

# 2020/2021 BIENNIAL REPORT



**TexProtects**  
Champions for Safe Children

## Dear Friends,

I want to start by saying thank you for your support of TexProtects over the past two years, a time of extraordinary challenges for children in our state and country.



TexProtects remains as committed to protecting children from the trauma of abuse and neglect as ever and has successfully adjusted to a new virtual reality. Our current collective circumstances have led to deeper collaboration and innovation in addressing the critical needs of children and families.

Over our tenure and with your support, we have championed **53 bills through the legislature** and secured more than **\$200 million** for programs that prevent child maltreatment. This funding has supported more than **23,000 Texas families** in receiving services to strengthen their functioning and ensure that every child can reach their full potential.

We know that Texas children need our work more than ever. With your partnership and support, we embrace a future of opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sophie Phillips".

**Sophie Phillips. LMSW**

TexProtects Chief Executive Officer

“

**At TexProtects, we envision a world where no child ever experiences the trauma of abuse or neglect. We know that child maltreatment is preventable.**

– Sophie Phillips  
CEO



## MISSION STATEMENT



**TexProtects**  
Champions for Safe Children

TexProtects protects Texas children from the trauma of abuse and neglect and empowers families to thrive through **EDUCATION, RESEARCH and ADVOCACY.**



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Preventing Child Abuse  
Means Pursuing a Better  
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# 2020/2021 Recap

Child welfare in Texas has been in the spotlight.



The Texas Child Protection Services (CPS) system adapted to a **VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT** to meet the needs of children and families.



The foster care lawsuit continues to illuminate ways the CPS and foster care systems are placing children at an **UNREASONABLE RISK OF HARM**.

TexProtects has worked to put prevention front and center.



## EDUCATION

Increased outreach and public resources to simplify the complex child welfare system



## COLLABORATION

Leadership and engagement in collaborative efforts, including the Texas Prenatal-to-Three (PN-3) Collaborative



## ADVOCACY

Expanded work with decision- and policymakers



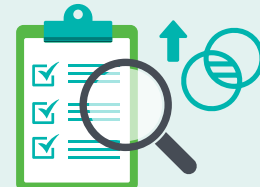
## GROWTH OF FUNDING

Substantially increased funding through strategic development efforts



## CHILD PROTECTION

Increased attention on both sides of the aisle despite political divides and polarization



## RESEARCH

Built momentum around data transparency, collection and analysis

# EDUCATION

Preventing child abuse means educating as many people as possible.

From sharing the current state of child welfare in Texas to identifying smart solutions to protect children and ensure positive long-term outcomes, we consider our work and partnerships to be a privilege and look to the future with hope.

## 2020/2021 EVENTS

**42**  
VIRTUAL EVENTS  
HOSTED

**2,700**  
PEOPLE REACHED  
ACROSS TEXAS

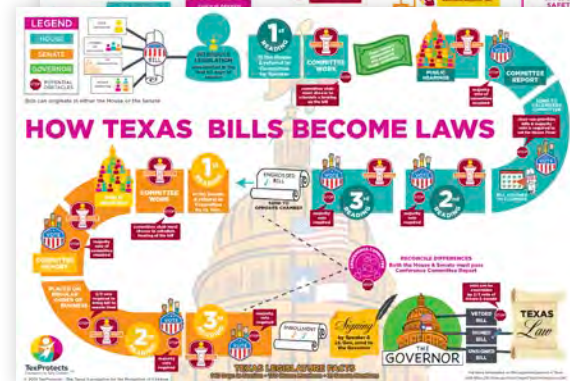
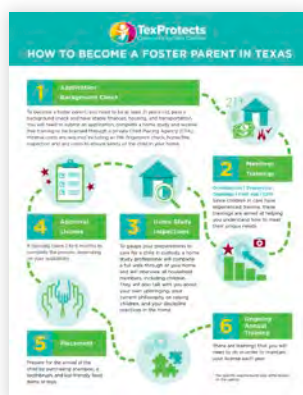
Events included Lunch & Learn Series and Legislative Texas Tours.

## RESOURCES

Each year, TexProtects creates a multitude of publicly-accessible resources to bring awareness to complex processes. In 2020 and 2021, we created several infographic resources aimed at simplifying child welfare topics.

### Examples include:

- How to Become a Foster Parent in Texas
- How an Investigation is Performed
- How Texas Bills Become Laws



VIEW RESOURCES AT:  
[TexProtects.org/resources](https://www.texprotects.org/resources)

# COLLABORATION

**Preventing child abuse means collaborating with allies to multiply impact.**

**W**e are grateful to our allies across the state who link arms with us to drive dramatic shifts on the child prevention continuum. Through these partnerships, we have worked to raise the visibility of and scale programs that prevent children from entering the CPS system.

## PARTNERSHIPS



This evidence-based, short-term program provides families with newborns one to three home visits by a registered nurse. Our vision is that all new mothers will be offered this program, which improves maternal and child outcomes.



This program promotes child development by linking families to community resources that meet their needs through cross-system collaboration.

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

**TexProtects has the honor of leading the following collaboratives to ensure children in and out of the CPS system have positive outcomes:**

### Child Protection Roundtable (CPRT)

Founded by TexProtects, this multi-organizational effort drives policy and governmental action to protect and heal children and prevent them from entering the child welfare system.

### The Texas Home Visiting Consortium

Led by TexProtects, the Texas Home Visiting Consortium brings together almost 60 representatives from home visiting program models across the state to increase the awareness of home visiting programs in Texas and to coordinate legislative efforts.

### Dallas County HOPES Advisory Council

This council works to reduce child maltreatment by helping parents with children ages five and younger to improve their parenting skills through free parent education, home visiting, support services and connections to local community resources.





“

**This work cannot be done by a single organization. Making dramatic shifts for Texas children can only happen if we collaborate across all sectors to drive prevention efforts.**

– Jess Trudeau  
Managing Director





# ADVOCACY

**Preventing child abuse means advocating for smart policies.**

**P**rior to the COVID-19 pandemic, families were already facing tremendous challenges. However, the pandemic placed insurmountable pressures on families and the child welfare system by exacerbating the root causes of child maltreatment. Our legislative priorities during the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session focused on the prevention of child maltreatment and ACEs, as well as the CPS and foster care system.

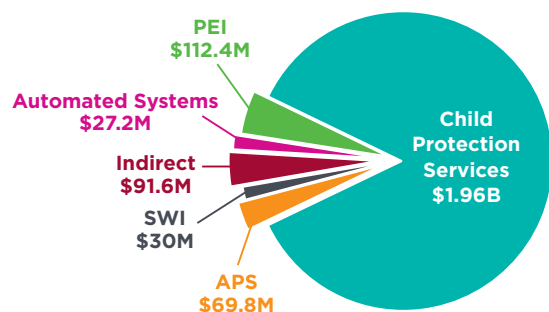




# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## 1 Child Abuse Prevention

We work to ensure that all Texas children and families have access to resources and services that help prevent child maltreatment before a crisis occurs. Only **5%** of the Texas DFPS budget is spent on community-based child abuse prevention services.



TexProtects advocated to maintain or increase investments in proven, community-based child abuse prevention programs for children prenatal to age five.

### Legislative Involvement

- The Community Youth Development program received an additional **\$1 million**
- The Nurse-Family Partnership received an additional **\$2.6 million**
- The Community-based Child Abuse Funding stream received an additional **\$2.6 million**

### Interim Priorities

- Scale and expand cost-effective community public health and early childhood services
- Establish an Alternative Response System for non-abuse related concerns for children ages 0-5
- Prevent removals by ensuring families have access to mental health services for children and youth

## 2 Child Protective Services

Texas spent **\$1.8 billion** in 2020 and **\$1.9 billion** in 2021 on CPS. We want to ensure the Child Protective Services (CPS) system works effectively and efficiently for Texas children and families.

### Legislative Involvement

- Advocated for a budget rider that was ultimately included in the final state budget and ensures accurate monthly data is available to drive decision-making at the community and state level
- Collaborated on successful legislation for older youth in foster care
- Worked with our partners at Texas CASA, Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) and Texans Care for Children to better foster youth outcomes



### Interim Priorities

- Increase transparency, accountability and effectiveness in CPS
- Ensure state agencies serving children and families are working efficiently to keep families together and children safe
- Ensure DFPS adopts data-driven outcome measures
- Evaluate the provision of services within CPS to ensure child safety and prevent unnecessary CPS involvement

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### 3 Foster Care

For one decade, children in the state's custody have waited for Texas' foster care system to come into compliance with the federal lawsuit. We aim to strengthen the Texas foster care system so children removed from their homes will be spared additional trauma and have the support they need to heal and thrive in safe, stable, long-term care.

#### Legislative Involvement

- Ensured foster youth have all necessary documents
- Removed barriers preventing youth from staying in extended foster care and improve transition planning into adulthood
- Ensured the preparation for adult living courses counting toward college credit, meaning young adults can lock in their tuition and fee waiver
- Ensured each child has representation in court for the duration of their time in care
- Ensured former foster youth don't lose healthcare coverage
- Ensured youth in care can participate in normalcy activities
- Ensured more accessible driver's education

#### Interim Priorities

- Support youth in foster care with mental health
- Ensure access to better mental health supports as a prevention strategy to keep youth out of care
- Advocate for better supports and strengthen supports for kinship (relative) caregivers
- Ensure children in care have appropriate and safe placements

### 4 Trauma and ACEs

Approximately **1.4 million** Texas children have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. TexProtects works to promote resilience and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities that have faced ACEs.



#### Legislative Involvement

- Advocated for a bill that passed ensuring educators will continue to receive training on trauma and grief, recognizing and reporting sexual abuse and trafficking.

#### Interim Priorities

- Build off of this momentum by continuing to raise awareness of the lifelong impacts of ACEs so we can ensure investments and supports are in place before a crisis occurs.





**We will continue to speak about the importance of safe and appropriate placements for children in foster care, but also the necessity to break the cycle so this system is no longer overburdened.**

– Kerrie Judice  
Child Protection Policy Manager





## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### 5 Texas Prenatal-to-Three Collaborative

TexProtects leads the Texas Prenatal-to-Three (PN-3) Collaborative with Texans Care for Children and Children at Risk, engaging more than **100 supporting organizations** to improve infant and toddler outcomes.

The PN-3 Collaborative wants to ensure every child in Texas can be born healthy and have equitable access to health services, family supports, and early learning in their homes and communities.

Texas accounts for **1 out of every 10** babies born in the U.S. and also has the second-highest population of children ages zero to three — about 1.2 million.



**Approximately  
1 out of every 10  
babies born in the  
U.S. are born  
in Texas.**

#### Legislative Involvement

- Worked with lead organizations to successfully advocate for six bills and one budget rider that will ensure continuous medical coverage for mothers and infants; improve quality of early child care and education; and increase access to early childhood intervention and other family supports.
- Hosted a statewide business engagement event for more than 250 registrants and nearly 160 participants featuring President Kaplan, formerly of the Federal Reserve Bank, Dr. Cynthia Osborne of the Prenatal-to-Three Policy Impact Center and Representative Angie Chen Button.



#### Interim Priorities

- Are embarking on a listening tour throughout the state to gather community-level input and engage business leaders.
- Established a Parent Advisory Council made up of 16 parents from across the state representing diverse ages, gender, sexuality and experience. They will lend their expertise and be the parental voice on PN-3 policy matters moving forward.





**We will continue to  
champion policies that  
empower communities  
to ensure every child  
can start with a strong  
foundation.**

- Brittney Taylor-Ross  
Prenatal-to-Three Policy Manager



# RESEARCH

Preventing child abuse means using data-driven, evidence-based approaches that get results.

We know children are the future of our state, which is why we bring all our energy and resources to create a data-driven, evidence-based approach to policy that gets results for children and families. Each year, we use the latest information in child welfare and data to build reports that outline key trends, pertinent resources and evidence-based recommendations for the public.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

The following were published over the past two years:

- Four Recommendations to Start Transforming the CPS System
- The Economic Cost of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- The Impact of COVID-19 on Home Visiting Programs in Texas
- Home Visiting Advocacy Toolkit
- Home Visiting in Texas 4.0
- Child Abuse and Neglect Risks During COVID-19
- Family First Prevention Services Act: A Shift in the Right Direction for Families
- Early Childhood Matters: What Texas Policymakers Know About Early Childhood Brain Development



VIEW THE REPORTS AT:  
[TexProtects.org/reports](https://www.texprotects.org/reports)



# IN THE NEWS

In 2021, TexProtects was the source for over 100 media stories in dozens of publications throughout Texas. CEO Sophie Phillips wrote several high-impact op-editorials to drive public and legislative action in child welfare.

## Texas must make a transformative change in child protection and foster care

*Dallas Morning News, March 7*

## The safety of our children is not an either-or situation

*Austin American-Statesman, February 14*

## Texas foster care system is in crisis — again

*San Antonio Express-News, May 14*

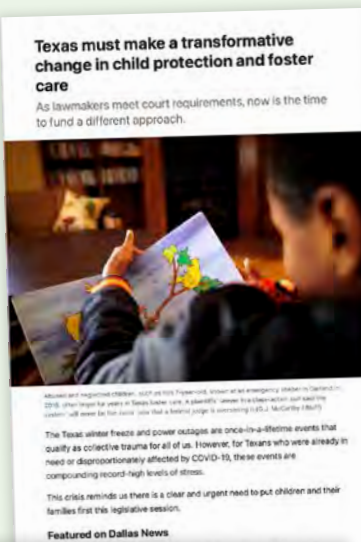
## Child protection saw wins but still lacks prevention dollars

*Austin American-Statesman, July 4*

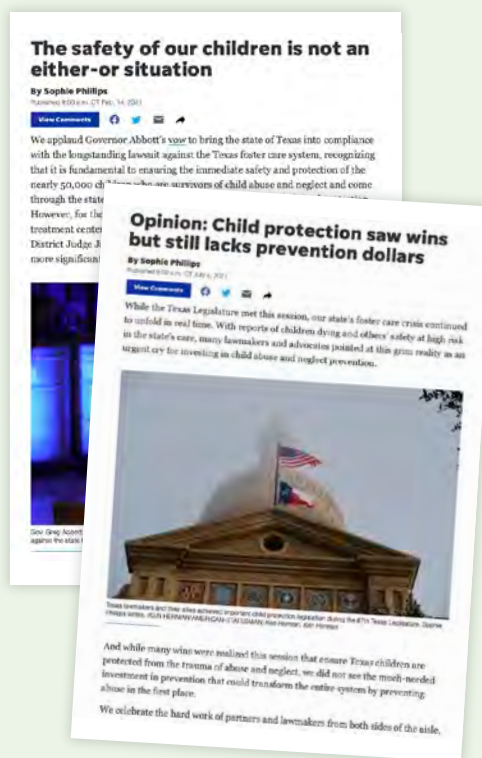
## The critical foster care reforms in Texas are having unintended consequences

*Dallas Morning News, August 28*

### The Dallas Morning News



### Austin American-Statesman



### San Antonio Express-News



# OUR DONORS

**W**e thank you — our financial supporters and donors — for your unwavering commitment to supporting our work. None of this would be possible without your generosity, investment, and belief in our mission. **You made this work possible.**



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IN MEMORY

IN MEMORY OF  
SERENE SIMMONS CONNELLY

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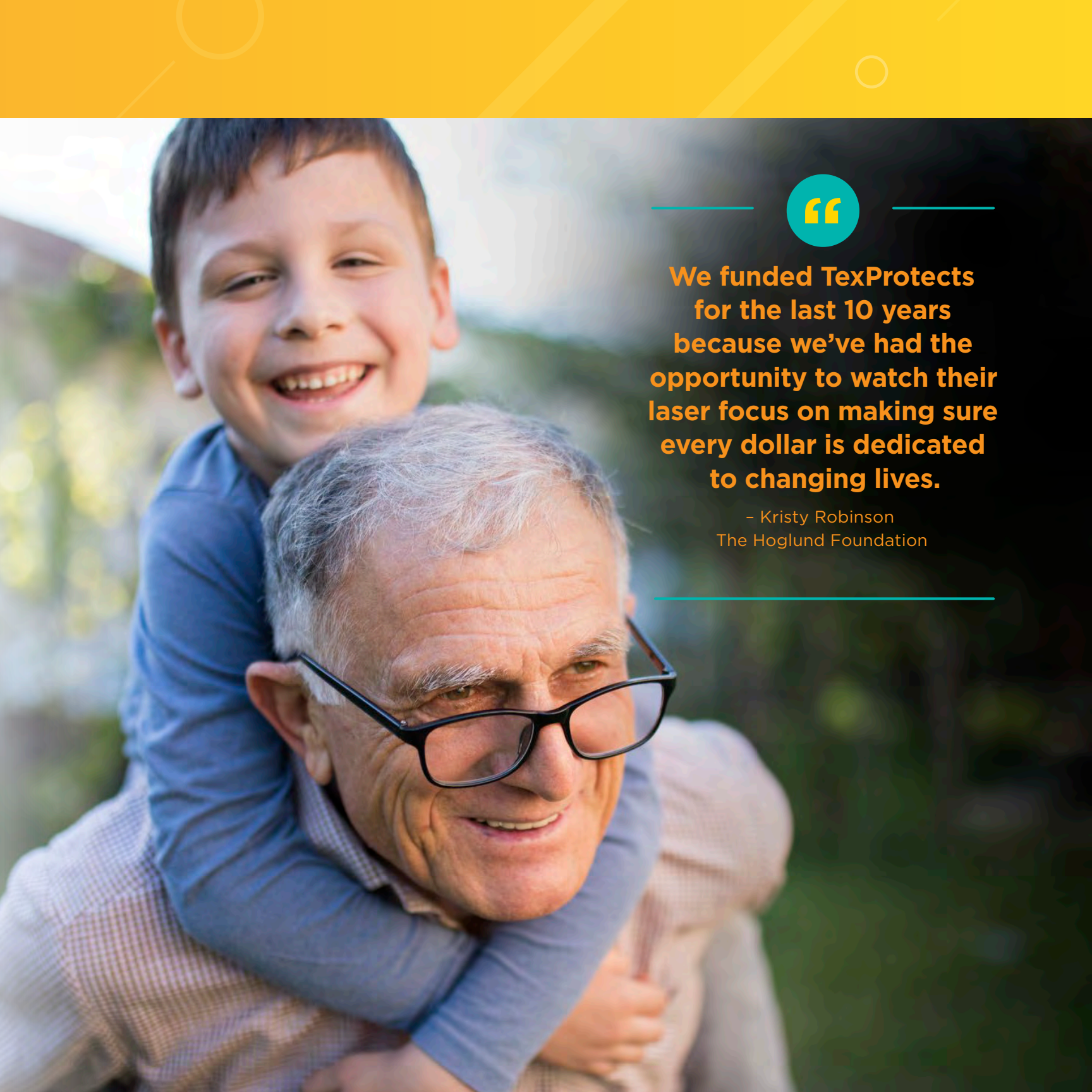
IN MEMORY OF  
CONNIE WILSON

Robert J. Kelley

IN-KIND

Williams Public Affairs





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**We funded TexProtects  
for the last 10 years  
because we've had the  
opportunity to watch their  
laser focus on making sure  
every dollar is dedicated  
to changing lives.**

– Kristy Robinson  
The Hoglund Foundation

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDED 12/31/2020

Support & Revenue

Contributions.....	\$1,712,355
Government Grant.....	\$129,000
Contractual Services.....	\$112,950
Other Income.....	\$1,364

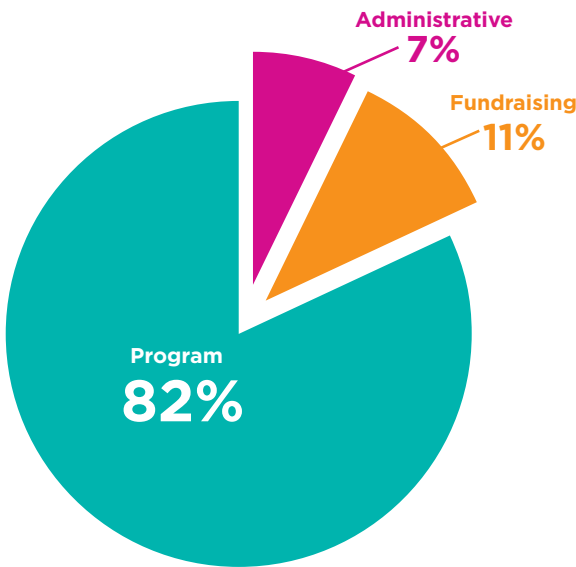
Total Support & Revenue .....	\$1,955,669
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Expenses

Program Services.....	\$1,443,699
General & Administrative .....	\$125,897
Fundraising.....	\$157,267

Total Expenses.....	\$1,726,863
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Functional Expense



YEAR ENDED 12/31/2021\*

Support & Revenue

Contributions.....	\$2,765,075
Government Grant.....	\$129,062
Contractual Services.....	\$58,230

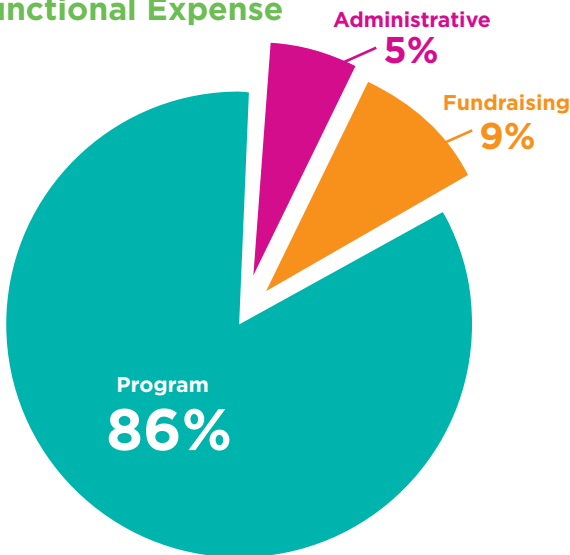
Total Support & Revenue .....	\$2,952,367
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Expenses

Program Services.....	\$2,184,572
General & Administrative .....	\$132,321
Fundraising.....	\$213,649

Total Expenses.....	\$2,530,542
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Functional Expense



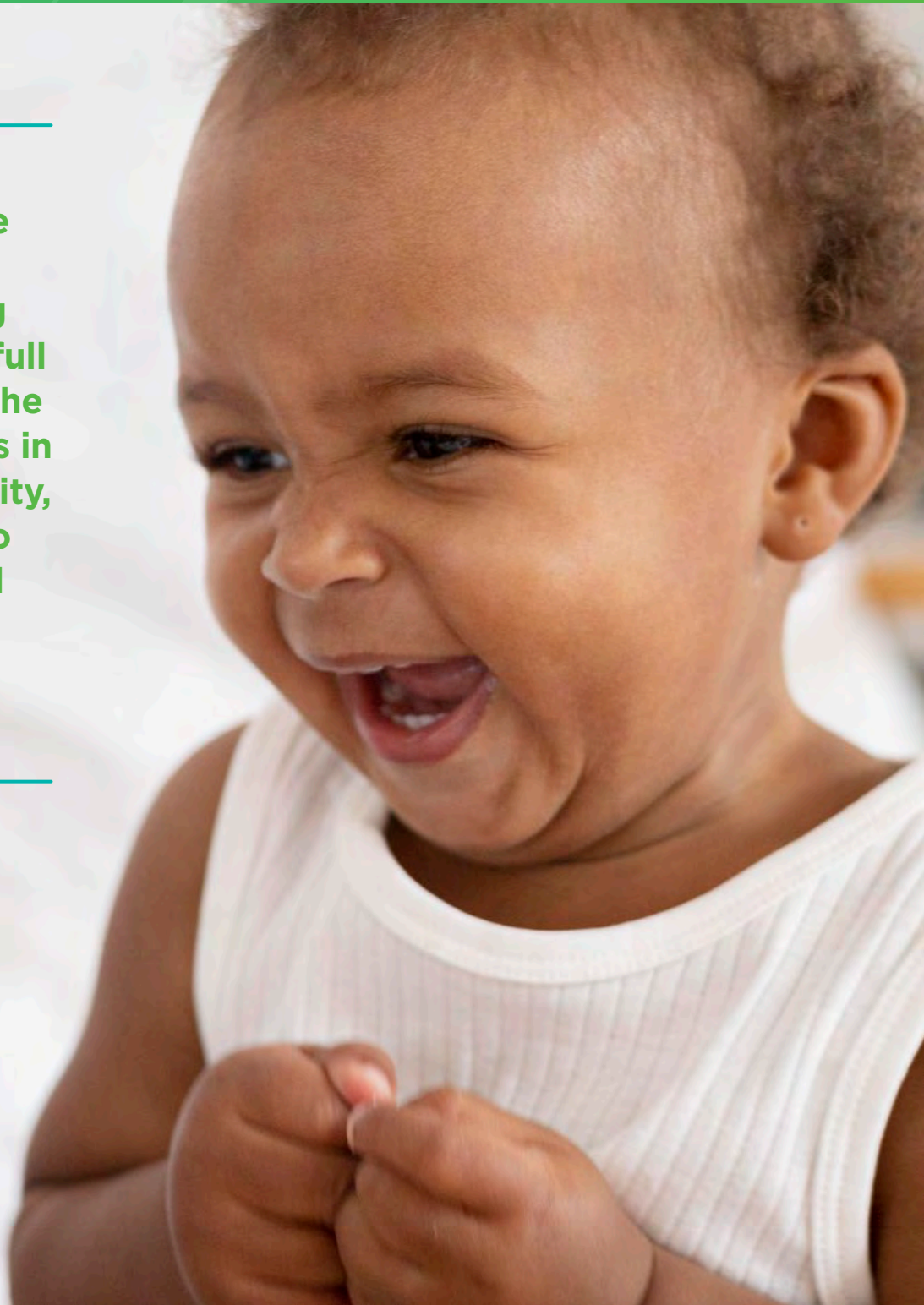
VIEW FINANCIALS AND 990 FORMS AT:  
[TexProtects.org/about/financials-and-reports](https://TexProtects.org/about/financials-and-reports)

\*2021 Financials have not been audited at time of printing.



**As a legislator, I have  
been a consistent  
advocate for helping  
children achieve their full  
potential. We rely on the  
hard work of advocates in  
the nonprofit community,  
like TexProtects, who  
push for change and  
make it happen.”**

– Senator Royce West  
District 23





# BOARD MEMBERS

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## 2021

### Board of Directors

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Leslie Carpenter	Scott Murray
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Leslie DeCillis, J.D.	Janet Pozmantier, MS, LPC
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Kathleen Fletcher, Ph.D.	Hon. Mark Strama
Laura Gardiner	Hon. Royce West, J.D.





**My support for  
TexProtects rests in its  
track record of delivering  
legislative and funding  
support for our Texas  
children. Sophie is a  
dynamic leader with an  
amazing and dedicated  
staff who truly understand  
the critical issues and  
works collaboratively to  
affect change.**

– Ann Stuart, Ph.D.  
Board of Directors, 2021 Chair



# 2022 AND BEYOND

**Preventing child abuse means pursuing a better future.**

**T**o inform our policy efforts in preparation for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, TexProtects is focused on launching three strategic initiatives.

## **Texas Child Welfare Data Institute**

After nearly 20 years in the sector and with more than a decade of data, TexProtects has laid the groundwork to launch the Texas Child Welfare Data Institute. The data institute will ensure data is available to proactively and substantively increase funding to proven and effective child abuse prevention programs and that critical reforms are made to the CPS and foster care systems.

## **Trauma-Focused Curriculum**

Due to COVID-19, we have seen a dramatic rise in family stress placing children at risk for abuse and neglect. With TexProtects' successful advocacy, the Texas Education Agency requires all school districts to complete training on recognizing, reporting and preventing child abuse. Since a comprehensive, evidence-based training curriculum does not exist, TexProtects has developed materials for release in 2022.

## **Community Child Abuse Prevention Hub**

During the previous decade, TexProtects successfully incubated the Nurse-Family Partnership in Dallas and secured nearly \$200M in state funding for statewide scalability of prevention programming. Building on this success, TexProtects will launch a Child Abuse Prevention Community Hub to scale evidence-based, child abuse prevention programs throughout Texas.



**TexProtects**  
Champions for Safe Children

**How Can you Take Action?**  
**Advocate • Give • Learn**  
**Stay Informed**

**TexProtects.org**





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