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Pre-Submittal Applicant Conference

**Request for Applications No. HHS0015355
Substance Use Treatment Services
November 22, 2024, at 2:00 PM CT**

Agenda



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1. Introductions
2. Procurement Activities
3. Project Overview & Scope
4. Closing Comments

Introductions

Speakers

- **Michele Rivers**, Grants Specialist
Sole Point of Contact for RFA
Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS)
- **Kasey Strey**
- **Dr. Christina Laguna**



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Procurement Roles

Procurement Team

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



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Schedule of Events

Deadline for Submitting Questions

December 6, 2024, by 2:00PM

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



Tentative Date Answers to Questions Posted

Estimated: *December 20, 2024*



Deadline for Submission of Solicitation Applications

January 14, 2025, by 10:30 AM



Anticipated Grant Agreements Start Date

September 1, 2025



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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://resources.hhs.texas.gov/rfa/hhs0015355>

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 Michele Rivers, Sole Point of Contact at Michele.Rivers@hhs.texas.gov.
- All communications between applicants and HHSC staff members, or any other HHSC staff members, concerning this RFA are **strictly prohibited**.
- Failure to comply with these requirements may result in application disqualification.



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Project Overview & Scope

Executive Summary of Program

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is accepting applications for Substance Use Treatment programs for Treatment for Adults (TRA), Treatment for Specialized Females (TRF) and Treatment for Youth (TRY).

This five-year grant starts at the beginning of the State Fiscal Year 2026 on September 1, 2025.

Applicants may apply for one (1) or more of the program types listed above. Funds will be awarded in all Health and Human (HHS) Health Services regions of the state.

The purpose of these programs is to provide substance use treatment and behavioral health services to promote and support recovery.



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Grant Award & Term

Available Funding

- Estimated Total Available Funding: \$117,611,843 per fiscal year.

Grant Term

- The Project Period is September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2030.



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Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information

Fee-for-Service

The fee-for-service payment method is based on the approved service code 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 Clients, which will be reviewed and paid by System Agency. Service codes can be found in Exhibit K, Treatment Fee-for-Service Unit Rates.

Cost Reimbursement

Under the cost reimbursement payment method, Grantee is required to finance operations and will only be reimbursed for actual, allowable, and allocable costs incurred on a monthly basis and supported by adequate documentation.

Comprehensive Case Management Services (CCMS) will be reimbursed using the Cost Reimbursement method. The CCMS program funds will be an **automatic addition** to those grantees who are awarded a contract for intensive residential services. The amount awarded will be a percentage based upon their intensive residential contract award amount and bed capacity.



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Eligible Applicants

To be considered for screening, evaluation and award, Applicants must provide the following documentation:

- A copy of the chemical dependency treatment facility license from the Texas Health and Human Services Health Care Regulatory for each license listed on Form A
- If subcontracting for services at the time of application, the subcontractor must hold a current license from the Texas Licensing Authority at the time of application
- Respondents must have a Texas address and a physical location in the region applying to serve.



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Refer to Section 3.2 Application Screening Requirements.

Allowable Services

- Treatment for Adults (TRA) – withdrawal management, residential treatment, and intensive and supportive outpatient services for adult men and women, ages 18 and up, who are not responsible for the care of a child.
- Treatment for Specialized Females (TRF) – withdrawal management, residential treatment, and intensive and supportive outpatient services for pregnant women and women who are responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 18 (including children State Custody).
- Treatment for Youth (TRY) – residential treatment, intensive and supportive outpatient services for youth ages 13 through 17.
- Comprehensive Case Management Services (CCMS) - SUD case management services for individuals eligible for intensive residential treatment regardless of whether they are on the Grantees' waitlist or enrolled in such services.



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Eligible Service Areas

The service areas eligible for project funding under this RFA are the eleven (11) HHS service regions in Texas, except in Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, Rockwall and Collin counties which are covered by two Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs), North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) and LifePath Systems, which are statutorily required to oversee substance use services in these areas.

Refer to **[Exhibit O, Health and Human Services \(HHS\) Offices By County](#)** for a map of HHS service regions.



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Changes in the FY26 Treatment RFA

- As part of the FY26 Treatment RFA, HHSC will not make awards by Program ID and Service Type as in prior procurements but will award grantees by Program ID who have the available capacity to serve the specific population needing SUD Services (i.e., youth, adults, or specialized females). This allows grantees the flexibility they need to be responsive to their communities while also maintaining accountability to the State for provision of expected contracted services. Grantees will be required to submit annual implementation plans for HHSC approval as outlined in **Exhibit P, Treatment Services Scope of Grant Project Services**. Awards will be awarded based on the scoring referenced in **Section 9.4, Evaluation Criteria**. Also refer to **Section 5.1, Grant Funding Source and Available Funding**.
- HHSC will award consolidated contracts for Treatment Services for Adults (TRA), Treatment Services for Females (TRF), and Treatment Services for Youth (TRY) services as documented in **Exhibit P, Treatment Services Scope of Grant Project Services**.
- The Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorder (COPSD) and Comprehensive, Continuum of Care for Females (CCC) programs expire on August 31, 2025. HHSC is replacing these programs with the Comprehensive Case Management Services program. The CCMS program funds will be an automatic addition to those grantees who are awarded a contract for intensive residential services. The amount awarded will be a percentage based upon the intensive residential contract award amount and bed capacity. **Exhibit P-1, Comprehensive**



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Changes in the FY26 Treatment RFA

- Beginning September 2025, HHSC will fund medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment services and substance use recovery support services (RSS) through intergovernmental, university contracts procured through a competitive process. The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome- Medication Assisted Treatment (NAS-MAT), Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and Youth Recovery Community (YRC) programs awarded by HHSC will expire on August 31, 2025. These programs will be awarded through the selected university(ies). The awarded university(ies) will subcontract for these services with the provider base across the state.
- All interested providers with the Texas Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (T-CCBHC) certification must apply for continued treatment funds through this procurement and will be given priority in awards selection; taking into account the highest score within a geographic location and in accordance with the funding allocations and their licensed capacity to deliver services to the designated population(s).
- HHSC added financial oversight requirements, **Exhibit R, Fee-For-Service Financial Status Report and Match Report (FSR) Template** and **Exhibit R-1, Financial Status Report-FSR FORM 269A Sample** contracts as required by 45 CFR 96.30(a). Additional information about these requirements can be found at <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/oversight>.
- **Case Management Services (CCMS) Scope of Grant Project Services** provides CCMS program.



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PCS Closing Comments



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Delivery for Submission Option

- **Submission Option #1:** Applicant shall submit the application through the HHS Online Bid Room utilizing the procedures identified in Exhibit G, HHS Online Bid Room Instructions.
- **Submission Option #2 with USB Drives:** RFA, Section 8.3, Required Submission Method.



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Submission of Exhibits and Forms

- Applicants must complete and submit the exhibits and forms in accordance with the RFA, Article XIII, Submission Checklist.



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Evaluation Process

A three-step selection process will be used:

1. Eligibility screening based upon Section 3.3, Grant Award Eligibility, and Section 3.2, Application Screening Requirements,
2. Evaluation based upon Section 9.4, Evaluation Criteria; and
3. Final Selection is based upon Section 10.1, Final Selection.



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Specific Selection Criteria

All eligible applications will be evaluated based upon:

- Organizational (10%)
- Experience and Access (45%)
- Community Needs (45%)



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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 7.3, RFA Questions and Requests for Clarification:

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

Submit via email to: Michele.Rivers@hhs.texas.gov **by 2:00PM on December 6, 2024.**



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Question Deadline

- Questions received after this deadline cannot be responded to.
- Tentative date to answers questions or request for clarification will be posted as an Addendum on the HHS Grants Website, **December 20, 2024.**



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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.
 - PCS 121 Solicitation Addendum Acknowledgement _ Addendum 2
 - Exhibit A, HHS Solicitation Affirmation v2.6
 - The HHS Grants website is located at <https://resources.hhs.texas.gov/rfa/hhs0015355>
- Applicants must check the HHS Grants website frequently for any addendums that may have been added to this solicitation.



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Thank you!

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