

# September Provider Advisory Council Meeting



# Child Care Services: Upcoming Program Rule Changes

Amended Child care services rules increases consistency in child care services delivery across the State.

Child Care Services Rules can be found:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/agency/texas-workforce-commission-rules>  
TWC Rules Adoptions & Proposals

## STATEWIDE POLICIES-EFFECTIVE OCT 3, 2022

<p>Family income limits, for eligibility for Child Care Services</p> <p><i>Standardizes income eligibility limit of 85 percent of SMI</i></p>	No local impact
<p>Minimum Activity Requirements for Parents</p> <p><i>Requires <u>combined</u> participation in work, job training, or education for 25 hours a week (50 hours for a dual-parent family)</i></p>	No local impact
<p>Child Care Services during Education</p> <p><i>Replaces postsecondary with <u>undergraduate degree</u> - removing the inclusion of postgraduate enrollment in activity hours for eligibility <u>Allows parent in postgraduate program to complete current semester</u></i></p>	No local impact
<p>Time Limits for Child Care Services While the Parent is Attending an Educational Program</p> <p><i>Includes <u>cumulative of 60 months</u> for parents to participate while enrolled <u>full-time in an undergraduate degree program</u></i></p>	Local Impact: time limit changes from 4 to 5 years
<p>Parent is Making Progress Toward Successful Completion of a Job Training or Educational Program</p> <p><i>Provides through <u>continued enrollment</u> in the training or educational program, parent demonstrates progress toward successful completion</i></p>	Local Impact: meeting attendance requirements and maintaining academic standards no longer required.
<p>Child Care Services to a Child with Disabilities Under the Age of 19</p>	No local impact

## STATEWIDE POLICIES-EFFECTIVE OCT 3, 2022 (Cont)

<p>Child Care during Initial Job Search</p> <p><i>Codifies the current TWC waiver to allow job search at initial eligibility</i></p>	<p>No local impact</p>
<p>Texas Rising Star Entry Level Rating</p> <p><i>Requires all child care services programs be included in the Texas Rising Star program at Entry Level designation and requires TWC to establish a maximum length of time (24 months) that a child care and early learning program can participate at Entry Level designation.</i></p>	<p>Local Impact: At time of this presentation all CCS providers meet entry level designation</p>

## STATEWIDE POLICIES-Looking Ahead!

<p>Child Care Automated Attendance Tracking</p> <p><i>Made available through the child care case management system allowing parents/caregivers to check-in through tablet and cell phone</i></p>	<p>Tentatively planned for Early Spring 2023</p>
<p>Statewide Texas Rising Star Assessors</p> <p><i>Requires TWC to competitively procure a single entity to oversee a statewide roster of qualified assessors to evaluate child care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star program</i></p>	<p>Effective late summer 2023</p>
<p>Age Groups for Reimbursements</p> <p><i>Aligns TWC's age groups with CCR ratios and group sizes and requires higher rates in age groups with the lowest child-to-caregiver ratios</i></p>	<p>Dec 1, 2023</p>
<p>Prospective Provider Payments</p> <p><i>Requires payment based on a child's enrollment rather than attendance and paying prospectively (2 weeks) prior to the delivery of services.</i></p>	<p>Dec 1, 2023</p>
<p>Parent Share of Cost</p> <p><i>Standardizes the PSoC to provide a sliding-fee scale that could start from 2% to 3.5% of family income and gradually increase as the family income increases, but does not exceed 7% of the family income for one child in care. Also allows for a lower incremental increased % of the family income for families and for each add'l child in care.</i></p>	<p>Dec 1, 2023</p>
<p>Waitlist Management</p> <p><i>Requires parents with children on the waiting list to be contacted every 3 months and remove the child from the waitlist if the parents indicate that child care services are no longer required or if they do not respond.</i></p>	<p>Dec 1, 2023</p>



# Welcome to the Texas Rising Star Program!



- As of 10/3/2022 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 work to be certified as at least a Texas Rising Star Two-Star program by September 30th, 2024.
- Many resources and supports are available to programs working toward TRS Certification, including a TRS Mentor.



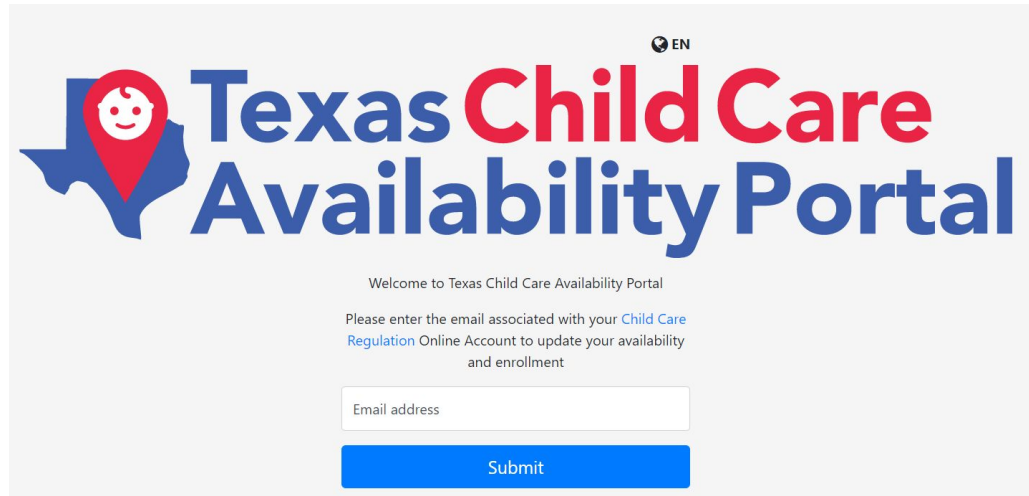
# Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)

- 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

# 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.
- Provider Growth Payment Update: After the payments for the service month of September 2022, the additional 20% provider growth payment will end.
- Reporting Absences - All programs are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences.
- Continue Updating Your Child Care Availability Portal-  
The Child Care Availability Portal is 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 login page for the Texas Child Care Availability Portal. At the top, there is a logo featuring a red location pin with a white baby 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, the text "Welcome to Texas Child Care Availability Portal" is displayed in a smaller font. Underneath, there is a prompt: "Please enter the email associated with your Child Care Regulation Online Account to update your availability and enrollment". Below this prompt is a text input field labeled "Email address". At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Submit".

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



# Seeking Interviews on Non-Traditional Hours

Researchers at the Urban Institute are looking for child care providers and parents to participate in interviews to learn more about working parents' opinions on child care during non-traditional hours (nights, weekends, etc.).

The first 20 people who they hear from who are eligible will receive a \$50 gift card.

If interested, please complete the contact form below:

**For Providers:**

<https://bit.ly/TravisCountyProvider>



**For Parents:**

<https://bit.ly/TravisCountyParent>



# 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).



# Child Care Workforce Support Series



TWC, in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Civitas Strategies Early Start, has compiled a series of videos and resources for Early Learning Programs.

This brand new series of eight webinars and accompanying written guides features best practices on topics such as:

- Attracting the best talent, including how to write a job posting;
- How to vet and hire a candidate, including reviewing resumes, conducting interviews and reference checks, and extending an offer;
- An onboarding guide for new employees;
- How to offer competitive compensation and bonuses;
- Structuring and restructuring benefits packages; and
- Business and professional development opportunities for child care programs and their staff.

These resources and videos can be found on the [Attracting and Retaining Staff](#) webpage hosted on [childcare.texas.gov](http://childcare.texas.gov).

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



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# Training Opportunities

- Check out our Eventbrite Page and never miss a training!
  - 2021-22 Training Calendar posted on our Website ([www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com))
  - Upcoming Trainings posted through October for registration including:
    - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
    - Greeting Circles: Let's start the day off right! (Oct. 1st - In-Person)
    - TRS Orientation (Oct. 13th, Zoom)
- Texas Rising Star Programs
  - Our TRS Director Meetings will continue in October. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 6th, at 12:00pm and 6:00pm.
- Many more training opportunities will be scheduled in the coming months!



**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>