

# STRATEGIC PLAN | 2019-2023 | A 2,000 DAY JOURNEY: YEAR 2 UPDATE

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, the Success By 6 Coalition (SX6 Coalition) pivoted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All member organizations shifted into immediate emergency response, seeking to protect the health and safety of families with young children and identifying ways to provide services and resources in a virtual environment. In July, the coalition proceeded to triage our strategic plan, elevating new priorities to meet immediate circumstances and pausing others as necessary.

## PIVOTING SERVICE DELIVERY AND MESSAGING



The SX6 Coalition coordinated to share and amplify five key health and safety messages to support families with young children and to share timely information through Bright By Text.



Family Connects Texas and other parent support programs shifted effectively to telehealth models.



Austin Public Health established an ATX Child Care Response Task Force reporting to Austin Emergency Operations Command Center. This provided child care to essential workers during statewide closures and established measures to protect the health and safety of children and staff through coordinated resources and response.



State leadership recognized Austin's strong system for effective response. The SX6 Coalition was invited to have representation on the Governor's Frontline Child Care Task Force to help inform statewide response.

## ONGOING CHALLENGES

During the COVID-19 pandemic, enrollment decreased substantially across all programs (from home visiting, to child care, to pre-K). Families continue to face challenges related to stress, food insecurity, and economic instability, while lack of digital access has also prevented some families from accessing virtual services.

# THANK YOU

to our essential workers



We want to acknowledge the extraordinary and creative ways in which the early care and education community has responded during the pandemic, dramatically changing the ways that they go about their work in order to meet the needs of families and children.

## STRATEGIC PLAN | 2019-2023 | A 2,000 DAY JOURNEY: YEAR 2 UPDATE

**Note:** COVID-19 presented some challenges to data collection. See page 4 for details.

\*Some data was not collected at all due to COVID-19.

		2018 DATA	2019 DATA	2020 DATA	2023 TARGET	ON TRACK
OVERALL MEASURES	Children who enter Kindergarten school-ready	49%	48%	*Not collected	70%	NO
	Children from families with low income who enter Kindergarten school-ready	39%	38%	*Not collected	70%	NO
	Confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect (children ages 0-5)	1,237	1,376	1,430	0	NO
HEALTHY BEGINNINGS	Families who receive a postnatal home visit from Family Connects	39	768	856	4,275	YES
SUPPORTED FAMILIES	Children under 3 from families with low income whose parents participate in research- or evidence-based home visiting or parent education services	8%	9%	9%	9%	YES
QUALITY CARE AND EDUCATION	Full-day early care and education centers that are rated Texas Rising Star 4-Star or higher and serve children ages 0-5 from families with low income	45%	52%	53%	70%	YES
	Children ages 0-5 from families with low income in early care and education centers rated Texas Rising Star 4-Star or higher	53%	62%	67%	70%	YES
	Eligible three-year-old children enrolled in public pre-K in Travis County school districts or other high-quality early education settings	24%	23%	17%	50%	NO
	Eligible four-year-old children enrolled in full-day public pre-K in Travis County school districts	79%	78%	74%	85%	NO
SAFE AND STIMULATING COMMUNITIES	Bright By Text and Ready Rosie sign-ups	1,010	3,838	4,075	6,000	YES
	City and County spending on early childhood development and learning, per child from families	\$229	\$241	\$247	N/A	YES

## STRATEGIC PLAN | 2019-2023 | A 2,000 DAY JOURNEY: YEAR 2 UPDATE

### HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

Austin was selected as an expansion community to launch Help Me Grow (HMG), which will be incorporated into United Way for Greater Austin's ConnectATX. HMG is a system framework that utilizes and builds on existing resources in order to help families with young children navigate systems and access resources more easily.



### SUPPORTED FAMILIES

Even as member organizations have been working virtually, the collaboration among partners remains high. An analysis of the past five years of data from the Ready Families Collaborative shows that year over year more families have been served, and program duplication has decreased. As the SX6 Coalition continues to center equity in our service delivery approach, it is also notable that a higher percentage of Black families have been engaging with the Ready Families Collaborative programs.



### HIGH QUALITY CARE & EDUCATION

Child care was identified as a vital economic sector by the City of Austin, and funding, resources, and the community came together to keep the sector afloat. The City of Austin and Travis County invested more than \$6MM in child care relief funding to stabilize the sector, the City of Austin included early care and education representation in the Austin Economic Development Corporation, the Homegrown Emergency Fund along with the City of Austin and St. David's Foundation funded home-based family child care, and AVANCE Inc. launched a unique family child care cohort connecting home-based care providers with one another.



### SAFE & STIMULATING COMMUNITIES

The SX6 Coalition launched a partnership with the City of Austin Equity Office to begin a robust equity assessment with the goal of operationalizing equity in the coalition structures and processes. The coalition hopes to create an inclusive space for all voices in Austin/Travis County to be represented in the decision-making process. The goal is to center the voice of BIPOC families, and focus on racial equity in early childhood outcomes.



# STRATEGIC PLAN | 2019-2023 | A 2,000 DAY JOURNEY: YEAR 2 UPDATE

## COVID-19 AND DATA COLLECTION

In 2020, COVID-19 posed challenges to service delivery and caused a decrease in program enrollment. The pandemic also presented immense challenges to data collection. Most importantly, the decision was made not to collect the school readiness data in Kindergarten classrooms. We made this choice to reduce the burden on teaching staff and families, and because the data collected virtually would likely be unreliable and not a good comparison with data from previous years.

### **There are several important caveats concerning the data in this report:**

- Between the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey (ACS), the number of children from households with low income decreased by about 4,000 children. The 2019 ACS data is the most recent data available, but we anticipate that number will increase again in 2020. This 2020 data will not be available until fall of 2021.
- Due to the decrease in the total number of children from households with low income, some of our measures look better despite a decrease in service. For example, the overall number of children served through home visiting and parent education programs decreased by around 300 children between 2019 and 2020. However, because our denominator (our total number of children from households with low income) also decreased, the percentage served stayed exactly the same.
- Many services were provided virtually, so the data is not necessarily measuring the same type of experience and support for families and children year over year. For example, all home visiting and parent education programs and many child care and pre-K services provided virtual and at-home learning opportunities.
- The data related to full-day child care and children served has been especially complex this year for two reasons. First, the Texas Workforce Commission suspended attendance requirements between mid-March and July so we do not have reliable information during this time concerning the number of children served. Second, with intermittent child care program closures, it is not possible to determine if numbers served include duplication of children. For that reason, estimates of numbers served might be high.

Join the Success By 6 Coalition to ensure all children in Austin/Travis County enter Kindergarten happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in school and beyond.  
**Learn more at [SuccessBy6ATX.org](https://SuccessBy6ATX.org).**