



Austin-Travis County Family Child Care Educator Network

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

CAITLIN OLIVER, AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH



Planning grant

\$25,000 grant from Home Grown, called the “Building Comprehensive Networks (BCN)” grant

In 2024, we planned a comprehensive support network for home-based/family child care providers in Austin-Travis County.

The **Austin-Travis County Family Child Care Educator Network** will include supports for all types of home-based providers:

- Licensed
- Registered
- Listed
- Family, Friend, & Neighbor (FFN)

La función del núcleo de una red completa



Home-based child care (HBCC)

Nationwide, 40% of infants and toddlers attend HBCC

Parents choose home-based care because the provider:

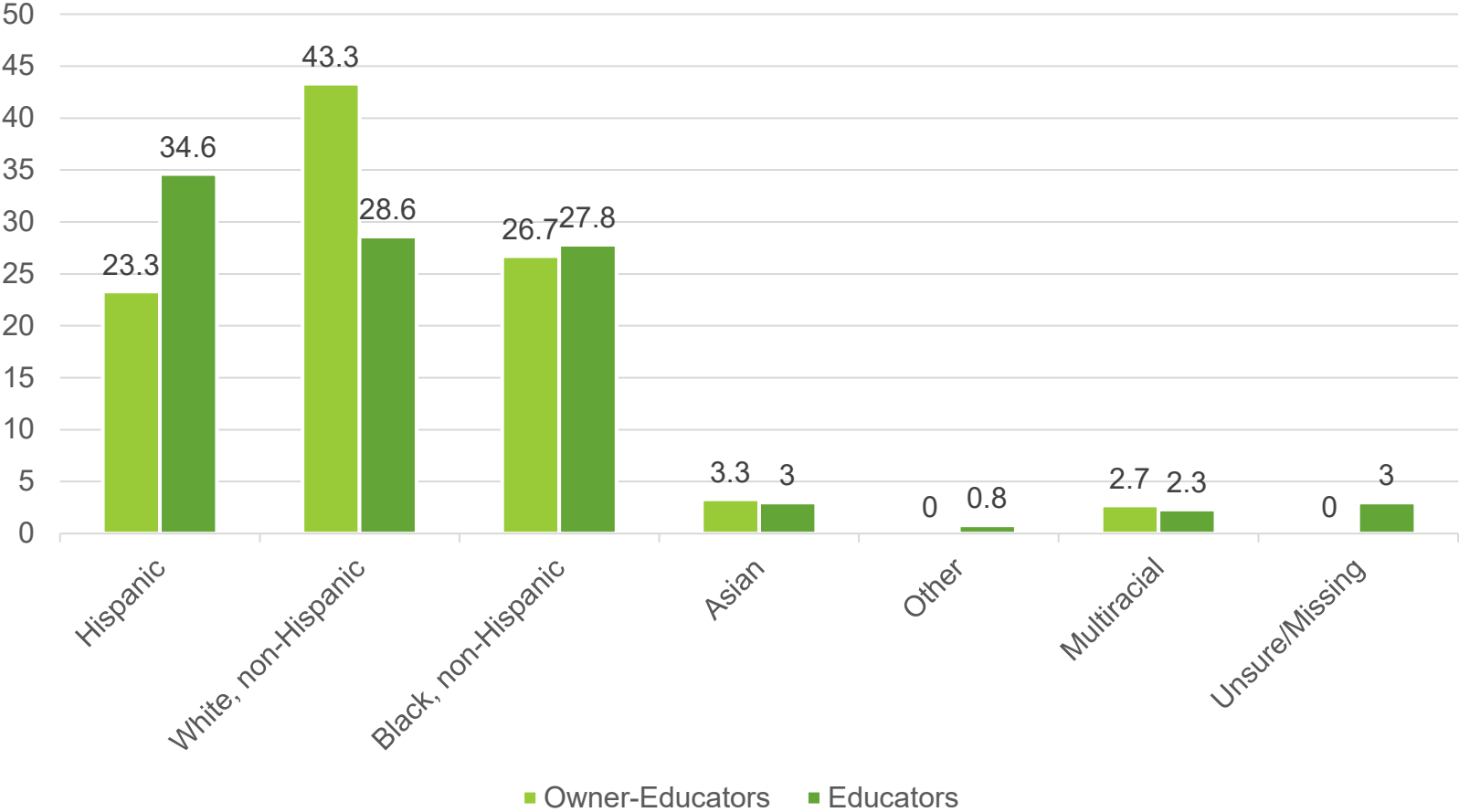
- Shares their culture
- Speaks their home language
- Offers the most affordable option
- Offers child care during non-traditional hours such as evenings, overnight, and weekends
- Is a trusted member of the community, a friend, a family member, or a neighbor
- Lives close to their home

Texas Early Childhood Workforce

- 85% of early childhood educators in Texas make less than a living wage.
- In Texas, the median wage of an early childhood educator is \$12.00 per hour.
- Early childhood educators at child care programs that accept subsidies make less than those who work for child care programs that do not.
- Compared to White early childhood educators, Hispanic early childhood educators earn significantly less regardless of education, experience, or location.
- 7 in 10 early childhood educators who work full time do not receive health insurance from their employer.
- Half do not have access to paid sick leave.

[Source: PN3PIC_Workgroup-Recommendationsto-Informthe-2022StrategicPlan.pdf \(pn3policy.org\)](#)

Home-based child care providers



Target Population

- All home-based providers (Licensed, registered, listed, FFN)
- Geographic Region: City of Austin and Travis County

Outputs

- Year 1: 50 home-based providers are network members
- Year 2: 70 home-based providers are network members

Long-term Outcomes/Impacts

- Improved provider well-being
- Improved economic well-being and sustainability
- Improved home-based child care (HBCC) quality
- Improved child health and development and family well-being

Comprehensive Network Strategy

Funding:

- City of Austin program funds
- Home Grown implementation grant

Public Policy and Funding

Public investment in networks as durable infrastructure. May be supplemented by Private Investments

Public Policy & Funding

Capacity Building

Tools & Programs

Network Hub

Staffing:

- City of Austin staff (including in-kind staffing)
- Staff person with FCC experience

Materials:

- Business tools (e.g., Texas Child Care Tools)

Physical space:

- Space for network meetings

Existing infrastructure:

- Collaboration with United Way, GAVA, AVANCE



Provider Voice:

- Provider advisory committee
- Other opportunities as they arise (e.g., feedback at trainings)

Main activities in Year 1

Strengthening systems of support

Peer mentor program

Monthly meetings

Trainings

Financial relief grant program for eligible registered and licensed providers

Resource sharing

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) membership

Connecting providers and families to resources

2025 (Year 1) Budget

\$75,000 implementation grant from Home Grown

\$75,000 from the City of Austin in matching funds, approved in fiscal year 2025 budget

City of Austin in-kind staffing to support implementation of the network

Majority of Year 1 funding will be used to hire a person to run the network and for the financial relief grant program.

Additional funds are needed to fully fund the network in 2025 and expand the network in future years.

Next steps

- Execute contract with Home Grown for the \$75K implementation grant
- Economic Development Department to hire a network staff person
- Roll out financial relief grants for eligible home-based providers
- Form the Provider Advisory Committee
- Recruit network members

Questions

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