

Office of Early Childhood

June 7, 2024

To all CCAP B-3 Program Network Participants for 2024-2025:

As a result of the end of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, funding from the Louisiana Legislature for the CCAP B-3 program decreased, meaning the number of children enrolled for the 2024-2025 year will decrease. The full impact of this decrease will be evaluated in October 2024 based on July, August, and September participation in the program.

However, the LDOE has a vested interest in ensuring the continuity of care for already-enrolled children, ensuring the stability of participating early childhood care and education providers, and maintaining the stability for families who rely on child care to remain in the workforce.

To ensure continuity of care for children already enrolled in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program, networks should maintain current enrollment in the CCAP B-3 Seat Program at existing CCAP B-3 partner provider sites:

- **Continue Currently-Enrolled**: Continue to fund the care and education of infants, toddlers, and three-year-old children currently enrolled in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program.
- Pause Redeterminations: Pause redetermination for children currently-enrolled in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program until notified by the Department to resume.
 - Children currently enrolled as infants, toddlers, and three year olds will be maintained at the rate of their age as of initial determination.
- Pause New Enrollment: Continue to pause enrollment for any vacant CCAP B-3 seats.
- Pause Substitutions: Pause the substitution of new children after June 30, 2024, for currently-enrolled children who vacate seats.
- Provide Alternative Program Guidance for 4 Year Olds: Support all families with children enrolled in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program who are turning age 4 on or before September 30, 2024, to enroll these children into other publicly-funded seat programs, such as LA 4, NSECD, ECE Fund seats, and Head Start.

The LDOE plans to

- Allocate Quarter 1 (July 1 September 30) payments based on the exact enrollment submitted for April 2024 attendance
 - Networks may receive an allocation to cover 3 months of care for the exact number of children enrolled by age as of April 30, 2024
- Allocate Quarter 2 payments based on available funds and the evaluation of Quarter 1 participation
 - This evaluation shall account for attrition of participating children either into a 4-year-old program, a new age band, or otherwise out of the program
- Allocate Quarter 3 and 4 payments based on subsequent enrollment and BESE deadlines

An informational webinar will be held on Thursday, June 13, at 2:30 p.m. for all CCAP B-3 Program Network participants. Please contact <u>devon.camarota@la.gov</u> with questions related to this guidance.

Sincerely,

The Office of Early Childhood Care and Education



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Suggested language for Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies to share with CCAP B-3 Seats Participating Families:

To Families Participating in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program:

The CCAP B-3 Seats Program is maintained through funds that are determined by the Louisiana Legislature each year. Therefore, the funding from year to year can change and for the upcoming year, beginning on July 1, 2024, the funding has been reduced.

The Department is working to ensure that children currently enrolled in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program as of June 30, 2024, will remain in the program.

Children who are currently enrolled will NOT be asked to leave the program or begin paying for care due to funding changes at this time. Please note, new enrollments in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program will not be accepted through at least September 30, 2024.

Your child's enrollment in the CCAP B-3 Seats Program is guaranteed through at least September 30, 2024. You will be notified in the near future regarding enrollment plans beyond September 30, 2024. To give you and your family the best chances of remaining in the program, please ensure your child is present daily. In the case of an extended absence due to illness or emergency, communicate with your provider about your continued desire and need for care and when your child will return to care.

Please contact your child care provider with questions about next steps.

Sincerely,

The Office of Early Childhood Care and Education earlychildhood@la.gov