

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.

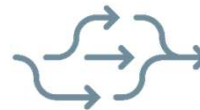
Quality ECE programs help children develop...



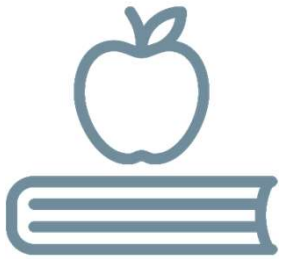
Working memory, to store and recall information.



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%

35%

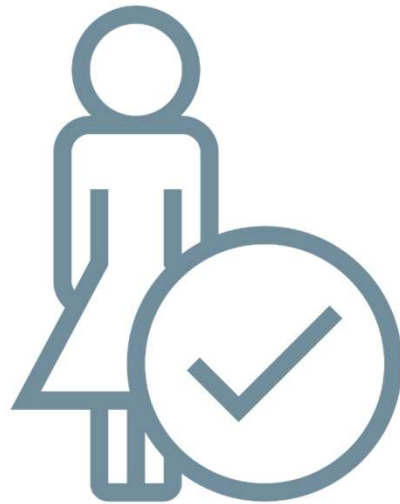
of adults **born in Texas** in Fort Worth have an Associate's Degree or higher

51%

of adults **born in other states** in Fort Worth have an Associate's Degree or higher

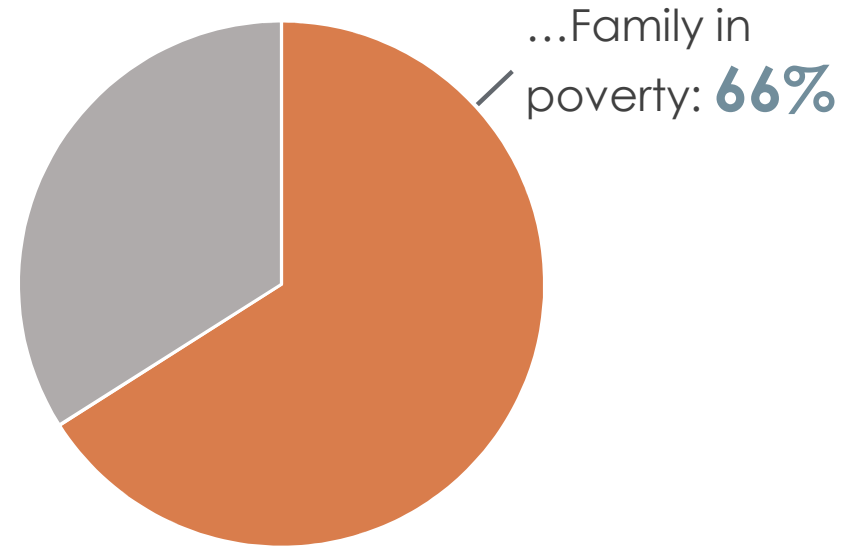
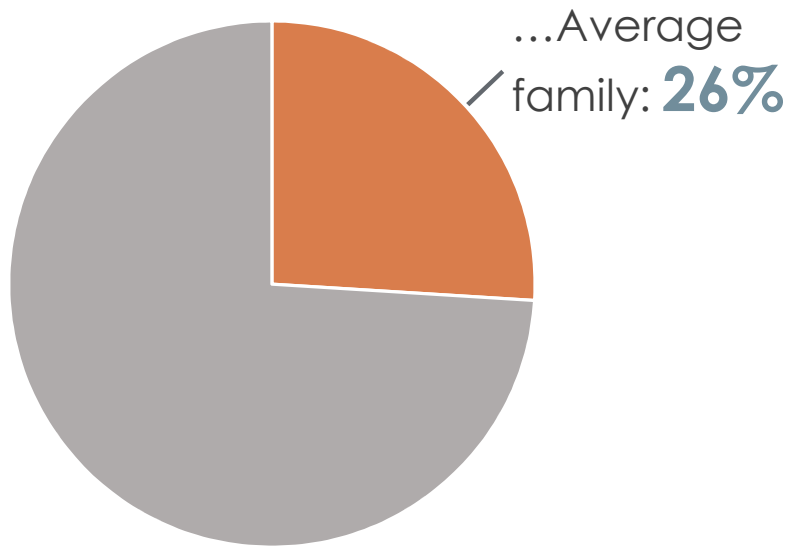
“One of the only things holding Texas back is the **education rate among its labor supply.**” – *Forbes*, 2017

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



High costs put child care out of reach for many Fort Worth 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



96% of men living with children under 5 in Fort Worth participate in the workforce.



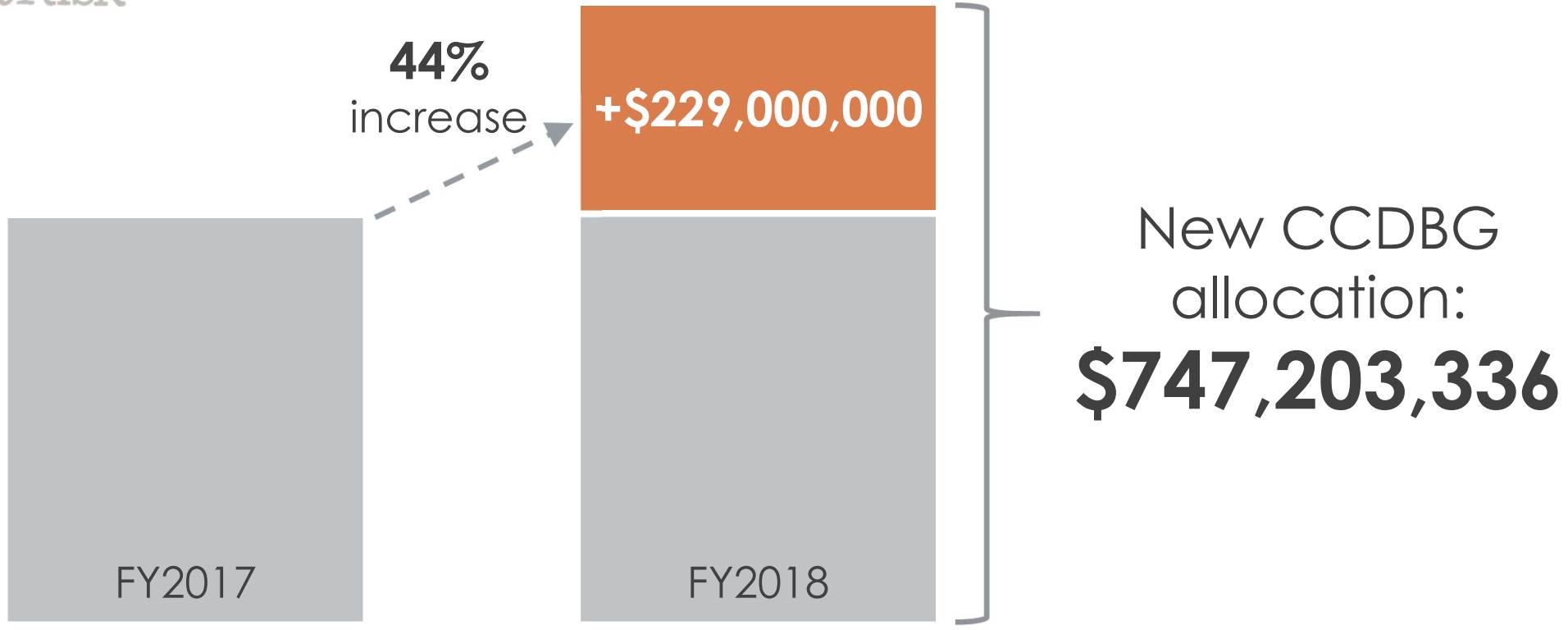
Compared to only **64%** of women with young children.

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 Fort Worth 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 Fort Worth toward improving child care quality.

Strong leadership
from TWC

Higher participation in TRS: **\$258k** new quality dollars in Fort Worth

More access to subsidy care: **1,600 more kids per day** in Fort Worth

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.



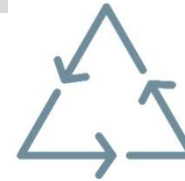
Goal 3:

Adequately train and compensate child care teachers.



Goal 4:

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



Goal 5:

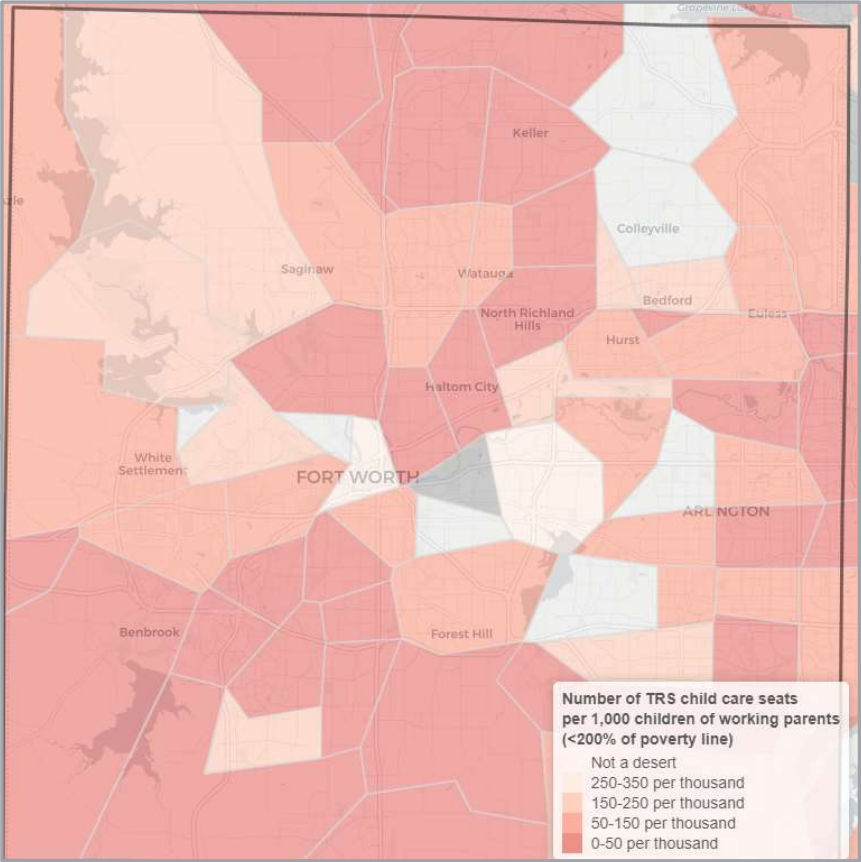
Make child care businesses more sustainable.

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

89% of eligible children* in Tarrant County live in a subsidized child care desert.

99% live in a TRS desert.

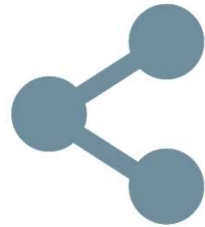


*Children under 6 with low-income, working parents

Goal 1 Strategies and Recommendations



Set **clear goals** around TRS growth.



Share **best practices**.



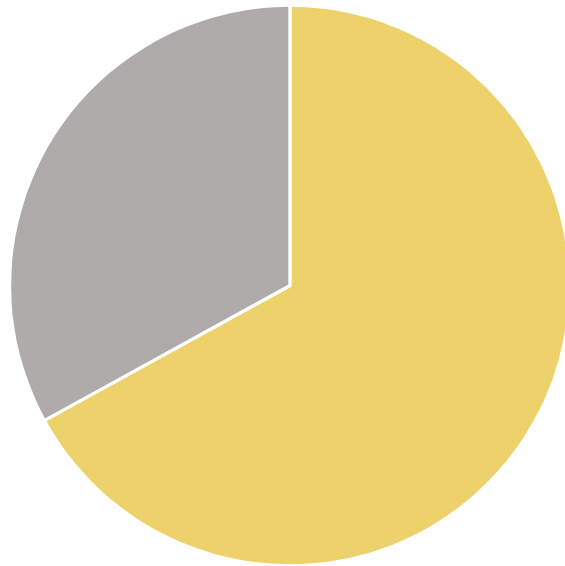
Improve **coordination** with Child Care Licensing.



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

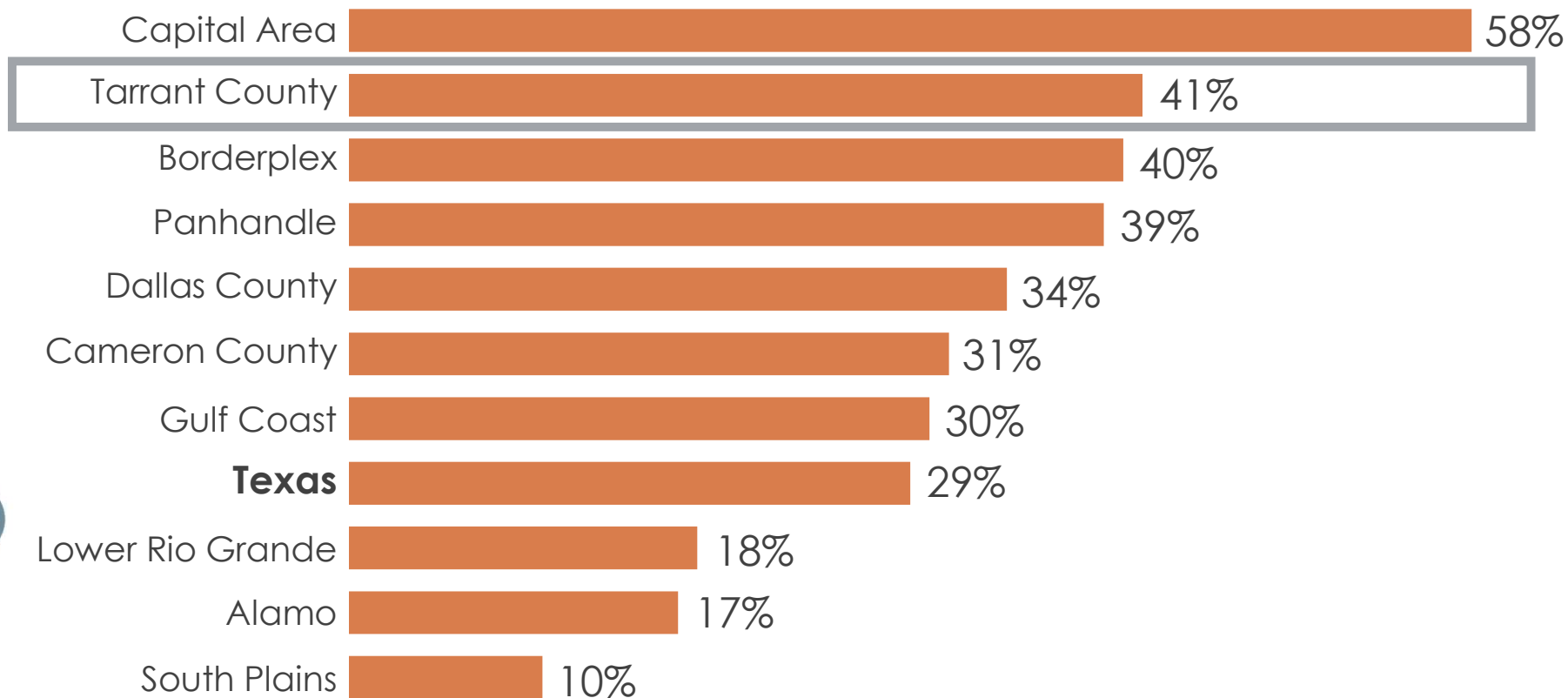


67% of low-income Texas
3rd graders **did NOT meet**
STAAR reading standards

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.

Goal 3: Adequately Train & Compensate Child Care Teachers



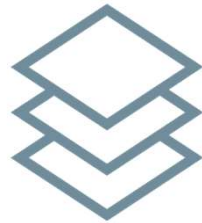
Child care workers with college degrees earn **\$22,000 per year**

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 Fort Worth **lose about \$500** 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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