

## Recommendations for Transforming the ATX Early Childhood System

The Austin/Travis County child care sector was fragile, inadequate, and inequitable before the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the pandemic has greatly exacerbated this.

- Only 34% of children under age 4 living in families with low-income receive ANY early childhood services due to lack of community resources.
- More than 1 in 3 children under age six living in Travis County live in households with low-income. 90% of children under six experiencing poverty are children of color.
- For families in Austin, **child care is the second highest cost behind housing<sup>1</sup>**, and lack of access to affordable child care was one of the top barriers to workforce participation. **Housing, child care, and workforce development are inherently tied together and are all necessary for economic mobility and self-sufficiency.**
  - 70% of non-working low-income parents with young children cite lack of affordable child care as the reason they are not in the workforce.<sup>2</sup>
  - Many families who need child care cannot afford to pay what it costs to provide care, and the state child care subsidy reimbursement rates are between 25-75% of the market rate, creating inequitable access to quality programs and leaving child care providers without sufficient income to cover the cost of care.
- Children living in poverty who *DO NOT* receive high-quality early childhood development are less likely to be productive citizens and workers. They are: 25% more likely to drop out of school; 40% more likely to become a teen parent; 50% more likely to be placed in special education; 60% less likely to attend college; 70% more likely to be arrested for violent crime<sup>3</sup>.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the supply of quality child care, and exacerbated inequitable access to care, negatively impacting family economic stability in Austin.

- **30% of licensed child care capacity has been lost** due to COVID related program closures.
- Family-based child care programs have closed at twice the rate of centers and had difficulty accessing resources such as PPP and grants.
- Temporary and permanent closure of child care programs increased food insecurity for young children. **High-quality child care programs improve food security** for young children through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- Programs are struggling to re-open or increase capacity due to challenges hiring and retaining qualified staff to work for \$8-\$14/hour.
- Nationally 22% of all women have left the workforce during the pandemic and 42% of women with children under the age of two have left work. Caregiving demands are a key factor.
- Child care centers have experienced significant drops in enrollment as a result of families experiencing loss of work hours or employment making them ineligible for federal subsidy.

Returning to the status quo will continue to leave children and families behind and hamper Austin's economic recovery. We have a unique opportunity to build a more equitable and resilient system by investing in key infrastructure and new opportunities that address identified gaps strengthen existing programs. Investments in early care and education have a strong return on investment for both the current and future workforce; investments in the early care and education infrastructure in Austin will yield positive long-term benefits for Austin through better outcomes in health, education, economic

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data.austintexas.gov/stories/s/rt9q-qkym>

<sup>2</sup> Childcare & Economic Development in Austin - TXP

<sup>3</sup> Dallas Regional Partners

productivity, and reduced crime.<sup>4</sup> Federal money coming through the State for child care through Texas Workforce Commission will address immediate stabilization but cannot be used to strengthen and scale the infrastructure that has potential to impact generations Austin families.

**Recommendations are in 5 areas in order of priority:**

1. Providing additional child care funding to support families that have suffered changes in employee status due to the pandemic.
2. Sustaining, strengthening, and scaling innovative infrastructure to increase access to affordable quality care meeting the needs of all families.
3. Planning and implementation of innovative solutions to address identified gaps to strengthen the child care system.
4. Strengthening the child care workforce because quality child care is dependent on a quality workforce.
5. Pilot programs that support families with young children outside of full-time child care

The recommendations also address the [City of Austin Strategic Outcomes 2023](#)<sup>5</sup> in Economic Opportunity and Affordability including child care:

- Strategy 10: “Create equitable access to quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) by supporting families who do not qualify for existing free programs and cannot afford quality programs on their own, increasing availability of quality ECE programs, and encouraging living wages for ECE providers.”
- Strategy 11: “Advance economic mobility by equipping and empowering families with wraparound services over a multi-year period so that parents can succeed in the workforce and children are prepared to succeed in adulthood.”

**The City of Austin/Travis County should consider creating a joint position to oversee the deployment of funding and municipal coordination of early childhood strategies and investments.** Currently, most early childhood funds are distributed through Austin Public Health and Travis County HHS social service contracts, but funds are also managed by Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. There are opportunities for more effective coordination with the Economic Development Department with child care small businesses and workforce development program participation and completion. Given the significant racial inequities in access to quality care and education, collaboration with the Equity Office is essential.

**Austin/Travis County annually invests less per child from low-income homes than many peer communities who are making significant progress toward increased access of quality early care and education.** In most cases, these communities have a dedicated revenue stream for early care and education. A local position focused on early childhood strategy could also help Austin/Travis County research potential local opportunities and efficiencies. [Chattanooga, TN](#) and [Alleghany County, PA](#) are examples.

**Additional data and details are available in the attached appendices.**

<sup>4</sup> <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/early-childhood-development-roi/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=341820>



| Goal  | Priority 1: Provide additional child care funding to address gaps created for families due to changes in employment status  | Total  |
|---|---|--------|
| Mitigate the “Benefits Cliff” by supporting parents with bridge funding to access child care                            | <p><b>New Initiative: Create a step-down child-care fund for Workforce Program Graduates to mitigate the benefits cliff.</b></p> <p>Currently, when an individual receiving child care subsidies completes job training or education and accepts a job resulting in a pay increase that crosses the 85% state median income threshold, the child care subsidy is eliminated within 30 days. Typically, the pay increase does not offset the loss of child care subsidy creating a “benefits cliff”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">An analysis conducted by TXP</a> indicates that \$1.5M annually would provide an approximate 50% subsidy to the job-training graduates impacted.</li> <li>• An investment on this magnitude could affect hundreds of families and provide a strong incentive to enter and complete job training. This pilot could target graduates with children age 4 or younger out of the total participants completing City-funded workforce training programs. <i>(Possibly administered by Workforce Solutions Capital Area or City of Austin, Details in Appendix C )</i></li> </ul>  | \$4.5M |
| Support parents with funding to access child care who are ineligible for subsidy due to unemployment or loss of hours.  | <p><b>Existing Initiative: Increase funding for Continuity of Care Program</b></p> <p>Continuity of Care is currently deployed through an existing contract with Workforce Solution Capital Area. This local funding ensures continuity of child care services for low income families in Austin/Travis County when access to child care might otherwise be terminated due to federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) funding rules. These funds are in place as a temporary bridge for families who face disruption of child care and for families who initially do not meet the CCDF funding rules. Due to job loss during COVID-19, the need for continuity of care support has increased as many parents have experienced loss of work hours and higher rates of unemployment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing bridge funding for families for children to remain enrolled or re-enroll in quality child care helps stabilize both families and the child care industry.</li> <li>• <a href="#">In 2019, the investment of \$1.2M provided continued child care for 552 families (out of 2,151 who faced termination).</a> <i>(Currently funded through existing contract with Workforce Solutions Capital Area)</i></li> </ul> | \$1.5M |
| Goal  | Priority 2: Sustain and scale innovative infrastructure to increase access to affordable quality care meeting needs of all families.  | Total  |
| Increase access to and enrollment in high-quality child care programs for children living in households with low-income | <p><b>Existing Initiative: Funding to strengthen &amp; scale the Austin ISD / United Way Pre-K Partnerships Hub which leverages state education funding into the child care system and expands access to public Pre-K to eligible children of working families.</b></p> <p>The Pre-K Partnerships Hub was launched in 2019 with an innovation grant from the Texas Education Agency that expires on 7/21. The hub is based at the United Way for Greater Austin and supports quality child care centers in partnering with Austin ISD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This leverages \$3600 in state education funding <i>per child</i> enrolled in high-quality child-care centers that accept child care subsidies and increases Pre-K enrollment in Austin ISD.</li> </ul>   | \$1.2M |

|  |   |              |
|--|---|--------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019-2020, the Pre-K Partnership Program enrolled 473 students and leveraged \$1.84M in state funding to Austin high quality child care programs. 95% of currently enrolled students are non-white/students of color.</li> <li>Potential to serve 600-800 children leveraging up to \$9M in state funding which can be used by child care centers as needed: to expand access for infant/toddler care, improve compensation for staff, etc. <i>(More detail: <a href="#">Pre-K Partnerships 2021</a> and Appendix D.)</i></li> </ul>  |              |
|  | <p><b>New Initiative: Expansion and Sustainability of Family/Home-based Child Care Networks</b></p> <p>Most Family/Home-based child care programs are owned and operated by women and people of color and this type of care is often the preference for families of color for cultural and linguistic match. These providers also offer more flexible hours that can meet the needs of essential workers and others. However, Family/Home-based child care providers often lack access to resources. There are many barriers that prevent licensed and registered child care homes from participating in the subsidy system and the Texas Rising Star (TRS) Quality Rating System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 2.5% of children receiving child care subsidies access care through Family/Home-based care.</li> <li>Funding would strengthen and scale efforts launched in fall 2020 with a cohort of 38 family/ home-based child care providers led by AVANCE, Inc. (in partnership with GAVA and United Way ATX) to increase quality among home-based providers and help them to participate in the subsidy system <i>(currently funded with a 1-year grant from the Texas Workforce Commission)</i>.</li> <li><a href="#">Research</a> states that Family/Home-based child care networks can both increase the supply of family child care while strengthening quality. There are 184 licensed/ registered/ listed family child care homes in Austin/Travis County and many more informal home-based programs that could be supported toward licensing and quality with this funding.</li> </ul> | \$1 M        |
| <b>Goal</b>  | <b>Priority 3: Planning and implementation of solutions to address identified gaps and to strengthen the child care system</b>  | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Increase access to/enrollment in high-quality child care programs for children living in households with low-income</b> | <p><b>New: Planning and implementation of pilot for a system of non-traditional hour child care</b></p> <p>Austin/Travis County has almost no licensed or quality-rated non-traditional hour child care for employees who work evenings/weekends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently there are 5 child care homes that provide night time care and 5 that provide weekend care.</li> <li><a href="#">Research</a> indicates that children of low-income parents working nontraditional schedules may particularly benefit from stable, quality child- care because these children experience related forms of instability that can cause developmental risks. Low-income parents are <a href="#">more likely to work nonstandard schedules</a> than their higher-income peers.</li> <li>This funding would align City efforts to support Austin's vital economic sectors by launching supports initially aimed at the hospitality industry staff and then expanding to other sectors.</li> <li>The pilot would be modeled after similar work <a href="#">in San Francisco</a> and would expand access to affordable quality care by creating infrastructure for families and providers to connect. <i>(Potential partnership between Success By 6</i></li> </ul>  | \$1M         |

|  |  |              |
|--|--|--------------|
|  | <i>Coalition and Good Work Austin)</i>   |              |
| <b>Use recovery dollars to address the structural problems in the child care system by building shared service supports to strengthen systems.</b> | <p><b>New: Planning and implementation of a Shared Services Alliance</b></p> <p>The goal of a <a href="#">Shared Service Alliance</a> is to improve child outcomes by strengthening the child care sector's capacity through business leadership, supports, and efficiencies. Alliances enable child care providers to share administrative costs, build and sustain strong organizations that can focus on their mission, create positive work environments and growth opportunities for staff, and offer high-quality early learning services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of child care programs in Austin/Travis County are small businesses with 20 or fewer full-time employees. During the pandemic, child care programs owned and operated by women and people of color had less access to capital and resources than mainstream/large programs and have struggled to access any form of federal disaster relief.</li> <li>• Shared Services would strengthen these small businesses in more cost-effective administration to maximize resources to expand access and improve quality.</li> <li>• This funding would launch a co-design process (<a href="#">modeled after Oregon Shared Services Alliance Framework</a>) to create a structure and identify an organizational home for the Shared Services Alliance, including local child care providers with a focus on minority/women-owned programs followed by staffing and implementation to scale over 2 years.</li> <li>• Goal is 40 providers enroll in the shared service alliance.</li> <li>• Shared Service Alliance models are intended to become self-sustaining over 3-5 years. <i>(United Way ATX is prepared to facilitate the co-design process, more details in Appendix E)</i></li> </ul> | \$1.5M       |
| <b>Goal</b>  | <b>Priority 4: Stabilizing the child care workforce. Quality child care is dependent on a quality workforce.</b>   | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Recruit and retain qualified teachers and administrators necessary for high quality child care.</b>   | <p><b>Existing Initiative: Expand wage supplements and tuition support to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators</b></p> <p>One of the greatest barriers for child care programs to meet state and national quality standards is recruiting and retaining qualified staff and this has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average wages typically fall between \$8-\$14/hour, below the Austin City living wage of \$15/hour and few programs offer any employee health benefits. Pre-pandemic research has found Austin child care staff experience higher rates of food insecurity and four times the rate of depression compared to the general population with similar earnings (<a href="#">Culture of Health Study</a> Workforce Solutions Capital Area currently supports scholarships for tuition for higher education and wage supplements for the child care workforce.</li> <li>• The Wage Supplement aims to ensure qualified teachers remain working with the most vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• Rewards teachers who have received a higher education credential and work in a child care program that serves a minimum of 20% families with low income by paying a wage supplement (average \$2000).</li> <li>• Pre-COVID there were more than 7,657 teachers in child care centers participating in the subsidy system in Austin, and funding supported only a small portion of the workforce - approximately 200 staff between fall and spring 2019.</li> <li>• Additional funding would expand support to 2X as many staff during the next several years to stabilize the</li> </ul>   | \$1M         |

|   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
|   | workforce. (Currently funded through contract with Workforce Solutions Capital Area)  |              |
| <b>Goal</b>   | <b>Priority 5: Stabilize programs that support families with young children outside of full-time child care</b>   | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Expand capacity and participation in home-visiting, parent education, &amp; family support services.</b> | <b>Existing Initiative: Increase Social Service Contract for Ready Families Collaborative</b><br>Not all families rely on child care but many benefit from home visiting and parent education services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This request would support a cost of living increase of 5% for the existing Ready Families Collaborative contract which supports evidence-based home-visiting and parent support programs for families with children age birth to 5.</li> <li>• The current funding level is \$1,652,316. (Existing contract with Any Baby Can in collaboration with 8 other nonprofit organizations)</li> </ul> | \$250,000    |
|   |   | 11,950,000   |

#### **Additional City/County Policy Recommendations for Consideration:**

Rent/Mortgage is a key cost driver for affordable child care. As noted in the [TXP Report](#), “the burgeoning local real estate market yields rents that are way out of reach for providers that don’t either already own their facilities or have a favorable long-term lease in place, forcing many to locate either well away from their client base or simply shut down when the rent doubles.”

#### **Solutions could include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Co-locate space for affordable, high-quality child care in City/County facilities with low cost/no cost lease
- Co-locate space for affordable, high-quality child care in repurposed and existing Austin ISD facilities with low cost/no cost lease
- Incentivize developers to include dedicated space for quality, affordable child care in any site plans that include affordable housing for families and/or prioritize selection of development/re-development proposals that incorporate dedicated space.
- Explore Local Property Tax Exemption for child care facilities that enroll a specific threshold of children that rely on public funds (child care subsidy, Head Start/Early Head Start). Examples in [Ohio](#) and [Colorado](#)

## APPENDICES

### A. The Austin Travis County Success By 6 Coalition and Strategic Plan

All recommendations align with the Success By 6 Strategic Plan: Goals & Framework to which City and County align their early childhood investments.

The long-term goal of SX6 is to ensure – at the end of each child’s first 2,000-day journey –that they are happy, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

To achieve this goal for all Austin/Travis County children, our coalition uses a four-pillar framework that outlines our current objectives related to each foundational pillar for children and their families, as well as for the program itself and associated public policy.

#### SX6 Coalition Members:

<https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/success-by-6-plan/>



### B. State Plans for Investing Federal Child Care Relief

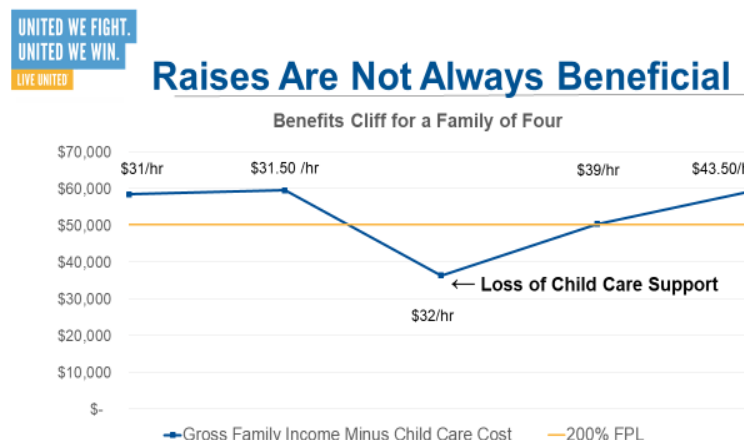
All recommendations take into consideration how the Texas Workforce Commission plans to invest and deploy robust federal aid for the next 3 years in order to complement and strengthen the impact of federal funds to our local system. Federal funding, in addition to the generous relief funds already deployed by the City of Austin and Travis County, will bring needed stabilization relief so that local relief funds can be invested in systemic improvements to yield long-term impact.

- [\\$1B in CCDF CRRSA funds](#) - at least 50% designated for stabilization grants for all child care providers.
- [American Rescue Plan Act projections:](#)
  - \$1.7B CCDBG funding - includes child care for essential workers regardless of income
  - 2.7B in Child Care Stabilization funding



**C. Funding to subsidize the cost of child care for graduates of City of Austin-funded job training programs, ameliorating the benefits cliff for child care subsidies.** ([Childcare & Economic Development in Austin by TXP 7/2019](#))

- Currently, when an individual receiving child care subsidies receives a pay increase that crosses the 85% state median income threshold, the child care subsidy is eliminated within 30 days. Typically, the pay increase does not offset the loss of child care subsidy. Creating a sliding scale of incrementally reducing the subsidy will improve family economic self-sufficiency. An analysis conducted by TXP indicates that it will cost approximately \$1.5M annually to provide an approximate 50% subsidy to the job training graduates outlined above. An investment on this order of magnitude could materially impact hundreds of families and provide a strong additional incentive to enter and complete job training.
- Estimates are based on supports for graduates with children who are 4 years old or younger. At age 5 they qualify for Kindergarten.
- This can create a meaningful level of incentive that facilitates acceptance of a middle-skill job for which applicant has been trained (35-50% of monthly cost)
- Will result in greater economic self-sufficiency for graduates
- Ameliorates the benefits cliff for working families receiving child care subsidies



**D. Strengthen and Scale the AISD/United Way ATX Pre-K Partnerships hub to leverage state funding to expand high quality Pre-K.**

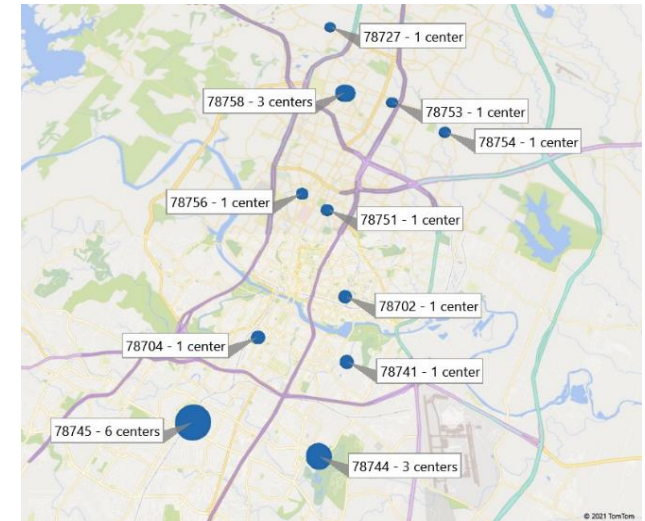
What is Pre-K Partnerships? A virtual In-district charter with Austin ISD that expands access for Pre-K3 and Pre-K4, which takes place in community-based pre-K classrooms. It provides full work-day care and leverages state pre-K funding for high-quality early care and education to improve quality and increase compensation for staff.

- While 70% of child care programs experienced temporary closures during COVID-19, centers participating in this partnership remained open to serve children of essential workers and have demonstrated greater financial resilience during the pandemic as a result of the support and additional funding. Most children in subsidized child care in Austin/Travis County are preschoolers (45.9%) and this funding would help scale the partnership program to additional child care centers serving these preschoolers.
- Eligible children are those that meet requirements for Texas Public Pre-K AND child care subsidy or Head Start.

| 2020 Pre-K Partnership Children By Ethnicity and Race |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Child Ethnicity</b>                                |     |
| Hispanic/Latino                                       | 187 |
| Not Hispanic/Latino                                   | 84  |
| <b>Child Race:</b>                                    |     |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                      | 1   |
| Asian   | 5   |
| Black or African American                             | 57  |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander             | 0   |
| White   | 13  |
| Multiracial   | 8   |



- “The Hub” is currently a staff of 5 that centralizes the administrative efforts of the partnerships taking that role between the individual community-centers and Austin ISD.
- This includes a principal, clerk, operations director, classroom coach, and finance manager. The hub supports enrollment, attendance, PEIMS reporting, student assessment, CLASS observations and coaching, professional development, invoicing, and all data management. This relieves the child care center administrator of tasks that were barriers to expanding and sustaining individual partnerships in the staff and has resulted in increased participation in partnerships by TRS centers compared to the number of partnerships preceding a hub.
- This is an 1882 partnership that also brings an extra \$600 in per student funding annually on top of the base \$3600 rate for Pre-K students.
- In this model (currently in renegotiation), Austin ISD keeps 10% of state ADA/1882 funding, United Way keeps 10%, and 80% of each students’ state funding is passed through the partnership programs for unrestricted revenue.
- In 2019:476 students co-enrolled in 41 classrooms
  - Total state funding leveraged and distributed in the community 2019-2020: \$1.84M
- In 2020: 271 co-enrolled in 39 classrooms
  - State Funding leveraged and distributed Sept – Dec 2020: \$254,996
- Expenses: Approximately 400K-\$500K to sustain and scale “The Hub”
- Revenue Committed:
  - \$100K Moody Foundation
  - \$75K Workforce Solutions Capital Area Quality Initiatives Funding
- The majority of children in subsidized child care in Austin/Travis County are preschoolers (45.9%). Expanding and supporting Pre-K Partnerships can result in these students co-enrolling in public school Pre-K (currently with Austin ISD) and leveraging additional state education dollars to sustain quality and improve staff wages. Scaling potential 600-800 additional children with potential to leverage \$6-\$9M in state funding.
- Leverages \$3600 in state funding per child enrolled in a partnership into high-quality child-care programs to compensate staff and sustain quality as well as expand quality seats for infants/toddlers.



**E. Create and implement a Quality Child Care Shared Services Alliance for functions such as payroll, staff recruitment and pre-service training, and bulk purchasing.**

- An early business analysis by Early Matters Greater Austin indicates estimated potential benefits below:
  - A shared services hub in Travis County could serve a total of 60 facilities representing capacity for 2500 kids, focused on small-mid-sized small businesses enrolling 50% or more children that are supported by child care subsidy.
  - That hub could add about \$9 million of value to all those facilities per year (\$150,000 per average facility - to better teacher compensation or to stability)
    - The main uplift comes from Revenue management (filling slots, collecting tuition and subsidy, bad debt management)

- Anticipated need to contract with consultants that supported the Oregon Co-Design Framework and include stipends for local child care providers to participate, with targeted outreach to owners/directors who are women of color.
- Details on process and impact available: [Opportunities Exchange: Shared Services Alliance Implementation Guide](#)

**F. Additional Data: Funding needed to cover full access to high quality early care and education for all (income) eligible children.**

- To fund high-quality child care for all potentially eligible children age 4 and under that are NOT currently served through available state allocations of Federal Child Care subsidies in Austin/Travis County it would cost an estimated \$71,410,500 annually. (chart below)
- Currently there are few families on the waiting list - as many families do not meet the minimum employment/training requirements.
  - Expanding Continuity of Care will help fill the gap while families seek employment/training.

|                             | Number of Children under the age of 6 <sup>6</sup> | Estimate 64% with mothers who are employed <sup>7</sup> | Number of seats available* (Number of children served TRS and EHS/HS centers) | Number of students enrolled in full day PreK * (185% FPL to qualify) | Seats needed | Estimated cost annual cost per seat (TRS4 reimbursement rate for Travis County) \$10,500 (Average of TRS4 infant/toddler/preschool daily rate x 20 days per month x 12 months) |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|--|--------------|--|
| Age 4 and under at 200% FPL | 23,410   | 14,982  | 3,369   | 5532   | 6,801        | \$71,410,500   |
| Age 3 and under at 200% FPL | 17,558   | 11,237  | 3,369   | 0  | 7,868        | \$82,614,000   |

<sup>6</sup> **Data Source:** U.S. Census Bureau (2018) American Community Survey 1 year estimates. Table 17024: Income to Poverty Ratio –children under 6 at 200% FPL; individual age categories are estimates

<sup>7</sup> **Source:** Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2014-2018). American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Table B23003: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Age of Own Children Under 18 Years by Employment Status for Females 20 to 64 Years.

### G. Child care closures 2020

|                    | % Licensed Center (n=421) | % Home Providers (Registered, Listed, and Licensed) (n=270) |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Open               | 87%                       | 78%   |
| Temporary closed   | 8%                        | 12%   |
| Permanently closed | 5%                        | 10%   |

\*95% of the centers who received the COA grant were open compared to 57% that did not receive a COA grant

\*2% of the centers who received the COA grant permanently closed compared to 5% that did not receive a COA grant (note the one center who received the grant had multiple sites and only one site closed)

\*4% of the centers who received the COA grant temporarily closed compared to 38% that did not receive a COA grant

### H. Breakdown of City of Austin Children Under Age 6 By Council District

\*In Districts 1-4, more than half of the children under age 6 live in families with low-income

| District | Approximate Number of Children Under 6 per District | Approximate Number of Children Under 6 per District Living in Families with Low Income (Below 200% FPL) | Percentage |
|----------|---|---|------------|
| 1        | 8,649   | 5,199   | 60%        |
| 2        | 6,750   | 3,942   | 58%        |
| 3        | 5,936   | 4,061   | 68%        |
| 4        | 7,860   | 6,072   | 77%        |
| 5        | 6,788   | 2,099   | 31%        |
| 6        | 8,194   | 1,695   | 21%        |
| 7        | 8,569   | 2,442   | 28%        |
| 8        | 6,564   | 1,123   | 17%        |
| 9        | 3,077   | 617   | 20%        |
| 10       | 5,768   | 691   | 12%        |
| Total    | 68,154  | 27,943  | 41%        |

### Monthly Capital Area Workforce Board Child Care Data

[https://www.twc.texas.gov/childcarenumbers/Capital\\_Area\\_Workforce\\_Development\\_Board\\_monthly.htm](https://www.twc.texas.gov/childcarenumbers/Capital_Area_Workforce_Development_Board_monthly.htm)

Most children in subsidized child care are preschoolers (45.9%). Expanding and supporting Pre-K Partnerships can result in these students co-enrolling in public school Pre-K (currently with Austin ISD) and leveraging additional state education dollars to sustain quality and improve staff wages.

| Month   | Infants in Care | Percent Infants | Toddlers in Care | Percent Toddlers | Pre-Schoolers in Care | Percent Pre-Schoolers | School Age in Care | Percent School Age | Total Children in Care |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2019-10 | 359             | 11.1%           | 723              | 22.4%            | 1,277                 | 39.6%                 | 866                | 26.9%              | 3,225                  |
| 2019-11 | 364             | 11.1%           | 729              | 22.3%            | 1,305                 | 39.9%                 | 872                | 26.7%              | 3,270                  |
| 2019-12 | 353             | 11.2%           | 710              | 22.5%            | 1,277                 | 40.4%                 | 821                | 26.0%              | 3,161                  |
| 2020-01 | 360             | 10.9%           | 730              | 22.0%            | 1,331                 | 40.2%                 | 890                | 26.9%              | 3,311                  |
| 2020-02 | 334             | 9.8%            | 734              | 21.6%            | 1,364                 | 40.2%                 | 959                | 28.3%              | 3,391                  |
| 2020-03 | 300             | 9.2%            | 713              | 21.9%            | 1,347                 | 41.3%                 | 901                | 27.6%              | 3,261                  |
| 2020-04 | 267             | 8.3%            | 678              | 21.1%            | 1,338                 | 41.6%                 | 932                | 29.0%              | 3,215                  |
| 2020-05 | 241             | 7.5%            | 673              | 20.9%            | 1,370                 | 42.5%                 | 941                | 29.2%              | 3,225                  |
| 2020-06 | 210             | 8.3%            | 605              | 24.1%            | 1,173                 | 46.6%                 | 527                | 21.0%              | 2,515                  |
| 2020-07 | 189             | 7.7%            | 580              | 23.5%            | 1,151                 | 46.7%                 | 544                | 22.1%              | 2,464                  |
| 2020-08 | 167             | 7.0%            | 552              | 23.1%            | 1,128                 | 47.2%                 | 542                | 22.7%              | 2,389                  |
| 2020-09 | 154             | 6.6%            | 538              | 22.9%            | 1,101                 | 47.0%                 | 552                | 23.5%              | 2,345                  |
| 2020-10 | 146             | 6.4%            | 519              | 22.9%            | 1,061                 | 46.7%                 | 544                | 24.0%              | 2,270                  |
| 2020-11 | 159             | 7.3%            | 481              | 22.0%            | 1,002                 | 45.9%                 | 540                | 24.7%              | 2,182                  |
| 2020-12 | 159             | 7.5%            | 473              | 22.5%            | 967                   | 45.9%                 | 507                | 24.1%              | 2,106                  |

### Type of care:

Currently there appear to be significant barriers for licensed and registered child care homes to participate in the subsidy system. Only 2.5% of children supported by child care subsidies are currently receiving care in these settings. Supporting family child care networks can change this trajectory, which is often the form of care sought by parents of infants and toddlers, as well as for Black and Hispanic families.

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| Month   | Children in<br>Licensed<br>Child Care<br>Centers | Percent in<br>Licensed<br>Child Care<br>Centers | Children in<br>Licensed<br>Child Care<br>Homes | Percent in<br>Licensed<br>Child Care<br>Homes | Children in<br>Registered<br>Child Care<br>Homes | Percent in<br>Registered<br>Child Care<br>Homes | Children in<br>Military<br>Providers | Percent<br>Military | Total<br>Children in<br>Care |
|---------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 2019-10 | 3,147  | 97.6%   | 35   | 1.1%  | 43   | 1.3%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,225                        |
| 2019-11 | 3,193  | 97.6%   | 34   | 1.0%  | 44   | 1.3%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,271                        |
| 2019-12 | 3,087  | 97.7%   | 30   | 0.9%  | 44   | 1.4%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,161                        |
| 2020-01 | 3,236  | 97.7%   | 33   | 1.0%  | 42   | 1.3%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,311                        |
| 2020-02 | 3,304  | 97.5%   | 37   | 1.1%  | 49   | 1.4%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,390                        |
| 2020-03 | 3,181  | 97.5%   | 34   | 1.0%  | 47   | 1.4%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,262                        |
| 2020-04 | 3,136  | 97.5%   | 34   | 1.1%  | 46   | 1.4%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,216                        |
| 2020-05 | 3,151  | 97.7%   | 28   | 0.9%  | 46   | 1.4%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 3,225                        |
| 2020-06 | 2,448  | 97.3%   | 22   | 0.9%  | 45   | 1.8%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,515                        |
| 2020-07 | 2,404  | 97.6%   | 22   | 0.9%  | 38   | 1.5%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,464                        |
| 2020-08 | 2,329  | 97.5%   | 21   | 0.9%  | 39   | 1.6%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,389                        |
| 2020-09 | 2,290  | 97.6%   | 21   | 0.9%  | 35   | 1.5%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,346                        |
| 2020-10 | 2,216  | 97.6%   | 20   | 0.9%  | 34   | 1.5%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,270                        |
| 2020-11 | 2,129  | 97.6%   | 20   | 0.9%  | 32   | 1.5%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,181                        |
| 2020-12 | 2,052  | 97.5%   | 21   | 1.0%  | 32   | 1.5%  | 0                                    | 0.0%                | 2,105                        |