

Child Protection 86th Legislative Session Priorities

TEXAS CHILD PROTECTION KEY FACTS



- 4** Texas children, most under the age of 3, die each week due to maltreatment.
- 66,370** Texas children were confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in 2018.
- 43%** of Texas children who receive family preservation services are re-abused within 5 years.
- 423,000** Texas families with children under 6 are in highest need of prevention services.
- 1,800,064** Texas children have been exposed to multiple adverse experiences.

PRIORITIES:

To *prevent* child abuse and neglect, *improve* the CPS system, and *heal* victims after trauma.

1. Develop and implement a **statewide strategic plan** to address causes and symptoms of **adverse childhood experiences (ACES)**. HB 4183 Rep. Tan Parker



- o *Facilitate a public health approach through cross systems collaboration that includes child protection, physical and mental health care, education, childcare, & university research partners*
- o *Coordinate data, evaluate prevention needs and gaps in services, and identify best practices in existing services*
- o *Incorporate research based & trauma informed education, prevention, and intervention, across systems and communities*



Connect Texas systems that prevent child adversity, facilitate healing from childhood trauma, and promote resilience in children.

2. Strengthen investments in **community-based**, primary child abuse **prevention** programs for children in their most critical neurodevelopmental years. 2020-2021 Budget (DFPS) Exceptional Item #8 PLUS



- o *8b: Scale Nurse-Family Partnership to serve an additional 1,200 families - \$12 million*
- o *8a: Expand Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES) to serve an additional 2,400+ families - \$18.5M*



Reduce child maltreatment and downstream cost associated with abuse.

3. Improve coordination and effectiveness of **services for children at risk** of entering **foster care**. SB 355 Sen. Royce West and Sen. Lois Kolkhorst



- o *Develop and implement a strategic plan to leverage federal funds*
- o *Integrate evidence-based and trauma informed mental health services, substance use prevention and treatment, and in-home parent programs*
- o *Improve access to community resources for relative caregivers*



Keep every child with their family, when possible, so they can achieve their greatest potential.

4. Increase **Statewide Intake** (SWI) staff and maintain **CPS staff** caseloads. **HB 1**
(DFPS) Exceptional item #1

HOW?

- Reduce SWI hold times for timely reports & response (16.5 to 8.5 min)- \$9M
- Maintain manageable caseloads for Conservatorship (23/worker), Kinship (29/worker), and Foster to Adopt (17/worker) - \$96.8M

WHY?

Reduce the risk of unreported child maltreatment and lower caseloads to better ensure every child is safe and secure.

5. Improve **pregnant and parenting foster youth** policies and practices.
HB 473, HB 474, HB 475 Rep. Donna Howard

HOW?

- Make available evidence-based parent education
- Strengthen supports and tools
- Advance best practices placements

WHY?

Strengthen parent attachment to reduce intergenerational cycle of abuse and neglect.

6. Invest in **housing options** and **support services** for former foster youth. **HB 1**
(DFPS) Exceptional item #5c

HOW?

- Strengthen Supervised Independent Living (SIL) services and case management for older youth with complex needs- \$1.4M

WHY?

Create opportunities for young adults to be self-sufficient and successful.

Our Mission

To prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect through research, education, and advocacy.

WE WORK ACROSS THE CHILD PROTECTION CONTINUUM

Child Abuse
Prevention

CPS System
and
Workforce

Family
Preservation

Foster/Kinshi
p
Care

Transition and
Support
Services for
Youth

Healing and Trauma-Informed Care

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