



DATE: June 30, 2025

FROM: Child Care Associates

SUBJECT: Statement from Kara Waddell, President & CEO

I'm thrilled to share that Child Care Associates (CCA), an early childhood development nonprofit in North Texas, has been awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Head Start. This national investment enables CCA to continue our community commitment to providing high-quality early education and comprehensive Head Start and Early Head Start services to approximately 899 Tarrant County pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers along with their families.

We are both humbled and grateful for this investment entrusted to us to continue our longstanding tradition of providing accessible care and exceptional learning for young children. It's exciting for the opportunities it brings to eligible children and families across Tarrant County.

Public investments like this along with our community investments and donations enable CCA to continue our 57-year history of preparing young minds for the future. Approximately 82% of 3- and 4-year-olds who attend a CCA Child Care Studio meet Texas kindergarten-readiness standards, and across the board our students show accelerated progress in language, literacy, and math, along with strong growth across all key areas of development. All this plus a nutritional boost for children with locally made meals from fresh produce served family style! Our parents regularly express their sincere appreciation as they see their child hitting developmental milestones and growing.

CCA's vision is to ensure every child, regardless of neighborhood or circumstance, has access to exceptional early learning... and families have access to care when needed. I'm especially proud of how this local Head Start investment empowers CCA to help children who may come with extra needs, such as children in foster care or experiencing homelessness. Together with our community partners, we help ensure these children and families can access the early support needed to grow healthy and developmentally strong in the years ahead. Children with confirmed or suspected development delays are receiving the early attention and services needed to thrive.

Never been more proud of our CCA team. This investment is essential for CCA to sustain the employment of highly qualified educators and support staff. Well-compensated early educators are critical to ensuring the stability, consistency, and high-quality care that Texas families need today. As CCA plans for our upcoming program year, we also remain committed to working alongside our community partners and leaders to identify meaningful, long-term solutions that build a thriving child care system for all providers. Together with our quality Texas Rising Star child care providers, we help ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive and be productive members of our workforce, community and society. Quality child care operators today need additional support to provide the services our families need.



We at CCA look forward to welcoming both returning and new families for Head Start, child care and PreK. We know families today need to select the early learning setting that offers the right resources for them to nurture growth, accelerate development, and ignite wonder. If interested in CCA, classes and services for the 2025-2026 school year begin, Monday, July 28, 2025 for infants and toddlers and August 11, 2025 for preschoolers. Returning parents can contact their local campus directly to complete registration. Families interested in learning more about any CCA early childhood programs and services can visit our website www.childcareassociates.org and complete a quick interest form. Families can also check out the [Tarrant County CCMS Quality Providers List](#) to find Texas Rising Star child care providers across Tarrant County. Area schools both public and charter also offer state-funded Prekindergarten during school hours, and CCA can also link you to community-based providers of public PreK for preschoolers of working families who may need longer hours or prefer a smaller setting.

For families who feel their child isn't ready for a classroom outside the home, CCA also provides supports for infants and toddlers at home with a parent or relative through CCA's home visiting and Family Studios.

A special thanks to our Tarrant County leaders, partners, and community for your continued support of Child Care Associates as we build a strong early learning system for our families. Together, we're forming critical foundations for the future of our children, families, and communities.