



Agency Coordination for
**YOUTH PREVENTION &
INTERVENTION SERVICES**

OCTOBER 2014



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
SECTION 1: Legislative Charge	3
SECTION 2: An Overview of Juvenile Delinquency and Dropout Prevention and Intervention Services in Texas	5
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS)	5
Community Youth Development	5
Statewide Youth Services Network.....	6
Services to At-Risk Youth	6
TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (TJJD)	7
Prevention and Early Intervention Programs	7
TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY (TEA)	9
Communities In Schools (CIS)	9
Amachi Texas (Mentoring).....	11
21 st Century Community Learning Centers.....	12
Texas Academic Innovation and Mentoring	14
Texas Military Department	15
Texas ChalleNGe Academy (TCA).....	15
SECTION 3: Dropout and Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Coordination Activities of Rider 17.10 Workgroup	17
SECTION 4: Key Considerations and Next Steps in Coordinating Services	19
APPENDIX A: Detailed Information of Workgroup Agency Delinquency and Dropout Prevention and Intervention Services	A-1
APPENDIX B: Feedback from Stakeholder Listening Session	B-1
APPENDIX C: Potential Partners to Assist in Improving Coordination of Prevention Services	C-1
APPENDIX D: Previous State Reports Related to the Coordination of Prevention Services	D-1
APPENDIX E: Resources on Research Informed & Promising Practices	E-1
APPENDIX F: Overview of Prevention and Early Intervention	F-1

Executive Summary

The following report was prepared by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Military Department (formerly the Adjutant General's Department) in accordance with the State 2014-2015 Appropriations Act. Section 17.10 of Article IX directed the named state agencies to coordinate the delivery of juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services and to report to the Legislative Budget Board detailed monitoring, tracking, utilization, outcome, and effectiveness information on all juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services for the preceding five fiscal year period.

To carry out this work, an interagency workgroup was formed with representation from the four named state agencies. The group met on a regular basis to learn about one another's programming; to identify key considerations in the coordination, planning and delivery of services; and to identify opportunities to enhance the coordination, planning and delivery of prevention and intervention services. Each of the named agencies summarized its dropout and delinquency prevention efforts, providing a snapshot of services, eligibility criteria, and outcomes from each program. The complete matrix is found in Appendix A. Additionally, each agency submitted brief overviews of its dropout and delinquency prevention efforts, including monitoring information, outcomes, and available data.

This report includes the legislatively required information, along with a description of coordination activities accomplished by the workgroup to date. The report also includes an examination and discussion of common factors associated with dropout and delinquency, the role of prevention and early intervention services in addressing common factors, and opportunities to further improve the coordination of services that would require additional resources, agency partnerships, or legislative direction in order to be implemented.

SECTION 1: Legislative Charge

2014-2015 General Appropriations Act, Article IX, Sec.17.10

AGENCY COORDINATION FOR YOUTH PREVENTION & INTERVENTION SERVICES

From funds appropriated above for the purpose of juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Military Department (formerly the Adjutant General's Department) shall coordinate the delivery of juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services. Juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services are programs or services that are aimed at preventing academic failure, failure on state assessments, dropout, juvenile delinquency, truancy, runaways, and children living in family conflict. Each of the agencies listed above shall coordinate services with the others to prevent redundancy and to ensure optimal service delivery to youth at risk of engaging in delinquency and/or dropping out of school. Programs shall demonstrate effectiveness through established outcomes.

Not later than October 1 of each fiscal year beginning in 2014, the agencies shall provide to the Legislative Budget Board, detailed monitoring, tracking, utilization, outcome, and effectiveness information on all juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services for the preceding five fiscal year period. The reports shall include information on the impact of all juvenile delinquency and dropout prevention and intervention initiatives and programs delivered or monitored by the agencies.

SECTION 2:

An Overview of Juvenile Delinquency and Dropout Prevention and Intervention Services in Texas

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS)

The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division with DFPS contracts with community-based agencies and organizations to provide services designed to prevent the abuse, neglect, delinquency, and truancy of Texas children. Services are voluntary and are provided at no cost to participants, however all services are not available statewide.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

Contracts are formally monitored through a Statewide Monitoring Plan based on a Risk Assessment Instrument. This is done annually and includes the areas of Fiscal, Administrative, and Program. Contracts are also regularly reviewed through submission of contractor quarterly reports and review of data and reports from Prevention and Early Intervention database. If a deficiency or issue is identified regarding contract performance, Contract Managers and/or Program Specialists work with contractors in implementing Corrective Action Plans. Performance outcomes, outputs and efficiencies by fiscal year are listed below.

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Community Youth Development (CYD) program contracts with community based organizations to provide juvenile delinquency prevention services in 15 areas of the state with a high incidence of juvenile crime. Communities prioritize and develop prevention services according to local needs. Approaches include youth-leadership development, life-skills classes, character education, conflict resolution, tutoring, mentoring, career preparation, and recreation.

Client Eligibility: Youth ages 6-17, with a focus on youth ages 10-17, who live in or attend school in one of the designated ZIP codes.

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD)				
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percent of CYD youth not referred to juvenile probation	98.3%	98.8%	98.1%	98.6%
Annual number of youth served	17,799	19,731	16,900	16,767
Average monthly number of youth served	5,930	6,158	5,530	5,530
Average monthly cost per youth served	\$75.14	\$82.77	\$69.91	\$71.63

STATEWIDE YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK (SYSN)

These services are evidence-based, prevention services provided by established statewide networks of community-based prevention programs that must work to prevent juvenile delinquency and create positive outcomes for youth by increasing protective factors.

Client Eligibility: At-risk youth between the ages of 6-17 years of age, with an emphasis on youth 10-17 years of age.

STATEWIDE YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK (SYSN)				
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percent of SYSN youth not referred to juvenile probation	99.0%	98.4%	98.3%	98.5%
Annual number of youth served	5,513	5,720	5,273	4,384
Average monthly number of youth served	3,099	3,126	3,055	2,506
Average monthly cost per youth served	\$51.73	\$52.94	\$43.65	\$50.71

SERVICES TO AT-RISK YOUTH

The Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program contracts with community agencies to offer family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency respite care, and individual and family counseling. These services are available in all 254 Texas counties. Each STAR contractor also provides universal child abuse prevention services, such as informational brochures and parenting classes.

Client Eligibility: Youth and children younger than 18 who are runaways or truant, are living in family conflict, or have been accused of delinquency or misdemeanor or state felony offenses but have not been adjudicated by a court.

SERVICES TO AT-RISK YOUTH (STAR)				
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percent of STAR youth not referred to juvenile probation	95.6%	96.3%	96.6%	93.6%
Annual number of youth served	30,042	30,168	26,834	23,677
Average monthly number of youth served	6,116	6,438	5,863	5,351
Average monthly cost per youth served	\$287.90	\$246.38	\$243.84	\$255.16
Percent of STAR children who remain safe	99.5%	99.6%	99.7%	99.7%
Percent of STAR youth with better outcomes 90 days after termination	87.3%	87.7%	87.5%	86.4%

* STAR is a hybrid of Child Abuse and Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention program. In FY 13 based on presenting problems, 72% of the youth population served under STAR was child abuse prevention and 28% was juvenile delinquency prevention.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (TJJD)

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

The Prevention and Early Intervention programs of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) are relatively new programs, authorized in Section 203.0065 of the Texas Human Resources Code in 2011, and initiated in early 2012 when the TJJD board transferred money from its juvenile correctional strategies to the new community-based prevention and early intervention strategy.

Section 203.0065 of the Texas Human Resources Code defines prevention and intervention services as “programs and services intended to prevent or intervene in at-risk behaviors that lead to delinquency, truancy, dropping out of school, or referral to the juvenile justice system.” The statute indicated that the populations to be served through these services were at-risk youth, ages 6 through 17 years old and their families.

Through a competitive request for proposals process in early 2012, TJJD awarded \$1.4 million in grant funds to 24 probation departments to implement prevention and early intervention programs for youth who were not under departmental supervision, but who were identified to be at increased risk of delinquency, truancy, dropping out of school, or referral to the juvenile justice system.

Through these grants, probation departments partner with a variety of providers to offer a range of services to youth ages 6 years through 17 years who are at increased risk of later involvement with the juvenile justice system. Some departments partnered with out-of-school time youth service providers to provide educational assistance, mentoring, character development, and skills building (e.g., problem-solving, anger management, conflict resolution skills, etc.) after school or during summers. Other departments focused on providing parents of at-risk youth with the skills, services, and supports they need to better manage their children’s challenging behaviors. Some departments identified their major focus for intervention as truancy intervention programs and worked with local elementary, middle, and high schools to provide services, supports, resources, and accountability to ensure students are and remain actively engaged in school.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

Contracts for the prevention and early intervention services are regularly reviewed through the contractors’ submission of annual fiscal and programmatic reports, monthly data provision, and quarterly data reports. If a deficiency or an issue is identified regarding performance, a program specialist works with contractors to remedy the situation immediately. Data are analyzed to assess rates of successful completion of programming and the prevention programs’ impact on participants’ likelihood to be formally referred to the juvenile justice system. Additionally, agreements with the Texas Education Agency have been obtained and will facilitate future data matches for participants with parental consent to assess the prevention programs’ impact on discipline referrals and school attendance.

Available performance outcomes, outputs and efficiencies for FY 12-13 are listed below.

TJJD PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of youth served				1296	2054
Percent of youth completing prevention program successfully				80.3%	86%
Percent of eligible youth not referred to juvenile probation during participation				97.2%	95.9%
Percent of youth with improved school attendance					
Percent of youth with decreased discipline referrals at school					

Note: TJJD's Prevention and Early Intervention Programs were established in 2012. There are no data to report for years 2009-2011.

Data indicate over 2000 children and adolescents received TJJD-funded prevention and early intervention services during FY 13. The average age of children receiving services was 11 years. Of the youth served, 56% were male; and 44% were female. Approximately 78% of the children served were youth of color. The average length of service varied with the type of program being provided, ranging from a brief 33 days for an intensive parenting skills program for families referred by the justice of the peace to the longest service period, 363 days for a year-round, community-based out-of-school time program.

Over 86% of the youth who completed prevention and early intervention services in FY 2013 did so successfully. 8.3% of the youth failed to comply with the terms of the program and just under 5% were determined to be unsuitable for the program (e.g., were determined to be under active supervision, were outside the eligible age range, etc.)

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY (TEA)

The Texas Education Agency provides grants to school districts, charter schools, non-profit organizations and other eligible entities to provide voluntary dropout prevention services for grade K-12 students who are identified as at-risk of dropping out of school. TEA's dropout prevention and at-risk programs are designed and administered in accordance with statutory requirements and best-practice research for dropout prevention programs.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS)

The CIS program is governed by The Texas Education Code, Sections 33.151-159; the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 89, Subchapter EE; and the General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 24, 83rd Texas Legislature, 2013. TEA administers CIS of Texas program.¹ CIS is a school-based dropout prevention program that includes collaborations among educators, parents and students to provide one-to-one case managed services to help at-risk students to stay in school and progress through high school graduation. CIS builds relationships with high need students and provides an array of learning supports to prevent dropout risk factors such as school failure, truancy, delinquency, pregnancy, and bullying. CIS intervenes in crisis situations, works to reduce risk factors, and works to strengthen protective factors -- including creating a college and career mindset for all students. Students are referred to CIS by student support teams, campus administrators, teachers and parents. CIS customizes a learning support plan for each student; including academic, social, emotional and behavioral supports to address student needs. The CIS site coordinator provides direct services, connects students with community resources or volunteers, monitors student progress, and adjusts the service plan as needed in order to keep the student in school and progressing toward graduation.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

To administer the program, TEA manages a set of policies, quality standards and a CIS student-level database. The agency provides professional development, administers a CIS program resource center for technical assistance and quality assurance, and coordinates the program CIS providers, Texas school districts, and charter schools. TEA annually analyzes student outcome data and prepares performance reports for the legislature, local CIS boards of directors and other stakeholders.

According to a legislatively authorized study, [Best Practices in Dropout Prevention in Texas \(2008\)](#)², CIS was found to be one of only three best practice dropout prevention programs in the nation. The study found that the following strategies were commonly used by the programs with the strongest positive outcomes:

- School-community collaboration
- Safe learning environments
- Family engagement
- Mentoring/tutoring
- Alternative schooling
- Active learning

Significant findings from the [Evaluation of CIS of Texas \(2008\)](#)³ include:

- General supportive guidance is associated with lower odds of dropping out of school, greater odds of being promoted, greater odds of staying in school, and is positively associated with better attendance rates.
- CIS has been successful in engaging parents.

¹ Authority: Texas Education Code §33.151-159; General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 24, 83rd Texas Legislature, 2013; Texas Administrative Code, §19, Chapter 89, Subchapter EE; and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) State Plan

² Best Practices in Dropout Prevention. (2008). ICF International and The National Dropout Prevention Center and Network at Clemson University <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=3551>

³ Evaluation of Communities In Schools of Texas, Executive Summary and Technical Report. (2008). ICF International. Presented to the Texas Education Agency, December 15, 2008.

http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/opge/progeval/DropoutPrevention/CIS_of_Texas_Final_Evaluation_2008.pdf

- The CIS model is being implemented with fidelity throughout all CIS Texas affiliates.
- The CIS State Office at TEA provides significant management and technical support to local affiliates and is credited with the implementation of a statewide CIS program that is well managed and of high quality.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS IN TEXAS					
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
CIS PROFILE					
CIS of Texas local chapters statewide (grantees)	27	27	28	28	27
Campuses served	737	865	773	664	691
School districts	123	148	144	121	129
Counties	59		75		66
Case managed students served	86,232	89,575	88,646	65,571	63,527
Average state and local cost per case managed student	\$761.84	\$751	\$995	\$957.95	\$936
STUDENT PERFORMANCE (CASE MANAGED STUDENT OUTCOMES)					
Stayed in school	98%	99%	99%	98%	98%
Promoted to the next grade	82%	87%	94%	94%	94%
Eligible seniors graduated	93%	88%	92%	92%	94%
Targeted for academics, improved	80%	86%	87%	87%	89%
Targeted for attendance, improved	70%	74%	75%	75%	79%
Targeted for behavior, improved	88%	90%	92%	92%	93%
FUNDING					
General Revenue		\$16,130,976	\$16,130,976	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
TANF		\$4,842,342	\$4,842,341	\$4,842,342	\$4,842,341
Total	\$20,973,316	\$20,973,318	\$20,973,317	\$14,842,342	\$14,842,341

AMACHI TEXAS (MENTORING)

Amachi Texas provides one-to-one mentoring for youth ages 6 – 18 whose parents or family members are incarcerated, on probation, or recently released from the prison system. The goal is to “break the cycle” of incarceration in Texas and thereby positively impact school districts across the state. The youth that are served are referred through partnerships such as agreements with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Prison Fellowship and Re-Entry programs across Texas. The youth are engaged in both school based and community based mentoring relationships with trained volunteers. Ongoing supervision, support and training for volunteers are provided to support retention of mentors. Services include match-support and group activities for the volunteers, families and students served.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Lone Star (formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas) implements the Amachi mentoring program. BBBS Lone Star subcontracts with seven BBBS agencies throughout Texas to provide mentoring for children of incarcerated adults.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

Progress reports are reported to TEA quarterly. BBBS Lone Star reports outcomes to TEA annually. TEA has assigned a Program Specialist to monitor quarterly data reports and the final annual report of program outcomes. TEA program staff convenes meetings with BBBS leadership during the school year in order to provide guidance and to ensure the program is on track to accomplish goals.

AMACHI TEXAS (MENTORING)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of matches/students served during the grant year	2387	2741	2727	2459	2036
Total number of matches still open at the end of the grant period	1446	1742	1763	1503	1268
Percentage of matches eligible for six months sustainability that were sustained for six months	87%	87%	83%	86%	83%
Percentage of matches eligible for 12 months sustainability that were sustained for 12 months	49%	80%	59%	61%	58%
Percentage of students who were mentored for at least 6 months that were referred to the juvenile justice system ⁴	1.4%	1.7%	1.3%	2.6%	2%
Number and percentage of students who were mentored for at least 6 months who were referred to a disciplinary alternative placement at school ⁵	4.8%	2.3%	4.4%	4%	4%
Percentage of mentored students who were promoted to the next grade level ⁶	98%	97.6%	98%	98.5%	98.6%
Percentage of students who demonstrated increased self-confidence on the Program Outcome Evaluation (POE)	79.8%	78.7%	82%	88%	78%
Percentage of mentored students who demonstrated an improvement in relationships on the Program Outcome Evaluation (POE)	78.4%	53.2%	71%	73%	85%

⁴ Teacher, Parent End of Year Survey Report

⁵ Teacher, Parent End of Year Survey Report

⁶ Teacher Parent End of Year Survey Report

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

This prevention program is funded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title IV, Part B, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (also known as Texas Afterschool Centers on Education or Texas ACE) provide academic enrichment opportunities during out-of-school hours for students in high-poverty and/or low performing schools. This federal grant is awarded to the Texas Education Agency, which in turn, competitively awards grants to eligible grantees to implement high-quality afterschool and summer programs. The Texas ACE Centers provide programs and services to support student performance in five key areas: academic performance, school attendance, school behavior, promotion rates, and graduation rates.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

To ensure that grantees funded by the ACE program are positioned to achieve program objectives, TEA has developed a research-based Critical Success Model (CSM). This model includes four Critical Success Factors (CSFs) which represent behavioral changes that should be demonstrated by students and families enrolled in the program, or by the adults working on their behalf, to ensure success in meeting programmatic goals and objectives. TEA contracts with an independent evaluator to determine which program strategies and approaches are most effective within particular contexts in encouraging student behaviors (CSFs) that lead to improved student outcomes.

Student Outcomes - Results from Independent Evaluation of Texas ACE Centers⁷:

- ACE program participation for students in grades 9–10 was associated with higher scores in reading/English language arts and mathematics on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).
- ACE program participants in grades 6–12 had fewer disciplinary incidents than nonparticipating students.
- Participation of students in grades 4–11 was associated with fewer school day absences.
- ACE participants in grades 7–11 who attended 30 days or more had an increased likelihood of grade promotion.
- ACE participants in grades 4–5 and grades 7–11 attending 60 days or more had an increased likelihood of grade promotion. For high school students attending 60 days or more, there was a 97% chance of being promoted to the next grade level.

Additional Findings⁸:

- Program quality matters. Centers implementing higher-quality practices were correlated with greater reductions in disciplinary referrals and higher rates of grade promotion than programs less apt to implement these practices.
- Connections with other organizations and agencies within the community greatly enhance afterschool centers' programming options.

⁷ Naftzger, N., Manzeske, D., Nistler, M., Swanlund, A., Rapaport, A., Shields, J., . . . Sugar, S. (2012). Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers: Final evaluation report. Naperville, IL: American Institutes for Research.

⁸ Naftzger, N., Manzeske, D., Nistler, M., Swanlund, A., Rapaport, A., Shields, J., . . . Sugar, S. (2012). Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers: Final evaluation report. Naperville, IL: American Institutes for Research.

TEXAS AFTERSCHOOL CENTERS ON EDUCATION (TEXAS ACE)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Students	134,086	141,441	200,658	228,919	221,187
Total Regular Students *	77,728	89,299	115,509	147,350	145,701
Total Non-Regular Students	56,358	52,142	85,148	81,569	75,486
Students by Category **					
Percentage of Limited English Proficiency youth served	20%	18%	17%	18%	18%
Economically Disadvantaged	71%	72%	68%	69%	69%
Special Needs	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%
At Risk	55%	53%	49%	75%	47%
Migrant	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%

* "Regular" students are defined by the United States Department of Education as participants who attend the program for must attend a minimum or 30 days in a calendar year

** Students may be part of more than one category

TEXAS ACADEMIC INNOVATION AND MENTORING

This prevention program is funded by the General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 59, 83rd Texas Legislature, 2013. The purpose of Academic Innovation and Mentoring (TX AIM) is to expand statewide an after-school and summer program designed to close the student achievement gap between minority, low-income, and English Language Learners who are at risk of dropping out of school and their counterparts. The program enables targeted students in low performing schools at 32 sites across Texas to enroll in after-school and summer recreational programs that effectively address student achievement gaps through a combination of skills gap remediation and at-risk prevention services. One half of the service sites are along the Texas-Mexico border. While traditional Boys & Girls Clubs (BGC) programming addresses comprehensive prevention needs, the TX AIM partner, Sylvan Learning Center, provides evidence-based curriculum through certified teachers. BGC staff assists the teachers. Through joint delivery of the program, children receive seamless services from two strong partners. Additionally, the staff development that BGC receives from the Sylvan partnership enables growth and capacity building for the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

The Boys and Girls Club and Sylvan Learning Center collect and monitor student data. Student level data is used during the school year to identify the academic needs of each individual student and to inform the provision of services for each student. The TEA program manager develops a progress report in order to manage program performance. The summary performance data is reported to TEA at scheduled points during the year, and is reported to TEA in a final performance report at the end of the school year.

TEXAS ACADEMIC INNOVATION AND MENTORING					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage of TX AIM youth that advance an academic level*		88%	88%	86%	88%
Number of youth served annually			2166	2337	2179
Average monthly cost per youth served			\$58	\$54	\$57
Percentage of Limited English Proficiency youth served		25%	28%	40%	23%
Percentage of TX AIM youth who received a C or better for a subject in which they received services			92%	88%	85%
Percentage of TX AIM youth that passed the STAAR Test**					85%

* An academic level is defined as an increase in Growth Scale Value from pre-assessment to post

** Satisfactory or unsatisfactory scores were collected from 524 youth statewide.

TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

TEXAS CHALLENGE ACADEMY (TCA)

The Texas ChalleNGe Academy (TCA) is an evidence-based program designed to provide opportunities to adolescents who have dropped out of school but demonstrate a desire to improve their potential for successful and productive lives. A voluntary, preventive program, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program (NGYCP) helps young people improve their life skills, education levels and employment potential. Sixteen-to-18-year-old male and female high school dropouts are eligible to apply for the 17-month program, which includes a five-month residential phase followed by a 12-month mentoring phase. TCA was created in 1994 as an AmeriCorps Program and transitioned to the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program as Seaborne ChalleNGe Corps in 1999. Hurricane Ike's landfall on Galveston Island in 2008 forced the program to relocate to Sheffield, Texas. Texas is due to start a second program in Eagle Lake, Texas in 2015.

Authorized and funded through the Department of Defense, the National Guard Bureau is responsible for management and oversight of the 35 ChalleNGe academies that have graduated more than 120,000 participants to date. Led by professionals who emphasize structure, discipline, education and life skills, the Youth ChalleNGe Program provides those who drop out of school the chance to grow into productive and accomplished young adults.

Monitoring, Tracking, and Effectiveness

Independent evaluations have found the Youth ChalleNGe program to be effective. MDRC, a social policy research organization, concluded a multi-year evaluation of the Youth ChalleNGe Program and found it significantly improves the educational attainment, employability and income earning potential of those who participate in the program.⁹ A RAND Corporation cost-benefit analysis found the Youth ChalleNGe Program generates \$2.66 in benefits for every dollar expended on the program, a return on investment of 166 percent.¹⁰ This return is substantially above that for other rigorously evaluated social programs that target disadvantaged youth. Recently, Promising Practices Network identified the ChalleNGe Program as a "proven" program.¹¹ The Texas Youth ChalleNGe Program graduated 813 students in the past five years with an average high school completion rate of 77%. The average academic growth rate was two years and seven months with an average of five credits recovered.

TEXAS ChalleNGe ACADEMY						
FY	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Enrolled	244	232	186	186	203	1051
Graduated	199	194	138	128	154	813
Retention %	81.56%	83.62%	74.19%	68.82%	75.86%	76.81%
HS Completion	160	145	104	103	113	625
HS Completion %	80.40%	74.74%	75.36%	80.47%	73.38%	76.87%
TABE Math Growth (yrs)	2.2*	2.4*	3.7	3.1	1.7	2.8
TABE Reading Growth (yrs)	2.2*	2.4*	2.3	2.4	1.3	2
AVG # of Credits per student	5	5	5	5	5	5

* Grade equivalent reporting changed to reporting the total combined growth

⁹ MDRC. (2011) *Staying on Course: Three-Year Results of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Evaluation*

¹⁰ RAND Corporation. (2012) *A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program*.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR1193.html

¹¹ <http://www.promisingpractices.net>

SECTION 3:

Dropout and Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Coordination Activities of Rider 17.10 Workgroup

In its first year, the workgroup has engaged in the following activities:

- Examined each of the delinquency, dropout prevention and intervention programs funded by participating agencies, the populations and locations served, and evidence of the programs' effectiveness. (See [Appendix A](#)).
- Identified commonalities of contractors/programming across agencies. Initial data indicated there are several providers with whom at least two (and sometimes three) of the workgroup agencies contract or sub-contract for service delivery. The workgroup identified which specific Communities in Schools, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs receive state funding through prevention contracts or sub-contracts to inform future planning and coordination of resources.
- Investigated opportunities for the agencies to partner on conferences which align with their shared goals, such as the DFPS sponsored *Partners in Prevention Conference*, the TJJD-coordinated interagency *Strengthening Youth and Families Conference*, and the *National Drop-Out Prevention Conference* which is being coordinated by the Texas Education Agency to be held in San Antonio in 2015. These conferences provide opportunities for cross-agency training, networking, and information-sharing amongst the state agencies as well as the service providers.
- Collaborated to share data between TJJD and DFPS to inform Community Youth Development programming needs.
- Sought preliminary stakeholder input.
 - Partnered with Texans Care for Children to host a listening session with mental health juvenile justice stakeholders in June 2014. Participating stakeholders included service providers and advocates from the fields of early childhood, education, juvenile justice, and mental health in the greater central Texas region. (See [Appendix B](#) for summary of feedback from stakeholder listening session).
- Identified programs and resources with which to potentially partner in improving the coordination of dropout and delinquency prevention and intervention services at the state and local levels. (See [Appendix C](#))
- Surveyed past reports and resources addressing the coordination of dropout, delinquency and related prevention and intervention efforts in Texas. (See [Appendix D](#))
- Identified national resources related to research-informed and promising practices related to improving the coordination of dropout, delinquency and other prevention and intervention services. (See [Appendix E](#))

SECTION 4:

Key Considerations and Next Steps in Coordinating Services

The workgroup identified several areas of consideration requiring focused attention for continuing efforts. While some of the next steps are well within the ongoing purview of the activities of the workgroup, other opportunities for next steps require additional resources, partnerships, or additional legislative direction.

CONSIDERATION 1:

The size, diversity, location of resources, and infrastructure of Texas strongly influence prevention and intervention coordination activities.

With over 268,000 square miles, Texas is the largest of the 48 contiguous states. It includes various urban, rural, border and frontier regions, each with their own unique needs and resources. Texas is the second most populous state in the nation, with the fastest growing child population in the country.¹² It boasts the second largest school enrollment in the country, enrolling over 5 million children in 2014. Coordinating services is inherently more challenging in a state the size of Texas than it is in states with smaller geography and populations, underscoring the critical importance of using a strategic approach to prevention initiatives.

Several infrastructures exist that can assist in coordinating service delivery at both the state and local levels, but there are barriers present. State agencies map out their service regions within the state differently. Discussions on having a specialized versus centralized planning and/or administrative structure at the state level for prevention and intervention efforts reveal benefits and challenges to both approaches.

To address this consideration, the workgroup will:

- Investigate how to use existing infrastructure at the state and local levels to encourage interagency coordination and to disseminate effective and promising practices.

Additional resources, agency partnerships, or legislative direction will be needed to implement the following opportunities:

- Identify and formalize a process for on-going coordination of prevention and intervention efforts at state and local levels.

¹² US Census data

CONSIDERATION 2:

Risks factors are interconnected. Prevention and intervention efforts addressing risk factors should be connected, too.

Dropout and delinquency are strongly related to other factors which are the targets of additional prevention programming funded by the state, including abuse and neglect, substance abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, and others.¹³ State agencies charged with improving dropout and delinquency outcomes need to coordinate and collaborate with other agency efforts aimed at preventing factors associated with dropout and delinquency, such as mental health, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, foster care, and workforce preparation. The identification of the full array of prevention and intervention services funded by the state is needed to assist in determining how services and systems may strengthen coordination. Given the common root factors associated with both the causes of, and solutions to, the specific problems that child serving agencies are charged with addressing, there is a strong need for cross-agency data sharing and shared outcomes.

To address this consideration, the workgroup will:

- Explore the feasibility of using standardized assessments of risk factors, common language definitions and descriptions, and shared outcome measures across prevention programs.

Additional resources, agency partnerships, or legislative direction will be needed to implement the following opportunities:

- Using the expertise and resources of additional partners (e.g., Legislative Budget Board, House Research Organization, Senate Research Center, etc.), identify all state agencies that receive additional state funds for prevention programs that increase protective factors or decrease risk factors for at-risk youth and explore the feasibility of adding additional agency programs to the prevention and intervention workgroup.

CONSIDERATION 3:

Meaningful and lasting change happens at the local level.

Creative, effective, and innovative programming and partnerships are happening in communities across the state. The state has opportunities to facilitate, develop and reward effective and promising practices so more families in more areas of the state can benefit.

To address this consideration, additional resources, agency partnerships, or legislative direction will be needed to implement the following opportunities:

- Partner with higher education to:
 - Provide cross-system training and technical assistance in effective prevention practices
 - Assist in examining and analyzing research and data to facilitate policy development and program planning
 - Help identify and strengthen promising practices
- When discretionary funding is available to help communities address dropout and delinquency prevention and intervention, state agencies should:

¹³ See National Dropout Prevention Center; U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Information Gateway; National Center for Children in Poverty; and Institute of Medicine, National Research Council: Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities (2009)

- Coordinate with other programs that address common risk factors and seek common or complementary outcomes
- Utilize evidence based/research informed practices whenever possible
- Expand the ability to design, develop, and implement process and outcome evaluations
- Target high need communities

CONSIDERATION 4:

Youth, family, and community voices are needed to guide prevention and intervention efforts.

Youth, family, and community voices are invaluable in guiding prevention and intervention efforts. The most thoughtfully planned and implemented interventions will have minimal impact if they do not address the needs and circumstances of the youth and/or families they are serving. Families, youth, and communities understand best what services and programs are needed to help children and youth be successful. In addition to the use of data by state agencies to evaluate program outcomes, youth and families can provide key insights regarding programs and services that have made a meaningful impact.

To address this consideration, the workgroup will:

- Continue stakeholder engagement by conducting surveys and/or guided discussions with youth and families to inform the group’s ongoing work to improve the coordination and provision of effective, responsive programming. The workgroup will partner with the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas Austin (Texas Systems of Care), the Texas Network of Youth Services, the Texas Family Voice Network, and similar organizations and networks to guide and assist in these efforts.

CONSIDERATION 5:

Great work has already been done. Let’s build on it.

The efforts of the Rider 17.10 Workgroup are not the first attempt to improve the coordination and delivery of services that help keep kids in school and out of the juvenile justice system. Several studies, strategic plans, and recommendations derived from diverse sources of state data, experience, and expertise can provide a valuable roadmap on how Texas can help foster healthy and successful children and youth and prevent dropout and delinquency. (See Appendix D)

To address this consideration, the workgroup will:

- Revisit recommendations made by previous state interagency bodies on ways to improve the coordination of dropout and delinquency prevention and early intervention services, as well as those targeting related risk factors for dropout and delinquency prevention, for continued relevancy and feasibility.
- Work closely with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service as it develops a Five Year Strategic Plan related to prevention and early intervention in accordance with recommendations made by the Texas Sunset Commission in its review of the agency. Further explore existing education, juvenile justice and social service dropout prevention research and best-practice literature to identify additional strategies for coordination of prevention services among education, juvenile justice and social service organizations.

APPENDIX A:

Detailed Information of Workgroup Agency Delinquency and Dropout Prevention and Intervention Services

Rider 17.10 Coordination of Prevention Services Workgroup

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

STATEWIDE YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK (SYSN): Provide prevention and early intervention programs that seek to increase protective factors and target services to at-risk youth for prevention of poor outcomes associated with juvenile delinquency. SYSN contracts provide community and evidence-based juvenile delinquency programs focused on youth ages 10-17 in each DFPS region. The SYSN program was funded through Rider 32 during the 80th Legislature. The rider indicated that \$3,000,000 of the initial funding be allocated.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star

Total Funds FY 13: \$1,525,000

Brief Description of Program: Provides School-Based Mentoring and Community-Based Mentoring. The Statewide Youth Services Network contracts provide community and evidence-based juvenile delinquency prevention programs focused on youth ages 10 through 17, in each DFPS region.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,913

Counties Served: Anderson, Angelina, Archer, Armstrong, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Burnet, Caldwell, Callahan, Cameron, Camp, Carson, Cass, Castro, Chambers, Cherokee, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collin, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Dallas, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Delta, Denton, Dickens, Dimmit, Donley, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, El Paso, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Floyd, Fort Bend, Franklin, Freestone, Frio, Gaines, Garza, Gillespie, Gray, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hartley, Hays, Hemphill, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hockey, Hood, Hopkins, Hudspeth, Hunt, Hutchinson, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Johnson, Jones, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kent, Kerr, Kimble, King, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lamar, Lamb, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Lubbock, Lynn, Marion, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, McMullen, Medina, Milam, Mills, Montague, Montgomery, Moore,

Morris, Motley, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nolan, Nueces, Ochiltrie, Oldham, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Parmer, Polk, Potter, Rains, Randall, Real, Red River, Roberts, Robertson, Rockwall, Runnels, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Shelby, Sherman, Smith, Somervell, Starr, Tarrant, Taylor, Terry, Titus, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Uvalde, Van Verde, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Wheeler, Wilbarger, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Wise, Wood, Yoakum, Zapata, and Zavala.

Eligibility Requirements: Youth ages 6 through 17. Target ages are 10-17. Youth in the conservatorship of CPS are not eligible to receive SYSN services. Youth who have involvement with Juvenile Probation are not eligible to receive SYSN services. Youth who are on informal probation or have not been adjudicated are eligible. If Child Protective Services (CPS) is in the process of an investigation of child abuse/neglect, SYSN Contractors may not register the youth or family for services until the CPS investigation is closed.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance.

Evidence of Effectiveness: Use of Evidence-Based Programs. Use of BBBS Strength of Relationship Survey measuring happiness, closeness, and coping. Also uses the BBBS Youth Outcome Pre-Post Survey measuring dimensions of the mentoring relationship (social competence, scholastic competency, social acceptance, educational expectations, grades, truancy, attitudes towards risk, parental trust, and presence of special adult. These measures have been found to be reliable and valid based on previous youth development research.

Texas Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs

Total Funds FY 13: \$1,525,000

Brief Description of Program: Boys & Girls Club Experience, Stay Smart Youth-Based Curriculum, Smart Leaders Youth Leadership Development

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 2,475

Counties Served: Angelina, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burnet, Caldwell, Cameron, Coke, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Cooke, Coryell, Culberson, Dallam, Dallas, Dawson, Denton, Ector, El Paso, Ellis, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Gray, Grayson, Gregg, Guadalupe, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Howard, Hunt, Jefferson, Kendall, Kenedy, Lampasas, Lubbock, Matagorda, Medina, Menard, Midland, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Val Verde, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Williamson.

Eligibility Requirements: Youth ages 6 through 17. Target ages are 10-17. Youth in the conservatorship of CPS are not eligible to receive SYSN services. Youth who have involvement with Juvenile Probation are not eligible to receive SYSN services. Youth who are on informal probation or have not been adjudicated are eligible. If Child Protective Services (CPS) is in the process of an investigation of child abuse/neglect, SYSN Contractors may not register the youth or family for services until the CPS investigation is closed.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Use of Evidence-Based programs. Programs include Boys & Girls Club Experience, Stay Smart Youth-Based Curriculum, Smart Leaders Youth Leadership Development

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD): Overview of Agency Prevention Programs: To reduce juvenile crime in 15 targeted zip codes that have the highest incidence of juvenile violent crime in the State of Texas. The benefit is a reduction in referrals to juvenile probation and an increase in protective factors by participating youth. Funded through the 75th Legislature in Rider 23.

Lubbock Regional MHMR

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,011

Counties Served: County: Lubbock, City: Lubbock, ZIP Code 79415

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

United Way of Amarillo & Canyon

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 745

Counties Served: County: Potter, City: Lubbock, Zip Code: 79107

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

City of Austin Health and Human Services

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,211

Counties Served: County: Travis, City: Austin, Zip Code: 78744

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

Rio Grande Empowerment Zone Corporation (Brownsville)

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,996

Counties Served: County: Cameron, City: Brownsville, Zip Code: 78520

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

Rio Grande Empowerment Zone Corporation (McAllen)

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based

curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,768

Counties Served: County: Hidalgo, City: McAllen, Zip Code: 78501

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

City of Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation

Total Funds FY 13: \$302,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,538

Counties Served: County: Nueces, City: Corpus Christi, Zip Code: 78415

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent

behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD), 2 Contracts/Zip Codes

Total Funds FY 13: \$640,205.00

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,898

Counties Served: County: Dallas, City: Dallas, Zip Codes: 75216 & 75217

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

El Paso Human Services, Inc.

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,367

Counties Served: County: El Paso, City: El Paso, Zip Code: 79924

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

Tarrant County

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 758

Counties Served: County: Tarrant, City: Fort Worth, Zip Code: 76106 & 76164

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

The Children's Center

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 841

Counties Served: County: Galveston, City: Galveston, Zip Code: 77550

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (2 Contracts/Zip Codes)

Total Funds FY 13: \$640,205.00

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 1,925

Counties Served: County: Harris, City: Houston (77081) & Pasadena (77506)

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning.

The Children's Shelter

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 934

Counties Served: County: Bexar, City: San Antonio, Zip Code: 78207

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning

Communities in Schools - Heart of Texas

Total Funds FY 13: \$320,102.50

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based

curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 775

Counties Served: County: McClennan, City: Waco, Zip Code: 76707

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, risk factors, juvenile probation status, services provided, average monthly served, DFPS Pre & Post Protective Factor Surveys, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Per the August 2013 Prairie View A&M report using the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) to evaluate CYD program effectiveness in reducing juvenile delinquent behavior, improvement was shown in protective factors and resiliency at Post-Test assessment. The magnitude was slight but was statistically significant. Programs are having an impact on individual, family, and community functioning

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD) TEEN SUMMIT: Overview of Agency Prevention Programs: The Teen Summit is an annual event held for select participants of the DFPS CYD program with a goal of developing leadership skills and attitudes as well as providing youth with an avenue to solve problems relevant to their communities rather than have solutions imposed on them without input and opportunity to formulate and then present their own ideas and opinions. Participation is open to those Community Youth Development (CYD) participants that are active in their Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)

Total Funds FY 13: \$100,000.00

Brief Description of Program: CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, academic support, life skills classes, youth-based curriculum, family-based curriculum, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 88

Counties Served: County: Lubbock, City: Lubbock, ZIP Code 79415

Eligibility Requirements: Youth through age 17 residing in or attending school in the targeted ZIP code or attending school at an additional eligible school. Target ages are 10-17. Can have a

CPS case. Cannot have been or currently be on probation. Youth whose cases are pre-adjudicated, informally adjudicated, or whose adjudication has been deferred are eligible.

Data Elements Collected: Demographic Information, juvenile probation status, services provided, Leadership Skills Pre/Post Survey, attendance

Evidence of Effectiveness: Leadership Skills Pre/Post Survey

TEXAS CHALLENGE ACADEMY, TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Overview of Texas Military Department Prevention Programs: The mission of the Texas Challenge Academy (TCA) is to reclaim the potential of at-risk teens through mentoring, education, training and volunteer service. The program is a seventeen and a half month voluntary program for 16-18 year old high school dropouts or those at risk of dropping out. Youth volunteer for the statewide program from various sources including Juvenile Justice, high school counselors and word of mouth referrals. The initial portion of the program is a 22 week residential phase with a quasi-military (learn and adhere to military courtesies and discipline) approach in Sheffield, Texas. During this phase the cadets complete eight core components (academic excellence, responsible citizenship, leadership/followership, service to community, job skills, life-coping skills, health and hygiene, and physical fitness). During this phase, all the youth are given the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and/or GED or earn credit for return to home high school. During the residential phase each youth is paired with a mentor of their choosing which will assist them during the entire 12 month post residential phase to ensure they stay on track with their "Post Residential Action Plan" that they developed during the residential phase. All students are also required to perform at least forty hours of community service during the residential phase. The program is provided at no cost to the youth or their family and is funded by a combination of federal and state funds (75% federal, 25% state). The TCA is one of 34 National Guard Youth Challenge Programs which are located in 27 states and Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. The National Guard program has been operating since 1993 and in Texas since 1998. Texas currently has one campus in Sheffield, Texas with another campus scheduled to open in Eagle Lake, Texas in January 2015.

Total Funds FY 13: \$3.2 million (\$2.4 million federal and \$0.8 million state) per campus

Brief Description of Program: Current campus is in Sheffield, Texas with a second campus planned to open in Eagle Lake, Texas in January 2015.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 194 graduates (two classes)

Program Locations: Statewide (Program has six recruiters to select students from all over the state.)

Eligibility Requirement: 16-18 years old, citizen of Texas/US, not currently on parole/probation for other than "juvenile offenses", no felony convictions or pending charges, drug free at admission, drop out or at risk of dropping out.

Data Elements Collected: # of graduates, % completing HSD/GED or credit recovery, % completing post residential phase, hours of community service.

Evidence of Effectiveness: Yes. Independent study by MRDC. A recent RAND Corporation cost-benefit analysis found the Youth Challenge Program generates \$2.66 in benefits for every dollar expended on the program, a return on investment of 166 percent.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

AIM (Academic Innovation and Mentoring)

Total Funds FY 13: \$1,500,000

Brief Description of Program: Academic Innovation and Mentoring (AIM) is an innovative partnership between Texas Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs (BGC) and the Sylvan Learning Centers. AIM is designed to close the gaps in the student achievement among minority, low-income, and Limited English Proficient students who are at risk of dropping out. Support services for students include: After-school academic instruction and tutoring, Assigned adult advocates, Parent engagement activities, Character and leadership development in problem-solving and decision-making, Fine arts activities, Sports, fitness, recreation, and health and life skills. Includes data system to assess needs, plan services, and monitor student performance and engagement.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 2,179

Program Locations: 14

Eligibility Requirements: Eligibility for funding is limited to the Texas Boys and Girls Club, as specified in the General Appropriations Act, Article III.

Data Elements Collected: Number of students who advanced an academic level in a math or reading assessment. Number of discipline referrals.

Evidence of Effectiveness: Results from the Fiscal Year 2013 final report show that AIM was offered at 37 sites and provided a 12:1 ratio for around 2,200 students. 83% of AIM students were identified as at risk of dropping out of school and 81% as economically disadvantaged. About 75% were African American or Hispanic; 23% were identified as Limited English Proficient. The majority (88%) advanced at least one academic level.

21st CCLC

Total Funds FY 13: \$101,583,903

Brief Description of Program: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) serves as a supplementary out-of-school time program to enhance local reform efforts. The program assists students in meeting academic standards in core subjects (math, reading, science, social studies) by providing out-of-school time services to students and their families through community learning centers that offer an array of enrichment activities to complement regular academic programs.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 221,187

Program Locations: 168 districts

Eligibility Requirements: Eligible grantees include: Local Education Agencies, non-profits, for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and city or county government agencies.

Data Elements Collected: School attendance, discipline referrals, graduation rates, grades, statewide academic assessment i.e. TAKS and STAAR scores, and juvenile justice referrals.

Evidence of Effectiveness: Results from the most recent evaluation of 21st CCLC: Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Interim Evaluation Report, March 2013: 9th-12th grade participants were associated with higher test scores in Reading/ELA & Mathematics, compared to non-participants. 6th-12th grade participants had fewer disciplinary incidents, compared to non-participants. 4th-11th grade participants were associated with fewer school day absences. Participants attending 60 days or more had an increased likelihood of grade promotion, ranging from 18% to 97% with the largest increase in high school.

CIS

Total Funds FY 13: \$14,842,341

Brief Description of Program: The mission of Communities In Schools (CIS) is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS partners with educators, students, and parents to identify needs of students who are at-risk of dropping out of school. By engaging community resource partners, CIS customizes learning supports for students and provides individual case management. CIS monitors student level data and tracks education outcomes. The CIS program model has six components: Academic Support, College and Career Readiness, Enrichment activities, Health and Human Services, Parent and Family Involvement, and Supportive Guidance and Counseling.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 603,697 received school-wide services, and 63,527 received intensive case management services.

Program Locations: 129 districts, 66 counties

Eligibility Requirements: Eligible grantees include 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organizations

Data Elements Collected: School attendance, discipline referrals, graduation rates, grades, statewide assessment i.e. TAKS and STAAR scores, and juvenile justice referrals.

Evidence of Effectiveness: During fiscal year 2012, 28 CIS affiliates served 603,697 students on 652 campuses in 130 school districts. Of those, 63,527 were provided with individual case management services. Case management services cost an average of \$936 per student with state and local resources. Reported outcomes included: 98% stayed in school (grades 7-12); 94% were promoted to the next grade; 92% of students that were eligible to graduate graduated; 87% of students that were targeted for academic intervention showed improvement; 75% of students that were targeted for attendance intervention showed improvement; and 92% of students that were targeted for behavior intervention showed improvement.

Amachi

Total Funds FY 13: \$1,250,000

Brief Description of Program: The purpose of Amachi is to provide one-to-one mentoring for youth ages 6 – 14 whose parents or family members are incarcerated or recently released from

the prison system to break the cycle of incarceration. Youth are engaged in mentoring relationships established primarily through partnerships with school districts, faith-based organizations, non-profit partnerships, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Prison Fellowship and Re-Entry programs across Texas.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 2,036

Program Locations: Dallas metropolitan area, Houston metropolitan area, Central Texas Region, El Paso, Gulf Coast Region, Hereford, Lubbock, the Panhandle Region and the South Texas Region.

Eligibility Requirements: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Texas (BBBS –NT) implements the Amachi mentoring program and subcontracts with 7 BBBS programs throughout Texas to provide mentoring for children of incarcerated adults.

Data Elements Collected:

Evidence of Effectiveness: During the 2011-2012 school year, FY 12, 2,459 students had a mentor and were served. 87% of those matches were sustained for at least six months and 98.5% of mentored students promoted to the next grade level. 95.7% of all matches showed improvement in at least one of the eight areas of personal and social well-being. Also during the 2012-2013 school year, 2.6% of the students were referred to the juvenile justice system and 4% of students reported as referred to an alternative education program. 88% reporting an increase in self-confidence, 99% reported maintaining or improving in self-confidence.

McKinney/Vento

Total Funds FY 13: \$5,828,336

Brief Description of Program: The program provides supplemental funding to the state and LEAs. Funds for statewide activities and LEA discretionary subgrants help ensure that homeless students can enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. These goals are accomplished by removing educational barriers, providing educational supports, and ensuring a high-quality education that enables these children and youth to meet the state's student performance standards.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 101,333

Program Locations: NA

Eligibility Requirements: All LEAs, including Regional Educational Service Centers and charter schools, are eligible to apply to receive funding through the discretionary subgrant program. These subgrants are awarded to applicants that receive the highest scores on the competitive application. Subgrantees use funds to provide supplemental services to any homeless student and to a limited number of students in at-risk situations.

Data Elements Collected: Homeless status by primary nighttime residency i.e. shelters, doubled-up, unsheltered and motels/hotels as well as data on unaccompanied youth.

Evidence of Effectiveness: During school year 2012-2013, a total of 101,333 homeless students were enrolled. This represents a 5% increase from the 95,868 enrolled during school year 2011-2012.

Collaborative Dropout Reduction Program

Total Funds FY 13: \$2,853,750

Brief Description of Program: The Collaborative Dropout Reduction Pilot Program is designed to encourage partnerships between public schools and community organizations to reduce the number of students who drop out of school through the use of proven dropout intervention strategies. Funding for this program has ended. Only Cycle 2 Continuation operated in FY13.

Number of Youth Served FY 13: 6,781 (this number is cumulative from award in March 2011 through close in May 2013. It does not isolate FY13)

Program Locations: 16 districts

Eligibility Requirements: Eligible grantees include local education agencies or open-enrollment charter schools that have 55% or more of students enrolled identified as economically disadvantaged for each of the three preceding school years..

Data Elements Collected: **Aggregate extant data:** Number of total participants, percent at risk, average daily attendance, percent having personal graduation plan; percent on-track to graduate with Recommended High School Diploma, percent diploma received, percent receiving course credit through non-traditional course (online/credit recovery/continuing education). Student-level data: unique identifier for match in PEIMS, participation in strategy/activity, hours in strategy/activity, number of absences, number of discipline referrals, credits earned through dual credit, credit earned through AP. Self-reported qualitative data: partnerships formed, effectiveness of partnerships, sustainability.

Evidence of Effectiveness: An external evaluation conducted by ICF International was published in Spring 2011 which examined the first Collaborative Dropout grants awarded to Cycles 1 and 2. Preliminary findings indicate that: Cycle 1 students showed a 5% increase and Cycle 2 students a 10% increase in TAKS math scores the year after, as compared to the year before, entering the program. School-level findings based on 10 Collaborative Cycle 1 schools and 10 matched comparison schools indicate that the Collaborative schools had higher graduation rates, higher completion rates, and lower dropout rates.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

GRANT 5. PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

BASTROP County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$37,250

Brief Description of Program: Provides parenting skills and education to adults who have children with increased likelihood of juvenile justice system involvement.

Counties Served: Bastrop, Lee, Washington

Eligibility Requirements: Children between the ages of 6 and 17 years of age and are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

BEXAR County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$589,230

Brief Description of Program: School based truancy prevention and early intervention program in partnership with Communities In Schools, Southwest Key and the North East Independent School District. The project targets children and youth who are at increased risk of delinquency, truancy, dropping out of school or referral to the juvenile justice system. The department will also initiate the "Leadership Institute" to provide mentoring, community service, team-building, computer and technology training, outdoor activities, and etiquette to adolescents.

Counties Served: Bexar

Eligibility Requirements: Youth in the North East Independent School District who are ages 11-17, not currently under department supervision but who are at increased risk of delinquency, truancy, school dropout, or referrals to the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

BURNET County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$17,305

Brief Description of Program: Uses trained facilitators to deliver Curriculum Based Support Group program, a research-based curriculum which reduces anti-social attitudes and rebellious behavior through small group character-building classes.

Counties Served: Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Llano, and San Saba counties.

Eligibility Requirements: Participants are fourth and fifth grade at-risk youth in certain elementary schools

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

CAMERON County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$126,924

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with the Boys and Girls Club of San Benito to provide safe and structured afterschool activities, including mentoring, tutoring, educational opportunities and social activities, with a focus on increasing school attendance and academic achievement.

Counties Served: Cameron

Eligibility Requirements: High-risk youth, ages 6-17, with a special emphasis on siblings of youth already involved in the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

CROSBY County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$52,000

Brief Description of Program: A Licensed Professional Counselor provides individual, family and play counseling, along with parenting skills and anger management to at-risk youth.

Counties Served: Crosby

Eligibility Requirements: Youth, ages 6-17, who are not currently under juvenile supervision and who are at increased risk of juvenile justice system involvement.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

ECTOR County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$75,927

Brief Description of Program: A full-time intervention officer acts as an advocate for youth and works with other agencies to identify specific needs that will allow youth to remain in or return to his or her home campus. Services include home visits to assist in behavior management, school visits to assist with behavior, attendance, and performance, anger management, coping skills, social skills, substance abuse prevention and individual counseling.

Counties Served: Ector

Eligibility Requirements: Ector ISD students ages 6-17 years of age who have been or are at risk of being suspended off campus to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) and/or expelled.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

EL PASO County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$144,242

Brief Description of Program: Bullying prevention and parenting education services are provided in partnership with local municipal court. Mentors and case management services are provided through contracts with collaborative partners.

Counties Served: El Paso

Eligibility Requirements: At-risk youth ages 6-17 who are not involved with the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

ELLIS County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$150,000

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Ennis Boys & Girls Club who provide an evidence-based afterschool mentoring program and life skills curriculum.

Counties Served: Ellis

Eligibility Requirements: Youth between the ages of 6 to 17, with special attention on younger children. Youth are referred to the program by the Truancy Court, Municipal Court, school counselors, social agencies and parents.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

FORT BEND County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$64,258

Brief Description of Program: Provides juvenile probation officer to work with specialized truancy magistrate to administer proactive case management strategies together with meaningful sanctions.

Counties Served: Fort Bend

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

GRAYSON County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$152,000

Brief Description of Program: Provided “Triple P Positive Parenting Program” to assist parents of children with challenging behaviors.

Counties Served: Grayson

Eligibility Requirements: Parents who were referred to justice and municipal courts for their child’s non-attendance at school.

GUADALUPE County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$98,500

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Seguin Youth Services to provide a variety of programs through a neighborhood-based youth center located in a low-income, high-risk area. Services include transportation to afterschool programming, snacks, tutoring, computer labs, recreational activities, life skills curriculum, vocation projects, camping, and other programs designed to increase parent involvement.

Counties Served: Guadalupe

Eligibility Requirements: Elementary and middle school children and youth between the ages of 6-13 who, because of their risk factors, are at increased risk of juvenile justice involvement.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

HALE County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$124,920

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Communities in Schools (CIS) of the South Plains to provide supportive guidance and counseling, tutoring, academic enrichment, pre-employment training, mentoring, and other support services to at-risk youth.

Counties Served: Hale, Swisher, Castro

Eligibility Requirements: Students between the ages of 6-17 years. CIS serves youth who are identified by teachers, parents, and the youth themselves.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

HARRIS County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$137,817

Brief Description of Program: Provided Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) program to provide parents with tools and techniques for parenting challenging adolescents.

Counties Served: Harris

Eligibility Requirements: At-risk youth (ages 10 to 18) and their families who are in need of intervention and prevention services in Spanish and who are referred by the municipal court.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

LUBBOCK County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$62,500

Brief Description of Program: Trained and implemented the Parent Project, a program designed to assist parents in learning how to parent a child with challenging behaviors.

Counties Served: Lubbock

Eligibility Requirements: Youth between the ages of 6 and 17 years of age at increased risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system; prioritized siblings of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

RANDALL County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$9,834

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Texas AgriLife Extension Service for Randall County to work with selected youth on a 4-H swine project. 4-H swine projects require approximately 300 hours of work training, cleaning out pens, feeding, walking and preparing swine for show. Youth and their families attend periodic training sessions, combining information related to livestock management and character development.

Counties Served: Randall

Eligibility Requirements: Youth, ages 12-14, who have been identified by the school district as having one or more risk factors for delinquency.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

TARRANT County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$114,348

Brief Description of Program: Family engagement coordinator provides a combination of case management and clinical services to select youth and their families.

Counties Served: Tarrant

Eligibility Requirements: Youth (ages 6 years through 5th grade) who have been placed in the school's Disciplinary Alternative Education Program.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

TOM GREEN County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$100,000

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Youth Advocate Mentoring Program to provide advocate mentors who work intensively with the youth (up to 15 hours per week) and then taper services to fewer hours as the youth progress in the program.

Counties Served: Tom Green (and some others)

Eligibility Requirements: High risk youth ages 6-13 who are not involved with the juvenile justice system will be referred from selected school districts

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

TRAVIS County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$102,220

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Southwest Key to provide the Family Keys Model (intensive home-based case management services)

Counties Served: Travis.

Eligibility Requirements: Youth between the ages of 11 and 13 who are truant, running away, experiencing behavioral problems at school, or experiencing conflict with family members.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

VAN ZANDT County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$53,412

Brief Description of Program: The "Just Kids Hands on Pets Education" program is a canine program designed to teach developmentally appropriate discipline, responsibility, compassion for life, motivational problem-solving, self-esteem and nurturing. Special needs youth may also attend a six-week program provided by licensed counselors.

Counties Served: Van Zandt

Eligibility Requirements: Children and youth ages 6-17 who are at increased risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system. Referrals will come from local school districts, local law enforcement, Child Advocacy Centers, adult probation, child protective services, and local municipal courts.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

WEBB County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$74,692

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with Southwest Key to provide the Family Keys Model (intensive home-based case management services) to youth between the ages of 11 and 13 who are truant, running away, experiencing behavioral problems at school, or experiencing conflict with family members.

Counties Served: Webb

Eligibility Requirements: Youth between the ages of 6 and 17 years of age at increased risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

WHARTON County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$121,475

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with the “Just Do It Now” program to provide structured and supervised out-of-school activities centered on drug awareness and intervention, mentoring, character development, leadership training and academic enrichment. Although they accept referrals from other community sources, their primary referral source is local schools.

Counties Served: Wharton

Eligibility Requirements: Youth between the ages of 6 to 17 who are at increased risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system.

WILLACY County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$50,000

Brief Description of Program: Contracts with a licensed counselor to provide youth and families with training in the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. Referrals come from local law enforcement, schools, juvenile probation department, other social service agencies, and healthcare providers.

Counties Served: Willacy

Eligibility Requirements: At-risk children and youth between the ages of 6 years through 17 years of age who are not currently under the supervision of the juvenile justice system.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

WILLIAMSON County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$29,000

Brief Description of Program: Provides prevention education programs using the Curriculum Based Support Groups, Kids Connection/Youth Connection, the SMART Moves program, and support groups using trained facilitator. Through partnerships with The Georgetown Project and Lifesteps, the Department also offers a parent education and media campaign to impact the larger community.

Counties Served: Williamson

Eligibility Requirements: At-risk children, youth, and adolescents, ages 6 through 17.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

ZAPATA County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$63,700

Brief Description of Program: Partners with King's Way to provide a safe, structured, and supervised venue for youth during after-school hours that combines tutoring, mentoring, and character building to improve youth's academic performance and character development.

Counties Served: Zapata

Eligibility Requirements: Youth who are at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system and who are between 10-16 years

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

GRANT T. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PENDING FY 14)

COMAL County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$37,526

Brief Description of Program: The Prevention Services Coordinator evaluates student needs and provides community referrals and case management services to ensure the child and family access the most helpful and relevant programs for their needs.

Counties Served: Comal

Eligibility Requirements: Children ages 6-11 with school attendance problems who are unsupported by youth-serving agencies, churches, non-profit organizations, civic groups or neighborhood programs.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

KARNES/WILSON County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$78,760

Brief Description of Program: Three School Attendance Specialists provide intensive attendance improvement and truancy reduction services, including in-school and in-home services, Individual Attendance Plans for each participant and identification of the root causes of truancy for each student. In cases where additional support is needed, AIP will work with the Karnes County Community Coalition, which includes mental health specialists, substance abuse prevention services, and counseling services.

Counties Served: Karnes, Wilson

Eligibility Requirements: Students with histories of unexcused absences from the Floresville Independent School District, Karnes City Independent School District, and Kenedy Independent School District.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

EL PASO County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$28,500

Brief Description of Program: Provides intensive home based services (home visits, case management, service coordination, skills building, and facilitation of educational modules) to select youth and families.

Counties Served: El Paso

Eligibility Requirements: Middle school youth ages 12-15 attending Riverside Middle School and their caregivers/parents. Youth must not be currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile

probation department, have any pending formal referrals, nor be under active juvenile justice supervision. Eligible youth must have demonstrated a history of low attendance and meet at least 2 individual and/or familial risk factors cited in the OJJDP's database on Truancy Reduction Programs.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

TARRANT County Juvenile Probation Department

Total Funds FY 13: \$147,842

Brief Description of Program: Provides the youth and family with case management, assessment, mediation, and referral to the most appropriate community-based interventions, including trauma-informed mental health intervention as indicated.

Counties Served: Tarrant

Eligibility Requirements: Youth who are found to be chronically absent from the 1st to 8th grade.

Data Elements Collected: Program length, demographic information, ability to match with juvenile referrals, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and discipline referrals.

TJJD TOTAL GRANT T	\$292, 628
TJJD TOTAL GRANT S	\$2,261,737
TJJD TOTAL PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION FY 14	\$2,554,365

APPENDIX B:

Feedback from Stakeholder Listening Session

On June 17, 2014, Texas Children’s Mental Health Forum stakeholders participated in a guided discussion to help inform state agencies working to coordinate delinquency and dropout prevention services in Texas.

In its 2014-2015 state budget (Article 9, Sec.17.10 of the Appropriations Act), the Texas Legislature charged the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas Education Agency, and the Adjutant General's Department (now the Texas Military Department) to coordinate the delivery of juvenile delinquency prevention and dropout prevention and intervention services to prevent redundancy, ensure optimal service delivery to youth at risk of engaging in delinquency and/or dropping out of school, and to ensure programs demonstrate effectiveness through established outcomes. A legislative report is required and is to include information on the impact of all juvenile delinquency and dropout prevention and intervention initiatives and programs delivered or monitored by the agencies.

To inform its work and legislative report, the interagency workgroup established to work on this charge sought input from the public stakeholders on issues related to why youth drop out of school or engage in delinquent behavior; barriers to optimal service delivery to youth at risk of engaging in delinquency and/or dropping out of school; how; services that would be useful to help youth stay in school and out of trouble; and other information state agencies should consider in their efforts to prevent dropout and delinquency.

Below are themes that emerged from the stakeholder discussion:

EDUCATE AND EMPOWER PARENTS

- Importance of parent involvement in services; looking at the family instead of just the child/youth
- Educate parents EARLY (ECI, HeadStart, Preschool; Home Visiting) about the importance of their involvement in their child’s school

PREVENTION STARTS EARLY

- *“Prevention needs to start when the teacher first thinks a student needs to go to the principal’s office, or even before, and not when the student first appears in the juvenile justice system.”*
- Early childhood programs must be included in dropout/delinquency prevention early intervention framework
 - Evidence based home visiting programs
- Increase awareness of what prevention is and when it should start
 - Impact of adverse experiences on short and long term outcomes

EARLIER INTERVENTION

- *“Kindergarten teachers can tell which kids will drop out or end up in the juvenile justice system.”*
- Additional services are needed for students who have needs and who are referred to existing services, but who unfortunately do not meet stringent eligibility requirements to qualify for existing programs and services.

CONTINUUM OF SERVICES NEEDED

- Successful programs have a menu of services that can be matched to families’ individual needs. One-size-fits-all service approach does not produce successful outcomes
- Bilingual, culturally informed, trauma informed workforce
- Continuing some level of services to kids once they’ve completed a program (step-down interventions)

HIGHLY MOBILE KIDS/FAMILIES

- Difficulty tracking students
- Incomplete data entered in student records
- Loss of school credits

DATA/INFORMATION SHARING

- Providers of prevention/early intervention services need easier access to education data (grades, attendance, etc.) for their outcome reporting requirements. Some ISDs are better than others in sharing this data.

COORDINATION ISSUES

- Systems speak different languages: *“We say the same things but we are often on different islands because of different languages.”*
- MOUs are effective tools in coordinating/collaborating and more MOUs would be beneficial to facilitate coordination Ensuring schools/agencies/providers are aware of community resources that are available to them (NAMI trainings)
- Challenges of coordinating services for youth who are being served by multiple systems with limited staff. *“All systems should be on the same page. How do we dance together?”*
- Communicating to community providers what the critical dates/deadlines are in the school system. In some cases a student might not get credit just because service providers are not informed enough about what dates are critical. For example, in some cases they could wait to refer or release a student for a day or two if it would ensure the student got academic credit.

Opportunities:

- Recommendations within the Council of State Governments Justice Centers' School Discipline Consensus Report (<http://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/school-discipline-consensus-report/>)
- Identify model communities who are effectively coordinating across systems and disseminate their promising practices
- Educate, empower, and assist local communities on how to better coordinate services at the local level:
 - Role of local school health advisory committees, which make recommendations to school boards
 - Create "*Missions of Understanding – What is our Missing? What are we here to do? Looking for where schools, social services interests converge.*"
 - Informing social/juvenile justice services of school testing dates, withdrawal dates, etc., to avoid students losing academic credits
- Promote Social Emotional Learning in schools
- Invest in programs that serve kids who demonstrate risk but do not qualify for current services, to intervene earlier
- Identify how existing IT systems can be tweaked to better capture and share information, request funding to make it happen
 - PET/PD database used by school registrars
 - PIEMS
- Investigate opportunities to partner with higher education for data analysis, program evaluation, etc.
- Fund efforts to collect data, evaluate program effectiveness to demonstrate what's successful
- Pursue opting out of new GED requirements. For students who are so far behind in their credits, make obtaining a GED realistic to avoid their giving up all together
- Stop counting a student who obtains a GED as a dropout
- Allow schools to take 18 year olds to truancy court to provide schools with last option in their tool belt
- Expand/strengthen case management as effective strategy for kids being served by multiple systems
- Support/encourage making special education process easier to navigate, speed up access to services
- Identify what other states are doing to help highly mobile students to accumulate credits
- Look and build upon the Supreme Court Commission for Texas Children and Families' work on helping kids in foster care accrue credits
- Programming that targets kids of incarcerated parents; prevention and early intervention of gang involvement
- Allowing community providers to work with kids before charging them

APPENDIX C:

Potential Partners to Assist in Improving Coordination of Prevention Services

- Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs)
- School Health Advisory Councils
- Community Resource Coordination Groups
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Councils of Government
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions
- Community Youth Development infrastructure
- Regional Healthcare Partnerships

APPENDIX D:

Previous State Reports Related to the Coordination of Prevention Services

- Texas At-Risk Youth Services Project: A Second Look. (2013) Texas Legislative Budget Board¹⁴
- The Texas Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Final Report (2011)¹⁵
- Charge 2: Related to social service related prevention and early intervention programs; Texas Senate Health and Human Services Committee Interim Report to the 82nd Legislature (2010)¹⁶
- Report to the Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (2009). The Office of Community Projects, the Graduate College of Social Work University of Houston.¹⁷
- Charge 6: Related to strategies for preventing child abuse, Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Interim Report to the 81st Legislature¹⁸ (2008)
- Texas Strategic Plan: Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (Substance Abuse Prevention) (2008)¹⁹
- Recommendations for Improving Coordination and Collaboration of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Early Intervention Programs and Services among State Agencies. (2008). Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families.²⁰
- Strategic Plan for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services (2008). Texas Department of Family and Protective Services²¹
- Thinking Outside the Box. (1998) Senate Interim Committee on Gangs and Juvenile Justice.²²

¹⁴ [http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Public_Safety_Criminal_Justice/Reports/Texas At Risk Youth Services Project A Second Look.pdf](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Public_Safety_Criminal_Justice/Reports/Texas%20At%20Risk%20Youth%20Services%20Project%20A%20Second%20Look.pdf)

¹⁵ <http://www.blueribbontaskforce.com/brtfdrupal/sites/default/files/Statewide%20BRTF%20Final%20Report.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/commit/c610/c610.InterimReport81.pdf>

¹⁷ http://www.uh.edu/class/hcpp/_docs/FINAL-REPORT-ALL-ELEMENTS.pdf

¹⁸ http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/commit/c610/HHS_Report2008.pdf

¹⁹ www.dshs.state.tx.us/sa/SPF/SPFStatePlan.doc

²⁰ http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/pdf/2008-12-01_ICC-Report.pdf

²¹ http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/pdf/2008-12-01_ICC-SP.pdf

²² <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/commit/archive/IC/IC18.htm>

APPENDIX E:

Resources on Research Informed & Promising Practices

- Developing an Integrated Prevention System:
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework²³
- Information Sharing Resources:
 - Navigating Information Sharing Toolkit²⁴
 - Models for Change Information Sharing Toolkit²⁵
- Coordination of Resources:
 - “Map My Community” feature on findyouthinfo.gov is a helpful tool stakeholders can use to find federally supported resources in a community to build and strengthen programs that support youth.²⁶
- Identifying What Works:
 - What Works Clearinghouse²⁷
 - Links to Dropout Prevention and Recovery Resources²⁸

²³ <http://beta.samhsa.gov/spf>

²⁴ http://sshs.promoteprevent.org/sites/default/files/nis/NIS_Toolkit_8-24-12_Final_placeholder.pdf

²⁵ <http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/282>

²⁶ <http://findyouthinfo.gov/maps/map-my-community>

²⁷ <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/FindWhatWorks.aspx>

²⁸ http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3527&menu_id=2147483659

APPENDIX F:

Overview of Prevention and Early Intervention

IMPACT OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES ON CHILD AND ADULT OUTCOMES

Many negative outcomes in youth development, including dropping out of school and engaging in delinquent behavior, have been linked to adverse or traumatic experiences occurring during childhood. According to research, the developing brain is highly sensitive to the presence of stress hormones. When present in high levels or over long periods of time, stress hormones can physically alter structures in a child's brain that control decision making, regulation of emotions, and the processing of information. Adverse experiences early in life can impact the way children think, learn, behave, and how they respond to further stressors in their lives, as they grow up and into adulthood.²⁹

This biological response to early stress has short and long-term consequences on individuals' health and well-being. In a seminal study on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) conducted in partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente Managed Care, 17,000 adults enrolled in a managed care program in a middle class community were surveyed about their childhood exposure to different adverse experiences. These experiences included physical, emotional or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; or instability in the home from factors such as the absence of a parent, domestic violence, or a household member suffering from chronic physical, mental health, or substance use issues. The ACEs study findings showed that adverse experiences during childhood were common, and these experiences are major risk factors for the leading causes of illness, death, and poor quality of life.

“Adverse childhood experiences are a leading, if not the leading, determinant of health and social well-being from adolescence to late adulthood.”

Robert Block, MD, past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Most children face some level of adversity as they grow up, and most of them will do well, despite facing challenges known to increase risks of negative outcomes. However, when children face prolonged or multiple adversities, the risks get much higher and their outcomes more stark.

In a study to determine how adverse events correlate with academic and social-emotional adjustment in students at risk of academic failure due to non-academic barriers, researchers found:

“ACE level was a powerful predictor for attendance, school behavior problems, and overall behavioral health problems. As ACEs increase, the odds that attendance problems and behavioral health problems

²⁹ Anda RF, Felitti VJ, Walker J, Whitfield, CL, Bremner JD, Perry BD, Dube SR, Giles WH. The Enduring Effects of Abuse and Related Adverse Experiences in Childhood: A Convergence of Evidence from Neurobiology and Epidemiology. *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 2006; 256(3):174-86

occur rise progressively with increasing ACEs. With four or more ACEs, attendance problems are five times more likely. For behavioral health problems, the odds increase by more than six times. In students with four or more ACEs, academic failure is twice as likely and school behavior problems are three times as likely.”³⁰

LIFELONG OUTCOMES OF ACEs

Individuals experiencing multiple adverse events or circumstances during their childhood are at increased risk of the following health and social outcomes:³¹

Alcoholism and alcohol abuse	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Ischemic heart disease	Depression
Fetal death	High risk sexual activity
Illicit drug use	Intimate partner violence
Liver disease	Obesity
Sexually transmitted disease	Smoking
Suicide attempts	Unintended pregnancy

Many children and youth in Texas experience risks which increase their likelihood of dropping out of school, engaging in delinquent behavior, and developing social, mental health, and behavior problems linked to dropout and delinquency.

- **ECONOMIC INSECURITY:** In 2012, 1 in 4 children lived in poverty. 1 in 3 children had parents who lacked secure employment.
- **SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLD:** In 2012, 1 in 3 children in Texas lived in single parent families.
- **HOUSING INSTABILITY:** 27% of young children in low-income families moved in the preceding year.
- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE HOME:** In 2012, 12,006 adults who received state-funded substance abuse services had children under age 18 in their homes.
- **MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE HOME:** In 2013, 42,412 adults with mental illness receiving a full level of care within the community public health system indicated that there was a child under age 18 in the household.
- **ABUSE AND NEGLECT:** In fiscal year 2013, 66,398 children were confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect. Sixty percent of confirmed victims were under age 6. Nearly 40% of confirmed victims were 3 years or younger.
- **SAFETY:** Nearly 20% of high school students had been bullied on school property in the past year. Nearly 7% did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- **MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS:** In 2013, 28% of students felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row causing them to stop usual activities during the previous year. Almost 16% of Texas youth made a plan about how they would attempt suicide in the past year.

³⁰<http://extension.wsu.edu/ahec/trauma/Documents/ACE%20Screening%20and%20Assessment%20in%20Child%20Serving%20Systems%207-12%20final.pdf>

³¹ Anda RF, Felitti VJ, Walker J, Whitfield, CL, Bremner JD, Perry BD, Dube SR, Giles WH. The Enduring Effects of Abuse and Related Adverse Experiences in Childhood: A Convergence of Evidence from Neurobiology and Epidemiology. *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 2006; 256(3):174-86

IDENTIFYING COMMON ELEMENTS AND RISK FACTORS IN OTHER PREVENTION EFFORTS

Dropout and delinquency are strongly related to other factors which are the targets of additional prevention programming funded by the state, including abuse and neglect, substance abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, and others.³²

Prevention efforts that focus exclusively on one domain and fail to acknowledge the strong interconnectedness among risk factors stunt state goals to reduce negative outcomes and increase positive outcomes. The myriad of social problems facing many children and youth rarely occur in isolation; interventions that are planned and delivered in isolation from one another will have limited impact on changing the trajectory of at-risk youth.

CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

- Children with mental illness have much higher rates of struggling academically, of missing school, and even dropping out altogether.
- Students with mental illness have the highest school dropout rate of any disability group.
- Students in Texas with emotional disturbance are at increased risk of being removed from their classrooms due to disciplinary action.
- In 2011, 44% of youth offenders sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department had a need for treatment by a licensed or specially trained provider for a mental health related issue, more than double what would be expected in the general population.

“By looking at effective programs and strategies not just individually but also in clusters with similar goals, we can identify the common elements that contribute to success.”³³

“It is becoming clear that “silo-ed” interventions, focused on a specific problem or set of problems, will not result in the kinds of impacts we want for our communities.”³⁴

³² See National Dropout Prevention Center; U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Information Gateway; National Center for Children in Poverty; and Institute of Medicine, National Research Council: Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities (2009)

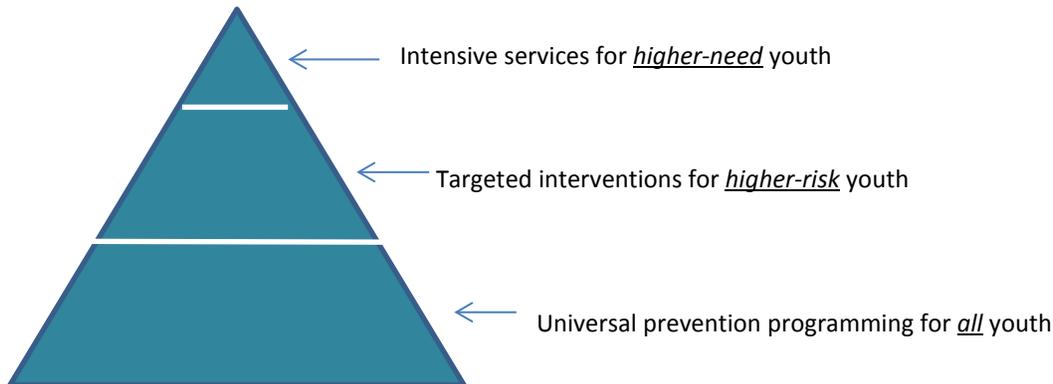
³³ <http://lisbethschorr.org/doc/ExpandingtheEvidenceUniverseDec2011.pdf>

³⁴ Reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) by Building Community Capacity: A Summary of Washington Family Policy Council Research Findings

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10852352.2012.707463#tabModule>

PROMOTION, PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT: A FLUID CONTINUUM

By promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors in all youth, providing early interventions to those who are at risk, and providing effective treatment and supports for those in need, Texas can divert the need for further, more intensive services or deeper system involvement.



Interventions do not always fit neatly into this continuum, with “treatment” interventions also serving as “prevention” interventions. Given the interrelatedness of risk factors and protective factors among social concerns, it is not surprising that a program funded by one agency as an intervention for one outcome may also prevent negative outcomes which are under the purview of another state agency. This underscores the importance of interagency coordination. For example, Texas funds home visiting programs for low-income first time mothers as a child abuse and neglect prevention strategy. At the same time, such evidence-based interventions have also been shown to reduce criminal behavior and substance abuse rates in youth who received the intervention as young children. Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), a home visiting program targeting the prevention of abuse and neglect, has successfully shown a lifetime reduction of arrests and convictions in addition to a reduction in substance abuse.³⁵ In Texas, NFP is projected to successfully reduce juvenile crimes and arrests by 53% for children ages 11-17 who participated in the program as infants.³⁶ Furthermore, NFP in Texas is projected to reduce youth substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco and marijuana) by 61% for youth ages 12-15.^{37,38}

Another example is a community “system of care” approach to interagency service delivery. This research-based strategy in the treatment of children and youth with serious mental health concerns embodies the concept of interagency coordination to broker and leverage community resources from various agencies to provide expertise,

³⁵ Eckenrode, J., Campa, M., Luckey, D. W., Henderson, C. R., Cole, R., Kitzman, H., Anson, E., Sidora-Arcoleo, K., Powers, J., & Olds, D. (2010). Long-term effects of prenatal and infancy nurse home visitation on the life course of youths: 19-year follow-up of a randomized trial. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 164(1), 9-15.

Olds, D. L., Henderson, C. R., Cole, R., Eckenrode, J., Kitzman, H., Luckey, D., . . . Powers, J. (1998). Long-term effects of nurse home visitation on children’s criminal and antisocial behavior: 15-year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280(14), 1238–1244.

Kitzman, H., Olds, D., Cole, R., Hanks, C., Anson, E., Arcoleo, K., Holmberg, J. (2010). Enduring effects of prenatal and infancy home visiting by nurses on children. Follow-up of a randomized trial among children at age 12 years. *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, 164(5), 412-418.

³⁶ This projection is based on a 59% reduction of youth criminal offenses in the Olds et al. 1998 study in Elmira, New York and then multiplied by a replication factor of 90.4% to account for some reduction in outcomes.

³⁷ Miller, T. R. (May 2014). Life Status and Financial Outcomes of Nurse-Family Partnership in Texas. Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation.

³⁸ This projection is based on a 67% and 69% reduction of substance abuse from Olds et al. 1998 and Kitzman et al. 2010 and multiplied by a replication factor of 90.4%.

services and to mitigate risk. Systems of care have been shown to help children and youth with serious mental illness stay in school and out of the juvenile justice system.³⁹

It is important to note that prevention and intervention efforts are rarely one time endeavors. Resiliency develops over time, building upon protective factors, such as relationships established in early childhood, and evolving as a child grows into school age and adolescence. Just as preventative measures like vaccines often need to be repeated as a child grows older to extend protection from illnesses, so too do youth often require “booster shots” to extend the protective buffers established earlier in their development and to protect against new risk factors that emerge as they grow older. An intervention that provided protections during elementary school may lose its impact during middle school, for example, when another intervention may be needed to address evolving developmental needs and risk factors.

The chart below from the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council’s *Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities* portrays how various prevention efforts target different developmental stages. Although the chart is focused on mental health prevention, the common risk and protective factors shared between mental health, delinquency, and school dropout make it useful in conceptualizing the various opportunities available to impact delinquency and dropout outcomes as a child grows into a young adult.

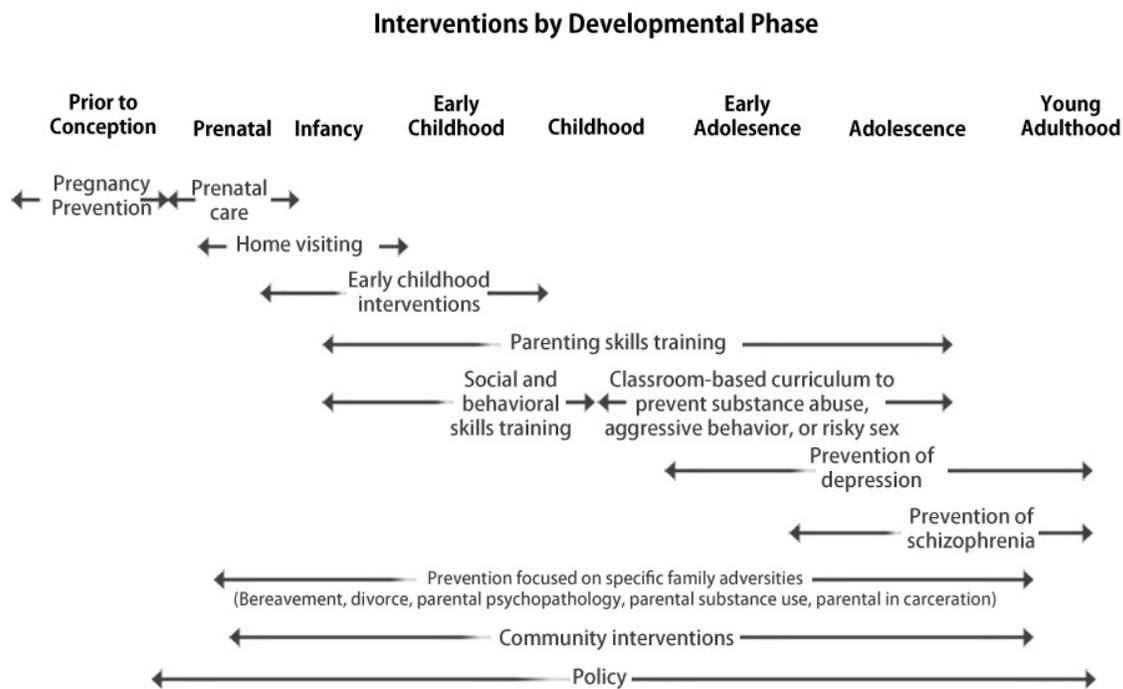


FIGURE II-1 Interventions and their targeted developmental stages.

Source: Institute of Medicine, National Research Council: *Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities* (2009)

³⁹ Stroul, B. A., & Blau, G. M. (2008). *The system of care handbook: Transforming mental health services for children, youth, and families*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H Brookes Publishing.

In conclusion, programs that prevent or mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences, which are strongly linked to many health and social outcomes over the course of a person's life, will reduce the broad burden ACEs place on education, justice, and health and human service systems. Prevention and early intervention programs stand to be most effective when they are aligned and coordinated with other programs that target common risk and protective factors. Prevention and early intervention strategies can build upon one another as a child ages, tailored to a child's development. Just as youth may require "booster" shots to extend the protection of childhood vaccinations, youth will benefit from regular dosages of prevention and intervention efforts that are tailored to their evolving developmental needs.