

2014 Report Update Research Supplement

Dismantling the **Cradle to Prison Pipeline[®]** in Houston and Texas

A Study of Solutions

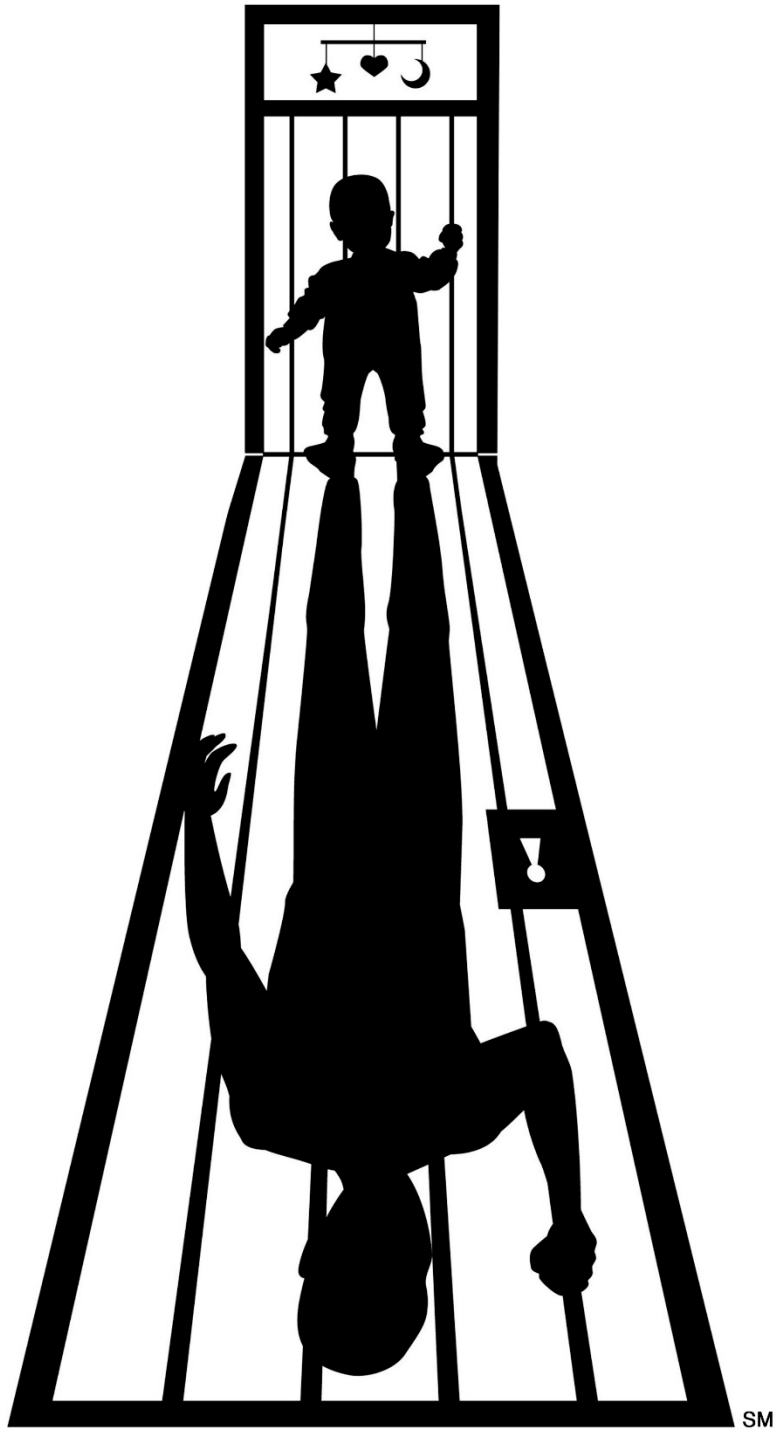
2009 Report of the American Leadership Forum
Class XXV

2014 Report Update

Researched and prepared by
Children's Defense Fund-Texas



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Special thanks to Policy Interns:
Ben W. Akers
Alison Lawrence Simister

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Introduction

In 2008, Children's Defense Fund launched the campaign to dismantle the Cradle to Prison Pipeline to address the systematic and disproportionate funneling of Black and Latino boys down life paths that often lead to arrest, conviction, incarceration and death.

In 2009, Class XXV of the American Leadership Forum published a report titled, ***Dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Houston and Texas, a Study of Solutions***. Largely inspired by class member and then CDF-Texas director Barbara Best, the ALF report addressed the racial disparities, risk factors and high costs of the Prison Pipeline in Texas and presented promising local programs investing in prevention, early intervention, and solutions. The 13 programs profiled were working to dismantle the Pipeline and keep youths out of the justice system by addressing disparities at various points along the Pipeline: prenatal care and early childhood development, education, health and mental health care, and the juvenile justice system.

This document provides a 2014 update and research supplement to ALF's original report. Representatives from the original 13 organizations profiled were interviewed and asked to describe program changes, growth, and accomplishments since 2009. Today, many initiatives originally highlighted have seen substantial expansion in both programming and number of children impacted. One addition to the report is the inclusion of the evidence-based Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program that operates in cities across the country including Houston, and specifically addresses race, poverty and literacy issues that contribute to the *Cradle to Prison Pipeline*.

November 19, 2014

Current State of Juvenile Justice in Texas

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

On December 1, 2011 the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) was created, replacing both the Texas Juvenile Probation Division and Texas Youth Commission, and taking over all organizational functions.¹

Since 2009, despite a growing youth population in Texas, the number of juveniles referred to the justice system has declined.

	2009/2010	2011
Total youth population	2,392,011	2,664,334
Referrals of juveniles to the justice system	95,261	74,716
Juveniles held in secure detention, percent released in less than 24 hours	42,850, 21 percent	39,849, 22 percent
Juvenile dispositions sent to adult court	200	175
Referrals by type	51 percent misdemeanor, 21 percent felony, 13 percent violation of probation	52 percent misdemeanor, 21.5 percent felony, 14.5 percent violation of probation
Referral rate per 1000 youths	36	28
Percent of youth referred with no prior referrals	48 percent	49 percent

* In 2009/2010 juvenile justice was handled by Texas Youth Commission, the Texas Juvenile Probation Department. A combined 2009/2010 report was released by TJJD.^{2,3}

2013 Texas Snapshot⁴

- 1,100 youth incarcerated in state secure facilities for youth.
- 818 youth newly incarcerated in state secure facilities, 44 percent for nonviolent crimes.
- 6,000 youth were sent to county jail.
- 9,600 youth were adjudicated to probation but not placed in facilities.
- 752 youth left state facilities on parole.
- 207 youths were certified as adults, 25 percent of them for nonviolent offenses.

National Rates of Incarceration

Nationally, between 2001 and 2011 youth incarceration rates dropped by 41 percent, and the number of juveniles in adult jails has similarly declined.^{5,6} However, over 61,000 juveniles remain in custody nationwide.⁷

¹ "Texas Juvenile Justice Department," accessed November 3, 2014, <http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/Default.aspx>.

² "The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Calendar Years 2009 and 2010" (Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, November 2011), <http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/publications/reports/RPTSTAT2010.pdf>.

³ "The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Calendar Years 2011" (Texas Juvenile Justice Department, November 2013), <http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/statistics/researchdetail.aspx>.

⁴ "Basic Facts," *Texas Criminal Justice Coalition*, accessed October 31, 2014, <http://www.texascjc.org/basic-facts>.

⁵ Antoinette Davis, Angela Irvine, and Jason Ziedenberg, "Stakeholders' Views on the Movement to Reduce Youth Incarceration" (National Council on Crime and Delinquency, April 2014), http://nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/deincarceration-summary-report.pdf.

⁶ "The Sentencing Project News - Juvenile Justice," *The Sentencing Project*, accessed October 24, 2014, <http://www.sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfm?id=184>.

⁷ "The Sentencing Project Interactive Map," *The Sentencing Project*, accessed October 31, 2014, <http://www.sentencingproject.org/map/map.cfm - map>.

COSTS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Nationwide, about \$70 billion is spent annually on corrections, including \$51 billion in state expenditures, with Texas spending approximately \$3.9 billion annually.⁸ **According to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, in 2014 the cost per day per child in a state-operated secure facility is \$205.88, or \$76,120.75 annually.**⁹ In 2009, Texas spent \$67,000 per child.

Texas Criminal Justice Coalition estimates that in 2013:¹⁰

- Each youth in a state secure facility for youth ended up costing the state approximately \$365 per day, or \$133,225 annually. (The difference between this figure and the TJJD amount is likely accounted for by other peripheral costs to the state).
- Each youth in a county juvenile facility cost the state \$51 per day, or \$18,615 annually.
- Each youth adjudicated to probation cost the state approximately \$9-\$10 per day, or \$3,285-\$3,650 annually.
- Each youth that left state facilities for parole cost the state \$31.56 per day, or \$11,519.40 annually.

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

In recent years the portion of non-white youth committed to the Texas juvenile justice system has grown slightly. In this time the portion of youth in the Texas population who are not white has also decreased very slightly.

Youth population in Texas by race:¹¹

- 2009: white 35 percent, African-American 12 percent, Hispanic 48 percent
- 2013: white 33 percent, African-American 12 percent, Hispanic 49 percent

Referral to the juvenile justice system:

- 2009: white 25 percent, African-American 25 percent, Hispanic 49 percent¹²
- 2011: white 25 percent, African-American 25 percent, Hispanic 49 percent¹³

Commitments to the Texas Juvenile Justice system¹⁴

- 2006: white 22 percent, African-American 34 percent, Hispanic 44 percent
- 2013: white 18 percent, African-American 35 percent, Hispanic 46 percent

National Disparity

Nationwide, youth of color continue to be disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, with a study by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency indicating that this disparity has increased in the last ten years. In this analysis of data from five counties across the country (including Dallas County in Texas), **youth of color represented 66.8 percent of sentenced youth in 2002, but 80.4 percent in 2012.**¹⁵

Other National Indicators of Disparity:

- African-American youth are 16 percent of the youth population but represent 26 percent of juvenile arrests, 44 percent of youth who are detained, and 58 percent of the youth admitted to state prisons.¹⁶
- Youth of color are also disproportionately interacting with school discipline systems:
 - 35 percent of African-American children grades 7-12 have been suspended or expelled at some point in their school careers compared to 20 percent of Hispanics and 15 percent of whites.¹⁷
 - In U.S. schools 70 percent of arrested or referred students were African-American and Hispanic students.¹⁸

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "Legislative Appropriations Request for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017" (Texas Juvenile Justice Department, September 2, 2014), https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/Docs/TJJD_2016-2017_LAR.pdf.

¹⁰ "Basic Facts."

¹¹ "KIDS COUNT Data Center," *Annie E. Casey Foundation*, accessed October 27, 2014, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

¹² "The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Calendar Years 2009 and 2010."

¹³ "The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas Calendar Years 2011."

¹⁴ "New Commitment Profile," *Texas Juvenile Justice Department*, accessed October 29, 2014, <http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/research/profile.aspx>.

¹⁵ Davis, Irvine, and Ziedenberg, "Stakeholders' Views on the Movement to Reduce Youth Incarceration."

¹⁶ "Criminal Justice Fact Sheet," *NAACP*, accessed October 24, 2014, <http://www.naacp.org/pages/criminal-justice-fact-sheet>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

GENDER IN TEXAS PRISONS

Available data suggest that the proportion of girls in the Texas juvenile justice system has fallen or remained the same in recent years.

- In 2009 and also 2011, 27 percent of all referrals to the juvenile justice system were for girls.
- In 2006, 11 percent of youth committed to the juvenile justice system were female, vs. 8 percent in 2013.

Nationally, girls in the juvenile justice system are more likely to have experienced serious trauma prior to referral and characteristics of incarceration can exacerbate feelings of negativity and loss of control.¹⁹ A 2010 survey of girls in secure confinement in Texas yielded the following:²⁰

- 46 percent of girls reported that county jail facilities did not help them deal with past trauma and 4 percent said that they did more harm than good.
- 20 percent of girls reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe in the state secured facility.
- 25 percent of girls in the state secure facility reported being secluded in isolation for 24 hours at least once a week.
- 76 percent of surveyed girls reported feeling a lot of hope about their future.
- Girls identified these programs as most helpful in their rehabilitation, in addition to education: Aggression Replacement Training, PAWS canine program, Behavior group counseling.
- Girls reported the following as their top issues: Youth-on-youth violence in lock-up, Not enough help with past trauma, Not enough reentry resources, Rehab programs don't work.

NATIONAL GENDER DISPARITIES

Nationwide, boys are more likely to interact with the juvenile justice system and be placed in secure confinement; however recent changes in rates of arrest and detention have impacted boys and girls differently. While youth arrests have declined as a whole in recent years, this decrease has been slower for girls. In contrast, the number of girls detained has decreased more quickly than the number boys detained.

- 2002-2009: the number of girls referred to delinquency courts falls by 7 percent, while boys' referrals fell by 12 percent.
- 2002-2009: The number of girls' detained fell by 25 percent, while the number of boys' detained fell by 15 percent.²¹
- 2001-2010: boys' arrests decreased by 26.5 percent, while girls' arrests decreased by 15.5 percent²²
- 2002-2012: boys represented an increasingly larger proportion of court dispositions for youth, increasing from 73 percent to 78.4 percent.²³

Generally, girls are more likely to be detained for non-serious offenses and pose minimal risk to public safety, but they are also more likely to suffer significant social service needs.^{24,25}

- In 2010 67 percent of girls' arrests were for non-violent offenses, while 52 percent of boys' arrests were for non-violent offenses.

Girls also tend to enter the justice system at a younger age than boys and are more likely to identify as LGBT.²⁶

- 4.2 percent of women's arrests were girls under age 15, vs. 3.2 percent of males' arrests.
- 27 percent of girls identify as LGBT, vs 11 percent of boys.

¹⁸ Sophia Kerby | March 13, "The Top 10 Most Startling Facts About People of Color and Criminal Justice in the United States," *Center for American Progress*, March 13, 2012, <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2012/03/13/11351/the-top-10-most-startling-facts-about-people-of-color-and-criminal-justice-in-the-united-states/>.

¹⁹ "Unique Needs of Girls in The Juvenile Justice System" (Health and Justice for Youth Campaign, Physicians for Human Rights, 2012), <http://createapath.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/PHR-Factsheet.pdf>.

²⁰ "Girls' Experiences in the Texas Juvenile Justice System: 2012 Survey Findings" (Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, October 2012), [http://www.texascjc.org/sites/default/files/publications/Girls Experiences in the TX JJ System_percent28Oct 2012_percent29_0.pdf](http://www.texascjc.org/sites/default/files/publications/Girls%20Experiences%20in%20the%20TX%20JJ%20System%20percent28Oct%202012%20percent29%200.pdf).

²¹ "Making Detention Reform Work for Girls" (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Institute, A Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2013), http://nccdqlobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/detention.reform.for.girls.pdf.

²² Liz Watson and Peter Edelman, "Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls" (Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy, October 2012), http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/centers-institutes/poverty-inequality/upload/JDS_V1R4_Web_Singles.pdf.

²³ Davis, Irvine, and Ziedenberg, "Stakeholders' Views on the Movement to Reduce Youth Incarceration."

²⁴ Watson and Edelman, "Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls."

²⁵ "Making Detention Reform Work for Girls."

²⁶ Ibid.

Current State of Public Education in Texas

TEXAS SCHOOLS

In recent years graduation rates in Texas public schools have improved, however students' reading proficiency has changed little.²⁷

Percent of African-American fourth graders scoring below proficient in reading:

- 2005: 85 percent
- 2013: 82 percent

Percent of Hispanic and Latino fourth graders scoring below proficient in reading:

- 2005: 81 percent
- 2013: 83 percent

Percent of white fourth graders scoring below proficient in reading:

- 2005: 56 percent
- 2013: 54 percent

High School Students not graduating on time as a percent of total population:

- 2008-2009: 25 percent
- 2011-2012: 18 percent

High school students not graduating on time as a percent of population by race:

- 2007-2008: Hispanic 34 percent, white 18 percent, African American 34 percent
- 2011-2012: Hispanic 20 percent, white 16 percent, African-American 27 percent

Percent of 9th graders who leave high school before graduation:

- 2001: 40 percent
- 2012: 26 percent

Texas School Funding

In recent years, per-pupil expenditures on Texas public schools have increased slightly. In 2011, the Texas Legislature cut funding for k-12 public education by \$5 billion, or \$500 per child. In 2013, \$3.2 billion in funding was restored, or \$108 per child, leaving nearly \$400 per child unrestored.²⁸ In 2013, Federal Budget cuts to the Headstart program also meant that 4,800 fewer students enrolled in the program than in the previous year.²⁹

Per-pupil Expenditures for k-12 public education:

- 2007-2008: \$7,978³⁰
- 2012-2013: \$8,275³¹

When adjusted for inflation Texas' per-pupil expenditures have actually decreased. In constant (2004) dollars Texas actually spent \$7,415 per pupil in 2009, just over \$6,000 per pupil in 2013, and is projected to spend \$6,816 per pupil in 2015, based on MCA analysis of the Texas Legislative Budget Board's Fiscal Size-up.^{32,33}

²⁷ "KIDS COUNT Data Center."

²⁸ "Investing in Our Future 2013 State of Texas Children Texas Kids Count Annual Data Book" (Center for Public Policy Priorities Texas Kids Count Project, 2013), http://forabettertexas.org/images/CP13_KC-databook-v27.pdf.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ "Rankings and Estimates 2008," *National Education Agency*, accessed November 4, 2014, <http://www.nea.org/home/29402.htm>.

³¹ "Rankings of the States 2013 and Estimates of School Statistics 2014" (National Education Association, March 12, 2014), <http://www.nea.org/home/rankings-and-estimates-2013-2014.html>.

³² "Texas School Finance District Court Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law," August 28, 2014, <http://s3.amazonaws.com/static.texastribune.org/media/documents/DietzSchoolFinanceFindingsofFact.pdf>.

³³ "Fiscal Size-up 2014-15 Biennium" (Legislative Budget Board, February 2014), http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Fiscal_SizeUp/Fiscal_SizeUp_2014-15.pdf.

OTHER CHILD INDICATORS

In recent years, the number of children in Texas who live in poverty has increased, as has the proportion of Texas public school children who are economically disadvantaged. However, teen birth rates have fallen, child abuse rates have declined, and drug use has declined slightly.³⁴

Children in Poverty

Number of children in families at 100 percent or below of the Federal Poverty Level

- 2009: 1,661,000 (African-American 32 percent, Hispanic 35 percent, white 10 percent)
- 2013: 1,741,000 (African-American 34 percent, Hispanic 34 percent, white 11 percent)

Number of children in families at 200 percent or below the Federal Poverty Level

- 2009: 3,338,000 (African-American 58 percent, Hispanic 66 percent, white 25 percent)
- 2013: 3,453,000 (African-American 62 percent, Hispanic 66 percent, white 27 percent)

Percent of children in Texas public schools labeled as economically disadvantaged

- 2001-2002: 52 percent
- 2011-2012: 60 percent

Birth and Early Childhood:

Teen birth rates per 1000 females age 15-19

- 2008: total population 63 (African-Americans 67, Hispanics 97, whites 33)
- 2012: total population 44 (African-Americans 45, Hispanics 62, whites 26)

Preterm births as a percent of births

- 2008: 13 percent,
- 2012: 12 percent

Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care as a percent of births

- 2008: 12 percent,
- 2012: 10 percent

Children under age 6 who received a developmental screen in the 2011-2012 school year: 29 percent

Percent of 3 and 4 year olds below 200 percent of poverty, not in preschool

- 2005-2007: 68 percent
- 2010-2012: 67 percent

3 and 4 year olds not attending preschool by race as a percent of populations

- 2006-2008: white 52 percent, African-American: 56 percent, Hispanic: 66 percent
- 2010-2011: white 59 percent, African-American 55 percent, Hispanic 66 percent

Child Abuse

Child abuse rates per 1,000 youths ages 0-17

- 2008: 10.5
- 2013: 9.3

Teen Drug Use

Percent of teens ages 12-17 who abused alcohol or drugs in the past year

- 2007-2008: 8 percent
- 2011-2012: 7 percent

³⁴ "KIDS COUNT Data Center."

More Updates from the 83rd Legislature

As described in a Legislative summary by Texans Care for Children, the 83rd Legislative session produced a number of changes, some of them positive for children. Lawmakers restored some funding for early childhood education, which had been cut in previous sessions, and instituted reforms, which may improve education access for at-risk youth and decrease youths' interactions with the justice system. In their Legislative Summary, Texans Care for Children makes clear that children in Texas remain vulnerable. However, the following represent a selection and summary of actions by the 83rd Legislature that will have a potentially positive impact on children's education and justice:³⁵

Education

- HB 2619 "ensure(d) that each child in foster care has a designated educational advocate" and "codifies federal standards that require state child welfare agencies to address educational stability..."
- Currently 16 percent of early education centers are considered high quality. HB 376 established incentives for participation in programs to improve quality and created a work group to produce a plan for measuring quality, and provided technical assistance and greater information for parents about child care quality.
- Along with the other education cuts of the 82nd legislature, \$300 million was cut from Texas pre-k, primarily from the Pre-kindergarten early start grant. This grant was not restored, however the 83rd legislature did include \$30 million as supplemental pre-k funding.

Human Trafficking

- HB 2725 "defines and creates standards for shelters that serve human trafficking victims."
- SB 92 "creates a legal framework for using diversion programs for young victims of human trafficking and giving juvenile courts more flexibility in sentencing..."

Juvenile Justice

- SBs 393, 394, 395, and 1114 all work to decrease the number of Class C misdemeanors written in the schools.
- SB 1419 "creates a truancy prevention fund..."
- HB 1318 "requires that youth that qualify for appointed legal counsel have counsel appointed before their first detention hearing..." However, it was amended to allow for exceptions

³⁵ "Children and the 83rd Texas Legislature What Texas Got Done in 2013 for Kids and Our Future," *Texans Care for Children*, accessed October 30, 2014, http://txchildren.org/Images/Interior/reports/children_and_texas_legislature_2013.pdf .

Children's Defense Fund-Texas Freedom Schools® Program



Program Snapshot

- The *CDF Freedom Schools* program provides summer and after-school enrichment that helps children fall in love with reading, increases their self-esteem, and generates more positive attitudes toward learning. Children are taught using a model curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: high quality academic enrichment; parent and family involvement; civic engagement and social action; intergenerational leadership development; and nutrition, health and mental health.
- In partnership with faith institutions, schools, colleges and universities, and community based organizations, the *CDF Freedom Schools* program boosts student motivation to read, generates more positive attitudes toward learning, and connects the needs of children and families to the resources of their communities.

Project Size and Scope

- The Texas *CDF Freedom Schools* program currently has 14 program sites.
- There are 5 new sites scheduled to operate in 2015.
- Statewide, 850 children ages 5 - 18 are served.

Staff Support

- There are currently 89 college-aged Servant Leader Interns employed by *CDF Freedom Schools* program sites across Texas.
- Each of the 14 program sites in Texas has a Site Coordinator on staff.
- CDF employs 2 staff at the state level and a team of staff at the national level that provide *Freedom Schools* coordination, oversight, evaluation, development, and expansion.

Funding and Costs

- There are currently 12 community-based sponsoring organizations.
- The cost of operating a *CDF Freedom School* program site is \$61,000 (cost varies per site, depending on available resources), including \$11,750 for the Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC), national and local trainings, and books for both the program site library and the scholars' personal libraries.

The Power of the Program

"Education is the single most effective prevention against poverty, and our goal is to raise awareness about the effectiveness of *CDF Freedom Schools* so that even more Texas children may benefit from the experience."

- Cecilia Joseph

Program Website: <http://cdf texas.org/freedomschools/>

Contact: Cecilia Joseph, Director of Operations, Children's Defense Fund-Texas

Email: cjoseph@childrensdefense.org

Prenatal Care and Early Childhood Development

Healthy Family Initiatives (HFI)

Program Snapshot

The Healthy Family Initiatives served 1500 people using a home visitation model to connect families with a broad array of culturally competent services.

Update: *The program no longer exists.*

Return on Investment

- \$8,000 per family per year could save \$70,000 of juvenile justice intervention for one year.
- Success Rates: HFI saw success in preventing child abuse and neglect (90 percent), pursuing further education (90 percent), timely immunizations (90 percent), medical care through permanent provider rather than ER (95 percent), increasing family income (30 percent), participants not requiring public assistance after the program (99 percent).

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)

Program Snapshot

The Nurse-Family partnership provides in-home nurse visitation to low-income, first time mothers, with the goals of improving pregnancy outcomes, child health and development, and economic self-sufficiency.

Update: *In 2009, HFI was the sole contractor and lead agency and Fiscal Agent for the consortium in Houston. HFI is no longer involved and organizations in the consortium now contract directly with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).*

Return on Investment

In 2009 and 2014, \$1 produced \$5.70 in reduced needs for services, lower incarceration rates, and a larger tax base. ("Benefits and Costs." Nurse Family Partnership. September 2014. URL:

http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/assets/PDF/Fact-sheets/NFP_Benefit_Cost.aspx)

Changes in Program and Funding

Currently, state funding for NFP is \$17.8 million and has not changed since 2009. NFP has received some Federal funding from the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program.

2009

- Nationwide, the program was in 280 counties in 22 states.
- In Houston, the program had capacity to serve 300 families.
- HFI subcontracted with three program sites in Houston: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Texas Children's Health Plan.

2014

- Nationwide: 29,600 the program is in 551 counties in 43 states and U.S. Virgin Islands.
- In Houston the program can serve 500 families.
- HHSC has contracted directly with three organizations in the Houston area: The Baylor College of Medicine and Teen Health Clinic, Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Texas Children's Health Plan
- HHSC State Grant funds 90 percent of the program costs and has not changed since 2009.
- The Houston Area also received money from the 1115 Waiver Program that has allowed an additional 200 families to be served (8 new Nurse Home Visitors).
- Federal Funding increased since 2009, leading to 7 new programs opening in Texas.

Proudest Accomplishment Since 2009

The Houston area has served over 900 families since inception (end of 2008). 91 percent of babies were born at a healthy weight, 91 percent were born at full term (exceeding the HealthyPeople2020 goals), 82 percent of mothers initiated breastfeeding, and 90 percent of the children received the recommended immunizations by 24 months.

Program Website: <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org>
Contact: Erica Lee Carter, Business Development Manager for Texas
Email: erica.lee@nursefamilypartnership.org

ChildBuilders

Program Snapshot

ChildBuilders educates children and youth about personal safety, healthy relationships, and how to be nurturing parents in the future through its three programs: Parents Under Construction (PUC), We Help Ourselves (WHO) personal safety education program, and Love U2 healthy relationship program.

Return on Investment

In 2009 and 2014, less than \$25 per child potentially saved \$70,000 per abused child.

Changes in Program and Funding

2009: The 2009 report states that in 2007, 390 professionals and volunteers were trained, and there were 50,000 program participants.

2013-2014 Fiscal Year

- 58,212 children and youth in early childhood programs, elementary, middle and high schools participated in the program.
- Since 2009, ChildBuilders has changed curriculum and approach. They have nearly completed a redevelopment of their Parents Under Construction program and made modifications to their WHO program.
- They now have a three-tiered approach: they train the school personnel and others who then actually teach the students, and then parents reinforce lessons at home.
- ChildBuilders continues to be primarily privately funded, but they have increased funding since 2009 through multiple streams including the addition of Houston Endowment as a major new funder.

Proudest Accomplishment Since 2009

"Receiving a \$565,000 grant from Houston Endowment to fund the evaluation and redevelopment of our curricula. We rebranded the organization, new website, we have diversified our board, more corporate, we have online resources for parents and educators." -Trish King, Executive Director

Program Website: <http://childbuilders.org>
Contact: Trish King, Executive Director
Email: trish@childbuilders.org
Contact: Amanda Siroosian, Program Director
Email: asiroosian@childbuilders.org

YMCA & Lee High School

Program Snapshot

The YMCA at Lee High School provides onsite, licensed childcare for the young children of student-parents, allowing them to continue to attend and graduate from high school.

Return on Investment

In 2009, 25 percent of infants entered the center behind their appropriate developmental stage in motor and language skills. 100 percent of children were at or above developmental norms after one year. The organization continues to see successes, but now uses ITERS-R system to evaluate performance.

Changes in Program and Funding

2009

- When the initial report was written, this program was still a pilot. The center had a capacity to serve 24 children at any one time. 100 percent of the teen parents in the program participated in parenting classes and received daily mentoring. 8 teen parents graduated from the program in June 2008.
- The total annual budget was \$183, 254, and the estimated annual cost per child was \$7,625.

2014

- In 2014, the center still has capacity to serve 24 children. 22 children attended the childcare center in 2012.
- Each year, external consultants observe the classroom environment and assess it using the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R). The ITERS-R is a 7 point scale with 1-3 indicating a minimal environmental quality, 4-5 a good environment, and 6-7 excellent environmental quality. The Lee High School program received an average score of 2.67 in 2009 and 6.64 in 2012.
- Between 2007 and September 2013, 57 teen parents in the program graduated from high school and 90 percent attended college or technical school.
- The United Way Bright Beginnings Program and the Annual Support Campaign of the Trotter Family YMCA currently fund the program and provide training and resources. Additionally, the program received a grant from the YMCA of Greater Houston Association, but the grant ends at the end of fiscal year 2014.
- The program budget is currently \$113,500 with a cost of \$7,566 per child.

Proudest Accomplishment Since 2009

"I would say our proudest accomplishments are seeing the parents of the children in our care complete their High School education and move on to secondary education. They are such an inspiration to us all and it is a pleasure as well as a tremendous blessing to be able to offer this program!" - Dawn Dunn, Associate Community Executive Director

Program Website:

Contact: Dawn Dunn, Associate Community Executive Director, Trotter Family YMCA program umbrella

Email: DawnD@ymcahouston.org

Education

Genesys Works

Program Snapshot

Genesys Works trains and hires students from low-income high schools, placing them at major corporations during their senior year. Nearly all participants then go on to pursue further education.

Return on Investment

2009 National: More than 90 percent of participants attend college upon program completion.

2014 Houston: 70 percent of Houston alumni are in college or have completed a 2 or 4 year degree.

Changes in Program and Funding

2009

- In Houston, the program worked with 202 students, 40 corporations, and 6 schools.
- Contributed income was \$434,163 and earned income (for student labor) was \$2,055,452.

2014

- In Houston, the program worked with 450 students, 62 corporations, and 21 schools.
- They have experienced 15 percent year-to-year growth.
- Genesys Works evolved the finance curriculum to a broader Business program. They added an engineering curriculum in partnership with University of Houston Downtown, and added additional training for staff including teacher training, mental health and first aid training.
- In 2013, the Houston site had 3.3 million in earned income, and 1.2 million in contributed income.

Proudest Accomplishments Since 2009

"...Nearly \$1.9 million in scholarship and grant funds has been awarded; and We anticipate that nearly 90 percent of these young people will matriculate to either a two-year or four-year college within six months of high school graduation. "

- Executive Director Marian Davenport

Program Website: <http://www.genesysworks.org>

Contact: Marian Davenport, Executive Director, Genesys Works

Email: mdavenport@genesysworks.org

Pro-Vision, Inc.

Program Snapshot

Pro-Vision operates Pro-Vision Academy, a charter school for grades 5-12, as well as a Manhood Development mentoring program, Job Enterprise internship program, and an Urban Farm program.

Return on Investment

2009

More than 90 percent of students at the All-Male Charter School graduated from high school compared to 49 percent in the Houston ISD. They have a 95 percent attendance rate at the charter school, and 90 percent attendance rate at the Manhood Development Academy.

2014

- The graduation rate for Pro-Visions Academy is now 99 percent and the attendance rate is 97 percent.
- Five years after leaving Pro-Vision, 97 percent of graduates are either in trade school, the military, or a junior or a four year college. 90 percent complete high school after attending Pro-Vision middle school

Changes in Program and Funding

2009:

Pro-Vision operated an all-male charter school for grades 5th – 8th, a Manhood Development Academy, and the Job Enterprise Academy (for ages 15-18), with plans to establish a high school.

2014:

- In 2013, Pro-Vision Academy became an Open Enrollment Charter School, reporting directly to the Texas Education Agency. This allowed it to expand enrollment and currently, there are 360 students.
- Pro-Vision Academy now includes grades 5-12, both males and females and various after school programs. Pro-Vision also still runs the Manhood Development mentoring program, and the Job Enterprise Program.
- They have also added the Urban Farm program, which “teaches the value of positive community engagement and the importance of allocating resources for self-sufficiency” (Diana Seifert).
- The Manhood Development Program increased its enrollment and attendance rate to 95 percent.
- 79 percent of participants are labeled as “at-risk”, 88 percent receive free and reduced lunch.
- Since the inception of the program, 4000 students have participated in their outreach programs.
- Since 2009, Pro-Vision has more greatly involved the community. The number of participants that benefit from Pro-Vision’s outreach programs (which now includes adults) is estimated to exceed 4,500.
- Pro-Vision Academy funding: cost of educating a child \$6,500; 2014-2015 budget: State Revenue (for education expenses): \$2,224,332; Federal Revenue (food services): \$262,080, Expenses: \$2,391,947.
- Other programming is funded primarily through private donations.

Proudest Accomplishment Since 2009

“One of the proudest accomplishments that Pro-Vision has had since 2009 was becoming our own independent school district in 2013-14 through the Open Enrollment Charter School. In 2012, Pro-Vision celebrated its first high school graduating class as 14 young men walked across the stage and were handed a diploma. Seeing these young men graduate was most certainly a proud moment for them, their families, and staff at Pro-Vision. The Open Enrollment Charter School also allowed the opportunity to spread the success of working with young men to young women as well.”
- Diana Seifert

Program Website: <http://www.provision-inc.org>

Contact: Diana Seifert, Development Director, ProVision, Inc.

Email: dseifert@provision-inc.org

Cristo Rey High School

Program Snapshot

Cristo Rey is a private Catholic high school that welcomes low-income students, providing academic instruction as well as the skills they need to work in the business world. Students cover a portion of the cost of their education through earnings at quality corporate internships.

Return on Investment

2009

- Nationally, Cristo Rey Network high schools are able to cover more than 90 percent of their operating expenses through the Corporate Internship Program and a modest tuition.
- In the Houston program's first year, corporate earnings covered roughly 20 percent of the school's expenses.

2014: Corporate earnings in Houston currently cover roughly 50 percent of the school's operating expenses.

Changes in Program and Funding

2009

- Cristo Rey opened its doors in August 2009 with 20 corporate and nonprofit partners participating in the corporate partnership program and 80 students.
- Nationally, students earned 70 percent percent of the cost of their education from working. Two thirds of students receive financial aid to supplement their earnings. The cost to families was on average, \$1500 per year in tuition.

2014

- The school serves nearly 500 students.
- Since graduating its first senior class in 2013, 100 percent percent of students have graduated and 100 percent percent of students have been accepted into college. 87 percent of graduates enrolled in 2 or 4-year colleges.
- The class of 2013 earned \$3.1 million in college scholarships and the class of 2014 earned \$5.3 million.
- In Houston, tuition is set at \$2000 per year, but most families pay \$25 per month (about 10 percent percent of the cost of their education). With tuition and corporate earnings combined most families pay for about 60 percent percent of the cost of their children's education.
- Cristo Rey Jesuit has raised over \$22 million for capital and operating needs since 2008 through support from foundations, individuals, organizations and corporations, including the record-breaking events: the Cristo Rey Jesuit Golf Classic and the Cristo Rey Jesuit Gala.
- More than 140 corporations and nonprofits participate in the corporate partnership program.

Proudest Accomplishments Since 2009

Bee Dickson polled the staff of Cristo Rey and summarized their responses as follows:

"Cristo Rey Jesuit turned an idea of a unique school into something big in just a few short years! We took an idea and a few prospective families and grew our student body to 500 students and two classes of alumni. We took an idea and a run-down building and transformed it into an amazing facility of learning. We took an idea and a few supporters to become a recognizable name in the city. We took an idea and a couple teachers and grew to a faculty and staff of more than 70. We took an idea and a few prospective corporate sponsors and expanded to more than 140 of Houston's best companies and organizations employing our students. We took an idea of a school and made it reality. And it is better than we ever imagined it could be! Through this idea we have quickly become an opinion leader on education reform in Houston by introducing a unique and innovative model of private education that exclusively serves children living in poverty and gets 100 percent percent of them into college. Through this idea we have re-energized and re-invigorated Catholics in Houston by returning Catholic education to its original mission - reaching out to children who have been relegated to the margins of society and offering them an education that empowers them for personal, familial, communal and spiritual success."

Program Website: <http://www.cristoreyjesuit.org>

Contact: Bee Dickson, Director of Advancement, Cristo Rey Jesuit

Email: bdickson@cristoreyhouston.org

Health and Mental Health Care

Harris County Hospital District: Community Behavioral Health Program

Program Snapshot

The Community Behavioral Health Program used a variety of interventions and a collaborative approach to address concerns about children's behavioral health as early as possible.

Update: *Harris County Hospital District is now called Harris Health System. The Community Behavioral Health Program no longer exists in name, but behavioral health services are available in every community health clinic and at 4 Harris Health pediatric sites.*

Program Website: <https://www.harrishealth.org/en/pages/home.aspx>
Contact: Ericka Brown, Executive VP of Ambulatory Care Services
Email: Ericka.Brown@harrishealth.org

The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston: KINDERx Clinic

Program Snapshot

The KINDERx Clinic assisted pregnant women with substance abuse issues by providing prenatal care, health assessment, sobriety maintenance assistance, and mental health care, as well as pediatric care for newborns as necessary.

Update: *The KINDERx Clinic program no longer exists. The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston currently runs The Cradles Project, which targets a similar population.*

Changes in Program and Funding

2009: The KINDERx clinic operated for many years, serving hundreds of women and saw declines in exposures of substance abuse for mothers and their newborns.

2014

- The Cradles Project of the Behavioral Health Center for Women and Children provides services to pregnant women and those with children under 18 months. The project provides case management services, counseling, parenting groups, and social activities.
- The current Cradles Project receives funding from the Department of State Health Services Pregnant and Postpartum Intervention Programs.

Program Website: <http://www.council-houston.org>

Baylor College of Medicine: Teen Health Clinics

Program Snapshot

The Baylor College of Medicine Teen Health Clinics provide Houston youth with free or low cost health care, counseling, and education, including preventative education and social services to sexually active, pregnant, and parenting teens.

Return on Investment

2009: 85 percent of patients have family incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

2014: No specific update provided.

Changes in Program and Funding

2009:

- The program operated seven free-standing clinics, plus two health clinics at local high schools.
- 26,000 annual visits to the clinics by teens, including 588 visits by new moms.

2014:

- Opened two new clinics in the East End and Sunnyside areas of Houston to keep pace with the needs of the city's youth in underprivileged neighborhoods, bringing the total number of clinics to 9 citywide.
- In all, more than 26,000 young men and women ages 13-25 sought services in 2012—from primary care and sports physicals, to family planning and counseling, to screening and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.
- 9,543 HIV tests were administered.
- 4,259 adolescents were reached through the Northeast Adolescent Program Coalition teen pregnancy prevention social work program.
- 2,000 adolescents received care at one of the inner-city school clinics.
- 800 teens received risk-reduction text messages through the program's social media platform.
- At the Chavez High School Clinic there was an 18 percent increase in 2014 in total number of clinic visits compared with 2013. There was a marked increase in new student enrollment: 712 in 2014 compared to 589 in 2013.

Proudest Accomplishment Since 2009

"The thing that provides most satisfaction to me in my job is to have the ability to bring the best that the Texas Medical Center has to offer via Baylor College of Medicine to the neighborhoods and their youth who need the most." Dr. Peggy Smith

Program Website: <http://www.teenhealthclinic.org>
Contact: Dr. Peggy Smith, Assistant Director
Email: peggys@bcm.edu

Juvenile Justice

Harris County Stay in School Program

Program Snapshot

The Harris County Stay in School Program is a collaborative effort between the District Attorney's Office, the TRIAD Prevention Program, Justice of the Peace Courts, and member school districts, to combat truancy through more effective consequences and interventions before the involvement of juvenile justice systems.

Return on Investment

In 2009 the program reduced truancy by 80 percent. No specific update was provided for 2014.

Changes in Program and Funding

- There has not been any substantive change in the member school districts.
- Participating school districts pay to be a part of the Stay in School program. Membership expenses have increased for the 2014-2015 school year.
- The program staff has increased from one full-time prosecutor, one part-time prosecutor and one full-time secretary to two full-time prosecutors, and one full time secretary.

Proudest Accomplishment Since 2009

"The proudest accomplishment for the program is the success we have had in returning children to school."
- Scott Durfee, Assistant District Attorney of Harris County

Program Website: <http://app.dao.hctx.net/CrimePrevention/StayInSchool.aspx>
Contact: John Brewer or Elizabeth Alderson
Email: brewer_john@dao.hctx.net
alderson_elizabeth@dao.hctx.net

Harris County and Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Program Snapshot

The program works to create a smarter, fairer, more effective, and efficient juvenile justice system to keep children out of jail, reduce the incarceration length, and expand the availability alternative programs.

Return on Investment

- Detention populations have fallen more in participating JDAI sites (42 percent) than the statewide average (17 percent).
- 56 JDAI sites have closed detention units or whole facilities as a result of smaller detention populations, which has translated to an estimated cumulative savings of roughly \$143.5 million per year.
- The participating jurisdictions admitted 59,000 fewer youth to detention in 2012 than in the year prior to launching JDAI, a drop of 39 percent.

Changes in Program and Funding

- At the end of 2013, JDAI was operating in more than 250 counties nationwide, nearly double the number of sites in 2009—spread across 39 states and the District of Columbia. These new jurisdictions are home to just under 10 million youths aged 10-17, 29 percent of the U.S. youth population.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation has launched a new effort to expand JDAI beyond the detention phase of the juvenile court process to focus on reducing reliance on incarceration in long-term juvenile corrections facilities nationwide.
- The JDAI model has proliferated with increasing speed since 2009, now reaching over 1/4th of the total U.S. youth population in 2013.
- The average daily population of youth of color has fallen by 40 percent across all JDAI sites nationwide.

Program Website: <http://www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/>
Contact: Maria Muhammad, Administrative Assistant
Email: mmuhammad@aecf.org

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPSC): Systems of Hope Program

Program Snapshot

The Systems of Hope Program delivers an array of mental health services and supports to youth diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances and their families.

Update: *The program no longer exists today.*

Return on Investment

In 2009, 61.4 percent of youths at intake had either been expelled, suspended, or both from school in the prior six months. After six months in the program the rate dropped to 28.6 percent

Program Changes

- HCPSC has "continued with the Systems of Hope philosophy" and are currently integrating it into their other programs. They offer parents a voice in program development and in providing feedback on how they view the services being provided to them.
- This includes a positive youth development component, funded through a federal grant, in order to develop a youth voice
- A youth advisory council and youth on board component currently allow the youths themselves to get training and appoint representatives who are allowed to attend agency board meetings and make reports of what's going on.
- HCPSC has also developed a program of juvenile case managers who do intensive work with youth that are ticketed and go through the Justice of the Peace Court.
- The Juvenile Probation program now has 5 parent partners who work with their Specialty Courts, such as the Girls Court, Gang Court and Drug Court. The parent partners focus on helping the families stay involved and positive in creating a plan for their kids who are in the court system.

Program Website: <http://www.systemsofhope.org/>
Contact: Ginger Harper, Administer, Youth Services Division
Email: ginger.harper@cps.hctx.net