

BUILDING THE BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS THROUGH

# High-Quality Early Care and Education



**Why high-quality early care and education?** Because 90% of brain development happens before age 5. And 36% of children from families with low income in our community are not ready to learn and succeed when they enter Kindergarten.

## Defying the Odds

At United Way for Greater Austin, we know that nurturing our youngest is the key to unlocking a future of equality and prosperity. An early investment today produces economic benefits tomorrow, such as **healthier communities, higher graduation and employment rates, higher wages, and lower crime rates.**

United Way's programs expand access to high-quality education for all families and provide wrap-around support for the parents, caregivers, and teachers who can propel our youngest to their highest success.

### WHAT WE DO

- Open access to high-quality child care for low income families.
- Help parents maintain stable and consistent work.
- Provide direct services and support to early child care providers and educators.
- Foster collaboration and connections for organizations, agencies, and education providers to improve early access to quality education.
- Advance professional development training for educators.

Every

# \$1

invested in early childhood results in a

# \$9

return on investment.



- ✓ **Children who begin Kindergarten school-ready** are three times more likely to read at grade level by the fourth grade.
- ✓ **Students who read at grade level by the fourth grade** are more likely to graduate from high school, avoid the juvenile justice system, persevere through college, and earn more as an adult.



United Way for Greater Austin brings our community together to break economic barriers and build opportunity for all.

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# Your Dollars in Action

In 2023,

# 13,000+

children under 6 from families with low income received high-quality early care and education to enter school ready to learn and thrive.



## \$1,108,065

in city, county, state, and corporate funding leveraged to support Pre-K Partnerships, a collaboration with Austin and Round Rock ISDs.



## 120+

volunteers mobilized to advocate for early childhood education during the Texas Legislative Session, resulting in a \$74.2 million increase in funding for early childhood programs.



## 90,000

books distributed to young readers in 2023.

## Rooted in Meaningful Change

### Lasting Coalitions, Convened by United Way

#### Austin/Travis County and Williamson County Success By 6 Coalitions

Pioneering collaboratives creating opportunities for infants, toddlers, and young children to receive high-quality education before they enter Kindergarten, while also fostering a community of parents, caregivers, and teachers ready to provide high-quality care.

#### Greater Austin Reading Coalition

A diverse alliance of nonprofit and community leaders, librarians, teachers, and parents working toward a shared vision of supporting children, grades K-3, to ensure they are reading on or above grade level by the fourth grade.

### Bold Advocacy

#### The Austin/Travis County Success By 6 Coalition, in Partnership with Early Matters Greater Austin,

successfully advocated to advance a 100% property tax abatement for qualifying child care providers (Prop 2). This reduces financial burdens for the early care and education sector in Austin, especially providers caring for children whose families face economic barriers.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### 3 Key Programs

#### Shared Services Alliance:

Centralizes business support including recruitment, finance, payroll, and more for early care and education centers so teachers can do what they do best: Teach.

#### Pre-K Partnerships: A

collaboration with local school districts to support and expand access to high-quality, full-day pre-Kindergarten.

**Family-based care:** Support, technical assistance, and professional development for home-based child care providers.



Local mother and son enrolled in United Way educational program enjoy an outing to The Thinkery

**Give.** Provide access to life-changing resources.

**Advocate.** Use your voice to build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

**Volunteer.** Support fellow Texans with your time and talents.

Join our movement.



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