



NEWS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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EDITORS: List of award recipients follows; 3 pages total

Contact: Gordon Anderson 512.475.4743

Jill McFarren 512.475.2844

State housing agency sending \$548,000 to five agencies helping Texans transition out of poverty at local level

(AUSTIN) — With the goal of transitioning greater numbers of Texans out of poverty and on toward self-sufficiency, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has announced funding awards totaling \$548,665 to five eligible nonprofit agencies to assist in developing new programs designed to reduce the number of households living in poverty in Bexar, El Paso, Harris, and Travis counties.

The awards were made through a special discretionary fund under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program and represent a portion of the state's \$31.3 million annual allocation from the federal government.

In making these awards, TDHCA placed a priority on innovative or demonstration projects enhancing early childhood development, assisting teen mothers and at-risk youth, increasing financial literacy among low income households, and promoting self-sufficiency.

“Helping Texans achieve self-sufficiency is the first priority of the CSBG Program and a critical component of the Department’s charge,” said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. “To achieve this, TDHCA our partner organizations at the local level are working to reach deeper pockets of need while seeking creative ways to further our shared mission. These discretionary funds will go a long way toward reducing poverty and help more individuals achieve independence.”

The CSBG Program currently assists households earning no more than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline, which equals an annual income of \$44,100 for a family of four. Funding for the program comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and supports a variety of direct services in addition to helping maintain the core administrative elements of local partner organizations.

Unlike most of the Department’s funding programs, CSBG Program awards are not made through a competitive allocation process. Eligible entities are designated by the Governor to provide a broad range of services designed to eliminate poverty and foster self-sufficiency within a specific service region, and each agency receives a direct allocation from TDHCA based on a distribution formula.

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221 E. 11TH • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 • (800) 525-0657 • (512) 475-3800

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However, the \$548,665 award of discretionary funds was made through a competitive process open to other eligible entities throughout Texas, with the Department selecting the nine strongest applications for funding.

For more information about the CSBG Program, CSBG eligible organizations and their designated service area, please call TDHCA's Community Services Section at (512) 475-3950 or visit the Section's Web site at www.tdhca.state.tx.us/cs.htm#csbg.

About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is the state agency responsible for affordable housing, community services, energy assistance, and colonia housing programs. The Department currently administers more than \$2 billion through for-profit, nonprofit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.

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2010 Community Services Block Grant Program - Discretionary Fund: Innovative or Demonstration Projects

The following five organizations received an award through the 2010 Community Services Block Grant Program's Discretionary Fund for Innovative or Demonstration Projects:

Agency	Service Area	Award	Activities
Seton Home for Pregnant Women	Bexar County	\$125,000	Providing pregnant teen mothers a structured and stable environment for them to develop into nurturing mothers and productive citizens
SafePlace - Austin	Travis County	\$50,255	Enhancing children's communication skills, building healthy relationships, social skills and individual self-esteem, breaking cycles of child abuse and instability
Project Quest, Inc.	Bexar County	\$125,000	Expanding services to assist persons experiencing economic and scholastic barriers by providing education and training supports, work and income supports, and asset protection.

Agency	Service Area	Award	Activities
DePelchin Children's Center	Harris County	\$123,410	Expanding services to assist persons experiencing economic and scholastic barriers by providing education and training supports, work and income supports, and asset protection
Project ARRIBA	El Paso County	\$125,000	Supporting an intensive job training program which will assist persons with job placement, increased wages, and job retention