

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE HOMELESS

Via GoToWebinar

October 19, 2021  
1:35 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair  
DEBORAH ARELLANO  
SUZIE BRADY  
NAOMI CANTU  
SHERRI COGBILL  
CARISSA DOUGHERTY  
DR. BLAKE HARRIS  
CLAIRE IRWIN

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

DAVID LONG  
ERIC SAMUELS  
MICHAEL WILT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

ELIZABETH YEVICH, TDHCA

*ON THE RECORD REPORTING*  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Thank you all for being here. Let  
3 me first note that we do have a quorum present, and  
4 welcome all of you to the October quarterly meeting of the  
5 Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless.

6 I don't have any remarks, so we'll just get  
7 right into the agenda, and so Elizabeth, thank you for  
8 sending out the minutes to us to review. So if you've had  
9 a chance to do that or if you are willing to approve the  
10 minutes, I would entertain a motion to do so.

11 DR. HARRIS: Motion to approve.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Who was that, Blake?

13 DR. HARRIS: Yes, sir.

14 MR. DOYLE: And is there a second?

15 MS. CANTU: I second.

16 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Naomi.

17 All those in favor say aye. Well, some of us  
18 can't hear each other, but raise your hand if you said  
19 aye.

20 (A show of hands.)

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any nays or abstentions?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: The minutes do then pass. Thank  
24 you very much for that.

25 And so we're going to hear a report now from

1 TDHCA, and it looks like Naomi is going first.

2 MS. CANTU: All right. I have quite a few  
3 things today, so I will be speaking a bit at this meeting.

4 I'm going to be speaking on the Emergency Solutions Grant  
5 first, and then also Brooke Boston was not able to be here  
6 today, and she asked me to give updates in her stead, so  
7 I'll be going through a few items here.

8 For Emergency Solutions Grant, through the  
9 CARES Act, again, we received about \$97 million, because  
10 the act was passed in 2020, and then again in September of  
11 next year, September 30, 2022, and when we have all the  
12 funds coming in under contract underway.

13 I did want to share the good news that we are  
14 about \$33 million expended, so we do have \$97 million to  
15 go -- not to go but total; we have \$97 million total, and  
16 we have about \$33.9 million expended, which is a good  
17 expenditure rate in comparison to where other states are.

18 I also wanted to share that we have about  
19 28,000 served in emergency shelter through this program.  
20 I want to disseminate some of the big achievements that we  
21 have, and about 10,000 people who have been served through  
22 street outreach.

23 We have been able to break through in  
24 expenditures and we have reached quite a few people in the  
25 population. And then about 16,000-18,000 -- no, I'm

1       sorry -- 16,000 people served with rental assistance or  
2       services through rapid rehousing and homeless prevention.

3       So we do have four categories that are supported through  
4       ESG CARES, emergency shelter, street outreach, homeless  
5       prevention, and rapid rehousing, and we have quite a few  
6       people that we've been able to help through this program  
7       so far. And we look forward to continuing to assist  
8       people in the program and being able to stem tides of  
9       homelessness that we see throughout the state.

10               I do want to say we are working on ESG CARES II  
11       plan approval, so we do have ESG CARES I, which was \$33  
12       million, and ESG CARES is about 60-some million, and we  
13       are working ESG CARES plan approval, so we have contracts  
14       through the ESG CARES II that we are looking at the  
15       expenditure rate, making sure it stays high, and we're  
16       considering some extensions on those funds.

17               Currently they do expire March of 2022, and the  
18       fund expires in September, and we're looking to see where  
19       those reallocations might be or how we can increase  
20       expenditures and serve more people.

21               Any questions about ESG CARES?

22               DR. HARRIS: Can I ask what the street outreach  
23       number was?

24               MS. CANTU: I know I went through the numbers  
25       pretty quickly. Street outreach performance we had 10,000

1 people -- 10,073 served with this program so far, with  
2 about a bit more than a third expended. And then shelter  
3 was about 28,000 people, and then mental assistance or  
4 services under rapid rehousing and homeless prevention was  
5 about 16,000.

6 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, do these funds go to the  
7 cities, or how do people apply for these funds -- did they  
8 apply for these funds, I mean?

9 MS. CANTU: Sure. That's a good question.  
10 More than 90 percent of our contracts are with nonprofits.

11 Some cities and counties received ESG CARES funding  
12 through the federal government or HUD directly, although  
13 we did and do fund some cities or counties that apply to  
14 us as well.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I guess down in Fort Worth  
16 there seems to be more money than we can spend.

17 MS. CANTU: Yes, I'm hearing that throughout  
18 the state, yes. But it's coordinating the funds, of  
19 course, key, and then working to help hit those milestones  
20 and also reach as many people as we can that are in  
21 crisis.

22 MR. DOYLE: Thanks.

23 Okay. Are you going to continue, Naomi, or are  
24 you turning it over to staff for the individual camping HB  
25 1925?

1 MS. CANTU: I think Elizabeth is speaking.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MS. YEVICH: It's Elizabeth speaking; didn't  
4 have her microphone on. My apologies.

5 Hi. This is Elizabeth Yevich with the Housing  
6 Resource Center, and in back in July Brooke had and also  
7 Michael Lyttle had told you about HB 1925, and it was on  
8 an expedited timeline, as we're calling it the homeless  
9 individual camping, and I think everybody is fairly well  
10 versed on that.

11 What did happen after July, the rule was  
12 written, we sent it out to the TICH, it went out for  
13 30-day public comment. There was comment, but I would say  
14 probably not as much as we had anticipated.

15 But there was certainly comment, but nothing  
16 really drastically changed from the rule. Things were  
17 taken into consideration. It was a really quick  
18 turnaround. That rule came back at the very end of  
19 August, and it went to the September 1 Board meeting and  
20 it has passed.

21 So now, Jeremy, if you're ready, we want to  
22 tell you the status of where everything is. If you go to  
23 TDHCA's homepage and you click on the second tab which  
24 says Support and Services, and you go down about six links  
25 or so, it's going to say Homeless Individual Camping

1 Plans.

2 As we had told you before, because this is more  
3 policy-related and plans, it's living under the Housing  
4 Resource Center, because we do an awful lot of TDHCA's  
5 plans and reports, so it's not under HRC on the website,  
6 but HRC staff will be overseeing it.

7 Hold on one second, let me get that screen a  
8 little bigger. Everything you need to know that has  
9 happened so far about the homeless individual camping  
10 plans is on the website, to include a template, and if you  
11 see under the Guidance and Tools, which Jeremy is now  
12 pointing to, there is a PDF of the plan template. And  
13 frequently answered questions, they have been written but  
14 they're all still out there with executive review at this  
15 time, but they'll be posted soon.

16 As of this writing -- and we're what, six,  
17 seven weeks into this -- no plans have been submitted, so  
18 that's the update right there.

19 We do have an email address, it's down at the  
20 bottom with a citation to the legislation, and so as  
21 things progress in this -- assuming they progress -- it  
22 will be posted on this part of the website. So that's  
23 where we are with that update.

24 And while I still have the floor before I turn  
25 it back to Naomi, because I think she's going to take over

1 for Brooke, it's not on the agenda, but I also wanted to  
2 say as a follow-up from the July meeting, we had talked  
3 about something else with the Housing Resource Center.

4 Because the Housing Resource Center staff has  
5 always overseen administrative support for the TICH, we  
6 had spoken at previous meetings with Chair Doyle and  
7 internally about updating the Pathways Home, and at the  
8 last meeting I gave you a timeline that we anticipated  
9 there was going to be a staff opening within the Housing  
10 Resource Center and that that would be advertised in  
11 August and that maybe we would have somebody onboard by  
12 the end of September.

13 Well, a lot of things have happened since then,  
14 as you can imagine, but we did put the posting out there  
15 in the middle of August, although there were some  
16 different internal changes in HRC I hadn't expected, but  
17 things happen, you know, shifts happen.

18 We put the position out there, it closed, I was  
19 in the process of reviewing it, and about a month ago,  
20 three weeks ago, more organizational changes happened, so  
21 what has happened is actually very good news for the  
22 Housing Resource Center.

23 There is another division in TDHCA, it had a  
24 very long name, it was called Fair Housing Data Management  
25 and Reporting, there's been some staffing changes there.

1 So what is happening is the fair housing portion of data  
2 management, those positions are actually going to come  
3 under HRC. In all honesty, about ten years ago a lot of  
4 those duties were under the Housing Resource Center, I  
5 well remember them, so I'm very glad everything is coming  
6 back.

7 So what that is going to enable me to do is to  
8 shift some duties, so what I think I'm going to do is  
9 re-advertise the position that we currently had out  
10 there -- we were calling it Housing Resource Coordinator  
11 at a certain salary -- don't hold me to this, but I think  
12 I'm actually going to be able to maybe increase the salary  
13 a little, which would make it, you know, more enticing to  
14 get a better pool of applicants.

15 And it hasn't officially been approved, but I  
16 believe that I'm going to be calling it the Homeless  
17 Policy Advisor, and that they would also be doing the  
18 Pathways Home, they would probably help do TICH  
19 administrative, also the homeless camping plan, so it's  
20 really going to be more of a homeless policy person within  
21 HRC, so it's actually really good news.

22 But then again, the timeline I had in July  
23 about having somebody hopefully onboard by about this  
24 time, that has shifted, so that's where we are.

25 All in all it's really good news, and I just

1 wanted to give an update on that, because I anticipate  
2 that this new person that will be over Pathways Home will  
3 also be very much involved in the homeless individual  
4 camping plan, as well as the TICH.

5 So any questions on that?

6 MR. DOYLE: Elizabeth, I've got one question  
7 but it's not on that, it's on HB 1925. I think, if I  
8 remember correctly, political subdivisions can't designate  
9 an area as a homeless encampment, if you will, where they  
10 can camp without TDHCA's approval. Does that sound right?

11 MS. YEVICH: That's correct.

12 MR. DOYLE: So do you know any rule of thumb  
13 that we could all understand that would not be acceptable  
14 to TDHCA or that would be acceptable to TDHCA?

15 We have a new mayor and I'm having some  
16 discussions around this, and I just wanted to be able to  
17 say if they've mentioned one thing that I knew was not  
18 right, that would be hard, you ought to find something  
19 else, you know, that kind of thing. So can you give me  
20 some guidance there or give us some guidance there?

21 MS. YEVICH: I'll be glad to, and it's a great  
22 question. I think, Jeremy, if you go ahead and double  
23 click on the template. The template on what we're  
24 reviewing is just paired completely with the legislation,  
25 so Mike, everything we're doing is not above or below,

1 it's right with the legislation.

2 So I think that if you would offer those who  
3 are asking you this template and they would follow that, I  
4 think that's the guidance that you're seeking, because  
5 it's the language taken exactly from the legislation.

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So I could I look up 1925  
7 and print out the legislation and that would be pretty  
8 much it.

9 MS. YEVICH: The legislation, but also, Jeremy,  
10 is the template there?

11 MR. STREMLER: Yeah. Can y'all not see it?

12 MS. YEVICH: No, we can't see it.

13 MR. DOYLE: I think I can, the template, yeah.

14 MR. STREMLER: The template basically takes  
15 from the legislation and the rule that TDHCA approved at  
16 the September Board meeting, which this hits on every  
17 single one of those.

18 And the template is fillable so it's not  
19 necessarily the political subdivision needs to create a  
20 new document; they can just fill out the template here as  
21 well. But all of the points addressed in the template  
22 come directly from the rule which is written directly from  
23 the legislation, and you know, it's simply meeting these  
24 requirements for filling out this.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

1 MS. YEVICH: So basically five sections, Mike,  
2 and they're all right there, Section 1, 2, 3, you know,  
3 the threshold plan requirements and then it will walk you  
4 through and they're given an opportunity to say what they  
5 have. Part of it's a narrative, most of it is checking  
6 off.

7 MR. STREMLER: And once we get the FAQs back  
8 that will, of course, answer some other questions that we  
9 also had when we were creating the FAQs and clearing up  
10 any potential confusion from both whether or not existing  
11 locations needed to have plans or if it's just for new  
12 locations created after September 1, you know, those are  
13 all being addressed by executive and our legal department  
14 and everything, and so those types of questions will be  
15 addressed in the FAQs, which hopefully we will get back  
16 sometime in the near future from our executive.

17 MS. YEVICH: And as soon as the FAQs are out  
18 there, I'll send something out to the TICH to let you  
19 know, but right now this is there, and I think if you  
20 point people to this, Mike, I think this should really  
21 help guide them through everything that is needed. Again,  
22 it's the legislation and the rule and that is the  
23 template.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

25 MS. YEVICH: You're welcome.

1 Any more questions on this?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. YEVICH: Well, I think it's back to you,  
4 Naomi.

5 MS. CANTU: Thanks, Elizabeth.

6 So a bit of a presentation and then some time  
7 for questions and comments at the end. I'm going to talk  
8 about HOME-ARP or HOME-ARPA. So this whole discussion is  
9 going to be about HOME American Rescue Plan. I'm going to  
10 give about five minutes of introduction and then a chance  
11 to comment.

12 So under the American Rescue Plan, also often  
13 called ARP or ARPA, there was an allocation of funds to  
14 the HOME Program that is a bit of a hybrid, a lot like  
15 HOME but also similar in some respects to ESG and in other  
16 respects like neither of them.

17 The bill called the program the Homeless  
18 Assistance and Supportive Services Program, but HUD has  
19 chosen to call it HOME-ARP, so that is what we are doing  
20 at the Department as well, HOME-ARP.

21 While we have known about this program since  
22 the passage of the Act and knew TDHCA was getting about  
23 \$132.9 million -- so again, \$132.9 million in funds -- we  
24 couldn't take any action at that time because HUD had not  
25 yet released guidance. I'm pleased to say about a month

1 ago, in mid September, HUD finally issued guidance, and we  
2 were excited to get moving.

3 Getting moving starts with a very rigorous  
4 planning requirement for these funds beyond what is  
5 typically required for HOME or ESG. So usually we would  
6 typically do a plan amendment to our one-year action plan,  
7 and in this case with HOME-ARP we are required to do a  
8 fully robust separate plan.

9 Our first step in this process to create the  
10 separate plan is a series of consultations. TDHCA is  
11 consulting with agencies and service providers whose  
12 clients include the HOME-ARP qualifying populations -- and  
13 I'll get to qualifying populations in just a few  
14 moments -- to identify unmet needs in housing or service  
15 delivery systems.

16 We have done five consultations so far, one  
17 with Community First Village, one with Haven for Hope, one  
18 with the CoCs, or the Continuum of Cares, and several with  
19 multifamily developers of supportive housing and with  
20 public housing authorities.

21 This week we have three more group  
22 consultations on Wednesday with disability and fair  
23 housing stakeholders, and then on Friday with veterans  
24 service providers, and a final session with homeless  
25 service providers.

1           We are also considering this TICH meeting to be  
2 a consultation and are happy to take input, and that's  
3 where I mentioned we will have a little time -- well, not  
4 a little, as much time as we need for comments and  
5 questions.

6           After consultations we will draft the plan  
7 following HUD's requirements and take that to our Board  
8 for approval. This draft plan will then go out for 15  
9 days -- so again 15 days of public comment. We will then  
10 adopt a final plan and submit that to HUD. Hopefully not  
11 long after the final plan is approved, we will release the  
12 NOFAs.

13           So let me tell you a little bit about the fund,  
14 the qualifying populations and the eligible activities.  
15 So I mentioned qualifying populations before, so who are  
16 the qualifying populations?

17           These are people who are experiencing  
18 homelessness or at risk of homelessness as defined by 24  
19 CFR 91, and those are the qualifying populations. Note  
20 that the at risk of homelessness definition is at 50  
21 percent area median income, so 50 percent AMI instead of  
22 30 percent AMI, so the income limit is higher for HOME-ARP  
23 than it would be for, let's say, ESG.

24           In addition, I can state three more qualifying  
25 populations. One is fleeing or attempting to flee

1 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault,  
2 stalking or human trafficking, populations where providing  
3 services or assistance will prevent homelessness or serve  
4 those with greatest risk of having instability based on  
5 income and other factors outlined by HUD.

6 One example of this would be someone who has  
7 experienced homelessness previously and has 30 percent  
8 area median income, or has 30 percent area median income  
9 and spending 50 percent or more on rent.

10 Let me clarify, persons who have experienced  
11 homelessness previously may be one of the qualifying  
12 populations. I would have to look at the AMI applied to  
13 that population.

14 And then the other one is 30 percent area  
15 median income and rent burden which is spending 50 percent  
16 or more on rent. And then finally, veterans and their  
17 families that meet one of the definitions already  
18 mentioned, so veterans and families are included in the  
19 qualifying populations, but they also must meet homeless  
20 or at risk at 50 percent area median income, or one of the  
21 other populations that I have mentioned.

22 Now let me tell you what the funds can be used  
23 for -- and I'm almost done in time for questions and  
24 comments.

25 So you can do acquisition and development of

1 non-congregate shelter, so this is excluding operations --  
2 excluding operations, so shelter operations is not  
3 included in HOME-ARP; however, you can acquire and develop  
4 non-congregate shelter.

5 This has a 10-to 15-year compliance period and  
6 may be converted to permanent continuum of care housing or  
7 Emergency Solutions Grant shelter or other shelter, but  
8 HOME-ARP funds cannot be used to pay for the conversion.  
9 So the acquisition and conversion of non-congregate  
10 shelter, that's one.

11 Another is acquisition and rehab or new  
12 construction of rental housing developments, which  
13 includes the ability to provide annual or capitalize  
14 operating cost assistance. So this is something that has  
15 been a request for a while, is capitalizing operating cost  
16 assistance and HOME-ARP this has been realized.

17 This has a minimum 15-year affordability period  
18 and requires that at least 70 percent of the assisted  
19 units go to qualifying populations, while the remaining 30  
20 percent can be regular HOME low income.

21 It is interesting to note in HOME-ARP there's a  
22 variation to this activity, so the households are not  
23 allowed to pay more than 30 percent of their income for  
24 rent, so in reality we think these units will need to be  
25 underwritten at zero income unless there's a project-based

1 rental assistance associated with it, and project-based  
2 rental assistance is not part of HOME-ARP.

3 So non-congregate shelter and rental housing,  
4 HOME-ARP also does tenant-based rental assistance,  
5 supportive services, community housing development  
6 operation and nonprofit operating expenses, and those are  
7 all of the eligible activities. The last three I went  
8 over very quickly because we are focusing mainly on the  
9 first two, although we will take comment on all.

10 A few more things to know about HOME-ARP.  
11 There's no match requirement, so that's different than  
12 HOME annual funds. The developments may use coordinated  
13 entry or project specific selection, or both.

14 And of course, deadline. The submission  
15 deadline for receipt is 9/30/2025, and the expenditure  
16 deadline is 9/30/2030. So again, obligation 9/30, so  
17 September 30 of 2025, and expended by September 30 of  
18 2030.

19 I'm looking at my notes because I want to make  
20 sure that I'm saying this correctly. One other dynamic to  
21 all this is that typically TDHCA has a statutory  
22 restriction that we can only use 5 percent of HOME funds  
23 in the urban areas of Texas.

24 That requirement is currently waived by the  
25 governor because of COVID, but we don't know how long that

1 will last. Because we think it is important that these  
2 funds also be used in urban areas, we are shooting for at  
3 least having all funds contracted to specific projects or  
4 activities within the year.

5 Because of the unique one-time nature of these  
6 funds, our initial thought for these funds is to use them  
7 for capital improvements, such as the non-congregate  
8 shelter and rental units; however, we haven't decided  
9 anything, that's not final, and we won't until we have  
10 listened to all the consultation and input.

11 So that's my presentation. It was a little  
12 lengthy, but I want to ask are there any questions about  
13 this, and is there anyone who wants to talk about this or  
14 give input?

15 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, here's my question. That's  
16 a lot of stuff right there without having it in front of  
17 me. Can you tell me, just kind of build me a scenario  
18 that this would perfectly fit?

19 MS. CANTU: That's a good question. So we have  
20 non-congregate housing and rental development. I'll talk  
21 about both of those and possibilities for using those.  
22 Non-congregate shelter, I believe it can be conversion and  
23 new construction of non-congregate shelter.

24 Let me make sure of the period on that. That  
25 is a 10- to 15-year compliance period. So let's say a

1 shelter -- and again, this will be released with a NOFA, a  
2 notice of funding availability -- let's say a shelter has  
3 a shelter that we want to convert into a non-congregate  
4 shelter, so with separate rooms or greater partitions for  
5 non-congregate shelter. And I'm sure we'll have more  
6 details on what that looks like in terms of development.  
7 This might be one option to do that.

8           And once they use HOME-ARP, the operating costs  
9 would not be covered under HOME-ARP, although there might  
10 be opportunities to use other funding sources like ESG  
11 from local sources and possibly issued from TDHCA working  
12 into some sort of pairing.

13           As you mentioned before, there's a lot of  
14 funding in the communities and planning and working  
15 together with funding sources is going to be important for  
16 these kinds of funds.

17           So the shelter would convert the shelter into  
18 non-congregate shelter or build a new non-congregate, use  
19 another source to operate the shelter, and then after the  
20 compliance period, that nonprofit or whatever that  
21 organization would be, would own that building.

22           It can be converted after that point to  
23 permanent supportive housing or transitional housing or  
24 something else in the CoC program if they able to fund in  
25 that CoC program during that year, or they can continue as

1 a shelter, or they can use it for another purpose because  
2 the compliance period will be done and they will own it,  
3 as far as I understand.

4 I do want to caution my discussion here is that  
5 I also still have a learning curve on this program. There  
6 was guidance -- the guidance that I mentioned before,  
7 released in September, was 177 pages, so still digesting  
8 it -- Eric, I see you laughing over there -- still  
9 digesting it. HUD did release a lot of FAQ sheets. Those  
10 are my go-to and getting it over to you as well.

11 That, I believe, Mike, would be the use in  
12 non-congregate shelter.

13 Now, in terms of rental housing development,  
14 that could be part of a whole development or the whole  
15 development, depending on the funding layers and levels,  
16 and it would be new construction or rehab of that.

17 But the unique thing about HOME-ARP is that the  
18 rents are 30 percent of the income of the tenant for those  
19 qualifying populations. That's different than, let's say,  
20 the Housing Tax Credit Program where a 30 percent unit  
21 means a set level of rent for that area.

22 So 30 percent of the income is different, and  
23 so that is why I specifically mentioned that these will be  
24 much lower income units for this qualifying population.  
25 So the rental developments would come online, they have a

1 15 year minimum affordability period.

2 MR. DOYLE: I know that you haven't fully  
3 digested this, but like in the old SRO programs there was  
4 certain criteria. You couldn't have a bathroom and a  
5 kitchen in the room, you could have one or the other but  
6 not both.

7 Do you know if these HOME funds have any  
8 restrictions like that? If it were for a single man,  
9 could you have two single guys in a suite situation  
10 sharing a bathroom, both with sinks in their own? I mean,  
11 do you know any of those details at this point?

12 MS. CANTU: I know that for the rental design  
13 they have to meet housing standards. I'd have to look  
14 specifically about what is allowed under those standards.

15 For the non-congregate shelter, one of the  
16 primary qualifications of a non-congregate shelter is that  
17 it does not have leases; that's how it's an emergency  
18 shelter.

19 MR. DOYLE: No leases.

20 MS. CANTU: No leases with shelter.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks, Naomi. Interested  
22 in hearing more about that.

23 Are you going to do Brooke's stuff on the  
24 pandemic?

25 MS. CANTU: Yes, still me for the pandemic.

1 This one is shorter, this one is shorter and it has more  
2 topics.

3 So Texas Rent Relief, the CARES Act and  
4 American Rescue Plan update. Here's an update about our  
5 pandemic response funds here at TDHCA. So first, one of  
6 our biggest programs, the Texas Rent Relief Program. In  
7 our first round of funding, TDHCA received \$1.3 billion  
8 and in the second round about \$1 billion, so we're talking  
9 about \$2.3 billion here.

10 I'm very pleased to share that this week we are  
11 just at around \$1 billion disbursed and have transitioned  
12 into making payments with the second round of funding, so  
13 the ERA-II funding.

14 Some of the ERA-I was for administration, and  
15 some was for housing stability services contracts, so  
16 that's why we're hovering just round that one billion of  
17 that first round.

18 Because we met all the federal deadlines, we  
19 may also have an opportunity to access funds not fully  
20 used by other states, but we won't know that for a few  
21 more months, so there might be even more funding on the  
22 table for ERA, and I'll keep you apprised of that.

23 So more details about ERA, we have programmed  
24 about \$71 million of that first ERA round for housing  
25 stability services and legal services to the Texas Access

1 to Justice Foundation. So again, \$71 million of the first  
2 ERA round for housing stability services and legal  
3 services through the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.  
4 Aside from that foundation, there are about 30 contracts  
5 that went to local nonprofits to provide services.

6 Separately, and in addition to these funds, we  
7 will be releasing a NOFA -- so notice of funding  
8 availability -- for about \$84 million for housing  
9 stability services from the second pot of money, or  
10 ERA-II, later this month or early in November. So we have  
11 a lot of funding going for services for populations  
12 experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

13 Other CARES Act information update. We have  
14 received an extra \$48.1 million in Community Services  
15 Block Grant to the Community Action Network and have  
16 expended more than 80 percent of that funding.

17 We have received \$94 million in Low Income  
18 Housing Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and this is  
19 utility assistance funds, and we have expended more than  
20 60 percent so far. Through ARP we also got a second round  
21 of LIHEAP funds for \$134.4 million, so a second pot of  
22 funds, again, for \$134.4 million.

23 We received an allocation of \$141.8 million in  
24 Community Development Block Grant funds, so \$141.8 million  
25 in CDBG, Community Development Block Grant funds. That

1 has been programmed into a variety of activities,  
2 including rental assistance, mortgage assistance, food  
3 bank assistance, assistance to persons with disabilities,  
4 and organizations that serve people with disabilities.

5 And most recently a new community resilience  
6 NOFA: This NOFA provides funds for smaller communities in  
7 Texas to invest in facilities, including mobile  
8 facilities, to be more responsive in future pandemic. So  
9 a lot of activities under CDBG.

10 Of course, there's ESG CARES, which I gave you  
11 an update on earlier. And last, but not least, under the  
12 CARES Act we received 15 Mainstream Voucher Program  
13 vouchers, which were all issued right away, so we have  
14 issued all of our housing vouchers under the CARES Act.

15 So the second round of pandemic funding came  
16 from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. That  
17 was the source of the first round of emergency rental  
18 assistance.

19 The other program that came from that act was a  
20 new program called -- let me try this one -- LIHWAP which  
21 stands for Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program,  
22 household water, Low Income Household Water Assistance  
23 Program. It is basically utility assistance modeled on  
24 the energy assistance program, which is only for electric  
25 and gas, and LIHWAP is for water and wastewater. We

1 received \$51.8 million.

2 U.S. Health and Human Services urged us to use  
3 our existing network of energy assistance providers, and  
4 we were required to submit a plan, which we have done. At  
5 this time we do not yet have the approval to proceed, so  
6 as we do, we will contract with our subrecipients. We  
7 also got a second allocation of LIHWAP for another \$40.5  
8 million, so assistance for water and wastewater coming  
9 down the line now.

10 And then the last part of the update, the most  
11 recent bill was ARP or ARPA. So aside from the HOME-ARP  
12 that we discussed in the last presentation, other  
13 activities included the sources of funding for second  
14 rounds of emergency rental assistance, LIHEAP, and the  
15 LIHWAP, the energy assistance and wastewater and rental  
16 assistance.

17 It also established a Homeowner Assistance Fund  
18 called HAF -- lots of acronyms -- Homeowner Assistance  
19 Fund, which provided Texas \$842.2 million -- so again,  
20 \$842.2 million. It assists homeowners with mortgage  
21 delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, and other  
22 associated costs. Treasury required that the state submit  
23 a plan, which we have done and submitted on September 30.

24 We are in the process of contracting with a vendor for  
25 this program.

1           We also received -- and this is the last  
2 subpart -- we also received 798 emergency housing  
3 vouchers, so 798 emergency housing vouchers, and we are in  
4 the midst of getting working on these getting out to the  
5 community.

6           That is the update that is usually Brooke's,  
7 but I am pinch hitting, but I will take questions, and if  
8 you have questions, I will probably get back to you on  
9 them, but if you have any questions, I will hear them now.

10           MR. DOYLE: Anybody who was smart enough to  
11 figure all that out, they can ask questions.

12           (General laughter.)

13           MR. SAMUELS: I was going to say hopefully the  
14 transcript will cover most of this or the notes will cover  
15 most of this. because it's hard to keep up, and you had a  
16 lot on your plate to fill in for Brooke. Just a few  
17 questions, though.

18           The housing stability services, the second  
19 round, when did you say the NOFA is going to be out for  
20 that, or did you say?

21           MS. CANTU: Yeah. Later this month or early  
22 next month, that's the goal. And again, that's \$84  
23 million, I believe.

24           MR. SAMUELS: That's one of the numbers I  
25 actually did get; there were a lot of other ones I didn't

1 get.

2 MS. CANTU: There is a lot.

3 MR. SAMUELS: And you also talked about Texas  
4 may receive monies that other states have not been able to  
5 spend, and you said you had a date by when. When is that?  
6 I didn't catch that.

7 MS. CANTU: That one we don't have, we don't  
8 know by when. So that is specifically for the Texas Rent  
9 Relief Program. That's the billion-dollar program that we  
10 have here, \$2.3 billion. Since we are about \$1 billion  
11 expended, we may be able to get funding from other states,  
12 but we won't know for a few more months.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, it would seem since --  
14 isn't Texas still far out ahead of every other state  
15 getting the money out? It would seem Texas would have  
16 first priority over other states if that money is  
17 available, so that's good to know.

18 MR. DOYLE: Any other questions for Naomi?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. DOYLE: Well, Naomi, good luck. We need to  
21 put you on our prayer list. That's a lot of stuff, man.

22 MS. CANTU: Thank you. And Brooke as well,  
23 please. Thank you.

24 MR. DOYLE: We will.

25 MS. YEVICH: This is Elizabeth. Before you

1 jump into the other updates, two follow-ups.

2 I know, Eric, you mentioned the transcripts,  
3 and I know Nancy is on here doing the transcripts, they  
4 usually come back in about a week or so and I post them on  
5 the website.

6 As soon as I do that I'll actually let  
7 everybody know, because normally I let you know or it's a  
8 little while later, but as soon as they come back, even if  
9 we don't have the minutes or anything else ready, I will  
10 get those up on the website just because all the facts and  
11 figures and numbers that Naomi has read will be there.

12 And on that, Mike, if you don't mind, because  
13 I'm looking -- a couple of other TICH members have come  
14 on. I'd like to read into the record who is here that's  
15 actually the member agencies' representatives, if you  
16 don't mind.

17 So of course we have yourself, we have Suzie  
18 Brady, Sherri Cogbill, Naomi Cantu, Blake Harris, Deborah  
19 Arellano, and then I believe Carissa Dougherty is here,  
20 and I think she is the representative for HHSC.

21 MS. DOUGHERTY: That's correct. I am here.

22 MS. YEVICH: Thank you. And Claire Irwin is  
23 also here.

24 MS. IRWIN: I'm on.

25 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

1           And then also our advisory members, I know we  
2 have Michael Wilt, and David Long, I also saw that he was  
3 here as well.

4           So I just wanted to read that into the record  
5 for our court reporter. Thanks.

6           MR. DOYLE: Are you counting eight TICH members  
7 or their representatives as being present?

8           MS. YEVICH: Eight official members, yes,  
9 correct. We now have eight because Claire is now with us.  
10 Correct.

11          MR. DOYLE: Okay. Very good.

12          MR. STREMLER: And, Mike, there was one person  
13 that submitted a question, don't know if any of us at  
14 TDHCA will be able to answer at this moment, but it says:  
15 Are there any plans to get funds for more emergency  
16 housing vouchers even though they're being slowly  
17 disbursed?

18                 Which, you know, I can give my two cents  
19 because that was funding that was provided to all of the  
20 PHAs and it was a one-time funding that was put out, so  
21 from my point of view, it seems that there wouldn't be  
22 additional in terms of more new vouchers from the Federal  
23 Government to PHAs.

24                 The ones that are out there are the ones that  
25 are going to be out there. Whether or not they will all

1 be used in the locations they were originally disbursed to  
2 is, you know, up in the air depending on how many can get  
3 put out in the local communities that they were assigned  
4 to originally, but the ones that are out there are what is  
5 there.

6 MS. YEVICH: And to follow up, I know Spencer  
7 Duran can, if he's listening, because I know Spencer Duran  
8 gave a presentation to the TICH in July on this. He's  
9 sort of leading that effort.

10 There is Spencer, there we go. And thank you,  
11 Jeremy. Perfect.

12 Hi, Spencer?

13 MR. DURAN: What was the question, Elizabeth?

14 MR. STREMLER: I can read it to you again. It  
15 is: Are there any plans to get funds for more emergency  
16 housing vouchers?

17 MR. DURAN: The voucher allocation is  
18 determined by HUD, so we got two awards: We got an  
19 initial award letter for the vouchers, and then a lot of  
20 PHAs and a lot of public housing authorities around the  
21 state declined their vouchers that HUD had allotted to  
22 them, and so TDHCA was automatically allocated the  
23 vouchers that other PHAs had turned down.

24 So we didn't request that, we don't have any  
25 means to request more, so I feel it's almost 800 vouchers

1 and that about doubles the size of our current housing  
2 authority, so that's a huge amount of vouchers for us to  
3 absorb and get out onto the street.

4 So I'm not sure what TDHCA leadership would say  
5 necessarily, but I want to concentrate on getting the 800  
6 committed, and then we can talk about something else after  
7 that.

8 MS. YEVICH: Thanks, Spencer. Glad you were  
9 tuned in.

10 And thanks, Jeremy. I hope that answers the  
11 question.

12 I'm trying to read, was that Tanya Lavelle that  
13 asked that or Molly? I'm having a hard time reading who  
14 had asked that.

15 MR. STREMLER: It was Tanya. Tanya does have  
16 her hand raised, so Mike, if you're okay, we'll entertain  
17 Tanya to speak if she has an additional follow-up  
18 question.

19 MR. DOYLE: Please do. I've kind of lost the  
20 picture here so I'm trying to get it back, but I can hear  
21 you.

22 MS. YEVICH: We can see you, Mike.

23 MR. DOYLE: You can?

24 MS. YEVICH: Yeah. You probably minimized it.  
25 Do you want to let Tanya in?

1 MR. STREMLER: Tanya, you're unmuted if you'd  
2 like to ask additional questions.

3 MS. LAVELLE: Sure. Thanks so much. Tanya  
4 Lavelle, Disability Rights Texas.

5 So I understand you definitely answered the  
6 question about specifically emergency housing vouchers. I  
7 also am trying to follow along with everything, like  
8 everyone else is.

9 I know so much has been coming down in terms of  
10 money, and that was a firehose of information, and I  
11 understand that that's probably how TDHCA is also  
12 receiving that information.

13 And kind of broadly, I guess, beyond emergency  
14 housing vouchers, I'm just trying to get a handle on how  
15 many vouchers in whatever program we're trying to get  
16 through from HUD funding, from the CARES Act, all of that,  
17 because at least from the Disability Rights Texas  
18 perspective, we are seeing so many cases of people coming  
19 forward and asking for help with vouchers that, you know,  
20 vouchers would save them from this, but they're getting  
21 evicted.

22 And we've had like a thousand percent increase  
23 in case requests for this type of assistance over the last  
24 two years, maybe, so really it comes down to the pandemic.

25 And so I'm really trying to get my head around what

1 options are now for folks, what options might be coming  
2 down the pike.

3 And I don't know if that can be answered right  
4 now, if that's something I can follow up with somebody  
5 when we're not as a group. It seems like it might be a  
6 long answer. So thank you for that.

7 MS. YEVICH: Thanks. And again, I'm tossing it  
8 back to Spencer, as he's overseeing the emergency housing  
9 vouchers, so I think if you touch base with Spencer Duran  
10 after this, he could probably answer your questions.

11 Would that work, Tanya?

12 MS. LAVELLE: Yeah, sure. I'd be happy to  
13 email you, Spencer, or give you a call, whatever you  
14 prefer.

15 MR. DURAN: Whatever you want to do is fine, no  
16 problem.

17 MS. LAVELLE: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank y'all.

19 Are there any other agency updates?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DOYLE: All right. Then Eric, it looks  
22 like whatever this space is called, you've got it.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Virtual floor.

24 Actually, let me start out by saying our agency  
25 is working closely with TDHCA on the emergency housing

1 vouchers. I know none of them were saying it because  
2 they're being really nice. But we're trying to figure out  
3 a way to make it work to get those vouchers out there.  
4 And so, Tanya, I will make sure to talk to you about that,  
5 but you should still talk to Spencer; he's, of course, the  
6 person to talk to at the state about this.

7 So let me just do a little bragging on THN  
8 first.

9 MR. STREMLER: Eric, do you have stuff to show  
10 for this item?

11 MR. SAMUELS: Not yet. I will after Nick when  
12 I get to an update.

13 So we came to the end of our fiscal year, and I  
14 want to say we looked at the people we helped throughout  
15 the year. Even during the pandemic we helped out 5,000  
16 people -- those are duplicated numbers of course --  
17 through training and technical assistance.

18 Our staff has recently helped agencies submit  
19 35 applications for the HUD Continuum of Care grant for  
20 nearly \$14 million. That doesn't mean that we're going to  
21 get all of that funding for those agencies, but we're  
22 applying for that.

23 I know we don't get involved in advocacy, but  
24 let me just say policy-maker education has greatly  
25 increased. Nick has worked with a lot of our federal

1 partners, a lot more than we ever have in the past.

2 So two things I want to mention. So we didn't  
3 have a conference, obviously, and I'm sorry that we  
4 weren't able to do that. Hopefully we can resume normal  
5 next year at the Omni South park here in Austin and that  
6 you'll all be there, and we can have our TICH meeting  
7 there as well.

8 But instead of that, or somewhat instead of  
9 that, we're having a live webinar series that is starting  
10 on November 9. I'm going to post the link to that, and  
11 those webinars will occur for the rest of the year.

12 And then one more thing before I hand it off to  
13 Nick, we were invited to apply for the Bezos Day One  
14 Families Fund. We were invited to apply for \$1.25  
15 million, so we submitted that application. And what that  
16 would do is it would target two communities, rural and  
17 mid-size communities in Texas, to engage in an effort and  
18 a campaign to end family homelessness, much the way that  
19 communities have worked to end veteran homelessness and  
20 also to work to expand coordinated entry across the state.

21 So we haven't found out if we're going to get  
22 that funding or not, but we have heard that in the past if  
23 you were asked to apply you have a very, very good chance  
24 of receiving it.

25 So if we are funded, I would love to share that

1 with the group, and maybe we can work together to target a  
2 few communities to use those funds most efficiently and  
3 effectively to end family homelessness in those  
4 communities.

5 MR. DOYLE: Very good.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, it's very good. It was a  
7 surprise; I was not expecting to be asked to apply for  
8 that.

9 So I'll hand it off to Nick now, unless there  
10 are any questions.

11 DR. HARRIS: Hey, Eric, one question. You were  
12 saying with the additional opportunity that y'all were  
13 asked to apply for, within family focus were there any  
14 additional, I guess, special populations to include  
15 veterans but not necessarily that were also outlined as  
16 being a preferential target?

17 MR. SAMUELS: With the Day One Fund you're  
18 referring to?

19 DR. HARRIS: Yes, sir.

20 MR. SAMUELS: We were asked what sub  
21 populations we would serve, and we obviously mentioned  
22 veterans and their families because there are not a huge  
23 number of veterans with their families experiencing  
24 homelessness, but there is significant enough that we  
25 should definitely target those folks for housing. So that

1 is part of the priority, but the main priority is  
2 families, households with children, so that's number one.

3 DR. HARRIS: Thank you.

4 MR. THOMPSON: If there are no other questions,  
5 I'll go ahead and present for the THN VISTA project.

6 So two updates on this. Currently we have five  
7 VISTA members in service right now. Of those five VISTA  
8 members, one is our VISTA leader. We have two coalition  
9 and coordinated entry VISTA members, one Data Sharing  
10 Network VISTA member -- who you'll hear from in just a  
11 minute -- and then two communications and community  
12 outreach VISTAs. So they are all placed either within our  
13 office or around the balance of state here in Texas.

14 For our second update, we are starting a brand  
15 new project in 2022, May or June, and we are looking for  
16 new sites, so I'm going to post something in the chat  
17 here.

18 We're holding two virtual office hours on this  
19 for any Balance of State or rural site that would be  
20 interested in having a VISTA member, and we're able to  
21 offer this to sites free of charge. We typically have  
22 charged somewhere around five to eight grand per site and  
23 per VISTA before, but we don't have to do that anymore, so  
24 we're looking for new partners. If you know anyone that  
25 has interest in this program and being able to host a

1 VISTA member, definitely send them our way.

2 Any questions on the VISTA project?

3 MR. DOYLE: Hey, Nick, is Johnson County in the  
4 Balance of State so they'd be eligible?

5 MR. THOMPSON: Correct. I'm seeing Eric nod  
6 his head.

7 MR. SAMUELS: They're definitely eligible, and  
8 in fact, we had talked to them a long time ago about that.  
9 It's been a while since we visited, but yes, they would  
10 be eligible.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Well, if there aren't any other  
12 questions, I'll pass it back to you, Eric.

13 MR. SAMUELS: I'm going to start, I didn't post  
14 the Day One Families Fund name, so I'll do that now so you  
15 have an idea what this is.

16 Okay. So let me give you an update about the  
17 Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network, but before that I  
18 need to introduce you all to Aubrey Fetzer. Aubrey  
19 started work with us a little over a month ago. Right,  
20 Aubrey? I hope I'm right about that.

21 She is a VISTA member, she's our THDSN  
22 associate, she's a VISTA member working with me to  
23 implement the Data Sharing Network and hopefully find some  
24 more funding to keep this project going. I don't know if  
25 she's on camera, but she can probably say hi.

1 MS. FETZER: Yeah, I have my camera off, but  
2 I'm Aubrey, and I started right at the end of August, been  
3 almost two months with THN.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And so she's going to be helping  
5 out a lot as we move towards the next year of operating  
6 the Data Sharing Network.

7 Now, Jeremy, I'm going to show the slide,  
8 unless you want to do it from your end. And don't worry,  
9 everybody, I'm not going to go through 19 slides, I'm not  
10 going to do that. Okay. Everyone should be seeing that.

11 As I reported before, we're in what I consider  
12 our first year of our Data Sharing Network implementation,  
13 although it's really been more than a year, but you know,  
14 who's counting during the pandemic. Right?

15 So let me just give you a quick update about  
16 where we are, and this will be -- well, I don't want to  
17 speak for Elizabeth or Jeremy but I think it will be sent  
18 out to everyone and you'll be able to see it.

19 All right. So the first thing I want to update  
20 you on, we have moved from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of our  
21 operations for the Data Sharing Network. We are still  
22 limiting access quite a bit; we are still only allowing a  
23 few representatives from each CoC to access individual  
24 client level data.

25 They can all access the aggregate reporting so

1 they can look at homelessness in the state at any given  
2 point at any time; they can look at how many veterans they  
3 are in the state or different regions of the state, for  
4 example.

5 But the real utility, I think, for this and the  
6 most important is for us to be able to better serve people  
7 who are obviously experiencing homelessness and get them  
8 access to services, shelter and housing quicker because of  
9 easier access to this data.

10 So I'll take Tarrant County, for example.  
11 Tarrant County, they have three people that can access the  
12 data, and what they have been using it for lately is to  
13 verify whether or not someone is chronically homeless,  
14 because they have a lot of people that come from outside  
15 of Tarrant County, they come from Dallas County region, as  
16 Mike mentioned, Johnson County, and other places like  
17 that, and when they come into Tarrant County's homeless  
18 response system, the Tarrant County folks they don't have  
19 access to that person's data on how long they've been  
20 homeless, whether or not they have a disability, and this  
21 has allowed them to house five people within the past few  
22 weeks into permanent supportive housing. So we're  
23 starting to use the data for that care and case  
24 management.

25 Eventually this will be available to case

1 managers within our Continuums of Care, and then we want  
2 to expand that to other systems of care, but we have to  
3 really make sure our data sharing agreements are up to  
4 date and everything, all the t's are crossed and the i's  
5 are dotted before we do that. We've just got to be very  
6 careful with this.

7 I think you've heard this before, but all  
8 eleven CoCs are part of the governance structure. Not all  
9 eleven currently participate; we now have seven of the  
10 eleven Continuums of Care participating which covers 90  
11 percent of the state, so we just have Austin, San Antonio;  
12 Homeward Bound, which is Wichita Falls; and Brazos Valley  
13 Continuum of Care that are not participating, so it's  
14 probably around 80 percent of the overall population of  
15 people experiencing homelessness that are covered.

16 Please stop me if you have questions.

17 This is pretty small, but you can see that we  
18 have over 62,000 people in the data warehouse. I will say  
19 this data has been collected from 2012 to now -- I'm  
20 sorry -- 621,000 client records are in the data warehouse  
21 for that period of time, which is basically ten years.

22 MR. DOYLE: Eric, so we see the warehouse of  
23 the 621,000, does that include all the ones that are right  
24 below it?

25 MR. SAMUELS: It does.

1 MR. DOYLE: Is that a total?

2 MR. SAMUELS: That's total.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And I should also mention that  
5 these data were uploaded in some cases in June, in some  
6 cases as late as August, but most of these are one-time  
7 uploads.

8 Tarrant County is the exception to this. They  
9 have a real-time automated data transfer so their clients  
10 are updated not only every day but nearly every hour, so  
11 they have the most updated data upload that you see. We  
12 will be asking everyone to upload data one more time  
13 before the end of this calendar year.

14 I'm just going to show you one more slide.

15 MS. CANTU: Eric, I did have a question. This  
16 is Naomi Cantu.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, please ask.

18 MS. CANTU: Who is the Health Data?

19 MR. SAMUELS: That is something that the system  
20 continues to pull up, but it's not really attached to  
21 anything. We need to make sure to get rid of that. In  
22 fact, Aubrey and I are meeting with them tomorrow; we can  
23 talk to them about that.

24 I should say I would love in the future if we  
25 could have data sharing agreements set up with, say,

1 Baylor Scott & White, or someone like that. I will say in  
2 that situation they would probably not be included in this  
3 because it would more than likely be a one-way data  
4 sharing agreement, in which we have an agreement to share  
5 data with them. They match the client files up, and then  
6 we have those matched client files to work with and target  
7 for services and shelter.

8 MS. CANTU: And then one follow-up question.  
9 How far back does this data go?

10 MR. SAMUELS: 2012.

11 MS. CANTU: Thank you.

12 MR. SAMUELS: I believe March of 2012; it could  
13 have been January 1, 2012.

14 This is just the population dashboard. I just  
15 ran it yesterday just so you could see the most updated  
16 data from around this time last year to this year, close  
17 to it, a few months off.

18 But you can see the enrolled clients, the  
19 active clients, and then those who have entered and  
20 exited. We'd love to see that exited number much higher  
21 than those that entered, but that's not the situation that  
22 we're in right now.

23 A few more, this is really a summary report.  
24 We thought these types of reports would be good to try to  
25 identify how they could be eligible for certain services.

1 We have talked in exploratory conversations with HHSC  
2 about what they're doing with Medicaid matching, because  
3 they're working on that with the HUD TA provider, and it  
4 would be great if down the road we could work closer with  
5 agencies like that for those purposes.

6 And I don't need to go through the rest of  
7 this. You just can see there's a variety of reports that  
8 can be pulled and a variety of uses at the state level and  
9 for CoCs and for direct serving agencies.

10 So that's where we are. We have funding -- I  
11 was just talking to David Long about this, actually,  
12 earlier -- we have funding for this project through the  
13 end of the calendar year.

14 After that our vendor allows us to kind of  
15 pause the project and wait until we have more funding, so  
16 we're searching for funding right now. Hopefully we can  
17 come up with something. There is a grant through the  
18 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that requires a partnership  
19 with a state agency, so state agencies -- other than HHSC  
20 because we've already explored this -- you'll be hearing  
21 from me on that to see if we can potentially work together  
22 on that.

23 I think that's all I have, if y'all have  
24 questions.

25 MR. DOYLE: Eric, what is the amount of funding

1 and annual funding number you would need?

2 MR. SAMUELS: So our data warehouse bill for an  
3 entire year is \$155,000, and if we really want to ramp  
4 this up, we would have money for a staff member, so we  
5 have looked at a grant request around the \$250,000 to  
6 \$275,000 mark per year.

7 Aubrey and I can still push it forward with  
8 money for the data warehouse expense, but we don't have as  
9 much flexibility to really expand our care management and  
10 our case management.

11 MR. DOYLE: And I know y'all are doing this,  
12 but it just seems tragic to get this far on this thing as  
13 long as we've tried to work on it and then put it on  
14 pause. So could you offline just shoot to me your  
15 estimated cost to get it to this point and what you need  
16 to go forward?

17 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. I can send you the budget  
18 that we used for the past basically 16 months, and then I  
19 can send you the budget for another year.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks.

21 MR. SAMUELS: It is, it's nice to get this far.

22 And what's good, if we do have to pause, our vendor will  
23 keep everything in line. In fact, they've said that  
24 they'll still allow us to run reports; they'll just be  
25 very slow. So you know, if we do have to pause, we're

1 still in a pretty good place.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I mean, I can think back to  
3 that real smart guy -- I don't know who he was with --  
4 that started trying to do this, and his comment was, Oh,  
5 it can be done; it's just going to take money. That was  
6 like 15 years ago or something. And to get it to where we  
7 can even do this is major progress when you're really  
8 working with no money.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. I'll say one more thing,  
10 and I almost hesitate to say this, but ASW had a panel  
11 where I spoke, and Virginia has something like this going  
12 on too and they spoke as well, and so you'll see invites  
13 for that go out to most of our state agencies.

14 The reason I hesitate to say it is because it's  
15 a bit of a way to sell ASW's product too, so I don't want  
16 to do that for them, but I'll make sure that you all have  
17 the link if you want to put it out there.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks.

19 MR. SAMUELS: And I think that is all I have.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Did anybody get anything  
21 that they wanted to make a public comment?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: All right. I don't have any  
24 closing comments other than, man, there's a lot of money  
25 floating around out there, if we could just figure out a

1 way to target it so we'd all know where it was, that would  
2 be great. As much as I try to keep up with it, it's hard,  
3 man, it's just hard to work through all these streams. I  
4 know we've done a great job but we could target it, I  
5 think, more effectively if we really could pin down some  
6 kind of little matrix about here's where it starts and you  
7 go over here and you get to this pot of money. It's just  
8 a difficult deal, but I think y'all are doing a great job  
9 at this. So that's the only comments I've got.

10 Anybody else have anything they would like to  
11 say?

12 MS. GALASSO: Hi, everyone. Fedora with TNOYS.  
13 I just wanted to make a couple of quick announcements.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MS. GALASSO: So I think maybe two weeks ago we  
16 hosted -- we're working in partnership with the U.S.  
17 Interagency Council on Homelessness to inform the federal  
18 strategic plan on homelessness, so we scheduled and held a  
19 listening session with over 80 participants from our  
20 network of youth-serving providers to talk about youth  
21 homelessness and some priorities around that.

22 We are going to be doing a listening session  
23 this Friday that is specifically for youth homelessness,  
24 so if anyone has any young people that you work with that  
25 you would like to participate in that listening session,

1 the USICH will also be present to listen and learn from  
2 our youth.

3 We also have an AmeriCorps program that I think  
4 I announced the last time I was on the TICH that is  
5 specifically for young people with lived experiences of  
6 homeless or exiting out of foster care, all the things  
7 that we know can cause long-term chronic homelessness.

8 So that program is specifically for young  
9 people with those lived experiences to work at our member  
10 organizations, so some of them are at Promise House and  
11 organizations that provide that emergency shelter for  
12 youth experiencing homelessness to do job readiness, skill  
13 development, and just life skill development with youth at  
14 those placements.

15 And so we have ten host sites this year and  
16 then next year we're going to be expanding it. So if you  
17 know of any host sites that are interested in that  
18 program, we would love to get contacted with them.

19 And then we do have some new youth homelessness  
20 demonstration project funding here in Texas, so in the  
21 Harris County area and the Tarrant County area they both  
22 recently received that YHDB funding focused on youth  
23 homelessness.

24 And then we are in the process of starting  
25 planning for the TEHCY conference that's coming up next

1 year, and then I think that's about it.

2 MR. DOYLE: Thanks very much for that. Good to  
3 hear from you again.

4 MS. GALASSO: All right.

5 MR. DOYLE: Elizabeth, are we going to meet in  
6 January? Is that our next scheduled meeting?

7 MS. YEVICH: Yes, Mike. It's usually about the  
8 third week in January, so we can look at a calendar if  
9 anybody has their January calendars in front of them.

10 MR. DOYLE: Let's you and I talk offline, and  
11 we'll come up with some dates rather than try to  
12 coordinate 16 calendars; that would be hard. You and I  
13 will talk about some dates that work for us in the last  
14 part of January.

15 MS. YEVICH: Okay.

16 MR. DOYLE: So since I won't be talking to you  
17 before the end of the year, you guys have a great  
18 Thanksgiving and Christmas time and be safe and everybody  
19 stay healthy.

20 And if there are no other comments, we'll  
21 consider this meeting adjourned.

22 (Whereupon, at 2:48 p.m., the meeting was  
23 adjourned.)

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MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
LOCATION: Austin, Texas  
DATE: October 19, 2021

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 52, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: October 25, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Transcriber)

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