



Request for Letters of Interest Building Bridges Initiative Texas - Quality Improvement Cohort

The Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (Center), in collaboration with the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) seeks Letters of Interest from child welfare residential providers who would like technical assistance (TA) for the implementation of best practices and policies for residential intervention in Texas. The support for implementing best residential practices and policies includes those aligned with the Family First Prevention Services Act.

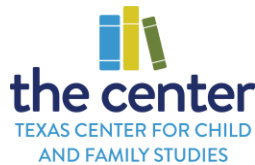
Who Are We?

The Center focuses on supporting the continuum of child welfare community service providers in Texas. The Center is a 501(c)(3) and a supporting organization of Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS). The Center strives to support and initiate the development of high-quality child welfare services to ensure appropriate care for all Texas children, youth, and families. Our mission is to provide education, research, and training to strengthen the capacity of organizations and systems of care to deliver high-quality services to children, youth, and families in Texas. Please visit www.tacfs.org/thecenter for more information.

TACFS is a network of mission-driven organizations that have embraced the call to serve vulnerable children, youth, and families. These organizations are working together to improve care, services, and outcomes in their communities and statewide. TACFS works to achieve these goals through education and training, collaboration, and advocacy. The strength of TACFS is attributable to its diverse, high-quality, and collaborative membership. Please visit www.tacfs.org for more information.

BBI is a national initiative identifying and advancing best practice and policy for youth and families receiving residential interventions. BBI creates strong partnerships between families, youth, residential and community service organizations, and policy makers to ensure high-quality supports and services. BBI's goals are to reduce readmissions to residential settings, strengthen youth and family engagement in treatment planning, and sustain long-term positive life outcomes. BBI interventions are strengths-based, family-driven, youth-guided, collaborative, individualized, evidence-informed, and culturally and linguistically competent. Please visit www.bbi.tacfs.org and <https://www.buildingbridges4youth.org/>.

This opportunity is available through a generous grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.



Background: Supporting & Strengthening Residential Interventions

Residential placements are an important part of the continuum of foster care settings. Youth in these settings benefit from receiving acute specialized mental and behavioral health interventions that help them return to family-like settings. BBI comes alongside residential providers to support their goals of strengthening youth and family engagement and sustaining long-term positive life outcomes. BBI principles and practices help support the professional development and resilience of residential care staff. In organizations that have implemented various best practices within the BBI framework, initial outcomes point to a reduction in the use of coercive practices, including seclusions and restraint; increase in child, youth, and family or caregiver voice in treatment planning; improvement to connections to family; and overall improvements in the quality of care for children and youth.

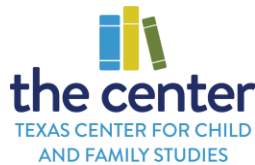
Request for Letters of Interest: BBI Quality Improvement Cohort

The Center seeks Letters of Interest from child welfare residential providers in Texas that would like to be a part of the BBI Quality Improvement Cohort (QIC) to receive targeted coaching and technical assistance (TA) for the implementation of BBI best practices and policies for residential intervention. The coaching and technical assistance will include a focus on youth voice and aftercare. This will entail a series of webinars, virtual peer-to-peer learning circles, and individualized monthly coaching calls with BBI experts to individual targeted programs on the strategy(ies) you choose focused on strengthening youth voice and aftercare.

While project timelines may differ from organization to organization, we anticipate engagements to begin in July of 2022 and end in December of 2022.

To be considered for the BBI TX QIC, organizations must:

- Participate (at least one/two representatives and preferably a team from your organization) in the virtual BBI QIC Information Session on May 18th, 2022, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Register here: <https://tacfs.org/event/building-bridges-initiative-texas-bbi-quality-improvement-cohort-information-session/>
- Submit a 2-4-page Letter of Interest that includes the following:
 1. **Name of provider program to be considered for participation in additional BBI TA.**
 2. **Name and title of program leader responding.**



3. **Description of your organization: history, programs/services offered, the structure of your leadership team and any relevant background for the organization's leadership.**
 4. **Description of need to include relevant background information, efforts your organization has already taken to address the stated need, and any outcomes from work that has already taken place.**
 5. **Identify which leaders within your organization will be responsible for engaging in the proposed work.** (*Program should have the ability to gather a 3-5-member core team to participate on a monthly webinar and alternating monthly coaching calls. The core team should include clinician, supervisor/manager, day to day managers, trainer, family members/consumer, youth, community partners, and someone in a leadership position at the organization*).
 6. **Confirmation that your program's core team be able to meet on a monthly basis** (*one month to hear a 1.5-hour webinar and the next month to have a 1-hour coaching/consultation call*).
 7. **Identify one to three initial ideas for strategies that you would like to implement in the area of increasing youth voice and aftercare within your program.** (You and your team will be able to adjust these ideas if you are selected to receive additional BBI TA).
- Willingness to complete BBI's Self-Assessment Tool. Link will be provided post May 18th info session.

Timeline:

- Letters of Interest must be submitted by June 1st to: arequenes@tacfs.org
- Review Conducted: June 1st – June 10th
- Decisions made by June 10th
- Organizations will be notified by June 15th
- MOU Signed by June 30th

Point of Contact:

Please submit all questions and inquiries to Andrea Requenes: arequenes@tacfs.org