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Pre-Submittal Applicant Conference

Request for Applications No. HHS0013881

**SB 26 Supporting Mental Health and Resiliency in Texans
(SMART) Innovation Grant Program**

January 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM CT

Agenda



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

Introductions

Speaker

- **Michele Rivers**, Grants Specialist
Sole Point of Contact for RFA
Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS)
- **Corey Henderson**, Contract Administration Manager
Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)/ Family Health Services (FHS)



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Procurement Roles

Procurement Team

- HHSC PCS is responsible for all procurement and solicitation activities.
- HHSC FHS is responsible for contract management activities throughout the life of the Grant Agreements including, project scope, requirements, performance, contract development, execution, results and monitoring.



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Schedule of Events

Deadline for Submitting Questions

January 18, 2024, by 5:00PM

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: January 25, 2024



Deadline for Submission of Solicitation Applications

February 8, 2024, by 10:30 AM



Anticipated Grant Agreements Start Date

July 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://resource.hhs.Texas.gov/rfa/hhs0013881>

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 HHS staff members, concerning this RFA are **strictly prohibited**.
- Failure to comply with these requirements may result in application disqualification.



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Supporting Mental Health and Resiliency in Texans (SMART) Innovation RFA Overview

1. Background
2. Executive Summary of Program
3. Eligible Applicants
4. Eligible Population
5. Available Funding
6. Grant Match Requirement
7. Grant Terms
8. Performance Measures and Monitoring
9. Prohibitions
10. Evaluation
11. Selection Process
12. Submission of Forms/Exhibits



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Background

Senate Bill 26, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 amended Chapter 531 of the Texas Government Code to create a matching grant program for mental health early intervention and treatment to support eligible entities for community-based initiatives designed to reduce:

- The need for future intensive care;
- The number of Children at risk of placement in foster care or the juvenile justice system; and
- The demand for state hospitals, inpatient mental health facilities, and residential behavioral health facilities.



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Background Cont.

Early prevention efforts focus on addressing behaviors and mitigating risk to reduce the need for more intensive treatment services, and later adverse outcomes for Children, their Families, and their Community.

Services and strategies implemented under this RFA must encourage the following:

- Resiliency
- Coping and social skills
- Healthy social and familial relationships; and
- Parenting skills and behaviors



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Executive Summary of Program

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC or System Agency), is accepting Applications for the Innovation Matching Grant Program for Mental Health Early Intervention and Treatment, herein referred to as “Supporting Mental Health and Resiliency in Texas Innovation” or “SMART Innovation.”

The goal of SMART Innovation is to develop, implement, and learn from preventive innovations that improve mental health outcomes for children and families and build healthy community foundations.



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Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be one of the following entity types:

1. a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code;
2. a mental hospital licensed under Chapter 577, Health and Safety Code;
3. a hospital district;
4. a local mental health authority;
5. a child-care facility, as defined by Chapter 42, Human Resource Code;
6. a county or municipality; or
7. a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of that code.



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Eligible Population

- The eligible population to be served under this RFA include Children, their Caregivers, and individuals working with Children or Caregivers of Children that demonstrate atypical social or emotional development or other challenging behaviors.
- HHSC is primarily seeking applications that benefit the priority population, which includes school-aged Children under fourteen years of age and their Caregivers. (Services need not exclude Children of all ages)
- Final funding decisions may be made to ensure opportunities outside of the prioritized populations, if the Applicant demonstrates the following in its Application:
 1. a high risk that members of the population identified by Applicant will experience a crisis or develop a mental health condition; and
 2. that its Project design supports appropriate prevention practices for members of the population identified by Applicant and that there is need for Applicant to implement such prevention practices.



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Available Funding

Early Mental Health SMART Innovation Grant Program:

\$30,000,000.00 for the biennium to successfully demonstrate the ability to conduct innovative, community-based initiatives to promote the identification of potential mental health needs and improve access to early intervention and treatment for children and families.

For new SMART Innovation programs:

- Up to \$12M of funding available for the entire Project Period may be reserved to be allocated as start-up costs.
- Start-up costs are initial establishment and operating costs that will not be eligible for continued funding in subsequent award years. Examples of start-up funds may include the following: trainings, purchase costs for proprietary programming, personnel costs for program development, or repairs that improve safety and accessibility.



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Available Funding Cont.

- Applicants must utilize **Form F, State and Matching Funds Proposal**, and identify all Budget line items and matching costs. Budget categories must be separated into specific Budget line items that allow System Agency to determine if proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and necessary for the successful performance of the Project. Applicants must enter all costs in the Budget tables and explain why the cost is necessary and how the cost was established. Matching funds must also be identified in the requested Budget.
- Senate Bill (S.B.) 26, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, requires the funds for this grant and any matching funds to be utilized to develop innovative strategies that provide resiliency; coping and social skills; healthy social and familial relationships; and parenting skills and behaviors. Details and justifications that clearly explain rationale and linkages to demonstrate compliance with S.B. 26 will assist in determining final awards.
- **Submission of Form F, State and Matching Funds Proposal, is mandatory. Applicants that fail to submit a requested Budget as set forth in this RFA with their Application will be disqualified.**



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Grant Match Requirements

- Each Grantee must dedicate matching funds equal to a certain percentage of the state award, contingent on the amount of **ongoing** funds requested. The following table outlines Match percentage requirements contingent on the amount requested. Final match amount is contingent on total state funds reimbursed.

Total Funding Amount Requested (Excluding start-up funding)	Required Match	Dollar Amount
<\$500,000	10%	<\$50,000
\$500,000-749,999.99	13%	\$65,000-97,500
\$750,000-2,499,999.99	16%	\$120,000-400,000
\$2,500,000-5,000,000	19%	\$475,000-950,000

- Requests for start-up funding are subject to ten percent (10%) matching funds and will not increase based on award amounts.



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Grant Match Requirements Cont.

Matching funds must be cash contributions. Grantees that meet the following conditions may substitute in-kind contributions for any required match over ten percent (10%):

1. Projects providing a majority of its grant-funded activities in a Community that includes a county with a population of less than 250,000;
2. Entities with less than fifty (50) employees; or
3. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs)

All grantees meeting these conditions are still required to use cash contributions for the first 10%



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Grant Term

- The Project Period is anticipated to be June 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.
- Subject to availability of funds, the System Agency may, at its sole discretion, extend the grant term for any period(s) of time through Grant Agreement extensions or renewals with funded Project Periods, provided the grant term, including all extensions or renewals, does not exceed five (5) years. The System Agency will be able to make decisions regarding grant extensions based on legislative appropriations made in 2025.



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Performance Measures and Monitoring

In addition to the standardized performance measures and reporting outlined in the RFA required by all Grantees, Applicants must use **Form E, Required Reporting Tool**, to select and propose Outcomes to measure and provide required information based on its selection and its proposed innovative programming.

Applicants must use **Form E** to select Outcomes based on its unique program activities, and if applicable, provide methodologies, performance targets, or alternative Outcomes for HHSC approval. In Goal 3, Applicants may propose alternative Outcomes.

Applicant may only present methodologies, performance targets, and alternative Outcomes that are evidence-based or otherwise demonstrate positive progress towards the relevant Outcomes in Form E.



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Prohibitions

- Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 531.09915, Grantees may not use money awarded under the SMART Innovation Grant Program or matching money provided by the Grantee to:
 - Reimburse an expense or pay a cost that another source, including the Medicaid program, is obligated to reimburse or pay by law or under a contract; or
 - Supplant or be a substitute for money awarded to the Grantee recipient from a non-Medicaid federal funding source, including federal grant funding.



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Evaluation Criteria

All eligible applications will be evaluated based upon:

1. Project Design and Outcomes (45%); and
2. Community Engagement and Assessment of Needs (55%).



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Selection 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
3. Final Selection is based upon Section 10.1, Final Selection.



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Submission of Forms

Applicants must complete and submit the following form in accordance with the RFA, Article XIII, Submission Checklist:

1. Administrative Information

- Form A, Face Page
- Form B, Entity Information, Conflicts, and Contract Litigation
- Form B-1, Governmental Entity – Authorized Officials, if applicable
- Form B-2, Nonprofit or For-Profit Entity – Board of Directors and Principal Officers, if applicable

2. Narrative Proposal

- Form C, Narrative Application
- Form D, Community Assessment of Needs
- Form E, Required Reporting Tool



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Submission of Forms Cont.

3. Budget Proposal

- Form F, State and Matching Budget Proposal

4. Indirect Cost

- Form G, HHS Indirect Cost Rate Questionnaire for Request for Application

5. Internal Controls

- Form H, Internal Controls Questionnaire – Financial Management and Administration



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Submission of Exhibits

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

- Exhibit A, HHS Solicitation Affirmation
- Exhibit B, HHS Uniform Terms and Conditions
- Exhibit C, HHS Additional Provisions
- Exhibit D, HHS Data Use Agreement
- Exhibit D-1, HHS Data Use Agreement
- Exhibit D-2, HHS Data Use Agreement



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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 5:00PM on January 18, 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.
- 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://resource.hhs.Texas.gov/rfa/hhs0013881>



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Thank you!

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Innovation Grant Program (SMART)**