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Home > Local / Area News > Metcalf Secures Major Funding in State Budget for Children's Safe Harbor New...

[Local / Area News](#) [SAN JACINTO COUNTY](#) [WALKER COUNTY](#)

Metcalf Secures Major Funding in State Budget for Children's Safe Harbor New Facility

By **Jamie Nash** November 3 2023, 11:47 am

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TX— State Representative Will Metcalf (R – Conroe), in conjunction with the Children's Safe Harbor Board of Directors and Executive Director Victoria Constance, are thrilled to announce that \$5 million from the Department of Family and Protective Services will be coming to Montgomery County to help fund the new facility and permanent home of Children's Safe Harbor. The organization is a Children's Advocacy Center that has served the Montgomery County community and surrounding counties for 25 years by bringing justice, healing, and hope to child victims of sexual and physical abuse.

"I am extremely proud that we were able to secure \$5 million in the state budget for Children's Safe Harbor's new facility and permanent home," Metcalf stated. "This vital funding gets us closer than ever before to finally breaking ground on a beautiful campus that will not only allow Children's Safe Harbor to continue their critical work on behalf of abused children and their families, but to expand that work and the victims they serve for decades to come."

Victoria Constance, Executive Director of Children's Safe Harbor remarked, "Our children's advocacy center requires a separate, child-focused setting designed to provide a safe, comfortable, and neutral place where services can be appropriately provided for children and families that allows them to feel physically and psychologically safe and comfortable. With the exponential growth of Montgomery County, the complexity and increased violence that our children are experiencing post-pandemic and the continued rise of caseloads, Children Safe Harbor's current facility is no longer sufficient to sustain our unique service delivery structure. This incredible major funding stream that Rep. Metcalf has secured for our children and families is a gift beyond words! His belief in our model of healing and justice will be an inspiration to other donors and supporters who will take us to the finish line. Our permanent facility will more than double the partner agency personnel and staff of CSH to combat the skyrocketing increases of our unique collaborative nonprofit organization. It is not just a building, it's a gateway to the future!"

Children's Safe Harbor is a nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center that has served over 26,000 abused and traumatized children and their families in Montgomery, Walker, and San Jacinto Counties since 1998. They are the only organization in Montgomery County that coordinates their services directly with local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and medical and behavioral health care systems to provide effective, efficient, and child centered investigations and healing services. Situated on 17.6 acres amidst clusters of mature trees in Conroe, their new permanent home will bring the lightness of hope to abused children and their families and serve as a sanctuary to the heroes who are called to protect them. Sadly, statistics prove child sexual abuse and violence toward children only continues to rise, and Children's Safe Harbor has outgrown their current space due to the skyrocketing need for their services in Montgomery County. After several years of planning and through the investment of community leaders, donors, partnerships, and now \$5 million in the state budget, Children's Safe Harbor looks forward to breaking ground on this facility very soon.

Montgomery County District Attorney Brett Ligon explained, "From a law enforcement perspective, we are immensely grateful for the invaluable work done at Children's Safe Harbor and are proud to partner with them to bring justice and closure to the victims and their families who walk through their doors. Representative Metcalf is a fighter and an effective voice for Montgomery County in the legislature, as evidenced by his success in directing this \$5 million investment from the state for the construction of the Children's Safe Harbor facility here in our community. The impact this funding will have in our community is transformational, and the new Children's Safe Harbor facility will help safeguard children who have been victims of physical and sexual assault for decades to come. I thank Representative Metcalf for supporting these victims, law enforcement, and all the agency partners at Children's Safe Harbor so that we can continue protecting the most vulnerable in our community, our children."

For more information, contact our District office at (936) 539-0068.