

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

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**LEGISLATOR'S  
GUIDE**  
to the issues



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The public is demanding a different direction for their government, and the Texas Public Policy Foundation is providing the ideas that enable policymakers to chart that new course.

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# Community-Based Foster Care

## The Issue

For decades, Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) has systematically placed children in its care at substantial risk of harm and even death, leaving children more damaged when they exit foster care than when they entered. Texas foster children experience an unreasonably high risk of physical abuse, sexual abuse, suicide, and poor supervision in the state's care.

The 85th Texas Legislature transformed the current, failing state system by localizing foster care service coordination. This new service delivery system, called "Community-Based Care" (CBC), shifts primary responsibility for placement and case management from CPS to single source providers—either nonprofits or local government entities. Those providers, called Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC), are responsible for providing all foster care services within the limited geographic area they serve.

The transition to a CBC model occurs in three stages: placement, case management, and performance review.

**Table 1: CBC Performance Measures**

Goal	Performance Measures	Stage I Population
Safety	Children/youth are safe in placement	Children/Youth in Foster Care
Placement Stability	Children/youth have stability in foster care	Children Youth in Foster Care
Least Restrictive Setting	Children/youth are placed in the least restrictive placement setting	Children/Youth in Foster Care
Maintaining Connections	Children/youth in foster care are placed in close proximity to family and community	Children Youth in Foster Care
	Children/youth in foster care are placed with their siblings	Children Youth in Foster Care
Preparation for Adulthood	Youth age 16 and older have a driver's license	Children/Youth in Foster Care
	Youth age 16 and older without a driver's license have a Texas identification card	Children/Youth in Foster Care
	Youth turning 18 complete Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) training	Children/Youth in Foster Care
Participation in Decisions	Children/youth age 5 and older participate in service planning	Children/Youth in Foster Care
	Children/youth attend court hearings	Children/Youth in Foster Care
Child Well-being	Child/youth well-being is maintained or improved in care	Children/Youth in Foster Care

Source: [Procurement and Contract Services. Request for Application. Texas Health and Human Services. December 2017.](#)

During Stage 1, the SSCC is responsible for children in paid foster care but not children placed with relatives. The SSCC oversees placement, adoption, and other services necessary to meet the needs of children in foster care and those aging out.

In Stage 2, the SSCC expands its child-related services to children placed in kinship care (with relatives or fictive kin). The SSCC takes a more active role in providing case planning and decision-making and becomes primarily responsible for

Figure 1: DFPS Regional Map



Source: [Community-based care, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services](#).

deciding and planning for permanent outcomes for local children and their families and for making recommendations to the court with jurisdiction over the legal case.

The SSCC contract is outcome-focused and performance-based. In Stage 3, DFPS evaluates the SSCC on measureable outcomes (**Table 1**). Performance-based contracting in foster care has already proven successful in increasing efficiency, service quality, and innovation in Region 3b (Fort Worth area).

### The Facts

- Children in CPS's legacy system are 19 times more likely to die than children in the general population.
- One in 20 children killed by abuse and neglect since 2010 died in CPS custody.
- Foster children in the CPS legacy system experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at twice the rate of Iraqi War veterans.
- The 85th Legislature funded the expansion of the CBC model to five regions (**Figure 1**) during the 2018-19 biennium including:
  - Region 3b (Fort Worth area)
  - Region 2
  - Region 8a (Bexar County)

continued



## Community-Based Foster Care (cont.)

### Recommendations

- Implement community-based foster care statewide by funding expansion into remaining DFPS regions.
  - Expand the CBC model to include the full spectrum of child welfare services by transferring the primary responsibility for prevention and early intervention (PEI) services and family preservation services (FBSS) from DFPS to community-led agencies (SSCCs).
  - Integrate child welfare and child protection by breaking down siloed services that target vulnerable youth and at-risk families and by providing flexible funding to community-led agencies (SSCCs).
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### Resources

[\*The Community-Based Solution for Texas Foster Children\*](#) by Brandon Logan, Texas Public Policy Foundation (March 2017).

[\*Community-Based Foster Care, Testimony before the House Human Services Committee\*](#) by Brandon Logan, Texas Public Policy Foundation (April 17, 2017).

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