TEXAS ALLIANCE SURVEY RESULTS SHOW CRITICAL RISK FOR CHILDREN FROM LOW FOSTER CARE RATES
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SURVEY RESULTS
A recent survey, conducted by the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, provides startling evidence that current low foster care reimbursements will have a negative impact on improving the lives of children in state custody. It is critical that the Texas Legislature provide leadership on this issue and increase compensation to adequate levels for the foster care network that provides care to these children. Low reimbursements impact both the current care of children and the positive impact that Foster Care Redesign can bring to the care these children receive.

When asked what steps they will be forced to take if a 14% rate increase is not enacted, many providers said they would defer facility maintenance, lay off workers, freeze wages, as well as cut employee benefits. In addition, 75% of those responding believe inadequate funding will have a serious impact on the success of Foster Care Redesign. Redesign of the current foster care system intends to improve outcomes for children by developing resources in a child’s home community and rewarding quality care through performance-based contracts.

Keeping children in stable placements is another critical factor to improve outcomes, yet survey results show 71.9% will decrease optional supports for foster families and children that help keep children stable. Both the development of facilities that provide a home for these children and the families available to care for these children will be impacted:
- 68.8% of respondents said they would decrease new facility development, and
- 46.4% said they would decrease foster home development.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING RATE INCREASE
The organizations listed join the Texas Alliance in requesting a 14% increase in the average daily rate paid for foster care. That request is only one-half of the 28% gap between provider cost and state reimbursement to serve children in the care of the state.

Both the House and Senate base budget includes increases for the state agency that provides case management to the children in care; and we applaud that decision. What budget writers have thus far failed to address is the private network of organizations that provide the day-to-day care. An investment of $67.8 million in state funds will draw down $35.2 million in federal funds for a total investment of $103 million. While this investment leaves the system under-funded, it goes a long way in filling the gap and securing care and treatment for the 16,697 children in foster care.

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COALITION FOR FOSTER CARE RATE INCREASE
Texas CASA
The Federation of Texas Psychiatry
Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards
Texas Juvenile Justice Providers Association (JJPA)
Prevent Child Abuse Texas
Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)
Texas State Foster Parents, Inc.
Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
One Voice Texas
Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County
Tarrant County Youth Collaboration
National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Voices for Children San Antonio
San Antonio Nonprofit Council
Texas Coalition of Homes for Children
Life Works Austin
Pegasus Schools, Inc.
AGENCIES SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN TEXAS

Region 1: Lubbock/Amarillo
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Cal Farley's
- Children's Home of Lubbock
- Children's Hope Residential Services
- DePelchin Children's Center
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children's Home
- South Plains Children's Shelter
- Texas Boys Ranch, Inc.

Region 2 & 9: Abilene/Midland
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Christian Homes and Family Services
- Concho Valley Home for Girls/Children Emergency Shelter
- DePelchin Children's Center
- Harmony Family Services
- High Sky Children's Ranch
- Methodist Children's Home
- New Horizons
- Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services
- Providence of Texas
- Texas Pythian Home

Region 3: Arlington
- ACH Child & Family Services
- Arms of Hope
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- Azleway, Inc.
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Cal Farley’s
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Ft. Worth
- Christian Homes & Family Services
- Covenant Kids
- Eckerd Community Supervision Program
- Faithworks, Inc.
- Gladney Center
- Julliette Fowler Homes-Children, Youth, & Family Services
- Kid Net Foundation, dba Jonathan’s Place
- Lena Pope Home
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Metrocare Services
- New Horizons
- Presbyterian Children’s Homes & Services
- Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth of TX (SAFY)
- Texas Baptist Home for Children
- Texas Mentor
- Therapeutic Family Life

Region 4: Tyler
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- Azleway, Inc.
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Christian Homes & Family Services
- DePelchin Children's Center
- Devereux Texas Treatment Network
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home

Region 5: Beaumont
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- Azleway, Inc.
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- The Hughen Center
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Nacogdoches Boys Ranch
- Therapeutic Family Life

Region 6: Houston
- ACH Child & Family Services
- Azleway, Inc.
- Boys & Girls Country of Houston
- Cal Farley’s
- Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Galveston
- DePelchin Children's Center
- Devereux Texas Treatment Network
- Gulf Coast Trades Center
- Houston Achievement Place
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Presbyterian Children’s Homes & Services
- Rainbow of Love Adoption Agency, Inc.
- Safe Haven Community Services
- Sheltering Harbour
- Spaulding for Children
- Texas Mentor
- Therapeutic Family Life

Region 7: Austin
- ACH Child & Family Services
- Annunciation Home
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- Austin Children's Shelter
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Brookhaven Youth Ranch
- Call Farley’s
- Camelot Community Care
- Casey Family Programs
- Cherokee Home for Children
- DePelchin Children’s Center
- Everyday Life RTC, Inc.
- Helping Hand Home for Children
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home
- New Horizons
- Presbyterian Children’s Homes & Services
- Providence of Texas
- The Settlement Home for Children
- STARRY
- St. Jude’s Ranch for Children
- Texas Mentor
- Therapeutic Family Life

Region 8: San Antonio
- Arms of Hope
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- BCFS Health & Human Services
- Bluebonnet Youth Ranch
- Boys Town Texas
- Boysville, Inc.
- Brownson Home, Inc.
- Cal Farley’s
- Casey Family Programs
- The Children’s Shelter
- DePelchin Children’s Center
- Devereux Texas Treatment Network
- Hill Country Youth Ranch
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Presbyterian Children’s Homes & Services
- St. Jude’s Ranch for Children
- St. Peter-St. Joseph Children’s Home
- Texas Mentor
- Therapeutic Family Life

Region 10: El Paso
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Child Crisis Center of El Paso
- El Paso Center for Children
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home

Region 11: Edinburg
- Arrow Child & Family Ministries
- The Bair Foundation of Texas
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Lutheran Social Services of the South
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Spaulding for Children

Our Mission:
Strengthening Services to Children & Families Through Quality Care and Advocacy

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