



NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations November 29, 2016



Agenda

- I. Coordinated Funding Process Overview
- II. Review of Citywide Needs Data
- III. Consider specific Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations

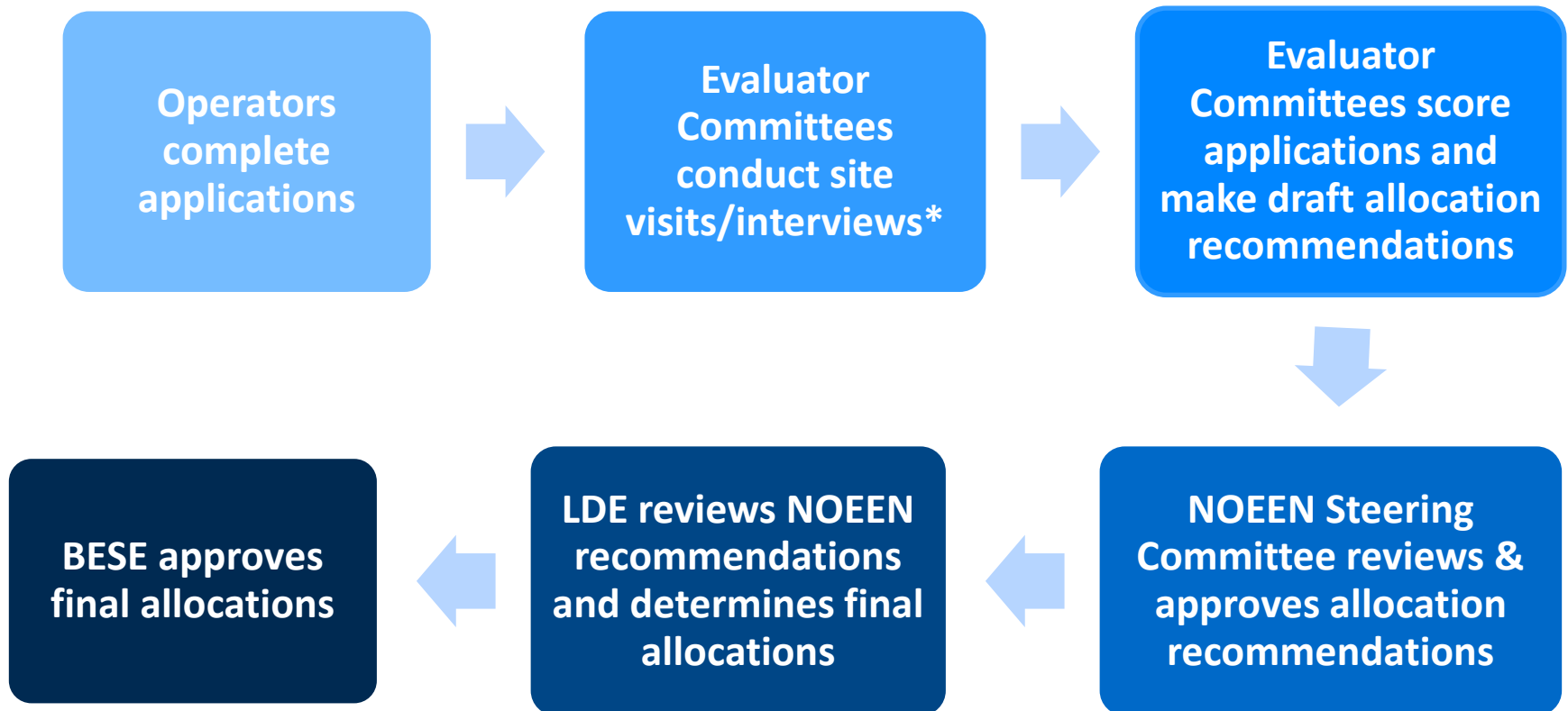
A Unified Approach

BESE Bulletin 140 requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to work with each Lead Agency to unify funding requests from each provider in the network for “seats” in state-funded early childhood programs (LA4, NSECD, and Preschool Expansion Grant) into a single, annual “coordinated funding request.”

The goal of NOEEN’s 2016-17 Coordinated Funding Request is to ensure that the limited number of publicly-funded early childhood seats are allocated to those programs that:

- ◆ Meet families’ needs;
- ◆ Are high quality; and
- ◆ Are in high demand by parents.

CFR Process Overview



*Site visits conducted for programs that are eligible to apply and do not currently have EnrollNOLA data for LA 4, NSECD, or PEG seats.

Overview of CFR Requests

Funding Source	Programs Requests	2016-17 Seats	# of <u>Existing</u> Seats Requested	# of <u>New</u> Seats Requested	Total # of Seats Requested
LA 4	37 schools, 3 partnerships	1,640	1,607 (decrease by 33)	+100	1,707
NSECD	11 nonpublic schools, 9 centers	542	536 (decrease by 6)	+120	656
PEG	9 partnerships, 10 centers	230	220 (decrease by 10)	+200 (centers only)	420
TOTALS		2,412	2,363 (decrease by 49)	+420	2,783 (+ 371)

Scoring & Evaluation Committees

Each application was scored based on rubrics included in the application materials.

LA4 & NSECD		
Quality 50%	Parent Demand* 50%	Meeting Families' Needs Bonus Points

*Based on EnrollNOLA data. For applicants that did not have EnrollNOLA data, information based on a site visit was considered instead.

Scoring & site visits were conducted by Evaluator Committees comprised of staff with expertise in each of the three early childhood settings participating in the CFR process.

Evaluator Committees		
Public School Applications	Nonpublic School Applications	Center Applications
1 RSD staff, 1 OPSB staff	1 La. Dept. of Ed. Staff	2 Agenda staff

Agenda for Children made the final decision to recommend keeping all current PEG classrooms because all partnerships decided to continue in the 2017-2018 school year. Centers that applied for the Preschool Expansion Grant without a confirmed school partner were not considered.

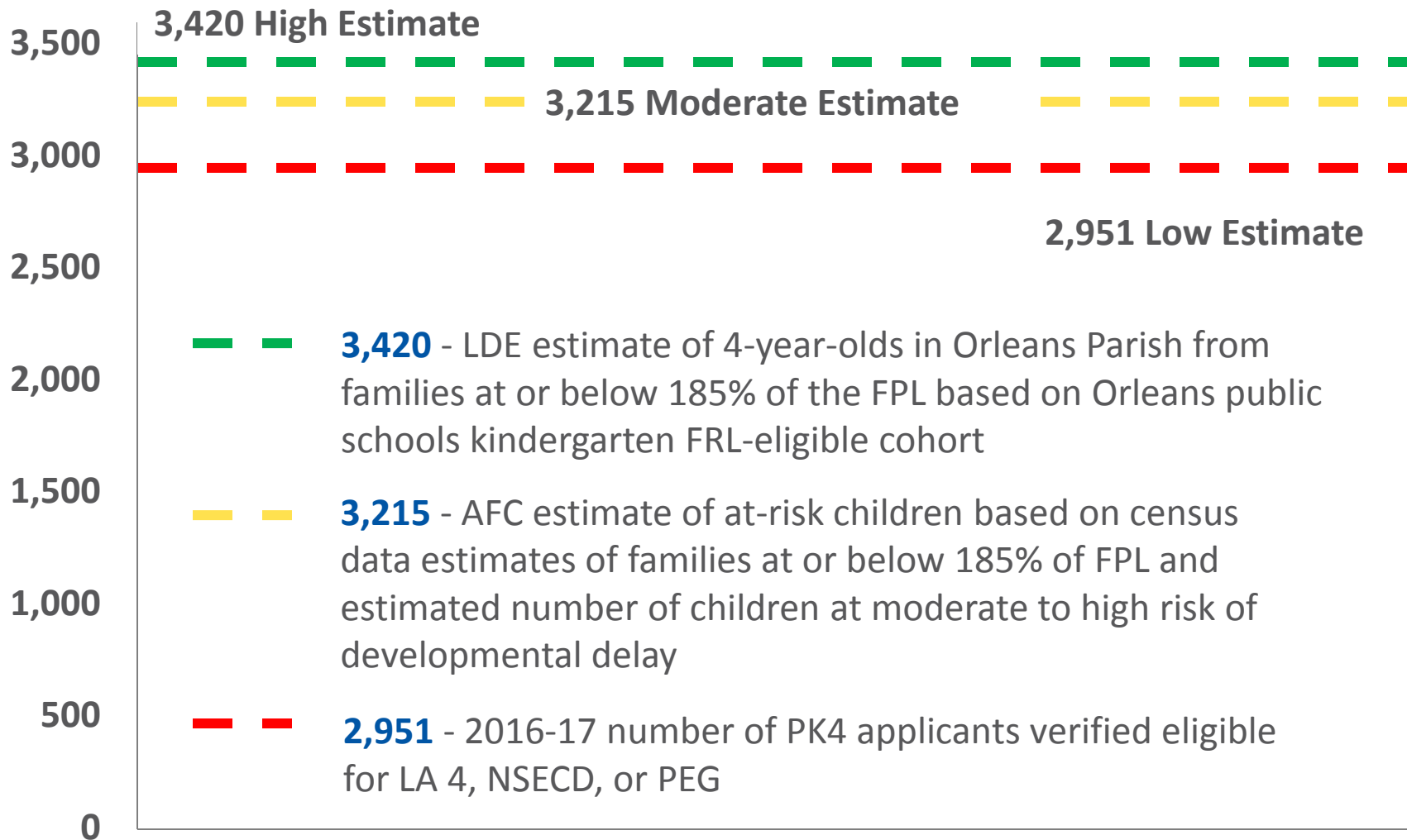
Timeline

Date	Action
Sept. 27	NOEEN Steering Committee considers approval of CFR process
Oct. 4	Agenda releases CFR application
Oct. 11	Agenda conducts CFR process webinar for all operators
Oct. 28	CFR applications due
Nov. 1-11	Evaluators score CFR applications and conduct site visits/interviews
Nov. 14	Evaluator Committees deliberate to make draft CFR allocation recommendations
Nov. 18	Agenda publicly posts draft CFR allocation recommendations
Nov. 29	NOEEN Steering Committee considers approval of Evaluator Committees preliminary CFR allocation recommendations
Dec. 1	Agenda submits NOEEN-approved CFR allocation recommendations to LDE
Jan. 17	BESE considers approval of final LDE CFR allocations

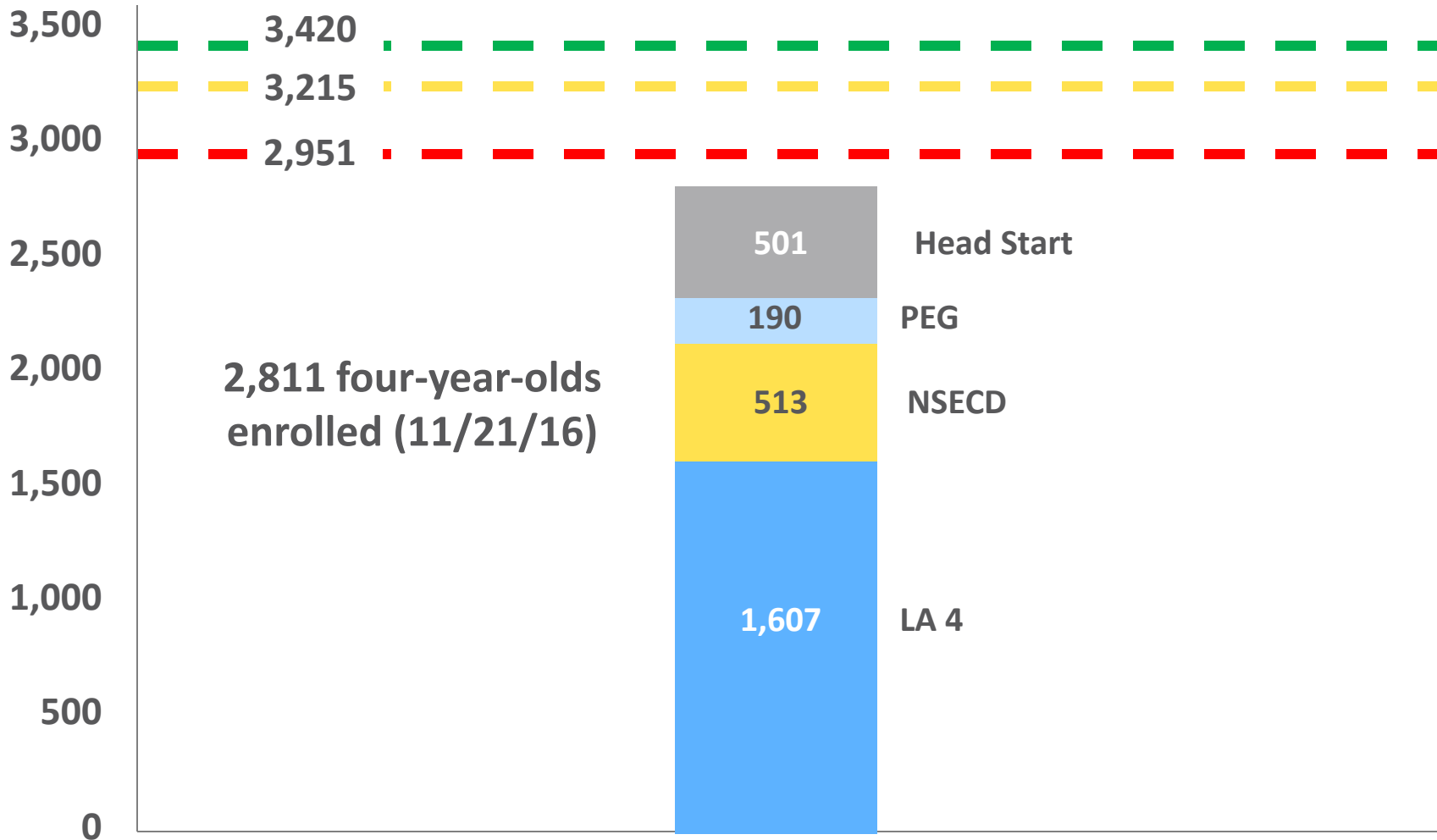
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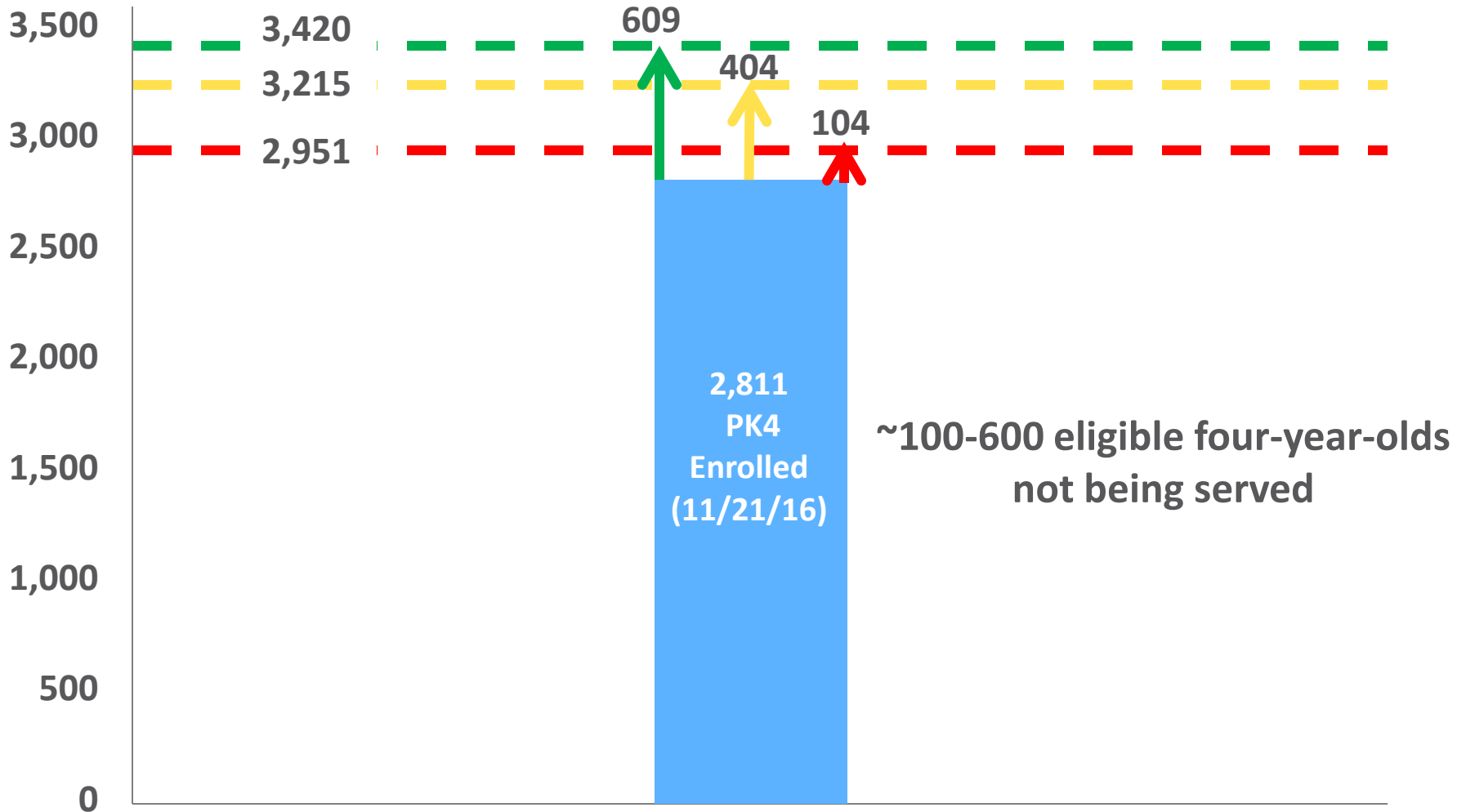
How Many Free PK4 Seats Do We Need to Serve All At-Risk Children?



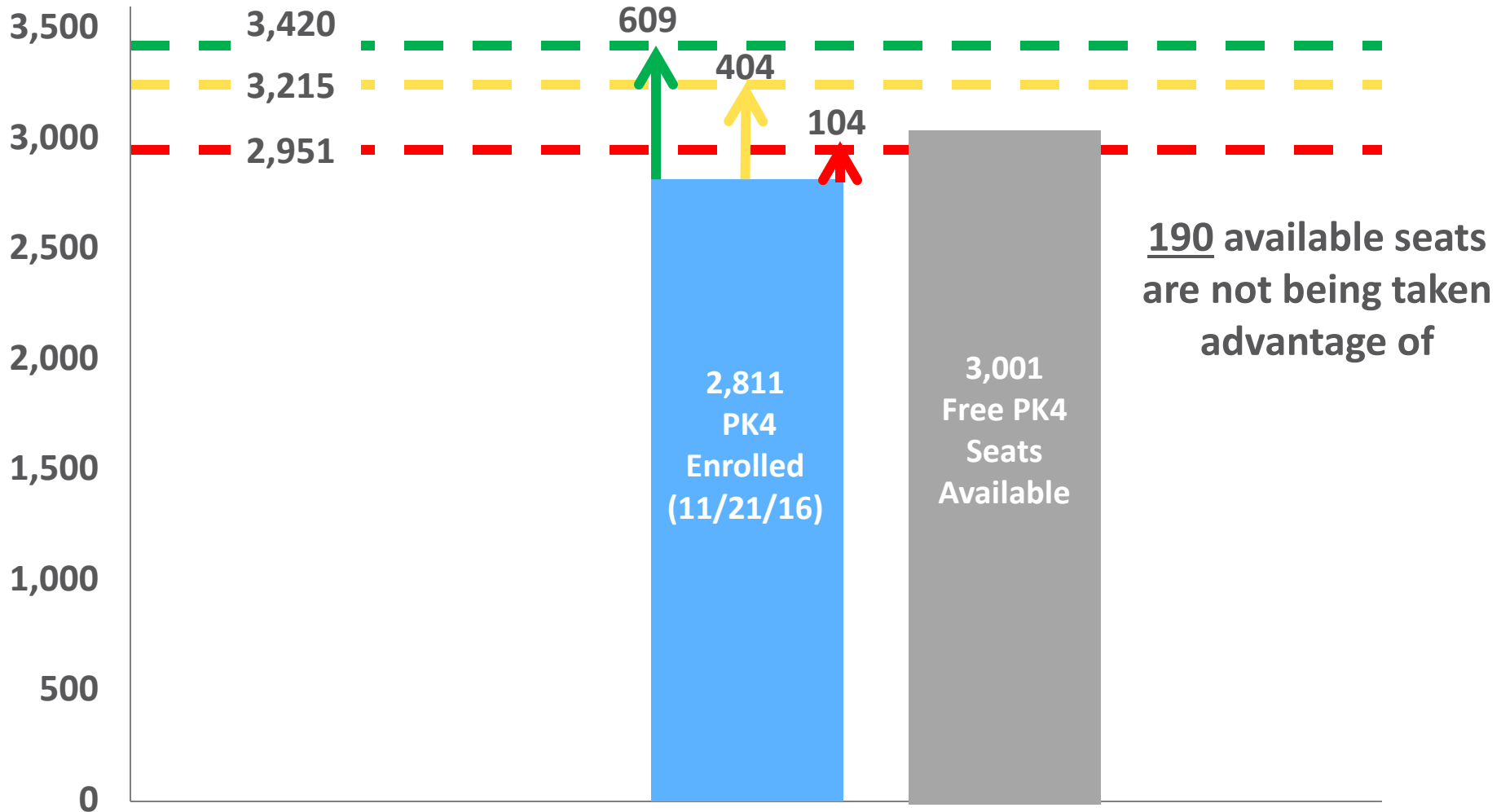
How Many Free PK4 Seats Are Families Taking Advantage of?



How Many Eligible Four-Year-Olds Are Not Being Served?



Children Enrolled v. Available Seats



Why the Discrepancy?

If there are an estimated 3,000-3,400 four-year-olds in New Orleans eligible for a free PK4 seat, why are only ~2,800 currently taking advantage of this?

Possible reasons:

- **Awareness:** Some eligible families are not aware of opportunity for free pre-K
- **Hidden costs of assigned program are too high for some families** (program is in an inconvenient location; having to transport child to/from program; cost of before/after-care, etc.)
- **Family Preferences:** Families who are unable to get a program they highly preferred are instead choosing no care or paid care over a free seat in a program they do not want. *There's a mismatch between where parents want to send their children and where seats are available.*
- **Some over-income children with developmental delays are not being identified.**
- **Verification Obstacles:** Some families are unable to meet procedural requirements of enrolling in a program (verification paperwork, travel to FRC or Head Start center during work hours, parents with literacy challenges may find the process difficult, etc.)

How Should this Data Inform the Coordinated Funding Request?

This data highlights an important tension that NOEEN needs to keep in mind when planning for the coordinated funding request:

Serving all eligible four-year-olds



~3,000-3,400 seats



May result in some empty seats not being taken advantage of



Under-enrolled classrooms; programs operating at a financial loss; closing classrooms mid-year; laying off staff

v. Filling all publicly-funded PK4 seats



Max. 2,900 seats



Would mean giving up existing publicly-funded seats



Closing existing classrooms for next year and having to turn away any additional eligible four-year-olds

Achieving the Right Balance

Given these two extremes, we recommend that NOEEN attempt to strike a balance by:

- requesting from LDE a very small increase in publicly funded seats for 2017-18 in programs & program types where demand outstripped supply, and
- more aggressively helping to fill PK4 seats.

Funding Source	2016-17 Available Seats	2017-18 NOEEN Recommendation	Change (16-17 to 17-18)
LA 4	1,640	1,687	+47
NSECD	542	556	+14
PEG	230	220	-10
Head Start	589	(assuming) 589	(assuming) 0
TOTALS	3,001	3,052	+51

Rationale for Requested Additional Seats

- The amount of seats requested-**3,052**-is still at the conservative end of the range of total needed seats to serve all eligible PK4 seats (~2,900-3,400).
- We expect an increase in eligible families applying for free PK4 seats for 16-17 due to increased awareness and familiarity with the process.
- Some Head Start programs may decrease the number of PK4 Head Start seats available for 2017-18 to serve more PK3 children.
- This year, ~60 PK4 children who live outside of Orleans Parish are enrolled in NSECD or Type 2 charter school LA 4 programs; with 580 seats currently available to out-of-parish families, although not expected, *it is possible* more out-of-parish families may take advantage of these seats next year
- During Round 2 last year, some eligible families applied for a free seat through EnrollNOLA while simultaneously committing (via deposit) to a paid program to meet that program's deadline; with no Round 2 this year, families will be able to immediately select and enroll in a free program in May and June
- Only those programs with a good chance of filling (based on EnrollNOLA data and neighborhood need) are being recommended for increased seats

What Else Can Be Done to Help Fill Seats?

- EnrollNOLA, NOEEN, and Head Start providers work together to help set and review enrollment targets for Head Start PK3 and PK4 seats to ensure alignment with striking the right balance between serving all eligible PK4 children and filling classrooms
- Agenda increases support to existing PEG centers to recruit eligible children to apply to those classrooms
- If a current PEG center voluntarily drops a classroom before the fall and PEG seats are “freed” up, AFC will either return those seats to LDE or transfer them to a center or school that has reliable data to demonstrate that they can fill all the seats
- Agenda, EnrollNOLA, and providers determine new ways to collaborate to reach more eligible families to make them aware of enrollment process and program options
- Agenda and providers work with EnrollNOLA to implement the coordinated enrollment changes approved by the NOEEN Steering Committee at the last meeting to help improve the coordinated enrollment process for families
- Additional recommendations?

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Approvals to Consider

- Recommendations for NSECD Nonpublic Schools
- Recommendations for NSECD Centers
- Recommendations for LA 4:
 - ✦ Preferred Recommendation
 - ✦ Backup Recommendation
- Recommendations for Preschool Expansion Grant