



STRENGTHENING THE VOICES OF CASA STATEWIDE

Texas CASA Legislative Priorities for 86th Legislature

Texas CASA Funding Items

- Request an increase in annual legislative funding under HHSC by \$2.25 million, in addition to the current annual funding level of \$13.2 million, to \$15.445 million.
- Support continued legislative funding for Family Finding/Collaborative Family Engagement under DFPS at \$643,600 for the 2020-2021 fiscal biennium.

Texas CASA Legislative Policy Positions for 2019 Legislative Session

- Support policies and funding to improve foster care placement decisions to reduce disruptions and increase placement proximity to children's families and home communities.
- Support needed state funding for DFPS priorities and adequate foster care and kinship provider rates.
- Improve services and supports for older and transitioning foster youth.
- Promote systematic understanding of trauma and use of trauma-informed care throughout all stages and roles in the child protection system.
- Support efforts to develop better services and supports for children, parents and families dealing with substance use and abuse or mental health issues.
- Support policies that improve educational outcomes for children and youth in state care.
- Support efforts to use data and predictive analytics to improve DFPS decision making.
- Improve policies protecting child and youth property and possessions during placement changes.
- Integrate and respect child, youth and family voice in all aspects of child protection policy and practice.
- Support broad stakeholder involvement in planning for and implementing the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.
- Help prevent human trafficking and meet the needs of trafficking victims by supporting needed resources and policy change.
- Support adequate state funding to enable successful expansion of Community-Based Care.