

# Texas Family First

**Implementation of HB 3041  
Regions 1, 2, 3W, and 8B**



Texas Department of  
**Family and Protective Services**

# House Bill 3041

HOUSE BILL 3041 (87TH LEGISLATURE SESSION, 2021)

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Directs DFPS to establish a **pilot program (Texas Family First or TFF)** that allows the department to **dispose of an investigation** by referring the family of a **child who is a candidate for foster care to family preservation services**, including mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home intensive parenting support, and allowing the child to remain home instead of entering foster care; or by providing services to a pregnant or parenting foster youth.

# HB 3041 – Key Provisions

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## House Bill 3041 requires that DFPS:

- Implement the pilot program in two (2) child protective services regions (one urban and one rural; one community-based care region).
- Obtain a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction to compel the family of a child who is a candidate for foster care to obtain family preservation services and complete the family preservation services plan.
- Report to the Texas Legislature within one (1) year of DFPS commencing a pilot program, and every two (2) years after that date on specific metrics as outlined by the bill.

# Texas Family First IS NOT Community Based Care (CBC)

- The Texas Family First (TFF) pilot program is designed to prevent children from entering foster care by providing evidence-based court-ordered services to families to alleviate safety concerns.
- Community-Based Care (CBC) is the new Texas foster care model where the SSCC is responsible for providing a full range of services such as finding foster homes and case management among other things for children in foster care.

# Eligible Population for HB

## 3041 TFF

Families that have an open case and one of the following circumstances exists:

INVESTIGATION WITH A DANGER INDICATOR WITH ANY RISK LEVEL AND A SUPERVISION SAFETY PLAN IN PLACE KEEPING THE CHILD SAFELY IN THE HOME WITH A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.

INVESTIGATION WITH NO DANGER INDICATOR WITH A RISK LEVEL OF HIGH OR VERY HIGH ON THE RISK ASSESSMENT.

FAMILIES CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH FBSS, AND A CIRCUMSTANCE OCCURRED LEADING TO A POSSIBLE REMOVAL, IF A SAFETY PLAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS DANGERS, THE FBSS TEAM MAY REQUEST A COURT ORDERED SERVICES CASE WITH A TFF REFERRAL TO ADDRESS THE FAMILIES' NEEDS.

INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTS A NEW REMOVAL, THE INVESTIGATION STAGE REMAINS OPEN, AND THE JUDGE ORDERS TFF AT THE 14-DAY ADVERSARY (REMOVAL) HEARING.

# Current TFF Areas and Evidence-Based Services

Region/ SSCC	Number of Counties Served	Evidence Based Model Proposed
Region 1 St. Francis	41 Counties in Region 1 catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Centered Treatment</li> <li>• Motivational Interviewing</li> </ul>
Region 2 2Ingage	30 counties in Region 2 catchment area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional Family Therapy</li> <li>• Parent-Child Interaction Therapy</li> <li>• Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy</li> <li>• Motivational Interviewing</li> <li>• Trust-Based Relational Intervention</li> </ul>
Region 3W OCOK	6 Counties in Region 3W catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional Family Therapy</li> <li>• High Fidelity Wraparound</li> <li>• Motivational Interviewing</li> </ul>
Region 8b Belong	17 Counties in Region 8B catchment area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief Strategic Family Therapy</li> <li>• Parents as Teachers</li> </ul>

A photograph of a Space Shuttle launching, with a large plume of fire and smoke trailing behind it. The shuttle is positioned vertically, and the launch pad structure is visible in the background. The image is split vertically, with the left half showing the shuttle and the right half showing the launch pad and the shuttle's tail. A large blue downward-pointing triangle is at the top center of the page.

# Pilot Launch

**THE PILOT OFFICIALLY TOOK OFF IN  
OCTOBER 2022.**

- R1, R2, & R3W submitted their first referral in  
October
- R8B submitted first referral in Dec 2022.



# TFF Data For Regions 1, 2, 3W, & 8B

Week of 04/26/2024

123

Families actively involved in the Pilot

14

Petitions Pending TFF Hearing

107

Families successfully completed the Pilot

33

Closure without successful completion  
of TFF





What  
cases  
have  
been  
approved  
for TFF?



**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**



**MENTAL HEALTH**



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- Cases with domestic violence and inappropriate use of physical discipline have also been successful in the pilot. The providers have worked with these families to develop better coping and communication skills, instead of using physical discipline or violence.
- The parents are taught how to resolve conflict through compromise and communication in a positive and effective manner.

# What cases have not been approved for TFF?

- Determination by the court that the department has not met the legal burden of proof of imminent risk of removal
- Determination by the court that a removal was more appropriate than TFF
- Parent or child are no longer residing together in the home
- Parent decides they don't want to TFF services after consulting with their attorney

# TFF VS. FBSS

## TFF

- TFF is not the same as FBSS
- TFF provides in home evidence-based services tailored to the family's needs that are available **ONLY** through the Pilot.
- SSCC provider is working with the family in their home
- Family agrees and services are then court-ordered to further provide support to the family
- Traditional FBSS services can be offered in conjunction to evidence based services
- Services Completed in 4-6 months

## FBSS

- Services are not evidence based and link families to providers in the community or contracted providers with the Department
- Contracted and community services are not provided in the family's home and provide individual services rather than familial
- FBSS worker is not a clinician
- Family can voluntarily agree or can be court ordered
- Takes longer to complete due to waitlist and/or level of service/treatment needed



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

## Thank You

ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE TFF  
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