JANUARY 2026

Analysis of Texas LWDB Fiscal Spending of Child Care Quality Investments

Local Analysis

PAVING THE WAY TO QUALITY

children at Risk

Acknowledgments

This report has been generously supported by our donors and community partners. We appreciate their commitment to CHILDREN AT RISK and our mission to improve the quality of early childhood education in Texas. This report includes data retrieved from the Texas Workforce Commission; we thank them for making the data accessible. We are grateful for the many organizations that provided feedback and assisted with verifying the facts. The interpretations and recommendations included in this report are those of CHILDREN AT RISK and do not reflect the views of the funders or state agencies mentioned in this report.

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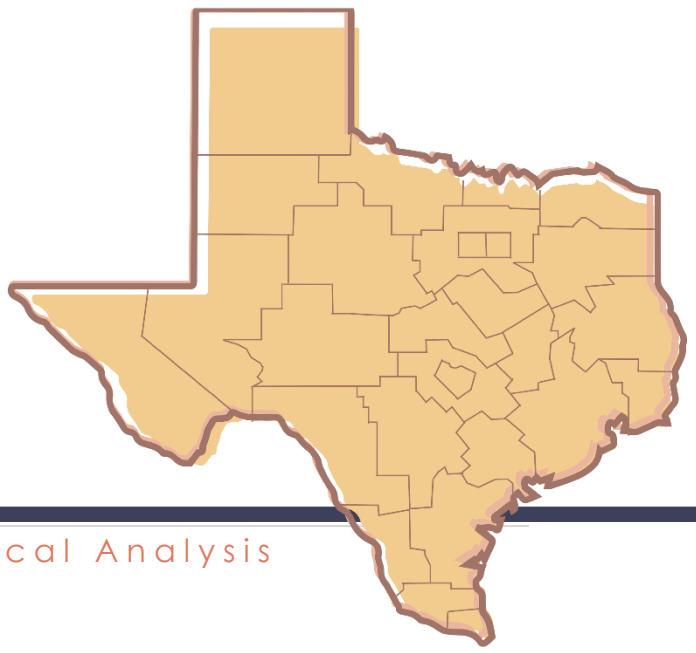

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PANHANDLE

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Panhandle, the numbers tell a stark story: out of 15,830 children under the age of six, more than **8,305** qualify for child care assistance. Yet, the Texas Workforce Commission can only reach **1,742** of them. This leaves **79%** of eligible families without the financial help they need to secure quality child care and participate fully in the regional economy.

Panhandle executed a significant shift in its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, moving resources away from the core Texas Rising Star (TRS) program and toward Professional Development. This key investment included support for college tuition, books, the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI Test), and attendance at conferences and curriculum training. Another major area of growth was Infant & Toddler strategies, dedicated to increasing regional capacity by funding new classroom openings and adding infant/toddler slots within both family child care homes and centers. The remaining funds were allocated to previous priorities, including TRS materials (curriculum, outdoor equipment), TRS personnel costs, and, separately under the "Other" category, teacher wage supplements and bonuses.

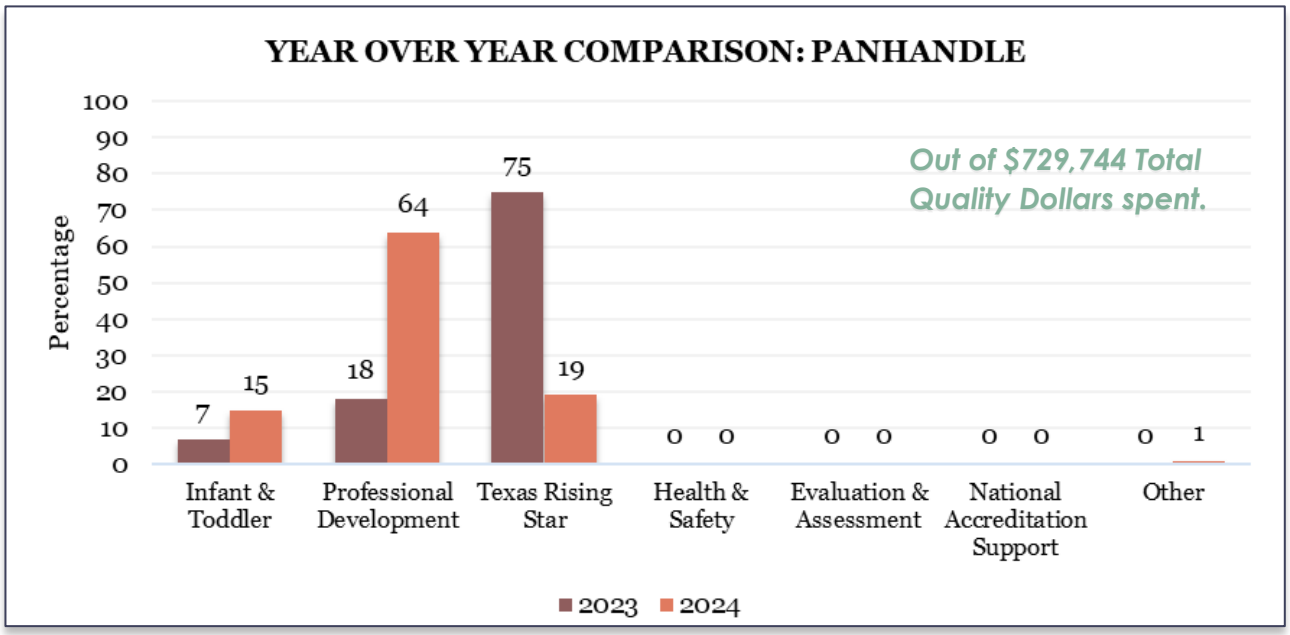

Figure 1.1 *| In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.*

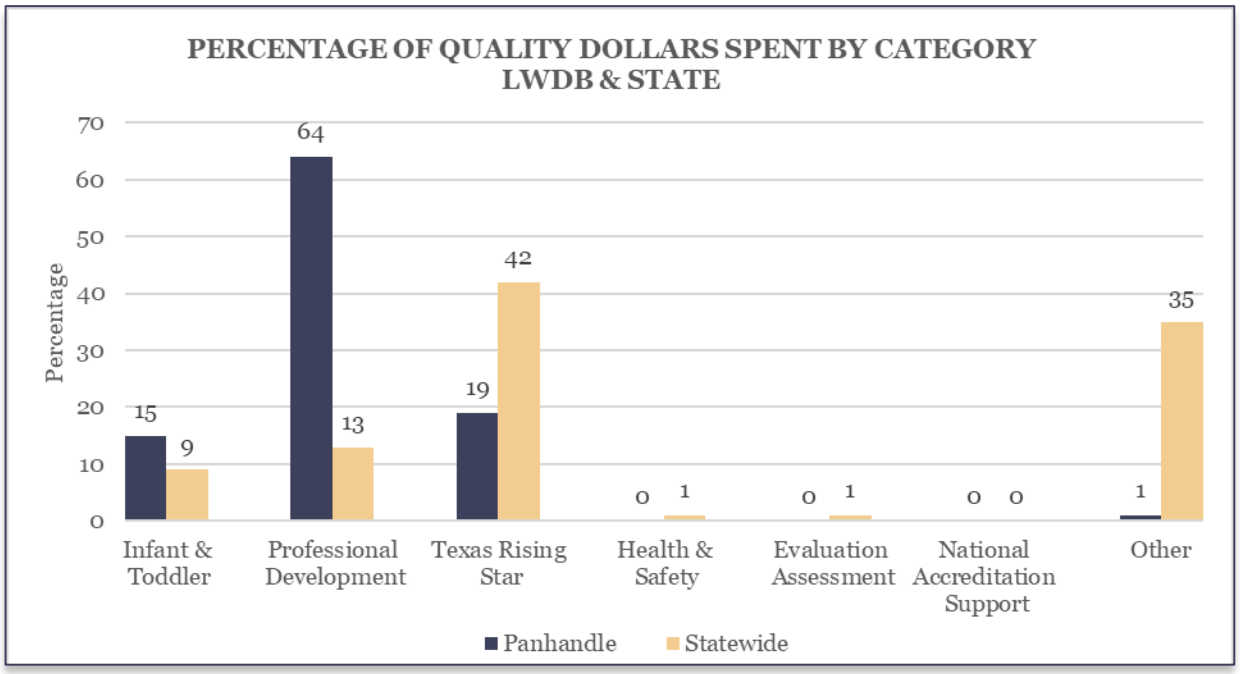

Figure 1.2 | This data shows allocations for Panhandle LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the **proportion of TRS-certified programs** among all Panhandle subsidy providers increased by **29 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 55 to 71 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (29%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=55 to N=71)

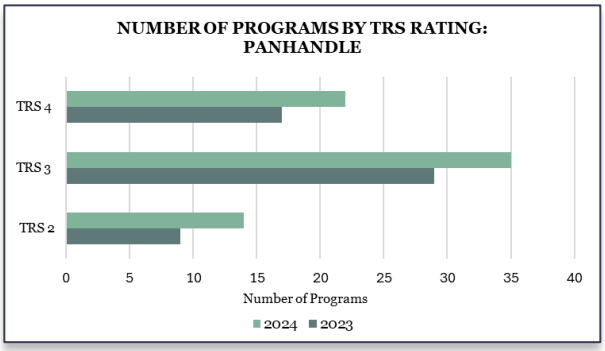

Fig 1.1 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Panhandle saw a relatively even increase in all TRS star rating levels.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Panhandle region. 21 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 30% decrease from 30 to 21 quality Child Care Deserts since 2023. There are 19.8 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Panhandle LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

SOUTH PLAINS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the South Plains, over **9,000** of the region's 17,393 children under the age of six qualify for child care assistance. However, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **1,734** of them. This leaves **81%** of eligible families without the financial support they need, creating a significant hurdle for parents trying to enter or stay in the workforce while ensuring their children are in safe, stable learning environments.

South Plains strategically adjusted its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, shifting primary investment from the general Texas Rising Star (TRS) category to targeted Infant & Toddler supports. These supports included the purchase of specialized curriculum, focused professional development, and outdoor learning equipment and materials specific to infant and toddler environments. The Professional Development category was comprehensive, covering online and in-person trainings, curriculum training, payments for college coursework, and specialized training for TRS mentor staff. While the TRS category maintained funding for general curriculum, equipment, outdoor learning materials, and TRS personnel costs, a significant separate effort was recorded in the "Other" category, where 83 staff received "staff incentive reimbursement" for successfully attaining TRS certification.

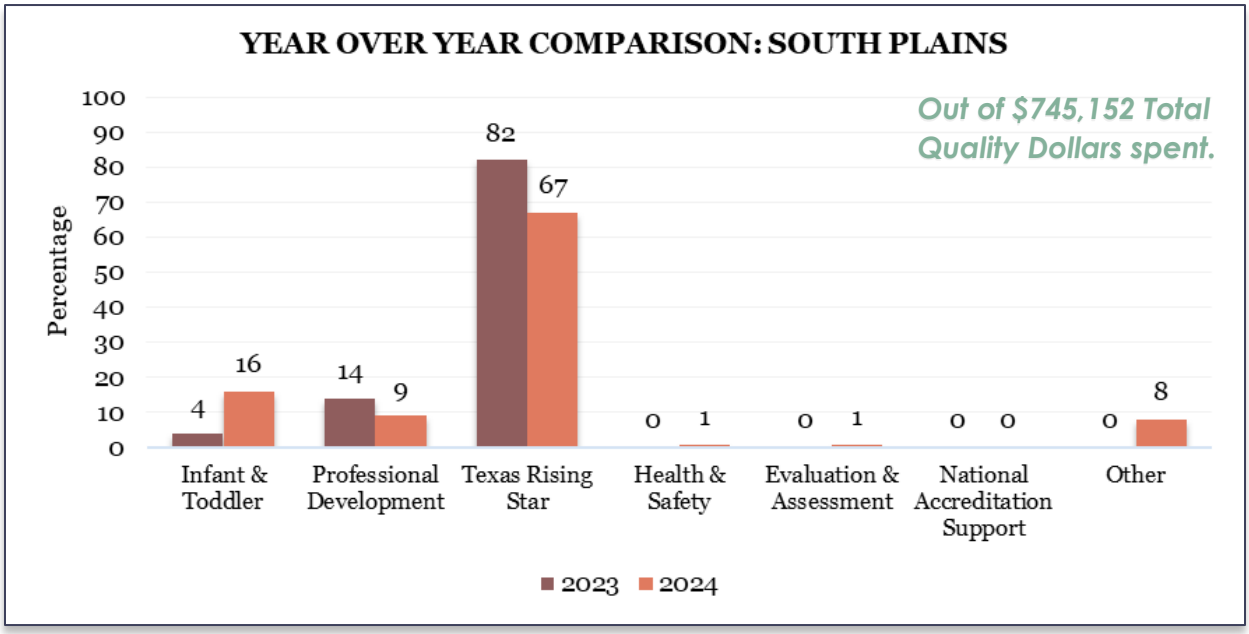

Figure 2.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

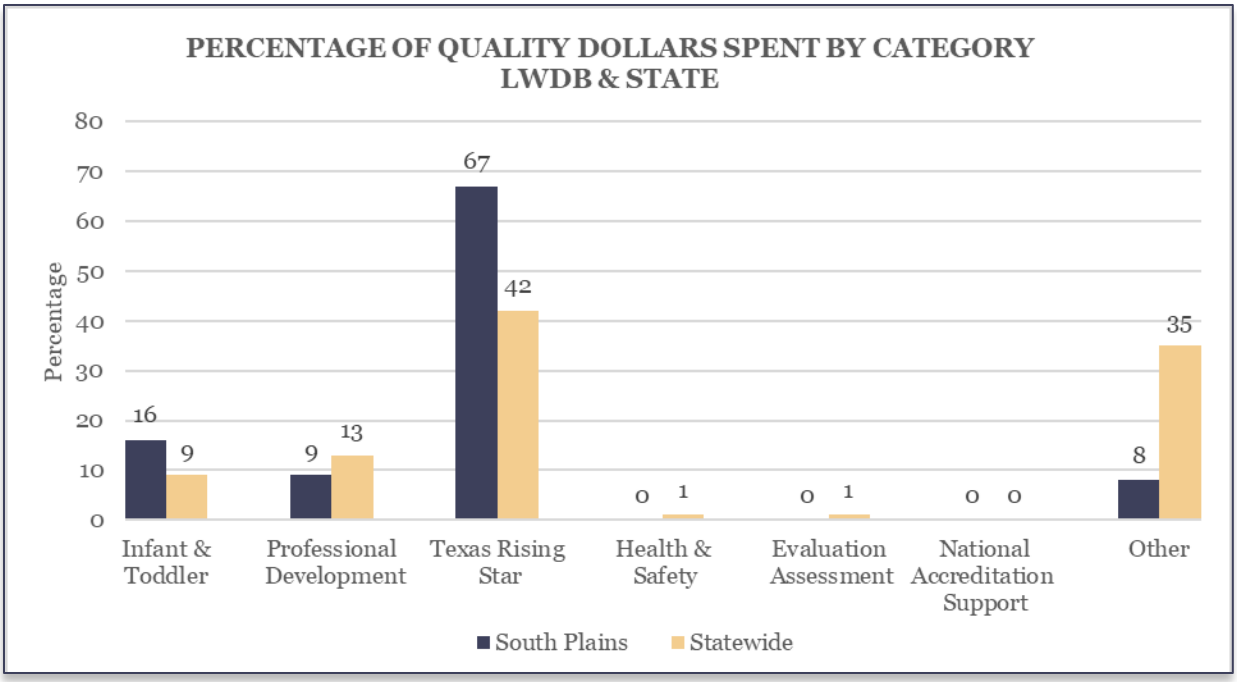

Figure 2.2 | This data shows allocations for South Plains LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all subsidy providers increased by **18 percentage points.** During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 54 to 65 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (18%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=54 to N=65)

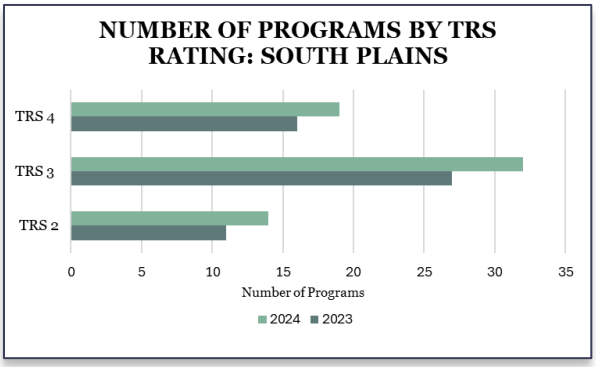

Figure 2. 3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. South Plains saw a slightly higher increase in the TRS 3 level.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the South Plains region. 21 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three time greater than the supply. This is a 30% decrease from 30 to 21 quality Child Care Deserts since 2023. There are 19.3 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the South Plains LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

NORTH TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In North Texas, the scale of the child care challenge is clear: out of 7,062 children under the age of six, more than **3,280** qualify for assistance. However, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **838** of them. This leaves **75%** of eligible families—3 out of every 4—without the support they need to maintain employment and ensure their children have access to quality early education.

North Texas transitioned its quality dollar strategy from 2023 to 2024, moving away from a primary focus on general TRS support toward a more balanced investment across three key categories: TRS, Professional Development, and Infant & Toddlers. The TRS category concentrated on enhancing program infrastructure, funding mentor personnel and their training, supporting family engagement activities, and financing improvements to both indoor and outdoor learning environments. The Infant & Toddler category was dedicated to capacity building and specialized expertise, covering I/T CDA courses and certifications, targeted trainings, and I/T classroom observations for technical assistance via the Infant Toddler Specialist Network. Finally, the Professional Development category broadly supported staff growth through various conferences, general trainings, and CDA courses and certifications.

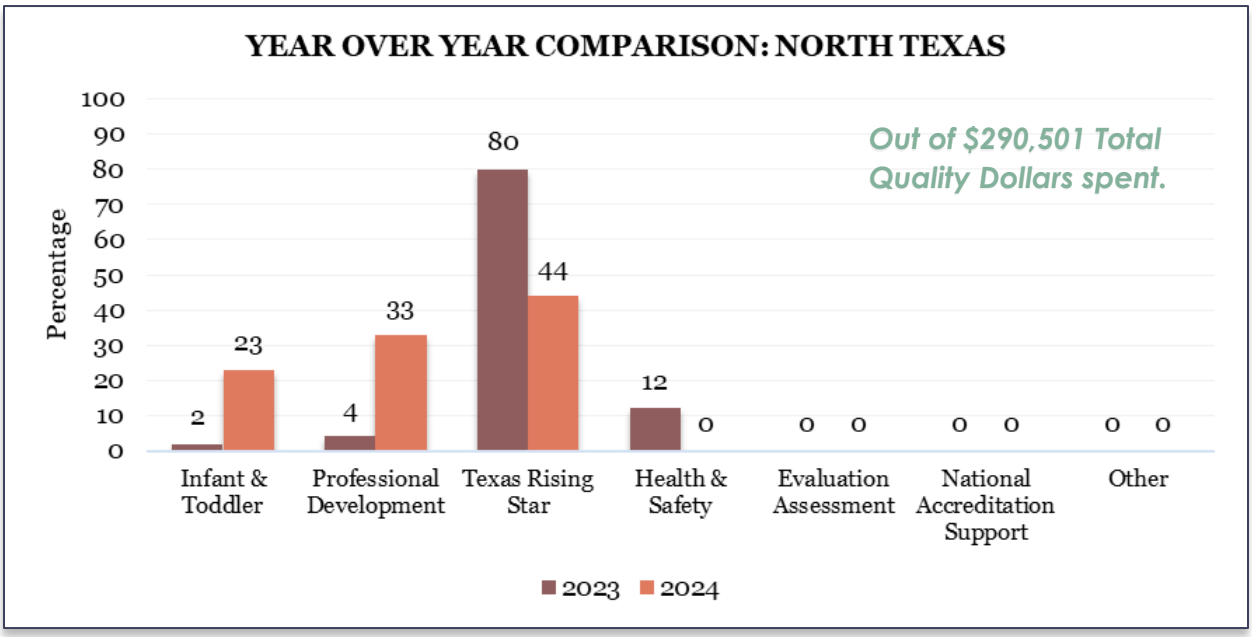

Figure 3.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

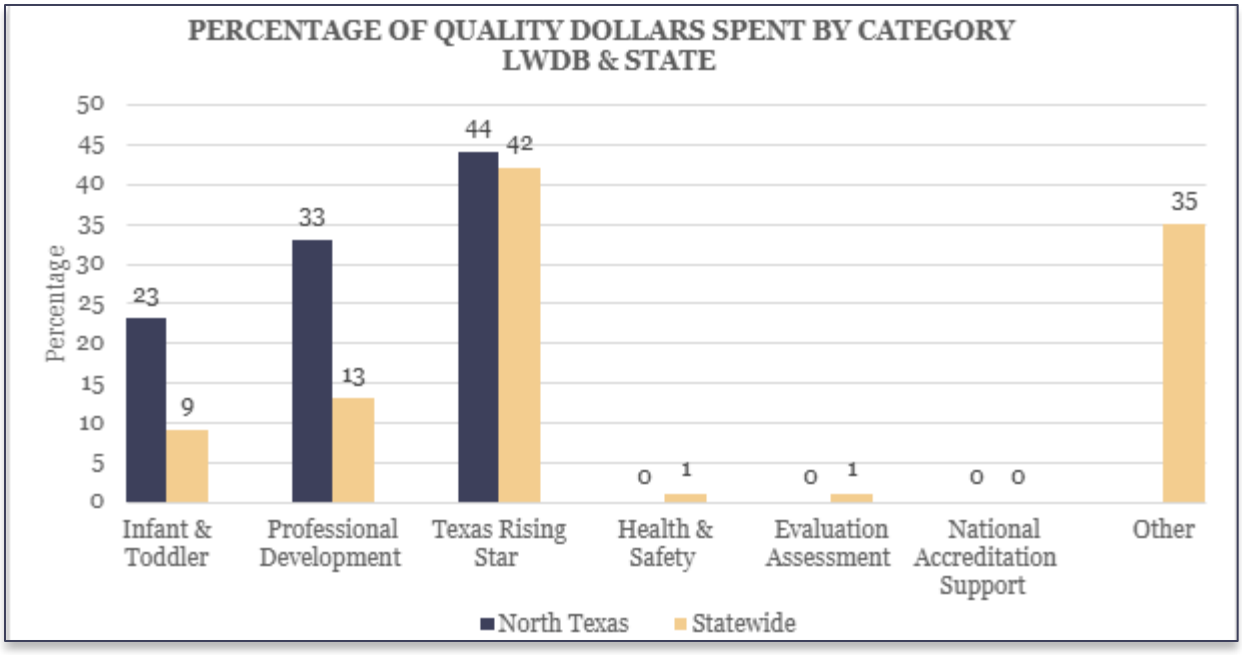

Figure 3.2: This data shows allocations for North Texas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all subsidy providers decreased by 22 percentage points. During this period, the region had a decline its high-quality footprint from 38 to 35 certified locations.

- Proportion change: decrease (22%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=38 to N=35)

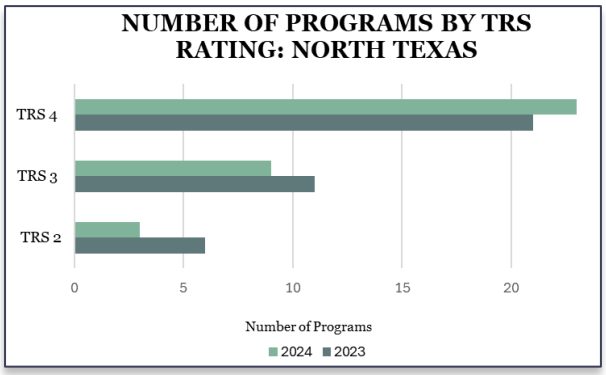

Figure 3.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-24 with the largest seen at the TRS 3 level. North Texas saw an increase at the TRS 4 level with decreases in the 2 & 3 levels.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the North Texas region. 22 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 12% decrease in 3 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 16 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the North Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall; Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

While North Central Texas is home to 138,721 children under age six, a staggering **115,394** of them qualify for child care assistance. Despite this overwhelming need, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **5,987** children, leaving **95%** of eligible families without the support they need to work or attend school.

North Central Texas executed a notable shift in its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, moving resources away from TRS-specific supports to concentrate on two key areas: the "Other" category for wage supplements and the Infant & Toddler category. The I&T focus included targeted strategies such as the Infant Toddler Specialist Network, CDA certifications, and enhancements to outdoor environments. Meanwhile, the Professional Development category was comprehensive, providing virtual and in-person trainings, TRS Orientation, conference attendance, scholarships for CDA coursework and assessment fees, and support for teachers in the Apprenticeship Program. Remaining funds in the TRS category covered personnel costs and training for TRS staff, as well as general virtual/in-person trainings, Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) subject matter expertise, curriculum purchases, and TRS banners for programs completing assessment.

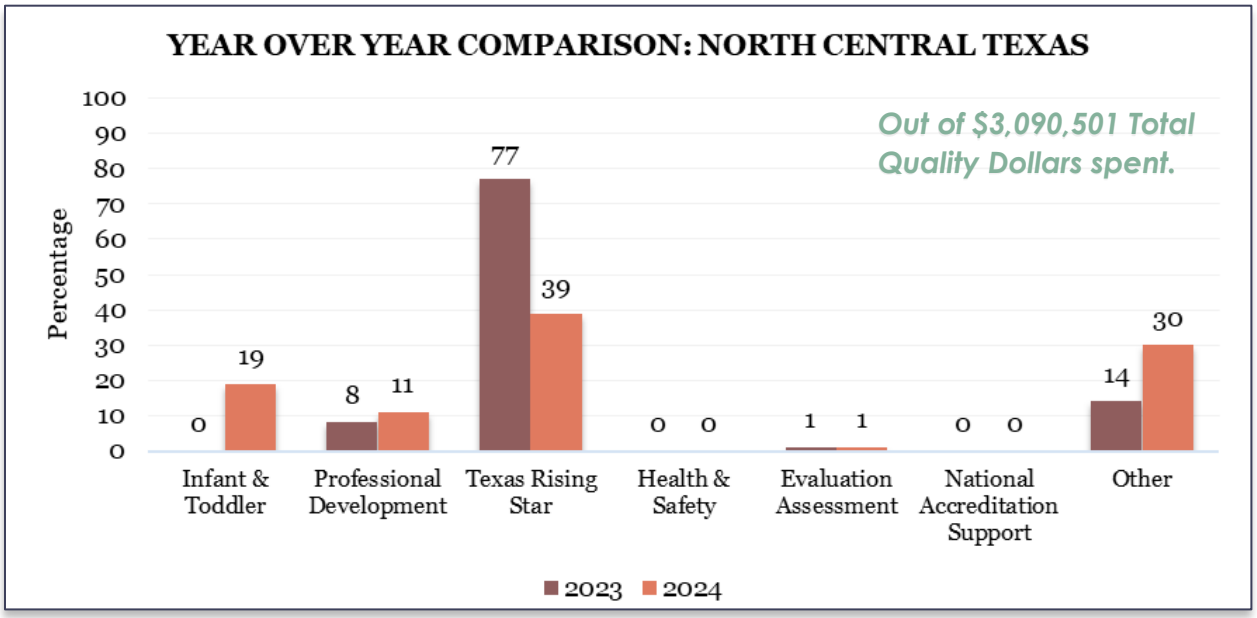

Figure 4.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

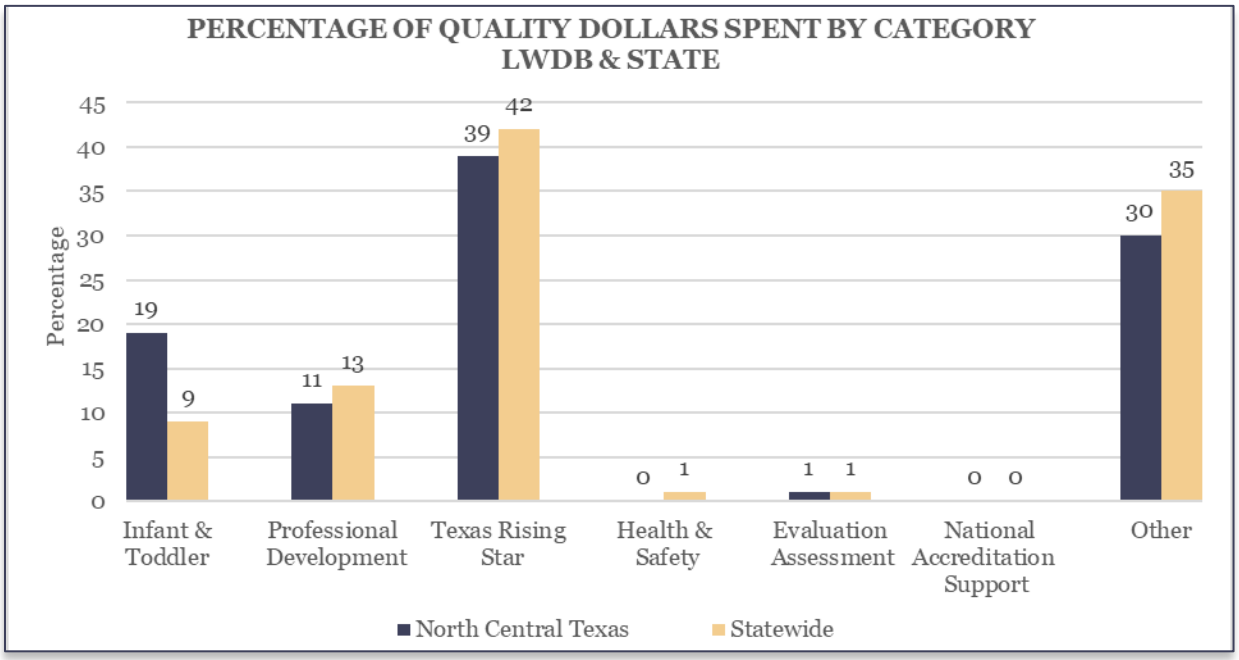

Figure 4.2 | This data shows allocations for this LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the **proportion of TRS-certified programs** among all subsidy providers increased by **21 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 183 to 259 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (21%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=183 to N=259)

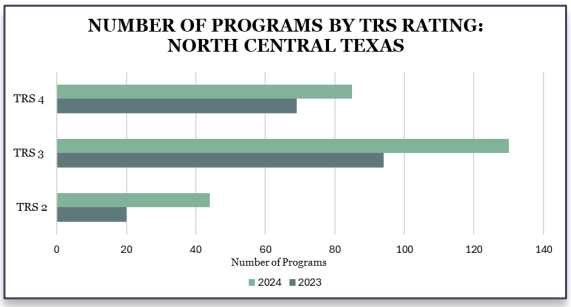

Figure 4.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. North Central Texas saw gains across star levels with the largest in TRS 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the North Central Texas region. 149 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 7% decrease of 12 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 4.2 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the North Central LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall; Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

TARRANT COUNTY

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

While Tarrant County is home to 70,796 children under age six, more than **41,002** of them qualify for child care assistance. Despite this high level of need, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **6,054** children, leaving **85%** of eligible families without the support they need to maintain steady employment or education.

Tarrant County executed a major shift in its quality dollar strategy from 2023 to 2024, moving substantial resources away from general Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports and toward the "Other" category. This category focused on financial incentives, including wage supplements for staff meeting specific standards, educational stipends for apprenticeships, and stipends related to Pre-K partnerships. Professional Development was also a key investment, funding CDA training, college scholarships (tuition and books), wage stipends, and educational stipends for the apprenticeship program. The TRS category maintained support for TRS staff personnel costs, training, conference attendance, a TECPDS subject matter expert, banners for successful assessments, and early learning materials. Lastly, the Infant & Toddler category covered curriculum, classroom materials and equipment, and both virtual and in-person trainings specific to I&T environments.

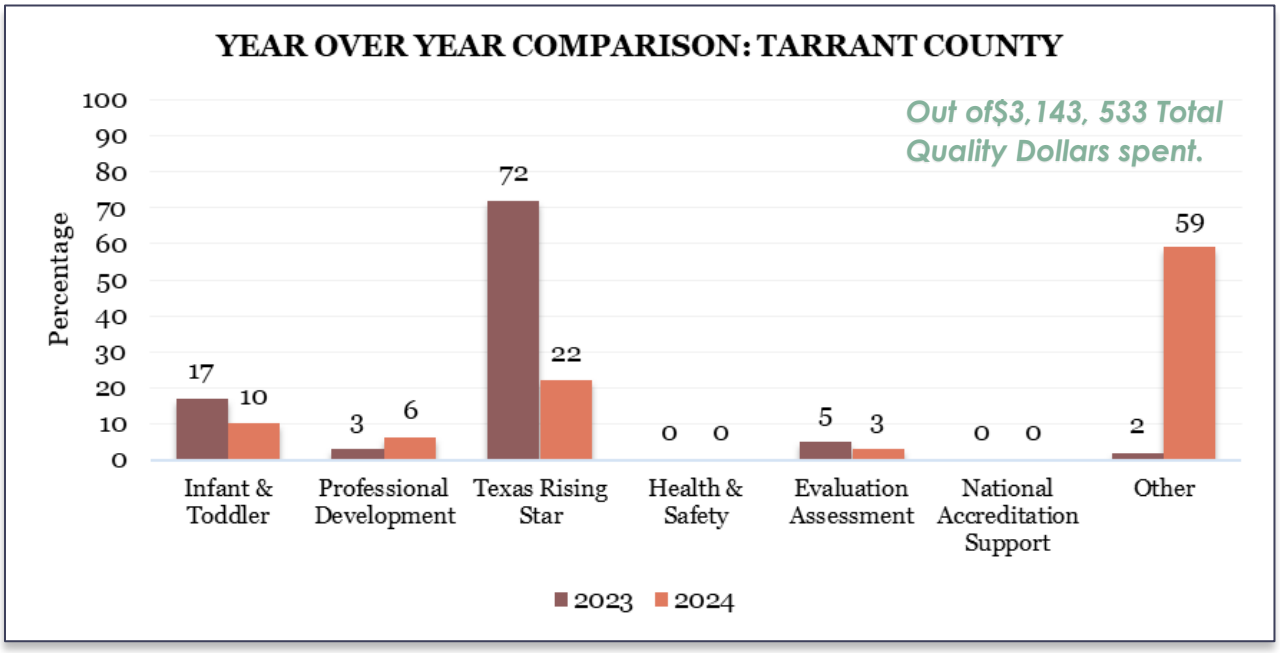

Figure 5.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

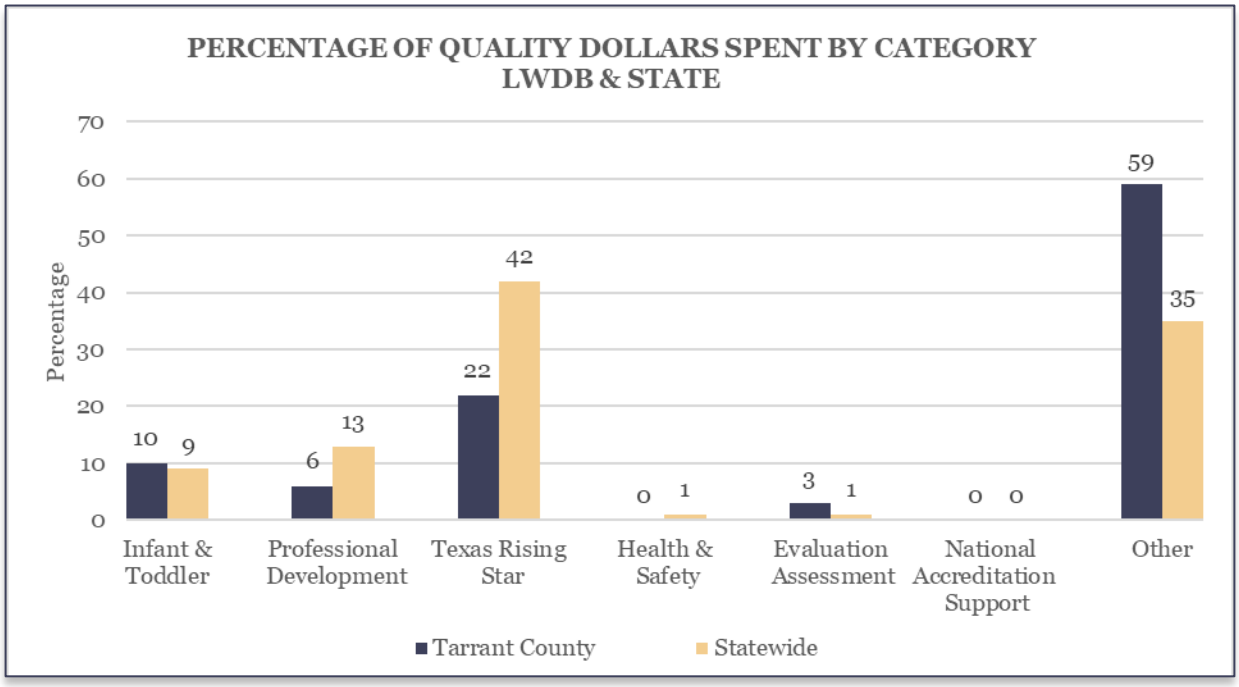

Figure 5.2 | This data shows allocations for Tarrant County LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Tarrant County subsidy providers increased by **15 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 199 to 265 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (15%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=199 to N=265)

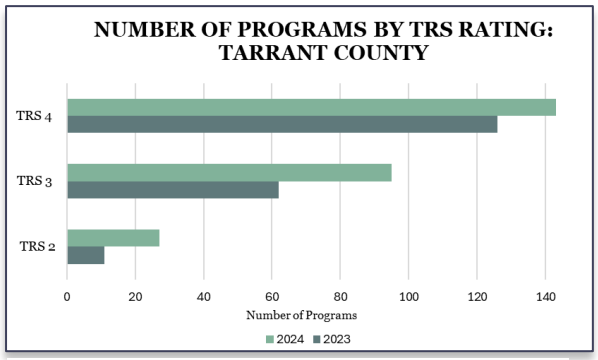

Figure 5.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Tarrant County saw gains across star levels with the largest in TRS 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Tarrant County region. 61 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 3% decrease of 2 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 9.9 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Tarrant County LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

GREATER DALLAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In Greater Dallas, the scale of the child care crisis is high. Of the 111,756 children under the age of six, in the region, **56,752** qualify for assistance. The Texas Workforce Commission is currently reaching only **9,756** of them. This leaves **83%** of eligible families—tens of thousands of parents—without the support necessary to secure stable child care and participate in the Dallas economy.

Greater Dallas significantly reallocated its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, shifting from Texas Rising Star (TRS) specific supports to a major investment in the "Other" category. This priority investment provided wage supplements through stabilization grants specifically aimed at providers actively working toward TRS certification. The Professional Development category focused heavily on advanced education, covering tuition for CDA, AA, and BA degrees, in addition to standard trainings and conference attendance. The TRS category maintained funding for foundational infrastructure, covering personnel costs and training for TRS staff, along with purchasing indoor and outdoor learning materials and equipment.

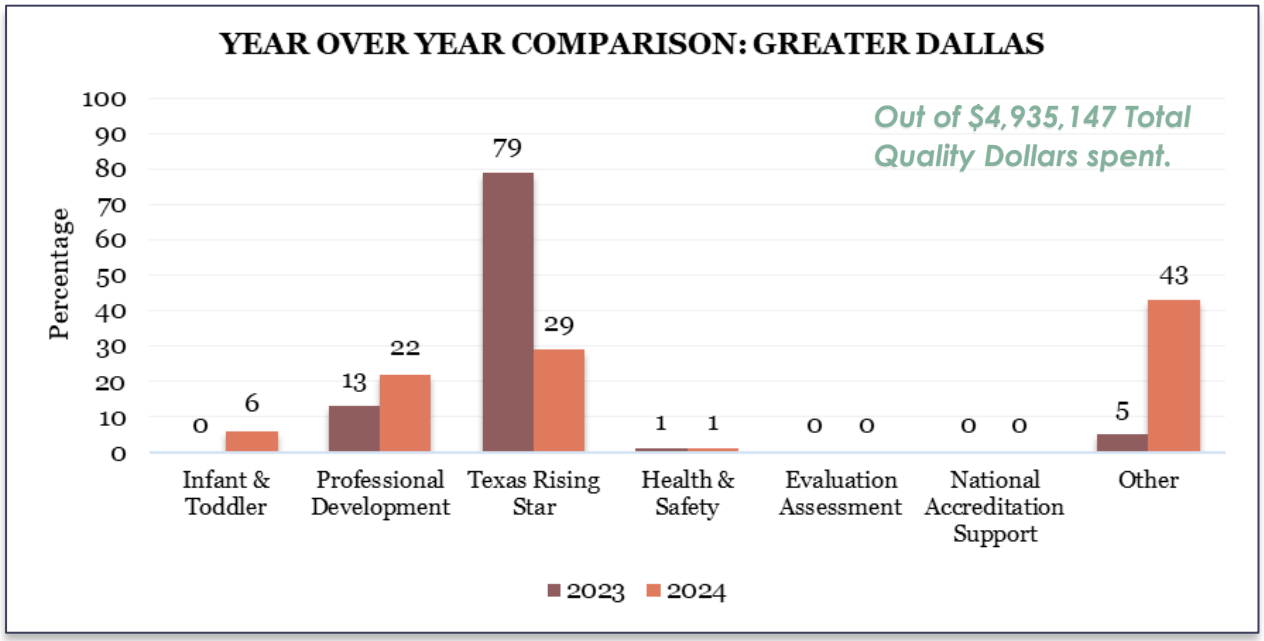

Figure 6.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

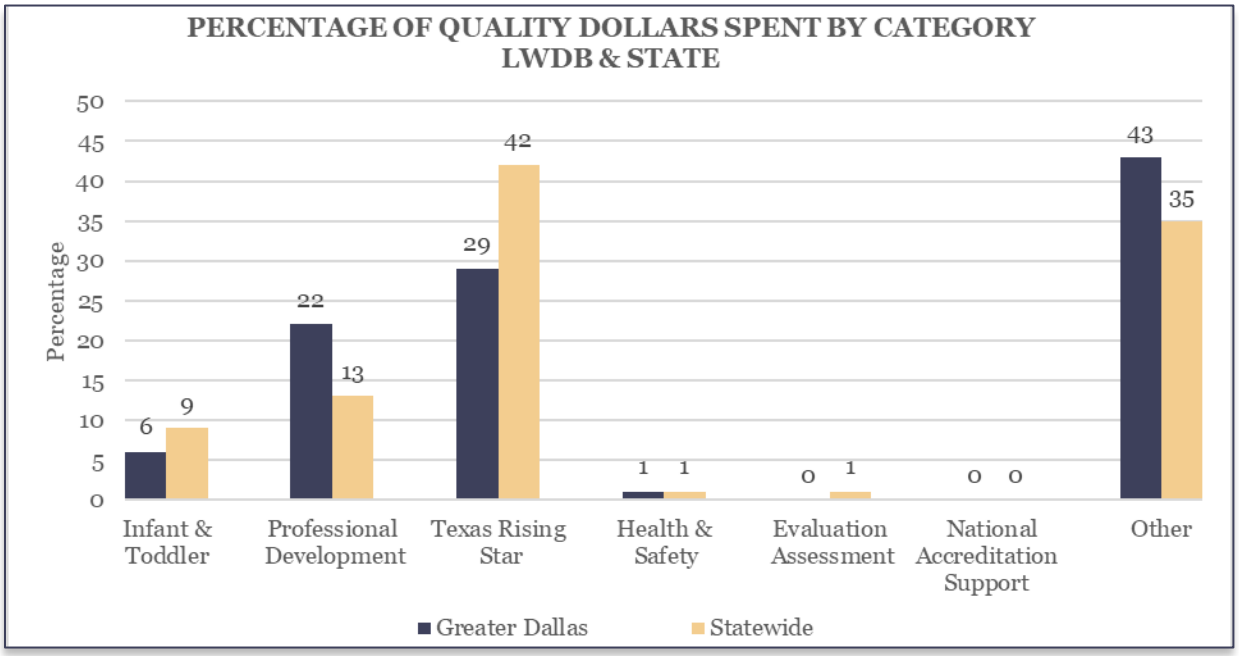

Figure 6.2 | This data shows allocations for Greater Dallas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all LWDB subsidy providers increased by **35 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 209 to 286 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (35%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=209 to N=286)

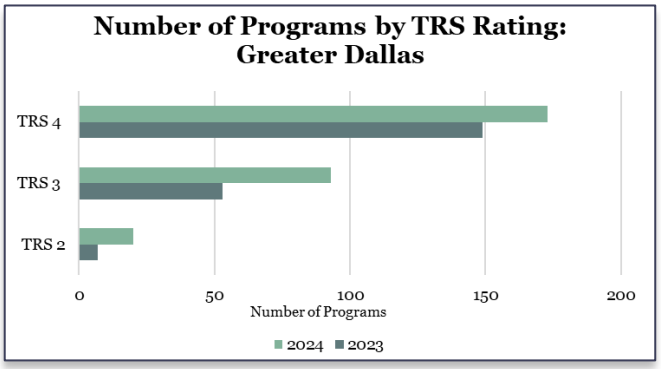

Figure 6.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Greater Dallas saw gains across star levels with the largest in TRS 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Greater Dallas region. 60 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 10% decrease of 7 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 16 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Greater Dallas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

NORTHEAST TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

Of the 10,515 children under the age of six, in Northeast Texas, over **4,500** qualify for child care assistance. While this region has a higher service rate than others, the Texas Workforce Commission still only reaches **1,227** of them, leaving **73%** of eligible families without the support they need to remain in the workforce.

Northeast Texas adjusted its quality dollar strategy from 2023 to 2024, shifting away from a primary reliance on TRS-specific support toward a more even split across Professional Development, Infant & Toddler, and TRS categories. The Infant & Toddler expenditures focused on comprehensive support for families, funding family engagement backpacks with mandatory parent feedback, specialized curriculum, and equipment. The TRS category maintained support for core program needs, including purchasing books and materials for classrooms, covering TRS staff personnel costs, and funding their training. The Professional Development category saw a notable increase, particularly in conference attendance, and also covered general conference fees and costs for educators to attend CDA courses.

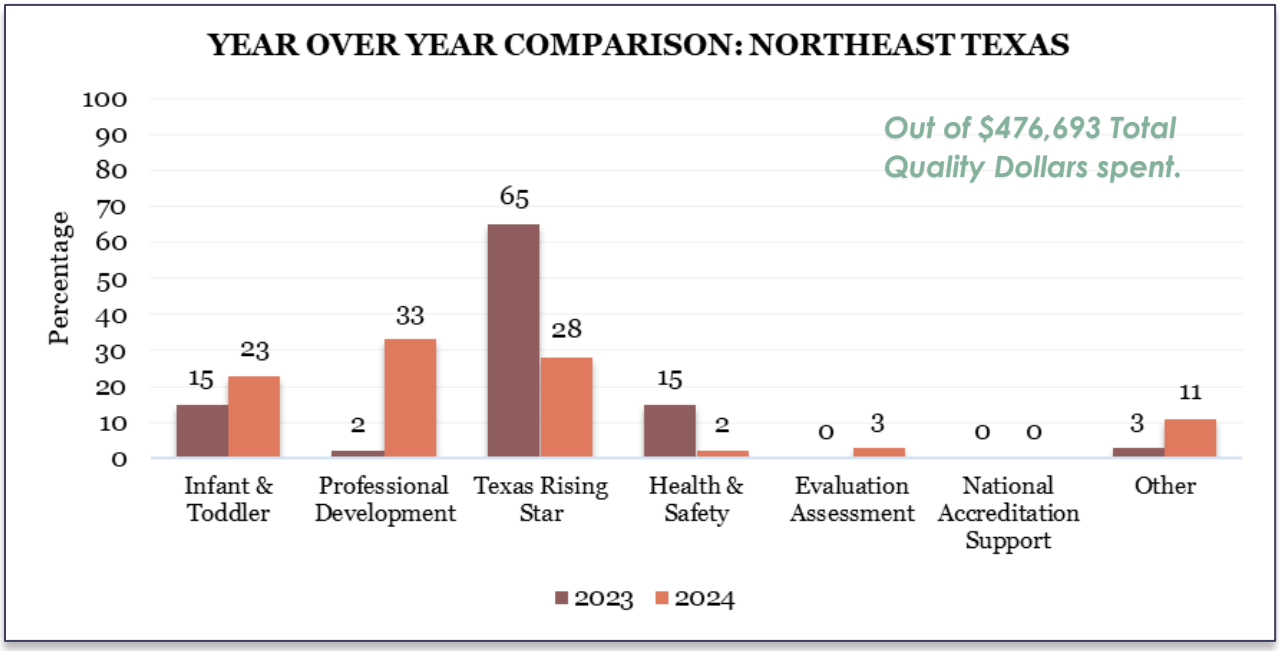

Figure 7.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

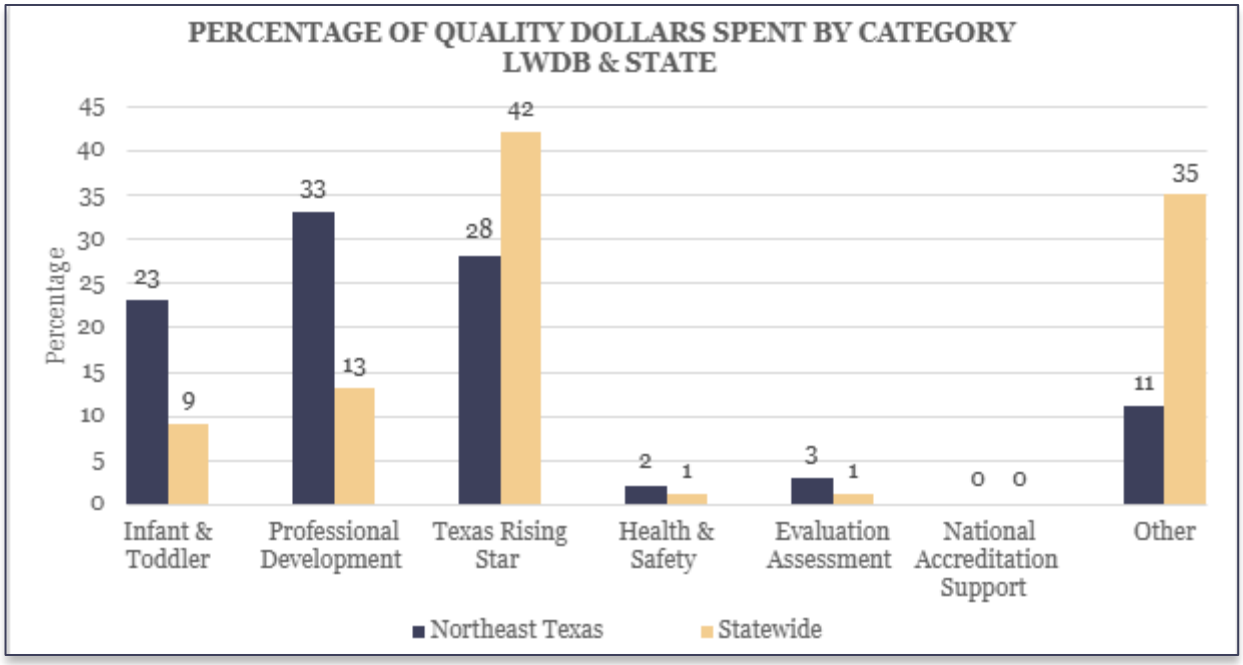

Figure 7.2 | This data shows allocations for this LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Northeast Texas subsidy providers increased by **14 percentage points.** During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 38 to 44 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (14%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=38 to N=44)

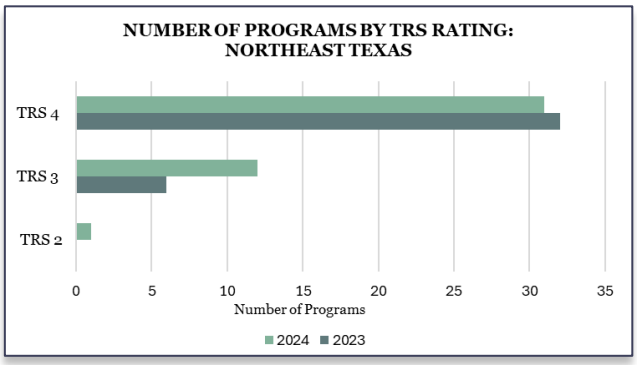

Figure 7.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Northeast Texas experienced an increase in TRS 3, a minor rise in TRS 2, and a reduction in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Northeast Texas region. 19 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 27% decrease of 7 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 37.3 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Northeast Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

EAST TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

East Texas is home to 28,295 children under age six, and nearly **14,750** of them qualify for child care assistance. Yet, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **4,035** of these children, leaving **73%** of eligible families without the support they need to remain in the workforce.

East Texas adjusted its quality dollar expenditures from 2023 to 2024, shifting away from general TRS supports toward a targeted focus on Infant & Toddler curriculum, equipment, and materials. The TRS category maintained support for its core mission, which included funding for general curriculum, equipment, and materials for classrooms, alongside covering TRS staff personnel costs. This category also provided incentives for programs that were actively entering the TRS process. Finally, the Professional Development category covered costs associated with staff training and fees for obtaining CDA certifications.

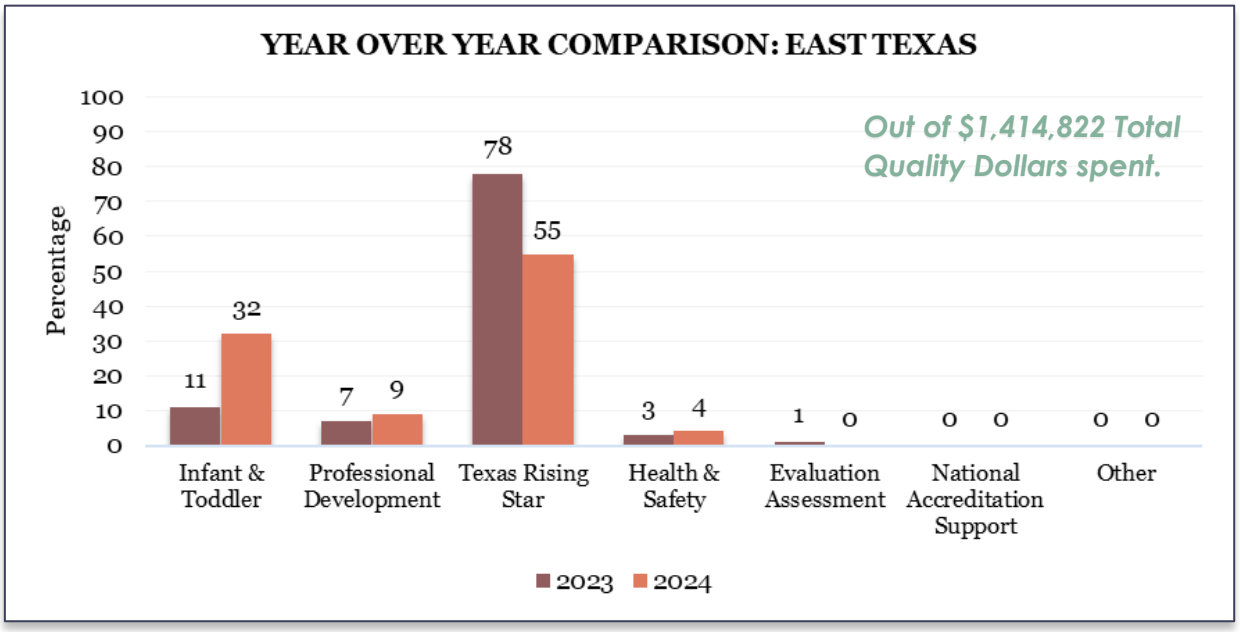

Figure 8.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

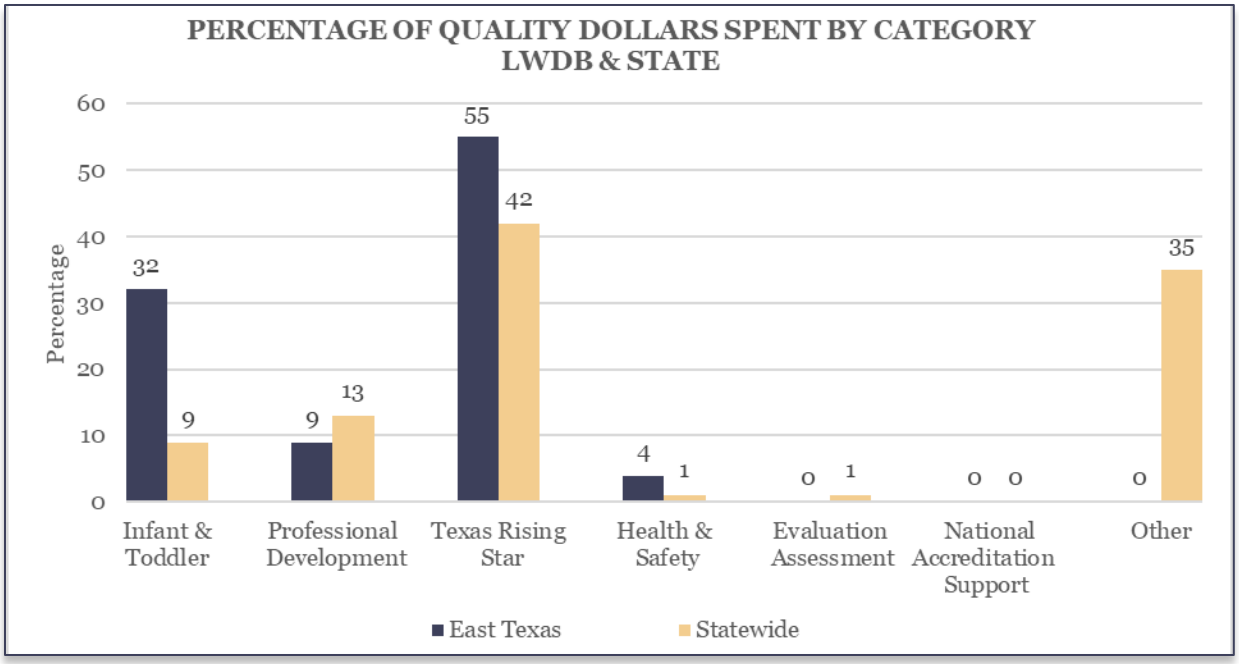

Figure 8.2: This data shows allocations for East Texas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all East Texas subsidy providers increased by **16 percentage points.** During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 99 to 122 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (16%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=99 to N=122)

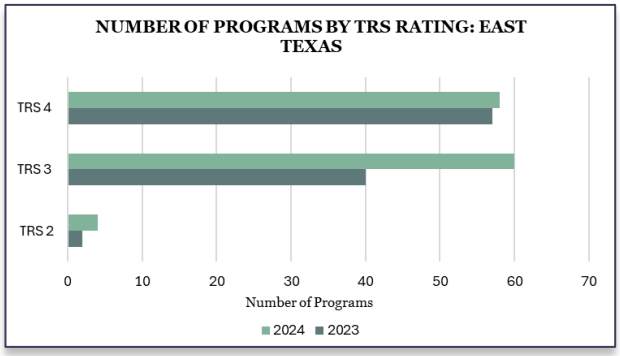

Figure 8.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. East Texas experienced a large increase in TRS 3, a minor rise in TRS 2, and a minor reduction in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the East Texas region. 60 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three time greater than the supply. This is a 22% decrease of 17 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 19.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the East Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

West Central Texas has 11,229 children under age six, with over **6,400** of them qualifying for child care assistance. Yet, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **1,165** children, leaving **82%** of eligible families without the support they need to maintain employment or pursue education.

West Central Texas executed a significant shift in its quality dollar strategy between 2023 and 2024, moving resources away from general Texas Rising Star (TRS) and Infant & Toddler supports, and toward the "Other" category. This priority investment funded retention incentives and supported new Pre-K partnerships. The Professional Development category focused on staff advancement, covering general staff training, CDA scholarships, and participation in leadership conferences. Finally, the TRS category maintained support for core infrastructure, funding the personnel and training costs of TRS staff, as well as purchasing materials for classrooms.

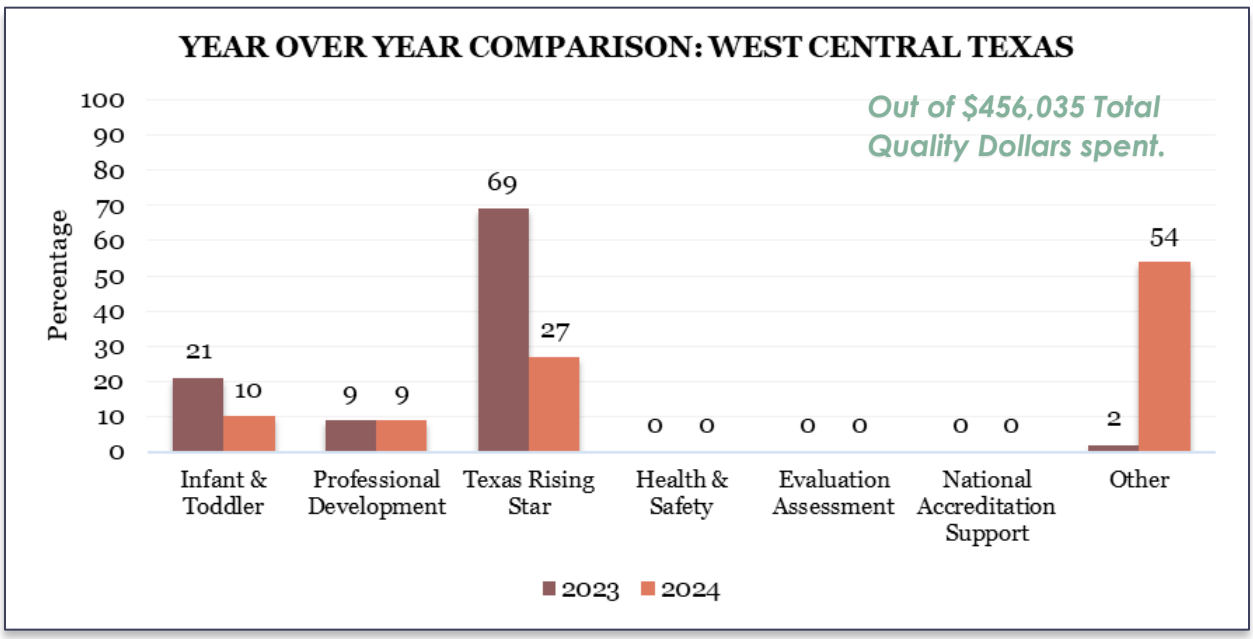

Figure 9.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

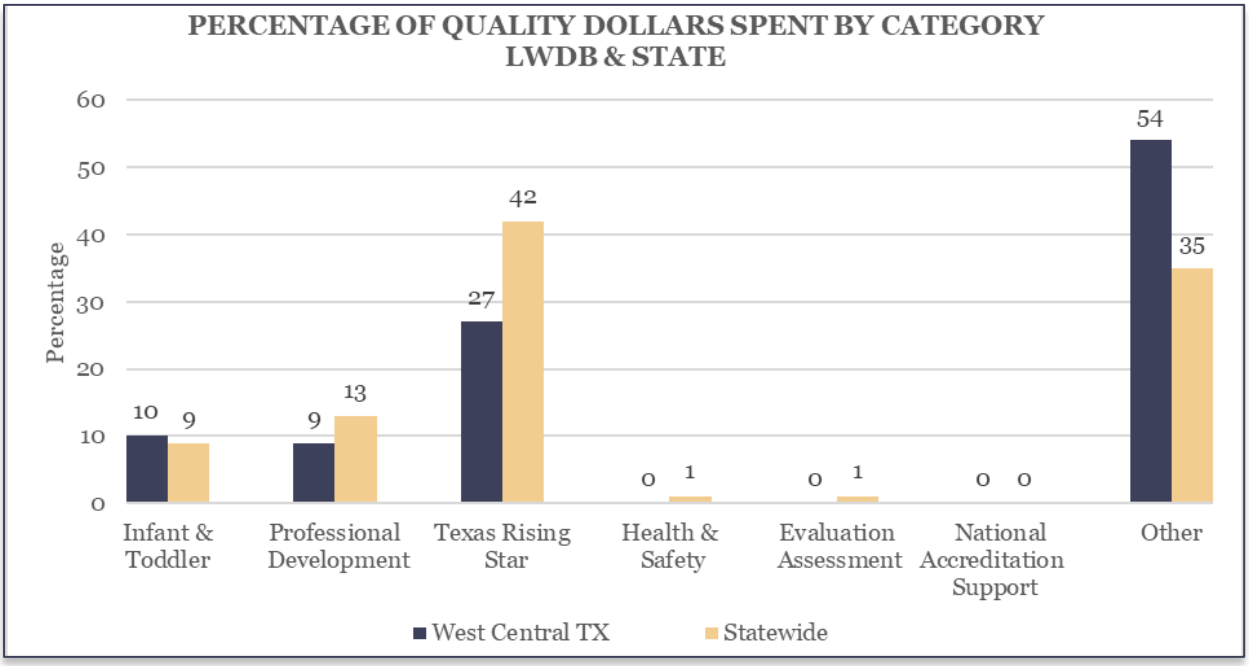

Figure 9.2 | This data shows allocations for West Central Texas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all West Central Texas subsidy providers increased by **26 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 45 to 58 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (26%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=45 to N=58)

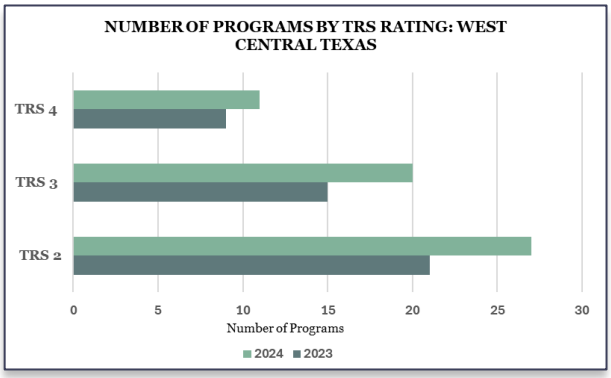

Figure 9.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. West Central Texas experienced increases in all TRS levels with the largest gains in TRS 2 and 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the West Central Texas region. 30 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 9% decrease of (3) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 12.1 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the West Central Texas LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

BORDERPLEX

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Borderplex region, 29,922 children are under the age of six, with nearly **11,750** of them qualifying for child care assistance. Yet, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **3,299** children, leaving **72%** of eligible families without the support they need to support their children's early development and their own employment.

Borderplex reallocated its quality dollar strategy between 2023 and 2024, shifting primary investment away from the "Other" category toward increased support for both TRS and Professional Development. The Professional Development category was comprehensive, funding conference attendance, college scholarships, curriculum trainings, and the development of a local resource room for meetings, training, and access to equipment and materials. The TRS category concentrated on enhancing program quality through curriculum, equipment, and materials purchases; providing mentoring for participating child care providers; supporting family engagement; and covering TRS staff personnel costs. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category focused on foundational needs, specifically funding the purchase of cribs and equipment, conducting specialized curriculum training, and supporting staff training attendance.

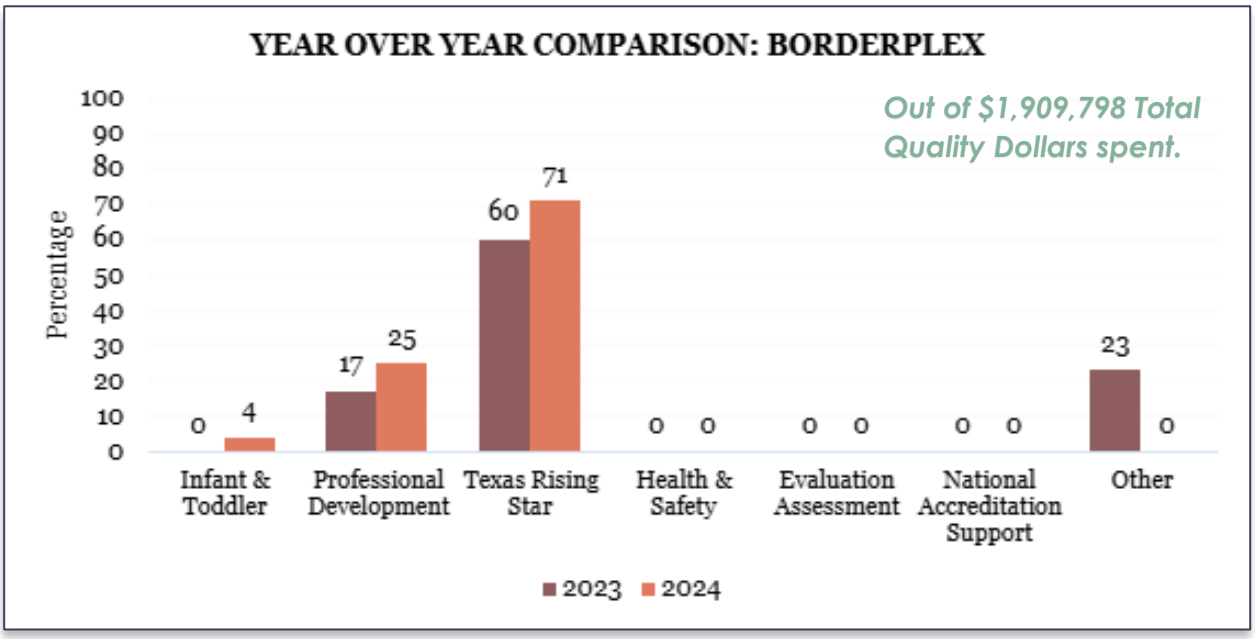

Figure 10.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

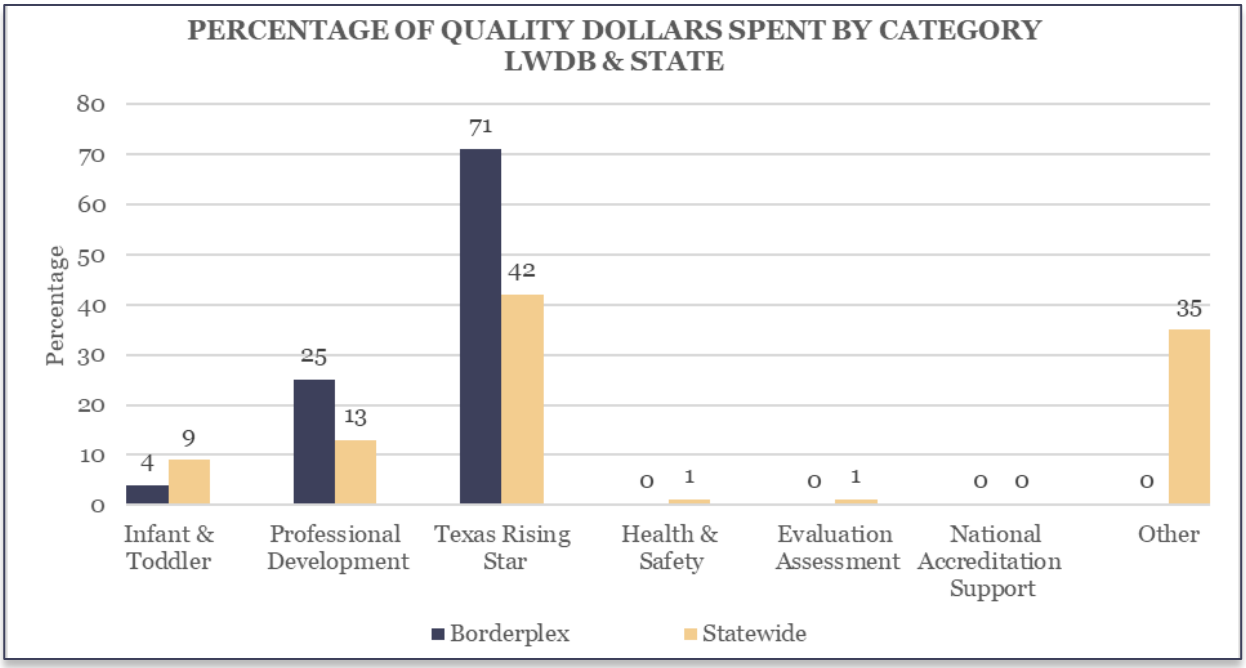

Figure 10.2 | This data shows allocations for Borderplex LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Borderplex subsidy providers increased by **51 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 95 to 141 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (51%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=95 to N=141)

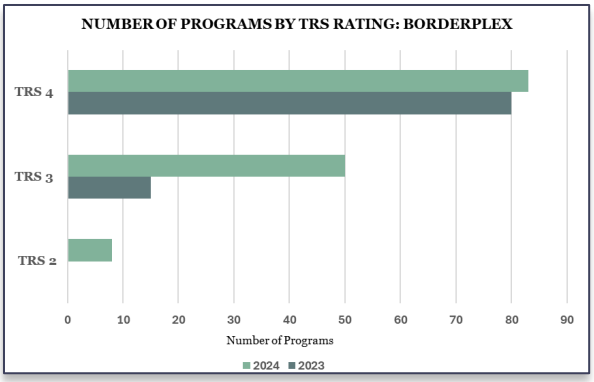

Figure 10.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Borderplex experienced increases in all TRS levels with the large gain in TRS 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Borderplex region. 11 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 31% decrease of (5) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 66.1 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Borderplex LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

PERMIAN BASIN

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Permian Basin, 19,819 children are under the age of six, and over **12,900** of them qualify for child care assistance. Yet, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **1,850** of these children, leaving **86%** of eligible families without the scholarships they need to support their children's early learning and remain in the workforce.

Permian Basin executed a strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, moving resources away from Professional Development toward increased investment in the Texas Rising Star (TRS) category and the "Other" category. The TRS category supported a broad range of needs, including personnel costs, classroom equipment and materials, and incentives for achieving TRS certification. Concurrently, the "Other" category saw funding for incentives, curriculum, contracted staffing, and outdoor equipment grants, along with the purchase of a back office solution software for several programs. The Professional Development category was streamlined, with the main expense being conference fees for early childhood professionals. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category covered targeted support through specialized trainings for I&T educators and classroom learning materials, while basic Health and Safety needs were addressed by offering First Aid and CPR trainings.

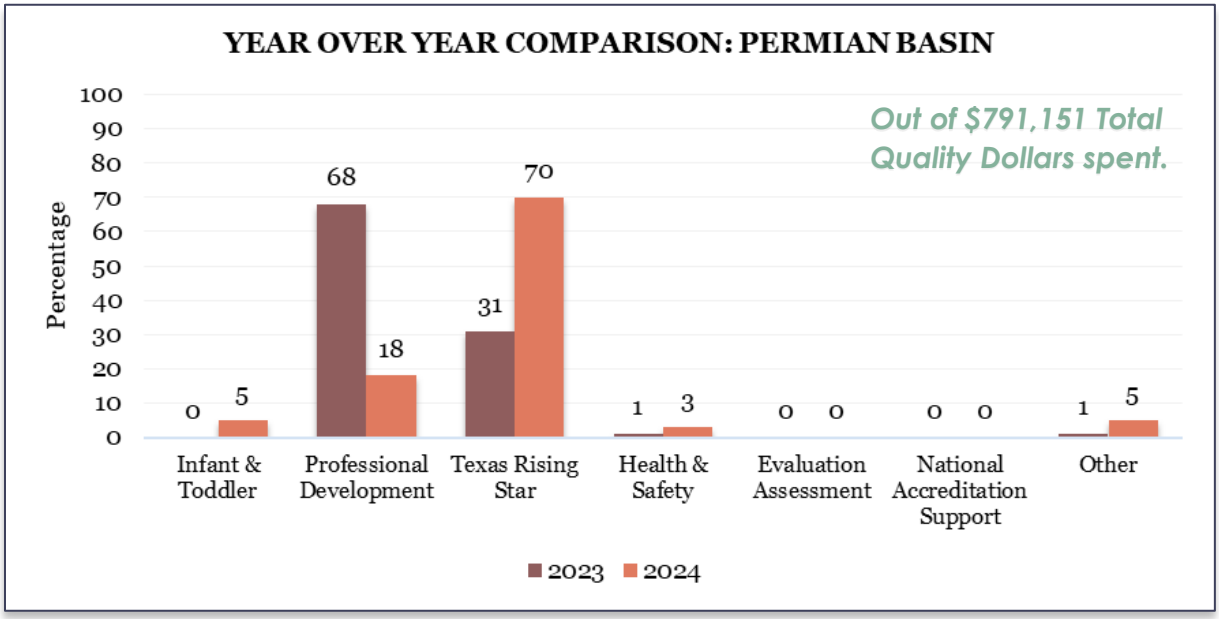

Figure 11.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

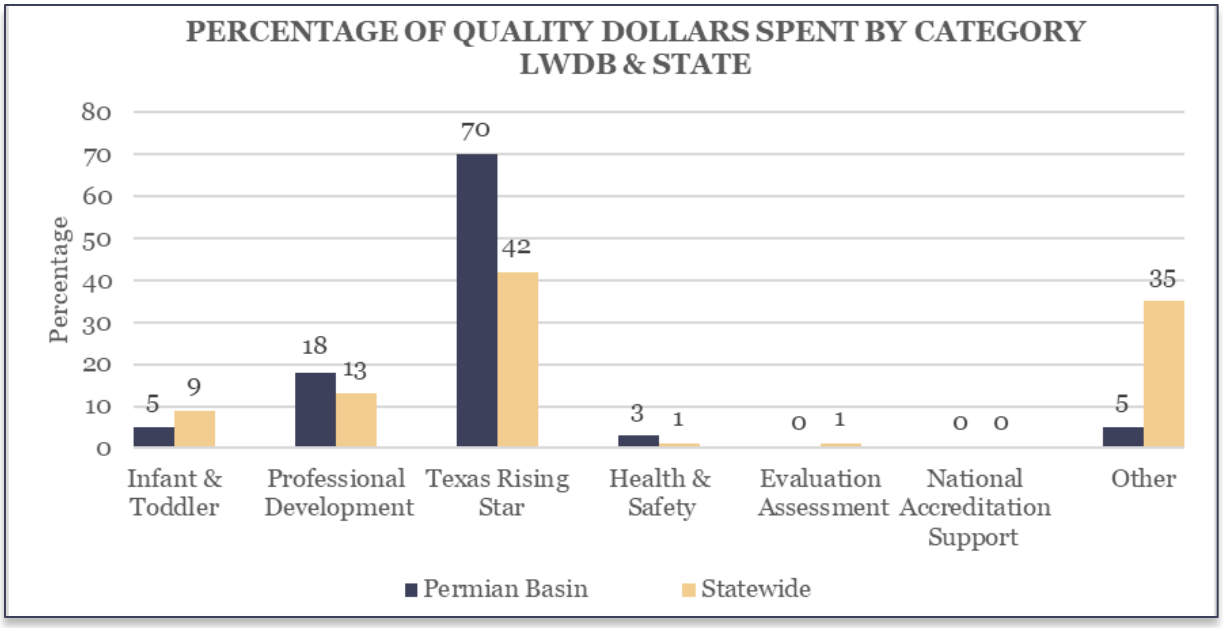

Figure 11.2 | This data shows allocations for Permian Basin LWDB FY24

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all LWDB subsidy providers increased **328 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 12 to 51 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (328%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=12 to N=51)

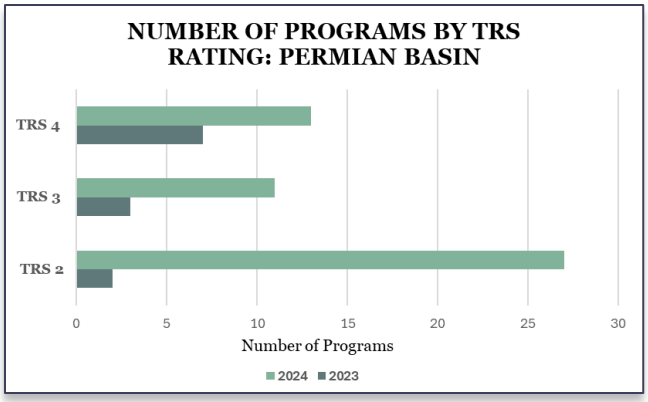

Figure 11.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Permian Basin experienced increases in all TRS levels with a very large gain in TRS 2.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Permian Basin region. 20 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 26% decrease of (7) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 13.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Permian Basin LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

CONCHO VALLEY

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Concho Valley, there are 6,072 children under age six, and more than **3,700** of them qualify for child care assistance. However, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **549** children, leaving **85%** of eligible families without the critical support they need to work or further their education.

Concho Valley executed a focused strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, moving resources away from both Infant & Toddler and Evaluation and Assessment categories toward increased investment in Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports. This priority TRS category funded a broad range of initiatives, including incentives, curriculum purchases, contracted staffing, and grants for outdoor equipment. The category also covered TRS staff personnel costs, general classroom equipment and materials, and financial incentives for achieving TRS certification. Concurrently, the Infant & Toddler category continued to provide specialized support through targeted trainings for I&T educators and learning materials for classrooms. The Professional Development category was streamlined, with the main expense being conference fees for early childhood professionals

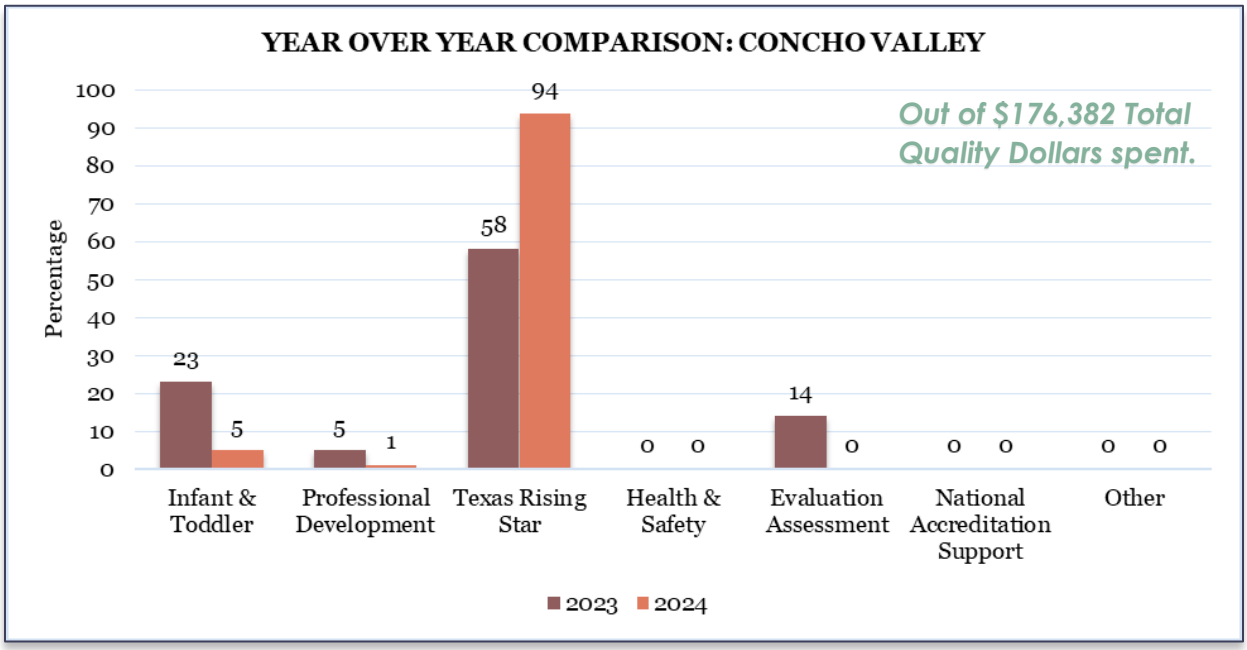

Figure 12.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

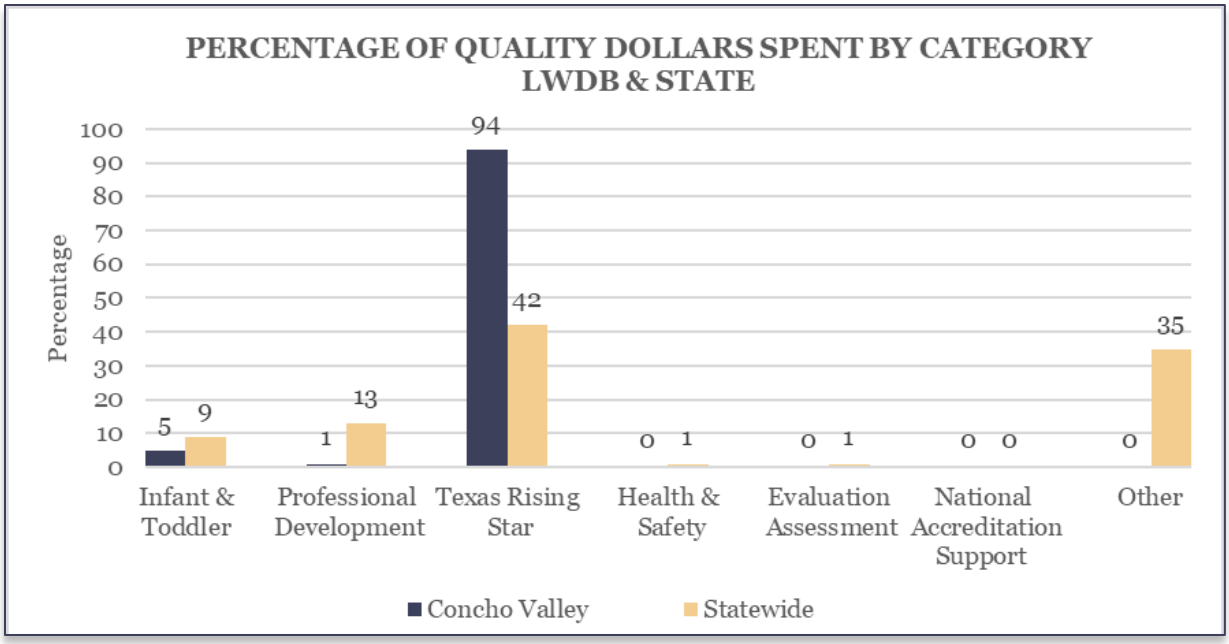

Figure 12.2 |This data shows allocations for Concho Valley LWDB FY24

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Concho Valley subsidy providers increased by **126 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 6 to 12 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (126%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=6 to N=12)

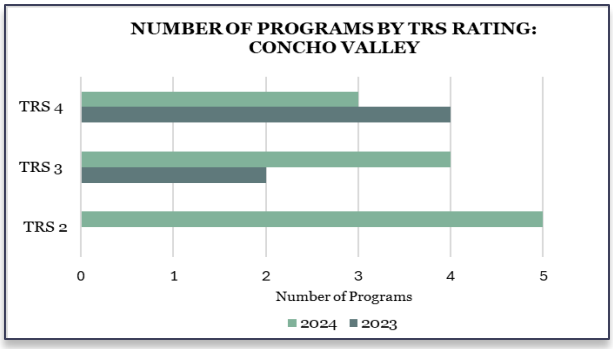

Figure 12.3: Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Concho Valley saw the largest increase at level 2 with a large increase in TRS 3 and a decrease in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Concho Valley region. **18 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts**, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a10% decrease of (2) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023**. There are 4.3 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families** in the Concho Valley LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

HEART OF TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

Of the 11,970 children under the age of six, in the Heart of Texas, more than **5,700** qualify for child care assistance. While the Texas Workforce Commission reaches **1,644** of these children, **71%** of eligible families are still left without the scholarships they need to support their children's early development and maintain steady employment.

Heart of Texas executed a shift in funding strategy from 2023 to 2024, reallocating dollars from the general Texas Rising Star (TRS) category toward the Infant & Toddler, Professional Development, and Other categories, though TRS still remained the single largest expenditure. The Professional Development category was robust, encompassing various offerings such as CDA training, conferences, virtual coffee chats, supporting educators in the apprenticeship program, and TECPDS training. The Infant & Toddler category focused on expansion and quality, funding age-appropriate curriculum, developmental assessment training, equipment and materials to open more slots, and specialized I&T trainings. The TRS category concentrated on core operations, covering TRS personnel and training costs, purchasing curriculum and materials, and providing TRS Awards for programs achieving certification levels. Lastly, basic Health and Safety needs were addressed through CPR and First Aid trainings, while expenditures in the Other category were not itemized.

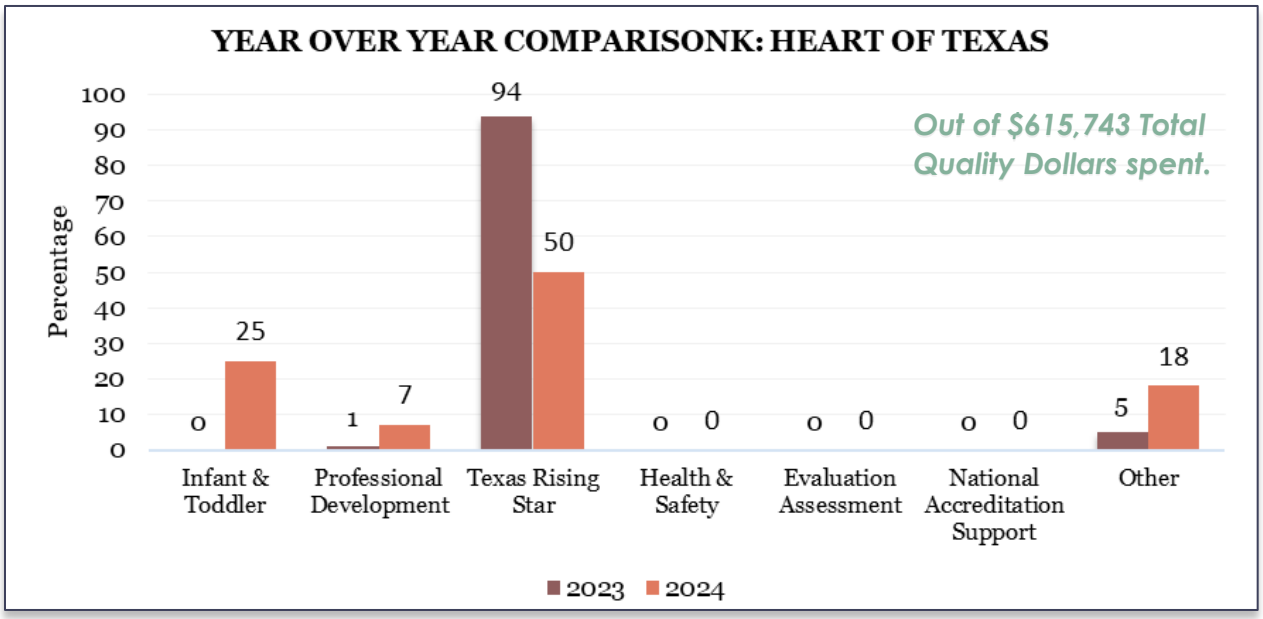

Figure 13.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

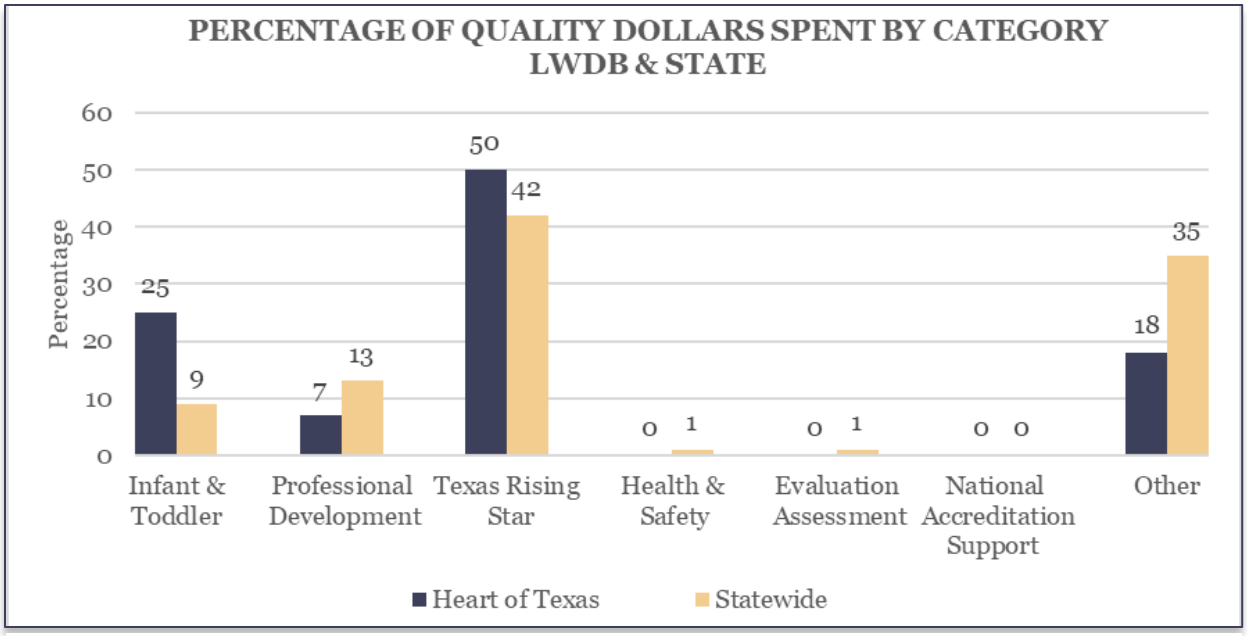

Figure 13.2 | This data shows allocations for Heart of Texas s LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Heart of Texas subsidy providers decreased by **10 percentage points**. During this period, the region had a decline in its high-quality footprint due to an increase in non-TRS providers, although the raw number of certified locations remained at 73.

- Proportion change: decrease (10%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=73 to N=73)

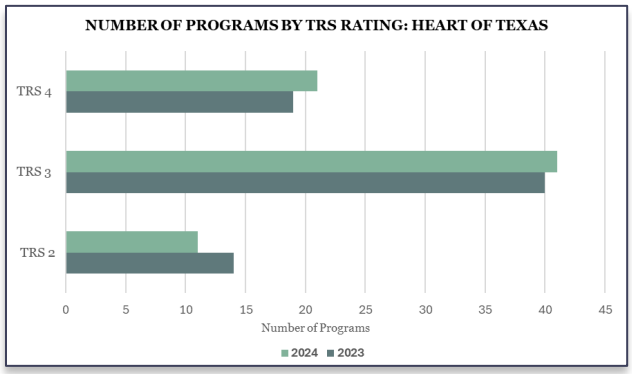

Figure 13.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Heart of Texas saw an increase at the TRS 4 level with decreases in the 3 and 4 levels greater than the TRS 4 level gain.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Heart of Texas region. 36 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is an 8% decrease of (3) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 23.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Heart of Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

CAPITAL AREA

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

While the Capital Area is home to 59,072 children under age six, a staggering **45,544** of them qualify for child care assistance. Despite this immense need, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **2,403** children, leaving **95%** of eligible families without the support they need to participate in the workforce or pursue education.

Capital Area executed a significant strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, moving resources away from Professional Development, TRS, and the Other categories to prioritize Infant & Toddler support. Despite this reallocation, investments were maintained across all categories. The Infant & Toddler category was dominated by specialized I&T trainings. The TRS category focused on core program quality, funding personnel and training costs, purchasing equipment, materials, and curriculum, supporting family engagement trainings, and providing recognition awards for achieving TRS Levels. Professional Development offerings included conferences, in-house trainings, director credential courses, and CDA classes. The Other category provided essential wage supplements, and Health and Safety covered First Aid and CPR trainings. Notably, Capital Area is one of the few Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) to support National Accreditation.

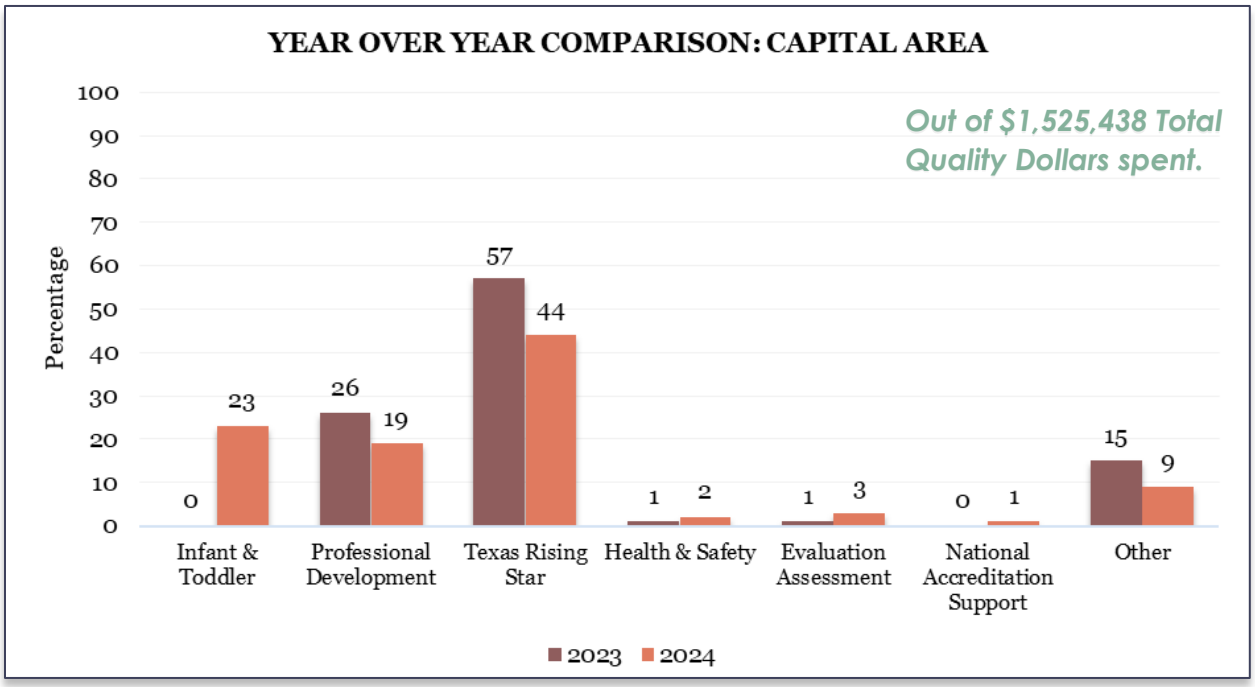

Figure 14.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

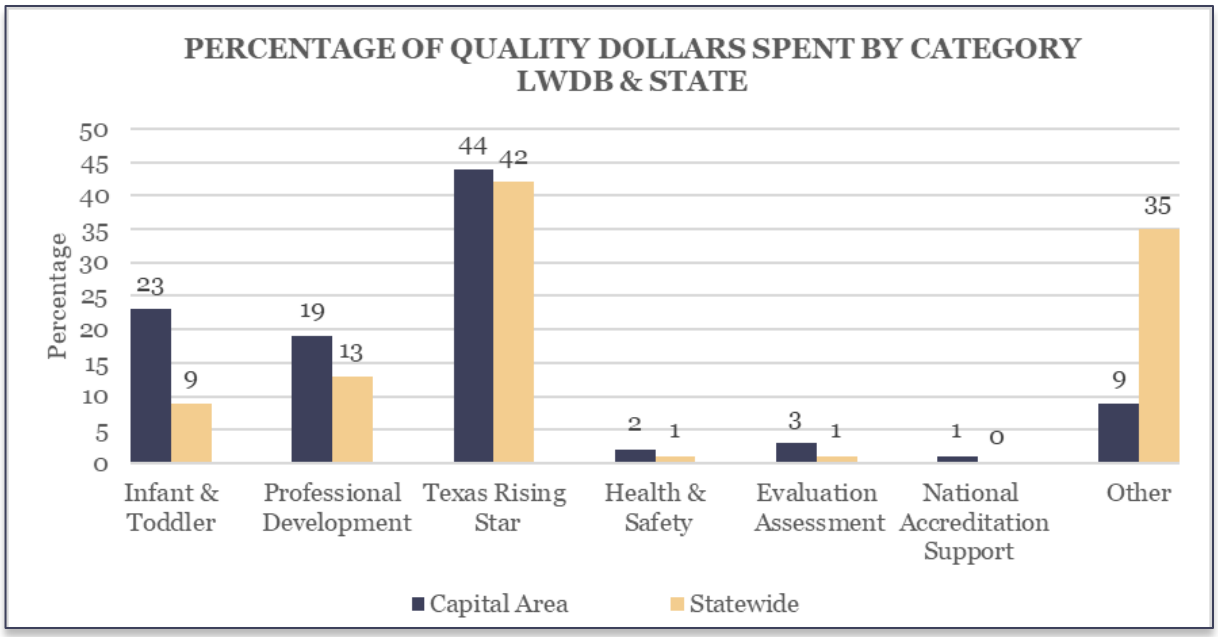

Figure14.2 | This data shows allocations for Capital Area LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Capital Area subsidy providers decreased by **2 percentage points** as compared to last year. During this period, the region had a decline in its high-quality footprint although the raw number of certified locations increased from 130 to 152.

- Proportion change: decrease (2%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=130 to N=152)

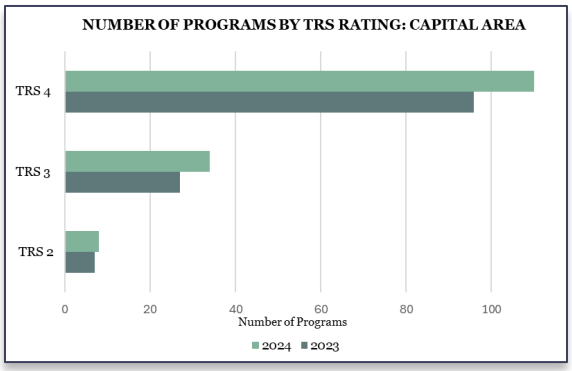

Figure 14.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. The Capital Area saw an increase at all levels, with the greatest in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Capital Area region. 56 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 48% of 28 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 5.3 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Capital Area LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

RURAL CAPITAL AREA

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Rural Capital Area, 34,392 children are under the age of six, and a vast majority—over **26,000**—qualify for child care assistance. Despite this high level of eligibility, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves just **1,822** children, leaving **93%** of families in need without the scholarships necessary to secure reliable child care.

The Rural Capital Area strategically reallocated its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, shifting primary investment away from Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports and toward the Professional Development and Other categories. The Professional Development category focused on high-impact training modalities, including support for CDA certification, Conscious Discipline Training, and the establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Expenditures within the Other category were not specifically itemized.

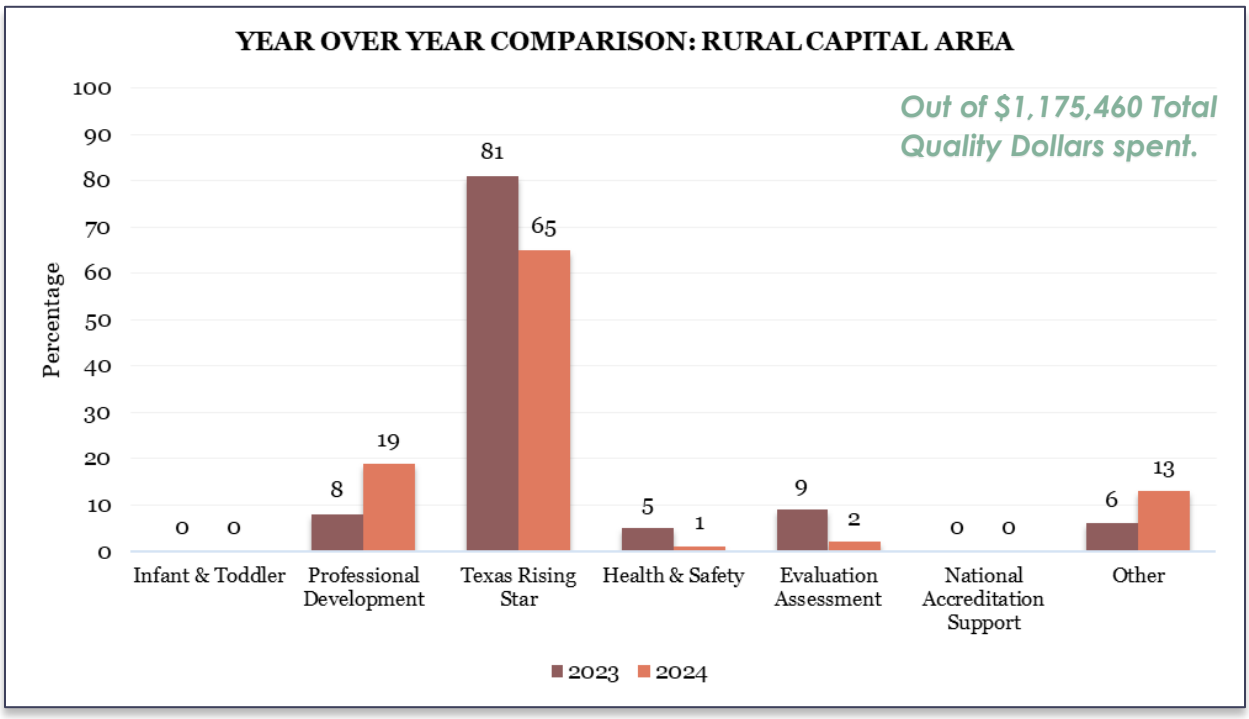

Figure 15.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

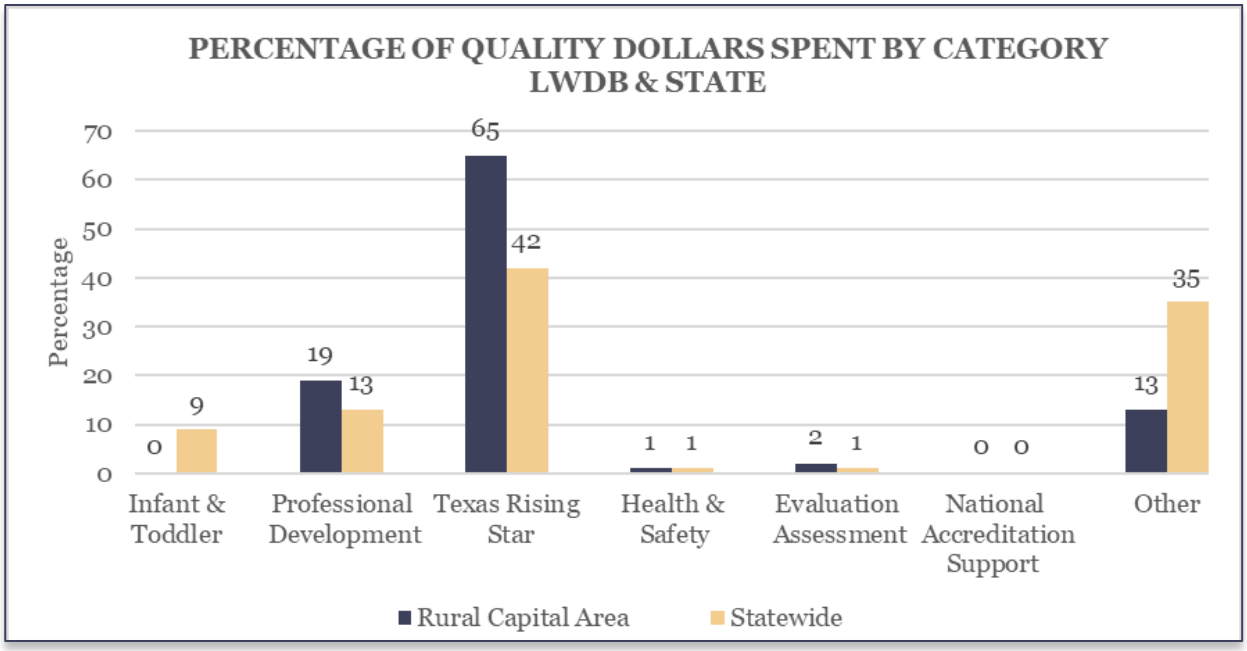

Figure 15.2 | This data shows allocations for Rural Capital LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Rural Capital Area subsidy providers increased by **20 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 108 to 146 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (20%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=108 to N=146)

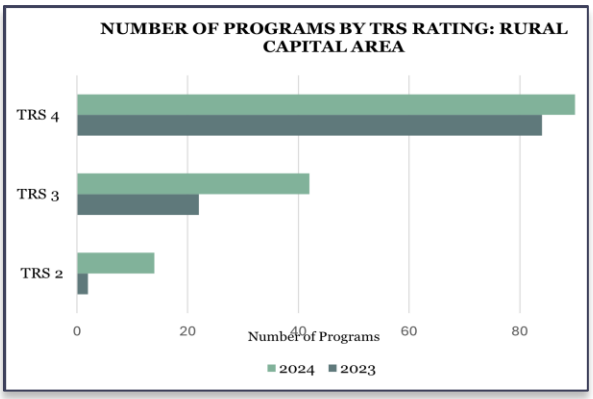

Figure 15.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. The Rural Capital Area saw increases at all levels with the largest in TRS 3, followed by TRS 2 and 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Rural Capital Area region. 80 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 3% increase of 2 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 5 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Rural Capital Area LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

BRAZOS VALLEY

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Brazos Valley, there are 13,591 children under age six, and more than **9,000** of them qualify for child care assistance. However, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **1,189** children, leaving **87%** of eligible families without the financial support necessary to secure child care and maintain employment.

Brazos Valley adjusted its quality dollar strategy from 2023 to 2024, moving resources away from a primary focus on Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports toward a more balanced distribution across multiple categories. The Infant & Toddler category focused on improving learning spaces, funding equipment and materials for both indoor and outdoor environments. The TRS category concentrated on core operations, covering TRS personnel and training costs, purchasing curriculum and associated training, and conference fees. Professional Development supported educators' advancement, providing college scholarships for tuition, fees, and books, in addition to various trainings and conferences. Finally, the Health and Safety category was comprehensive, funding a wide range of needs from basic safety items like outlet plugs to portable sinks and items related to two-way ratios.

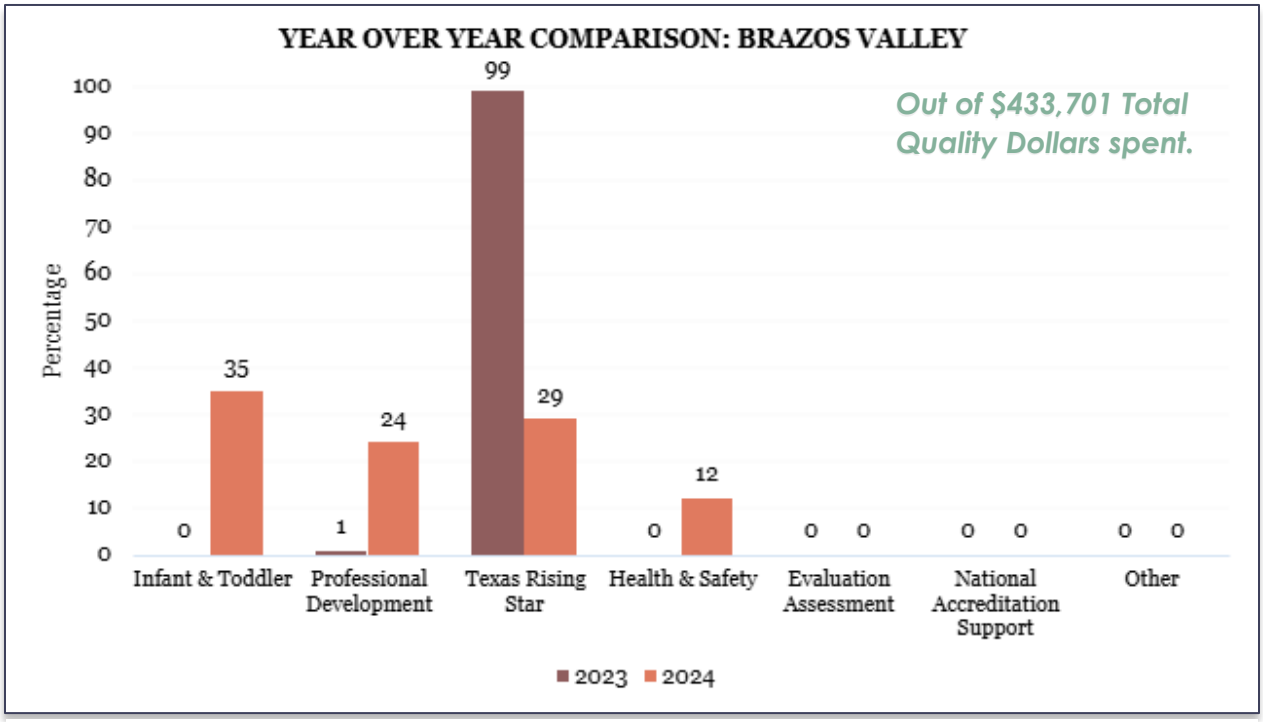

Figure 16.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

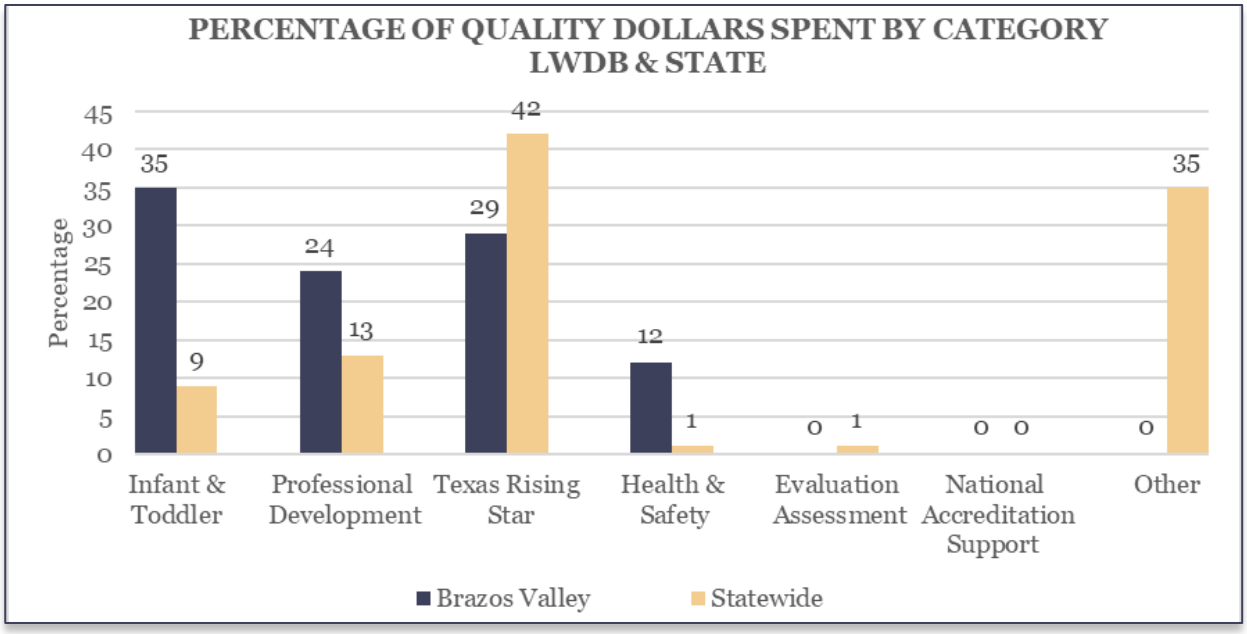

Figure 16.2 | This data shows allocations for Brazos Valley LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Brazos Valley subsidy providers increased by **5 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 47 to 49 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (5%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=47 to N=49)

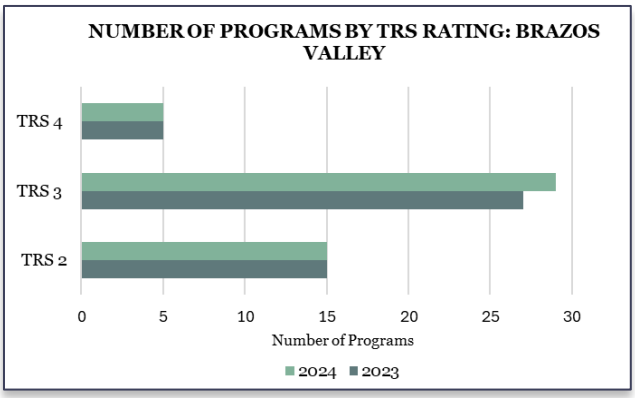

Figure 16.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Brazos Valley maintained TRS levels 2 & 4 with an increase at level 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Brazos Valley region. 30 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 19% decrease of (7) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 8.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Brazos Valley LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

DEEP EAST TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In Deep East Texas, there are 12,995 children under age six, and approximately **5,400** of them qualify for child care assistance. While the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves **1,976** children, **63%** of eligible families are still left without the scholarships they need to support their children's early development and maintain steady employment.

Deep East Texas adjusted its quality dollar expenditures from 2023 to 2024, shifting from primary reliance on Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports to a more balanced spread of investments across various categories, though TRS remained the largest expenditure. The TRS category covered core operations, including personnel and training costs, purchasing curriculum, equipment and materials, and supporting some family engagement activities. Professional Development was comprehensive, offering various trainings and conferences, CDA scholarships, and Educational Incentives for staff who achieved their CDA certification. The Infant & Toddler category provided specific support through dedicated curriculum, equipment, and materials. Finally, the Health and Safety category funded essential resources, specifically purchasing AEDs and covering First Aid/CPR trainings

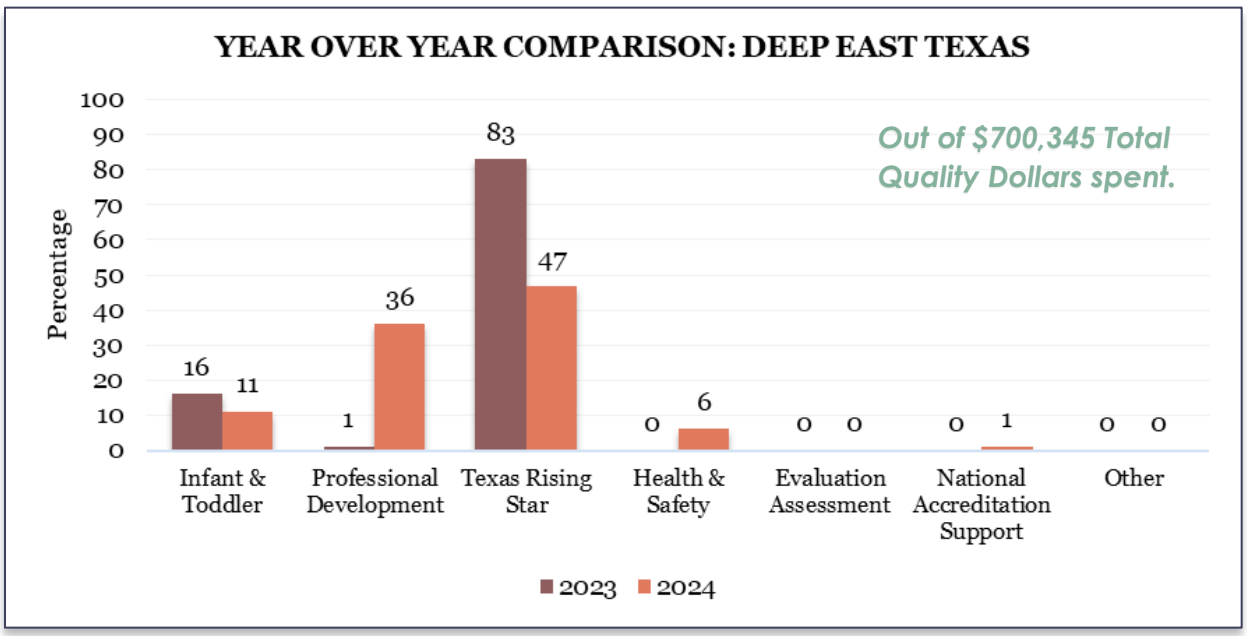

Figure 17.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

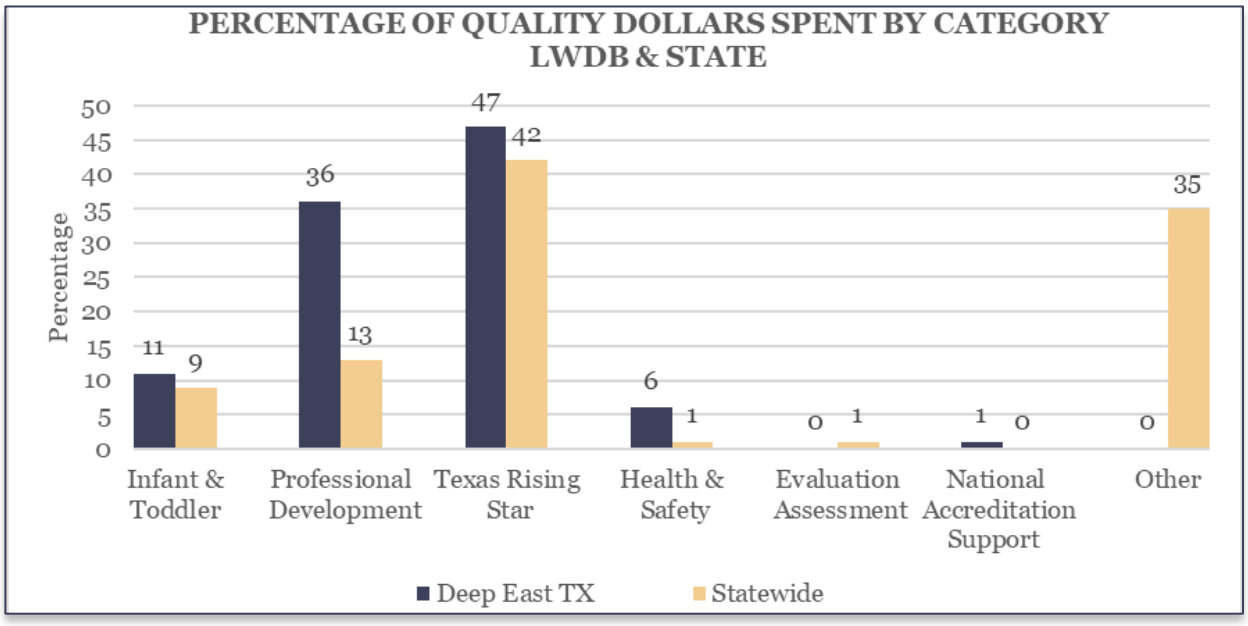

Figure 17.2 | This data shows allocations for Deep East Texas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all LWDB subsidy providers **remained steady at 57%.** During this period, the region expanded its high-quality footprint from 44 to 46 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=44 to N=46)

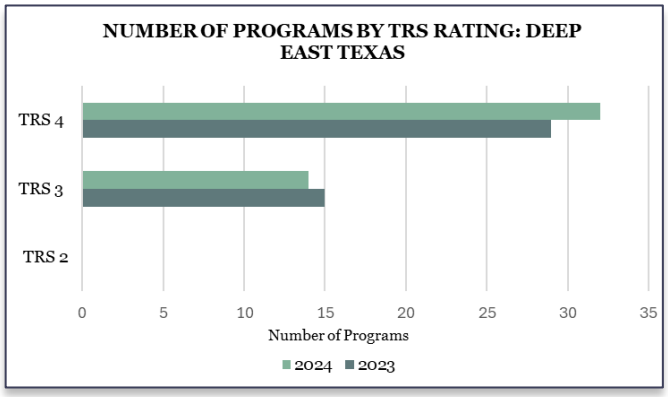

Figure 17.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Deep East Texas maintained TRS levels 2 with no programs, saw a slight decrease in level 3 with an increase in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Deep East Texas region. 29 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 17% decrease of (6) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 22.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Deep East Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

Southeast Texas is home to 12,684 children under age six, with over **6,200** of them qualifying for child care assistance. While the Texas Workforce Commission provides scholarships to **1,614** children, **74%** of eligible families are still left without the support they need to maintain employment and ensure their children are in high-quality learning environments.

Southeast Texas executed a strategic reallocation of its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, shifting primary investment away from general TRS supports and toward the Professional Development and Infant & Toddler categories. Despite this shift, the TRS category remained the largest single expenditure, focusing on the purchase of classroom and outdoor learning equipment and materials. The Professional Development category was diverse, funding a variety of trainings offered throughout the year—including training on the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS)—as well as tuition for CDA certification and conference attendance for educators. The Infant & Toddler category focused on foundational needs, covering the purchase of equipment and a variety of age-appropriate trainings.

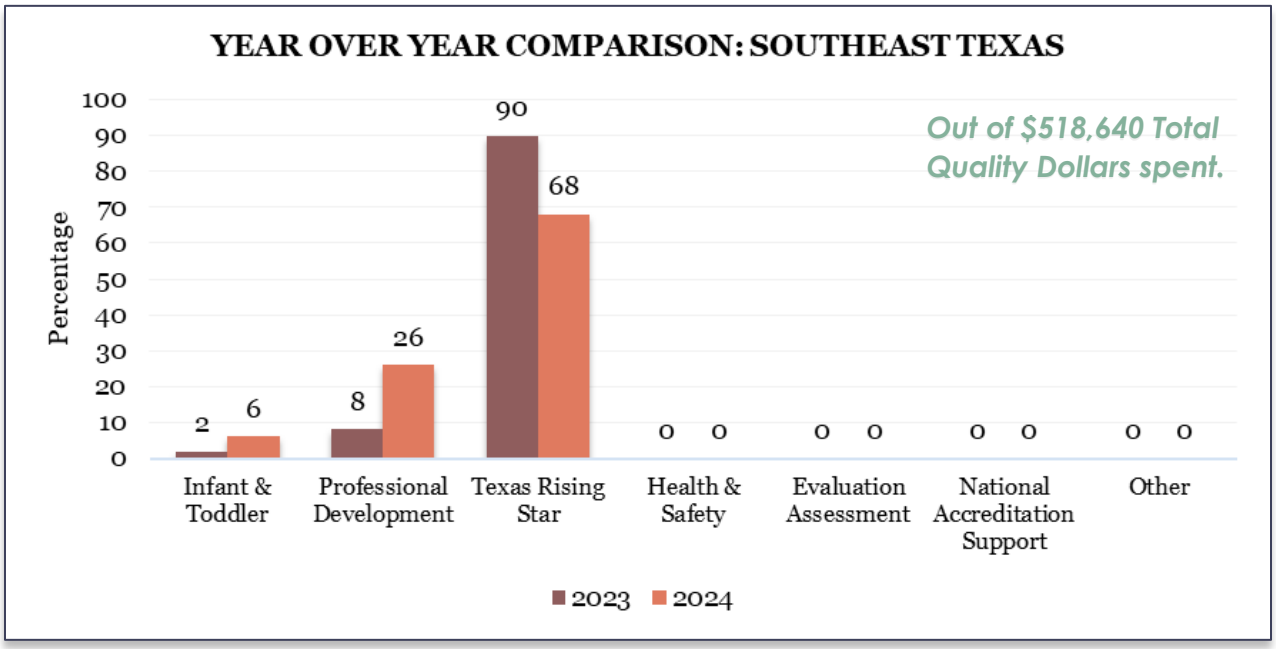

Figure 18.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

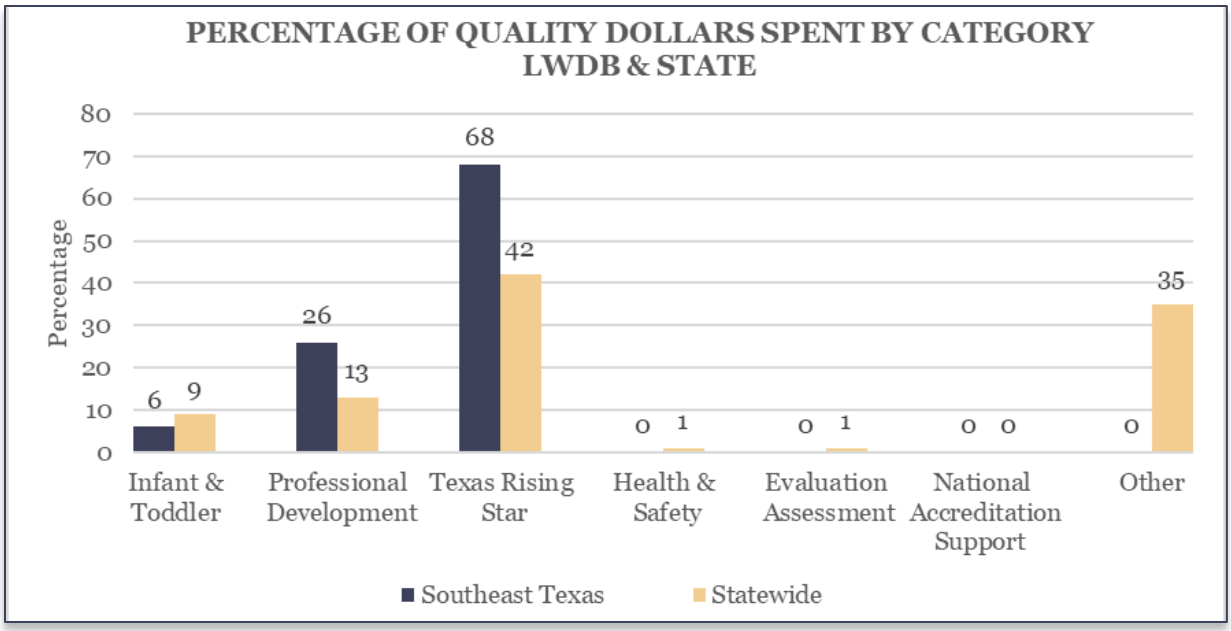

Figure 18.2 | This data shows allocations for Southeast LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Southeast Texas subsidy providers increased by **22 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 51 to 71 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (22%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=51 to N=71)

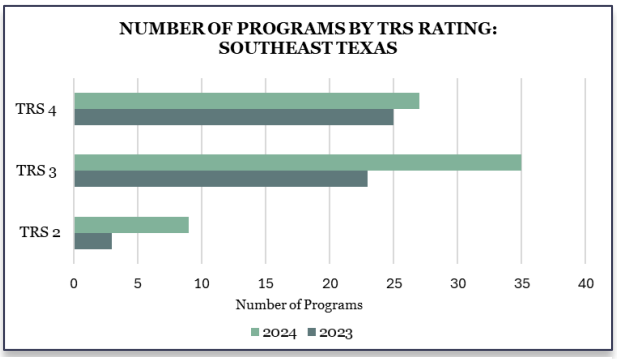

Figure 18.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Deep East Texas maintained TRS levels 2 with no programs, saw a slight decrease in level 3 with an increase in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Southeast Texas region. 17 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a15% decrease of 3 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 31.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Southeast Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

GOLDEN CRESCENT

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

While the Golden Crescent is home to 7,248 children under age six, more than **3,600** of them qualify for child care assistance. Despite this need, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **803** children, leaving **78%** of eligible families without the scholarships they need to remain in the workforce or pursue their education.

Golden Crescent shifted its quality dollar strategy from 2023 to 2024, reallocating resources from a concentrated focus on Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports to a distribution across multiple categories. TRS remained the largest expenditure, covering personnel and training costs, along with purchasing equipment and materials for programs actively pursuing TRS certification. The Professional Development category funded a variety of trainings, professional learning communities (PLCs), and provided stipends to participants. The Infant & Toddler category saw comprehensive support, including curriculum purchases, associated training, classroom equipment and materials, and stipends for educators completing I&T-specific training. Specialized investments were also made: Health and Safety funded the provision of anti-choking devices, and Evaluation and Assessment provided developmental screeners to programs.

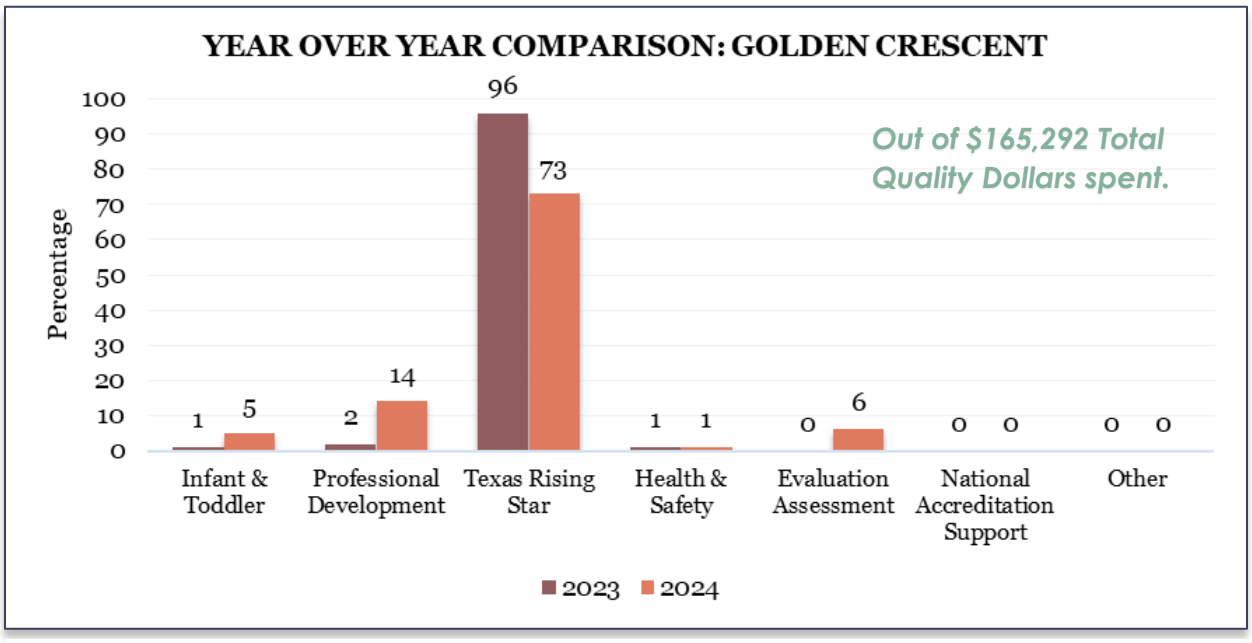

Figure 19.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

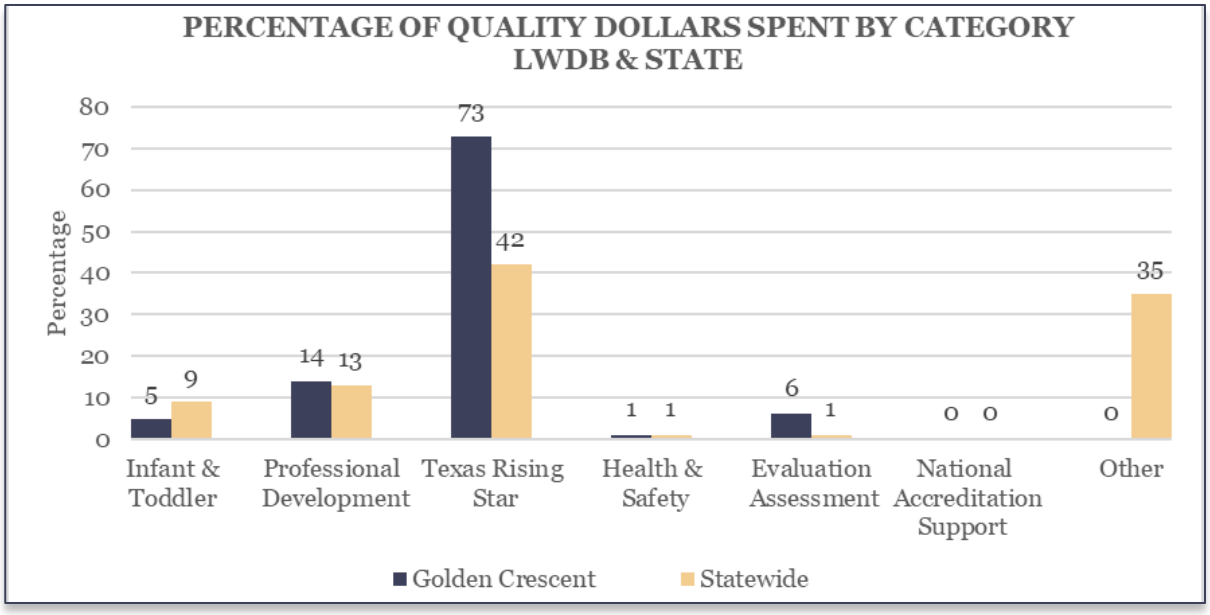

Figure 19.2 | This data shows allocations for Golden Crescent LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Golden Crescent subsidy providers increased **174 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 3 to 9 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (174%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=3 to N=9)

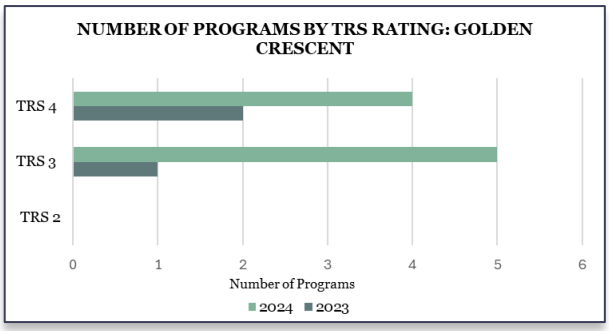

Figure 19.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Golden Crescent maintained TRS levels 2 with no programs, saw a large increase in TRS 3 and 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Golden Crescent region. **20 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts**, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three time greater than the supply. This is a 9% decrease of (2) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. **There are 9.6 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families** in the Golden Crescent LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

ALAMO

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Alamo region, 95,984 children are under the age of six, and more than **57,500** of them qualify for child care assistance. Despite this high level of eligibility, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **9,171** children, leaving **84%** of qualifying families without the scholarships they need to support their children's early learning and remain in the workforce.

Alamo executed a major strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures from 2023 to 2024, reallocating resources away from the Texas Rising Star (TRS) category and toward the "Other" category. This priority investment provided substantial financial incentives, including wage supplements in the form of retention bonuses and monetary incentives for qualified staff. The TRS category maintained core operations funding, with the majority of expenditures going toward TRS personnel and training costs, alongside curriculum and materials. The Professional Development category supported staff growth through a variety of trainings and conferences, as well as providing scholarships for CDA renewals. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category focused on specialized needs, encompassing curriculum, training, and materials specific to birth-to-age-three classrooms.

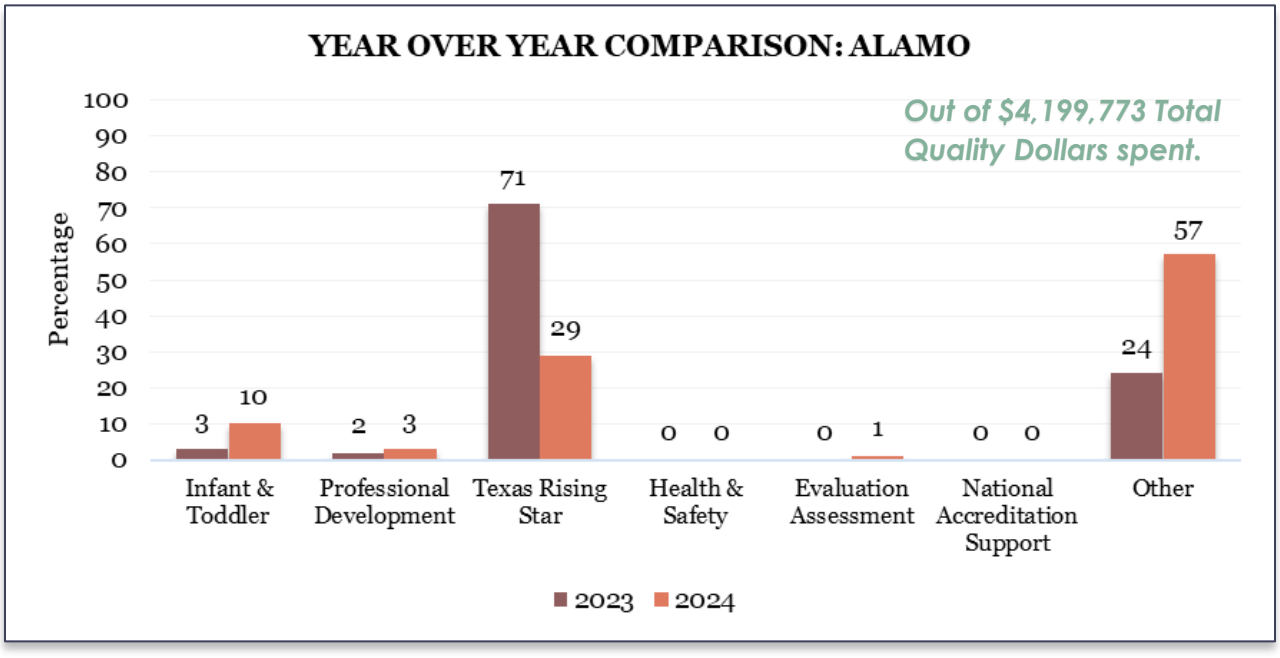

Figure 20.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

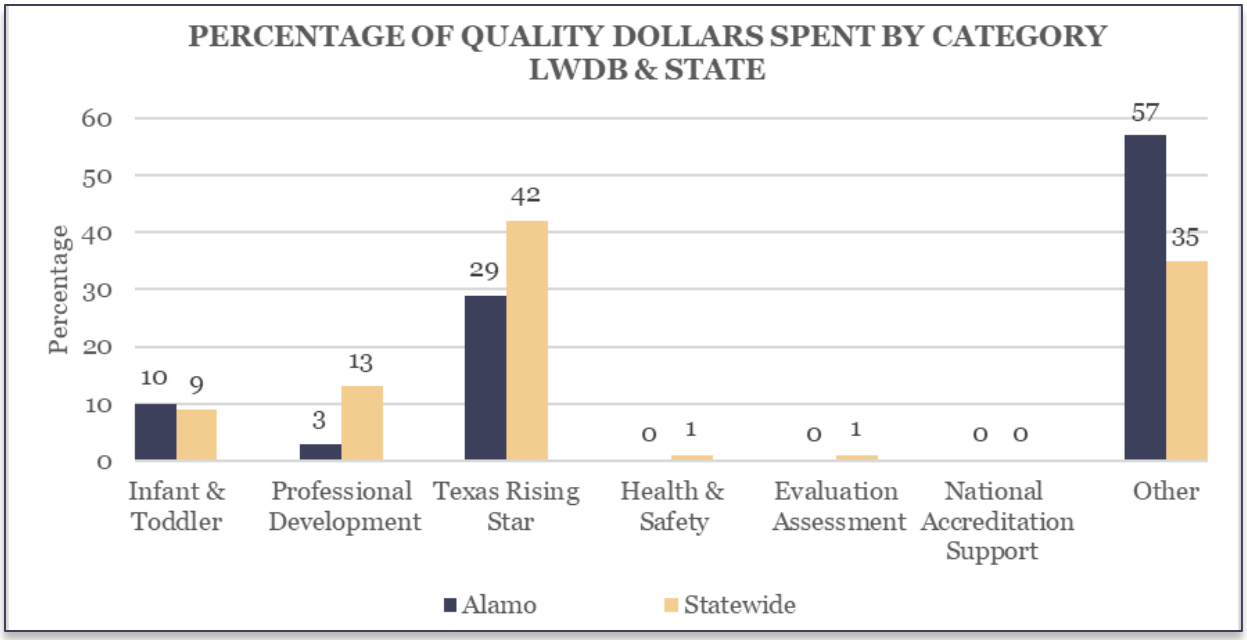

Figure 20.2 | This data shows allocations for Alamo LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Alamo subsidy providers increased **56% percentage points.** During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 154 to 277 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (56%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=154 to N=277)

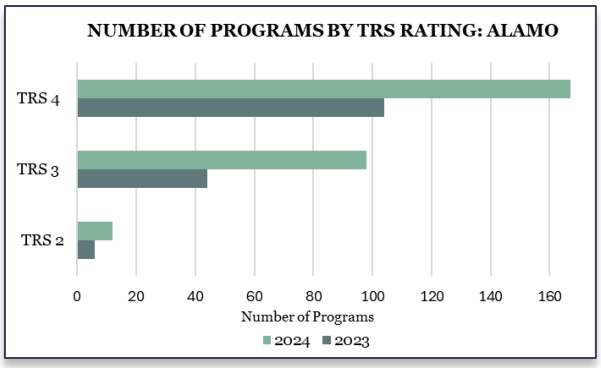

Figure 20.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Alamo saw an increase in all levels with the largest increases in TRS 3 and 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Alamo region. 83 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 15% decrease of 15 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 15.3 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Alamo LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

SOUTH TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

South Texas is home to 10,283 children under age six, with approximately **3,190** of them qualifying for child care assistance. Standing out as a leader in access among all analyzed regions, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves **2,163** of these children—meeting the needs of 68% of eligible families and leaving **32%** without support.

South Texas saw a slight reallocation of its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, shifting some resources away from TRS supports toward the Professional Development category. However, the TRS category still remained by far the largest area of investment, funding the purchase of equipment, materials, and curriculum, along with covering TRS personnel and training costs. Professional Development offered comprehensive support through a variety of trainings and conferences. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category focused on foundational needs, with the majority of funds covering equipment, materials, and curriculum specific to children birth to age three, alongside supporting family engagement activities.

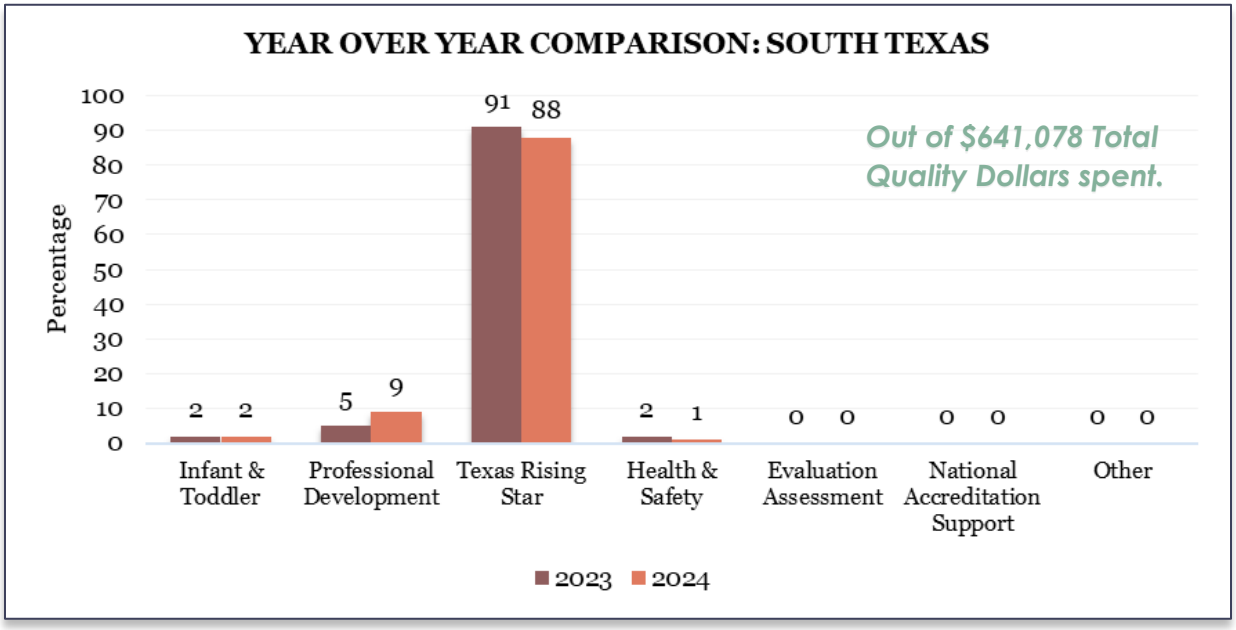

Figure 21.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

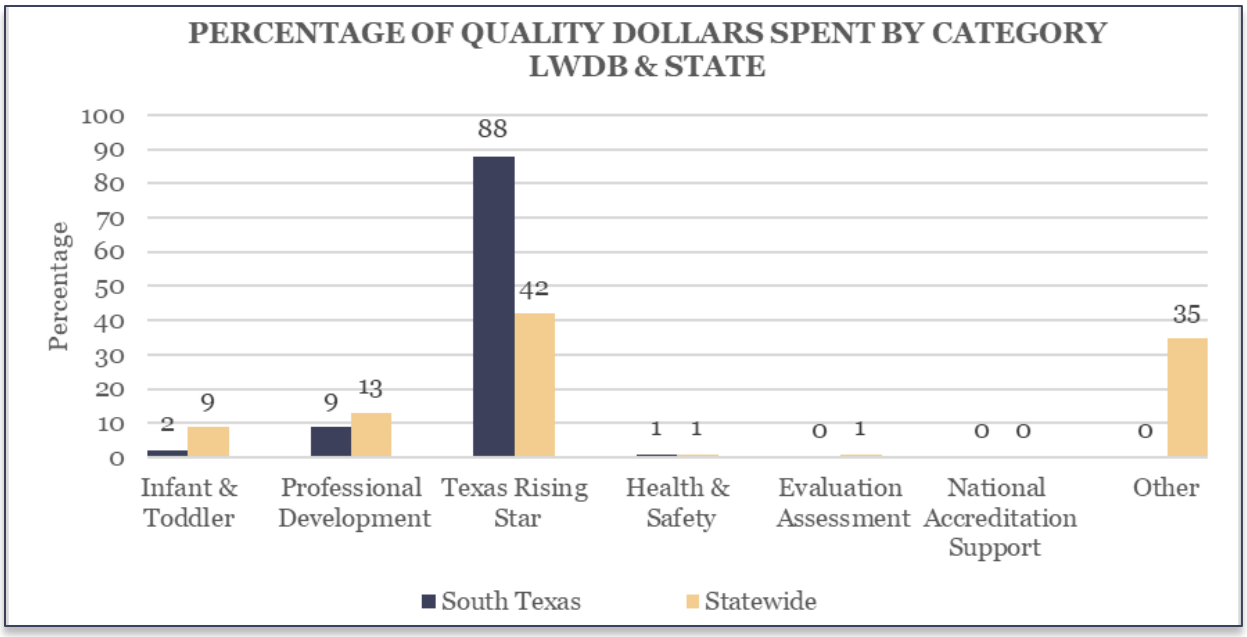

Figure 21.2 | This data shows allocations for South Texas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the **proportion of TRS-certified programs** among all South Texas subsidy providers **decreased by 4 percentage points.** During this period, the region had a decline in **its high-quality footprint although the raw number of certified locations moved from 71 to 73.**

- Proportion change: decrease (4%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=71 to N=73)

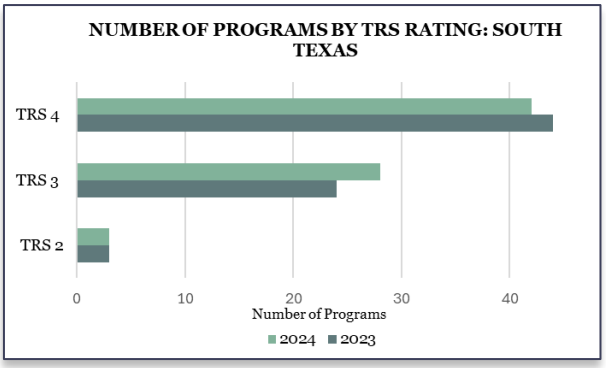

Figure 21.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. South Texas maintained TRS 2 level ratings, with a decrease at level 4, and an increase at TRS 3

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the South Texas region. 1 zip code in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 50% decrease of 1 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 119.2 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the South Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

COASTAL BEND

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

The Coastal Bend region is home to 19,716 children under age six, with approximately **8,730** of them qualifying for child care assistance. While **3,102** children currently receive scholarships through the Texas Workforce Commission, **64%** of eligible families are left without support, creating a significant barrier to economic stability for thousands of households in the region.

Coastal Bend executed a significant strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures between 2023 and 2024, reallocating substantial funding away from general Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports and toward investment in retention bonuses under the "Other" category. The Professional Development category supported staff training through TRS orientation, along with a variety of other trainings and conferences. The TRS category maintained core operational funding, covering TRS personnel and training costs, along with necessary materials and curriculum. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category focused on expansion efforts, funding materials, equipment, and curriculum specifically for the Infant/Toddler Expansion project.

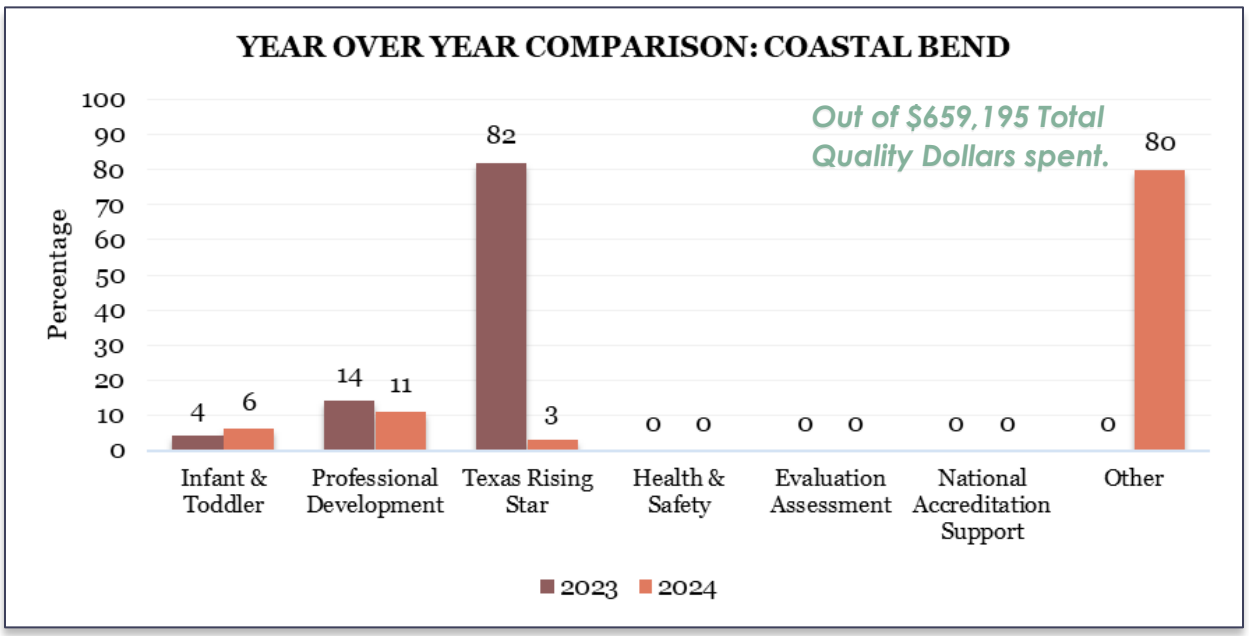

Figure 22.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

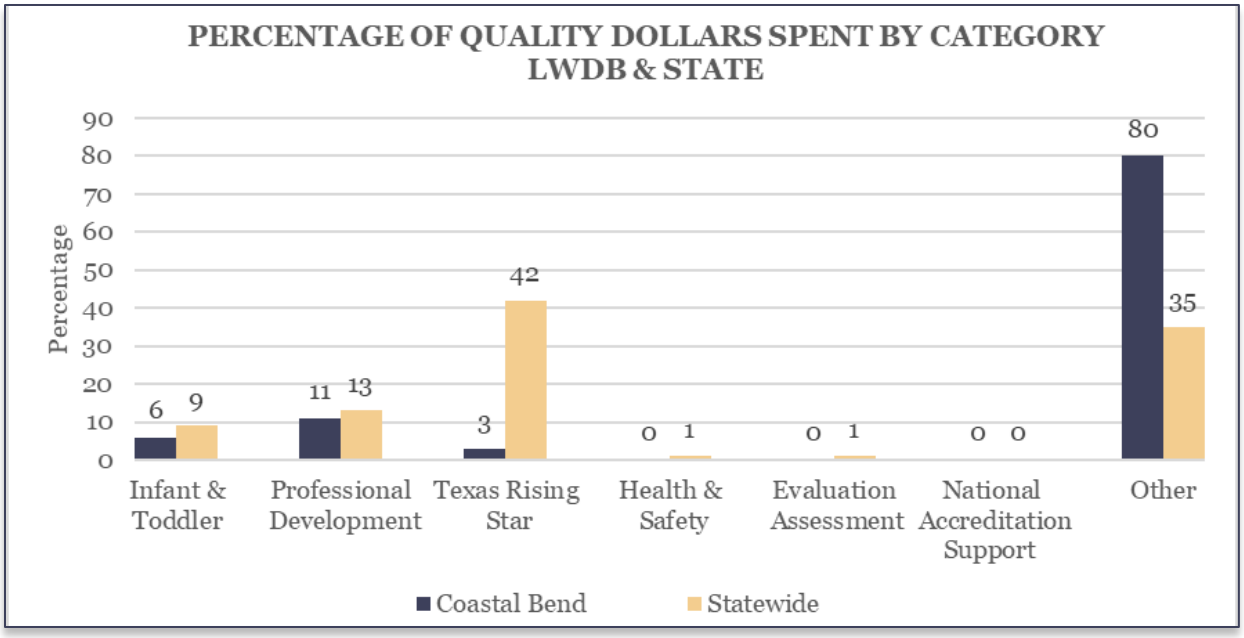

Figure 22.2 | This data shows allocations for Coastal Bend LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Coastal Bend subsidy providers increased by **15% percentage points** During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 41 to 53 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (15%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=41 to N=53)

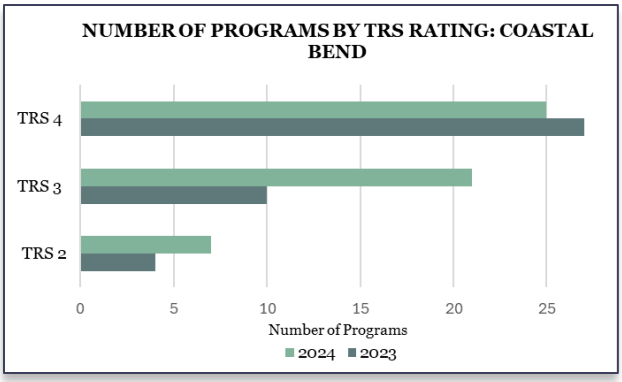

Figure 22.3 Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Coastal Bend had its largest rise at level 3, a smaller increase at TRS 2, and a decrease at TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Coastal Bend region. 22 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 4% decrease of 1 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 16.9 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Coastal Bend LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

The Lower Rio Grande is home to 26,686 children under age six, with approximately **5,518** children meeting the eligibility requirements to qualify for assistance, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently serving **5,377** children—representing 97**%** of the estimated need.

Lower Rio Grande Valley maintained a consistent investment strategy between 2023 and 2024, focusing on the same categories as the previous year, with only a slight increase in Professional Development offered in both Spanish and English. The Professional Development category was broad, including a variety of trainings, conferences, and incentives. The TRS category remained comprehensive, covering TRS personnel and training costs, purchasing equipment, materials, and curriculum, and funding a Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) Subject Matter Expert. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category provided specialized support, encompassing materials, curriculum, and trainings specific to that age group.

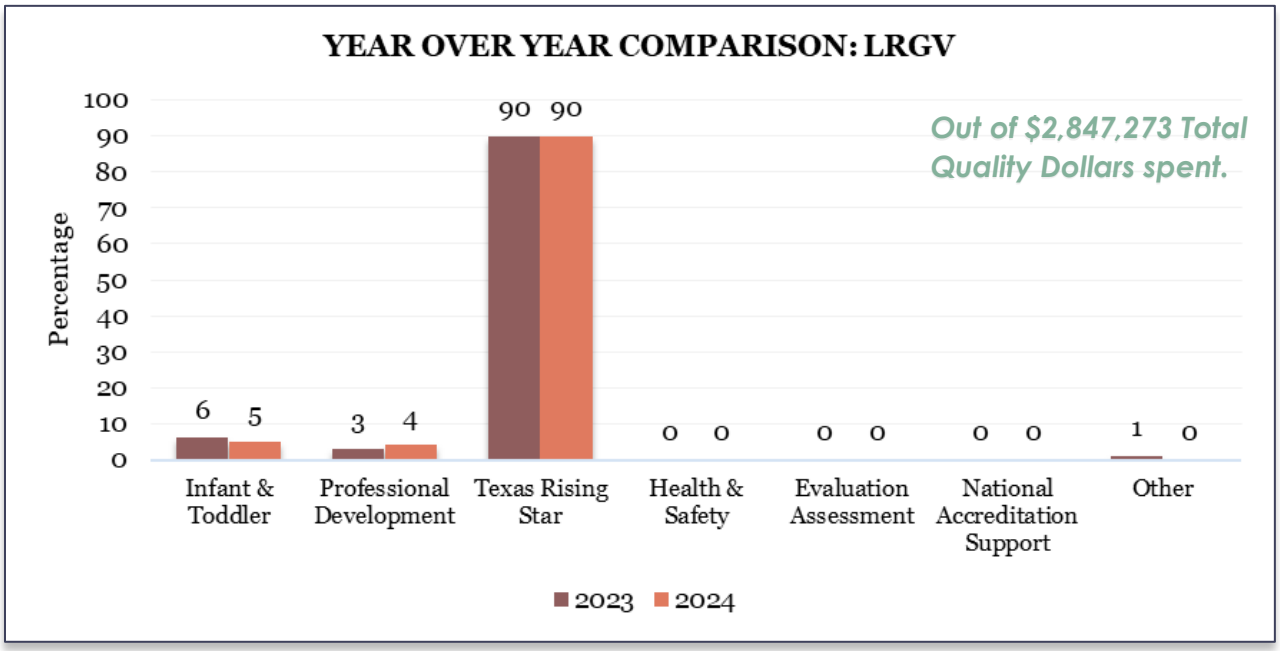

Figure 23.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

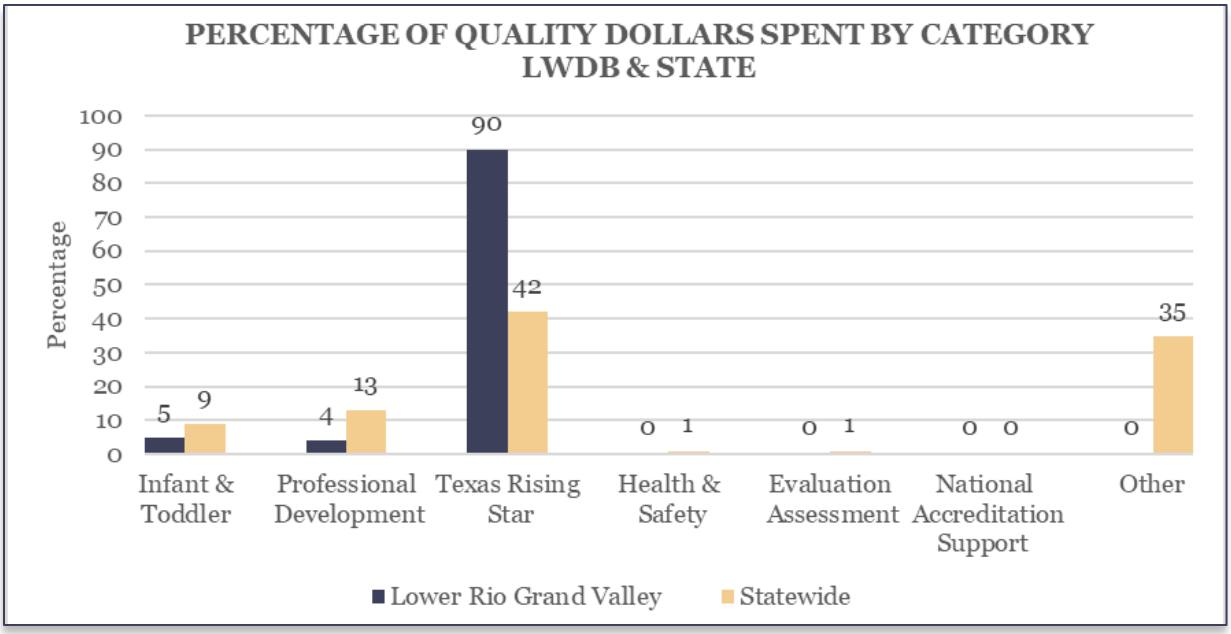

Figure 23.2 | This data shows allocations for Lower Rio Grande Valley LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Lower Rio Grande Valley subsidy providers increased by **75 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 93 to 171 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (75%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=93 to N=171)

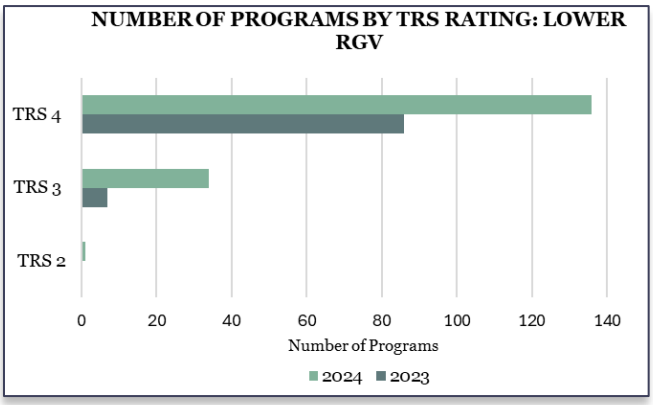

Figure 23.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. LRGV saw increases at all levels with the largest in TRS 4, followed by TRS 3 and a slight level 2 increase.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Lower Rio Grande Valley region. 4 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 50% decrease of (4) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 146.8 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

CAMERON

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

Cameron County is home to 14,276 children under age six, with approximately **3,580** of them qualifying for child care assistance. While **1,726** children currently receive scholarships through the Texas Workforce Commission, leaving **52%** of eligible families are left without support, creating a significant barrier to economic stability for just over half of the regions needs.

Cameron executed a strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures from 2023 to 2024, moving primary investment away from Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports and toward a concentrated focus on Infant & Toddler supports. This priority I&T category funded curriculum kits and implementation training, alongside necessary equipment and materials appropriate for the birth-to-age-three age group. The TRS category maintained core operations funding, covering TRS personnel and training costs, along with purchasing equipment and materials for both indoor and outdoor environments. Finally, the Professional Development category supported staff growth through a variety of trainings and conferences, and provided CDA incentives once educators obtained their certification.

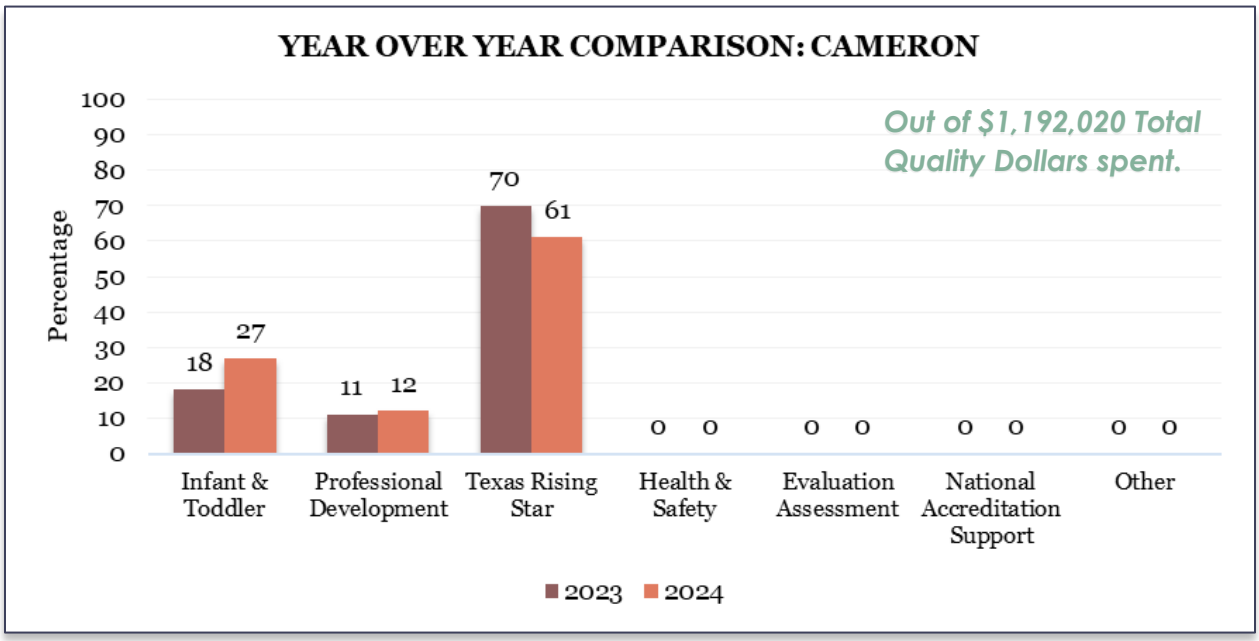

Figure 24.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

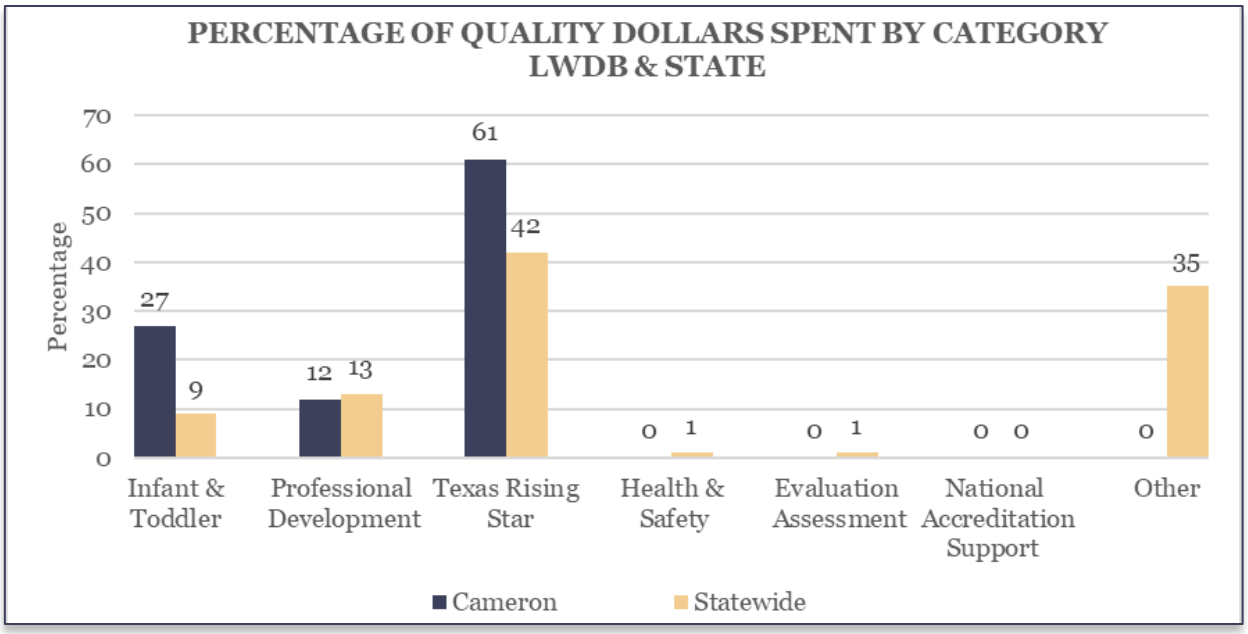

Figure 24.2 | This data shows allocations for Cameron LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Cameron subsidy providers increased by **18 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 54 to 63 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (18%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=54 to N=63)

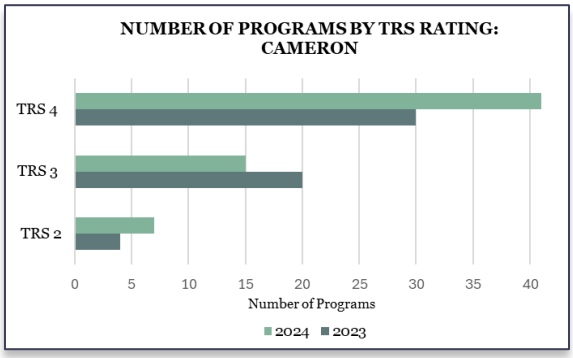

Figure 24.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Cameron saw the largest in TRS 4, followed by TRS 2 and a decrease at the TRS 3 level.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Cameron region. 4 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 0% decrease/increase of (0) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 70.3 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Cameron LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

TEXOMA

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In the Texoma region, 8,705 children are under the age of six, with more than **4,500** qualifying for child care assistance. Despite this need, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **694** children, leaving **85%** of eligible families—over 4 out of every 5—without the support necessary to enter the workforce or provide early learning opportunities for their children.

Texoma executed a significant strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures from 2023 to 2024, reallocating primary investment away from Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports and toward the "Other" category in the form of retention bonuses. The Professional Development category was comprehensive, funding a variety of trainings and conferences, the development of professional learning communities (PLCs), and scholarships to obtain a CDA, along with covering the associated assessment fees. The TRS category maintained core operational funding, covering TRS personnel and training costs, purchasing curriculum, materials, and equipment, and utilizing the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) Subject Matter Expert. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category provided specialized support through the purchasing of curriculum and dedicated training specific to that age group.

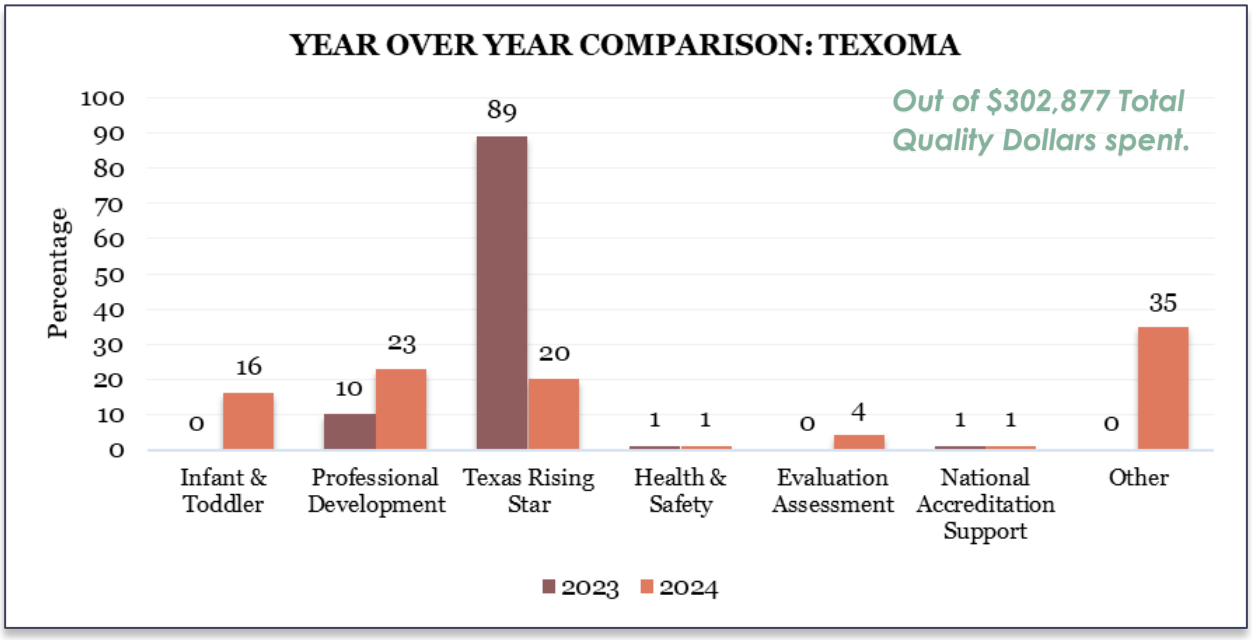

Figure 25.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

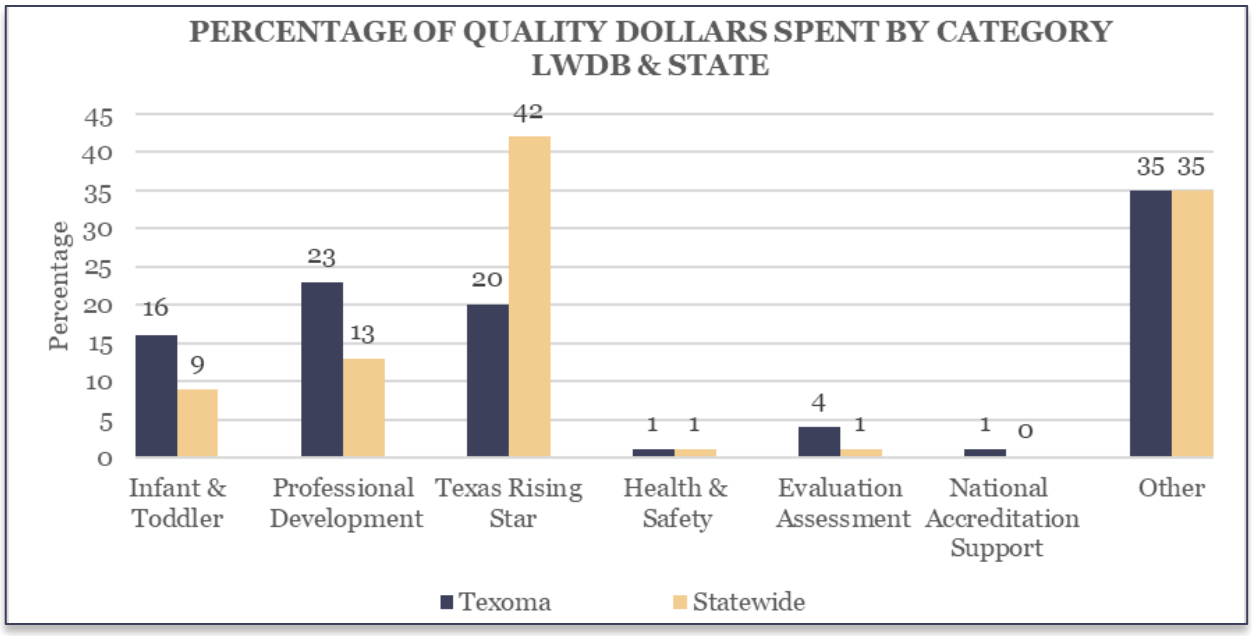

Figure 25.2 | This data shows allocations for Texoma LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Texoma subsidy providers increased by **4% percentage points** During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 21 to 24 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (4%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=21 to N=24)

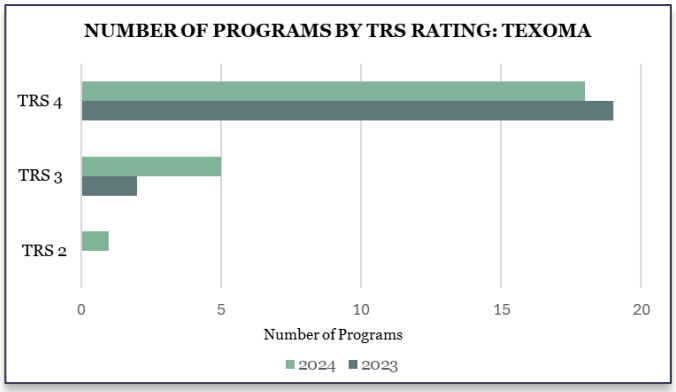

Figure 25.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Cameron saw the largest increase at TRS 3 followed by level 2 and a decrease in TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Texoma region. 25 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 14% of 4 quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 10.4 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Texoma LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

CENTRAL TEXAS

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

Central Texas is home to 21,981 children under age six, and more than **11,100** of them qualify for child care assistance. Despite the high level of eligibility, the Texas Workforce Commission currently serves only **2,080** children, leaving **81%** of families in need without the critical scholarships required to support their children's early development and maintain stable employment.

Central Texas executed a strategic shift in spending from 2023 to 2024, reallocating resources away from Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports to increase investment in the Professional Development and National Accreditation categories. Professional Development included a variety of training sessions, co-hosting a Spanish-language in-person conference with the Central TX AEYC, sending staff to the TXAEYC conference, and covering CDA renewal fees. National Accreditation was a key investment, supporting several programs with annual NAEYC accreditation fees, consultation services, and accreditation-related fees. The TRS category maintained focused support, including funding an Infant/Toddler Subject Matter Expert, other TRS staff, and providing equipment to help programs achieve entry-level TRS certification.

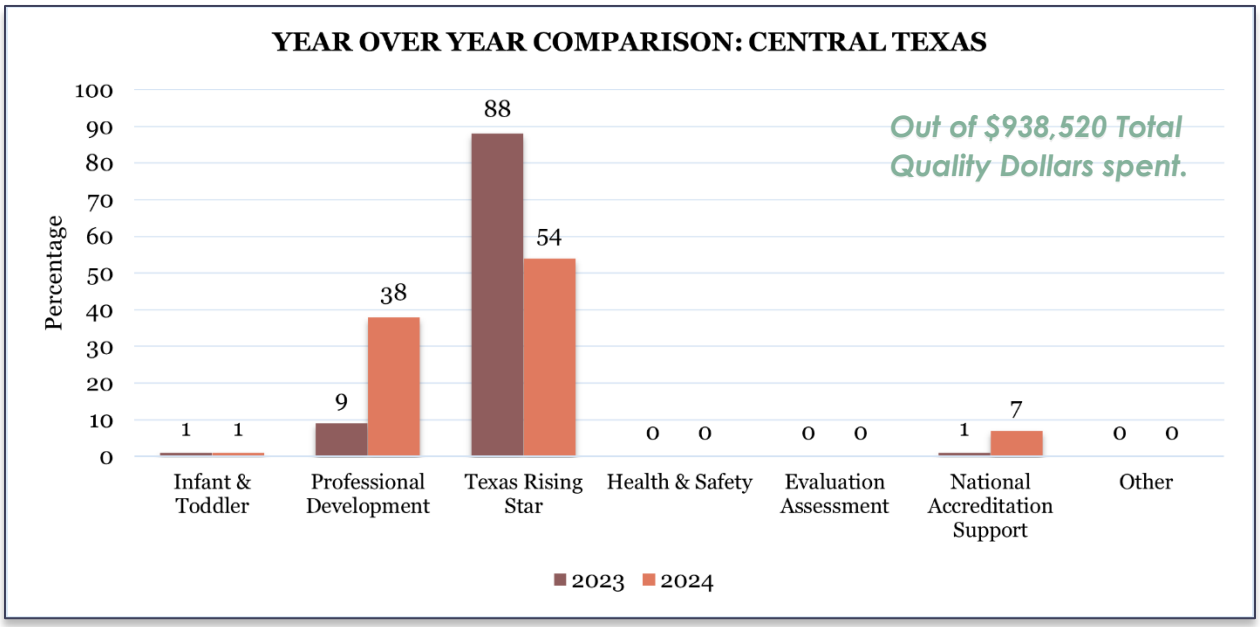

Figure 26.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations

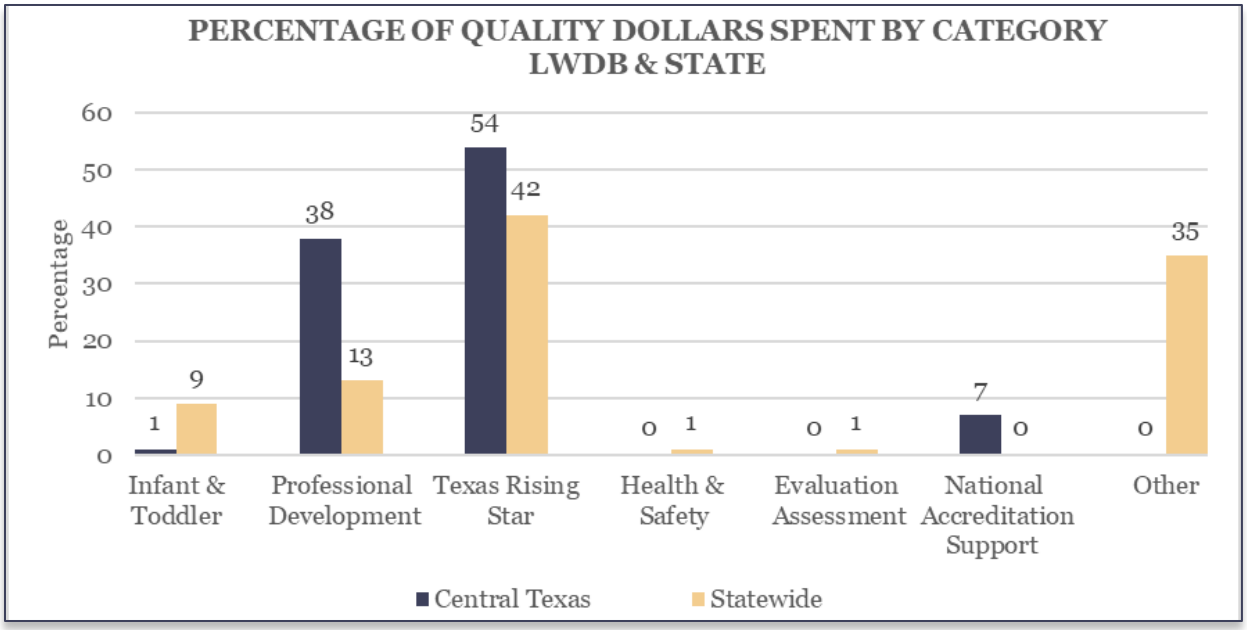

Figure 26.2 | This data shows allocations for Central Texas LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Central Texas subsidy providers increased by **50 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 57 to 88 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (50%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=57 to N=88)

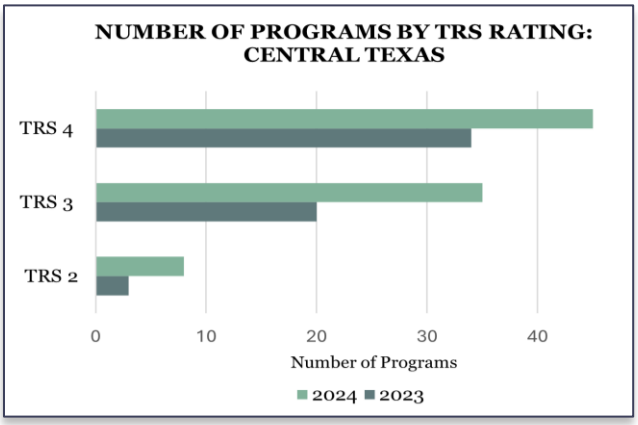

Figure 26.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Central Texas saw increases at all levels with the largest in TRS 3, followed by TRS 3 and 2.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Central Texas region. 33 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 13% decrease of (5) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 16.2 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Central Texas LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

MIDDLE RIO GRAND VALLEY

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

The Middle Rio Grande is home to 5,128 children under the age of six. While approximately **1,219** children under age six in the region qualify for child care assistance, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently serving **763** children. This leaves **37%** of eligible families are left without support, creating a significant barrier to economic stability for just over half of the regions needs.

Middle Rio Grande executed a significant funding shift from 2023 to 2024, moving away from an investment spread across the Infant/Toddler, Professional Development, and Texas Rising Star (TRS) categories to a heavier, focused investment in TRS. The dominant TRS category expenditures were concentrated on core operational needs, comprising TRS staff salaries, benefits, and travel expenses, alongside the purchase of essential classroom furniture for several programs. Professional Development investments focused on training on TRS facility and classroom assessments and quality indicators, Child Care Regulation (CCR) Minimum Standards, and setting up Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) accounts and focused training sessions including special needs, health and nutrition, and working with families.

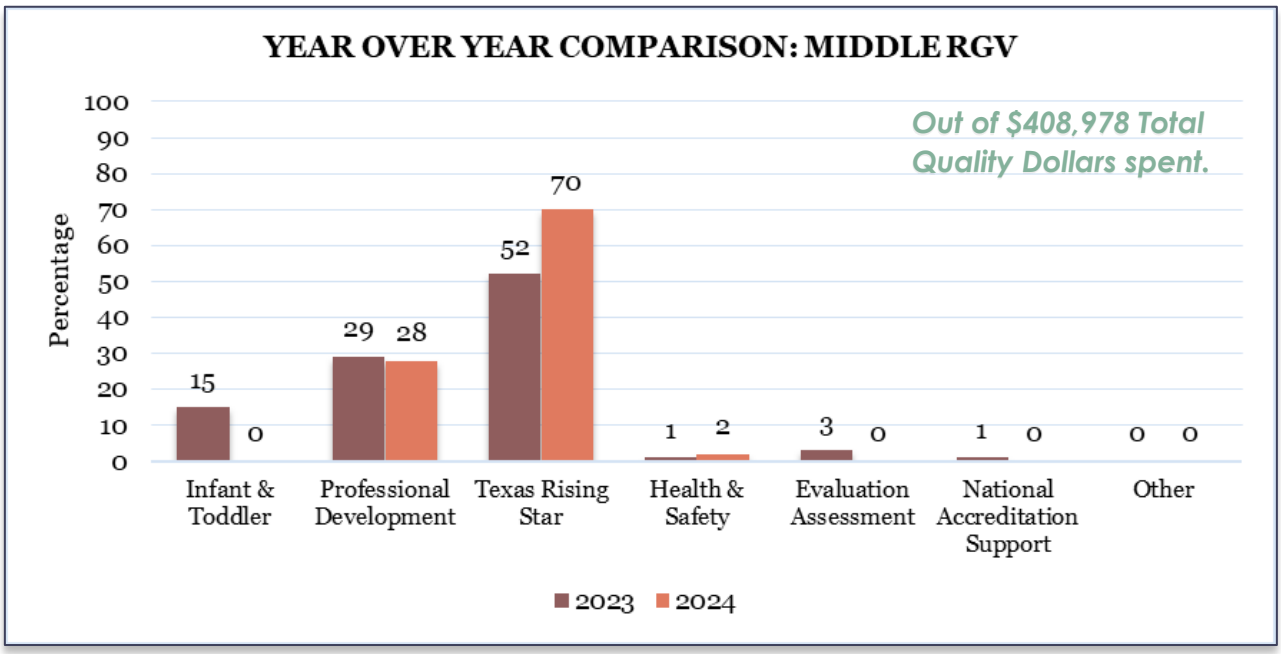

Figure 27.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

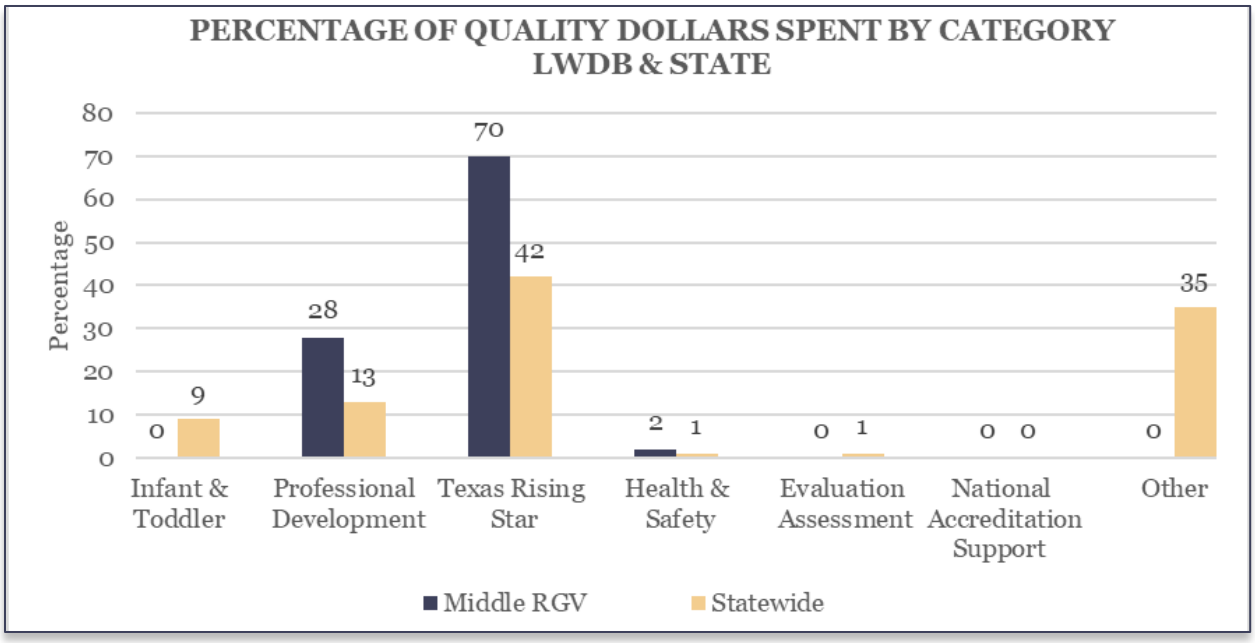

Figure 27.2 | This data shows allocations for Middle Rio Grande Valley LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all Middle Rio Grande Valley subsidy providers increased by **20 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 13 to 15 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (20%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=13 to N=15)

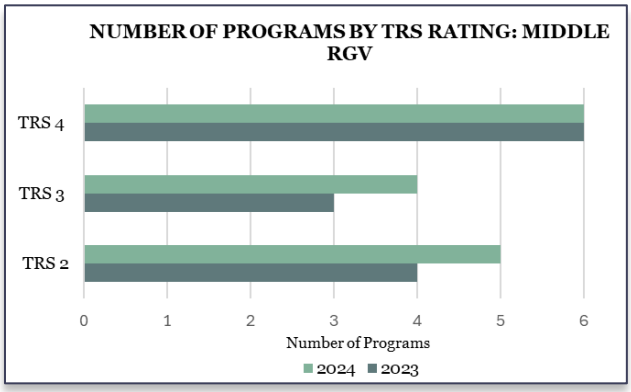

Figure 27.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. MRGV saw increases at the 2 and 3 levels and maintained number of programs at TRS 4.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Middle Rio Grande region. **7 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts**, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 13% decrease of (1) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023**. There are 46.5 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families** in the Middle Rio Grande LWDB region. This is higher than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

GULF COAST

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

The Gulf Coast region faces a child care crisis of staggering proportions. While nearly **188,900** children under age six qualify for assistance, the Texas Workforce Commission is currently able to serve only **23,513**. This leaves **88%** of eligible families—over **165,000 children**—without the scholarships they need, representing the largest raw-number service gap in the entire state of Texas.

Gulf Coast executed a significant strategic shift in its quality dollar expenditures from 2023 to 2024, reallocating primary investment away from general Texas Rising Star (TRS) supports and toward the "Other" category. This priority investment funded incentive grants specifically for programs with Pre-K partnerships and for teachers working in TRS 3- and 4-star programs. The Professional Development category was comprehensive, including a variety of trainings and conferences, along with scholarships toward CDA and college courses, which were supplemented by stipends. The TRS category maintained support for core program quality, covering personnel and training expenses, program incentives, family engagement activities, and the purchase of equipment and materials. Finally, the Infant & Toddler category focused on foundational support through materials, curriculum, training for educators, and family engagement activities specific to birth-to-age-three classrooms.

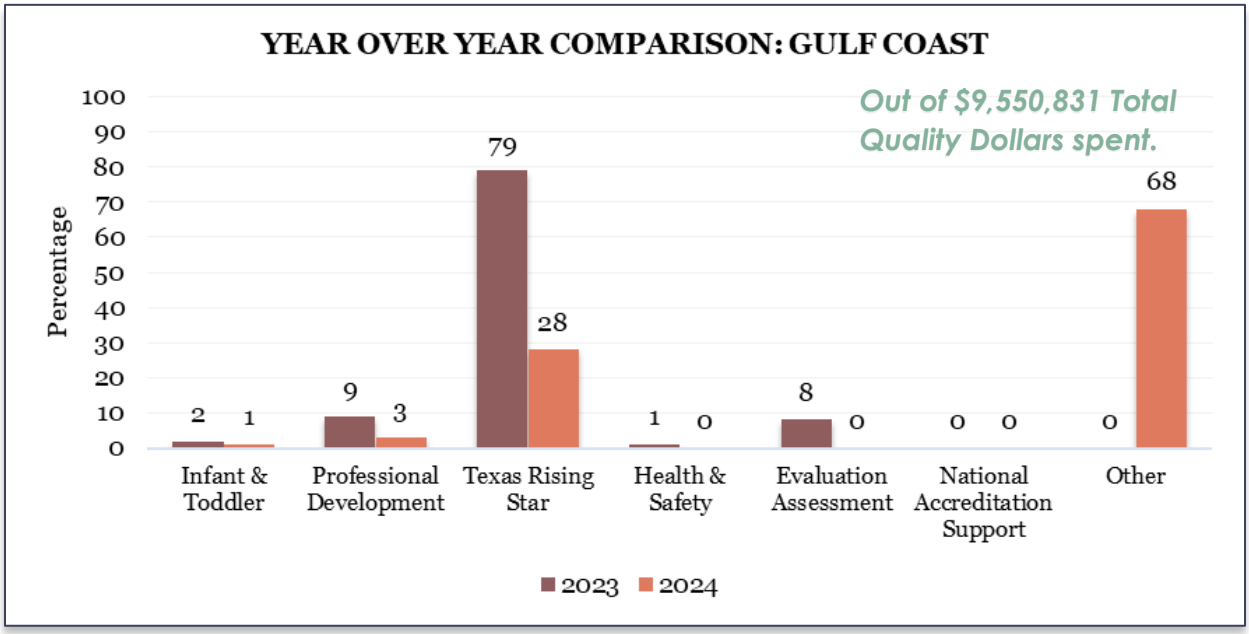

Figure 28.1 | In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The following data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

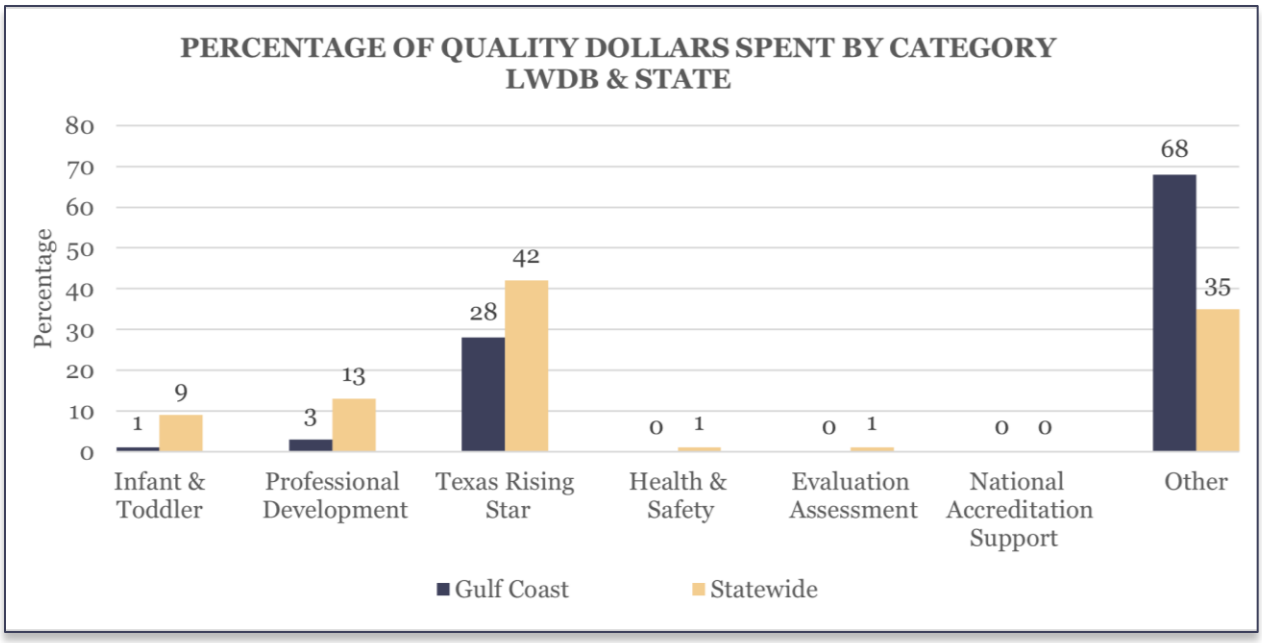

Figure 28.2 | This data shows allocations for Gulf Coast LWDB FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

From 2023 to 2024, the proportion of TRS-certified programs among all LWDB subsidy providers increased by **54 percentage points**. During this period, the region successfully expanded its high-quality footprint from 498 to 806 certified locations.

- Proportion change: increase (54%)
- Raw number change: increase (N=498 to N=806)

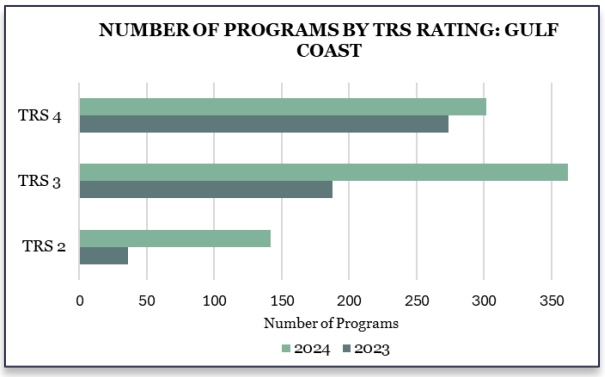

Figure 28.3 | Statewide, all TRS star rating levels increased from 2023-2024 with the largest increase at the TRS 3 level. Gulf Coast saw increases at all levels with the largest in TRS 3, followed by TRS 2 and 3.

To fully meet the needs of families, investment in equitable, quality care should continue in the Gulf Coast region. 171 zip codes in this area are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, defined as areas where demand for TRS-certified child care is three times greater than the supply. This is a 12% decrease of (24) quality Child Care Deserts from 2023. There are 12.5 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Gulf Coast LWDB region. This is lower than the statewide landscape-overall, Texas has only 14.4 TRS quality seats per 100 low-income working families.

STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE OVERVIEW

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds

In 2024 Board Calendar Year (BCY24), 77% of Child Care Quality funds across the 28 LWDBs were allocated between Texas Rising Star (TRS) and "Other" categories, 42% and 35% respectively. This reflects a shift from 2023, when 81% of funds were concentrated in the TRS category alone. The Infant & Toddler and Professional Development categories experienced modest increases from BCY23 to BCY24, rising from 5% to 9% and from 10% to 13%, respectively.

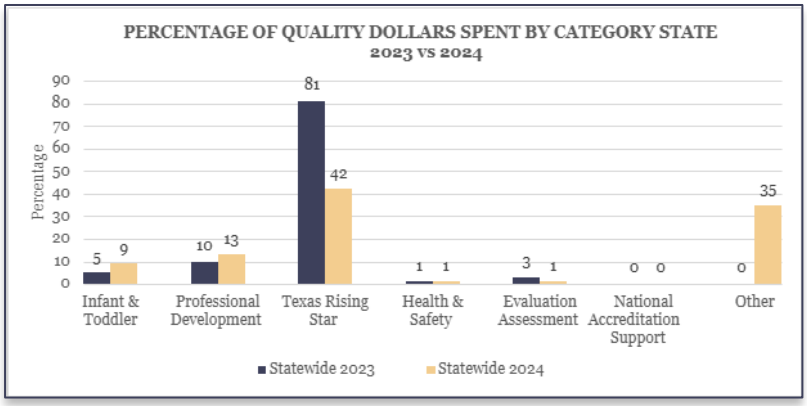

Figure 29.1 | This data shows the statewide change in LWDB allocations between FY23 and FY24.

Access to Quality Child Care

Between 2023 and December 2024, the distribution of programs across the TRS rating tiers shifted considerably. In 2023, the system included 1,538 TRS 4-star programs (60%), 827 TRS 3-star programs (32%), and 204 TRS 2-star programs (8%). By December 2024, the total number of programs had increased at every level, though the proportional distribution changed: TRS 4-star programs grew to 1,779, TRS 3-star programs increased to 1,491, and TRS 2-star programs experienced the largest rise, expanding to 767.

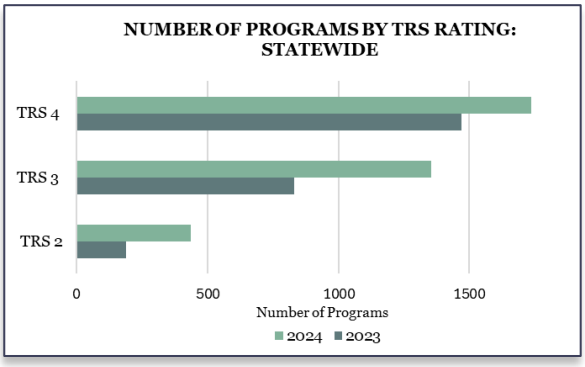

Figure 29.2 | From 2023 to 2024, Texas saw an overall increase in TRS providers at every level, though the distribution of programs shifted considerably.

THIS OVERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS SELECT FINDINGS FROM CHILDREN AT RISK'S STATEWIDE ANALYSIS. EXPLORE ADDITIONAL TRENDS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS IN THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. SCAN THE QR CODE TO *VIEW THE FULL REPORT.*