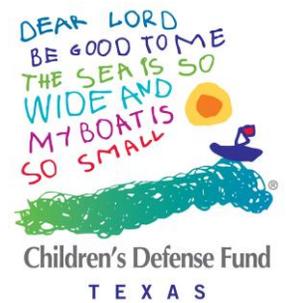


Children's Defense Fund–Texas

A strong, effective, and independent voice for all Texas children



Who We Are

We are the Texas state office of the Children's Defense Fund. CDF is a nonprofit advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for over 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. CDF champions policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to healthcare, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation.

The CDF Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

What We Believe

We believe in a future that fulfills the promise for every child to reach his or her fullest potential. Every child deserves a healthy start. When children can see a doctor, they do better in school and in life. When our children's needs are met we all do better.

What We Do

We provide a strong, effective and independent voice for all Texas children who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. CDF-Texas' leadership has been recognized nationally and internationally by: [The World Health Organization](#) • [U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services](#) • [U.S. Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services](#) • [American Association of School Administrators](#) • [Anti-Defamation League](#) • [American Leadership Forum](#) • [America's Promise Alliance](#) • [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) • [Texas Association of Partners in Education](#), and others.

Programs and Campaigns

CDF-Texas programs and campaigns address the following issue areas:

[child health and mental health](#) • [child poverty](#) • [education](#) • [youth development and leadership](#) • [juvenile justice](#)

All Healthy Children Campaign

CDF-Texas' *All Healthy Children* campaign is a school-based child health outreach partnership that **identifies uninsured children through school enrollment forms** and connects them to affordable health care coverage through CHIP, Children's Medicaid or the ACA Marketplace. In 2011, the campaign was **1 of only 10 projects recognized** by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services as a national best practice that could be scaled. That same year HHS/ CMS recognized CDF-Texas with an ECHOES award for Excellence in Children's Health Outreach and Enrollment. The American Assoc of School Administrators has helped educate school leaders across the country about CDF's campaign, and in 2012, together with AASA and the Atlantic Philanthropies, CDF launched the Texas model into California, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The project continues to reach tens of thousands of schoolchildren each year in California and Texas.

Texas Well and Healthy Campaign

Texas Well and Healthy is a statewide, grassroots campaign to ensure every Texas child, and the families in which they live, have access to the health care coverage they need. Despite significant gains in recent years, including 1 million more children covered under CHIP and Medicaid since 2007, **Texas still has the highest number of uninsured children**, and the highest rate of uninsured people of any U.S. state.

CDF-Texas leads statewide organizing efforts to protect and ensure access to health care for every Texas child and plays a lead role in the following coalitions: [Texas Well And Healthy](#) • [Cover Texas Now](#) • [Texas CHIP Coalition](#) • [My Medicaid Matters](#) • [Texas Left Me Out](#)

When parents are covered, children do better. Children are more likely to get covered, stay covered, and access needed care. CDF-Texas leads statewide efforts to close the *coverage gap* for nearly 2 million hard-working adults left uninsured because Texas leaders haven't yet accepted federal Medicaid funding intended to cover them.

Houston: 5410 Bellaire, Suite 203, Bellaire, TX 77401 • 713-664-4080

Austin: 316 W. 12th Street, #105, Austin, TX 78701 • 512-236-1699

Rio Grande Valley: 612 Nolana, Suite 320, McAllen, TX 78504 • 956-687-5437

www.cdf-texas.org



CDF Freedom Schools® Program

Rooted in the American Civil Rights Movement and the courageous efforts of college-age youths to make a difference, the *CDF Freedom Schools* program provides summer and after-school literacy and cultural enrichment through a model curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: (1) **high quality academic enrichment**; (2) **parent and family involvement**; (3) **social action and civic engagement**; (4) **intergenerational servant leadership development**; and (5) **nutrition, health and mental health**.

Through community partnerships the program boosts student motivation to read, generates positive attitudes toward learning, and connects children and families to resources in their communities. A past recipient of FOX television's *American Idol*® *Gives Back*, the program continues to grow and has been implemented in: Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Katy, Richmond, San Antonio, Seabrook, and Victoria, as well as within juvenile detention facilities.



Beat the Odds® Scholarship and Leadership Development Program

The *CDF Beat the Odds* program affirms the positive potential of young people who despite overwhelming challenges in life, demonstrate academic excellence and leadership. Each year, five Houston-area students are selected and awarded a *Beat the Odds* college scholarship at a community celebration. Through sharing their stories, they provide hope and inspiration to others and help raise awareness about the challenges facing Texas children. The annual *Beat the Odds* Awards Luncheon is CDF's primary fundraiser, helping to sustain CDF's effective year-round advocacy and operations.



More than 130 Texas youths have attended college with a CDF–Texas Beat the Odds scholarship.

Young Advocates Leadership Training® (YALT) Program

CDF works hard to prepare the next generation of leaders committed to social justice and improving the lives of children. CDF's *YALT program* is a **three-day, intensive training** that educates young adults about the state of America's children and **how to organize and advocate for social change**. Participants travel from across the country to the CDF Haley Farm in Tennessee to be trained by some of the best and brightest minds and hear from civil rights leaders on community organizing principles they can take back home to college campuses and communities.

Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign

We face an urgent national crisis at the intersection of poverty and race that puts a Black boy born in 2001 at a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime, and a Latino boy at a 1 in 6 risk of the same fate. CDF's *Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign* is a **national call to action** to stop the funneling of tens of thousands of youth, down life paths that often lead to arrest, conviction, incarceration, and even death.

CDF-Texas works with community, business and elected leaders to raise awareness about risk factors and to encourage investments in prevention and early intervention. In 2009, American Leadership Forum–Gulf Coast Class XXV embraced the campaign and produced a report on promising local approaches as their class project.



Strengthening Families to End Child Poverty

CDF coordinates with an array of federal, state and local entities, faith-based, community-based, and local businesses to educate parents about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), and other supports to reduce financial burdens on working families. **CDF testifies and educates** about the dangers of predatory lending practices and over the years has trained hundreds of teens and young adults to provide free tax preparation in their communities through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

CDF National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebrations

Every third weekend in October, CDF unites congregations of every faith in **lifting up the needs of children in worship, prayer, and action** during an annual *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* weekend. CDF-Texas hosts an annual Children's Sabbath event in Houston and partners with congregations throughout the year to communicate important information to families.

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