



tcmhcc
Texas Child Mental
Health Care Consortium

Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium

**New and Emerging Children's Mental Health
Researchers Initiative**

Notice of Funding Opportunity – NECMHR01

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Modifications since Original Document

Please note that revisions are a result of questions and comments from candidates to further clarify requirements, identify inconsistencies or modify sections to improve ease of process.

1. A clarification that candidates would not be receiving their scores for their applications. But they will receive reviewer comments – p. 6
2. Provided additional information under the Scoring of Applications about the reviewers. Including the number of reviewers and the alignment with the topic area of the proposals- p.7
3. Review criteria #6 no longer excludes research grants. The review criteria will be for Candidate's Career Development or Readiness as a PI for an R01 Grant – p.7
4. Clarification of the awarded amounts for the three types of grants is inclusive of indirect costs – page 8-9
5. Clarification on training grants that mentors can be affiliated with a different HRI – p.9
6. Clarification under Proposal Budgets and Expenses that subcontractors must adhere to the 15% indirect limit, p. 9
7. Removed the sentence that stated that the link for the grant software is currently inactive and will be active in March. Note that the link is active – p. 10
8. A clarification that mentors for training grants can be affiliated with a different HRI – p. 11
9. A clarification under Research and Related Information that the candidate is not required to have a completed IRB at time of application – p. 11
10. Removed the indication that the Candidate Information and Career Development Goal is only for Training Grants. It is a requirement for Research Grants as well. Research grant candidates should provide details on how their proposal will act as a stepping stone towards future success in being awarded state and federal grants – p.11
11. Removed the requirement that the Project Summary/Abstract has a limit of 30-lines. However, continues to be a limit of 5,000 characters including spaces – p.11
12. Increased the limit for the Public Health Relevance to 3,000 characters including spaces – p. 11
13. Additional space was provided in the grant software to enter any references (not required) that you may have associated with the Candidate Information and Career Development Goal, Project Summary/Abstract and the Public Health Relevance – p. 11
14. Clarification that there is no required format for the content except for the page limit and the document format (i.e. pdf) – p. 11
15. Clarification under the Biographical Sketches to provide bios for key personnel, mentors and co-mentors. Also, clarified that you can use an NIH Bio sketch if you have one – p. 12
16. Clarified that the CITI training modules identified under appendix 2 are part of the Biomedical Research and Key Personnel Course – p. 25

Introduction

The Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) as part of its efforts to enhance mental health research and expertise in Texas will establish the New and Emerging Children's Mental Health Researchers (NECMHR) initiative through funding provided by the 88th Texas Legislature. This document outlines the basic structure and purpose of this initiative.

Background

The TCMHCC, established by the 86th Texas Legislature, combines the expertise of the State's 12 academic health related institutions (HRI) to increase access to children's mental health care and promote evidence-based children and adolescent mental health practices. One means of accomplishing this goal is to build the infrastructure for academic institutions to conduct pediatric mental health research, with an emphasis on coordinated research projects across TCMHCC-involved institutions. Rider 58 from HB1 in the 86th Texas Legislative session, charged the Consortium with promoting and coordinating pediatric mental health research across state university systems in accordance with the statewide behavioral health strategic plan. The Consortium has developed a novel approach that enables the enrollment of children and youth from across the state to participate in coordinated research projects designed to reduce the impact of childhood mental illness on Texas' youngest citizens and their families. The Consortium considers the legislatively funded research projects as a catalyst to:

- further the State's ability to leverage additional future children's mental health research funding from national, state, and local organizations; and
- develop and promote the use of evidence-based practices to prevent and treat childhood mental illness.

Thus far the Consortium has focused on developing two large Consortium-wide research initiatives focused on trauma and depression. As a next step in the development of this research capacity among Consortium institutions, the Consortium proposes to invest primarily in junior faculty and fellows who have not previously been a principal investigator on an individual R01 NIH grant.

This initiative focuses on advancing the knowledge and evidence base in the prevention and treatment of childhood mental illness. Once promising and evidence-informed practices are identified, findings will be disseminated to inform providers, policy makers, advocates, and families about specific types of treatment approaches that can minimize the symptoms of childhood mental illness, promote recovery, and help all Texas children thrive.

Purpose

The New and Emerging Children's Mental Health Research (NECMHR) initiative is designed to foster, encourage, and mentor junior researchers and trainees at TCMHCC institutions so that they can become successful mental health researchers and receive the experience needed to successfully be awarded state and federal grants in the future. Furthermore, the research funded by NECMHR will identify and validate new knowledge, tools, and practices that will improve child and adolescent mental health prevention and treatment services in Texas.

Process

To assure an equitable and fair process and recruit talented and diverse researchers that represent various children, adolescent and perinatal mental health professions from throughout Texas, the determination of the recipients of the grant funding will utilize a two-step process and independent reviewers.

- 1) A summary of the investigators' professional background plus a short 1-page synopsis of the candidates' proposal will be submitted through the candidates' grant software and reviewed by the candidate's affiliated HRI Chair of Psychiatry. **Regardless of the doctoral program or the department that the candidate is participating in, the Chair of Psychiatry at each TCMHCC HRI* will select up to 6 candidates that they will support to apply for the NECMHR grant. All candidates must contact the Chair of Psychiatry at their HRI to discuss their proposal, prior to submitting a pre-application.** Candidates that are not selected by the Chair of Psychiatry at their HRI will not be considered for funding.
- 2) Candidates that meet the requirements of the grant that they are applying for and have the support of their HRI Chair of Psychiatry will be invited by the TCMHCC to submit a full application.

After assuring that the candidates meet the requirements of the grant they are applying for and that they submitted a complete application, TCMHCC staff will initiate the review process. **To assure diverse and fair distribution of funds across Texas HRIs while at the same time ensuring only high-quality applications are funded, no institution may receive more than 20% of the total funds and the combined funds of any University System's institutions may not exceed 70% of the total funds unless there are insufficient quality applications from the other TCMHCC institutions.**

Successful candidates will be contacted with instructions for next steps. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified and will receive comments on their application. Although applications will be scored by reviewers, candidates will not receive application scores. Successful candidates will receive conditional approvals until announcements of successful recipients of the grant are made at the TCMHCC Executive Committee meeting. They will be presented and voted upon as a whole by the TCMHCC Executive Committee.

*There are 12-TCMHCC HRIs. They are:

- The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
- The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth
- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center
- Baylor College of Medicine
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso

Scoring of Applications

Scoring of applications will be done through a standardized process using 10-11 independent reviewers from outside of Texas and 3 reviewers with expertise in Texas state programs and community mental health. Each application will be reviewed by 2-reviewers from outside of Texas whose area of clinical research expertise aligns with the applicant's proposal and 2-reviewers from within Texas who will focus on alignment with Texas priorities. Reviewers will utilize the following criteria:

1. Significance
2. Investigators
3. Innovation
4. Approach
5. Environment
6. Candidate's Career Development or Readiness as a PI for an R01 Grant
7. Overall Impact Score

Instructions to Applicants

Scope of Research

Proposals must align with the work of the TCMHCC (see tcmhcc.utsystem.edu for more information) or with HHSC research priorities defined in Appendix 1.

1. Proposals must focus on improving the children's mental health system and/or children's mental health services in Texas. This may include gaining an understanding of the causes of childhood psychiatric disorders. Proposals can also include perinatal research that clearly indicates and outlines the benefits to newborn and child health and well-being.
2. Basic bench research and pharmaceutical clinical trials are NOT eligible for funding.
3. Proposals must be for one-time funding of initiatives that are completed within two years and that serve as the basis to obtain future extramural funding from other sources.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Only those affiliated with one of TCMHCC's participating health related institutions are eligible to apply.
2. Principal investigators may partner with Texas-based investigators at non-TCMHCC institutions as needed.
3. Prioritization will be given to applicants who have never been an NIH R-01 grant principal investigator and are at the rank of associate professor or below.
4. Trainees including clinical and research fellows, are eligible and encouraged to apply.
5. Principal investigators must dedicate between 25% and 50% of their effort to the grant, if awarded.
6. Investigators on training grants must dedicate between 40% and 50% of their effort to the grant, if awarded.
7. Proposals that include more than one TCMHCC institution are encouraged.

8. No more than 6 investigators from each TCMHCC participating HRI will be eligible to apply. The Chair of Psychiatry at the HRI will be required to provide the names of the up to 6 applicants that they support.

Grant Details

Research sponsored by TCMHCC should address issues to include one or more of the following: organization, delivery, financing, utilization, patient and provider behavior, outcomes, effectiveness and cost, as it relates to child, adolescent, and perinatal behavioral health. Perinatal health research must clearly outline how it would benefit the health and well-being of newborns, children and adolescents. Grants can evaluate both clinical services and the system in which these services are provided. Grants should focus on improving the evidence base to enable better decisions about behavioral health care, including such areas as improving access, diagnosis and treatment in cost-effective ways and reducing disparities based on geography, race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status. TCMHCC welcomes any area of behavioral health services research relevant to TCMHCC's priority areas as well as the HHSC evaluation priorities mentioned in Appendix 1.

Candidates are encouraged to focus on topical areas listed in Appendix 1, demonstrating how expected results can be used or made available to enhance child, adolescent, and/or perinatal behavior healthcare quality. Results should be directly relevant to customers, such as providers and practitioners, administrators, payers, consumers, policymakers, and insurers.

Candidates are encouraged to address health services research issues critical to Texas priority populations, including individuals living in inner city or rural (including frontier) areas; low-income and minority groups; women and children; and individuals with special health care needs, including those with disabilities.

There will be three grant types, including:

1. **NECMHR01-RCD - Research Career Development**
Description: Provides post-doctoral, residency, and fellowship to early career clinicians/researchers with individual and institutional research training opportunities in child, adolescent, or perinatal behavioral health research. The purpose of this grant is to prepare junior clinicians with little to moderate research training for careers that have a significant impact on the health-related research needs of the State and to become an independent clinician-scientist. This program provides support and protected time for an intensive, supervised research career development experience in the field of child, adolescent, and perinatal behavioral health research, including translational research.
Amount: A total of \$150,000 per year for a total of \$300,000 for the biennium per awardee. This maximum amount is inclusive of indirect cost. The annual budget needs to be spent on salary (up to \$100,000) and the project (up to \$50,000)
Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must be affiliated with one of the TCMHCC HRIs and have the support the HRI's Chair of Psychiatry. They must be an assistant or associate professor faculty (early/mid- career) with no prior independent grant federal funding.
Requirements: Applicants will need to identify a research project that can be completed in less than 2 years and identify and demonstrate the support of a supervisor at their institution. Applicants must include a career development plan that includes how they will develop competence in research methodologies and skills. They must commit to a

minimum of 12 months with between 40% and 50% full-time professional effort directly to their research project and career development activities. The remaining effort can be devoted to additional research, teaching, clinical work, or other efforts complementary to career development awardee.

2. **NECMHR01-PDFT - Post-doctoral Fellow and Trainee**

Description: Provides post-doctoral fellowship and fellowship to early career clinicians/researchers with children, adolescent or perinatal mental health research training opportunities. This grant provides support and protected time for an intensive, supervised career development experience in child, adolescent and perinatal behavioral health research leading to research independence. This grant can also be used for individuals who propose to train in a new field or for individuals who have had a hiatus in their research.

Amount: A total of \$75,000 per year for a total of \$150,000 for the biennium per awardee. This maximum amount is inclusive of indirect cost.

Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must have a research or health-related professional doctoral degree, be a current trainee at one of the TCMHCC institutions and have the support the HRI's Chair of Psychiatry.

Requirement: Applicants will need to identify a research project that can be completed in less than 2 years and demonstrate the support of a mentor as well as the Chair of Psychiatry at their institution. Mentors can be affiliated with a different institution from the PI's. Applicants must include a career development plan that includes how they will develop competence in research methodologies and skills. They must commit to a minimum 12 months with between 40% and 50% full-time professional effort, directly to their research project and career development activities. The remaining effort can be devoted to additional research, teaching, clinical work, or other efforts complementary to career development awardee.

3. **NECMHR01-RP - Research Project**

Description: Supports a discrete, specified, circumscribed child, adolescent, or perinatal mental health project to be performed by the investigator(s) in an area representing the investigator(s)'s specific interest and competencies while aligning with TCMHCC's listed and HHSC priorities.

Amount: A total of \$250,000 per year for a total of \$500,000 for the biennium per awardee. This maximum amount is inclusive of indirect cost.

Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must hold a faculty position at one of the TCMHCC institutions.

Requirements: Applicants must demonstrate that the research project proposed is specific to their interest and competencies. Research proposed would have a minimum of 12-months and a maximum of 24-months.

Proposal Budgets and Expenses

- Indirect costs for proposals will be limited to 15%. Subcontract must also adhere to the limited indirect of 15%.
- Mentors can receive up to 5% salary support with salaries capped at \$212,100.
- Budgets cannot exceed the award amounts specified under the Grant Details section.
- Refer to Appendix 4 for allowable costs.

Application Process and Timeline

Key dates include:

- Informational / Q&A Session – Thursday February 22, 2024, 11:30 am -12:30 pm CT
Using the following link, you can register: [Webinar Registration for NECMHR Informational](#)
- RFA Release date – Monday March 4, 2024
- Deadline for pre-application – Thursday March 21, 2024
- Full Application invitations – Tuesday April 2, 2024
- Application deadline – Thursday May 9, 2024
- Notify candidates of conditional award – Friday July 12, 2024



All submissions of pre-applications and applications will be made using the TCMHCC grant submission software link which can be found at tcmhcc-grants.smapply.us. The link is currently inactive but will be available starting Monday March 4, 2024.

Pre-application

All applicants will be required to complete a pre-application which provides a synopsis of the proposed project and the following information.

- Name, address, and telephone number of grant applicant
- Name(s) of the principal investigator(s)
- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Summary of proposed research (maximum 300-words)
- Names of other key personnel, their role and affiliated institutions
- Grant Type applying to
- Resume (attachment)

Before submission of the pre-application, you will need to contact your Chair of Psychiatry

Full Application Components and Documents

Only individuals invited by TCMHCC to submit a full application after the pre-application phase will be granted access to the full application.

1. Contacts and Personnel

- Application Submitter name and contact information
- Principal Investigator or Program Director name and contact information
- Key Personnel and roles (including mentor(s) and/or advisor(s) – if needed for the grant type). Please note that mentors can be affiliated with a different HRI than the PI's.

See NERForm1 in Appendix 2 for more information.

2. Research and Related Information

Human subject and IRB questions. Please note that candidates are not expected to have completed the IRB process at the time of application. See Appendix 2 for additional information.

3. Candidate Information and Career Development Goal

Provide a summary of the candidate background, their career development goals outlining what they expect to gain out of the grant. Training candidates may use a gap-based approach to identify the training and expertise they already have and the expertise and training that they must gain to achieve their research career goals. Research grant candidates should provide details on how their proposal will act as a stepping stone towards future success in being awarded state and federal grants. Limit 5,000 characters including spaces. Also note that an additional space was provided in the grant software to enter any references that you may have associated with the Career Development Goal.

4. Project Summary/Abstract

The project summary or abstract for the overall proposal. Limit 5,000 characters including spaces. No longer than 30-lines of text. Include the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims. Also includes the unique features and innovation of the project, the methodology to be used to achieve the stated objectives, expected results, and description of how your results will affect other research areas. Do not include proprietary or confidential information in the abstract. Write in plain language so that even a non-scientist can understand the importance of the project. Also note that an additional space was provided in the grant software to enter any references that you may have associated with the Project Summary/Abstract.

5. Public Health Relevance

Ensure the description of the project's potential to improve public health is clearly articulated. The public health relevance statement should be written in plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience, as well as your reviewers and colleagues. Limit to 3,000 characters including spaces. Also note that an additional space was provided in the grant software to enter any references that you may have associated with the Public Health Relevance.

6. Project Aims, Goals and Research Strategies

Include the project aims, goals, project design and research strategies for the proposal. There should be a maximum of 3-aims. The research strategy is a description of your proposed project and the rationale for pursuing it. It should be structured to include the significance, innovation, and the approach. The significance, innovation, and approach can be addressed separately for each specific aim or collectively for all aims. You can use the following as a guide for your research strategy and your Specific Aims

- I. Background and Rationale
 - a. Introduce the topic of the proposal. What is the problem being addressed and why is it important?
 - b. Describe the knowledge gap and/or unmet need the proposal will address.
 - c. Introduce the central hypothesis and provide background and preliminary data to support it.
 - d. Summarize the overarching goal of the proposal.
- II. Specific Aims- for each aim:
 - a. Provide a short descriptive title. What will be addressed with this part of the project?
 - b. 2-3 sentences describing activities to be performed, hypothesis and predicted outcomes. (Aims should have clear, measurable outcomes).
 - c. Include sub-aims, if needed.
- III. Significance/Impact
 - a. Describe innovation and the novel features about your proposal.
 - b. Describe the significance of the proposed research, and potential impact on the children and adolescent, perinatal and/or pediatric mental health fields.
- IV. Approach & Impact (for each aim either separately or collectively)
 - a. Describe the approach you would use to address the aim(s) identified.
 - b. Describe the potential impact of your project.

The uploaded document should be no more than 8-pages excluding the references cited. Provide references for your proposal. We do not require a specific citation format but use a standard format that is used by the National Library of Medicine (see [Citing Medicine](#)). Upload as a pdf.

7. Project Timeline

The project timeline as a Gantt chart or a table for the entire period of the project (2-years). Up to 2-pages. Include high-level activities and attach as a pdf. See example timeline in Appendix 2.

8. Facility, Resources and Equipment

Indicate the facility, resources and equipment that you will have access to during this grant. Include personal computer, software, etc.

9. Mentoring and Commitment to Training

Letters of institutional (Department heads, etc.) and mentor commitments to providing the training and oversight needed for the Research Career Development or the Post-doctoral Fellow and Trainee grant. Upload up to 5-letters as pdfs.

10. Biographical Sketches

See Appendix 2 for the formatting. Provide bios for key personnel, mentors and co-mentors.

11. Budget Detail and Justification

Provide the budget and budget justification using the template in Appendix 2. There is also an excel format for the budget that you can download that is prepopulated with the calculations under the list of documents on the grant webpage. Provide a brief and concise justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including specific descriptions of charges for personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual services, and other expenses. For any subcontracts, itemize and provide a brief description of each item to be paid through the contract (e.g., personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, services, or other expenses). Budget justification should not exceed 6-pages. See Appendix 2 for templates and additional information.

Format for Attachments

For all attachments, you will need to follow the following font and margin specifications. All submissions should be in pdf format.

Font

Font size must be 11 points or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable, if it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Some pdf conversion software reduces font size. It is important to confirm that the final pdf document complies with the font requirements.

Type density: Must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch (including characters and spaces).

Line spacing: Must be no more than six lines per vertical inch.

Text color: No restriction. Though not required, black or other high-contrast text colors are recommended since they print well and are legible to the largest audience.

We recommended the following fonts, although other fonts (both serif and non-serif) are acceptable if they meet the above requirements.

- Arial
- Georgia
- Helvetica
- Palatino Linotype

Legibility is of paramount importance. Applications that include pdf attachments that do not conform to the minimum requirements listed above may be withdrawn from consideration.

Paper Size and Margins:

Use paper (page) size no larger than standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11").

Provide at least one-half inch margins (½") - top, bottom, left, and right - for all pages. No applicant-supplied information can appear in the margins.

Oversight and Tracking

Once a candidate receives conditional approval for their grant application, they will have 1-week to confirm that they wish to proceed with the awarded grant. Agreements for the awards will be set up, executed and started by 9/1/2024. All awardees will be required to abide by the following:

1. On a quarterly basis, the grantee is required to provide a 2-3-page progress report (see template in Appendix 3) that includes a summary of expenditures to date, status of the project, activities from the previous quarter, activities for the upcoming quarter, and any barriers encountered.
2. Failure to provide timely reports, achieve research/training progress without reason or a corrective plan, or expend the budget as planned, may result in withholding of funds.
3. Grantees unable to complete their research or are no longer affiliated with one of the 12-TCMHCC institutions or leave the state of Texas during the terms of the grant should notify the TCMHCC immediately. If another member of the research team affiliated with one of the 12-institutions can take the lead on the project, then a change of PI/Project Director will be made, otherwise the funding for the project will cease.
4. Funds will be allocated during FY2024/2025 using a combination of a fee-for-service and deliverable agreement.

Please address any questions or inquiries to tcmhcc@utsystem.edu. Place NECMHR in subject line for prompt response.

Appendix 1 – HHSC Research Priority Areas



Evidence-based Practice Research Proposal Topics

Theme

Assessing the clinical effectiveness and return on investment associated with evidence-based practices such as Coordinated Specialty Care, Multisystemic Therapy, Wraparound Services, and Youth Empowerment Services for children and adolescents with complex needs and multi-system involvement.

Description

This research aims to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and return on investment associated with multiple mental health programs for children and adolescents with complex needs and multi-system involvement. The focus will encompass the following programs: Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Wraparound Planning,¹ and Youth Empowerment Services (YES). This research will investigate program impacts, challenges, and opportunities for improvement, contributing to enhanced mental health services for children and adolescents.

Below are the program summaries associated with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)-funded programs and required evidence-based practices.

Program Summaries

Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC)

- **Description:** CSC provides outpatient behavioral health services for individuals aged 15 to 30 with psychosis components, emphasizing team-based approaches.
- **Fidelity Monitoring:** CSC contractors are required annually to complete a fidelity assessment through the OnTrackNY Fidelity Protocol. HHSC contracts with the University of Texas to provide a fidelity report on peer specialist run recovery programs and CSC is a part of this fidelity report.
- **Program Outcomes:** CSC has demonstrated reductions in crisis service utilization and HHSC-funded inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations, resulting in cost savings.

^{1 1} Wraparound Services are provided in Level of Care 4, Level of Care YES, and Level of Care Transition Age Youth for children and adolescents. This is further outlined in Utilization Management Guidelines.

Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

- **Description:** MST targets children and adolescents with serious antisocial behavior and justice involvement. MST Services is the training entity for LMHAs and LBHAs.
- **Fidelity Monitoring:** MST Services, the training and technical assistance center contracted with the LMHAs and LBHAs, utilizes and operates its own Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement program to measure implementation.
- **Program Outcomes:** MST addresses the core causes of delinquent and antisocial conduct by identifying key behavior drivers through an ecological assessment. The clinician then tailors the treatment to target that child's specific drivers.

Wraparound Planning

- **Description:** Children and adolescents who receive intensive services with community providers utilize the Wraparound planning process to address unmet needs. Wraparound is a collaborative planning approach that brings together formal and natural supports to create an individualized plan that aligns with the family's vision, builds upon family strengths and addresses unmet needs.
- **Fidelity Monitoring:** Wraparound care planning process is required for Level of Care (LOC) 4 and LOC Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver, and the provision of Intensive Case Management (ICM).
- **Program Outcomes:** As outlined in the [Utilization Management Guidelines](#), children and adolescents with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) or a mental health diagnosis are at increased risk for school dropout, arrest, unemployment, and challenges associated with independent living.

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) including Wraparound Planning

- **Description:** YES Waiver offers Intensive Case Management and a specialized service array for children and adolescents with serious mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.
- **Fidelity Monitoring:** To ensure program fidelity, the YES Waiver program has partnered with the National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC) to ensure the family-centered wraparound model is delivered in an effective and individualistic manner. Texas Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (T-CCBHCs) must provide the Wraparound model.
- **Program Outcomes:** YES Waiver demonstrated a decrease in crisis service utilization and is shown to be effective at preventing out-of-home placement and promoting life-long success.

Research Objectives

1. Evaluate the clinical effectiveness of these mental health programs, including their impact on crisis service utilization, hospitalizations, and outcomes for children and adolescents.
2. Investigate common challenges and barriers faced by these programs, such as licensing requirements, workforce shortages, and training needs.
3. Assess the potential Return on Investment (ROI) associated with these programs, considering cost savings in reduced hospitalizations and crisis services.
4. Provide recommendations for program improvements, including strategies for smoother transitions between children and adolescent's services and adult services and opportunities for expanding access to these programs.
5. Identify evidence-based practices and best practices for delivering family-centered care within these programs.

Relevant Links:

[Children's Mental Health HHSC Webpage](#)

[MentalHealthTX.org](#)

[The Wraparound Process User's Guide: A Handbook for Families \(pdx.edu\)](#)

[Family Guide: Children's Mental Health Services \(texas.gov\)](#)

[YES Waiver | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Home – Texas System of Care \(txsystemofcare.org\)](#)

[MST Services | Multisystemic Therapy for Juveniles](#)

[Texas Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode of Psychosis | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Utilization Management Guidelines](#)

Contacts

Liz Pearson, Adult and Children's Mental Health Director, Elizabeth.Pearson01@hhs.texas.gov

Sarah Melecki, Integrated Care Strategy Director, Sarah.Melecki@hhs.texas.gov

Libby Burleson-Porras, Adult Mental Health Manager, Libby.Burleson-Porras@hhs.texas.gov

Nicole Weaver, YES Waiver Manager, Nicole.Weaver@hhs.texas.gov

Julie Abreu, Community Resource Coordination Groups State Coordinator,
Julie.Abreu@hhs.texas.gov

Shruti Mehta, Coordinated Specialty Care Program Specialist, Shruti.Mehta@hhs.texas.gov

Angela Cassidy, Adult Mental Health Evidence Based Program Specialist,
angela.cassidy@hhs.texas.gov

Gabrielle Rogers, Crisis Services Program Specialist for Children's Mental Health,
gabrielle.rogers@hhs.texas.gov

Kimberly Wied, Multisystemic Therapy Program Project Lead, Kimberly.Wied@hhs.texas.gov



Prevention and Early Intervention Research Proposal Topics

Theme

Reviewing early predictors of mental health in children and strategies for prevention and early intervention that yield the best return on investment and clinical and non-clinical (e.g., family partner and peer services) outcomes of the children and families served.

Description

Ideally, a system of care (SOC)² for children includes effective prevention and early intervention programs that decrease the number of children affected by mental health challenges and lessen the severity of symptoms and livelihood of those who experience a mental health disorder. Prevention and early intervention programs for children may be implemented at any time from birth through age 17 years, before the child has experienced any risk factors for developing a mental health disorder or after the youth has begun displaying symptoms. As the negative effects of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) become more widely recognized and research on positive childhood experiences grows, increasing access to prevention and early intervention programs that may mitigate the impact of trauma and ACEs on children is of particular interest. Ameliorating early symptoms of a mental health disorder, therapeutically addressing trauma and risk factors, and building resilience improve the quality of life of children and families and prevents the need for higher intensity mental health services, interaction with the juvenile justice system, and improves school performance. In this way, upstream interventions can target and impact an array of life circumstances and mental health conditions and may not always be categorized as mental health services. For instance, the Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention division's goal is to prevent child abuse; however, the interventions have similar benefits to those listed above, such as reduced juvenile justice involvement, improved school performance, and improved mental health. What are the components of an ideal children's mental health system?

Significant research demonstrates the impact of ACEs and trauma on children's long-term mental and physical health; however, additional research is needed to understand how Texas is therapeutically addressing trauma in children who, for example, may be witnessing or experiencing violence in the home. Using violence in the home as an example of a trauma and ACE, Health and Human Services Commission-funded family partner services can provide support to the parents or caregivers as they navigate treatment for their child as part of the SOC that includes access to mental health services, educational supports, assistance navigating juvenile justice and child welfare systems, faith-based support, and linkage to other community resources as applicable for the family. Children who receive services through the Local Mental

² [The Evolution of the System of Care Approach.](#)

Health Authorities and Local Behavioral Health Authorities are provided the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment to determine the child and family's needs and strengths and services required to meet their needs. The CANS assessment is completed every 90 days during treatment to assess the child's functioning and response to treatment. How does an upstream intervention such as family partner services affect a child's CANS scores throughout treatment?

Similarly, what impact does addressing non-medical drivers of health (NMDOH) in families have on preventing or mitigating early symptoms of mental health disorders in children? Addressing NMDOH may require interventions implemented with, or by parents, schools, and communities, as opposed to children specifically, and may not be categorized as a mental health intervention. The stress of parenting can take its toll on parents' emotional well-being. How can interventions with parents interrupt generational patterns for ACEs, trauma, and unhelpful coping strategies to improve children and family resilience and adaptability to life's circumstances? There are interventions that can be provided to parents as early as pregnancy. These interventions mitigate the impact of prenatal biopsychosocial risk factors on fetal development and extend into the postpartum period when a parent's risk for perinatal mood or anxiety disorders increases and can significantly impact the child's social development and likelihood of developing a mental health disorder later in life. The CANS assessment includes questions about NMDOH. Does addressing NMDOH impact engagement with mental health services and clinical outcomes?

The impact of youth peer support on the trajectory of recovery from mental health disorders for older youth is a topic gaining more attention across Texas and the country. When youth participate in youth peer support activities, what impact, if any, is reflected in their CANS scores? What type of funding is most effective for establishing and maintaining a strong youth peer support program? What qualities do effective youth peer support programs share?

Looking at the SOC and array of children's mental health services, identifying prevention and early intervention services that should be added to the array, outcomes associated with these interventions, and return on investment will be informative to HHSC's partnerships and planning with other organizations to improve the mental health of children. HHSC wants to better understand the current barriers and challenges to reaching children early, in addition to, recommended interventions that may be implemented across child and family-serving providers and systems such as education (including childcare and early learning), juvenile justice, child welfare and social services, and primary care.

Additional information on the prevention and early intervention topics presented here is available by clicking the links below, as well as in the library of briefing documents, journal articles, and reports compiled on this topic.

[Prevention and Early Intervention in Mental Health | Mental Health America \(mhanational.org\)](https://mhanational.org/prevention-and-early-intervention-in-mental-health)

[Prevention and Early Intervention in Mental Health- Early Childhood to Puberty | Mental Health America \(mhanational.org\)](https://mhanational.org/prevention-and-early-intervention-in-mental-health-early-childhood-to-puberty)

[Trajectories and predictors of risk for mental health problems throughout childhood - Vella - 2019 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Wiley Online Library](#)

[What Works? A Study of Effective Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Programs](#)

https://gucchd.georgetown.edu/products/ECMHCStudy_Report.pdf Parent partner program – Casey Family Programs

[Substance Use: Family-based Interventions to Prevent Substance Use Among Youth \(thecommunityguide.org\)](#)

[What ACEs and PCEs do you have? | PACEsConnection](#)

[PACEs Science 101 \(FAQs\) — Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences | PACEsConnection](#)

[DFPS - Prevention and Early Intervention \(PEI\) \(texas.gov\)](#)

Contacts

Noah Abdenour, Certified Peer Specialist
Director of Peer Support and Recovery
Behavioral Health Services
Noah.Abdenour@hhs.texas.gov

Joy Borges, MSW
Associate Commissioner for Family Health Strategy
Family Health Services
Joy.Borges@hhs.texas.gov

Holly Fullmer, MS, CDCORP, CTCM
Trauma-informed Policy and Training Specialist
Office of Mental Health Coordination
Holly.Fullmer@hhs.texas.gov

Adam Kindred, MPH – CBHP
Strategic Growth Specialist
Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion
Substance Use Program Planning and Policy
Adam.Kindred@hhs.texas.gov

Felicia Mason-Edwards MA, CFP
Peer Support and Recovery
Behavioral Health Services



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Felicia.Mason-Edwards@hhs.texas.gov

Lillian Nguyen, MA
Director of Policy, Systems Coordination, and Programming
Office of Mental Health Coordination

Lillian.Nguyen@hhs.texas.gov

Liz Pearson, MSW
Adult and Children's Mental Health Director
Mental Health and Substance Use Programs

Elizabeth.Pearson01@hhs.texas.gov

Yvonne Rivas, Trauma-Informed Generalist
Children's Mental Health
Mental Health and Substance Use Programs

Yvonne.Rivas@hhs.texas.gov

Appendix 2 – Grant Application Templates & Examples

Main Application

1. Type of Submission			
<input type="checkbox"/> Research Career Development <input type="checkbox"/> Research Project <input type="checkbox"/> Post-doctoral Fellow and Trainee			
2. Date of Submission <small>Click or tap to enter a date.</small>		Applicant Identifier	
3. Applicant Information			
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Role on Grant
Job Title			
Department		Institution	
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone Number		Email	
4. Project Director / Principal Investigator Contact Information (if different than applicant)			
First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Role on Grant
Job Title			
Department		Institution	
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone Number		Email	
5. Senior / Key Personnel			
Name	Organization	Role Category	Specify for Other Role
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	

6. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances * and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)

I agree*

Signature

Date Click or tap to enter a date.

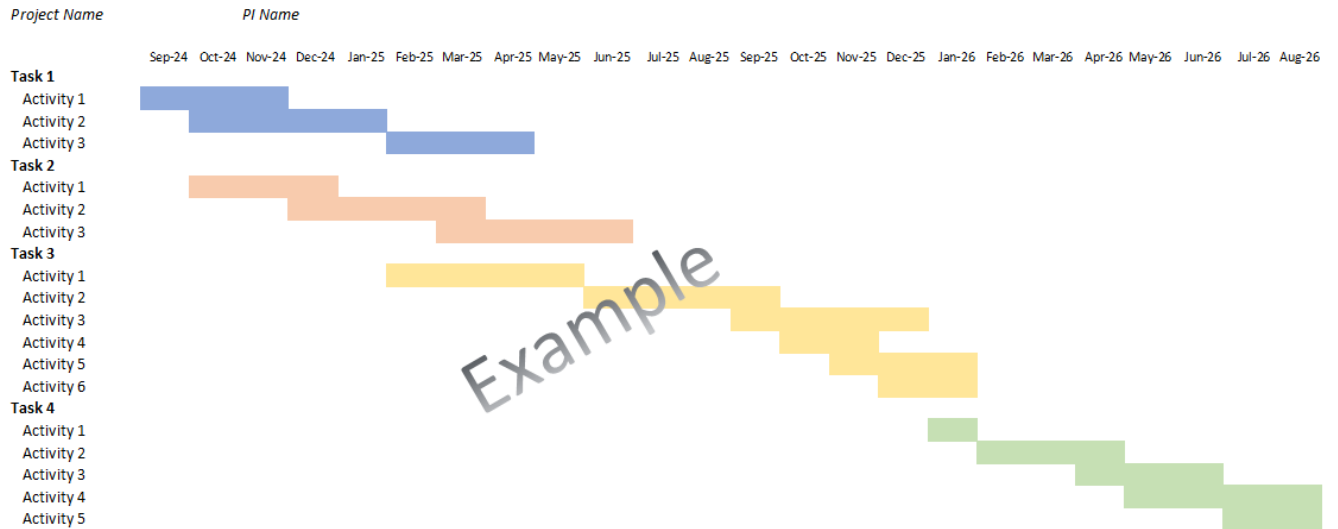
*A non-expired CITI certification is required and should include at a minimum: 1. Research involving Human Subjects, 2. HIPAA and Human Subject Research, 3. Informed Consent, 4. Conflicts of Interest in Research Involving Human Subjects, 5. Populations in Research Requiring Additional Considerations, 6. Research Involving Children, 7. Plagiarism, 8. Research Misconduct, 9. Authorship, 10. Collaborative Research, 11. Mentoring, and 12. Peer Review. Additional requirements maybe requested depending on proposed research. The above items are modules under the CITI Biomedical Research and Key Personnel Course.

Research & Related Information

<p>1. Are Human Subjects* Involved in your research? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If Yes to Human Subjects:</p> <p>IRB Status? <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet Initiated</p> <p>If approved or exempt, attach the IRB letter to the application</p> <p>IRB Approval Date Click or tap to enter a date.</p> <p>Human Subject Assurance Number</p>
<p>2. Is proprietary/privileged information included in the application? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>3. Does this project involve activities outside the United States or partnerships with international collaborators?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, identify the countries:</p> <p>Explain expected involvement in project:</p>

Project Timeline Example

Project timeline needs to be submitted using a Gantt chart or table and should identify project major tasks and activities providing approximate dates/timelines over the span of the project. Once created, convert to a pdf and upload onto the application.



Biographical Sketch

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH			
Provide the following information for collaborators listed on this application. Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES			
NAME		POSITION TITLE	
EDUCATION/TRAINING (<i>Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education and include postdoctoral training.</i>)			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Positions and Honors. List, in chronological order, previous positions, concluding with your present position. List any honors. Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committees.

B. Selected peer-reviewed publications, in chronological order (earliest to recent). Do not include publications submitted or in preparation. For publicly available citations, URLs or PMC submission identification numbers may accompany the full reference.

C. Other information considered essential for evaluation of your qualifications.

Detailed Budget

Budget Period _____	Start Date Click or tap to enter a date.	End Date Click or tap to enter a date.
---------------------	--	--

Faculty and Staff

Role	Name	Year 1 Base Salary	Fringe Benefit Rate	Number of Months	FTE	Salary Amount	Benefit Amount	Total Amount
Total Faculty and Staff								

Overall Expenses

Category	Unit Cost	Units	Total Amount
Faculty and Staff			
Travel			
Publishing Costs			
Materials and Supplies			
Consultant Services			
Subawards			
Other			
Subtotal			

Subtotal for Budget Year #1	
Indirect Rate	
Indirect	
Total	

Budget-Justification

The project covers a 24-month time-period from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026 with two budget periods:

Budget Year 1 (12 months): 09/01/2024-08/31/2025

Budget Year 2 (12 months): 09/01/2025-08/31/2026

Salaries and Fringe Rates

Senior/Key Personnel

List each senior and key personnel, their job title, and their role on the grant. Include their FTE and number of months for year 1 and year 2, along with the justification of their efforts on the grant.

Other Personnel

List each other staff that will be working on the grant, their job title, and their role on the grant. Include their FTE and number of months for year 1 and year 2, along with the justification of their efforts on the grant.

Materials and Supplies

List any materials or supplies that will be purchased or paid for by the project. Include amount for each year and purpose of use on the grant.

Office Supplies Solely Allocated to Project

Software

Other Materials/Supplies

Travel

List all identified travel using template below for each trip:

Destination	Purpose	Number of Travelers	Number of Days	Estimated Amount per Traveler*	Estimated Amount per Trip	Total Amount

*Airfare, Lodging, Meals, Incidentals, Ground transportation)

Travel must adhere to state rules and exclude any taxes for in-state travel. See links for current rules: [Texttravel - Current Rates \(texas.gov\)](#) and [Texttravel \(texas.gov\)](#)

Other Expenses

Subrecipients Contracts / Vendors / Consultants:

List all contracts, vendors and consultants and indicate for each cost per year and role on grant.

Appendix 3 – Post Award Quarterly Report

Project Name:

Contact PI:

Organization:

Quarter Covered in Report:

Summary of Project Activities in the Past Quarter

List of Upcoming Activities for the Next Quarter (include planned publications)

Changes to Project Plan or Budget

Barriers or Issues Encountered (include plan to address issues)

Expenses for Past Quarter (use the NERForm12_Budget template)

Appendix 4 - Allowable Costs

- (A) A cost is an Allowable Cost and may be charged to the Grant Award if it is reasonable, allocable, and adequately documented.
- 1) A cost is reasonable if the cost does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent individual or organization under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost; and is necessary for the performance of the Grant Award defined in the Scope of Work and the Budget in the Grant Contract.
 - 2) A cost is allowable if the cost:
 - i. Benefits the Grant Award either directly or indirectly, subject to Indirect Cost limits stated in the Grant Contract;
 - ii. Is assigned the Grant Award in accordance with the relative benefit received;
 - iii. Is allowed or not prohibited by state laws, administrative rules, contractual terms, or applicable regulations;
 - iv. Is not included as a cost or used to meet Matching Fund requirements for any other Grant Award in either the current or a prior period; and
 - v. Conforms to any limitations or exclusions set forth in the applicable cost principles, administrative rules, state laws, and terms of the Grant Contract.
 - 3) A cost is adequately documented if the cost is supported by the organization's accounting records and documented consistent with Expense Report.
- (B) Grant Award funds must be used for Allowable Costs as provided by the Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) located at the following link:
<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/grant-management/>.
- (C) An otherwise Allowable Cost will not be eligible for reimbursement if the Grant Recipient incurred the expense outside of the Grant Contract term, unless the Grant Recipient has received TCMHCC written or email approval to receive reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the Grant Contract.
- (D) An otherwise Allowable Cost will not be eligible for reimbursement if the benefit from the cost of goods or services charged to the Grant Award is not realized within the applicable term of the Grant Award. The Grant Award should not be charged for the cost of goods or services that benefit another Grant Award or benefit a period prior to the Grant Contract effective date or after the termination of the Grant Contract.
- (E) Grant Award funds shall **not** be used to reimburse unallowable expenses, including, but not limited to:
- 1) Bad debt, such as losses arising from uncollectible accounts and other claims and related costs.
 - 2) Contributions to a contingency reserve or any similar provision for unforeseen events.
 - 3) Contributions and donations made to any individual or organization.
 - 4) Costs of entertainment, amusements, social activities, and incidental costs relating thereto, including tickets to shows or sports events, meals, alcoholic beverages, lodging, rentals, transportation and gratuities.

- 5) Costs relating to food and beverage items, unless the food item is related to the issue studied by the project that is the subject of the Grant Award and excludes alcoholic beverages.
 - 6) Fines, penalties, or other costs resulting from violations of or failure to comply with federal, state, local or Indian tribal laws and regulations.
 - 7) An honorary gift or a gratuitous payment.
 - 8) Interest and other financial costs related to borrowing and the cost of financing.
 - 9) Legislative expenses such as salaries and other expenses associated with lobbying the state or federal legislature or similar local governmental bodies, whether incurred for purposes of legislation or executive direction.
 - 10) Liability insurance coverage.
 - 11) Benefit replacement pay or legislatively-mandated pay increases for eligible general revenue-funded state employees at Grant Recipient state agencies or universities.
 - 12) Professional association fees or dues for an individual employed by the Grant Recipient. Professional association fees or dues for the Grant Recipient's membership in business, technical, and professional organizations may be allowed, with prior approval from the HRI, if:
 - i. the professional association is not involved in lobbying efforts; and
 - ii. the Grant Recipient demonstrates how membership in the professional association benefits the Grant Award project(s).
 - 13) Promotional items and costs relating to items such as T-shirts, coffee mugs, buttons, pencils, and candy that advertise or promote the project or Grant Recipient.
 - 14) Fees for visa services.
 - 15) Payments to a subcontractor if the subcontractor working on a Grant Award project employs an individual who is a Relative of the Principal Investigator, Program Director, Company Representative, Authorized Signing Official, or any person designated as Key Personnel for the same Grant Award project (collectively referred to as "affected Relative"), and:
 - i. the Grant Recipient will be paying the subcontractor with Grant Award funds for any portion of the affected Relative's salary; or
 - ii. the Relative submits payment requests on behalf of the subcontractor to the Grant Recipient for payment with Grant Award funds.
 - iii. For exceptional circumstances, the Institute's Chief Executive Office may grant an exception to allow payment of Grant Award funds if the Grant Recipient notifies the Institute prior to finalizing the subcontract. The Chief Executive Officer must notify the Oversight Committee in writing of the decision to allow reimbursement for the otherwise unallowable expense.
 - iv. Nothing herein is intended to supersede a Grant Recipient's internal policies, to the extent that such policies are stricter.
 - 16) Fundraising.
 - 17) Tips or gratuities.
- (F) TCMHCC may authorize reimbursement for one or more of the following expenses incurred by a research participant that are associated with participating in the approved grant and included in the Grant Recipient's Approved Budget:

- 1) Transportation, including car mileage, bus fare, taxi or ride hailing fare exclusive of tips, and commercial economy class airfare within the borders of the State of Texas.
 - 2) Lodging.
 - 3) Reasonable and IRB approved compensation of research participants' time and inconvenience for participating in research.
- (G) Travel costs and reimbursement must follow state rules as outlined in chapter 660A of title 6B of the Texas Government Code:
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.660.htm>
- (H) The TCMHCC is responsible for making the final determination regarding whether an expense shall be considered an Allowable Cost.