Texas Data Sharing Network - HB 3180

The establishment of a centralized homelessness crisis response system
Author: Representative Bowers (Dallas)

- Unify Homeless Crisis Response systems across Texas
- Plan and prepare for disaster response
  In the aftermath of a disaster understand who has evacuated and to where
- Understand long-term trends and outcomes
- Understand frequent users on a statewide basis
- Connect people to appropriate resources

Sharing data houses people
Impact

*"The biggest impact HHSP (Homeless Housing and Services Program) funding has made in our agency and community has been the ability to assist low and moderate income households in a short and long term basis. In addition to facilitating financial assistance under the Homeless Assistance and Homeless Prevention component, HHSP funding has allowed us to keep our case management staff and housing staff employed for the last 4 years." -City of Corpus Christi*

*"The flexibility of this funding has helped the Austin community by allowing funds for direct assistance for clients with major housing barriers, where other funding sources have caps." -City of Austin*

*"HHSP funds were used to leverage other TDHCA ESGP and Federal ESG funds received for homeless prevention services, which allowed our sub-recipients to increase the number of households and individuals that received homeless prevention and homeless assistance funds." -City of El Paso*

In San Antonio, Construction Provided:

- Restrooms
- Chilled water in the activity center and outdoor courtyard
- Privacy in the dorm restrooms
- Replacement air conditioners for rooms occupied by clients
- Additional laundry facilities
- Wheelchair ramp access
- Locker Storage
- An expanded canopy providing the clients protection from the elements

HHSP provides housing One Family's way home

The Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) provided over 4,300 households with help last year. HHSP significantly helped Mr. and Mrs. W and their five children end their homelessness. With HHSP direct financial assistance funds, they paid off their utility and housing rental debt, which helped them get housing through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

Mr. and Mrs. W and their five children arrived at The Salvation Army emergency shelter after sleeping in their car for several months. At The Salvation Army Social Services Center, the family received clothing food and shelter, and participated in case management provided by HHSP funds. Their five children worked with the agency’s academic learning center teachers on school assignments and enrichment activities.

Mr. and Mrs. W participated in employment services with Goodwill, Texas Center Point Alliance and the Salvation Army while living in the shelter. Mr. W initially found a job in the fast food industry before moving on to a job as a hotel manager. The family now lives in an apartment that they pay for with a Section 8 voucher provided through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families programs.

Ultimately HHSP allowed this family to make the transition from shelter to housing.
Reasons to support SB 1116 & Increase tax credits for supportive housing

Spurs investors to solve social need
Uses private investment to solve community problem. Managed Care Organizations have an interest in housing their super-utilizers of expensive health care interventions.

Housing programs show a $1.20 return on every $1 spent
Permanent supportive housing is the most effective housing intervention for individuals experiencing homelessness to provide affordable, long-term housing.

Texas lacks deeply affordable housing
Our state needs tax credit projects that support deeply affordable housing for those that are 0-30% of AMIFI. The majority of tax credit projects are for 31-50% of AMFI (very low income) or 51-80% of AMFI.
Expand Housing
Opportunities - SB 1019
The establishment funding source to rehab units for federal housing subsidy use.
Author: Senator Alvarado

Community costs will be reduced
This will save taxpayer money by lowering shelter operation costs, law enforcement intervention, and emergency healthcare costs.

170 more units would be made available over the biennium
Average cost of rehab/repair would be $6,000 or less.

Housing would be made available to over 400 Texans
Healthy Community Collaborative Program (HCCP)

Due to strict matching guidelines, the HCCP funds may go unused. Easing the rules around match would increase the scale and reach of the program improving outcomes for the target populations and communities.

*data from 2014-2016
First Responder training for effective interactions with people experiencing homelessness

HB 2405

If passed, this bill would establish training to enhance the first responder relationship with the homeless crisis response and persons served in it. It would provide instruction on interacting with people experiencing homelessness in a way that is:

- trauma-informed;
- understanding of the various subsets;
- informative of the appropriate local resources available; and,

It would provide an opportunity to:

- better de-escalate potential hostile situations; and,
- reduce the book-in rate for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.