children at Risk

CHANGEMAKER TOOLKIT | LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY LWDB

Lower RGV

21.4k
children under 6 with low-income working parents lives in your region.

3 in 5
children under 6 with low-income working parents lives in a Child Care Desert.

Texas

1.1m
children under 6 with low-income working parents lives in our state.

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

From 2024 to 2025, the proportion of TRS certified programs among all Lower RGV subsidy providers increased 135%. During this period, the region expanded its high-quality footprint from 149 to 350 certified locations.

20 zip codes are still designated as quality Child Care Deserts, a 400% increase from 2024. There are 46.1 TRS quality child care seats per 100 low-income working families in the Lower RGV LWDB region.

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

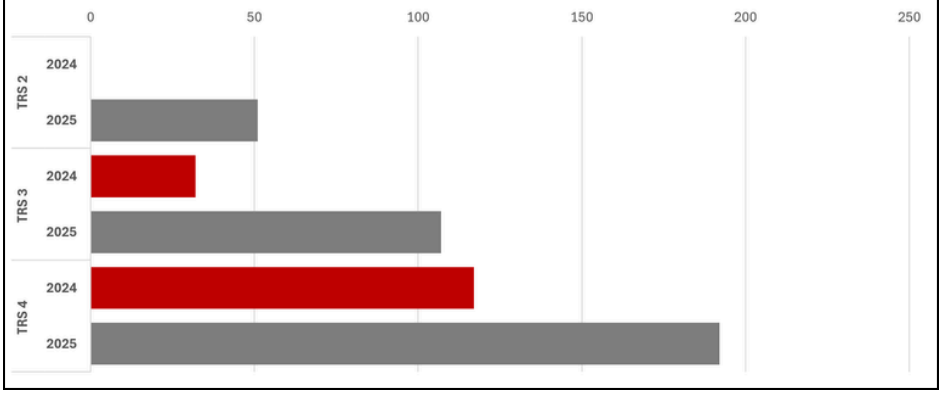


Fig.2 **NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN TRS PROGRAMS BY RATING**

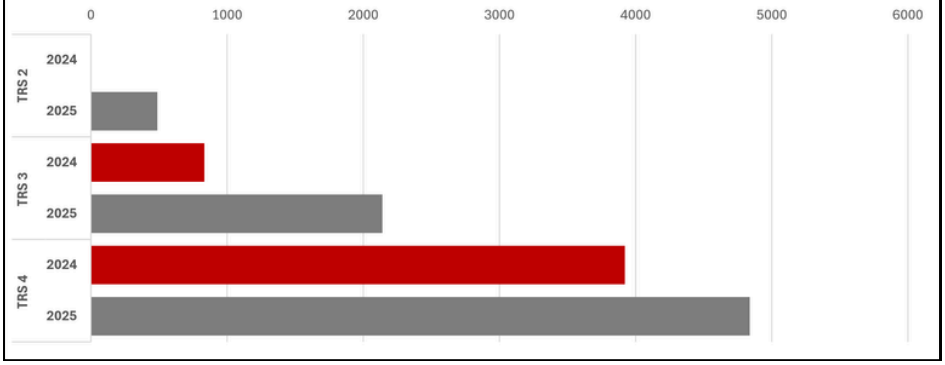
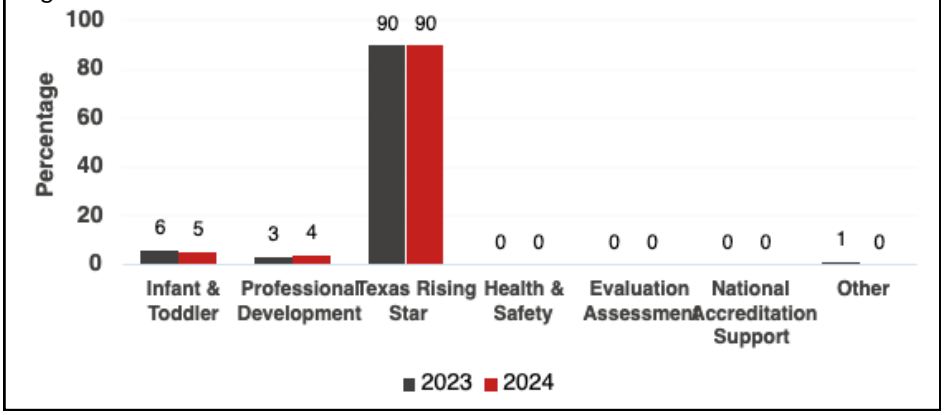


Fig.3 **COMPARISON OF DOLLARS SPENT TO SUPPORT QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS: 2023-24**



LOWER RGV **OVERALL** DESERTS	LOWER RGV **CHRONIC OVERALL** DESERTS
10 Overall Desert Zip Codes	**4** Overall Chronic Desert Zip Codes
30,860 Total number of seats available to families	**40%** of Overall Deserts are considered chronic

LOWER RGV **TRS QUALITY** DESERTS	LOWER RGV **CHRONIC TRS** DESERTS
20 TRS Desert Zip Codes	**3** TRS Desert Zip Codes
9,847 TRS seats are available to families	**15%** of TRS Deserts are considered chronic

LOWER RGV **SUBSIDY** DESERTS	LOWER RGV **CHRONIC SUBSIDY** DESERTS
19 Subsidy Desert Zip Codes	**1** Chronic Subsidy Desert Zip Codes
10,714 Subsidy seats are available to families	**5%** 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 LOWER RGV AREA

- The Lower RGV region is home to **31,275** children under the age of six, and more than **21,371** of them qualify for child care assistance.
- In this region, TWC is only able to serve **10,714 children.**
- From 2024 to 2025, TRS certified subsidy providers **increased 135%** in this region, expanding from from 149 to **350 certified locations**.
- Out of all eligible families in this region, **64%** do not have access to the support they need.
- In 2024, Lower RGV LWDB had **$2,847,273** to put towards child care quality improvements & supports.

THEY INVESTED IN:

See figure 3 for more information on investment trends.

- **TRS Supports |** Curriculum, Materials & Equipment, Mentor Salaries, TECPDS SME
- **Infants & Toddlers |** None
- **Professional Development |** Training, Conferences, CDA
- **Other |** Wage Supplements | Shared Svcs CCMS Systems

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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