

Questions and Answers

Contracted Slots Request for Proposals (RFP)

WFSDallas did not receive any questions by the July 21, 2022, 12:00 CDT deadline. The following questions/answers were provided during the bidders' conference held on July 21, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. CDT.

At 4:00 p.m., staff began the bidders' conference emphasizing key dates:

- Procurement was released on Tuesday, July 12th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. CDT
- All proposals must be submitted in accordance with instructions in the RFP and due no later than 12 pm CDT on August 11, 2022.
- All questions were due today before noon CDT on July 21, 2022, with responses posted on July 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CDT on our website at: <https://www.wfsdallas.com/doing-business>

1. Is this procurement available to bidders if not adding childcare slots?

No, this is only for bidders adding childcare slots to an existing classroom, opening a new classroom, or re-opening previously closed slots.

2. If we bring in kids, do the parents have to pay?

All participants will need to meet the normal requirements. However, there's no parent share of cost within this pilot program.

3. Can the provider determine the number of slots? **Yes.**

4. How many years for this pilot project? Will it address costs of care?

One year with an option for renewal. Based on the level of funding, not to exceed three years. Contracted slots will address cost of care and will look at other funding sources to leverage available dollars. We can assist this project through our quality dollars.

5. What are the outreach strategies?

There's no waitlist for contracted slots pilot program. ChildCareGroup will work with the awardee(s) to assist with outreach strategies including working the waitlist.

6. How will the Contracted Slots Pilot work with kids with special needs and the reimbursement rate?
Pending clarification from Texas Workforce Commission.

7. Any additional reports/reporting required? Any extra work to collect data besides what already is required?

There are some additional reports and reporting required. There will be a Pre-contract provider survey, see attached. WFSDallas and CCG will work closely with the selected providers.

8. Are there different billing cycles?

It is anticipated that there will be similar reimbursement procedures provided by our existing child care contractor, ChildCareGroup in processing reimbursements.

9. Is the pilot project only operating with infants and toddlers? Are toddlers up to 35 months? What is the age for toddlers?

Yes, that is the **priority target population established by the Board**. Yes, up to 35 months for toddlers. A toddler is a child between the ages of 18 – 35 months.

10. Regarding cost of care and reimbursement and funding for this project- is the true cost of quality care or new funding stream at a different rate?

The amount that the provider will be paid is what is in The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST) as the provider's calculated rates listed in the provider's MOU. Any rates submitted that do not equal the Calculated Rates will be considered null and the actual Calculated Rate will be used in lieu of the incorrect rate. The bidder can tell us more for consideration.

11. For this pilot project, what is the base rate of what child care system is offering based on TRS 4- 3-2-1?

Yes, only three- and four-star providers are eligible to apply to the Contracted Slots Pilot Program and will be reimbursed at the provider's calculated rates as mentioned above.

12. If children in contracted slots are they in for the whole year or drop like normal?

The goal is to keep the slot filled at 100% as long as the parent remains eligible and to avoid a slot remaining vacant for more than 30 consecutive days. If the parent activity ends (i.e. employment or training), they get 90 days to secure employment or training. They need to be in an activity to sustain continuity of care.

13. If a child turns 36 months during the program, would we remove them during the Pilot Program?

No, we wouldn't remove them based upon the initial eligibility at enrollment. Pending confirmation from Texas Workforce Commission.

14. How does this pilot program impact siblings? Would we put through regular funding?

Pending clarification from Texas Workforce Commission.

15. Family in care that's an infant/toddler, can we move?

No, if they are currently enrolled, we would like for them to remain in that slot.

16. When will the contracts begin?

Proposals are due back on August 11th with a board meeting on August 17th. We hope by mid-September with October 1 at the latest.

17. For the pre-survey, when will that be provided so the centers will know what to look for?

Yes, see attached.

18. Any workforce boards that have implemented this program successfully? This is a reinvention. The only two boards implementing the pilot program is San Antonio and Dallas. There's a couple of boards (Houston and Tarrant) implementing contracted slots through other funding sources.

19. What is referenced as quality care?

The Texas Rising Star is the state's quality rating system. State is looking at how this Pilot Project supports and enhances the childcare industry. This initiative brings you a support model for continuity of your workforce and your centers maintaining that quality.

20. Is there opportunities to train providers?

There are open procurement opportunities on our website at www.wfsdallas.com under Doing Business With Us.

For additional questions/answers, please see the bidders' conference link:

Bidders' Conference Recording from July 21, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. CDT

Pre-Contract Provider Survey:



Pre-Contract
Provider Survey.pdf