



Texas Veterans and Family Alliance Grant Program

As Enacted by
S.B. 55, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015

Sonja Gaines, Associate Commissioner
Office of Mental Health Coordination
Health and Human Services Commission

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Texas Veterans and Family Alliance Grant Program

- **S.B. 55 (84R)** requires HHSC to establish a grant program to support community mental health programs providing services and treatment to veterans and their families.
- **Mission:** Improve the quality of life of Texas veterans and their families by supporting local Texas communities to expand the availability of, increase access to, and enhance the delivery of mental health treatment and services.

Texas Veterans and Family Alliance Grant Program

Total Grant Program Funding: \$21 million

- **Phase I: \$1 Million Pilot Program:** HHSC identified \$1 million to support a pilot program to be matched by another \$1 million in local and private contributions or in-kind services through the assistance of the pilot program administrator.
- **Phase II: \$20 Million Full Program:** Article II, HHSC Rider 68 appropriated \$10 million each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium, which will be matched by another \$10 million in local and private contributions or in-kind services through the assistance of the pilot program administrator for a total of \$40 million for the biennium.

Texas Veterans and Family Alliance Grant Program

Expected Outcomes

- Local communities will increase access to mental health care that is safe, appropriate and timely, of high quality, and respectful of military culture for Texas veterans and their families.
- Barriers to accessing care, including community stigma, will be reduced.
- Community partnerships will be supported as they develop projects and integrate services to strengthen their collaborative planning capacity.

Phase I: Pilot Program Implementation

Pilot Program Administrator: HHSC contracted with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

Program Administrator Key Responsibilities:

- Develop the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the grant program in cooperation with HHSC
- Assist with grant recipient selection
- Develop program and performance data to determine effectiveness of grant-funded services provided
- Support grant program evaluation
- Work with local communities to identify matching funds opportunities

Phase I: Pilot Program Implementation

STATUS:

- **Contracts currently being executed**
 - **Awaiting return of signed contracts with apparent awardees**
 - **Contracts will run through August 31, 2017 (approximately 15 months)**
- **Total Grant Funding Available: \$1 million identified by HHSC to be matched at least dollar-for-dollar by local funds**
 - **HHSC funding awarded: \$885,100**
 - **Local community match: \$954,744**
 - **Total estimated veterans and families members served: 1,005**

Phase I: Pilot Program Implementation

Apparent Awardees:

- **Emergence Health Networks** – serves El Paso County and Fort Bliss
- **United Way of Denton County** – serves Denton County
- **Texas Panhandle Centers** – serves 30 northern-most counties in the Texas Panhandle
- **Center for BrainHealth** – serves Dallas area

Phase I: Pilot Program Apparent Awardees

Emergence Health Networks – serves El Paso County and Fort Bliss

- Total Project Cost \$446,648
 - HHSC Funding: \$223,324
 - Community Match: \$223,324
- Estimated veterans and families served: 200
- Project will:
 - Support the establishment of a physical one-stop center to link veterans and family members to services
 - Provide clinical behavioral health services
 - Create a network of certified peer specialists
 - Develop a virtual one-stop center and mobile device application

Phase I: Pilot Program Apparent Awardees

United Way of Denton County – serves Denton County

- Total Project Cost \$400,999
 - HHSC Funding: \$175,199
 - Community Match: \$225,800
- Estimated veterans and families served: 200
- Project will:
 - Connect veterans and their families in mental health crisis to the emergency and ongoing mental health and supportive services they need, provide case management until stabilization occurs, and encourage stabilization through peer services
 - Create and implement a new case management system structure, create a veterans' resource directory and webpage, and increase access to peer support

Phase I: Pilot Program Apparent Awardees

Texas Panhandle Centers – serves 30 northern-most counties in the Texas Panhandle

- Total Project Cost \$214,561
 - HHSC Funding: \$97,759
 - Community Match: \$116,802
- Estimated veterans and families served: 275
- Project will:
 - Address priority needs and gaps in behavioral health services and establish constructive community partnerships
 - Provide services through evidence-based therapy models such as Cognitive Processing Therapy, Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and equine therapy

Phase I: Pilot Program Apparent Awardees

Center for BrainHealth – serves Dallas area

- Total Project Cost \$777,636
 - HHSC Funding: \$388,818
 - Community Match: \$388,818
- Estimated veterans and families served: 330
- Project will:
 - Utilize high-performance brain training, known as Strategic Memory Advanced Reasoning Training (SMART) to improve mental health, higher-order cognition, and resilience in Texas veterans and their families in collaboration with wraparound services provided through partner service organizations
 - Includes capacity to reach veterans and families statewide through partners and technology

Phase II: Full Program Implementation

- **Program Administrator:** HHSC contracted with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Status: Currently working together to finalize the Phase II RFP
- Total of \$20 Million in Grant Funding Available: \$10 million each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium to be matched at least dollar-for-dollar by local and private funds or in-kind services
- Full grant awards are expected to be announced by end of Summer 2016
- Grant period is anticipated be September 1, 2016, to August 31, 2017