

**Answers to ECC Budget Workgroup questions  
Updated 3/19/2024**

**1. Is there usually demand for 8 pre-K classrooms? Are there ever issues with being able to use up these funds? And if there were extra funds, could they go to Pre-K partnerships?**

There was only one year during the pandemic in which the City had trouble finding districts that could use all of these funds. That year, we provided funds for classroom supplies to PKP classrooms through UWATX by adding the funds into the City's existing ARPA agreement with UWATX.

If there were an issue being able to use the funds in a given year, we would likely need Council approval to use the funds for a different need/purpose.

**2. What is the impact of each of the ARPA funded programs? How many people served, etc.? They are trying to understand the impact of not having this funding anymore.**

**Child care**

In 2023, WFS used ARPA funds to provide child care for 189 unduplicated children. ARPA direct child care funds were focused on providing care for families needing continuity of child care to avoid disruptions in care, care for essential workers living outside of Austin Full Purpose area who were not eligible for other essential worker funding, and care for children aged three years and younger and their older siblings.

62% the families served within this funding were from single parent households. These funds prevented child care disruptions, reduced the number of families and children on the child care subsidy waitlists, improved access to early education for these children, and helped their parents remain in the workforce.

**Premium pay essential worker wage stipends**

2022 - \$2500

- 92 credentialed child care teachers (AA, BA, or MA)
- 29 teachers with CDAs
- 137 non-credentialed child care staff who work in high quality programs

2023 - \$1200

- 343 non-credentialed child care staff who work in high quality programs
- (Note, in 2023, Workforce Solutions used other quality dollars – i.e. not ARPA funds – to provide premium pay wage stipends to 81 credentialed child care teachers and 20 teachers with CDAs.)

A follow up survey was sent to the 2023 Jeanette Watson recipients in February. This included those who received additional ARPA Premium Pay Stipends. Of the 212 recipients who completed the survey roughly 1 year from initially applying for Jeanette Watson, 88% (187 out of 212 responses) reported still being at the same employer and 96% reported they were still working in the Early Childhood Education field. Currently, the average annual turnover rate for Early Childhood Professionals is over 20% (<https://texestest.org/texas-early-education-turnover->



Infrastructure Grant. There is not currently funding identified for the other ARPA funded staff beyond 2024, though APH is coordinating with Jessica Lucky at UWATX to look for funding that may be able to cover at least some of these positions after this year (such as whether there will be a possibility of further expansion of MIECHV funding for Family Connects).

Year	Total number served	ARPA Increase
2021	891	
2022	885	200+
2023	1088	270+

FC started spending in Dec 2021 on computers and then Temps started hitting the books in Jan 2022