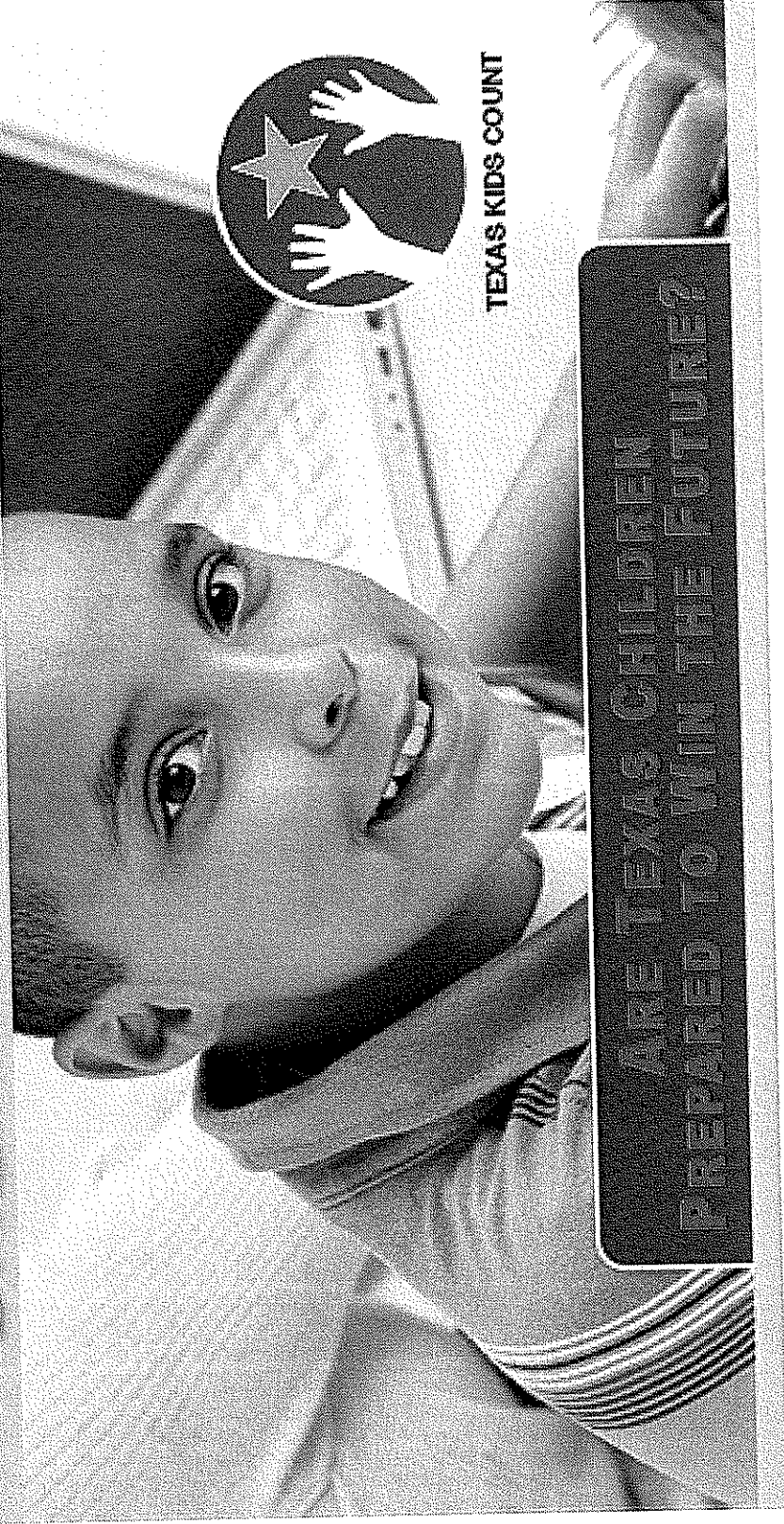


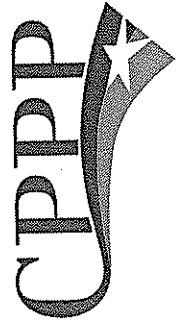
BREAKFAST BRIEFING:



TEXAS KIDS COUNT

ARE TEXAS CHILDREN
PREPARED TO WIN THE FUTURE?

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 • George Washington Carver Museum Auditorium



WORKING FOR A **BETTER** TEXAS™

Texas



KEY INDICATORS

STATE TREND

NATIONAL TREND

NATIONAL RANK

Indicator	Year	Value	Change (%)	Year	Value	Change (%)	Rank
Percent low-birthweight babies	2000	7.4	14%	2000	7.6	8%	31
	2008	8.4		2008	8.2		
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	5.7	11%	2000	6.9	-1%	13
	2007	6.3		2007	6.8		
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	2000	24	-13%	2000	22	-14%	27
	2007	21		2007	19		
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	2000	76	-17%	2000	67	-7%	23
	2007	63		2007	62		
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	2000	69	-9%	2000	48	-15%	48
	2008	63		2008	41		
Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates (ages 16-19)	2000	14	-50%	2000	11	-45%	29
	2009	7		2009	6		
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)	2000	N.A.	—	2000	N.A.	—	33
	2009	10		2009	9		
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2000	N.A.	—	2000	N.A.	—	22
	2009	30		2009	31		
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009)	2000	22	9%	2000	17	18%	41
	2009	24		2009	20		
Percent of children in single-parent families	2000	31	13%	2000	31	10%	32
	2009	35		2009	34		

PERCENT CHANGE OVER TIME



N.A.: Comparable data not available for 2000 for these indicators. Find more information and the definitions and data sources for indicators at: datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011

Find more state and community-level data at the KIDS COUNT Data Center: datacenter.kidscount.org/TX

2011 KIDS COUNT® Data Book

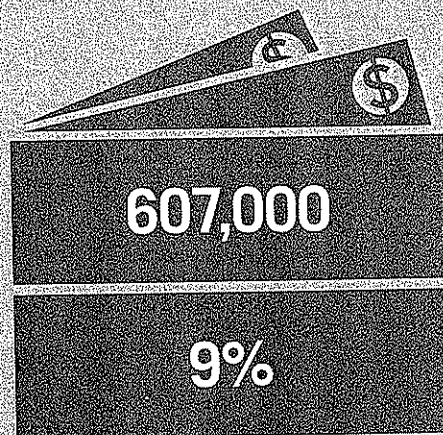
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Texas

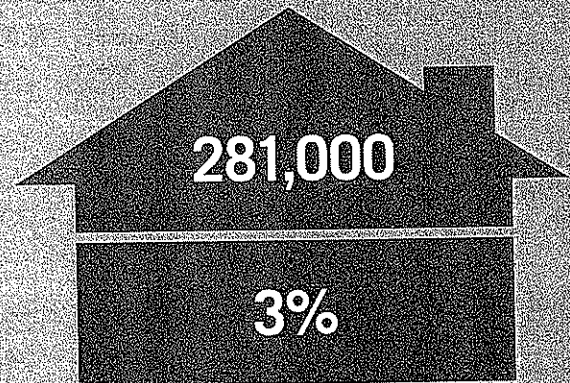
The recession hit vulnerable families hard, and unemployment and foreclosure starts remain high. In 2010, 11 percent of children in the U.S. had at least one unemployed parent and 4 percent have been affected by foreclosure since 2007. It is critical that we address these economic challenges to ensure the well-being of children, families, and the nation.

Find more state and community-level data at the KIDS COUNT Data Center: datacenter.kidscount.org/TX

Texas



Children With at Least One Unemployed Parent: 2010



Children Affected by Foreclosure Since 2007

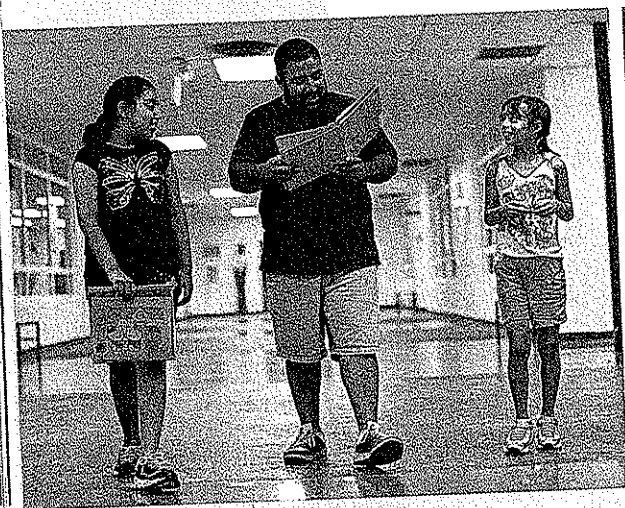
Family Stories

MANUEL LUNA San Antonio, Texas

“It broke me down, emotionally and mentally, that I couldn’t provide for my family. We’d never been in a situation like this before.”

Today, Manuel Luna has a good full-time job with benefits to support his wife and four young children. But he remembers well the financial and emotional toll of being unemployed for almost five months after losing his job in 2009—a time he calls “our depression.”

Angry and despondent after losing his role as the family breadwinner, Manuel Luna attended anger management classes and family counseling. The family found resources and service providers through the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s *Making Connections* program and the Casey-supported Center for Working Families, which serves low-income families.



"It broke me down, emotionally and mentally, that I couldn't provide for my family. We'd never been in a situation like this before," admits Luna. Counseling "helped build my confidence back" and it eased his wife's anxiety and "helped us as a family, bringing us more closely together."

He credits the help he received from several programs with pulling his family through. The Earned Income Tax Credit provided extra cash to help the family catch up on bills and pay off debts. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (formerly food stamps) and the San Antonio Food Bank not only helped feed his family, but also freed up money to buy other essentials, like school uniforms and shoes. The Energy Assistance Program helped pay for utilities, which allowed other money to pay such bills as the rent.

"Right now, we're stable," says Luna, 31, who has worked since September 2010 as a utility technician for the city's public water system and, before that, in a restaurant warehouse. "But we really went through a hard time. The programs helped us."

The Lunas also tapped into financial education programs to improve their credit and work toward qualifying for an Individual Development Account to save for college and to buy a home. Luna's wife Hilda Laura, 29, a stay-at-home mother, decided to start vocational training and will soon earn a cosmetology degree.

After their financial and emotional health improved, Manuel and Hilda Laura Luna plunged into community activities. Manuel has served as a PTA president and coached his children's sports teams. The couple has been involved in a neighborhood improvement group and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

"I am better off than I was before I got laid off. I was working a lot and wasn't spending much time with my wife and kids," says Luna. "The counseling and anger management helped me see what I really was missing. I'm working a good job. My wife is happy. I'm spending more time with my kids. For all the little things that I have, I am happy."

Practical Solutions

Helping families to weather tough employment setbacks with temporary benefits, combined with financial literacy and other counseling services, can lessen the economic and emotional toll and put them on a more solid path to success.

