

# Building Brains & Economies:

Quality Child Care as an Engine for  
Economic Development in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Texas

children  
atRisk

Quality child care during the period of critical brain development lays the foundation for future learning.



Newborn



1 Month



9 Months



2 Years

Children form **1 million neural connections** each second during the first few years of life.

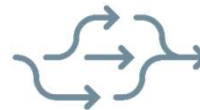
Quality ECE programs help children develop...



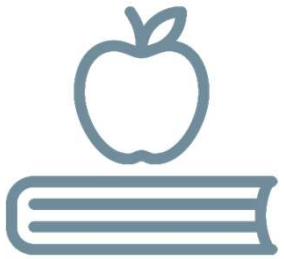
**Working memory**, to store and recall information.



**Impulse control**, to resist temptation and think before acting.



**Cognitive flexibility**, to adjust to new demands or priorities.



Higher **early academic** indicators



Lower rates of **special ed. placements**



Higher **high school graduation** rates



Fewer **externalizing behaviors** as youth

Research shows that children enrolled in high-quality early education programs **experience benefits into adolescence and beyond.**

# Texas Tour Snapshot

County	Children Under 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Meeting STAAR Reading	High School Graduation Rate
Bexar	141,168	39%	80%
Cameron	35,378	43%	84%
Dallas	197,231	40%	83%
El Paso	64,781	44%	80%
Harris	356,983	42%	81%
Hidalgo	80,255	41%	83%
Lubbock	20,776	42%	83%
Potter	9,688	41%	77%
Randall	8,733	54%	87%
Tarrant	145,992	45%	82%
Travis	78,992	50%	83%
<b>Texas</b>	<b>2,031,625</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>83%</b>

22%

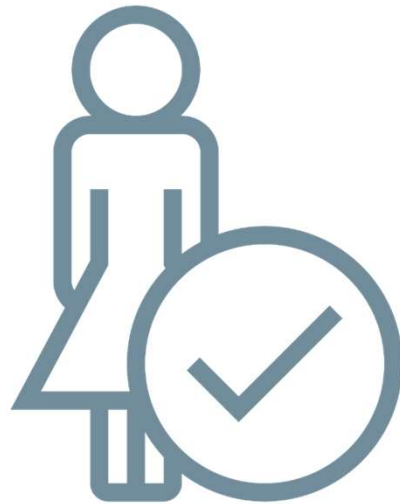
of adults in the Rio Grande Valley have an **Associate's Degree or higher**

65%

of jobs that will require **education beyond high school** by 2020

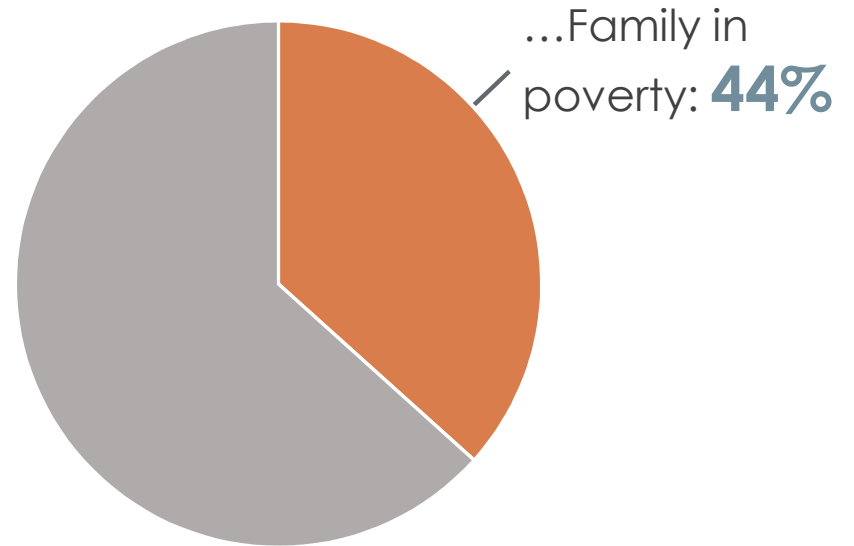
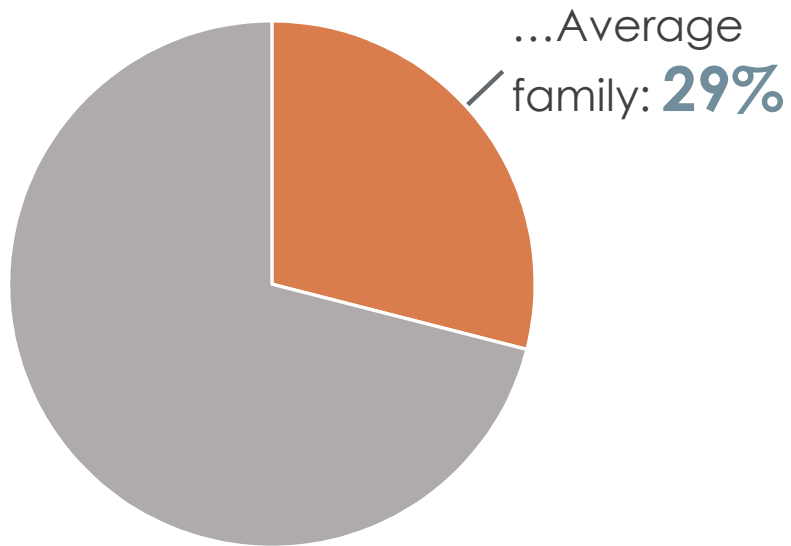
“One of the only things holding Texas back is the **education rate among its labor supply.**” – *Forbes*, 2017

Quality early childhood education supports the  
**workforce of tomorrow and today.**



# High costs put child care out of reach for many families in the Valley.

Portion of income going to child care, for...



A family of 4 with **one infant and one toddler** can expect to pay much more for child care than the federally recommended **7%** of annual income.

“A financially secure Texas depends on financially successful women.”  
-Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar



**92%** of men living with children under 5 in the Valley participate in the workforce.



Compared to only **56%** of women with young children.

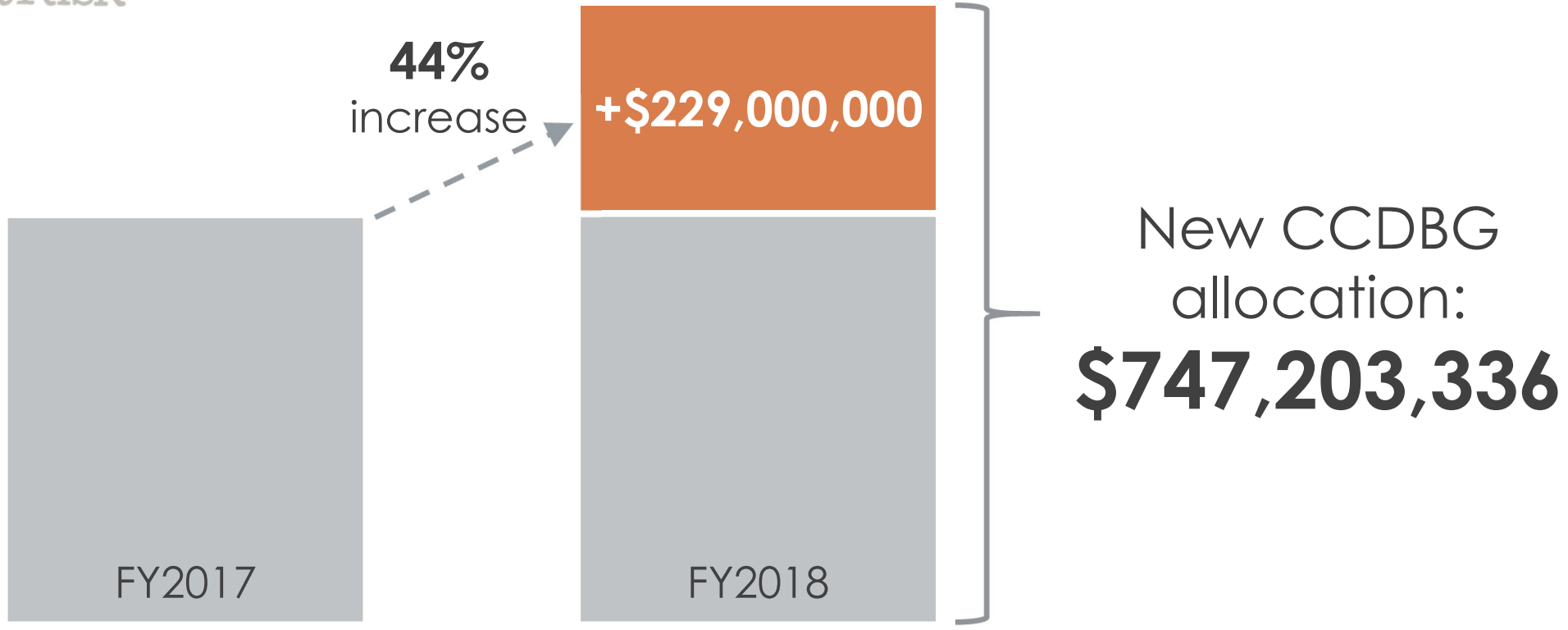
70% of non-working middle-skill workers in the DFW region cite **child care as a top 5 reason** for not participating in the workforce.





American businesses lose about **\$4.4 billion** every year due to child care breakdowns.

How can the Rio Grande Valley build an **early childhood education system** to support children and grow its economy?



With this new funding, Texas has a **unique opportunity** to expand access to quality child care.

Momentum is building in Texas and the Valley toward improving child care quality.

**Strong leadership**  
from TWC

Higher participation in TRS: **\$366k** new quality dollars in Austin

More access to subsidy care: **4,000 more kids per day** in the Valley

Working toward a **more qualified** ECE workforce

Greater coordination for **school readiness**

**Diverse delivery**  
system



## Ensuring Success for all Texas Families



**Goal 1:**

Increase the number of TRS-certified child care providers.



**Goal 2:**

Build a path toward school readiness.



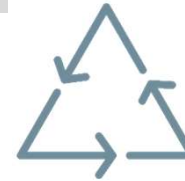
**Goal 3:**

Adequately train and compensate child care teachers.



**Goal 4:**

Know the true cost of providing child care and reimburse accordingly.



**Goal 5:**

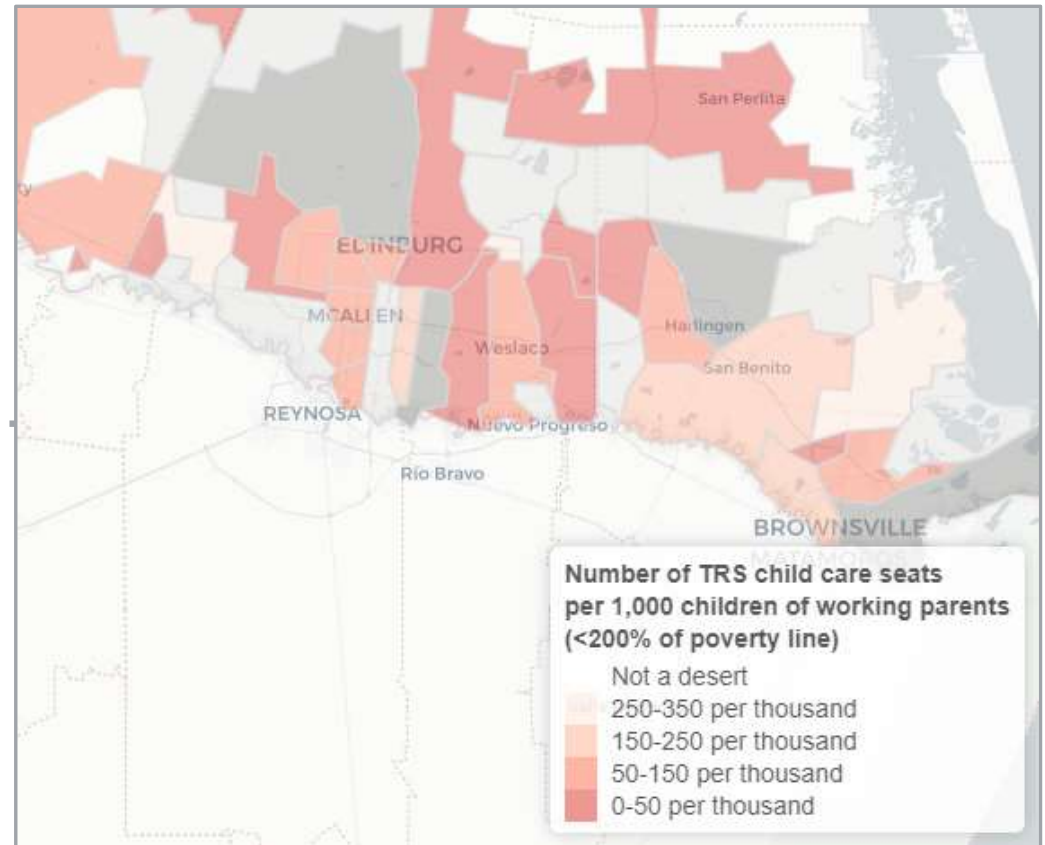
Make child care businesses more sustainable.

These goals can put Texas on the path toward **empowering its current and future workforce.**

# Goal 1: Increase the Number of TRS-Certified Child Care Providers

**44%** of eligible children\* in the Valley County live in a subsidized child care desert.

**93%** live in a TRS desert.

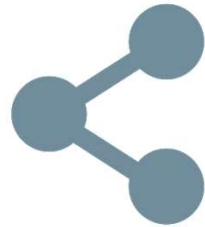


\*Children under 6 with low-income, working parents

## Goal 1 Strategies and Recommendations



Set **clear goals** around TRS growth.



Share **best practices.**



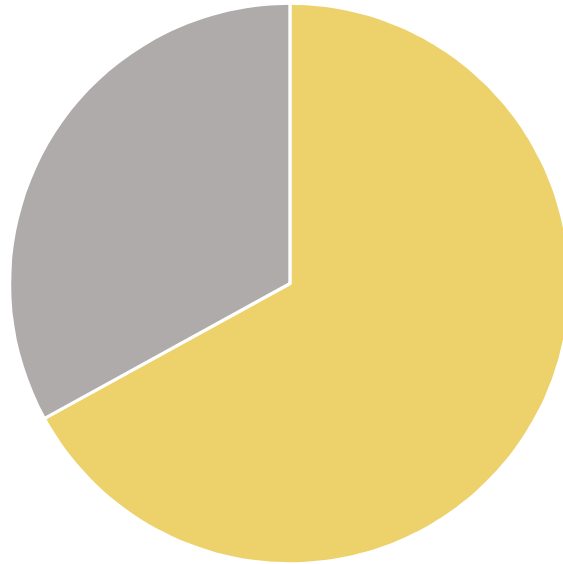
Improve **coordination** with Child Care Licensing.



Increase **quality standards,** eventually.

These steps can help Texas **increase access to affordable, quality child care** for families in need.

## Goal 2: Build a Path Toward School-Readiness



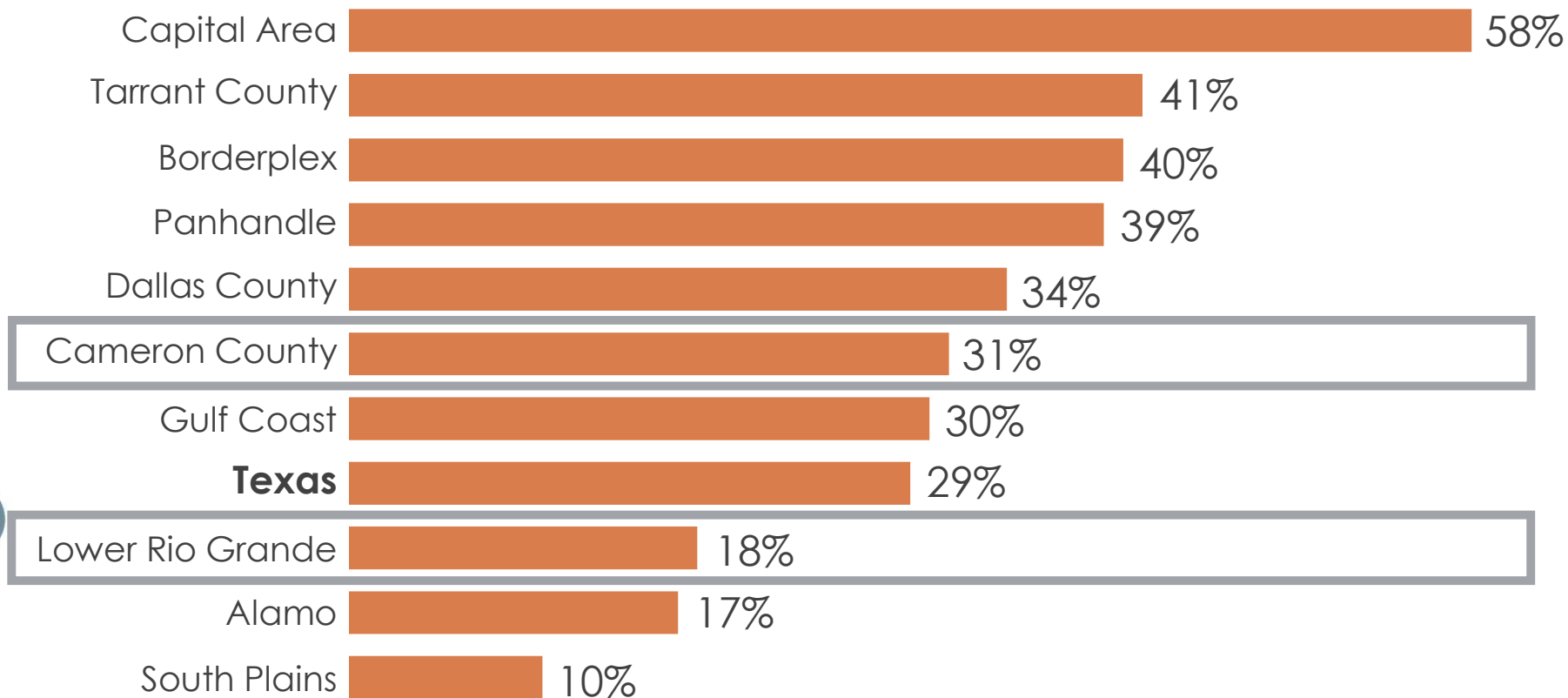
**67%** of low-income Texas  
3<sup>rd</sup> graders **did NOT meet**  
STAAR reading standards

3<sup>rd</sup> graders living in poverty who fall behind are  
**13x less likely to graduate high school**



From **birth to age 3**, most children are not in TRS care.

### Percent of Infants and Toddlers in Subsidy Enrolled at TRS-certified Providers



## Goal 2 Strategies and Recommendations



Connect publicly-funded **data systems.**



Expand **pre-k/child care partnerships.**



Allow child care **contract agreements.**



Enroll at **infants and toddlers** in TRS4 care.

These steps can help Texas **ensure all children are school-ready** and on the path to academic success.

**Slide 18**

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**PG2** Add # not served in TX by district if possible  
Patrick Gill, 10/12/2018

## Goal 3: Adequately Train & Compensate Child Care Teachers



## Goal 3 Strategies and Recommendations



Offer  
**scholarships**  
with **wage**  
**supplements.**



**Coordinate**  
**investments**  
in the  
workforce.



Meaningful  
**Professional**  
**Development**  
and  
**Articulation.**



Improve  
and fund the  
**Texas**  
**Workforce**  
**Registry.**

These steps can help make sure Texas has a **qualified and appropriately compensated** ECE workforce.

## Goal 4: Know the Cost of Providing Quality Child Care and Reimburse Accordingly

Child care providers in the Valley **lose between \$800-\$1,400** each year per toddler they enroll in subsidy, compared to private pay families.

## Goal 4 Strategies and Recommendations



Conduct a  
**cost of  
quality study.**



Set  
**reimbursement  
rates  
according to  
findings.**

These steps will provide child care providers the **sustainable resources** they need to provide quality care.

## Goal 5: Make Child Care Businesses More Sustainable

National experts find that child care providers must serve **100+ children** to be quality *and* financially viable.

**50%** of Texas child care centers are licensed to serve **90 or fewer children.**



## Goal 5 Strategies and Recommendations



Provide **business, pedagogy,** and **quality** training.



Support **shared services** models.



Offer **business resources** and **coaching**.

These steps can help make sure Texas has a **qualified and appropriately compensated** ECE workforce.

Contact us and follow us on social media!

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