

making child care easier

For Help With Child Care Costs

Workforce Solutions Alamo administers Child Care Services (CCS) funding to a 12 county region, including Bexar County and its 11 surrounding counties. CCS helps parents pay for child care while they work, go to school or participate in job training to become self-sufficient. Those eligible for child care assistance include:

- Parents who are receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF),
- Parents who have recently stopped receiving TANF benefits because of earned income,
- Parents with low incomes who need help paying for child care so they can continue to work or attend school,
- Teen parents from low-income families who need child care to attend school, and
- Parents with low incomes who have children with disabilities.

Parents who receive CCS assistance are required to pay a portion of their cost of care, with the exception of parents receiving TANF and participate in the CHOICES program. The parent's share of cost will be based on a sliding fee scale. Families must be working or in school or training for a minimum of 25 hours per week for a single parent household and 50 hours for a two parent household to be eligible for services. Additionally, families must meet income requirements located on the sliding fee scale to be eligible for service.

Parents must also comply with the Parent Responsibility Agreement (PRA). PRA requires parent(s) to:

- Cooperate with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) if necessary to establish paternity of children and to enforce child support or provide documentation that the parent has an arrangement with each absent parent for child support and is receiving it on a regular basis.
- Refrain from selling or using controlled substances.
- Ensure school age children regularly attend school.

To see if you qualify for CCS assistance, call one of the numbers listed below:

- **Bexar County Tele-Center** 210-230-6300
- **All Other Counties** 1-800-204-7905



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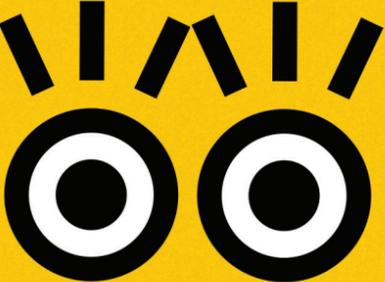
www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org



Workforce Solutions Alamo is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids or services are available upon request to persons with disabilities. TDD/TTY RELAY 1-800-735-2989/2988(voice).

happy kids successful parents





attention to your child

Indicators of Quality

A most recent list of Quality Indicator Providers in our area may be found at:
workforcesolutionsalamo.org/childcare/qcci_providers.asp

Texas Rising Star Provider (TRS)

A TRS provider voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the state's minimum licensing standards for health and safety, group size, child/staff ratios, provider training, and age-appropriate curricula and activities for children of all ages. Certification as a TRS provider is available to licensed child care centers and homes as well as registered child care homes that meet the certification criteria.
www.texasrisingstar.org



Texas School Ready! (TSR)

TSR! encourages school readiness programs to share certified teachers and to integrate facility space, professional development, and various funding sources. TSR! providers use research-based curriculum, ongoing professional development, and personal digital assistant progress monitoring of children ages 3-5.

www.texaschoolready.org

here to help

Parent Resources

2-1-1 Texas is a statewide network that connects people in need of information and referrals for child care providers as well as other community services such as Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Just dial the three-digit telephone number at no charge and you can access multi-lingual services 24 hours per day and 365 days per year.

www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org/childcare/ccaa.asp
Quick instructional video for how to utilize the Child Care Attendance Automation (CCAA) system card.

Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) Licensing Division

Child care centers are licensed facilities that are routinely monitored and inspected by DFPS. Call the DFPS statewide child care information line at 1.800.862.5252

www.DontBelInTheDark.org
DFPS campaign on the dangers of unregulated care.

www.infanttoddler.tamu.edu
The Texas AgriLife Extension Service offers quality online infant and toddler training for parents and caregivers.

www.BabyRoomToBreathe.org
DFPS campaign on safe sleeping practices for infants

www.coe.unt.edu/cpe/online-learning
The Texas Registry of Parent Educator Resource (ROPER) offers free online parenting training.

“Research shows that caregiver education and training, group size and staff-to-child ratios, daily learning activities, and program environment have a positive impact on a child's social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development.”

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

DSHS provides many services but two of the services most important to parents seeking child care are information about immunizations and how to get a copy of your child's birth certificate as well as marriage & divorce records. 210.949.2000 • 888.963.7111 www.dshs.state.tx.us

Provider Types

There are three types of child care regulated by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS):

- Licensed Child Care Centers
- Licensed Child Care Homes
- Registered Child Care Homes

Always check a child care provider's inspection record at DFPS's website at: www.DontBelInTheDark.org

If you think any child's health or safety is jeopardized in a child care setting, report your concerns immediately to your local Child Care Licensing office.

Relative care is not regulated by DFPS but may be an option for eligible families. Ask your local Workforce Solutions Child Care Service rep.

DFPS Standards

Child care providers can volunteer to go above and beyond minimum DFPS standards by meeting higher standards through child care certification or accrediting entities, including:

NATIONAL CHILD CARE ACCREDITATIONS

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC.org)
- National Accreditation Commission for Early Care & Education Programs (NACCP.org)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA.net)
- National Association of Family Child Care Accreditation (NAFCC.org)
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI.org)
- Council On Accreditation (COANET.org)

TEXAS CHILD CARE CERTIFICATIONS

- Texas Rising Star Provider Certification
www.texasrisingstar.org
- Texas School Ready! Certification
(only for prekindergarten classrooms)
www.texaschoolready.com

child care checklist

What Kind Of Help Is Available?

- Child care referral services.
- Funding resources for child care.
- Community program referrals.

Choosing Care For Your Child

- Determine your needs, as well as your child's.
- What you can afford.
- The days and hours you need care.
- The preferred location.
- Any special needs your child may have

Contact Several Child Care Providers That Meet Your Requirements

- Have a list of questions you want to ask.
- Set up time for visits.
- Narrow the list to two or three providers & make unannounced visits.
- Any special needs your child may have.

Visit A Number Of Child Care Providers

- Spend at least 30 minutes observing.
- The best time to observe is in the mid-morning.
- Ask the provider or director any questions you may have.

Review Provider's History

- Check with the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) Licensing Division to see if there have been any valid deficiencies registered against the center or home.
- Read Child Care Licensing's most recent monitoring inspection reports, found at www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_care, then click on Search Texas Child Care under the Child-Care Related Links.
- Listen to your instinct. If you're uncomfortable, your child may be, too!