



POLICY

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| CATEGORY: | Contracts and Program Operations | No: 4.3.108.04 |
| SUBJECT: | Child Care Provider Reimbursement Rates | |
| SUPERSEDES: | 4.3.108.03 Dtd. August 27, 2015 | |
| EFFECTIVE: | October 1, 2022 | |
| BOARD APPROVAL: | December 8, 2022 Board of Directors' Meeting | |
| DATE APPROVED: | December 8, 2022 | |

I. PURPOSE:

To establish the criteria utilized in establishing child care reimbursement rates.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Category of child care - Infant, toddler, pre-school and school-age child care

Child Care – Child care services provided by the Board to assist qualified parents who are either working or participating in educational or training activities in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations.

Contractor - The grant recipient of specified child care allocations to implement Child Care services within the service delivery area.

Parent - An individual responsible for the care and supervision of the child identified as the child's natural parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, or legal guardian.

Provider – A person or entity that meets the minimum qualifications as set forth by Board policy for providing child care funded through Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend.

Texas Rising Star (TRS) – A state certification program that child care providers, who have a current Workforce Provider Agreement, are required to participate in. This certification criterion exceeds the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC'a) Child Care Regulation (CCR) Minimum Standards. The higher quality of child care service is attained by meeting criteria such as higher education levels for staff, lower ratios of children assigned to each caregiver, and utilizing an established curriculum.

Texas School Ready (TSR) – A certification program provided by the University of Texas Health Sciences, Center for Early Childhood Development that certifies preschool (ages four and five) education classrooms that effectively prepare children for kindergarten

Type(s) of child care providers - a licensed child care center, a licensed child care home, a registered child care home, and relative child care (relative must be listed with TDPRS).

POLICY TITLE: Child Care Provider Reimbursement Rate
POLICY NUMBER: 4.3.108.04

DATE: 12/08/2022
REVISION: 10/31/2022

III. POLICY STATEMENT:

The Board shall:

1. Establish a maximum reimbursement rate for purchased child care based upon the most recent Child Care Market Rate Survey provided by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
2. Establish the same maximum reimbursement rates for all regulated child care providers with signed Workforce Provider Agreements or Self-Arranged Child Care Provider Agreements by the customer, for each category of care. The Board establishes maximum provider reimbursement rates that include the following age groups:
 - Infants age 0 to 17 months
 - Toddlers age 18 to 35 months
 - Preschool age children from 36 to 71 months; and
 - School-age children 72 months and older
3. Establish an enhanced provider reimbursement rate for Texas Rising Star (TRS) certified providers and the infant, toddler, and preschool-age classrooms at child care centers with a Texas School Ready (TSR) Certification. The reimbursement rate will be greater than the rate for non-TRS providers for the same category of child care, but within guidance allowed by TWC.

The reimbursement rates established shall provide equal access to child care services in the local market and in a manner that is consistent with the state and federal regulations. *Child care providers shall be reimbursed at the Board's maximum rate for the level of care being provided or at the provider's published rate, whichever is lower.*

Providers who are providing child care services to children with disabilities are eligible to receive an Inclusion Assistance Rate. The Inclusion Assistance Rate allows a child care provider to provide additional adult support to a child(ren) with a disability(ies). The Inclusion Assistance Rate will not exceed 190% of the provider's designated reimbursement rate for a child of that same age.

A child care provider with a Workforce Provider Agreement who offers transportation shall be reimbursed for its transportation cost. However, the combined total of the child care provider's published rate and its transportation cost, will **not** exceed the Board's maximum reimbursement rate for the same category of child care.

Child care providers shall **not** charge subsidy parents the difference between their published rate and WFSCB's maximum provider reimbursement rate when the child care provider's published rate exceeds the Board's maximum payment rate.

Parent Share of Cost (PSC) Fees

The parent share of cost (PSC) fee is based on a sliding fee scale based on the family size and gross monthly income and based on 85 percent of the SMI.

Child care providers are responsible for collecting the parent share of cost fees from their parents before child care services are provided. A child care provider may charge additional fees to parents, i.e. late pick-up, activity fees, etc..., but that any additional payment received from the parent will be applied to their PSC first. *The child care provider cannot report any additional fees as part of the parent's unpaid PSC.*

The provider must not charge **any** amount(s) over the PSC, not the full difference between the PSC and the provider's published rates, to parents who are exempt from the PSC or have a zero PSC assessment, including parents in initial job search child care during the initial job search period.

Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend **will not** reimburse the provider if the parent fails to pay the PSC fee. If the parent *does not* pay the PSC fee to the provider, a transfer to another child care center will not be granted nor will eligibility for future TWC-funded child care services be redetermined until the parent pays the delinquent PSC fees.

1. PROCEDURES:

NA

2. RELATED POLICY INFORMATION:

Texas Government Code §2308.264(e) (4)

40 TAC §801.33

Texas Workforce Commission Letter WD 13-15, July 13, 2015; WD 19-09, June 5, 2009; WD 55-07, Change 1, November 2, 2007; WD 42-07, July 2, 2007.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

The contract manager shall ensure that all relevant staff and the Contractor are informed of and comply with this policy.

4. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

5. DISTRIBUTION:

Board

Board Staff

Contracted Staff

POLICY TITLE: Child Care Provider Reimbursement Rate
POLICY NUMBER: 4.3.108.04

DATE: 12/08/2022
REVISION: 10/31/2022

IX. SIGNATURES:




Reviewed by EO Officer



Date



President/CEO



Date

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS REIMBURSEMENT RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 01, 2010

| | INFANT | | TODDLER | | PRESCHOOL | | SCHOOL AGE | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|
| | Regular | *TRS/TSR | Regular | *TRS/TSR | Regular | *TRS/TSR | Regular | *TRS/TSR |
| Licensed Child Care Center Full Day | 24.57 | 26.29 | 21.84 | 23.37 | 18.82 | 20.13 | 19.87 | 20.86 |
| Licensed Child Care Center Part Day | 18.44 | 19.73 | 17.85 | 19.10 | 15.29 | 16.36 | 15.33 | 16.10 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Licensed Child Care Homes Full Day | 18.48 | 19.77 | 18.90 | 20.22 | 18.06 | 19.32 | 15.89 | 16.68 |
| Licensed Child Care Homes Part Day | 19.95 | 21.35 | 18.25 | 19.53 | 16.05 | 17.18 | 19.95 | 20.95 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Registered Child Care Homes Full Day | 18.48 | 19.77 | 16.80 | 17.98 | 16.80 | 17.98 | 15.75 | 16.54 |
| Registered Child Care Homes Part Day | 15.75 | 16.85 | 15.75 | 16.85 | 15.75 | 16.85 | 13.23 | 13.89 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Relative Care Full Day | 11.51 | N/A | 10.47 | N/A | 10.47 | N/A | 10.47 | N/A |
| Relative Care Part Day | 11.51 | N/A | 10.47 | N/A | 7.56 | N/A | 6.54 | N/A |

Revised 12/2009