



Regulation of Texas Child Day Care Centers and Homes

Health and Human Services Child Care Regulation

Results in Brief

Summary of Review

The audit objective was to determine whether the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) processed permit renewals and reviewed child day care operations in accordance with selected rules, statutes, and requirements. The audit scope covered the period from September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2023.

Background

Child Care Regulation is the HHS program area that oversees center-based and home-based child day care operations in Texas that provide care for children 13 years or younger for less than 24 hours a day.

Child Care Regulation processed 10,653 permit renewals for licensed child day care centers, licensed homes, and registered homes in the audit scope. It must inspect child day care operations regularly and follow up on any deficiencies noted. Child Care Regulation has different timeframes for following up on cited deficiencies.

Why OIG Conducted This Audit

OIG initiated this audit in response to changes in recent updates to Human Resources Code addressing additional oversight requirements in child care centers and homes.

For more information, contact:
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Conclusion

Child Care Regulation complied with the selected permit renewal requirements in all 90 samples tested. Specifically, Child Care Regulation:

- Reviewed the operations' history for frequent or repeated violations.
- Verified there were no outstanding deficiencies at the time of permit renewal.
- Completed required facility inspections prior to permit renewal.
- Ensured supervisors approved assessment of deficiencies when necessary.

For facility inspection deficiencies follow-ups, Child Care Regulation documented a compliance correction date for all deficiencies samples tested. However, Child Care Regulation did not always:

- Follow up on cited deficiencies within the required timeframe.
- Describe how the deficiency was corrected.

Recommendation

Child Care Regulation should:

- Improve the inspection oversight process to ensure inspectors follow up on high-weighted deficiencies within 15 days from the compliance date set by the inspector.
- Train inspectors to write follow-up narratives in the Child Care Licensing Automation Support System (CLASS) that describe how the operations corrected the deficiencies.

Management Response

OIG Audit presented preliminary audit results, issues, and recommendations to Child Care Regulation in a draft report dated June 6, 2024. Child Care Regulation agreed with the audit recommendations and indicated it would implement most corrective actions by October 1, 2024, with system enhancements being completed by September 1, 2026.