



ChildCareGroup

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CEO/President

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A Compelling Community Need

24% of Dallas children live in poverty



And they cannot get out of poverty by themselves!

Disparities Impacting Early Education & Child Care

Access

- Many low income areas in Dallas are child care 'deserts'

Quality

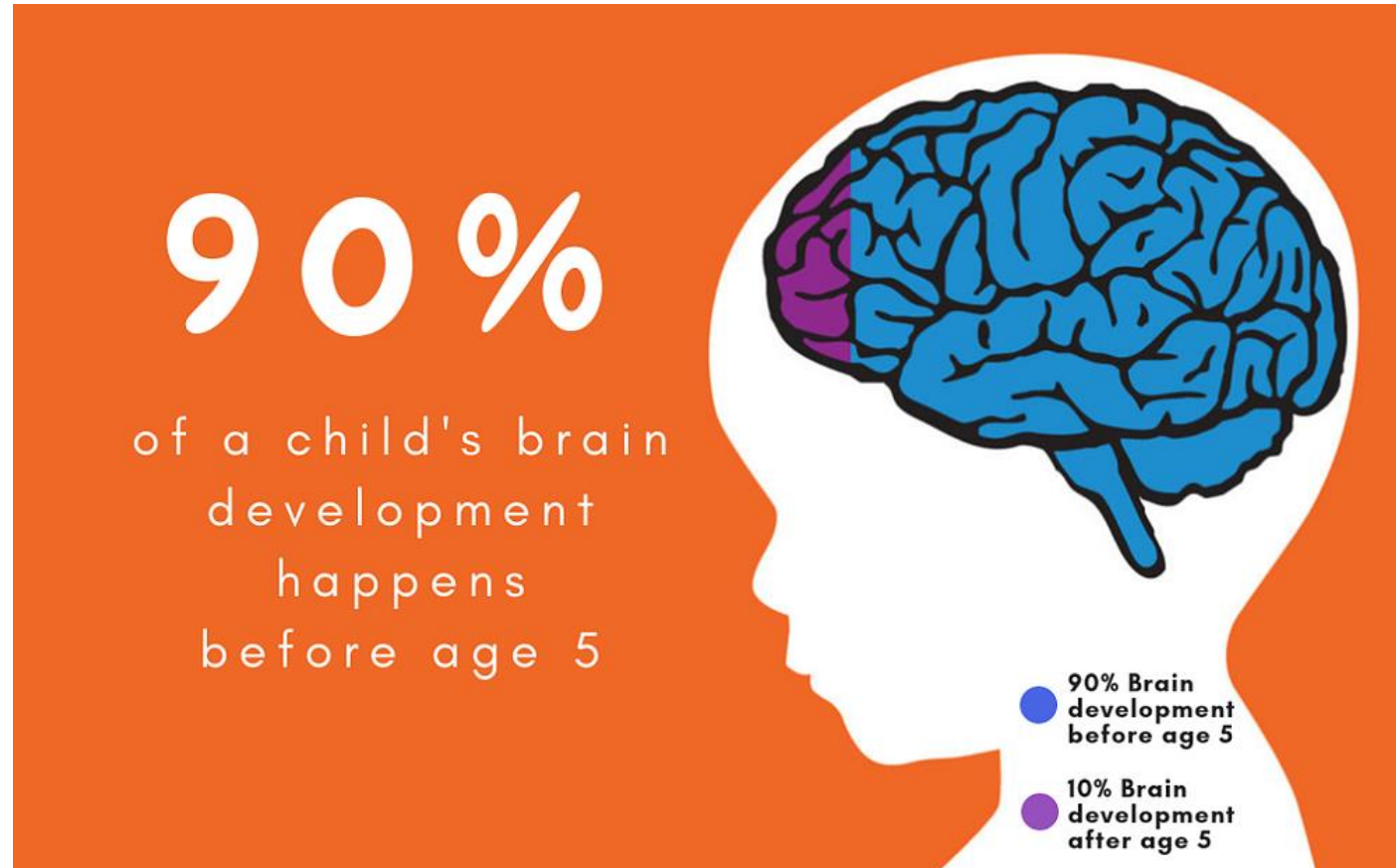
- < 30% of licensed child care centers are quality-rated

Cost

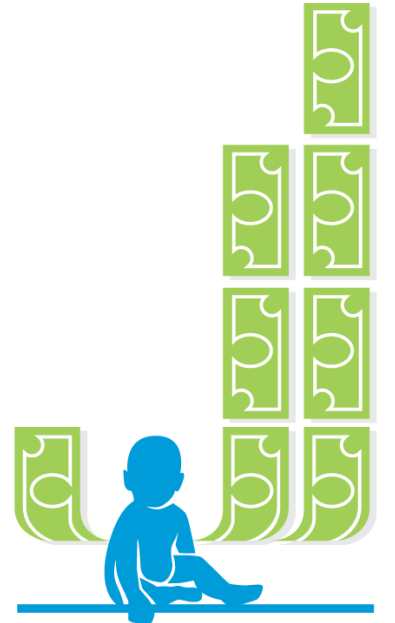
- Primarily paid by parents; public funding is insufficient
- Average annual cost of care = \$6700- \$8300/yr
- Nationally accredited programs = \$7100 - \$9600/yr

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

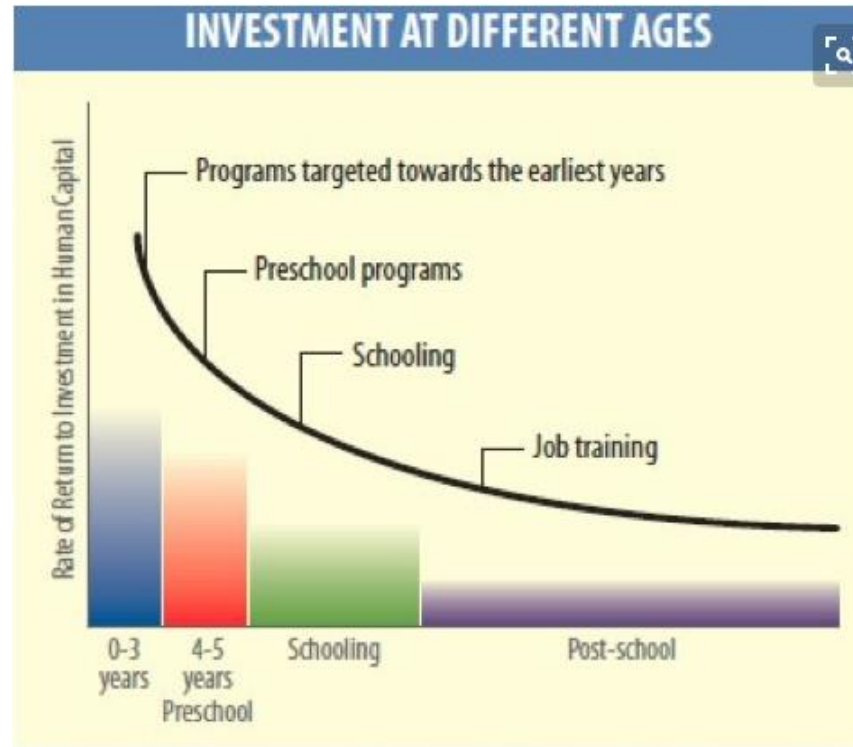
Infant Brain Development



Investing Early Makes a Big Impact

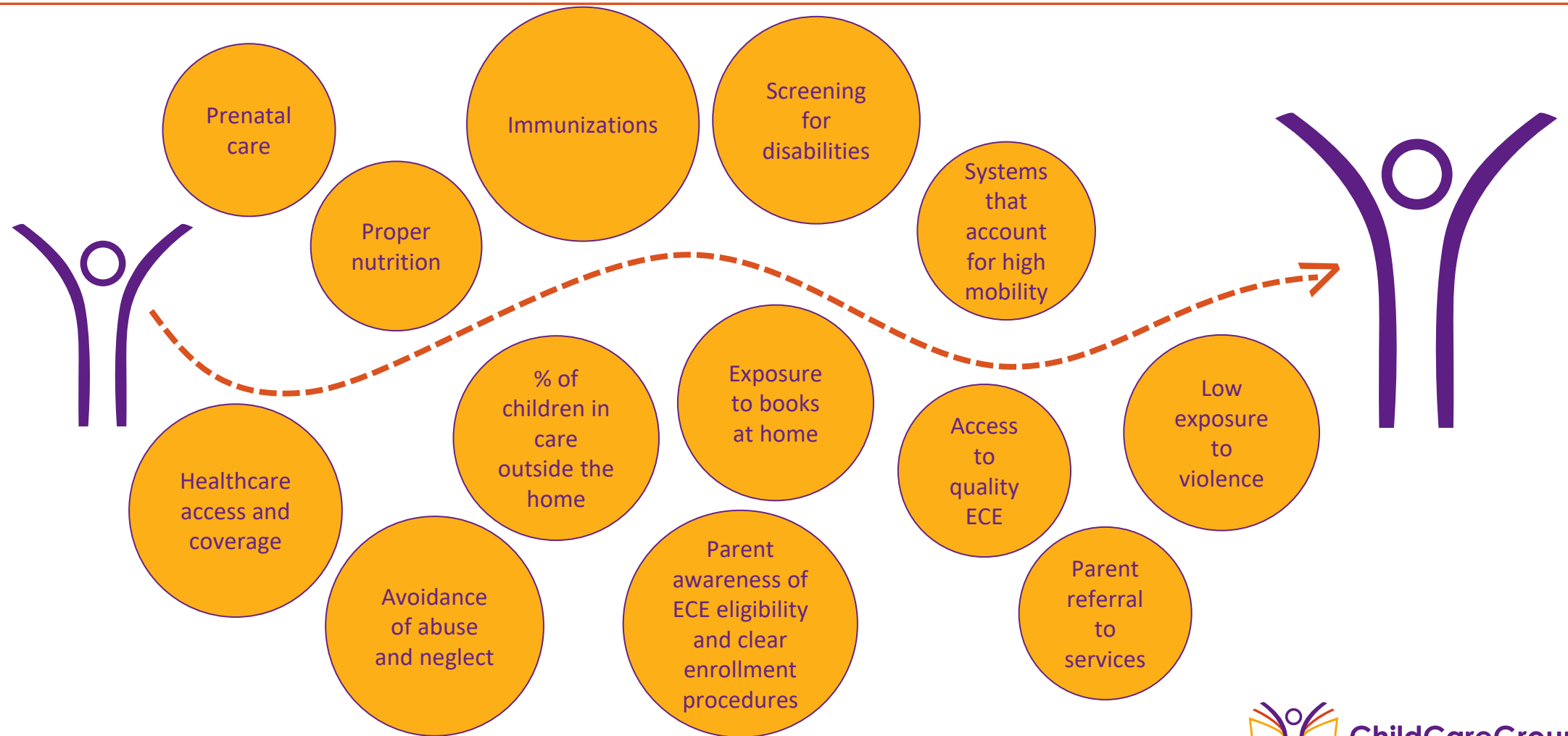


THERE IS A RETURN OF
\$7 FOR EVERY \$1
SPENT ON
EARLY EDUCATION.

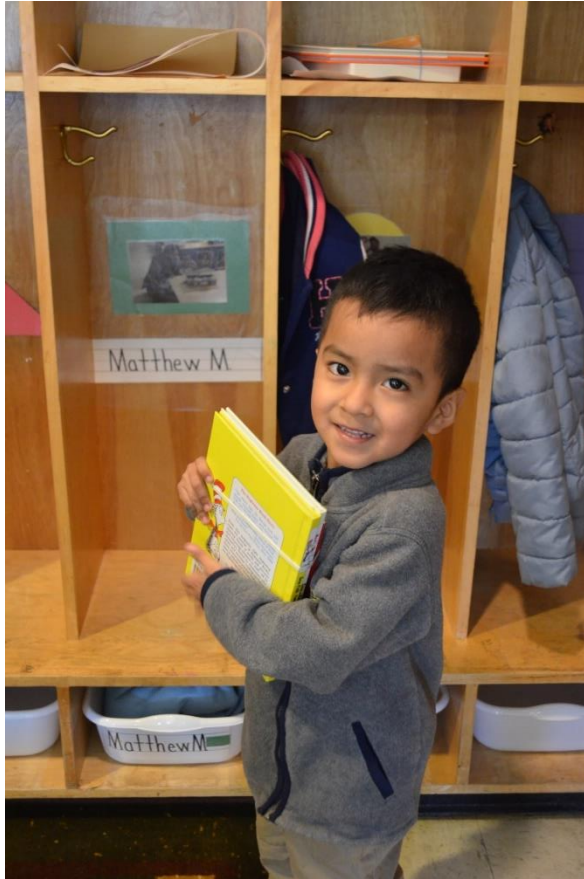


SOURCE: J.J. Heckman, "Skill formation and the economics of investing in disadvantaged children." *Science*, 312(5782):1900-2, (June 2006).

Factors Impacting Kindergarten Readiness



Without Early Intervention, Children are...



25%

- More likely to drop out of school

40%

- More likely to become a teen parent

50%

- More likely to be in special education

60%

- More likely never to attend college

70%

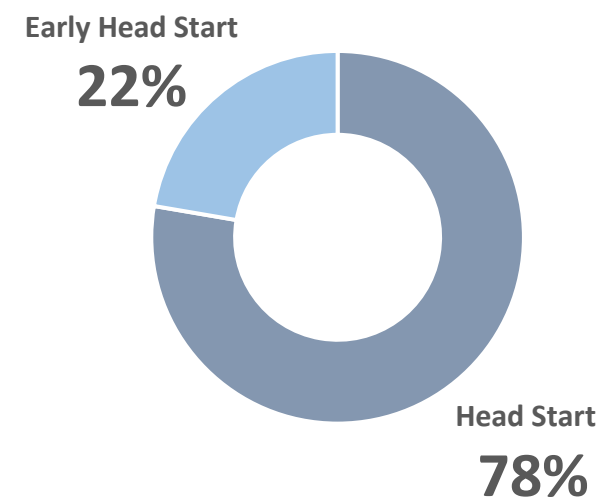
- More likely to be arrested for a violent crime

AVAILABLE CHILD CARE SERVICES IN DALLAS COUNTY

Head Start & Early Head Start Slots

Dallas County

	Early Head Start	Head Start
ChildCareGroup	454	800
Head Start Dallas	272	2,215
Lumin	140	
Total	866	3,015

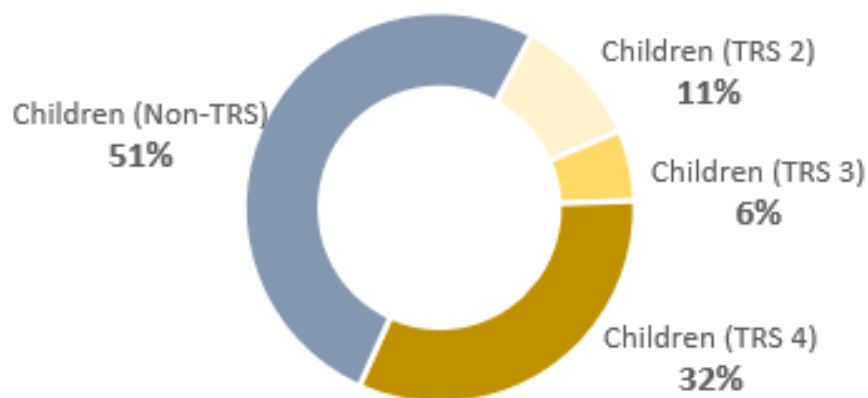


Child Care Quality – Dallas County

Children In Care:

- **16,081** children in subsidized care in Dallas County
- **7,792** children in subsidized care in Dallas County are in a certified Texas Rising Star Program.

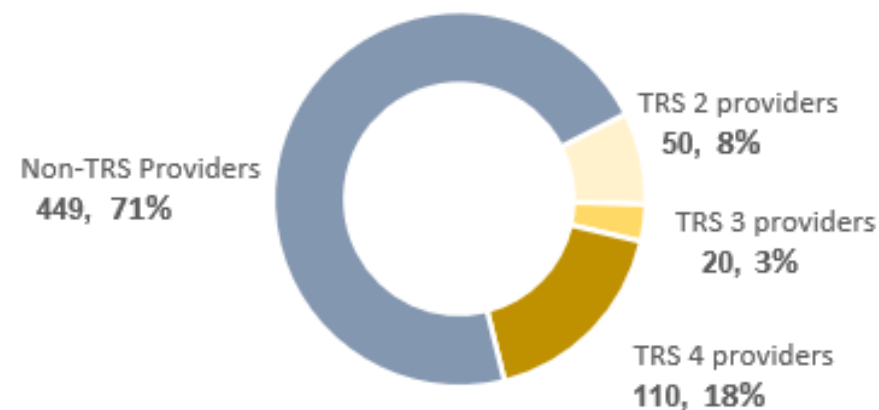
49% of children in care are enrolled in TRS providers



Child Care Providers:

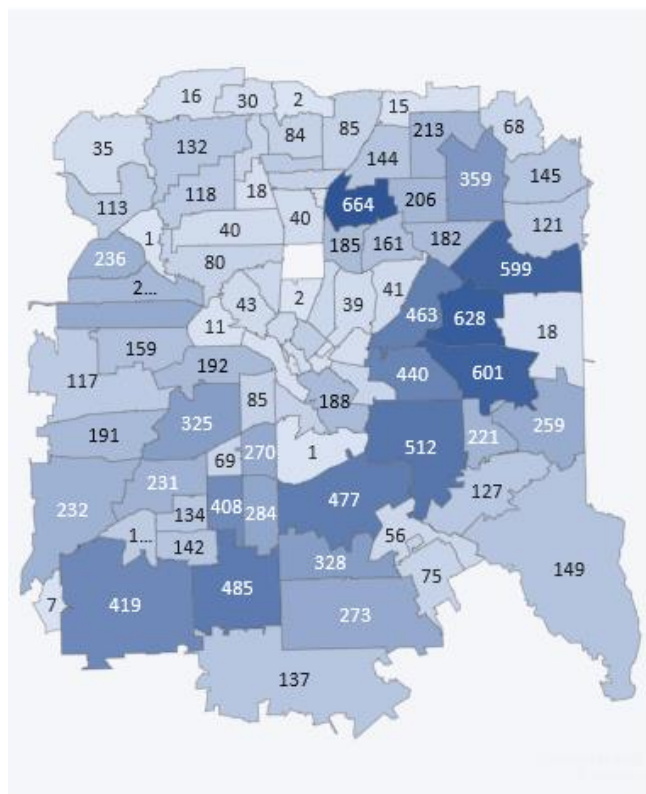
- **629** Dallas County providers accept subsidy
- **180** are certified Texas Rising Star Programs

29% of CCA providers in the Dallas County delivery area are TRS providers

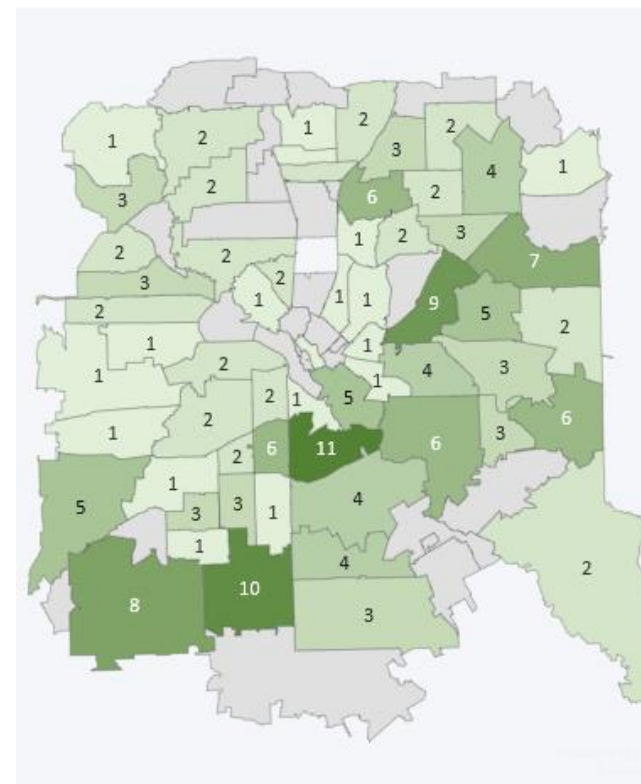


Children in Care vs. Quality Seats

Children In Care - Dallas County



Texas Rising Star Providers - Dallas County



- The numbers in the map indicate the number of children/TRS providers in an area. The deeper the color, the more children/TRS providers are in that zip code area.
- The grey zip code areas indicate there are no children/TRS providers in those areas

Children Currently in Care – Dallas County

August 2021

Children in subsidized child care: **16,081**

Children on the wait list: **3,238**

In Process – September 2021: Service Industry Recovery Grant

\$55M to provide subsidized child care for an additional **5,700** children whose parents are employed in the service industry: Food Service, Arts, Entertainment, Hospitality, Retail, Recreation

Impact of COVID

- Providers have struggled with increased costs, reduced enrollment and concerns over risking their own health vs. losing their businesses
- City, County, State & Federal Funding have helped, but many centers have closed classrooms or shut their doors entirely
- Low wages, lack of benefits and a limited career path have created a child care staffing crisis, which impacts parents needing child care in order to return to work

Early Education and Child Care - The 'workforce behind the workforce'





Child Care & Early Education: Workforce, Education, & Equity

The Early Years Count



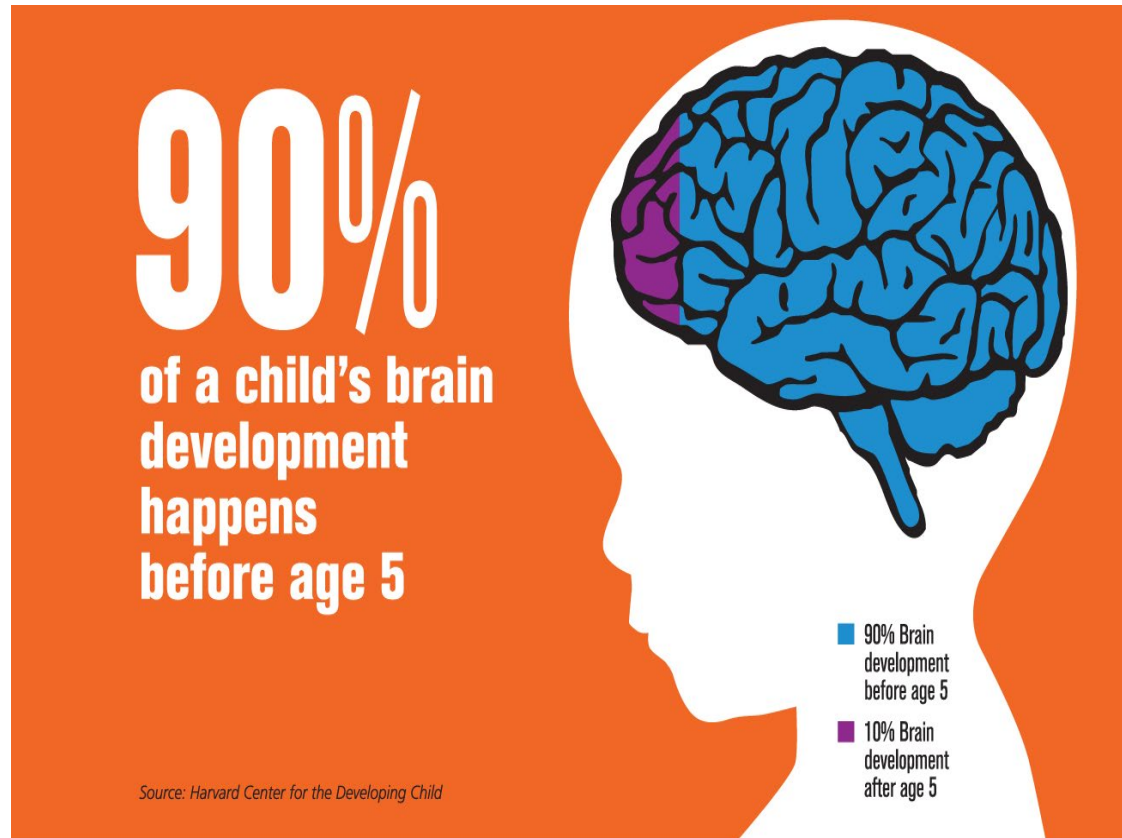
Melanie Rubin
rubin05@sbcglobal.net

Child care is the workforce behind the workforce

It is an integral component of the city's infrastructure and is key to economic productivity:

- The [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) estimates](#) that both parents work in **two-thirds** of families in which married parents have children — as do the majority of America's **13.6 million single parents**.
- Most Texas parents with very young children need child care. There are over **2.3 million** children ages 5 and under in Texas. **58%** of children ages 5 and under live in households in which all parents work. **22%** of all children in this age group live in families below the poverty line.
- [ReadyNation's study](#) examines the economic impacts of the nation's infant-and-toddler child care crisis on working parents, employers, and taxpayers. The study found an **annual cost of \$57 billion** across the **nation** of which **\$4.9 billion** in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue in **Texas**.

Early Education: it's not rocket science...it's brain science



- The years birth to 5 provide the foundational learning skills necessary for future life-long success. These skills address a child's social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development.
- Early childhood experiences determine whether a child's brain architecture will provide a strong or weak foundation for all future learning, behavior & health.
- Children not "fully-ready" for K were 5 X more likely to fail 3rd grade math & reading, & children who begin school behind tend to stay behind throughout their school years.
- 75% of students who are poor readers in 3rd grade will remain poor readers in high school.
- 2/3 of students who can't read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.
- High-quality, birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children deliver a 13% per year return on investment.

North Texas Child Care

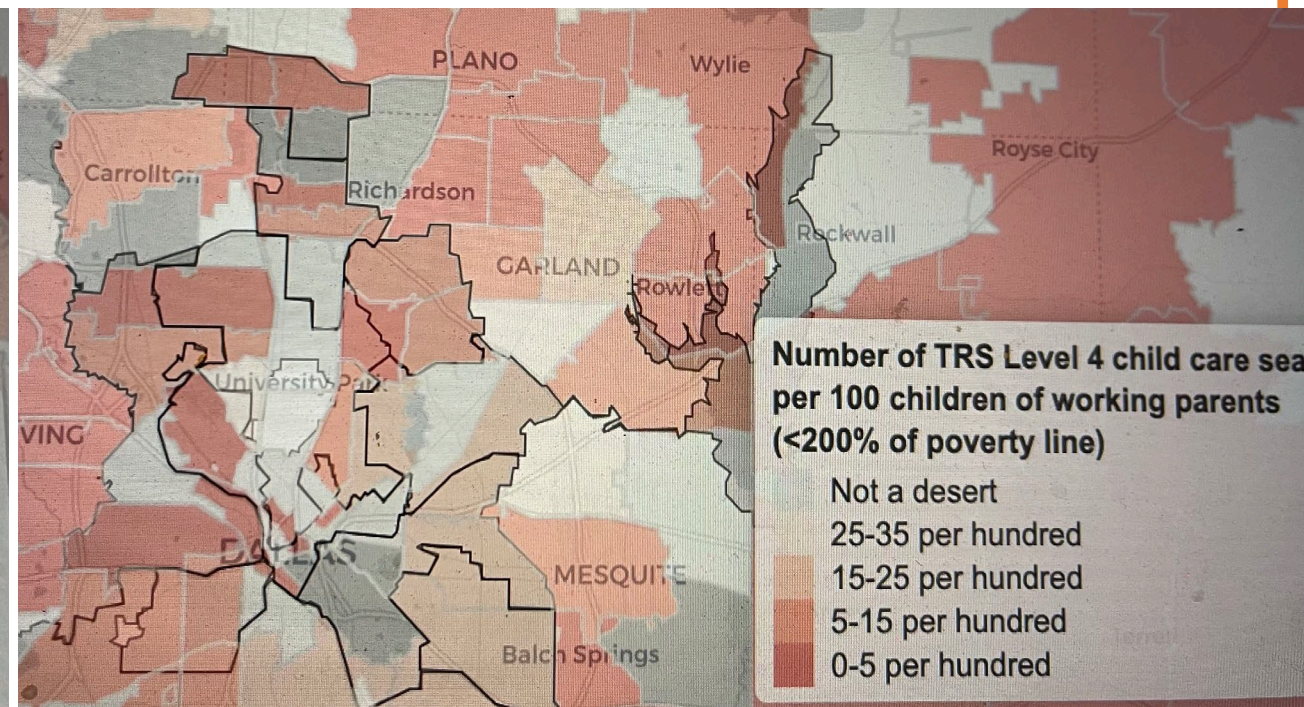
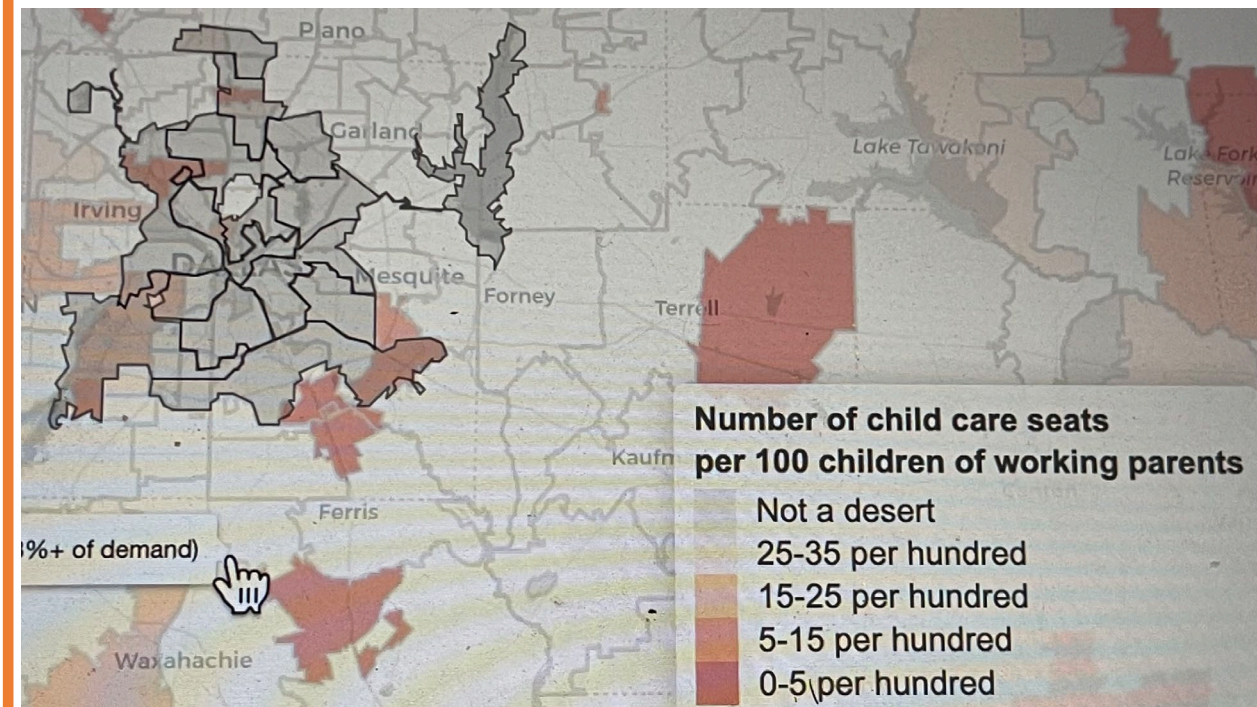
- 1 in 10 children in America live in Texas.
- 1 in 4 children in Texas live in North Texas.*
- The current subsidy system serves roughly over 136,000 children from low-income families daily, which is only 10% of eligible children.
- Less than 50% of licensed providers participate in the subsidy system.
- Less than 10% of licensed providers in North Texas are considered to be high quality.
- 56% of child care workers qualify for at least one form of public assistance.



*(North Texas- Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Rockwall, and Tarrant counties. SOURCE: Kids Count 2019 2017 data)

Child Care Supply

- Parents are unable to locate or afford quality care which prevent them from working. Nearly **half (48 percent)** of Texans live in a child care “desert” where there are more than three children under age five for each licensed child care slot.
- **68 percent** of Texas children in families with low incomes live in areas without a sufficient supply of subsidized care and **94 percent** of children in low-income families live in areas where the supply of TRS-certified providers meets less than one-third of the demand.



Impact of COVID-19

- Child Care as a system remained open as an essential service
- Reduced and unpredictable enrollment & additional expenses for meeting COVID protocols, average of 47 % increase in operating costs)
- Since the pandemic, about 30 % of programs in Texas closed and licensed programs are operating at an average enrollment rate of 67% of their licensed capacity, with 43% of enrolled children attending on an average day.
- The greatest challenge to an adequate supply of quality child care is the grossly unsupported child care workforce.

The Early Childhood Workforce

\$21,780

The median annual wage for child care workers in Texas wage

\$11.17

is the average hourly wage for child care workers

37th

Texas' rank in median hourly wage compared to other states

40%

of the ECE workforce is comprised of people of color

18.6%

of early childhood educators live below the poverty rate

56%

of child care workers eligible for public benefits programs

86%

of Texas child care centers are experiencing a staffing shortage



Christina Hanger
CEO, Dallas Afterschool

Data based on research reports from Dallas Afterschool, Afterschool Alliance, and Edge Research collected between February 2020 through June 2021. For details, see <https://dallasafterschool.org/afterschool-research/>

UNMET DEMAND IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH



For every child in an afterschool program in Dallas, 3 are waiting to get in

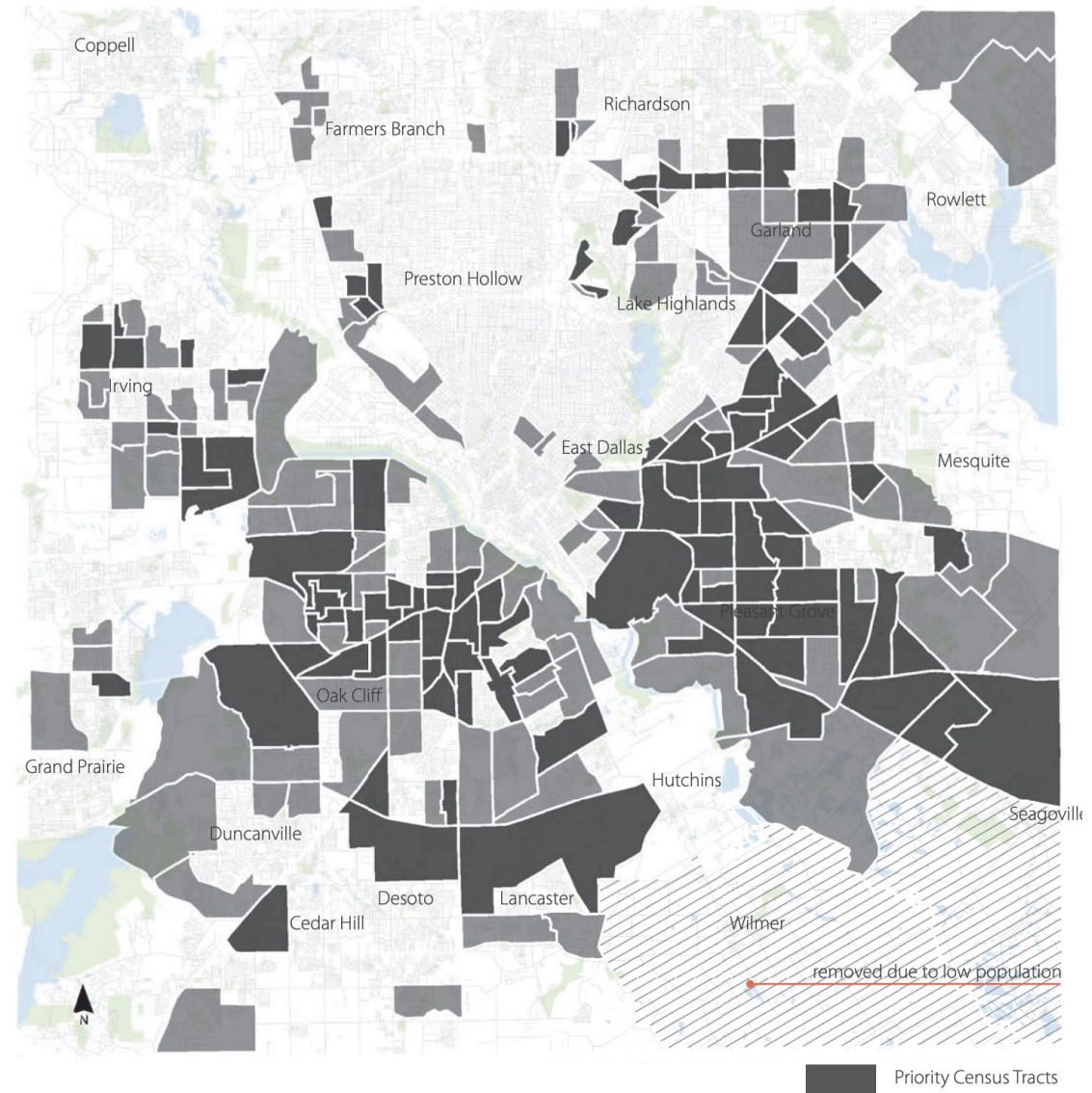
This leaves over 100,000 children in Dallas without the programming they want



AFTERSCHOOL ACCESS MAP PRE-COVID

- Areas with darker shading indicates a greater mismatch between the supply and demand for afterschool programming

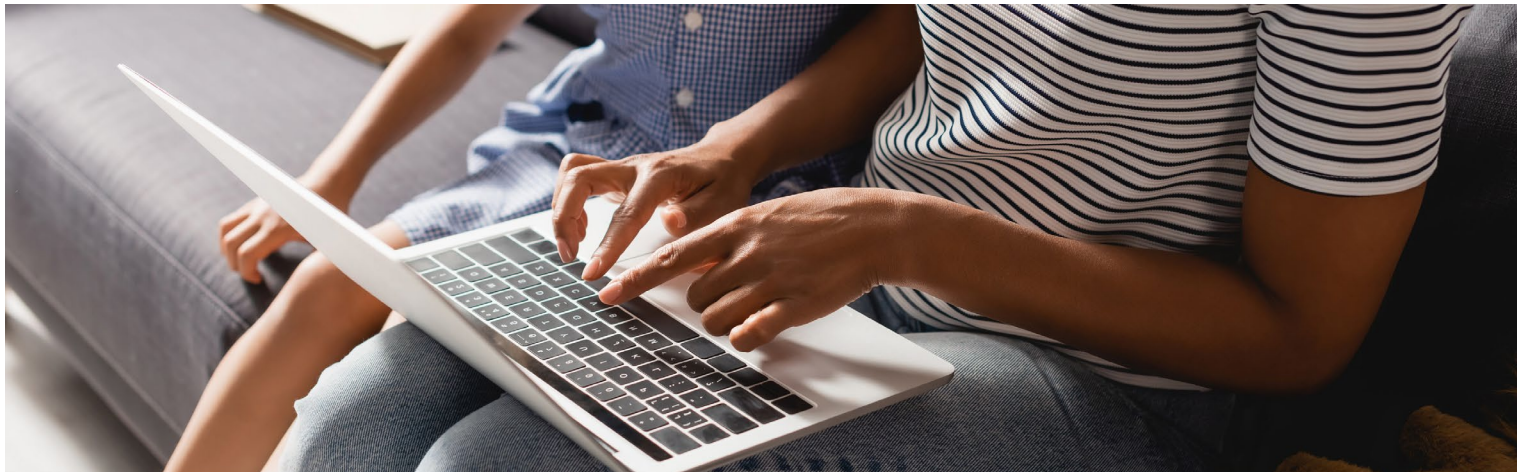
priority areas



AFTERSCHOOL IS A **LIFELINE** FOR WORKING FAMILIES

For parents with children in afterschool programs in Dallas:

- **92%** are satisfied with their child's program
- **89%** agree their child's program helps them **keep their job** or work more hours



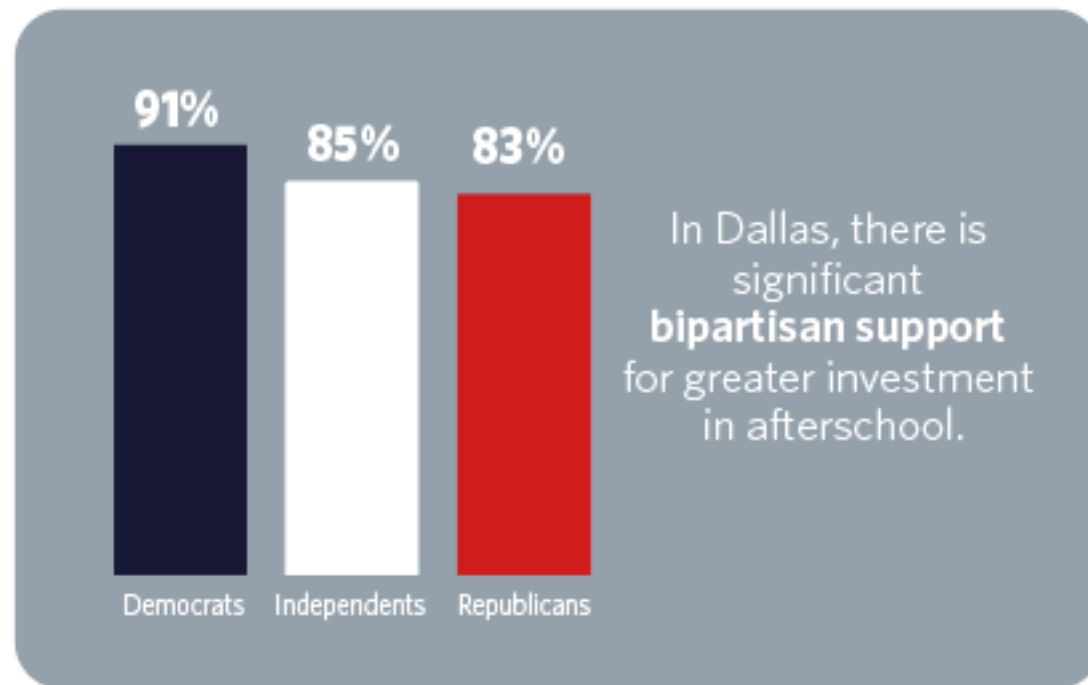
PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE: BENEFITS OF AFTERSCHOOL

Because of their participation in afterschool, parents report that their children experience the following benefits:

- 90% are more excited about learning
- 81% develop valuable life skills
- 88% are kept safe
- 91% receive strong reading and writing support



PARENTS SUPPORT PUBLIC FUNDING FOR AFTERSCHOOL



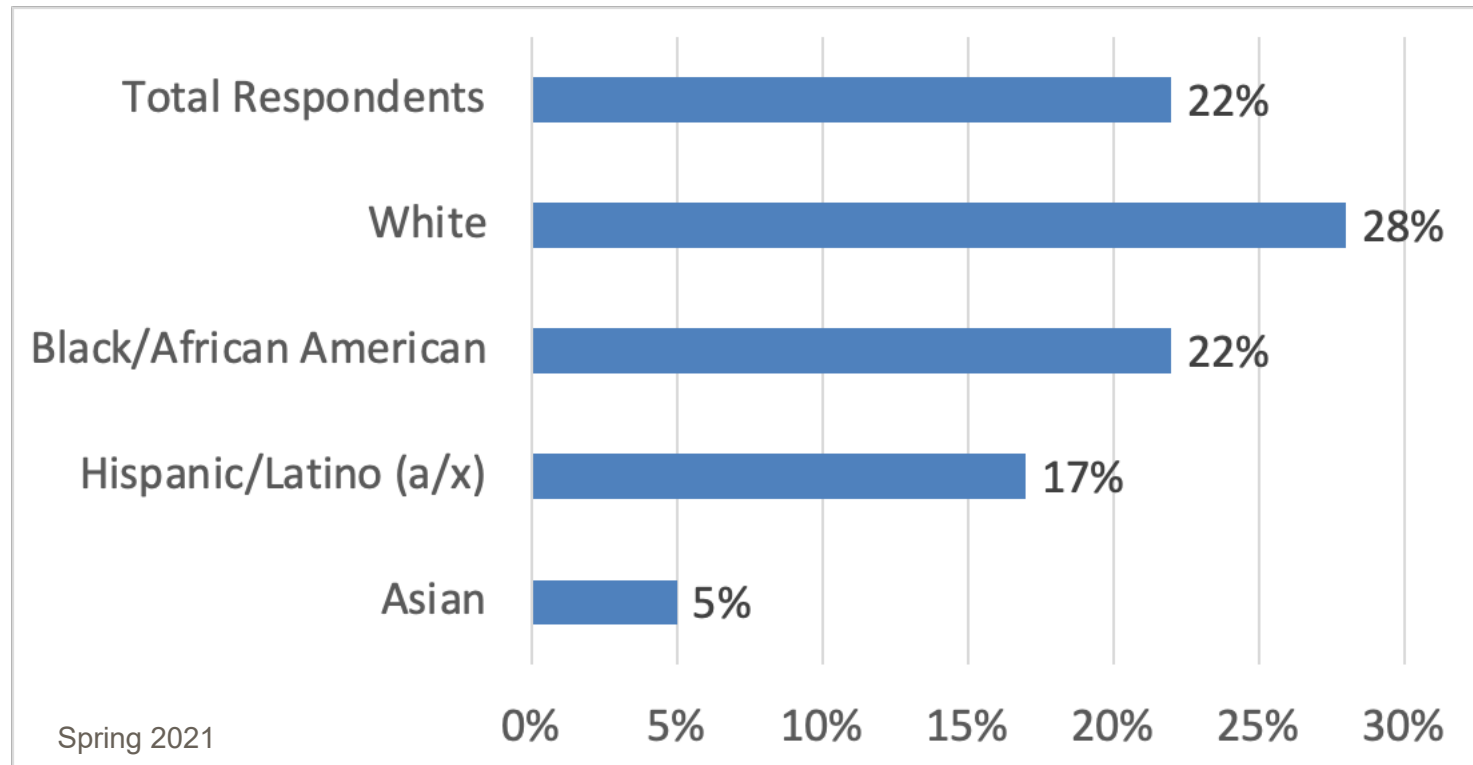
COVID-19 HAS THREATENED THE SYSTEM

- At the beginning of COVID, 30% of afterschool sites in Dallas have closed with a 45% loss in seats due to social distancing protocol
- Capacity is slowly coming back; about half of the lost capacity is now open
- This summer, over 40% of programs reported increased costs
- 20% see these costs rise more than \$400 per year per child



DALLAS FAMILIES IN AFTERSCHOOL BY RACE/ETHNICITY

- White families are most likely to have children in afterschool, and in Dallas, at a statistically significant higher rate than nationally
- Hispanic/Latino and Asian families have **significantly lower participation**, both locally and compared to national rates
- Black families' participation is between that of White and Hispanic/Latino families



BARRIERS FOR FAMILIES ARE REAL AND HARD TO OVERCOME

- Cost is the #1 barrier for 69% of parents
- The annual cost of afterschool in Dallas is \$4,300 – this does not include breaks or summer

Average Weekly Cost

Atlanta		\$98
Los Angeles		\$90
Dallas		\$120
Texas		\$82



COST OF AFTERSCHOOL WITHIN DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

- The average weekly cost of afterschool varies by demographics.
- Directionally, Black/African-American households are paying more per week than others



COVID HAS LINGERING IMPACTS

Concerns about students remain.

74% are concerned about **student learning loss** and a lack of opportunities for **social connection**.

84% are concerned about **students' mental and emotional health**.



Providers are concerned about their programs, too.

60% are **most concerned** with being able to **hire enough staff**.

53% are **still concerned** about **long term funding** and their program's future.



WHAT DO PROVIDERS NEED NOW?

- What resources would be most helpful?
 - Advice on [funding](#) streams
 - How to prevent [staff burnout](#) and keep them engaged
 - COVID-relevant updates
 - [Communication tools](#) to help families understand the benefits of Out-of-School time (OST)
- What Dallas Afterschool is providing:
 - Resources, supplies, training, curriculum, and lesson plans
 - Guidance on health, safety, and quality
 - Early Childhood Out-of-School Time (ECOST) Workforce Development Project with Early Matters Dallas - providing staffing, professional development and career coaching to build a pipeline of childcare/education professionals





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