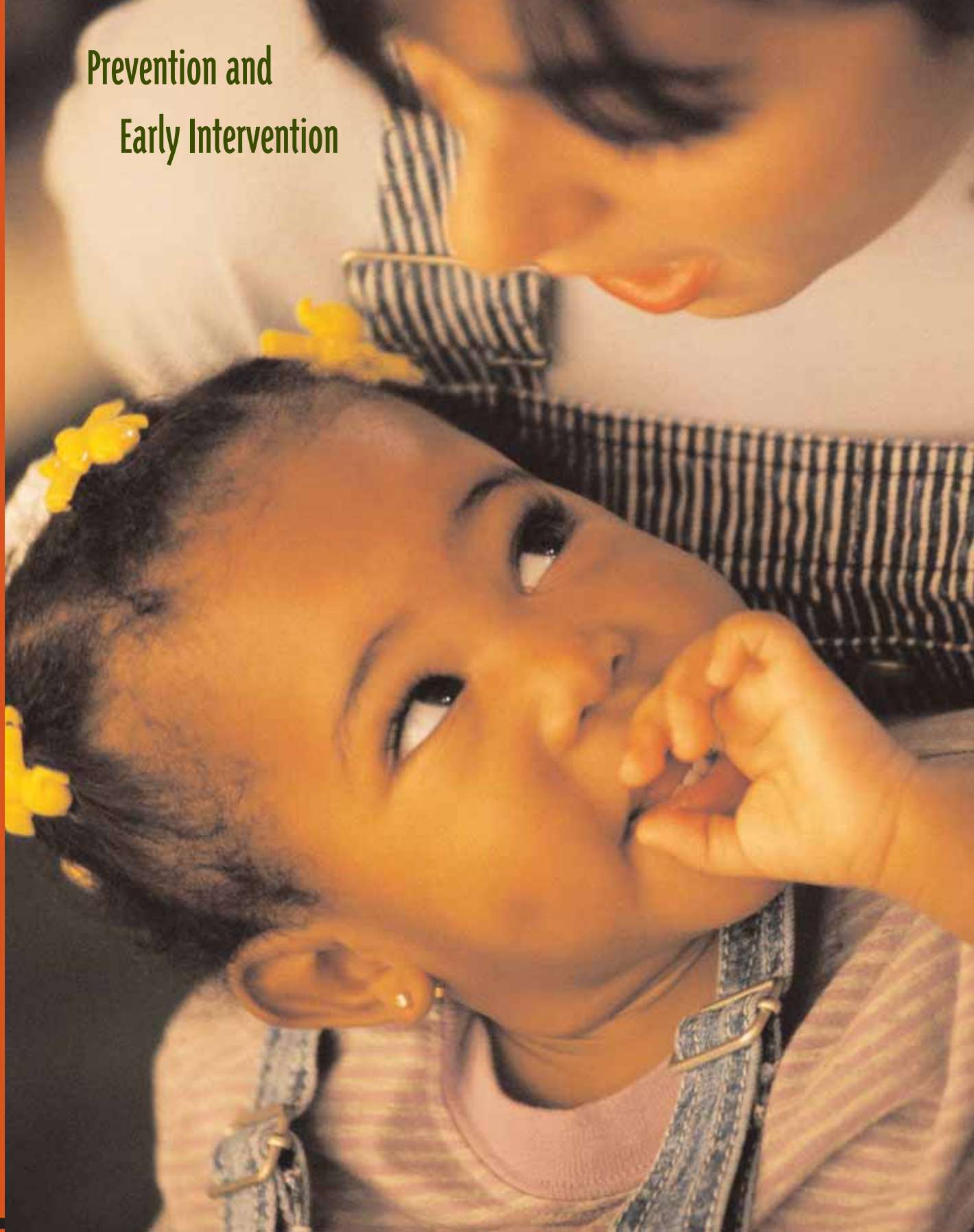


# Prevention and Early Intervention



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## Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

### Responsibilities

- ◆ Work with Texas communities to develop services for preventing child abuse and neglect, delinquency, running away, and truancy.
- ◆ Develop and maintain a statewide inventory of prevention programs addressing child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency.
- ◆ Plan, develop, and administer a comprehensive and unified approach to deliver prevention services to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services.

### Accomplishments

#### New Programs Implemented

Prevention and Early Intervention implemented two new programs in FY 2006, the Family Strengthening Program and the Youth Resiliency Program. These programs are designed to build protective factors for families and youth that are directly associated with the prevention of child maltreatment or juvenile delinquency, respectively.

#### Move to Evidence-based Services

PEI is moving programs to evidence-based services consistent with the Texas Family Code, Section 265.004. Evidence-based programs are those defined as having evidence of effectiveness, meaning programs that are supported by research and have demonstrated their ability to produce measurable and preferably sustainable improvements in the lives of at-risk families and/or youth. Programs procured during FY 2006 to provide evidence based services include: Community Youth Development, Family Strengthening,

Youth Resiliency and Texas Families: Together and Safe. As PEI programs are re-procured they will be brought into this approach.

#### Statewide Inventory of Services

PEI worked with the Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families to complete a comprehensive statewide inventory of state-funded child maltreatment prevention services (direct- and indirect-impact).

#### Programs Restored

The Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) and Community Youth Development (CYD) programs were restored to FY 2003 levels, to support ongoing services.

#### PEI Services

PEI 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 provided at no cost to participants. All services are not available in all Texas communities. To find out if your community has services available, visit our department's web site at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us).

#### Community Youth Development (CYD)

The CYD program contracts with community based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes that have a high incidence of juvenile crime. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, and alternative recreation activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes. Currently, DFPS provides ongoing training and technical assistance for all local CYD programs. DFPS also supports an annual youth conference, the Teen Summit, to promote youth leadership and provide training and activities.



### **Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program**

This program helps to develop honor, pride, and dignity in at-risk youth. The goal is to reduce and prevent risky behavior, truancy, and juvenile delinquency among at-risk youth ages 10 to 17. The program strives to increase youth volunteer work, community service, leadership, and cultural activities. Referrals are received from juvenile probation departments, schools, churches, and civic groups. In 2006, three projects were located in Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant counties and contracts for them ended Feb. 28, 2006.

### **Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR)**

Through contracts with community agencies, STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency respite care, and individual and family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties. Each STAR contractor provides universal child abuse prevention services, ranging from local media campaigns to informational brochures and parenting classes.

### **Texas Families: Together and Safe (TFTS)**

TFTS funds community-based programs that are evidence-based and designed to alleviate stress and to promote parental competencies and adoption of behaviors that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children and work toward family self-sufficiency.

The goals of TFTS are to:

- ◆ improve and enhance access to family support services;
- ◆ increase the efficiency and effectiveness of community-based family support services;
- ◆ enable children to remain in their own homes by providing preventative services; and
- ◆ increase collaboration among local programs, government agencies, and families.

### **Texas Youth and Runaway Hotlines**

The toll-free Texas Runaway Hotline (<http://www.texasrunaway.org> or 1-800-580-HELP) and the Texas Youth Hotline ([www.texasyouth.org](http://www.texasyouth.org) or 1-800-98YOUTH) offer crisis intervention, telephone counseling, and referrals to troubled youth and families. A volunteer workforce of about 60 people answer the phones. Many callers face a variety of problems including family conflict, delinquency, truancy, and abuse and neglect issues. The program increases public awareness through television, radio, billboards and other media efforts. Hotline telephone counselors received 38,481 calls during fiscal year 2006.

### **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)**

The CBCAP program seeks to increase community awareness of existing prevention services, strengthen community and parental involvement in child abuse prevention efforts, and encourage families to engage in services that are already available. Community Partnerships for Strengthening Families (part of CBCAP) involves parents, community members, community faith-based organizations and government agencies in a shared-leadership model that works to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. In addition, CBCAP funds support short-term respite services in two communities and the Infant Mortality Prevention Education program.

### **Tertiary/Secondary Child Abuse Prevention**

Community-based, volunteer-driven prevention, intervention and aftercare services are provided for children who have been, or who are at risk of being, abused and/or neglected. The goals of the program include reducing child maltreatment and the number of families re-entering the Child Protective Services system. Additional goals are improving the quality and availability of aftercare services for abused children, and enhancing a statewide network of tertiary child



## Prevention and Early Intervention

abuse prevention programs. Services are available in select communities.

### Family Strengthening

A variety of Family Strengthening Services are available statewide that have been evaluated and proven to effectively increase family protective factors (At-Risk Family Strengthening Services) or that have utilized best practices and sound research in program design (Innovative Family Strengthening Services). These services are designed to increase known protective factors and increase family resiliency, while preventing child abuse and neglect. Programs must also foster strong community collaboration to provide for a continuum of family services.

### Youth Resiliency Prevention

These services have been evaluated and proven to effectively increase youth protective factors (At-Risk Youth Resiliency Services) or have utilized best practices and sound research in program design (Innovative Youth Resiliency Services). A variety of services are available, across the state, designed to increase known protective factors to increase youth resiliency while preventing juvenile delinquency. Programs must also foster strong community collaboration to provide for a continuum of services for youth participants.

## PEI Special Initiatives

### Child Abuse Prevention Kit

Each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities raise awareness about the problem of child abuse and most importantly, about what each of us can do to help prevent the abuse and neglect of children. For the past several years, DFPS has joined forces with other agencies to increase public awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children through the Child Abuse Prevention Kit. The theme of the

## Making Progress One Day at a Time



Like many youth, Daniel (right) has his share of issues with being a teenager. But thanks to help from Jason Goad (left), his counselor at Connections Individual and Family Services in New Braunfels, he is making progress one day at a time. Daniel and his family receive services at Connections thanks to funding from the DFPS Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program.

“When Daniel and his family first came to Connections, he was experiencing a lot of social anxiety having to do with going to school,” said Goad. “Before he started high school, we went there ahead of time to make sure all his supports were in place. We got him in a special program where he attends classes half a day and completes his school work via computer. It gives him an opportunity for socialization, but in a much more comfortable environment which reduces his anxiety.”

Goad works not only with Daniel but his mother, father, and brother. “For a while, he was getting home schooled, which had its own set of problems, it seemed to enable his anxiety and increase stress within the family” said Goad. “I tried to get him to look at things optimistically, be more goal oriented. Now, he is getting along better with his family, and everyone is more positive and forward thinking. He is even thinking about joining a club at school.”

Through contracts with community agencies like Connections, STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties.



## Prevention and Early Intervention

FY 2006 kit was “Children First: Safe and Secure.” The focus of the kit was to provide parenting information in a clear and concise format that will be useful and meaningful to parents. The goals are to reduce parental stress and increase parental resilience, nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child development, and how to access appropriate resources in times of need. The FY 2006 version of the kit can be downloaded from the department's web site at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us) or [www.itsuptoyou.org](http://www.itsuptoyou.org), as can additional child abuse prevention information from previous kits.

### Partners in Prevention Training Conference

Each year, DFPS hosts the Annual Partners in Prevention Training Conference in Central Texas. The conference brings together social services professionals, parents, advocates, educators, law enforcement professionals, childcare professionals, community leaders, and faith leaders who are interested in improving programs and sharing expertise. The conference is open to prevention and early intervention agencies that contract with DFPS, as well as all other prevention service providers and interested parties. Department collaborators for the FY 2006 conference, held in Austin November 16-17 2005, included: the Texas

Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Youth Commission, Texas Education Agency, Office of Attorney General, Texas Workforce Commission, and Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

### Public Awareness Campaigns

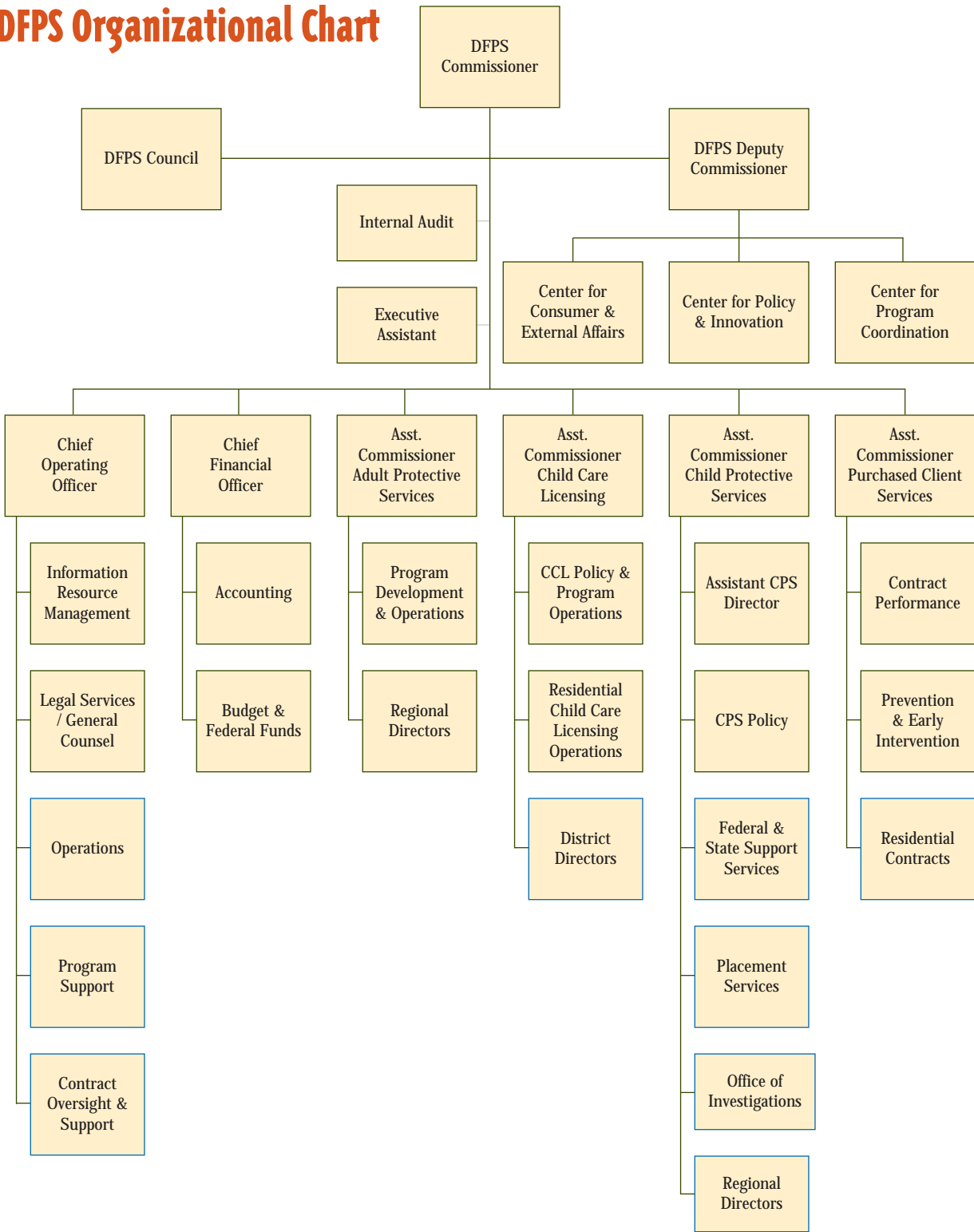
DFPS has produced several public awareness campaigns, targeting child safety, to assist with parent resiliency and increase public awareness of specific child safety issues. Campaigns developed include:

- ◆ “Look Before You Leave” (Prevent Child Injury and Death due to Heat);
- ◆ “See and Save” (Prevent Accidental Child Drowning); and
- ◆ “Don't Be In The Dark About Child Care” (Increasing Awareness of Unregulated Child Care).

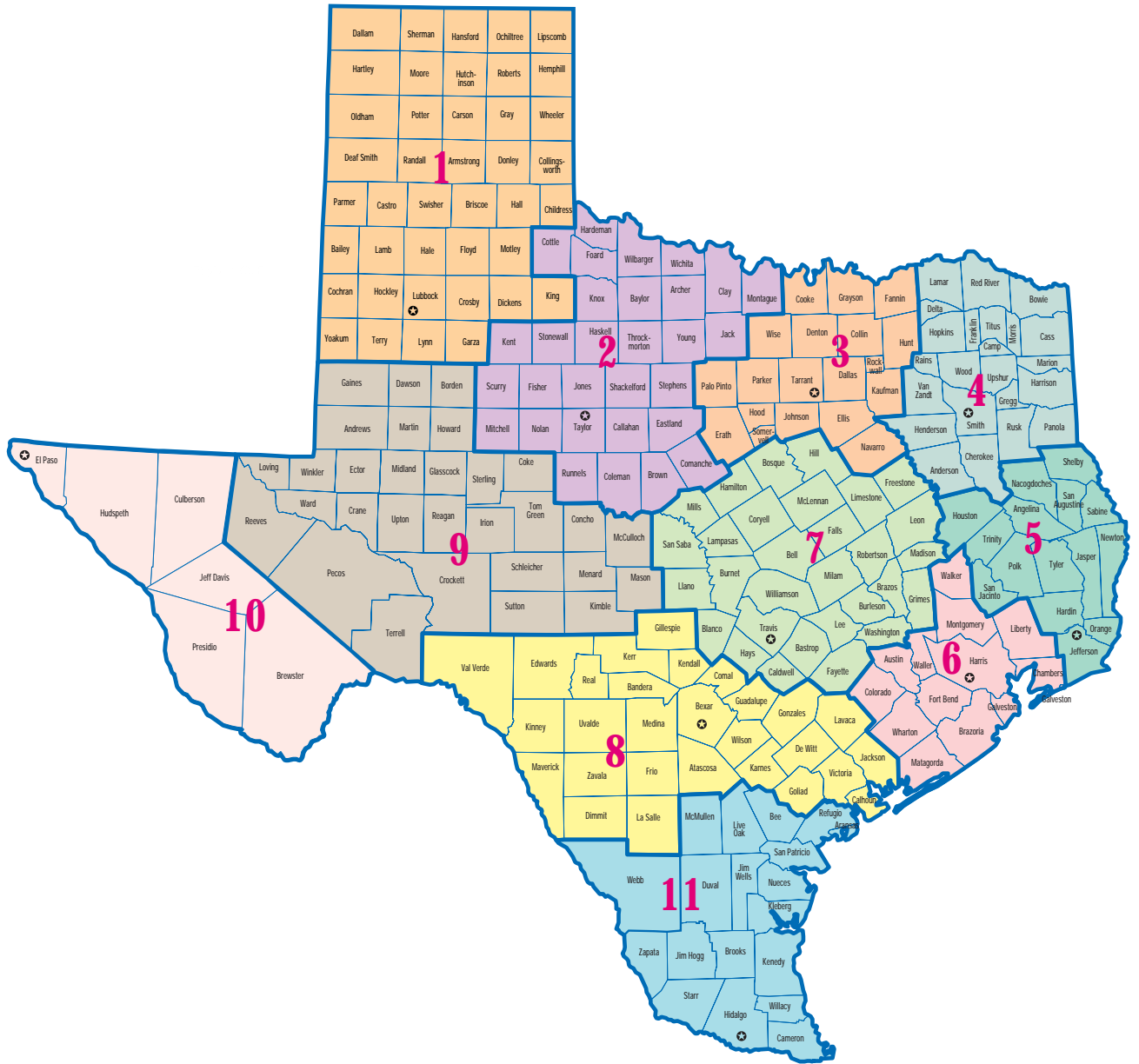
Each campaign is available in English and Spanish. All public awareness campaigns can be found at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us) or [www.itsuptoyou.org](http://www.itsuptoyou.org).



# DFPS Organizational Chart



# DFPS Regional Boundaries



## Hotlines and Online Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400** or <https://www.txabusehotline.org>  
Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.
- Foster Care and Adoption Inquiry Line 1-800-233-3405**  
Provides information on how to become a foster or adoptive parent.
- Child Care Information 1-800-862-5252**  
Delivers information about child care in Texas.
- Office of Consumer Affairs 1-800-720-7777**  
Make an inquiry about an existing DFPS case or make a complaint.
- Texas Runaway Hotline 1-888-580-HELP**  
Provides peer counseling to runaways and family members.
- Texas Youth Hotline 1-800-210-2278**  
Provides peer counseling to youth and family members for family conflicts, delinquency, truancy, and running away.
- APS Facility Investigations: 1-800-647-7418**  
Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation in facilities.

## DFPS Web Sites

<a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us">www.dfps.state.tx.us</a>	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
<a href="https://www.txabusehotline.org">https://www.txabusehotline.org</a>	Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities
<a href="http://www.adoptchildren.org">www.adoptchildren.org</a>	Adopt Children Through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange
<a href="http://www.texasrunaway.org">www.texasrunaway.org</a>	Texas Runaway Hotline
<a href="http://www.texasyouth.org">www.texasyouth.org</a>	Texas Youth Hotline
<a href="http://www.itsuptoyou.org">www.itsuptoyou.org</a>	Child Abuse Prevention
<a href="http://www.itseveryonesbusiness.org">www.itseveryonesbusiness.org</a>	Adult Abuse Prevention
<a href="http://www.txchildcaresearch.org">www.txchildcaresearch.org</a>	Search Texas Child Care
<a href="http://www.volunteerdfps.org">www.volunteerdfps.org</a>	Become a DFPS Volunteer
<a href="http://www.lookbeforeyouleave.org">www.lookbeforeyouleave.org</a>	Do Not Leave Your Child Unattended in a Car
<a href="http://www.seeandsave.org">www.seeandsave.org</a>	Safety for Children Around Water
<a href="http://www.texasyouthconnection.org">www.texasyouthconnection.org</a>	Resources for Youth in Foster Care

## Department Address

**Texas Department of Family and Protective Services**  
**(512) 438-4800**

**Mailing:**  
P.O. Box 149030  
Austin, TX 78714-9030

**Physical:**  
701 W. 51st St.  
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