



How Local Governments Can Use SLFR Funds to Benefit Children and Families

What Are SLFR Funds?

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFR) Funds are part of the American Rescue Plan and target resources to state, local, and tribal governments to support response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic. Louisiana parishes, cities, and towns collectively received over \$1.8 billion in federal aid through the SLFR Fund. The U.S. Treasury released the final rule for how localities may use their SLFR funds on January 6, 2022, providing additional guidance and clarification for appropriate uses of funds (final rule [here](#), overview [here](#)).

How Much Funding Did My Parish Receive?

In St. Bernard, the parish received \$9,176,593. These funds provide an opportunity to bolster local communities by funding early care and education initiatives.

How Can My Parish Use SLFR Funding to Support Children and Families?

Funding early care and education is one of the best investments communities can make to help ensure parents remain productive employees, young children learn in a safe environment, and local businesses have a reliable workforce. The SLFR funds may be used in specified eligible use categories, most notably support for COVID-19 economic responses and premium pay for essential workers.

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children’s recent data showed some of the most urgent needs in early care and education are around the need for additional seats and space in child care. Existing providers are often unable to meet family demand due to building capacity limits, and many parents still struggle to easily find reliable, convenient child care near them. SLFR funds provide an opportunity for local governments to address these issues through targeted use of funds that will directly impact young children and their families by making investments to strengthen child care in their communities.

Below are examples of how local governments can use SLFR funds to support children and families in their communities by investing in early care and education.

Possible Uses of SLFR Funds	Local Examples
Support COVID-19 public health and economic response, targeted to those impacted by the pandemic and disproportionately impacted communities	
Facility creation and expansion for child care providers	Seattle, WA
Support for small business startup, development, and expansion	North Las Vegas, NV ; Pierce County, WA ; Lummi Nation ; Louisville-Jefferson County, KY
Grants to small businesses experiencing financial hardship	Cheshire County, NH ; Saline County, KS ; Thurston County, WA
Provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work	
Offer premium pay, supplemental wages, or financial assistance to child care workers earning less than 150% of state average income	Travis County, TX ; Seattle, WA ; New Jersey

Where Can Local Governments Find Additional Resources?

[State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Resource Hub](#), National Association of Counties

[Early Childhood is Critical to Recovery: Utilizing Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Vulnerable Children and Families](#), National League of Cities

[Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - Early Reporting Highlights](#), U.S. Treasury