

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 Following the Commission’s approval of the Draft CCDF State Plan on April 20, 2021, the Child Care  
20 and Early Learning Division completed the following key activities:

- 21 • Posted Plan for Public Comment from April 21, 2021 through May 11, 2021 and received 22
- 22 written comments from stakeholders.
- 23 • Held Public Hearing on April 27, 2021 and heard oral testimony from 23 stakeholders.
- 24 • Amended the Plan based on feedback from stakeholders and legislative action

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

- 27 • Commission Approval of Final CCDF State Plan – June 24, 2021
- 28 • CCDF State Plan Effective Date – October 1, 2021

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

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

31 *Public-Private Partnerships*

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

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

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

39

1 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan

2 In collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Child Care  
3 Regulation (CCR) division, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and the  
4 Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), TWC improved and updated the Statewide  
5 Child Care Disaster Plan to reflect lessons learned during COVID-19. (1.8)

6  
7 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 8 • New language was added pursuant to House Bill 2607, which requires each Board to  
9 inform the local school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in the workforce area  
10 regarding opportunities to partner with child care providers to expand access to and  
11 provide facilities for prekindergarten programs. (1.4.1)

12  
13 **2. Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education**

14  
15 Consumer Education Website

16 TWC is in the process of creating a new consumer education website with the aid of a technical  
17 assistance grant from the Child Care State Capacity Building Center and the National Center on  
18 Subsidy Innovation and Accountability. TWC will coordinate with other state agencies who  
19 provide early childhood services in an effort to design a comprehensive platform. This will  
20 require coordination across multiple state agencies that are part of an interagency team formed in  
21 2018 and led by the interagency early childhood deputy director. (2.3.1)

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

27 Additional Consumer and Provider Education

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

31 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 32 • New language added related to updates to Child Care Regulation (CCR) Minimum  
33 Standards. (2.2)
- 34 • New language added to clarify that TWC will seek stakeholder input in the development of  
35 a new consumer education website. (2.3.1)
- 36

1 **3. Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families**

2 Family Contribution to Payments

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

6 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 7 • New language added related to the temporary waiver of TWC rule §809.41(a)(3)(B), in  
8 response to COVID impacts, allowing eligibility for unemployed parents, providing up to  
9 3 months of child care during job search. (3.1.2 & 3.2.2)
- 10 • Updates were made to CCR rule citations (3.3.6)

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

12 Maximize Parental Choice and Implement Supply Building Mechanisms

13 TWC will explore additional opportunities to improve policies and procedures to reduce the  
14 barriers for provider participation in child care subsidies. (4.1.3)  
15 TWC continues to explore opportunities to support family child care networks to build supply and  
16 improve quality in underserved areas and statewide. (4.1.8)  
17 TWC will continue to explore opportunities to support child care business practices across the  
18 state. (4.1.8)  
19 TWC is exploring opportunities to promote new shared services alliance hubs to allow child care  
20 providers to partner with other programs in their area to leverage economies of scale and secure  
21 advantageous pricing structures on goods and services. (4.1.8)

22 Assess Market Rates and Analyze the Cost of Child Care

23  
24 TWC will request a waiver for the required Narrow Cost Analysis for FY 2022. TWC will procure  
25 a vendor to conduct a narrow cost analysis. (4.2.5)

26  
27 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 28 • New language added related TWC's technical assistance and business coaching to all  
29 regulated providers. (4.1.8)
- 30 • New language added related to the upcoming Stabilization Subgrants to providers, funded  
31 with American Rescue Plan Act CCDBG allocations. (4.1.8)
- 32 • New language added pursuant to Senate Bill 1555, which requires TWC to align maximum  
33 reimbursement rates with the age groups reflected by HHSC CCR. (4.3.2)

1 **5. Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child**  
2 **Care Settings**

3 No significant changes.  
4

5 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 6 • New language and citations added related to updates to Child Care Regulation (CCR)  
7 Minimum Standards. (5.1-5.3, 5.5)

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

9 **Professional Development Framework**

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

12 **Training and Professional Development Requirements**

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

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

17 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 18 • New language added pursuant to House Bill 619, which requires TWC to create a strategic  
19 plan to improve the quality of the workforce for child care. (6.1.1)

20 **7. Support Continuous Quality Improvement**

21 **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) or Another System of Quality Improvement**

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

24 **Child Care Resource and Referral**

25 TWC will explore opportunities for improving the provision of resource and referral information  
26 through our existing infrastructure, working in partnership with our 28 Local Boards. (7.5.1)  
27  
28

29 ***Key changes in the final plan are as follows:***

- 30 • New language added related to Commission action authorizing Boards to recognize  
31 CLASS-scored teacher-child interactions towards the Texas Rising Star Category 2 scoring  
32 (7.1.2)
- 33 • New language added pursuant to House Bill 1792, which requires TWC to competitively  
34 procure a single entity to oversee a statewide roster of qualified assessor staff to evaluate  
35 child-care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program during the initial  
36 certification process and at any time during the provider’s participation in the program.  
37 (7.1.2)

- 1           • Marked participation in Texas Rising Star as partially mandatory and added new language  
2           pursuant to House Bill 2607, which requires all subsidy providers to participate in Texas  
3           Rising Star. (7.3.2)
- 4           • Added language pursuant to Senate Bill 1555, which requires TWC to develop strategies to  
5           address increased infant and toddler costs for Texas Rising Star 3- and 4-star providers due  
6           to the lower ratios for those children. (7.4.1)
- 7           • Updated reporting period for Boards to every twelve months, pursuant to House Bill 2607.  
8           (7.7.1)

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

10           No significant changes.

11           **Decision Point**

12           Staff seeks direction on approval of the final 2022-2024 CCDF State Plan, which must be submitted to  
13           ACF by June 30, 2021, and requests the authority to make technical changes to the plan as needed prior to  
14           submission.