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TACFS

ADVOCACY DAY





Friends and colleagues,

After the monumental gains of the last couple legislative sessions, thank you for meeting us back here, at the Capitol to advocate for Texas children, youth, and families. I'm thrilled to stand beside you for the next 140 days as we engage with our State leaders and direct their attention to our top priorities. Advocacy is one of the best things we do as an Alliance and is why we were founded.

Our network of providers is stronger than ever and is actively refining the Community-Based Care model, preparing for T3C, and zooming in on mental and behavioral health supports. Many of us are deploying new and creative ways to wrap prevention services around families to keep them together before and after system involvement. And together, we're working to refocus on child safety by streamlining regulation and oversight and by galvanizing stable insurance coverage that foster families and providers can rely on.

The 89th Texas Legislature is ready to hear from YOU.

Thank you for being here!



Allicia Frye, TACFS Board President



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## ABOUT THIS YEAR'S PIN

The Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services celebrates its 50th year of advocacy, education, and collaboration in 2025. Founded by a small group of child care and adoption agency directors, TACFS officially organized

on January 10, 1975. Known originally as the Texas Association of Licensed Children's Services, its first members hoped to form an organized coalition that could help strengthen Texas' child care laws. By 1980, the association had 53 member organizations and had been deeply engaged in the 65th and 66th Texas legislative sessions and had made great strides in building relationships with the State agencies. The Association quickly became known as a strong advocate for responsible legislation concerning child and family wellbeing and established a formidable position at the Capitol.





# Welcome to Advocacy Day 2025



## Program

**8:00 – 9:30am: Capitol Grill - E1.002**

Check-In and Breakfast: Sponsored by



Welcome and Instructions

**9:30am – 1:30pm: The Texas Capitol**

Visits and Facetime with Offices

*Lunch on Your Own*

**1:30 – 2:30pm: Capitol Auditorium - E.1004**

Welcome Back and Remarks: Sponsored by



Interactive Debrief Session

Mini-Session Update and Final Thoughts

## Where to Eat

### INSIDE THE CAPITOL

Capitol Grill – Extension – E1.002

### SHORT WALK OUTSIDE

Texas Chili Parlor

Phoebe's Diner

Clay Pit

Quiznos

Quattro

15th Street Café

Chipotle

Roaring Fork

Scholz Garden

### FAR WALK/SHORT RIDE

Caroline

Perry's

Velvet Taco

Cava

Chic-Fil-A

Raising Cane's

P Terry's

Jimmy John's



# Meeting with Your Local Legislator and their Staff

## BEFORE THE MEETING

### **KNOW OUR ISSUES**

Take the time to educate yourself and your team on the legislative issues that impact your organization and others in the Alliance. Visit pages six and seven to find our TACFS policy priorities and talking points.

### **LEARN THE PROCESS**

Our Texas Legislature only meets for 140 days! There are many barriers to creating and passing policy in that short time. Know that the Session goes quickly. Being a reliable resource to your member will make you an effective advocate. And we'll keep you posted on key points to stay engaged as the Session continues!

## AT THE MEETING

### **BE HONEST**

Give a true and specific account of your story and knowledge. Use this time to educate and encourage your lawmaker. If you aren't sure of something, just say so! Be sure to provide the needed information later by email or phone.

### **BE SPECIFIC**

Always end on a specific ask. What exact legislation, rider, amendment, bill do you want them to support? How exactly can they act to serve Alliance members, kids, youth, and families?

### **BE KIND**

Make your points persuasive and succinct (You may only get 5-15 minutes!) while finding common ground. We want to work with our representatives, not against.

### **BE PERSONAL**

No one knows your story better than you. Legislators remember when they know the direct impact their work has on constituents. Your stories about kids and youth who need our organizations are memorable, impactful, and indisputable.

## AFTER THE MEETING

### **FOLLOW UP**

There are lots of ways to contact your legislator.

**In-Person** at their office in their district or at the Capitol

**At Events** they may host town halls, open forums, etc.

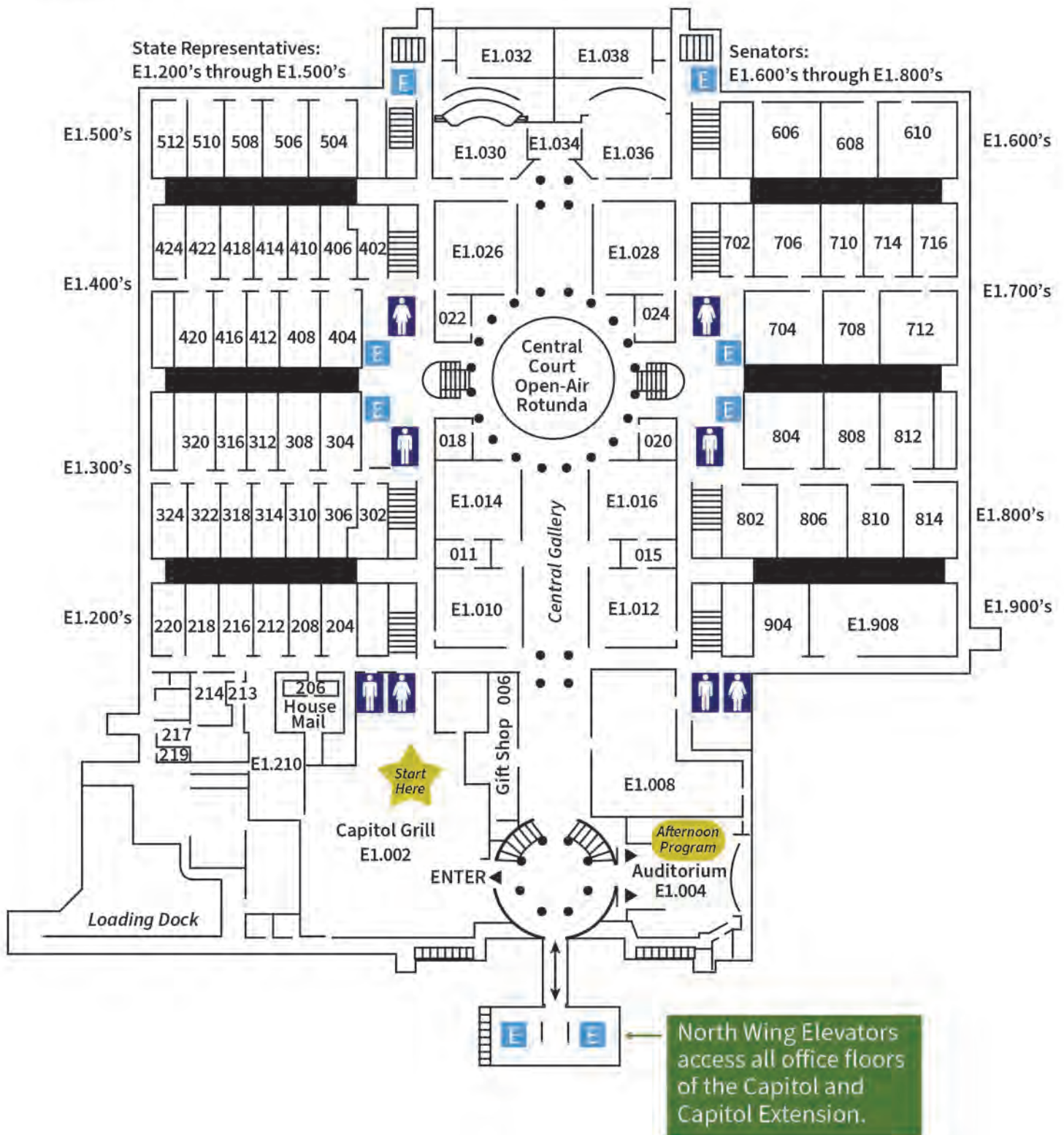
**Calls and Emails** Legislative Staff can be very helpful

**Personal Invitation** for them to visit your operation or to attend a meeting in your community

# Capitol Maps

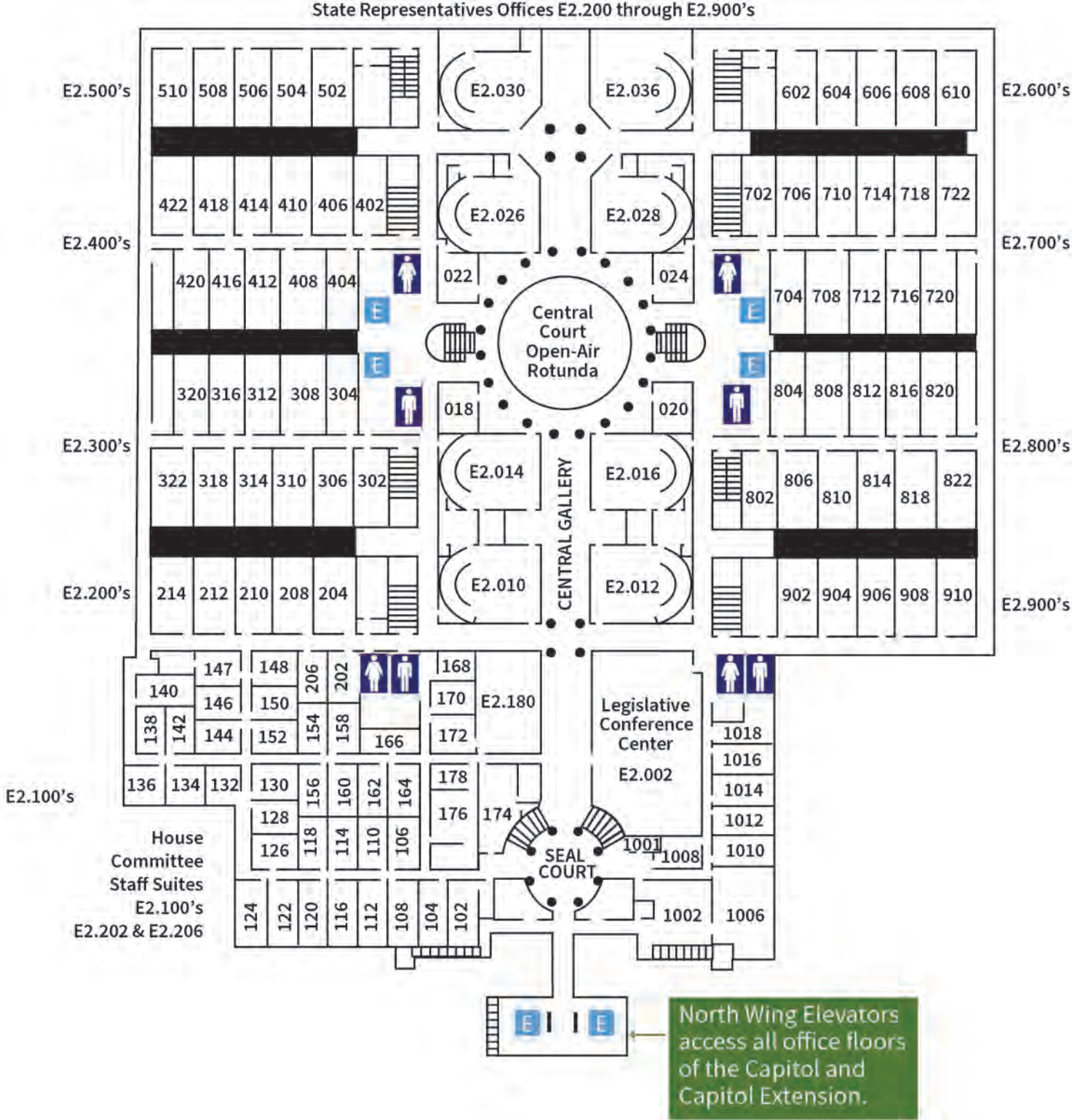


## EXTENSION LEVEL ONE

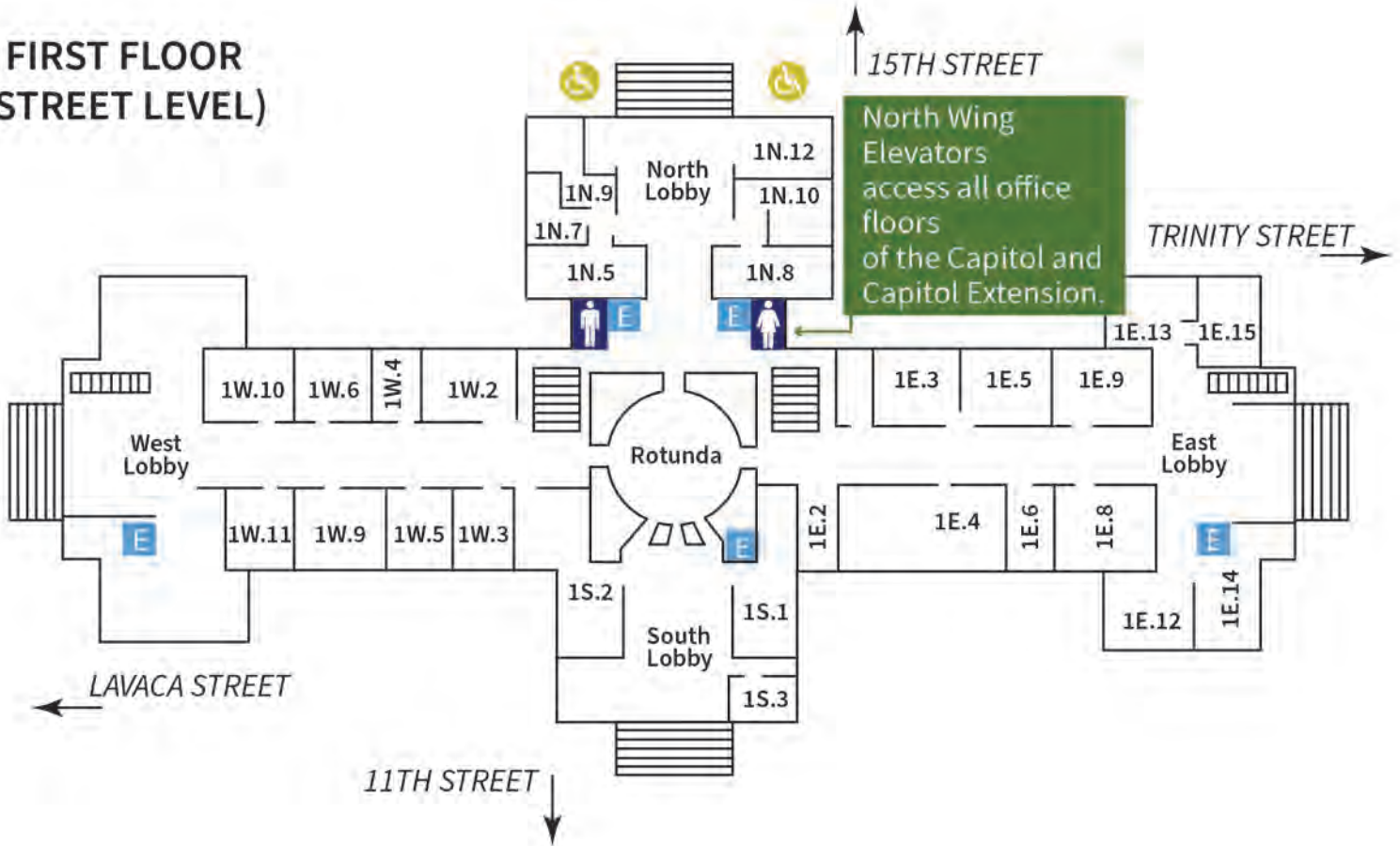




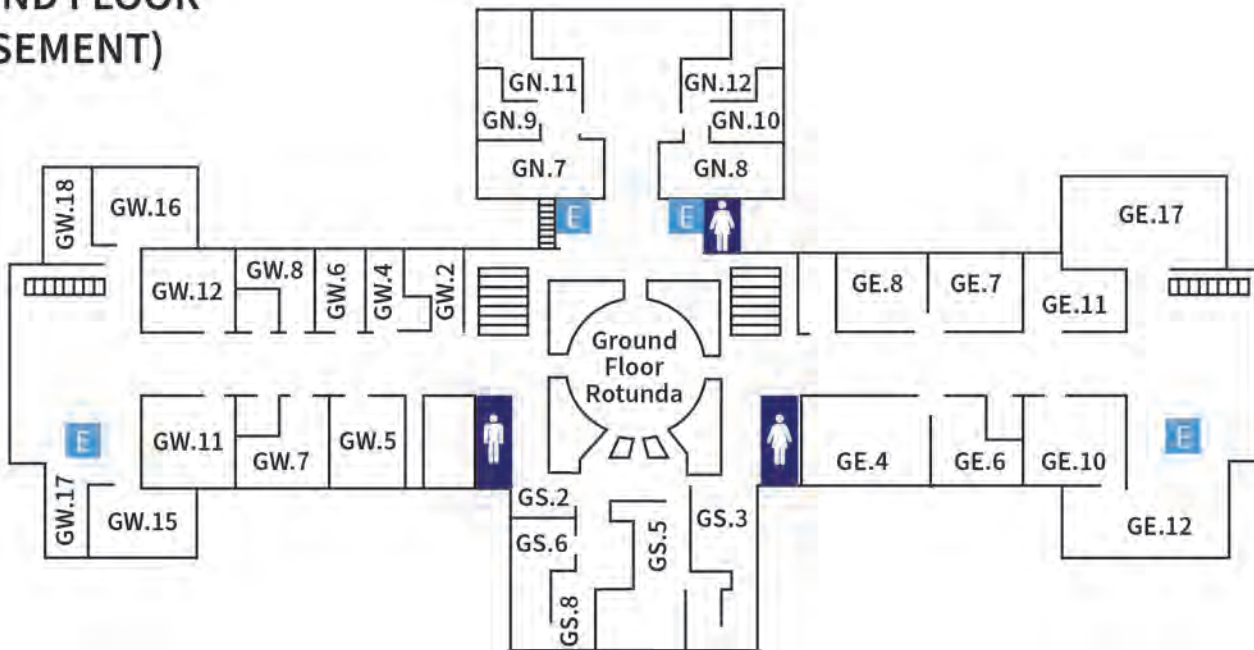
## EXTENSION LEVEL TWO



# FIRST FLOOR (STREET LEVEL)



# GROUND FLOOR (BASEMENT)







## TACFS Priorities



TACFS members provide services to children and families across the continuum of needs, from primary prevention to post-adoption, family preservation, foster care services, Community-Based Care (CBC), mental and behavioral health services, adoption, and so much more. TACFS is committed to providing high-quality services across Texas, and we present the following priorities for consideration.



### Establish a Full Continuum of Family Preservation Services

TACFS supports the creation of a more robust continuum of family preservation services, to keep kids and youth out of care and safely home with family, whether post-investigation or post-foster care placement through supports that meet the needs of kids and strengthen the whole family system.

Fund evidence-based services established through the Texas Family First Pilots. Establish target populations, which may include exposure to substances, domestic violence, youth at risk of relinquishment, or severe mental health needs.

Consider additional funding for in-home wraparound services and other programs that specifically support youth and their families on the verge of relinquishment and funding to expand the number of established Pilots.

Use these established programs as a basis to submit a IV-E Prevention Plan to draw down federal funding to support. Ensure additional services are voluntary and establish contract monitoring through performance measures, rather than maintaining open DFPS Child Protective Services cases for families voluntarily engaged in services, unless otherwise required by a court order. Invest post-adoption and post-permanency funding into services that prevent re-entry and keep families together.



### Support Sustainability of Foster Homes and Community Organizations through Targeted Liability Support and Regulatory Streamlining

Foster families and community organizations continue to struggle to obtain and afford the statutorily required levels of liability insurance. Further, the regulatory and oversight structure for contracted providers is onerous and unnecessarily focused on “checking the box” rather than child safety.

Support reliable and stable insurance coverage for foster care providers. Foster families and providers are at risk of no longer being able to afford required liability insurance, putting at risk the entire network of foster care placements. Ensure that bad actors are appropriately punished for criminal acts by defining a provider in good standing.

Refocus on child safety by streamlining the regulation and oversight of contracted providers; implement recommendations made through the regulatory structure review required per Senate Bill 593 (88R).

Direct DFPS to have a more efficient and appropriate investigations process in regulated settings, and make any necessary clarifications to reduce invalid dispositions, particularly for negligent supervision.

Direct DFPS to publicly report on investigations outcomes, including the number of findings that proceed to arif, SOAH, and the outcomes of those appeals.”



## Improve Mental Health Supports for Children and Families



Community organizations continue to struggle to access high-quality mental and behavioral health services and professionals to help meet the needs of families and children, both in and out of foster care. Children and families need access to additional mental health professionals that can bill Medicaid for their services.

Allow licensed marriage and family therapist associates, licensed master social workers, and licensed professional counselor associates to bill for Medicaid at no additional cost to the state while completing their required supervision hours. These individuals have completed all of their training and are currently serving kids and families but are unable to bill Medicaid.

Allow a Group Credentialing approach, where individual provider qualifications and training can be verified through audit rather than the current arduous individual credentialing process. This would significantly decrease the time required to allow mental/behavioral health service providers to begin serving children and families through Medicaid.

Further streamline the TMHP Medicaid credentialing process to more quickly and efficiently allow providers to serve the medicaid-eligible population. .

## Strengthen the Statewide Rollout of CBC and T3C, Allowing for Greater Flexibility and Creativity to Serve High Acuity Kids



Texas is on track to implement CBC statewide in the next few years. The evolution of the child welfare system through CBC and T3C will help community providers deliver high-quality services for kids and families.

Ensure CBC success by continuing the transfer of system functions and related funding to the Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) that are not currently being considered in the resource transfer such as shared positions, cost of insurance and liability coverage, and staff turnover.

Provide funds outside of the blended rate for SSCCs to use to meet the specific needs of high acuity kids. This funding would allow an SSCC to pilot creative programming to better treat kids with high needs and help them achieve permanency.

Direct DFPS to update performance measures based on CBC implementation and regulatory environment.

Remove requirement for SSCCs to be regulated as a child-placing agency as recommended in the SB 593 (88R) report. This licensure is not applicable to the functions of an SSCC and requires additional work and resources for both the state and the lead agency that could be better allocated elsewhere.

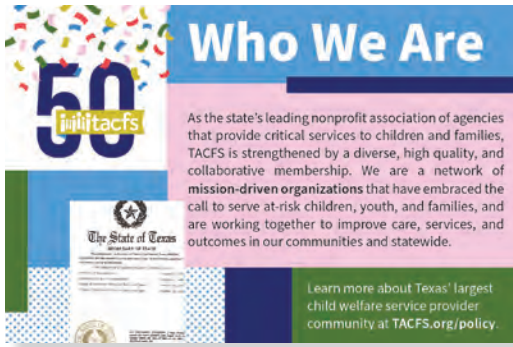
Implement the Data Exchange Platform to allow for improved interoperability between DFPS and the SSCCs. Continue strong initial transition to T3C for foster care providers and lead CBC agencies, including support for transition needs and ongoing training.

Consider flexibility in budget rider to target community and statewide needs for successful transition.



# Don't Forget to LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND...

When visiting offices, let them know who you are and where to follow up by leaving behind some printed materials.



PRIORITIES  
ONE PAGER



THANK YOU  
CARD











# STAY PLUGGED INTO THE 89TH



*bookmark [tacfs.org/89th](https://tacfs.org/89th)*

Policy Priorities

Bill Tracker

Stories • Research •  
Recommendations



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