

# Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) COVID-19 Federal Funding Second Tranche of New Initiatives Amendment Child Care Apprenticeship Expansion Discussion Paper

## 1 Background

2 On June 29, 2021, the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) three-member Commission  
3 (Commission) approved the [2nd Tranche](#) of child care stimulus funds which included \$3 million  
4 to support the expansion of early childhood education registered apprenticeship programs  
5 (RAPs).

6 The Commission approved the following allowable activities to assist in the planning and  
7 development of registered apprenticeship programs:

- 8 • Coordination with educational institution(s);
- 9 • Building and managing a coalition of childcare businesses and educational institution(s);
- 10 • Collaboration with institutions of higher education for the development of additional  
11 college courses and articulation agreement(s);
- 12 • Program development to become an RAP, including securing existing curriculum or new  
13 curriculum development, minimum qualifications for apprentices, selection process for  
14 apprentices, and assessment of skills and knowledge needed to successfully complete an  
15 RAP;
- 16 • Coordination and training of coaches/mentors providing the on-the-job learning;
- 17 • Recruitment of apprentices, including assisting students with coursework selection and  
18 identifying their apprenticeship career pathway, and supporting remote access to courses  
19 as needed.

20 On October 29, 2021, TWC issued the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) with an application  
21 deadline of December 23, 2022. TWC anticipates some funds will remain after grants are  
22 awarded under the issued RFA.

## 23 Issue

24 To fully utilize the remaining funds, and to support the expansion of child care RAPs, the  
25 Commission could consider making some revisions to the parameters of the approved funding  
26 and re-issuing an RFA. Funds awarded by TWC could be used to support:

- 27 • the planning of (1) new Child Care RAPs or (2) the expansion of existing Child Care  
28 DOL-approved RAPs, and
- 29 • the launch and implementation of the planned RAPs

30 Allowable activities are those that are within the scope of planning, launching, and implementing  
31 new RAPs or RAP expansion, including:

- 32 • All of the prior approved activities that support RAP project development and expansion,  
33 and a program design that leads to nationally recognized credentials, at a minimum  
34 leading to a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate;

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- 1 • New activities to support project launch and implementation costs such as staffing  
2 oversight of the program, establishing partnerships to continue RAP operation beyond the  
3 grant period, costs for apprenticeship mentoring, and implementing a structure to oversee  
4 coursework engagement and completion for the related classroom instruction

5 Costs for the classroom training and related support services for apprentices is not allowable.  
6 During the grant funding period, the awarded entities must consider how the ongoing cost for  
7 training will be supported (for example, by partnering with TWC grantees, such as the Texas  
8 Education for the Education of Young Children and their TEACH professional development  
9 scholarship program, or with the Local Workforce Development Boards in the prioritization and  
10 use of their child care quality improvement funds or planning to pursue TWC’s Chapter 133  
11 apprenticeship funding).

12 Grantees will be required to fully expend grant funds during a 12-month grant period.

13 **Decision Point**

14 Staff seeks direction on modifying the allowable uses of the remaining child care stimulus  
15 funding approved for early childhood expansion, for inclusion in a re-issued RFA, as described  
16 above.