WELCOME | What's On Your Mind?

Here's how

1

Write it down

On a Post-it Note, tell us what is on your mind. **Be SPECIFIC!** Use as many notes as you like.

2

Put it on the wall

When done, place your Post-it Note(s) on the wall.

Possible topics

- Child Care Minimum Standards
- Texas Rising Star
- TX3C – Payment System
- Pre-K Partnerships
- Head Start
- ECE Workforce
- ECE Funding
- Upcoming Legislative Session
- Other: really anything!

Texas Tour

Early Childhood Education

Alamo Workforce Board

October 7, 2026

children at Risk



Today's Agenda

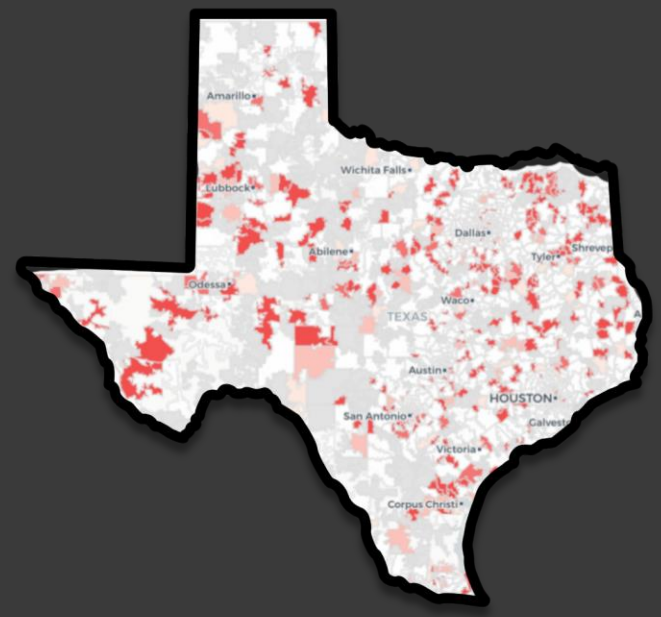
Welcome	What's on Your Mind
Data	Child Care Deserts Paving the Way to Quality
Legislative Updates	ECE Funding Governor's Task Force Sunset Commission
90th Legislative Session	Policy Recommendations
Using Your Voice	Community Changemaker Toolkits Early Childhood Day at the Capitol

children at Risk

2.3 million

Children under the age of
6 lives in Texas.

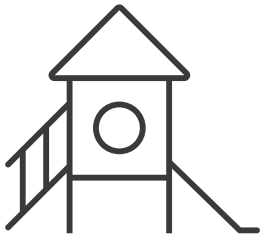
children at Risk



1 in 10

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

What is a Desert?



Child Care Deserts

Zip codes (US Census ZCTAs) with at least 30 children (ages 0-5) where the demand for child care is three times greater or more than the supply of child care.



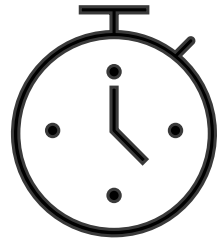
Subsidized Child Care Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of subsidized child care.



TRS Rising Star Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of Texas Rising Star-certified child care.



Chronic Child Care Deserts

Zip codes with at least 30 low-income children (ages 0-5) where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of care for that category for **three consecutive years**.

Statewide | Child Care Deserts (2025)

Overall Child Care Deserts

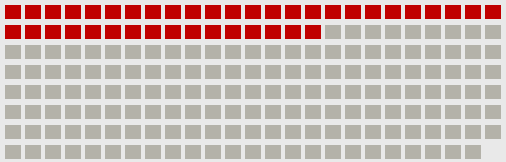
1.2

children per seat

across all Texas zip codes

1,156,515 children of working parents

994,949 licensed seats



413 of 1,989 zip codes are deserts

Desert = zip code with 3+ children per seat
Each dot ≈ 10 zip codes

Subsidy Child Care Deserts

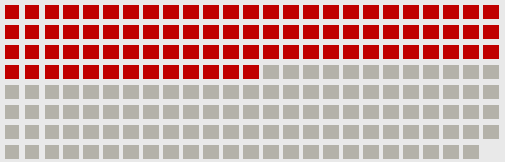
3.9

children per seat

across all Texas zip codes

579,385 low-income children

148,675 subsidy seats



884 of 1,989 zip codes are deserts

Desert = zip code with 3+ children per seat
Each dot ≈ 10 zip codes

TRS Child Care Deserts

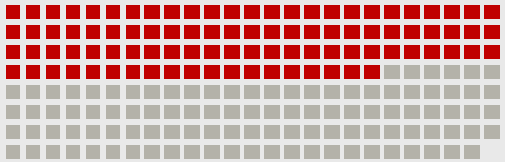
4.4

children per seat

across all Texas zip codes

579,385 low-income children

132,064 TRS seats



938 of 1,989 zip codes are deserts

Desert = zip code with 3+ children per seat
Each dot ≈ 10 zip codes

Bars compare total children and total seats across Texas; each column uses its own scale. Seats are total supply, not seats inside deserts.

Alamo | Child Care Deserts (2025)

Overall Child Care Deserts

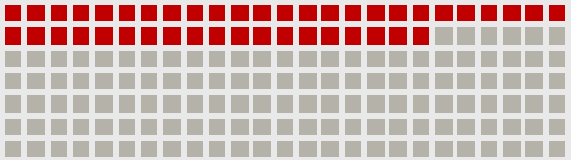
1.5

children per seat

across all Alamo zip codes

104,451 children of working parents

69,111 licensed seats



44 of 175 zip codes are deserts

Desert = zip code with 3+ children per seat

Subsidy Child Care Deserts

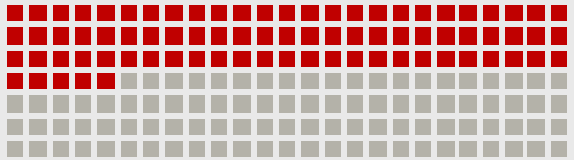
4.0

children per seat

across all Alamo zip codes

53,939 low-income children

13,462 subsidy seats



80 of 175 zip codes are deserts

Desert = zip code with 3+ children per seat

TRS Child Care Deserts

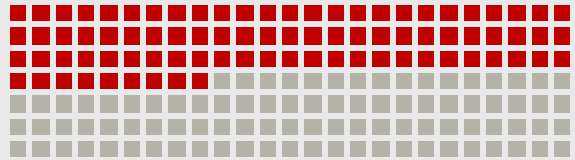
4.5

children per seat

across all Alamo zip codes

53,939 low-income children

12,017 TRS seats



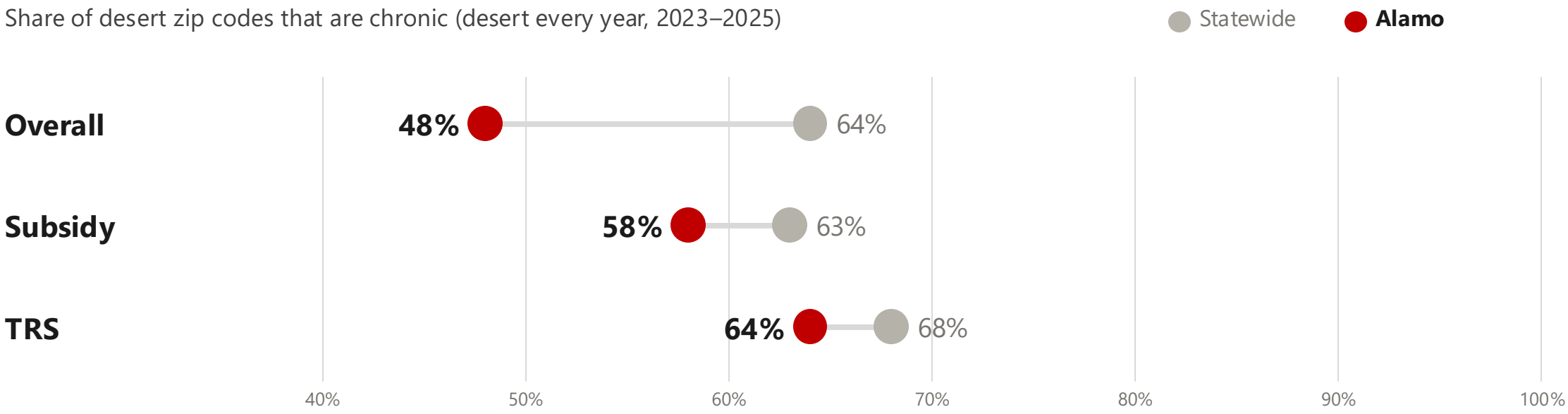
84 of 175 zip codes are deserts

Desert = zip code with 3+ children per seat

Bars compare total children and total seats across all Alamo zip codes; each column uses its own scale. Seats are total supply, not seats inside deserts.

Chronic Child Care Deserts | Alamo

Share of desert zip codes that are chronic (desert every year, 2023–2025)



21
of 44 overall desert zip codes are chronic

46
of 80 subsidy desert zip codes are chronic

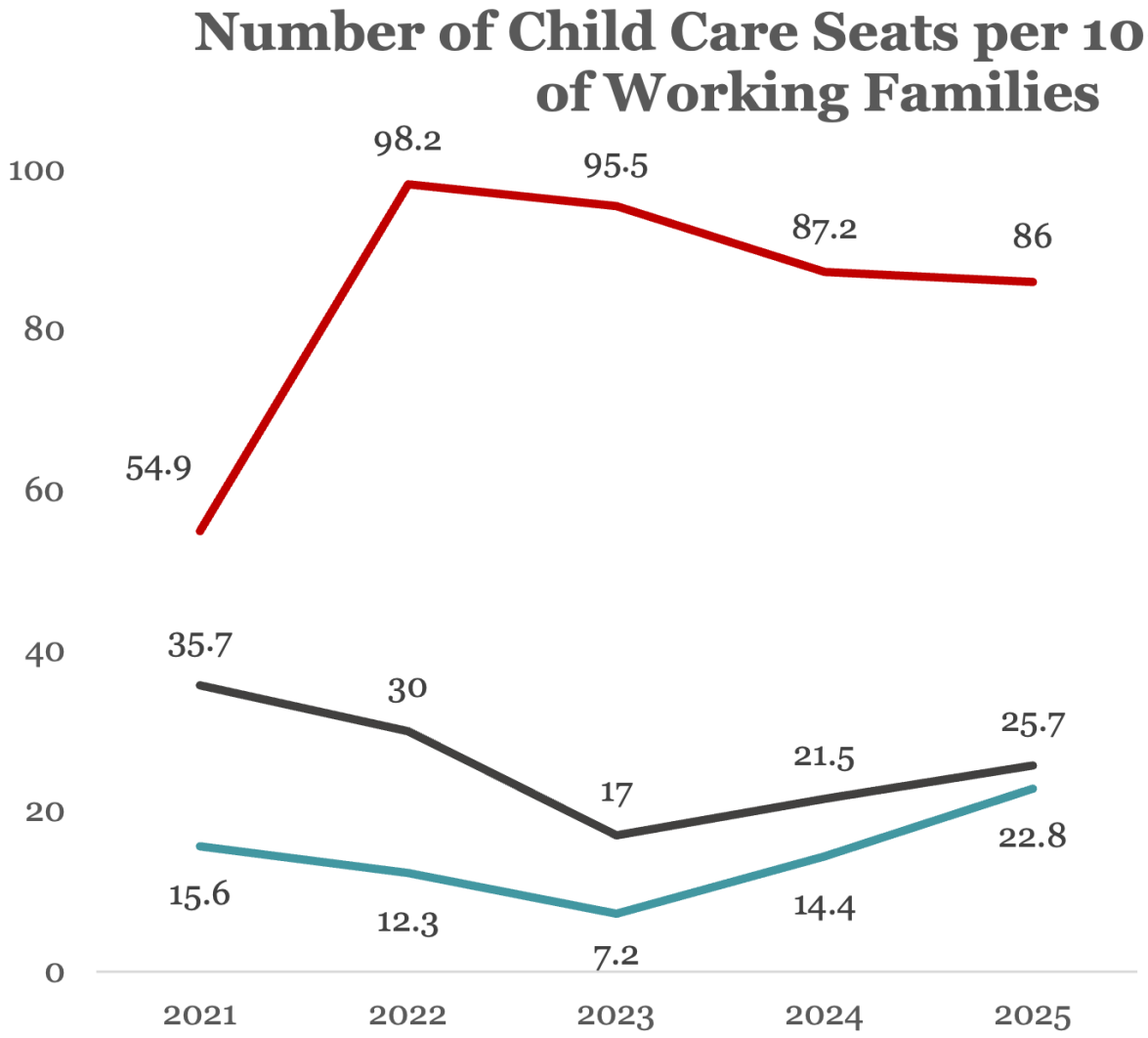
54
of 84 TRS desert zip codes are chronic

263
of 413 overall desert zip codes are chronic

558
of 884 subsidy desert zip codes are chronic

635
of 938 TRS desert zip codes are chronic

Child Care Seats | The Last Five Years in Texas



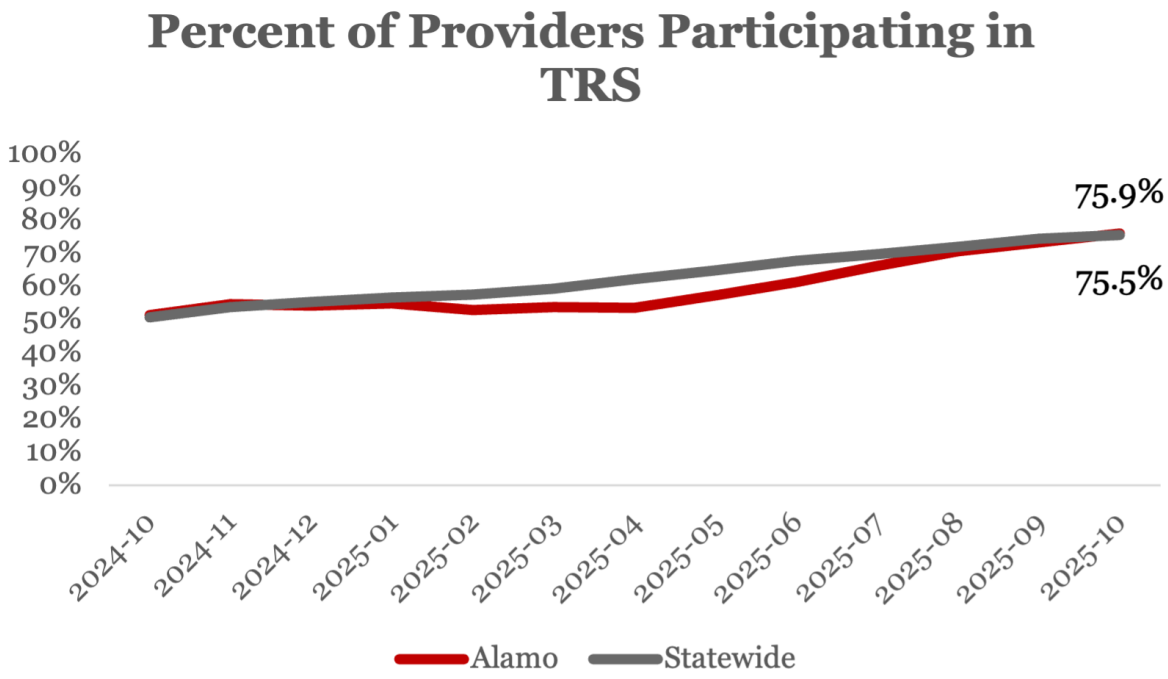
All child care
(all family income level)

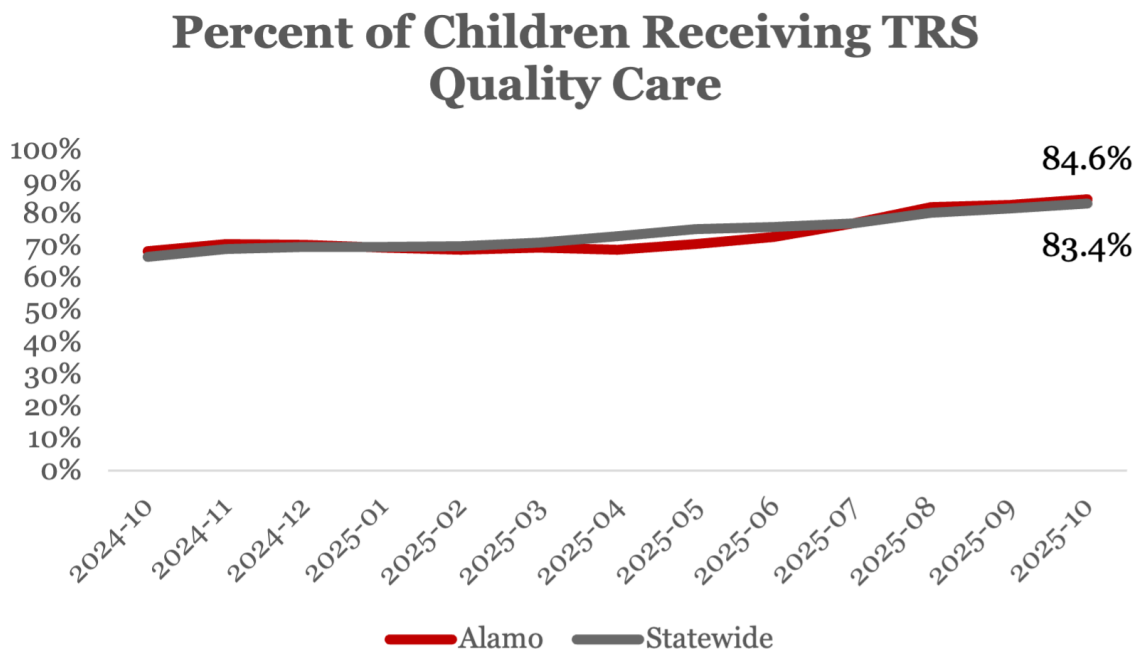
Subsidized child care
(family income <200% FPL)

TRS 2, 3, & 4 star care
(family income <200% FPL)

***2026**, CHILDREN AT RISK*
Child Care Desert Map

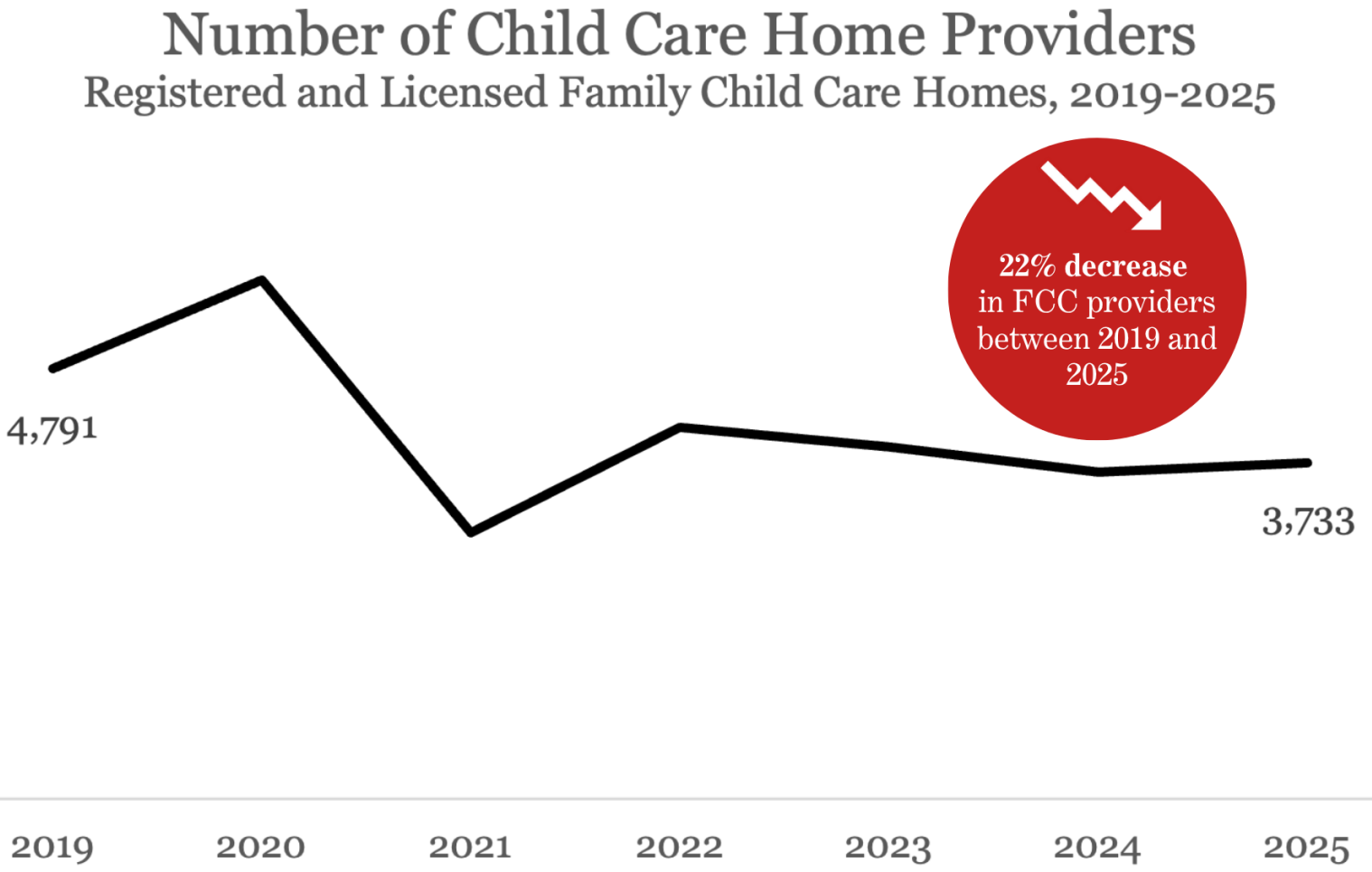
Alamo Texas Rising Star





***2026**, Texas Workforce Commission*
Child Care by the Numbers

Statewide | Family Child Care Homes



***2026**, Texas Workforce Commission Child Care Data*

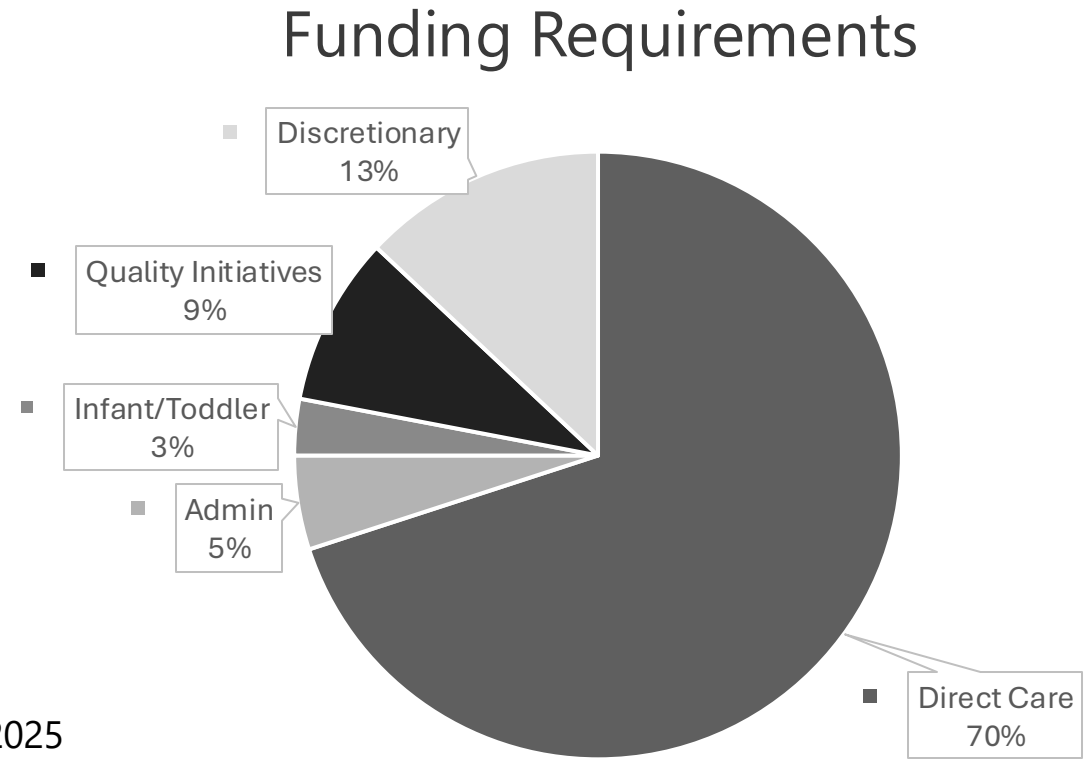
Texas | Federal Funding Streams

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

$1.14B of CCDBG to Texas Workforce Commission's Child Care Services:

- **28** Local Workforce Development Boards
- **149,000** scholarships to children across Texas
- **50% (6,600)** of eligible child care programs participate in Child Care Services
- **74.4%** of those child care providers participate in Texas Rising Star.

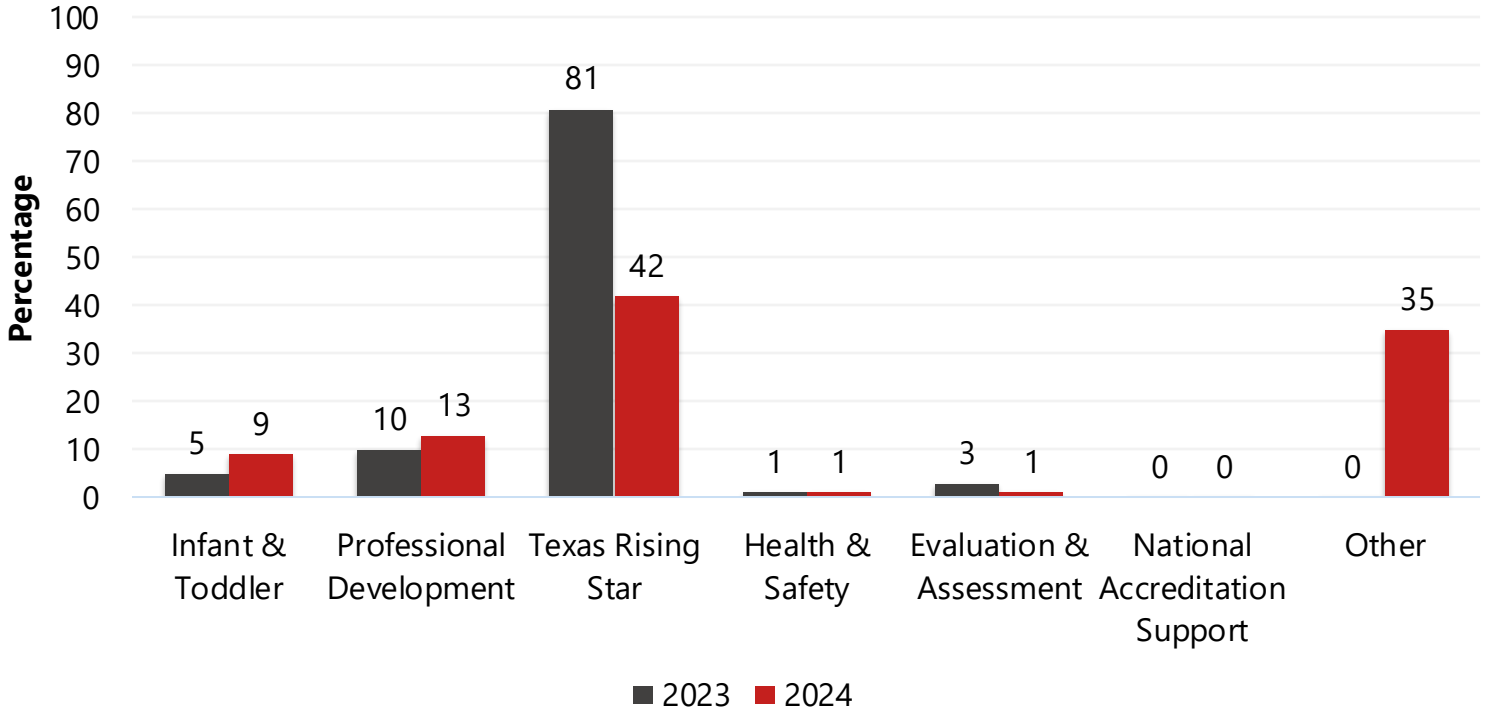
*As of September 2025



Quality Expenditures | Local Workforce Development Boards

Investments in Child Care Quality Funds-Statewide

YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON: TEXAS



**In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. This data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.*

Paving the Way to Quality Report

From 2023 to 2024, a shift from investing in things to people.

- Increase in wage supplements and retention bonuses.
- Increase in professional development opportunities.

From 2023 to 2024, a shift to support Infant and Toddlers.

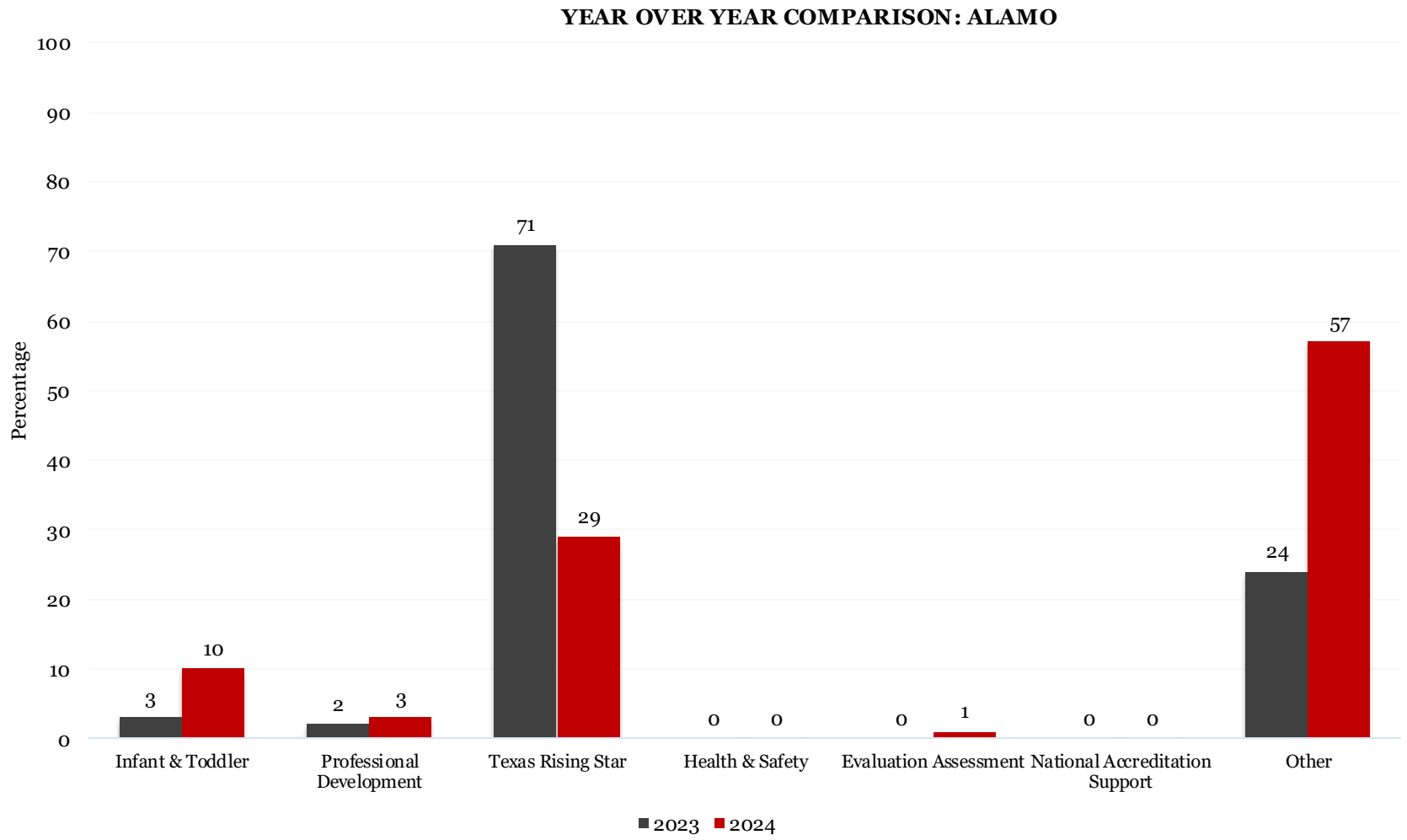
- 100% of LWDB invest in Infant and Toddlers compared to 79% the year prior.

Explore more findings in C@R's fiscal analysis.

childrenatrisk.org/paving-the-way-to-quality-2026/

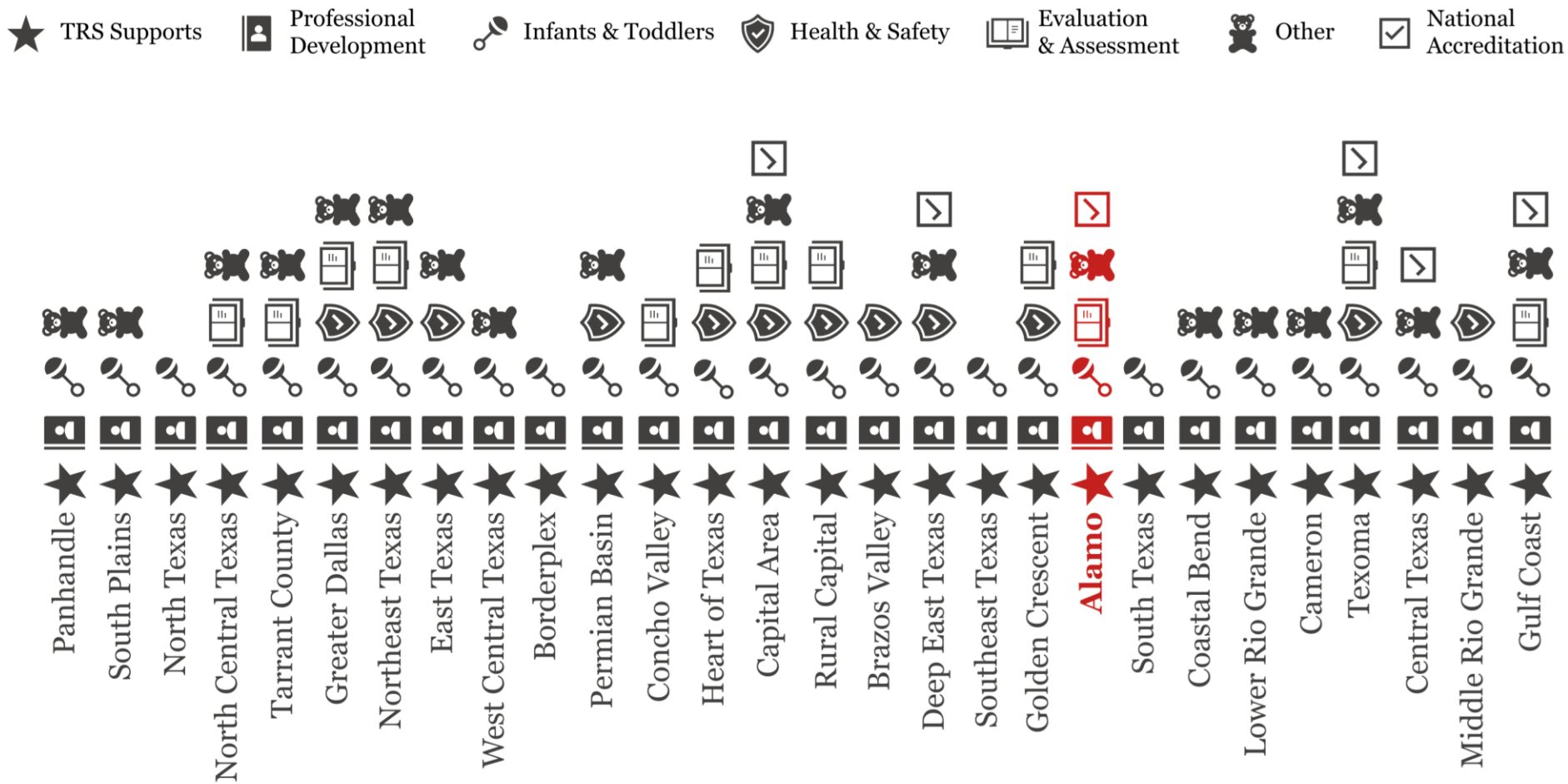
children at Risk

Alamo: Investments in Child Care Quality Funds



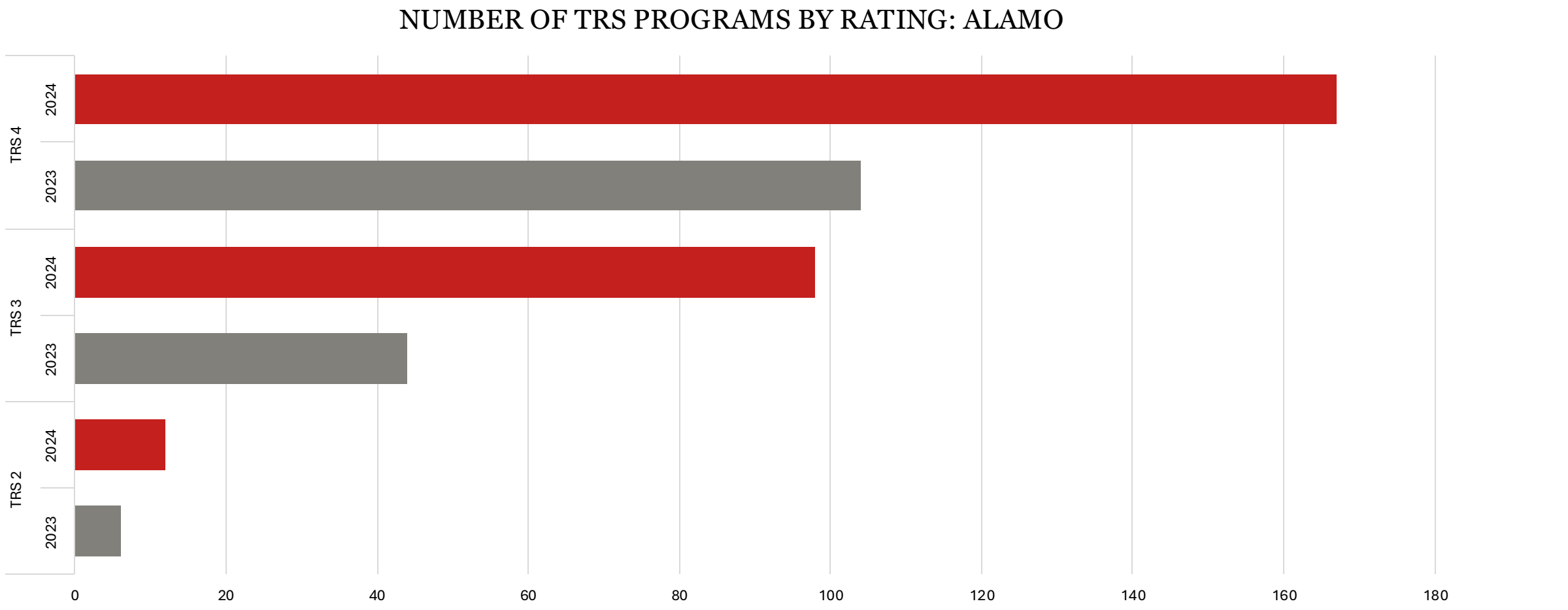
*In FY24, LWDBs were required to allocate 4% of CCDBG funds following guidance within the Quality Activity and Expenditure Requirements Outlined by TWC. This data details LWDB's FY24 allocations.

Alamo | Spending of Quality Improvement Dollars

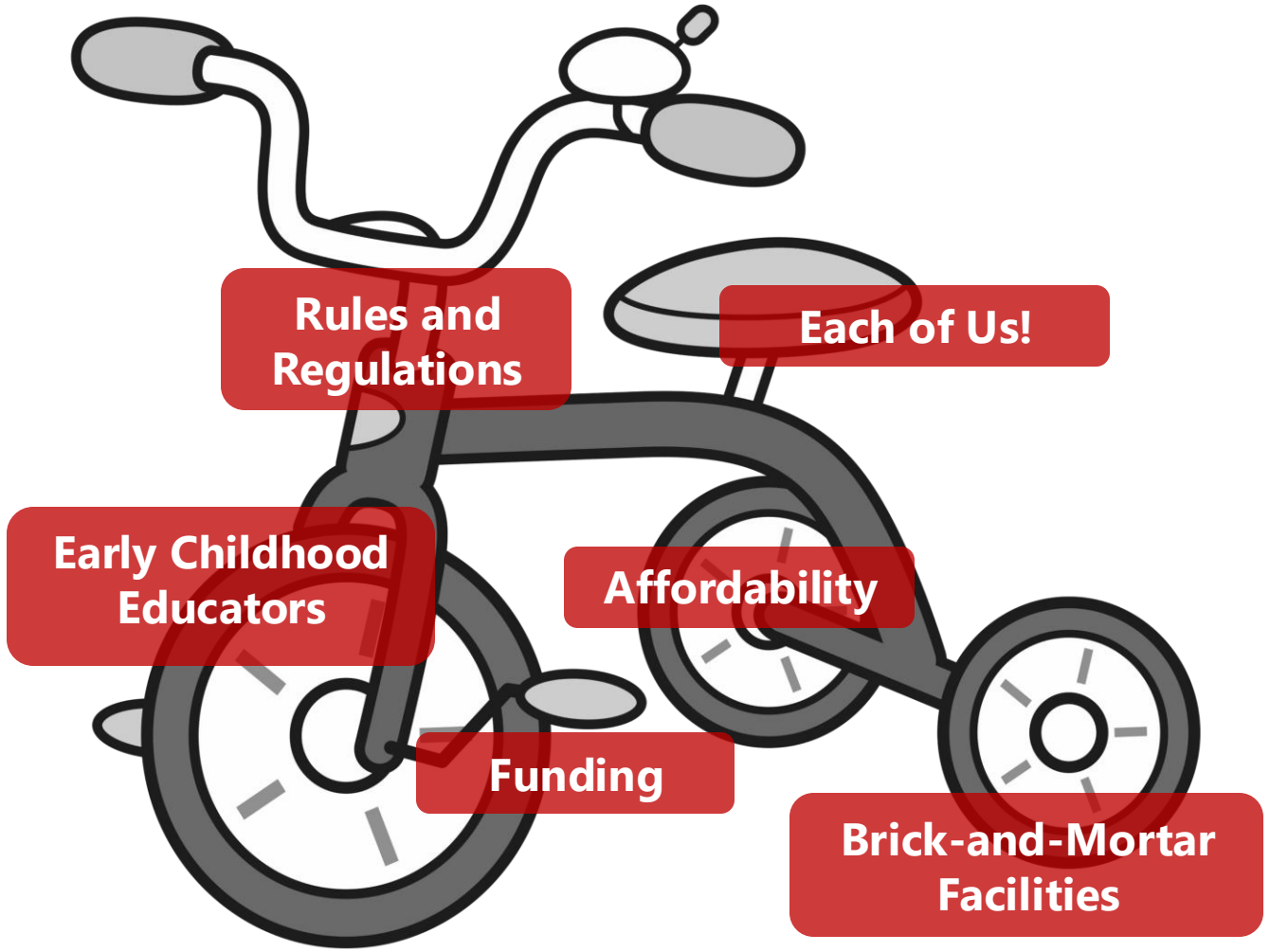


children at Risk

Access to Quality Care



The Tricycle for Success



children at Risk

Kim Kofron, M.Ed.
Executive Director of Early Childhood Education, kkofron@childrenatrisk.org 512-656-3797

Rising Costs | Average Monthly Cost per Child

FIGURE TWC–11
AVERAGE COST PER CHILD PER MONTH FOR ALL PROVIDER TYPES OF STATE-FUNDED CHILDCARE
FISCAL YEARS 2022 TO 2027



NOTE: Amounts for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 are estimated.
SOURCE: Texas Workforce Commission.

"This cost has increased steadily from $581 per child per month during fiscal year 2022 to an estimated $904 for fiscal year 2027, ***an increase of 55.5 percent.*** *" - LBB Strategic Fiscal Review (2026)*

ECE Funding | Cost and Capacity

Rising Costs

79% due to inflation, liability insurance and rising rent

21% due to increase of TRS participation

(according the LBB Strategic Fiscal Review)

$100M

In FY26-27, **9800** children remained in child care

CCDBG Funding

Flat Funding

2026 $1,277,501,283
2025 $1,226,160,870

4% increase

9.5% decrease in scholarships

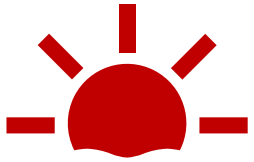
14,000 children less in FY27

ECE Governance | 89th Texas Legislative Session



H.B. 117

(Schoolcraft/Campbell)
Establishes a Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care, a step toward improving coordination, accountability, and outcomes for Texas children.



Sunset Review Commission

DFPS, HHSC, DSHS, & TWC
are all scheduled for the 2026-2027 Review Cycle, with recommendations reported in the 90th Legislative Session.



H.B. 4903

(Harris Davila/Birdwell)
Establishes a Quad Agency Child Care Initiative focused on collaboration, coordinating policies, and reviewing and streamlining regulations among the participating agencies, which would include TWC, HHSC, DFPS, and TEA.

Update | Quad Agency Child Care Initiative

New Reporting Process to Identify Inconsistencies Between TRS Child Care Services and Texas Minimum Standards.

- If you identify a potential conflict, send your feedback to both agencies:
  - **CCR**: CCRDCMS@hhs.texas.gov
  - **TWC**: CCEL@twc.texas.gov

Expecting external review of Child Care Regulations in October

Website: https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care/quad-agency-cld-cahire-initiative

Next Meeting: October 26, 2026, 3:00-5:00pm

Update | Recommendations to Governor's Task Force on ECE Governance

To address the fragmentation and improve the experience of children, families, and providers, Texas should establish:

One accountable ECEC entity and leader

Determine a single accountable entity, led by an empowered leader with authority across programs to align the system and answer for the results.

A Unified North Star Vision

Establish a shared statewide vision for birth-5 with clear goals and measurable outcomes for children, families and workforce.

A core quality framework

Determine a single accountable entity, led by an empowered leader with authority across programs to align the system and answer for the results.

An effective state-local partnership

Build a state-local partnership where the state sets the vision and the locals lead translates it into plans that fit their communities.

Meaningful information to drive decisions

Build the data infrastructure needed to understand what's working and give stakeholders transparent, meaningful information.

Statewide reporting on results

Publish a statewide report on access, quality, workforce and outcomes, with clear ownership for results.

Update4 | Sunset Commission

Texas Workforce Commission

- Sunset Staff Report—June 2026
- Sunset Hearing—August 12, 2026
- Overall findings:
  - Technology issues with TX3C
  - IT modernization plan needed
  - Anti-fraud measures
  - Workforce Board Accountability
  - Improve coordination with DFPS
  - Improve internal process to administer CCS including the Market Rate Survey
- Final Report will be approved in November
- Will turn into Legislation



Update | Sunset Commission

Sunset Staff Reports expected any day for:

Health and Human Services Commission

- Child Care Regulations
- Family Support Services
- 211
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Texas Thriving Families
- Medicaid & CHIP
- SNAP

Department of Family and Protective Services

- Child Abuse and Neglect Foster Care
- Kinship Care
- Statewide Intake

Department of State Health Services

- Maternal & Child Health
- Help Me Grow
- ImmTrac2 (Immunization Registry)

Public Hearing scheduled for December 2 & 3, 2026

Recommendations | Early Childhood Education

Funding for Early Childhood Education

Build on current investments to funding high-quality ECE for children

Child care is essential infrastructure for Texas. It gives children a safe, high-quality place to learn and grow, gives parents the ability to work, and gives employers access to the workforce. When child care seats disappear, families are often forced to work fewer hours, leave jobs, or make difficult choices about who provides care. Texas needs to strengthen what we have—protecting what works, eliminating inefficiencies, and directing resources where they can have the greatest impact.

Governance and Systemwide Coordination

Establish a unified governance structure for Texas' early childhood system

- Strengthen cross-agency coordination, led by an empowered leader
- Improve consistency and accountability, develop a vision and goals for birth – 5

Recommendations | Early Childhood Education

Contracting Accountability and Performance Management

Improve oversight and accountability of contracted child care services

- Establish clear performance standards
- Create shared accountability measures

Application and Access Streamlining

Improve Efficiency of Application and Enrollment Process.

- Align eligibility and onboarding requirements
- Coordinate technology and agency processes

Recommendations | Early Childhood Education

Strengthening Early Childhood Data & Technology

Modernize and integrate Texas' early childhood technology and data systems

- Expand the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)
- Create a more seamless experience for families and providers

Regulatory Improvement

Strengthen the Administrative Review process

- Increase transparency in the review process
- Standardize the review and decision process

Strengthening LWDB Governance

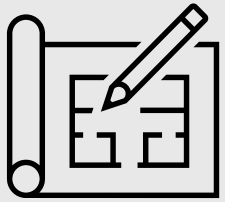
Require all Local Workforce Development Board Members Training on Child Care Oversight

- Require standardized orientation training
- Clarify governance and oversight responsibilities

Use your Voice | Early Childhood Education

Tell Us What You Think???

Community Changemaker Toolkit



SAVE the DATE:

March 4, 2027

Early Childhood Day at the Capitol

Resources | Data & Policy Priorities

As the ECE system has evolved, so has the need for a stronger governance structure and a more stable, efficient early childhood system.

Child Care Deserts
childrenatrisk.org/childcaredeserts

Legislative District One-Pagers
https://childrenatrisk.org/legislative-district-ece/

Policy Priorities
childrenatrisk.org/advocacy-action-center/90th-tx-legislature

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Thank you!