

FY 2018 Directory of Funded Programs:  
Organizational Profiles and Project Summaries  
Strengthening Child Welfare Systems to Achieve Expected Child and  
Family Outcomes  
HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF- CO-1360  
Administration for Children and Families - Administration on Children,  
Youth & Families - Children's Bureau

## University of Texas at Austin

**Award Number:**

90CO1140

**Project Title:**

Texas Permanency Outcomes  
Project (TxPOP)

**University of Texas at Austin**

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Suite 3.340  
Austin, TX 78759

**Project Director (PD) and  
Principal Contact:**

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**Project Period:**

60 Months

**Federal Program Officer  
(FPO)/Specialist:**

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**Target Population:**

Texas children, youth (birth to 17  
years old) and families who have  
not successfully achieved  
permanency.

**Geographic Area(s) Served:**

Texas

**Agency Region:**

ACF Region 6

**Organizational Description**

UT Austin is the oldest and largest component of the 15-campus University of Texas system. It includes 16 different colleges and schools in which more than 51,000 students are engaged in over 270 fields of study. The UT Austin campus employs about 3,000 faculty and 18,000 staff members. UT Austin has the eleventh largest academic library in the United States and has extensive research facilities and computer researchers. There are more than 90 organized research units on campus including the Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing where this project will be located.

**Use of Program Funds**

The Texas Permanency Outcomes Project will develop sustainable best practices for public and private child welfare agencies across Texas to connect children to their birth families regardless of their permanency outcome. In partnership with the Texas Alliance for Child and Family Services and SafeGenerations, the Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing at The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work will develop, implement and evaluate a new practice model to guide Texas as it transitions to privatized community-based foster care and implements Families First requirements.

**Expected Outcomes**

1) Based on an adapted version of the evidence-based model Signs of Safety, develop a new practice model, Signs of Safety: Permanency, that includes birth families in the permanency decision-making processes related to reunification and adoption; 2) Implement Signs of Safety: Permanency at selected child placing agencies in Texas; 3) Implement capacity-building activities related to Signs of Safety: Permanency with child welfare practitioners and non-profits throughout Texas to build the foundation for a new practice model and mindset shift for working with birth families and for developing strong partnerships between birth families and foster families; and 4) Evaluate the Signs of Safety: Permanency model using a quasi-experimental design to understand its potential efficacy at improving CFSR measures.