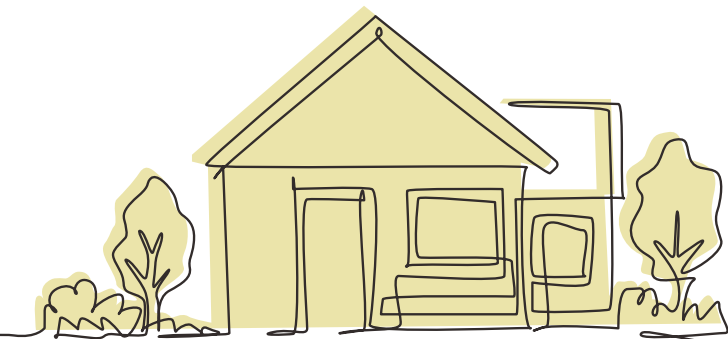


2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Where children, youth, and families need support— TACFS members are partnering with the state to keep kids safe and families together. Our members are the direct care providers of services including prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, and more. Our work cannot happen without the Legislature and their long-standing commitment to meaningful child-focused reforms and an investment in strong services that support improved outcomes.

WE SUPPORT STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

TACFS members support families across the continuum to promote stability and keep families safe and together.



Support DFPS' legislative appropriation request to expand proven, community-driven primary prevention programs, including HOPES, Family Resource Centers, Community Youth Development, and Family and Youth Support. These programs keep families safe and supported before the need for CPS intervention.

Reinvest federal Family First Transition Act funding into the HB 3041 (87R) family preservation pilots, building evidence-based services for children and families at imminent risk of removal. Invest additional federal funding in expanding evidence-based programs into communities across Texas.

Support increased post-adoption and post-permanency funding in DFPS budget to provide support to newly adoptive families and prevent foster care reentry.

WE SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS

Mental health care is a critical component across all touchpoints of the system. Responding to the national and statewide crisis to support struggling youth and adolescents before a crisis.

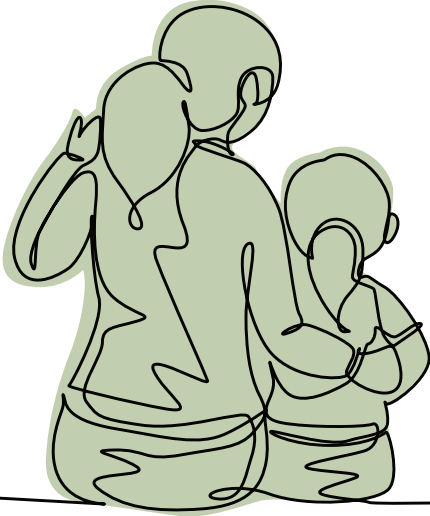
Support increased funding for the RTC (Residential Treatment Center) Project at HHSC, a program targeted to keep youth in crisis or with significant behavioral health needs out of foster care through short-term intensive treatment and support for families.

Direct HHSC to review SB 58 Medicaid credentialing processes and services for child welfare providers. Credentialed providers offer intensive mental health services for youth and adolescents, but this credentialing is difficult to obtain, and the service array should be reviewed for the STAR Health (foster care) population.



WE SUPPORT CHILD-CENTERED OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION

The Legislature can support positive and child-centered oversight and reduce the negative impact of a confusing and at times, punitive system.



Direct HHSC to contract with a third-party national expert to review and make recommendations on foster care licensing standards with a core focus on child safety and wellbeing.

Provide legislative direction on oversight of care for children with complex needs and behaviors such as runaway, self-harm, or aggressive behavior to keep kids more stable and to offer therapeutic care, review processes for documenting behaviors, and improved technical assistance.

Support efforts to address child welfare providers' risk and lack of access to liability insurance coverage. It is increasingly difficult and expensive to obtain required insurance coverage due to a shortage of insurance carriers and skyrocketing premiums, threatening the sustainability of high-quality providers and making it difficult for organizations to build capacity for children with complex needs.

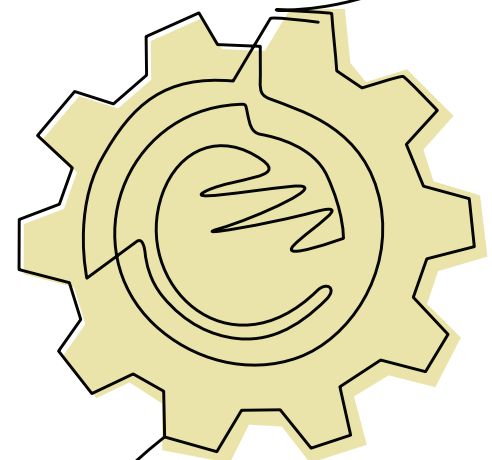
WE SUPPORT BUILDING AND SUSTAINING HIGH-QUALITY PLACEMENTS AND SERVICES

The Legislature funds and supports capacity through rates and contracts with TACFS members. Appropriations investments in these areas will support ongoing development and sustainability of high-quality care and placements.

Implement and fund foster care rate modernization as directed in HB 1, an ongoing priority of the Legislature (86R, 87R) to update calculations to accurately reflect the cost of care and prioritize quality and outcomes.

Continue capacity-building rates and grants appropriated by the 87th Legislature to continue efforts to build quality capacity and support children with complex needs as a bridge to rate modernization. Broadly support settings that were not included such as emergency shelters, and basic foster care.

Build a culture of excellence and accountability through investment in training, credentialing, and technical assistance at the Texas Center of Child and Family Services.



Learn more at tacfs.org/88th

Contact policy@tacfs.org for more info

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