

# EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE

## Governor of the State of Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

AWR 91-8

### ESTABLISHING THE TEXAS HEAD START COLLABORATION PROJECT TASK FORCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO MORE EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE AND MAXIMIZE SERVICES FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS, young children's developmental needs must be met in order to assure their optimal growth and future productivity; and

WHEREAS, dramatic changes in the workforce and the number of children living in poverty have made child care an essential service for families; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that as an essential service, Child Care programs must ensure that:

High quality child care services are available and accessible to all children at a cost the family can afford;

Staff salaries are commensurate with the skills and qualifications required to attract and retain qualified staff and assure the provision of quality services;

Sufficient and on-going training in developmentally appropriate practice is available and required of all child care staff;

Child care programs are available to meet the full range of families' needs, including infant care, school-age care, care for special needs children, and other specialized care;

Coordinated programs for young children among public, private and voluntary sectors ensure that the maximum number of children will be served in a cost-effective manner by the highest quality care available. At a minimum, Head Start, TEA Administered Pre-kindergarten, and TDHS Child Day Care program resources should be fully coordinated to provide a continuum of care accessible to all children;

Continuity of care for children in a family is a major consideration in programs and their requirements, so that the care of children remains consistent;

The needs of families and children are addressed through the preservation of choice, including but not limited to: the choice of flexible work options, the choice among affordable programs, and the choice among types of child care; and

Parental involvement in their children's care and education about their development is provided and encouraged beginning with pregnancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ann W. Richards, Governor of the State of Texas, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby order as follows:

Create and establish the Texas Head Start Collaboration Project Task Force, hereinafter referred to as the Task Force.

The Task Force will consist of not more than twenty-five (25) members appointed by the Governor.

The Task Force will consist of a diverse group of individuals based on gender, geographical area (rural and urban), ethnicity, and agency/organizational representation.

The Task Force will be charged with the overall goal to increase access to early childhood programs for economically disadvantaged children, and to work in conjunction with the federal Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program and the state's Human Investment Partnership initiative to integrate and maximize services for at-risk families and children. The objectives to be considered are the following:

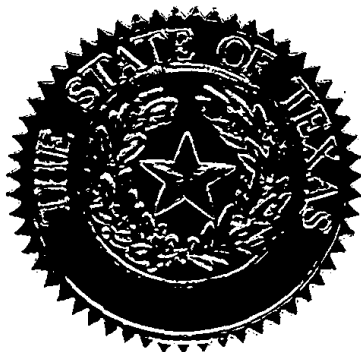
1. Establish a statewide task force to provide a mechanism for liaison and policy discussion among affected groups, including parents, community groups, employers, lawmakers, and child care providers.
2. Create or provide increased access to local collaborative efforts to expand opportunities for improving long-term outcomes for economically disadvantaged children and their families.
3. Identify and expand early childhood services for economically disadvantaged children and families.
4. Identify existing and potential funding sources to expand and/or replicate successful collaborative programs.
5. Increase the number of programs that provide continuity of care for economically disadvantaged children.

All agencies of state and local government are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the Task Force in the performance of its duties.

A member of the Task Force is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses (travel and per diem) incurred in performing Task Force duties.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until amended, modified, or rescinded by the Governor.

Given under my hand this  
22nd day of May, 1991.



*Ann W. Richards*  
ANN W. RICHARDS  
Governor of Texas

SEAL OF STATE OF TEXAS

*John Hannah Jr.*  
JOHN HANNAH, JR.  
Secretary of State

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