



## **Child Protective Services Reintegration Pilot Project in Travis County, Texas**

Executive Summary & Full Report available at  
<http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/austinreintegration.htm>

Casey Family Programs' Research Services is pleased to present an executive summary and full report for the **Child Protective Services (CPS) Reintegration Pilot Project in Travis County, TX**. This evaluation was conducted with the University of Texas-Austin in collaboration with Casey Family Programs' Austin Field Office and the support of Casey's Texas State Strategy team. The CPS Reintegration Pilot program provides the intensive supports necessary to move children with complex mental and behavioral needs out of residential care back into their families and communities using a wraparound model. The project is a partnership among Casey Family Programs, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service (HHS&VS), and Texas Child Protective Services (CPS).

The evaluation is a multiple case study that provides rich qualitative information about the experiences of children, families, and staff with this innovative reunification program. In addition to documenting some of the program's early successes, the evaluation also uncovered barriers to reunification at the system, program, and case levels. Identification of these barriers can be used to advocate for system change and to improve program practice. The family narratives contained in this report provide a compelling impetus to seek such change.

*In order to improve dissemination of this promising model, Casey is creating a 15 minute video documentary highlighting the importance of reunification and including the voices of the families in the program. Available early 2010, this video can be used for training child welfare staff. You can order the video from the Casey website ([www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)).*

In addition, Casey's Research Services plans to continue to track the children enrolled in the program to understand their long-term trajectory following participation. They also plan to analyze the costs and savings associated with the program.

Documenting successes and barriers, long-term outcomes, and costs will contribute to the field's understanding of factors affecting reunification and promote replication of a promising program model. The goal of successfully reunifying children with their families is one critical strategy for realizing Casey Family Programs' mission to reduce the number of children in care by 50% by the year 2020. We hope this report contributes to an awareness of what is needed to make successful reunification a possibility.