

Quality Matters Fund



The Quality Matters Fund (QMF) was developed on January 21, 2020 to provide capital support for early learning programs to expand their capacity or increase quality to serve vulnerable families. Eligible programs seeking grant funding could seek awards ranging from \$20,000-\$75,000. A cross-sector committee was developed with members of the community to determine recipients.

This grant was a public-private partnership funded by the city of Chattanooga and the Smart City Venture Fund, with United Way of Greater Chattanooga's fiscal management and the oversight of Early Matters Chattanooga. As a result of COVID-19, in early April 2020 QMF was repurposed as the Emergency Child Care Provider Bridge Fund in order to offer support to child care providers as they sought state and federal relief in response to the pandemic.

- Criteria:**
- Must be a 3-star operator*
 - Currently serving low-income populations**
 - All needed project funding beyond this application has been secured
 - Proposed project to be located in Hamilton County
 - Demonstration of ownership or long-term lease

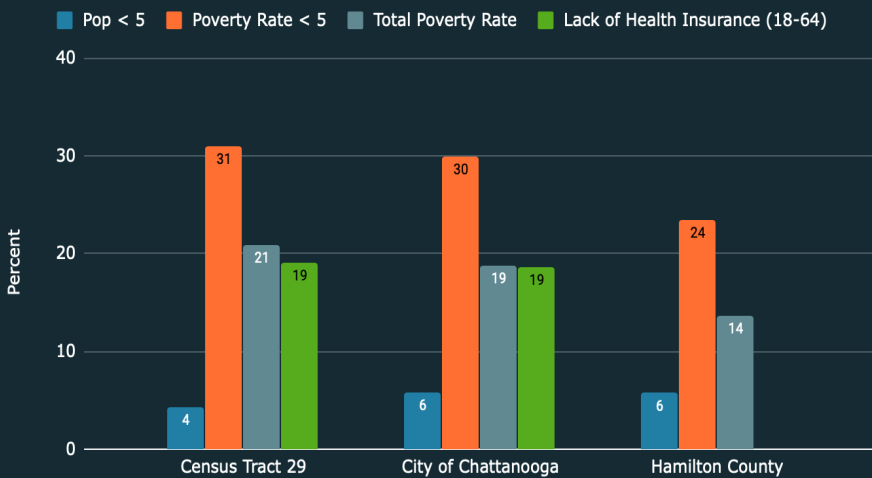
- Priority Preference**
- Strong track-record for serving vulnerable populations
 - Demonstration of need in the proposed location
 - Increasing infant or toddler seats

QMF Committee

David Ferrier, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 Angela Hayes, City of Chattanooga, Office of Early Learning
 Lee Hope, Chattanooga Public Library
 Miles Huff, Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce
 Dwayne Marshall, Community Foundation
 Silvia Ramos, United Way of Greater Chattanooga
 Monica Stone, CCR&R

Poverty and Insurance Rates in Centers' Census Tracts

*Data from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Census, and TN Dept. of Health



2
 providers
 awarded
\$96,826

Both providers
 located in
**Census Tract
 29**

56% of children served by
 providers are below 250% FPL

102
 current
 seats

93 additional
 proposed
 quality seats

*or plan submitted for increasing quality

**defined as client population of at least 50% low income children, as defined by 250% Federal Poverty Level

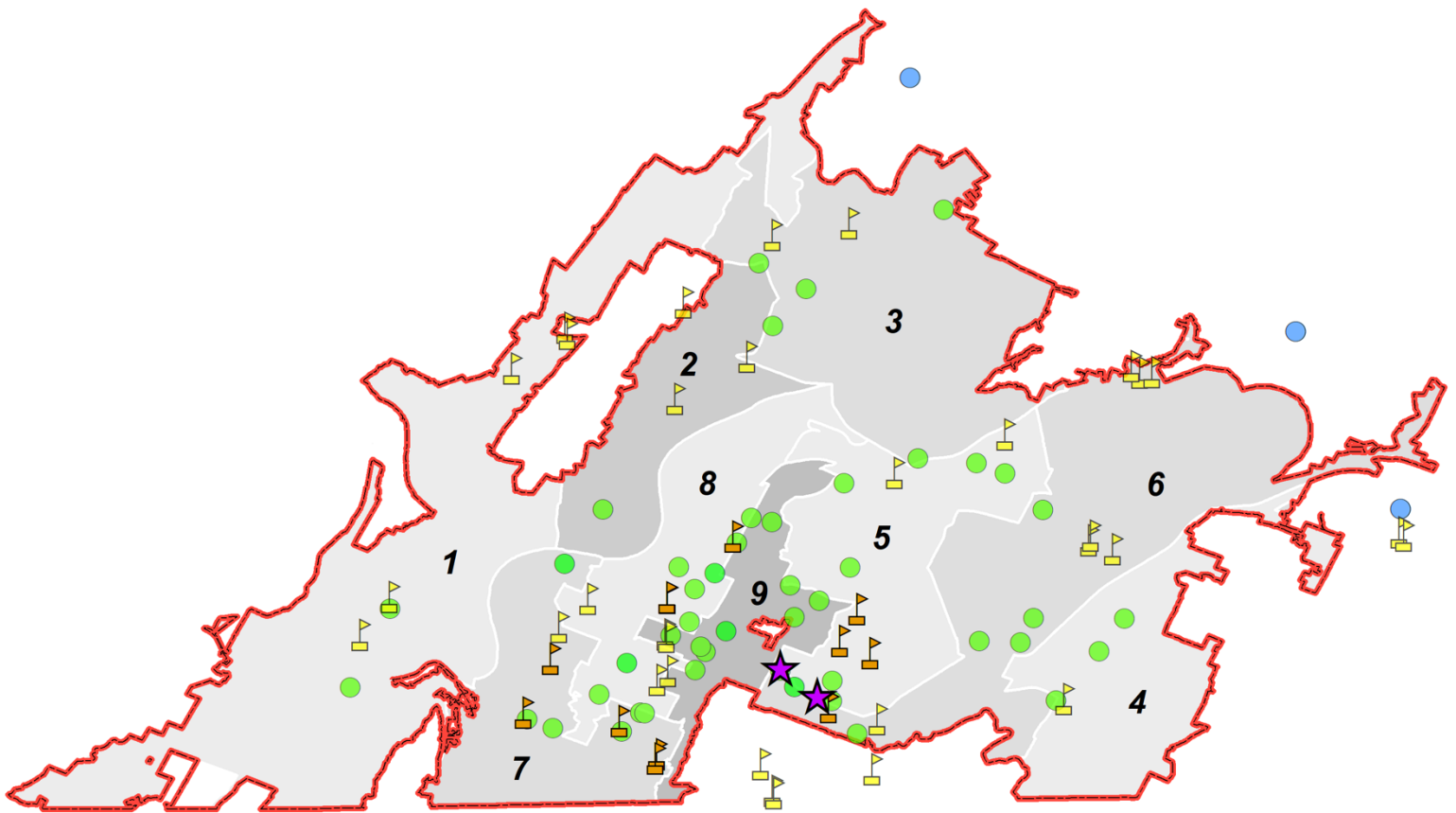
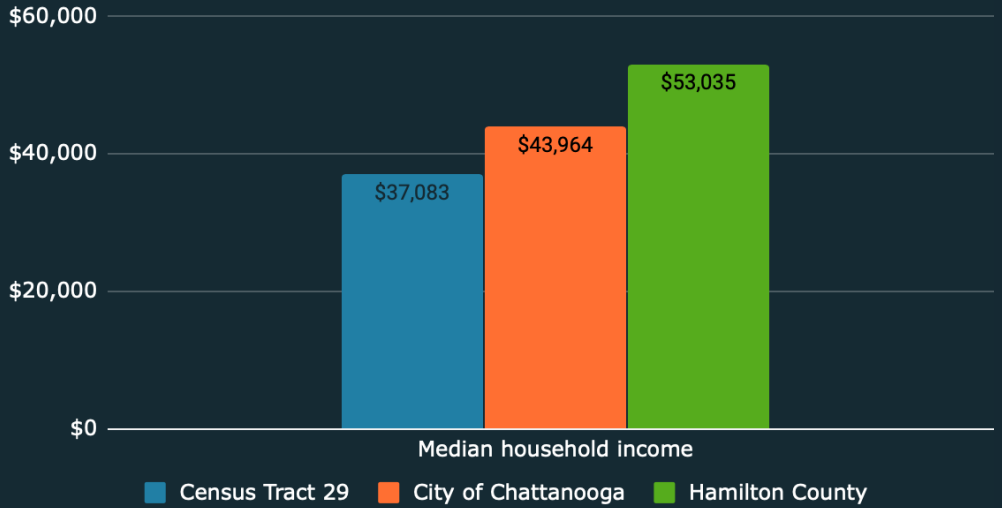
Recipients were located
in **37411**






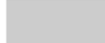
Zoned elementary
schools:
Woodmore Elementary
&
**Barger Academy of
Fine Arts**

Recipients represented
Chattanooga city council
districts **5**

Median Household Income

*Data gathered from Census



-  QMF Centers
-  Bridge Fund Centers
-  Bridge Fund Centers Outside of Chattanooga
-  Title 1 & Opportunity Zone Schools
-  Title 1 Schools Only
-  Council Districts

