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Texas Home Visiting Pre-Submittal Applicant Conference

**Request for Applications No. HHS0013406
Texas Home Visiting (THV)
September 15, 2023, at 10:00 AM CT**



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Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Housekeeping Items
3. Project Overview & Scope
4. Funding Stream Updates & Tracking
5. Grant Term
6. Program Requirements & Allowable Activities
7. Prohibitions
8. Closing Comments

Introductions

Speakers

- **John Norton**, Grants Specialist
Sole Point of Contact for RFA
Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS)
- **Jody Snee**, Division Administrator
Early Childhood Programs
Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)



Procurement Roles

Procurement Team

- Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS) is responsible for all procurement and solicitation activities.
- Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) is responsible for project scope, requirements, performance, results, and program monitoring as well as contract management activities throughout the life of the Grant Agreements including contract development, execution, and monitoring.



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Schedule of Events

Deadline for Submitting Questions

September 22, 2023, by 5:00 p.m.

Any questions arising prior to the question deadline must be submitted in writing to John.Norton2@hhs.texas.gov

Tentative Date Answers to Questions Posted

Estimated: September 29, 2023

Deadline for Submission of Solicitation Applications

November 1, 2023, by 10:30 a.m.

Anticipated Grant Agreements Start Date

March 1, 2024



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Solicitation Access

HHSC will post all official communication regarding this RFA on the following website, including the notice of award:

- The HHS Grants website is located at <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/pcs/rfa.cfm>

HHSC reserves the right to cancel this RFA, or to make no award if it determines such action is in the best interest of the State.

HHSC may, in its discretion, reject any and all applications or portions thereof.



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Sole Point of Contact

- All communications relating to this RFA must be directed in writing to John Norton, Sole Point of Contact at John.Norton2@hhs.texas.gov.
- All communications between applicants and HHSC staff members, or any other HHS staff members, concerning this RFA are **strictly prohibited**.
- Failure to comply with these requirements may result in application disqualification.



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Executive Summary of Program

Texas Home Visiting (THV) is a community-based program providing home visiting services and community-level approaches to enhance maternal and child health, child development, children's school readiness, and family well-being. The THV Program supports expecting parents and families with young children who live in communities that face greater barriers to positive outcomes and fewer resources to support child and family well-being.

The THV Program includes evidence-based home visiting programs, parent education and support, and community-level approaches to enhance outcomes and well-being for young children and their families.



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THV Objectives

THV programs include the use of evidence-based, voluntary parent education and support in which professionals visit the homes of and support expecting parents and families with a child under six (6) years of age.

The THV Program will support home visiting programming, service implementation, and community initiatives in identified communities to:

1. Improve maternal and child health, security, and well-being;
2. Support healthy and safe homes for children;
3. Boost positive parenting for parents of young children;
4. Strengthen families of young children through caregiver support;
5. Promote child development and school readiness; and
6. Prevent child abuse and neglect as well as other negative outcomes.



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Allowable Services

- A. Applicants must propose to implement a THV Program in a Qualifying County as identified in Section 2.2.3.
- B. Applicants must propose programming and activities for the Qualifying County to address program objectives described in Section 2.4; address priority populations as defined in Section 2.5.5; and meet community needs and priorities identified in the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment summary defined in Section 2.5.4.
- C. Applicants must propose delivery of targeted, intensive home visiting services through use of one or more selected evidence-based service delivery models approved by HRSA for this purpose. See Section 2.5.2, Required Use of Eligible Program Models and Exhibit E, Eligible Program Models.
- D. Applicants must select from and propose eligible Program Models that are the best fit for their communities.
- E. Awarded Applicants agree to adhere to the requirements as outlined in Article II, Scope of Grant Award in the provision of services to Participants under this Grant.



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THV Service Delivery Area

Eligible Qualifying Counties

- All communities served through the THV program must be within areas identified as at-risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes in the 2020 Texas Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Needs Assessment (Exhibit D), as required under the MIECHV authorizing statute.
- Under this RFA, DFPS will award Grants to provide THV programming and services in eligible Qualifying Counties identified in the 2020 Texas MIECHV Needs Assessment (Exhibit D) that do not currently have THV programming and services.
- The Service Delivery Area (SDA) is limited to thirty (30) Qualifying Counties identified in the Texas 2020 MIECHV Needs Assessment that do not currently have a THV grant.
- Applicants may propose to serve one Qualifying County, or multiple contiguous Qualifying Counties.

May also refer to Exhibit D, Texas Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Needs Assessment for a complete list of all Counties At Risk.



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THV Eligible Qualifying Counties

<i>County</i>	<i>Texas MIECHV Needs Assessment Risk Rank</i>
Tarrant	2
El Paso	6
Jefferson	7
Lubbock	12
Bell	13
Orange	14
McLennan	15
Taylor	17
Johnson	19
Webb	21
Grayson	22
Hunt	26
Bowie	27
Hood	30
Cherokee	31

<i>County</i>	<i>Texas MIECHV Needs Assessment Risk Rank</i>
Kaufman	32
Anderson	33
Parker	34
Navarro	36
Howard	37
Jim Wells	38
Ellis	39
Lamar	42
Jasper	43
Atascosa	44
Nacogdoches	47
Angelina	48
Walker	50
Caldwell	51
Maverick	53



Proposed Programming & Services

Applicants must propose programming and activities for the Qualifying County or Counties to:

- Address **program objectives** (Section 2.4);
- Address **priority populations** (Section 2.5.5); and
- Meet **community needs and priorities** identified in the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment summary (Section 2.5.4).



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Eligible Service Populations

An expecting parent or expecting parents/Caregivers; or

A parent or Primary Caregiver of a child up to age five. Primary Caregivers can include a grandparent or other relative of the child, or a foster parent or noncustodial parent who has an ongoing relationship with and provides physical care for the child.

- Families are eligible for services if the parent or Primary Caregiver is expecting or parenting a young Child, from birth until the Child's sixth birthday or kindergarten entry, whichever occurs first.
- Families eligible for THV services must reside in the proposed Qualifying County.
- Families eligible for THV services must also exhibit one or more Priority Characteristics.



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Priority Service Populations

- a. Behavioral concern;
- b. **Family or household includes individuals who are serving or formerly served in the military*;**
- c. Current or past alcohol abuse – Caregiver;
- d. **History of Child abuse, or neglect, or have had interactions with Child welfare services*;**
- e. Current or past domestic or interpersonal violence;
- f. **Developmental delays or disabilities – Caregiver*;**
- g. **Developmental delays or disabilities – Child*;**
- h. Family dynamics concern;
- i. Family or household conflict;
- j. High stress level;
- k. Homelessness or a Child who has run away;
- l. History of alcohol abuse or a need for alcohol abuse treatment;
- m. **History of substance abuse or need substance abuse treatment*;**
- n. **Low school attainment – Caregiver*;**
- o. **Low student achievement – Child*;**
- p. **Low-income household*;**
- q. Mental health concern – Caregiver;
- r. **Pregnant individual who has not attained age twenty-one (21); *.**
- s. Parenting skills concern;
- t. Social support concern;
- u. **Tobacco use in the home.***

* Denotes Priority Characteristics that are identified as priority service populations in authorizing federal legislation and under this RFA. Grantees must give priority in providing services under the THV Program to these priority populations outlined in statute.



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THV Program Models

Required Use of Eligible Home Visiting Models

- Applicants must propose delivery of targeted, intensive home visiting services through use of one or more selected evidence-based service delivery models approved by HRSA for this purpose.
- These are listed in [Exhibit E, Eligible Program Models](#).
- Eligible Program Models under this RFA meet HHS criteria for evidence of effectiveness and meet all other statutory requirements for model eligibility as HRSA requires.
- Applicants may select multiple Program Models as well as use a combination of Program Models with families, to support a continuum of home visiting services that meets families' specific needs.



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Eligible Home Visiting Models



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Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) Intervention

Child First

Family Connects

Early Head Start – Home-Based Option

Early Intervention Program for Adolescent Mothers

Early Start (New Zealand)

Family Check-Up for Children

Family Spirit

Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) Program

Healthy Beginnings

Healthy Families America

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

Intervention Nurses Start Infants Growing on Healthy Trajectories

Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting Program

Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker

Maternal Infant Health Program

Nurse-Family Partnership

Parents as Teachers

Play and Learning Strategies – Infant

Promoting First Relationships – Home Visiting Intervention Model

SafeCare Augmented

Video Feedback Intervention to Promote Positive Parenting

Video Feedback Intervention to Promote Positive Parenting and Sensitive Discipline

Selecting Eligible Program Models

When selecting a Program Model or Program Models, the Applicant must ensure that the selection will:

1. Meet the needs of the identified community and priority service populations.
2. Provide the best opportunity to accurately measure and achieve meaningful outcomes in the MIECHV benchmark areas.
3. Be implemented effectively with fidelity to the Program Model, based on available resources and support from the model developer.
4. Be well matched to the needs of the community's early childhood systems.



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THV Program Requirements

Grantees will be expected to meet program requirements related to service provision, implementation, and community partnership addressed in RFA Sections 2.5.11 to 2.5.13:

- Training requirements
- Model fidelity
- Service delivery methods
- Addressing participant needs
- Reflective practice and supervision
- Outreach and recruitment
- Family engagement and retention
- Quality assurance and quality improvement
- Community collaboration and partnership



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Additional Program Requirements

Grantees will also be expected to meet PEI requirements regarding the following:

- Service Authorizations and Enrollments
- Required Record Keeping
- Required Surveys
- Service Completion and Case Closure
- PEIRS Data Entry
- Required Reporting



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Performance Measures

Grantees will collect required data and surveys based on the six MIECHV benchmark areas required through this RFA:

1. Improvements in maternal, newborn, and child health;
2. Prevention of Child injuries, Child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment and reductions of emergency room visits;
3. Improvements in school readiness and child academic achievement;
4. Reductions in crime or domestic violence;
5. Improvements in family self-sufficiency; and
6. Improvements in the coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.

Required Outputs and Outcomes are based on the MIECHV performance indicators and systems outcomes that comprise the six MIECHV benchmark areas.



Performance Measures - Outputs

Outputs

Output 1: Expected number of Families served monthly.

Output 2: Expected number of Families served annually.

Output 3: Families will remain engaged in the program for a minimum of one year or optimal length of time as determined by selected Program Model(s).

Output 4: Primary caregivers are screened for depression using a validated tool within three months of enrollment for those not enrolled prenatally or within three months of delivery for those enrolled prenatally.

Output 5: Primary Caregivers receive an observation of Parent-Child interaction using a validated tool.

Output 6: Children receive a screen for developmental delays using a validated parent-completed tool.

Output 7: Primary Caregivers are screened for intimate partner violence (IPV) within six months of enrollment using a validated tool.

Output 8: Grantee will participate in or lead a local early childhood coalition.



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Performance Measures - Outcomes

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Women will breastfeed for at least six months postpartum.

Outcome 2: Children will attend recommended well-child visits.

Outcome 3: Primary Caregivers and/or Family members will read, tell stories, or sing songs daily with their children.

Outcome 4: Parent-child interaction will improve.

Outcome 5: Primary caregivers referred to services for a positive screen for depression receive one or more service contacts.

Outcome 6: Children with positive screens for developmental delays receive services.

Outcome 7: Primary caregivers with positive screens for IPV receive referral information for IPV.

Outcome 8: Children will remain safe.



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Organizational Qualifications

- Applicants must demonstrate preparedness to implement and provide quality THV programming and services for expecting parents, parents of young children, and their families.
- Applicants must demonstrate competence in working with individuals and families experiencing any of the following:
 - Mental health concerns and distress, including perinatal mood disorders;
 - Trauma history and exposure;
 - Disparities or discrimination; and
 - Substance use concerns.



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Organizational Qualifications

Applicant must meet all the following requirements and qualifications:

1. Applicant must have at least three (3) years of experience working with expecting parents and families with young children or overseeing services to this population;
2. Applicant must have provided services in the identified Qualifying County or Unified Service Area for a minimum of three years immediately preceding the submission of its Application;
3. Applicant must have at least five (5) years of experience managing budgets and grants or contracts for social services;
4. Applicant that has monitoring reports from any Texas State Agency or federal funding entity and/or audits performed for the Applicant's organization during the past three (3) years must be able to demonstrate that the organization is competent in managing and budgeting for its programs and operations; and
5. Applicant must have a financial manager responsible for fiscal oversight of the awarded Applicant's organization.

Any Subawardees must meet these organizational competencies, qualifications, and requirements.



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Use of Subawards

- Grantee will provide direct participant services or Subaward for the provision of direct participant services as described within the RFA.
- Subawardees providing services under this RFA must meet the same requirements and levels of experience as those required of the Grantee.
- No Subaward under the RFA shall relieve the Grantee of the responsibility for ensuring the requested services are provided according to required standards.
- Grantee will award Subawards based on their own internal policies and processes. Applicant will clearly identify work to be performed by Subawardees and include proposed Subawardee budget or budgets in the Application.
- Grantee will notify DFPS in writing of any Subawardee changes.



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Source Documentation & Tracking Funds

Financial Requirements

- A. Grantee must create and maintain reliable and accurate records to support all actions related to invoicing, payments, and adjustments for any activities under this THV Grant.

- B. Records must include at a minimum but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. Copies of all signed Form 4116 State of Texas Purchase Vouchers;
 - 2. Form 2030, monthly mileage log, monthly Participant activity log, and incentives log; and
 - 3. Any other supporting documentation requested by DFPS.



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Contract, Billing and Finance

Grantees must follow all requirements pertaining to the following:

- Contract Requirements
- Personnel Records
- Background Checks
- Financial Requirements
- Billing Requirements

PEI will pay Grantee on a monthly cost-reimbursement basis in response to an accurate and valid Invoice and purchase voucher.

PEI will pay Grantee from available funds for services rendered in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement upon receipt of a proper and verified Invoice and after deduction of any known previous overpayment made by DFPS.



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Available Funding

- The total amount of annual funding anticipated for this RFA is \$9,000,000.
- DFPS anticipates making up to ten (10) awards.
- Annual awards may range between \$350,000 and \$1,500,000. To account for potential increases to available funding and any extensions, DFPS values this RFA at up to \$45,000,000.00 for the Period of Performance.
- Grants awarded from this RFA are on a cost reimbursement basis.



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Grant Term

- Anticipated Project Start Date: March 1, 2024
- Project End Date: August 31, 2025 (base term)

*Following the base term, HHSC, at its sole option, may extend any resulting Grant Agreements for up to two (2) additional years, through August 31, 2027.



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Eligible Applicants

To be awarded a Grant from this RFA, Applicants must be a nonprofit organization as defined by the Texas Business Organization Code Chapter 22 or a governmental entity.



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Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- A. Inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- B. Lobbying;
- C. Any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
- D. Vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use and/or do not have a clear nexus to terrorism prevention, interdiction, and disruption (mobile data terminals, body cameras, in-car video systems, radar units, etc. for officers assigned to routine patrol);
- E. Weapons, ammunition, tracked armored vehicles, weaponized vehicles, or explosives (exceptions may be granted when explosives are used for bomb squad training);
- F. Admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity, or sporting event unless such costs are incurred for components of a program the Grantor agency has approved and are directly related to the program's purpose;
- G. Promotional gifts;



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Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- H. Food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments, except for eligible per diem costs associated with Grant-related travel where they are preapproved for working events or approved by the Grantor agency and are directly related to the program's purpose;
- I. Membership dues for individuals except where approved by the Grantor and required for program implementation;
- J. Any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the Grant project;
- K. Any use of Grant funds to replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-Grant sources;
- L. Fundraising;
- M. The acquisition or construction of facilities; and
- N. The delivery or costs of direct medical, dental, mental health, or legal services; and
- O. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, State, or local law.



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Submission of Exhibits

Applicants must complete and submit the Exhibits in accordance with the RFA, Article IX, Submission Checklist.



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Evaluation Process

A three-step selection process will be used:

1. Eligibility screening based upon **Section 4.2, Eligibility Screening**
2. Evaluation based upon **Section 4.3, Evaluation**
3. Final Selection is based upon **Section 4.4, Final Selection**



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Specific Selection Criteria

All eligible applications will be evaluated based upon:

1. Applicant's Background and Experience (Exhibit F, Program Narrative)
2. Program Delivery (Exhibit G, Project Work Plan)
3. Administrative and Financial Capacity (Exhibit P, ICSQ for Cost Reimbursement Grants)
4. Reasonable Project Cost (Exhibit H-1, FY24 Expenditure Proposal and Exhibit H-2, FY25 Expenditure Proposal)



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Delivery for Submission Option

Applicant must correctly deliver Solicitation Responses by the method below:

- **Submission Option #1:** Applicant shall submit the application through the HHS Online Bid Room utilizing the procedures identified in Exhibit I, HHS Online Bid Room Instructions.
- **Submission Option #2 with USB Drives:** Applicant may submit responsive applications via USB on two USB drives, one labeled "Original" and one labeled "Copy", to the correct mailing address as determined by the mailing method identified in Section 3.6.3 Delivery for Individual Submission Options.



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Questions and Answers

All questions **must** be submitted in writing to the Sole Point of Contact using the formatting below from the RFA, Section 3.4.3, Questions and Requests for Clarification:

- A. Identifying RFA number;
- B. Section number;
- C. Paragraph number;
- D. Page number;
- E. Text of passage being questioned; and
- F. Question;

Submit via email to: John.Norton2@hhs.Texas.gov **by 5:00 p.m. on September 22, 2023.**



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Question Deadline

- Questions are due by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 2023.**
- Questions received after this deadline cannot be responded to.
- An addendum will be posted to the HHS Grants Website with the answers to questions **on or after September 29, 2023.**



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Closing Comments

- Applicants are responsible for meeting the RFA requirements, including any addendums.
- All Addendums must be signed and submitted with the original application.
- Applicants must check the HHS Grants website frequently for any addendums that may have been added to this solicitation.



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HHS Grants Website

The link is: <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/PCS/HHS0013406/>



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Thank you!

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