



Texas Family Violence Program Statewide Report

**As Required by
Human Resources Code, Section
51.006**

Health and Human Services

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Executive Summary

Texas Human Resources Code, [Section 51.006](#), requires the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to publish a report each even-numbered year that summarizes data received from family violence centers under contract with the agency for the Family Violence Program (FVP).

To meet the complex needs of survivors, FVP contracts with a network of family violence service providers. These providers offer emergency shelters and services to survivors and their dependents, educate the public, and provide training and prevention support to other agencies. The 2018-2019 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, appropriated \$57,725,756 for FVP for the biennium to administer emergency shelters and supportive services for survivors of family violence. In fiscal years 2018 and 2019, FVP contracted with 71 24-hour shelter facilities, eight non-residential centers, and 25 special non-residential projects (SNRP) to provide family violence services.

This report provides information on fiscal years 2018 and 2019 program expenditures and highlights the successes HHSC-funded contractors had in providing family violence services to positively impact the health and well-being of family violence survivors and their dependents.

1. Introduction

In accordance with Texas Human Resources Code §51.006, this report summarizes the data and reports contracted family violence centers submit to HHSC and analyzes the effectiveness of the program contracts. This report also includes information on the expenditure of funds for fiscal years 2018 and 2019, as well as the services provided, the number of individuals who received services, and other information relating to the provision of family violence services.

The report is due no later than November 1 of each even-numbered year to the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the Legislative Budget Board, and the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over HHSC.

2. Background

Texas Human Resources Code, Chapter 51, is intended to promote the development of, and access to, locally based and locally supported nonprofit services for victims of family violence throughout the state. Texas Human Resources Code §51.002(2) defines family violence as “an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that:

- a) is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, or assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself; or
- b) is intended to inflict emotional harm, including an act of emotional abuse.”

HHSC administers FVP, which promotes self-sufficiency, safety, and long-term independence for people who have experienced family violence or teen dating violence. Escaping family violence is a complicated and often dangerous process that can involve a multitude of support services. The diverse population of Texas means that service providers must be adaptive and engage survivors through innovative service models and outreach efforts to best serve family violence survivors from different backgrounds.

To meet the complex needs of survivors, FVP contracts with a network of family violence service providers. These providers offer emergency shelters and services to survivors and their dependents, educate the public about family violence and resources, and provide training and prevention support to other agencies. Funding provided by HHSC enables FVP contractors to offer a wide array of emergency supports and prevention services to help people escape the cycle of family violence. Since the program’s inception in 1981, FVP has grown from an original partnership with six local shelters, to a service network currently comprised of 71 24-hour shelter facilities, eight non-residential centers, and 25 SNRP contracts to provide family violence services.

Residential shelter services include access to 24-hour residential shelters, 24-hour hotlines, emergency medical services, intervention services, emergency transportation, legal advocacy, educational arrangements, information about employment and job training services, community education, referrals to

community services, and coordinated services with law enforcement. Non-residential centers provide the same support services as shelter centers, but do not offer residential shelter.

SNRP contracts offer specialized services to survivors of family violence. SNRP contractors also provide child advocacy education and prevention activities in schools, community education, job training, legal advocacy, parenting services, transitional assistance, and outreach to traditionally under-served populations and geographic areas.

As also required by Texas Human Resources Code 51.003, HHSC contracts statewide for training and technical assistance to family violence centers. During fiscal years 2018-19, HHSC contracted with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) for these services. Under its contract with HHSC, TCFV responded to over 2,100 technical assistance requests in fiscal year 2018 and 2,200 in fiscal year 2019. HHSC collaborates with TCFV on key program initiatives, including program enhancement services, education and outreach, and statewide stakeholder workgroups that help improve services to survivors of family violence.

HHSC is required by Human Resources Code 51.0021 to “develop and maintain a plan for delivering family violence services in this state. In fiscal years 2018 and 2019 TCFV, the Office of the Governor, and HHSC collaborated to publish the 2019 Texas state plan on family violence, entitled *Creating A Safer Texas: Access to Safety, Justice, and Opportunity*. This plan provides a detailed statewide inventory of available family violence services and identifies gaps in service availability and emerging issues with a focus on the self-identified needs of survivors.

3. Family Violence Expenditure Information

Expenditure information includes multiple funding sources that support FVP. The program receives funding from the federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to Title XX Transfer Funds, and state general revenue (GR). Outlined below are FVP expenditures for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Table 1. FVP Annual Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2018

Method of Finance	Expenditures
FVPSA	\$6,214,141.66
SSBG	\$862,156.82
TANF to Title XX	\$11,484,745.76
General Revenue	\$10,158,262.10
Total	\$28,719,306.34

Table 2. FVP Annual Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2019

Method of Finance	Expenditures
FVPSA	\$6,536,858.24
SSBG	\$622,821.63
TANF to Title XX	\$11,002,361.00
General Revenue	\$11,139,906.00
Total	\$29,301,946.87

FVP provides program and fiscal oversight of funds throughout the contracting lifecycle. This is accomplished through contract development; review and approval of budgets and plan of operations; monthly and quarterly expenditure reviews; technical assistance; monitoring for programmatic, administrative, and fiscal compliance; and contract close-outs.

4. Contract Effectiveness

FVP contractors deliver vital services to family violence survivors and their dependents. Approximately 91 percent of FVP clients surveyed in fiscal year 2018 reported increased knowledge of community resources and safety planning after receiving services. This response was approximately 92 percent in fiscal year 2019. Table 5 breaks down the results of these surveys. HHSC funding for these programs is only a small part of the total resources leveraged to meet survivor needs. Local funding also comes from communities, gifts from individuals, corporate grants, city and county governments, private foundations, and other federal resources. Family violence programs rely on HHSC funding to help ensure the continuity of critical emergency services to meet the needs of survivors across the state.

Tables 3-5 provide information on client statistics, shelter request statistics, and client surveys from fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Table 3. Texas Family Violence Client Statistics

Clients Served	Fiscal Year 2018	Fiscal Year 2019
Adults	44,944	46,268
Children	24,814	25,369
Total	69,758	71,637

Table 4. Shelter Request Statistics

Shelter Numbers and Denied Shelter Requests	Fiscal Year 2018	Fiscal Year 2019
Unduplicated Shelter Clients	24,944	25,344
Hotline Calls - Shelter Requests Denied Due to Lack of Space	21,793	23,202

Shelter Numbers and Denied Shelter Requests	Fiscal Year 2018	Fiscal Year 2019
Total Shelter Requests	46,737	48,546
Percentage of Shelter Requests Denied Due to Lack of Space	47%*	48%*

*Percentage is based on the total number of hotline call requests for shelter that were denied due to lack of space and the unduplicated number of clients who received shelter. Combined, these numbers represent the total potential clients in need of shelter.

Table 5: Client Survey Responses

Survey Question	2018 Positive Response Rate	2019 Positive Response Rate
Because of the services I received, I feel I know more about community resources.	91.2%	91.5%
Because of the services I received, I feel I know more ways to plan for my safety.	91.3%	92.4%

FVP received \$5.5 million in exceptional item funding during the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019. These funds will address the increasingly complex needs of survivors and their dependents, as well as provide services to increase survivors' likelihood of self-sufficiency.

5. Survivor and Contractor Accomplishments

Survivor Accomplishments

HHSC funding has a significant impact on the lives of survivors of family violence and their dependents. Through annual grant reporting, contracted family violence centers share client success stories with FVP. Survivors of family violence have often lived with abuse in their homes for many years, possibly decades. Family violence centers understand that leaving an abuser or abusive environment and asking for help is not easy. To assist clients in becoming independent and self-sufficient, family violence centers offer comprehensive services that are survivor-centered and trauma-informed.

One family violence survivor's story highlights the comprehensive approach that an HHSC-funded family violence center utilized to help a woman in her 40s and her children become self-reliant in a new community. After years of severe physical, mental, and emotional abuse, the survivor left her abusive partner and moved to a new community with her children. When she arrived, she was homeless and without any resources. Through the local family violence center, advocacy began immediately to bring support to her family in need.

The survivor received housing and an electricity deposit waiver. The advocate made referrals for the client to receive assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and provided food for her family until they began receiving benefits. Community donations enabled the center to provide clothing and furniture to the family. The family now has a home and necessities, and the mom continues to receive counseling support from the center and participates in the center's healthy relationships class.

In another instance, a woman's partner assaulted her so severely that she suffered nerve damage, resulting in deafness in one ear and blindness in one eye. She experienced anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. A family violence center provided her with shelter and family violence services, including crisis intervention, counseling, and case management. Through these services, the family violence center helped her write a survivor's impact statement for her court hearing and helped her navigate the crime victims compensation process to receive additional financial assistance.

The center also assisted the survivor in obtaining her birth certificate and driver's license renewal, enabling her to find employment. To prepare for returning to the workforce, the client began an eight-week job training program, graduating at the top of her class and securing a job she loves. The support she received allowed her to successfully transition from the shelter into her own apartment. The survivor continues to receive non-residential services and resources from the family violence center.

FVP funds have a direct positive impact on the lives of survivors and their families. Through these services, survivors learn to break the cycle of violence and abuse and regain self-sufficiency, stability, and long-term independence.

Contractor Accomplishments

Collectively, FVP-funded staff across Texas train and supervise other staff on being trauma-informed and survivor-centered and work directly with clients to ensure necessary resources are available to anyone who may need help. In some centers, funds are used to provide childcare services so survivors with children can attend counseling, support groups, goal-setting meetings with their case managers, job-skills trainings, and general education diploma classes, as well as seek employment and safe housing options. Ultimately, these services can lead to a survivor's self-sufficiency, safety, and long-term independence. FVP service providers also work with local schools to provide teen dating violence education on school campuses, and several have programs that offer youth conflict resolution skill-building, emotional understanding, and therapeutic counseling.

In fiscal year 2018, one HHSC-funded family violence center provided local high school students with a 10-session curriculum on intimate partner violence. As a result, this group of 30 students decided to spread the message of safe and healthy relationships. In the spring of 2018, the students created and facilitated lessons over the course of three weeks at an elementary school in their community to help educate fourth and fifth graders on violence prevention and healthy relationships. The goal of this early intervention education is to help prevent the perpetuation of family violence in future generations.

Both current and former versions of the Texas state plan on family violence identified communities of color as an underserved population across Texas, particularly Asian-American and African-American communities. In fiscal year 2019, FVP centers provided services to nearly 800 Asian-American and over 14,000 African-American self-identifying family violence survivors. Combined, the two populations equal approximately 20 percent of the total clients served in fiscal year 2019. Many FVP centers focus on outreach within communities of color, often connecting with partner organizations who have established ties in the communities and relationships with influential individuals.

Community partners play a vital role in helping family violence centers be inclusive, culturally sensitive, and have a greater impact on underserved populations. For example, one family violence center developed an agreement with the city to provide advocacy and counseling services within a community center that primarily serves low-income, African-American residents. Being a regular presence in the

neighborhood enables the family violence center to build trust and connections with survivors who may otherwise be unaware of the organization and the services they offer.

Local family violence centers are uniquely poised to understand and meet the needs of survivors within their communities. Through prevention work in schools, community outreach efforts, and relationships with other community-based organizations, HHSC-funded family violence centers help survivors break the cycle of abuse and educate the public on the dynamics of family violence and healthy relationship boundaries. Their work is critical in ensuring survivors in Texas feel safe and supported.

6. Conclusion

For the past four decades, FVP has provided critical support to victims in Texas by working to reduce and prevent family violence. HHSC provides vital funding and support for shelters and non-residential family violence centers across the state. Without HHSC-funded centers, survivors would have limited options and reduced access to family violence services throughout the state.

HHSC and family violence centers statewide are committed to helping survivors achieve self-sufficiency and live a life free from violence. Some counties lack core emergency services, and in some densely populated urban areas, the need exceeds service availability. FVP is dedicated to ongoing collaboration with program stakeholders and community partnerships to balance program expansion and service enhancement. The program strives to support enhanced and culturally specific services to underserved populations.

FVP is also committed to building stronger relationships with FVP service providers through increased communication efforts and provision of technical assistance. The program will continue to improve service quality by enhancing the contract monitoring process, evaluating outcome measures, and analyzing data to identify service gaps and trends. Additionally, the program will explore strategies to promote positive outcomes and ensure effective use of funding. With a focus on the future, FVP will continue to employ and promote best practices for serving families who have experienced family violence and will seek opportunities for continuous improvement.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
FVP	Family Violence Program
FVPSA	Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
SNRP	Special Non-Residential Project
SSBG	Social Service Block Grant
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TCFV	Texas Council on Family Violence