

COLLABORATIVE FOR YOUTH IN CARE (CLYC)



Cross-sector support for thriving Houston youth.

A 2018 report by Texans Care for Children highlighted the increased risk of early pregnancy faced by youth in foster care, and the need for additional supports for pregnant and parenting youth.

More than 1,800 youth are currently in conservatorship and extended foster care in the greater Houston area – more than any other region in the state. This translates to an incredible opportunity for impact.

From August 2019 - July 2020, nine organizations with expertise in teen pregnancy prevention and child welfare are developing **strategies to address pregnancy prevention and provide parenting supports to Houston-area youth in conservatorship.**



PROJECT GOALS

Our 12-month planning process will analyze both practice and policy as they relate to youth in conservatorship. With input from a diverse group of youth and caregivers with lived experience, we will develop a comprehensive plan for implementation in a subsequent project phase.

The goals of our collaborative are to:

- ★ **Understand the complex issue** of teen pregnancy among Houston youth in care;
- ★ **Identify best practices** to prevent unintended pregnancy and provide support to young parents;
- ★ **Develop strategies to strengthen existing programs** for youth and caregivers with lived experience;
- ★ **Provide workforce development opportunities** for current and former youth in care;
- ★ **Develop a long-term advocacy strategy** to improve related statewide policies and systems.

For more information, please contact:

Elaine Cray at elaine@txcampaign.org or Dr. Melissa Peskin at Melissa.f.peskin@uth.tmc.edu

TIMELINE

September 2019 - October 2019

- ★ Convene partner organizations for design of research methodologies and instruments.

November 2019 - February 2020

- ★ Gather input from youth and caregivers with lived experience.
- ★ Provide leadership and training opportunities to youth,



March 2020 - May 2020

- ★ Develop a long-term advocacy strategy; identify resource and funding opportunities.

June 2020 - August 2020

- ★ Design a research-informed intervention; deliver recommendations for implementation.

5x

Girls ages 13-17 in Texas conservatorship are five times more likely to become pregnant than other teens in their age group.

41%

of youth in care nationwide believe the reason teen pregnancy is higher among their cohort is because they want to feel loved.

30%

of girls who drop out of high school cite pregnancy as the reason.

62%

of surveyed child welfare providers indicated a need for more support to assist teens in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

GET INVOLVED

Current activities focus on 3 key areas: research, advocacy, and workforce development for youth. There will be opportunities for involvement during the planning and implementation phase.

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Data sources available at www.txchildren.org.

