

# WFS Capital Area and Austin Public Health COVID-19 PPE Distribution

In partnership with Austin Public Health, we are pleased to distribute the following items at no cost to early learning programs on Friday, March 4th and Saturday, March 5th.

- COVID-19 Rapid Tests
- Gloves
- PPE Supply Kits
- Bottled water for child care emergency supply kits
- WIC Nutrition Education Incentive Kits

Time slots for pick-up are still available! Please register through our Eventbrite page by the end of the day Friday, February 25th!



Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wfs-ppe-supply-distribution-with-austin-public-health-tickets-269148599707?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



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# Early Learning Program Updates

- COVID and Weather Closures - If you have to close due to Covid or bad weather, please be sure to let us know. Please send your license number, closure and anticipated reopening dates, and who is effected (whole school, certain classrooms, # of children).
- Reporting Absences - All programs are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences. Please connect with parents and encourage regular attendance.  
[https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/providers\\_submit\\_excessive\\_absences](https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/providers_submit_excessive_absences)
- Supplemental Payments - December 2021, TWC continued the 20% Supplemental Payments that stated during COVID. The Retroactive supplemental payment for October, November and most of December was posted at the end of January. Only applies to families funded by TWC (excludes COC and EW)



## 5 Day Consecutive Absences Report

Provider Name \*

License Number \*

Name of Person Submitting Form \*

First Name

Last Name

Email Address \*

Phone Number \*



# Child Care for Service Industry Recovery: Enrollment Ending Soon!

- TWC approved funding to provide 12 months of childcare for Service Industry Recovery in the following categories:
  - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (such as actors, amusement and recreation attendants, fitness trainers, musicians and singers, etc.)
  - Accommodation and Food Service (such as hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks, waiters and waitresses, food preparation, chefs, etc.)
  - Retail Trade (such as cashiers, customer service representative, retail sales workers, stock clerks, etc.)
- Families must live in Travis County, meet the income guidelines, and have at least one parent working in a category above. Enrollment for this program will end in March.

Maximum Gross (Pre-Tax) Income to Participate	
Household Size	Yearly Income
2	\$43,549
3	\$53,796
4	\$64,043
5	\$74,290
6	\$84,537
7	\$86,458
8	\$88,380

# Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)

- Workforce Solutions recently received funding from the City of Austin and CDBG to provide child care for children of Essential Workers in the following categories:
  - Child care Industry (teachers, caregivers, etc.)
  - Education (teachers, support staff, bus drivers, etc.)
  - Pharmacy and Healthcare Workers
  - First Responders
  - Critical Infrastructure (Grocery, Utilities, Trucking, etc.)
  - Other Infrastructure Workers (State and Local Government, Mail/Deliver Services, Banking, Gas Stations, Military, Restaurant and other Food Delivery, etc.)
- Families must live in Austin Full Purpose, meet the income guidelines, and have at least one parent working in a category above.
- Families must select a TRS quality rated center with this program.
- Providers are asked to provide true attendance for any child enrolled in this program.

Maximum Gross (Pre-Tax) Income to Participate	
Household Size	Yearly Income
2	\$63,300
3	\$71,200
4	\$79,100
5	\$85,450
6	\$91,800
7	\$98,100
8	\$104,450

# Child Care Relief Fund 2022- Application Process

To help Texas child care businesses recover from the pandemic, the Texas Workforce Commission is making more Child Care Relief Funds (CCRF) available—about three times more than what was available in 2021.

TWC will email invitations to apply to the email address on file with CCR in early 2022. There will be a technical assistance team to assist with the next round of funding and will be able to answer questions and provide specific guidance.

[CCReliefFunds@trelliscompany.org](mailto:CCReliefFunds@trelliscompany.org)



- The person applying for the CCRF must be a person identified as a controlling person with CCR
- A separate application must be submitted for each location
- TWC will accept applications until May 31, 2022

## Prepare to apply:

**Step 1: Verify information with Child Care Regulation**

**Step 2: Gather receipts and documentation**

**Step 3: Consider a game plan for utilizing funds**



Estimate your award amount here:  
[www.childcare.texas.gov/2022-ccrf-calculator](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/2022-ccrf-calculator)



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# T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships Available!

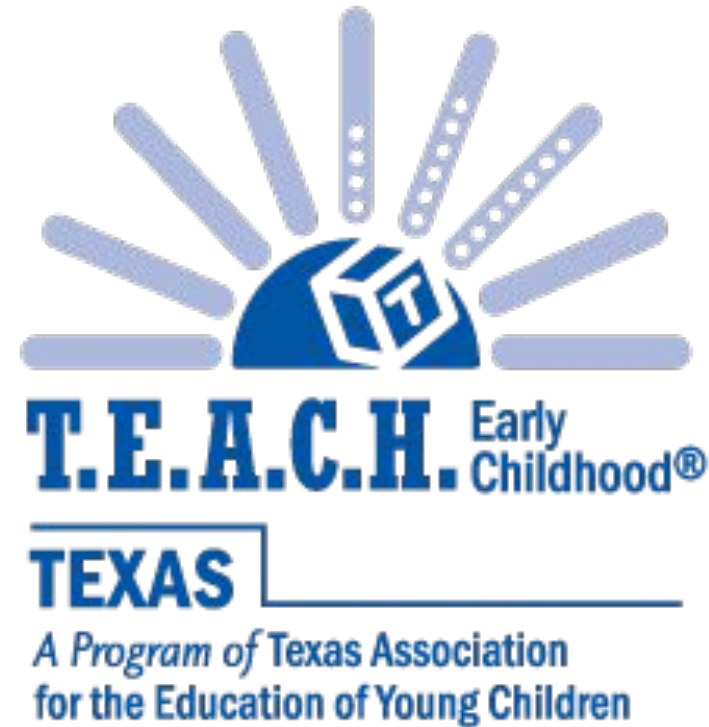
Are you or your staff looking to earn your credential or degree?  
It's more possible than ever!

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas is a comprehensive scholarship model designed to retain early childhood professionals through increasing their education and compensation. Their scholarships utilize a cost-sharing model that creates a partnership between the scholarship recipient, their employer, and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas.

## Eligibility Criteria:

- High School Diploma or GED
- Earn less than \$20 per hour
- Employed at least 30 hours/week at a licensed child care center OR licensed or registered family child care home **located within the City of Austin and Travis County.**

To learn more about the program, please visit their website or email [teach@texasaeyc.org](mailto:teach@texasaeyc.org) and please indicate you are a City of Austin-Travis County provider in your email.



<https://www.texasaeyc.org/programs/teach>

# Quality Initiatives



- Training Opportunities Posted
  - 2021-22 Training Calendar posted on our Website ([www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com))
  - Upcoming Trainings posted through March for registration including:
    - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
    - Supporting Children with Sensory Processing Issues (March 5th, In-Person)
- Jeanette Watson Wage Supplement Project
  - Applications and Paperwork are now being accepted!
  - Introduction letter, application, and application checklist are available on our website under the For Providers section
  - Paperwork due Friday 3/4/22
- Texas Rising Star Programs
  - Please join us at our monthly TRS Director Meetings on the first Thursday of the month from 12-2pm or 6-8pm.
  - Our next TRS Director Meetings will be on March 3rd.
  - TRS assessments have resumed. A new survey will be sent at the beginning of March to determine the comfort level of programs for being assessed.



# Business Coaching Available

The Texas Workforce Commission has launched a FREE business coaching program in partnership with AVANCE, Curantis Group, and Civitas Strategies Early Start to support child care providers with strategies to stabilize and strengthen your business.

The Texas Child Care Coaching Team is providing free assistance to any child care provider in the state.

Providers can receive support with a variety of topics:

- Securing federal relief funding;
- Support with loan forgiveness and debt repayment applications;
- Budgeting;
- Marketing;
- Improving payment and collections;
- Reducing costs;
- Strengthening systems;
- Staffing strategies;
- and more!

If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to reach out to the Texas Child Care Coaching team at [Texas@ECEBizCoach.org](mailto:Texas@ECEBizCoach.org).



**Attention Center & Home-Based  
Child Care Providers**

**Business  
Coaching Now  
Available!**

## Get FREE Business Coaching

Child Care Providers can now receive free business coaching to help navigate the financial and operational impacts of the pandemic. Through this goal-based coaching experience you will receive strategies to help you strengthen revenue, decrease expenses, and address risks that your business may face.

Business coaching will be offered in partnership by  
AVANCE, Curantis Group, and Civitas Strategies Early Start.



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# City of Austin Child Care Staffing Pulse Survey



**SUCCESS BY 6**  
AUSTIN/TRAVIS COALITION

Austin Public Health, Travis County, Workforce Solutions Capital Area, and United Way for Greater Austin have launched the **Child Care Staffing Pulse Survey** to:

- better understand the scope and scale of the current staffing challenges experienced by child care providers; and
- learn the impact staffing shortages may be having on the local community.

Please respond to the survey **by Sunday, March 6, 2022,** (link will be posted in the chat) to provide feedback on staffing challenges within your child care program. If you have questions about the survey, email Cathy McHorse ([Cathy.McHorse@uwatx.org](mailto:Cathy.McHorse@uwatx.org)), the VP of [Success By 6](#).



# BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts

Topics/Questions	Contact Information
<b><u>Parent Inquires</u></b> - parents are interested in services, want to sign up for waitlist, need changes, etc.	<a href="mailto:austinccs@wfscapitalarea.com">austinccs@wfscapitalarea.com</a>
<b><u>Finance Team</u></b> - questions about payments, missing dates, full time/blended amounts, etc.	<a href="mailto:ccsfinance@wfscapitalarea.com">ccsfinance@wfscapitalarea.com</a>
<b><u>Provider Services</u></b> - updated your DOSS, attendance, rates, holidays, etc.	<a href="mailto:ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com">ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com</a>
<b><u>Quality Initiatives</u></b> - want to become a TRS provider, have questions about the process, PPR distribution, training, etc.	<a href="mailto:ccsquality@wfscapitalarea.com">ccsquality@wfscapitalarea.com</a>
<b><u>Local Referral Partners</u></b> – send in referral, become a referral partner, etc.	<a href="mailto:ccslocalreferral@wfscapitalarea.com">ccslocalreferral@wfscapitalarea.com</a>
<b><u>Service Industry Recovery</u></b> - questions or inquiries about this program	<a href="mailto:sir@wfscapitalarea.com">sir@wfscapitalarea.com</a>