

## U.S. PROGRAMS

# Investing in Childhood: Louisiana

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation’s most underserved children have the best chance for success. Every day, we help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And we advocate to ensure American children’s voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share.

Save the Children began working with Louisiana communities in 2005 in response to Hurricane Katrina. Since then, thanks to the support of our generous donors, we have responded to additional emergencies, implemented long-term emergency preparedness and recovery programs focused on children and introduced our evidence-based early education programming in the state. In 2012, we also began operating Head Start programs in Louisiana, through which we now serve more than 1,000 children.

### EVERY DAY

Save the Children’s Early Steps to School Success program assists babies and young children with language, social and emotional development; equips parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child’s growth; and develops strong home-school connections. The program can begin when moms are pregnant and it follows infants and toddlers through age 5.

We also bring our early childhood expertise to managing the federal Head Start program in underserved communities. Aimed at promoting school readiness and social and emotional development for children from low-income families, Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve children from birth through age 5. Our services include a mix of



high-quality classroom programs and home visiting, as well as comprehensive family services.

**Results:** In 2014-2015 in Louisiana, 100 percent of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps to School Success program scored at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition.

### IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Save the Children’s Get Ready Get Safe initiative helps communities prepare to protect their kids before, during and after a disaster. We respond directly to disaster-affected communities, working to address unmet needs of children. We also support the child care community by providing recovery assistance, as well as emergency preparedness. In addition, we offer long-term resiliency support to children and caregivers through our emotional support program, Journey of Hope.

**Results:** Since 2005, we’ve helped more than 1,000,000 U.S. children in crisis through our emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs.

**Thanks to our dedicated supporters, little ones like Kamvy, age 2, receive the critical care and support they need when crisis strikes.**



## WHERE WE WORK

SITES	Children Served	Early Steps	Head Start
<b>JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH</b>	182		
Jeff Davis Head Start			•
<b>RAPIDES PARISH</b>	832		
Rapides Parish Head Start			•
<b>WASHINGTON PARISH</b>	50		
Wesley Ray Elementary		•	

*We watch learning happen every day for children in our early education programs.*

## FOR OUR FUTURE

We advocate for initiatives and legislation at the state and national levels that promote children’s well-being and resiliency, including the necessity of quality early education programs, funding for underserved school districts, and child care emergency preparedness.

**Results:** Since 2010, Save the Children has achieved policy change in 37 states and the District of Columbia, benefitting 57,000,000 American children.

### CHILD POVERTY IN LOUISIANA

- 28% of children live in poverty.<sup>1</sup>
- 67% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals – a socioeconomic challenge recognized as a barrier to student achievement.<sup>2</sup>
- 57% of 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families are not enrolled in pre-school/nursery school programs.<sup>3</sup>
- 77% of fourth graders scored below proficient in reading achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.<sup>4</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> 2011-2012. National Center for Education Statistics.

<sup>3</sup> 2011-2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>5</sup> 2011-2012. National Survey of Children’s Health.