

Early Learning Program Updates

- May Referral Email - Be on the lookout for your May referral email. Read all of the information on the email. We will be requesting additional information on your current staffing challenges and request a response.
- 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.
- Child Care Availability Portal Unavailable - Now through the end of May, the Child Care Availability Portal will rely on information gathered through the Child Care Relief Fund to remain updated. Programs can update the Portal again starting in June.

Greetings,

Workforce Solutions Capital Area will be sending a monthly report with all active referrals. We hope that this will help you keep track of the children you are currently serving through the scholarship program.

April Reminders –



If your facility is currently at capacity due to teacher shortages, could you please let us know how many staff members you are needing? Workforce Solutions Capital Area would like to get provider responses so that we can try to assist your facilities with finding staff and keeping staff.

**NEW: Provider Services Q&A Training every 3rd
Thursday of the month!**

Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)

- Workforce Solutions 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- Applications Sent!

The Texas Workforce Commission is **now accepting applications** for the 2022 [Child Care Relief Fund](#)! A total of \$3.45 billion is available for eligible child care providers across the state. **Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2022.**

Eligible providers received an email invitation directing them to the online application portal. Invitations were sent to the email address listed with Child Care Regulation. If you believe you are eligible but cannot find your invitation, check your spam or junk folder or reach out to the technical assistance team for help.

Agents are ready to answer questions and provide support free of charge in several languages between **7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday** and **8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Saturday**. Providers can contact the technical assistance team by:

1. Emailing CCReliefFunds@Trelliscompany.org
2. Calling 1-833-613-3192
3. Chatting live with an agent at childcare.texas.gov



You can also sign up for their free, [interactive Q&A sessions](#) on understanding eligible expenses, offered by experienced business coaches.

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.



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

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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Connecting People to Jobs

Early Childhood Texas: Resources for Raising Kids

Early Childhood Texas

Resources for Raising Kids



Health & Development

Child development (including resources for children with special needs), nutrition, health tips, and healthcare.



Parenting

Child safety, parenting tips and supports, and at-home learning activities.



Child Care & Education

Child care and after school care, prekindergarten, Head Start, and Early Childhood Special Education.



Eligibility Programs

State sponsored programs and assistance opportunities available to families of young children in Texas.

For more information visit earlychildhood.texas.gov



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Teacher TRAC - Enrollment for Spring Begins Soon!

What is
TTRAC?

- A grant between WorkForce, Travis County, and City of Austin to increase the number of professionally trained Early Education Teachers.
- Degrees & Certificates supported by TTRAC:
 - CDA Credential
 - Level 1 Certificate
 - Associates of Applied Sciences
 - Bachelor's Degree*

For more information visit [TRAC / Scholarships - Child Care and Development \(austincc.edu\)](https://austincc.edu/trac/scholarships-child-care-and-development)



Quality Initiatives

- Training Opportunities Posted
 - **In-Person Training is back!**
 - 2021-22 Training Calendar posted on our Website (www.wfscapitalarea.com)
 - Upcoming Trainings posted through May for registration including:
 - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
 - Communicating About Special Needs (April 30th, In-Person)
 - Adults Need Play, Too! (May 21st, In-person)
- 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 May 5th.
 - TRS assessments have resumed.



BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts

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