



THE COLLABORATIVE FOR YOUTH IN CARE

The Collaborative for Youth in Care (CLYC) is made up of eight organizations with expertise in teen pregnancy prevention and child welfare. CLYC was formed after a report highlighted the increased risk of early pregnancy faced by youth in foster care and the need for additional supports for pregnant and parenting youth in the Greater Houston area. CLYC supports legislation that would prevent unintended pregnancy among current or former youth in care; provide supports for pregnant or parenting youth; and help improve stability and opportunity for youth transitioning to adulthood.

# THE ISSUE

A baby is born every **22** minutes to a teen mom in Texas

Nationally Texas ranks **9th** in teen birth rate

In Texas **18%** of teen births are repeat births

Teen pregnancy and childbearing are serious public health issues in Texas, especially for youth in conservatorship

Nationwide, youth in foster care face increased risk of pregnancy



**30%**

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

**6 of 10**



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

**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**

DATA SOURCES AVAILABLE AT WWW.TXCHILDREN.ORG.

# Bills we support

All bills referred to House Human Services Committee/Senate Health and Human Services Committee



**HB 607/SB 2067** by Rep. Donna Howard/Sen. José Menéndez

Pregnant and parenting youth in the foster care system may have limited access to placements where they can live with their child. These bills would require certain child care regions to assess the capacity of placements tailored to serve the distinct needs of pregnant and parenting youth, and to create strategies to address those needs.

**HB 608** by Rep. Donna Howard

This bill would direct the Department of Family and Protective Services to publish additional data about pregnant or parenting youth who are in the foster care system. Providing better data on youth experiencing teen pregnancy allows the state to create effective prevention and support strategies.



**HB 700** by Rep. Jarvis Johnson

This bill would allow youth in foster care to receive college credit for completing the Preparation for Adult Living Program. By securing this college credit, the youth would lock in lifetime state college tuition waivers. These waivers are available to many former youth in care, but they must enroll in college or in a dual credit course prior to the age of 25 -- a deadline that may be hard to achieve.



**HB 1413/SB 662** by Rep. Ramón Romero Jr./Sen. Beverly Powell

Texas provides Medicaid funding for peer support services -- but only for adults over the age of 21. These bills would extend peer support services in Medicaid to youth aged 14-20. With a history of trauma, youth in foster care face a disproportionate risk of mental and behavioral health issues and substance abuse. Peer support services can provide a powerful benefit and help youth in care transition to adulthood.



**HB 4265/SB 2104** by Rep. Toni Rose/Sen. Judith Zaffirini

Similar to SB 662/HB 1413, these bills would expand peer support services in Medicaid to youth age 18-20.



**HB 2632/SB 1084** by Rep. Ina Minjarez/Sen. Beverly Powell

Youth in foster care face many challenges in the transition to adulthood. These bills would support youth aging out of foster care by providing improved access to critical documents such as identification and health insurance cards; support in learning to manage medications at the age of 17; accommodations in the PAL program for youth with disabilities; and support in securing housing.



**HB 2963/SB 1059** by Rep. Stephanie Klick/Sen. Angela Paxton

Certain youth formerly in foster care are eligible for Medicaid coverage until they turn 26. However, many face logistical barriers to maintaining the coverage for which they are eligible, such as keeping an address on file. These bills would streamline Medicaid eligibility determinations as much as possible to prevent any unnecessary interruption of health care benefits.



[Click here to learn more about CLYC](#)

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