

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 6, 2024

TO Honorable Chair and Members of the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care Agenda Items for Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program Contracts**

On September 25, 2024, the following Office of Community Care items will be considered by City Council:

**File ID: 24-2852** Authorize contracts with fully-licensed childcare providers (**Exhibit A**), and with any other fully-licensed childcare providers, pursuant to the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services Program (the “ECOSTS Program”), selected by eligible parents whose income falls in the low-to moderate income range of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Area Median Income (AMI) criteria and who otherwise meet the requirements of the ECOSTS Program and execute any and all documents required by the contract, for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 - Not to exceed \$550,000.00 - Financing: 2024-25 Community Development Block Grant Fund

**File ID: 24-2824** Authorize the second, one-year renewal options to the service contract with Vogel Alcove to provide childcare services for homeless children through the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services (ECOSTS) Program for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 - Not to exceed \$50,000.00, from \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 - Financing: 2024-25 Community Development Block Grant

**File ID: 24-2825** Authorize the second, one-year renewal options to the service contract with Open Arms, Inc. dba Bryan’s House to provide childcare services for special needs children through the Early Childhood and Out-of-School Time Services (ECOSTS) Program for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 – Not to exceed \$50,000.00 from \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 – Financing: 2024-2025 Community Development Block Grant Fund

## **Background**

Collectively, these items make up the City’s Early Childhood and Out of School Time Services (ECOSTS) program by establishing contracts with providers for subsidized clients and target populations. The City’s childcare program has been in existence since the 1980s. This program has served thousands of low-moderate-income families, by providing financial assistance by way of subsidy payments to their childcare provider and contracting with local nonprofit agencies to provide childcare assistance to homeless families and children with special needs. The ECOSTS Program is funded out of the HUD Consolidated Plan Budget for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant

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Funds. Through the ECOSTS Program, administered by the Office of Community Care, the program promotes stability for low-to-moderate-income families within two components of the program:

**1. ECOSTS Providers Program** – Assist working parents and teen parents who are full-time high school students, by reducing the cost of childcare to enable them to strive for self-sufficiency. Through this program, parents are able to choose their own childcare provider. The provider has to be fully-licensed, located in the City of Dallas, and must become a vendor with the City.

The ECOSTS Program pays (see subsidy amount below) per week, per child, directly to contracted childcare providers for childcare services for working parents whose income falls in the low-to-moderate-income range of HUD Area Median Income (AMI) eligibility.

<b>Subsidy Amounts per Age Group</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Weekly Payment</b>
<b>0-18 months</b>	<b>\$175.00*</b>
<b>18 months - 36 months</b>	<b>\$150.00*</b>
<b>3 years – 5 years</b>	<b>\$125.00*</b>
<b>6 years - 12 years</b>	<b>\$100.00*</b>
<b>* Not to exceed the weekly childcare center's contract rate.</b>	

**2. ECOSTS Homeless/Special Needs Program** - Provides funding through contracts with nonprofit agencies to provide childcare for special populations, which include childcare for special needs children, who may have physical and/or mental disabilities, and children who are homeless. The following two nonprofit agencies are the current subrecipients of the program, and the agenda items going before City Council will approve the second renewal of their contracts.

Vogel Alcove - Through their Early Education & Child Development Program, Vogel Alcove serves the homeless population in Dallas by providing free childcare for up to 135 young children daily, ages six weeks to five years old, living with their parents in local shelters. Each weekday, in a warm, nurturing environment, Vogel Alcove welcomes families without regard to race, ethnicity or religion. Licensed by the State of Texas and accredited by the National Association of Education for Young Children, Vogel Alcove operates year-round with 13 classrooms, a kitchen for daily meal preparation, a children’s library, an outdoor all-natural playground, gymnasium (for preschool children), and an indoor infant/toddler multipurpose area. Homeless children experience the caustic effects of neglect, abuse, violence, and hunger. This item will provide funding to Vogel Alcove to continue childcare for children who are homeless. Their goal is to serve 55 children and educate 50 parents on mainstream resources for the FY24-25 program year.

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Open Arms, Inc. dba Bryan's House - Through their Bryan's House Medically Managed Childcare Program, Bryan's House provides medically managed care for children with special needs. The program integrates care and onsite therapies with an academic curriculum and social-emotional learning. Children enrolled in the Program have various special needs, including physical challenges, seizure disorders, heart conditions, hearing and vision loss, brain injuries, lung disorders, Autism, Down Syndrome, and rare conditions. A full-time onsite registered nurse administers medicine and other procedures as needed, including tube feedings, pain management, drip lines, and emergency care. The Program is open year-round from 7:45 am to 6 pm, weekdays. By providing this program during the school year, as well as spring, summer, and holiday breaks, the children benefit from continuous structure, peer interaction, and crucial early development programming. This item will provide funding to Open Arms, Inc. dba Bryan's House to continue childcare for children who have special needs. Their goal is to serve 40 children and 25 households for the FY24-25 program year.

Approximately 300 children will be served in the FY24-25 program year, through the subsidy and homeless/special needs programs.

The following chart illustrates the income range which is 30-80% of Area Median Income (AMI), as of April 2024.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Extremely Low</u> (30%)	<u>Low Income</u> (50%)	<u>Moderate Income</u> (80%)
1	\$23,200.00	\$38,650.00	\$ 61,800.00
2	\$26,500.00	\$44,150.00	\$ 70,600.00
3	\$29,800.00	\$49,650.00	\$ 79,450.00
4	\$33,100.00	\$55,150.00	\$ 88,250.00
5	\$36,580.00	\$59,600.00	\$ 95,350.00
6	\$41,960.00	\$64,000.00	\$102,400.00
7	\$47,340.00	\$68,400.00	\$109,450.00
8	\$52,720.00	\$72,800.00	\$116,500.00

As of July 31, 2024, 283 children has been served through the ECOSTS Program.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care, at 214-670-5113 or [Jessica.Galleshaw@dallas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Galleshaw@dallas.gov).

Sincerely,



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M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Interim City Manager (I)

Tammy Palomino, City Attorney

Mark Swann, City Auditor

Biliera Johnson, City Secretary

Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge

Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I)

Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager

Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager

Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)

Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)

Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer

Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)

Directors and Assistant Directors