

2019-23 STRATEGIC PLAN

A 2,000 DAY JOURNEY: YEAR 4 UPDATE

		2019 DATA	2020 DATA	2021 DATA	2022 DATA	2023 TARGET	ON TRACK?
OVERALL OUTCOMES	Children who enter Kindergarten school-ready	48%	*Not collected	*Not collected	*Not collected	70%	
	Children from families with low income who enter Kindergarten school-ready	38%	*Not collected	*Not collected	*Not collected	70%	
	Confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect (children ages 0-5)	1,376	1,430	1,205	937	0	
HEALTHY BEGINNINGS	Families who receive a postnatal home visit from Family Connects	768	856	891	885	4,275	
SUPPORTED FAMILIES	Children under 3 from families with low income whose parents participate in research- or evidence-based home visiting or parent education services	9%	9%	11%	14%	9%	
QUALITY CARE AND EDUCATION	Full-day early care and education centers rated Texas Rising Star 4-Star or higher and serve children ages 0-5 from families with low income	52%	53%	60%	60%	70%	
	Children ages 0-5 from families with low income in early care and education centers rated Texas Rising Star 4-Star or higher	62%	67%	71%	65%	70%	
	Eligible three-year-old children enrolled in public pre-K in Travis County school districts or other high-quality early education settings	23%	17%	17%	22%	50%	
	Eligible four-year-old children enrolled in full-day public pre-K in Travis County school districts	78%	74%	80%	60%	85%	
SAFE AND STIMULATING COMMUNITIES	Bright by Text sign-ups	3,838	4,075	4,161	4,370	6,000	
	City and County spending on early childhood development and learning, per child from families with low income	\$241	\$247 (ARPA: \$279)	\$255 (ARPA: \$494)	\$328 (ARPA: \$882)	N/A	

*Note: Some data was not collected due to COVID-19

Green = On Track or Significant Progress
Orange = Progress Made But Unlikely To Achieve Target
Red = Not On Track or Declined

INCREASED ACCESS AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOME VISITING AND PARENT EDUCATION SERVICES

In the past year, we have seen increased participation in research- or evidence-based home visiting and parent education services, and have also seen an improvement in the quality of and referrals to these services.

For the first time since COVID-19 began, Family Connects resumed in-home visits in April 2022. In the same year, the Central Texas Perinatal Coalition was welcomed under the umbrella of the Success By 6 Coalition, aligning and strengthening efforts in advocacy and coordination in the Austin/Travis County perinatal space.

INCREASED PUBLIC FUNDING

We saw an increase in City and County spending on early childhood development and learning, including \$16 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. With ARPA funding, the amount of funding per child more than doubled from the previous year. It is important to note that the small increases in funding along with fewer children makes the number appear larger.

As a result of having a strong existing coalition, Austin/Travis County was selected as one of four Texas communities to receive a Help Me Grow grant to help families and caregivers navigate the early childhood system through an accessible and specialized resource and referral system.

In the business sector, Early Matters Greater Austin continued to grow its impact engaging business leaders in early childhood initiatives, with over 140 Greater Austin businesses earning the Best Place for Working Parents® designation, committing to family-friendly workplace practices.



ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IMPEDED BY WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

As a bright spot, data from the E3 Alliance indicates that, as of the 2022-23 school year, all Travis County school districts now offer full-day, low ratio pre-K for eligible four-year-olds. Pre-K enrollment percentages are based on 2021-22 Kindergarteners, who were in the 2020-21 pre-K4 and 2019-20 pre-K3 cohorts. These cohorts were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, during which pre-K utilization and enrollment was decreased. We anticipate that these numbers will rebound in future years.

Access to quality child care was significantly impacted by workforce shortages in 2022. A pulse survey conducted in March 2022 indicated that 95% of programs surveyed reported hiring difficulty, with 78% reporting staff vacancies.

In 2022, the City of Austin and Travis County began implementing supports funded through the American Rescue Plan Act including premium pay wage stipends while the Texas Workforce Commission sustained temporarily increased reimbursement rates as well as distributing relief grants. Seventy-eight percent of the programs surveyed that accept child care subsidies reported that COVID-19 financial assistance (state and local) was instrumental in keeping their doors open. Despite these challenges, 60% of child care programs maintained their rating of TRS 4-Star or higher.

Several innovative initiatives funded by City and County ARPA investments launched in 2022. The Greater Austin Shared Services Alliance for Early Learning targets business supports for high-quality child care centers. Family-based child care homes now have access to additional coaching and resources supporting licensing and quality accreditation.



EXPLANATION OF DATA

It appears that there were large positive trends in some of our measures. However, these increases may be based on the lower number of local young children experiencing poverty, with 28% of children under six living in households with low income in 2021, compared to 35% in 2019.

For example, the actual number of families with low income and children under 3 whose parents participate in research- or evidence-based home visiting or parent education services decreased slightly, but as a result of the lower number of children in households with low income, the percentage of families served increased.

Overall, there are fewer young children in households with low income in Austin/Travis County. This is likely due to factors such as:

- Impact of Earned Income Tax Credit expansion through American Rescue Plan Act
- Local direct cash assistance for families
- Relocation to homes outside of Travis County

In measuring overall school readiness, Ready, Set, K data is no longer available due to COVID-19. Ready, Set, K was a multidimensional pre-K monitoring and Kindergarten entry screening tool using multimodal, longitudinal authentic assessment that included multiple domains such as social/emotional development. In the next version of the Success By 6 Early Childhood Strategic Plan, the Coalition will report on literacy readiness using data from a different tool determined by the Texas Education Agency.



Local child at coalition member
Trinity Child Development Center

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.



United Way for
Greater Austin