



State of Child Care Services

Austin-Travis County, 2021

As of March 23, 2021

Revised July 13, 2021

Contact

Nicole Robinson

Director, Child Care Contracts
Workforce Solutions Capital Area

nicole.robinson@wfscapitalarea.com

512.597.7130

Nearly 20% of Workforce Solutions Capital Area's contracted child care providers are permanently or temporarily closed due to COVID.

Of Workforce Solutions Capital Area's (WFS) 388 contracted providers:

- **32** contracted providers confirmed a permanent closure with WFS
 - **4** additional providers seem to have closed permanently after closing out their Child Care Services (CCS) contract
 - **1** additional provider is assumed to have closed permanently, but definitive contact could not be made
- **43** providers are currently closed but plan to reopen at a future date TBD
 - **26** of these are in the YMCA Extend-A-Care (EAC) group, which primarily serve school-age with less demand due to virtual learning
 - **7** are with the YMCA Kids' Clubhouse group (primarily school age with less demand due to virtual learning)
 - **10** are with other groups or standalone programs

Almost all of our providers have closed temporarily in the last year due to COVID.

Temporary closures typically result in a reduction in revenue from private pay families. Out of 388 contracted providers:

- **305** providers (78%) have reported at least one temporary closure due to a Covid exposure.
- In addition, **nearly all** providers were closed because of the winter storm the week of February 15.
 - Only **3** providers reported attendance for that week, all of which were home based providers.

Across Travis County, nearly 20% of all licensed/registered child care centers and home providers are permanently or temporarily closed due to COVID.

Because WFS data is only for their contracted providers, WFS reached out to partners at United Way for Greater Austin. United Way gathered data from Child Care Regulation for all licensed/registered providers in Travis County that have closed. The data shown in the chart below is from March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Operating statuses are a point in time as of December 31, 2020.

	# Licensed Center	% Licensed Center	# Home Providers Registered, Listed, & Licensed	% Home Providers Registered, Listed, & Licensed
Open	355	83%	185	67%
Temporarily closed	34	8%	33	12%
Permanently closed	30	7%	33	12%
New provider OR re-opened after permanent closure Re-opened with same name or address	8	2%	24	9%
Total	430		275	

Note: Providers that are open are likely serving fewer children and have less staffing due to COVID protocols.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area helped distribute millions of dollars and rolled out new programs in response to COVID to assist parents and child care providers.

COVID Child Care Expenditures, FY20

Oct 1, 2019 – Sept 30, 2020

Total

Parent Share of Cost Temporarily waived parents' fee for care (typically based on a family's income, family size, and number of children enrolled in child care)	\$244,167.30
Supplemental Payments To help child care providers stay open and address increased operating costs (WFS continues to pay the supplemental payments to providers, gradually phasing out through June 2021)	\$3,071,371.30
Stabilization Grants (TWC) To help closed child care providers defray ongoing fixed costs so they can eventually reopen (Of note: Travis County, through WFS, also awarded stabilization grants with a payment total of \$418,000)	\$92,594.31
Essential Worker Child Care Emergency program through additional TWC funding to subsidize care for essential workers, enabling WFS to provide care above and beyond normal requirements to meet pandemic demand	\$918,559.54
Total	\$4,326,692.41

Workforce Solutions Capital Area is here to serve Austin-Travis County's workforce and children and parents.

WFS Child Care Services strengthens families in Travis County by offering child care tuition scholarships to assist low-income parents pay for child care so they can work or attend educational or vocational training programs.

In response to the pandemic, WFS also supported the families of Austin's essential workers and our child care providers through quality initiative activities and additional CARES Act funding payments.

Workforce Solutions Child Care Services, FY20

Oct 1, 2019 – Sept 30, 2020

24,176

Pounds of cleaning and PPE supplies distributed to child care providers at no cost*

420

Children served in Essential Worker Care
Through additional TWC funding that enabled WFS to provide care above and beyond normal requirements

123

Texas Rising Star (TRS) quality-rated providers
26 2-Star, 24 3-Star, and 73 4-Star TRS quality-rated providers

5,846

Children in our care across Travis County with **387** child care providers contracted

297

Children in Continuity of Care
Funded by City of Austin / Travis County to bridge any gaps in eligibility for local parents

84

Jeanette Watson Wage Supplement recipients
Helps early childhood professionals continue to work in a field where wages are not commensurate with other skilled positions

1,284

Providers and teachers trained and mentored through **93** trainings hosted

222

Children who are experiencing homelessness served

*Note: PPE distribution event held in Nov 2020