

1 **Child Care and Development Fund**
2 **Executive Summary for the State Plan for Program Years 2022-2024**

3 The Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
4 describes the CCDF program to be administered by Texas from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2024.

5 The CCDF State Plan is the primary means by which the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
6 determines state and territory compliance with the requirements of the Child Care and Development
7 Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG) and the CCDF Final Rule.

8 The Child Care and Early Learning Division completed the following key activities in the development of
9 the Draft CCDF State Plan:

- 10 • Stakeholder Input in the Development of the CCDF State Plan – November 2020-January 2021
 - 11 ○ TWC conducted a [Stakeholder Survey](#) and received 3,237 responses from child care
 - 12 providers, parents, Boards, and early childhood advocates
 - 13 ○ TWC conducted two focus groups, one with child care providers, one with early childhood
 - 14 advocates, and one with Boards
 - 15 ○ TWC presented survey results and stakeholder input during a public open meeting of the
 - 16 Texas Early Learning Council and solicited input from the council
 - 17 ○ TWC continues to solicit stakeholder input on the [TWC Child Care & Early Learning](#)
 - 18 [Services](#) webpage
 - 19

20 The Child Care and Early Learning Division anticipates the following future activities and milestones
21 leading to the submission of the state plan no later than June 30, 2021:

- 22 • Commission Approval of a Draft CCDF State Plan – Tuesday April 20, 2021
- 23 • Post Plan for Public Comment: Wednesday April 21, 2021 through Friday May 11, 2021
- 24 • Public Hearing– Tuesday April 27, 2021, 6:00pm
- 25 • Commission Approval of Final CCDF State Plan – June 2021
- 26 • CCDF State Plan Effective Date – October 1, 2021
- 27

28 While much of the CCDF State Plan reflects the state’s existing structure and policies for the
29 administration of CCDF, states also use the State Plan to outline overarching goals for the upcoming three
30 years.

31 The Draft CCDF State Plan sections for 2022-2024 and key updates to Texas’ plan are described below.

32 **1. Define CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Relevant Systems and Funding Sources**
33

34 *Public-Private Partnerships*

35 TWC will continue to explore systemic strategies for increasing and expanding pre-K partnerships
36 statewide. (1.6.1)

37 TWC will continue to explore meaningful, systemic strategies to support local shared services
38 alliances. (1.6.1)

39 TWC will continue to explore improvements and expansion of the Texas Workforce Registry, as
40 well as strategies to use its data to better understand and support the child care industry. (1.6.1)
41

1 **2. Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education**

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3 Consumer Education Website

4 TWC is in the process of creating a new consumer education website with the aid of a technical
5 assistance grant from the Child Care State Capacity Building Center and the National Center on
6 Subsidy Innovation and Accountability. TWC will coordinate with other state agencies who
7 provide early childhood services in an effort to design a comprehensive platform. This will
8 require coordination across multiple state agencies that are part of an interagency team formed in
9 2018 and led by the interagency early childhood deputy director. (2.3.1)

10 TWC is exploring enhancements to the existing Texas Child Care availability portal - a tool that
11 connects parents to open child care slots by allowing providers to voluntarily indicate their vacant
12 seats and enrollment by age group. TWC will partner with the Texas Education Agency and with
13 the State Head Start Office to expand the list of early childhood programs in the Portal to include
14 Prekindergarten and Head Start/Early Head Start options.

15 Additional Consumer and Provider Education

16 The state is exploring a parent education and outreach campaign to provide parents with
17 information on Texas Rising Star and emphasize the importance of considering quality in the
18 selection of a child care provider. (2.4.1)

19 **3. Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families**
20 **Family Contribution to Payments**

21 TWC will explore developing a statewide policy on parent copays, and as part of the review will
22 analyze variances in parents' share of cost with the goal of creating a standard framework that all
23 Boards will follow to determine families' contribution to the cost of child care. (3.2.2)

24 **4. Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Low-Income Children**

25 Maximize Parental Choice and Implement Supply Building Mechanisms

26 TWC will explore additional opportunities to improve policies and procedures to reduce the
27 barriers for provider participation in child care subsidies. (4.1.3)

28 TWC continues to explore opportunities to support family child care networks to build supply and
29 improve quality in underserved areas and statewide. (4.1.8)

30 TWC will continue to explore opportunities to support child care business practices across the
31 state. (4.1.8)

32 TWC is exploring opportunities to promote new shared services alliance hubs to allow child care
33 providers to partner with other programs in their area to leverage economies of scale and secure
34 advantageous pricing structures on goods and services. (4.1.8)

35
36 Assess Market Rates and Analyze the Cost of Child Care

37 TWC will request a waiver for the required Narrow Cost Analysis for FY 2022. TWC will procure
38 a vendor to conduct a narrow cost analysis. (4.2.5)

39
40 **5. Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child**
41 **Care Settings**

42 No significant changes.

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1 **6. Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce**

2 Professional Development Framework

3 TWC is exploring opportunities to continue to improve Texas Early Childhood Professional
4 Development System (TECPDS) services and solicit feedback from stakeholders. (6.1.1)

5 Training and Professional Development Requirements

6 TWC continues to explore opportunities to support child care businesses, particularly those related
7 to the pandemic’s ongoing impacts on such businesses. (6.2.1)

8 TWC is exploring opportunities to address mental health for early childhood educators and
9 children in care. (6.2.6)

10 **7. Support Continuous Quality Improvement**

11 Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) or Another System of Quality Improvement

12 TWC will continue to implement and explore opportunities improve the Continuous Quality
13 Improvement Process framework for Texas Rising Star. (7.3.6)

14 Child Care Resource and Referral

15 TWC will explore opportunities for improving the provision of resource and referral information
16 through our existing infrastructure, working in partnership with our 28 Local Boards. (7.5.1)

17 **8. Ensure Grantee Program Integrity and Accountability**

18 No significant changes.
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