

10 WINS FOR TEXANS WE'RE CELEBRATING IN 2023

This year, the Texas Appleseed team testified; collaborated with community members; met with policymakers; released issue briefs and reports; and always kept families, kids, and communities top of mind as we advocated for laws and policies that would help Texans. Join us in celebrating some of the positive policy changes that this work led to in 2023:

- 1 Senate Bill 1612 **abolished remaining juvenile court fees**. Now, justice-involved youth and their families **can focus on rehabilitation** instead of worrying about paying burdensome court fees.
- 2 House Bill 1819 **ended local juvenile curfew ordinances**. Now, vulnerable youth, including those who may be homeless or fleeing abuse, cannot be punished for simply being in a public space at certain hours.
- 3 House Bill 3186 **requires local governments to adopt a diversion plan for youth charged with fine-only offenses** in municipal and justice courts, better aligning municipal and justice courts' practice with that of the juvenile court system.
- 4 Senate Bill 2105 created a new requirement for data brokers to register with the state and to implement an information security program with safeguards to protect personal data. The bill **establishes transparency**, is an important step towards **giving Texans more control over their personal data**, and **helps vulnerable adults and survivors of domestic violence** by offering some protection from the use of this data for financial abuse.
- 5 House Bill 4 established the state's first comprehensive data privacy protections. It **provides Texas residents the right to know, access, correct, and delete personal data** held by covered businesses, as well as **opt out of the collection and sale of personal data**.

6 Senate Bill 1379 created a pilot program to **allow youth aging out of foster care to open a checking and savings account**. The bill eliminated barriers that required youth to have a parent or caregiver co-sign to open an account.

7 House Bill 3743 **created the ability for incarcerated individuals to apply for occupational licenses prior to release**. Previously, incarcerated people had to wait until after release to apply for a license, hindering employment in the field in which they were trained while in prison.

8 House Bill 473 **ensures parents are now notified and are kept involved when their child is undergoing a threat assessment** at a public school.

9 Texas Appleseed worked with partners HOME and CEER to increase flood mitigation funding for underserved, high-risk areas in Harris County. This work included **first-time equity requirements for a \$2.5 billion flood bond** and, in 2023, **raising the percentage of federal funding for underserved areas from less than 50% to almost 70%**.

10 Due in part to Texas Appleseed's advocacy, the Supreme Court of Texas issued a rule **ending the indiscriminate shackling of children in juvenile hearings**. Children will only be shackled in hearings if the court finds they are a risk to themselves or others, or if they are a flight risk.

We could not do this work without supporters like you. Thank you!

