




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Adrienne Sturup, Austin Public Health Director 

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

DATE: May 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Response to Goal 7 of Council Resolution 20221201-044

On December 1, 2022, the Austin City Council approved Resolution No. [20221201-044](#). Goal #7 of that resolution focused on affordable, high-quality childcare. The resolution notes, "Consistent with Resolution No. 20210826-108, where appropriate, new City facilities and City-sponsored projects should include affordable, high-quality childcare, especially childcare facilities that serve infants and toddlers and accept vouchers." Goal #7 directed the City Manager to work with United Way Success By Six and other professionals to articulate affordable childcare criteria and present the proposed definition to the Early Childhood Council for recommendations before bringing the proposal to City Council for approval.

Staff drafted criteria and definitions and solicited and incorporated recommendations from Success By Six coalition members and the Early Childhood Council. Following that, on February 8, 2023, the Early Childhood Council members voted unanimously to endorse the draft criteria and definitions. Additional final edits have been made based on input from Workforce Solutions Capital Area staff, who are also Success By Six members and the chair of the Early Childhood Council and Vice President of Success By Six. Staff from the Economic Development Department, Financial Services Department – Real Estate, and the Housing and Planning Department also provided input on and reviewed the criteria and definitions.

Staff recommends the application of the proposed criteria and definitions (see attached) for affordable, high-quality childcare to all City business, including City business related to childcare in new City facilities and City sponsored projects. Please note that staff successfully developed a childcare center at Bergstrom Tech. An agreement is in place with the operator that aligns with the attached criteria for affordable, high-quality childcare.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 512-972-5010 or by email at adrienne.sturup@austintexas.gov.

Attachment: Proposed Criteria and Definitions for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care for Council Consideration

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
Sylvia Holt-Rabb, Director, Economic Development Department
Ed Van Eenoo, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Services Department
Michael Gates, Officer, Real Estate Department
Rosie Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning Department
Edward Campos, Director, Small and Minority Business Resources
Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director, Austin Public Health Department

**Proposed Criteria and Definitions for Affordable, High-Quality Child Care
for Council Consideration
May 1, 2023**

I. Child Care Program

(Note, staff propose the following criteria for a “childcare program” apply to all city business and policies.)

A. A childcare program does all the following:

1. Offers full-day, year-round care
2. Primarily or exclusively serves children birth to age 5 (those who are not yet eligible for kindergarten), including infants and toddlers

II. High-Quality Child Care

(Note, staff propose the following criteria for “high-quality childcare” apply to all city business and policies.)

A. A high-quality childcare program meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Is nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC), and/or other national accreditation recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission
2. Has a Texas Rising Star four-star quality rating
3. Is an Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) program

B. Quality ratings are site-specific, and a childcare site must have 12 months of Child Care Regulations history before being assessed for Texas Rising Star by the local workforce board. Similarly, it takes time for a new site to achieve national accreditation. Therefore, when working with childcare programs on newly developed sites, it is recommended that the City do all the following:

1. Consider whether the operator has a demonstrated experience operating programs that meet one or more of the above quality criteria as outlined in II.A.1, II.A.2, and II.A.3
2. Require that the childcare operator for a new site agree to operate the program at high quality standards from day one, preferably based on NAEYC Standards, and at a minimum, based on the requirements for achieving a Texas Rising Star four-star rating, and that the operator do at least one of the following:
 - i. Achieve a Texas Rising Star four-star rating within 18 months of opening
 - ii. Seek national accreditation, preferably through NAEYC, within 18 months of opening

III. Affordable Child Care

(Note, staff propose the following criteria for “affordable childcare” apply specifically for the purposes of City business and policies related to childcare in new City facilities and City-sponsored projects, and that it does not more broadly to all city business and policies.)

A. An affordable childcare program meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. Serves at least 10 children ages birth to 5 who receive Texas Workforce

Commission childcarescholarships through the local workforce development board

2. At least 20% of children enrolled receive Texas Workforce Commission childcare scholarships through the local workforce development board
 3. Offers childcare at no cost to families
- B. An affordable childcare program may be a licensed childcare center or a licensed or registered childcarehome.