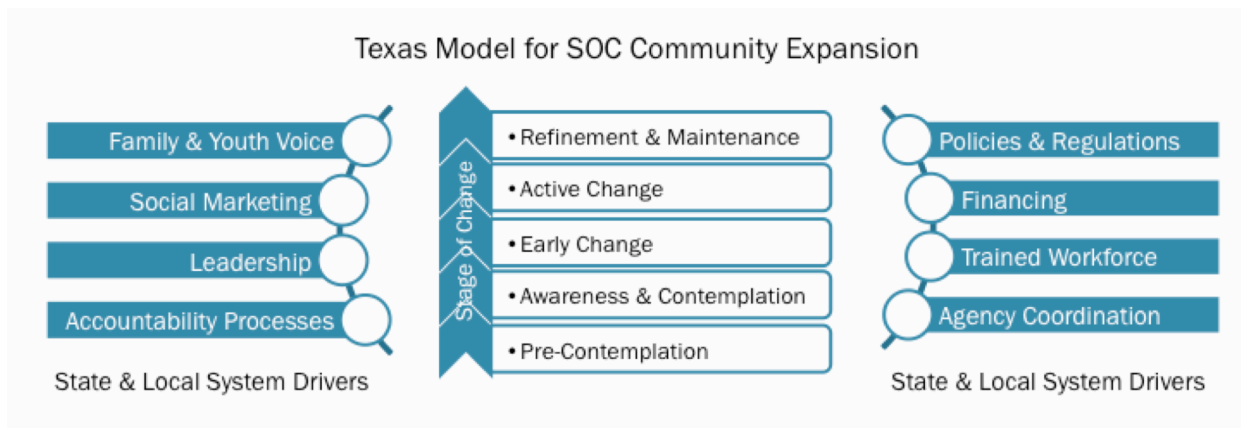


Expanding the System of Care Framework in Texas

Charged with Expansion: System of Care is an approach to the organization and financing of services for children with behavioral health challenges that is informed by well-tested values and principles. It has been shown to result in better outcomes for children and families and a strong return on investment for states and communities. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in partnership with child-serving agencies, families, youth, and other stakeholders, has been charged with expanding the System of Care framework in Texas. Senate Bill XXX of the 2013 Legislative Session, later amended through Senate Bill 200 of the 2015 Legislative Session, directed HHSC to “implement a system of care framework to develop local mental health systems of care in communities.”

Mission of Texas System of Care: *To strengthen the collaboration of state and local efforts to weave mental health supports and services into seamless systems of care for children, youth, and their families.*

A Model for Expansion: Effective Systems of Care occur within a community, through dedicated leadership and collaboration amongst community agencies, parents, youth, and others. Each community brings unique strengths, resources, and needs to the process; therefore planning and action need to occur within empowered communities. Yet System of Care communities are supported and sustained through state and federal policies that provide funding, support a competent workforce, and remove barriers to local changes. Through state leadership, communities are able to benefit from coordination of efforts, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and efficient training and technical assistance. [Texas System of Care](#), the state initiative, has developed a model to guide expansion efforts within the state.



Moving Communities through the Stages of Change: This model highlights the need to build readiness within communities and target efforts to an individual community’s stage of change. It also points to the need to attend to system drivers at the state and community level that are key to establishing an effective System of Care. The Texas System of Care [Strategic Plan](#) includes strategies intended to enhance state and local system drivers, while also moving Texas communities to higher levels of implementation.

Table 1. Texas Strategies to Support Community Change

Change Goal	Strategies for Change
Move from Pre-contemplation to Awareness/contemplation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas System of Care Website • Webinars • Presentations at conferences and meetings • Social media • E-newsletter and print materials
Move from Awareness/contemplation to Early Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations to community councils • Policy academies • Learning collaborative • Youth engagement RFP • Targeted technical assistance
Move from Early Change to Active Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion community RFP and contracts • Support and TA for CMHI grants • Technical assistance through university center of excellence • Peer to peer community support
Move from Active Change to Refinement and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer to peer community support • Technical assistance through university center of excellence • Accountability measurement

System of Care in Texas in Spring 2015: The map below represents the status of the 254 counties in Texas based on their stage of change for System of Care. This information aids state planning and the targeting of effective strategies to each community. To date, 51% of Texans reside in communities in Active Change or Refinement and Maintenance.

