

We Support State Leaders Prioritizing Child Care in the 89th Legislative Session

High-quality child care enables parents to work and provide their children with opportunities to learn, socialize, and build new skills during the critical age for brain development.

Unfortunately, Texas is experiencing a child care crisis, and many working families are unable to find and afford the high-quality care they need. This crisis is:

- **A challenge for children's future success in school:** Many children end up in lower quality programs during the critical early years of brain development.
- **A challenge for working families:** Parents often have very few choices for high-quality care—and the available options pose a huge and often untenable financial burden.
- **A challenge for child care programs:** Because of a lack of funding, programs struggle to recruit and retain staff and serve parents in need.
- **A challenge for businesses in all sectors of the Texas economy:** Texas businesses rely on high-quality child care to recruit and retain an effective and reliable workforce.

To ensure that Texas parents have access to high-quality child care, we recommend the following:

1. **Strengthen the Child Care Services (CCS) program to better serve Texas parents and the providers who serve them.**
 - Address the long waitlist (about 78,000 children in fiscal year 2024) by funding more scholarships for eligible families.
 - Ensure reimbursement rates to CCS programs are at the state's established reimbursement rate for the provider's quality and not limited by published tuition costs.
2. **Build up the supply of child care programs that meet urgent needs.**
 - Provide competitive grants through a pilot program that empowers communities to expand affordable care in high-need areas, (e.g., infant & toddler care, alternative hour care, care for children with disabilities, child care deserts, proximity to major employers).
 - Address unintended zoning barriers to expand the supply of licensed child care homes.
3. **Ensure programs can recruit and retain qualified and effective staff.**
 - Help low-income educators access high-quality care for their own children through the Child Care Services program.
4. **Increase access to public pre-k by expanding opportunities for partnerships with community-based child care settings.**
 - Streamline processes and build supports to enable the creation and expansion of pre-k partnerships that deliver high-quality pre-k in a full working-day setting to meet the needs of families.

We urge lawmakers to take these and other meaningful steps toward a future where early childhood education is high-quality, affordable, and accessible to all Texas families.

Supporting Organizations

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
ADFW Child Care Professionals
Amarillo Wesley Community Center Inc
American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions
Any Baby Can
Austin/Travis County Success by Six
Autism Community Network
Blessed Sacrament Academy CDC
Brighton Center
Cadence Education
Care.com
CASA of Ellis County
CASA of the South Plains
Child Care Associates
Children at Risk
The Children's Courtyard
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
The Children's Shelter IParent and Compadre y Compadre
Childtime Learning Centers
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Conroe / Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce
Dallas College School of Education
Early Care and Education Consortium
The Early Learning Alliance
East Central ISD
Easterseals Rio Grande Valley
Ellis County Homeless Coalition
Empower House SA
Everbrook Academy
Family Guidance and Outreach
Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc.
Frenship ISD
Gingerbread Kids Academy
Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas
Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains
The Goddard School
The Goddard School Celina
The Goddard School Fort Worth
The Goddard School Frisco East
The Goddard School Frisco West
The Goddard School The Greater Heights
Goddard Schools of Haslet
Goddard School of Justin
Goddard School - McKinney
The Goddard School, Pflugerville
The Goddard School, Rock Creek
The Good Samaritan Center of San Antonio
Greater Longview United Way
Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Greenspace Learning and Development
Harvest Family Life
The Health Collaborative
Hutchinson County United Way
Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
Kiddie Academy
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce
KinderCare Learning Companies
La Petite Academy
Learning Care Group
Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Area United Way
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA)
Lubbock ISD
Madonna Center, Inc.
MCMC-Mary Coyne Marketing Communications, LLC
Mentors Care
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Montessori Unlimited
North Texas Early Education Alliance
North Texas Area United Way
KB Recycling
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Pathways Learning Academy
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
Prosper Waco
RAC-TX
Respite Care of San Antonio, Inc.
Rise Academy
Roy Maas Youth Alternatives
Rowlett Area Chamber of Commerce
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Waxahachie
San Antonio College Early Childhood Program
South Plains College Child Development
Teach Plus Texas
Texans Care for Children
Texas Association for the Education of Young Children
Texas Association of Community-Based Health Plans
Texas Association of Goodwills
Texas CASA
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Impact
Texas Network of Youth Services
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas YMCAs
TexProtects
Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce
United Way of Abilene
United Way of Amarillo & Canyon
United Way of Brazoria County
United Way of Central Texas
United Way of Denton County
United Way for Greater Austin
United Way of Greater Houston
United Way of Kaufman County
United Way of Lamar County
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of Mid & South Jefferson County
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
United Way of Southern Cameron County
United Way of West Ellis County
United Ways of Texas
Unite Ellis
Waxahachie Family YMCA
Williamson County Success by Six Coalition
Wonderschool
YWCA of Lubbock
YWCA San Antonio
YMCA of Greater San Antonio

For more information, please contact:

David Feigen at dfeigen@txchildren.org,
Mandi Kimball at mkimball@childrenatrisk.org, or
Melanie Rubin at rubin05@sbcglobal.net