



Funding Child Care Assistance Programs

CARES Act Proposal

Fort Bend County

October 27, 2020



Fort Bend County Childcare Task Force - 2020

Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for our society
- Health safety, virtual schooling and affordability are some of the key factors causing **childcare** challenges in Fort Bend county.
- Parents are looking for assistance – financial, safety guidance, educational, on-line schooling ‘coverage’, *just support*
- Fort Bend County Judge KP George has identified this “a high priority” initiative
- Task Force has come together comprised of county staff, parents, ISDs, childcare providers, pediatricians

Since May '20, some 7 million people per week have not worked because they didn't have access to childcare, according to data from the Census Household Pulse Survey



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CARES Act Fund Eligibility – Childcare Programs

The NEED:

- **To address the need for supervised childcare in a safe, licensed and secure environment for children that may have limited access to adult supervision while parents are working and deemed “essential workers”, and schools are closed or conducting virtual learning.**
- Provides additional funding for licensed childcare providers who remain open and serves County residents during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Programs are designed to address pandemic learning losses, provide a safe environment for enrichment, help youth de-stress and be a consistent resource for our community and families.
- Stipends or a fee is paid to the licensed facility or provider based on daily/weekly census of residents needing childcare

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CARES Act Fund Eligibility – Requires that expenditures meet the criteria for costs that

- 1** Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19;
- 2** Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
- 3** Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

Regulations requires no Duplication of Benefits (DOB). Should exhaust all other sources of federal funds and ensure similar activities and services are not covered and paid by another federal funding source.



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CARES Act Fund Eligibility – Childcare Programs

Evaluation & Assessment

The Task Force has

- Reviewed 2 models, one in FB County, one outside FB County
- Reviewed proposals provided by the Fort Bend County YMCA and recently, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Houston (BGCGH).

- **Task Force is looking for a models designed to allow for:**
 - Educational gaps
 - Access to adult supervision while parents are working
 - Virtual learning and school closures
 - Digital divide and lack of access to the internet
 - Food and nutritional needs
 - Disparities across the County that may exists for those without access to providers

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Initial Models Evaluated & Considered

Fort Bend County (YMCA)

Non-Fort Bend County (State of Connecticut)



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YMCA Program (Fort Bend County)

Summary of Program

1. Program scheduled until Sept. 14th unless there is a need to extend it.
2. Available to kids age 5 to 12
3. Small group sizes with a 1:9 ratio
4. Separate areas/rooms for each group of young people with the same staff each day
5. Scheduled hand washing and access to hand sanitizer
6. Staff are currently wearing face masks while in program area as well as children age 10+ (We also encourage all students of all ages to wear a mask while in program)
7. Increased cleaning and disinfecting processes throughout the day
8. For more information about the Y Learning Center and to register please visit:

<https://www.ymcahouston.org/ymca-learning-center>.



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Non-Fort Bend County & Cost Models

CT COST MODEL

Number of children served/per week	1,000
Average assistance per child	\$450
Total amount expended for FY20 Federal CARES Act Funds	\$7,200,000
Total cost	\$7,200,000

YMCA COST MODEL

Number of children served/per week	1,000
Average assistance per child	\$300
Total amount expended for FY20 Federal CARES Act Funds	\$4,800,000
Total cost	\$4,800,000



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Summary of Potential Model Examples Reviewed:

- Provide childcare through licensed providers and facilities.
- Private, licensed providers provide more locations for access near residents dwelling or work.
- Have strong reputations for childcare programs and educational values
- Private licensed facilities may have more options for space and licensed providers to accommodate kids while meeting social distance requirements.
- Private institutions may provide better resources for educational and curriculum resources as this is their primary business model.
- **Both models can be used for maximum benefit to the local community and residents.**

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Proposals Submitted

- YMCA – Fort Bend County Area
- Boy & Girls Club of Greater Houston

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Y PROGRAM OVERVIEW

	Y AFTERSCHOOL	Y LEARNING CENTER
AGES SERVED	5 - 12	5 - 12
LICENSED FACILITIES	DFPS licensed	DFPS Childcare or Youth camp licensed
OPERATION HOURS	End of School Day – 6:30 pm	8:00 – 3:00 pm & Aftercare: 3:00 – 6:00 pm
LOCATIONS	43 sites in Ft. Bend See listing	11 sites (includes Katy & Ft Bend sites) See listing
PROGRAM COST*	Average *\$260 per child/ per month Fees vary slightly depending on district	*\$75,000 per Learning Center
PROGRAM CAPACITY	1,000 students in Fort Bend	275
PROGRAM EXPANSION OPPORTUNITY	Increased enrollment w/ 100% subsidy for up to 1000 children in at-risk communities (600)	120 spaces with 100% subsidy at 3 additional licensed Y/partnering agency facilities Should in-person school start dates change, the Y is able to add additional weeks to the sites where needed
FUNDING NEEDS	\$390,000	\$225,000

*Program cost indicates true value of the program; grants and philanthropic dollars are typically used to subsidized costs in low-income communities and/or provide financial assistance for individual families. Due to pandemic, YMCA now has significantly limited funding to continue to offer financial assistance to families in need.



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\$615,000 to support Y Learning Center program expansion and Y After School financial assistance targeting students of essential workers and/or families who live invulnerable communities. Parents have indicated that they have a need for afterschool and learning centers, affording them is more difficult due to the financial strain many families are experiencing due to this unintended consequence of schools not returning to in person.

\$1.3M to support organization's childcare operation stability in Fort Bend County. There is a need for funding to sustain the YMCA's childcare infrastructure that without fail provides high quality childcare services as families' needs continue to fluctuate throughout the pandemic. Due to the abrupt closure of the Y's afterschool programs in March, the organization continues to lose an estimated \$500,000 per month across our 25 centers. Stabilization funding is needed to offset the estimated loss of \$4.5M from March - Dec to maintain staffing capacity and increased sanitization of childcare facilities. The amount requested is for the 5 centers in Ft. Bend.

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COVID-19 Recovery Campaign - Fort Bend County

A campaign to ensure vulnerable youth and teens in Fort Bend County are safe and have the tools they need to thrive during a pandemic.

Purpose: Back to school looks very different this year. With education gaps widening and vulnerable kids falling further behind, BGCGH has tailored our approach to ensure Club Members are set up for success in light of all the current challenges. We know the need for a safe, consistent environment for our families and Club members is great. Through our programs, we will work to address pandemic learning losses, help our youth destress and be a consistent resource for our community and families.

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BGCGH Proposed Use of Funds

Technology	\$ 300,000.00
BGCGH continues to work on ways to bridge the digital divide; during the pandemic access to the internet as well as having the appropriate technology on hand is critical to academic success	
Full Day and Traditional Programming	\$ 650,000.00
BGCGH will have 2 locations offering full day programming. Blue Learning Labs will offer Club Members a safe , encouraging and supervised location for Club Members to thrive when online school is the only option. Club members will also receive a meal. Blue Learning Labs will be located at both current and new sites as the needs grow in Fort Bend County. Additionally, we are providing the traditional in-person programming when schools are in person as well.	
Frontline Staff	\$ 300,000.00
One of the goals for the BGCGH 2025 Strategic Plan includes investing in our people. In addition to professional development and training we are increasing the part-time pay of our nearly 50 Youth Development Specialists by \$1 per hour. In order to retain quality part- time professionals, we must be competitive in the market.	
Innovative Programming	\$ 200,000.00
BGCGH will continue to offer engaging programs that support academic success, healthy lifestyles and good character and citizenship. For the Recovery Campaign we will be implementing innovative programming that focuses on the social and emotional well-being of our Club members as well as tackling the pandemic learning loss. Wellness calls to our families continue to help us bridge the gap in services or resources needed.	

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BGCGH Proposed Use of Funds (Continued)

Food Security	\$ 300,000.00
Providing healthy meals and nutrition education is a part of the BGCGH Healthy Lifestyles pillar. Ensuring our Club Members and their families have the basics will continue to be at the core of service especially during the pandemic. Resource cards and Hunger Not Impossible are two programs that BGCGH plans to continue to meet the food insecurities need. Over 15,000 individuals have received meals thru the food pantries; and the families participating in Hunger Not Impossible have shared the following impact: 85% said it made life easier; 75% said it lowered stress by having meals provided; participants also shared that additional benefits included peace of mind and less stress;	
Personal Protective Equipment and Cleaning	\$ 300,000.00
Since COVID-19, the CDC has required all of our Club staff and Club facilities to follow strict cleaning and safety policies. The additional cleaning products and supplies as well as custodians/manual labor is a significant increase to our expense budget.	
Grand Total	\$ 2,050,000.00

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, 815 Crosby Street, Houston, TX 77019

www.bgcgh.org

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CARES Act Funding - Fort Bend County Proposal

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR
LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**



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CARES Act Fund Eligibility – Childcare Programs

Fort Bend County Commissioners Court has authorized \$2 Million in Cares Act Funds to support and help stabilize Licensed Child Care Providers, and to provide support for families who are facing financial instability in Fort Bend County due to COVID-19.

- Licensed facilities must meet the following criteria to receive up to \$8,000 from the FORT BEND COUNTY CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:
 - Be a Texas Licensed Child Care Center/Program or Texas Licensed Child Care Home Provider
 - Licensed facilities must be located in Fort Bend County
 - Child Care Providers will have to demonstrate that their facility has been negatively impacted by COVID-19
 - Licensed Child Care Providers must agree to participate in the program and that funds will be used to assist families in need; thereby providing relief for provider
 - Provider must agree that funds will be applied as scholarships to families who cannot afford childcare or to those parents who are in the arrears with childcare fees due to negative economic impact of COVID-19.

- Facilities will provide and maintain a census count for the period of the funding



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Other General Requirements:

- State Licensed to receive CARES Act Assistance for Childcare in Fort Bend County.
- Provides additional funding for qualified licensed childcare providers through Dec 30, 2020 (extended only if the CARES Act extension granted).
- Pay approved Stipend directly to the licensed facility or provider.
- Implement appropriate oversight and audit functions to ensure program transparency & compliance.
- Encourage centers to give a discounted rates to families to be qualified for the program.
- Licensed facilities and providers must maintain daily/weekly census and provide to County for review and audit for up to 5 years.

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Additional CARES Act Funding Considerations



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CARES Act Fund Eligibility – Considerations for Guidance and Procedures

- Additional funding for any licensed childcare providers who remain open and served essential workers during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Hazard pay for licensed childcare workers and staff.
- Grants available to certified childcare providers, licensed or provisionally licensed childcare centers, and childcare providers contracted by or established by a school board or other regulatory entity.
- Making special accommodations to ensure ongoing availability of childcare to the children of essential staff and local residents that have work requirements with no alternative day care provisions.
- Disinfectants, cleaning and other resources that promote social distancing and reduce group or community spread.
- Tracking the real-time availability of childcare centers and resources.
- Leverage existing small businesses created, equipped, and pre-licensed to provide childcare.
- Vouchers to arrange for family, friend, and neighbor care in trusted one-on-one or in-home settings.



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CARES Act Fund Eligibility – Required Documentation

- Proper documentation is essential for CARES Act reimbursement. Beginning with clear scope definition that meets applicability and eligibility under CARES Act, and/or FEMA.
- Examples of the information that may be requested based on project and the cost type.
 - Licenses and appropriate credentials (valid and State recognized);
 - including confirmation of cleared and approved background checks and screening
 - Statement that provider is following CDC and State licensure guidelines.
 - Daily census and staffing
 - Proof of Insurance and adequate coverages
 - Available for on-site inspections
- Additional documentation may be required depending on the level of invoice detail, or other factors.
- Records must be maintained for at least five (5) years from payment of final benefit.
- Must agree to pay back any funds deemed not-eligible or not-used for defined purposes.
- Funds may not duplicate assistance provided by the Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or other funding sources.

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Q & A