Phase 1 - Community Access Analysis, Strategic Planning and Design (within 3-6 months of the initial award) | Grantees will submit a plan to increase access to early childhood care and education that is aligned with community needs. | \$100,000 per network for project staffing, business supports, consultants, etc. This funding may be renewable for year two of the project. |
| Phase 2 - Strategy Implementation & Sustainability Planning (within months 4-12) | Grantees will implement the strategies they developed to build supply and increase access to early childhood care and education. | Up to \$500,000* *Subject to change based on needs determined in Phase 1 of grant |
| Phase 3 - Long Term Sustainability and Evaluation of Strategy Implementation (within months 5-18) | Grantees will submit a long-term sustainability plan inclusive of information related to scalability to meet additional community-level gaps in access. | Grantees that successfully create new child care supply will be given opportunities to apply for additional funding for seats. |

Potential Supply Building and Access Expansion Strategies

Funding will be provided for community network lead agencies to pursue activities that build supply and increase access including, but not limited to:

- Establishing partnerships with existing child care providers to expand access
- Expanding infant and toddler child care classrooms in existing facilities
- Establishing new partnerships to leverage community-based facilities to expand child care options
- Building child care supply in areas with limited to no options for early childhood care and education



Believe! Funding Opportunity Timeline

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Framework Overview

Believe! Framework Organization

- **Category:** The four early childhood planning categories include the most critical areas for a strong start: child care stabilization; expanding access; classroom quality; and family engagement & support.
- **Activity:** Each category is further subdivided into prioritized activities for communities. While these activities are not required, they are recommended for communities and may be supported through competitive funding.
- **Funding Guidance:** The three federal stimulus packages, CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA, provide states, school systems, communities, and child care providers funding to support activities aligned to each planning category.
- **Resources:** Resources aligned to each prioritized activity are linked to support early childhood communities in planning, and all resources can be found in the *Believe!* and *Achieve!* Library.



Immediately stabilize child care providers and the early childhood workforce.

Linkage to LDOE Priority:
Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.

| Activities | Funding Opportunities | Resources |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Communities understand the challenges their child care providers are facing—including financial challenges, workforce challenges, and challenges related to health and safety—and develop a plan to support child care providers during the 2021-2022 year.</p> | <p>2021-2022 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant</p> <p>LaCAP Grants for CCAP providers and non-CCAP providers (providers apply directly)</p> | <p>Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care</p> <p>Health and Safety Resource Guide</p> <p>CDC's Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19</p> |
| <p>Communities coordinate to ensure that child care workers and support staff have support to access vaccines.</p> | <p>2021-2022 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant</p> | <p>CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Resources</p> <p>LDH COVID-19 Vaccine Resources</p> |
| <p>Communities support child care providers to access business resources and state/federal grant, loan, tax credit, and other financial assistance programs.</p> | <p>2021-2022 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant</p> <p>LaCAP Grants for CCAP providers and non-CCAP providers (providers apply directly)</p> | <p>Child Care Business Supports</p> <p>Small Business Administration Coronavirus Relief Options</p> |
| <p>Communities support the child care workforce by ensuring teachers are on track to receive their ECAC and by supporting child care providers to apply for and implement child care teacher support grants.</p> | <p>2021-2022 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant</p> <p>Teacher Stipend Grant (providers apply directly - to be released in late spring)</p> | <p>BESE approved ECAC program providers</p> <p>Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate background information</p> <p>Early Childhood Workforce Recruiting and Hiring Toolkit</p> <p>Legislative Report on Early Childhood Workforce</p> |



Communities increase access to opportunities for high-quality early childhood care and education this year.

Linkage to LDOE Priority:
Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

| Activities | Funding Opportunities | Resources |
|---|---|--|
| Communities partner with school systems to identify opportunities to expand access to pre-K through school system funding. | ESSER I/ESSER II | Guidance for Expanding Access to High-Quality Early Childhood Education for School Systems |
| Communities develop and implement plans to build new child care supply in their community, which may include creating new infant/toddler classrooms at existing centers, partnering with family child care providers, or establishing innovative child care partnerships. | Community Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant | Supply Building and Access Expansion Grant Guidance |
| Communities develop and implement plans to secure sustainable local funding for B-3 seats offered in high-quality, diverse delivery settings. | Supplemental Ready Start Network allocations* <small>*Communities awarded B-3 seats will be required to develop and implement fundraising plans and may be eligible for additional funding</small> | Funding Plan Guidance for Ready Start Networks |



Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions for all children every day.

Linkage to LDOE Priority:
Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment from birth through graduation.

| Activities | Funding Opportunities | Resources |
|--|--|--|
| Communities work with school systems and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to ensure that all early childhood classrooms are utilizing high-quality curriculum and are receiving professional development to support effective implementation of instructional tools and best practices. | ESSER I/ESSER II | Tier 1 Curriculum Louisiana Academic Content PD Vendor Guide Supporting Early Learning and Literacy Vendor Guide |
| Communities and school systems provide high-quality direct and related service support for young children with IEPs to increase inclusive opportunities within the least restrictive environment. | ESSER I/ESSER II | Compensatory Services Guidance for Students with Disabilities Partnerships for Success Guide |
| Communities partner with regional Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to understand and support efforts to conduct early learning center needs assessments, enhance child care environments, and ensure the technology needs of child care centers are met. | 2021-2022 COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant | Outdoor Learning Enhancement Communities should reach out to their regional CCR&R to collaborate |



**Young children
who experienced
disruptions in
learning this year
are given
opportunities to
prepare for school.**

Linkage to LDOE Priority:
Remove barriers and create
equitable, inclusive
learning experiences for all
children.

| Activities | Funding Opportunities | Resources |
|--|--|--|
| Communities and school systems are prepared to identify children in need of intervention through universal developmental screenings. | ESSER I/ESSER II/ESSER III | Early Childhood Developmental Screening Early Childhood Developmental Screenings Guidebook Supporting Early Learning and Literacy Vendor Guide |
| Communities develop plans in partnership with families, school systems, and program partners to support transitions into school, through extended learning opportunities. | ESSER I/ESSER II/ESSER III | Guidance for Early Childhood Transitions Designing a Pre-K/K Transition Program |
| Communities and sites support children's social and emotional development which may have been interrupted or impacted by breaks in routines and disruptions in relationships with their caregivers. | ESSER I/ESSER II/ESSER III COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant | Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program Louisiana Student Well-Being Vendor Guide |
| Communities develop plans to enhance continuous learning through high-quality interactions and developmentally- appropriate learning activities for all children, regardless of their educational setting. | ESSER I/ESSER II/ESSER III COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grant | Opportunities for Early Learning at Home |





Support

Support for *Believe!* and *Achieve!* will be provided through:

- [Weekly Lead Agency Office Hours](#)
- Spring Collaborative Calls (April 13 and 14)
- [Believe! and Achieve! Library](#)
- [LDOE Weekly Newsletters and Early Childhood Newsletters](#)
- [System Leaders Monthly Calls](#)

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with questions.