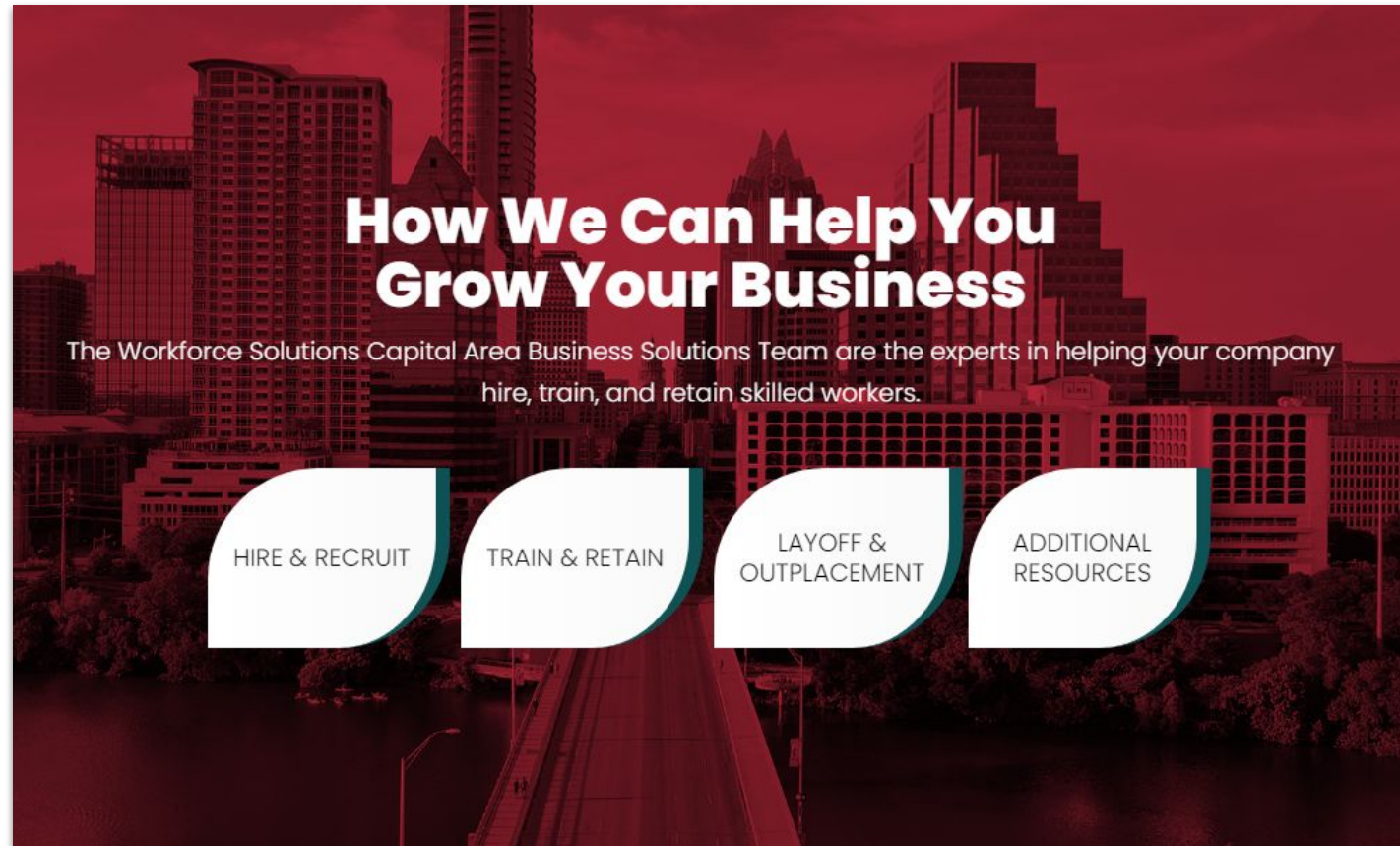


# August Provider Advisory Council Meeting



# Special Guest: Kim Griffen

## Workforce Solutions Capital Area Business Liaison



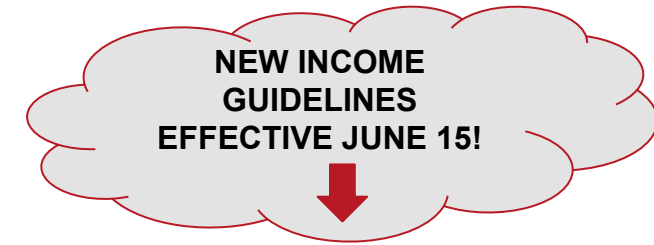
**How We Can Help You Grow Your Business**

The Workforce Solutions Capital Area Business Solutions Team are the experts in helping your company hire, train, and retain skilled workers.

HIRE & RECRUIT    TRAIN & RETAIN    LAYOFF & OUTPLACEMENT    ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)

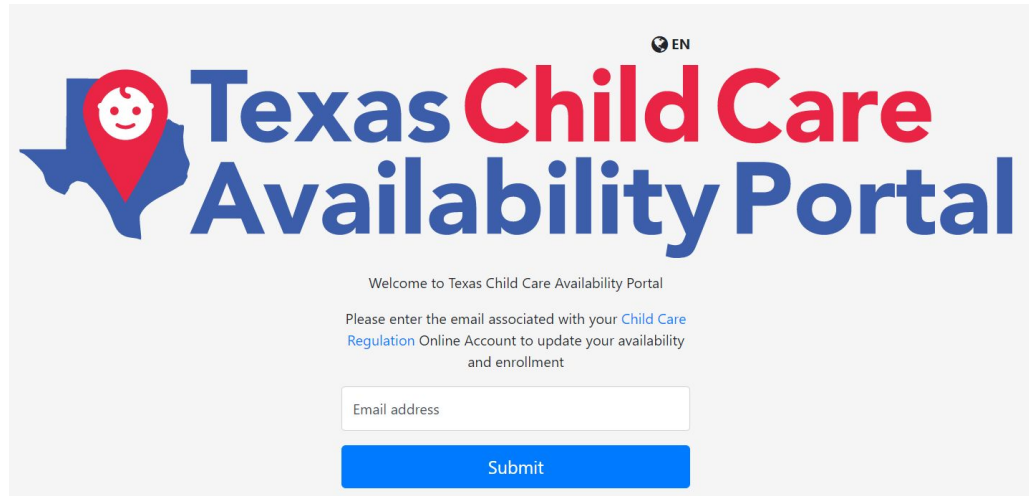
- Workforce Solutions received funding from the City of Austin and CDBG to provide child care for children of Essential Workers in the following categories:
  - Child care Industry (teachers, caregivers, etc.)
  - Education (teachers, support staff, bus drivers, etc.)
  - Pharmacy and Healthcare Workers
  - 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.)
- **\*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

# Early Learning Program Updates

- Annual Updates - All programs will be receiving an email from [ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com](mailto:ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com) over the coming months with information about annual closure day updates. Please make sure your contact information is up to date.
- 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 font, with "Texas" in blue and "Child Care Availability Portal" in red. Below the logo and title, 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 this text is a white input field labeled "Email address". At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Submit".

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

# Child Care Expansion Initiative Now Accepting Applications!

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.

Email questions to [Expansion@civstrat.com](mailto:Expansion@civstrat.com).





# Books Beginning at Birth

Books Beginning at Birth (B3) is a new statewide initiative that provides young children birth to age 4 and their families access to books and resources to support the development of early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. This grant is funded through the Texas Reading Initiative-Birth to Kinder of the Texas Education Agency.

All families across the state can access the [Digital Library](#) on the website. It includes free, quality digital books curated from [Unite for Literacy](#) and BookSpring's [Weekly Themes](#).

Eligible providers can sign up to become a partner for distributing the books (Family Reading Advocate) to help families access these FREE resources. Visit: <https://www.b3tx.org/books-beginning-at-birth-partners/> for more information.



# Free Texas Annual Training Available Now!

In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Promoting Early Education Quality program is offering a suite of twelve online courses, aligned with the annual professional development requirements from Minimum Standards, for **FREE** for early childhood professionals in Texas.

Trainees can earn up to 20 clock hours via the Texas Annual Training category on the AgriLife Learning Platform.

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AGRI  
LIFE  
EXTENSION

PROMOTING EARLY  
EDUCATION QUALITY



Scan to begin the Texas  
Annual Training courses



[tx.ag/TexasAnnualTraining](https://tx.ag/TexasAnnualTraining)



**WORKFORCE**  
SOLUTIONS  
Capital Area  
*Connecting People to Jobs*

# Texas Rising Star Requirements for All Programs Coming 10/1/2022



- As of 10/1/2022 all Early Learning Programs contracted with Child Care Services must meet Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation. This includes:

- Licensed or Registered by CCR
- Not on Corrective Action with CCR
- Have 75 or fewer total points when CCR history is reviewed

(High Deficiencies = 5 points each, Medium-High Deficiencies = 3 points each)



- Programs that meet Entry Level Designation will be given a deadline of September 30th, 2024, to be certified as at least a Texas Rising Star Two-Star Program.
- A Texas Rising Star Mentor will be assigned to assist programs with meeting requirements.





# Quality Initiatives

- Training Opportunities Posted
  - 2021-22 Training Calendar posted on our Website ([www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com))
  - Upcoming Trainings posted through September for registration including:
    - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
    - Family and Educator Partnerships: We're Better Together (Sept. 10th, Zoom)
    - Trauma Informed Care & Adverse Childhood Experiences (Sept. 17th, In-person)
  - In Partnership with Austin Child Guidance, Capital Area will be hosting various Parent Training Opportunities. See website for details.
- Texas Rising Star Programs
  - Our TRS Director Meeting will resume in September. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 1st at 12:00pm and 6:00pm.



**Texas**   
**Rising Star**

# 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> - update your Provider Information Form, 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>