

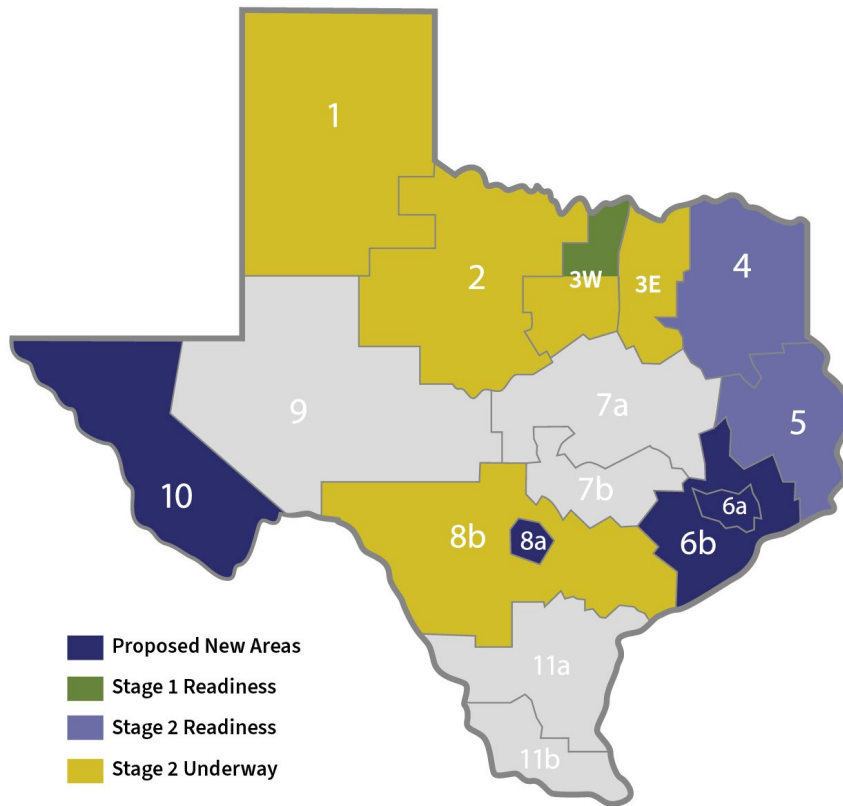
COMMUNITY BASED CARE for foster parents and kin caregivers

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

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

What does this mean? Texas statute provides authority for the SSCCs in the State of Texas, either directly or through subcontractors, to assume the statutory duties of DFPS.¹

Stage 1: Fall 2023

Stage 2: Anticipated Spring 2024

During Stage 1 of CBC you will hear from Empower staff inquiring about or arranging for placement of children into your home, though DFPS still has the final placement decision and case management duties during this stage. In CBC Stage 2 (anticipated in Spring 2024), the SSCC assumes all of the regular case management duties of DFPS, including monthly visits, referrals for services, handling court hearings. SSCCs act as an agent of DFPS as it relates to specified child welfare services. At that time, the caseworker assigned to the child and family will be an employee of Empower.



The goal during this transition is to provide consistency in the services children receive. This means children remain in their current placements, continue being served by their therapist, counselors and other providers and carry on with Star Health/Superior for their medical coverage. The hope is that DFPS caseworkers will make the transition to become Empower employees and keep their caseloads. But, if not, the child in your care may be assigned a new caseworker as the transition to Stage 2 occurs.

As a foster parent, you continue your relationship with your child placing agency. While the goal of CBC is to keep children in their communities, CBC does not prohibit you from accepting a child from another region into your home for adoption or foster care. The SSCCs around the state and DFPS work together in the best interest of children.

The [DFPS Office of Consumer Affairs](#) will continue to take complaints. However, you can also reach out to the SSCC directly with complaints.

Contact Info for Empower

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Concerns: 1-877-942-2239 concernline@tfifamily.org



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