

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Subsidized Child Care Program

Report to the 87th Texas Legislature, January 15, 2021

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Background

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) provides subsidized child care as a support service to help parents to become and remain employed and contribute to the Texas economy. Making affordable child care available to parents addresses a common barrier to employment. It also enhances parents' ability to participate in workforce training activities. To receive subsidized child care, parents must be employed or participating in training or education activities leading to employment. TWC also administers the Texas Rising Star program, a voluntary, quality-based rating system for Texas early childhood programs participating in TWC's subsidized child care program. The Texas Rising Star program offers three levels of certification (2-Star, 3-Star, and 4-Star) to encourage providers to attain progressively higher certification requirements leading to a 4-Star status.

Child Care Services are funded through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which is overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child Care. TWC is the lead agency for CCDF in Texas. TWC's child care program promotes long-term self-sufficiency by enabling parents to work or attend education or training activities.

Additional state agencies also play a role in the child care delivery system statewide. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is responsible for regulating all child-care operations and child-placing agencies in the state of Texas to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care. These responsibilities include licensing and registration of providers, monitoring and follow-up to ensure compliance with requirements, and investigating potential violations. TWC works closely with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Children's Learning Institute (CLI) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to coordinate early childhood education (ECE) professional development and prekindergarten services. TWC also works with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide child care services to children in foster care or in the custody of Child Protective Services.

Summary

Subsidized Child Care Continues to Serve as an Important Work Support Service

Subsidized child care is a support service that allows parents to become and remain employed, thereby contributing to the Texas economy. This report demonstrates that subsidized child care is an effective work support service that enables parents to participate in the workforce or in work-related activities.

As reflected in this report, in 2018, approximately 86 percent of parents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) found employment within 12 months of receiving child care. Additionally, approximately 86 percent of non-TANF parents maintained employment 12 months after receiving child care and, at the end of the 12-month period and experienced an average quarterly wage gain of \$1,044, which would be \$4,176 if annualized. The availability of stable and affordable child care is often a determining factor in a parent's ability to obtain and retain employment.

TWC's Child Care Program Increases the Availability of High-Quality Programs for All Families

High-quality child care also supports the Texas economy by promoting the healthy growth and development of tomorrow's workforce. Since 2015, the number of programs certified in Texas Rising Star has risen almost 65 percent. These programs benefit not only the children receiving subsidies, but also the children from private-pay families. In 2020, Texas Rising Star programs had the licensed capacity to serve 457,525 children. TWC strives to build upon its successes by using outcome data and analyses to improve the delivery of child care services to Texas' working families.

TWC Works Closely with State and Local Partners to Provide Assistance during COVID-19

During this unprecedented pandemic, TWC worked with various state and local partners to provide assistance and relief to families and child care providers affected by the crisis. TWC participated in Governor Greg Abbott's Frontline Child Care Task Force and worked with partnering agencies and stakeholders to help the state develop and implement a coordinated response to address child care challenges during the pandemic.

TWC worked quickly to establish various resources and continues to support Texas families and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic with a multipronged approach. TWC provided funds to support short-term emergency benefits to help essential workers address the immediate child care challenges they faced when schools closed in the spring. Additionally, TWC authorized a temporary increase in the payment rates for child care providers serving subsidized children to help providers address the higher costs they are facing as a result of COVID-19. TWC also implemented a short-term program, the Child Care Stabilization Grant, to assist child care providers serving subsidized children that had closed due to COVID-19. TWC's Child Care & Early Learning Division is also working with the Texas Division of Emergency Management to help child care providers access critical cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.

Report Requirements

Parent Employment and Wage Outcomes

Texas Labor Code §302.0043 charges that TWC “evaluate the effectiveness of the commission’s child care program in helping parents who receive subsidized child care to maintain employment . . .” TWC is required to report the results of the evaluation to the legislature no later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

Section 302.0043(a) directs TWC to compile the following information regarding the wage and employment status of each parent receiving TWC-funded child care:

- If the parent receives both TANF and subsidized child care, whether the parent:
 - finds employment; and
 - maintains the employment after one year.
- If the parent receives only subsidized child care, whether the parent:
 - maintains the employment; and
 - experiences a change in earnings after one year of employment.
- If the parent leaves the child care program:
 - the parent’s reason for leaving the program; and
 - whether the parent returns to TANF or becomes a TANF recipient for the first time.

Senate Bill 208 (SB 208), 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2015), amended Texas Labor Code §302.0043 to require that TWC report the findings regarding the effectiveness of the child care program to:

- include information on employment results, disaggregated by the local workforce development area (workforce area); and
- identify multi-year trends in the information collected and analyzed by TWC, including trends in the information for at least the five state fiscal years preceding the date of the report.

Improving Quality: Professional Development and Program Coordination

Section 302.0043 also requires TWC to measure the effectiveness of its child care program in:

- improving the training of child care professionals; and
- facilitating collaboration with Head Start, TEA, DFPS, and HHSC.

House Bill 680 (HB 680), 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2019), again amended Texas Labor Code §302.0043 to require that TWC report the progress of the child care program regarding:

- coordination by TWC with TEA to assign a Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) number to children younger than six years of age enrolled in the program;
- coordination with TEA, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools on any prekindergarten quality improvement efforts; and
- efforts to increase coordination between providers participating in the program, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools.

Additionally, HB 680 required that TWC report the progress of the child care program regarding:

- facilitation of child care provider enrollment in the Texas Rising Star program and progression of providers to that program's highest rating level; and
- development and implementation of rates and payments, as determined by Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards), to:
 - allow providers to deliver high-quality child care; and
 - ensure that TWC meets performance measures established by the legislature for the average number of children served per day by the program.

HB 680 also amended §302.0042 to require TWC to report on the following information related to the evaluation of allocation formulas for Child Care Development Fund funds:

- the total number of child care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star program in each workforce area and the number of 2-Star-, 3-Star-, and 4-Star-rated child care providers in the workforce area;
- the number of child care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star program in each workforce area as a percentage of the total number of both subsidized child care providers and all child care providers in the workforce area;
- the number of 2-Star-, 3-Star-, and 4-Star-rated child care providers in the workforce area as a percentage of the total number of both subsidized child care providers and all child care providers in the workforce area;
- the total number of children enrolled in subsidized child care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star program in each workforce area and the number of subsidized children enrolled in 2-Star-, 3-Star-, and 4-Star-rated child care providers in the workforce area; and
- the number of subsidized children enrolled in child care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star program in each workforce area as a percentage of the total number of subsidized children enrolled in child care providers in the workforce area and the number of subsidized children enrolled in 2-Star-, 3-Star-, and 4-Star-rated child care providers in the workforce area as a percentage of the total number of subsidized children enrolled in child care providers in the workforce area.

Stakeholder Input

Finally, HB 680 amended §302.00435 to require TWC to summarize input obtained from TEA, school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, subsidized child care providers, relevant businesses, and the public on the child care program and any recommendations for legislation or regulation, including regulatory recommendations for governmental bodies other than TWC, regarding that input.

Employment and Wage Outcomes

Definitions

For this report, TWC used wage and employment records to determine the parent's employment status.

Finding Employment

A parent is considered to have found employment if the parent became employed at any time during the four quarters following the quarter that the child entered child care that year.

Leaving Child Care

A child is considered to have left child care if the child does not receive child care for one month during the year.

Maintaining Employment

A parent is considered to have maintained employment if the parent has wages in the fourth quarter after the quarter that the child entered child care that year.

Receiving both TANF and Subsidized Child Care

A parent is considered to be receiving both TANF and subsidized child care if the parent received both in the same month at some point during the year.

Receiving Only Subsidized Child Care (non-TANF)

A parent is considered to be receiving only subsidized child care if the parent did not receive TANF during the year.

Receiving Subsidized Child Care

A parent is considered to be receiving subsidized child care if the parent's child received at least one billed unit of care during a calendar year. Parents may appear in one or multiple years.

Returning to TANF or Receiving TANF for the First Time

A parent is considered to have returned to TANF or received TANF for the first time if the parent leaves subsidized child care and received TANF within a 12-month period.

Wage Gain

The wage gain is the amount that the parent's income increased after the parent became employed in the fourth quarter after the quarter that the child entered child care compared to the quarter before the child entered child care for each year.

Findings

TANF Parents

Subsidized child care is available for parents receiving TANF for them to participate in workforce training and work-related activities (in TWC's Choices program). For parents receiving both TANF and TWC-subsidized child care, Texas Labor Code §302.0043(a)(1) directs TWC to report whether the parent:

1. finds employment; and
2. maintains the employment after one year.

The five-year statewide trends are shown below:

Table 1 – Parents Receiving TANF and Child Care

Year	Percentage Finding Employment in the Year	Percentage Maintaining Employment after One Year
2014	86.63%	56.00%
2015	87.11%	58.41%
2016	84.22%	60.10%
2017	85.92%	64.02%
2018	86.06%	65.23%

The five-year trends by workforce areas are shown in Tables 1A and 1B in the Appendix.

Non-TANF Parents

Subsidized child care also provides a vital work support to non-TANF working parents that helps them remain in the Texas workforce. For non-TANF working parents receiving TWC-subsidized child care, Texas Labor Code §302.0043(a)(2) directs TWC to report whether the parent:

1. maintains the employment; and
2. experiences a change in earnings after one year of employment. The five-year statewide trends are shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Working Parents Only Receiving Child Care (Non-TANF)

Year	Percentage Maintaining Employment after One Year	Quarterly Change in Earnings after One Year
2014	82.49%	\$ 909.06
2015	83.77%	\$1,040.81
2016	86.20%	\$ 805.71
2017	86.21%	\$ 603.01
2018	86.41%	\$1,044.56

The five-year trends by workforce areas are shown in Tables 2A and 2B in the Appendix.

Parents Leaving Child Care

Texas Labor Code §302.0043(a)(3) directs TWC to report:

1. the parent's reason for leaving the program; and
2. whether the parent returns to TANF or becomes a TANF recipient for the first time.

From October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, a total of 50,575 children left TWC-subsidized child care for at least one month during the year. The reasons for leaving care are shown below:

Table 3A – Reason for Leaving Child Care

Reason for Leaving Child Care	% of Children
Parent Missed Redetermination and/or Did Not Return Paperwork	43.0%
Parent Voluntarily Withdrew from Child Care	19.9%
Family Is No Longer Eligible	12.5%
Excessive Absences	12.5%
Permanent End of Activities after Three-Month Job Search	10.3%
Other	1.8%

The five-year statewide trends for all parents whose children left TWC-subsidized child care and received TANF within 12 months of their children leaving care are shown in Table 3B below:

Table 3 – Parents Receiving TANF within One Year of Leaving Child Care

Year	Percentage Receiving TANF after Leaving Child Care
2014	20.48%
2015	17.43%
2016	19.14%
2017	12.52%
2018	13.07%

The five-year trends by workforce areas are shown in Table 3C in the Appendix.

Professional Development

Texas Labor Code §302.0043 also requires TWC to evaluate the effectiveness of its child care program in improving the training of child care professionals, including professional development collaboration with other agencies serving young children. TWC actively participates in multiple workgroups and projects that bring state and local partners together to increase collaboration and streamline professional development activities across programs and funding streams.

Professional Development and School Readiness Partnerships with TEA

Professional Development for Early Childhood Education (Partnerships)

Rider 23 of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the 86th Texas Legislature required TWC to transfer \$500,000 in federal CCDF funds to TEA during Fiscal Year 2020 (FY'20) and FY'21 for early childhood education partnership projects and teacher stipends designed to:

- facilitate increased participation in professional development by ECE professionals; and
- encourage those professionals to seek additional education.

Professional development partnerships support early childhood trainers and coaches to help deliver the highest-quality instruction to early childhood educators. The partnerships provide extensive training workshops (in-person and online), a micro-credential, and facilitated professional learning communities for trainers and coaches who provide professional development to early childhood education and care providers. Multiple coaching workshops directly provide professional development to instructional coaches and teacher leaders.

In FY'20:

- 252 ECE professionals attended advanced coaching and training workshops;
- 100 trainers and coaches received a micro-credential;
- 21 teachers were enrolled and working toward a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or other ECE certification; and
- 44 teachers participated in other professional development activities.

Professional Development for Early Childhood Education (Scholarships)

Rider 27 of the GAA for the 86th Texas Legislature required TWC to dedicate \$1.5 million over the 2020–21 fiscal biennium for scholarship programs that encourage increased participation in continuing professional development for early childhood professionals. Funding may be used to finance teacher training programs, programs that lead to a national ECE credential, or work-study programs in child care.

TWC has awarded these funds through a competitive procurement process, with Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TXAEYC) Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) program consistently being selected. The T.E.A.C.H. program provides scholarships for child care professionals who want to obtain a CDA certificate or a Certified Childcare Professional credential. TXAEYC also uses the funds to provide scholarships to child care professionals to pursue courses that will lead to an associate's degree in early childhood education. In 2020, TWC expanded the effort to include funding for bachelor's degrees and apprenticeships.

Professional development scholarships help educators achieve progressive educational and career advancement by attaining stackable credentials. Additionally, the scholarship program assists eligible early learning programs in retaining well-qualified staff and meeting Texas Rising Star staff qualifications.

From Board Contract Year 2016 (BCY'16) through BCY'20, TXAEYC was instrumental in advances in child care professional development, awarding 755 CDA assessment fee scholarships and 316 associate's degree scholarships. Additionally, recipients who attained a CDA or associate's degree saw increased wages, with an average increase for recipients in FY'18 of 7–10 percent.

School Readiness Models

The Texas legislature also requires TWC to transfer to TEA \$11.7 million of federal CCDF funds in each year of the biennium to assist providers that are participating in integrated school readiness models developed by CLI.

CLI uses these funds to support the Texas School Ready (TSR) project, which combines ongoing professional development, supplemental curriculums, and child progress monitoring tools. Teachers from child care centers, Head Start and public school pre-K programs participate in TSR. Teachers are provided with tools to help them address the specific instructional needs of the children in their classrooms using targeted, engaging lessons and activities. These tools are made available at no cost to teachers, including Texas Rising Star teachers, through the online platform, CLI Engage. The tools include the CIRCLE Progress Monitoring System, eCIRCLE Professional Development courses, the CIRCLE Activity Collection, and classroom observation tools.

Texas Early Childhood Learning Summits

In partnership with the Office of the Texas Governor and TEA, TWC annually approves \$750,000 to support a Texas Early Childhood Learning Summit, which is tailored to the needs of early childhood educators and caregivers. Attendees include certified teachers and campus and district administrators as well as child care staff, administrators, and facility owners. Goals of the summits include the following:

- Support the increased professional development needs of early learning professionals
- Equip child care providers, school districts, and teachers with information, tools, and resources
- Improve the quality of children's prekindergarten and early care experiences

The 2019 Summit offered 79 different training sessions to 839 attendees, of which:

- 48 percent were child care teachers, directors, and facility owners;
- 46 percent were school district prekindergarten teachers and administrators; and
- 6 percent were other early childhood professionals, including Board and Texas Rising Star staff.

The 2020 Summit was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prekindergarten–Child Care Partnerships

Child care–pre-K partnerships were a key part of expanding to full-day pre-K for eligible four-year-olds—a component of House Bill 3, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2019). TWC provided funding to TEA for the PreK Partnership Planning Grant program to help local education agencies develop partnerships with Texas Rising Star 4-Star certified private child care providers to expand access and service delivery models for the provision of prekindergarten to three- and four-year-old children. In FY'18, 36 child care partnerships were entered into with 18 local independent school districts (ISDs).

Developing partnerships between child care providers and public school pre-K programs is an important strategy to improve school readiness and better support families. Building on the PreK Partnership Planning Grant program, TWC provided funding to TEA for the Regional Early Childhood Education Support Specialists (RECESS) Initiative over a three-year period. One component of the initiative focused on support for pre-K partnerships. Four grantees will support child care providers and school districts in their regions to develop partnerships over a three-year period.

TWC and TEA, in collaboration with the nonprofit Children at Risk and the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, planned a Pre-K Partnership Summit, which was scheduled for the spring of 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the groups to reschedule the in-person summit to 2021. A key part of the summit is building relationships to launch a statewide implementation of partnerships, which would be difficult to successfully achieve in a virtual meeting. The summit will provide specialized information and training to Boards and education service centers, key regional government entities that support child care providers and public school pre-K programs, respectively, to help them develop partnerships.

Finally, TWC hired a specialist to provide ongoing technical assistance to Boards and to support state-level policy to improve the development and success of these partnerships.

Supporting Public-Private Partnerships through Contracted Slots

HB 680 amended the Labor Code to allow Boards to contract with Texas Rising Star 3-Star or 4-Star-rated providers, including providers who are part of a pre-K partnership or who have a partnership with an Early Head Start or Head Start program, for a number of slots to be reserved for children participating in child care subsidies for specified populations. On October 6, 2020, the Commission approved proposed rules to implement contracted slot policy changes. The rule changes and guidance needed to implement contracted slots are expected to be finalized by February 2021. Coordination with TEA to Assign PEIMS Numbers

HB 680 required TWC to coordinate with TEA to assign unique PEIMS numbers to children younger than six who are enrolled in the child care subsidy program. This will allow for longitudinal analysis of information on children who receive subsidies by bridging their participation in early childhood programs to their participation in public education. TWC collaborated with TEA to develop an automated interface and began assigning PEIMS numbers to children under age six enrolled in subsidized child care on September 1, 2020.

ECDataWorks and TXR3

Beginning in 2018, TWC partnered with TEA to participate in ECDataWorks, a multiyear project supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and facilitated by the University of Pennsylvania's Consortium for Policy Research in Education in collaboration with leading experts in the field.

The ECDataWorks project team works in a collaborative, outcome-driven manner to conceptualize and develop tools to facilitate the organization, delivery, and strategic use of existing early childhood data. The initial web-based analytic tool, Texas Ready Communities, Ready Schools, and Ready Students (TXR3), is being developed and will be released in 2021.

TXR3 will help decision-makers visualize how well public prekindergarten, kindergarten, and Texas Rising Star programs are prepared to educate children. The TXR3 tool provides insight into the professional development needs of communities and schools as equal partners in collaboratively educating and preparing children.

Other Activities to Support Professional Development

Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS)

In FY'21, TWC provided \$300,000 to support TECPDS and the Texas Workforce Registry (TWR). TWR is a web-based system where early childhood education professionals who work with children from birth to age eight can store and access their education and employment history, as well as the professional development hours they have completed. TWR is administered by CLI and is open to all Texas early childhood education professionals. Texas began the statewide rollout of TWR in 2019, and it will continue through 2021. Currently 33,744 practitioners and 3,264 directors are using the registry in some capacity. TWC has also proposed that all Texas Rising Star programs strongly encourage their staff to use TWR.

Child Care Business Training

On December 1, 2019, TWC awarded a two-year grant for \$3 million to Collaborative for Children to provide child care business training. This initiative provides online and in-person trainings for at least 1,000 child care owners and directors in targeted regions across Texas. The trainings are designed to teach skills valuable to administrators of small businesses, increase the number of qualified Texas Rising Star providers, and improve the quality of child care services. All training is available in English and Spanish.

Infant-Toddler Specialist Network

In March 2020, TWC awarded \$3 million to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to establish a statewide Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN). This network will provide teachers and administrators of infant and toddler programs with professional development, technical support, and opportunities to participate in professional learning communities (PLCs). This will help to enhance the quality of care provided to infants and toddlers across the state and elevate the skills and competencies of the teachers and administrators who participate. The ITSN website is at <https://texasitsn.org/>.

Preventing Suspension and Expulsion and Addressing Challenging Behaviors

In August 2020, TWC awarded nearly \$1 million to Green Space Learning and Development to provide professional development that focuses on identifying, preventing, and addressing challenging behaviors. The professional development activities align with evidence-based models that promote young children's positive emotional and social development and provide teachers with strategies to reduce challenging behaviors. The grant period is 18 months, beginning September 2020.

Staff Retention (Director/Owner Leadership Skills)

In August 2020, TWC awarded approximately \$2 million between two grantees, Raising Austin and Start Early to collaborate on efforts to implement evidence-based strategies shown to create supportive work environments and improve retention of child care staff through supports such as:

- professional development programs that focus on providing adaptive leadership skills training;
- access to PLCs and referrals to local resources; and
- initiatives that promote reflective pedagogical supervision, coaching, and development opportunities.

This training will increase director and owner capacity as administrators of small businesses and provide tools and resources.

Family Child Care Networks

The United Way of Denton County and AVANCE were awarded 18-month grants totaling approximately \$400,000 on March 1, 2020, to develop staffed Family Child Care Networks to provide professional development, specialized services, and technical assistance to address the business and program management needs of home-based family caregivers. These efforts will increase the availability and quality of family child care.

Planning for Individualized Instruction

TWC, through a competitive procurement, selected TXAEYC in collaboration with Teaching Strategies to implement a statewide early childhood assessment project. TXAEYC was awarded \$1.5 million in June 2018 for a two-year contract to benefit 20,000 children in child care. At no cost to providers that serve subsidized children, Teaching Strategies provides GOLD®, an observation-based assessment system that enables early childhood caregivers to assess the development and learning of children from birth to five years of age. Teaching Strategies trains caregivers to use the assessment tools, gather and report data, and use the data to offer care and instruction that is individualized according to each child's strengths and needs.

Local Professional Development and Quality Improvement Activities

TWC and Boards also worked closely with other state agencies and local governmental entities, especially ISDs, cities, colleges and universities, and private donors to leverage funds for quality initiatives.

Local Match

Boards leverage local public expenditures in the workforce areas to draw down federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) matching funds. Boards work with public institutions of higher education, ISDs, and local governments to certify local public expenditures for direct child care services to low-income families and for child care quality improvement activities. To meet the child care needs in workforce areas, Boards use the federal CCDF matching funds that result from the public certifications to increase direct child care services to CCDF-eligible families. The funds also are used to expand quality improvement activities in the workforce areas. In BCY'19, Boards entered into 161 total agreements for \$47 million in local match, which drew down \$82.2 million in federal CCDF. In BCY'20, Boards entered into 154 total agreements for \$45.3 million in local match, drawing down \$82.7 million in federal CCDF.

In BCY'19 and in BCY'20, Boards entered into 58 local match agreements with colleges and universities. Through these agreements, colleges and universities certified approximately \$16 million each year in child care and early education professional development expenses to draw down approximately \$28.1 million in BCY'19 and \$29 million in BCY'20 in federal CCDF matching funds.

Although Boards used most of the resulting federal matching funds to subsidize direct child care services, resulting federal funds were also used for quality improvement activities, including professional development and training for child care professionals.

Boards work closely with local ISDs and education service centers to leverage local funds for child care services. In BCY'19, Boards entered into 65 local agreements in which ISDs contributed approximately \$15.5 million in local child care funds, drawing down \$27.2 million in federal CCDF funds. In BCY'20 Boards entered into 59 local agreements in which ISDs contributed approximately \$13.8 million in local child care funds, drawing down \$25.1 million in federal funds. Boards use the federal matching funds for direct child care services or child care quality improvement activities. A significant percentage of the federal funds is used to provide before- and after-school child care for children in the local ISDs.

Boards also work closely with local governmental entities and community-based organizations (CBO's) to leverage local funds. Boards entered into 38 agreements with local governments and CBOs to certify approximately \$15.3 million in local funds for child care services in BCY'19 and 37 agreements in BCY'20 to certify \$15.6 million in local funds. These local funds drew down approximately \$26.8 million federal funds in BCY'19 and \$28.5 million in BCY'20 to provide child care and quality improvement activities in the local workforce areas.

Child Care Industry Partnerships Initiative

On December 1, 2020, TWC's three-member Commission (Commission) approved \$5 million in CCDF statewide funds for the Child Care Industry Partnership (CCIP) local activities to support strategies to advance the quality of child care, including apprenticeships, pre-K partnerships, and expanding family child care. Industry and corporate foundations will donate cash contributions to support proposed local activities, and TWC will provide CCIP matching funds.

Local Quality Improvement Activities

Texas Government Code §2308.317(c) requires each Local Workforce Development Board (Board) to use at least 2 percent of its yearly child care allocation for quality initiatives. Boards must ensure that the 2 percent allocation dedicated to quality child care initiatives is used for the following:

- Quality child care programs, including programs that meet one of the following conditions:
 - The Director receives monitoring
 - The Program is in the process of obtaining Texas Rising Star certification
- Technical assistance, including the following:
 - Assistance to Texas Rising Star providers and child care providers seeking Texas Rising Star certification
 - Consumer information regarding the selection of the quality for parents
 - Parenting education information
- Professional development for child care programs, directors, and employees
- Educational materials for children served by child care providers
- Educational information for parents on the development of children under age five

HB 680 amended this section of the Texas Government Code to require that each Board, to the extent practicable, ensure that professional development funds for child care providers, directors, and employees:

- can be used toward requirements for a credential, certification, or degree program; and
- meets the professional development requirements of the Texas Rising Star program.

In FY'20, Boards expended approximately \$45 million on professional development activities, including the following:

- Providing training on the state's early learning guidelines
 - Infant and toddler guidelines: 643 programs
 - Prekindergarten guidelines: 309 programs
- 1,500 locally funded scholarships for CDA classes and college degrees
- Financial assistance for 2,825 individuals to complete other professional development activities

Facilitating Collaboration

Texas Labor Code §302.0043 requires TWC to evaluate the effectiveness of its child care program in facilitating collaboration with Head Start, TEA, DFPS, and HHSC. TWC collaborates with these partner agencies and other child-serving organizations through a variety of interagency workgroups and shared projects.

Texas Early Learning Council

The Texas Early Learning Council (TELC), including representation from TWC, leveraged the Preschool Development Grant - Birth through Five Planning Grant to conduct a statewide needs assessment and develop the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan. TELC designed the plan as a framework for public and private action at state and local levels to achieve the group's vision that all Texas children are ready for school and ready to learn. The strategic plan includes goals for system, family, and child outcomes, strategies to meet these goals, and measurable targets to achieve by 2025. More information is available at <https://earlylearningtexas.org/>.

Texas Online Availability Portal

Initially developed through a partnership with the governor's Frontline Child Care Task Force in response to the need for child care for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, TWC funded the [Texas Online Availability Portal](#). The tool connects parents to available child care by allowing providers to indicate their vacant slots by age group. Parents are able to search the portal by ZIP code and the age of the child needing care. As of August 10, 2020, 4,120 child care providers in 182 Texas counties used the system to indicate 83,023 available seats, and 36,491 searches had been conducted.

Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office Advisory Board

The Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO) Advisory Board, including representation from TWC, supports the development and activities of the annual needs assessment and strategic plan. The THSSCO facilitates collaboration among Head Start agencies in the state and other organizations and state agencies that support low-income children and families.

Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee

TWC participates in the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Advisory Committee. The function of the advisory committee is to advise and assist HHSC in its operation of the statewide system of ECI services to eligible children and families in Texas.

Early Childhood Systems Integration Group

Texas's Early Childhood Systems Integration Group is a collaboration of seven state agencies and divisions focused on addressing issues and opportunities related to service delivery and coordination and broader systems that affect the development and well-being of young children and their families. The group, which is led by HHSC's Prevention and Early Intervention division, offers a strategy for coordinating resources through cross-agency collaboration.

OLE! Texas

Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE! Texas) is a Department of State Health Services (DSHS) initiative to improve outdoor spaces at child care centers. The initiative calls for adding design elements (for example, looping pathways, vegetable gardens, and more play and learning settings) to enable children from birth to age five to be active, learn in nature, and develop motor skills. TWC participates as a subject matter expert for Texas Rising Star.

Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Committee

The Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Committee is a DSHS initiative to facilitate improvement and implementation of nutrition and physical activity standards and practices in child care settings in Texas. The initiative focuses on informing policy, increasing Texas Rising Star and Child and Adult Care Food Program participation, increasing parent awareness about childhood obesity, professional development focused on obesity prevention, and creation and dissemination of a statewide self-assessment for obesity recognition. TWC participates as a subject matter expert for Texas Rising Star.

Texas Rising Star

Facilitation of Enrollment in the Texas Rising Star Program and Star-Level Progression of Providers

TWC provides funding to the Boards to support Texas Rising Star mentor and assessor staff. Increases to the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant allowed TWC to increase support for Texas Rising Star staff from just over \$3 million per year in FY'18 to almost \$10.5 million per year in FY'21. As a result, the number of Texas Rising Star-certified programs has increased steadily over the past several years. In BCY'20, 2,106 child care and early learning programs participated in Texas Rising Star, representing a nearly 64 percent increase since 2015. Texas Rising Star programs now comprise approximately 27 percent of all programs with agreements to accept subsidized children.

Year	TRS Providers	Non-TRS Providers	Providers	Percentage TRS
BCY '15	1,286	7,194	8,480	15.2%
BCY '16	1,221	7,039	8,260	14.8%
BCY '17	1,383	6,591	7,974	17.3%
BCY '18	1,558	6,201	7,759	20.1%
BCY '19	1,884	5,898	7,782	24.2%
BCY '20	2,106	5,719	7,825	26.9%

Payment Rates to Encourage Participation and Meet Performance Measures

On June 16, 2020, the Commission approved final rules to require Boards to establish maximum reimbursement rates at or above a level established by the Commission. These rules were enacted to ensure that Boards' maximum reimbursement rates are set at a level adequate to ensure equal access as set forth in the Child Care and Development Fund regulations at 45 CFR §98.45. On October 6, 2020, the Commission established a minimum threshold, requiring Boards to set their maximum reimbursement rate at or above the 30th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey.

The Commission also previously established benchmarks tied to the Market Rate Survey for Texas Rising Star enhanced reimbursement rates. Beginning in BCY'19, Texas Rising Star rates for 4-Star providers were benchmarked at the 75th percentile; 3-Star providers receive 90 percent of the 4-Star rate and 2-Star providers receive 90 percent of the 3-Star rate. The Texas Rising Star rates have been based upon the most recent Market Rate Survey and adjusted in each subsequent Board Contract Year.

Texas Rising Star Assessor and Mentor Funding

Texas Government Code §2308.3155(c) requires TWC to provide funding to Boards for Texas Rising Star assessors and mentors. Texas Rising Star assessors are responsible for conducting on-site assessments of providers to determine compliance with Texas Rising Star standards. Texas Rising Star mentors provide technical assistance to providers that are working to become Texas Rising Star certified and to Texas Rising Star providers working toward higher levels of certification.

As of September 30, 2020, there were 1,829 Texas Rising Star-certified child care providers serving approximately 43,788 TWC-subsidized children per day.

Texas Rising Star Four-Year Review

Every four years, TWC conducts a comprehensive review of the Texas Rising Star program. TWC began the current comprehensive review of Texas Rising Star in May 2019 and is scheduled to implement the resulting changes in early 2021.

TWC established a Texas Rising Star workgroup to inform the review by considering the input received and providing recommendations for new Texas Rising Star Guidelines. This included input from the TWC-funded [Strengthening Texas Rising Star Implementation Study](#), which was conducted by CLI at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Stakeholder Input

On October 29, 2019, the Commission approved a policy outlining opportunities for child care stakeholders to provide input to TWC, which is summarized on TWC's [website](#).

Texas Rising Star Workgroup

TWC sought input as the Texas Rising Star Guidelines were undergoing review and revision. TWC established a Texas Rising Star workgroup to inform this review and posted workgroup information on the TWC [website](#). The workgroup was composed of 18 individuals representing child care providers, state agencies, Boards, and child care stakeholders.

Additionally, after publication of the recommended revisions for public comment, TWC hosted seven public meetings across the state to give other stakeholders an opportunity to review the workgroup's recommendations and provide additional comments.

Prekindergarten Partnerships

TWC also engaged with child care stakeholders interested in prekindergarten partnerships. TWC hosted monthly calls to review progress, discuss challenges, and identify promising practices in support of the expansion of prekindergarten partnerships.

Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative

Governor Abbott's charges to the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative included direction for improvements to the state's subsidized child care programs that will increase kindergarten readiness and options for working parents. TWC solicited input from stakeholders across the state, with 230 responding. This input helped the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative formulate recommended strategies to address these early childhood directives.

Texas 2022-2024 CCDF State Plan

As part of the development of the CCDF State Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–2024, TWC conducted a public survey in December 2020 to provide input on the plan and on strategies they recommend TWC consider over the next three years. As of December 10, 2020, TWC received 1,313 survey responses from child care and early learning providers (874), parents (300), state agency and Board staff (59), advocacy groups and community-based organizations (40), and other individuals in industry and workforce development (40).

To follow up on the feedback received, TWC has scheduled two focus groups, one with providers and one with advocacy groups and other stakeholders. In January 2021, TWC will also solicit input from Boards and TELC. In April, TWC will host a public meeting to invite feedback on the draft of the state plan prior to submitting the plan in June 2021. TWC has also posted information on the [stakeholder web page](#) about the state plan and opportunities to provide input.

Contracted Slots Workgroup

TWC formed a Contracted Slots workgroup to develop recommendations for the necessary policy changes and guidance for implementing contracted slots at the Board level. The workgroup included TWC Child Care and Early Learning staff and representatives from Boards that serve both rural and urban underserved areas with high-quality child care deserts. On June 23, 2020, the Commission approved a policy concept outlining the proposed direction based on input from the workgroup.

Stakeholder-Led Engagement Activities

In addition to TWC-led activities to gather input from stakeholders, TWC is also regularly invited to hear feedback as part of stakeholder-led groups and projects. In FY'19 and FY'20, TWC gathered input through the Prenatal-to-Three Policy Impact Center at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Children at Risk's Early Childhood Education Coalition, and the United Way of Texas, as well as multiple local coalitions and committees focused on early childhood.

Response to COVID-19

Many child care providers, families with subsidies, and essential workers were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the late spring, during the initial response to the pandemic, 3,678 providers that participate in the child care subsidy system were temporarily closed, representing more than half of the child care providers that accept subsidies. At the end of November 2020, the number of closed providers has dropped to just over 500 (approximately 8 percent of subsidy providers).

TWC participated in Governor Greg Abbott's Frontline Child Care Task Force. As part of this task force, TWC worked with partnering agencies and stakeholders to help the state develop and implement a coordinated response to address child care challenges during the pandemic.

TWC worked quickly to establish various resources and continues to support Texas families and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic with a multipronged approach. As the pandemic has unfolded, TWC has also regularly engaged with stakeholder groups, including child care program owners and directors, to better understand their needs during ongoing disruptions.

Texas received \$371.6 million in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. TWC budgeted up to \$100 million of CCDBG from the CARES Act to support emergency child care for essential workers. Essential worker child care was designed as a short-term emergency benefit, intended to help essential workers address the immediate child care challenges they faced when schools closed in the spring. Boards enrolled approximately 29,700 essential workers' children for three months of child care.

TWC also authorized a temporary increase in the payment rates for child care providers serving subsidized children. Set at 25 percent, the enhanced reimbursement rate is intended to help child care providers address the higher costs they are facing as a result of COVID-19. TWC budgeted \$153.8 million of CCDBG CARES Act funds to support the temporary enhanced reimbursement rate through December 2020.

TWC budgeted \$19.3 million in CARES Act funds to cover the higher costs of low-income child care in BCY'20 and \$33 million in BCY'21. TWC also implemented a short-term program, the Child Care Stabilization Grant (CCSG), to assist child care providers that were previously serving subsidized children that had closed due to COVID-19. Providers that were temporarily closed and planned on reopening were potentially eligible to receive grants of up to \$10,000 (up to \$10,500 for Texas Rising Star programs). The grants, which are scaled based on

program type and size, are intended to help defray some expenses incurred by closed providers so they will be able to reopen. The CCSG was available from June 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020.

TWC's Child Care & Early Learning Division is also working with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to help child care providers access critical cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Child care providers that used the Texas Online Availability Portal received a survey asking what supplies and PPE they needed. More than 3,000 child care providers responded and placed orders. TDEM distributes the supplies to AgriLife Extension offices, where providers pick them up.

Appendix: Data Tables

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Table 1A—TANF Parents Who Find Employment within One Year of Receiving Child Care¹

Board Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alamo Area	89.60%	93.14%	87.90%	89.03%	89.83%
Borderplex	82.84%	84.88%	80.41%	77.21%	76.12%
Brazos Valley	87.76%	82.76%	90.32%	80.00%	96.15%
Cameron County	86.16%	88.00%	81.37%	90.74%	85.42%
Capital Area	92.28%	90.97%	86.47%	83.61%	80.43%
Central Texas	83.48%	86.59%	81.29%	84.24%	84.15%
Coastal Bend	88.00%	92.11%	82.14%	85.59%	85.42%
Concho Valley	80.95%	94.44%	81.25%	100.00%	93.75%
Dallas	88.93%	91.42%	90.83%	87.87%	87.71%
Deep East Texas	90.32%	87.23%	78.13%	96.77%	92.59%
East Texas	89.33%	86.96%	87.30%	92.59%	91.67%
Golden Crescent	84.62%	100.00%	81.82%	71.43%	88.89%
Gulf Coast	85.57%	83.49%	80.43%	84.36%	84.44%
Heart of Texas	92.54%	90.70%	88.37%	91.80%	87.10%
Lower Rio Grande	78.82%	76.64%	77.17%	78.85%	80.86%
Middle Rio Grande	90.00%	81.82%	80.49%	76.19%	84.62%
North Central	87.50%	87.30%	88.17%	90.36%	87.06%
North East Texas	82.93%	87.23%	81.82%	80.00%	80.65%
North Texas	78.31%	94.44%	86.54%	89.55%	86.84%
Panhandle	91.11%	83.78%	74.47%	90.32%	93.75%
Permian Basin	94.44%	87.50%	91.89%	100.00%	95.00%
Rural Capital	87.39%	89.01%	98.51%	93.75%	90.00%
South Plains	95.24%	90.70%	93.75%	86.05%	94.29%
South Texas	84.48%	85.25%	81.48%	84.13%	84.78%
Southeast Texas	88.73%	88.14%	80.77%	90.24%	96.00%
Tarrant County	88.70%	87.78%	86.94%	85.95%	88.15%
Texoma	84.62%	90.48%	86.67%	90.48%	87.50%
West Central Texas	78.57%	72.00%	80.00%	100.00%	96.43%
System	86.63%	87.11%	84.22%	85.92%	86.06%

¹ Texas Labor Code, §302.0043(a)(1)(A)

Table 1B—TANF Parents Maintaining Employment One Year after Entering Child Care²

Board Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alamo Area	59.87%	58.10%	59.38%	61.57%	66.51%
Borderplex	48.82%	46.82%	59.36%	58.99%	59.36%
Brazos Valley	60.00%	61.29%	53.57%	74.42%	73.33%
Cameron County	56.34%	53.68%	56.76%	65.81%	66.93%
Capital Area	62.67%	62.27%	64.16%	63.51%	77.25%
Central Texas	51.69%	54.44%	61.11%	61.33%	60.89%
Coastal Bend	47.22%	53.60%	67.03%	61.11%	59.83%
Concho Valley	62.07%	44.44%	74.07%	78.95%	57.14%
Dallas	60.05%	64.24%	65.20%	66.46%	65.00%
Deep East Texas	58.73%	65.31%	61.54%	71.11%	66.67%
East Texas	46.51%	54.84%	63.39%	71.88%	68.14%
Golden Crescent	50.00%	70.00%	66.67%	57.14%	68.97%
Gulf Coast	52.63%	57.47%	55.12%	62.37%	65.06%
Heart of Texas	64.52%	62.35%	67.11%	69.77%	63.64%
Lower Rio Grande	51.96%	49.40%	48.68%	57.49%	62.81%
Middle Rio Grande	62.22%	50.00%	60.87%	70.59%	48.84%
North Central	54.31%	58.99%	63.32%	61.63%	65.04%
North East Texas	53.57%	48.61%	59.42%	55.56%	67.61%
North Texas	53.95%	53.23%	70.37%	70.73%	71.58%
Panhandle	54.67%	75.00%	54.39%	66.67%	65.31%
Permian Basin	68.57%	43.75%	72.09%	68.75%	70.00%
Rural Capital	55.56%	66.39%	65.59%	65.52%	67.01%
South Plains	71.60%	65.28%	53.62%	73.97%	71.43%
South Texas	45.71%	56.41%	47.17%	55.77%	55.74%
Southeast Texas	56.92%	55.00%	53.33%	65.67%	62.50%
Tarrant County	58.47%	59.69%	60.36%	65.46%	65.17%
Texoma	32.00%	50.00%	60.71%	78.26%	58.06%
West Central Texas	53.06%	59.57%	68.63%	71.43%	66.67%
System	56.00%	58.41%	60.10%	64.02%	65.23%

² Texas Labor Code, §302.0043(a)(1)(B)

Table 2A—Non-TANF Parents Maintaining Employment One Year after Entering Child Care³

Board Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alamo Area	84.13%	84.88%	88.18%	87.92%	87.00%
Borderplex	80.68%	83.23%	85.63%	84.91%	84.62%
Brazos Valley	83.85%	85.77%	88.78%	89.38%	90.02%
Cameron County	81.21%	83.93%	85.77%	87.57%	87.05%
Capital Area	87.75%	87.02%	88.58%	90.53%	88.58%
Central Texas	74.32%	78.54%	79.28%	78.53%	79.23%
Coastal Bend	76.82%	79.65%	83.55%	85.32%	86.76%
Concho Valley	78.79%	81.63%	86.73%	88.06%	87.85%
Dallas	84.49%	87.77%	89.23%	88.00%	87.67%
Deep East Texas	80.34%	81.65%	86.37%	86.35%	86.08%
East Texas	82.03%	82.54%	87.54%	87.57%	87.15%
Golden Crescent	80.10%	82.56%	84.55%	87.73%	88.07%
Gulf Coast	82.93%	82.54%	84.11%	83.66%	85.05%
Heart of Texas	85.18%	85.42%	88.95%	87.89%	87.35%
Lower Rio Grande	81.83%	82.66%	84.57%	86.40%	85.96%
Middle Rio Grande	80.21%	80.33%	85.70%	89.37%	89.02%
North Central	84.22%	85.84%	86.84%	85.87%	88.03%
North East Texas	78.10%	79.66%	85.49%	82.58%	81.00%
North Texas	83.67%	85.09%	87.38%	85.15%	84.21%
Panhandle	81.06%	82.64%	84.98%	86.70%	86.36%
Permian Basin	79.58%	79.52%	83.88%	85.87%	86.39%
Rural Capital	85.46%	87.09%	88.95%	89.62%	89.45%
South Plains	81.64%	82.82%	87.16%	89.11%	87.90%
South Texas	82.52%	81.86%	85.84%	86.91%	86.12%
Southeast Texas	83.16%	87.24%	85.71%	86.92%	84.93%
Tarrant County	83.24%	86.11%	88.24%	87.84%	87.20%
Texoma	82.71%	83.14%	86.05%	86.44%	85.78%
West Central Texas	81.88%	82.06%	87.01%	86.12%	87.60%
System	82.49%	83.77%	86.20%	86.21%	86.41%

³ Texas Labor Code, §302.0043(a)(2)(A)

Table 2B—Average Quarterly Wage Gain of Non-TANF Parents Receiving Child Care⁴

Board Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alamo Area	\$839.98	\$978.51	\$762.26	\$488.88	\$908.82
Borderplex	\$706.53	\$916.19	\$755.42	\$467.89	\$731.44
Brazos Valley	\$696.57	\$840.92	\$734.44	\$715.48	\$966.35
Cameron County	\$810.76	\$869.66	\$749.40	\$384.94	\$1,032.12
Capital Area	\$961.46	\$1,073.47	\$921.79	\$795.71	\$1,041.66
Central Texas	\$467.23	\$984.34	\$809.26	\$825.68	\$1,028.45
Coastal Bend	\$1,008.99	\$911.54	\$675.34	\$428.65	\$808.74
Concho Valley	\$1,048.60	\$1,203.37	\$930.66	\$442.68	\$919.58
Dallas	\$898.39	\$1,210.59	\$854.83	\$577.14	\$1,073.53
Deep East Texas	\$749.29	\$791.59	\$701.83	\$359.88	\$886.66
East Texas	\$830.76	\$761.58	\$687.46	\$592.04	\$833.75
Golden Crescent	\$1,053.04	\$939.33	\$661.40	\$383.00	\$1,055.80
Gulf Coast	\$1,119.70	\$1,160.75	\$862.37	\$744.01	\$1,293.15
Heart of Texas	\$703.72	\$1,058.28	\$769.33	\$344.88	\$924.81
Lower Rio Grande	\$792.85	\$971.32	\$754.92	\$469.12	\$783.39
Middle Rio Grande	\$652.68	\$919.24	\$668.04	\$263.12	\$743.31
North Central	\$998.74	\$1,169.29	\$948.25	\$698.73	\$1,107.10
North East Texas	\$862.93	\$1,179.86	\$836.71	\$654.68	\$1,120.46
North Texas	\$1,003.35	\$828.28	\$631.70	\$751.45	\$1,085.04
Panhandle	\$765.05	\$1,055.78	\$800.18	\$650.40	\$1,159.65
Permian Basin	\$1,289.43	\$785.09	\$699.09	\$700.72	\$1,851.26
Rural Capital	\$976.94	\$1,287.07	\$986.38	\$625.30	\$942.01
South Plains	\$745.36	\$981.63	\$948.65	\$510.05	\$1,066.81
South Texas	\$918.99	\$911.27	\$761.64	\$434.26	\$774.09
Southeast Texas	\$734.49	\$998.62	\$484.82	\$456.15	\$990.57
Tarrant County	\$794.07	\$1,132.73	\$766.59	\$693.80	\$1,077.64
Texoma	\$1,035.66	\$802.99	\$729.34	\$453.58	\$1,234.65
West Central Texas	\$911.58	\$842.11	\$712.54	\$536.85	\$769.28
System	\$909.06	\$1,040.81	\$805.71	\$603.01	\$1,044.56

⁴ Texas Labor Code, §302.0043(a)(2)(B)

Table 3—Percent of Parents Leaving a Child Care Program and Receiving TANF within a Year⁵

Board Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Alamo Area	18.88%	17.00%	20.50%	14.65%	14.32%
Borderplex	23.16%	22.60%	24.56%	14.33%	14.10%
Brazos Valley	15.93%	7.34%	11.54%	5.75%	4.14%
Cameron County	18.36%	13.66%	19.94%	12.96%	12.50%
Capital Area	30.29%	19.44%	22.04%	17.92%	16.09%
Central Texas	20.00%	17.29%	18.75%	12.75%	21.79%
Coastal Bend	17.48%	12.41%	17.48%	15.76%	20.89%
Concho Valley	8.03%	17.50%	13.98%	7.84%	11.11%
Dallas	39.21%	34.32%	33.33%	23.18%	25.92%
Deep East Texas	12.25%	8.06%	13.04%	7.79%	8.46%
East Texas	8.81%	7.80%	13.00%	11.67%	7.69%
Golden Crescent	6.02%	1.88%	8.04%	4.08%	8.70%
Gulf Coast	26.74%	24.07%	19.99%	9.09%	12.19%
Heart of Texas	19.79%	20.48%	17.65%	18.60%	14.79%
Lower Rio Grande	13.50%	9.53%	10.10%	11.06%	7.88%
Middle Rio Grande	13.72%	8.37%	14.94%	12.86%	8.51%
North Central	13.50%	10.91%	13.37%	9.05%	7.85%
North East Texas	13.84%	10.71%	15.12%	18.18%	14.78%
North Texas	26.88%	20.49%	27.62%	20.59%	9.57%
Panhandle	6.35%	7.95%	8.75%	5.88%	6.57%
Permian Basin	3.36%	4.01%	9.88%	7.69%	9.70%
Rural Capital	16.13%	11.44%	13.11%	11.31%	11.40%
South Plains	6.42%	6.88%	6.30%	4.17%	5.22%
South Texas	10.98%	9.37%	15.63%	15.33%	7.05%
Southeast Texas	19.37%	18.08%	19.85%	12.86%	11.50%
Tarrant County	22.44%	20.76%	22.52%	14.65%	15.99%
Texoma	14.52%	11.11%	10.75%	12.50%	6.85%
West Central Texas	8.26%	9.01%	10.68%	14.63%	6.04%
System	20.48%	17.43%	19.14%	12.52%	13.07%

⁵ Texas Labor Code, §302.0043(a)(3)(B)

Table 4A—BCY'20 Texas Rising Star Providers—Percent of All Subsidized Providers and Percent of All Regulated Providers⁶

Board Name	All TRS Providers	All Subsidized Providers	Percent TRS	All Regulated Providers	Percent TRS
Alamo Area	128	561	22.8%	1,000	12.8%
Borderplex	87	334	26.0%	328	26.5%
Brazos Valley	30	112	26.8%	134	22.4%
Cameron County	48	162	29.6%	217	22.1%
Capital Area	147	428	34.3%	626	23.5%
Central Texas	45	262	17.2%	302	14.9%
Coastal Bend	30	164	18.3%	249	12.0%
Concho Valley	9	59	15.3%	86	10.5%
Dallas	151	611	24.7%	993	15.2%
Deep East Texas	35	81	43.2%	104	33.7%
East Texas	89	198	44.9%	246	36.2%
Golden Crescent	10	55	18.2%	71	14.1%
Gulf Coast	502	1,766	28.4%	3,537	14.2%
Heart of Texas	60	140	42.9%	168	35.7%
Lower Rio Grande	64	388	16.5%	457	14.0%
Middle Rio Grande	19	59	32.2%	73	26.0%
North Central	109	637	17.1%	1,261	8.6%
North East Texas	30	71	42.3%	95	31.6%
North Texas	33	81	40.7%	112	29.5%
Panhandle	30	108	27.8%	170	17.6%
Permian Basin	12	114	10.5%	160	7.5%
Rural Capital	80	333	24.0%	554	14.4%
South Plains	33	132	25.0%	178	18.5%
South Texas	26	116	22.4%	114	22.8%
Southeast Texas	33	102	32.4%	142	23.2%
Tarrant County	212	581	36.5%	961	22.1%
Texoma	11	69	15.9%	76	14.5%
West Central Texas	43	100	43.0%	149	28.9%
System	2,106	7,824	26.9%	12,564	16.8%

Board-level data for BCY'15–'19 can be found in “Child Care by the Numbers” at <https://twc.texas.gov/programs/childcare-numbers>.

⁶ Texas Labor Code, §302.0043(f)(3), §302.0042(b)(9)–(10)

Table 4B—BCY'20 Texas Rising Star Providers by Star Level⁷—Percent of All Subsidized Providers⁸

Board Name	2-Star Providers	Percent 2-Star	3-Star Providers	Percent 3-Star	4-Star Providers	Percent 4-Star	All Subsidized
Alamo Area	20	3.6%	43	7.7%	81	14.4%	561
Borderplex	12	3.6%	13	3.9%	76	22.8%	334
Brazos Valley	15	13.4%	10	8.9%	8	7.1%	112
Cameron County	5	3.1%	16	9.9%	30	18.5%	162
Capital Area	44	10.3%	41	9.6%	80	18.7%	428
Central Texas	5	1.9%	3	1.1%	39	14.9%	262
Coastal Bend	5	3.0%	10	6.1%	20	12.2%	164
Concho Valley	2	3.4%	3	5.1%	6	10.2%	59
Dallas	7	1.1%	37	6.1%	128	20.9%	611
Deep East Texas	7	8.6%	11	13.6%	26	32.1%	81
East Texas	11	5.6%	47	23.7%	51	25.8%	198
Golden Crescent	2	3.6%	8	14.5%	3	5.5%	55
Gulf Coast	169	9.6%	149	8.4%	263	14.9%	1766
Heart of Texas	38	27.1%	15	10.7%	19	13.6%	140
Lower Rio Grande	5	1.3%	12	3.1%	60	15.5%	388
Middle Rio Grande	6	10.2%	5	8.5%	9	15.3%	59
North Central	25	3.9%	31	4.9%	71	11.1%	637
North East Texas	5	7.0%	7	9.9%	22	31.0%	71
North Texas	7	8.6%	12	14.8%	19	23.5%	81
Panhandle	6	5.6%	14	13.0%	17	15.7%	108
Permian Basin	3	2.6%	3	2.6%	7	6.1%	114
Rural Capital	9	2.7%	33	9.9%	53	15.9%	333
South Plains	9	6.8%	18	13.6%	12	9.1%	132
South Texas	1	0.9%	10	8.6%	16	13.8%	116
Southeast Texas	9	8.8%	7	6.9%	17	16.7%	102
Tarrant County	47	8.1%	76	13.1%	121	20.8%	581
Texoma	1	1.4%	3	4.3%	10	14.5%	69
West Central Texas	24	0.24	12	12.0%	11	11.0%	100
System	499	6.4%	649	8.3%	1275	16.3%	7,824

Board-level data for BCY'15–'19 can be found in “Child Care by the Numbers” at <https://twc.texas.gov/programs/childcare-numbers>.

⁷ Provider star level is at any time during the Board Contract Year.

⁸ Texas Labor Code, §§302.0043(f)(3), 302.0042(b)(9)–(11)

Table 4C—BCY'20 Texas Rising Star Providers by Star Level⁹—Percent of All Regulated Providers¹⁰

Board Name	2-Star Providers	Percent 2-Star	3-Star Providers	Percent 3-Star	4-Star Providers	Percent 4-Star	All Regulated Providers
Alamo Area	20	2.0%	43	4.3%	81	8.1%	1,000
Borderplex	12	3.7%	13	4.0%	76	23.2%	328
Brazos Valley	15	11.2%	10	7.5%	8	6.0%	134
Cameron County	5	2.3%	16	7.4%	30	13.8%	217
Capital Area	44	7.0%	41	6.5%	80	12.8%	626
Central Texas	5	1.7%	3	1.0%	39	12.9%	302
Coastal Bend	5	2.0%	10	4.0%	20	8.0%	249
Concho Valley	2	2.3%	3	3.5%	6	7.0%	86
Dallas	7	0.7%	37	3.7%	128	12.9%	993
Deep East Texas	7	6.7%	11	10.6%	26	25.0%	104
East Texas	11	4.5%	47	19.1%	51	20.7%	246
Golden Crescent	2	2.8%	8	11.3%	3	4.2%	71
Gulf Coast	169	4.8%	149	4.2%	263	7.4%	3,537
Heart of Texas	38	22.6%	15	8.9%	19	11.3%	168
Lower Rio Grande	5	1.1%	12	2.6%	60	13.1%	457
Middle Rio Grande	6	8.2%	5	6.8%	9	12.3%	73
North Central	25	2.0%	31	2.5%	71	5.6%	1,261
North East Texas	5	5.3%	7	7.4%	22	23.2%	95
North Texas	7	6.2%	12	10.7%	19	17.0%	112
Panhandle	6	3.5%	14	8.2%	17	10.0%	170
Permian Basin	3	1.9%	3	1.9%	7	4.4%	160
Rural Capital	9	1.6%	33	6.0%	53	9.6%	554
South Plains	9	5.1%	18	10.1%	12	6.7%	178
South Texas	1	0.9%	10	8.8%	16	14.0%	114
Southeast Texas	9	6.3%	7	4.9%	17	12.0%	142
Tarrant County	47	4.9%	76	7.9%	121	12.6%	961
Texoma	1	1.3%	3	3.9%	10	13.2%	76
West Central Texas	24	16.1%	12	8.1%	11	7.4%	149
System	499	4.0%	649	5.2%	1,275	10.1%	12,564

Board level data for BCY'15–'19 can be found in "Child Care by the Numbers" at

<https://twc.texas.gov/programs/childcare-numbers>.

⁹ Provider star level is at any time during the Board Contract Year.

¹⁰ Texas Labor Code, §§302.0043(f)(3), 302.0042(b)(9)–(11)

Table 4D—BCY’20 Total Subsidized Children Enrolled in a Texas Rising Star Program—Percent of All Subsidized Children¹¹

Board Name	TRS Children	All Subsidy Children	Percent TRS
Alamo Area	2,665	10,082	26.4%
Borderplex	2,915	5,588	52.2%
Brazos Valley	589	1,181	49.9%
Cameron County	1,897	4,561	41.6%
Capital Area	1,756	2,979	59.0%
Central Texas	599	2,491	24.0%
Coastal Bend	963	2,952	32.6%
Concho Valley	68	669	10.2%
Dallas	5,925	15,513	38.2%
Deep East Texas	1,026	2,065	49.7%
East Texas	2,004	3,882	51.6%
Golden Crescent	11	919	1.2%
Gulf Coast	11,071	27,553	40.2%
Heart of Texas	947	1,984	47.7%
Lower Rio Grande	2,739	10,601	25.8%
Middle Rio Grande	169	1,621	10.4%
North Central	2,187	7,123	30.7%
North East Texas	790	1,493	52.9%
North Texas	311	1,011	30.8%
Panhandle	753	2,159	34.9%
Permian Basin	96	1,990	4.8%
Rural Capital	1,058	2,525	41.9%
South Plains	902	2,490	36.2%
South Texas	1,034	2,663	38.8%
Southeast Texas	715	2,034	35.1%
Tarrant County	4,004	6,955	57.6%
Texoma	279	896	31.1%
West Central Texas	859	1,623	52.9%
System	48,332	12,764	37.9%

Board-level data for BCY’15–’19 can be found in “Child Care by the Numbers” at <https://twc.texas.gov/programs/childcare-numbers>.

¹¹ Texas Labor Code, §§302.0043(f)(3), 302.0042(b)(12)–(13)

Table 4E—BCY'20 Total Subsidized Children Enrolled in a Texas Rising Star Program by Star Level¹²—Percent of All Subsidized Children¹³

Board Name	2-Star Children	Percent 2-Star	3-Star Children	Percent 3-Star	4-Star Children	Percent 4-Star	All Subsidy Children
Alamo Area	261	2.6%	828	8.2%	1,576	15.6%	10,082
Borderplex	327	5.9%	206	3.7%	2,382	42.6%	5588
Brazos Valley	97	8.2%	138	11.7%	354	30.0%	1,181
Cameron County	75	1.6%	651	14.3%	1,171	25.7%	4,561
Capital Area	226	7.6%	237	8.0%	1,293	43.4%	2,979
Central Texas	19	0.8%	76	3.1%	504	20.2%	2,491
Coastal Bend	71	2.4%	506	17.1%	386	13.1%	2,952
Concho Valley	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	68	10.2%	669
Dallas	151	1.0%	1,187	7.7%	4,587	29.6%	15,513
Deep East Texas	38	1.8%	174	8.4%	814	39.4%	2,065
East Texas	230	5.9%	755	19.4%	1,019	26.2%	3,882
Golden Crescent	11	1.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	919
Gulf Coast	2,115	7.7%	2,259	8.2%	6,697	24.3%	27,553
Heart of Texas	379	19.1%	232	11.7%	336	16.9%	1,984
Lower Rio Grande	141	1.3%	346	3.3%	2,252	21.2%	10,601
Middle Rio Grande	0	0.0%	43	2.7%	126	7.8%	1,621
North Central	275	3.9%	538	7.6%	1,374	19.3%	7,123
North East Texas	138	9.2%	85	5.7%	567	38.0%	1,493
North Texas	25	2.5%	96	9.5%	190	18.8%	1,011
Panhandle	54	2.5%	161	7.5%	538	24.9%	2,159
Permian Basin	16	0.8%	0	0.0%	80	4.0%	1,990
Rural Capital	64	2.5%	453	17.9%	541	21.4%	2,525
South Plains	147	5.9%	462	18.6%	293	11.8%	2,490
South Texas	5	0.2%	424	15.9%	605	22.7%	2,663
Southeast Texas	322	15.8%	186	9.1%	207	10.2%	2,034
Tarrant County	464	6.7%	1,141	16.4%	2,399	34.5%	6,955
Texoma	19	2.1%	71	7.9%	189	21.1%	896
West Central Texas	275	16.9%	49	3.0%	535	33.0%	1,623
System	5,945	4.7%	11,304	8.9%	31,083	24.4%	12,764

Board-level data for BCY'15–'19 can be found in “Child Care by the Numbers” at

<https://twc.texas.gov/programs/childcare-numbers>.

¹² Provider star level is at any time during the Board Contract Year.

¹³ Texas Labor Code, §§302.0043(f)(3), 302.0042(b)(12)–(13)