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**STATE FUNDING NEEDED TO INVEST IN LOUISIANA’S CHILDREN**

**PLEASE INVEST IN THE FIRST 1,100 DAYS OF A CHILD’S LIFE**

**EARLY CARE AND CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding to 5,520 children which includes the children on the waiting list (3,270 children as of January 2019) and those who are authorized and eligible for CCAP (2,250 children as of January 2019) but not utilizing CCAP.

Child Care Assistance program is a federal program that provides a scholarship (or tuition reimbursement) for low-income young children who’s parents are either enrolled in school or working full-time.

For early childhood education, the re-engrossed version of House Bill 105 contains **$8.76 million**, which would cover:

**$4 Million** to replace the federal grant funding that is ending for **800 Pre-K slots for 4-year olds.** **This is NOT  where the greatest need is!**  Louisiana is already serving over 90% of our at-risk 4 year olds in Pre-K.

However, Louisiana is serving less than 15% of children birth through age 3

2 out of 3 children this age have both parents or their single parent in the workforce!

HB 105 contains only **$4.6 million** for the **Child Care Assistance Program** (children birth to 3).  This would go to:

Raising reimbursement rates for tuition for current children in the Child Care Assistance Program to respond to the federal corrective action that is threatening the current 15,000 slots in the federal block grant because our rate per child  is so low.

The remaining funds then would serve **only 400 of the 5,500 children**who are authorized and/or on the current **CCAP waitlist awaiting services.** **An additional $31 million is needed for the Child Care Assistance Program to cover the remaining 5,100 children who are authorized and/or on the current CCAP waitlist and desperately need early care and education services in a licensed childcare center. For more information contact Cindy Bishop 225 933-5435**