



READY LOUISIANA

A Coalition of business, educational, advocacy, parent and community organizations, as well as individual businesses, seeking adequate funding for quality, affordable Early Child Care and Education in Louisiana.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT LOUISIANA

1) Child care breakdowns have a substantial impact on workforce productivity and participation

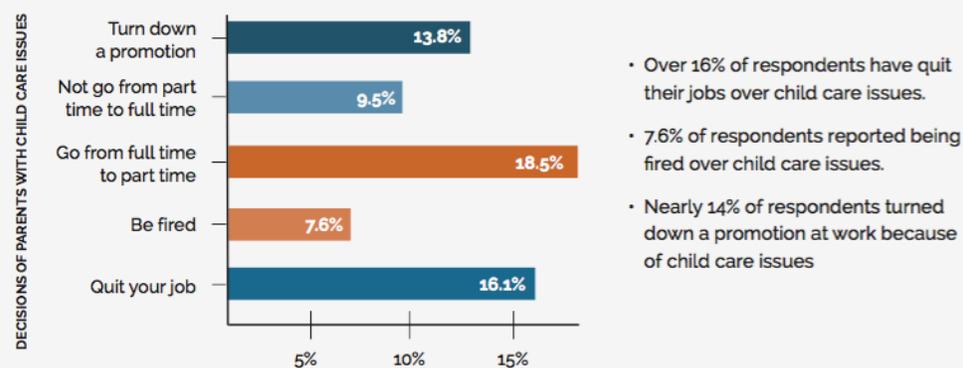
Child Care Issues Result in More Than \$1.1 Billion Loss for Louisiana's Economy

Losses	
Absences	-\$292,287,280
Quits/Turnover	-\$875,289,218
Total	-\$1,167,576,498

Almost \$84 Million Lost in Tax Revenue for Louisiana's Economy Due to Child Care Issues

Losses	
Absences	-\$13,135,416
Quits/Turnover	-\$70,794,431
Total	-\$83,929,847

Child Care Issues Have Greatly Impacted Parents' Workforce Participation



2) Inadequate access to quality care has a profound impact on our children's lack of school success

- 90% of brain development happens between birth and age four.
- This is why children who begin school behind, generally remain behind, and why there is up to a 13% return on investment in quality birth to five education.
- Yet, over 40% of children in Louisiana enter Kindergarten already behind.

3) There is substantial bipartisan support for increasing access to quality care for young children.

- 64% of Louisiana registered voters support increasing access to early care and education for children under age four (Mason-Dixon Poll Feb. 2018).
- This support includes 68% Democrats, 52% Republicans, and 69% Independents.

OUR FUNDING REALITY

The only state administered early care and education program for children under age 4 is the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) that provides subsidies for working families to access care.

- **FUNDING FOR the Child Care Assistance Program HAS BEEN SLASHED SINCE 2009. The number of children served has dropped from almost 40,000 in 2009 to 17,000 today.**
- **Louisiana spends less than ½ of 1% of its state general funds on early care and education.**
- Thus, **only 15 percent of potentially eligible young children** can access a publicly funded early care and education program in Louisiana.
- By contrast, **two-thirds of all children** in this age group **have both parents, or their single parent, in the workforce.**
- And **child care costs** in Louisiana are comparable to **public college tuition.**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The need for publicly funded early care and education far exceeds availability. There are a few important steps you can take *right now* to help working families with young children and their employers:

- 1) **SIGN ONTO AND HELP PASS House Bill 676**
(Hilferty, G. Carter, S. Carter, Edmonds, N. Landry, Leger, Smith, Appel, LaFleur, Mizell, Morrish and Price)
 - This bill establishes a two-year study commission to develop a long-term strategic plan for early care and education in Louisiana.
- 2) **SIGN ONTO AND HELP PASS House Bill 513**
(S. Carter)
 - This bill dedicates \$10 million of the annual sale of unclaimed property to the State to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which currently has almost 4500 children on its waiting list.
- 3) **PROTECT CURRENT FUNDING for Pre-K**