



Fort Bend County

Childcare Voucher Program

Assistance Funds for Qualified Fort Bend Families



Fort Bend County Childcare Voucher Program

Program Report April 11, 2023



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Program Title

Fort Bend County Childcare Voucher Program

Program Overview

Provide approved childcare cost assistance to qualified FBC families impacted by the pandemic.

Program Goals

- **Enable parents to enter or stay in the workforce**
- **Keep children in a safe nurturing environment as families get back on their feet**
- **Provide *indirect* assistance to the FBC childcare providers - financial stability**



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Program Testimonials

- “Good morning, Very early, I know. I wanted to say Thank you for being patient and so generous with your time to assist my children with childcare voucher. Thanks to you, I have secured a good job with the office and I will be receiving my first paycheck as the funds provided have run out. You made a huge difference in my life. Without you and the voucher extension, I would have never been able to succeed in my goals. May God continue to bless you.” – Isabel R.
- “Thank you for the support. My family truly appreciates all efforts and initiatives of Fort Bend County Officials to improving the lives of residents. Do not hesitate to contact me, if there are volunteer opportunities to serve our residents. Thank you.” – Mfon P.
- “I worked more than 25 hours a week. a mother of four kids with no support or any help it is really hard to work from home. There must be someone who can look after the kids. That is why I couldn't earn that much. Day and night I am thinking of how to pay my rents and expenses. All doors were closed to me, but when I heard about this program that brought some hope in my life. I hope to receive help from your respected organization.” – Samira Y.
- “Thank you so much for this approval. It means a lot to us, my children can now go to school like other children their age. God bless you immensely!” - Luke A.



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As the owner of a licensed childcare center in Fort Bend County (Kiddie Academy of Rosenberg) I wanted to express my gratitude, appreciation, and full support of the Fort Bend County Child Care Voucher Program.

Over the past 2 years we have personally seen and heard stories from many families who have hit hardships and struggled during this pandemic. Unfortunately, some families suffered job losses or reduced hours and were faced with the inability to continue to pay for childcare and cover all their other regular expenses. The voucher program has been vital in helping these families cover some of their childcare expenses, allowing their children to stay enrolled in our program and providing that consistency of having a safe, familiar and fun educational environment to go to each day.

We've had 7 families and 12 children benefit from this program and we continue to promote and support it for other families who need just a little extra help covering their childcare expenses during this difficult time.

Thank you.

Jenny Purvis

Owner, Kiddie Academy of Rosenberg

KIDDIE ACADEMY
EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

To: Imam, Qaisar

The voucher program has helped in such a HUGE way! Parents are able to afford for their child(ren) to be in a safe environment, while they continue in the workforce providing for their families needs. We had so many families during the ongoing pandemic that have had to sacrifice their childcare due to rising cost, loss of jobs, etc. The program is helping families, helping child care centers, all while stimulating the economy!

Thank you for your continued effort and support during this trying time.

I am so glad and grateful to the Fort Bend County for identifying this need. If you could only fathom the extent of the impact Covid had on our families, you would continue to do this program until things stabilize significantly. As an operator who talks to the parents and hear their deepest inner concerns, I know that this program has given the much-needed support to our struggling families. And they are struggling for sure.





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Applications

| Phase | Vou Funding | Vou. Value | Budgtd Vou | Total Apps | Families App | Vou Issued |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Phase 1 | \$226,000 | \$500.00 | 452 | 982 | 541 | 568 |
| Net Phase 2 | \$1,564,000 | \$1,500.00 | 1,043 | 2,136 | 963 | 1,424 |

Voucher Redemption (Program Payout)

| Phase | Vou Funding | Vou. Value | Vou Redeem | Redeem % | Amt Expended | Expend % |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Phase 1 | \$226,000 | \$500.00 | 379 | 67% | \$ 189,400.00 | 67% |
| Net Phase 2 | \$1,564,000 | \$1,500.00 | 1,153 | 81% | \$ 1,529,667.21 | 98% |



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Program Impact (thru 1Q 2023)

- **2,100 months** - childcare provided to families in Phase 1 & 2¹
- **\$5.59M** – estimated wages families were able to earn with availed childcare²
- **91,950 hrs.** – potential employment retained at childcare centers³
- **\$1.2M** – estimated payroll generated by the childcare centers⁴

1. 233 months during the Pilot phase; 1,886 months in Phase 2
2. One parent earning \$15/hr.; 8 hrs./day; 22 working days
3. 150 hrs./mo./employee; 1 employee retained for the children served
4. \$13/hr. salary for childcare employees.



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**Fort Bend County
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BACK UP SLIDES



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- The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for our society.
- Health safety, virtual schooling and affordability caused *childcare* challenges in Fort Bend county.
- Parents AND the childcare industry were looking for guidance and assistance
- Task Force came together comprised of county staff, parents, ISDs reps, childcare providers, and healthcare staff.



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Program Timeline

- **Phase 1 (Pilot)**
 - Program Planning – Jan-Feb 2021
 - Program Launch – Mar 2021
 - Program End – Oct 2021 (upon the launch of Phase 2)
- **Phase 2**
 - Program Planning – Sep-Oct 2021
 - Program Launch – Oct 2021
 - Program End – Active / In Progress

| Phase | Vou Funding | <i>Vou. Value</i> | Vouchers |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| Phase 1 | \$226,000 | <i>\$500.00</i> | 452 |
| Phase 2 | \$1,814,000 | <i>\$1,500.00</i> | 1,209 |



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Program Structure (Phase 2)

- Program offers a childcare Voucher for each child up to 3 children per family.
- Each voucher is good for up to \$500 per period for 3 periods, allowing a family to utilize up to \$1,500 per child.
- The voucher can be used at any licensed childcare facility in Fort Bend County, thereby also providing financial stability to our small businesses in Fort Bend county.
- The families must qualify based on established criteria in line with the ARPA grant funding; the prescribed evidence required was vetted by the County Attorney, Audit, and DA offices.
- The centers must provide a set of required documentation to receive the approved reimbursement amounts; An independent review prior to any disbursement is completed.