



# ELLEVATE

## LOUISIANA

### *2024 Policy Positions*

#### ***Behavioral Health***

Ellevate Louisiana supports the establishment of holistic Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics & funding for youth services & statewide crisis stabilization.

#### ***Child Abuse/Neglect and Foster Parents***

Ellevate Louisiana supports DCFS & LDH in the implementation of the Whole Health Louisiana State Plan, the DCFS Secretary's efforts to make reforms within the agency aimed at increasing the number of foster homes within the state & efforts at improvement in communication between DCFS, Foster Families & Louisiana's Child Ombudsman.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

Ellevate Louisiana requests the continuation of the 2023 funding (\$7M) for domestic violence victims & requests additional funding for mental health & trauma-informed care for those that have suffered the effects of domestic violence.

#### ***Long-Term Care***

Ellevate Louisiana supports the use of \$2.7m of the Community Options Waiver Fund to provide new home & community-based supports for our senior citizens.

#### ***Increasing Medicaid Rates***

Ellevate Louisiana supports the updating of Medicaid reimbursement rates. Some of these rates have not been adjusted in over a decade, resulting in inadequate reimbursements to healthcare providers, a shortage of participating providers & a lack of access to care. A healthy population supports a vision of a productive Louisiana.



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### ***Early Childhood Care and Education***

Ellevate Louisiana continues to support the proposed \$87 million for Early Childhood Education funding in HB1 & requests recurring appropriations into the Early Care & Education Fund. Ellevate also supports legislation to create a public, user-friendly data dashboard for early care & education in Louisiana. We consider both to be of urgent importance to families, to growing our workforce & to the futures of our youngest citizens.

### ***Workforce Shortages***

Ellevate Louisiana supports efforts to alleviate workforce shortages in our state arising primarily from low workforce participation rates, through apprenticeships, workforce development & K-12 career readiness programs such as Dual Enrollment & Apprenticeships. This support includes expanded funding for the MJ Foster Promise Program as well as additional funding to maximize access to Dual Enrollment.

Furthermore, Ellevate supports efforts by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to centralize the delivery of business workforce solutions through collaborative partnerships among the various workforce & educational agencies of the state, including Board of Regents, LCTCS, LED, the Dept of Education, Dept of Public Safety & Corrections, & DCFS.

### ***Higher Education***

Our system of Higher Education underpins all our workforce development efforts. As our state nears its budgetary fiscal cliff in 2025, we believe that it is of utmost importance that funding for Higher Education remains stable with room to grow to support our workforce needs & the goals of Pathway to 2030 put forth by the Board of Regents.



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### ***LED Reorganization***

Ellevate Louisiana supports the proposed reorganization of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. Modernizing our economic development efforts around a private-sector-led model that is rooted in strategic planning, paired with a more streamlined procurement process, should provide LED greater stability between election cycles, an increased focus on strategic thinking & the flexibility to be more responsive to businesses looking to call Louisiana home.

### ***Restructuring of DENR & CPRA***

Ellevate Louisiana has concerns about the speed at which the legislature & administration are moving to restructure DENR (formerly DNR) & CPRA. It is of utmost importance to preserve & enhance the scientific rigor of those institutions so that we are strong stewards of the natural environment that we inhabit.

### ***Abandoned Wells***

Louisiana currently enjoys a federal grant to help clean up a portion of the 4,500 abandoned wells on its lands and in its waters. There is an opportunity for additional grants in the future, however, that funding will be tied to measuring methane emissions from, & water quality around, the abandoned wells. The state should work conscientiously within the confines of that program to remediate wells that already exist & concentrate on preventing future abandonment.

### ***Coastal Land Loss***

Louisiana's coast is disappearing at alarming rates. The state is fighting a constant battle to restore its coast & is anticipating a fiscal cliff due to the projected depletion of the BP Oil Spill money in 2032. It is crucial that the state maintain scientific rigor in this important work & plan for the coastal cliff in 2032. Ellevate Louisiana ardently believes that the CPRA should remain a single state entity with authority over Louisiana's coastline. Furthermore, we believe that a portion of every surplus should continue to be appropriated to coastal efforts for as long as there are surpluses. Beyond that point, it is imperative that we identify new funding sources to replace BP Oil Spill funds when they are ex to ide.