



Rooted in Community

Uplifting Community Conversations to
Strengthen Early Care and Education



children
atRisk

Welcome



Santrice Jones-Hare

Director, Greater Houston Strong Start Alliance,
CHILDREN AT RISK

Presented in Partnership | ELQN



Harris County Department of Economic Equity & Opportunity's Early Learning Quality Network (ELQN)

Harris County DEEO's Early Learning Quality Network is a community-driven initiative to improve early learning across Harris County. Working alongside providers, families, and other community stakeholders, ELQN partners are focused on quality improvement initiatives that build upon the unique strengths and opportunities of each of the initiative's focal communities.

Presented in Partnership | C@R

CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R)

CHILDREN AT RISK serves as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for Texas children through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy.



Thank you | Sponsorships & Partnerships



UNITED WAY
Greater Houston



Helping Here.



TRADER JOE'S

The Landscape of Child Care in Harris County



Kim Kofron

Executive Director, Early Childhood Education
CHILDREN AT RISK

2.3 million children under the age of 6 lives in Texas.

1 in 10 children younger than 6 with low-income, working parents live in a Child Care Desert.



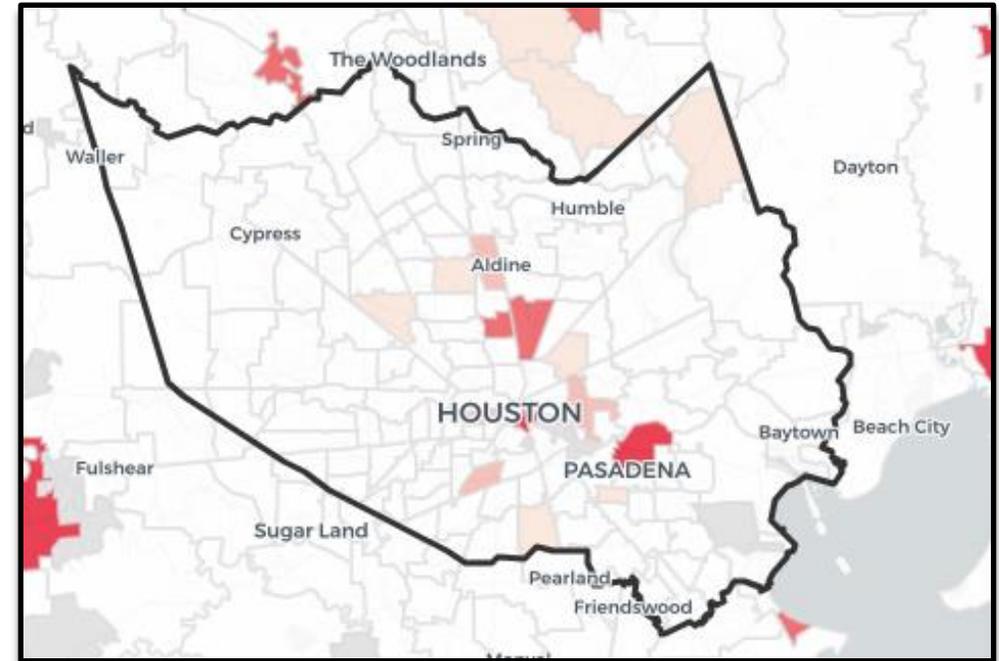
Harris County

243,551

children under the age of 6
lives in Harris County.

127,987

children younger than 6 with
low-income, working parents.



Child Care Deserts | Overall

**Texas Overall
Child Care Deserts**
September 2024

991,039 ↓
Total Number of Seats

420 ↑
Overall Desert Zip Codes

**Gulf Coast LWDB Overall
Child Care Deserts**
September 2024

303,783 ↓
Total Number of Seats

49 ↑
Overall Desert Zip Codes

**Harris County Overall
Child Care Deserts**
September 2024

238,755
Total Number of Seats
(24.1%)

16
Overall Desert Zip Codes

**Out of 1,933 total zip codes in Texas*

Child Care Deserts | Subsidy

Texas Subsidy Child Care Deserts September 2024

125,548 ↑
Total Number of
Subsidy Seats

778 ↓
Subsidy Desert Zip Codes

Gulf Coast LWDB Subsidy Child Care Deserts September 2024

30,790 ↑
Total Number of
Subsidy Seats

153 ↓
Subsidy Desert Zip Codes

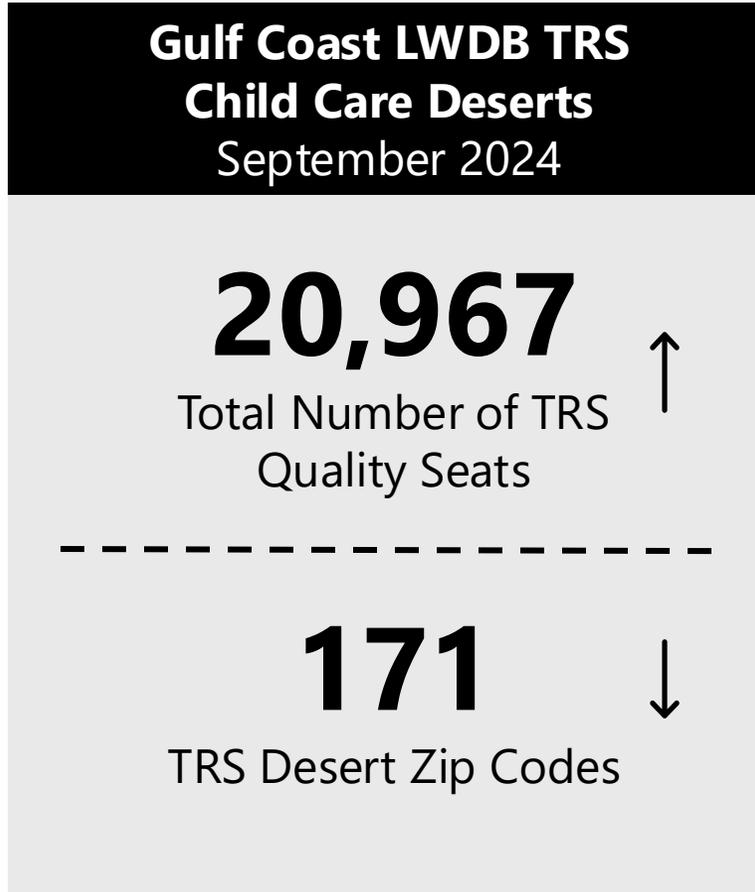
Harris County Subsidy Child Care Deserts September 2024

24,228
Total Number of
Subsidy Seats (19.3%)

87
Subsidy Desert Zip Codes

**Out of 1,933 total zip codes in Texas*

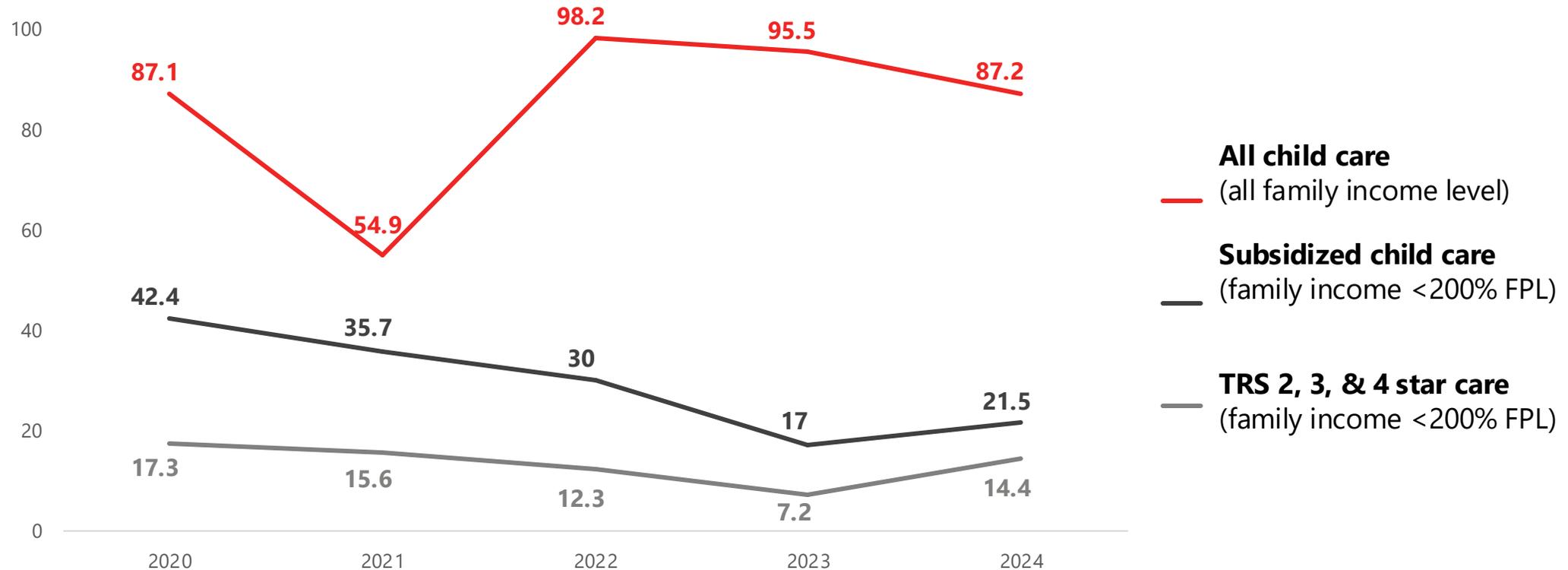
Child Care Deserts | Texas Rising Star (TRS)



**Out of 1,933 total zip codes in Texas*

Child Care in Texas | The Last Five Years of Seats

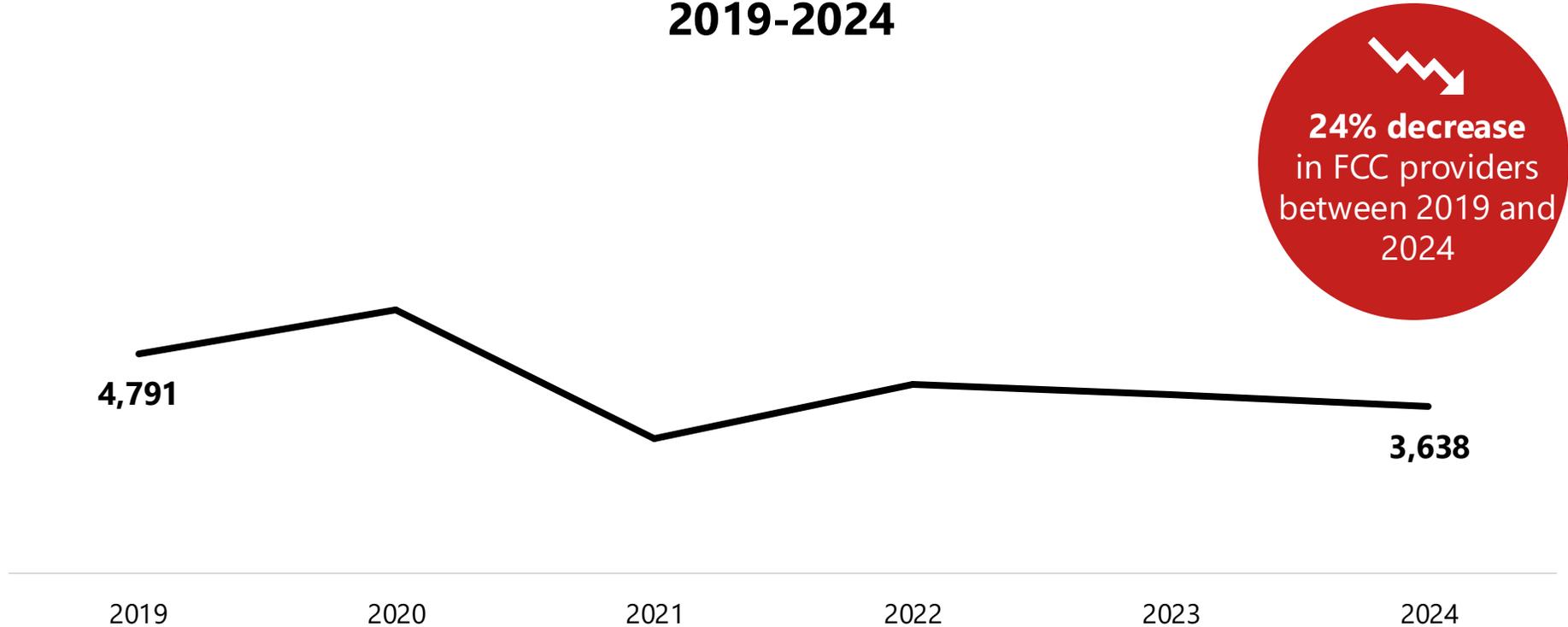
Number of Child Care Seats per 100 Children of Working Families



2025, CHILDREN AT RISK
Linear Trend of Child Care Seats & Quality

Child Care in Texas | Family Child Care Homes

Registered and Licensed Family Child Care Homes
2019-2024



Home-Based Child Care | Gulf Coast LWDB

September 2024

223

Home-Based Child Care
Providers

50%

TRS Certified

September 2025

183

Home-Based Child Care
Providers

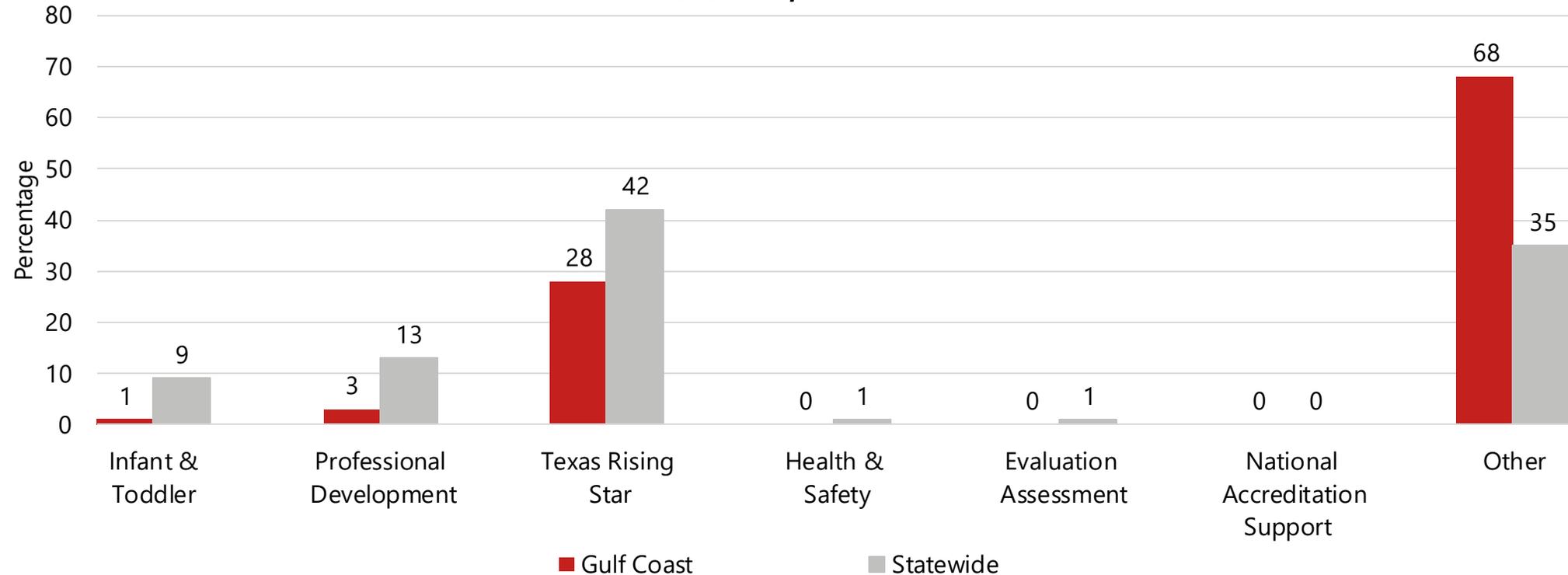
75%

TRS Certified

18% loss in home-based child care providers.

LWDB Fiscal Spending | Gulf Coast LWDB & State

PERCENTAGE OF QUALITY DOLLARS SPENT BY CATEGORY
LWDB & STATE, FY 2024



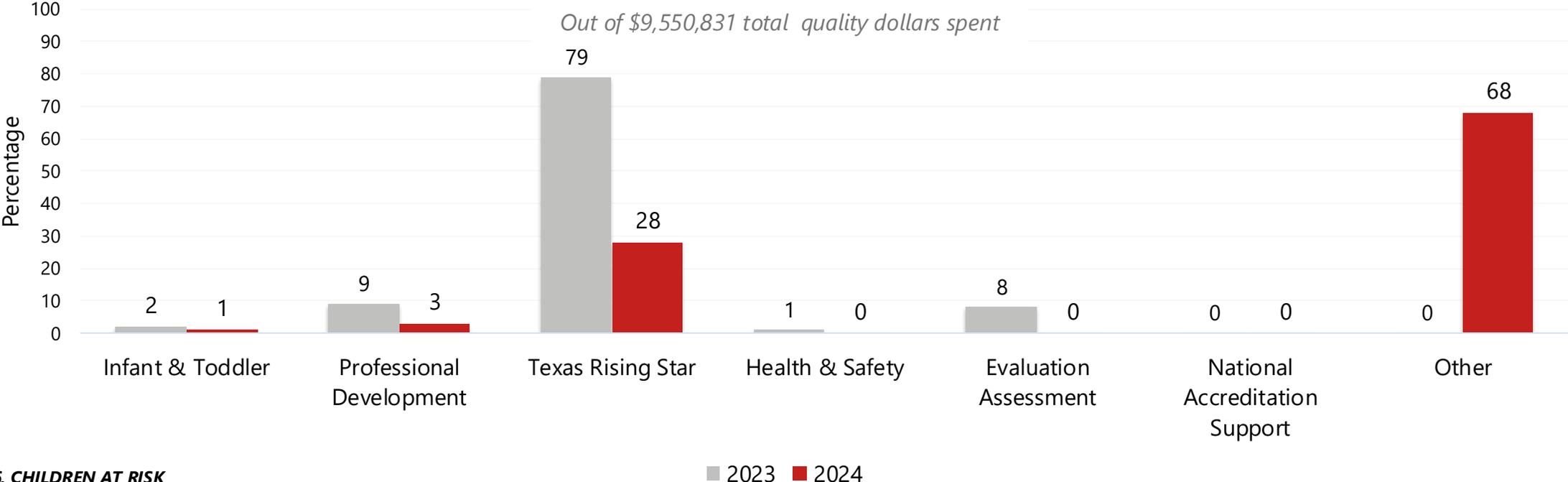
2026, CHILDREN AT RISK

*Paving the Way to Quality: Analysis of Texas LWDB
Fiscal Spending of Child Care Quality Investments*

LWDB Fiscal Spending | Gulf Coast Year Comparison

In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDB funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. The Following data details Gulf Coast LDWBs FY24 allocations.

YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON: GULF COAST



2026, CHILDREN AT RISK
*Paving the Way to Quality: Analysis of Texas LWDB
Fiscal Spending of Child Care Quality Investments*

Learn More | Spring 2026 Texas Tour

Each spring, the CHILDREN AT RISK Early Childhood Education team hosts virtual community roundtables across 12 major cities in Texas.

During these sessions, C@R experts will share updates from the latest Paving the Way report, including regional analysis of Local Workforce Development Board spending, updated Child Care Desert data, legislative advocacy updates, alongside insights from child care providers across the state.

**Join us at Houston's
Virtual Stop**



Wednesday, April 29th, 2026
10:00 – 11:15 AM (CT)

Panel Discussion

The Needs of Home-Based Child Care Providers

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Panel | The Needs of Home-Based Child Care Providers



Jerletha McDonald,
National Family child care leader,
Founder & CEO, *ADFW Family
Child Care*

Moderator



Dessie Mouton,
Owner,
*Our New Beginning Learning
Academy*



Kathy Smith
Owner,
Kathy's Daycare



Mieko Carter
Founder,
*Divine Footprints Family
Childcare*

Leadership Roundtable

Building a Sustainable Foundation for Home-Based Child Care

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Leadership Roundtable | Building a Sustainable Foundation



Dr. Bob Sanborn
President & CEO,
CHILDREN AT RISK

Moderator



State Representative Armando Walle,
Texas House
District 140



Jacinth Chapman,
Senior Manager, Early
Education Quality,
Workforce Solutions,
Gulf Coast Workforce



Makia Thomas
Program Officer,
The Powell Foundation



Estevan Delgado,
Senior Program Officer,
Rockwell Fund, Inc.

Thank you for being here today.

Please, stay and connect with fellow child care advocates – the space is available until 11 AM CT.

Questions? Reach out!

Martha Gonzales | mgonzales@childrenatrisk.org

Christina Alton | calton@childrenatrisk.org

Stay Engaged | Active Initiatives & Community Conversations

CHILDREN AT RISK Virtual Texas Tour Houston



Wednesday, April 29th, 2026
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Harris County DEEO's Early Learning Quality Network



Get involved with ELQN
childrenatrisk.org/elqn

