children at Risk

CHANGEMAKER TOOLKIT | GULF COAST LWDB

Gulf Coast

155k
children under the age of 6 with low income working parents lives in your region.

3 in 4
children under 6 with low-income working parents lives in a Child Care Desert.

Texas

580k
children under the age of 6 with low income working parents lives in our state.

1 in 10
children under 6 with low-income working parents lives in a Child Care Desert.

From 2024 to 2025, the number of Texas Rising Star programs in the Gulf Coast region grew 73%, from 641 to 1,112, and enrollment in those programs rose 10%, from 21,991 to 24,184 children. Most of the growth came from 2-Star programs, which tripled.

182 zip codes are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, a 6% increase from 2024. There are 20 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Gulf Coast LWDB region.

Fig.1 **NUMBER OF TRS PROGRAMS BY RATING**

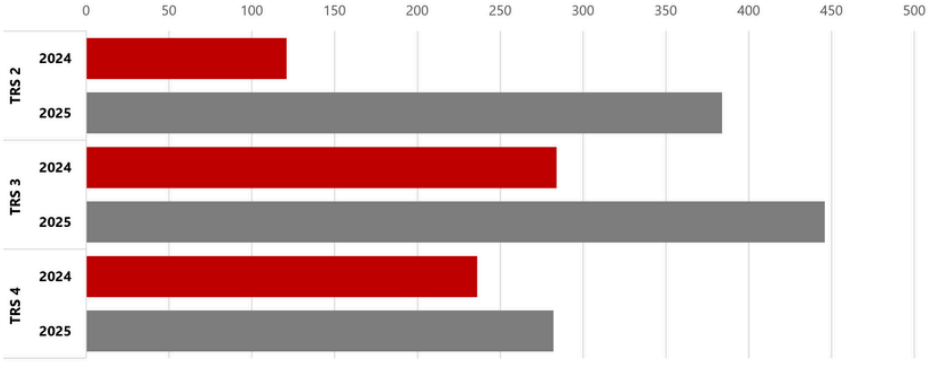


Fig.2 **NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN TRS PROGRAMS BY RATING**

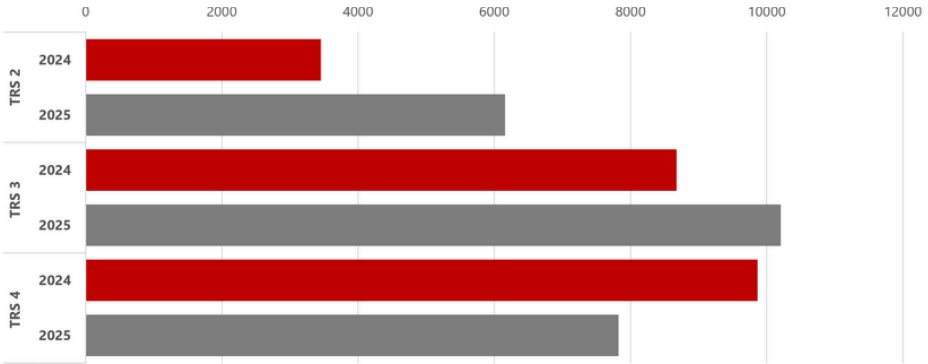
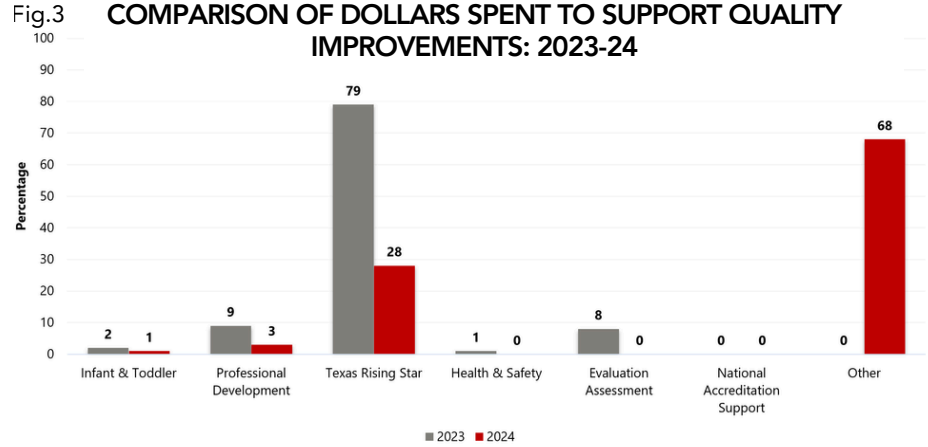


Fig.3 **COMPARISON OF DOLLARS SPENT TO SUPPORT QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS: 2023-24**



GULF COAST **OVERALL** DESERTS	GULF COAST **CHRONIC OVERALL** DESERTS
43 Overall Desert Zip Codes	**26** Overall Chronic Desert Zip Codes
304,284 Total number of seats available to families	**60%** of Overall Deserts are considered chronic

GULF COAST **TRS QUALITY** DESERTS	GULF COAST **CHRONIC TRS** DESERTS
182 TRS Desert Zip Codes	**126** TRS Desert Zip Codes
31,130 TRS seats are available to families	**69%** of TRS Deserts are considered chronic

GULF COAST **SUBSIDY** DESERTS	GULF COAST **CHRONIC SUBSIDY** DESERTS
169 Subsidy Desert Zip Codes	**102** Chronic Subsidy Desert Zip Codes
35,743 Subsidy seats are available to families	**60%** of Subsidy Deserts are considered chronic

*** Child Care Deserts are zip codes that have 3x more children of working parents than the available supply of child care.*

*** Chronic Deserts are those that have been designated a Child Care Desert for 3+ years.*

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CHILD CARE IN THE GULF COAST

- The Gulf Coast region is home to **318,215** children under the age of six, and more than **155,400** of them qualify for child care assistance.
- In this region, TWC is only able to serve **23,513 children.**
- From 2024 to 2025, TRS-certified programs **increased 73%** in this region, expanding from 641 to **1,112 locations**.
- Out of all subsidy-eligible families in this region, **77% or 115,000 children** do not have access to the support they need.
- In 2024, Gulf Coast LWDB had **$9,550,831** to put towards child care quality improvements & supports.

THEY INVESTED IN:

See figure 3 for more information on investment trends.

- **TRS Supports |** Personnel, Training, Incentives, Family Engagement, Equipment & Materials
- **Infants & Toddlers |** Materials, Curriculum, Training, Family engagement
- **Professional Development |** Conferences, Training, Scholarships & Stipends
- **Other |** TRS incentive grants

SPREAD THE WORD - WHICH ONE OF THESE ACTIONS WILL YOU TAKE TO #SUPPORTCHILDCARE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

- ☐ Use this data to shape and spread awareness of the child care system and related policy issues throughout your community.
- ☐ Share this document with your community members, partners, neighbors, families you serve, etc.
- ☐ Present new, locally relavent information to influence, or ask questions of, decision makers in your area.
- ☐ Form community-wide support of system improvements by convening cross-sector stakeholders who also care about improving the access to, and quality of, local child care.

WAS THIS INFORMATION HELPFUL IN ANOTHER WAY? LET US KNOW, TELL US YOUR CHILD CARE ADVOCACY STORY!

Looking for something else? Let us know so we can add that data into future toolkits.

bit.ly/changemaker-ece
or scan the QR code

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