Childcare Fee Waiver Program

Austin Economic Development
November 18, 2026

Reducing Development Costs for Childcare Providers

Austin



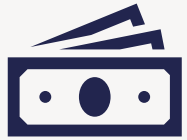
Opening a Childcare Program

A new childcare program may qualify for relief from certain City development fees.



Expanding an Existing Program

Eligible expansions of existing high-quality childcare programs are also within the program's stated scope.



Supporting Provider Investment

The waiver is designed to lessen eligible development-related costs as providers open or expand.

CITY COORDINATION

Austin Economic Development & Development Services
Outreach Support from Austin Public Health, Citywide NET PIO distribution, Council Office Communications

Fee Waiver Eligibility Criteria and Awards

Type 1 Fee Waivers for Conditional Use Permits	Tier 1
Childcare Program must be located within a City of Austin Council District	X
Amount of Fees Waived (up to)	**$7,500**

Type 3 Fee Waivers for New High-Quality Childcare Construction Projects	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Childcare Program must be located within a City of Austin Council District	X	X	X
Childcare Program is located in a Childcare Desert (Defined map)		Meet at least one of these two criteria	X
Childcare Program has an additional location(s) with a high-quality designation within a City of Austin Council District			X
Amount of Fees Waived (Up To):	**$10,000**	**$15,000**	**$20,000**

Type 2 Fee Waivers for Expansion of Existing High-Quality Childcare Programs	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Childcare Program must be located within a City of Austin Council District	X	X	X
Childcare Program is licensed or registered with Texas Childcare Regulation	X	X	X
Childcare Program is certified as Four-Star rated Texas Rising Star program (TRS) and/or Certified by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	X	X	X
Childcare Program serves Childcare scholarships (20% or less of available program seats)	X	X	X
Childcare Program serves Childcare scholarships (more than 20% of available program seats)		X	X
Childcare Program Located in a Childcare Desert (Defined map)		X	X
Childcare Program Provides Program Staff a Living Wage			X
Amount of Fees Waived (Up To)	**$10,000**	**$15,000**	**$20,000**

How the Fee Waiver is Processed

A coordinated workflow between the provider, Austin Development Services, and Austin Economic Development

Submit a building permit application

The customer begins through Development Services (DSD).

Receive an invoice from DSD

DSD generates and sends the relevant development-fee invoice.

Send the invoice to Economic Development

EDD reviews the invoice and determines which fees qualify for waiver approval.

Confirm approved fees with DSD

EDD informs DSD Commercial Intake and provides verification documentation.

Complete year-end reimbursement reporting

DSD Finance submits waived-fee totals to the Budget Office.

October Communications & Promotion

Initial awareness efforts included email, social media, and Council office channels

Austin

AUSTIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OCT 13

10,881

Newsletter Recipients

OCT 27

10,682

Newsletter Recipients

FACEBOOK + INSTAGRAM • OCT 8

199 English views | 78 Spanish views

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH

OCT 16

29,797

Newsletter Recipients

CHILD CARE UPDATES NEWSLETTER

482 recipients

UNITED WAY GREATER AUSTIN

Early Learning Advancement Collective

191

Newsletter Recipients

Upcoming Newsletter

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Child Care Director Newsletter

510

Newsletter Recipients

Includes 330 childcare providers
Newsletter going out first week of December

ADDITIONAL AMPLIFICATION

Promotional toolkit with marketing copy, graphics, and program information were shared with all Council Districts and the Mayor's Office. EDD PIO will continue amplifying through all channels on an ongoing basis.



Thank you!