

Mobilize public and private sectors to ensure **safety**



Engage Multiple Stakeholders

Assess the need

Tell the story

Advocate



Effectively Marshal Resources

Limit distribution points

Be deliberate in distribution

Evaluate project efficacy

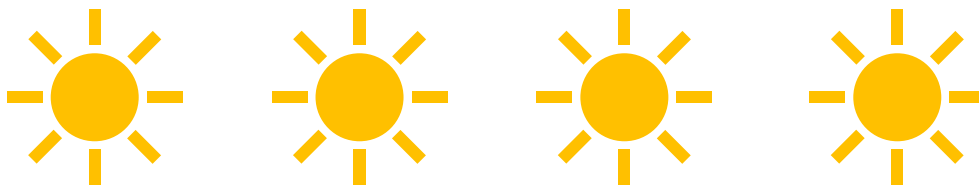


Ensure Longterm Viability

Identify additional needs

Provide technical assistance

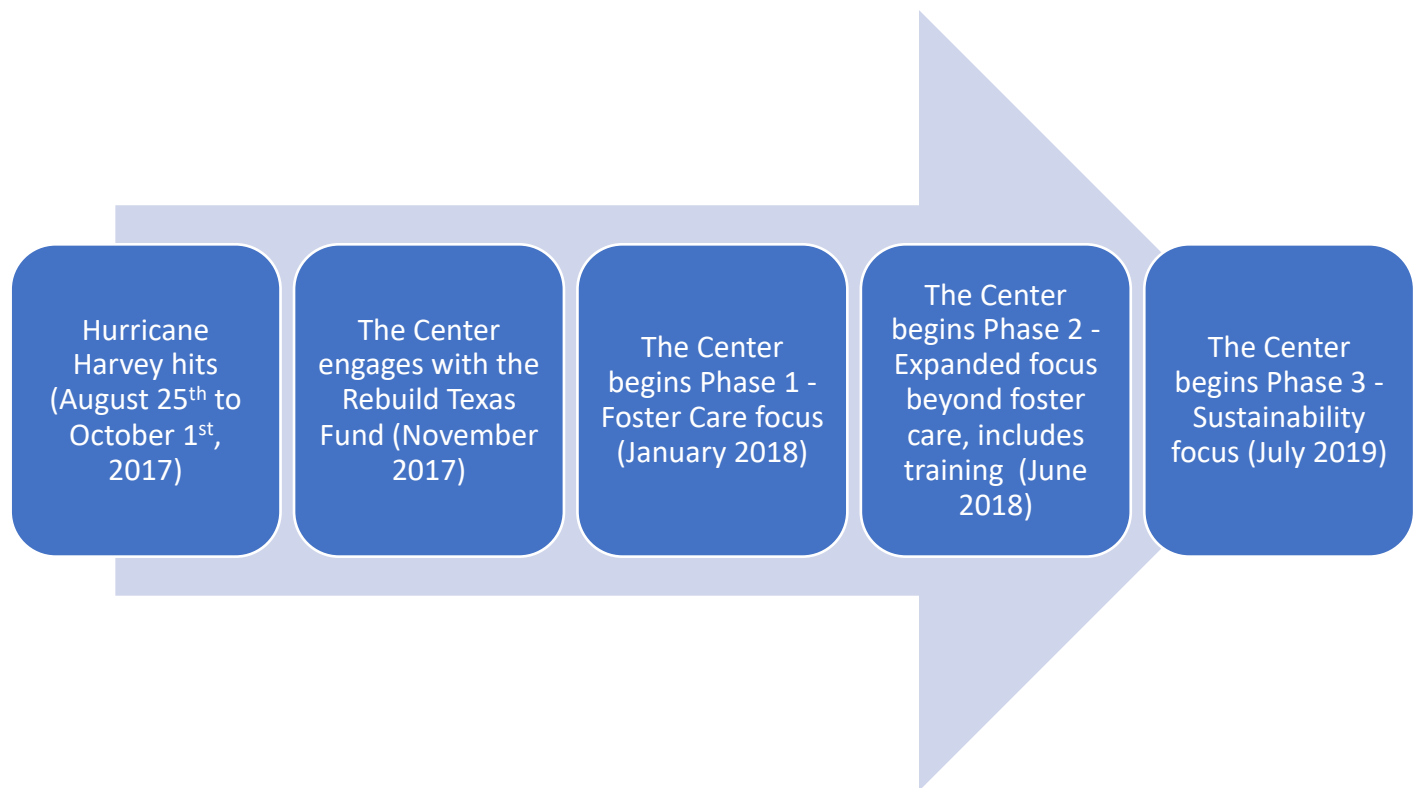
Prepare for the future



Who are we?

The Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS) is a statewide association of community organizations that provide services to children, youth, and families that are either involved or at risk of being involved in the Texas child protection system. The Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (the Center) is the 501c3 sister organization of TACFS focused on research, training, and education.

The Center responds to Hurricane Harvey



A little bit of luck

- The creation, size, and efficiency of Rebuild Texas (and their interest in child welfare) created an opportunity for the child welfare serving community.
- The Center was already established and well positioned to act as a hub for child welfare service providers (respected by both public and private, though not widely known to philanthropic).
- The Center team had the knowledge and skillset to effectively understand the issue, communicate the story, and ability to advocate.
- Hurricane Harvey lasted for a relatively short time compared to other natural disasters.

Lessons Learned

- Handle safety first and foremost
- Ascertain a basic understanding of the problem to construct a compelling narrative
- Mobilize resources under an entity that has child welfare expertise and is well positioned to manage multiple projects
- Ensure effective distribution of resources to include ongoing evaluation
- Keep an eye toward sustainability
- Other issues will emerge (think leadership fatigue, lost news cycle, poor emergency planning, insurance), be flexible

Questions for Discussion

1. What if any systemic advantages exist in your state's child welfare system that would allow you to replicate this process?
2. Which of these steps as outlined presents the greatest challenges? Why?
3. What systemic disadvantages exist in your state's child welfare system that could preclude an effective response to a large-scale natural disaster?
4. How might differences in disasters impact the effects on the child welfare system?
5. What steps could you or your organization take to ensure an effective response when a large-scale natural disaster occurs?
6. What discussions, if any, are held around emergency preparedness? Do these discussions include trauma and resilience?