

Reducing Childhood Trauma and Supporting Families

A partnership between All Rise and Sesame Workshop

Together, addressing the needs of children and families impacted by justice involvement



INTRODUCTION

For decades, research has demonstrated that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—such as having an incarcerated parent or being exposed to a parental substance use disorder—can have profound, long-term impacts on a child’s health, development, and future.

1 in 14
*children in the U.S.
experience the incarceration
of a parent¹*

Since 2017, All Rise has partnered with Sesame Workshop to reduce trauma and promote resilience in justice-involved families. Together, we deliver trusted, evidence-based, educational tools to the front lines of the justice system—reaching judges, case managers, treatment providers, and the families they serve:

- Children have **comfy, cozy spaces** in courthouses that reduce trauma.
- Parents and caregivers are connected to **family-centered resources** to help them explain addiction, separation, and justice involvement in age-appropriate ways.
- Court and supervision staff are trained to support family **resilience and healing** across the justice process.

Nearly 1/2
*of incarcerated adults are
parents of minor children²*

In 2024, All Rise expanded the program to offer specialized booster training focused on critical areas like parent/child communication, the importance of caring adults, reducing shame and stigma, and developmentally appropriate communication.

~19 million
*children in the U.S. under
age 18 live with a parent
with substance use disorder³*

PROVEN IMPACT

All Rise and Sesame Workshop have worked with jurisdictions across the country to implement our unique approach, and pilot site results validate our methods:

- **Significant knowledge gain:** Participants reported a deeper understanding of how to support children and caregivers.
- **High intent to implement:** Participants plan to use Sesame materials widely—in courtrooms, offices, client meetings, and family sessions.
- **Positive early outcomes:** Surveys and interviews show that both court staff and caregivers are benefiting from the tools and training provided. A full evaluation is underway and is expected to be complete in early 2026.



WHAT WE KNOW

- Families navigating the justice system experience stigma, separation, and trauma.
- Caregivers often struggle to explain complex topics like addiction and the court process to their children.
- Judges and service providers are looking for trusted, family-centered tools that build resilience and improve outcomes.

WHAT WE OFFER

- We equip professionals with specialized training and resources to better serve families at every stage of the justice system.
- We deliver developmentally appropriate tools for communication, rebuilding trust, and addressing stigma.
- Our training is tailored to local courts and agencies.



Texas' Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court

EXPANDING OUR REACH

With your support, All Rise can expand this initiative across our national network of 43,000 public health and public safety professionals—including judges, attorneys, probation officers, treatment providers, case managers, social workers, and more. Our goal is to deliver Sesame training and resources to at least 75 jurisdictions by 2027.

Your investment will:

- **Empower families and caregivers** with trusted, trauma-informed tools

- **Support professionals** with training that improves long-term outcomes for children and families
- **Foster healing and resilience** in communities impacted by justice involvement

Together, we can create safer, more supportive environments for children and families across the justice system.

To learn more, visit
allrise.org/sesame

- ¹ Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children. Murphey D, Cooper PM. ChildTrends.org October 2015. doi:10.13140/RG.2.1.2444.4243. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285234895_Parents_Behind_Bars_What_Happens_to_Their_Children.
- ² Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children: Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016. Maruschak LM, Bronson J, Alper M. U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics March 2021. NCJ No. 252645. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/parents-prison-and-their-minor-children-survey-prison-inmates-2016>.
- ³ US Children Living With a Parent With Substance Use Disorder. McCabe SE, McCabe VV, Schepis TS. JAMA Pediatrics 2025 May 12:e250828. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2025.0828. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40354076. <https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2025/07/04/millions-us-kids-live-parents-substance-use-disorders>



Treatment
Court Institute
↑

Impaired
Driving Solutions
↑

Justice
for Vets
↑

Center for
Advancing Justice
↑

All Rise is the leading training, membership, and advocacy organization for treatment courts and justice system innovation addressing substance use and mental health disorders. Through our four divisions—the Treatment Court Institute, Impaired Driving Solutions, Justice for Vets, and the Center for Advancing Justice—All Rise provides training and technical assistance at the community and statewide level, advocates for federal and state funding, and collaborates with public and private entities. Since 1994, All Rise and its divisions have provided training and technical assistance to more than 800,000 professionals in all U.S. states and territories, and 22 countries.

Since 1994, All Rise has been at the forefront of transforming the justice system by leading the treatment court movement, which has proven that a combination of compassion, evidence-based practices, and treatment can and should be the foundation upon which the justice system responds to substance use and mental health disorders. Over this period, the number of treatment courts in the United States has grown from 30 to more than 4,000.



For over 50 years, Sesame Workshop has worked at the intersection of education, media, and research, creating joyful experiences that enrich minds and expand hearts. With a mission to help children everywhere grow smarter, stronger, and kinder, Sesame Workshop reaches families in more than 150 countries with playful early learning to empower each generation to build a better world.

Sesame Street's beloved characters, iconic shows, outreach in communities, and more are rooted in deep expertise and designed to meet children's most pressing needs. From building school readiness to encouraging playful problem-solving, from supporting emotional well-being to promoting positive self-identity, Sesame Workshop is here for children and families as every caregiver's valued partner and every child's trusted friend.