



NEWS

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State, non-profit agencies partner to transition 1,321 Texans out of poverty

(AUSTIN) — The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has recognized six non-profit organizations and one city for transitioning 1,321 low income residents out of poverty under TDHCA's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. The organizations have received a share of \$125,000 in performance awards from TDHCA for their efforts to help low income Texans achieve self-sufficiency.

The seven state CSBG contract partners were acknowledged for superior performance, with each exceeding 100 percent of its performance target. The seven included:

CSBG Partner	Headquarter City	Persons Assisted	% of Target	Award
Cameron-Willacy Counties Community Projects	Brownsville	521	526%	\$25,000
Caprock Community Action	Crosbyton	42	215%	\$15,000
Central Texas Opportunities	Coleman	30	125%	\$10,000
City of Lubbock Community Development Department	Lubbock	84	210%	\$15,000
Community Action Committee of Victoria	Victoria	36	109%	\$10,000
Panhandle Community Services	Amarillo	519	798%	\$30,000
South Plains Community Action Assoc.	Levelland	89	405%	\$20,000

“Helping Texans achieve self-sufficiency is the top priority for CSBG funds and a critical component of the Department’s mission. We value our partnership with successful community action agencies in this worthwhile endeavor,” said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. “Some may measure the success of a poverty initiative by the number of people it helps. We are measuring success by the number of people who no longer need that help.”

Gerber noted that in 2006 the Department challenged Texas’ 47 CSBG partners to transition a total of 3,000 Texans out of poverty, essentially asking each organization to double its average annual performance.

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“Considering that it often takes as many as three years for an individual to make the transition, I applaud how many of our CSBG partners stepped up and became more efficient than ever,” he said. “Our CSBG network reports that about 11,000 individuals are currently working to move out of poverty. I am hopeful that within the next few years, Texans will be moving out of poverty in numbers well beyond our original goal.”

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the funding source for the CSBG Program. Federal law requires states to assign the highest priority for the use of CSBG funds to moving individuals to self-sufficiency and a point where they no longer require other forms of public assistance.

TDHCA funds CSBG eligible entities for the delivery of services to low income residents in all 254 Texas counties. These funds support a variety of direct services in addition to helping maintain the core administrative elements of these local organizations.

About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas’ lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community and energy assistance programs, and colonia activities. The Department annually administers funds in excess of \$400 million, the majority of which is derived from mortgage revenue bond financing and refinancing, federal grants, and federal tax credits.