PROPOSED HHSC BUDGET CUTS THREATEN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

In 2025, **51,985 Texas children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect.** Prevention programs work with families right before a crisis occurs. Right before a call is made to a hotline and right before the investigation.

What These Cuts Mean for Texas Families

These proposed cuts would have real consequences for Texas families, limiting access to critical services that help parents overcome challenges before they become crises. For communities across the state, this could mean fewer families receiving support, greater risks to child safety and more children entering the child welfare system.

Prevention Programs Face Disproportionate Cuts

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has proposed $330.8 million in budget reductions as part of its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR).

Although these reductions are intended to meet a required 3% budget reduction, **Family Support Services programs account for:**

- **30%** of HHSC's total proposed reductions.
- **Nearly 50%** of proposed cuts to client services.

Seven critical prevention funding streams face reductions or complete elimination, threatening services that help Texas families stay safe, stable and together.

Proposed reductions

1. Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support
2. Texas Home Visiting Program
3. Texas Nurse Family Partnership
4. Community Youth Development
5. Family and Youth Success

Proposed Eliminations

1. Long Term Youth and Family Support
2. Statewide Youth Services Network

Cutting prevention doesn't eliminate the need for services. It risks shifting that need to more expensive crisis interventions.

Don't Wait for the First Domino to Fall

Prevention Works. And It Saves Taxpayer Dollars.

Prevention programs reach families before a call to the child abuse hotline, before a CPS investigation and before a child enters foster care.

Effective programs such as home visiting services promote child development, family stability, school readiness and economic self-sufficiency. **Some home visiting models have shown an 83% increase of mothers in the workforce and a 20% reduction in months that families are on welfare.**

Hear from a Parent

"The HOPES program was truly a saving grace when I became a mother. I had no idea what I was doing and was afraid of everything, but the program gave me the confidence, perspective, and knowledge to be a better parent."

-HOPES Participant

TexProtects

is a 20+ year-old advocacy nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Questions? Contact Kerrie Judice, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Kerrie@TexProtects.org or (512) 299-7925.