

Creating a State Plan for ACEs in Louisiana

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Impact of ACEs in Louisiana

- The ACE Study showed that many common experiences can have lifelong physical, social, and emotional impacts.
 - Abuse or neglect
 - Separation or loss of a caregiver for any reason, including incarceration, divorce, or death
 - Unstable, unsafe, or unsupportive environment due to household substance misuse or mental health problems
- Traumatic experiences in early childhood are especially harmful and can profoundly influence brain development.
- Some examples of ACEs-linked challenges:
 - Increased risk of future violence victimization and perpetration
 - Increased risk for 8 out of 10 leading causes of death in the US
 - Increased risk for persistent health problems in Louisiana, such as obesity, STDs, cancer
 - Inhibited achievement & stability (academic achievement, employment, stable housing)

Prevalence of ACEs in Louisiana

- Louisiana ranks 48th amongst all US states in terms of overall child well-being
- 23% of children in Louisiana experienced two or more ACEs (out of 9)
 - National rate = 18.2%
- Among Louisiana children:
 - 9.1% experienced living with someone who had a problem with drugs or alcohol
 - 8.1% experienced living with anyone who was mentally ill, suicidal, or severely depressed
 - 5.6% witnessed domestic violence in the home
 - 13.1% missed school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to/from school

Data from 2018-2019 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) and 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

What a state plan could do for Louisiana

In other states, leaders and advocates have come together to:

- Establish teams dedicated to ACEs prevention and opportunities for healing
- Spur legislative action to support families
- Implement trauma-informed approaches in the public sector
- Identify evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches

What a state plan could do for Louisiana

- Strategy for on-going communication with residents and communities about how ACEs and trauma impact them
- Create frameworks to guide organizational change
- Elevate the expertise of community organizations as a critical resource for families
- Make training and information available in a central information hub
- Create guiding principles for shift to trauma-informed approaches



First Lady Donna Edwards is leading efforts to create a state plan for ACEs prevention in Louisiana through...

Next step: Hearing Directly from Residents and Communities

- A partnership with growth consulting firm will allow for a statewide effort to hear directly from the people of Louisiana
 - Interviews, focus groups and surveys conducted statewide
 - Seeking representation from multiple sectors and every region
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- Benefits
 - *Direct engagement with hundreds of stakeholders across the state*
 - *Specific information about supports service providers need to address ACEs*
 - *Deep dive into landscape of existing efforts and challenges in multiple sectors*
 - *Synthesized results and findings to inform the statewide plan*

In 2022...

- Synthesize results
- Working group to review results and identify focus areas
- Convene advocates and stakeholders to draft a plan
- Share the plan for feedback
- Adopt plan

Engaging Multiple Sectors to Work Together

Preventing ACEs and trauma involves everyone.

- Parents, youth, and young adults
- Youth and community advocates
- Local coalitions and task forces
- First responders, hurricane & crisis response
- Faith-based organizations
- Hospitals & MCOs
- Private businesses
- Early childhood and K-12 education
- State departments and systems
- Service providers
- Subject matter experts (in education, healthcare, research, etc.)
- Justice system & Judiciary
- Training providers

Opening the Door to Support Louisiana's Next Generation

Figure 2: Giving every child the best start in life



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