

Affordable, Available, and Accessible Child Care



Center for
Transforming Lives
From Poverty to Possibility

Access to employment is contingent upon child care. Access to child care is contingent on affordability, availability, and physical access.

Affordability

- Affordability is a major barrier to child care, and is influenced by variables such as location, age served, and quality.
- The median price of child care services at licensed child care centers cost between \$28.18 and \$33.20 daily.
- The median cost of partial-day child care ranges based on age between \$19.79 and \$27.11 daily (Table 1).¹
- These figures translate to a monthly cost of between \$429.00 to \$719.00 a month per child.
- A single mother in Texas who lives at 200% of the federal poverty level will spend approximately 30% of her income on child care.²
- Low income parents who work, go to school, or participate in a training program for a minimum of 25 hours a week or parents of children with disabilities may qualify for subsidized child care in Tarrant County. Eligibility is determined by income in conjunction with the work or education requirement.³ After applying, most families are put on a wait list for child care.

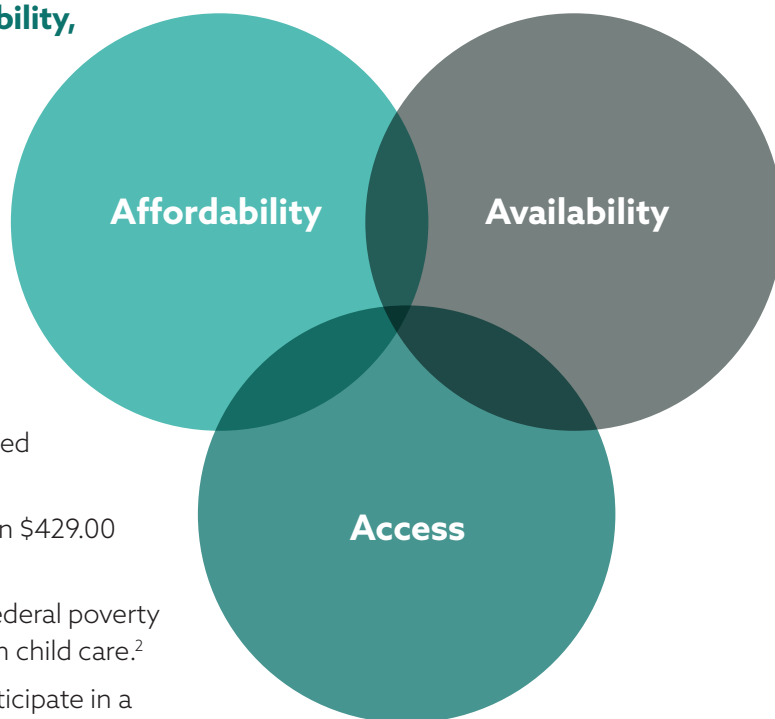


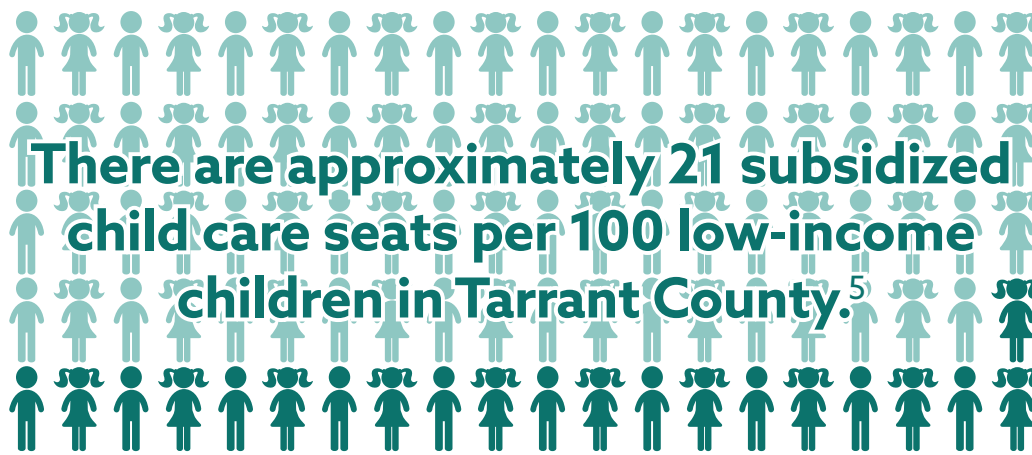
Table 1. Median Daily Market Rate for Child Care in Tarrant County by Child Care Facility

	Infant, Full Day	Infant, Part Day	Toddler, Full Day	Toddler, Part Day	Preschool, Full Day	Preschool, Part day	School aged Full Day	School aged Part day
Licensed Child Care Centers	\$33.20	\$27.11	\$30.93	\$25.83	\$29.40	\$20.70	\$28.18	\$19.79
Licensed Child Care Homes	\$29.65	\$24.68	\$27.61	\$25.96	\$27.22	\$20.56	\$23.39	\$18.27
Registered Child Care Homes	\$28.57	\$25.74	\$26.70	\$24.04	\$25.85	\$18.76	\$21.78	\$17.15

Source: Texas Workforce Commission (2017). 2017 Texas child care market rate survey: final report. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. Retrieved from https://txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FinalReport_2017_Market_Rate_7.10.17_Publish.pdf

Availability

- In Tarrant County among the 1,218 child care providers, 67% do not accept subsidies.⁴
- In Tarrant County, there are 22,000 more low-income children than subsidized child care seats, meaning only one in five low-income children have child care available.⁵



Access

- Further compounding the issues of availability and affordability is physical access to a child care facility.
- Only 34% of child care facilities surveyed by the Texas Workforce Commission offer transportation, and only 6% of these facilities offer care for children during non-traditional hours (e.g., weekends, evenings, and overnight).¹
- In Tarrant County, 81% of low-income children (ages 0-5) with working parents live in a subsidized child care desert (i.e., where the demand for subsidized child care is three times greater or more than the supply of subsidized child care), which is higher than the Texas average of 75%.²

How does Child Care relate to Family Homelessness?

- Homeless families face unique barriers to accessing child care including, difficulty navigating the subsidy system, inflexible hours, and documentation requirements.⁶
- Homeless families will struggle to secure housing without access to child care, as child care permits the parent to participate in the workforce.⁶
- Homeless families will struggle to find employment without access to child care, which lengthens time in shelters and related services because they cannot afford to leave.⁶

1. Texas Workforce Commission (2017). 2017 Texas child care market rate survey: final report. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. Retrieved from https://txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FinalReport_2017_Market_Rate_7.10.17_Publish.pdf

2. Children at Risk (2017). How Many Low-Income Children in Texas Live in a Childcare Desert?. Retrieved from <https://childrenatrisk.org/how-many-low-income-children-in-texas-live-in-a-child-care-desert/>

3. 211. (n.d.) Program: Child Care Management Services CCMS Tarrant County. Retrieved from <http://services.211texas.org/ResourceView2.aspx?org=72605&agencynum=29211421>

4. Childcare Management Services (2018). 2018 Quality Child Care Report. [Print].

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6. Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness (2014). Meeting the child care needs of homeless families: How do states stack up? Retrieved from https://www.icphusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ICPH_policyreport_MeetingtheChildCareNeedssofHomelessFamilies.pdf