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## Texas Child Welfare Funders



### Child Welfare Legislative Priorities

Thank you for being child welfare advocates! We would like to inform you of various child welfare organizations' priorities for the upcoming 89th legislative session. You can also register for various events focused on the legislative session below.

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#### Children at Risk

**THE 89TH  
TEXAS  
LEGISLATIVE  
AGENDA  
FOR CHILDREN**

Thursday, November 21st, 2024  
10 AM - Virtual Event



The 89th Legislative Session is just around the corner and Texas will once again have the chance to prioritize the needs of children! **Join Children at Risk this Thursday** as they unveil their 2025 Legislative Session Agenda, share tips from advocacy experts, and highlight how you can get involved to speak out and drive change for children this session!

Register Now

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## Texas CASA

After surveying local CASA staff and volunteers to get their legislative ideas, the Texas CASA Board approved four policy priorities and three funding priorities. The Public Policy team will support legislation and work on policy issues in each of these areas during the 89th Legislative Session and will develop more specific policy recommendations under each priority area as legislation is filed. Texas CASA supports funding and policies that:

1. Preserve families, promote family reunification when possible, and minimize the time children spend in foster care.
2. Provide a child access to safe, stable placements in their community that meet their individual need and support their permanency goals
3. Further support and encourage placement with relative caregivers.
4. Improve services and supports for older youth in foster care, and older youth exiting foster care.



***Read more about Texas CASA's legislative priorities [here](#).***

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## **Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services**

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

1. Establish a full continuum of family preservation services
2. Support sustainability of foster homes and community organizations through targeted liability support and regulatory streamlining
3. Improve mental health supports for children and families
4. Strengthen the statewide rollout of CBC and T3C, allowing for greater flexibility and creativity to serve high acuity kids



***Read more about Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services' legislative priorities [here](#).***

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## TexProtects

TexProtects advances public policy and local implementation to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Their legislative priorities include strengthening Texas families, connecting families to resources, supporting informal kinship caregivers, family preservation efforts, and preventing child sexual abuse.

***Save the date: TexProtects will host an event on January 9 to discuss legislative priorities. Registration link coming soon!***



***Read more about TexProtects' legislative priorities [here](#).***

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## Texas Network of Youth Services

TNOYS has been hard at work building a policy agenda that reflects the real needs and challenges that Texas youth, young adults (YYA), and the providers who serve them face every day.

**Save the date for TNOYS Day of Action for Youth (DAY), taking place  
Tuesday, April 8 at the Texas Capitol.**

# TNOYS

TEXAS NETWORK OF  
YOUTH SERVICES

***Read more about TNOYS' legislative priorities [here](#).***

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## **Texans Care for Children**

Texans Care for Children released their recommendations for the DFPS Legislative Appropriations Request for FY 2026 - 27. Priorities include:

1. Safely preventing kids from entering foster care by investing in programs that support families referred to DFPS.
2. Strengthening support for relatives and family friends caring for children who would otherwise be in foster care.
3. Enhancing support for children and families who are involved with DFPS.
4. Improving infrastructure at DFPS to ensure children in foster care are safe, stable, and well-supported.
5. Increasing investment in programs supporting youth who may age out of foster care.



***Read more about Texans Care for Children's recommendations [here](#).***

You can also read Texans Care for Children's blog: [State Agency Budget Requests: Good News — and Disappointments — for TX Kids - Texans Care for Children](#). In the blog, they discuss funding priorities including improving the State's Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment system, Early Childhood Intervention to serve infants and toddlers with disabilities, the Maternal Mortality Review System, and more.

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## **Steering Committee**

**Kristy Robinson, Vice President** (Trustee and Program Officer, The Hoglund Foundation)

**Shellie Velasco, Finance Chair** (Program Officer, The Rees-Jones Foundation)

**Amanda Finney, Membership & Development** (Senior Program Officer, Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation)

**Katherine (Kat) Pipoly, Member-at-Large** (Chief Impact Officer, Kronkosky Charitable Foundation)

**Shannan Stavinoha, Education & Programs Chair** (Chief Grants Officer, The George Foundation)

**Michael Martinez, Advisor** (Senior Director, Casey Family Programs)

Please contact one of the members listed above to discuss joining the [TCWF](#) Steering Committee.

[Learn More About TCWF](#)

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