



Texas Association for the Education of Young Children

HB 680/SB 1002 TWC Reporting and Goal Setting

In 2014, when the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) was reauthorized, the number of children receiving child care assistance had plummeted to the lowest levels since 1998, meaning that the clear majority of children—84 percent—were not receiving the support for which they were eligible. In 2018, Congress increased funding for CCDBG, which brought approximately 29 million dollars to Texas. With the additional funding Texas Workforce Commission was able to:

- Increase reimbursement rates (although not as high as they need to be)
- Reduce waiting lists
- Increase overall quality initiatives
- Increase quality initiatives specifically for Infants and Toddlers.

While the increase in funds was much needed, we still need more to fully fund the mandates laid out in the 2014 reauthorization. We are currently working with NAEYC and other national partners asking for additional money from Congress.

Currently the child care subsidy program is the largest expenditure in TWC's budget, but we don't know exactly where the money is going and what types of programs are getting the majority of that money. SB 1002 and HB 680 address several areas:

- *Increases transparency of the child care subsidy program. It helps us as a State know how the dollars are spent on children who are enrolled in programs that do not participate in Texas Rising Star and those who are enrolled in a 2-, 3- or 4- Star programs. It will help us understand how many children are being served at those programs as well as the cost to providers for providing quality care.*
- *This bill helps with inter-agency coordination between TWC and TEA to assist low-income children with the transition from child care into the public-school system. It is necessary for TWC and TEA to coordinate around early education so that our kids will be better prepared, our future workforce more productive, and state agencies better coordinated.*
- *This bill begins to address the issue of high turnover and low levels of education among child care teachers. Quality early childhood education depends on teacher quality therefore it requires TWC to attempt to ensure Professional Development be aligned to working towards a certification, credential or a degree*

How the Texas Legislature can help: *SB 1002 and HB 680 will help us understand where our child care subsidy dollars are going, help coordination between agencies and continue to increase the quality of our early childhood programs being offered to our children in most need.*