

AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE **NOW!**

A broad coalition convened by United Way for Greater Austin that comprises of Travis County civic organizations, businesses, and community members who support equitable access to affordable, quality childcare for all.

August 2024

Timeline ECC Actions

AFFORDABLE
CHILDCARE **NOW!**

April 2023 - Children's Funding Project Overview

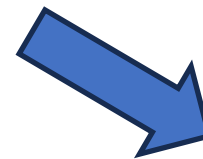
January 10, 2024 – Cost model of child care in
Austin – Travis County

March 20, 2024 – Children's Funding Project
Presentation

April 16, Resolution to endorse Children's Funding
Project Workgroup Recommendations

May 14th Travis County Commissioners
Approve Travis County CARES Resolution

June 25 Travis County Commissioners
Briefing, Discussion and Vote



**August 13 Public Hearing and
Commissioners Court Vote**

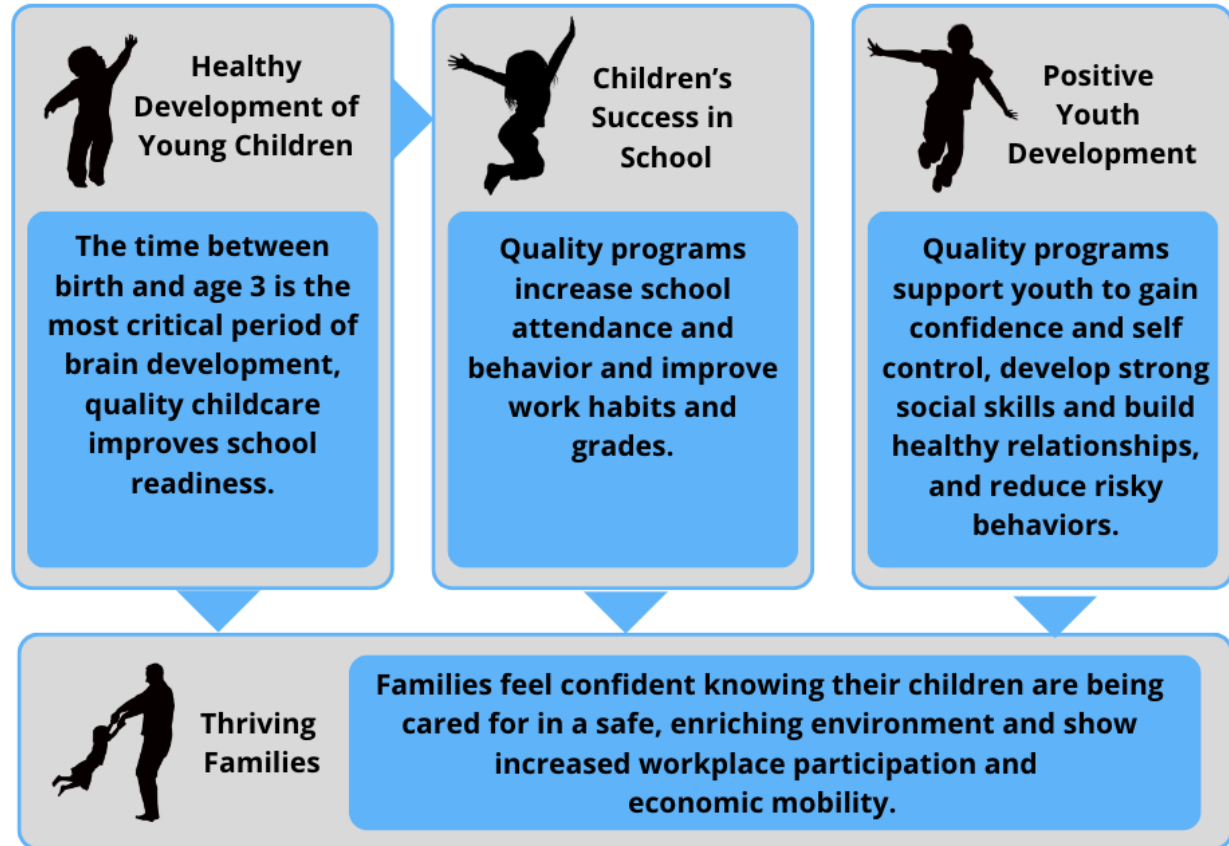
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Travis County CARES Resolution

Creating Access for Resilient
Families Overview of Strategic
Investments in Childcare



Benefits of Quality Childcare



The Case for Significant Investments in Childcare

- Workforce
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- School Readiness
- Ongoing School Success
- Market Failure
- Equity
- Social Returns

"It's time to start treating childcare as essential infrastructure — just as worthy of funding as roads and fiber optic cables."

Melinda Gates, 2021

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Background:

- Success By 6 ATX
- Children's Funding Project (CFP)
- Learn All the Time (LATT) Network



SUCCESS BY 6
AUSTIN/TRAVIS COALITION

CHILDREN'(\$)
FUNDING PROJECT

 **LEARN**
all the time

Goals & Guiding Principles

- Increase Access
- Improve Affordability
- Invest in Quality
- Grow the Workforce
- Strengthen the System

- Ground Solutions in Data
- Seek Equity
- Leverage Existing Assets
- Ensure Accountability and Efficiency

Adapted from Travis County Court Briefing

Recommended Strategies for Investment

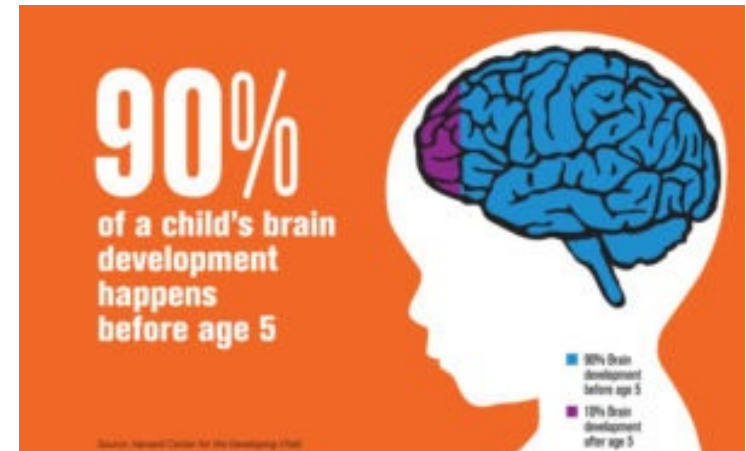
- **Expand Slots**
 - ◆ Early Childhood
 - ◆ Afterschool/Summer
- **Expand care in early morning, evening and weekend hours**
- **Build quality and capacity**
 - ◆ Early Childhood
 - ◆ Afterschool/Summer
- **Create a Business-Government Alliance**

Adapted from Travis County Court Briefing

Strategy 1: Expanded Slots

Early Childhood

- Expand access with funding to create additional capacity through contracts
 - ◆ Guaranteed capacity
- Focus on full-day, year-round care (birth through age 3 years)
- Supplement subsidy funding for infants and toddlers to match cost of quality



Adapted from Children's Funding Project
Work Group | 2024

Strategy 1: Expanded Slots

Afterschool / Summer

- Expand access with funding to create additional capacity through contracts for new sites or additional slots at existing sites for youth in least resourced areas of Travis County
- Focus on quality afterschool and summer programming



Strategy 2: Expand care for early mornings, evenings, and weekends

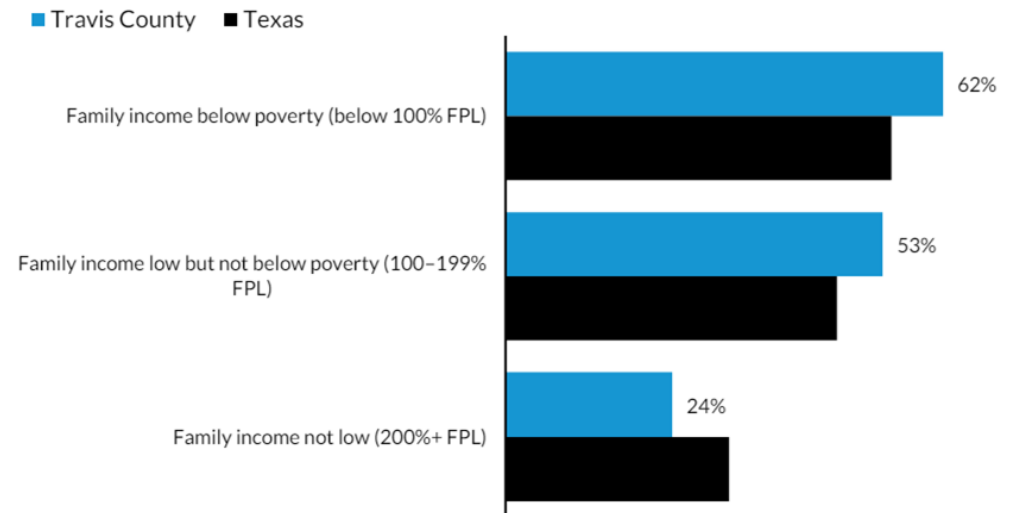
Austin/Travis County's supply of care in these hours **serves only 10% of need**. This care would benefit children of all age groups.

Adapted from Children's Funding Project Work Group | 2024

FIGURE 2

Children with Parents Working Nontraditional Hours, by Family Income Level

Share of children younger than age 6 in working families who have parents working or commuting during any nontraditional hours



Strategy 3: Build Quality & Capacity



Coordination & Data Systems

Early childhood and after school / summer programs



Childcare Workforce

Recruitment and retention, professional pathways



Dedicated Funding

Support for in-home childcare programs

Adapted from Children's Funding Project Work Group | 2024

Strategy 4: Create a Business- Government Alliance

Incentivize businesses to contribute to the cost of child care for employees by matching public funds to employer contributions, **up to 50% tuition cost.**



Adapted from Children's Funding Project Work Group | 2024

Administration & Governance

Travis County Commissioners Court

Oversight body empowered with accountability and quality assurance tools.

Travis County Health & Human Services

Administering body to distribute funds to community organizations to implement programs.

Community Advisory Board

Composed of parents, providers and other local experts.

Regular independent evaluations of the expenditures

Short & Long-Term Economic Impact

\$308m

**NEW Revenue in
Travis County, Annually**

- Stimulating the childcare industry has strong positive economic implications as increased revenue ripples through the economy with greater workforce participation, wages, and increased spending.
- Increased business productivity and reduced turnover and absenteeism caused by lack of affordable childcare.

6287

**NEW Employees
in the Workforce**

- Increased funding for childcare across the continuum allows more families to enter the labor force, increase hours at work, or to complete workforce development programs to increase their skills and wages.

Travis County HHS, Children's Funding Project, United Way of Greater Austin, Andy Roddick Foundation

45,000

**Families impacted
over 12 years**

**Every \$1
invested in
quality child
care yields
about a \$9
return on
investment.**

Timeline

<i>Date (Tentative)</i>	<i>Agenda Item Content or Other Milestone</i>
August 13, 2024 (Tuesday)	Commissioners Court Voting Session; Order election
Early Voting Begins	October 21, 2024
November 5, 2024 (Tuesday)	Election Day 2024
November 12, 2024 (Tuesday)	Commissioners Court Voting Session; Canvassing of Election Results

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Thank You!