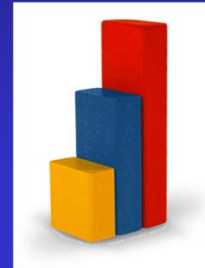# TEXAS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**FINAL REPORT**
**Findings and Policy Implications**

**October 29, 2012**

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# Project Partners

**Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources**

**LBJ School of Public Affairs**
**University of Texas at Austin**

**Hobby Center for the Study of Texas**

**Rice University**

# Project Funder

**Texas Early Learning Council**



# Project Purpose

To give the state and organizations
serving young children
a clear picture of the nature
of  the population of young Texans
and the projected need
for early education services

# Project Scope

- **Children ages 0 through 12**
    - ➢ All children needing child care
    - ➢ Population eligible for specific programs (e.g., Head Start, CCDF, Pre-K)

- **Formal early childhood education and school-age care providers and slots**

- **Quality programs accredited by a national or state quality measure**

- **State of Texas and smaller geographic areas**

**Project conducted by only using existing data**

# Research Objectives

1. **Estimate total children under age 13 and those eligible for ECE and school-age care**

2. **Document current supply of ECE and SAC**

3. **Conduct a gap analysis based on these data**

4. **Generate a comprehensive needs assessment analyzing Texas' early childhood education and school-age care system**

## Objective 1:
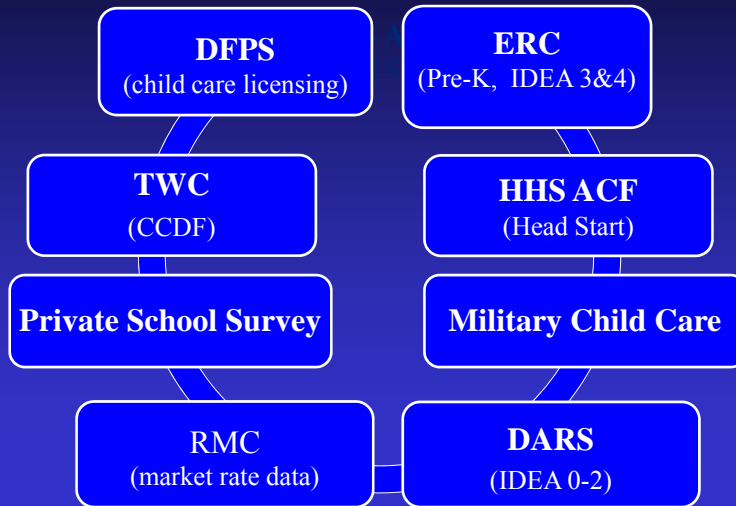
**Understand and estimate
the total number of children under age
13 and those eligible for early childhood
education programs**

## Objective 2:

Understand and document
the current supply across the state of Texas
of formal providers of early childhood
education programs and services
and school-age care for
children under the age of 13

# Supply Data Sources

```
┌─────────────────────┐     ┌─────────────────────┐
│       DFPS          │     │        ERC          │
│ (child care licensing)│    │  (Pre-K,  IDEA 3&4) │
└─────────────────────┘     └─────────────────────┘

┌─────────────────────┐     ┌─────────────────────┐
│        TWC          │     │      HHS ACF        │
│      (CCDF)         │     │    (Head Start)     │
└─────────────────────┘     └─────────────────────┘

┌─────────────────────┐     ┌─────────────────────┐
│ Private School Survey│     │  Military Child Care │
└─────────────────────┘     └─────────────────────┘

┌─────────────────────┐     ┌─────────────────────┐
│        RMC          │     │        DARS         │
│  (market rate data) │     │     (IDEA 0-2)      │
└─────────────────────┘     └─────────────────────┘
```

# Types of Supply Results

- **Total unduplicated formal supply of early care and education and services**
- **Specific supply results for:**
  - **Child care centers and family homes**
  - **Pre-kindergarten (public and private)**
  - **Military child care**
  - **Head Start and Early Head Start**
  - **CCDF subsidies**
  - **IDEA services (ECI and PPCD)**
  - **School-age care (partial)**
- **Number of providers and number of slots for state, COGs, MSAs and counties if data available**

# Key Supply Findings

- **Over 23,000 unduplicated providers of ECE in 2010 (centers, homes, public Pre-K and military) had capacity to serve nearly 860,000 children, ages 0-4**
    - 35% of providers and 67% of slots in licensed child care centers
    - 13% of providers and 26% of slots in public Pre-K
- **Other providers:**
    - Head Start (1,260 providers serving 93,000 children)
    - Private Pre-K (1,064 providers serving 55,000 children)
    - CCDF (12,600 providers serving nearly 140,000 children)
    - ECI (56 providers serving 66,600 children)
    - PPCD (4,000 providers serving 42,000 children)

# 2010 Total Supply of Unduplicated Formal ECE Providers and Slots for Texas Children 0-4

| | Providers | | Slots | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Type of Care** | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Total | 23,465 | 100% | 867,628 | 100% |
| Child Care Centers | 8,300 | 35% | 586,923 | 67% |
| Licensed Homes | 1,626 | 7% | 12,600 | 1% |
| Registered Homes | 6,330 | 27% | 30,557 | 4% |
| Listed Homes | 4,037 | 17% | 10,155 | 1% |
| Public Pre-K | 3,154 | 13% | 554,287 | 26% |
| Military CDCs | 18 | 0% | 3,106 | 0% |

# Distribution of Unduplicated Formal ECE Slots by County

**Slots**
- □ < 100 (44)
- ■ 100 – 249 (47)
- ■ 250 – 499 (40)
- ■ 500 – 999 (43)
- ■ 1,000 or More (80)
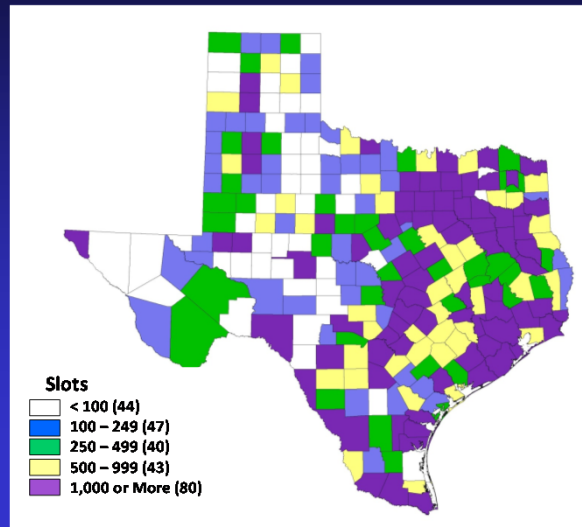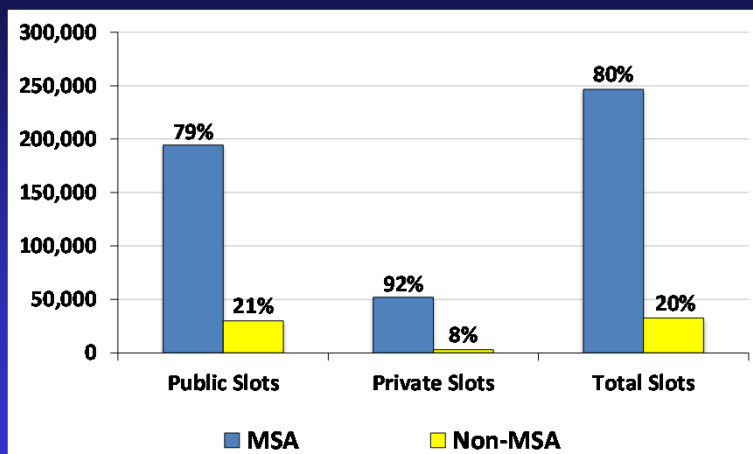
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| Private Pre-K | 1,064 | 54,644 |
| Military CDCs | 18 | 3,106 |
| Head Start | 989 | 65,178 |
| Early Head Start | 233 | 7,119 |
| Migrant/ Seasonal Head Start | 39 | 7,700 |
| Child Care Development Fund | 12,652 | 139,537 |
| IDEA: Early Childhood Intervention | 56 | 66,648 |
| IDEA: Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities | 4,044 | 41,815 |

## Distribution of TDFPS-Regulated Care Provider Sites and Slots Statewide

**Provider Sites**
N= 23,465

- Licensed Homes: 41%
- Licensed Centers: 31%
- Registered Homes: 20%
- Listed Homes: 8%

**Total Slots**
N= 867,628

- Licensed Centers: 92%
- Registered Homes: 5%
- Licensed Homes: 2%
- Listed Homes: 1%

■ Licensed Centers   □ Registered Homes   ■ Licensed Homes   ■ Listed Homes
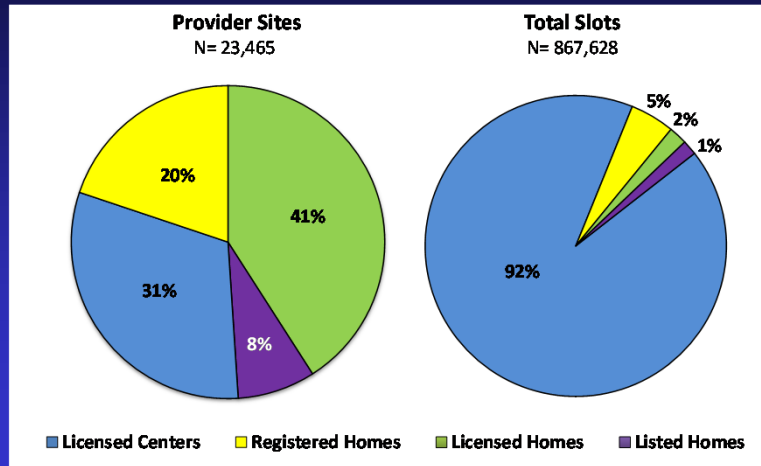
## Distribution of Public and Private Pre-K Slots by MSA Status

| | Public Slots | Private Slots | Total Slots |
|---|---|---|---|
| MSA | 79% | 92% | 80% |
| Non-MSA | 21% | 8% | 20% |

■ MSA   □ Non-MSA

## Distribution of Head Start and CCDF

- **Head Start**
  - ➢ **All but 30 counties have at least one HS provider**
  - ➢ **30% located in non-MSA counties**
- **CCDF Subsidies**
  - ➢ **88% served in child care centers**
  - ➢ **7% in licensed or registered homes**
  - ➢ **<5% use informal care**
  - ➢ **Only two MSAs — Austin-Round Rock and Dallas-Ft. Worth —serve > 1,000 children in informal arrangements**

## Distribution of ECI and PPCD

- **ECI**
  - ➢ **56 grantees serving entire state**
  - ➢ **All COGs except Middle Rio Grande and South Texas had at least one grantee**
  - ➢ **All MSAs except Brownsville-Harlingen and Laredo had at least one grantee**
  - ➢ **88% of children served lived in MSA counties**
- **PPCD**
  - ➢ **Providers in all COGs and MSAs**
  - ➢ **85% of providers and 89% of children served were in MSAs**

## Home Visiting Programs

- **In 2010, 12 programs throughout the state supporting families with pregnant women and children to age 5**

- **In 2011, TX HHSC received Affordable Care Act funds to support evidenced-based home visiting programs in 8 counties and a 'promising approach' program in an additional county**
  - **Expected to serve 2,254 families through August 2013**
  - **Counties include: Cherokee, Dallas, Ector, Gregg, Hidalgo, Willacy, Nueces and Potter**

## Data Sources for Measuring Quality

**Texas School Ready!**

**Texas Rising Star**

**National Association for Education of Young Children**

**National Association for Family Child Care**

**National Early Childhood Program Accreditation**

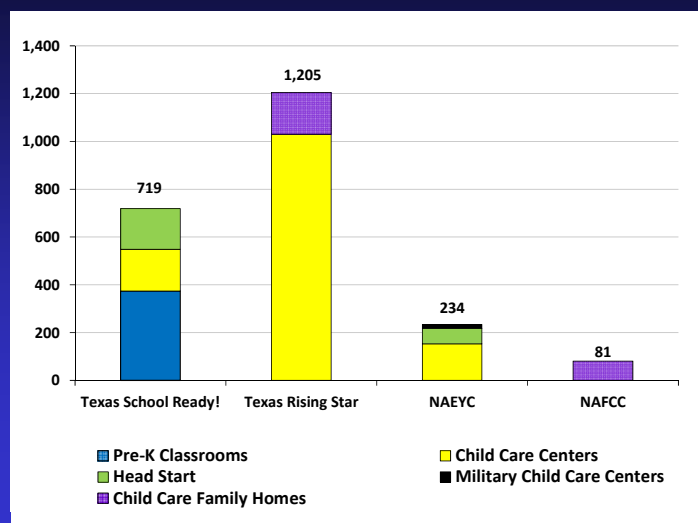**National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education**

**Association of Christian Schools International**
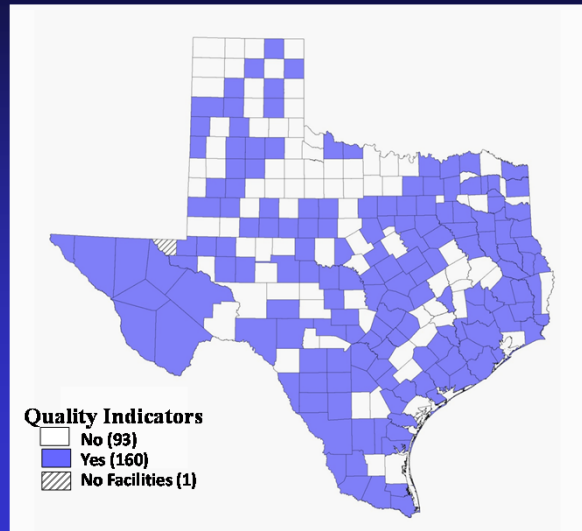
**National Afterschool Association**

# Key Quality Findings

- **Every COG and MSA has at least one provider meeting some type of quality standard**

- **Only 160 of 254 have at least one provider meeting any type of quality standard**

- **Unduplicated list of quality providers by county could not be determined due to lack of common identifiers across data sources**

- **Distribution by COG, MSA and county provided for TSR! And TRS**

## Total Provider Sites Meeting Quality Standards by Provider Type



Chart legend:
- Pre-K Classrooms
- Head Start
- Child Care Family Homes
- Child Care Centers
- Military Child Care Centers

Values shown: Texas School Ready! 719; Texas Rising Star 1,205; NAEYC 234; NAFCC 81

**Counties with at Least One Provider Meeting
Designated Quality Standards**



Quality Indicators
☐ No (93)
🟦 Yes (160)
▨ No Facilities (1)

# Objective 3:

**Conduct a gap analysis based on the completion of objectives 1 and 2**

➢ Compare gaps in the demand for services and the available supply

➢ Identify the gap between the need for high-quality services and the availability of such services

# Gap Analysis Key Findings

- **Unduplicated formal ECE slots could serve 45% of all Texas children 0-4 in 2010**
    - Also measured by COG, MSA and county
        - Lowest in Brownsville-Harlingen and Sherman-Denison MSAs (37 slots per 100 children)
        - Highest in Texarkana MSA (78 slots per 100 children)

## Proportion of ECE Slots by County per 100 Children Under Age 5 in 2010



Slots per 100 children Under Age 5
- <25 (24)
- 25 – 44.7 (144)
- 44.8 – 49.9 (31)
- 50.0 – 64.9 (49)
- 65.0 or More (6)
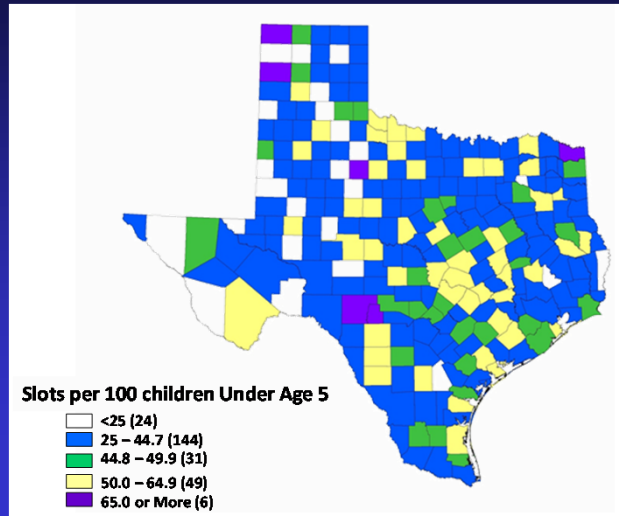
# Gap Analysis Key Findings

**Unduplicated formal ECE slots could serve 78% of all Texas children 0**-4 of working-parent families in 2010

- **Estimated gaps in formal ECE for 0-2 in 20 largest counties**
  - Largest relative supply in Brazoria, Bell and Denton counties
  - Smallest relative supply in Fort Bend and Williamson counties

- **Estimated gaps in formal ECE for ages 3-4 in 20 largest counties**
  - Largest relative supply in Galveston, Webb and Bell counties
  - Smallest relative supply in Brazoria and Dallas counties

## Relative Supply of Current Unduplicated Early Care and Education Slots by Projected Child Population Growth for the 20 Largest Texas Counties
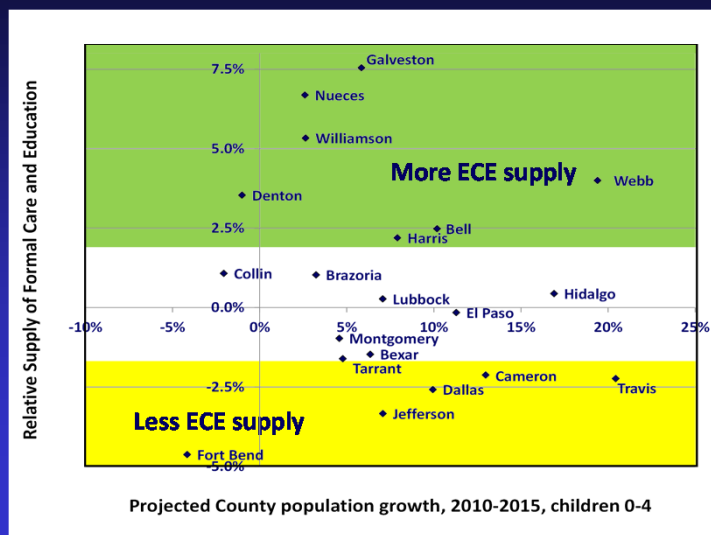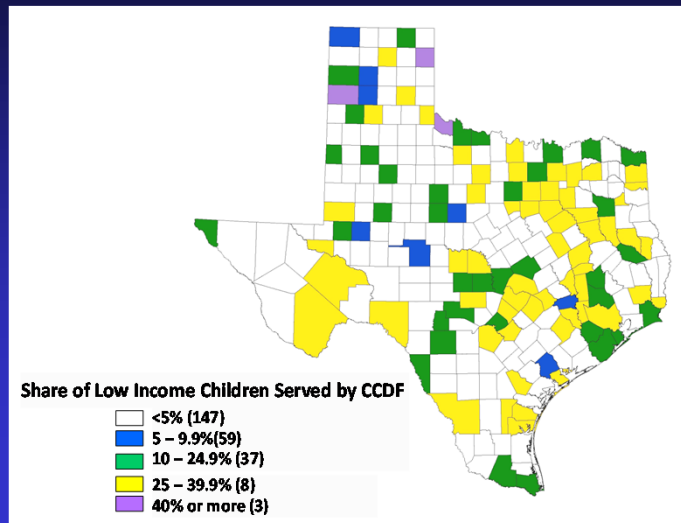
## Gap Analysis Key Findings

- **Service gaps estimated for specific programs if possible but data gaps prevented full analysis**
  - ➤ Pre-K
  - ➤ Head Start
  - ➤ CCDF

- **At most, 16% of child care centers and 12% of public Pre-Ks achieved any quality designation**

- **Biggest data gaps were in measurement of school-age care and linking quality information to provider information**
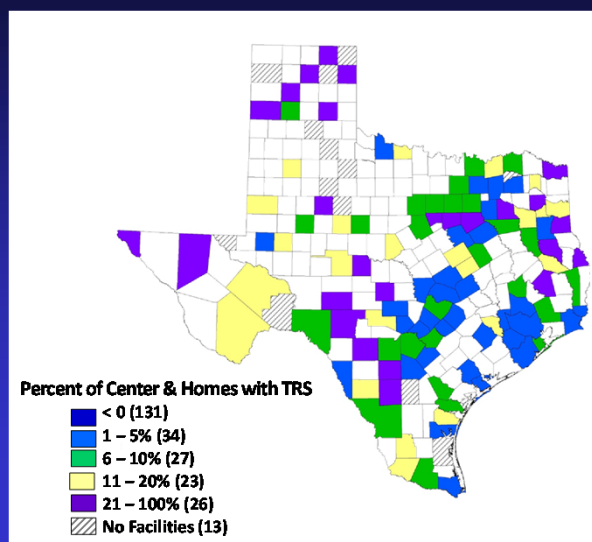
## Gap Analysis Key Findings

- **Public Pre-K**
  - ➤ Existing programs serve 85-92% of need
  - ➤ An additional 15,000 slots needed in 2010 and an additional 7,600 slots in 2015 to serve all income-eligible children

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**
  - ➤ 5% of 0-2-year-olds, 31% of 3-year-olds and 39% of 4-year-olds served

- **CCDF subsidies**
  - ➤ Difficult to estimate precise gaps because eligibility based on families and available to children ages 0-12
  - ➤ Less than 10% of eligible families served

## Share of Children in Low-Income Families Served by CCDF in 2010



Share of Low Income Children Served by CCDF
- <5% (147)
- 5 – 9.9%(59)
- 10 – 24.9% (37)
- 25 – 39.9% (8)
- 40% or more (3)

## Distribution of Texas Rising Star Certified Sites by County



Percent of Center & Homes with TRS
- < 0 (131)
- 1 – 5% (34)
- 6 – 10% (27)
- 11 – 20% (23)
- 21 – 100% (26)
- No Facilities (13)

# Recommendations

- **Service Improvements - State**

    - Identify and better articulate total array of services for young children and their families

    - Assess whether creation of a separate agency for early learning would enhance the state's efforts to improve kindergarten readiness

    - Increase services for low-income children under the age of four

    - Develop a more systematic approach to measuring and improving program quality

    - Determine if PPCD participants are receiving the earliest possible interventions services.

    - Work with relevant groups to better understand school-age care

    - Determine which services have greatest impact on kindergarten readiness and other educational outcomes

# Recommendations

- **Service Improvements - Local**

    - **Use information in needs assessment as starting point for more detailed needs assessment**

    - **Address following questions:**
        - Is current supply of formal ECE sufficient to meet needs

        - How prepared is this community to deal with overall projected growth

        - Are there opportunities to improve program coordination to enhance kindergarten readiness

        - How much extra funding will be needed to provide specialized services

        - What are opportunities to improve quality

# Recommendations

- **Future Needs Assessments**
  - ➢ Implement common protocol to collect desired type of program data annually
  - ➢ Enhance Census population surveys with periodic surveys needed to measure key variables
  - ➢ Add a common program identifier code to TDPRS database and TEA school database
  - ➢ Add program capacity information by child age to TDFPS registry database
  - ➢ Create data archive in order to maintain access to historical program and quality data.

# For Additional Information

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