



Health and Human Services

Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee

November 12, 2025

This summary contains supplemental information from reliable sources where that information provides clarity to the issues being discussed. Power Point tables used in the presentations may also be used in this summary. Names of individuals may be misspelled but every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy. Tables and Text have been used from executive and legislative agencies and departments' presentations and publications.





[Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee](#) advises the HHSC Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services program on developing and implementing policies that constitute the statewide ECI system.

The Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee, which is required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, advises the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Division for Early Childhood Intervention Services on development and implementation of policies that constitute the statewide ECI system. The governor appoints the committee members.

The federal law establishing the system of early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities is Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In Texas, the Part C program is Early Childhood Intervention. ECI is a division of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Each state that operates a Part C program must include as a part of its program an advisory council. Part C of the IDEA calls that council the Interagency Coordinating Council. The HHSC/ECI ICC is the ECI Advisory Committee. The function of the Advisory Committee is to advise and assist HHSC/ECI in its operation of the statewide system of providing ECI services to eligible children and families in Texas. The multidisciplinary and multi-constituency representation on the Advisory Committee contributes to making it an important part of the ECI system. It is ECI's major source of stakeholder input.

Members.

Catherine Carlton, Chair

Program Representative
Arlington

Guillermo Lopez, Vice-Chair

Program Representative
Austin

Pattie Rosenlund

Program Representative
Mission

Deborah A. "Debbie" Cohen, Ph.D.

Parent Representative
Austin

David H. Goff, M.D.

Physician/Pediatrician Representative
Strawn

Audrey K. Jackson

Head Start Representative
San Marcos

Stephanie Klick

State Legislative Representative
Fort Worth

Cynthia (Cindy) Dawn Lee

Public Provider Representative
Wylie

Cynthia (Cal) Azenneth Lopez

Texas Education for Homeless Children



Hannah Holmes English

Parent Representative
Houston

Kristina Borenstein Otterstrom

Parent Representative
Houston

Stephanie Perry

Parent Representative
Denton

Patricia Kay Reedy

Parent Representative
Texarkana

Lizzeth Saldana

Parent Representative
San Antonio

Rachel Cerkovnik Bowden

Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)
Representative
Austin

Lori Gabbert Charney

Department of State Health Services -
Maternal and Child Health
Austin

and Youth (TEHCY) Representative
Austin

Felicia A. Penn

Department of Family and Protective
Services – Foster Care/Child Protective
Services
San Antonio

Rosalba A. Calleros Ramirez

Advocate Representative
Buda

Ryan David Van Ramshorst, M.D.

HHSC Medicaid/CHIP Representative
San Antonio

Chasey Sanchez, Ph.D.,

Program Representative
Texas City

Allison Pearce Wilson

Texas Workforce Commission
Representative
Austin

Meeting

1. Call to order, logistical announcements, and roll call. Catherine Carlton, Chair convened the meeting. A quorum was established.

2. Consideration of August 20, 2025, draft meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as drafted.

3. ECI program updates. Meghan Young, Director; Rachel Moyer-Trimyer, ECI Policy, Resources, and Implementation Manager; Rachel Phillips, ECI Lead for Policy, Medicaid, and Billing; Beatrice Watson, Special Projects Coordinator Early Childhood Intervention.



In Summary: Megan Young, ECI Director, gave state office updates, including welcoming Chloe Arevalo and noting Mary Adolf's new quality assurance role.

Quarterly and annual data trends were highlighted:

- Referrals increased 5% in FY25, 8% in Q4 year-over-year.
- Caseload growth stabilized at ~1% per year, matching population trends.
- Service hours up 1%, averaging 2.36 hours/child/month.
- 61.39% of children served had Medicaid coverage.

Training/outreach highlights:

- SMILE bimonthly webinars continue, most recently featuring the Thriving Texas Families program.
- Training needs assessment showed a preference for short, focused online trainings, with topics requested including leadership, compliance, transition, documentation, and time management.
- "Coaching the Coach" workshops completed, reaching over 1,000 ECI providers, with plans for recorded webinar versions.
- Outreach efforts included participation in multiple state conferences and launching the ECI Family Stories Project to share impact stories with consent.

Policy and Grant-Related Updates. Rachel Phillips provided updates on:

- New technical assistance documents for transition from ECI to early childhood special education, plus upcoming TEA joint training and webinars.
- Personnel retention grant concluded; evaluation underway with UTEP focusing on impact, sustainability, and peer network growth (now 322 members).

Beatriz Watson reported on the Preschool Development Grant (PDG):

- \$5.1M budget in 2025; \$760K allocated among 38 ECI programs.
- PDG supports hiring, retention, and virtual trainings (notably for autism and challenging behaviors).
- Supplies and tools like ASQ and DAISY kits distributed with PDG funds.
- The Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan launched, focusing on access, workforce, partnerships, and data.
- Funding, Service Area, and Rulemaking Updates

Megan Young explained FY26 financial allocations, with breakdowns of state and federal sources, Medicaid, insurance, and local funds.



State office continues to bulk-purchase essential tools (e-signature software, assessment kits) for subrecipients, prioritizing digital formats.

Recent RFA process led to some ECI service area changes, with minimal disruption. Updated provider maps and search tools were shared; further changes expected next year.

Presentation.

Quarterly data

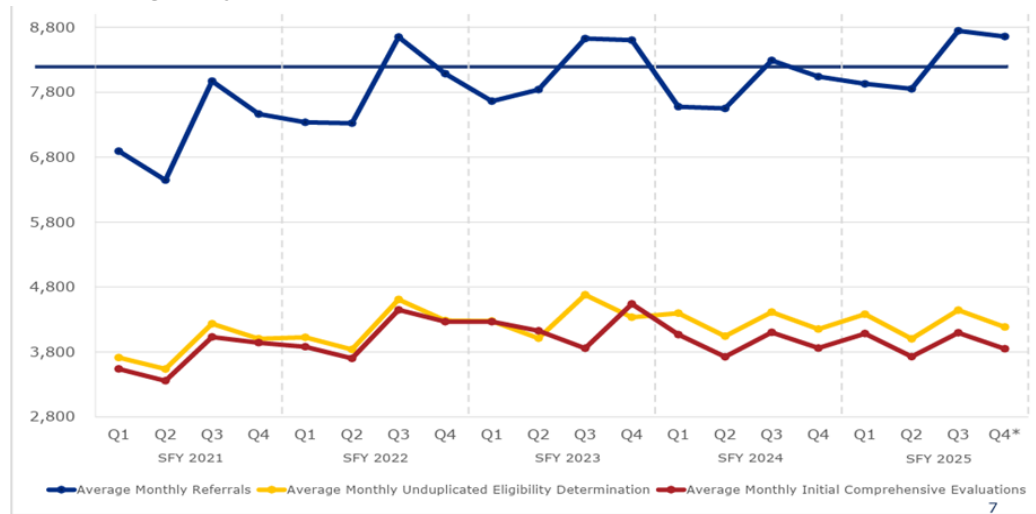
Children Referred, Evaluated, and Served

	SFY 2021	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	SFY 2025 Q1	SFY 2025 Q2	SFY 2025 Q3	SFY 2025 Q4*	SFY 2025
Average Monthly Referrals	7,193	7,848	8,046	7,864	7,929	7,851	8,745	8,656	8,295
Average Monthly Unduplicated Eligibility Determination	3,872	4,189	4,327	4,252	4,381	4,002	4,444	4,184	4,253
Average Monthly Initial Comprehensive Evaluations	3,735	4,099	4,191	3,939	4,083	3,728	4,096	3,849	3,939
Average Monthly Enrolled	27,860	30,835	31,980	32,310	32,653	32,318	32,845	32,752	32,642
Average Monthly Comprehensive Served	30,516	33,732	35,055	35,317	35,701	35,293	35,809	35,976	35,695
Cumulative Quarterly/Annual Children Served (unduplicated)	60,204	65,584	67,512	67,413	41,778	50,149	59,326	67,980	67,980

*Data from the most recent quarter may be incomplete and is subject to change.

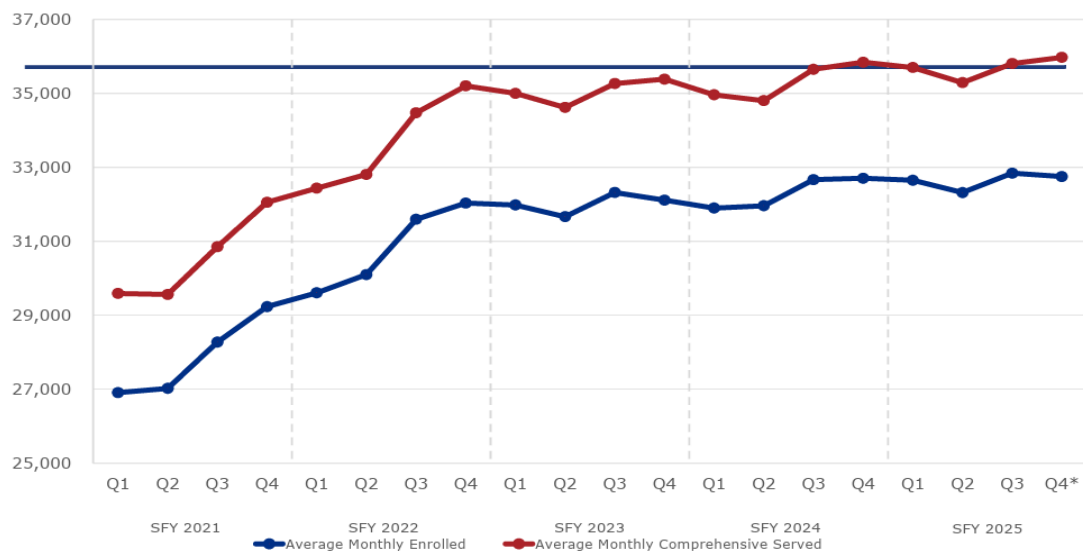
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Referrals, Eligibility Determination, Evaluations



* Data from the most recent quarter may be incomplete and is subject to change

Children Referred, Evaluated, and Served cont.



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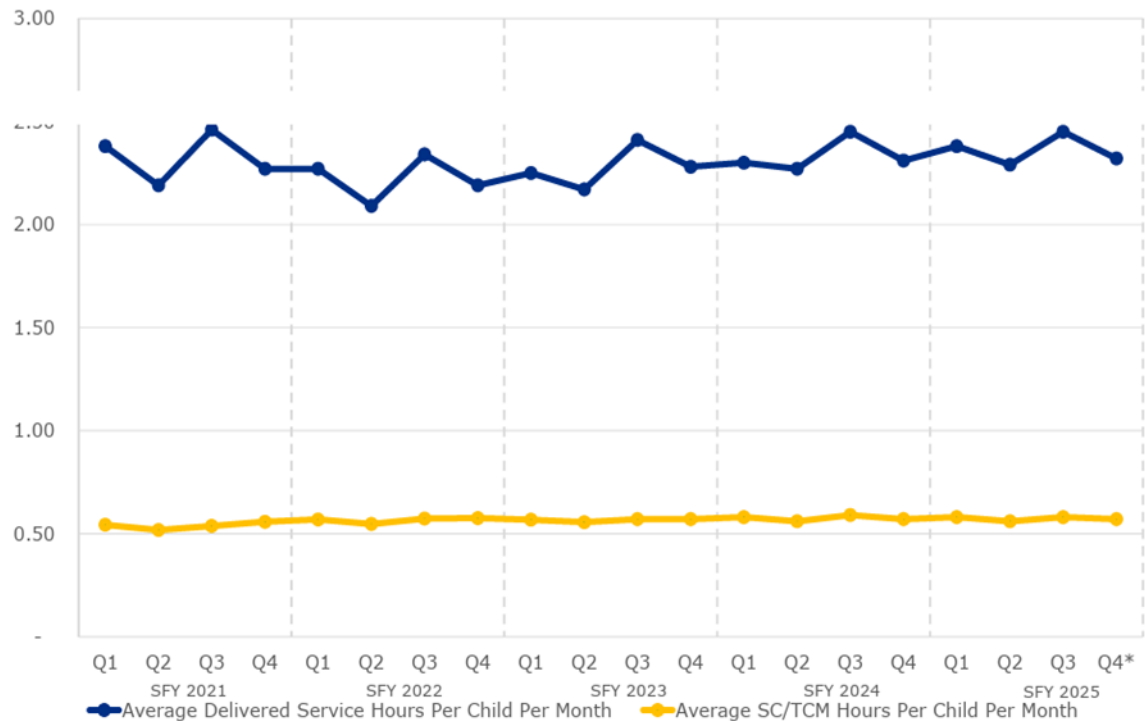
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Delivered Services

	SFY 2021	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	SFY 2025 Q1	SFY 2025 Q2	SFY 2025 Q3	SFY 2025 Q4*	SFY 2025
Average Monthly Delivered Service Hours (not parent-arranged)	70,999	74,954	79,708	82,589	85,085	80,783	87,564	83,551	84,246
Average Service Hours Per Child Per Month	2.33	2.22	2.27	2.33	2.38	2.29	2.45	2.32	2.36
Average Monthly Service Coordination (SC)/ Targeted Case Management (TCM) Hours	6,052	7,970	9,186	9,964	10,279	9,315	10,169	9,815	9,895
Average SC/TCM Hours Per Child Per Month	0.54	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	0.57	0.57

*Data from the most recent quarter may be incomplete and is subject to change.

Average Service Hours Per Child Per Month



* Data from the most recent quarter may be incomplete and is subject to change

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ECI Children with Medicaid Coverage

	SFY 2025 Q1	SFY 2025 Q2	SFY 2025 Q3	SFY 2025 Q4*	SFY 2025
Average Monthly Medicaid-Enrolled	21,980	21,556	22,028	22,082	21,912
Average Monthly Comprehensive Served	35,701	35,293	35,809	35,976	35,695
Percent Medicaid	61.57%	61.08%	61.52%	61.38%	61.39%

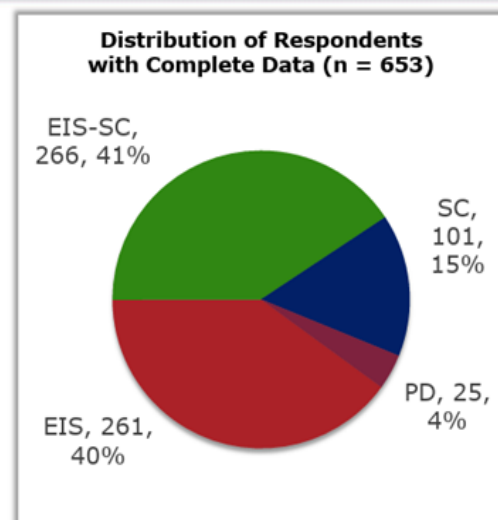
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State office staff update. Chloe Arevalo, ECI Information Specialist; Mary Adolph, ECI Quality Assurance Therapist

Training and outreach. SMILE Webinars Series for Meaningful Interagency Learning and Education (SMILE) webinar: October 2025: Thriving Texas Families
 Guidance materials regarding transition from ECI to Early Childhood Special Education

Needs Assessment Findings Data was collected from 4 groups

- Program directors (PD)
- Early Intervention Specialists (EIS)
- Service Coordinators (SC)
- Dual role Early Intervention Specialists and Service Coordinators (EIS-SC) 653 people provided complete data

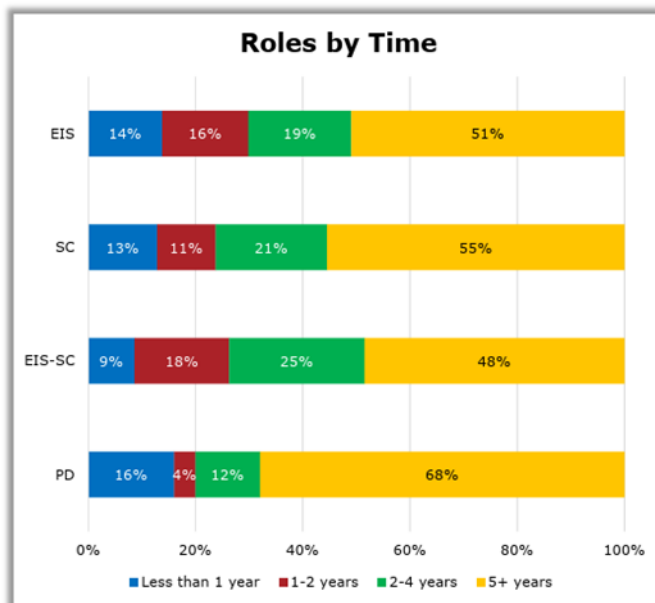


Most respondents

- Have been in their role for 5+ years.
- Report moderate to expert skills.

Preferences

- Delivery: Videos/webinars
- Device: Laptops
- Duration: 30-60 min and 15-30 min



Findings:

Newer trainings should:

- Target more advanced topics and skills.
- Be short and focused.

Requested training topics include:

- Leadership, financial, and contract compliance training for program directors
- Transition planning
- Laws and regulations
- Collaborative documentation
- Time management

Coaching the Coach Workshop

- In-person Coaching the Coach workshops concluded in late September.
- ECI state office quality assurance team conducted 14 workshops at 12 venues
- Reached all ECI programs and more than 1,000 providers
- Post-workshop surveys contained largely positive feedback
- Next steps



Recently Attended Conferences

Name	Date	Location
2025 Texas Child Care Administrators Conference	August 25 – 27	San Antonio
2025 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness	September 17 – 19	Austin
Texas Nurse Practitioner Annual Conference	September 25 – 28	Dallas
Texas Pediatric Society Annual Meeting	October 16 – 19	Round Rock
48 th Annual National Association of Social Workers Texas State Conference	October 16 – 18	Virtual
Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference	November 6 – 8	Round Rock
2025 Southwest Orientation and Mobility Conference	November 7 – 8	Virtual

Upcoming Conferences

Name	Date	Location
Texas Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference	November 14 – 15	San Marcos
2025 Partners in Prevention Conference	November 18 – 20	Austin

ECI Family Stories Project

HHSC ECI launched the ECI Family Stories Project.

- Collecting and sharing real-life success stories from families who have benefited from ECI services.
- We welcome any ECI families that may be interested in participating.
- Please contact Gaby Lopez at gabriella.lopez01@hhs.texas.gov for information.



Guidance Materials Regarding Transition from ECI to Early Childhood Special Education

Transition Guidance HHSC ECI is working with TEA to establish joint guidance on transition. Upcoming guidance on early childhood transition includes:

- IDEA Part C to IDEA Part B transition flowchart.
- Frequently asked questions and answers.

Upcoming joint training opportunity with TEA. Upcoming webinar by HHSC ECI.

Early Intervention Personnel Retention Grant project. The grant period ended on October 31, 2025 and the grant evaluation is underway. HHSC ECI must submit the final report on all grant activities by December 31, 2025.

The final report must cover the entire grant period and include:

- An executive summary of all grant activities.
- Complete data supporting the project objectives.
- Actual budget expenditures.

The grant evaluation must identify how this grant supported ECI subrecipients and personnel in:

- Implementing evidence-based retention strategies.
- Increasing their knowledge of evidence-based practice and policy for retention.
- Identifying ways this project will positively benefit children and families receiving ECI services.

University of Texas El Paso is conducting a Personnel Retention Research Study as part of the grant evaluation.

Professionalism, Engagement, Empowerment, and Resource (PEER) Network

There are currently 322 registered members in the PEER Network. The PEER Network recently:

- Hosted part two of a webinar series focused on ECI eligibility.
- Held a discussion on how to sustain the PEER Network beyond the grant period.

HHSC ECI continues to provide support as needed.



Preschool Development Grant

ECI was awarded \$5.1 million in PDG funds for calendar year 2025.

- \$1.1 million was allocated to 36 ECI programs for use in FY25.
- \$760,000 is allocated to 38 ECI programs for September through December 2025.
 - Staff recruitment, retention, and mentoring stipends
 - Training for childcare and early learning programs
- \$3.2 million is allocated for the following activities:
 - Live, virtual professional development workshops
 - Statewide ECI provider recruitment marketing campaign
 - American Society for Quality kits for childcare programs
 - Developmental Assessment of Young Children, 2nd Edition forms for ECI programs
 - New – Battelle Developmental Inventory, Third Edition electronic forms for ECI programs

Trainings for Child Care Providers are FREE for all childcare programs in Texas there are Three, 1-hour, live, virtual trainings were participants

- Learn techniques for working with ECI providers in a childcare setting.
- Create classrooms for children of all abilities.
- Discuss strategies to foster healthy brain development.

Registration is open!

- All Together Now [Registration](#)
- Planning and Creating Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms [Registration](#)
- Building Stronger Brain Foundations [Registration](#)

Email ECI_Local_Training@hhs.texas.gov

Autism Support Training is facilitated by STAR Autism Support and is an evidence-based strategies for engaging young children with autism and their parents and caregivers. Registration is open to all early childhood professionals (e.g., ECI providers, childcare professionals, and preschool teachers). The training is a three-tiered model for progressive skill development

- Two-day live virtual workshops
- Two-week self-paced online modules
- Two-week certification and materials



Texas Early Learning Council ([Texas Early Learning Council Home](#)) developed the 2024-2026 Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan with four focus areas

- Family access, navigation, and engagement
- Workforce recruitment, retention, and support
- Local systems and partnership building
- Data and system coordination

Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan

Action 2.4.4: HHSC ECI will continue the Professionalism Engagement Empowerment Resources (PEER) Network for early intervention specialists and service coordinators.

- The PEER Network has 322 registered members.
- HHSC ECI continues to host bi-monthly PEER Network meetings.

Action 2.4.6: HHSC ECI will continue to develop and make available trainings on children with special needs, including autism, and on managing challenging behavior in young children.

- Since April 2023, ECI programs have provided 93 trainings on creating classrooms for children of all abilities.
- Since May 2024, HHSC ECI continues to offer four trainings on engaging children with autism and managing challenging behavior.
- Trainings are located on the ECI Archived Webinars webpage .

Fiscal year 2026 ECI appropriation allocations and state office purchasing

The ECI services appropriation includes multiple methods of finance, not all of which are budgeted in ECI contracts.

- Contract funding:
 - State General Revenue
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C
 - IDEA Part B (transferred from TEA)
 - Foundation School Funds (transferred from TEA)
- Other appropriated funding:
 - Medicaid Targeted Case Management (TCM)
 - Medicaid Specialized Skills Training (SST)



- Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) federal funds

FY 2026 ECI Subrecipient Budgets

Funding source	Amount
ECI contract	\$143,807,253
Medicaid TCM	\$12,581,701
Medicaid SST	\$35,742,810
MAC federal funds	\$6,804,439
Medicaid managed care	\$51,208,670
Private insurance	\$10,678,869
Other locally collected funds	\$19,313,717
Total	\$280,137,459

FY 2026 ECI State Office Purchases In recent years, HHSC ECI has used stimulus funding, a significant proportion of its state office operating budget, and grant funding to purchase tools for ECI subrecipients:

- OneSpan electronic signature software
- Batelle Developmental Inventory – 3rd Edition (BDI-3) subscriptions and electronic record forms
- Developmental Assessment of Young Children – 2nd Edition (DAYC-2) kits

ECI State Office Purchases

	FY 2026 State Office Operating Funds	Year 3 – Preschool Development Grant
OneSpan	\$102,530	-
BDI-3	\$192,600	\$1,000,000*
DAYC-2	-	\$997,000*
Total	\$295,130	\$1,997,000*

*Planned/budgeted

Service area changes resulting from ECI request for applications HHS0014626

ECI Request for Applications (RFA)

ECI issued two RFAs in state fiscal year (SFY) 2025.

Statewide RFA

- Received 43 total applications.
- Received 39 applications from ECI subrecipients.

Targeted RFA

- Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, and Milam counties
- Received one application from an ECI subrecipient.

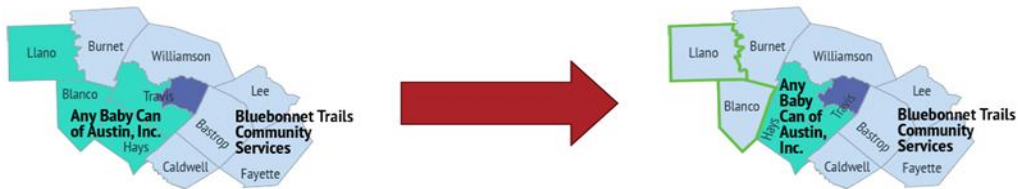
HHSC awarded contracts to 39 ECI subrecipients for ECI services beginning in SFY 2026.

ECI Service Area Changes ECI has implemented changes to five service areas, effective September 1, 2025.

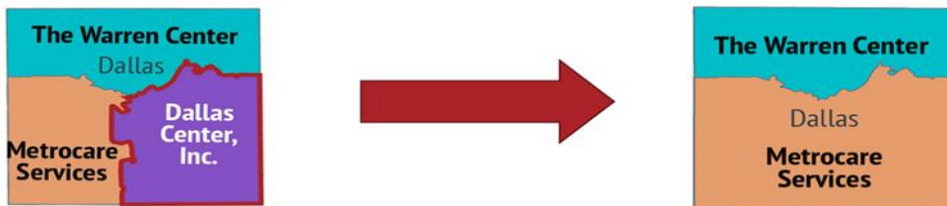
- All five are changes to the service area of existing ECI programs.
- ECI services in all other areas of the state did not change.
- As a result of the RFA, ECI will implement one additional service area change, effective September 1, 2026.

Blanco County and Llano County

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services ECI newly serves Blanco and Llano counties.

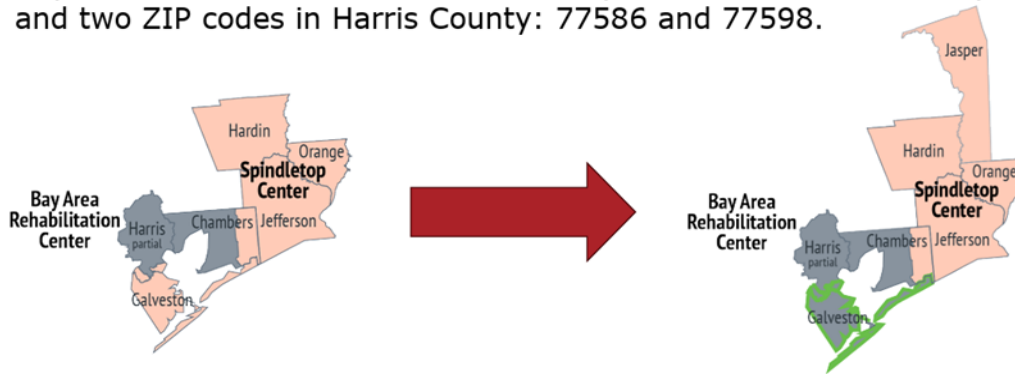


Dallas County



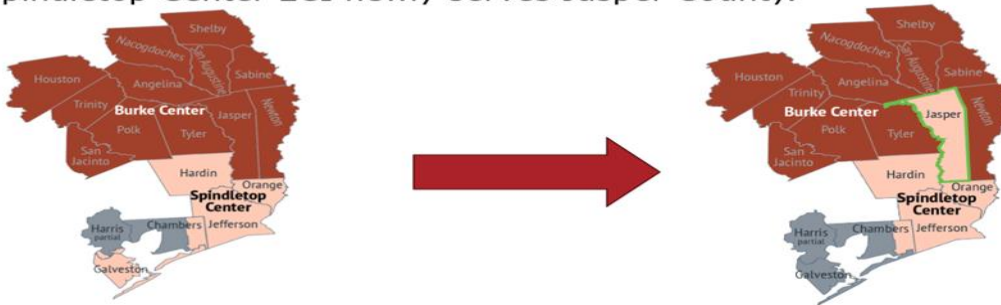
Galveston Area

Bay Area Rehabilitation Center ECI newly serves Galveston County and two ZIP codes in Harris County: 77586 and 77598.



Jasper County

Spindletop Center ECI newly serves Jasper County.



ECI Referrals

To find an ECI program, visit:
texashhs.org/eci-search





Implementation of House Bill 5629, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. Implementing HB 5629

- Finalizing application for military service members, military veterans, and military spouses to obtain the EIS credential.
- Finalizing process for maintaining and publishing records of complaints.
- Planning for December 2025 publication.
- Rule amendments will align with rulemaking project.

Discussion. No discussion

[Discussion of fiscal year 2026 ECI rule amendments project related to Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Part 1, Chapter 350, concerning Early Childhood Intervention Services.](#)

In Summary. Rachel Phillips introduced the upcoming ECI rule amendments project to align with new legislation (military credentialing, plain language, eligibility, transition rules); timeline aims for rule adoption by November 2026.

Presentation.

HHSC ECI established an internal workgroup to propose amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Part 1, Chapter 350. Scope of project:

- Implement new legislation.
- Clarify federal regulations.
- Correct outdated terminology.
- Align with HHS rulemaking standards.

Target Timeline

Fall 2025: Official kick-off of rulemaking project.

- Internal review
- Draft amendments

Spring 2026: Stakeholder outreach and informal public comment.

- Presentation to the ECI Advisory Committee
- Informal public comment



Summer 2026: Formal public comment.

Fall 2026: Rules effective date and implementation.

Discussion. No substantive discussion

Member reports (Local program activities, parent activities, Inter/intra-agency partners' activities)

Program providers (Any Baby Can, Easter Seals, North Central Texas) reported:

- Increased referrals and hiring efforts, transition to telehealth, fundraising and family engagement, and staff/family success stories.
- Special efforts on Head Start program transitions and vision screening initiatives.

Parents highlighted the vital impact of ECI on their children, shared personal experiences and advocacy.

Agency partners (Department of Insurance, DSHS, TEA, DFPS, Workforce Commission) shared brief updates:

- TEA to release new transition resources.
- Workforce Commission launching a quad-agency childcare initiative.
- Medicaid CHIP submitted a federal grant application to support rural health.

Dr. David Goff (Physician Representative) emphasized the need for better ECI awareness among clinicians and highlighted declining childhood immunization rates.

Resources: [rural-txstrong-prjct-narr.pdf](#); [Texas Rural Health Strong - Search News](#)

Public comment. There was no public comment

Planning for next meeting. Upcoming meetings

- January 28, 2026
- April 29, 2026
- August 25, 2026



Possible items for the agenda

- Immunization updates
- An item was mentioned but missed because of technical broadcast issue.
- Annual performance report

Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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