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# **Pre-Submittal Applicant Conference**

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**Request for Applications No. HHS0015874  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Services  
July 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM CT**



# Agenda



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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

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## Speaker

- **Julia Solis**, Grants Specialist  
Sole Point of Contact for RFA  
Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)  
Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS)



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# Procurement Roles

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## Procurement Team

- Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS) is responsible for all procurement and solicitation activities.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) is responsible for contract management activities throughout the life of the Grant Agreements including, contract development, execution, and monitoring.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) is responsible for project scope, requirements, performance, results, and monitoring.



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# Schedule of Events

## Deadline for Submitting Questions

July 10, 2026, by 5:00 PM

Any questions arising prior to the question deadline must be submitted in writing to [julia.solis@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:julia.solis@hhs.texas.gov)



## Tentative Date Answers to Questions Posted

Estimated: July 17, 2026



## Deadline for Submission of Solicitation Applications

July 31, 2026, by 10:30 AM CT



## Anticipated Grant Agreements Start Date

January 2027



# Solicitation Access

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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

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All communications relating to this RFA must be directed in writing to Julia Solis, Sole Point of Contact at [julia.solis@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:julia.solis@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

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The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is accepting applications for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Services including **Resource Specialist** services, **Senior Citizens** services, and Direct Communication Services (**Interpreter and CART**) for special circumstances.

The purpose of these programs is to promote awareness, communication access, and independence for people who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, and to engage with stakeholders and community partners to improve access and outcomes for this population across the state.





# Available Funding

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The total amount of state funding available for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Services is **\$6,800,000** for the entire five (5)-year project period.

It is HHSC's intention to make one (1) award but may make multiple awards to accomplish the project priorities most effectively.

The final award amount(s) will be determined at the sole discretion of HHSC.



# Source Documentation & Tracking Funds

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Applicants are strongly cautioned to only apply for the amount of grant funding they can responsibly expend during the Project Period to avoid lapsed funding at the end of the grant term. Successful Applications may not be funded to the full extent of Applicant's requested budgets in order to ensure grant funds are available for the broadest possible array of communities and programs.

Reimbursement will only be made for actual, allowable, and allocable expenses that occur within the Project Period. No spending or costs incurred prior to the effective date of the award will be eligible for reimbursement.



# Payment Method

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Grant Agreement(s) awarded under this RFA will be funded on a fee-for-service basis for reasonable, allowable and allocable Grant Project direct costs. No additional payments will be rendered unless an advanced payment is approved.

The fee-for-service payment method is based on the approved HHSC method(s) used with acceptable submission of all required documentation, forms, and/or reports. Grantees will be reimbursed using the fee-for-service method by submitting claims for actual and eligible services provided to eligible individuals, which will be reviewed and paid by System Agency.



# Grant Term

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- Anticipated Project Start Date:  
**January 2027**
- Project End Date:  
**August 31, 2031**



# Eligible Applicants

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Applicant must be an entity that is currently providing deaf and hard of hearing related services to individuals who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.



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# Allowable Services

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## Resource Specialist Services

Primary services provided by Grantees may include but are not limited to:

- Outreach and education (to both individuals and entities)
- Case management (including self-advocacy and communication support services)
- Referrals to community resources
- Systems advocacy
- Technology and software demonstrations



RFA 2.5 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

CONTRACT STANDARDS 9 DHHS RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAM

# Allowable Services, cont.

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## Senior Citizen Services

Primary services provided by Grantees serving the Senior Citizens program may include but are not limited to:

- Life enrichment training/opportunities
- Social activities
- Health-related activities
- Nursing home / home visits
- Transportation activities
- Communication access



**RFA 2.5 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

**CONTRACT STANDARDS 10 DHHS SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM**



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# Allowable Services, cont.

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## Direct Communication

Interpreting and Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) services for special circumstances

- As a last resort and in accordance with the terms and definitions outlined in these DHHS Contract Standards
- One-time events (workshops or conferences)



RFA 2.5 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

CONTRACT STANDARDS 11 DHHS DIRECT COMMUNICATION SERVICES

# Prohibitions

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Pursuant to the General Appropriations Act, Article IX, Section 4.03, none of the funds appropriated by the General Appropriations Act may be granted to or expended by any entity which performs political polling. This prohibition does not apply to a poll conducted by an academic institution as part of the institution's academic mission that is not conducted for the benefit of a particular candidate or party. By submitting a response to this RFA, Applicant certifies that it is not ineligible for a Grant Agreement pursuant to this prohibition.



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RFA 3.4 GRANTS FOR POLITICAL POLLING PROHIBITED

# Submission of Forms and Exhibits

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Applicants must complete and submit Forms A through F and Exhibits A through C in accordance with the **RFA, Section XIII, Submission Checklist.**



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# Evaluation Process

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A three-step selection process will be used:

1. **Eligibility screening** based upon Section 3.2, Application Screening Requirements and Section 9.2, Initial Compliance Screening of Application
2. **Evaluation** based upon Section 9.4, Evaluation Criteria
3. **Final Selection** based upon Section 10.1, Final Selection



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# Specific Selection Criteria

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All eligible applications will be evaluated based upon:

- Ability to Serve the Target Population
- Proposed Project Plan
- Cost



# Submission Methods

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Applicants must submit their completed applications using one of these methods:

- **Submission Option #1:** Applicant shall upload the Application to the **Online Bid Room** utilizing the procedures identified in Exhibit F, HHS Online Bid Room Instructions.
- **Submission Option #2:** Applicants shall submit the Application on **USB Drives** either by mail or hand delivery utilizing the procedures identified in Section 8.3 of the Request for Applications.



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RFA 8.3 REQUIRED SUBMISSION METHOD

# Questions and Answers

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All questions and requests for clarification must be submitted by email to the Sole Point of Contact and include the following information:

1. RFA Number
2. Section number or Paragraph number from this Solicitation
3. Page Number of this Solicitation
4. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment
5. Page Number of the Exhibit
6. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned
7. Question



**RFA 7.3 RFA QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION**





# Questions and Answers, cont.

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The following contact information must be included in the e-mail submitted with questions or requests for clarification:

- Name of individual submitting question or request for clarification
- Organization name
- Phone number
- E-mail address



# Question Deadline

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- Questions are due by **5:00PM CT on Friday, July 10, 2026.**
- Submit via email to: [julia.solis@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:julia.solis@hhs.texas.gov)
- HHSC may review and, at its sole discretion, may respond to questions or other written requests received after the deadline.
- An addendum will be posted to the HHS Grants and ESBD websites with the answers to questions **on or after July 17, 2026.**



# Closing Comments

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- 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/HHS0011081/>





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# Thank you!

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