

November 19th, 2021

Quanah City Council

109 King St.

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Quanah, Texas, 79252

**COMMENT ON APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION'S
CHILDCARE COVID RELIEF FUNDING**

Thank you for this opportunity in providing this public comment for you all. On Thursday, November 18th, 2021, the Quanah City Council voted unanimously for the Quanah Head Start program in applying for the TWC's COVID-19 childcare relief funding. Their decisions had equity, expansion of resources, and wellbeing all in mind for the students and families served by the district and its Head Start program.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the root causes of discrepancies in childcare, especially brain drain. This process steered many families of the community of Quanah to travel for other facilities, and therefore must find work closer to these centers which negatively affected economic and social development. Our Head Start facility lost crucial revenue due to closures, leading to increased operating costs and limited enrollment, causing wait lists (U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 2021). Working with our own Quanah ISD School Board of Trustees and Head Start staff, we universally voted for the application to the Texas Workforce Commission COVID-19 childcare relief funding by the Head Start facility. Like other school districts of Quanah's size, we received around \$49,000, disbursing around early 2022.

On October 19th, 2021, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) approved distribution of \$2.5 billion American Rescue Plan Act funds for direct relief towards childcare programs,

public and private (Texas Workforce Commission, 2021). Childcare facilities received emails about the application process and accessing the application through the Child Care Relief portal. After heavy consideration based on the wellbeing and importance of our citizens and their families, we made this decision after comparing other policy alternatives such as taxation. This decision preserves the communal wellbeing of Quanah along with providing equitable opportunities for education among all students and families served. Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer further questions on this adoption and the research backing the policy decision.