2027-2028
CFR Working Group

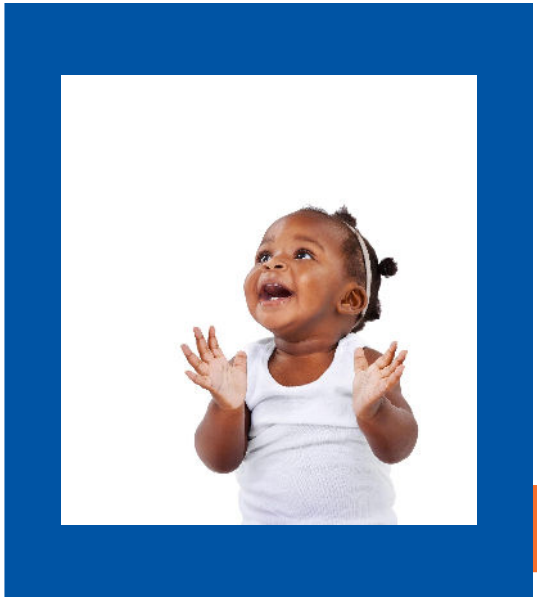
September 1, 2026

NOEEN'S Mission

To ensure an excellent start for every child in New Orleans by strengthening early childhood education and providing families access to high-quality early learning programs that help them realize their dreams for their children.

Welcome!

2027-2028
Coordinated Funding Request
Working Group



Agenda

I. Introductions
II. Working Group Charge
III. 2026-2027 CFR Process Review
IV. Guiding Principles
    - Presentation
    - Development
    - Discussion
V. Next Steps

Introductions

Working Group Charge

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Coordinated Funding Request Working Group Charge

The Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Working Group will help shape the 2027-2028 CFR, ensuring that the process is:

- Responsive
- Impartial
- Transparent

Coordinated Funding Request Working Group Charge

To do this, the Working Group will help develop a set of recommendations that will be delivered to the NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee and Steering Committee.

- The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee will utilize these recommendations as they create the framework for the 2027-2028 CFR process.
- The NOEEN Steering Committee will then review the Working Group's recommendations and approve the 2027-2028 CFR framework created by the NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee.

2026-2027 CFR Process Review

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2026-2027 CFR PROCESS REVIEW: TIMELINE

The Coordinated Funding Request begins each fall for the following program year.

The CFR Process that is being developed now is for the 2027-2028 program year. This process begins by implementing opportunities for providers and stakeholders to provide feedback about the former and upcoming CFR process.

September
- Prior Year CFR Review Process
- CFR Feedback Opportunities
- CFR Process & Application Development Begins

October
- CFR Process & Application Finalized
- CFR Application Released
- Allocation Priorities Development Begins

November
- CFR Applications Due
- Allocation Priorities Finalized & Approved
- CFR Scoring Begins

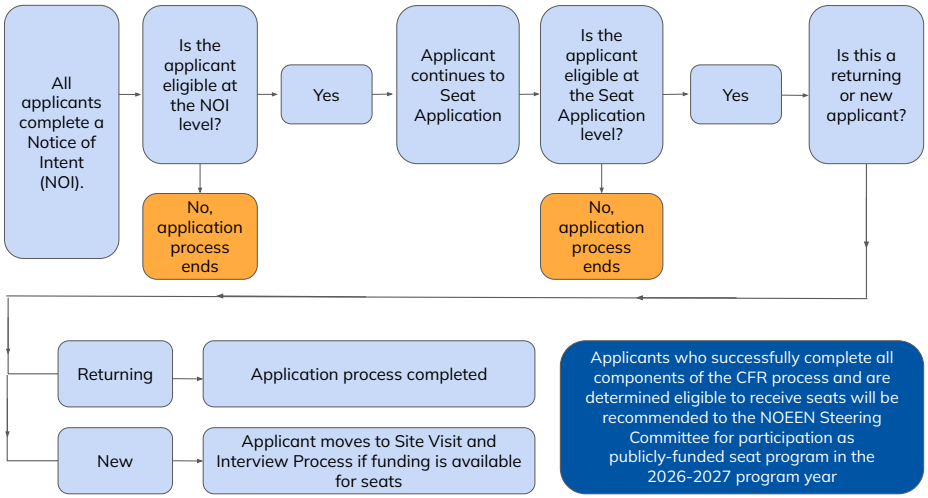
Dec. - Jan.
- CFR Scoring Ends
- CFR Scores Released
- CFR Appeal Period
- Funded Sites Recommended

Feb. - May
- LDOE Reviews Recommended Sites
- BESE releases LA4/NSCED Preliminary Allocations
- Initial ECEF/City Seats Allocation Process Begins

June - July
- BESE Approves Final Allocations
- LDOE Sends Allocation Notices
- Initial Network ECEF/City Seats Allocations Finalized

Final allocations for LA4 and NSECD are contingent upon state funding and approvals. ECEF and City Seats allocations are contingent upon local funding and NOEEN approval.

2026-2027 CFR PROCESS REVIEW: APPLICATION PROCESS MAP



2026-2027 CFR PROCESS REVIEW: SEAT ALLOCATIONS

December 2025
The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee developed and approved a set of Publicly-Funded Seat Allocation Priorities to guide the 2026-2027 CFR process, anticipating that funding may increase, remain stable, or decrease.

June 2026
Funding for the 2026-2027 program year was confirmed. Combined revenue from the Early Childhood Education Millage and the Early Childhood Education Fund came in **$3.6 million below** the prior year's total.

July 2026
The NOEEN Steering Committee reviewed how the established priorities informed seat allocation decisions in response to this year's funding reduction and then approved the 2026-2027 program year ECEF and City Seats sites.

August 2026
The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee reviewed and approved 2026-2027 CFR reallocation strategies for unfilled seats.

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2026-2027 CFR PROCESS REVIEW: THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE PROCESS

The annual CFR process is crucial for a variety of reasons including but not limited to:

Ensuring annual Continuity of Care
Ensuring families and children have care from year to year

Responding to Emergencies and Closures
Being able to respond to unanticipated changes in access for children and families

Providing Community Wide Provider Stability
Continuing funding for participating sites while considering the viability of adding additional sites

Anticipating funding changes
Preparing for varying realities regarding the amount of funding available for early childhood access

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2026-2027 CFR PROCESS REVIEW: CURRENT FUNDING REALITIES

In October 2025, Leaders for a Better Louisiana published findings from Projecting the Future of Louisiana's Early Childhood Education Fund, a study that examined ECEF funding availability in future years.

This study found that:

- Current revenue sources are limited, providing little room for serving more children
  - The gap between revenues and expenditures is anticipated to grow as more communities raise matching dollars and local interest continues to grow
- The Early Childhood Education Fund is projected to run out in 2-4 years
  - If ECE Fund student enrollment grows by 10% each year, the funds run out in two years, by 2027-2028
  - If enrollment remains flat, the ECE Fund would run out in four years, closer to 2029-2030

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CFR Guiding Principles

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Responsive

CFR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: OVERVIEW

The Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Working Group will help shape the 2027-2028 CFR while considering current funding realities.

We would like your feedback on how we can ensure that the process continues to be:

- Responsive
- Impartial
- Transparent

for providers, families, and children.

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CFR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: RESPONSIVE

The 2026-2027 CFR Process included multiple opportunities for providers and stakeholders to provide feedback regarding the current CFR process as well as provide recommendations for the upcoming process.

These opportunities included but were not limited to the following:

- CFR Listening Session
- CFR Feedback Survey
- CFR Working Group
- Public Comment at NOEEN Meetings

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CFR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: RESPONSIVE

Input from these feedback and suggestion activities were utilized when developing the 2026-2027 CFR Process. Process implemented included but were not limited to the following:

- Simplifying the application process, including:
  - The integration of a Notice of Intent
  - Decreasing the application and scoring indicators and items
  - Removing site visits and environments evaluations for currently participating/returning provider applicants
  - Differentiating the process returning providers and new providers
- Shifting the application to focus on those things that matter most for children and families, including:
  - Adding additional quality indicators such as classroom performance profile score, teacher qualifications and training, teacher curriculum training, staffing plans, and family engagement activities.
- Adjusting the review process, including:
  - Using the same application review teams for multisite locations
  - Implementing an appeals process

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CFR Guiding Principles

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Impartial

CFR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: IMPARTIAL

The 2026-2027 CFR Process used multiple strategies to ensure that the process was as impartial as possible. Several of these strategies were also informed by provider and stakeholder feedback.

These strategies included but were not limited to the following:

- The development of allocation priorities was conducted prior to CFR application scoring
- Improved scoring practices including
  - the use of an experienced, knowledgeable, and impartial scoring team
  - an interrater review process inclusive of double coding and multi-site scoring
  - procedures to eliminate Conflicts of Interest (COIs)
- The implementation of an appeals and feedback request process

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CFR Guiding Principles

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Transparent

CFR GUIDING PRINCIPLES: TRANSPARENT

The 2026-2027 CFR Process used multiple strategies to ensure that the process was transparent throughout the annual timeline.

These strategies included but were not limited to regularly sharing information about the CFR process through:

- Newsletters
- Webinars
- Application Webinar
- Office Hours
- Individual Meetings
- NOEEN Subcommittee and Steering Committee Meetings

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Next Steps

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WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS: NEXT STEPS

Information from the suggestions that the Working Group presented via the chart paper and discussion will be recorded, formatted into recommendations, and presented to the NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee and Steering Committee in September.

- The NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee will utilize these recommendations as they create the framework for the 2027-2028 CFR process.

- The NOEEN Steering Committee will review the Working Group's recommendations and approve the 2027-2028 CFR framework created by the NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee.

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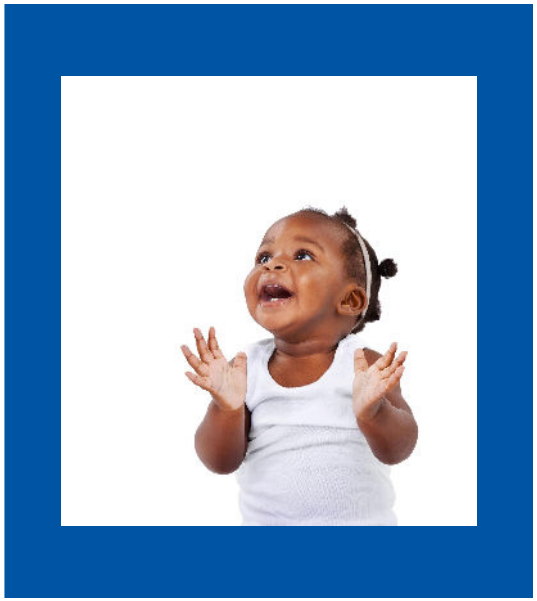
Thank You!

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