



**TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD & FAMILY STUDIES ANNOUNCES
REBUILD TEXAS FUND GRANT AWARDS TO SUPPORT FOSTER CARE CHILDREN
IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY**

*The Center Awards \$700,000 to 15 Local Child & Family Agencies and Organizations in
Houston, Beaumont and Across Texas Gulf Coast*

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AUSTIN, TEXAS—The Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (“the Center”), the 501c3 charitable arm of the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services TACFS, today announced awards exceeding \$700,000 from the Rebuild Texas Fund to 12 community child and family organizations and agencies to support 15 recovery and relief projects for foster care children impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

“The Center, in partnership with the Rebuild Texas Fund, is pleased to announce these grant awards to support the tremendous needs and challenges facing Texas’ most vulnerable children and families who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Beaumont and across the Texas Gulf Coast,” said Katie Olse, Executive Director of TACFS and the Center.

“The foster care system faces critical challenges to support an already traumatized population, restart and expand local capacity building efforts and meeting an increasing need for services by children and families in the impacted region,” added Olse.

The Center’s Rebuild Texas Fund grants support programs and services that will address the compounding trauma on children and families impacted by the hurricane last year. The grants will also allow local organizations to address the slow growth or loss of foster care capacity as a direct result of Hurricane Harvey.

*The following awards will support foster care **capacity-building**:*

Arrow Child and Family Ministry (\$50,000) – Arrow Child and Family Ministry will utilize funds from this grant to hire a recruitment coordinator, conduct a media campaign to attract interest in fostering, and provide accelerated options for families to become licensed foster families. Arrow’s project would increase capacity in Regions 2 and 3.

DePelchin (\$50,000) – DePelchin will utilize funds from this grant to jump start foster home recruitment and verification that was stalled because of Harvey. DePelchin aims to verify 98 new homes during the grant period. The project would be active in Regions 1, 2, and 3.

Family Endeavors Inc. (\$50,000) – Family Endeavors will utilize funds from this grant for training and home study services to families who postponed the verification process due to Harvey. The project would be focused in Regions 2 and 4.

Girls Haven (\$44,850) – Girls Haven will utilize funds from this grant to expand their Supervised Independent Living Program which will allow girls ages 18 to 22 to remain in care while developing skills to live independently. This project would be active in Region 1 (Jefferson County).

Grace Manor (\$45,000) – Grace Manor would utilize funds from this grant to employ a full-time recruitment and retention specialist, host recruitment events, and create 10 “Foster Home Safety Kits” to assist families in completing the verification process. The project would be active in Regions 1 and 2.

The Jim H. Green Kidz Harbor Inc. (\$50,000) – The Jim H. Green Kidz Harbor will utilize funds to rebuild their residential facility after flooding from the storm. The facility is located in Region 3 (Brazoria County).

Prairie Harbor (\$50,000) – Prairie Harbor will utilize funds from this grant to pay for a site plan and entrance for a Residential Treatment Center (RTC) in Nueces County. Construction was halted due to the storm. Region 5 is without this capacity.

Tejano Center for Community Concerns (\$50,000) – Tejano Center for Community Concerns will utilize funds to hire a full-time trainer and part-time recruiter to assist in growing foster care placements in Region 2. These positions would allow the TCCC to re-establish ties with foster homes that lost their ability to foster due to Harvey and increase capacity of verified families.

Upbring (\$50,000) – Upbring will utilize funds from this grant to provide stipends to the agency’s foster families in Regions 2, 4, and 5. These stipends would be used for expenses associated with rebuilding damage from the storm and attending the training necessary to maintain their status as active foster families.

*The following grant awards will support **mitigating trauma** for children in foster care and their foster families in the hurricane-impacted region:*

DePelchin (\$50,000) – DePelchin would utilize funds from this grant to provide trauma informed assessment and counseling through its Family Integrated Relational Services Treatment Program to 1,410 children living in Regions 2 and 3.

Devereux (\$50,000) – Devereux will utilize funds from this grant to implement the Devereux Texas Enhanced Trauma Informed Care project to deepen their ability to meet the needs of a traumatized population by training their staff and clinicians in advanced level trauma support. The efforts would be focused in Regions 3 and 4.

Family Endeavors Inc. (\$50,000) – Family Endeavors Inc. will utilize funds from this grant to implement a train the trainer model for trauma informed care and would provide this training to providers in Region 4 who interact with children in care.

Girls Haven (\$10,150) – Girls Haven will utilize funds from this grant to implement a Hurricane Harvey Grief Group free to the community in Region 1 (Jefferson County).

Promise Rose RTC (\$50,000) – Promise Rose RTC will utilize funds from this grant to implement The Art of Life Project with a therapeutically comforting approach to help children in care in Region 2 (Harris County) who suffered through Harvey to manage their trauma-related stress.

Sheltering Harbor (\$50,000) – Sheltering Harbor will utilize funds from this grant to expand its yoga relaxation program for children in care by targeting PTSD and stress reduction techniques.

“These 14 community organizations are working to address the varied and complex challenges facing the children and families impacted by Hurricane Harvey. We are pleased to continue to support the recovery efforts for this vulnerable population, and to help build resiliency in our Texas communities,” said Neeraj Aggarwal, Director of Rebuild Texas Fund.

The Center will monitor and oversee the grantees’ work with children and families in the greater Houston, Beaumont and Texas Gulf Coast regions. To learn more about The Center, its work, the grant awards and the regions impacted, visit texascentercfs.org/rebuild-tx-grant.

To learn more about the Rebuild Texas Fund, visit rebuilddtexas.org.

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