



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

*Community Foundation of North Louisiana is committed to creating a brighter future for North Louisiana. If you are considering a contribution and have any questions, please contact Kristi Gustavson at 318-221-0582 or [gustavson@cfnla.org](mailto:gustavson@cfnla.org).*

## Why Early Childhood Education?

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, a child's experiences during the earliest years of life have a lasting impact on the architecture of the developing brain. In fact, over 1 million brain connections form in the first few years of life. This is why early learning is crucial to the success of a child.

In recognition of this, the Louisiana Childcare Assistance Program, or CCAP, provides financial assistance to low-income families (while parents are working or attending school) for quality childcare. In the fall of 2019 in Caddo Parish there were 842 children enrolled with 188 on the waiting list. This program results in multiple positive outcomes for the community: Children have a safe place to learn while their parents are able to work or go to school.

Despite this program, according to the most recent Louisiana Department of Education data, 60% of children in both Caddo and Bossier parishes are not kindergarten ready. As statewide funding is limited, the Louisiana Legislature established the Early Childhood Education Fund to provide a match for non-state, non-federal (local, private) funds spent on quality early care. To encourage communities to bring about local solutions, the state fund will provide a dollar-for-dollar match for every local dollar raised.

## About CFNLA's Early Childhood Education Fund

Nobel Prize winning University of Chicago Economics Professor James Heckman's research shows that high-quality, birth-to-five early childhood education provides a return on investment, or ROI, of 13%. Because all children deserve equal access to quality early education and care, CFNLA challenges Caddo Parish citizens and businesses to raise \$900,000 to fund spaces for Caddo children on the CCAP waitlist. If this goal is met, CFNLA will contribute \$100,000 to total \$1 million! All dollars raised will be used to provide scholarships to children to attend privately run early childhood centers\*. This will allow Caddo Parish to leverage state matching dollars, making our ROI even higher!

*\*In order to qualify to receive funding, the early childcare centers must be eligible to receive CCAP funding and, as such, submit to the Louisiana Department of Education quality rating system.*

Please consider a donation to CFNLA's Early Childhood Fund so we can leverage state matching dollars to allow many more children ages 0 to 5 have access to quality early education.

Learn more and give at [cfnla.org/ece](http://cfnla.org/ece).

### HOW TO GIVE

Make a donation online at  
[cfnla.org/ece](http://cfnla.org/ece).

CFNLA also accepts cash,  
checks, and securities.  
Checks made payable to the  
Community Foundation may  
be sent to the address below.