

Louisiana Head Start State Collaboration Office

Region VI Quarterly Report

April 11, 2022

Budget: The HSSCO attend regular budget meeting to receive updates on the HSSCO Budget balances and project expenditures. Based on recent meetings there is projected surplus in grant funds due to travel restriction cause by COVID-19. Unutilized resources (funding) remaining each year of the grant cycle are rolled over and used before the 5-year grant cycle expires.

Contracts: The HSSCO has submitted a contract to conduct the HSSCO Needs Assessment, as mandated by the Head Start Act. The information from the annual assessment is used to develop a strategic, which designate priorities for the HSSCO work. Grantees will begin receiving hard copies of last year's HSSCO Needs Assessment Results via the mailed.

End of the Year Report: The HSSCO is required by OHS/ACF to submit an End of the Year Report, highlighting the past years goals and accomplishments. Some of the year's highlights includes:

- Louisiana Pathways Early Learning Center Career Development System (career lattices, CDA, Ancillary and College Tuition scholarships (2,274)
- School Tax Credits for Teachers and Directors (SRTC 6,676 for federal and state tax returns)
- **Revisions to Bulletin 139:** Revised the LA Pathways Career Development System to be inclusive of family childcare providers and clarify that family child care homes that have obtained academic approval are eligible to participate in the quality rating system
- **Revisions to Bulletin 140:** Establishes a parallel academic approval process for family child care providers that they can opt into defines the term "child care facilities" to establish a term inclusive of early learning centers and family child care homes II
- Illustrated the level of involvement of the HSSCO in both state and national COVID-19 response.
- Medical and dental homes percentages for children enrolled in Louisiana's HS/EHS programs.

HSSCO Annual Needs Assessment: The 2022 Head Start State Collaboration Office Annual Needs Assessment Survey contract is in the final stages with services provided by Fahrenheit Creative Group. The needs assessment survey distribution scheduled for late March or early April of 2022. The results guide the work of the HSSCO and develop a statewide strategic plan for Head Start/ Early Head Start and Childcare Partnerships.

CCAP/Head Start/ Early Head Start/Childcare Partnerships: The HSSCO in concert with CCAP to make full-day ECE services available to eligible children and families qualifying for CCAP through Head Start and Early Head Start programs. To achieve the collaboration, Head Start/Early Head Start programs where invited to participate in monthly meetings to determine the feasibility of utilizing CCAP funds to provide a full day of ECE services through Head

Start/Early Head Start programs. Trainings provided to assist with enrollment of Head Start programs in CCAP and certification process of applications.

NEW: Increase in CCAP Reimbursement Rates

On January 18, 2022, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a significant increase in provider rates. [New CCAP rates](#) will be reflected in the payment issued the week of February 14th. The payment will reflect the state's maximum daily rate per age group at which the Department will reimburse providers. For additional assistance, please contact the Provider Help Desk at (225) 250-7635 or (225) 252-9543 or via the [Provider Ticket System](#).

NHSA: In response to last week's State of the Union Address, NHSA Executive Director Yasmina Vinci penned the State of Early Childhood Education and Care. The piece, published yesterday in [The Hill](#), highlights the necessity of addressing our nation's child care crisis.

Build/ NHSA webinar and discussions series on Equity in State Policy. Head Start Collaboration Directors and State Associations have been involved in the development and exploration of equity-focused policy and process in states, the next session will address:

- **Making Early Care and Education (ECE) Systems and Quality Improvement Strategies More Effective for Bilingual Learners**
- **Rebuilding Early Childhood Systems for Black and Latina Children with Racial Equity and Quality at the Forefront**

OHS: Last month the OHS announced they will not monitor compliance with the mask requirement in program monitoring at this time. This news comes on the heels of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) releasing updated guidance on mask wearing depending on the level of COVID-19 in individual communities

Education: Louisiana's Early Childhood Goals: To continue to work to implement the vision of Act 3, in 2021 the Department identified the following priorities to support more families to access high-quality early learning for their children.

- Strengthen the child care system to meet the needs of all families and support the stabilization of the child care sector.
- Expand supply of and access to high-quality early childhood options for families and to identify opportunities to sustain that expansion long-term.
- Prepare and support teachers to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions that meet the developmental needs of children every day.
- Empower families to access tools and resources to support their children's development.

Child Care Licensing: Part CLXI. Bulletin 137 □ La. Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations (Indoor Space) §1903. *Physical Environment* ****. *D. Indoor Space* 1. A minimum of 35 square feet of usable indoor space shall be available per child until June 1, 2022. a. Effective June 1, 2022 a center may request and seek approval from the Office of State Fire Marshal and the licensing division, a minimum of 35 square feet of usable indoor space shall be

available per child for children ages birth to 4. For that for children ages 4 and above, a minimum of 25 square feet of usable indoor space shall be available per child. b. If any child in a space is less than age 4, a minimum of 35 square feet of usable indoor space shall be available for every child in the space, regardless of age

Governor’s Early Childhood Care and Education Commission: In March 2021, the 39-member Early Child Care Education Commission released Funding Our Future: LA B to 3 (The Economic Imperative of Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana. This report urged again the Commission’s year one recommendation for a ten-year plan to increase access to quality early care and education as well as urged the identification of a robust source of ongoing funding for the Early Childhood Education Fund, to match local investments. The Commission re-convened in October 2021, with the following goals to continue to explore sustained funding for early childhood:

- Engage the taskforce in a deep dive on local funding, identifying barriers, if any, and opportunities to increase local revenue generation
- Discuss the need to sustain emergency funding for continued expanding access and economic recovery and potential opportunities to do so with both additional state and federal funding
- Provide a report of its findings and recommendations no less than fourteen days prior to the first day of the regular session

State Advisory Council:

CLASS Observations: REMINDER: Bulletin 140 Waiver

On December 15, 2021, BESE approved a one-time waiver to Bulletin 140 required CLASS® observations for all publicly funded early childhood classrooms. Classrooms that scored “Proficient” or higher during their fall 2021 observation, after third-party replacement, will be exempt from receiving a second observation from the community network lead agency in Spring 2022. Third-party observations are unaffected by this policy change. For questions regarding CLASS® observation scheduling, please contact your [community network lead agency](#).

NEW: Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Applications

The certification office only accepts online application submissions effective May 1, 2019. Paper applications and handwritten applications for the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) will not be processed. Please use [Teach LA Live!](#) to submit any applications or questions to the certification team. The [User Guide for Educators](#) is available on the main page of TeachLALive! for more instructions. To contact certification, please submit your request at <https://ldoe.force.com/s/ask-certification>.

Licensing: REMINDER: Annual Required Inspections by the Office of State Fire Marshal, Louisiana Department of Health, and City Fire of New Orleans

Bulletin 137, Section 713, Renewal and Other Inspection Procedures, requires providers to obtain current approvals from the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), and City Fire of New Orleans, if applicable, before the expiration of an existing license and the issuance of a renewed license. Each provider must timely request

and receive their annual inspections from the OSFM, LDH, and City Fire of New Orleans, if applicable. Licenses will not be renewed if you have not received a current inspection and approval from those agencies and submitted documentation of their approvals to the Division of Licensing. To address licensed childcare renewal inspections required, please contact the following agencies:

- Louisiana OSFM by telephone at (504) 568-8506 for New Orleans/Shreveport/Monroe regions and (225) 925-4911 for the Baton Rouge/Alexandria/Lafayette/Lake Charles regions or via [region contacts](#)
- LDH may be contacted by emailing Melissa Drescher (Melissa.Drescher@la.gov) or by telephone at (225) 342-8954
- New Orleans Fire Prevention Division by telephone at (504) 658-4700--please ensure you have paid the fee and completed the required OPEN SAFELY application on the Office of State Fire Marshal website at <http://www.lasfm.org>.

Critical Incidents and Required Notifications (NEW)

The Department continues to note a significant number of deficiencies cited for failing to make critical incident notifications. Providers must make immediate notification to parents, emergency personnel, law enforcement as applicable, and other appropriate agencies within 24 hours for the following types of critical incidents involving children in care:

1. Death;
2. Serious injury or illness that required medical attention;
3. A child left unsupervised for any amount of time;
4. use of prohibited behavior management as described in Section 1509.A.8.b.;
5. Allegations or suspicion of child abuse or neglect by center staff;
6. An accident involving the transportation of children; or
7. Any other significant event relating to the health, safety, or well-being of any child, including but not limited to a lost child, an emergency situation, fire or other structural damage, or closure of the center.

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing consultant at (225) 342-9905.

REMINDER: CPR/Pediatric First Aid (PFA) Vendors

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Division of Licensing is assisting licensed childcare centers, family childcare, and in-home providers with obtaining Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Pediatric First Aid (PFA) certification for early childhood staff. LDOE-approved CPR/PFA vendors will be authorized to be paid a rate up to \$65 per licensed child care staff member or registered and certified in-home provider. If a CPR/PFA vendor, has not been approved by the LDOE and added to the LDOE Division of Licensing's roster, the CPR/PFA vendor will be unable to receive payment. Please note: under no circumstance can a vendor who is a director or owner of a center, be paid for training the staff employed at their center.

Family Engagement: Family Engagement is one of the most powerful predictors of social-emotional development, educational attainment and success in school and life for children and youth. (Global Family Research Project, 2018). The Louisiana Department of Education believes that those closest to children (parents, families and communities) drive decision making. This belief prompted the creation of the Be Engaged, Birth-12 Framework (BEB12) that would be

inclusive of the most influential stakeholders. It is a comprehensive approach that is designed to narrow educational achievement gaps through high-quality family and community engagement. If significant improvements are to be made in education, it is imperative to begin with developing engagement platforms for new families whose educational journey starts with the early childhood community networks and transitions to school systems for grades K through 12. This Framework is designed to provide guidance to support families and children through their entire educational experience. This all-encompassing framework consists of six overarching themes:

- 1) Cultivating Relationships
 - 2) Implementing Meaningful Communication
 - 3) Supporting the Success of All Students
 - 4) Supporting Families as Advocates
 - 5) Sharing Power and Decision Making
 - 6) Collaborating with Community Partners.
- The development of Louisiana's Be Engaged, Birth-12 Framework combines research and best practices while being responsive to the 26,000 parent and family responses received on the State's Parent and Family Engagement Survey administered in the spring of 2021.

CCAP: Mr. Martin (Handouts)

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grant – Round 2
- CCAP Family Redetermination Extensions
- CCAP Provider Payments Based on Enrollment
 - Increase in CCAP reimbursement rates
 - State Median Income 2022 Sliding Fee Scale

2022 Powering Up Early Childhood Conference

The Department will host an Early Childhood Conference, July 22 - 24, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Early childhood center staff, teachers, family childcare and in-home providers, Head Start/Early Head Start, parents and families are invited to attend. Session topics will support the roles of all attendees. Additional details will be shared with the early childhood community soon.

2022 Teacher and Leader Summit: The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC). Early Bird [registration](#) opened January 10, and registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact LDOEevents@la.gov with any questions

2022 ACAP Annual Conference, will be held, June 6-9, 2022, at the Doubletree Hotel in Lafayette, LA. Fees are as follows: Conference Registration Fees Early Bird (ends April 29th, 2022) \$250.00 per person Regular Rate (ends May 22nd, 2022) \$275.00 per person Onsite (June 6-8, 2022) and Non-Member \$300.00 per person.

2022 NHSA National Conference will be held May 2-5, 2022, in Baltimore MD. Conference fees are as follow: NHSA member (March 14-May 2) \$799, Member on site, \$919.00, Conference Regular, \$679.00, Conference Member \$559.00