

# A LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES  
& SUPPORTS

APRIL 2022



# INTRODUCTION

Austin, Texas is home to just under one million people and is one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States. The city has experienced a dramatic rise in population size, with an increase of 21.7 percent over the past decade.<sup>1</sup> The population is 48.3 percent White, 33.9 percent Latino, 7.8 percent Black, and 7.6 percent Asian.<sup>2</sup>

At the request of the City of Austin, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted this Landscape Analysis to review current violence reduction, youth development, and re-entry efforts of services in the city of Austin. This report also outlines a framework for understanding the Landscape Analysis, an overview highlighting key organizations and programs, and City Council public safety resolutions that have been adopted in recent years.

In 2020, the City recorded 48 homicides.<sup>3</sup> This represents a 26.3 percent increase in homicides when compared to 38 homicides in 2019. In 2021, Austin reached the grim milestone of 88 homicides for the year. This is the highest number of homicides the Austin Police Department has ever recorded.<sup>5</sup> Compared with 2020, that represents an increase of 83.3 percent.

According to an analysis conducted by NICJR on homicides from January 1 to November 8 of 2021, the average age of a homicide victim was 30.4 years, while the average age of a homicide suspect was 29.5 years. Out of 85 known victims, 72 were male and 13 were female. Out of 58 known suspects, 51 were male and 7 were female. Out of 83 victims in which race was known, 36 were Black, 31 were Hispanic, 13 were White, and 3 were Asian. Out of 58 suspects in which race was known, 37 were Black, 13 were Hispanic, 6 were White, and 2 were Asian.<sup>6</sup>

A recent report by Tillmon Training and Consulting (TTC), a subcontractor of NICJR, highlighted a number of hotspot locations within the city of Austin: “[An] analysis of [a] Gun Crime in Austin - First Quarter 2020 (APD, 2020) report provided by the City of Austin identified three city community areas (referred to as, “Sectors” by the APD [2019]) that display trajectories (2014-2018) of increasing and high-density gun violence, and thus identified the greatest need for violence prevention initiatives: (1) Northeast (APD Edward Sector), (2) South Central (APD Henry Sector); and (3) North Central (APD Ida Sector).”<sup>7</sup> Although person-based strategies are most effective to reduce gun violence, these data are helpful in developing place-based initiatives.

Austin is home to more than 30 community-based organizations or programs providing direct services, with a very limited number serving individuals who are at high risk of being involved in gun violence. A report by TTC highlights additional challenges, “Participants [from qualitative surveys] highlighted how anti-violence grassroots efforts and community-based organizations are located throughout the city and are eager to help address chronic violence in marginalized communities. However, they often do not have the funding, experience, and/or training necessary to mediate violence and direct the high-risk populations in East Austin communities to the proper resources and/or services needed.”<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2021/08/12/census-austins-population-jumped-21-capping-another-decade-fast-growth/8097299002/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/austincitytexas/LND110210>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kxan.com/news/crime/7-months-into-2021-austin-has-as-many-homicides-as-there-were-in-all-of-2020/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/apd-investigating-2022s-first-homicide-following-87-percent-increase-in-2021-austin-crime-police-gun-violence>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.kvue.com/article/news/crime/austin-homicide-rate-highest-20-years-abbott-police-defunding/269-4f334329-b0d8-48d5-9147-0c06d0549d97>

<sup>6</sup> NICJR analysis of homicides in Austin, TX

<sup>7</sup> Tillmon Training & Consulting (2021), City of Austin High-Violence Communities with Greatest Violence Prevention Needs, p.2

<sup>8</sup> Tillmon Training & Consulting (2021), Qualitative Interviews-Assessing Communities with High Rates of Violence, p.17

# A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

The Landscape Analysis is comprised of three broad programmatic categories: Violence Reduction, Re-Entry, and Youth Development. The Analysis also includes a review of criminal justice reform initiatives.

## I. Violence Reduction

Violence reduction efforts can be broken down into three domains: violence prevention, violence intervention, and community transformation

**Violence prevention** refers to the elimination or reduction of the underlying causes and risk factors that lead to violence.<sup>9</sup> Violence prevention efforts are thus designed to prevent violence from occurring in the first instance.

**Violence intervention** efforts on the other hand are designed to prevent the reoccurrence of violence or intervene and prevent the imminent act of violence. Both violence prevention and intervention hinge on deploying services that identify and address age and context-appropriate risk and protective factors. Violence prevention efforts are most often targeted towards children and youth whereas violence intervention efforts are focused on the people who are at the greatest immediate risk of violence, which are usually young adults. While violence prevention is a broad field encompassing various types of programs, effective violence intervention is more defined and narrowly focused.

**Community transformation** refers to the elimination of factors that give rise to violence in a neighborhood, like poverty, blight, low performing schools, disinvestment, and chronic unemployment. While community transformation is a long-term strategy that can take 15-20 years to achieve, if successfully implemented, it can also be most effective at permanently reducing violence. There are several neighborhoods in cities with high rates of violence that do not need violence intervention programs because there is little violence in those particular communities. All neighborhoods should have a goal of not needing violence intervention programs.



<sup>9</sup> [https://www.who.int/violenceprevention/about/intersectoral\\_action.pdf](https://www.who.int/violenceprevention/about/intersectoral_action.pdf)

## II. Youth Development

Youth development is a program model that builds on the strengths and assets of youth as well as addressing youth needs. Youth development includes acquisition of attitudes, competencies, values, and social skills that will carry youth forward into successful adulthood. Youth development experiences are connected to positive outcomes in youth, including pro-social attitudes, self-efficacy, academic achievement, and employment readiness. In many ways, youth development can also be considered *violence prevention* since these positive outcomes become protective factors against the underlying causes that lead to violence.

## III. Re-Entry Services

Re-entry services support formerly incarcerated individuals in successfully “reentering” their communities at the conclusion of their in-custody period, thereby reducing recidivism, increasing public safety, and improving individual outcomes. Key re-entry services include the “Big Six”: housing, employment, education, mental health services, drug treatment if needed, and a connection to a supportive adult (mentor, life coach, etc.).

# LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

## I. Violence Prevention

There are a number of programs operating in Austin that can be categorized as violence prevention initiatives. These range from services loosely tied to a stated violence prevention outcome to those that are designed to more directly target youth or young adults evidencing high-risk behaviors. Examples are provided below.

### **Austin Voices for Education and Youth (AVEY)**

Austin Voices for Education and Youth works to strengthen family services, support youth as neighborhood agents of change, and improve schools. Wraparound services are provided for at-risk families including ESL (English as a Second Language), computer classes, housing assistance, and health care at areas known as Family Resource Centers (FRC). The AVEY has also participated in advocacy work regarding reducing cuts to education, reform in high-stakes testing, and legislation relating to community schools.

### **Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY)**

The CARY's mission is to empower at-risk youth with the skills to avoid crime and violence. The organization works to raise awareness to the needs and potential successes of at-risk youth, increase prevention services in school systems, and reduce the school-to-prison pipeline. CARY's Youth Violence Prevention Curriculum provides services such as life skills training, anger management assistance, and individual and group counseling. Youth Advisors work directly with students and their families to achieve outcomes such as reduction of behavioral referrals and improved academic performance. The organization's PeaceRox program consists of weekly, voluntary groups that center on social skills teaching and individual mentoring.

## II. Violence Intervention

Violence intervention strategies and programs are designed to intervene immediately to reduce violence in the near-term. Austin has violence intervention initiatives and programs that involve numerous organizations, some of which are highlighted below.

### **Conflict Mediation**

Conflict Mediation works to address issues in communities impacted by violence by bringing together a variety of experts, other grassroots community organizations, and relevant stakeholders. The organization utilizes non-traditional strategies such as dispute resolution, mediation services, and restorative justice and conflict mediation workshops to foster change.

### **Hope Alliance**

Hope Alliance assists those whose lives have been affected by family and sexual violence by providing direct services and supports. Hope Alliance operates a 24/7 crisis hotline that provides crisis intervention, access to an emergency shelter, and creation of a safety plan. Legal Advocates assist victims in navigating and interfacing with the legal system with issues such as protective orders, child custody, and divorce. The organization also hosts a monthly Virtual Legal Clinic where clients can make hourly appointments to receive legal advice from attorneys. An emergency shelter is operated at a confidential, undisclosed location. Residents have access to basic toiletries, clothing, and food during their stay. Legal advocacy and crisis counseling are provided when necessary.

# III. Community Transformation

Neighborhoods with high rates of shootings are marred with a mixture of poverty, institutional racism, subpar education, generational trauma, and crime and violence, with an overlay of blight, historic under investment, and economic isolation. Institutional racism in the form of government sanctioned oppression of Black communities led to the “ghettoization” of inner-city neighborhoods across the country, with stark examples in Austin. Redlining, housing covenants, employment discrimination, education funding based on the local tax base, and the policies and design of public housing, all led to conditions of concentrated poverty, high crime rates, despair, and economic immobility.

## Austin Justice Coalition (AJC)

The AJC’s mission is to increase quality of life for people of color by narrowing the scope of the criminal justice system and bringing in an era of transformative justice; fostering reconciliation in the City by acknowledging systemic racism; and building community power through policy, education, and community programming. The organization advocates for policy/initiatives such as: the addition of a de-escalation policy to Austin Police Department (APD) and renegotiation of police union contracts. Training is also provided on the city budgeting process to community members to increase financial transparency. Black Food Week is a three-week initiative created by AJC that brings together Black-owned restaurants and food trucks in the Austin community. This program also provides members of the City information about Black-owned restaurants and how to support them. AJC hosts “The State of Black Austin,” a yearly discussion with Black Austinites covering a variety of topics including criminal justice reform, gentrification, and economic empowerment.

## Austin Area Urban League (AAUL)

The AAUL’s mission is to provide African Americans and other underserved urban residents the ability to secure economic self-reliance, power, and civil rights. The AAUL works to build an overall foundation for social and economic equality. The AAUL’s Workforce and Career Development program provides career counseling, employment assistance, professional development workshops, occupational training, financial literacy, connections to employers, and job retention strategies. The Pathway to a Career Program assists individuals 16-65 with computer literacy programming and soft-skills development. Occupational training in areas such as IT, healthcare, and construction is also available. Another such program, the Revitalizing Austin Neighborhoods Program, works in owner-occupied homes in the City of Austin to provide emergency repair assistance and major system repairs. These repairs encompass a variety of situations such as leaking gas pipes, short-circuiting electrical wire, and roofing issues. The General Obligation Bond Home Repairs Program provides financial assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners to make repairs to improve substandard housing conditions.



<sup>10</sup> <https://projects.statesman.com/news/economic-mobility/>  
<sup>11</sup> <https://www.kut.org/texas/2021-05-14/racist-clauses-are-common-in-local-zoning-documents-several-texas-bills-would-make-it-easier-to-change-that>  
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/02/15/texas-school-funding-how-it-works/>  
<sup>13</sup> <https://www.kxan.com/investigations/homicides-on-the-rise-how-austin-compares-to-other-big-cities/>

## IV. Reentry

### Truth Be Told

Truth Be Told's mission is to provide transformational programs through self-discovery for women who are or have been incarcerated. The organization strives to work toward a society where all justice-involved women are restored to integrity, thereby breaking the cycle of incarceration. Truth Be Told sponsors the Talk to Me Series, a 16-week intensive curriculum that teaches public speaking skills, focuses on expressive writing and group dynamics, and encourages creative self-expression. Let's Get Real is a 14-week program that assists women reentering society. The program provides a safe community for these women along with weekly meetings and individualized planning. Making Connections is another class series that provides incarcerated participants with tools that promote self-awareness, emotional wellbeing, and positive self-management practices. This program was instituted in the Women's Programs at the Travis County Correctional Complex in 2008.

### Jail to Jobs

Jail to Jobs supports reentering youth from juvenile detention facilities through provision of employment-based mentoring, housing services, character development assistance, and spiritual development. Many staff members of Jail to Jobs are returning citizens who have a similar lived experience to those involved with the organization. Jail to Jobs offers physical needs programs that incorporate provision of daily meals, weekly groceries, bill assistance, and housing. Character development programs focus on anger management, individual mentoring, and an intensive program for ages 14-17. Workforce development programs involve employment-based mentoring, paid job training, and connections to gainful employment.

## RESOLUTION & POLICY IMPLEMENTATIONS

**In August of 2019**, the City of Austin formed a Gun Violence Task Force that commissioned the City Manager to provide the City Council a quarterly report with detailed information on incidents of gun violence occurring within the city.

**In 2020**, the City of Austin created a multidisciplinary team to lead Austin's Reimagining Public Safety (RPS) efforts. The RPS's core team was composed of leaders from different city departments and included the formation of Advisory Working Groups to ensure that voices of community representatives from advocacy, faith, union, business, and other public policy partners were heard.

**In April of 2021**, the Task Force completed a [mid-year recommendations report](#) for presentation to the Austin City Council and the following resolutions were adopted:

# Austin City Council Resolutions & Adoptions

- **Council Resolution No. 95:** directed the Austin City Manager to “research and issue recommendations for amendments to the Austin Police Department (APD) General Orders on how to better define what constitutes “resistance.” All too often police officers use an individual’s resistance as justification to support their use of force. City officials hope to reduce the likelihood of use of force occurring as a result of redefining what constitutes “resistance”.
- **Council Resolution No. 96:** designed to limit police officers’ use of force and include restrictions on deadly force and a ban on using “less lethal” munitions during protests. This was the impetus of the beginning of an arduous process that worked to reimagine public safety in the City of Austin.
- **Reimagining Public Safety (RPS) Task Force:** created to provide policy and budget recommendations that allowed for cultural and structural changes to improve the public safety experience for all communities in Austin. The RPS’s scope of work also included forming eight (8) working groups in key themed areas and required conducting in-depth community engagement to ensure those most impacted by negative interactions with public safety were represented when recommendations were being developed.
- **Budget Reallocations:** City Council passed a historic budget, in August 2020, to redefine public safety. They approved an Austin Police Department (APD) budget of approximately \$290 million, which reflected a budget reallocation of \$153.2 million from the prior budget year. The adopted budget directed that \$153.2 million in police funding to be reallocated in the following ways:

- Reduce & Reinvest APD funding by approximately \$31.5 million – taken primarily from cadet classes and overtime – to reinvest in permanent supportive housing and services, EMS for COVID-19 response, family violence shelter and protection, violence prevention, workforce development, and a range of other programs.
- Transfer a number of APD functions (and related funding of approximately \$76.6 million) out of APD over the course of the fiscal year. These include Forensics Sciences, Communications/911 call center, strategic support, and internal affairs.
- Create a Reimagine Safety Fund to potentially divert approximately \$45.1 million from APD toward alternative forms of public safety and community support as determined through the year-long reimagining process.

In July of 2021, funding for RPS initiatives were outlined in the Austin City Manager’s FY 22 proposed budget, including the continuation of \$27.2M in investments and an additional \$1.9 million to advance some of the reform recommendations brought forward by the RPS Task Force.

# Conclusion

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It's important to note that not many CBOs in Austin serve the highest risk population. And until recently, there has been no funding to serve those at highest risk of gun violence. Youth Advocate Programs Inc. (YAP) serves those at the highest risk in the city of Baltimore and has an office with infrastructure to serve the same population in Austin. However, current efforts in Austin are all directed towards prevention.

In order to better understand the gun violence dynamics in Austin, NICJR will conduct a detailed analysis of homicides and nonfatal shootings in Austin in 2022, known as a Gun Violence Problem Analysis. The study will examine the circumstances of each shooting, the background of each victim and suspect, and the dynamics surrounding the incident. The study will produce an analysis of the nature of gun violence in Austin and identify the risk factors of the small population of Austin residents who are at the very highest risk of gun violence.

## Austin Voices for Education and Youth (AVEY)

**Address:** 5221 Ledesma Rd., Austin, TX 78721

**Organization Overview:** Austin Voices for Education and Youth galvanizes the community to support children and families and improve schools. The organization strives to increase equity and uplift the voices of youth as agents of change in the field of education.

### Programs/ Services:

- The AVEY supports youth leadership programs such as Stand Up Clubs, Project AIM, and Arts Empowered at various middle and high schools throughout Austin.
- Wraparound services for at-risk families including ESL, computer classes, housing assistance, and healthcare are offered at Family Resource Centers (FRC).
  - Each FRC has a bilingual licensed social worker, house director, and part-time and volunteer staff.
- During COVID-19, over 24,000 families were given assistance with housing, food, and utilities.<sup>14</sup>
- The AVEY has participated in advocacy work in:
  - Reducing cuts to education
  - Reform in high-stakes testing
  - Legislation relating to community schools

**Population Served:** Austin Voices for Education and Youth serves all Austin students and families.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$1,352,885 <sup>15</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.austinvoices.org>

## Council on At Risk Youth (CARY)

**Address:** 3710 Cedar St., Box 23, Austin, Texas 78705

**Organization Overview:** The Council on At-Risk Youth's mission is to empower at-risk youth with the skills to avoid crime and violence. The organization works to raise awareness to the needs of at-risk youth, increase prevention services in school systems, and reduce the school-to-prison pipeline.

### Programs/ Services:

- The CARY's Youth Violence Prevention Curriculum provides services such as life skills training, anger management assistance, and individual and group counseling.
- Youth Advisors work directly with students and their families to achieve outcomes such as reduction of behavioral referrals and improved academic performance.
- The organization's PeaceRox Program consists of weekly, voluntary groups that center on social skills teaching and individual mentoring.

**Population Served:** The CARY serves at-risk students in the City of Austin.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2018: \$648,926 <sup>16</sup>

**Website:** <https://cary4kids.org>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/austin-voices-for-education-and-youth>

<sup>15</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/743017284>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/view\\_990/742921243/0dce3fd31c8afa7601883f8e07f053d0](https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/view_990/742921243/0dce3fd31c8afa7601883f8e07f053d0)

## My Brother's Keeper (MBK)

**Address:** N/A

**Organization Overview:** My Brother's Keeper's mission is to support males of color in reaching their full potential through solutions that eliminate disparities and create equity. The organization hopes to become a national model for boosting academic achievement, enhancing health and well-being, and elevating the lifetime prosperity for young boys and men of color.

**Programs/ Services:**

- MBK's Success Mentors Initiative connects students in the Austin Independent School District with MBK staff in order to reduce chronic absenteeism.
- Restorative justice practices such as restorative community retreats and restorative justice circles are all practiced by MBK.
- The organization's Early Childhood Groups Support provides age-appropriate books to males of color in the greater Austin area.

**Population Served:** My Brother's Keeper serves males of color.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2018: \$648,926 <sup>17</sup>

**Website:** <https://gaambk.org>

## Seedling Foundation

**Address:** 8001 Centre Park Dr. #140, Austin, TX 78754

**Organization Overview:** Seedling works to mitigate the impact of parental incarceration on children in Central Texas through school-based mentoring. The organization is designed to provide children with a long-term, positive relationship that helps them navigate the challenges experienced during an extended period of family separation due to parental incarceration and help children develop or maintain positive attitudes towards education.

**Programs/ Services:**

- Seedling utilizes a mentorship program in order to mitigate the impact of parental incarceration on children. Seedling connects students with an adult mentor in order to alleviate pressure & reduce academic and emotional challenges.
- The organization creates and hosts local events like mentoring summits in order to aid high-risk children.
- Seedling's scholarship program finances students in the Seedling Mentor Program for pursuit of higher learning. This program offers students \$5,000 grants.

**Population Served:** Seedling serves youth who have been impacted by parental incarceration and reside in the Central Texas area.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$383,416 <sup>18</sup>

**Website:** <https://seedlingmentors.org/>

<sup>17</sup>[https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/view\\_990/742921243/0dce3fd31c8afa760188f8e07f053d0](https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/view_990/742921243/0dce3fd31c8afa760188f8e07f053d0)

<sup>18</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/311427991>

## Youth Advocates Programs Inc. (YAP)

**Address:** P.O. Box 824, Austin, Texas, 78767

**Organization Overview:** Youth Advocate Programs Inc.'s mission is to provide community-based alternatives to youth incarceration, congregate placements, and neighborhood violence. The organization works to redirect dollars from juvenile prisons and other placement facilities to invest in community-based programming in order to create just, equitable and inclusive neighborhoods.

### Programs/ Services:

Violence Prevention/ Youth Development:

- The YAP provides behavioral and mental health services in the form of intensive outpatient and in-home programs and treatments.
- Individualized services are delivered to families involved in the child welfare system such as expedited family reunification, parental engagement and support, substance use recovery, and assistance for transition-age youth.
- The YAP offers services for individuals with developmental disabilities like caregiver respites, employment support, and diagnosis assistance.
- Youth at highest risk for being a victim or perpetrator of violence are engaged in Choose to Change, a program that combines cognitive behavioral therapy and intensive mentoring.

Violence Intervention:

- The YAP employs Credible Messengers in order to assist perpetrators and victims of violence.
- Violence interruption programs such as Safe Streets Baltimore and Dallas Cred are extensions of YAP as well.<sup>19</sup>
- The YAP provides community-based alternatives to formal youth detention.

Re-Entry:

- Youth exiting correctional and residential facilities are engaged with individualized service plans, intensive weekly contact, and trauma-informed care.
- The YAP's Credible Messenger program aids individuals who are leaving the criminal justice system and provides them with community-based wraparound support. Credible Messengers concentrate on family engagement, life skills acquisition, and pro-social connections.
- Post-YAP program completion, participants are provided with six months of subsidized employment, job training, and a stipend.

**Population Served:** The YAP serves youth and families involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems; individuals with behavioral health needs; youth with developmental disabilities/ educational challenges; and adults returning from prison.

**City Area Served:** Williamson County; Travis County.

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$77,063,794 <sup>20</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.yapinc.org/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.dallasobserver.com/news/dallas-cred-wants-to-help-the-city-heal-12068726>

<sup>20</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/231977514>

## Youth Rise Texas (YRTX)

**Address:** P.O. Box 824, Austin, Texas, 78767

**Organization Overview:** Youth Rise Texas is dedicated to uplifting the voices of teens that are affected by parental removal due to incarceration, detention, or deportation so that they may heal, act for change, and cultivate compassionate communities. The YRTX works to create the conditions for young people to rise from systems of oppression. The organization is led by individuals directly impacted by systems of criminalization and deportation and is committed to transformative organizing and healing justice.

### Programs/ Services:

- The YRTX participates in advocacy work surrounding:
  - Voter suppression
  - Transparency in school budgeting process
- Still We Rise is YRTX's school-based healing and resilience program for youth affected by parental removal due to incarceration, detention, or deportation.
- Y'all Good, We Good? and Conversations with Healers: A Listening Project are capsule mental health and self-care programs developed in response to student feedback during COVID-19.
- The organization provides Voting 101 training, issue-specific education, and transportation to polls for youth in central Texas.

**Population Served:** Youth Rise Texas serves youth ages 14-22 in the Austin area.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$833,998 <sup>21</sup>

**Website:** <https://youthrisetx.org>



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<sup>21</sup>[https://apps.irs.gov/pub/epostcard/cor/830663313\\_202005\\_990\\_2021041517950543.pdf](https://apps.irs.gov/pub/epostcard/cor/830663313_202005_990_2021041517950543.pdf)

## Hope Alliance

**Organization Overview:** Hope Alliance provides direct services and supports to those whose lives have been affected by domestic or sexual violence. The organization offers emergency shelter, counseling, case management, and legal advocacy.

### Programs/ Services:

- Hope Alliance operates a 24/7 crisis hotline that provides crisis intervention, access to an emergency shelter, and creation of a safety plan.
- Individual, child, and group counseling services are provided. 12 trauma-informed sessions are offered weekly to clients.
- Legal Advocates assist victims in navigating and interfacing with the legal system with issues such as protective orders, child custody, and divorce. Connections to other agencies including legal aid is also provided.
- Hope Alliance hosts a monthly Virtual Legal Clinic where clients can make hourly appointments to receive legal advice from attorneys.
- An emergency shelter is operated at a confidential, undisclosed location. Residents have access to basic toiletries, clothing, and food during their stay. Legal advocacy and crisis counseling are provided if needed.
- Case management services including safety planning, childcare, money management, and employment assistance are provided by Crisis Advocates throughout the process.

**Population Served:** Hope Alliance serves survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as their families.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$1,977,334 <sup>22</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.hopealliancetx.org/>

## Conflict Mediation

**Address:** N/A

**Organization Overview:** Conflict Mediation works to address issues in communities impacted by violence by bringing together a variety of experts, other grassroots community organizations, and relevant stakeholders. The organization utilizes non-traditional strategies such as dispute resolution, mediation services, and restorative justice and conflict mediation workshops to foster change.

### Programs/ Services:

- Conflict Mediation provides dispute resolution and mediation services in the Austin, TX area.
- The organization hosts restorative justice and conflict mediation workshops.
- Mental wellness counseling services are provided by Conflict Mediation.

**Population Served:** Conflict Mediation serves all Austin community members as well as corporate clients.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.conflictmed01.org>

<sup>22</sup>[https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display\\_990/742277114/02\\_2021\\_prefixes\\_68-74%2F742277114\\_201912\\_990\\_2021022217741545](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display_990/742277114/02_2021_prefixes_68-74%2F742277114_201912_990_2021022217741545)

## No More, No Más, Inc. (NMNM)

**Address:** 1704 E. 12th St., Austin, Texas 78702

### Organization Overview:

No More, No Más, Inc. is committed to supporting healthy lifestyle choices that rebuild and reunify those relationships torn apart by domestic violence, sexual assault, and substance use. The organization provides family violence services and a safe space for educating and training individuals and families in need of support.

### Programs/ Services:

- The NMNM provides individual and family counseling, relationship and marital counseling, mental health support, life skills training, trauma-informed education, and survivor support.
- The NMNM provides safety planning, referrals to legal and community resources, and other services to survivors.
- The organization hosts domestic and family violence workshops to community members.
- The Austin Metro Drug-Free Coalition addresses substance issues in youth grades six to twelve. The program is supported by men and women in the Austin community who educate and train community members regarding substance use.

**Population Served:** No More, No Más, Inc serves individuals who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and substance use along with youth with substance use issues.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.nomorenomas.org/>

## Texas Advocacy Project

### Organization Overview:

Texas Advocacy Project's mission is to end dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Texas. The organization empowers survivors through free legal services and access to the justice system and advances prevention through public outreach and education.

### Programs/ Services:

- Free legal services in the form of Virtual Legal Clinics are provided to offer legal advice related to protective orders, child support, divorce, financial abuse, and child custody.
- Training and webinars related to teen outreach, domestic violence, healthy relationships, and recognizing abuse are all provided by Texas Advocacy Project to college campuses, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and healthcare professionals.

**Population Served:** Texas Advocacy Project serves youth and adult survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$2,446,283 <sup>23</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/>

<sup>23</sup><https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/sites/default/files/Annual%20Report/2019%20TxAdvProject%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf>

## The SAFE Alliance (Stop Abuse for Everyone)

**Address:** P.O. Box 19454, Austin, Texas 78760

### **Organization Overview:**

The SAFE Alliance's mission is to stop abuse for everyone and achieve a community free from violence and abuse. The organization works to maximize the impact of violence prevention a

### **Programs/ Services:**

#### Violence Prevention/ Youth Development:

- Life Skills classes are provided at the SAFE Grove Boulevard Campus weekly to assist adults with topics such as personal power and money management.
- The SAFE Alumni Program assists individuals who have transitioned out of the foster care system with independent living assistance, monthly meetings, individual mentoring, etc.
- The SAFE Charter School provides a trauma-informed educational alternative for survivors in grades K-12.
- Strong Start is a parenting support program that works to provide early childhood services and family support. Parent education, mental health services for parents, along with crisis intervention is offered.
- Expect Respect offers innovative programs to prevent violence and abuse among children and teens. Components include school-based support groups, youth leadership empowerment programs, educational theater programs, and educator training.

#### Violence Intervention:

- A 24/7 confidential SAFeline is available for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and child abuse.
- The SAFE Children's Shelter is an emergency shelter for youth in CPS. The Children's Shelter provides services such as emergency care, supervised independent living, and transitional living. The SAFE Alliance also operates the Kelly White Family Shelter and Grove Place Housing, available to all individuals of any age.
- The organization provides peer support, sexual assault victim advocacy, individual and group counseling, forensic nursing exams, and legal services to survivors.
- The SAFE CARES Program provides intensive and wide-ranging assistance to survivors of exploitation. Services include a physical drop-in location for trauma-informed care and a crisis response team in the community.

#### Community Transformation:

- The organization's Community Education Program works to increase community awareness regarding exploitation, child abuse, and domestic violence. Presentation topics include child abuse and neglect, recognizing the signs of domestic violence, and availability of SAFE services.
- Community-based training on how to support survivors and end violence is also provided.

**Population Served:** The SAFE Alliance serves survivors of child abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, and domestic violence in the City of Austin. .

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$22,280,279 <sup>24</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.safeaustin.org>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.safeaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/19-20-SAFE-Form-990-8-10-20.pdf>

## Austin Area Urban League (AAUL)

**Address:** 8011A Cameron Rd., Building A-100, Austin, Texas 78754

### Organization Overview:

The AAUL's mission is to provide African Americans and other underserved urban residents the ability to secure economic self-reliance, power, and civil rights. The AAUL works to build an overall foundation for social and economic equality.

### Programs/ Services:

#### Violence Prevention/ Youth Development:

- Project Ready is AAUL's main youth development program that provides students with academic readiness assistance, cultural enrichment opportunities, and social skills development.
- The Urban Youth Empowerment Program works to bolster youth ages 16-19 with workforce readiness assistance, job training, and soft skills development.
- The AAUL's Collegiate Movement provides individualized support for individuals ages 18-22 with post-collegiate empowerment, employment training, etc.

#### Community Transformation:

- The AAUL's Workforce and Career Development program provides career counseling, employment assistance, professional development workshops, occupational training, financial literacy, connections to employers, and job retention strategies.
- The Pathway to a Career Program assists individuals 16-65 with computer literacy programming and soft-skills development. Occupational training in areas such as IT, healthcare, and construction is also available.
- The Revitalizing Austin Neighborhoods Program works in owner-occupied homes in the City of Austin to provide crisis intervention assistance, emergency repair assistance, and major system repairs. These repairs encompass a variety of situations such as leaking gas pipes, short-circuiting electrical wire, and roofing issues.
- The General Obligation Bond Home Repairs Program provides financial assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners to make repairs to improve substandard housing conditions.

#### Re-Entry:

- The Returning Citizens Advancement Program is a four-week course that serves returning citizens with access to housing, financial literacy, transportation assistance, expungement counseling, etc.

**Population Served:** The AAUL serves African Americans, underfunded populations, and communities of color.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$2,324,743<sup>25</sup>

**Website:** <https://aaul.org/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/741890518>

## Austin Justice Coalition (AJC)

**Address:** 1603 E 38th ½ St., Austin, Texas 78722

**Organization Overview:** The AJC's mission is to increase quality of life for people of color by narrowing the scope of the criminal justice system and bringing in an era of transformative justice; fostering reconciliation in the City by acknowledging systemic racism; and building community power through policy, education, and community programming.

### Programs/ Services:

- The AJC advocates for policy/ initiatives such as:
  - Addition of de-escalation policy to Austin Police Department (APD)
  - Renegotiation of police union contracts
  - APD Body Camera Ordinance
- Training on the city budgeting process is offered to community members to increase financial transparency.
- The organization participates in public education and outreach at community events such as City Hall meetings, collegiate speaking engagements, and SXSW Music Festival. Topics range from police reform, employment opportunities, and racial equity.
- Black Food Week is a three-week initiative created by AJC that brings together Black-owned restaurants and food trucks in the Austin community. This program also provides members of the City information about Black-owned restaurants and how to support them.
- The AJC hosts "The State of Black Austin," a yearly discussion with Black Austinites covering a variety of topics including criminal justice reform, gentrification, and economic empowerment.

**Population Served:** The AJC serves individuals who have been historically and systematically impacted by gentrification, segregation, over policing, a lack of educational and employment opportunities, and other institutional forms of racism in Austin, TX.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Website:** <https://austinjustice.org/>

## Caritas of Austin

**Organization Overview:** Caritas of Austin works to prevent and end homelessness for people in Greater Austin. The organization builds wellbeing by ensuring that people have a safe home, access to healthy groceries, jobs that provide a reliable living wage, and educational opportunities to learn life skills.

### Programs/ Services:

- This organization's Supportive Housing program provides permanent supportive housing as well as rapid rehousing services.
- Caritas of Austin's Youth Program is a partnership with the SAFE Alliance and LifeWorks to provide stable housing for youth experiencing homelessness.
- Employment services are provided include resume development, job training, interview preparation, provision of work tools, transportation assistance, support for higher education, and job placement.
- Clients of Caritas of Austin are offered a series of education classes on topics including financial literacy, health and wellbeing, and life skills.
- The Caritas Pantry provides take-home groceries to clients.
- The Community Kitchen provides free lunches Monday through Friday 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

**Population Served:** Texas Advocacy Project serves youth and adult survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$11,330,368 <sup>26</sup>

**Website:** <https://caritasofaustin.org/>

<sup>26</sup>[https://caritasofaustin.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/Caritas\\_AR2019\\_Digital.pdf](https://caritasofaustin.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/Caritas_AR2019_Digital.pdf)

## Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

**Address:** P.O. Box 150249, Austin, Texas 78715

### **Organization Overview:**

Ending Community Homeless Coalition's mission is to provide dynamic leadership that engages policymakers and the community to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County. The organization supports both direct services such as community housing and executes advocacy efforts regarding funding to address homelessness.

### **Programs/ Services:**

- The ECHO is in the process of implementing a diversion/ family reunification program that helps clients access safe housing outside of the homeless service system.
- The organization's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program provides prevention services, transitional housing, and permanent housing for youth in Austin and Travis County. This program is a partnership between ECHO and LifeWorks.
- The organization's Coordinated Entry team provides a single hub for individuals experiencing homelessness to access vital services. This includes healthcare, housing, and referrals to additional service providers. The team also trains local homeless service providers.
- The ECHO collects, reviews, and compiles the Austin/ Travis County Homelessness Dashboard, an interactive system that allows users to see data from the Homeless Management Information System.
- Caritas of Austin and ECHO have jointly implemented the Pay for Success pilot project, which utilizes public/private partnerships to address homelessness.

### **Population Served:**

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition serves individuals experiencing homelessness in Austin, Texas.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$4,451,214 <sup>27</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.austinecho.org/>

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<sup>27</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/274449243>

## Front Steps

**Address:** 500 E. 7th St., Austin, Texas 78701

### Organization Overview:

Front Steps' mission is to provide a pathway home for individuals experiencing homelessness through emergency shelter, affordable housing, recuperative medical care, supportive services, and community awareness. The organization operates under the philosophy that all individuals deserve a safe home.

### Programs/ Services:

- Front Steps manages the City of Austin's downtown shelter, the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH).
- Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provides short-term, rapid rehousing assistance with intensive case management to low-income veteran families.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program works with veterans to secure employment, obtain VA benefits, and provide transitional or supportive housing.
- The organization's Permanent Supportive Housing Program provides long-term housing with ongoing case management for clients.
- Rapid rehousing is offered by Front Steps and provides short-term rental assistance and services.

**Population Served:** Front Steps serves individuals experiencing homelessness in Austin, TX.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$7,373,129 <sup>28</sup>

**Website:** <https://frontsteps.org/>

## Grassroots Leadership

**Address:** 3121 E. 12th St., Austin, Texas 78702

### Organization Overview:

Grassroots Leadership's mission is to work towards a society where prison profiteering, mass incarceration, deportation, and criminalization are defunct. The organization strives to build power in communities, change policies and practices of mass incarceration and deportation, and transform the narrative surrounding criminalization.

### Programs/ Services:

- Grassroots Leadership advocates for policy/initiatives such as:
  - Closure of private prisons in Texas
  - Reductions to Austin Police Department budget
  - Ending criminalization of homelessness in Austin, Texas
- The organization coordinates visitation programs at detention centers in Texas.
- Texas Advocates for Justice is a program that unites individuals and families who are directly impacted by mass incarceration and criminalization.
- Operation of La Linea de Defensa Comunitaria, a bilingual immigration crisis hotline, is provided by Grassroots Leadership in order to support community members in an immigration crisis. Services include attorney provision, food support, healthcare, and deportation defense training.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$1,384,896 <sup>29</sup>

**Website:** <https://grassrootsleadership.org>

<sup>28</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/742824054>

<sup>29</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/581581743>

## Life Works

**Address:** 3700 S. 1st St., Austin, Texas 78704

**Organization Overview:** LifeWorks advocates for youth and families in the Austin area facing challenges related to homelessness, trauma, and abuse. LifeWorks provides 19 programs designed to bolster self-sufficiency under the categories of housing, counseling, and education/workforce.

### Programs/ Services:

Violence Prevention/ Youth Development:

- LifeWorks' collaboration with Austin ISD, juvenile justice, and foster care works to prevent and address youth homelessness.

Community Transformation

- The organization's Supportive Housing program provides permanent supportive housing, street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing services, and aftercare transitional services.
- The Permanency through Outreach and Rapid Transitions (PORT) Program is a transitional living to rapid rehousing program ensuring that homelessness is brief.
- LifeWorks Education and Workforce Division focuses on GED provision, workforce development, life skills training, and supported education.
- The Counseling Division provides support for individuals and families through psychiatric services, individual and group counseling, and peer support groups.
- The Research Department also analyzes and implements evidence-based procedures and policies to ensure youth are offered the best programs.

**Population Served:** LifeWorks serves individuals experiencing homelessness, trauma, abuse, and other challenges in Austin, TX.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$13,780,876 <sup>30</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.lifeworksaustin.org/>

## Man in Me

**Address:** P.O. Box 1451, Pflugerville, Texas 78691

### Organization Overview:

The Man in Me's mission is to educate, strengthen, and support men towards responsible manhood and fatherhood. The organization works to provide individuals with the tools required to become stronger men and fathers and promote positive transformation to cultivate healthy families.

### Programs/ Services:

- Involved Dads of Action Developing and Succeeding (IDADS) is a program that provides five weeks of fatherhood education in order to connect parents with helpful resources, promote effective parenting and communication skills, anger management techniques, and acting as a positive role model for their children.
- Monthly men's mental health and wellness workshops are hosted by the Man in Me. Topics include restorative healing, parenting, and fathers' rights.
- Daddy and Me Read to Succeed is a summer reading program that works to encourage children to foster a love of reading while bonding with the father figures in their lives.
- The Man in Me hosts the "Man in Me Summit" to empower and bring together men and women through personal and professional development.

**City Area Served:** The Man in Me serves men, fathers, father figures, and their families in the Austin area.

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.themaninme.org/>

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.lifeworksaustin.org/impact>

## Texas Center for Justice and Equity (TCJE)

### Address:

1714 Fortview Rd., Suite 104, Austin, Texas 78704

### Organization Overview:

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition works to end mass incarceration, foster safer Texas communities, and reduce racial inequities in the justice system. The TCJC is committed to building a vision where all Texans live in safe, thriving communities where incarceration is rare and community-based supports are available.

### Programs/ Services:

- Advocacy work that the Texas Center for Justice and Equity has undertaken includes:
  - Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18 in Texas
  - Reform the bail system to stop penalizing poverty
  - Reduce female incarceration in Texas
  - Remove barriers to family unity
  - Supporting pretrial reform in Travis County
  - Increase oversight and accountability in the Austin Police Department
- The organization conducts policy research and analysis on issues impacting the youth and adult justice systems. This involves drafting policy proposals and making recommendations on relevant issues.
- Helpful legal resources are provided to community members regarding navigation of the youth and adult justice systems.

**Population Served:** N/A

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2018: \$698,217 <sup>31</sup>

**Website:** <http://www.texascjc.org/>

## Texas Appleseed

**Address:** 1609 Shoal Creek, Suite 201, Austin, Texas 78701

### Organization Overview:

Texas Appleseed is a public interest justice center that works to change unjust laws and policies that prevent Texans from realizing their full potential. The organization works to develop and advocate for innovative solutions to systemic issues and conducts data-driven research to uncover inequities in laws.

### Programs/ Services:

- Texas Appleseed advocates for various public policies in the Texas legislature and takes targeted legal action. Advocacy work includes:
  - End of Austin's Juvenile Curfew Ordinance
  - Suspension bans in grades pre-K through second grade in Austin ISD, Houston ISD, and Dallas ISD
  - Reduction in number of youths housed in Texas juvenile detention facilities
- The organization also implements training for judges, lawyers, and other individuals in best practices.

**Population Served:** N/A

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$2,312,089 <sup>32</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.texasappleseed.org/>

<sup>31</sup>[https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/view\\_990/742969471/bc92238aff64224e6e2c35a57e94d42](https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/view_990/742969471/bc92238aff64224e6e2c35a57e94d42)

<sup>32</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/742804268>

## Counterbalance: ATX (CBATX)

**Address:** 2200 Tillery St., Austin, TX 78723

### Organization Overview:

Counter Balance: ATX (CBATX) is an organization that seeks to combat systems through alternative research methods and programming that influences policy focusing on reproductive justice, criminal justice, and environmental justice. Utilizing an intersectional framework, CBATX strives to create culturally competent and transparent systems and equip marginalized self-identifying women with the tools to advocate for themselves and their communities.

### Programs/ Services:

- The organization's self-care program focuses on healing Austin communities with programs to cultivate social support and promote wellness.
- The Community Dialogue program provides safe spaces for women to cultivate social support and foster resilience.
- Operation Waskom is an initiative created by CBATX in order to increase awareness among Black residents in Waskom of local ordinances.
- The CBATX advocates for policy/ initiatives such as:
  - Reducing overall Austin Police Department budget
  - Addressing the school-to-prison pipeline

**Population Served:** Counter Balance: ATX serves system-impacted individuals.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.counterbalanceatx.org/>

## Texas Civil Rights Project

**Address:** P.O. Box 17757, Austin, Texas 78760

### Organization Overview:

The Texas Civil Rights Project is a group of Texas lawyers that serve the movement of equality and justice. The organization utilizes legal advocacy and litigation to protect and advance civil rights of Texas citizens, particularly vulnerable populations.

### Programs/ Services:

- Advocacy work that The Texas Civil Rights Project has undertaken includes:
  - Bail policy reform in Harris County, TX
  - Free to Drive campaign that calls for the passage of the federal Driving for Opportunity Act
  - Solitary confinement investigation
  - Halting the illegal expulsion of immigrant children
- The organization's Election Protection campaign provides training and volunteers to thousands of polling locations to assist voters and report systemic issues.
- The Criminal Injustice Program works to reduce the harms on BIPOC of the Texas criminal and legal system.

**Population Served:** N/A

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$5,704,060 <sup>33</sup>

**Website:** <https://txcivilrights.org/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://txcivilrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TCRP-2019-ImpactReport.pdf>

## Jail to Jobs

**Address:**

P.O. Box 2737 Cedar Park, Texas 78630

Travis County Re-Entry Center: 309 E Powell Ln., Austin, TX 78753

**Organization Overview:**

Jail to Jobs supports reentering youth from juvenile detention facilities through provision of employment-based mentoring, housing services, character development assistance, and spiritual development. Many staff members of Jail to Jobs are returning citizens who have a similar lived experience to those involved with the organization.

**Programs/ Services:**

- Jail to Jobs offers physical needs programs that incorporate provision of daily meals, weekly groceries, bill assistance, and housing.
- Character development programs focus on anger management, individual mentoring, and an intensive program for ages 14-17.
- Workforce development programs involve employment-based mentoring, paid job training, and connections to gainful employment.
- Spiritual development is offered in the form of in-facility ministry along with discipleship.

**Population Served:** Jail to Jobs serves newly released youth and currently incarcerated youth from juvenile detention facilities.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$537,872 <sup>34</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.jailtojobs.com/>

## Lone Star Justice Alliance (LSJA)

**Address:**

3809 S. 1st St., Austin, Texas 78704

**Organization Overview:**

The Lone Star Justice Alliance is a legal organization that improves the lives of youth and emerging adults in the justice system. The organization strives to work toward a justice system that uses evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate responses and treats youth and emerging adults with equity and dignity to promote resilience and increase public safety.

**Programs/ Services:**

- The LSJA's Transformative Justice Program is a developing initiative that provides a community-based diversion program in lieu of traditional court adjudication for young adults ages 17-24.
- Advocacy efforts by LSJA have been made in areas such as the school-to-prison pipeline.
- The organization provides direct and strategic litigation to youth tried in the adult criminal justice system.
- The Survivors Project serves to assist survivors of human trafficking, intimate partner violence, and other abuse.

**Population Served:** The Lone Star Justice Alliance serves youths and adults in the Texas Justice System.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2018: \$320,112 <sup>35</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.lonestarjusticealliance.org/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/271601066>

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.lonestarjusticealliance.org/uploads/5/7/3/3/57338007/2018\\_lsja\\_990.pdf](https://www.lonestarjusticealliance.org/uploads/5/7/3/3/57338007/2018_lsja_990.pdf)

## Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP)

**Address:**

314 E. Highland Mall, Suite 201, Austin, Texas 78752

**Organization Overview:**

Texas Fair Defense Project fights to end the criminalization of poverty in Texas. The organization envisions a system of justice that upholds the dignity and civil rights of all people, regardless of income, race, or gender. Through litigation, policy advocacy, and community lawyering, TFDP works to assist and empower impacted people and communities.

**Programs/ Services:**

- The TFDP provides free legal assistance to clients in the Austin and Travis County surrounding areas in areas such as license suspension, record clearing and expungement, and early probation termination.
- The organization holds Driver License Recovery Clinics, where individuals meet with volunteer attorneys and law students who help them take steps to address license issues.
- The Texas Fair Defense Project advocates for policy/initiatives such as:
  - Removal of Driver Responsibility Program
  - Pretrial reform such as challenging wealth-based detention
  - Bolstering public defense systems
- By collaborating with local jurisdictions such as Travis County, TFDP works to institute public defender offices.
- The organization has developed education campaigns such as Know Your Rights, which helps non-citizens understand legal rights during an encounter with the police.

**Population Served:** The Texas Fair Defense Project serves individuals who are disproportionately targeted by the criminal legal system.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$1,112,620 <sup>36</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.fairdefense.org/>

## Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA)

**Address:**

P.O. Box 300220, Austin, Texas 78703

**Organization Overview:**

The Texas Inmate Families Association aims to break the cycle of crime by strengthening families through support, education, and advocacy. The organization also provides parole workshops as well as online resources regarding navigating the justice system to members.

**Programs/ Services:**

- The Texas Inmate Families Association offers several workshops that help new families adjust to involvement in the criminal justice system.
- The organization also assists in locating inmates who have been transferred from county jails.
- The Storybook Project is provided by TIFA in several Texas Department of Criminal Justice units and allows incarcerated parents to engage in reading with their children.
- The Angel Tree Program provides chaplain support, gifts, and other services to children of incarcerated parents.

**Population Served:**

The Texas Inmate Families Association serves families with incarcerated members.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://tifa.org/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/383740913>

## Texas Jail Project

**Address:**

13121 Louetta Rd. #1330, Cypress, Texas 77429

**Organization Overview:**

The Texas Jail Project’s mission is to empower incarcerated individuals in county jails by lifting their voices through stories, testimonies, and community building.

**Programs/ Services:**

- Advocacy work that the Texas Jail Project has undertaken relates to:
  - Poor medical care and untreated mental illness in prisons
  - Lengthy pretrial incarceration
  - Lack of care during pregnancy in prisons
  - Investigations on conditions of confinement
- The Texas Jail Project contributes to Jailhouse Stories: Voices of Pretrial Detention in Texas. This initiative is a series of accounts of individuals in Texas county jails.

**Population Served:** N/A

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.texasjailproject.org/>

## Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (TORI)

**Address:**

1033 LaPosada Dr., Suite 150, Austin, Texas, 78752 <sup>37</sup>

**Organization Overview:**

Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative’s mission is to guide and empower previously incarcerated individuals in maximizing their potential, increasing opportunities for their successful reintegration into society, and to become productive citizens of their communities.

**Programs/ Services:**

- The TORI clients are provided with resources to obtain healthcare coverage and connection to affordable health clinics and pharmacies.
- Shelters and transitional housing programs are available to reentering citizens.
- GED and vocational training, basic life skills, and financial literacy are offered by TORI.
- Job skills development is offered including resume creation, interviewing skills, workplace ethics, and conflict resolution.
- Support groups for behavioral and addiction issues are available.
- Family reunification services are provided.
- The organization provides opportunities for spiritual counseling and chaplain services.

**Population Served:**

The Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative serves individuals reentering into society post-incarceration.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://medc-tori.org/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.texasojc.org/texas-offenders-reentry-initiative-tori-austin-tori-austin-urban-league#sidr-0>

## Truth Be Told

**Address:** P.O. Box 40221, Austin, Texas 78704

### Organization Overview:

Truth Be Told's mission is to provide transformational programs through self-discovery for women who are or have been incarcerated resulting in increased self-worth, accountability, and positive contributions to society. The organization strives to work toward a society where all justice-involved women are restored to integrity, thereby breaking the cycle of incarceration.

### Programs/ Services:

- Truth Be Told sponsors the Talk to Me Series, a 16-week intensive curriculum that teaches public speaking skills, focuses on expressive writing and group dynamics, and encourages creative self-expression.
- Let's Get Real is a 14-week program that assists women reentering society. The program provides a safe community for these women along with weekly meetings and individualized planning.
- Truth Be Told provides creative arts programming for inmates that ranges from yoga teachers and writers to storytellers and singers.
- Making Connections is a 20-class series that provides incarcerated participants with tools that promote self-awareness, emotional wellbeing, and positive self-management practices. This program was instituted in the Women's Programs at the Travis County Correctional Complex in 2008.
- Beyond Bars is a program that encourages women involved with Truth Be Told programming in prisons to stay connected and involved with the community post-release. Support is offered through follow-up calls and meetings, incentives upon meeting goals, and connections to additional services.

**Population Served:** Truth Be Told serves current and formerly incarcerated women.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** 2019: \$234,086 <sup>38</sup>

**Website:** <https://www.truth-be-told.org/>

## The Epicenter Initiative

**Address:** N/A

### Organization Overview:

The Epicenter Initiative is dedicated to rebuilding Texas families with children serving extreme sentences in adult prisons. The organization's mission is to rehabilitate justice-involved youth, advocate for their release on parole after 20 years, and prepare them for societal reintegration by providing them with a network of support.

### Programs/ Services:

- Jacob's House, a post-release residency program, assists reentering youth with transitional housing.
- Aftershock, a proposed initiative, is a 12-step program that starts reentry planning and assistance in prison.

**Population Served:** The Epicenter Initiative serves reentering and justice-involved youth.

**City Area Served:** City-wide

**Annual Revenue:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.secondlooktexas.org>

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<sup>38</sup> <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/421558329>

A photograph of the Austin skyline at night, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers against a dark blue sky. The buildings are lit up with warm yellow and white lights, and some have blue accents. The overall scene is a cityscape at dusk or night.

# A LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

**NICJR**★  
National Institute for  
Criminal Justice Reform