

children at Risk
ANNUAL REPORT
2023



SPEAKING OUT + DRIVING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message From Our CEO	2
Education	3
Health	7
Safety and Opportunity	8
Children’s Immigration Network	9
Equity and Justice	10
Advocacy: 88th Legislative Session	12
Texas Family Leadership Council	13
Learning Events	14
2022 Financial Statements	15
Governance	16
2024 Staff	18

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



It is with immense pride and joy that we announce the start of a significant milestone: the 35th Anniversary of CHILDREN AT RISK.

For over three decades, our organization has been at the forefront of advocating for the well-being and rights of vulnerable children, tirelessly working to create a Texas where every child has an opportunity to succeed. Our efforts are deliberate, measurable, and focus on achieving substantial impact by addressing and advocating for systemic improvements based on data and research.

As we reflect on our journey, we are reminded of the invaluable dedication and investment in our work from supporters like yourself, who have been instrumental in making our mission a reality. This anniversary is not just a celebration of our achievements but a testament to the collective effort and commitment of our community. Let's continue to stand together on behalf of every child in Texas, as we embark on yet another year of enacting meaningful change.

Looking forward to the future, we are filled with hope and determination to continue making a difference in the lives of Texas children. We invite you to join us in this journey by subscribing to our mailing list, participating in advocacy alerts, attending our events, or making a meaningful donation.

Together, we can build a brighter future for the children of Texas.

For Children!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Sanborn'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dr. Bob Sanborn

President & CEO, CHILDREN AT RISK

EDUCATION

CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R) strives to empower every child and family in Texas by providing affordable, high-quality early education, strengthening the K-12 public education system, and supporting parents in their crucial role, with the goal of lifting children out of poverty, bridging opportunity gaps, and equipping them for success

Texas A+ Challenge



Jen Mascheck, A+ Academic Performance Coach, hosting personal PD for an Elementary in the Greater Houston Area.

Texas A+ Challenge offers comprehensive educational support through on-site coaching, virtual conversations, and personalized professional development, all aimed at fostering real academic growth in schools.

Their professional learning workshops empower educators with research-supported best practices, while their goal-focused approach ensures tangible improvements. Additionally, monthly academies provide a platform for networking and collaborative problem-solving for educators throughout Greater Houston, reinforcing a community dedicated to learning and growth.

OUR IMPACT

278

public schools
partnered with A+ to
build capacity

21,320

educators have
strengthened skills &
knowledge

1.75M

students served by
stronger teachers & school
leaders

K-12 Education

There are **5.4 million** total students in Texas public schools.
53.5% are at risk of dropping out.

CHILDREN AT RISK is addressing Texas public education's challenges—such as high student-to-teacher ratios and achievement gaps—by working to enhance the K-12 system and educational outcomes. Our efforts aim to lift children out of poverty and close opportunity gaps, ensuring they acquire skills for the 21st-century economy. This commitment represents a strategic investment in Texas' future, underscoring the need for collaborative efforts to secure equitable, quality education for all students.



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EDUCATION SUMMIT

In September, experts from across the nation shared innovative practices and solutions to education challenges. Attendees left the summit equipped with the knowledge of which public policies and community solutions will help both students and teachers thrive, and what they can do to help make this a reality.



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STEM SUMMIT

The STEM Summit dove into the issues of STEM education, focusing on building a robust and qualified pipeline of professionals. This event highlighted the work of STEM industry leaders, educators, and nonprofit innovators working to improve access to STEM education for all students.



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FUTURE OF CHILDREN SUMMIT

What might the lives of children look like decades from now? From emerging technologies to hybrid work models to evolving social structures, we dove into the implications for children's education, health, and well-being. We discussed the critical components needed to shape a brighter future for the kids of tomorrow.



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2022-23 TEXAS SCHOOL RANKINGS

For the past nineteen years, CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R) has ranked and graded Texas public schools to help parents, educators, and community members better understand how their local schools are performing. By providing this information to parents and educators, C@R hopes to encourage greater accountability and transparency in the education system.

Early Childhood Education

2.7 million children under the age of 6 live in Texas.

21% of Texas children under the age of 6 live in families below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line.

CHILDREN AT RISK emphasizes the importance of high-quality early childhood education, especially for mitigating poverty's effects on children from low-income families. We focus on ensuring access to affordable, quality early education and strengthening a well-supported early childhood workforce, aiming to improve academic success and support critical brain development in the early years.

Child advocates on South Capitol Steps in Austin, TX



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION RALLY DAY

In March, a coalition of advocates, families, providers, business and nonprofit leaders underscored the importance of affordable, quality child care for working families and the Texas economy. They highlighted its role in boosting workforce participation, business productivity, and economic growth, advocating for policies to enhance the child care system as essential economic infrastructure.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUMMIT

In May, CHILDREN AT RISK hosted our Early Education Summit. During this summit, there was a focus on a quality and sustainable early childhood education system being essential to our state's economy. Child care providers, parents, advocates, and business leaders gathered to discuss the growing care crisis, disparities in child care access, inequities in the workforce, how state and federal policymakers are working to address these challenges, and more!

children atRisk TXFLC

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SUMMIT

THURSDAY, MAY 11
10AM CT
VIRTUAL



Early Childhood Education, cont.



Kim Kofron, Senior Director of Education leading ECE discussion in San Antonio.

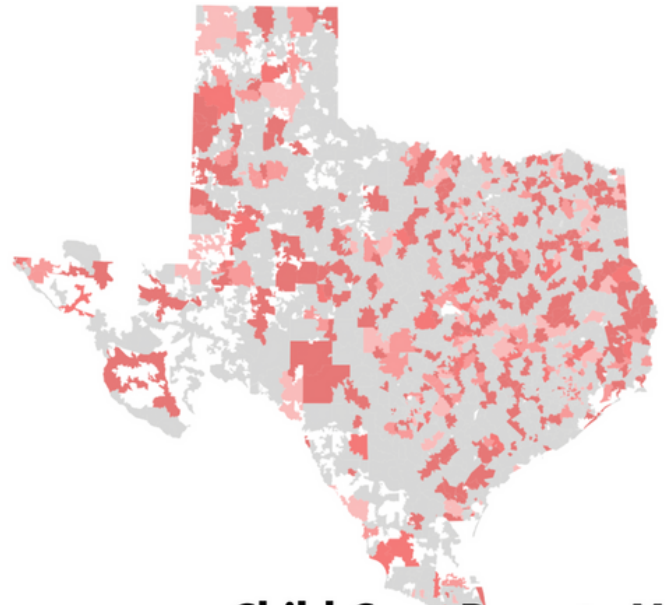
TEXAS TOURS

A spring virtual tour was conducted to gather feedback for strategic planning for the Texas Prenatal-to-Three Collaborative, focusing on state goals and solutions for equitable access to resources. Additionally, throughout October, CHILDREN AT RISK hosted community conversations in 12 Texas cities, including Brownsville, McAllen, San Antonio, Austin, Amarillo, Odessa, Lubbock, El Paso, Tyler, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston, to discuss the impact of the 88th Legislative Session on Early Childhood Education.

UPDATED CHILD CARE DESERTS MAP

Supported by the Kellogg Foundation, CHILDREN AT RISK has developed the Texas Child Care Desert Map, a tool to assess child care availability across Texas, highlighting areas with shortages of subsidized and quality child care, according to Texas Rising Star standards. The accompanying analysis provides a detailed overview of child care deserts by county.

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Child Care Deserts Map



PRENATAL TO THREE COLLABORATIVE

CHILDREN AT RISK, together with TexProtects and Texans Care for Children, leads the Texas PN-3 Collaborative, supported by over 110 partner organizations statewide. This coalition is dedicated to improving early childhood outcomes in Texas, successfully advancing several key early childhood education bills despite challenges posed by the pandemic and other distractions.

HEALTH

1 out of every 5 uninsured children in the United States lives in Texas. In Texas, over **5.4 million students** were offered free school meals through federal programs.

CHILDREN AT RISK is dedicated to improving health outcomes for Texas children by ensuring equitable access to school food programs, mental health services, childhood immunizations, and expanding efforts to maternal health and well-being. We believe in providing comprehensive health resources and services, including maternal care. Through statewide collaboration, C@R aims to forge strong partnerships for long-term health improvements in our communities.



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MOTHERHOOD SUMMIT

In April, the second annual Motherhood Summit dissected some of the most pressing issues facing Texas mothers. The health and well-being of mothers have a direct impact on their children and family. We explored the intersectionality of topics such as prenatal care, child care, mental health, and economic justice, and how we can make sure that Texas moms get the care and support they deserve.

2023 KROGER SCHOOL FOOD RANKINGS

C@R annually highlights the top-performing districts in the state based on their exemplary provision of breakfast, lunch, and after-school meals. For the 2023 rankings, with universal eligibility for free meals, the focus shifted to total student participation in these programs. This acknowledgment underscores the significant impact these districts have on the academic and economic future of Texas.

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SAFETY AND OPPORTUNITY

CHILDREN AT RISK actively advocates for policies that protect human trafficking survivors and targets demand for exploitation, while also supporting opportunity youth aged 16-24 who are not in school or employed. Beyond advocacy, C@R convenes stakeholders, generates evidence, and pushes for legislation to improve equity, prevent exploitation, and enhance resilience among Texas' vulnerable children, aiming for systemic change.

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ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUMMIT

Technology is exploited in human trafficking to recruit victims via social media, advertise their services, and facilitate communication within trafficking rings. This summit highlighted the efforts of organizations statewide to tackle this issue by curbing demand and supporting survivors.



Shown above from left to right: Rep. Jacey Jetton, Rep. Ann Johnson, Senator John Whitmire, Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Rep. Matt Shaheen, CEO & President Dr. Bob Sanborn, & Senator Joan Huffman.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING RALLY DAY

In January, CHILDREN AT RISK and partners cohosted an Anti-Human Trafficking Rally in the Capitol Rotunda. Advocates chanting "Stop Trafficking Now" joined in with signs to bring awareness to the issue. Following the rally, a press conference at the Capitol where various lawmakers spotlighted bills for the 88th Texas Legislative Session,

Anti-human trafficking advocates bringing awareness and celebrating new legislation to combat human trafficking.

UBER PRESS CONFERENCE

In August, CHILDREN AT RISK, Uber, and state officials discussed the passage of HB 2313, mandating that Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) offer their drivers training on human trafficking awareness and reporting. This initiative aims to enhance TNC drivers' ability to identify and report signs of human trafficking.



CHILDREN'S IMMIGRATION NETWORK

Texas has **5 million** immigrants living in our state.
Nearly **2.5 million** children have at least one immigrant parent.

The Children's Immigration Network advocates for first and second-generation immigrant and refugee children, including undocumented children and those from mixed-status households. Our goal is to identify and implement best practices that enhance educational outcomes and ensure access to services and benefits. We are committed to a systematic and strategic advocacy agenda for policy changes and institutional reform that safeguard the rights of immigrant and refugee children and their families, harnessing statewide, intersectional collaborations to support these objectives.

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

In June, our National Immigration Summit explored the unique needs facing immigrant children and their families. This year brought many changes to our immigration policy landscape; we heard the latest on border policies, child labor, health care, and access to benefits. We learned how leaders are protecting student access to education and how educators and policymakers are supporting innovation in the classroom.



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RESPONSE TO SB 4

The Children's Immigration Network hosted 5 regional press conferences, alongside strategic partners, to highlight how the passage of a new Texas bill commonly referred to as the "Show Me Your Papers," bill is a significant departure from our core tenants on child welfare and safety. C@R is uniting with community leaders to uplift more concerted efforts to rally around and protect all children in Texas.

Houston Press Conference, with Steven Wu, Sarah Howell, Rachna Khare, & Linda Corchado



EQUITY AND JUSTICE

C@R is committed to viewing all our work with a race equity lens. Our goal is to improve equity and justice for all Texas children and families and to find solutions for problems that disproportionately affect communities of color. We do this by collecting data to identify inequities, collaborating for community-driven solutions, and advocating for equitable systems.



THE STATE OF INEQUITY DREAMS DEFERRED

2023

children
atRisk

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THE STATE OF INEQUITY

In *The State of Inequity: Dreams Deferred*, CHILDREN AT RISK explores our children's access to good health, basic needs, quality education, and fair justice through an equity lens. While not exhaustive, this report provides a snapshot of areas for further study and improvement, so that every child in Texas has a clear path to achieving their dreams.

EQUITY RALLY DAY

For children in Texas, outcomes remain dependent on where they grow up, their race, their ethnicity, and how much money their parents make. This rally day was a call for Texas legislators to address racial disparities during the Texas 88th Legislative Session to bring us closer to creating a fair and equal society.



C@R staff members, Michelle Bowman and Jacob Westjohn, advocating for equity.



Mattress Firm staff advocating for basic needs.

BASIC NEEDS RALLY DAY

In April, we had our Basic Needs Rally Day sponsored and participated by Mattress firm. CHILDREN AT RISK joined experts, community members, and advocates to identify best practices for ensuring Texas kids have access to their best chances at success. This advocacy day, we worked with legislators to get crucial bills across the finish line.

EQUITY AND JUSTICE, cont.

72.5% of Texas students are students of color.

45% of the students that were mechanically restrained in the US were from Texas.

STATE OF BLACK CHILDREN IN TEXAS

This summit explored the challenges Black children face growing up in Texas and how to best support them at all stages of development. Four different panels including Finding a Way to Good Health, Paving a Smooth Path to Fair Justice, Building a Bridge to Quality Education, and Meeting Basic Needs on the Journey to Success.



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STATE OF LATINE CHILDREN

The State of Latine Children: An Evolution of Approach, Advocacy, and Inclusivity took a closer look at the unique challenges faced by Latine children growing up in the US. From health and education to economic justice, experts discussed what needs to be done to improve their lives.

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C.R.O.W.N. ACT

CHILDREN AT RISK significantly contributed to the passage of The C.R.O.W.N. Act, aimed at eradicating race-based hair discrimination in schools and workplaces. This legislation promises to mitigate unjust exclusions based on hair bias, thus ensuring a more inclusive environment, safeguarding from discrimination tied to natural hairstyles.



ADVOCACY: 88th LEGISLATIVE SESSION

79

bills supported

29

expert testimonies

4

Advocacy Rally Days

Over the 140 days of the 2023 Regular Texas Legislative Session, approximately 11,800 bills were filed, and 4,550 passed. CHILDREN AT RISK showed up strong, registering support for bills 79 times, and providing expert testimony on legislation 29 times. In addition to testimony, CHILDREN AT RISK organized four Advocacy Rallies to promote legislation on early childhood education, human trafficking, racial equity, and basic needs that brought hundreds of Texans to the Capitol – many for the very first time.



88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

With the dust settled on the 88th Regular Texas Legislative Session, C@R dove into the details to highlight what legislation passed, where there were missed opportunities, and what it all means for Texas children.

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CHILD CARE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The 88th Texas Legislature's legislation, ratified by a constitutional amendment with 65% voter approval, enables cities and counties to grant property tax relief to select child care centers. This move marks a significant victory for Texas, aiding struggling child care providers, reducing costs for families, and ensuring access to quality child care. It sets the stage for further advocacy, leveraging increased support and data to convince legislators of the critical need for affordable, high-quality child care and ongoing investment in the future of Texas's children.



TEXAS FAMILY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

*In 2023, TXFLC hosted **37** meetings, attracting more than **300** individual participants and totaling **1466** attendees overall.*

The Texas Family Leadership Council (TXFLC) is made up of child and family-focused organizations, community leaders, and influencers from across the state. TXFLC members come together on a weekly basis to share information and resources to improve the quality of life for Texas children. TXFLC working groups tackle the most pressing issues facing families in our state by evaluating policy solutions and developing a united advocacy agenda.



SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING

HB 1905 enables ISDs in Texas to provide safety training for child care and private educational settings, addressing concerns of school shootings affecting these areas. It leverages taxpayer funds and evidence-based practices to enhance protection for children and educators. Championed by Talarico and West, and prioritized by the Texas Family Leadership Council, CHILDREN AT RISK played a key role in advocating for this legislation.

TXFLC Workgroups

TEXAS RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE (TREC)

TREC is a consortium of individuals representing various organizations working together to combat racial disparities in all sectors of Texas life.

TEXAS IMMIGRATION NETWORK (TIN)

TIN brings together pediatricians, attorneys, educators, among others to work together to address the needs of immigrant children.

PUBLIC POLICY WORKGROUP (PPW)

PPAC engages on common legislative items that will improve the status of children.

HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (HAC)

The Health Advisory Council brings together health care professionals and public advocates to identify whole-child policy solutions.

TEXAS ANTI-POVERTY AGENDA (TAPA)

TAPA members focus on evidence-based policies to significantly reduce child poverty.

LEARNING EVENTS

IN 2023

10

C@R hosted 10 free virtual learning events

1,200

people participated

2,600+

these events accumulated over 2,600 YouTube views

CHILDREN AT RISK is committed to hosting free events that engage the public and help them drive change for children. We aim to share research, unpack pressing policy issues, and highlight diverse community perspectives from across Texas. We convene experts, community organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss a range of important topics impacting children across Texas and beyond. Thank you to the many sponsors that make these learning events accessible and impactful.

Cuba Learning Tour



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In order to better understand the systems in other countries and see how they compare with the United States, C@R led a Learning Tour in Havana, Cuba. Our staff and 21 guests spent five days meeting with various organizations, learning from the locals, and exploring the culturally and artistically vibrant capital of Cuba. The group left with a better understanding of how Cuban systems function and with new knowledge about the country's culture and history. CHILDREN AT RISK will use this insight to better assess and address our concerns here in Texas.

2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following financial statements were collected from CHILDREN AT RISK's 2022 Audit Report. C@R was audited by the independent auditor Blazek and Vetterling, which issued an unmodified opinion.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Revenue		Expenses	
Contributions	\$2,628,449	Research and Advocacy for Children	\$2,434,055
Government Grants	\$114,686	Management and General	\$626,427
Special Events	\$992,695	Fundraising	\$588,759
Contract and Program Fees	\$307,545		
Investment Return	\$8,529		
Total	\$3,773,850	Total	\$3,649,241

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Liabilities		Net Assets	
Liabilities	\$299,534	Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,835,543
		With Donor Restrictions	\$1,706,227
Total	\$299,534	Total Net Assets	\$3,541,770
		Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,841,304

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CHILDREN AT RISK is a non-partisan research and advocacy nonprofit dedicated to understanding and addressing the root causes of child poverty and inequality.

Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for change to improve children's quality of life through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy.



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CHILDREN AT RISK is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 76-0360533).