

## **I. Abstract**

Project Title: Louisiana Early Childhood Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 Application  
Applicant Name: Louisiana Department of Education  
Address: 1201 N 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax): 225-342-6266  
E-Mail Address: Randy.Littleton@la.gov  
Website Address: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood>

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is applying for a \$10 million Preschool Development Grant B-5 award to achieve the following four project goals and objectives:

- 1. Establish local infrastructure via Ready Start networks:** LDOE will establish a local governance structure that empowers local community networks to drive improvement, incentivizes innovation, and drives quality improvement.
- 2. Incorporate Family Homes into Statewide Early Childhood Network:** LDOE will research and study family homes to inform a strategic plan to incorporate family homes in the statewide early childhood network, as described in Activities 1, 2, and 5.
- 3. Increase Alignment and Improve Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education:** LDOE will increase opportunities for teachers to be prepared, equipped, and supported to offer high-quality experiences and opportunities for children in birth-to-five classrooms.
- 4. Improve State Systems that inform the Statewide Early Childhood Network:** LDOE will conduct a validation study of the state's unified quality rating system, begin developing a comprehensive data system, and implement a shared services pilot.

Activities funded by the grant to achieve these long-term outcomes are aligned with the key purposes of the PDG B-5 grant and will result in three long-term outcomes:

- **Grant Outcome 1: Access** - More young children access high-quality care through a mixed delivery system.
- **Grant Outcome 2: Quality** - Children participate in active learning in their birth-to-five classrooms, led by teachers that are fully able to prepare them for Kindergarten and beyond.
- **Grant Outcome 3: Local Governance** - Communities drive faster rates of quality improvement and expanded access.

Historically in Louisiana, early childhood care and education programs were fragmented and not effectively preparing enough children for Kindergarten. In 2012, the Louisiana Legislature passed the Early Childhood Education Act of 2012 ([Act 3](#)), with the goal of ensuring all children in publicly-funded birth to age five programs are on track for success in school and beyond. Since the passage of Act 3, LDOE has successfully established a statewide early childhood network that relies on collaborative leadership and a unified quality rating system to support improved access to a statewide, mixed delivery system of high-quality, publicly-funded birth-to-five programs. The PDG B-5 will support the state to strengthen its mixed delivery system and improve opportunities for children, families, teachers, providers, and communities in Louisiana.