

# Early Childhood Data Hub

---



**Alison Bentley, PhD**

Vice President, Data and Evaluation  
United Way for Greater Austin

# Early Childhood Data -Community Context & Coalition Data



**SUCCESS BY 6**  
AUSTIN/TRAVIS COALITION

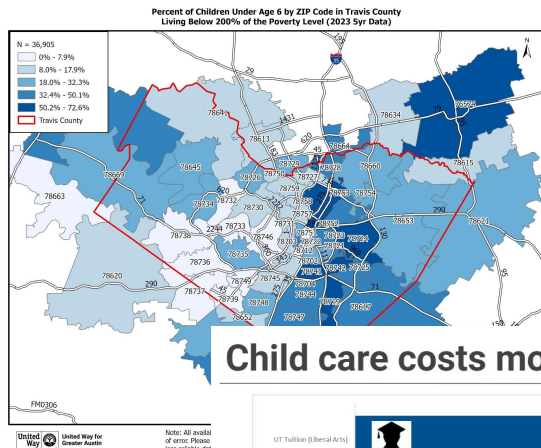
Many families are struggling to make ends meet

	Annual income for family of 4
Federal poverty level	\$32,150
Low-income	\$64,300
Annual survival budget (two adults, two in child care)	\$100,488

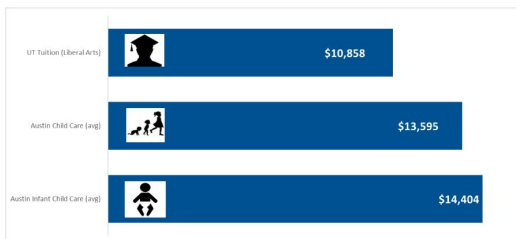
Meeting the basic survival budget requires an hourly wage of over \$50.

Almost 48,000 families are from low income HH or almost 76,000 families are not even “surviving” in Travis County.

2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines; Survival Budget based on United Way Worldwide's ALICE Survival Budget



Child care costs more than college.



61%

of centers serving children from households with low income are high quality

\*High-quality infant care in Travis County costs over \$27,000/year.



27% of children under age 6 in Travis County live in households with low income.



22,335 children under 6 in Travis County live in households with low income.



94% of children under 6 from households experiencing poverty are children of color.



United Way Greater Austin

Data Source: 2023 American Community Survey, One Year Estimates; 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Overall Outcomes

Measure	Baseline 2023 data	2024 data	2029 Target	On target?
Percent of children who enter kindergarten school ready in literacy	51%	54%	70%	
Percent of children in low-income families who enter kindergarten school ready in literacy	36%	40%	70%	
Percent of African American children who enter kindergarten school ready in literacy	44%	45%	70%	
Percent of Hispanic children who enter kindergarten school ready in literacy	40%	44%	70%	
Number of confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect for children ages 0-5/ rate per 1000 kids	1018/3.44	975/3.27	0	
City and County spending on early childhood development and learning per low-income child	\$459 (ARPA:\$781)	\$525 (ARPA:\$763)	N/A	

Percent of full-day early care and education centers serving children from low-income families aged 0 – 5 that are rated TRS 4 Star or higher	56%	61%	70%	
Percent of children from low-income families ages birth to 5 years old in early care and education centers, that are TRS 4 star or higher	63%	64%	70%	
Percent of registered or licensed home-based providers serving children aged 0 – 5 that are in the TRS system	TBD	39%	50%	
Percent of eligible 3 year old children enrolled in public Pre-K in Travis County school districts and other high-quality early education settings	16%	19%	50%	
Percent of all eligible 4 year old children enrolled in full-day Public Pre-K in Travis County School districts and other high-quality early education settings	69%	71%	85%	

High Quality ECE



Data Source: UT website; 2024 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey



# Key Features and Purposes of EC Data Hub

- Centralized, public, local early childhood data website
- Includes Public data (e.g., Census Bureau) and Community data
- Primary geographic regions are Travis and Williamson - some data will be displayed for the 5 county MSA
- Real-time tracking and trends
- Geographic insights
- Evidence and data based decision making
- Downloadable reports and visuals
- Community Engagement tool
- Progress monitoring tool



# Important Components of the EC Data Hub

- Collaboration
  - Co-designed with community
  - Use current coalition and program networks for engagement
- No duplication/reinventing the wheel
  - Imbed or linking to existing dashboards and resources (e.g., March of Dimes, Texans Care for Children, CAN, COA)
  - Use our resources for local visualization and data that is not currently available.
- Iterative - resources added over time

# Early Childhood Community Data Hub

(Initial launch late Fall 2025)

## Demographics

(e.g., age, race/ethnicity, household composition)

## Economic Stability

(e.g., poverty, rent/housing cost, median income, cost of child care)

## Are children ready to learn?

(e.g., school readiness)

## Maternal and Infant Health

(e.g., prenatal care, birth outcomes)

## Child Health

(e.g., developmental screeners, vaccinations, maltreatment)

## Family Support

(e.g., parent education, home visiting)

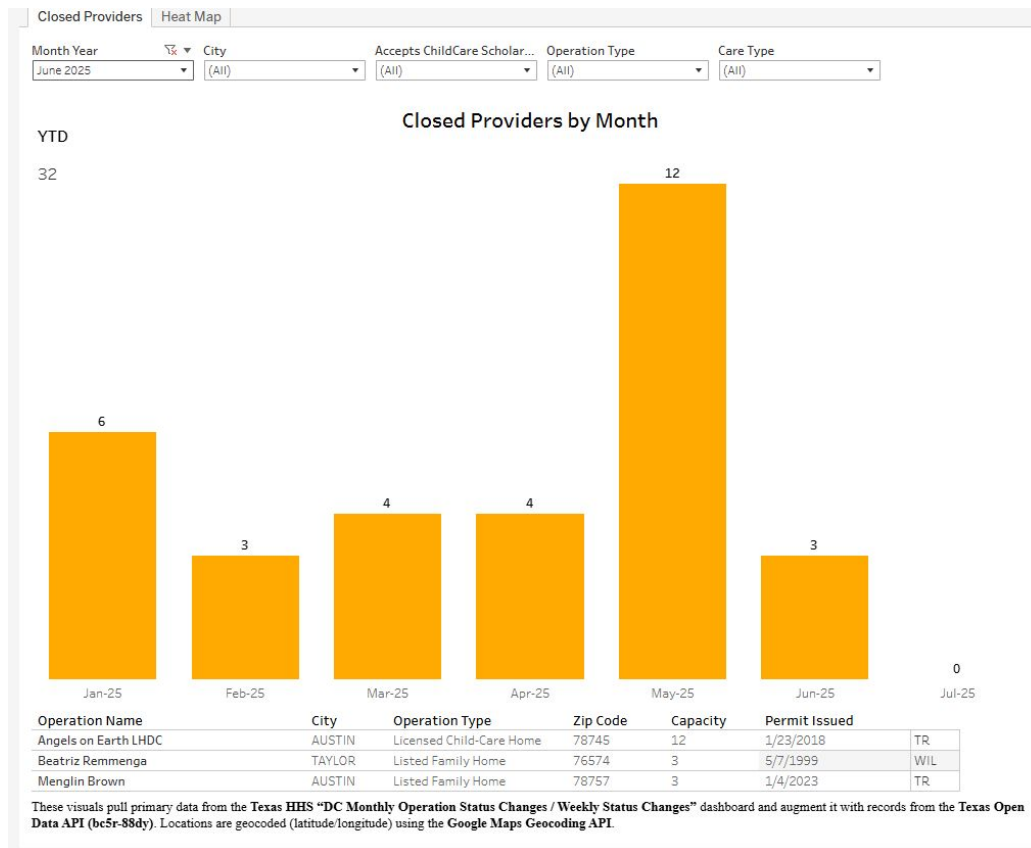
## Early Learning and Child Care

(e.g., quality, teacher education & wages)

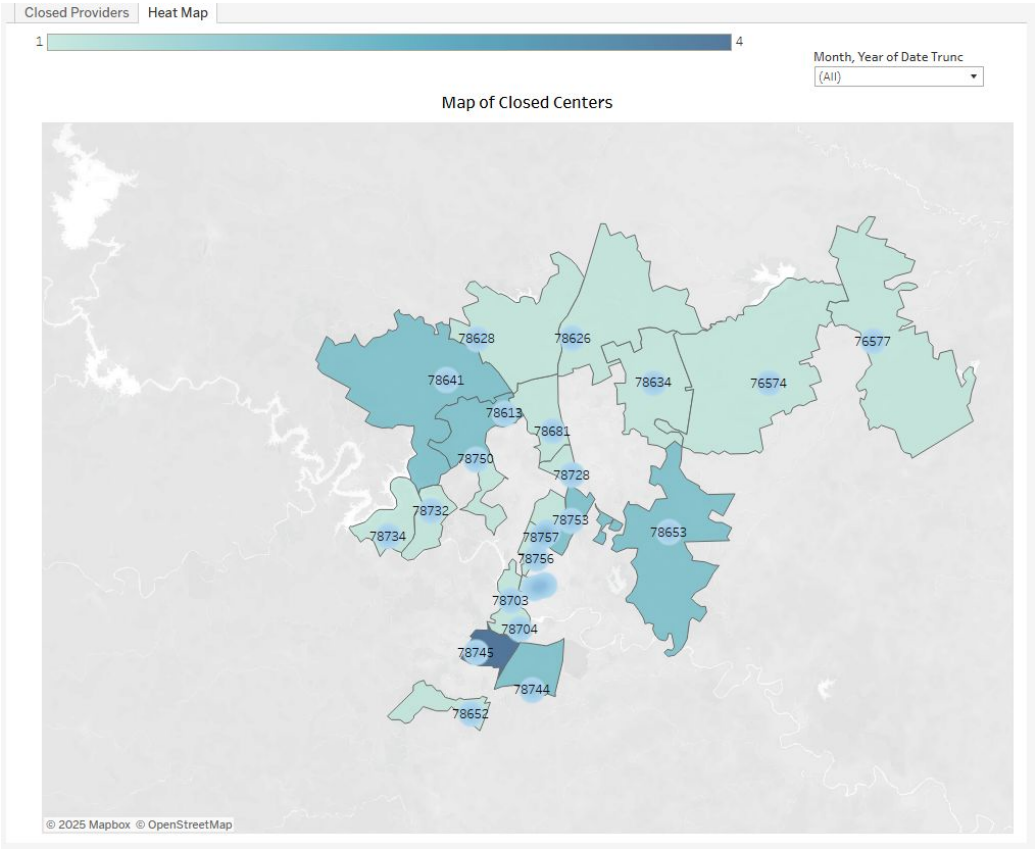
## Investment in Early Childhood

(e.g., city & county spending)

# Example - Child Care Provider Closure Data



# Example - Child Care Provider Closure Data



Austin &  
Travis  
County  
ECE  
Landscape  
Survey



**SUCCESS BY 6**  
AUSTIN/TRAVIS COALITION

# Goals of the Survey

- **Community profile** of the ECE landscape - including supply, demand, and challenges.
- **A baseline** for future tracking and trend analysis.
- **Enhanced Planning:** Actionable insights for coalition members and other target users to inform local and strategic planning.
- **Enhanced Decision-Making:** Users will be better equipped to allocate resources and shape programs that address children's positive development and school readiness.
- **Increased Transparency and Accountability:** Public access to data increases trust and drives collective action.
- **Equity-Driven Solutions:** Disaggregated data, highlight disparities and inform targeted, inclusive policies.
- **Improved Cross-Sector Collaboration:** A shared survey and reports enables coordinated responses across agencies and sectors.
- Increased **advocacy power** through shared data.

# Example Key Indicators

1. Enrollment Information (e.g., current & desired enrollment; waitlists)
2. Staffing and Qualifications (e.g., # teaching & support staff; education levels; staffing challenges)
3. Wages and Compensation (e.g., wages by role; benefits offered)
4. Tuition Costs (e.g., annual cost, changes in tuition cost)
5. Operational Costs (e.g., rent, supplies)
6. Successes, needs, and challenges

# Key Components

- Travis County (and Austin) licensed centers & registers and licensed homes (currently ~550 providers)
- CO-creation with partners and providers
- Ensure adequate representation by type of care (e.g., home-based, corporate, small business), and geographic location.
- Provider compensation
- Data shared back through reports & dashboards as part of the EC Data Hub

# Questions and Discussion

Alison Bentley, VP Data & Evaluation  
[Alison.Bentley@uwatx.org](mailto:Alison.Bentley@uwatx.org)

