

Travis County Voter Approved Child Care and Out of School Time Fund

Update to Joint Subcommittee

June 16, 2025

Background

On November 5, 2024, Travis County Voters approved a 2.5 cent tax rate increase per \$100 valuation that will generate approximately \$75 million to increase access to affordable and high-quality child care and afterschool/summer programming and related services for low-income families and develop and administer related workforce and economic development programs.

Overview of Strategies

These four strategies will serve as a baseline for expanding and strengthening child care and afterschool and summer programming in Travis County.

- Strategy 1: Expand slots for infants/toddlers (ages 0-3) and for afterschool and summer programming (PreK-12th grade)
- Strategy 2: Expand non-traditional hour care
- Strategy 3: Build quality and capacity
- Strategy 4: Build a Business Government Alliance for leveraging business contributions and matching public funds to reduce employee child care costs

Transition Plan

- Community Engagement – Phase one: Focus on community input activities to gather input from stakeholders to strive to ensure that this fund is reflective and responsive to the needs of our community. Efforts will be on-going.
- Planning for Community Advisory Council: Composed of community members and child care and out of school time stakeholders (application process Summer 2025)
- Piloting short-term investments: To serve more families while planning for procurement of ongoing services is underway

Community Engagement Phase One

Community Listening Sessions	Stakeholder Group Sessions	Online Survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Del Valle TC Community Center• Manor TC Community Center• Carver Branch Library• Virtual Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn All The Time Network – Executive Directors and General Membership• HomeGrown Family Child Provider Network• Workforce Solutions Provider Network• 2Gen Coalition• Any Baby Can Parent Advisory Council• Success by 6 Coalition• Travis County HHS Staff• Early Matters Greater Austin• GAVA	<p>234 surveys collected</p> <p>Related Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pflugerville Library,• Manor ISD elementary schools• African American Youth Harvest Foundation event

Community Engagement Next Steps

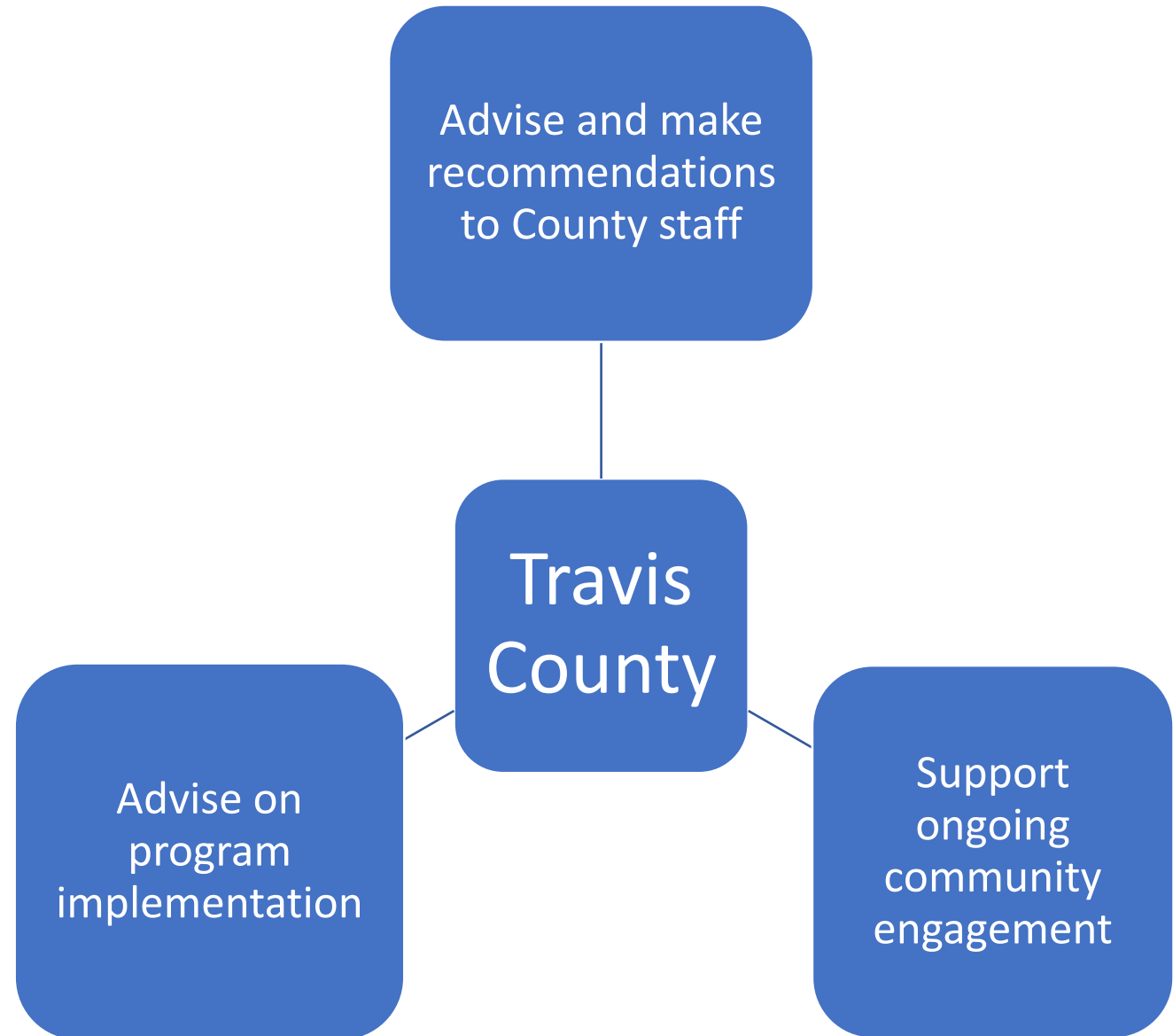
Phase One:

- Currently conducting data analysis and theming of results from community input activities.
- Results will be reported out in a Community Input Summary that will serve to inform program policies and upcoming solicitations.

Phase Two:

- Welcoming new staff to deepen community engagement efforts: Communications Senior Planner and Community Engagement Senior Planner.
- Start up of Community Advisory Council.

Community Advisory Council Scope



Community Advisory Council Membership

- 21-member long-term advisory body with staggered terms for first year members (2-year and 3-year terms) to ensure stability with opportunities for turnover
- Member selection criteria will prioritize:
 - Community members and providers with lived experience
 - Representatives from key stakeholder institutions
 - At large representatives with child care or out of school time sector expertise

Membership Matrix

Parents/Caregivers (4)
Youth (2)

Parents with lived
experience (child care)

Parents with lived
experience (OST)

Youth with lived
experience (OST)

Providers (4)

Center-based provider
with experience
providing subsidized
care (child care)

Family/home-based
provider with
experience providing
subsidized care (child
care)

OST provider

Key stakeholder
organization
representatives (9)

Local Workforce Board
Representative

Head Start Contractor

School district
representative (PreK and/or
OST expertise)

Business or chamber of
commerce representative

Institute of higher
education

City of Austin

System conveners with
child care or OST
experience

Grassroots community-
based organization

At large community
representatives (2)

Representatives
with expertise in
child care or out of
school time

*Consideration given to: Race/ethnicity representation, gender, residency/location in child care desert or high need zip code, experience in parenting or working with child(ren) living with a disability

Proposed Application and Selection Process



Open call for public applications for community members



Extend invites to stakeholder organizations to nominate representatives



Create workgroup to review applications, score using matrix, and recommend slate to Commissioner Court



Commissioners Court appoints members

Short-Term Investments:

Expanding Existing Services While Procuring Long-Term Investments

Goals are to as early as possible:

- Identify and fill community needs
- Fund child care and OST scholarships on the WFS waitlist
- Support parents to go to work, job training, or further their education
- Create opportunities for children and youth to attend quality child care and out of school time programming
- Support initiatives that enhance quality and capacity of child care and out of school time programs

Approach:

- Expand the capacity of current contracts* to expand services
- Interlocal Agreements (ILA) with governmental entities
- Utilize FY25 funds over several years

Criteria for Short-Term investments:

- The program has an existing contract in the HHS Youth Development or Early Childhood Issue Area OR ability to enter into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with another government organization
- Services are clearly aligned with the ballot measure

** Contracts funded with general funds*

Short-Term Investment Plan

1. Expand number of child care and out of school time scholarships funded through Workforce Solutions
2. Implement contract modification process to expand existing contracts and services for HHS Early Childhood and Youth Development contracts that meet criteria
3. Negotiate ILAs with School Districts with high number or percentage of economically disadvantaged students for child care and/or afterschool and summer services
4. Explore City of Austin interlocal agreements that could be used to expand child care and after-school care with providers (including quality and capacity building)
5. Gap funding mechanism to make providers whole given the true cost of child care