



NEWS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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State housing agency, local nonprofit helping area low income tenants secure decent housing

(AUSTIN) — Realizing that helping low income tenants secure decent affordable rental housing is the first step to setting them on the path toward self-sufficiency, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has announced a major funding award to a Rosenberg-based nonprofit organization to help eligible individuals obtain housing while working toward financial and personal independence.

TDHCA awarded \$300,000 in rental assistance funds to Fort Bend County Women's Center to help an estimated 19 households in the county with their monthly rent payments.

"Finding a decent, affordable place to call home can be an enormous challenge for many families, particularly those in smaller communities," said TDHCA Executive Director Michael Gerber. "Incomes tend to be lower, and residents typically have fewer rental housing choices. These funds will not only make an immediate impact on the lives of these tenants, they have the potential to create the long-term benefits of self-reliance."

Fort Bend Women's Center will use the award to help subsidize rents and make security and utility deposits for eligible low income individuals, ensuring they find decent, affordable rental housing. The assistance is portable, meaning the tenant is not restricted to living in a particular apartment complex, and is available for up to 24 months.

In return, tenants must participate in a self-sufficiency program with the goal of achieving eventual financial independence. Self-sufficiency programs vary, depending on the population served. Programs may include drug dependency classes, job training, college degree programs, and parenting training and GED classes

This award was made through TDHCA's HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Eligible applicants include qualifying units of local government, public housing authorities, Community Housing Development Organizations and other nonprofit groups, and qualifying for-profit organizations.

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HOME funds are designed to assist households at or below 80 percent of the area median family income, which for Fort Bend County equals an annual income of \$48,900 for a family of four.

About The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is the state agency responsible for affordable housing, community services, energy assistance, and colonia housing programs. The Department annually administers more than \$400 million through for-profit, nonprofit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.