



LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN  
**Physical Health and Development**

**Medicaid Expansion** – Louisiana now leads the nation with the third highest rate of children with health insurance (nearly 97% percent) thanks to the expansion of Medicaid enacted in 2016. The benefits for children and families are extraordinary according to the [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#).

**Moving Forward:** We must continue to protect Medicaid for Louisiana families and begin to focus on health outcomes for children by increasing health, safety, and developmental screenings for EVERY Louisiana child.



LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN  
**Early Care and Education**

**State Funding for Early Childhood for the First Time in 10 Years** – Louisiana funded \$19 million in new state financing for early childhood education. Those funds replace lost federal funding to keep current student levels in a pre-K program for at-risk 4-year-olds and also pay for child care assistance for 1,450 children ages birth to three who are on the recently created Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) waiting list. CCAP is a program helping low-income working families access quality child care while supporting community-based small businesses who care for children.

**Moving Forward:** We must provide opportunities for ALL families to have access to the quality child care and after school programs needed to enrich their children while parents remain a productive part of Louisiana's workforce.



LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN  
**Social Emotional Development**

**Zero to Three Focus** – Louisiana prioritized statewide funding for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECHMH) consultation in home visiting and began development of a statewide perinatal consultation program (telepsychiatry) within the Department of Health. The Governor's Children's Cabinet Advisory Board continues to recommend young child wellbeing supports for families.

**Moving Forward:** We must expand home visiting, parent education programs, and IECHM programs to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and improve early child wellbeing for ALL Louisiana families.



LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN  
**Developmental Disabilities**

**Eligibility for Early Steps, TEFRA Option & Elimination of State Waitlist for Services** – The state has opened the doors for families who struggle to provide services for their children with developmental challenges by creating an option that makes the child eligible for Medicaid regardless of family income. The state has also appropriated funds to restore previous eligibility for Early Steps giving families access to more of the services they need. Due to advocacy efforts by parents, the state reorganized waiver services and eliminated the state waiting lists for disability services after years of cuts.

**Moving Forward:** We must continue to fund services to families of children with developmental disabilities and ensure that EVERY child has the opportunity to grow and thrive in the environment that is best for them and their family.



## LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN Child Welfare

**Protecting Children and Strengthening Families** – Louisiana has reorganized DCFS to return to an evidence-based approach for providing child welfare services and introduced the Quality Parenting Initiative which allows for an innovative way of providing services and supports to families. The state also has raised the age for children to leave foster care to 21 assuring that they will be better prepared to live independently while increasing the number of teens adopted last year by more than 30 percent over the previous year.

**Moving Forward:** We must continue funding to protect children, support struggling families, and ensure additional state funding is available to implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.



## LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN Juvenile Justice

**Raise The Age** – In 2016, child advocates successfully advocated to raise the age to 18 for youth to be placed in the adult justice system. As of March 1, 2019, 17-year-old nonviolent offenders were included in the juvenile justice system. On July 1, 2020, all 17-year olds charged with any offense will be included in the juvenile justice system.

**Moving Forward:** We must continue to fund services to invest in the juvenile justice system by improving the rehabilitative services provided to youth offenders and giving them a greater opportunity to remake their lives.



## LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN Family Economic Stability

**Building Family Self-Sufficiency** – Louisiana increased the Earned Income Tax Credit from 3.5 to 5 percent, which affected more than 480,000 households and returned \$21 million to low-income working families with children. When Medicaid coverage was extended to adults in 2016, children benefited as well as their parents were healthier and more financially secure.

**Moving Forward:** We must invest in Louisiana's working families to ensure financial stability so that no Louisiana family is forced to be ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).



## LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN Budget

**Stable Budget Means More Resources** – After years of annual and mid-year budget cuts, Louisiana has had three consecutive years of stable funding that has allowed for new investments in children's health, safety, welfare, and education. A stable budget means families are more likely to have the support they need for their children to reach their full potential.

**Moving Forward:** We must continue to invest state funds in the evidenced-based programs that net the largest return of federal dollars so that the state can keep more of the dollars paid by Louisiana citizens.

For More Information on the Platform and to see the upcoming release of Platform 2.0

Visit <http://www.louisianapartnership.org/PlatformforChildren/>

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