

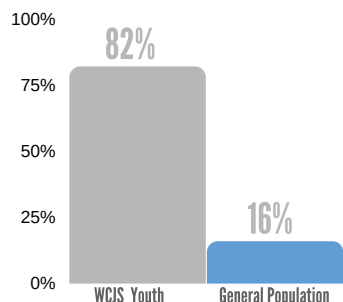
Federal Funding for Local Partnerships

Established in 2021, STEP UP Texas is a partnership between The University of Texas at Austin, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, and Williamson County Juvenile Services. Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention) the project aims to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact with the local juvenile justice system. STEP UP Texas will build on the shared vision of a comprehensive trauma-informed and equitable system of care designed to improve outcomes for all youth with a particular focus on racial and ethnic groups who are overrepresented.

Our Charge in Williamson County

Williamson County and Texas juvenile justice data show that most youth engaged in the justice system have experienced high incidences of trauma (Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACEs). In addition, youth who are African American and Hispanic are disproportionately engaged with the justice system. STEP UP Texas aims to disrupt the negative impact of trauma and to reduce disproportionate contact with the justice system by working alongside community partners to build knowledge and skills around trauma, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

WCJS residents with 4 or more ACEs



*General Population Data Source: Felitti, Anda, et al. (1998);
WCJS Data Source: Williamson County Juvenile Services (2019)

Building on What Works Right Here at Home

Williamson County Juvenile Services saw dramatic results in residential youth outcomes after only 6 months of replacing a traditional military style discipline approach with a comprehensive trauma-informed, framework. STEP UP Texas would like to build upon this progress through integrating similar practices within our community.

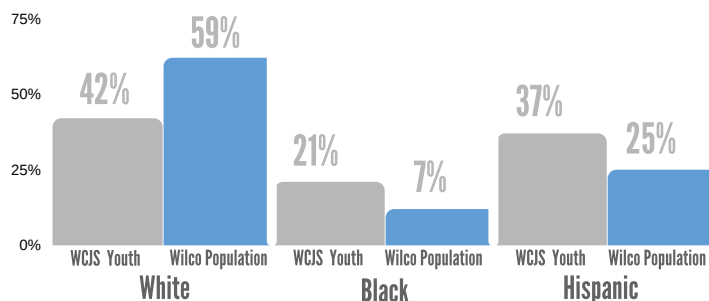


Texas Juvenile Justice Department ACEs Data

Adverse Childhood Experience	Boys	Girls
Emotional Abuse	39%	53%
Physical Abuse	26%	58%
Sexual Abuse	11%	60%
Emotional Neglect	18%	25%
Physical Neglect	23%	45%
Family Violence	58%	85%
Household Substance Abuse	47%	56%
Household Mental Illness	13%	32%
Parents Separated	71%	78%
Incarcerated Family Member	66%	84%

• Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department (2020)

WCJS Referrals by Race

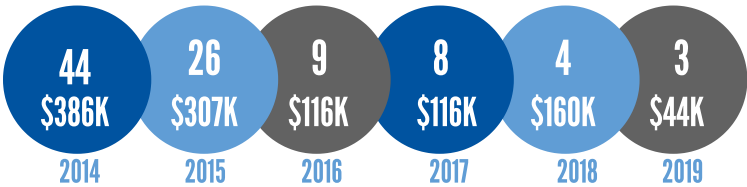


*Source: Williamson County Juvenile Services (2019)

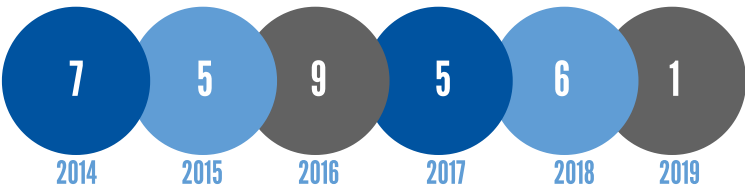
Training and Support at No Cost to Local Organizations

STEP UP Texas offers nationally recognized training opportunities and newly designed training curriculums in N.E.A.R. Science (Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Resilience), Trauma-Informed Care Certification, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) to professionals and key decision-makers in the school, legal, court, and juvenile justice systems. These training opportunities are designed to increase awareness around racial equity and the impacts of trauma while introducing keys to fostering individual and community resilience.

WCJS Youth and Cost Reductions In Outside Placement



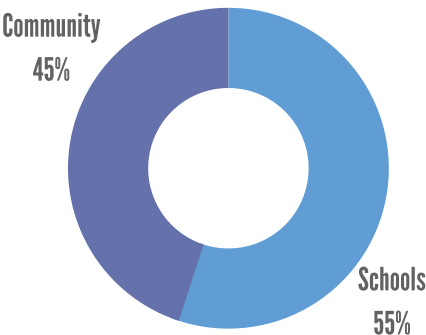
WCJS Youth Reductions In Commitment to Texas Juvenile Department



Change Making Grant Funded Opportunities for Williamson County

Trainings	Consultation and Support	Task Force
NEAR Science Training	Trauma Informed Interventions	Collective Leadership
Trauma-Informed Certification Courses	Restorative Justice/Practices	Data-Driven Decision Making
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training	Policy and Practice Evaluation	Outreach and Consensus Building

Referrals to Juvenile Services



**Data taken from 2019
Williamson County Juvenile Services*

Our Mission and Vision

To reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact with the juvenile justice system through awareness, training, competency development, and policy analysis so that all youth have the opportunity to thrive through a comprehensive, trauma-informed, equity-focused system of care.

Our Invitation

We are seeking partners who are interested in bringing Trauma-Informed Practices and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training to their organizations, as well as those who are interested in receiving support to review and revise their own organizational policies. Organizations and communities will be acknowledged for their leadership through the Department of Justice reporting process, local conferences and publications, UT IUPRA publications, and statewide communications. Please reach out to us directly if you are interested in partnering with us.

Contact Us

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