

# STEP UP TEXAS

IMPROVING JUVENILE JUSTICE OUTCOMES WITH TRAUMA-INFORMED AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES TRAINING



## ABOUT US

STEP UP Texas is a project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to bring trauma-informed and restorative practices training and implementation support to public school districts, law enforcement, and the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in engagement with the juvenile justice system (*JJDP Title II, Part B, Core Requirement 4*). It is a partnership between The University of Texas at Austin, Williamson County Juvenile Services, and STARRY. Initially funded in 2021, STEP UP Texas began providing training in Williamson County, Texas while also convening a Task Force of community and organizational stakeholders to better understand local challenges and possible solutions. In 2022, STEP UP Texas was awarded a second grant to add implementation support alongside the training and to expand its reach across Texas. See the detailed timeline on the reverse side and the partner organizations and counties served below.

## STEP UP TEXAS TEAM

- The University of Texas at Austin
- Williamson County Juvenile Services
- STARRY
- Subcontracted Organizations



## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Provide Training & Technical Assistance

- Provide training in trauma-informed and restorative practices and implementation support to public school districts, law enforcement, and the juvenile justice system.

### Convene Local Task Forces

- Engage local stakeholders to assess the community's strengths, challenges, and opportunities to address local disparities and to recommend interventions and policy change.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: [STEPUPTX@STARRY.ORG](mailto:STEPUPTX@STARRY.ORG)**



This project is supported by grants 2020-JX-FX-K003 and 15PJDP-21-0498-MUMU awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# PROJECT TIMELINE

## January 2021

- Received notice of Department of Justice (DOJ) grant funding.
- Established a partnership between the University of Texas at Austin, Williamson County Juvenile Services, and Bluebonnet Trails Community Services.
- Began providing trauma-informed and restorative practices training to the Williamson County community, school districts, law enforcement, & juvenile justice system.

## December 2021

- During the first year, the project conducted 120 trainings for 1,589 people and established partnerships with 18 community, school, and government organizations.

## Summer 2022

- Began second DOJ grant expansion efforts.
- Began partnership with STARRY, in place of Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, and onboarded Director of Trauma-Informed Training.
- Onboarded Williamson County Training & Technical Assistance Professionals (TTAPs) & Director of Restorative Practices Training.
- Responded to invitation to serve Uvalde County as 2nd STEP UP Texas jurisdiction.

## Spring 2022

- Grant applications due.
- Reviewed applications.
- Selected 7 TTAP subcontractor organizations growing the STEP UP Texas service area to 10 counties.

## May 2021

- Held official STEP UP Texas Kickoff event attended by Williamson County public school superintendents, law enforcement, juvenile judges, and juvenile justice leaders.

## January 2022

- Received notice of additional DOJ grant funding to expand the Williamson County model to 8 additional jurisdictions in Texas.
- Continued to provide trauma-informed and restorative practices training to the community, school districts, law enforcement, & juvenile justice system.
- Convened cross-sector Task Force to identify local strengths and challenges and discuss areas for policy and practice interventions.

## Fall 2022

- Released Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify TAPP subcontractor organizations to expand STEP UP Texas efforts in additional jurisdictions.
- Distributed RFP widely & conducted RFP information sessions.

## Summer 2023

- Execute contracts with subcontractor organizations.
- Onboard and prepare all 18 TTAPs to serve as trainers in trauma-informed and restorative practices in their jurisdictions.

## July 2023-June 2025

- 18 TTAPs serve 10 Texas counties providing trauma-informed & restorative practices training and implementation support to public school districts, law enforcement, and the juvenile justice system while convening local Task Forces to inform the work.
- 18 TTAPs are supported by the STEP UP Texas Core Team.