

HHS Accepting Letters of Interest for Rural Healthy Community Collaborative Learning Communities

If your organization serves two or more rural Texas counties, each with a population of less than 100,000, and wants to expand or establish a community collaborative, HHS invites you to submit a letter of interest to participate in a learning community.

HHS is establishing the learning community to support efforts to expand the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) program into rural Texas (Senate Bill 1849, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017). The learning community will begin in March 2018 and will extend through April or May 2018. Participating organizations may submit applications to operate a community collaborative and become HCC service providers when HHS releases the Request for Applications.

Learning community participants will learn how to:

- Develop a community collaborative
- Identify community needs
- Build stakeholder partnerships
- Create plans to secure dollar-for-dollar cash match to state-awarded funds
- Develop sustainability strategies

Community Collaboratives

HCC community collaboratives are made up of non-profit community organizations, local government entities, and faith-based organizations. Collaboratives help homeless adults with mental health or substance use disorders achieve recovery and community re-integration by connecting them with housing and support services, such as employment and mental health and substance use services.

Submit a Letter of Interest

If your organization meets the criteria above, please submit a letter of interest by **March 9, 2018, at 5 pm CST**. Submit completed letters to the following email addresses using the following format:

To: MHContracts@dshs.texas.gov
Cc: Pablo.Bastida@hhsc.state.tx.us
Reece.Carroll@hhsc.state.tx.us
Subject: Rural HCC Learning Community Letter of Interest



Your letter of interest must meet the following format requirements:

- Be from your executive director (or closest equivalent)
- Be no longer than two, single-spaced, single-sided, 8.5" x 11" pages
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font
- Be submitted as a PDF file electronically to the email addresses above

Your letter of interest must include the following information:

1. Your statement of intent to participate in the learning community to gain information about forming a collaborative within the HCC program.
2. If there are organizations in your community currently working together to provide homeless services, please describe that collaborative arrangement. Please focus on aspects related to housing, mental health and substance use treatment, and post-arrest jail diversion. If there is no such collaborative effort within your community, please describe your ability to form one. Please also emphasize the types (and names, if possible) of organizations and individuals who could comprise a collaborative.
3. A description of your community's ability to match grant funds dollar-for-dollar through private funds. Match may not be met using in-kind services, federal funding, state funding, or local government funding.

Questions?

Please direct inquiries to Nicole Bower, Program Specialist, at (512) 838-4341 or Nicole.Bower@hhsc.state.tx.us, or Pablo Bastida, Program Specialist, at (512) 838-4386, or Pablo.Bastida@hhsc.state.tx.us.