



Child Care Availability and Affordability is in Jeopardy without State Investment

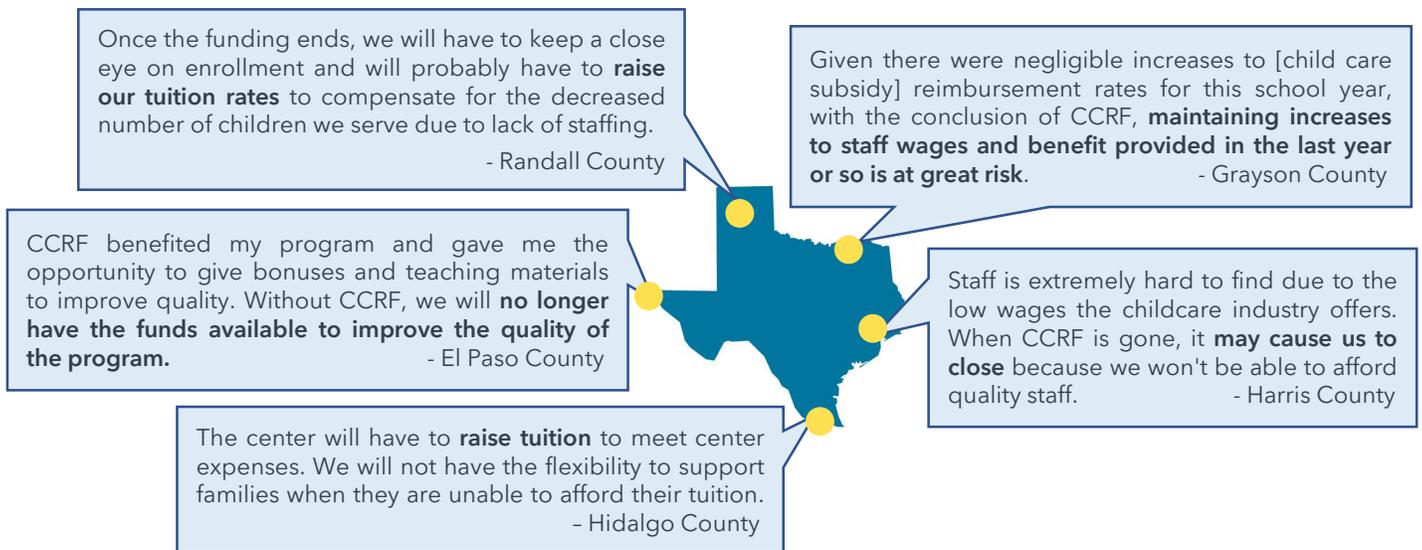
The availability of child care is likely to become even more scarce and the cost of tuition is likely to increase as Child Care Relief Funds (CCRF) come to an end. This will leave many working families without child care options. A state investment of \$2.29 billion is needed to protect the supply and affordability of child care for working families.

CCRF saved child care programs from closing, but many may close or raise tuition as CCRF ends

- 60% of respondents said their program would be closed without the support of Child Care Relief Funds (CCRF).
- The top reported uses of CCRF were program/classroom supplies (83%), baseline wage increases (79%), bonuses for existing staff (73%), and professional development for staff (64%).
- When CCRF ends, 75% of respondents indicated they will have raise tuition, 55% indicated they will have to cut wages, and 42% indicated they will lose staff.

44% of responding child care programs indicated their program is **likely or maybe likely to close within the next year.**

CCRF ending will affect child care programs and working families in every corner of the state



The Texas Legislature should strategically invest \$2.29 billion in our child care system as a strategy for supporting working families and young children in Texas. This investment will protect the supply and affordability of child care in Texas.

- Modeled after the first round of CCRF, disperse \$1.16 billion to all licensed child care centers and licensed or registered family child care homes to support operational costs that remain fixed regardless of the number of children enrolled.
- As recommended by the HB619 Stakeholder Workgroup, provide \$1.13 billion for recruitment and retention stipends to early childhood educators to raise the average wage of early childhood educators from \$12/hr to \$15/hr.

TXAEOYC conducted a survey in February 2023 of child care programs (center-based and family child care homes) with 1,559-1,570 responses received to questions from which data is reported above. Respondent demographics: 83% center-based programs / 17% family child care homes; 80% have a subsidy contract with their local workforce board; 45% are either a 2-, 3-, or 4-star TRS program; located in 154 counties.