



tcmhcc
Texas Child Mental
Health Care Consortium

New and Emerging Child Mental Health Researchers (NECMHR) Grant

July 31, 2025

Process for Review

All applications received the following reviews:

1. Full reviews by 2 external reviewers (out of state) with areas of expertise aligned with the application as much as possible.
2. State reviews by 3 leaders representing HHSC and the Texas Council of Community Centers to identify whether proposals align with Texas priorities
3. High-level reviews by 3 external reviewers (out of state) who participated in the group review to assure that they can participate in group discussions
4. Group reviews by 6-8 reviewers who discussed applications and came to a consensus for one of the following:
 - a) excellent and should be included as a finalist,
 - b) good proposal and could be a backup (with some identified as a high-level or low-level backups)
 - c) non-competitive, should not be included



Process for Selection

1. Include all applications receiving excellent ratings by group review
2. Any institution without an excellent rating had their backups move forward
3. If an institution did not have any excellent or backups, a consideration was made to the strongest proposal identified as non-competitive. For that selected proposal, a requirement to make modifications based on group and reviewer feedback prior to proceeding
4. If we did not reach maximum dollars, looked-for higher-level backups or high scores for institutions that had backups
5. Also applied criteria from NOFO to assure diverse and fair distribution of funds across Texas HRIs while at the same time ensuring only high-quality applications are funded. Those include:
 - a) no institution may receive more than 20% of the total funds
 - b) the combined funds of any University System's institutions may not exceed 70% of the total funds



Suggestions for Future NECMHR Grants

- Require additional mentorship
- More lead time for applicants
- Potential for in-person summit to showcase posters of past grant awards and allow future applicants to make connections with potential partners, mentors, and state agencies
- Provide strategies for successful grant applicants and projects
- More specifics/instructions on application sections, e.g. abstract format



Proposed Vote Language

Executive Committee will approve that Dr. Lakey makes the decision on the awarded NECMHR grants based on the criteria presented after the LBB Budget is approved. The awarded NECMHR proposals will be placed on the TCMHCC website by the end of next week (8/8/2025).

