

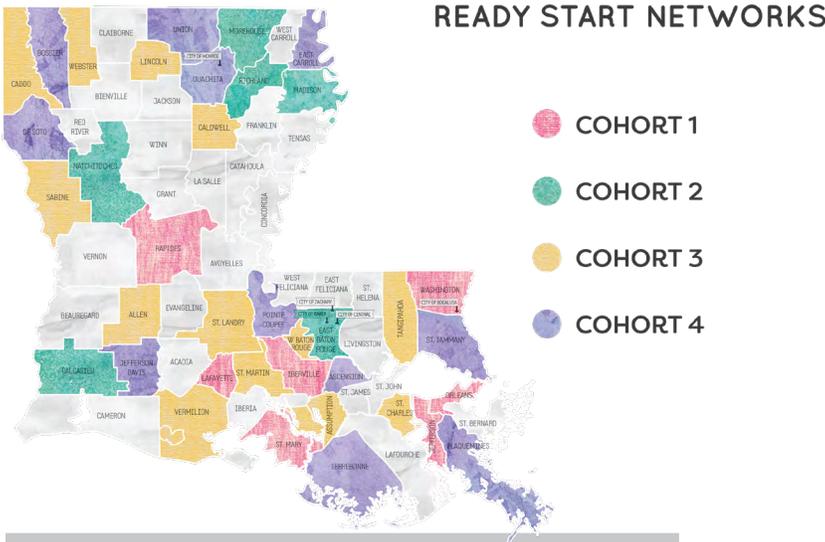
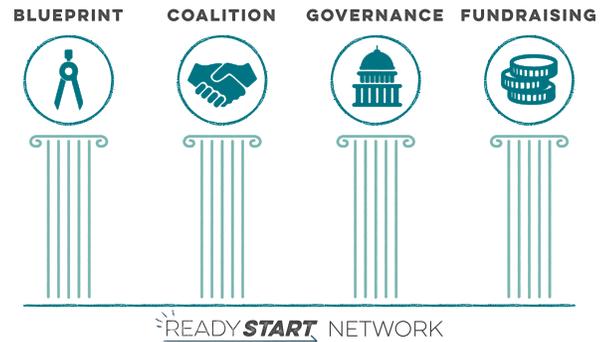
# READY **START** NETWORKS

## WHAT IS A READY START NETWORK?

Ready Start Networks were created by the Louisiana Department of Education and approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to increase access to high-quality early childhood care and education at the local level.

Ready Start Networks' access aims include:

- Assessing local demand for high-quality early care and education
- Developing blueprints, or strategic plans, focused on increasing quality and access within the communities served
- Recruiting and engaging stakeholders as part of local early childhood coalitions that are tasked with increasing community knowledge and awareness of the importance of early care and education
- Establishing and sustaining local advisory councils to lead collaborative decision-making and strategic planning related to community-level early childhood initiatives
- Identifying local funding to support access for high-quality early childhood care and education at the local level



*“Becoming a Ready Start Network helped our team and advisors take an opportunity to take stock on what we were doing well, assess what we needed to improve, ask bigger questions about how to address our City’s early childhood needs, and facilitated a new plan for a brighter future for our City’s youngest learners.”*

- Jen Roberts, Executive Director, New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEN)

*“Having a diversified leadership group that represents the perspectives of local educators, philanthropists, business, advocacy groups, and others is the best way to ensure we can address local needs of local children. Ready Start Networks provide a comprehensive framework to bring these interests together and align their efforts to help ensure strong local support for our earliest learners.”*

- Tony Davis, former BESE member, District 4

## WHAT SUCCESS HAVE READY START NETWORKS HAD IN LOUISIANA?

Since 2019, 37 networks have committed to be part of this unified effort to promote high-quality early care and education and increase access at the local level. Ready Start Networks have increased community awareness of the importance and need for high-quality early childhood care and education, developed strategic plans for quality improvements and access expansion, and maximized the use of early childhood resources to support the communities, early childhood sites, teachers, and children served.

## WHAT’S NEXT FOR READY START NETWORKS?

Ready Start Networks will continue to develop strategic plans and implement new initiatives based on the needs of the communities served. Networks will also incorporate additional initiatives aimed at improving early care and education that are aligned with the Louisiana Department of Education priorities. These initiatives focus on early childhood workforce development, language and emergent literacy development, early identification and intervention services, and increased family engagement.

**WHO TO CONTACT?**  
**EARLYCHILDHOOD @LA.GOV**  
 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE