

SERVING CHILDREN IN NEED  
IDENTIFYING THE NEED FOR A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY  
CENTER IN ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF COLLIN COUNTY  
JUNE 2015



#### PREPARED BY

The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP is a Dallas based nonprofit community design center seeking to improve the livability and viability of communities through the practice of thoughtful design and making. We enrich the lives of citizens by bringing design thinking to areas of our city where resources are most scarce. To do so, the [bc] recognizes that it must first understand the social, economic, and environmental issues facing a community before beginning work.

#### SUPPORTED BY

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## ABOUT CACCC

Children’s Advocacy Center of Collin County began operations in 1992 as a project of the Junior League of Collin County following an approach to children’s advocacy first promoted by Congressman Robert Cramer, Jr. in 1985. Children’s advocacy centers provide services through a multidisciplinary team that conduct forensic interviews, multiple forms of therapy, case management, and even community resources such as food and clothing. CACCC aims to provide safety, healing, and justice for children victimized by abuse or neglect in Collin County. This team consists of representatives from CACCC, Child Protective Services, various law enforcement agencies, and medical practitioners from area hospitals. By providing access to each of the agencies involved with the investigation and healing process under one roof, CACCC is able to provide an efficient and welcoming environment for children in need of help.

## ABOUT THIS STUDY

CACCC chose to engage [bc] as part of an additional consulting service offered through the Communities Foundation’s Data Driven Decision-Making (D3) Institute. [bc] is providing Dallas area nonprofit organizations with a data analysis package to inform decision-making on a specific problem or challenge defined by the nonprofit.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County (CACCC) currently serves over 3,000 victims of child abuse and neglect and their non-offending family members living in Collin County. Child victims across North Texas are largely able to receive help from CACs operating in the region; however, Rockwall County is currently one of the few counties in North Texas that does not have a CAC in place to support child victims of abuse and neglect. To address this, officials from Rockwall County have reached out to CACCC about providing services to child victims in Rockwall County.

This report is meant to guide the decision-making process for CACCC staff in determining if expanding their service area is in the best interest of CACCC from an operational standpoint. Using a methodology adapted from academic and professional literature, this report explores the value of a CAC within a community, the existing scale of CACs across Texas, the demographic make-up of Collin and Rockwall Counties, and specific indicators of child abuse and neglect identified by documents on the expansion and/or development of CACs nationally.

Ultimately, this report serves as a preliminary investigation into CAC service delivery for Rockwall County. This report draws a few primary conclusions:

- Rockwall County can likely support its own CAC, however evidence supporting various options for CAC development do not indicate a clear choice.
- More data is needed to demonstrate a need for a CAC in Rockwall County - stronger engagement with officials in Rockwall County is necessary to acquire much of the needed information.
- To narrow down available options, CACCC should work with stakeholders in Rockwall County to conduct a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study, following guidelines developed by various regional CACs from across the country.





## INTRODUCTION

Since 1985, organizations that bring together all of the necessary agencies to efficiently serve child victims of abuse and neglect have formed across the country.<sup>1</sup> These children's advocacy centers (CACs) create a safe space for child victims to share their stories with law enforcement officials and receive support from trained health professionals, often through multidisciplinary teams of law enforcement, government, and child welfare professionals. With more than 700 CACs operating across the country (64 in Texas), Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County serves the needs of child victims across Collin County - one of the fastest growing counties in the country.<sup>2 3</sup>

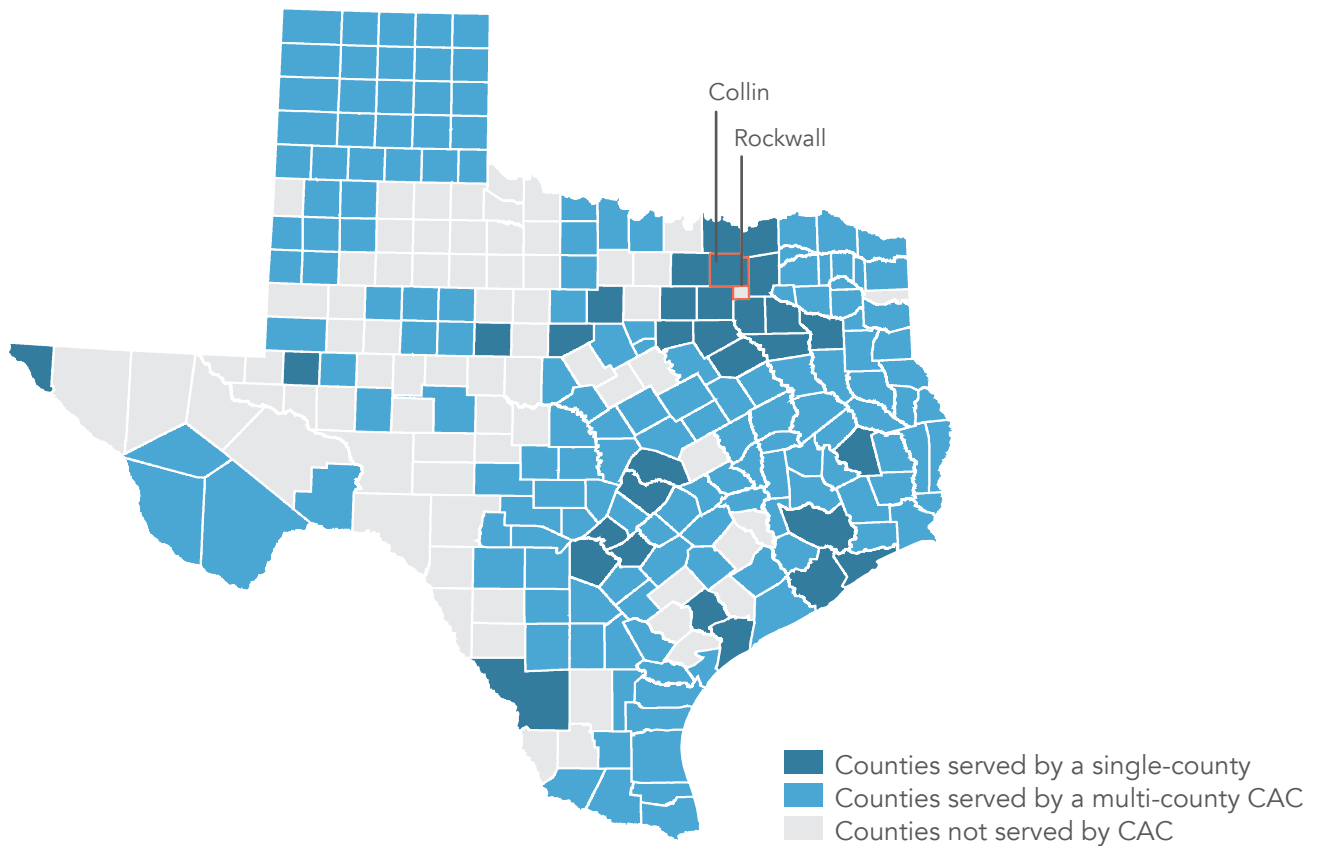
As Collin County's growth continues, its neighbor to the south, Rockwall County, also continues to grow at an incredible rate.<sup>4</sup> Rockwall County is not currently served by a CAC, however, since 2013, CACCC has provided Rockwall County with forensic interviews on a trial basis. Through this service, CACCC and officials in Rockwall County have begun to explore the feasibility of expanding CACCC service area to include Rockwall County.

To provide some context for this potential expansion, this report reviews a variety of approaches to CAC development, assesses various points of data relevant to CAC development, discusses existing resources in Rockwall County, and offers four possible scenarios for further investigation by CACCC staff and officials in Rockwall County.

# WHAT IS A CAC?

Each CAC is built to serve the unique needs of local victims and agencies.<sup>5</sup> CACs are more equipped to efficiently provide better quality services to victims than the traditional, more siloed approaches to child abuse or neglect investigations.<sup>6</sup> Many CACs do this by convening law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, mental health practitioners, medical workers, and victim advocates in a single location to serve child victims. This approach, the multi-disciplinary team (MDT), is used by CACCC to serve child victims in Collin County.

Roughly one third of child abuse and neglect cases reported to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TXDFPS) were served by CACs in 2014.<sup>7 8</sup> The majority of these cases originate in the State's most populous counties. To address the varying needs of local populations, CACs across the US and Texas take on different forms of governance and structure. Some are nonprofit agencies acting solely as a CAC, some are nonprofits that host a CAC and also serve other roles in the community, some are operated directly by municipal and county governments, and a few act as public-private partnerships. In Texas, CACs typically serve multiple counties - with the exception of those in highly populated urban areas. These large, "urban core" counties are at the far end of a rural-to-urban gradient commonly used to classify counties according to population size.<sup>9</sup>

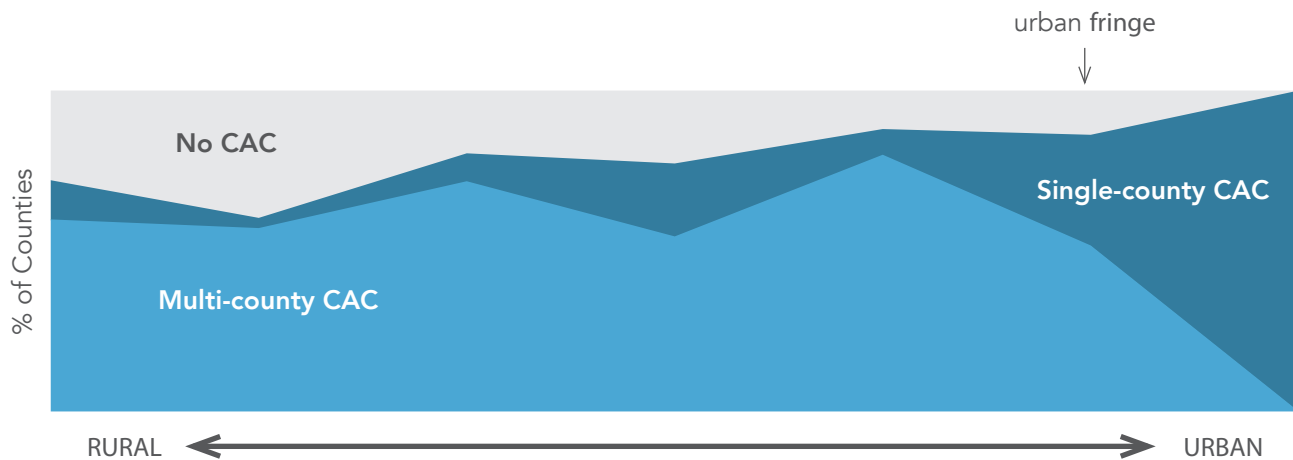




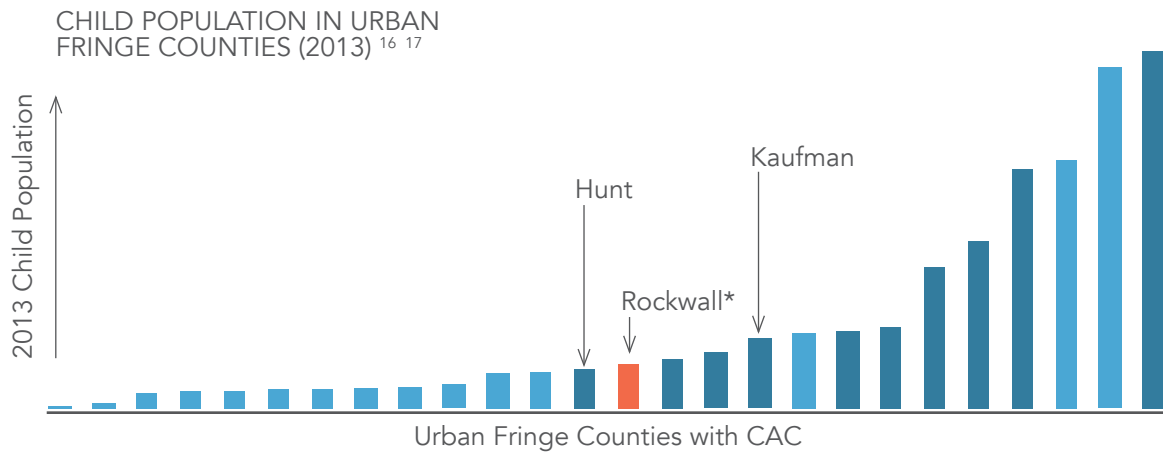
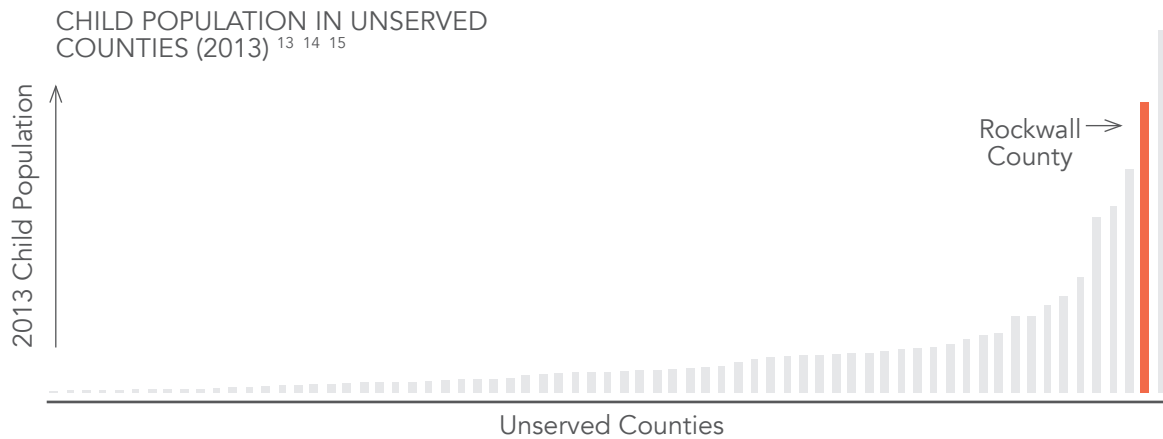
When investigating the nature of CACs across Texas, it became apparent that CACs serving multiple counties were not in major metropolitan areas in most cases. The more rural counties, defined by population, are more likely to be unserved or served by a CAC that covers multiple counties. Rockwall County falls within the “urban fringe” - counties with smaller populations than urban core counties that are within a metro region. Collin County, just to the north, is set squarely in the urban core. The map below shows the spatial arrangement of single-county and multi-county CACs in Texas. Rockwall County is one of the few “urban fringe” counties not served by a CAC of any type.

Rockwall County is one of the few counties in the urban fringe that are not served by a CAC (15%).<sup>10</sup> Counties with small populations are often served by CACs with multi-county service areas. At the opposite end of the spectrum, counties categorized by their large metropolitan centers, like Collin County, are served by CACs with single-county service areas. Rockwall County falls just short of this classification and is more similar to counties along the urban fringe served by multi-county CACs (52%).<sup>11</sup> However, it is one of the few counties in North Central Texas not served by a single-county CAC.

Going forward, this report continues to look at the varying aspects of single-county and multi-county CACs in assessing the options for CAC development in Rockwall County. While Rockwall County has a much smaller child population than counties in the urban core, it is one of the most populous counties to have no CAC serving the needs of child victims in the state.



Rockwall County has the second largest population of children and youth not served by a CAC in Texas (24,453).<sup>12</sup> The largest, Parker County, has a child population of 29,258 but is considerably larger and roughly four times less dense than Rockwall County. Compared to other urban fringe counties, Rockwall County's child population is greater than the average of counties not served by a CAC and below those with multi-county CACs. Rockwall County appears to be at the verge of needing to establish a CAC based on its growing population.



\*Rockwall is on the graph for comparative purposes and does not have a CAC.





# DEVELOPING A CAC

To bring the benefits of CACs to child victims and their families in under served communities, a number of approaches have been used to establish new CACs.<sup>23 24 25</sup> Each of these approaches recommends starting with a Needs Assessment, a mix of quantitative and qualitative information gathering for the target geography. While quantitative data gathering is always present in these assessments, some put a much greater emphasis on broader, grassroots stakeholder discussion and interviews in the Needs Assessment. Following the assessment, a qualitative Feasibility Study documenting the activities and processes of different stakeholders is required to understand administrative steps needed for CAC development - assuming the need is clear. Summaries of example Needs Assessments are found in the following pages.

Much of the data recommended for the Needs Assessment is not publicly available for Collin or Rockwall County at this time. This report, then, relies on the limited amount of public data to provide a glimpse of possible need in Rockwall County. In addition to the information specifically recommended from national and state organizations, a wide variety of county-level data has been collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and CACTX to provide added context.

While results from this report provide the basis for continuing the conversation of CAC development in Rockwall County, a more thorough Needs Assessment with more active engagement with stakeholders and public data stewards is strongly recommended.

## RECOMMENDED NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA <sup>26 27 28</sup>

- Child abuse reports to CPS
- Cases validated by CPS
- Out-of-home placements due to abuse allegations
- Child abuse reports to law enforcement
- Arrests on child abuse related charges
- Prosecutions
- Cases involving civil courts for dependence proceedings, custody actions, and restraining orders
- Number of trials, pleas, and convictions
- Number of domestic violence complaints to law enforcement

■ available ■ unavailable

## BUILDING A CASE FOR A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY <sup>29</sup>

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia recommends bringing together a grassroots effort of professional and community leaders to talk about how child abuse and neglect cases are currently handled. This group of stakeholders should then work to develop a vision for successfully helping child victims navigate the legal system. Over time, this grassroots effort can lead to the implementation of a Working Committee that will be responsible for the formation of a CAC.

Roles of the Working Committee include:

- *Conducting a Needs Analysis*  
Gather information and statistics from agencies involved in children's welfare, specifically in cases of abuse and neglect. Data gathered here can inform both strengths and weaknesses of the current system.
- *Visiting other CAC's*  
Understanding the different functions of CACs can help identify roles for the CAC to play in a given community.
- *Developing interagency agreements and protocols*  
Drafting the interagency agreements can move the Working Committee from concept to action, and will demonstrate the various roles stakeholders will play in the CAC.
- *Gaining commitment for the agreement*  
Keeping relevant staff at participating agencies involved in the process to aid their decision making process.
- *Identifying funding sources*  
Working with community leaders to identify funding sources from State and Federal sources, in addition to monetary or in-kind support from local businesses and philanthropic organizations.

## DEVELOPING A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER: A FOUR-STEP METHODOLOGY <sup>30</sup>

When a community seeks to develop a CAC, the National Children's Alliance recommends a four-step approach designed in collaboration with a number of regional CACs (the Northeast Regional CAC, Southern Regional CAC, Midwest Regional CAC, and the Western Regional CAC).

- *Needs Assessment*  
A strong quantitative and qualitative need assessment is used to determine if the incidence of child abuse and neglect within the community justifies the development of a CAC.
- *Feasibility Study*  
A clear need for a CAC does not guarantee successful implementation of a new organization. A feasibility study will assess community interest in developing a CAC as well as resources available for the successful development
- *Work Plan*  
Community leaders and professionals will work to develop a Working Committee to oversee the development and implementation of a CAC. This work plan outlines the key steps the Working Committee should take to establish a successful CAC.
- *Evaluation*  
Early evaluation mechanisms can help a newly developed CAC improve its effectiveness down the line. Creating a committee to develop evaluation criteria based closely on organizational goal is a necessary part of this process.

# COMPARING ROCKWALL AND COLLIN COUNTIES

Even without access to much of the data typically identified by various national CACs there is a wealth of data available to provide context for CACCC activity in Rockwall County. Simple demographic comparisons between Collin and Rockwall Counties show striking similarities and a few differences. Collin County is drastically larger, in both geographic size and population, but both counties are incredibly similar when looking at community-wide demographic indicators. Both are suburban, predominately white (74% and 88%), non-Hispanic (85% and 84%), generally well educated (55 and 41% hold a Bachelor’s degree), and have similar median household incomes (\$82,762 and \$86,119). There are slight differences between the rate of children in poverty and unemployment, but other economic measures, like the Gini Index - a measure of income equality - indicate a broader similarity between Rockwall and Collin Counties.<sup>31 32 32</sup> Those living in the more rural reaches of both counties are somewhat poorer, especially in rural Rockwall County.

Each of the indicators highlighted in the tables below have been found to be associated with localized rates of child abuse and neglect in existing academic literature. Due to the demographic similarity of the two populations, services rendered in Collin County might fit the needs of victims in Rockwall County. However, significant differences in the scale of child abuse cases reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) in both counties make it difficult to know the extent of services needed in Rockwall County.

## SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS IN 2013<sup>34 35</sup>

	COLLIN COUNTY	ROCKWALL COUNTY
Total Population	811,308	81,020
Population Under 18 (%)	28.1	28.9
Child Population in Poverty (%)	9.3	6.8
Unemployment Rate(%)	5.7	7.4
Gini Inequality Index (0 = equality, 1 = inequality)	0.43	0.39
Single Parent Households (%)	8	8
Median Household Income (\$)	82,762	86,119

## CHILD ABUSE INDICATORS IN 2014<sup>36</sup>

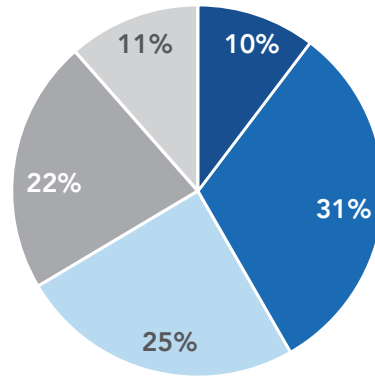
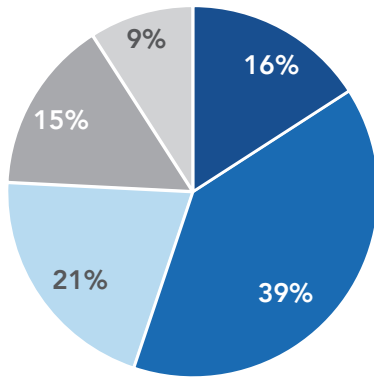
	COLLIN COUNTY	ROCKWALL COUNTY
Intakes Alleging Abuse	4,652	510
CPS Workers Responsible for Intake or Investigations	47	3
Total CPS Completed Investigations	3,169	305
Investigations Confirmed (%)	27.4	19
Confirmed Victims	1,393	95
Victims per 1000 Children	5.6	3.6



COLLIN COUNTY (2013)

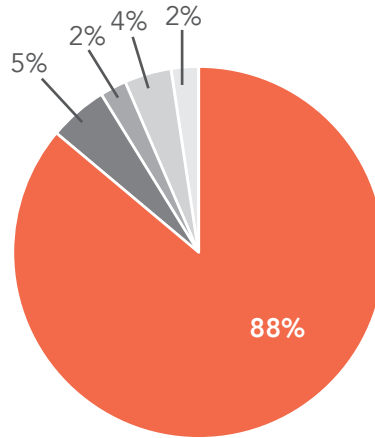
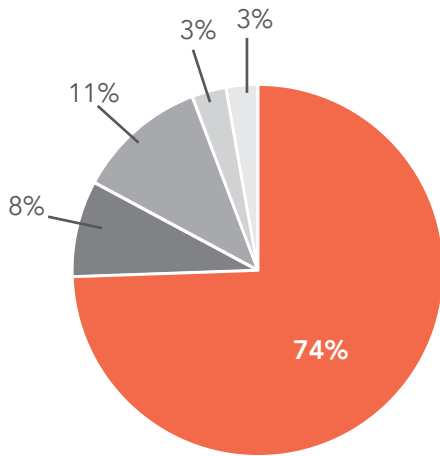
ROCKWALL COUNTY (2013)

Education Attainment



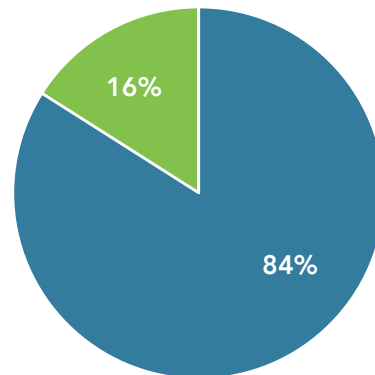
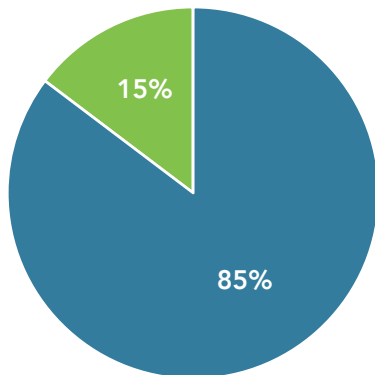
■ Masters   
 ■ Bachelors   
 ■ Some College   
 ■ High School   
 ■ < High School

Racial Composition



■ White   
 ■ African American   
 ■ Asian   
 ■ Other   
 ■ Two or More

Ethnicity

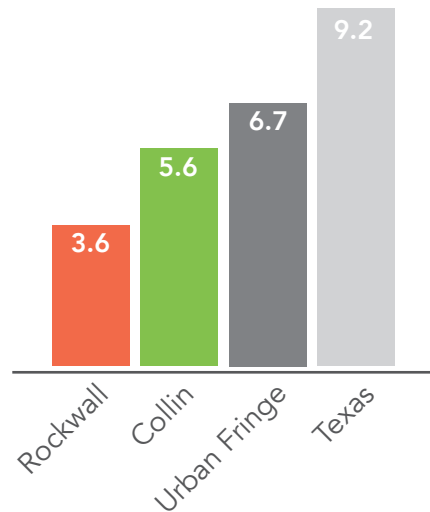


■ Non-Hispanic   
 ■ Hispanic

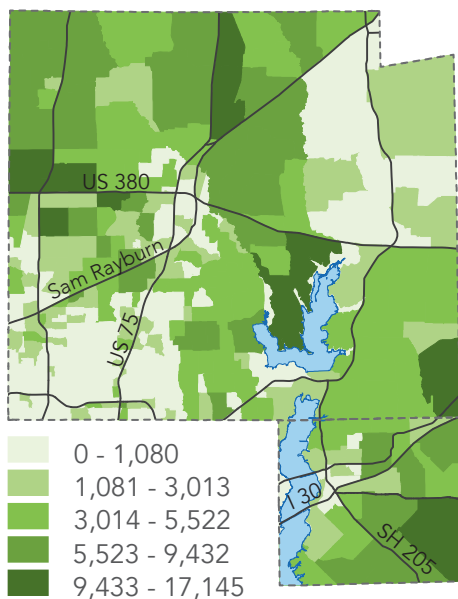
# POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Both Rockwall and Collin County have relatively stable and low rates of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children. Rockwall County reports a rate of child abuse and neglect just over one half the rate seen in other urban fringe counties, and roughly a third of the statewide rate.<sup>37</sup> However, it is important to note that multiple CAC's have observed an uptick of abuse and neglect cases once a new CAC is created - likely due to increased reporting from individuals and law enforcement.<sup>38</sup> Thus, TXDFPS data should be considered with caution for counties not served by a CAC, actual rates may be higher.

VICTIMS PER 1,000 CHILDREN (2014)<sup>41</sup>

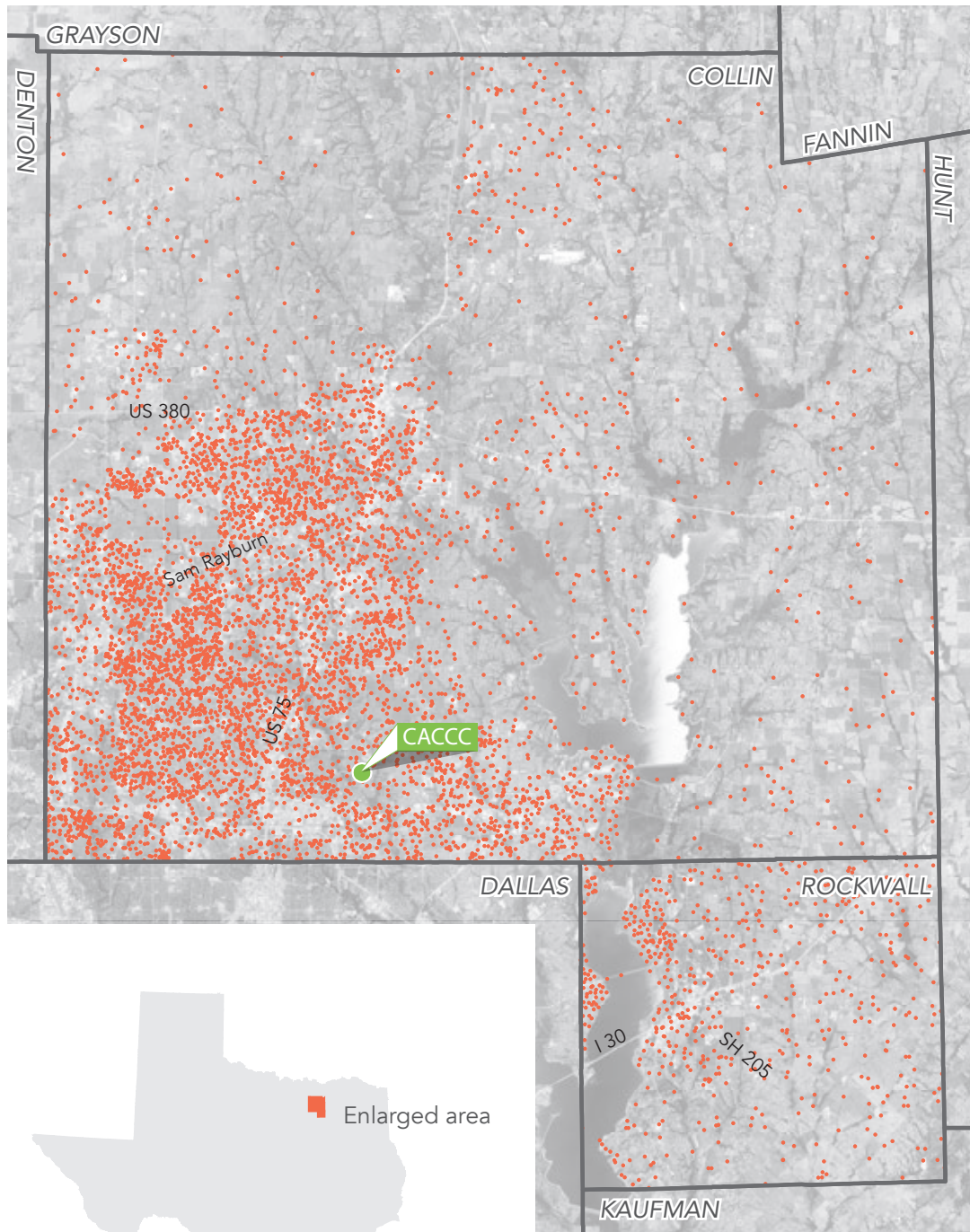


POPULATION GROWTH IN ROCKWALL AND COLLIN COUNTY TRAFFIC STUDY ZONES (2005-2040)<sup>42</sup>



While the current population in both Rockwall and Collin Counties are clustered in specific areas, growth continues to move out to the more rural parts of each county.<sup>39</sup> The map at right demonstrates projected population growth in Collin and Rockwall County Traffic Study Zones, with major growth occurring in the currently rural portions of both counties. Unfortunately, it is challenging to assess future urban growth scenarios from existing data sources. These estimates from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) are one possible scenario, but the approach to urban development taken could be focused on infill development in existing population centers or greenfield development in less developed parts of each county. NCTCOG focuses primarily on increase greenfield development.<sup>40</sup>

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN <sup>43</sup>



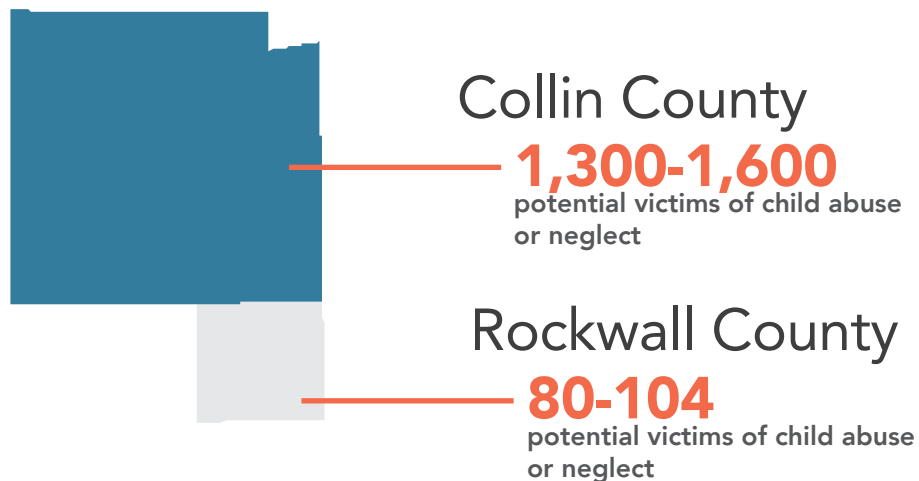
● = 20 Households with Children

## POPULATION GROWTH AND NEED

If CACCC were to expand coverage to include Rockwall County, the child population served between the two counties would fall below the child populations in state's 5 largest counties served by a single CAC and would be the second largest multi-county CAC in Texas. With additional funding it is likely that CACCC could add Rockwall County's 23,000 children to its potential client base.

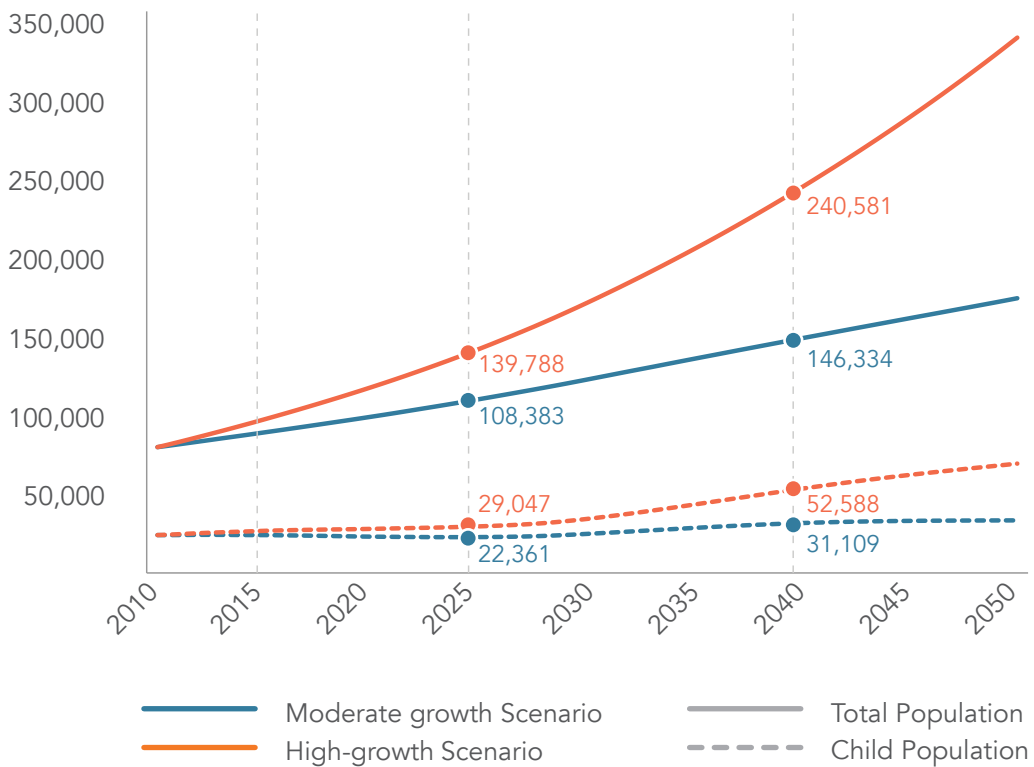
While the rates are comparatively low, there were a total of 95 confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect in Rockwall County in 2014.<sup>44</sup> Even if relatively low rates continue into the future, the overall number of cases seen in the county can be expected to grow with the overall population. In providing estimates of population growth to the federal government, the Texas State Data Center models three unique scenarios of possible growth.<sup>45</sup> The Zero Migration scenario assumes that population growth or decline only occurs as a product of births and deaths; this scenario will not be discussed further in this report as it is not a realistic view of future growth. The two remaining scenarios, the One-Half 2000 - 2010 Migration and the 2000 - 2010 Migration scenario, are based on the rate of growth in age, sex, and race/ethnicity that occurred within the State and counties between 2000 and 2010. The 2000 - 2010 scenario assumes no change from what occurred in that time period into the future, while the One-Half scenario assumes migration will continue at half the rate seen between 2000 and 2010.

**In 2025...**<sup>46</sup>



Below, projected population growth from 2010 to 2050 is shown for Rockwall County. If the 2000 - 2010 migration scenario pans out, counties in the region will see astonishingly rapid growth - with Rockwall County growing to more than 300,000 people and Collin County growing to just under 4 million inhabitants.<sup>47</sup> Assuming the rates of child abuse and neglect from 2011 to 2014 remain stable, in 2025 there may be between 80 and 104 victims of child abuse or neglect in Rockwall County.<sup>48</sup> However, this estimate may be artificially low given that there is no CAC to coordinate abuse reporting and investigation.

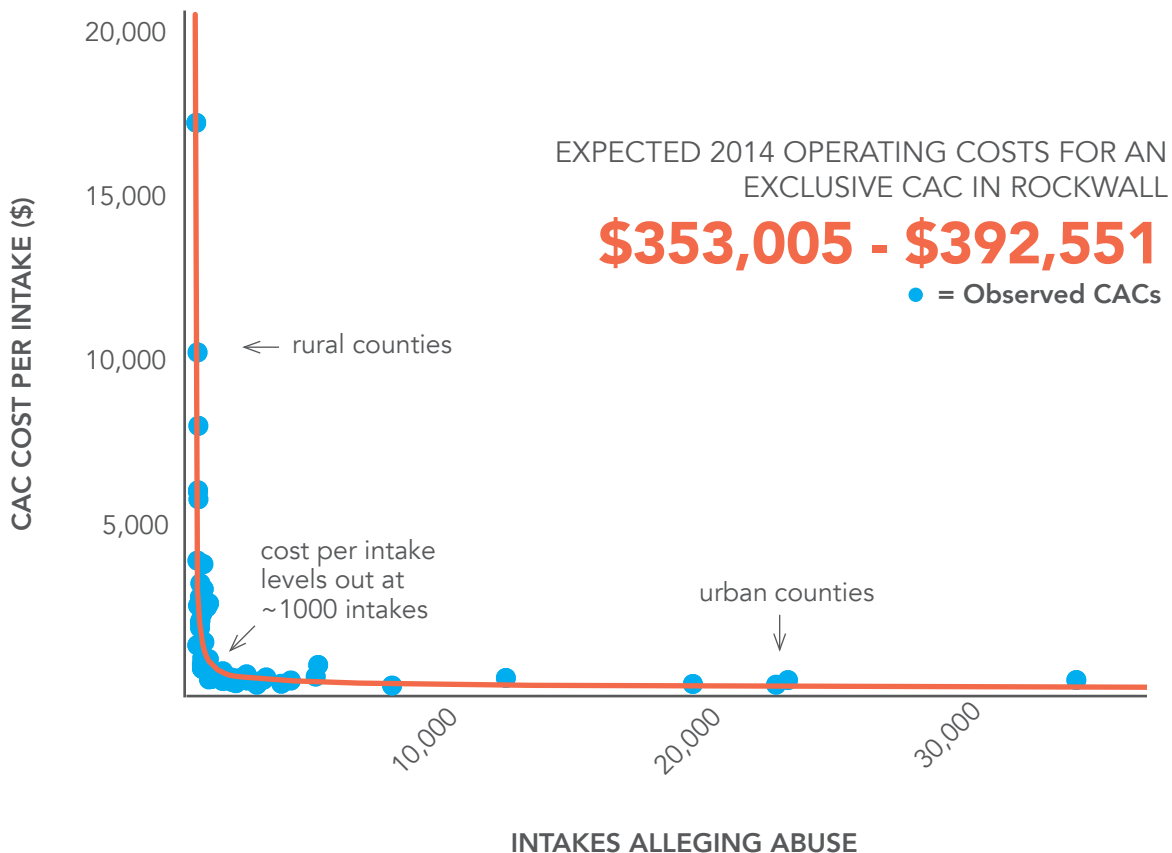
POPULATION GROWTH SCENARIOS FOR ROCKWALL COUNTY, 2010 - 2050<sup>49</sup>



## PROJECTED COSTS & FUNDING

There are substantial costs associated with CAC development and operation. In this analysis, the most accurate community predictor of a CAC budget is the volume of initial intakes alleging abuse and neglect reported by TXDFPS. To predict the cost associated with running a CAC in Rockwall County three CAC budget estimates were developed. The first (\$353,005) was based on the relationship between intakes alleging abuse and CACCC's 2014 budget. The second (\$364,475) was based on the relationship between intakes and 2014 budgets of CAC's in the urban fringe. The third estimate (\$392,551) was based on the relationship between intakes alleging abuse and the observed CAC budget per reported intake in all Texas counties. With this final model, counties with greater numbers of intakes are found to be much more cost-effective than those with less than 1,000 intakes alleging abuse or neglect. This model mirrors existing results from research on CACs nationwide.<sup>50</sup>

It is important to note that these projections are not based on numbers directly representative of the actual number of clients served annually by CACs across Texas, but rather the number of cases reported to CPS in counties served by a CAC. It cannot capture clients that receive services for more than one year, clients that return for more services after a year of un-accessed services, or the effect an active CAC has on reporting rates for cases of child abuse or neglect. For instance, the number of clients served at CACCC in 2014 was roughly three-fourths the number of initial intake volume reported to TXDFPS.<sup>51 52</sup> So it is important to take these estimates as very weak projections.



## POSSIBLE CORPORATE PARTNERS

To help identify possible corporate funding sources in Rockwall County, business with more than 100 employees were identified using ReferenceUSA, an online business-listing database.<sup>53</sup> Of businesses fitting this description, an emphasis was put on locations with greater than 200 employees following the advice of CACCC staff. Collin County has far more businesses meeting these criteria than Rockwall County (559 vs. 32).<sup>54</sup> It is difficult to assess the giving capacity of these organizations in Rockwall County without more in-depth contact with the companies. Should CACCC elect to pursue CAC development in Rockwall County businesses with more than 100 employees are listed below.

While most of the companies identified are large corporate entities, two possible funding sources are headquartered in Rockwall County: Columbia Commercial Building Products (CCBP) and Special Products and Manufacturing (SPM). CCBP is a subsidiary of Consolidated Glass Holding with its headquarters and manufacturing operations located in Rockwall, TX.<sup>55</sup> SPM originally started operations in Garland, TX and is currently headquartered in Rockwall, TX. SPM has operated in North Texas since 1963. Each of these two companies might be receptive to providing donations for a CAC that could greatly benefit the community from which they draw their employees. SPM in particular has a dedicated focus on community philanthropy, and has supported Rockwall ISD and various national and local nonprofit organizations.<sup>56</sup>

In addition to possible corporate donors, Rockwall County is home to a number of public and private hospitals. While employment numbers are not available for each hospital as a whole, each hospital employs a large number of medical and non-medical staff. The hospitals include Texas Healthy Presbyterian Hospital - Rockwall, Baylor Emergency Medical Center at Rockwall, and Lake Pointe Medical Center - Rowlett. A small number of additional emergency care clinics also operate in the county.

Ultimately, a CAC in Rockwall County will likely be dependent on State and Federal funding more so than is the case in Collin County, which has a much larger base of corporate headquarters. Only one philanthropic foundation operates in the county - The Rockwall County Bar Foundation. Due to its association with the legal system it may be a possible source of funds for a local CAC.

## PRIVATE COMPANIES WITH >100 EMPLOYEES

	EMPLOYEES(#)
Walmart (2 Stores)	520
Hilton-Rockwall Lakefront	300
Columbia Commercial Building Products	300
CostCo	250
Special Products and Manufacturing	200
Tom Thumb	200
L-3 Communications Com Cept Div	175
Lowe's Home Improvement	135
Olive Garden	120
Target	120
Home Depot	112
Kroger	101

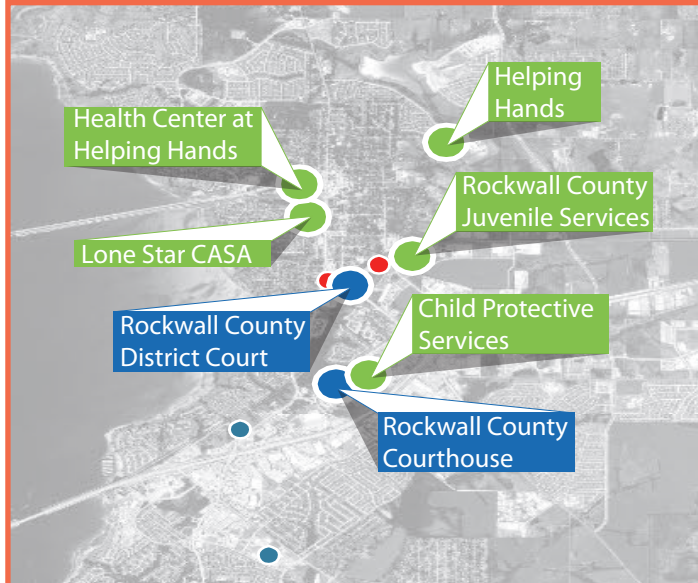


## SUPPORT SERVICES

One of the biggest benefits of establishing a CAC is providing a single, safe place for victims to receive necessary services.<sup>57</sup> In Collin County, the large distances between various services are reduced through the MDT employed and housed within CACCC's Plano location. However, small distances between services in Rockwall County may not drastically improve the travel time or burden on victims and their families.

Services related to cases of child abuse and neglect are spread across Collin County. Rockwall County, while considerably smaller in area, offers a much more compact system of services. The bulk of the population, and services, in Rockwall County are concentrated in the City of Rockwall. Municipal law enforcement offices are the only real exception, with locations obviously within their respective jurisdictions.

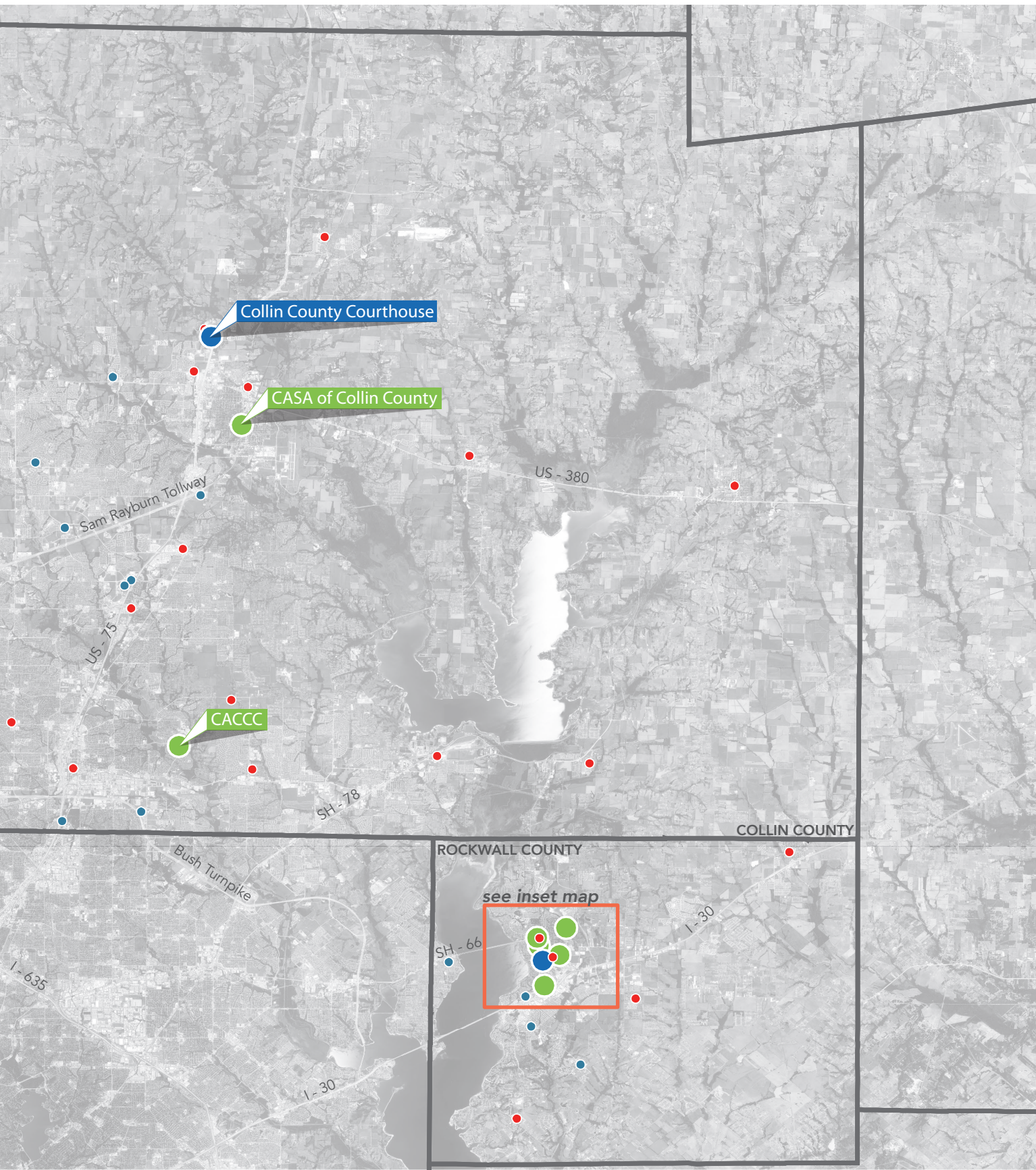
Services identified in Rockwall County, and those that play a role in Collin County, are displayed on the map.<sup>58 59</sup>



- Related Social Services
- County Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Centers









## OPTIONS

Available data and information do not give a clear indication of how CACCC should approach expansion into Rockwall County. Without a more comprehensive Needs Assessment, that provides answers to both quantitative and qualitative questions, four primary options remain on the table.

### 1) DO NOTHING

This Needs Assessment is lacking much of the recommended quantitative data points and the qualitative narratives that speak to existing conditions of the child justice system. While CACCC may opt to do nothing at present, a more thorough Needs Assessment may provide the needed information to move towards a Feasibility Study and eventual implementation of CAC services in Rockwall County.

### 2) HELP AN EXISTING ORGANIZATION EXPAND ITS SERVICES

Several counties similar in size to Rockwall County operate their own CAC's in Texas. While the overall rates of child abuse and neglect in Rockwall County are low, relative to Collin County and the state as a whole, an organization already working in Rockwall County might be able to provide the services of a CAC more effectively than CACCC or an entirely new organization. Two organizations could possibly meet the need: Rockwall County Helping Hands and Lone Star CASA. Helping Hands provides a wide range of medical and social services to low-income residents in Rockwall County, while Lone Star CASA provides volunteer mentors to child victims of abuse and neglect as they move through the legal system. In-depth conversations with both organizations would need to occur before moving forward with this option. CACCC could mentor either organization if this option is found to be viable by all parties involved.

### 3) HELP DEVELOP AN ENTIRELY NEW ORGANIZATION TO ACT AS ROCKWALL COUNTY CAC

It is possible that no existing organization would want to begin offering the services of a CAC. In this case, an entirely new organization could be set up to fill the need. Operating costs associated with CAC services have been estimated to run between \$350,000 and \$400,000, not including start up costs such as building/land acquisition or hiring new staff.<sup>60</sup> The scale of this operation would also have an influence on budget, one that is not accounted for in our estimates. Ultimately, a new organization forming in Rockwall County may be able to tap into the existing business community to secure financial support to supplement philanthropic and governmental funding. As with the previous option, CACCC could act as a mentor for this organization as it forms and begins work in the county.

### 4) EXPAND CURRENT CACCC SERVICE AREA TO INCLUDE ROCKWALL COUNTY

CACCC could realistically choose to expand its services to include Rockwall County. With the number of cases gained from Rockwall County, CACCC would need to cover the cost of less than 100 new clients and additional staff to handle the caseload.<sup>61</sup> However, if CACCC were to open a new office in Rockwall County land acquisition, building construction, or an office lease may prove fairly expensive and increase the funding requirements of service in Rockwall County.



## CONCLUSIONS

Regardless of any analytical results, CAC's provide a wealth of benefits to the victims they serve. Child victims of abuse and neglect in Rockwall County could benefit from the services offered by a CAC. This report compiles available state and national data to assess Rockwall County's need for CAC services. Overall, rates of child abuse and neglect in Rockwall County are fairly stable, hovering around 3.3 cases per 1,000 children, much lower than the state average.<sup>62</sup> Rockwall County is one of the few counties of its type not served by some form of CAC, and could easily support and demand the services afforded to child victims in CAC counties.

However, without tackling the qualitative aspect of the Needs Assessment, as recommended by various national organizations, it is difficult to understand how the current child justice system in Rockwall County works. Is the system operating beyond its capacity? Before settling on either of the options presented in this report, with the exception of Option 1, stakeholders in Rockwall County should undertake a more in-depth Needs Assessment. The process can be informed by this report, and would be able to answer more of the pertinent questions towards choosing an appropriate solution for Rockwall County.

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