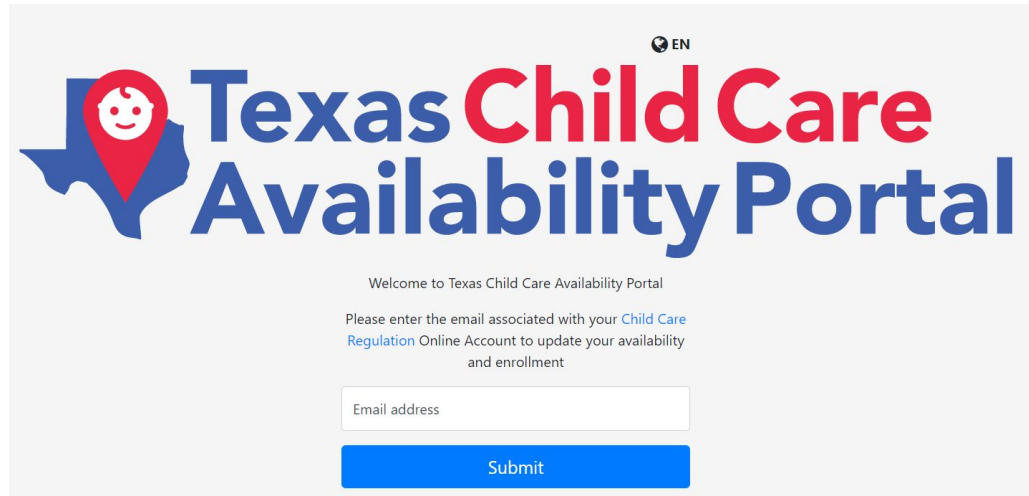


June Provider Advisory Council Meeting



Early Learning Program Updates

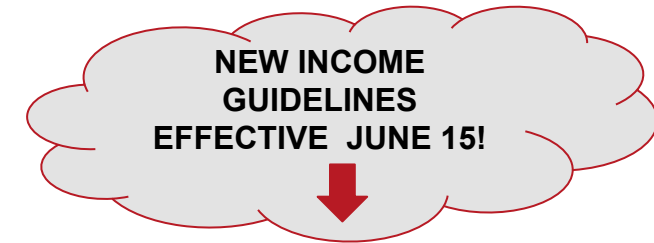
- COVID Closures - If you have to close due to Covid, please be sure to let us know. Please send your license number, closure and anticipated reopening dates, and who is effected (whole school, certain classrooms, # of children).
- Reporting Absences - All programs are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences. Please connect with parents and encourage regular attendance.
- Child Care Availability Portal Now Available - The Child Care Availability Portal is again available and able to be updated by Early Learning Programs. Please take time to update your program's information with your latest enrollment availability.

The screenshot shows the Texas Child Care Availability Portal. At the top, there is a logo featuring a red location pin with a smiling face inside, set against a blue outline of the state of Texas. To the right of the logo, the text "Texas Child Care Availability Portal" is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. Below the logo, there is a small "EN" icon. The main heading "Texas Child Care Availability Portal" is in a large, bold, blue font. Below this, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to Texas Child Care Availability Portal". This is followed by instructions: "Please enter the email associated with your Child Care Regulation Online Account to update your availability and enrollment". Below the instructions, there is a text input field labeled "Email address". At the bottom of the form, there is a blue button labeled "Submit".

<https://childcare.bowtiebi.com/Texaschildcareform>

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/Delivery Services, Banking, Gas Stations, Military, Restaurant and other Food Delivery, etc.)
- ***NEW*** Families living in Travis County (outside of the COA full purpose boundary), meet the income guidelines, have a child under the age of 5 and have at least one parent working in a category above. Families living in the COA full purpose boundary may enroll children under 13 years of age.
- 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	\$70,600
3	\$79,450
4	\$88,250
5	\$95,350
6	\$102,400
7	\$109,450
8	\$116,550

Child Care Expansion Initiative- Coming Soon!

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is offering start-up funding to support three goals — the expansion of child care in areas of the state that lack sufficient child care capacity, the additional supply of child care for infants, and child care created in partnership with employers. The Commission approved \$75 million to increase the number of high-quality child care providers for working parents, including these new start-up grants.

Funding is available for child care center and home-based providers opening or expanding capacity after March 1, 2022:

1. In a child care desert, defined as an area where the number of children younger than six years of age who have working parents is at least three times greater than the capacity of licensed child care providers in the area. Check the zip code here.
2. In partnership with an employer or consortium of employers; and/or
3. To serve infants (0-17 months) across the state.

How can you apply?

The Child Care Provider Expansion Initiative will open in June 2022.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Email questions to Expansion@civstrat.com.



Learn more!

[www.childcare.texas.gov/
childcare-expansion](http://www.childcare.texas.gov/childcare-expansion)

Skills for Small Business Program



Through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Skills for Small Business program, up to \$2 million from the Skills Development Fund is dedicated to small employers. Small businesses can apply to TWC for training offered by their local community or technical college, or the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

This opportunity supports businesses with fewer than 100 employees and emphasizes training for new workers though it also may help upgrade the skills of incumbent workers.

- Skills for Small Business emphasizes training newly hired employees, those who have been hired by the business up to twelve months prior to the date that TWC receives an application.
- The program pays up to \$1,800 for each new employee being trained and \$900 for existing employees per 12-month period.
- Funding for training is for full-time employees.

For more information please visit: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/businesses/skills-small-business-employers>

Call: 877-463-1777

Email: SkillsforSmallBusiness@twc.state.tx.us





WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS Capital Area
Connecting People to Jobs



Registration
Open Soon!

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
CAPITAL AREA 2022
DIRECTOR/TEACHER SYMPOSIUM

Every day is a chance to shine!

AUGUST 5-6TH, 2022

THOMPSON CONFERENCE CENTER
2405 ROBERT DEDMAN DRIVE
AUSTIN, TX

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 July for registration including:
 - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
 - Keeping it Cool, in Afterschool (July 12th, Zoom)
 - Assessments: Diving deeper for equity in practice. (July 23rd, In-person)
- Texas Rising Star Programs
 - Our monthly Texas Rising Star Director meetings are on pause while we work on Texas Rising Star Assessments. Our next TRS Director meeting will be in September.



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> - update your Provider Information Form, 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