

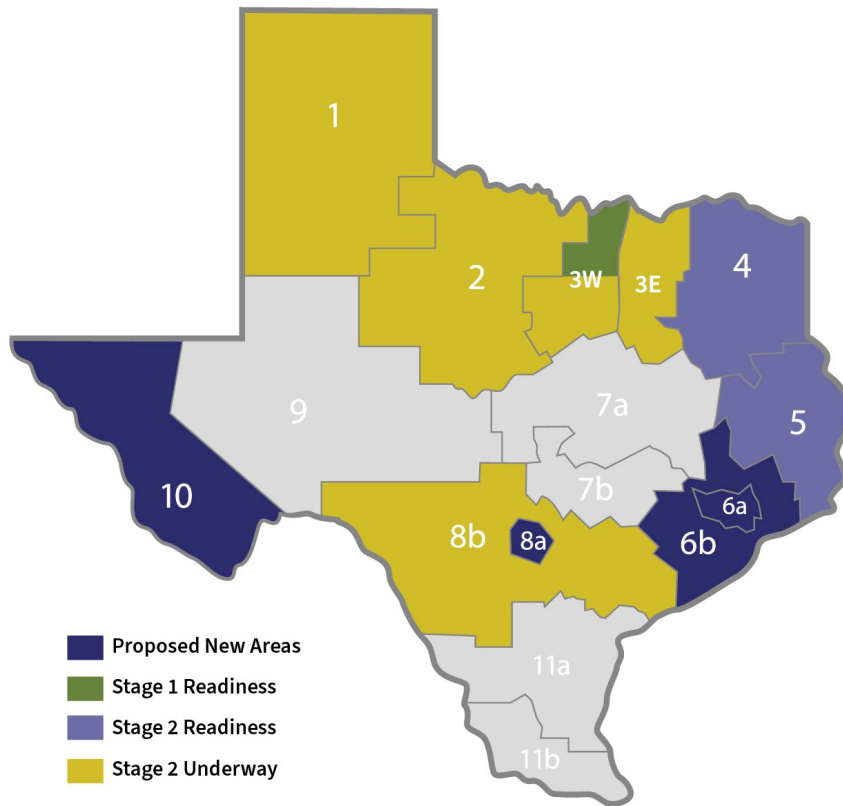
# COMMUNITY BASED CARE for educators

## What is CBC?

In 2017, the Legislature passed SB 11 which affirmed the state's direction to transition to Community Based Care (CBC).

Texas has long relied on community organizations to provide the direct services and care for children and families in foster care. CBC transfers functions related to foster care services to a lead non-profit agency and its network of providers.

CBC requires stakeholders and caregivers to engage and collaborate to meet the unique needs of their community. CBC is designed to provide additional flexibility, authority, and adaptability to improve foster care services, while children and families receive coordinated care and services tailored to meet their needs and build on their strengths.



As of February 2024



## How does CBC work?

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has divided the state into 17 “catchment areas,” or geographic service areas. In Stage 1, a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) serves as the “hub” for each catchment area and is responsible for a full continuum of care including placement and support services for children in foster care. In Phase 2, the SSCC assumes responsibility for case management for children in the State's care and their family. DFPS remains the conservator and the Judge retains legal oversight of the case.

In CBC areas, SSCCs are responsible for knowing and building the right capacity and sustaining a network of providers that will support each community. SSCCs oversee contracts, accountability, and payment with the community organizations that provide services. The State holds SSCCs accountable for outcomes and performance measures.

## System Goals



Increased community engagement and collaboration

Adaptability, flexibility, and innovation

Respect for local culture and values

Data driven systems and solutions

Timeliness and accountability

Ability for rapid system improvement

Texas statute provides authority for the SSCCs in the State of Texas, either directly or through subcontractors, to assume **the statutory duties** of DFPS.<sup>1</sup> SSCCs act as an agent of DFPS as it relates to specified child welfare services. In CBC Stage 2, the SSCC assumes all of the regular case management duties of DFPS, including duties related to a child's education.

*Stage 1: Fall 2023*

*Stage 2: Anticipated Spring 2024*

Statutory duties include the ability to visit privately with a child or youth in DFPS conservatorship at schools, foster or kinship homes or any other meeting site and the ability to request and receive confidential information regarding a child being served by the SSCC.<sup>2</sup>



The SSCC has the duty to ensure educational stability and success, including ensuring a child is enrolled in school timely and that records are requested and provided to the new school. A Designated Education Decision Maker will be identified. (This is usually a caregiver to the child.)

The caregiver for the child will continue to be involved in special education decision making and meetings unless a Surrogate Parent is appointed as may occur when a child is in a residential treatment center. The SSCC caseworker may also attend meetings.

DFPS Education Specialists continue to serve as a resource to caregivers, children, schools and the SSCC. The local information for your area's Education Specialist can be found here: DFPS Education Specialists Children in DFPS conservatorship being served by the SSCC have the same educational resources available to them with the same eligibility criteria in effect as all children in DFPS conservatorship.

Through a contract with the State of Texas, EMPOWER is the Community-Based Care SSCC contractor in Metroplex East, a nine-county area that includes Dallas, Grayson, Fannin, Collin, Hunt, Rockwall, Kaufman, Ellis and Navarro



1 <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.264.htm#264.161>

2 <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.264.htm#264.152>