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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 2021 CONTACT: Cristina J. Bazaldúa Director of Public and Government Relations (210) 313-0410 cbazaldua@wsalamo.org

## OVER \$43 MILLION DOLLARS IN SERVICE INDUSTRY RECOVERY CHILD CARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 13-ALAMO REGION RESIDENTS

New TWC Program provides child care for eligible parents/caregivers employed in the service industries

San Antonio, Texas – <u>Workforce Solutions Alamo</u> has received \$43,797,123 from the <u>Texas Workforce Commission</u> to support child care for the service industry. In collaboration with the <u>San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association</u> and the <u>Texas</u> <u>Restaurant Association - San Antonio Chapter</u>, WSA continues to address the impacts of COVID-19 and support Texas' economic recovery. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is implementing a Service Industry Recovery (SIR) child care program to help income eligible workers in TWC-specified service industries who generally operate in close quarters with their customers and whose jobs cannot be accomplished remotely. While TWC is targeting aspects of the service sector with SIR child care, all families continue to have access to TWC's regular low-income child care subsidy program.

| Family | TWC Threshold of 75% SMI | TWC Threshold of 75% SMI |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Size   | (Monthly)                | (Annually)               |
| 2      | \$3,629                  | \$43,549                 |
| 3      | \$4,483                  | \$53,796                 |
| 4      | \$5,337                  | \$64,043                 |
| 5      | \$6,191                  | \$74,290                 |
| 6      | \$7,045                  | \$84,537                 |
| 7      | \$7,205                  | \$86,458                 |
| 8      | \$7,365                  | \$88,380                 |
| 9      | \$7,525                  | \$90,301                 |
| 10     | \$7,685                  | \$92,222                 |

## Program Highlights:

• 12 months of eligibility, and the parent share of cost is \$0.

## Eligibility:

At least one parent must be currently employed or entering employment in one of the following TWC-specified service industries:

- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation: NAICS 71
- Accommodation and Food Services: NAICS 72
- Retail Trade: NAICS 44-45

The parent must require child care services in order to work. One-parent households must be working a minimum of 25 hours per week and a two-parent household must be working a total of 50 hours per week to qualify. The family income must be below 75% of the State Median Income (SMI,) and the child must: be under age 13 (or under age 19 if disabled); have legal citizenship or immigration status; and reside with a family (including with an individual standing in loco parentis) within the Alamo local workforce development area.

Interested parents/caregivers <u>may apply here</u>. Workforce Solutions Alamo is encouraging all businesses whose employees may be eligible to share this information with their employees.

**Federal Funding Disclosure Statement:** This program is financed with 100% Federal Funding. The dollar amount will be 43,797,123.00 (Funding to start August 2021 to end March 2023.) 0% and \$0 of the program will be financed by nongovernmental sources.

"The Texas Workforce Commission and our local Workforce Solutions Alamo have been tremendous partners throughout this pandemic. By co-hosting job fairs with our industry, providing employment/employee advice, and now providing this much needed child care for our hospitality/service industry employees, they have never waivered their support to us. We are grateful and hopeful that this is just the beginning to get our local economy back on track," **Dawn Ann Larios, Executive Director,** Texas Restaurant Association-San Antonio Chapter.



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"WSA's subsidies provide over 10,000 children child care every day that allows parents to go back to school, receive training, or become employed. This new funding source will help augment our existing programs and will provide much needed resources to restore the vitality of our service industry employers in the 13-county region." Adrian Lopez, CEO, Workforce Solutions Alamo.

"Affordable child care is such a critical component of every citizen's ability to return to work in the wake of the pandemic. We are thrilled that the Texas Workforce Commission has recognized this need in our community and grateful for Workforce Solution Alamo's support in giving back the capacity for employees to pursue career opportunities in the hospitality industry through these services," **Michelle Madson, President & CEO,** San Antonio Hotel and Lodging Association.

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The Workforce Solutions Alamo Board serves as the governing board for the regional workforce system, a network of service providers and contractors that brings people and jobs together. Workforce Solutions Alamo is composed of the 13-county Alamo region. Workforce Solutions Alamo membership reflects the diverse constituencies of the regional community: business, economic development, education, labor, community organizations, and government. For more information on available workforce programs and services, visit www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org or call (210) 224-4357.

Workforce Solutions Alamo is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations at least 48 hours in advance) Texas Relay Numbers: 1-800-735 2989 (TDD) or 1-800-735-2988 (Voice) or 711.