

**SX6 Update for Family Pathways / 2Gen Stakeholders
Q2 2-Gen Coalition Meeting (June 03, 2020)**

Family Connects team is creating messaging for partners to share out with families. We will share the resources in our 2-Gen Mission Box page.

Related to Childcare:

- The new Essential Worker subsidy is being phased out. For those who received approval for Essential Worker child care will have 3 months of care authorized by Workforce Solutions Capital Area but after that, if they are on the waiting list for subsidy (which has more than 2000 children on it), they will have to go back to the Waiting List. Workforce Solutions and SX6 Coalition leaders (City, County and UW ATX) are looking at any potential funds to extend this care but this was a decision at the state level by TWC.
- As of June 1st, TWC has reinstated that parents must pay their assigned Parent Share of Cost. Families can request a fee reduction but please recognize that WFS is really very busy right now with lots of changes from TWC so they are doing their best to respond. Encourage families to leave messages. SX6 is also seeking ways to advocate for reducing parent share of cost. Families that chose a TRS-rated center have a 15% reduction in parent share of cost already.
- While the Governor authorized that all child care COULD open, as of this week, we still have about 65% of child care centers that accept subsidy that are not operating. The recommendations for re-opening include reduced ratios and group sizes and enhanced health and safety protocols that take time and \$ to implement. If a family's child care center IS CLOSED, and they need to re-enter care, they should contact WFS to request a transfer to an open center.
- While TWC is still paying for child care based on enrollment and not absences for the time being, if a family is enrolled at a center that continues to be closed, the center is no longer receiving payment. When/if the center re-opens, and parents wait for that, they should be eligible for care there.
- Our City has authorized \$1M in grant funding for TRS (quality rated) child care centers for recovery and the details of process/procedures is in development.
- United Way ATX is also going to be able to provide some grant-funded support to family child care homes in the next few weeks. If organizations know of family homes that are serving their clients, please let Cathy McHorse know by email at Cathy.McHorse@uwatx.org
- Nationally, the federal government is currently considering a "Child Care is Essential Act" in the House and Senate for \$55B – this would meet a huge need. Child Care is Essential Act" that is under consideration in the House and Senate. <https://www.clasp.org/press-room/press-releases/clasp-applauds-new-child-care-bill-releases-state-state-impact-figures>
- The Austin Chamber of Commerce and City of Austin are recognizing lack of quality child care as critical issue. We can share advocacy opportunities at the local, state and national level as they emerge.
- The City of Austin approved recommendations of using HUD CDBG funds for child care as well as rental assistance.
- School districts ARE currently enrolling for Pre-K for next year! Please encourage eligible families to contact their district to enroll. For Austin ISD that includes Pre-K3 and PreK4. Head Start is also enrolling (AISD and Child Inc.) for the 2020-2021 school year. Families may need tech support for these processes.

Recommended reading: Kirk Watson's "Playbook for Resiliency

https://urbanlab.lbj.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/Playbook_for_Resiliency_TX_051320.pdf

Austin ISD currently offering opportunities to engage in conversations about the Superintendent Search Committee.

AISD will also be holding community conversations about their 2020-reopen plan in the next week.