

# QUALITY CHILD CARE COLLABORATIVE (QC3) OVERVIEW

Improving quality of and increasing access to  
child care for Austin-Travis County parents

**MAY 2021**



# WHAT IS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS?

We are the hub for connecting local people to local jobs

- **Workforce Solutions Capital Area (WFS) is the publicly-funded workforce board for Austin-Travis County**
  - Through strong partnerships and strategic collaborations, we are leading the region's workforce system in the development of a world-class workforce
- **As the foremost local, public funder of child care, WFS' supports strengthen families and have helped maintain the stability of providers in our system**
  - We offer tuition scholarships to assist low-income parents to pay for care so they can work or attend educational or vocational training programs
  - We also work with child care providers to achieve better quality measures







## THE CHILD CARE DILEMMA



**The child care industry has felt the effects of the pandemic and the sector has been pushed to the brink of collapse with increased costs and decreased enrollment, which forced many facilities to close.**

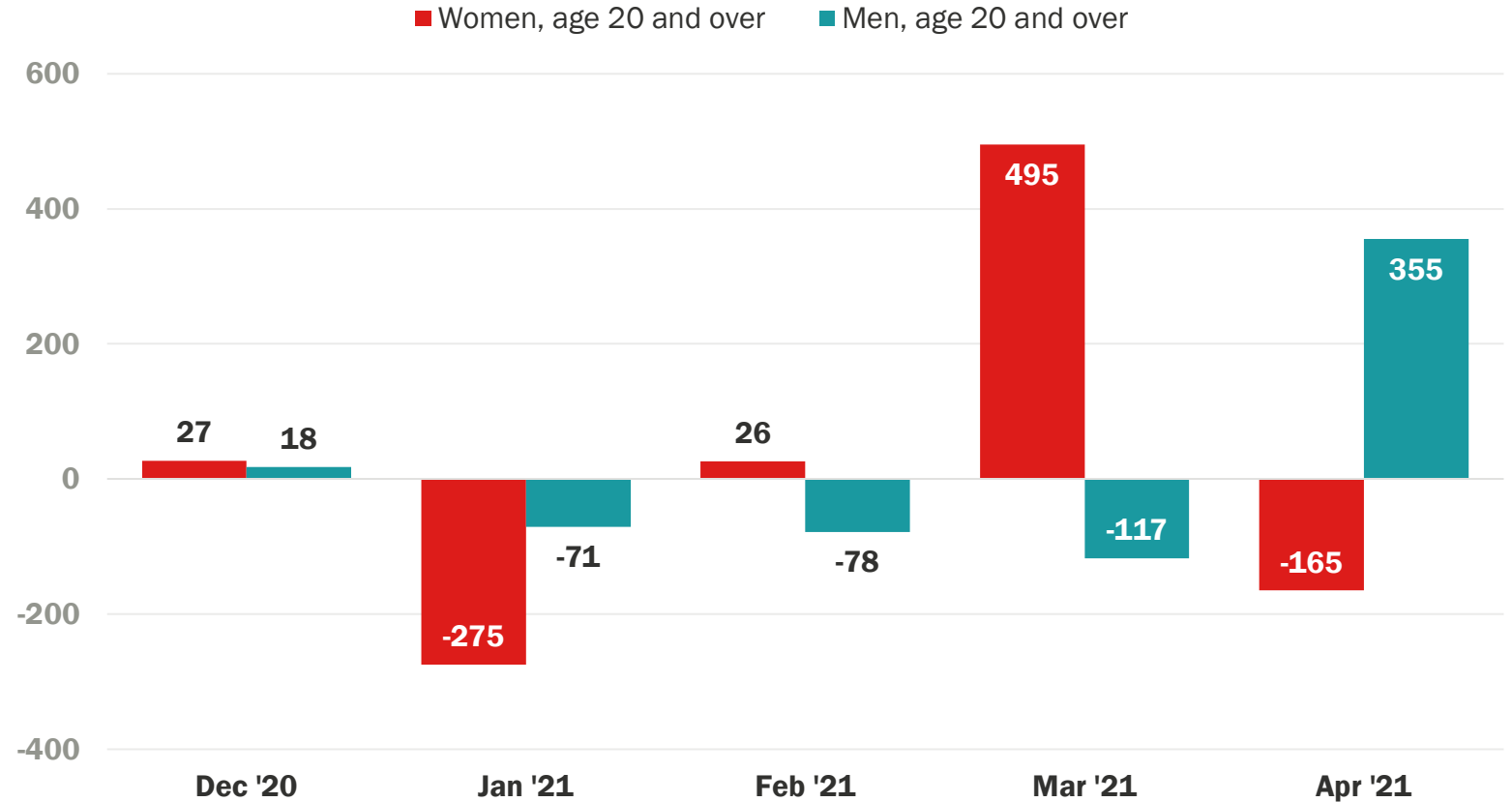
**The sector's struggles have had an outsized impact on Black and Hispanic women, who not only account for a large number of child care workers but are more likely to struggle to find child care for their own families.**

# More women dropped out of the labor force in April, underscoring the need for childcare

Of the latest unemployment figures, **165,000** women who are at least 20 years old dropped out of the labor force from March to April

## U.S. Labor Force Participation by Gender

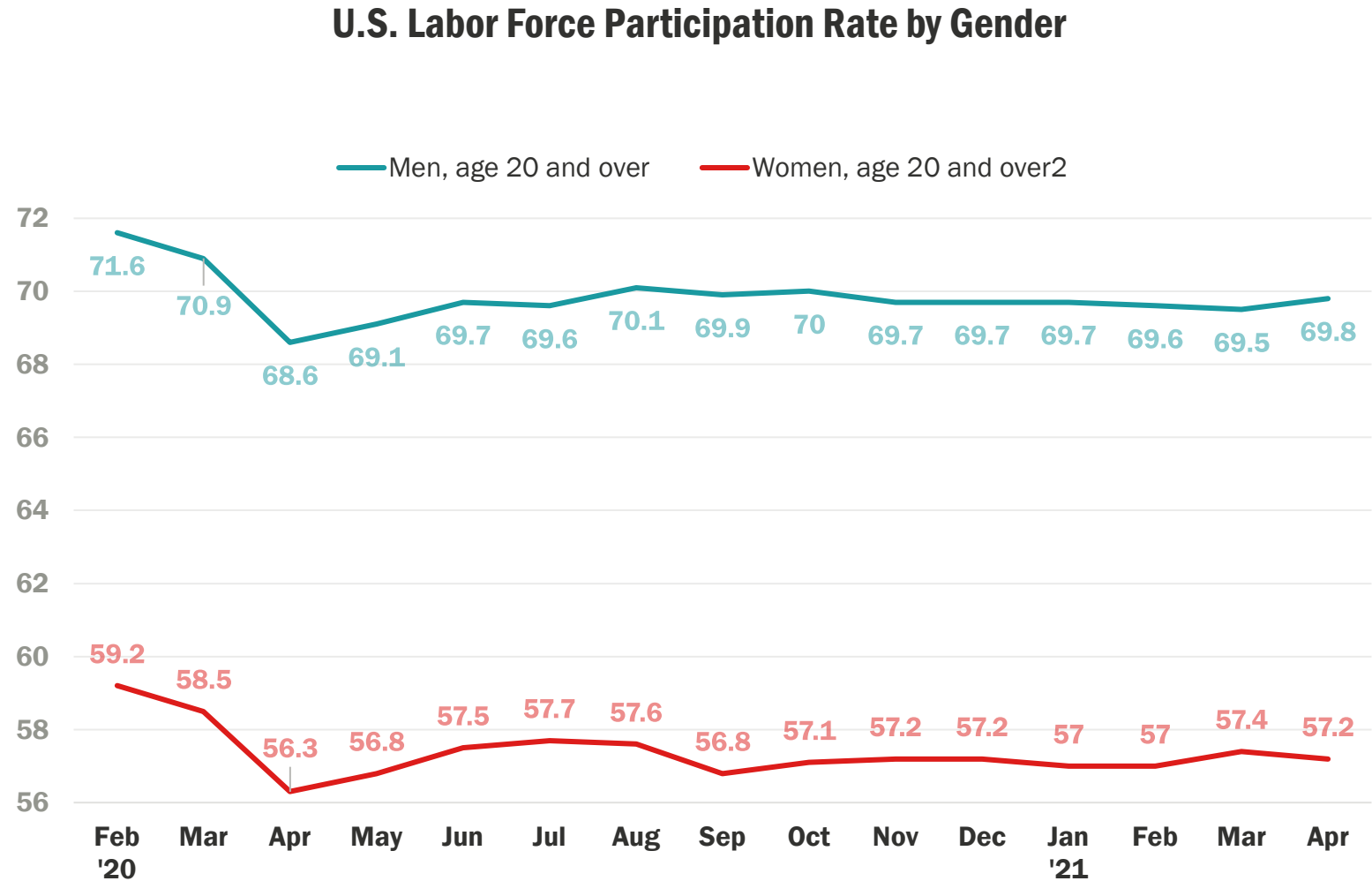
Change by previous month (in thousands)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

# The labor force participation rate for women also dropped slightly in April

The participation rate for women who are at least 20 years old dropped by **0.2** percentage points in April and is still **2** percentage points below the rate in February 2020



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics





## **QUALITY CHILD CARE COLLABORATIVE (QC3)**



## QC3 Goal

**To increase the quality of child care in the community by assisting child care facilities to:**

- Achieve Texas Rising Star (TRS) certification and/or attain national accreditation; and
- Increase the accessibility of high-quality child care services to low-income children

## How We Do It

**QC3 collaboratively agrees on national and state recognized program standards and assessments as the framework for child care quality improvement, while following a structured process for making and sustaining program improvements for families and children.**



# THE CITY & COUNTY ARE INVESTING IN THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Our community efforts are helping prepare children for success in kindergarten.

# \$1,066,492

**INVESTED IN LOCAL CHILD CARE THROUGH QC3** in FY20

Includes child care providers' professional development, wage supplements for early learning professionals, early learning resources and materials, parent cafes and info sessions, and more



# PROVEN ABILITY TO LEVERAGE FUNDS AND CAN MATCH LOCAL FUNDING TO EXTEND IMPACT

- **WFS is the only workforce board in the State approved by TWC to “match and draw down” federal funding when specific clients are provided employment-related services with non-federal funds**
  - This program, entitled Third Party Reimbursement, is uniquely set up to allow WFS to grow the locally available funding for job training by strategically leveraging current funding
- ***To date, WFS has matched over \$100,000, thus creating additional funding in Austin-Travis County for the provision of workforce services***
- **WFS can draw down additional federal funding for childcare services by matching local dollars invested**
  - For the period of Oct 1, 2020 through Sept 30, 2021, WFS will draw down an additional **\$2,859,796** due to local matching investments made by our community partners

# QC3 SUPPORTS POSITIVELY IMPACT OUR PARENTS & PROVIDERS

## AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS (FY20)

5,846

Children across Travis County in Workforce Solutions' (WFS) care

387

Child care providers contracted by WFS

157

Providers are Texas Rising Star (TRS) certified\*

*+50 providers achieved TRS certification through WFS during pandemic*

1,284

Providers and teachers trained and mentored

*Through 93 trainings hosted*

297

Children enrolled in Continuity of Care program

*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*



April 23, 2021

## WFS and Bank of America donate cleaning and PPE supplies to child care providers in Travis County

Read more at  
[wfscapitalarea.com](https://wfscapitalarea.com)



**12,400+** total items  
donated to Austin-  
Travis Co providers  
through **2** events



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