

Building Brains & Economies:

Quality Child Care as an Engine for
Economic Development in a 21st 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.

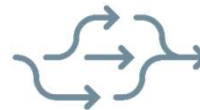
Quality ECE programs help children develop...



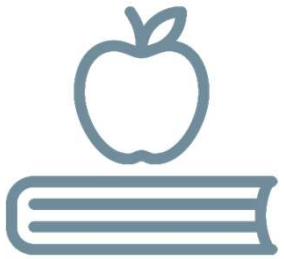
Working memory, to store and recall information.



Impulse control, to resist temptation and think before acting.



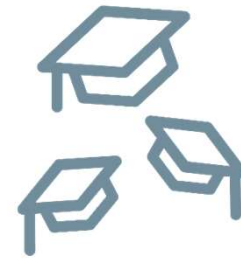
Cognitive flexibility, to adjust to new demands or priorities.



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 rd 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%
Texas	2,031,625	44%	83%

29%

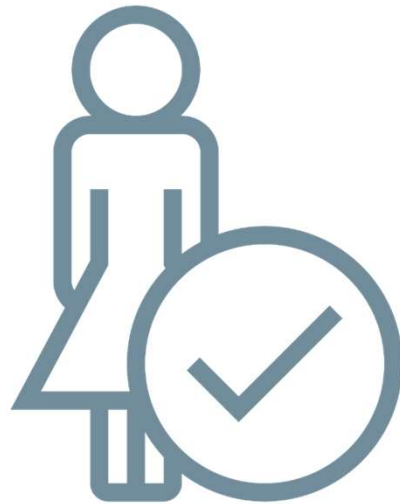
of adults in El Paso have an
**Associate's Degree or
higher**

65%

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

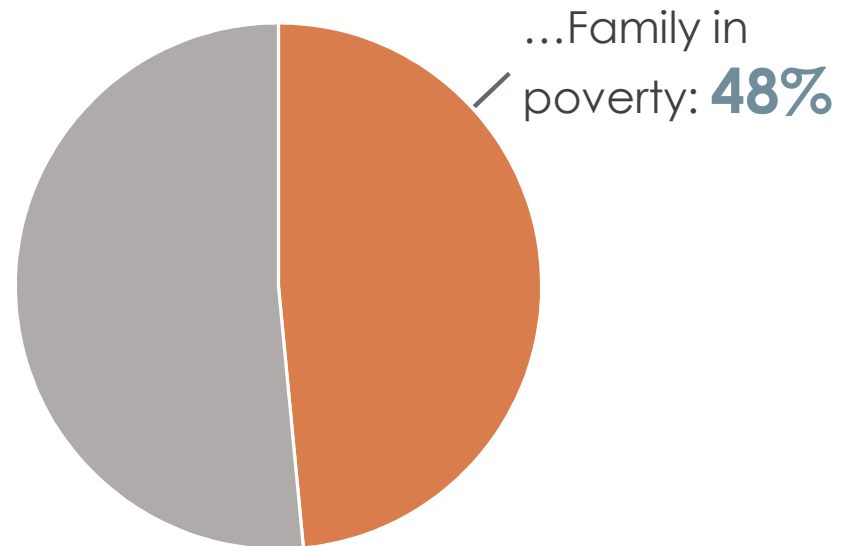
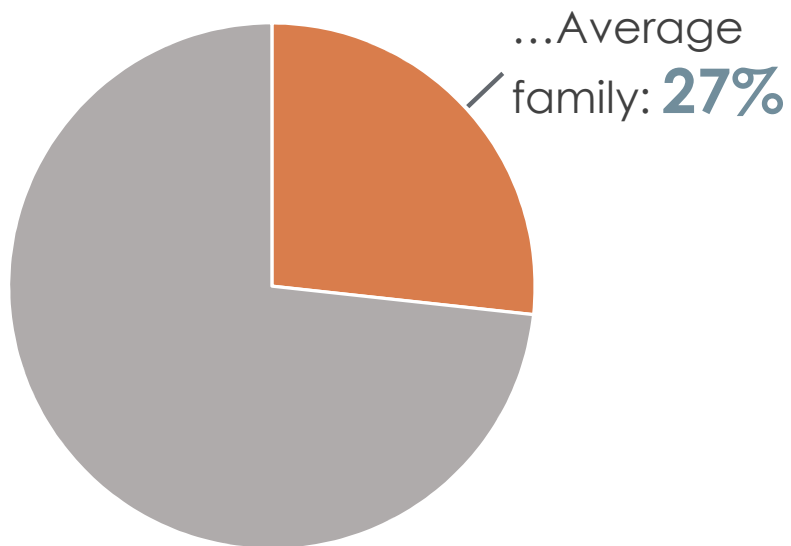
“One of the only things holding Texas back is the **education rate among its labor supply.**” – *Forbes*, 2017

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



High costs put child care out of reach for many El Paso families.

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



95% of men living with children under 5 in El Paso participate in the workforce.



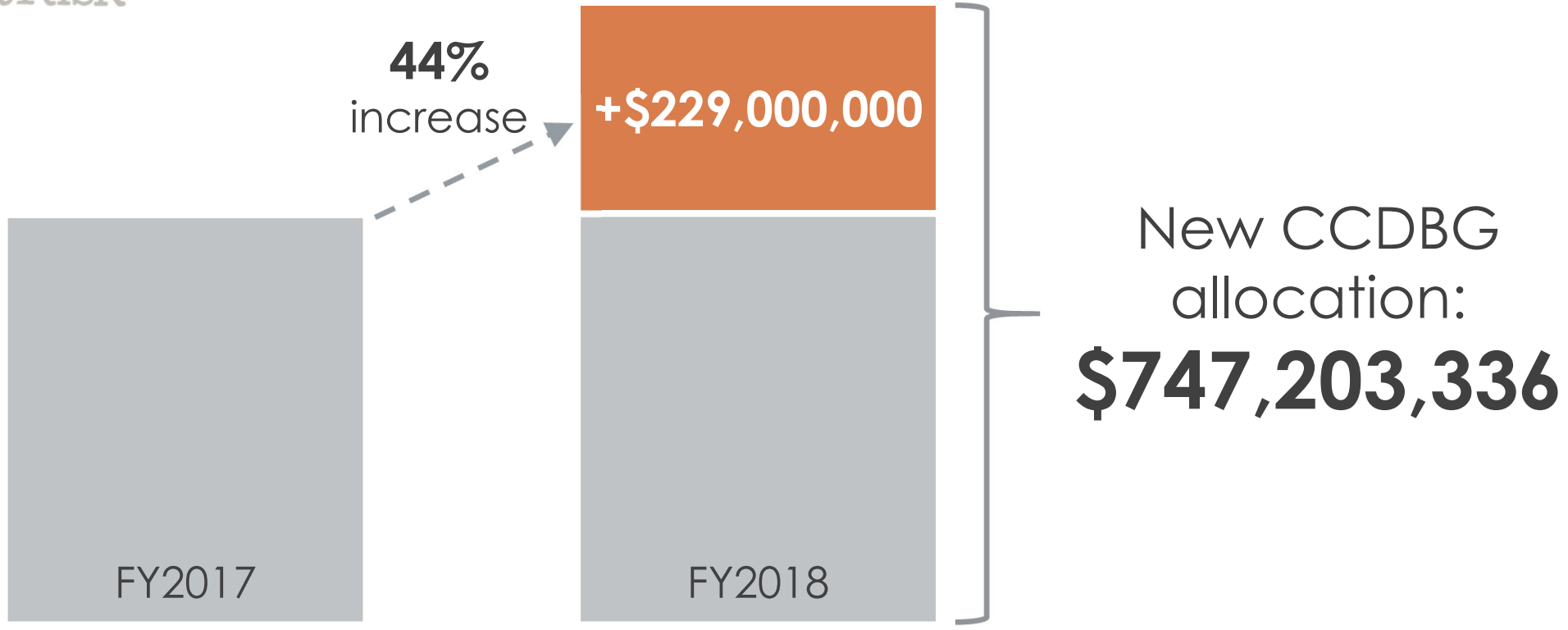
Compared to only **58%** of women with young children.

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 El Paso 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 El Paso toward improving child care quality.

Strong leadership
from TWC

Working toward a
more qualified ECE
workforce

More access
to subsidy care:
1,100 more
kids per day in
El Paso

Higher
participation in
TRS: **\$146k** new
quality dollars in
El Paso

Greater
coordination
for **school**
readiness

Diverse
delivery
system



There is also great progress being made in El Paso for future work to build upon.

Areas of **Strength**
for El Paso



Incentives and **resources**
for TRS providers

Opportunities for
Growth in El Paso



More qualified **child care workforce**



Empowering parents
to choose quality



Coordinating **child care and public school partnerships**

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.



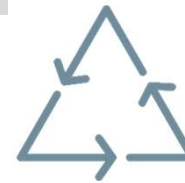
Goal 3:

Adequately train and compensate child care teachers.



Goal 4:

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



Goal 5:

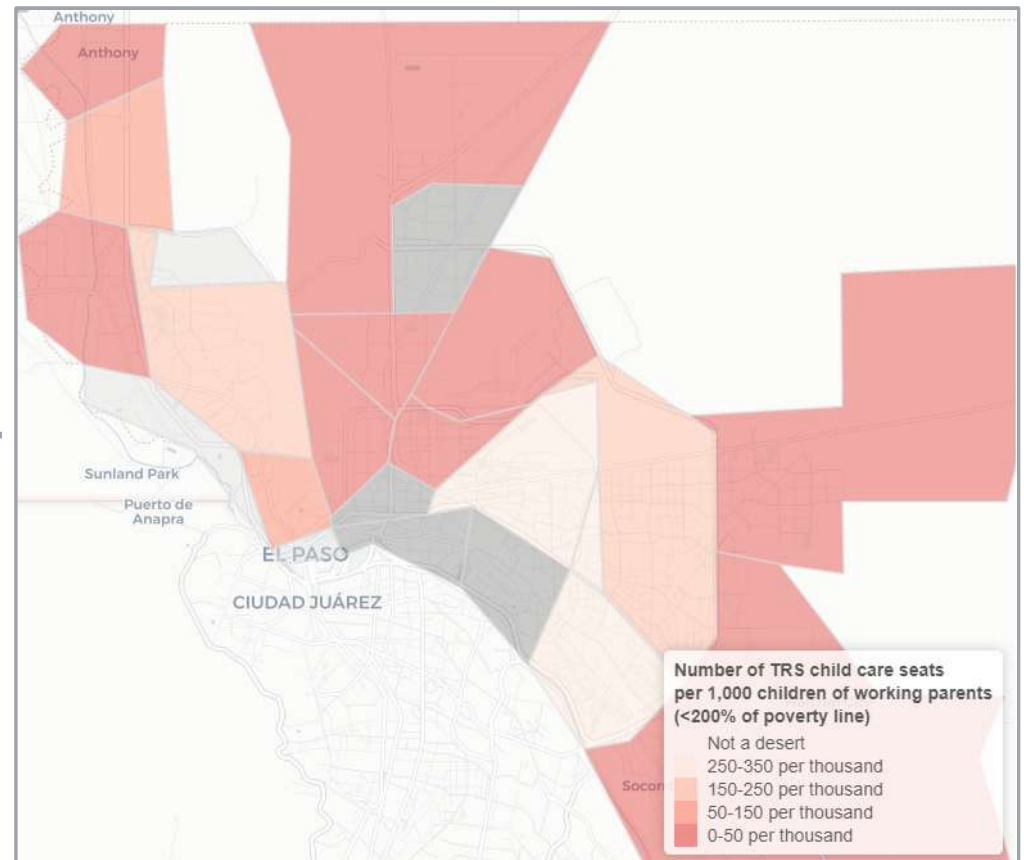
Make child care businesses more sustainable.

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

63% of eligible children* in El Paso County live in a subsidized child care desert.

92% live in a TRS desert.

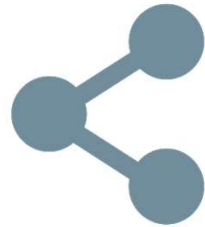


*Children under 6 with low-income, working parents

Goal 1 Strategies and Recommendations



Set **clear goals** around TRS growth.



Share **best practices**.



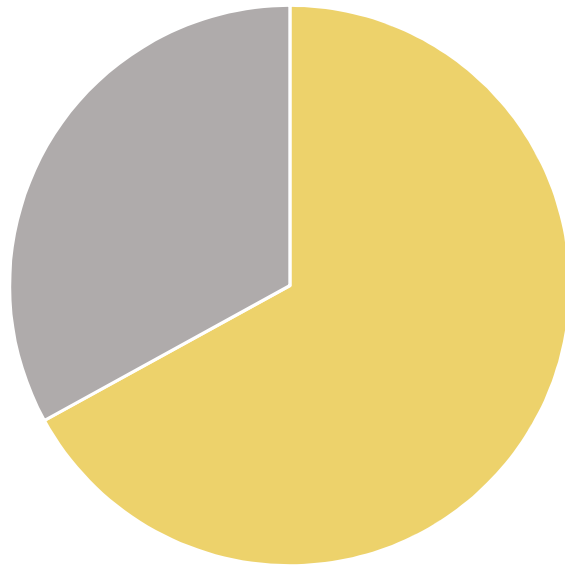
Improve **coordination** with Child Care Licensing.



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

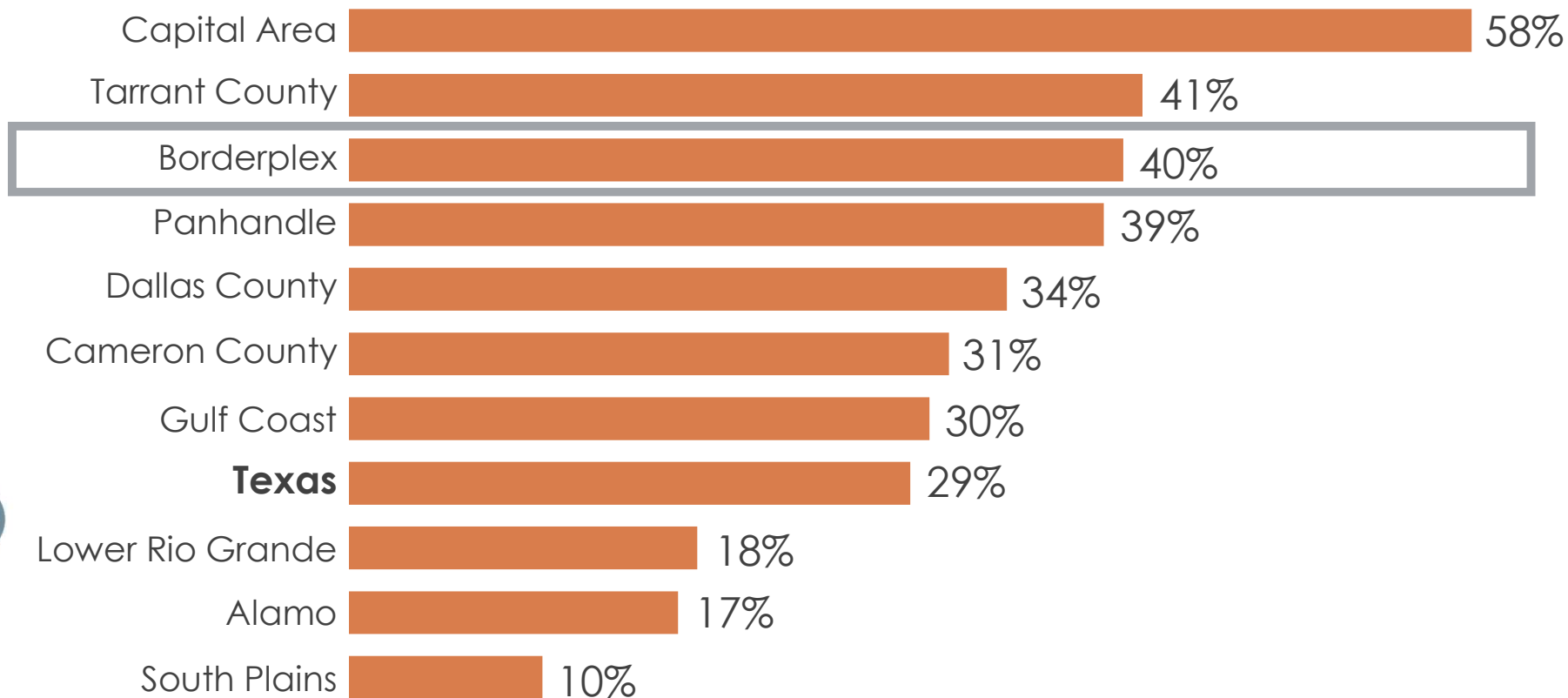


67% of low-income Texas
3rd graders **did NOT meet**
STAAR reading standards

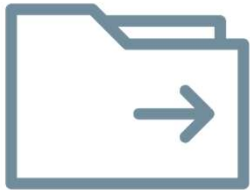
3rd graders living in poverty who fall behind are
13x less likely to graduate high school

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 19

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

Goal 3: Adequately Train & Compensate Child Care Teachers



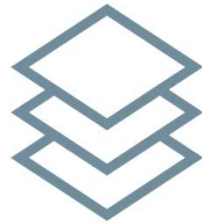
Child care workers with college degrees earn **\$22,000 per year**

Public Pre-K teachers earn **\$52,000 per year**

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 El Paso **lose about \$950** 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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CHILDREN AT RISK

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#forchildren

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