



Report on the Mental Health for Veterans Grant Program

**As Required By
2016-17 General Appropriations Act, H.B. 1,
84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 (Article II, Health
and Human Services Commission, Rider 68)**

**Health and Human Services Commission
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1. Executive Summary

Senate Bill (S.B.) 55, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, directed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a grant program to support community mental health programs providing and coordinating services and treatment for Texas veterans and their families.

The 2016-17 General Appropriations Act, House Bill (H.B.) 1, 84th Legislature, Regular Session 2015 (Article II, Health and Human Services Commission, Rider 68), appropriated \$20 million over the 2016-17 biennium to provide funding for the grant program established by S.B. 55. Rider 68 also required HHSC to submit a report to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Governor detailing the effectiveness of the grants, the number of grants awarded, and the number of veterans served through the program established under S.B. 55.

HHSC established the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program to support Texas communities to expand the availability of, increase access to, and enhance the delivery of mental health treatment and services for veterans and their families. S.B. 55 required HHSC to enter into an agreement with a qualified nonprofit or private entity to serve as the administrator of the grant program. Administrator duties include assisting, supporting, and advising HHSC with respect to the grant program. The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) serves as the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance program administrator.

S.B. 55 directed HHSC to implement a pilot program for which HHSC identified \$1 million outside of the \$20 million to implement the program. Concurrent with the pilot program, the Office of Mental Health Coordination (OMHC) is implementing the full grant program in two phases, with \$10 million in state funding available in each of two separate funding opportunities, Phase II-A and II-B, due to the appropriation of funding by fiscal year. Per legislation, all state grant awards are to be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by grant recipients.

Five grantees began work under the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance pilot grant contracts during summer 2016. These contracts will end August 31, 2017. To date, 14 community organizations have been selected as apparent awardees for the grant Phase II-A and are negotiating contract terms. While the number of clients to be served by Phase II-A apparent awardees will be finalized as part of the current contract negotiation process, applicants estimated more than 14,000 Texas veterans and family members would be served by grant projects. Applications were also solicited for Phase II-B; 23 applications have been received. HHSC anticipates selecting grant recipients for this phase in March 2017.

To measure the effectiveness of the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program, HHSC implemented a combination of clinical assessment tools and a client satisfaction survey to mark improvement. These tools are not necessarily used to determine a level of care with regard to recovery plans.

This report reflects data from the veterans grant program Phase II-A through December 2016. The program grantees began services as early as mid-November 2016. Therefore, outcome data was not available as of the date of this report. For the next legislative report, program expects to

include meaningful outcome data based on the implementation of the pilot, program and client survey results.

2. Introduction

S.B. 55, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, directed HHSC to establish a grant program to support community mental health programs providing and coordinating services and treatment for Texas veterans and their families.

Pursuant to S.B. 55, the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program was established to improve the quality of life of Texas veterans and their families by supporting local communities across the state to expand the availability of, increase access to, and enhance the delivery of mental health treatment and services.

Grant awards are made to community collaboratives to fund implementation of new or improved systems to coordinate delivery of mental health and supportive services. Communities are expected to match state grant awards on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis through local, private, and/or in-kind funds, demonstrating their commitment to address mental health needs such as post-traumatic stress and depression of veterans and family members.

S.B. 55 required HHSC to implement the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program with a third-party program administrator, MMHPI, assisting with grant program design, development, implementation, and management as well as assisting grantees with identifying and securing qualifying matching funds.

Rider 68 appropriated \$10 million in each fiscal year of the biennium to support the grant program. The rider also requires the agency to submit a report to the LBB and the Governor detailing the effectiveness of the grants, number of grants awarded, and number of veterans served.

This report provides updates on:

- Grant program implementation;
- The number of grantees and information about their projects, partners, and service areas;
- The number of veterans and family members to be served; and
- A review of how grant project effectiveness will be measured.

3. Background

3.1 Mental Health Needs of Veterans and Related Factors

Texas is home to 1.7 million veterans¹ and approximately 170,000 active duty and reserve military personnel.^{2,3} A growing number of veterans have spent their military service with more

¹ Department of Veteran Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Retrieved January 21, 2016, from http://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp

² 2014 Demographics Profile of the Military Community (2014). United States Department of Defense.

³ Texas Military Department, 2016.

frequent deployments and exposure to urban conflict, suicide bombings, and improvised explosive devices, and as a result experience post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other mental health conditions.⁴ The National Council on Behavioral Health projected nearly 70,000 Texas Iraq and Afghanistan veterans would confront mental health conditions.⁵

Texas veterans and their family members can have different types and degrees of need depending on where they reside in a large, geographically diverse state. While approximately 13 percent of Texas' overall population lives in rural counties, nearly 17 percent of Texas veterans live in rural counties. Though most veterans live in urban counties, rural counties have higher concentrations of veterans: they make up approximately 8.1 percent of the population in rural counties compared to 6.2 percent in urban counties.⁶ Geographic location and population density can affect how Texans access behavioral health services, the availability of behavioral health services, and the qualified workforce to provide those behavioral health services.⁷

Results from a needs assessment conducted by Texas State University suggest the overall needs of Texas veterans and their families can also significantly depend on the stage of transition from military to civilian life. Surveys indicated the highest levels of need were for those who left the military between four and seven years ago. Additionally, veterans who served in the reserves or guard indicated higher levels of need than those who served only active duty.⁸

While all levels of government and local community organizations have made efforts to address mental health needs of veterans and their families, cultural and structural barriers to veterans receiving mental health care remain, including: geographic gaps, overburdened systems, generational differences, insufficient outreach, gender gaps, discharge status, issues related to transitioning from military to civilian life, stigma related to seeking mental health treatment and services, civilian culture gap, and a lack of trust in the credibility of systems in place to provide mental health services.⁹

3.2 S.B. 55 Implementation Status

3.2.1 Full Program - Program Administrator

⁴ Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Policy Research Project on Veterans' Mental Health Care (2014). An Assessment of Mental Health Services for Veterans in the State of Texas.

⁵ National Council on Behavioral Health (2012). Meeting the Behavioral Health Needs of Veterans: Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

⁶ Texas State University, Center for Social Inquiry (2016). Identifying the Unmet Needs of Texas Veterans and their Families: a Statewide Needs Assessment.

⁷ Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2017-2021.

⁸ Texas State University, Center for Social Inquiry (2016). Identifying the Unmet Needs of Texas Veterans and their Families: a Statewide Needs Assessment.

⁹ Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Policy Research Project on Veterans' Mental Health Care (2014). An Assessment of Mental Health Services for Veterans in the State of Texas.

S.B. 55 required HHSC to enter into an agreement with a qualified non-profit or private entity to serve as the administrator of the grant program. Administrator duties include assisting, supporting, and advising HHSC with respect to the grant program.

Concurrent with implementation of the pilot phase of the grant program, HHSC initiated the procurement process to select a program administrator for the full program. HHSC executed a no-cost contract with MMHPI for the program administrator which outlined the following responsibilities for MMHPI:

- Upon request, providing veterans, veterans organizations, mental health experts, or other relevant subject matter experts to assist with developing the program or the application selection process;
- Assisting HHSC in promoting and advertising the program across Texas;
- Developing a satisfaction survey to track and monitor impact of services provided through the grant program;
- Gathering and providing program data; and
- Assisting grantees in obtaining and securing matching funds.

MMHPI will also advise HHSC on:

- Designing, developing, implementing, and managing the program;
- Determining criteria for local community collaboration and the types of services and deliveries eligible for grants;
- Eligibility requirements and roles and responsibilities for grant recipients;
- Reporting requirements for grant recipients;
- Support and technical capabilities;
- Timelines and deadlines for the program; and
- Evaluation of the program and grant recipients.

3.2.2 Full Program - Phase II-A Grants

Due to the appropriation of funding by fiscal year, HHSC is implementing the full program in two phases with \$10 million in state funding available in each of two separate funding opportunities: Phase II-A and Phase II-B. See Appendix B for a timeline of the grant implementation.

HHSC initiated the procurement process to solicit grant applications for Phase II-A in March 2016. In coordination with MMHPI, HHSC developed a Request for Applications (RFA) incorporating programmatic and administrative lessons learned from the solicitation process of the pilot program.

The LBB approved a request in July 2016 for HHSC to carry-over the unexpended balance of fiscal year 2016 funding. This carry-over allowed for the \$10 million appropriated in 2016 funding to be awarded in fiscal year 2017 for Phase II-A grant awards. In June 2016 HHSC released the Phase II-A RFA, making \$10 million in state funding available to organizations across the state proposing to address the mental health needs of veterans and their families.

Fourteen proposals were received by the August 1, 2016, deadline and are detailed in Table 1. Of the 14 applications received, all applicants were selected to be Phase II-A grant apparent awardees and are negotiating grant award amounts and contract terms. The amounts requested by the apparent awardees in the grant applications are dependent upon a number of factors, including the depth and breadth of proposed services, as well as staffing costs, which vary throughout the state. HHSC anticipates the Phase II-A grant award period will be January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

Table 1. Phase II-A Grant Applicants

Apparent Awardee	State Amount Requested (General Revenue)*	Estimated Number of Clients to be Served**
Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	\$497,811	350
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	\$775,000	500
Equest	\$205,714	230
Family Endeavors	\$1,250,000	888
Headstrong Project	\$125,000	50
Heart of Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR)	\$387,655	200
Heroes Night Out	\$35,000	6,000
Metrocare Services	\$210,404	75
StarCare Specialty Health System	\$368,895	308
Texoma Community Center	\$163,455	400
The Ecumenical Center	\$1,136,115	3,948
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	\$292,915	305
Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas	\$1,093,959	500
West Texas Counseling and Guidance	\$220,251	628
Total	\$6,762,174	14,382

**Award amounts will be finalized as part of successful contract negotiations and may increase or decrease based upon negotiated issues. Award amounts reflect state portions of total project costs and will be matched on a one-to-one basis by grantees.*

*** Estimated numbers of clients served is proposed and will be finalized as part of successful contract negotiations.*

3.2.3 Full Program - Phase II-B Grants

On November 1, 2016, the Phase II-B RFA was released making another \$10 million in state funding available. Twenty-three applications were received; the anticipated start date of these grant awards is March 2017.

4. Performance Measures and Effectiveness of Grants

4.1 Number of Grants Awarded

Service areas of the 14 applicants selected as Phase II-A apparent awardees extend statewide; these areas will expand once Phase II-B grantees are selected. Table 2 lists the Phase II-A apparent awardees with service areas by county.

Table 2. Phase II-A Apparent Awardees*

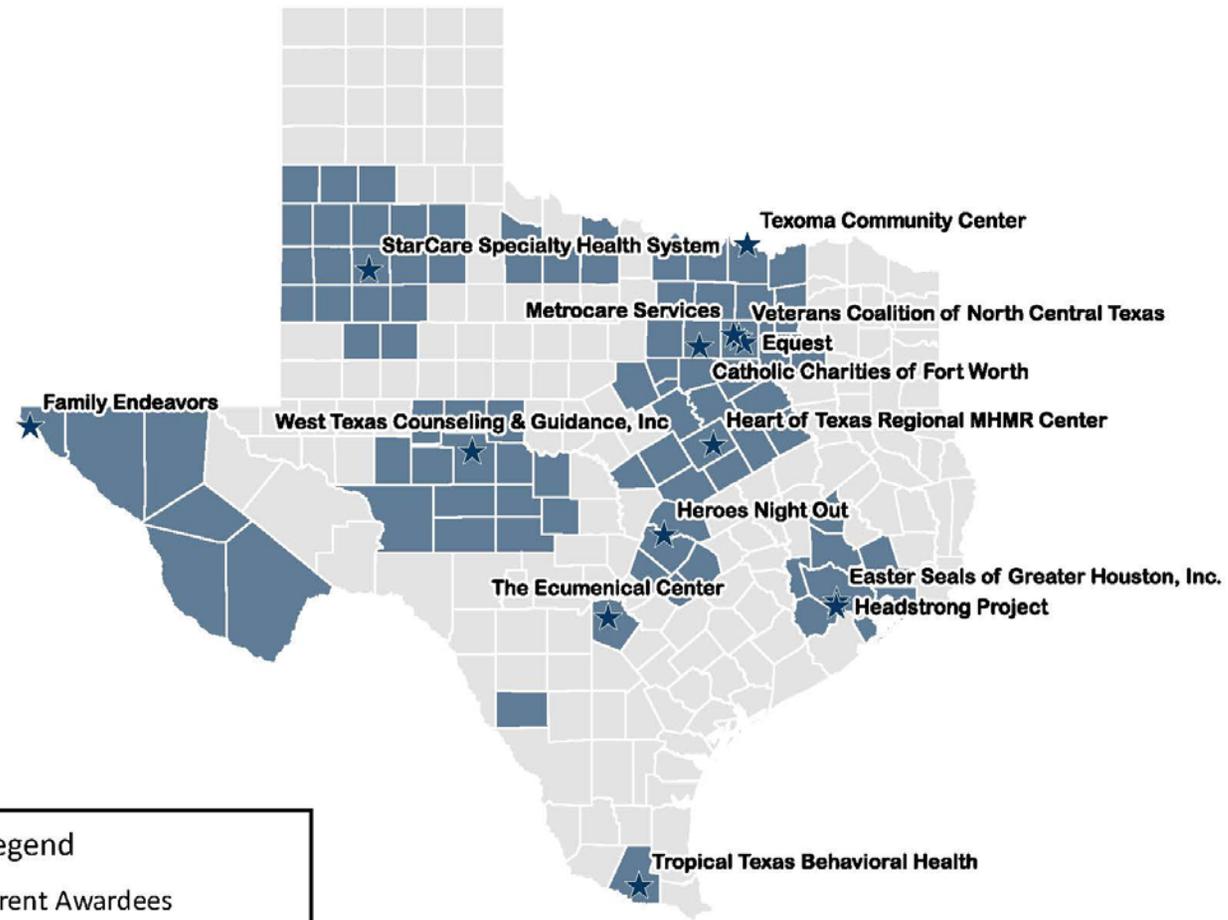
Apparent Awardees	Service Areas by County
Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	Archer, Baylor, Dallas, Denton, Foard, Hood, Johnson, Knox, Montague, Parker, Tarrant, Wichita
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	Bell, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton
The Ecumenical Center	Bexar
Equest	Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, Rockwall, Tarrant, Van Zandt
Family Endeavors	Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio
Headstrong Project	Harris
Heart of Texas Regional MHMR	Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan
Heroes Night Out	Bastrop, Bell, Caldwell, Coryell, Hays, Lampasas, Travis, Williamson
Metrocare Services	Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise
StarCare Specialty Health Services	Bailey, Borden, Castro, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Dimmit, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Parmer, Swisher, Terry, Yoakum
Texoma Community Center	Cooke, Fannin, Grayson

Apparent Awardees	Service Areas by County
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	Hidalgo
Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas	Bell, Collin, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise
West Texas Counseling & Guidance	Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green

* Phase II-A service areas are proposed service areas and will be finalized as part of successful contract negotiations.

Detailed information on each apparent awardee's project goals and collaborative partners is included in Appendix A. Figure 1 illustrates proposed Phase II-A grant sites across the state.

Figure 1. Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program Phase II-A Proposed Sites



Legend

- ★ Phase II-A Apparent Awardees
- Counties to be Served by Phase II-A Sites

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Geography (2015). Cartographic Boundary Shapefiles - Counties -- cb 20115 us county 500k.zip (Shapefile). https://www.census.gov/geo/mmaps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

4.2 Grant Reporting

HHSC is committed to capturing the impact and effectiveness of the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program and requires grantees to report on progress and success of implemented grant activities. Grantees submit monthly expenditure reports and quarterly performance reports, and upon completion of the grant, will each submit a final report.

As noted in Section 3.2.2 Full Program - Phase II-A Grants, it is anticipated that Phase II-A grant award period will be January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017. Grantees will not report on progress until late February and March 2017, when the first expenditure and quarterly performance reports are due.

4.2.1 Monthly Expenditure Report

Grantees each submit a monthly expenditure report 20 days after the last day of the previous month. The report includes expenses to be reimbursed from state funds as well as matching funds used during a particular month's reporting period. Expenditures reported are supported by documentation such as general ledgers, invoices, or cancelled checks. Program staff review expenditure reports to ensure grantees are reimbursed appropriately for grant activities.

4.2.2 Quarterly Performance Report

Additionally, grantees each submit quarterly performance reports 30 days after each state fiscal quarter. Grantees report:

- The number of clients served;
- Data related to pre- and post- client assessments; and
- The financial status of the project.

Program staff tracks successful progress of each grant project by reviewing quarterly performance reports and monitoring expenditure rates using the monthly expenditure report.

4.3 Effectiveness of Grants

To measure the effectiveness of the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program, HHSC implemented use of clinical assessment tools and a client satisfaction survey.

4.3.1 Clinical Assessment

HHSC and MMHPI determined using a common measure to demonstrate improvement in clients receiving services was ideal in translating pre- and post- assessment data. The common measurement tools grantees will use are the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) for adults ages 18 years and older, and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool for children and youth under 17 years of age. For the purposes of the grant, these

tools are used to mark improvement and are not necessarily used to determine a level of care with regard to recovery plans.

For some grantees, instruments other than the CANS and ANSA may lend themselves to better capturing the impact of specific services, such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition to assess post-traumatic stress or the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item for generalized anxiety. In those cases, each grantee is asked to provide information regarding the requested substitute measurement tool to confirm its appropriateness.

Each grantee administers assessment tools to clients on the first day of service and then at regular intervals, such as every 75 days for the CANS and every 90 days for the ANSA, or at intervals determined appropriate by the grantee, HHSC, and MMHPI.

Children and adolescents 17 years old and younger are assessed for improvement in the following domains when utilizing the CANS tool:

- Child strengths;
- Behavioral and emotional needs;
- Life domain functioning;
- Child risk behaviors;
- Adjustment to trauma;
- School performance; and
- Substance use.

Using the ANSA, adults 18 years and older are assessed for improvement in:

- Strengths;
- Behavioral health needs;
- Life domain functioning;
- Risk behaviors;
- Adjustment to trauma; and
- Substance use.

An additional domain of the ANSA related to military experience assesses:

- Combat experience;
- Experience of loss;
- Transition to civilian life; and
- Comrade support.

The target outcome expects 90 percent of clients will demonstrate improvement based on pre- and post- assessment data reported by grantees.

4.3.2 Satisfaction Survey

In addition to measuring clinical effectiveness of the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant-supported activities, HHSC developed a client satisfaction survey in cooperation with MMHPI. Grantees distribute this survey to clients after services and supports are provided. Clients may complete the survey online or on paper. A copy of the survey is included as Appendix C.

The survey seeks clients' opinions regarding overall satisfaction with services provided, if those services were provided with military cultural competence, and how challenging it was to access services. Survey results are collected throughout the grant period. Target outcomes expected:

- 90 percent of clients will report being satisfied with services;
- 90 percent of clients will report the grantee understood their unique military experience; and
- 90 percent of clients will report accessing services as not challenging.

4.4 Number of Clients Served

As part of the application process, applicants estimate unduplicated numbers of clients to be served by grant activities throughout the award period. This estimate serves as the target for this deliverable, and it is expected 100 percent of estimated clients will be served over the grant period.

While the number of clients to be served by Phase II-A apparent awardees will be finalized as part of the current contract negotiation process, applicants estimated more than 14,000 Texas veterans and family members would be served by grant projects.

As part of the quarterly performance report, grantees report total, unduplicated numbers of veterans, adult family members, and family members ages 17 years and younger served during a particular quarterly reporting period. The unduplicated number of veterans and family members is broken into three categories, which include those receiving:

- *Only Mental Health Services:* Services and supports emphasizing behavioral health treatment including post-traumatic stress and/or depression and also encompass co-occurring needs as prioritized by each community (e.g., substance use disorders, traumatic brain injury, other anxiety disorders, comorbid physical health conditions, and consequences of unmet needs such as homelessness, incarceration, or unemployment);
- *Only Non-mental Health Services:* Supportive services including financial assistance with living expenses, transportation assistance, job training or placement assistance, and referrals and/or case management services connecting veterans and family members with services;
- *Both Mental Health/Non-mental Health Services:* For clients who received or are receiving both categories of service.

HHSC closely monitors the reported number of clients served by grantees each quarter and provides technical assistance to grantees not demonstrating sufficient progress in their programs.

5. Conclusion

As required by S.B. 55 and funded by Rider 68, HHSC established the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program which seeks to address the unmet mental health needs of Texas veterans and their families and to empower communities to partner and collaborate to develop local solutions.

To date, there are 14 Phase II-A apparent awardees in the process of executing contracts to implement projects to increase the access to mental health treatment and supportive services for veterans and their families. Twenty-three Phase II-B applications were received December 6, 2016, and are undergoing evaluation. HHSC anticipates the full grant program will be fully implemented by March 2017.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
ANSA	Adult Needs and Strengths
CANS	Chile and Adolescent Needs and Strengths
H.B.	House Bill
HHSC	Texas Health and Human Services Commission
LBB	Legislative Budget Board
MHMR	Mental Health Mental Retardation
MMHPI	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
OMHC	Office of Mental Health Coordination
RFA	Request for Applications
S.B.	Senate Bill
VA	Veterans Administration
VetCo	Veterans Coalition of Tarrant County
VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars

Appendix A: Phase II-A Grant Project Descriptions and Partners

Apparent Awardee	Project Description
Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	The proposed project establishes and maintains a mental health-focused branch of Veterans Coalition of Tarrant County (VetCo) to be known as VetCo Mental Health. The program will provide specialty mental health care services for veterans and families, in-school therapy for children, and other mental health services tailored to veterans' needs.
	Local partners: Recovery Resource Council, Lena Pope, Fort Worth Independent School District, Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County, ACH Child and Family Services, Adaptive Training Foundation, Center for Brain Health, Community Learning Center, Equine Connection Counseling, Heroes on the Water, John Peter Smith (JPS) Health Network, Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, Mental Health Connection Tarrant County, Paws for Reflection, Sid W. Richardson Foundation, Southwestern Music Therapy, Stay the Course, Tarrant County Veterans' Treatment Court, the Artist Outreach, United Way of Denton County, United Way of Tarrant County, and Fort Worth Homeless Veterans Program - VA North Texas Health Care System
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	Community collaboration, meetings, trainings, and convenings will provide a deeper understanding of veterans' needs and existing resources and gaps will be identified. Through counseling, case management, technology, telemedicine, and other support, access to mental health services will be significantly increased. Mental health services will include individual and group counseling, peer-to-peer supports, and interventions. Veterans Access Cafes will serve as accessible community-based hubs for outreach to veterans, peer-to-peer support and computer and internet access.
	Local partners: American Legion Post 416, Brain Posit/ES National, Catholic Charities, Combined Arms, Crisis Intervention, Disability Rights Texas, Dixon Center, Grace After Fire, Interfaith Ministries Meals on Wheels, My Service Dog, Operation Phantom Support, Xena Project, US Vets, Easter Seals Central Texas, Goodwill Industries, Houston Community College, Lone Star College, Harris Center, THRIVE, United Way Houston, Wal-Mart

Apparent Awardee	Project Description
The Ecumenical Center	<p>A three-part project comprised of: 1) increased capacity for providing clinical mental health services treating post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance use, and anxiety disorders; 2) design of a dedicated access and referral network providing an integrated system through which veterans and their families can more readily locate and access clinical and non-clinical services; and 3) conducting a program evaluation and community needs assessment to identify, characterize, and quantify barriers and gaps in service that reduce or prevent veterans and their families from accessing and/or participating in mental health programs services and treatment.</p> <p>Local partners: University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, Military and Veteran Community Collaborative consisting of: Crosspoint, Bexar County Mental Health Services, Goodwill of San Antonio, Rio Texas Methodist Conference, Christ Episcopal Church, St. Phillips College, Clarity Child Guidance Center, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Inspiration Center, AVANCE-San Antonio, Family Endeavors, Boys Town, Equine Center, and Center for Healthcare Services</p>
Equest	<p>Hooves for Heroes provides equine-assisted therapies and activities for veterans and family members. Funding would expand existing services of equine-facilitated counseling with a licensed mental health professional, equine-facilitated learning, hippotherapy, peer-to-peer support, and volunteer opportunities. This unique alternative to traditional therapy assists veterans who are having difficulty reintegrating into civilian life and counsels them in setting personal goals to achieve measurable progress in and out of the arena.</p> <p>Local partners: Honor Courage Commitment, Mission Continues, Carry the Load, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Cohen Military Clinic at Metrocare</p>
Family Endeavors	<p>To address significant wait times for mental health services and treatment from the VA, the project proposes to open and operate a Military Family Clinic, part of the Cohen Veterans Network, to provide free mental health services to veterans and their families. Services will include care for post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other mental health conditions, and family, marriage, individual, and adolescent counseling. The goal is to reduce time between intake and treatment. Services will also include medication management,</p>

Apparent Awardee	Project Description
	<p>case management for additional community resources, and life skills workshops for financial readiness, marriage enrichment, effective communication, and employment readiness.</p> <p>Local partners: Emergence Health Network, Military Veteran Peer Network, VA, Veterans Food Pantry, University of Texas at El Paso Military Student Services Center</p>
Headstrong Project	<p>The program involves delivery of integrated, comprehensive mental health services for post-9/11 combat veterans for stabilization and processing of traumatic memories. Treatment and supports include pharmacology, drug and alcohol treatment, family support, couples therapy, and group support.</p> <p>Local partners: Menninger Clinic, Combined Arms Center - Houston</p>
Heroes Night Out	<p>Heroes Night Out is a comprehensive resource center providing community referrals and in-house services for veterans, service members, and military families in Travis, Williamson, Bell, and surrounding counties. Through tailored partnerships and custom programming to bridge gaps in service offerings, Heroes Night Out offers a one-stop resource center where military families and veterans can engage in mental health counseling, peer and caregiver assistance networks, basic needs assistance, activity-based therapies, socialization, and other support services with a focus on mental health, total well-being, and family inclusiveness.</p> <p>Local partners: Williamson County Veterans Service Office, Dr. Mara Karpel (psychology, comprehensive exams), Austin Vet Center, Federal Savings Bank (financial literacy, VA (loan eligibility, credit and debt management), Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Center Point - Veterans Services (financial assistance, rental assistance, basic needs and utility support)</p>
Heart of Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation	<p>The One Stop will expand availability of and access to mental health treatment and services by increasing offerings of clinical mental health services addressing post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, moral injury, military sexual trauma, family counseling, and substance use. Additionally, funding will allow provision of case management services and expansion of services to military families in situations related to deployment and reintegration.</p>

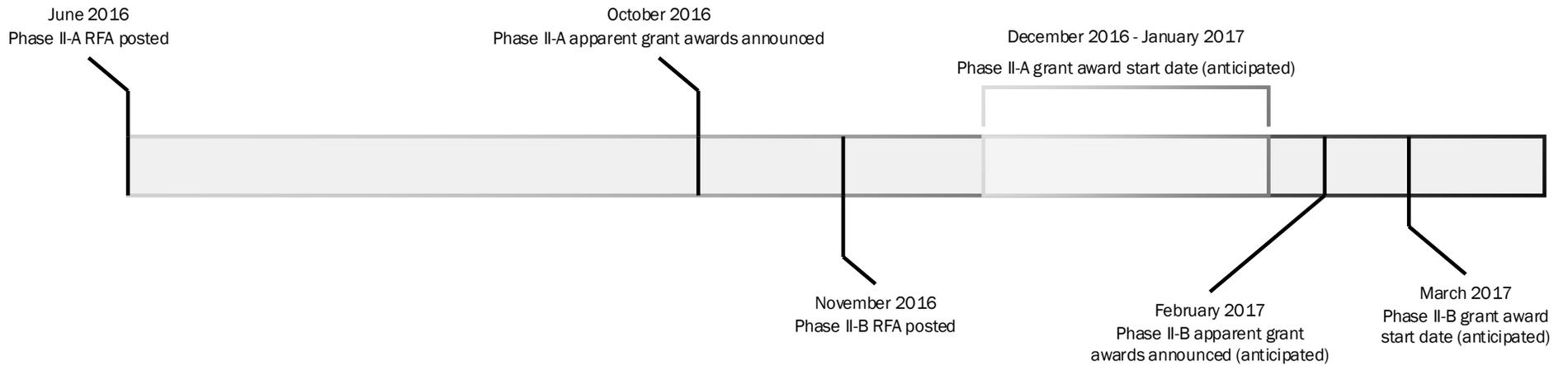
Apparent Awardee	Project Description
	<p>Local partners: American GI Forum, Baylor Veteran Law Clinic, Blue Star Mothers, VA Women's Health Care Team, VA Homeless Prevention, VA Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Transition Patient Advocates, Opportunities Advancement Corporation, Family Endeavors, McLennan County Veterans Service Office, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Veteran Peer Network, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans Integrated Service Network 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans</p>
Metrocare Services	<p>The project seeks to adapt and implement Strong Families, an evidence-based reintegration parenting intervention. Strong Families was developed with and for military families with very young children and aims to reduce the impact of deployment, transition, and its legacy, including combat stress and mental health concerns, parenting, parent mental health, couples functioning, and the parent-child relationship. The project will adapt the existing model, train clinicians in applying the intervention, provide the intervention to 75 military families, and track effectiveness via assessments and outcome measures. Veterans and family members reporting PTSD and depression will also receive adjunctive evidence-based treatment concurrently.</p> <p>Local partners: Cohen Veteran Network, Veteran Spouse Network, Equest, Defenders of Freedom</p>
StarCare Specialty Health Care	<p>Access to mental health care for veterans will increase through development and implementation of the Jailed Veterans Intervention Program. The collaborative project will provide mental health care services and treatment to veterans and their families, particularly those involved with the justice system and/or who live in rural areas. Services include primary care, counseling, substance use counseling, psychiatric services, prescription assistance, lab tests, patient education, and transportation services. Additionally, equine therapy supports will be provided as an option for rural veterans reluctant to use traditional therapy models.</p> <p>Local partners: Veterans Resource Coordination Group comprised of 49 partner organizations including nonprofits, veteran service organizations, institutions of higher education, local businesses, and governmental agencies</p>

Apparent Awardee	Project Description
Texoma Community Center	<p>The project will use space as a place of unity and camaraderie where peer-to-peer support is integral to overall success and mental and substance use treatment will be provided. Additionally, crisis and specialty bed placement services will be provided, as well as yoga classes to assist with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression, and specialized services and groups. Partner associations will provide case management, transportation, and referrals.</p> <p>Local partners: Grayson County Veterans Coalition, The Yoga Studio: Sherman, Four Rivers Outreach, Salvation Army, peer mentors, Grayson County Veterans Services Office, VA - North Texas Health Care System, Texas Council of Governments, Grayson College Veteran Services Office, VFW Post 2772, American Legion 4th District, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Child and Family Guidance Center of Texoma, Volunteer Service Council of Texoma, Jones Law Firm</p>
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	<p>The project proposes the creation of a new Drop-In Center in Hidalgo County to provide evidence-based mental health services and supports to Hidalgo County veterans and their families. The purpose of the drop-in center is to address gaps in the availability of mental health services, offering increased access to counseling and peer supports and skills training to help veterans and their families cope with and recover from the psychological and emotional trauma experienced with military service.</p> <p>Local partners: Hidalgo Veteran Service office, Tomas National Guard Armory, Texas Military Forces - State Family Program Office, VA Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, American Legion Post 101, Veterans Business Outreach Center, Veterans Land Board, Disabled American Veterans, Heroes on the Water, Texas Veterans Commission, Workforce Solutions, Family Endeavors, Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement</p>
Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas	<p>Operation Healthy Reunions is a program supporting veterans and their families experiencing the effects of deployment and combat-related mental health issues and physical injuries. Services include free counseling with a network of pre-screened professionals within close proximity of the veteran to mitigate long travel and excessive wait time. Clients can also receive equine therapy, acupuncture, substance use treatment, suicide prevention, and sleep apnea services. In addition, this proposal</p>

Apparent Awardee	Project Description
	<p>aims to train and equip churches and faith-based organizations to provide mental health services to veterans and their families within the congregation.</p>
	<p>Local partners: Mental Health America of Greater Dallas, Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Interfaith Chaplaincy, Friendship West Baptist Church</p>
<p>West Texas Counseling and Guidance</p>	<p>The project will provide an array of mental health services and supports to veterans and their families to include timely access to quality evidence-based therapy, psychiatric services, substance use treatment, outreach, service coordination, suicide prevention, and peer support. Most services will be provided through a primary care setting – in federally qualified health centers and via telemedicine – giving veterans the benefits of integrated health care.</p>
	<p>Local partners: Frontera Healthcare Network, La Esperanza Health and Dental Centers, Angelo State University Consultation and Research Institute</p>

Appendix B: Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Implementation Timeline

Figure 1. Phase II-A and II-B Timeline



Appendix C: Client Satisfaction Survey

Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program Client Satisfaction Survey

You have been asked to complete this survey because you received services that are supported by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) **Texas Veterans + Family Alliance** grant program.

The **Texas Veterans + Family Alliance** grant program was created as a result of S.B. 55, legislation that was passed in 2015 as part of the 84th Legislative Session. The goal of the grant program is to improve the quality of life of Texas veterans and their families by helping local communities across the state increase access to mental health treatment and services.

We want to make sure this grant program is effective in meeting its charge and an important part of measuring success is to get feedback from the people the program serves: veterans, service members, and their families.

Your input is incredibly valuable as HHSC seeks to continually improve this program and ensure that Texas veterans and family members are able to access mental health and supportive services at the right time and place.

Thank you for taking the time to assist HHSC and your local community organizations to better serve you!

-
1. Are you a veteran or military service member? Yes / No
 2. Are you a family member of a veteran or military service member? Yes / No
 3. Please tell us the area/county in which you received services to help us identify who provided you services.
-
4. How satisfied were you with the services provided?
 - a. Very satisfied
 - b. Satisfied
 - c. Somewhat satisfied
 - d. Not satisfied at all
 5. How helpful were the services you received?
 - a. Very helpful
 - b. Helpful
 - c. Somewhat helpful
 - d. Not helpful at all
 6. *For the following, please select the response that most closely describes your experience.* The organization that provided me with services seemed to understand mine or my family member's unique experience during military service.

- a. Very much understood
 - b. Mostly understood
 - c. Somewhat understood
 - d. Did not understand at all
7. Please tell us if you feel the services you received improved your situation.
- a. Significantly improved
 - b. Improved a good deal
 - c. Improved a little
 - d. Did not improve at all
8. Was this the first time you have sought out and received these types of services?
Yes / No
9. If this was not your first time receiving these types of services, how would you rate this experience in comparison to your previous experiences?
- a. Significantly better
 - b. Somewhat better
 - c. No different
 - d. Somewhat worse
 - e. Significantly worse
10. How challenging was it for you to participate in or receive the services offered?
- a. Very challenging
 - b. Challenging
 - c. A little challenging
 - d. Not challenging at all
11. If you found participating in or receiving the services Challenging or Very Challenging, please tell us why.
-
12. Would you recommend that other veterans and family members seek these services?
- a. Absolutely recommend
 - b. Maybe recommend
 - c. Would not recommend at all
13. Please share with us a few things that could be done better.
-

Please feel free to contact us at MentalHealthTX@hsc.state.tx.us if you have any additional suggestions, concerns, or comments related to the services you were provided.

Thank you!