RED RIVER PARISH

CHILD CARE: A CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES AND EMPLOYERS

LACK OF ACCESS TO CHILD CARE HURTS WORKING PARENTS

Across Louisiana, access to public pre-k programs for 4-year-olds has expanded greatly in the last decade.

Meanwhile, the **Child Care Assistance Program**—the only state program for children under age 4—has been **cut from almost 40,000 children to 15,000 children** served annually over the last 10 years.

$816,000,000

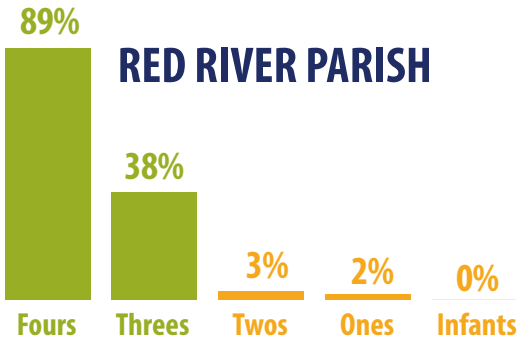
Lack of access to child care for working parents **costs Louisiana employers** $816 million a year.

2 IN 3

Two in three children ages birth to five in LA have both parents, or their single parent, in the workforce.

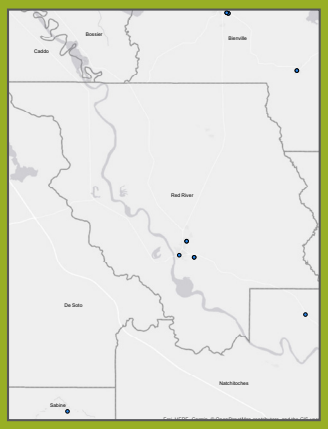
Quality child care costs almost as much as public college tuition in LA.

CRITICAL NEED FOR CHILD CARE: BIRTH TO TWO ACCESS



Percentage reflects the number of children accessing a publicly funded slot compared to the number of low-income children, by age.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AGES **3 OR 4 YEARS OLD**



3 PROGRAMS

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN **AGES 0, 1, OR 2 YEARS OLD**

1 PROGRAM

POLICY TAKEAWAYS

Louisiana must build on the success of our pre-k LA 4 program and invest in children ages birth to 3.

Support for families' access to affordable, quality, and reliable child care for their young children is a win for:

YOUNG CHILDREN
WORKING PARENTS
THE ECONOMY
OUR COMMUNITIES

An interactive map of early care and education programs serving at-risk children age 0-5 can be found on Louisiana Policy Institute for Children's website, **www.policyinstitutela.org**

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