



Child Care Services Journey Ahead:

What to Expect in the Coming Year

Your Presenters

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Agenda

- Overview of Child Care Legislation Passed by the 89th Texas Legislature
- Upcoming Amendments to TWC Chapter 809 Child Care Services Rules
- New Child Care Quad Agency Committee
- New Process Improvement Workgroup – the CCS Provider Journey



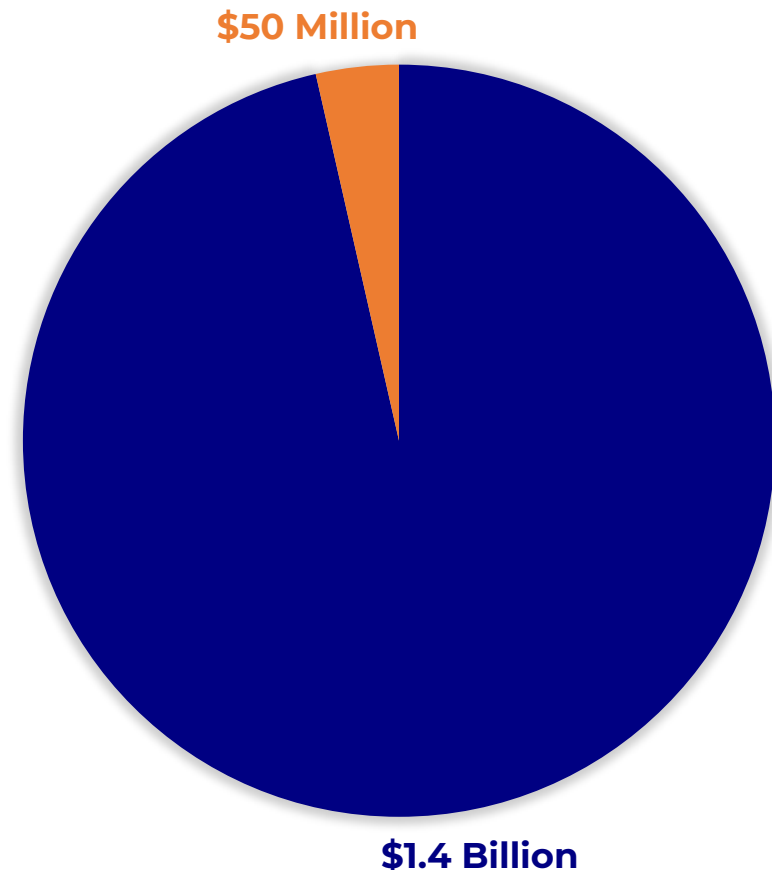
The 89th Texas Legislature

- Additional \$100 million appropriated for 2026-27 biennium
- SB 462 (child care worker priority)
- HB 2294 (CCS rates)
- SB 1265 (online child care resources for employers)
- Other early childhood legislation

SB 1 – Additional \$100 Million for CCS

- Appropriated additional \$100 million for TWC Child Care Services in the 2026-27 biennium (\$50 million per year)
- Additional funds will cover increased costs resulting from:
 - Higher market rates
 - More Texas Rising Star certified programs

FY 2026 FUNDS

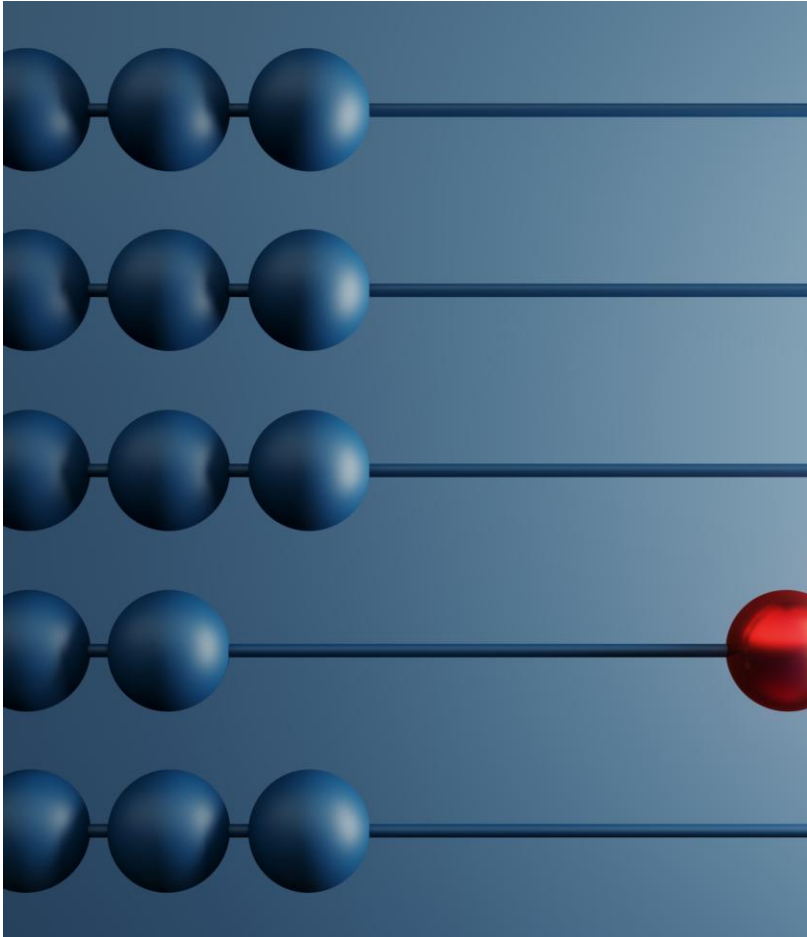


SB 462 – Child Care Worker Priority

- Establishes a waiting list priority for children of child care workers
- The child care worker whose child receives a priority may continue to receive CCS at their 12-month redetermination, as long as they meet CCS eligibility (they do not need to be working in a child care program at redetermination)



HB 2294 – Paying the Higher CCS Rate



- Allows Boards to reimburse Texas Rising Star Program providers at the Board's maximum reimbursement rate, regardless of the provider's published rate
- *Paying the higher rate must not impact meeting the Board's contracted performance target for average number of children served per day – **Requires non-TWC funds to implement***

SB 1265 – Employer Child Care Resources

- Directs TWC to add additional information to our website to help employers assist their employees in accessing child care

[Texas Work & Family Policies - Texas Workforce Commission](#)



Other Early Childhood Legislation

Legislation for which Texas Education Agency is the lead:



HB 3963 – development of an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)



HB 117 – Governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education and care



HB 2310 – Strategic plan for the improvement and expansion of early learning and educational opportunities for young children with disabilities



Child Care Services Rules

- Effective Winter 2025
- Effective Summer/Fall 2026
 - Technical changes
 - Legislative implementation
 - Texas Rising Star changes

Winter 2025 Rule Amendments



Fast-tracked,
finalized rules:

- Child care worker priority (effective January 5, 2026)
- Adding the ability for the Commission to waive rules to support program innovation and pilot initiatives

Summer 2026 Rule Amendments

- HB 2294 – Paying the Higher CCS Rate
- Exceptions for Providers Recording Attendance
- Services to Children Experiencing Homelessness
- Streamline Language Regarding Children Receiving Services from a Recognized Prekindergarten Partnership
- Confidentiality of Child Care Information
- Scope of Subchapter F Regarding Child Care Fraud

Summer 2026 Rule Amendments, Cont'd

Texas Rising Star Changes:

- Texas Rising Star Facility Changes
- Impacts of Child Care Regulation Licensing Compliance on Texas Rising Star Certification
- Removing the 20-Day Texas Rising Star Assessment Schedule Deadline
- Texas Rising Star Mentor Requirements Changes





Quad Agency Child Care Initiative Committee

- Quad Agency Committee created by HB 4903, 89th Legislative session
- Adds new Chapter 74 to the Texas Human Resources Code
- Members include TWC (Chair), TEA, HHSC, and DFPS

Quad Agency Child Care Initiative - Duties

- Coordinate agency initiatives that impact the cost, quality or accessibility of child care in Texas
- Consider and start interagency initiatives to expand access to quality, affordable child care
- Review and recommend actions to streamline regulations, rules, policies, or other actions with focus on:
 - Conflicts or duplication
 - Insurance costs
 - Health/safety of children
 - Quality education
 - Consistent enforcement mechanisms

Quad Agency Child Care Initiative - Meetings

- Minimum of 3 times per year
- First meeting by 12/31/25
- Meetings may be in-person, or virtual
- Recording and live broadcast of meetings
- Report to Office of the Governor items under review

Quad Agency Child Care Initiative - Reviews

- The Quad Agency Chair (TWC's Chairman) initiates reviews
- The public may submit recommendations for items to review, for the Chair's consideration
- All items selected for review will be posted for public comment
- Following the review, the Quad Agency Commission makes determination (no change, change, cannot determine)
- Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office makes final decision if Committee either cannot determine, or determines a change is needed

Quad Agency Child Care Initiative – If Change Needed

- Cease enforcement as soon as practicable
- Withdraw rule/activity as soon as practicable
- May replace with a less restrictive rule/activity
- The Quad Agency Commission and the TREOA may provide suggestions
- Nothing in the legislation may be construed to authorize the Quad Agency Commission or the TREO to require an agency to adopt a less restrictive rule, regulation or policy

Quad Agency Child Care Initiative - Website

- Reviews:
 - Process to request a review
 - Public comments for reviews
 - Active reviews
 - Past reviews
- Subscribe for updates
- Meetings:
 - Upcoming – date/time, agenda, how to participate
 - Past – minutes, recording, report to Office of the Governor


Quad Agency Child Care Initiative - Contact

- Email: QuadAgency.Feedback@twc.texas.gov
- Subscribe for updates: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/subscribe>
 - Select "All Other TWC Subscriptions"
 - Enter email address then select "Quad Agency Child Care Initiative"

All Other TWC subscriptions

Subscribe to a TWC subscription that is not listed above. Pick and choose from a variety of topics such as: Labor Market & Career Information, Child Care, Vocational Rehabilitation, News for Veterans, and more!

☐ Child Care

- ☒ Child Care Information
- ☒ Early Childhood Care and Education
- ☒ Quad Agency Child Care Initiative 



The CCS Provider Journey

Building a Better Future,
Together.

A New Partnership to Support
Texas Child Care Providers

We know It Hasn't Always Been Easy

Providers are busy changing lives. The last thing they need is a system that's complicated, confusing, or slow.

We've heard that working with the system can sometimes feel like:

- Navigating a maze of paperwork.
- Waiting for answers and payments.
- Repeating their story to different people.
- Spending more time on administration than with the children.

It's time for a change. And that change starts with them.

Our Mission: Walk a Mile in Their Shoes

Phase 1: Listening and Learning

To build a system that truly works for the providers, we must understand their world. We're starting this entire project with one simple goal: **to listen.**

What to expect:

- **We're inviting them to share their story:** A group of providers from across Texas will be invited for in-depth conversations.
- **A statewide survey:** We want to hear from everyone. We'll be sending out a survey to understand their day-to-day experiences, the highs, and the lows.

The Providers voice is the foundation of everything we will build.

Imagine a Future Where....

Based on what we learn; we will design a new experience.

Imagine a future where:

- Answers are easy to find.
- Processes are simple and fast.
- Communication is clear and consistent.
- Providers have one place to go for everything you need.
- Providers feel like a valued partner, not just a number.

This isn't a fantasy. This is the goal.

Our Roadmap: Making the Plan a Reality

We have a clear, dedicated plan to get from today to that better future.

1. **Listen & Learn (Now):** We gather your invaluable feedback.
2. **Design & Plan (Next 3 Months):** We turn the providers feedback into a concrete action plan, testing ideas and getting everything ready. We'll even run a small pilot program to make sure we get it right.
3. **Launch & Improve (Ongoing):** We'll roll out the improvements and—this is key—we will **never stop listening**. This is the beginning of a continuous partnership to always make things better.

What This Means For the Providers

More Time for What Matters

- Less time on paperwork, more time with kids.
- A single, integrated system means no more hunting for information.

Less Hassle, Less Red Tape

- Smoother, faster processes from start to finish.
- We'll know your story, so you won't have to repeat yourself.

A True Partnership

- Clearer, more consistent communication.
- Data and insights to help us better support your business needs.

We Need You! Be a Part of the Change.

This project will only succeed with your wisdom and expertise.

How can you get involved?

- **Take the survey:** When it arrives in your inbox, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. It matters.
- **Volunteer for an interview:** Want to share more? Let us know. We are looking for providers who are passionate about making a difference.
- **Stay tuned:** We will be providing regular updates on our progress.

You are the experts. Help us build the system you deserve.

Questions?

