



PIR Program Overview

Parenting in Recovery (PIR) is a coalition of community service providers who cooperatively provide a flexible, comprehensive continuum of services to women, children, and families who are involved in the state child welfare system as a result of maternal drug and/or alcohol dependence.

The PIR grant from the US Department of Health & Human Services is \$500,000 per year for five years.

The essential goal of the PIR coalition is to help mothers of young children recover from substance dependence, maintain or regain custody of their children, and establish safe and healthy lives and homes.

The objectives of PIR are as follows:

1. Promote more efficient and effective community resource collaboration in support of mothers with substance dependence and their children
2. Increase the safety and well-being of children of substance dependent mothers by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors for child maltreatment
3. Decrease the number of out-of-home placements for children of mothers with substance dependence

The PIR core partnership includes the following entities:

- **Travis County Health & Human Services** provides administrative oversight for the grant and coordination of partner services on behalf of PIR participants.
- **Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, Child Protective Services** identifies women who are eligible for participation in PIR, introduces the continuum of services to those women, and follows them through the PIR experience from beginning to end.
- **Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court** provides positive support and encouragement to PIR participants and demands of them a substantial level of accountability.
- **Austin Recovery Women's and Women's & Children's Treatment Programs** provides primary substance abuse treatment to PIR participants, in many cases accompanied by their young children, for up to 90 days, plus intensive,

supportive, and aftercare outpatient services for up to one year following successful completion of primary treatment.

- **Foundation Communities** provides safe, affordable, and when eligible, free housing following successful completion of primary treatment at Austin Recovery.

In addition to the services provided by the core partners, PIR collaborative partners provide PIR participants legal advice, kinship assistance, individual and family counseling, psychological and psychiatric assessment and treatment, dual-diagnosis consultation, parenting skills training, child-care assistance, and employment support.

Those entities include the following:

- **Travis County District Attorney's Office**
- **Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**
- **Travis County Court Appointed Family Advocates (CAFA)**
- **Austin/Travis County MHMR**
- **Casey Family Programs**
- **Workforce Solutions – Capital Area**
- **Texas Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS)**
- **The Austin Academy**
- **Family Connections**
- **Manos de Cristo**
- **David Brown, MD**

Eligibility

PIR Eligibility Criteria

PIR participants are Travis County residents who have been identified by Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, Child Protective Services (CPS) as exhibiting substance dependence issues that are impacting the care and well-being of their young children.

CPS referrals to PIR may occur under any of the following three basic criteria:

1. A mother gives birth to a baby who tests positive for drugs.
2. A mother is pregnant and tests positive for drugs and has at least one child under age five in the home.
3. A mother is using drugs and has at least one child under age five in the home.

PIR Eligibility Conditions

In addition to eligibility criteria, the following conditions are required for PIR participation:

1. Mother is dependent on alcohol and/or other drug(s), as demonstrated by her score on the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.), and/or collaborative data provided by local, county, and state agencies; medical, mental

health, legal, and employment records; and reports from family members and friends.

2. Mother is not in acute distress due to a mental health diagnosis such that it would preclude her from actively participating in treatment.
3. Mother's child(ren) fit into one or more of the following categories:
 - a. Child(ren) are with mother and will accompany her into treatment.
 - b. Child(ren) are with relatives or fictive kin in Travis or a contiguous county.
 - c. Child(ren) are with relatives, fictive kin, or foster care, regardless of their location, with a plan to reunify with mother in treatment within 45 days of removal.
 - d. Child(ren) are with relatives, fictive kin, or foster care, regardless of their location, with plan to place with relatives or fictive kin in Travis or contiguous county within 45 days of removal.
4. Mother demonstrates willingness to participate in PIR by signing the PIR Participation Agreement.
5. Mother demonstrates willingness to participate in substance abuse treatment as recommended by the PIR-CPS evaluation team by admitting into the recommended treatment program.
6. Mother demonstrates willingness to participate in Family Drug Treatment Court by signing the FDTC Participation Agreement.