

# Louisiana ACE Educator Program

## About the Program

The LA ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) Educator Program was created through a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals' Bureau of Family Health and the Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, with the support of the Louisiana ACE Initiative. The Louisiana ACE Initiative is a network of child-focused organizations dedicated to create common understanding of ACEs within Louisiana communities and child- and family-serving workforces.

The ACE Educator Program seeks to build community awareness around ACEs, trauma, and resilience science across the state via a robust and well-informed network of trained educators. This work is part of a larger effort to develop policies and practices that are informed by an understanding of the lifelong impact of childhood adversity and trauma.

## Why ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the term given to describe all types of abuse, neglect, and other traumatic childhood experiences. The landmark Kaiser ACE Study links the short and long term effects of these experiences to many lifelong health and social problems. The scope of the ACE Study, combined with its health and economic implications, make it an ideal starting point for collaborative efforts between diverse people, organizations, and service sectors working to improve health and well-being at every age.

| How does it work?  |  |
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| ➤ <b>We provide training for small cohorts of ACE Educators.</b>         | We use the ACE Interface strategic training approach developed by Dr. Robert Anda, co-principal researcher of the ACE study, and Laura Porter, the Director of ACE Partnerships in Washington State.                                 |
| ➤ <b>Our trained ACE Educators provide presentations to communities.</b> | Our presentation materials have been vetted by experts in the field and are designed to effectively teach audiences across the state about the impact of childhood trauma and promote open, ongoing conversation about these issues. |

## Who are the ACE Educators?

The first cohort of ACE Educators includes 28 Louisiana professionals from a range of sectors including juvenile justice, education, social work, child welfare, and health. They are available for presentations in every region of the state.

## For More Information

To schedule a presentation or connect with an Educator near you, contact Ana Bales, Project Coordinator, at (504) 568-7706 or [Ana.Bales@la.gov](mailto:Ana.Bales@la.gov).