



Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

The most cost effective way to serve young people and their families is to prevent problems before they start and escalate to a crisis. The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division at the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) contracts with organizations across the state to provide services and interventions that are proven to prevent youth from ending up in the more expensive foster care and juvenile justice systems.

Effective Prevention and Early Intervention programs save taxpayer dollars.

Research has demonstrated that prevention and early intervention services save taxpayer dollars in the long run at a return ratio of at least 3:1.ⁱ This is important because the direct and indirect costs of child maltreatment in Texas are estimated to have surpassed \$6.3 billion in 2007.ⁱⁱ

PEI programs are based on research and are proven to work.

PEI's programs were developed based on research about how to best prevent juvenile delinquency and child abuse and neglect. Many are evidence-based or incorporate evidence-based practices. PEI uses internal evaluation tools, including pre- and post-tests, to ensure that its programs are effective. PEI also works with reputable universities that conduct comprehensive evaluations.

Additional investment in PEI will protect more children from abuse and neglect.

DFPS' 8th Exceptional Item requests \$35.5 million over the biennium to expand PEI, specifically by increasing support and services for military families and high-risk CPS families. With these funds, PEI will be able to serve an additional estimated 5,050 families each month in FY2016 and an additional estimated 6,780 families each month in FY2017.

The Sunset Commission, in its review of DFPS, recommended increased attention for Prevention and Early Intervention. Please make this important investment!

ⁱ Haskins, R., Paxson, C. & Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne. Social Science Rising: A Tale of Evidence Shaping Public Policy. (Princeton-Brookings, 2009). and Aso, S, Lieb, R, Mayfield, J, Miller, M & Pennucci, A. *Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth*. (Olympia, Washington: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2004.) (As cited in "Findings from the 2008-2009 Evaluation of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Programs and Services," The Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families. December 2009.)

ⁱⁱ University of Houston, Office of Community Projects. 2008 (As cited in "Findings from the 2008-2009 Evaluation of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Programs and Services," The Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families. December 2009.)