

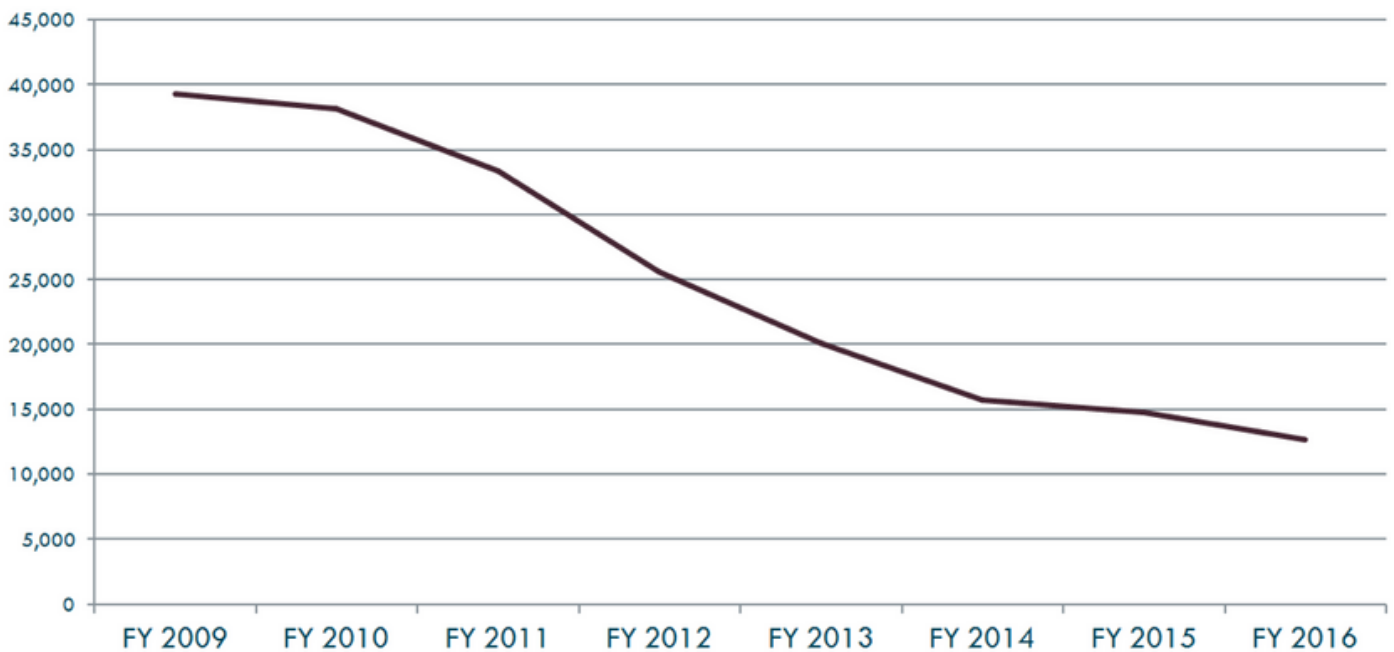
Louisiana’s decision to pass a series of massive income-tax cuts in 2007 and 2008 helped create a series of chronic budget shortfalls. Recent, temporary increases in the state sales tax have not fixed the problem. A reformed tax structure needs to raise enough money to end the cycle of budget shortfalls and begin reinvesting in education, infrastructure and safety-net services that make families stronger.

Louisiana can build a strong foundation for economic growth and promote jobs that enable people to do more than just make ends meet.

In a time of slow economic growth, public investments are more critical than ever to grease the gears of the economy and to spur innovation. For example, public investment in education, transportation and public safety -- services that businesses rely on heavily -- can improve long-term economic growth and job quality. But these investments have lagged in recent years due to budget constraints.

Louisiana needs an adequate tax structure that allows us to reinvest in education: from early care and education to higher education.

Number of children enrolled in Louisiana's Child Care Assistance Program has fallen sharply



Source: Louisiana Department of Education via Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

