

Adoption  
 Alliance of Community Assistance  
 Ministries of Greater Houston (ACAM)  
 Alliance Adolescent & Children's  
 Services  
 Arrow Child and Family Ministries  
 Bering Omega Community Services  
 Care for Elders  
 Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of  
 Galveston-Houston  
 ChildBuilders  
 CHILDREN AT RISK  
 Children's Defense Fund  
 Coalition for Behavioral Health Services  
 Coalition for the Homeless of  
 Houston/Harris Co., Inc.  
 Collaborative for Children  
 Communities In Schools  
 Community Family Centers  
 Covenant House of Texas  
 DePelchin Children's Center  
 Family Services of Greater Houston  
 Fort Bend Regional Council on  
 Substance Abuse, Inc.  
 Gateway to Care  
 Good Neighbor Healthcare Center  
 Gulf Coast CHIP Coalition  
 Harris County Child Abuse Task Force  
 Harris County Healthcare Alliance  
 Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston  
 Houston Area Association for the  
 Education of Young Children  
 Houston Area Women's Center  
 Houston Food Bank  
 Houston Area Immunization Registry  
 IntraCare Hospitals  
 Jewish Family Service  
 Jewish Federation of Greater Houston  
 Justice for Children  
 League of Women Voters Houston  
 Legacy Community Health  
 Services, Inc.  
 Memorial Hermann Healthcare System  
 Mental Health America  
 of Greater Houston  
 NAMI Metropolitan Houston  
 NAMI West Houston, Inc.  
 Neighborhood Centers, Inc.  
 Neuhaus Education Center  
 Northwest Assistance Ministries  
 Planned Parenthood of Houston  
 and Southeast Texas, Inc.  
 Prepared 4 Life  
 San Jose Clinic  
 SEARCH  
 South County Community Clinic,  
 DBA The Community Clinic  
 Spaulding for Children  
 St. Luke's Episcopal Health System  
 Systems of Hope  
 Texans Together Education Fund  
 Texas Children's Hospital  
 The Arc of Greater Houston  
 The Methodist Hospital System  
 The Network of Behavioral  
 Health Providers  
 United Way of Greater Houston  
 Wesley Community Center  
 YMCA of Greater Houston  
 YWCA of Greater Houston



## Early Childhood Education: Support Safe, Affordable and Accessible Child Care

**Position Statement Approved by One Voice: November 14, 2008**

**Issue/Concern:** Maximum provider reimbursement rates for subsidized child care are well below market rate across the state. In the table below, maximum daily rates for full time care, as established by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, are listed by age for licensed center care and are compared to the most recent market rate survey completed for the Texas Workforce Commission (February 2008).

	GCWB	Mkt Rt
<b>Infant</b>	\$24.72	\$43.97
<b>Toddler</b>	\$21.63	\$43.14
<b>Preschool</b>	\$19.57	\$39.19
<b>Schoolage</b>	\$18.54	\$37.38

Note: The market rate included is the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of rates in the Gulf Coast area. This is the suggested federal benchmark for ensuring that families with subsidies have access to child care services of a comparable quality to those not eligible for subsidies.

The vast majority (75%) of children receiving subsidized care in the Gulf Coast Area are in licensed centers. This means that for some of our most at-risk children, providers are receiving rates that are 43-50% below the market rate. In order to stay in business with such low revenues, providers must often cut corners and compromise their quality of care – resulting in higher child:staff ratios, under-qualified staff, and inadequate classroom materials and facilities. Other centers limit or opt not to participate in the program at all.

**Specific Policy Recommendation(s):**

- ★ Fund increased reimbursement rates for subsidized care at child care centers engaged in some form of quality improvement initiative.
- ★ Fund pilot projects to increase community capacity to improve quality of care, including consultation, training and technical assistance, with an emphasis on infant/toddler care.

**How does this issue/recommendation relate to prevention and early intervention or maximizing federal funds for health and human services?** Investments in quality early education reduce health and human service costs for all Texans. Whenever a family cannot access an early education program at all or must accept a low quality program, that family is at greater risk of needing a wide range of social services and that child is likely to enter Kindergarten behind by up to two years. This can result in additional costs associated with remedial education, criminal justice costs, lower high school graduation rates, and lower literacy rates.

**Supporting Facts/Research/Resources:**

- ★ In April 2007, a survey of child care providers across the state indicated that they are increasing fees to parents not enrolled in subsidy programs, reducing the number of subsidized children they are accepting or no longer participating as a provider in the subsidy program –further limiting the choices for families.
- ★ The report “A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Universally-Accessible Pre-Kindergarten Education in Texas” by the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M found that every \$1.00 invested in high-quality pre-kindergarten returns at least \$3.50 per participant.

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*One Voice: A Collaborative for Health and Human Services is a network of diverse community organizations that advocates for public policy to meet the health and human service needs in Texas.*