



**CONTACT**  
**Elizabeth Hale**  
**Communications Manager**  
[ehale@bakerripley.org](mailto:ehale@bakerripley.org)  
**832-963-3678**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6/24/2024**

**Early REACH Now Accepting Applications for Early Childhood Education Program**

HARRIS COUNTY – Early REACH is excited to announce that applications for its groundbreaking early childhood education program are now open. This initiative, designed to create high-quality childcare to serve additional children across Harris County, will accept applications with limited availability on a first-come, first-served basis.

Early REACH, a partnership between Harris County, BakerRipley, and the United Way of Greater Houston, addresses the need for accessible childcare and supports centers that have been affected by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this program, families across Harris County can enroll their children aged zero to four in selected childcare centers at no cost. This support enables parents and guardians to pursue educational or work opportunities while ensuring their children receive quality care and early childhood education.

In addition to supporting families, Early REACH aims to enhance the compensation and training for early childhood educators working in participating classrooms. By offering increased compensation and professional development opportunities, Early REACH seeks to attract and retain talented educators who play a vital role in children's early development.

To be eligible for the program, families must reside in Harris County, and children must be between the ages of zero and four. Financial need can be demonstrated through various criteria, such as income, high need according to the Social Vulnerability Index, homelessness, foster care, or participation in certain assistance programs.

Parents and guardians interested in enrolling their children in the Early REACH program are encouraged to visit [earlyreach.org](http://earlyreach.org) for more information and to complete the application process. Due to the limited number of spots available, early application is highly recommended.

For more information about Early REACH, please visit [earlyreach.org](http://earlyreach.org).

###

**About Early REACH**

Early REACH is a groundbreaking early childhood program launched by Harris County, BakerRipley and the United Way of Greater Houston to address the critical need for accessible and high-quality childcare for working families. Early REACH aims to create a minimum of 800 free childcare spaces for children from birth to age 4 in Harris County, in an effort to deliver exceptional early childhood education that promotes cognitive, social, emotional and physical development, setting the stage for lifelong learning and well-being. Go to [earlyreach.org](http://earlyreach.org) to learn more.