

## FY2018 Court improvement Program Sub-Grantees

<b>Organization:</b>	Texas Legal Services Center
<b>Project:</b>	Family Helpline
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$190,696
<b>Project Description:</b>	The Family Helpline Project provides callers with telephonic and online support in understanding the CPS process. The Helpline assists anonymous callers including parents who are not represented by an attorney, relatives and kinship caregivers. The Helpline answers questions about investigations, family-based safety services, temporary managing conservatorship and foster care placements. Benefits of the program include reduced caseworker time explaining issues that may be suitable for the Helpline attorneys. The Helpline and DFPS work closely to understand and evaluate trends, barriers, and common misunderstandings.
<b>Project Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue coordination with sponsors, DFPS, CPS, TCFV, and OAG re CPS processes.</li> <li>- Continue expansion of mailing and distribution of bilingual materials to additional regions</li> <li>- Promotes Helpline and Children's Commission's sponsorship through radio spots with Public News Service</li> <li>- Gather monthly metrics</li> <li>- Schedule and attend quarterly (or semi-annual) check-in with stakeholders</li> <li>- Submit reports as required</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	Personnel & Benefits Travel Data Management System Update Promotional Items/Printing Phone Lines & Computers IT Setup & Support
<b>Organization:</b>	Texas CASA
<b>Project:</b>	Youth Engagement, Educational Advocacy and Trauma-Informed Care Work
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$49,530
<b>Project Description:</b>	<u>Child Welfare Primer</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote awareness of current needs and practices to spur organizational efforts to elevate youth voice in court system and development of child welfare policies and practices affecting youth.</li> <li>- Support organizational efforts to build and sustain youth engagement and involvement.</li> </ul> <u>FY19 Trauma Summit - (Planning)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further trauma-informed child welfare system efforts and promising practices in Texas by partnering with the Children's Commission in planning in FY2018, and hosting in FY2019, a convening of strategic stakeholders.</li> </ul> <u>Texas CASA Educational Advocacy Toolkit</u>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote better educational outcomes and successful educational experiences for children and youth in care.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a Child Welfare Primer for advocates and system stakeholders on child welfare issues, successes and opportunities, including how to involve former and current foster youth in the court process and child welfare policy development.</li> <li>- Produce a white paper of recommendations and goals for increased youth voice and engagement in Texas.</li> <li>- Promote increased awareness and use of the OCA video conferencing system among CASA programs to enable youth participation.</li> <li>- Plan an event to further discuss implementation of cross-system trauma informed approaches with children and families in child welfare. Major activities of this project will be structured to further the work of the SCTIC workgroups.</li> <li>- Update the Texas CASA Educational Advocacy Toolkit and distribute to the CASA network, court system participants and other child welfare stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	<p>Personnel &amp; Benefits Travel Graphic Design</p>
<b>Organization:</b>	Texas Center for the Judiciary
<b>Project:</b>	Judicial Training
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$345,809
<b>Project Description:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve the quality and timeliness of court proceedings by providing training and technical assistance to judges hearing CPS cases.</li> <li>- Enhance judicial expertise on particular topics related to well-being, child and family safety, and permanency in order to improve outcomes for children and families.</li> <li>- Improve judicial procedure in CPS cases to ensure due process, timeliness to case resolution, and permanency.</li> <li>- Facilitate collaboration between the judiciary and system partners represented in the courtroom.</li> <li>- Support judicial best practices through education and information sharing.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hold the FY17 Child Welfare Judges Conference. The conference will include a half day training for Child Protection Court judges and a day and a half training for their coordinators. TCJ will work with the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to facilitate this portion of the training. The Child Welfare Judges Conference is scheduled for November 13-15 and will be held at the Hyatt Lost Pines near Bastrop. The conference typically trains 90-100 judges. The conference will also include collaboration with DFPS and Texas CASA.</li> <li>- Fund a child welfare track at the 2018 Family Justice Conference. This conference typically reaches 110-125 judges and specifically target general</li> </ul>

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	<p>jurisdiction judges. TCJ staff will work with the Children's Commission to develop three sessions for a child welfare breakout track. The 2018 Family Justice Conference will be held at the Hyatt Lost Pines on January 22-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan either or both an education summit or a trauma summit for judges and possibly other stakeholders involved in the child welfare system. The conference will be held in June of 2018 The number of trainees is uncertain at this time, but is estimated at 125 – 150.</li> <li>- Work with NCJFCJ and the Texas Governor's Office to plan a Judicial Institute on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. The conference will be held in August of 2018 and will train approximately 25-35 judges.</li> <li>- Begin planning process for the FY18 Child Welfare Judges Conference. The FY18 Conference will take place in November of 2018. The exact dates and conference location is TBD.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	<p>Personnel &amp; Benefits Travel Supplies Speaker Fees</p>
<b>Organization:</b>	Office of Court Administration
<b>Project:</b>	Office of Court Administration (OCA)
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$269,470
<b>Project Description:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue maintenance and enhancements, as needed, of the Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS), including continuance of the established governance structure, which determines the maintenance and enhancement needs.</li> <li>- Continue the expansion of video conferencing end-points. This allows for additional children and other interested parties to participate remotely in court hearings. For FY2018 OCA proposes expanding the scope of participation to include the courts that preside over juvenile justice cases and the facilities (secured and non-secured) under control or contract to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. This will provide video access for those children and youth involved in dual status cases.</li> <li>- Increase the number of residential treatment facilities, courts, and children attending hearings remotely. This will be measured by the number of RTCs, courts, and children that use the video conferencing system.</li> <li>- Expand the location of video conferencing end-points to local CASA program offices to allow CASA volunteers to improve their contact with the children/youth in placements.</li> <li>- Improve the flexibility and ease of conducting video conferencing sessions between the courts and the placement facilities. This will be accomplished through the inclusion and use of mobile client technology (android and apple iOS devices).</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to expand the use of the Notice and Engagement web tool, including maintenance and enhancements, as appropriate. The service provides notice to appropriate (involved) parties of scheduled court hearings in the CP Specialty Courts using the CPCMS system. Enhancements scheduled for FY2018 include adding SMS text as an option for participants to receive hearing notifications. Begin development of an application programming interface (API) to communicate hearing dates between non-CPCMS courts and the notice tool, if possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Activities:</b>	<p><u>CPCMS Enhancement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct semi-annual governance meetings to establish priorities for CPCMS enhancements and to report status of governance activities.</li> <li>- Provide at least four (4) software releases during the fiscal year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Video Conferencing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue scheduling and coordinating remote hearings for existing remote users including test calls.</li> <li>- Increase the number of participating courts by 10, increase the number participating DFPS service provider sites by 5 during the fiscal year.</li> <li>- Conduct an outreach to specific local CASA program offices that are interested in participating in the video conferencing project. Video conferencing capability will be implemented where possible. Increase the number of participating local CASA program office by 20.</li> <li>- Conduct an outreach to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to establish an interdepartmental relationship to collaboratively bridge our collective video conferencing resources in their six secured facilities and other appropriate facilities under contract to the TJJD.</li> </ul> <p><u>Notice and Engagement Tool</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- System login and search information will be monitored.</li> <li>- Notices will be examined to evaluate whether the correct hearing data is populating according to search criteria.</li> <li>- Reports/data will be produced and provided to the Children's Commission.</li> <li>- Add new feature which will give users the option to also receive text based notifications.</li> <li>- Explore modifying search criteria to include the "Cause Number" and loosen requirements for "exact spelling" of child name so that cases can be found using partial names.</li> <li>- Begin developing application programming interface (API) to communicate hearing dates between non-CPCMS courts and the Notice and Engagement tool, if possible</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Funds:</b>	<p>Personnel &amp; Benefits Travel Equipment (Web Cameras, Cellular Hotspot Devices, Programmer Software) Lifesize UVC Video Server Maintenance</p>