



Fort Bend County

Childcare Voucher Program

Assistance Funds for Qualified Fort Bend Families



Fort Bend County Childcare Voucher Program

**Program Update
July 5, 2022**



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

- 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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Task Force Recommendations

Direct Financial Assistance
YMCA
Boys & Girls Clubs of GH
Licensed Childcare Facilities
Fall 2020

**Implement Program to assist
Qualifying Families with
Childcare Expenses =
CHILDCARE VOUCHER PROGRAM**



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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 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.



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Phase	Vou Funding	Vou. Value	Vouchers	Total Apps	Families App	Vou Issued	Amt Issued
Phase 1	\$226,000	\$500.00	452	982	541	568	\$ 284,000.00
Phase 2	\$1,814,000	\$1,500.00	1,209				
ADJUSTMENT	(\$250,000)	\$1,500.00	-167				
Net Phase 2	\$1,564,000	\$1,500.00	1,043	1,741	834	1,117	\$1,675,500.00

Phase	Vou Funding	Vou. Value	Vouchers	Vou Redeem	Redeem %	Amt Expended	Expend %
Phase 1	\$226,000	\$500.00	452	379	67%	\$ 189,400.00	67%
Phase 2	\$1,814,000	\$1,500.00	1,209				
ADJUSTMENT	(\$250,000)	\$1,500.00	-167				
Net Phase 2	\$1,564,000	\$1,500.00	1,043	626	56%	\$ 658,458.88	39%



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PHASE 2				
Month	Year	Apps	Vou Issued	Reimb Sub
10	2021	352	161	145
11	2021	135	129	109
12	2021	179	27	19
		666	317	273
				86%
1	2022	167	133	108
2	2022	52	23	14
3	2022	45	84	55
		264	240	177
				74%
4	2022	137	76	59
5	2022	360	156	60
6	2022	314	328	57
		811	560	176
				31%
TOTAL:		1,741	1,117	626
			64%	56%

PHASE 2				
	M1	M2	M3	
Expended	\$ 69,365.00	\$ 62,778.75	\$ 56,705.00	
	\$ 50,630.00	\$ 49,857.00	\$ 43,856.00	
	\$ 8,987.35	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	
	\$128,982.35	\$120,035.75	\$107,961.00	\$ 356,979.10
Allocated	\$158,500.00	\$158,500.00	\$158,500.00	\$ 475,500.00
	81%	76%	68%	75%
Expended	\$ 52,716.00	\$ 43,604.28	\$ 41,068.00	
	\$ 5,842.50	\$ 3,067.00	\$ 2,500.00	
	\$ 26,655.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	
	\$ 85,213.50	\$ 68,171.28	\$ 57,068.00	\$ 210,452.78
Allocated	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$ 360,000.00
	71%	57%	48%	58%
Expended	\$ 27,880.00	\$ 11,980.00	\$ 2,000.00	
	\$ 25,852.00	\$ 1,500.00		
	\$ 20,315.00	\$ 1,500.00		
	\$ 74,047.00	\$ 14,980.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 91,027.00
Allocated	\$280,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$ 840,000.00
	26%	5%	1%	11%
	\$ 288,242.85	\$ 203,187.03	\$ 167,029.00	\$ 1,675,500.00
			\$ 658,458.88	39%



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Projected redemption rate:	75%
Phase 2 proj @redeem%:	1,390
Remainder Phase 2 vouchers:	273

Current 3 Months Moving Ave \$Expend:	\$ 96,967
Voucher Funds On Hand:	\$ 905,541
Current Projection for Full Expend:	Apr-23



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Program Impact (thru 1Q 2022)

- **747 months - of total childcare provided to families in Phase 1 & 2 to date¹**
- **\$1.23M – estimated wages a family can earn with availed childcare²**
- **40,500 hrs. – of potential employment retained at childcare centers³**
- **\$526k – of payroll generated by the childcare centers⁴**

1. 280 months during the Pilot phase; 467 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 92 centers during Pilot, and 70, 62, and 40 centers for M1, M2, and M3 respectively
4. \$13/hr. salary for childcare employees.



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Program Testimonials

- “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.
- “Good morning, Thank you so much for the assistance. I’d like to mention that you helped to make this stress-free and swift” Lamar D.
- “I am a single mother and I do have a job so my one year old is in desperate need of childcare or I’m at risk of loosing my job. NCI sent me a letter on Friday saying that I am being placed on a waitlist because there are no more funds. Please let me know of any information that I may be able to looking into” Jasmine R.



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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.

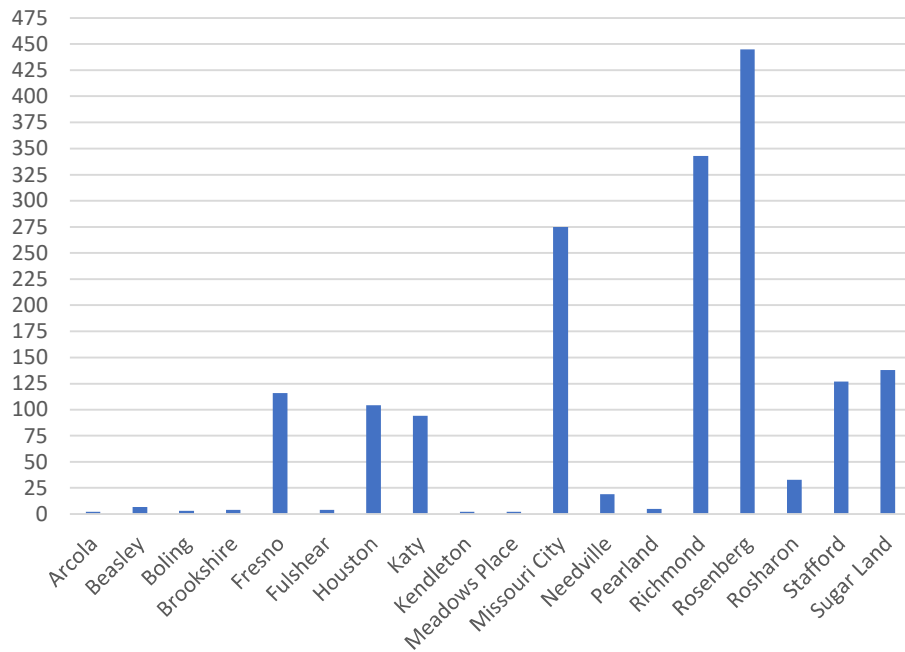




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Apps



Vouchers Issued

