

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**  
**Workforce Programs**  
**Technical Assistance Bulletin 302**

**Keyword: General**

**Subject: Texas Advocacy Project**

**Date: February 22, 2023**

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This Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin provides Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with an overview of and referral information on the Texas Advocacy Project (TAP).

**Background**

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence annually, while the US economy loses \$8.3 billion annually due to domestic violence. TAP is a nonprofit organization that provides no-cost legal and social services to survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, and human trafficking. Boards are strongly encouraged to take advantage of TAP services and refer workforce system customers as appropriate.

**Services Available**

TAP provides no-cost services to domestic violence survivors as well as training and outreach for domestic violence prevention. Its programs aim to improve clients' social and emotional well-being, reduce barriers to legal services, and provide pathways to improve long-term stability for clients. Attachment 3, Texas Advocacy Project Services Overview, provides a detailed presentation of the services provided. The services are available to all Texans at no cost.

TAP's social work program provides clients with holistic, trauma-responsive care in collaboration with a legal team. Licensed social workers address survivors' mental health and immediate needs, while attorneys offer legal solutions. When basic needs are addressed (such as shelter, food, and mental health assistance), survivors are more likely to engage in workforce services and thereby experience better outcomes.

TAP helps clients with legal concerns in numerous ways. It maintains a toll-free legal help line called the Hope Line (1-800-374-HOPE), which is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. TAP also offers direct legal support, virtual legal clinics, and assistance with protective orders, termination of abusers' parental rights, and child custody agreement modifications.

TAP provides in-person and virtual trainings for advocates, survivors, teens, and educators at no cost. Trainings may help staff with recognizing domestic violence and providing more holistic, trauma-informed services. Attachment 2, Texas Advocacy Project Training Menu, includes a full list of the trainings available.

## **How to Make a Referral**

Boards may use the TAP Referral Form, included as Attachment 1, to refer customers for TAP services. Boards may use the TAP Training Request Form, included as Attachment 4, to request training. Additionally, applications for help and a live chat option are available on the [TAP](#) website, and more information about TAP training may be found on the [Training and Outreach](#) page.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1: Texas Advocacy Project Referral Form

Attachment 2: Texas Advocacy Project Training Menu

Attachment 3: Texas Advocacy Project Services Overview

Attachment 4: Texas Advocacy Project Training Request Form

## **Action Needed**

Please distribute this information to appropriate staff. Send inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to [wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.texas.gov](mailto:wfpolicy.clarifications@twc.texas.gov).