



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
P.O. Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777
MAIN: 713.627.3200 FAX: 713.993.4578
www.wrksolutions.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2020

CONTACT:

Tim Lankford
713-245-9177
timothy@outreachstrategists.com

Michelle Castrow
713-826-6597
michelle.castrow@wrksolutions.com

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS EXPANDS CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY & FINANCIAL AID
FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

(Houston) Workforce Solutions in partnership with Collaborative for Children has launched a new online resource dedicated to helping essential workers find quality, affordable child care during the COVID-19 pandemic, officials with the regional workforce development agency announced today.

The resource was created to ease the burden for the region’s essential workers who are required to work but have struggled to find childcare during this difficult time. The website will connect essential workers with child care centers that have immediate openings and serve as a gateway where parents can apply for child care financial assistance through Workforce Solutions. Essential workers are those identified by the state or local jurisdiction as essential to continued critical infrastructure viability.

“The Gulf Coast Workforce Board is committed to supporting everyday heroes, especially those essential workers who need financial assistance to ensure quality early education and care for their young children,” said Mike Temple, director of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and Workforce Solutions. “Our Workforce Solutions staff will work hand-in-glove with our partners to make sure parents can be signed up, determined eligible, and connected to a provider as quickly as possible.”

An online resource portal www.FindChildCareNow.org, which launched on Monday, April 5, allows these essential workers to complete a registration form that enables Collaborative for Children’s early childhood specialists to research child care centers that best meet the workers’ needs and begin the process for Workforce Solutions to determine eligibility for financial assistance. Essential workers will receive up to three high-quality child care centers from which they can choose and notification of financial assistance eligibility.

The service is available for workers living anywhere in the 13-county Gulf Coast region -- Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. For additional information regarding the program and eligibility, visit the Child Care Now information page for essential workers at collabforchildren.org/child-care-now, or see the FAQ document below.

www.wrksolutions.com 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) 1.800.735.2988 (voice) or 711

A proud partner of the americanjobcenter network



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
P.O. Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777
MAIN: 713.627.3200 **FAX:** 713.993.4578
www.wrksolutions.com

#

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: Workforce Solutions is dedicated to keeping the Gulf Coast region a great place to do business, work, and live. Our employer-driven, people-focused approach elevates the economic and human potential of the region to attract and retain the best employers, afford everyone the dignity of a job, and remain indispensable to the global economy. As the public workforce system for 13 counties in Southeast Texas, we work with the Texas Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network.



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
 P.O. Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777
 MAIN: 713.627.3200 FAX: 713.993.4578
 www.wrksolutions.com



CHILD CARE NOW

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS – FAQ

1. What is Child Care Now?

A streamlined process for essential workers to both find child care and apply for financial assistance.

2. How does it work?

Families of essential workers can register for child care online at FindChildCareNow.org. Here, they will fill a single registration form to apply for help in finding a child care center and financial support. A representative from Collaborative for Children will contact them within two business days to share information about the quality, licensed child care centers that will best fit their needs. Families who are interested in applying for financial assistance will use the same form to express their interest, and they will be contacted by the staff of Workforce Solutions.

3. Who is eligible?

All “essential workers” as defined by the state of Texas or the respective local jurisdiction with children aged 0-12 who need child care, and who live in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, or Wharton counties.

4. Who is eligible for financial assistance?

For financial assistance, families must not exceed 150% of the state median income, which equates to \$80,000 for a single parent with one child or \$118,000 for a family of four. See chart below:

* Family size consists of those in the home that can be claimed as dependents on a federal tax return or a minor who is the responsibility of the parent/applicant.

**Income does not include federal or state assistance or child support and is your gross income received (before taxes).

State Median Income= SMI

Family Size	Annual Household Income (Approx. 150% SMI) at or below	Monthly Household Income (Approx. 150% SMI) at or below
2	\$80,000	\$6,700
3	\$99,000	\$8,200
4	\$118,000	\$9,800
5	\$136,000	\$11,300
6	\$155,000	\$13,000
7	\$159,000	\$13,200
8	\$162,000	\$13,500
9	\$166,000	\$13,800
10	\$169,000	\$14,100



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
P.O. Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777
MAIN: 713.627.3200 FAX: 713.993.4578
www.wrksolutions.com



5. What are some examples of essential workers?

Essential workers may include workers in the following occupations: pharmacy; health care; local or state government; restaurant or food delivery; first responders; gas station; child care, home care, or other caregiver; mail/delivery; or military personnel.

6. When can people sign up? How do folks sign up?

Registration launched on Monday, April 6, 2020 at FindChildCareNow.org.

7. How long will it take for program approval?

All families will be contacted within two business days to discuss their child care options and financial assistance eligibility.

8. Is there a phone number that people can call for more information?

Workforce Solutions can be reached at 713-334-5980 for more information.

9. Is information available in Spanish?

The registration form on the website is also available in Spanish. Bilingual early childhood specialists will also be available to assist with finding child care.