

Texas LAUNCH

Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health



Project LAUNCH is a national initiative to promote the wellness of young children from birth to 8 years of age by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development. Project LAUNCH was initiated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in 2008, and a total of 55 sites have been funded nationwide. The initial Project LAUNCH site in Texas was led by Aliviane, Inc. in El Paso. In 2015, Texas was awarded a cooperative agreement to expand the successful strategies implemented in El Paso to three additional Texas communities,

Texas LAUNCH aims to build upon the success of the El Paso project by using four targeted behavioral health promotion and prevention “core strategies” (see side bar). Each of the strategies will be implemented within; Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in El Paso, Tarrant County MHMR in Fort Worth, and Family Services Association of San Antonio, Inc. Targeted efforts to reduce health and behavioral health care disparities in each community will also be undertaken. Each local community will develop an early childhood wellness council to oversee the efforts and build partnerships among early childhood providers.

A partnership between the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Aliviane, Inc., and the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH) at the University of Texas at Austin will support the three participating communities in implementing Texas LAUNCH. State partners will support expansion through policy and infrastructure improvement activities, coordination of training and technical assistance, and the completion of an evaluation. The Texas LAUNCH initiative aims to serve 1000 children and families over the four years.

Visit Texas LAUNCH: <http://sites.utexas.edu/mental-health-institute/texas-launch/>

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Project LAUNCH “Core Strategies”

- Increase screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings
 - Focus on child care providers, Head Start staff, primary care, and home visiting staff
 - Communities will receive training and technical assistance to help engage community staff in the use of tools and screening programs
 - Communities will identify or develop tools to support appropriate referrals following positive screens
- Provide family strengthening and parent skills training
 - ‘Incredible Years’ program will be implemented in all communities to enhance parenting skills, reduce behavioral problems, and reduce parenting stress
 - Parent Cafés will be implemented to extend skills training to additional parents
- Implement early childhood mental health consultation
 - The project team will seek opportunities to support the implementation of mental health consultation in one or more communities
- Build early childhood competency in the workforce
 - The project will expand opportunities for the workforce to gain an understanding of child development, trauma-informed practices, relationship-based interventions, and evidence-based practices for this population



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