To produce an estimate of the total cost of providing childcare for frontline workers, we need to estimate the total number of workers. According to <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/harris-county-tx>, there are 188,888 workers in a healthcare or firefighting/prevention occupation. If we aggregate by sector, instead of occupation, the figure is 234,224. We take these figures to be the lower and upper estimates of the size of the target population.

The Harris County population is 4,698,619 and there are 1,583,486 households in Harris County. Therefore, the typical household in Harris County has 2.967 persons. If we assume that households with frontline workers follow these typical figures, we conclude that there are between 63,590 and 78,936 households with a frontline worker. These households are the target households for the policy.

According to the Census data, 26.6% of the Harris County population is younger than 18 years old. Assuming uniform distribution across ages younger than 18, this means that 19.21% of the Harris County population is 12 years old or younger. In practice, this means that for every 100 households in Harris County, there are 57 children who are 12 years old or younger.

To estimate the number of children who may need care, we multiple 57 by the number of households and divide the resulting number by 100. Thus, we estimate that there are between 36,247 and 44,994 children 12 years or younger whose parent is a frontline worker.

To determine the daily rate per child, we can use average maximum rates or average maximum enhanced rates from the University of Texas, Austin market survey. For the Gulf Coast Region Workforce Board, these daily rates are $22.87 and $30.29, respectively. The costs range from $828.968 to $1,362,882 per day. Assuming these measures will be necessary for five days a week for a period of three months, the total cost is estimated to be between $53,883,926 and $88,587,284.29, which represents between 1.68% and 2.77% of Harris County budget ($3.2 billion).