

# Boost Louisiana's Economy, Bet on Children

During the 2021 session, we urge legislators to **commit all revenues from sports betting to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund** for Louisiana's children and working parents.



To learn more, contact Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D. at [Isonnier@policyinstitutela.org](mailto:Isonnier@policyinstitutela.org) or RuthAnne Oakey-Frost, J.D. at [roakeyfrost@policyinstitutela.org](mailto:roakeyfrost@policyinstitutela.org)



# Boost Louisiana's Economy, Bet on Children

## Louisiana's economic recovery relies on child care.

- **Two-thirds** of children birth through age five have **both parents**, or their **single parent**, in the **workforce**.
- Child care costs almost as much as **public college tuition** in Louisiana, and is the **biggest budget expense for most families** with young children.
- Before the pandemic, the state was only serving **15% of the children age birth to three** eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program, leaving affordable, quality child care **out of reach for most working families**.
- Businesses are affected by child care challenges and lack of access.
  - Before COVID-19, studies showed that the state's economy lost **\$1.1 billion a year due to child care breakdowns** and **businesses lost over \$800 million a year**.
  - **As parents return to work**, one of their first needs is **accessing quality care and education** for their children.
- Public support of early care and education allows **parents** to go back to work, provides **businesses** with a reliable workforce, and ensures **children** enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

## Using sports betting revenues to fund early care and education is a smart investment in Louisiana's today and tomorrow.

- Investing in early care and education yields a **13% return on investment** and is one of the **best uses** for our resources.
- **Legalized sports betting** is a way to **fund early care and education** at a robust level **without cutting any existing services** and only taxing a purely recreational activity.
  - **Other states** with legalized sports betting are generating **millions in revenue on a monthly basis**. New Jersey casinos netted almost \$25 million a month in 2019, translating to about \$3 million in tax revenue each month for the state.
- Directing the revenue from sports betting into the **Early Childhood Education Fund** will stretch state dollars even further through the Fund's **dollar-for-dollar match on local investments** in early care and education.
- **Local communities are already engaging in efforts to expand access to early care and education**. To maximize the impact of local investments, the Early Childhood Education Fund should be able to deliver on the state's promised match.
- **Sports betting revenues could transform early care and education in Louisiana** in just a few years — **improving our economy** as parents are able to work and **benefitting our children** during their most critical developmental years.

---

To learn more, contact Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D. at [isonnier@policyinstitutela.org](mailto:isonnier@policyinstitutela.org) or RuthAnne Oakey-Frost, J.D. at [roakeyfrost@policyinstitutela.org](mailto:roakeyfrost@policyinstitutela.org)

