Access to Quality Child Care in Austin, TX
September 2017
Presentation Outline

Why Quality Child Care Matters

Subsidized Child Care Overview

Problems Facing Child Care in Texas

The Status of Austin

Policy Solutions
Why Quality Child Care Matters

Quality child care is quality early education, and leads to...

- Improved School-Readiness and 3rd Grade Reading Levels
- Higher Graduation Rates and a Better Prepared Workforce
- More Working Families

...especially for low-income children.
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Funding from federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

Subsidies administered by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) through local workforce boards

Licensed centers, licensed homes, and registered homes eligible to receive subsidies
Qualifications to Receive Subsidies

• Generally, children may receive childcare subsidies if they meet the following criteria:

1. Their families are low-income, they are receiving or needing protective services, or their parents are receiving or transitioning off of public assistance

2. They are under the age of 13

3. Their parent(s) require child care to work or to attend job training or an education program
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Problems Facing Child Care in Texas

- Low participation in Texas Rising Star (TRS) quality program
- Little coordination among key stakeholders
- Limited access to quality providers
Texas Rising Star Participation by TWC Board

Texas Rising Star certifications among subsidy providers vary across TWC board regions

1. Panhandle: 29%
2. South Plains: 6%
3. North Texas: 22%
4. North Central Texas: 10%
5. Tarrant County: 19%
6. Greater Dallas: 16%
7. Northeast Texas: 32%
8. East Texas: 31%
9. West Central Texas: 31%
10. Borderplex: 19%
11. Permian Basin: 9%
12. Concho Valley: 5%
13. The Heart of Texas: 22%
14. Capital Area: 24%
15. Rural Capital Area: 20%
16. Brazos Valley: 23%
17. Deep East Texas: 19%
18. Southeast Texas: 6%
19. Golden Crescent: 14%
20. Alamo: 13%
21. South Texas: 12%
22. Coastal Bend: 17%
23. Lower Rio Grande Valley: 9%
24. Cameron: 21%
25. Texoma: 9%
26. Central Texas: 14%
27. Middle Rio Grande: 28%
28. Gulf Coast: 13%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission (as of 9/2017)
### Subsidy and Texas Rising Star Participation by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>n=Total number of licensed child care providers in each region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EL PASO (n=455)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTTER/RANDALL (n=112)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMERON (n=246)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVIS (n=734)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DALLAS (n=1286)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARRANT (n=1236)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXAS (n=15340)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIDALGO (n=511)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEXAR (n=904)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARRIS (n=2895)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUBBOCK (n=189)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Providers Not Accepting Child Care Subsidies</th>
<th>Providers Accepting Subsidies but Are Not TRS Certified</th>
<th>TRS Certified Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EL PASO (n=455)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTTER/RANDALL (n=112)</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMERON (n=246)</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVIS (n=734)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DALLAS (n=1286)</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARRANT (n=1236)</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXAS (n=15340)</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIDALGO (n=511)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEXAR (n=904)</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARRIS (n=2895)</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUBBOCK (n=189)</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Texas Rising Star Level Comparison by Region

n=Total number of TRS providers in each region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>TRS Level 2</th>
<th>TRS Level 3</th>
<th>TRS Level 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIDALGO (n=37)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EL PASO (n=64)</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DALLAS (n=111)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVIS (n=90)</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEXAR (n=61)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXAS (n=1188)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARRANT (n=100)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUBBOCK (n=8)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARRIS (n=172)</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMERON (n=32)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTTER/RANDALL (n=15)</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Texas Rising Star Participation: Travis County

- Providers Not Accepting Subsidies: 50%
- Non-TRS Certified Providers Accepting Subsidies: 38%
- TRS Level 2: 3%
- TRS Level 3: 8%
- TRS Level 4: 1%
Presentation Outline

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Policy Solutions
How we calculated the supply and demand for child care
For more information on our methodology, please visit: http://childrenatrisk.org/texas-child-care-desert-methodology/

Supply

Includes supply of all child care seats based on licensed capacity*

All providers

Includes estimated supply of subsidy seats* based on each TWC board region’s subsidy target

Subsidy providers

Texas Rising Star

Demand

Includes demand among all children under 6 with working parents

Only includes demand among low-income children under 6 with working parents

*Does not currently include providers on military bases. We will include this data in future updates.
Key Findings for Travis County

There are 10,700 more low-income children than subsidized child care seats (77% lack access)

There are 13,000 more low-income children than TRS-certified seats (94% lack access)

Statewide, 71% of low-income children lack access to a subsidized seat
94% lack access to a TRS-certified seat
Key Findings for Travis County

Lack of quality care: 10 ZIP codes have 0 TRS-certified seats per thousand low-income children with working parents.

Racial disparity: Hispanic population is 2-3x the share of the total population in deserts vs. non-deserts.
How we calculated child care deserts

Is this ZIP code a child care desert?

Are there at least 30 children age 0-5 with working parents?  
- **YES**  
  - Is there at least one child care center/registered home?  
    - **YES**  
      - What is the ratio of children 0-5 to the cumulative child care capacity?  
        - **Less than 3-to-1**  
          - Not a child care desert  
          - Child care desert  
        - **More than 3-to-1**  
          - Child care desert  
    - **NO**  
      - Child care desert  
  - **NO**  
    - Not a child care desert

Subsidized and TRS deserts only include low-income children and providers that accept subsidy/are TRS-certified

Source: Graphic and methodology adapted from Center for American Progress (http://ampr.gs/2eQvPsu)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Subsidized Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Texas Rising Star Seats</th>
<th>TRS 4-star Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1310 per thousand</td>
<td>231 per thousand</td>
<td>65 per thousand</td>
<td>44 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only includes child care demand among **low-income** children.
Travis County Median Household Income by Desert Type

- Non-deserts: $85,744
- Child care deserts: $49,697
- Subsidized child care deserts: $60,018
- TRS child care deserts: $61,335
Travis County Race and Ethnicity by Desert Type

- **Non-deserts**: 68% White, 4% Black, 20% Hispanic, 5% Other groups
- **Child care deserts**: 25 White, 12 Black, 59 Hispanic, 22 Other groups
- **Subsidized child care deserts**: 46 White, 10 Black, 38 Hispanic, 4 Other groups
- **TRS child care deserts**: 49 White, 9 Black, 35 Hispanic, 5 Other groups

(children at Risk)
Undersupply & Oversupply: Austin’s **Subsidized Seats**

Subsidized seats: over- and under-supply of child care seats for low-income kids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP Code</th>
<th>Subsidy Capacity per 1000 Low-Income Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78725</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78734</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78741</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>78737</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>78747</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP Code</th>
<th>Number of surplus subsidy seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78739</td>
<td>+50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78703</td>
<td>+56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78757</td>
<td>+80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78749</td>
<td>+103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Undersupply & Oversupply: Austin’s TRS Seats

## ZIP Code vs. TRS Seats per 1000 Low-Income Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP Code</th>
<th>Number of surplus TRS seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78749</td>
<td>+50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TRS seats: over- and under-supply of child care seats for low-income kids

- **78749**: +50 surplus TRS seats

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*Children at Risk*
Child Care Deserts in Austin

http://childrenatrisk.org/childcaredesertmap/
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Policy Solutions?

What could work in Austin?

What could work in Texas?
Ecosystem for Quality Child Care

Factors Aimed at Enabling Demand

- Family Information about Quality Care Options in Their Area
- Incentives For Parents to Choose Quality Options
- Local School Districts Understanding Impacts of Quality
- Cost Enables Parents to Choose Quality Options

Factors Aimed at Enabling Supply

- Teacher Certification and Credentialing
- Staff Salary Incentives and Retention
- Government Structures That Regulate and Ensure Quality
- Information for Providers about Quality and Certification
2.9 million children live in 58 counties devastated by Hurricane Harvey

Number of children

1k 25k 50k 100k 1 mill.

Governor Abbott made a disaster proclamation for these 58 counties on 8/27/17.
Who represents the 2.9m Texas children affected by Hurricane Harvey?

44% of TX House reps
38 Republicans
27 Democrats

58% of TX Senators
9 Republicans
9 Democrats

Source: CHILDREN AT RISK analysis of data on legislative representation in the 58 counties declared disaster areas by Governor Abbott