Access to Quality Child Care in Houston, TX

September 2017
Presentation Outline

Why Quality Child Care Matters

Subsidized Child Care Overview

Problems Facing Child Care in Texas

The Status of Houston

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.
Subsidized Child Care in Texas

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 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%
### Subsidy and Texas Rising Star Participation by Region

<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>CAMERON (n=246)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTTER/RANDALL</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EL PASO (n=455)</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>LUBBOCK (n=189)</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>7%</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>
</tbody>
</table>

n=Total number of licensed child care providers in each region.
# 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>73%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DALLAS (n=111)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVIS (n=90)</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEXAR (n=61)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXAS (n=1188)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARRANT (n=100)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUBBOCK (n=14)</td>
<td></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARRIS (n=172)</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>27%</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: Harris County

- Providers Not Accepting Subsidies: 59%
- Non-TRS Certified Providers Accepting Subsidies: 35%
- TRS Level 2: 3%
- TRS Level 3: 2%
- TRS Level 4: 1%

Texas Rising Star Participation: Harris County

Providers Not Accepting Subsidies

Non-TRS Certified Providers Accepting Subsidies

TRS Level 2

TRS Level 3

TRS Level 4
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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 Harris County

There are 47,000 more low-income children than subsidized child care seats (75% lack access)

There are 60,000 more low-income children than TRS-certified seats (95% 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 Harris County

Low access to affordable care: Only 1 in 4 low-income children with working parents have access to a subsidy seat.

Lack of Texas Rising Star access: 39 ZIP codes have 0 TRS-certified seats per thousand low-income children with working parents.
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
- More than 3-to-1

Not a child care desert
Child care desert
Not a child care desert
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)
### Harris County Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Any Quality Seats</th>
<th>Subsidized Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Texas Rising Star Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1163 per thousand</td>
<td>175 per thousand</td>
<td>251 per thousand</td>
<td>52 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Non-deserts: $88,200
- Child care deserts: $49,567
- Subsidized child care deserts: $50,269
- TRS child care deserts: $54,627
Harris County Race and Ethnicity by Desert Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desert Type</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-deserts</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care deserts</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized child care deserts</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRS child care deserts</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undersupply & Oversupply: Houston’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 Seats per 1000 Low-Income Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77003</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77005</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77027</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77030</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77019</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77031</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77020</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77076</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77029</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77036</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77060</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP Code</th>
<th>Number of Surplus Subsidy Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77011</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77049</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77032</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77401</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77546</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP Code</th>
<th>Number of Surplus Subsidy Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77450</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77007</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77074</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77379</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77494</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undersupply & Oversupply: Houston’s TRS Seats

39 ZIP Codes have 0 TRS seats per 1000 low-income children with working parents.

Another 31 have fewer than 50 subsidy seats per 1000.

Only one, 77494, has a surplus of TRS seats.
Lack of quality seats: **Fewer than 40** Texas Rising Star seats per 1000 low-income children with working parents

Lack of affordable care: **Less than 1/5** of low-income children with working parents have access to a subsidized seat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Texas Rising Star Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>852 per thousand</td>
<td>161 per thousand</td>
<td>183 per thousand</td>
<td>38 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only includes child care demand among **low-income** children.
Complete Communities: Gulfton (77074, 77081)

Access to affordable care: **4-in-5** low-income children with working parents have access to a subsidized seat.

Quality access: **Highest Texas Rising Star access** of all Complete Communities.

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3746 per thousand</td>
<td>1238 per thousand</td>
<td>806 per thousand</td>
<td>308 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only includes child care demand among **low-income** children.
Complete Communities: Near Northside (77009)

**Low TRS Access:** Only 173 TRS-certified seats per thousand low-income children with working parents

**Lack of subsidy access:** Qualifies as a desert in both subsidy categories

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1181 per thousand</td>
<td>331 per thousand</td>
<td>316 per thousand</td>
<td>173 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only includes child care demand among low-income children
Absence of quality seats: **Zero** quality seats of any kind (TRS and otherwise)

Lack of subsidy access: Qualifies as a desert in **both subsidy categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Seats</th>
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<th>Subsidized Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Texas Rising Star Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1446 per thousand</td>
<td>0 per thousand</td>
<td>174 per thousand</td>
<td>0 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only includes child care demand among **low-income** children
Access to affordable care: More than 75% of low-income children with working parents have access to a subsidized seat.

Low access to quality: Only 1-in-10 low-income children with working parents have access to a TRS-certified seat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Any Quality Rating Seats</th>
<th>Subsidized Child Care Seats</th>
<th>Texas Rising Star Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2906 per thousand</td>
<td>609 per thousand</td>
<td>773 per thousand</td>
<td>118 per thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only includes child care demand among low-income children.
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Policy Solutions
Policy Solutions?

What could work in Houston?

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
Child Care Deserts in Houston

http://childrenatrisk.org/childcaredesertmap/
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