



Policy on Acceptance of Professional Organizations

- A professional organization is usually a nonprofit organization which, by definition, is organized for purposes **other than** generating profit and in which no part of the organization's income is distributed to its members, directors or officers.
- Nonprofit organizations are usually governed by a board of directors which receives no compensation for its service and the members of which serve primarily as consultants on an occasional basis but do not participate in the day-to-day operations of the organization.
- Most nonprofits would qualify as 501©(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code, which legitimizes their status as the type of nonprofit organizations that would qualify as a professional organization for the purposes of Louisiana Pathways.
- Organizations accepted as Professional Organizations by Louisiana Pathways are 501©(3) organizations who provide support and advocacy for the early childhood profession. 501©(3) status is a primary consideration; however it is not the only factor. Some 501©(3) organizations, such as Resource and Referral Agencies are training agencies whose primary purpose is to provide training and technical assistance. These training agencies are not considered as professional organizations since their primary focus is not advocacy and support.
- To be accepted, the organization must be specific to the field of early care and education.
- Some commonly accepted early childhood professional organizations:
 - Louisiana Early Childhood Association (LAECA)
 - Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA)
 - Louisiana Association for the Education of Young Children (LAEYC)
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - Louisiana Head Start Association
 - National Head Start Association
 - Child Care Association of Louisiana (CCAL)
 - National Child Care Association
 - National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)
 - National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Other agencies wishing to be considered as a professional organization must submit documentation that they meet the above criteria.