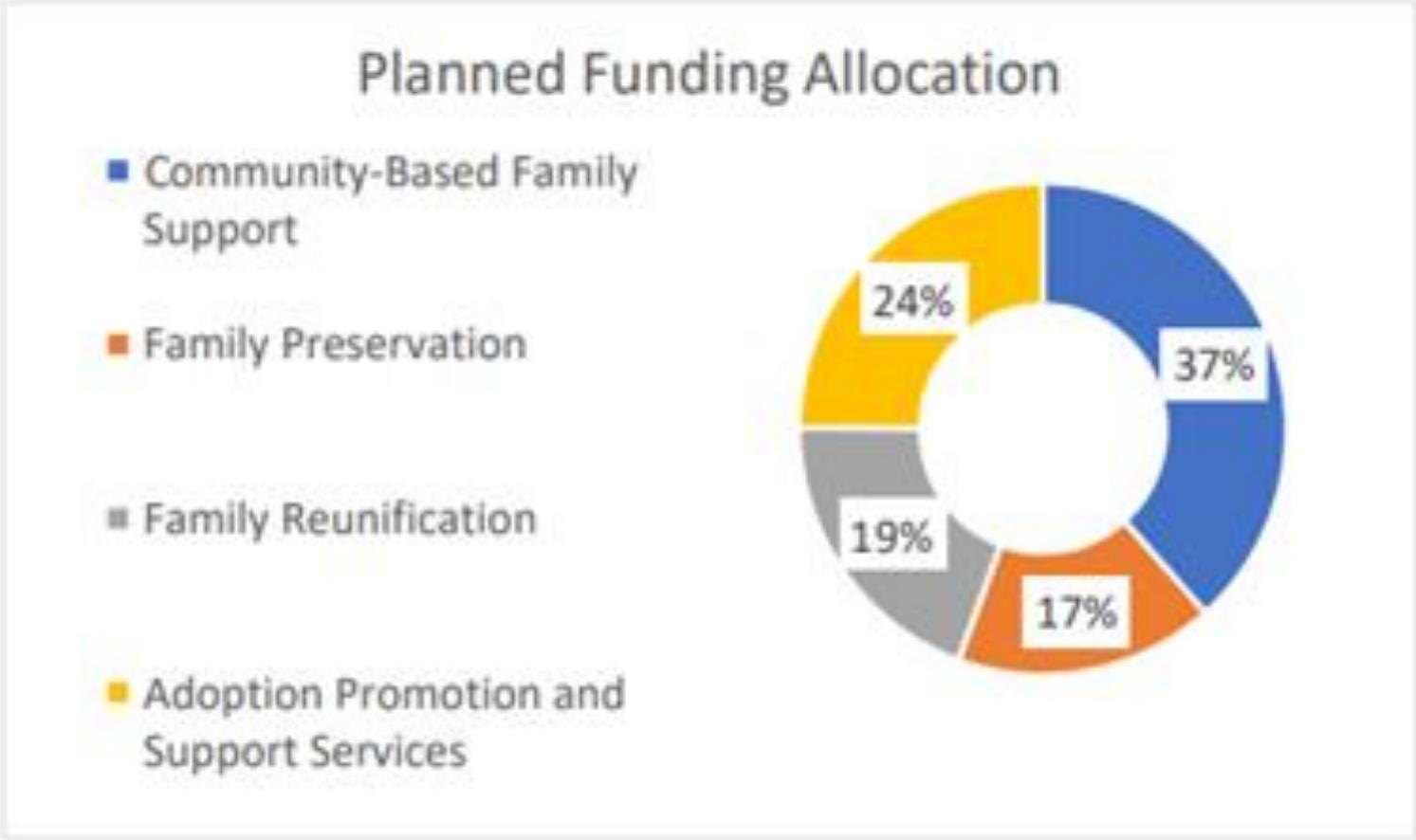# MaryLee Allen RFA
# Q&A Webinar

March 8th, 2022

# MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe & Stable Families Program, TITLE IV-B Subpart 2

- Source of federal funding to states to provide services to families in four program areas: Family Support, Family Preservation, Family Reunification and Adoption Promotion and Post-Permanency Support

- Designed to help state child welfare agencies expand and enhance the array and accessibility of community-based services for families at risk or in crisis

- Allows funding for foster, adoptive and kinship caregiver related programs for the first time

- Goals of Funding:
  - To improve access to and quality of services to children and their families
  - To prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families
  - To ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption, or by another permanent living arrangement

**the center**
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Four Key Objectives of Funding

1. Community-based family support services to prevent child maltreatment among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services. **(Including adoptive, foster, and extended families as well as programs that offer direct incentives/payments to the aforementioned**)

2. Family preservation services to assure children's safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been maltreated, when the family's problems can be addressed effectively.

3. Family reunification services to address the problems of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and stable manner.

4. Adoption promotion and support services to support adoptive families by providing

the center

# Round 1 Funding



Planned Funding Allocation

- Community-Based Family Support
- Family Preservation
- Family Reunification
- Adoption Promotion and Support Services

37% 17% 19% 24%

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Examples Projects/Program:

Potential areas of focus could include, but are not limited to:

- Family support programs directed at specific vulnerable populations have had positive effects on parents, children, or both. The vulnerable populations for which programs have been shown to be effective include teenage mothers with very young children and families that have children with special needs.

- Family preservation programs have been shown to provide extensive and intensive services to families in crisis.  Increase in availability of services to address family problems, such as substance abuse treatment. Access to these types of services can be an important factor in successful family reunification.

- Increases in the annual number of adoptions have created a growing need for post-adoption services and for service providers with the particular knowledge and skills required to address the unique issues adoptive families and children may face. In addition, the high level of services and treatment needed by children when adoptions disrupt suggests that effective adoption support services may benefit some of the children who later need the most intensive treatment by offering services earlier.

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Examples of Allowable Expenditures

Community-Based Family Support:
- therapeutic services including crisis intervention
- staff positions for program directors, group facilitators, case managers, family engagement specialists, teachers
- direct family support services, basic care and concrete services for families
- fatherhood engagement services

Family Preservation:
- staffing needs including parenting coordinators, kinship family specialists, parenting class facilitators, life skills coaches, substance abuse counselors, clinicians, program support staff, and attorneys
- concrete services such as food pantry, computers and other technology needs for families
- emergency needs, assistance for rent and utilities, and transportation
- training and funding to support families in meeting licensure and service requirements

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Examples of Allowable Expenditures

Family Reunification:
- staffing including support staff and managers, behavioral support specialists, wraparound service facilitators, case managers, substance abuse counselors, and kinship development specialists.
- family support including basic needs, rent and utilities, transportation

Adoption Promotion and Support:
- family support service programs, psychiatric consultants and professional counselors, post-adoption therapists, behavioral support specialist, and kinship family specialists.
- training and support for TBRI
- training to enhance knowledge and ability to serve foster and adoptive families pre- and post-placement.
- adoption support and post adoption training and class facilitators in addition to other relevant family support educational opportunities.

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Funding Details

- Funds were awarded to 46 community-based child welfare provider agencies during the first round of funding.

- Funding will be awarded through a selection process up to $60,000 per organization (applications over 60k need to be approved by DFPS).

- Grant awards will be announced via grant acceptance letters and project funding will be paid in one installment upon execution of the grant acceptance letter.

- All requirements within the grant acceptance letter must be met by the end date of the contract (11/01/2022).

- The Center will use a systematic scoring process by a panel of internal and external reviewers to select applicants for awards.

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Minimum Qualifications

Organizations eligible to apply at this time must fit the listed requirements:

1. Eligible applicants for funding must one of the following organization types:
    a. Service provider operating in the State of Texas with applicable incurred costs;
    b. Active DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention Contractor;
    c. DFPS licensed 24-Hour Residential Child Care operation with an active contract with DFPS or an SSCC;
    d. DFPS or SSCC Client Service Contractor;
    e. Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC); or
    f. An operation contracted to provide Supervised Independent Living services (SIL) to DFPS Youth.

**\*As long as an organization has incurred costs that meet one of the four objectives of the funding objectives as listed in the RFA, then you would be considered eligible under 1.a. of the minimum qualifications and eligible to apply.**

2. Must be in good standing (i.e. must not be placed on probation by CCR at the time of the award)
    • Heightened Monitoring is not a disqualifier for funding

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Application Details

- Proposals must be submitted using the online application.

- As part of the application process, organizations will be asked to provide details about:
  - Your agency
  - The programs and services you provide
  - How Covid-19 has impacted your organization
    - Consider areas such as programming, staffing, health and safety, capacity, funding, or any other domain that has been affected by the pandemic.
  - How you plan to use the funding from this grant
    - The project description should include, but is not limited to:
      I. Project summary, if applicable
      II. A clear narrative that explains all components of the project as they relate to the four outlined objectives of the funding.
      III. Goals and activities iv. Identifying measures of success (outputs and short-term outcomes)

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Important Dates

- Applications Due (no later than 5 PM Central Time) 3/18/2022

- Tentative Award Announcements 3/31/2022

- Anticipated Contract Start Date 4/01/2022

- Anticipated Contract End Date 11/01/2022

# Scoring Rubric

Key Areas
- COVID Impact
- Services & Programming
- Proposed Project for Funding
- Organizational Components
- Feasibility and Financial Position

the center
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD
AND FAMILY STUDIES

# Questions?