



NEWS

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State housing agency announces major funding commitment to disability community

TDHCA awards \$3.7 million to 14 non-profit organizations helping house persons with disabilities

(AUSTIN) — The quality of life for nearly 300 Texas households that have at least one member with a disability should soon dramatically improve as the result of a \$3.7 million grant announced today by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The funds, awarded to 14 non-profit organizations through TDHCA's HOME Program, will help persons with disabilities purchase a home or make monthly rent payments.

"Persons with disabilities face enormous challenges in finding safe, decent housing, and the awards the Department made today will help some of the state's most vulnerable citizens achieve this most basic goal," said Michael Gerber, TDHCA Executive Director. "We worked very closely with our partners in the advocacy community to structure these programs, and I think this process has been a great example how creative partnerships can achieve great things. Together, we are making a dramatic and positive impact on the lives of hundreds of our neighbors."

Five organizations submitting 12 applications received \$1.6 million in federal HOME funds to be used for down payment assistance for persons with disabilities purchasing a home of their own. Funds may also be used to make certain alterations to the home to remove any barriers to accessibility.

The remaining \$2.1 million was awarded to nine non-profit organizations through 15 applications which will help persons with disabilities make their monthly rent payments. Altogether, the Department estimates that 299 Texas households will receive funding through this series of awards.

The following Texas organizations received an award through TDHCA's Single Family HOME Program:

Organization	City	Assistance	Award	Households
Community Council of S.W. Texas	Uvalde	Homebuyer	\$190,000	10
Ft. Worth Area Habitat for Humanity	Fort Worth	Homebuyer	\$15,000	1
El Paso Rehabilitation Center	El Paso	Homebuyer	\$175,000	5
Life Rebuilders	Ennis	Homebuyer	\$275,000	15
United Cerebral Palsy of Texas	Various	Homebuyer	\$1,010,000	29
ARCIL, Inc.	Austin/Waco	Rental	\$331,200	23

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Organization	City	Assistance	Award	Households
Burke Center	Lufkin	Rental	\$275,000	32
Central Texas Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR)	Brownwood/ Coleman	Rental	\$275,000	30
Coalition for Barrier Free Living	Houston	Rental	\$56,956	7
Coastal Bend Center For Independent Living	Corpus Christi	Rental	\$250,000	55
Lifetime Independence for Everyone	Lubbock	Rental	\$157,322	16
Tri-County MHMR	Conroe	Rental	\$410,000	28
Spindletop MHMR	Beaumont/ Port Arthur	Rental	\$163,700	25
Valley Association for Independent Living	McAllen/ Harlingen	Rental	\$184,000	23

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the funding source for the HOME Program. Under HUD guidelines, HOME funds are reserved for households at or below 80 percent of the area median family income.

HUD rules allow for a variety of housing activities, all aimed at providing safe, decent affordable housing to low income families. The HOME Program’s primary eligible activities include homebuyer assistance, rent payment assistance, and help in repairing or replacing deteriorating homes owned and lived in by low income households.

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 services, energy assistance, and colonia housing programs. The Department annually administers more than \$400 million through for-profit, non-profit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.