CITY OF SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FY 2026-2027 PUBLIC SERVICES APPLICATION

I. SUMMARY INFORMATION

Please spell out organization name and program name completely, without acronyms.

Applicant Organization: Hays County

Contact Name, Title: Genevieve Kitts, Grants Coordinator

Telephone: (512)393-2209

Contact E-Mail Address: Genevieve.kitts@hayscountytx.gov Website: https://www.hayscountytx.gov/

Mailing Address: 111 E. San Antonio St. Suite 200, San Marcos, TX 78666

Do you have a location in San Marcos where people can walk in and ask questions about the program? If so, what is the address? Yes, 712 S. Stagecoach Trail, San Marcos, Texas 78666

Who is authorized to execute program documents? (Name, Title) Ruben Becerra, Hays County Judge

Program Name: Transitional Housing for Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Participants

Amount of CDBG Funds Requested: $18,000.00

What percentage of the cost of this program is requested as funding through this application?

This request accounts for less than 1% of the total budget of Hays County as an organization.

II. SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

All questions must be answered. Please type your answers. Application evaluations will be based on, but not necessarily limited to the criteria stated in each section.

OVERVIEW

1. Summarize the program for which funding is being requested, the services it provides, and the clients it serves.

In 2021 Hays County designated County Court at Law #3 as the Mental Health Court and the court began seeing cases in 2022. At its inception, the mental health court saw only misdemeanor cases and had a cap of 15 participants. Participants commonly experience serious mental illness and often co-occurring substance use disorder. The court has grown to have a maximum case load of 30 individuals and now sees felony cases as well as misdemeanors. In 2025 the Mental Health Court has also added a civil docket in order to establish an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program. With this growth, program staff have identified a significant need to provide transitional housing to program participants to promote successful adherence to the programs. Both the Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs currently provide case management, counseling, psychiatry, and transportation services. With CDBG funds, Hays County will tackle the two-fold need to provide mental health services and provide access to affordable housing.

COMMUNITY NEED AND JUSTIFICATION –20 POINTS

Evaluation: documentation and justification of the need for the program in the City of San Marcos.

1. Describe in detail the need for this program in San Marcos.

The Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs were established based on a glaring need among community members. Based on the most recent Hays County Community Health Needs Assessment, mental health services, especially among individuals who are in jail or recently released. On average, County residents rated accessing mental health resources 2.7 out of 5.0, and among San Marcos residents it was 2.5. This project aims to promote mental health by providing affordable housing opportunities to a special population of Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment participants. Accessibility of affordable housing was rated 2.0 out of 5.0 among both Hays County and San Marcos residents. Together, these priority areas of need are mostly experienced by low-income and minority populations.

Homelessness in Hays County can be attributed to the competitive job market and the lack of resources that exist for homeless populations. Providing transitional housing promotes the outcomes the program aims to promote long-term stability and self-sufficiency. In Hays County, 21% of households experienced housing problems including overcrowding, high costs, lack of kitchen facilities, and lack of plumbing. This statistic is greater than Texas (18%) and the United States (17%). Similarly, 17% of Hays County residents reported experiencing severe housing cost burdens compared to Texas (15%) and United States (15%).

2. Has the need for this program been increasing in recent years?

The Mental Health Court was established in 2021 with the expectation of balancing a caseload of 35 participants. Since inception, the Mental Health Court has doubled. MHC will admit 18 more people between now and the end of the fiscal year, based off the number of the people graduating and open spots between now and that timeframe. Staff have expanded their capacity to see felony and misdemeanor cases.

To support this growing need, Hays County has applied for grants funds to support a breadth of training and educational opportunities for Court staff. In addition to Mental Health Court, County Court at Law #3 has established an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program using grant funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to support a caseload of up to 25 participants with rolling enrollment.

In 2023, 19% of Hays County households reported severe housing problems. That number rose to 21% in 2025. There is one mental health provider per 690 people living in Hays County, which has improved from one per every 870 people in 2023. The number of providers per resident is still greater in Hays County than both Texas (550:1) and the United States (290:1).

To address barriers within the criminal justice system, Hays County initiated a Jail Based Competency program in January 2026 to address mental health crises that exacerbate time spent in jail. Individuals who may have not been deemed competent to stand trial will now have access to case workers, counselors, mental health providers, and legal advocates that implement a comprehensive treatment plan. Prior to initiating this program, the average time an individual spent waiting in jail to receive mental health treatment was 300 days.

Additionally, the Hays County Community Health Needs Assessment identified an increase in the population utilizing shelters or transitional housing attributed to lack of affordable housing options. This project aims to promote stability and self-sufficiency among participants enrolled in the Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs by providing short-term transitional housing.

IMPLEMENTATION –15 POINTS

Evaluation:

- *The application demonstrates that resources needed to manage the proposed program are available and ready.*

- *Applicant has clearly defined objectives focusing on results and measurable outcomes vs. only program activities descriptions and numbers served.*
- *Past performance of programs funded by CDBG has met expectations.*

1. Are all resources in place to be able to implement this program? If not, what is missing?

2.

Hays County Court at Law #3 maintains the Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs to address mental health illnesses that may be exacerbated by a lack of access to medications and treatment, or substance use. Currently, these programs are facilitated by staff including a Judge, case workers, program coordinators, and court administrators. Hays County staff have established contracts with Hill Country Mental Health, Austin Oaks Hospital, Axis to Care, Evoke Wellness, and a Benefit Navigator to provide support through inpatient or outpatient efforts. The programs do offer transportation for individuals to be active participants in their treatment plans and to attend court hearings.

This project aims to provide qualifying participants with up to two months of rental assistance to utilize transitional housing. Currently, Lighthouse Landing is located in Kyle, Texas with intentions to expand with a second location in San Marcos, Texas over the summer. Lighthouse Landing provides low-cost transitional housing to individuals re-entering society, overcoming homelessness, and low-income. Fully furnished apartments offer housing with a roommate or privately depending on the individual's needs.

By offering an opportunity for participants to live in transitional housing, the program anticipates motivation to complete required activities through the MHC and AOT programs, stability, and self-sufficiency. At the time of move-in, the benefit navigator and program coordinators will have established a plan for the individual to be self-sufficient and continue to cover their costs at Lighthouse Landing or have identified other long-term housing plans to fit within their means. This project will support up to six participants in the MHC and AOT programs to utilize rental assistance for up to two months at Lighthouse Landing transitional housing.

Both of the MHC and AOT programs utilize state and federal grant funds to support programmatic efforts. These programs have been successful in promoting awareness in the community, addressing mental health, and relieving the criminal justice system.

3. What specific, measurable outcomes or results do you hope to achieve with this program?

Overall, this project aims to address affordable housing among individuals experiencing Through this project, Hays County Court at Laws #3 will support six of their Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment program participants by providing rental assistance for up to two months per participant. The ability to fund transitional housing for participants will encourage six individuals to successfully complete their treatment plans and graduate from their respective programs. Hays County MHC and AOT staff, along with contracted services, will identify methods to promote stable housing within the two-month assistance period for program participants.

IMPACT AND COST EFFECTIVENESS –20 POINTS

Evaluation:

- *impact on the identified need*
- *implementation costs compared to impact*
- *use of available resources (financial, staff, volunteer)*
- *impact compared to other applicants*

1. Programs can provide value by deeply impacting the lives of a few, with effects that may ripple through generations, or by providing smaller but meaningful impact to a larger group. Describe in detail the impact this program will have on the identified need and on San Marcos residents.

Currently, the average timeframe spent waiting in jail to receive treatment is at least 300 days in Texas. Treatment is necessary to restore competency and be fit for trial among individuals who are mentally ill, or experience substance use disorders. Waiting 300 days in jail is estimated to cost taxpayers $45,000. The Mental Health Court and Assisted outpatient Treatment programs are staffed with experts in the field for participants to navigate the legal system and their treatment plans.

One of the contracted partners with this program, Hill Country MHDD, aims to provide compassionate care that promote hope, healing, and recovery to successfully reintegrate individuals back into their communities. Participants have access to inpatient and outpatient treatment, mobile crisis outreach, counseling, and medications. Similarly, the program requires frequent check-ins with County Court at Law Judge Elaine Brown to track success and monitor program adherence. Evidence-based research suggests participation in the MHC and AOT programs will reduce recidivism and achieve long-term stability.

Beyond providing treatment, staff are heavily involved in providing support through life skills training, connecting participants to resources, supporting employment and housing, and obtaining proper identification for benefits. To promote well-being, staff and partners address topics encompassing emotional and behavioral such including trauma, coping skills, and promoting resiliency.

By providing short-term transitional housing through this project, the MHC and AOT programs will expand their scope of work to promote adherence, self-motivation, and reaching personal milestones among participants. The majority of participants do experience housing instability. Specifically, 25% of MHC participants and 63% of AOT participants have sought out housing stability services. Among graduates, 15% of participants still found themselves experiencing housing instability. This project aims to support one of the most vulnerable populations.

In neighboring counties, their Jail Based Competency Restoration programs have identified a 75% success rate with restoring competency within 60 days and as little as 30 days. Currently, MHC manages a caseload of 34 participants, with room for one more; and AOT manages a caseload of eight. AOT is on track to have their first program graduate in spring 2026 and MHC will be graduating 19 people in June 2026 from their program.

Providing short-term rental assistance to MHC and AOT participants will prevent financial disruption. Outcomes of financial disruption include eviction, instability, and even homelessness. Lighthouse Landing has been successful in providing transitional housing by reducing barriers, acting in a timely manner, and following an evidence-based timeline to prevent displacement.

2. Briefly describe other funding sources, volunteers, or in-kind donations that will be used with this program.

The Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs are supported through County general funds and grant funds. The Mental Health Court is a recipient of the Office of the Governor Specialty Court Grant to support personnel trainings. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program is supported by a multi-year grant provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations. Both programs refer participants to local resources that commonly rely on the stewardship of volunteers.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT – 15 POINTS

Evaluation:

- *A minimum of three letters of reference that indicate strong local support for the program and the agency's ability to implement it as described in the application. Letters must be in support of the specific program requesting funding, not the agency as a whole. Letters will preferably be from San Marcos residents as well as direct clients of the program.*
- *Evidence that volunteers play a vital role in the program or agency's operation.*
- *Evidence that board members are actively involved in and supportive of the agency*

1. What actions do Board members take to support the programs of the agency?

County Court at Law #3 Judge, Elaine Brown, is an active member of the local Mental Health Coordinating Committee. The MHCC promotes leadership to develop and sustain an effective system for community wellness. Together, they also promote access and quality services offered to residents. The MHCC includes leadership across Hays County including the City of San Marcos. The goal of the MHCC is to identify gaps and needs in the program, identify additional funding sources, and identification of resources to fill this gap locally.

Hays County references several resources established through valuable partnerships in their 2026 Resource Guide. Organizations are categorized by the types of services offered including housing assistance, mental health services, substance use treatment, career training, and other resources. Many of these organizations do rely on volunteer stewardship.

2. Briefly describe the number and role of volunteers in the program or agency's operation.

The Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Court do not utilize volunteers at this time. The programs do refer participants to local resources that do utilize volunteer support regularly

COUNCIL PRIORITIES - 20 POINTS

1. How long has this program served San Marcos residents? (10 points if at least 2 years)

Hays County Court at Law #3 established the Mental Health Court in 2021. Staff include a Judge, Court Administrator, and Court Caseworker. The grant funded Assisted Outpatient Treatment program was established in 2024. Staff include the Program Administrator and Caseworker. The SAMHSA grant supports the AOT program for four years. In 2027, the AOT program would be in year three of the grant period.

2. In what ways does your agency actively conduct outreach to engage San Marcos residents in its programs and services? How will San Marcos residents access those services? (up to 10 points)

Both the MHC and AOT programs are housed in County Court at Law #3 in San Marcos. Participants are referred through medical professionals, law enforcement officers, judges, attorneys, family/friends, jail personnel, community service providers, self-referral, and the District Attorney's Office.

Hays County provides information on their website on the process and services offered for the MHC and AOT programs. Fliers and education opportunities are helpful to spread awareness of the program. If referred, staff reach out to the participant or their attorney to schedule a screening and determine their eligibility to enroll in either of the programs.

RISK - 10 POINTS

1. How many years' experience does the agency have in implementing a program of this size and complexity? (5 points if more than 5 years)

   The Mental Health Court was established in 2018 and is led by Judge Elaine Brown at County Court at Law #3. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment program is a grant-funded program initiated in 2024 and is supported for up to four years. Both programs have experience in coordinating housing referral services for participants experiencing mental health and substance use complications. Additionally, contracted services offering mental health and substance use treatment share similar experience in identifying housing referral services and coordinating care plans for short-term and long-term housing opportunities for patients.

2. What percentage of the program's funding is non-City? (5 points if at least 50%)
   100%

III. Program Beneficiaries

Type of Public Service **(choose all that apply)**

____ 05A Senior Services

__X_ 05C Legal Services

____ 05E Transportation Services

____ 05G Battered and Abused Spouses Services

____ 05I Crime Awareness

____ 05K Tenant/Landlord Counseling

____ 05M Health Services

_X__ 05O Mental Health Services

____ 05Q Subsistence Payments

____ 05B Handicapped Services

____ 05D Youth Services

__X_ 05F Substance Abuse Services

____ 05H Employment Training

__X_ 05J Fair Housing Activities

____ 05L Child Care Services

____ 05N Abused and Neglected Children Services

____ 05P Screening for Lead Paint/Lead Hazards

____ 05R Homeownership Assistance (Not Direct)

____ Other: _____

Program Information

1. Program eligibility (please select one):
   a. _____ This is a new program.
   b. __X__ This is an existing program that: (select one of the following)

      _____ Has previously received CDBG funding and the amount requested for this year is the same or less than previous funding; or

__X__ will expand to serve more beneficiaries or to provide more services if the CDBG funding as requested is approved. *Please attach an analysis that details how the program or service will be expanded, how many new beneficiaries will be served by the expansion, and how this number was determined.*

2. Is there a fee to clients to participate in the program? _____ Yes __X__ No

   If yes, please provide fee structure.

3. Describe the days and hours of operation of the program: Mental Health Court and the Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs operate during business hours 8-5, Monday through Friday. Though, contracted services and staff members have established communication outside of those hours for crises and time sensitive matters.

Applicant must be able to document that at least 51% of the beneficiaries have an annual income that is at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and are San Marcos residents.

A. PRESUMED BENEFIT: See definition above of "Presumed Benefit".

1. Will all of the program's beneficiaries be in a Presumed Benefit Category? __X__ Yes or __ No

   If "yes", list the categories: Homeless persons

2. How many persons in each presumed category are proposed to be assisted if funding is received?

Abused Children	Elderly Persons	Battered Spouses	Homeless Persons	Severely Disabled Adults	Illiterate Adults	Persons living with AIDS
			Six or 100%			

3. If this program was carried out the previous full program year (10/1 – 9/30), how many persons were served in each presumed category:

Abused Children	Elderly Persons	Battered Spouses	Homeless Persons	Severely Disabled Adults	Illiterate Adults	Persons living with AIDS

B. BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED "PRESUMED"

1. How many persons are proposed to be assisted if funding is received? Up to six (6) participants

   If this program was carried out the previous program year (10/1 – 9/30), how many persons were served?

   N/A

2. How do you propose to document the income of the beneficiaries? (Check all that apply)

   _____ Evidence that the child is approved for free or reduced lunch

   __X__ Evidence that the family lives in housing sponsored by the Housing Authority

   _____ Evidence that the family is WIC approved

   __X__ Income documentation using one of the 3 HUD approved methods

   ___X_ Self-certification, with income verification required of 20% of certifications

   _____ Other, describe: _____

III. Projected Implementation Schedule with Performance Goals

Projected Start Date: **October 1, 2026**

Projected Completion Date: **September 30, 2027**

Activity Description	Start Month/Year	End Month/Year	Performance Measurement Goal
Upon award, the District Attorney's Office, Civil Division, will establish a contractual agreement between Hays County and Lighthouse Landing LLC to establish the terms of rental assistance.	10/2026	11/2026	A contract will be established within the first month of the grant period to establish conditions between Hays County and Lighthouse Landing LLC.
Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment staff will develop a flier or brochure material to display and share with program participants explaining the requirements and benefits to utilizing transitional housing services with Lighthouse Landing.	11/2026	11/2026	Print materials (brochure, flyer, website, etc.) will be published outlining the requirements and benefits to utilizing transitional housing.
Participants will be referred to utilize transitional housing to be successful in their program journey.	12/2026	09/2027	Six qualifying MHC and/or AOT participants would be provided up to two months of rental assistance with Lighthouse Landing.
MHC and AOT staff will coordinate regular transportation from the Lighthouse Landing location to Court hearing, treatment, and other basic daily activities.	12/2026	09/2027	A Better Boat (contractual service) will routinely provide transportation from Lighthouse Landing for enrolled MHC and AOT participants.
MHC and AOT staff will assist in identifying sustainable means to either (1) continue living at Lighthouse Landing on the participants own terms, or (2) move to other long-term housing.	01/2026	09/2027	At the time of move-in, staff will begin identifying sustainable means for participants to have access to housing.

IV. Organization Information

Background Information

1. Organization Type:

   ____ 501(c) Non-Profit Corporation ____ Public Corporation **X** Government Entity

   Other: _____

2. Name and title of Board of Directors chair or president: Ruben Becerra, Hays County Judge
3. How many years has your organization been in business? 178 years
4. Organization's Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN): 746002241
5. Organization's Unique Entity Identifier Number (if available): RH4DFY1GC2R3
6. Is organization currently registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM)? _X_ Yes _____ No

Financial Information

1. What is the date of your fiscal year end? 09/30/2026
2. Does your organization have a purchasing policy? ___X__ Yes _____ No
3. Has your organization currently or within the past five years had any litigation that is pending or has been resolved? _X__ Yes _____ No

   If "Yes", please attach a summary of the litigation and its status, including any outstanding judgments. – **As a local government, Hays County is occasionally involved in litigation. Any additional information about litigation would need to be requested through the District Attorney – Civil Division**

4. Has your organization filed a petition for bankruptcy or has a petition for bankruptcy been filed against your organization? _____ Yes __X__ No

   If "Yes", please attach an explanation that includes the status.

5. During the last fiscal year, did your organization spend $750,000 or more in Federal financial assistance?

   __X___ Yes _____ No

6. What level of financial review does your organization obtain from an independent source? Select from the following options:

   _X_ Single Audit ____ Audited Financial Statement

   ____ Reviewed Financial Statement ____ Compiled Financial Statement

   ____ No independent review ____ Other (describe):

7. What period was covered by your most recent financial review? ___FY24 (October 2023 – September 2024)
8. Has your organization received City of San Marcos funding in the past two years? ____ Yes _X_ No – **Last City of San Marcos CDBG Funding received in 2023**

   If yes, please attach a short summary of the purpose and amount of City funding.

Personnel and Policies

1. Name and Title of your chief administrator Ruben Becerra, County Judge

   Number of years in this position? 7 years, 2 months

2. Total number of current employees at all locations 1,306
3. Total number of current employees who will be involved in this project 4

4. Total number of new employees expected to be hired for the project 0_____

5. Does your organization have a personnel policy manual? _X__ Yes ____ No

   Does it include a procedure for filing grievances? __X_ Yes ____ No

   Does it include a non-discrimination clause? _X__ Yes ____ No

6. Does your organization maintain a written code or standards of conduct that governs the performance of its officers, employees or agents engaged in the award and administration of contracts supported by Federal funds?

   _X__ Yes ____ No

7. Separation of duties for financial transactions regarding this project (respond with job title):

   a. Who will approve payment of incurred expenses? ____County Auditor_____

   b. Who will prepare the payment check? __County Auditor_____

   c. Who will sign checks paying project expenses? ___Accounts Payable Manager and County Auditor_____

   d. Who posts the transaction to your financial records? __Accounts Payable Manager and County Auditor_____

   e. Who reconciles monthly bank statements? Treasury Services Manager_____

ACCESSIBILITY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1. Are all facilities to be served by the program ADA Accessible? _X___ Yes ____ No

2. Do you have a Section 504 (ADA) Self-Evaluation on file? ____ Yes ____ No

3. How will you provide services to persons with Limited English proficiency? MHC and AOT utilizes a translation service through the court for those with limited English proficiency.

INSURANCE, BONDING, AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION

1. Does your organization have liability insurance coverage? __X_Yes _____No

2. If yes, in what amount? __$2,000,000.00_____

3. Does your organization pay worker's compensation in accordance with Federal and state laws?
   __X_Yes _____ No _____ N/A

4. Does your organization have fidelity bond coverage for principal staff members who handle the organization's accounts? ___X__ Yes _____ No

5. Will vehicles owned by the organization be used in conjunction with the proposed project?
   _____ Yes __X_ No

6. If yes, what level of liability insurance is maintained on the vehicles? _____

V. Conflicts of Interest (24 CFR 570.611; 24 CFR 85.36; and 24 CFR 84.42)

Two sets of conflict-of-interest provisions apply to activities carried out with CDBG funding. The first set, applicable to the procurement of goods and services by subrecipients *(funded applicants),* is the procurement regulation found in the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirement for Federal Awards as codified in Title 2, Part 200 of the Code of Federal Regulations.* The second set of provisions is located at 24 CFR 570.611(a)(2).

With respect to procurement activities, the subrecipient must maintain written standards of conduct governing the performance of its employees engaged in the award and administration of contracts. At a minimum, these standards must:

1. Require that no employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by federal funds if a real or apparent conflict would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when any of the following parties has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for an award:
    - An employee, officer, or agent of the subrecipient;
    - Any member of an employee's, officer's, or agent's immediate family;
    - An employee's, agent's, or officer's partner; or
    - An organization which employs or is about to employ any of the persons listed in the preceding sections.
2. Require that employees, agents, and officers of the subrecipient neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of value from contractors or parties to sub-agreements. However, subrecipients may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.
3. Provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for any violation of such standards by employees, agents, or officers of the subrecipient.

With respect to all other CDBG-assisted activities, the general standard is that no employee, agent, or officer of the subrecipient who exercises decision-making responsibility with respect to CDBG funds and activities is allowed to obtain a financial interest in or benefit from CDBG activities, or have a financial interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement regarding those activities or in the proceeds for the activities. Specific provisions include that:

- The requirement applies to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected or appointed official of the City, a designated public agency, or a subrecipient, and to their immediate family members and business partners.
- The requirement applies to such persons during their tenure and for a period of one year after leaving the grantee or subrecipient organization.
- Upon written request, exceptions may be granted by HUD on a case-by-case basis.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTE: For the purpose of this form, a "covered person" includes any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer or elected or appointed official of the City of San Marcos, your organization, or any designated public agency.

Name of Organization: Hays County

1. Does your organization maintain a written code or standards of conduct that governs the performance of its officers, employees or agents engaged in the award and administration of contracts supported by Federal funds?

   Yes ____X____ No _____ If "No" is checked, please explain how you will comply with this requirement:

   _____

2. Are any of your Board Members or employees that are responsible for carrying out this project or members of their immediate families or their business associates also:

   a. Employed by the City of San Marcos? Yes _____ No _X__

   b. Members of or closely related to members of the San Marcos City Council? Yes _____ No _X__

   c. Members of or closely related to an employee of the City of San Marcos? Yes _____ No _X__

   d. Current beneficiaries or related to beneficiaries of the project for which funds are requested?

      Yes _____ No _X__

   e. Paid providers of goods or services to the program or having other financial interest in the program or related to such individuals? Yes _____ No _X__

3. For **each** relationship described above, please answer the following questions: (attach additional page if necessary)

   a. Name of employee or official: N/A

   b. Is this person receiving or likely to receive taxable income from your organization?

      Yes _____ No _____

   c. Is your organization receiving or likely to receive taxable income from or at the direction of the employee or official AND the taxable income is not from the City of San Marcos?

      Yes _____ No _____

   d. Is your organization affiliated with a corporation or other business entity in which the employee or official serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of 10% or more?

      Yes _____ No _____

4. Describe any other affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with respect to CDBG funds and activities. There are no conflicts of interest with these funds

   _____

   _____

5. Will any of your organization's employees, officers, board members, or members of their immediate family or business partners have a financial interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement regarding CDBG funded activities?

   Yes _____ No __X__. *If yes, please attach an explanation.*

VI. Applicant Assurances and Certifications

The applicant hereby assures and certifies with respect to this project or program, by the submission of this application, that the following are true statements:

1. It possesses legal authority to apply for the grant and to finance the proposed request; that a resolution, motion or similar action has been duly adopted or passed as an official act of the applicant's governing body, authorizing the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.
2. It will comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirement for Federal Awards as codified in Title 2, Part 200 of the Code of Federal Regulations (UAR) and agrees to adhere to the accounting principles and procedures required therein, utilizing adequate internal controls and maintaining necessary source documentation for all costs incurred.
3. If it expends $750,000 or more of federal funds in a fiscal year, it will comply with the Single Audit Act of 1984.
4. It will comply with the provisions of Executive Order 11988, relating to evaluation of flood hazards, and Executive Order 11990, relating to protection of wetlands. It will comply with the flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, Public Law 93-234, 87 Stat. 975, and approved December 31, 1976. Section 102(a).
5. It will have sufficient funds available or the ability to obtain the non-federal share of the cost for construction projects. Sufficient funds will be available when construction is completed to assure effective operation and maintenance of the facility for the purposes constructed.
6. It will give the City and the Comptroller General, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.
7. It will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the City that funds have been approved and that the project will be performed to completion with reasonable diligence.
8. It will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and in accordance with Title VI of that Act, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant receives federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.
9. It will comply with the requirements of Title II and Title III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646), which provides for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced because of federal and federally-assisted programs.
10. It will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act, which limit the political activity of employees.
11. It will comply with the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act as they apply.
12. It will insure that the facilities under its ownership, lease or supervision which shall be utilized in the accomplishment of the project are not listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of Violating Facilities and that it will notify the city/federal grantor agency of the receipt of any communication from the Director of the EPA Office of Federal Activities indicating that a facility to be utilized in the project is under consideration for listing by the EPA.
13. It will assist the city/federal grantor agency in its compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), Executive Order 11593, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1 et seq.).

14. It will comply with Texas Civil Statutes, Article 5996a, by ensuring that no officer, employee, or member of the applicant's governing body or of the applicant's contractor shall vote or confirm the employment of any person related within the second degree by affinity or third degree by consanguinity to any member of the governing body or to any other officer or employee authorized to employ or supervise such person. This prohibition shall not prohibit the employment of a person who shall have been continuously employed for a period of two years prior to the election or appointment of the officer, employee, or governing body member related to such person in the prohibited degree.

15. It will ensure that all information collected, assembled or maintained by the applicant relative to this project shall be available to the public during normal business hours in compliance with Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6252-17a, unless otherwise expressly provided by law.

16. It will conduct and administer the program in conformity with the Fair Housing Act (42 USC Section 3901 et. Seq.) and that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

17. It will minimize displacement of persons because of activities assisted with CDBG funds. If displacement of residential dwellings will occur in connection with a grant-assisted project, it will follow a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan as specified by the City of San Marcos.

18. It certifies that it is not now, nor has it ever been, on the Federal List of Debarred Contractors.

19. It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted in whole or in part with such funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of LMI, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements unless (a) such funds are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that related to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than such funds; or (b) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, applicant certifies that it lacks sufficient funds under this contract to comply with the requirements of clause (a).

20. It agrees to comply with the requirements of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 570 (the U.S. Housing and Urban Development regulations concerning Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)) including subpart J and subpart K of these regulations, except that (1) the Agency does not assume the recipient's environmental responsibilities described in 24 CFR 570.604 and (2) Agency does not assume the recipient's responsibility for initiating the review process under the provisions of 24 CFR Part 52. Agency also agrees to comply with all other applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and policies governing the funds provided. Agency further agrees to utilize funds available to supplement rather than supplant funds otherwise available. Agency shall comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and requirements, which include compliance with the provisions of the HCD Act and all rules, regulations, guidelines, and circulars promulgated by the various Federal departments, agencies, administrations, and commissions relating to the CDBG Program. The applicable laws and regulations include, but are not limited to:

    - 24 CFR Part 570;
    - 24 CFR Parts 84 and 85;
    - The Davis-Bacon Fair Labor Standards Act;
    - The Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act of 1962;
    - Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act of 1934;
    - Sections 104(b) and 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974;
    - Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968;
    - Equal employment opportunity and minority business enterprise regulations established in 24 CFR part 570.904;
    - Non-discrimination in employment, established by Executive Order 11246 (as amended by Executive Orders 11375 and 12086);
    - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards;
    - The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968;
    - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990;
    - The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended;

- National Environmental Policy of 1969 (42 USC 4321 et seq.) as amended;
- Lead Based paint regulations established in 24 CFR Parts 35, 570.608, and 24 CFR 982.401;
- Asbestos guidelines established in CPD Notice 90-44;
- HUD Environmental Criteria and Standards (24 CFR Part 51);
- The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Public Law 94-163) and 24 CFR Part 39
- Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973;
- Colorado House Bill 06-1023 and 06-1043;
- Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.322);
- Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement (37 CFR 401.2 (a));
- Energy Efficiency (2 CRF Part 200 Appendix II); and
- Recycling (2 CFR Part 200 Appendix II).

21. NEW SECTION: It agrees to comply with federal policy provisions contained in Appendix One, which implement the following:

- 1. Executive Order 14168 – Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
- 2. Executive Order 14173 – Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity
- 3. Executive Order 14182 – Enforcing the Hyde Amendment
- 4. Executive Order 14154 – Unleashing American Energy
- 5. Executive Order 14218 – Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders
- 6. Executive Order 14205 – Establishment of the White House Faith Office
- 7. 8 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq. (PRWORA – Immigration Eligibility and Verification)
- 8. 31 U.S.C. § 3729(b)(4) (False Claims Act – Material Compliance Provision)

CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING LOBBYING:

22. No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

23. If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit standard form – "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying", in accordance with its instructions.

24. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

25. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

GENERAL CERTIFICATIONS:

26. The information, exhibits, and schedules contained in this application are true and accurate statements and represent fairly the financial condition of our organization;

27. Our organization is eligible to receive federal funding and has not been placed in a debarred or otherwise ineligible status under the provisions of CFR Part 24;

28. Our organization prohibits discrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

APPENDIX ONE: FEDERAL POLICY PROVISIONS

This Appendix sets forth the Federal policy requirements that apply to the Subrecipient as a condition of participation in the CDBG Program for Program Year 2025. These provisions are incorporated into and made a material part of the Subrecipient Agreement.

Section 1. Prohibition on Use of Funds to Promote "Gender Ideology"

1.1 Policy Requirement. In accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 14168, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*, the Subrecipient shall not use any CDBG funds to promote "gender ideology."

1.2 Definitions. For purposes of this section:

a. "Gender ideology" means any theory or policy asserting that sex is determined by subjective identity rather than biological reality, as defined in Section 2(f) of E.O. 14168 and any subsequent HUD or OMB guidance.

b. For the purposes of this section, "Promote" means to publicly advocate, endorse, distribute, advertise, or otherwise support, through funded publications, events, or materials, the prohibited ideology.

1.3 Agency Forms and Data Collection. All forms, applications, surveys, or data-collection instruments developed or used by the Subrecipient for CDBG-funded activities that request information on an individual's sex shall list only the options "Male" or "Female."

a. Such forms shall not include questions or fields requesting or recording gender identity, gender expression, or similar classifications.

b. Existing forms containing such fields shall be modified or replaced for CDBG-funded purposes to ensure compliance with E.O. 14168.

1.4 Grantee Review. At the request of the Grantee, the Subrecipient shall provide advance copies of flyers, brochures, social-media posts, or other public materials related to CDBG-funded activities for Grantee review to ensure compliance with this provision prior to release or posting.

1.5 Consistency with Existing Civil Rights Requirements. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or modify the Subrecipient's obligations under any other law protecting individuals from unlawful discrimination.

Section 2. Compliance with Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws and False Claims Act Provisions

2.1 General Requirement. The Subrecipient shall comply in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.)

2.2 Material Compliance under the False Claims Act. Pursuant to E.O. 14173 and 31 U.S.C. § 3729(b)(4), the Subrecipient acknowledges that compliance with Federal civil-rights and anti- discrimination laws is material to the U.S. Government's payment decisions under the False Claims Act.

2.3 Certification. By execution of this Agreement, the Subrecipient certifies that it does not and will not operate any program in violation of these laws and shall promptly report to the Grantee any filed or pending civil-rights complaint, investigation, or finding of non-compliance related to any CDBG-funded activity.

Section 3. Prohibition on Use of Funds for Elective Abortions

3.1 Policy Requirement. Pursuant to E.O. 14182, *Enforcing the Hyde Amendment*, the Subrecipient shall not use any CDBG funds to fund or promote elective abortions.

3.2 Definition. For purposes of this section, "Promote" means to publicly advocate, endorse, distribute, advertise, or otherwise support, through funded publications, events, or materials, the performance of elective abortions.

3.3 Grantee Review. At the request of the Grantee, the Subrecipient shall provide advance copies of flyers, brochures, or other outreach materials for Grantee review to ensure compliance with this provision.

Section 4. Environmental Considerations

4.1 Policy Requirement. Notwithstanding any prior Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or application materials, this Agreement shall not be governed by orders revoked by E.O. 14154, *Restoring the Rule of Law in Federal Administration*, including E.O. 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*.

4.2 NEPA Unchanged. Nothing in this section shall alter or exempt the Subrecipient from compliance with existing environmental-review requirements under 24 CFR Part 58 or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. If the NEPA statute or its implementing regulations—including those at 24 CFR Part 58—are amended or superseded during the term of this Agreement, this provision shall be automatically deemed amended to reflect and require compliance with such updated authority, as interpreted by HUD or other applicable Federal agencies.

Section 5. Immigration Status Verification and SAVE System Compliance

5.1 Policy Requirement. To ensure implementation and compliance with Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1601– 1646) and E.O. 14218, *Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders*, the Subrecipient shall assist the Grantee in ensuring that CDBG assistance is not provided to ineligible aliens.

5.2 Subrecipient Role. Subrecipients serving as program administrators shall assist the Grantee in ensuring compliance with PWRORA. Subrecipients may collect intake information and supporting documentation. The Subrecipient shall transmit collected documentation to the Grantee for verification through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program or an equivalent verification system approved by the Federal Government.

5.3 Grantee Role and Determinations. The Grantee shall perform all SAVE verifications and maintain the official verification record. Any denial decisions issued by the Grantee based on SAVE results or Federal guidance are final and binding on the Subrecipient.

5.4 Prohibitions. No Subrecipient shall use CDBG funds in a manner that, by design or effect, facilitates the subsidization or promotion of illegal immigration or shields illegal aliens from deportation, including by maintaining policies or practices that materially impede enforcement of Federal immigration laws.

Section 6. Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations

6.1 Policy Requirement. Faith-based organizations are eligible to participate as Subrecipients on the same basis as any other organization, consistent with E.O. 14205.

6.2 Prohibition on Religious Activities. No CDBG funds may be used for inherently religious activities such as worship, instruction, or proselytization. Any such religious activities must be separate in time or location from HUD-funded activities and voluntary for participants.

6.3 Non-Discrimination. The Subrecipient shall not, in the selection of contractors, vendors, or beneficiaries, discriminate on the basis of religious character, affiliation, or exercise.

29. Our governing body has duly authorized submission of this document. If funded, we agree to comply with the procedures outlined in the "Playing by the Rules" handbook that will be supplied by the City of San Marcos.

City of San Marcos Funding Restrictions:

30. All CDBG funding will be spent on San Marcos residents.
31. Funding requested is not more than 50% of the total funding for the agency.
32. Funding will not be used to fund more than 20% of a full time position.
33. Agency has been in existence for at least 2 years. (This can include serving communities other than San Marcos.)

I, the duly authorized representative of the applicant organization, certify that the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

CERTIFIED BY:

Signature: _____ Date Signed: 2/24/2026

Printed Name: Ruben Becerra Title: County Judge

Organization Name: Hays County

Budget by Organization Report

Through 02/27/26
Prior Fiscal Year Activity Included
Summary Listing

Organization	Adopted Budget	Budget Amendments	Amended Budget	Current Month Transactions	YTD Encumbrances	YTD Transactions	Budget - YTD Transactions	% Used/ Rec'd	Prior Year Total
Fund **001 - General Fund**									
EXPENSE									
Department **612 - County Courts at Law**									
Division **00 - Operating**	4,181,717.00	714.00	4,182,431.00	222,226.52	12,278.00	1,082,407.60	3,087,745.40	26	3,316,936.75
Division **22 - Mental Health Court**	424,696.00	(172.00)	424,524.00	33,109.55	.00	133,855.81	290,668.19	32	340,324.93
Division **25 - DWI and Drug Court**	.00	68,500.00	68,500.00	5,870.28	206.66	13,389.84	54,903.50	20	.00
Division **99 - Grants**									
Cost Center **059 - E Byrne Prosecution Enhancement**	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	+++	.00
Cost Center **083 - CJD Veteran's Court**	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	+++	.00
Cost Center **097 - Veteran's Commission Treatment**	350,000.00	.00	350,000.00	26,968.76	.00	108,809.63	241,190.37	31	330,788.34
Cost Center **219 - SAMHSA Assisted Outpatient Trtmt**	500,000.00	.00	500,000.00	9,449.07	.00	49,972.50	450,027.50	10	150,100.16
Cost Center **227 - OOG Mental Health Court Training**	.00	14,608.00	14,608.00	.00	.00	.00	14,608.00	0	.00
Cost Center **229 - TBF Mental Health Ct Participant**	.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.00	.00	.00	10,000.00	0	.00
Division **99 - Grants** Totals	$850,000.00	$24,608.00	$874,608.00	$36,417.83	$0.00	$158,782.13	$715,825.87	18%	$480,888.50
Department **612 - County Courts at Law** Totals	$5,456,413.00	$93,650.00	$5,550,063.00	$297,624.18	$12,484.66	$1,388,435.38	$4,149,142.96	25%	$4,138,150.18
EXPENSE TOTALS	$5,456,413.00	$93,650.00	$5,550,063.00	$297,624.18	$12,484.66	$1,388,435.38	$4,149,142.96	25%	$4,138,150.18
Fund **001 - General Fund** Totals									
EXPENSE TOTALS	5,456,413.00	93,650.00	5,550,063.00	297,624.18	12,484.66	1,388,435.38	4,149,142.96	25%	4,138,150.18
Fund **001 - General Fund** Totals	($5,456,413.00)	($93,650.00)	($5,550,063.00)	($297,624.18)	($12,484.66)	($1,388,435.38)	($4,149,142.96)		($4,138,150.18)
Grand Totals									
EXPENSE TOTALS	5,456,413.00	93,650.00	5,550,063.00	297,624.18	12,484.66	1,388,435.38	4,149,142.96	25%	4,138,150.18
Grand Totals	($5,456,413.00)	($93,650.00)	($5,550,063.00)	($297,624.18)	($12,484.66)	($1,388,435.38)	($4,149,142.96)		($4,138,150.18)

PROPOSED FY27 Budget

Department 612 - County Courts at Law					**Proposed Budget**	
	Divison 22 - Mental Health Court				$ 424,696.00	
	Division 99 - Grants				**Projected Amount - If Awarded**	
			SAMHSA AOT GRANT		$ 500,000.00	***Cannot be used for housing**
			OOG Specialty Court		$ 74,000.00	
			Grant Total		$ 998,696.00	

CDBG Transitional Housing October 1, 2026- September 30, 2027	
Category	Cost
Rental assistance for up to six participants at $1,500/ month x 2 months =$18,000.00. Transitional Living will be provided through Lighthouse Landing, LLC in Kyle, TX. Units will house up to two participants.	$18,000
Total	$18,000.00

Hays County Commissioners' Court

February 2026

- **County Judge – Ruben Becerra**
  Resides: San Marcos, TX
  - Term Expires 2026
    Main Office:
    111 E. San Antonio St,
    San Marcos, TX 78666
    512 393 2205

- **Commissioner – Precinct 1: Debbie Ingalsbe**
  Resides: San Marcos, TX
  - Term Expires 2028
    Main Office:
    111 E. San Antonio St,
    San Marcos, TX 78666
    512 393 2243

- **Commissioner – Precinct 2: Dr. Michelle Cohen**
  Resides: Kyle, TX
  - Term Expires 2026
    Main Office:
    5458 FM 2770
    Kyle, TX 78640
    512 262 2091

- **Commissioner – Precinct 3: Morgan Hammer**
  Resides: San Marcos, TX
  - Term Expires 2028
    Main Office:
    200 Stillwater
    Wimberley, TX 78676
    512 847 3159

- **Commissioner – Precinct 4: Walt Smith**
  Resides: Dripping Springs, TX
  - Term Expires 2026
    Main Office
    195 Roger Hanks Parkway
    Dripping Springs, TX 78620
    512 858 7268

A. COUNTY EMPLOYMENT

1A101EMPLOYMENT AT WILL

All employment with Hays County will be considered “at will” employment. No contract of employment will exist between any individual and Hays County for any duration, either specified or unspecified. No provision of this policy will be construed as modifying the employment at will status.

Hays County will have the right to terminate the employment of any employee for any legal reason, or no reason, at any time, with or without notice.

Hays County will also have the right to change any condition, benefit, policy, or privilege of employment at any time, with or without notice. Employees of Hays County will have the right to leave their employment with Hays County at any time, with or without notice.

1A102 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Hays County is committed to providing a workplace that is free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. As an equal opportunity employer, the County prohibits unlawful discrimination based on any legally protected characteristic, including but not limited to: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, genetic information, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local law.

Unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation against any employee, applicant, or individual conducting business with the County will not be tolerated. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including hiring, promotion, training, compensation, discipline, termination, and access to facilities and programs. Employment decisions will be based solely on merit, qualifications, and business needs, except where a bona fide occupational qualification exists or where required by law.

All employees are responsible for contributing to a respectful, professional environment. Employees are expected to report any conduct that may violate this policy to their elected or appointed official, department head, the Human Resources Director, or Hays County Criminal District Attorney, Civil Division.

Findings of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

If an employee requires a reasonable accommodation due to a protected condition or status, they should notify their elected or appointed official, department head, Human Resources Director, or General Counsel as soon as possible so that the request may be addressed in accordance with applicable laws.

Hays County

Handbook

Contact Information

County Court at Law Office

Phone: 512-393-7625

Address: 712 South Stagecoach Trail, Ste 2292

San Marcos, Texas 78666

Kaimi Mattila, LCSW-S

Mental Health Court Administrator

Phone: 512-757-0795 (text or call)

Email: kaimi.mattila@hayscountytx.gov

Tara Henry, LCDC-I

Mental Health Court Caseworker

Phone: 512-738-3072 (text or call)

Email: tara.henry@hayscountytx.gov

Overview

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a year long, three-phased, specialized treatment court designed to support individuals whose serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities have played a role in their involvement in the justice system. These individuals often face additional barriers such as homelessness, unemployment, and lack of access to consistent treatment and services and have fallen through the cracks of traditional systems of care. Mental Health Court addresses this issue by diverting eligible participants into community based treatment and mental health services, partnered with the accountability of attending court and meeting with the Judge regularly. With both the treatment and accountability components, program participants are supported in their mental health and wellness journey while reducing recidivism through a coordinated multi-disciplinary team-based approach.

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Hays County Mental Health Court is to divert individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities from the criminal justice system into long term community-based treatment and support. Through accountability, compassionate care, and community collaboration, we aim to promote stability, recovery, and long-term wellness."'

Program Goals

* **Identify individuals with mental health needs as early as possible** - this includes at point of arrest, while incarcerated in the county jail, on pretrial, and during court proceedings. Referrals can be received from all sources.

* **Coordinate access to treatment and support services**, including mental health care, substance use services, transportation, housing, basic needs items, and social services. This also includes insuring smooth transitions out of jail into the community, hospital discharge, or residential facility discharge into outpatient services.

* **Ensure that participants receive evidence based and clinically appropriate services** by ensuring multiple clinicians and multi-disciplinary professionals are part of the of the MHC team, utilization of evidence-based assessments, treatment, and interventions to address the participants' wide range of needs.

* **Continuously evaluate outcomes to measure effectiveness and guide improvement** by tracking participants symptoms and progress before, during, and after the program, monitoring the success rate and recidivism rate, and staying up to date with research and best practices for treatment court by attending conferences and trainings.

* **Build partnerships with community organizations, social service providers, and law enforcement** to expand access to resources, increase support for participants across multiple areas of need, provide education and trainings to the community, and identify service gaps and solutions to bridge these gaps.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria:

- Hays County resident (out of county residents are on a case by case basis)
- 17 years of age of older
- Diagnosed with a mental health disorder such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective, major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Substance use disorders and intellectual or developmental disabilities are also diagnoses that are considered for Mental Health Court.
- Misdemeanor offense(s) or felony offense(s)
- Link between the mental health/ substance use/ or IDD disorder and the current offense.
- Assaultive offenses will be considered on a case by case basis

Disqualifiers:

- No past or current charge of a sex offense
- No substantial history of violent offenses
- Competent
- Pre or Post Adjudication

Referral Process

1) Referral is submitted online or directly to Mental Health Court Administrator that includes the name of the individual being referred, date of birth, and clinical information pertaining to the individual's mental health symptoms, mental health history, etc.
2) Court staff receives the referral and examines the case to review criminal history, current charge details, file status of the case, and if the individual has obtained legal representation.
3) Court staff starts referral email to include the individual's attorney and District Attorney's office request to complete an initial evaluation and provides clinical justification for the evaluation.
4) If both parties approve, the attorney must complete a Permission to Screen (Exhibit A), giving court staff permission to speak directly with the potential participant to schedule an intake.
5) Court staff meets with the potential participant to complete clinical assessments and intake.
6) Court staff refers potential participant to third party mental health provider who completes a second evaluation to identify diagnoses and provide treatment recommendations to the team.
7) Court staffing is held to review medical records and treatment plan.
8) DA and attorney negotiate legal terms of the plea
9) Potential participant admits to Mental Health Court and begins the program

Mental Health Court Team

The Mental Health Court Judge makes all decisions regarding participation in the Mental Health Court with support and recommendations from the Mental Health Court team. All team members work collaboratively to monitor and support a participant's adherence to the treatment plan and court conditions. All team members attend weekly or bi-weekly staffings and MHC hearings to provide input and recommendations to the court.

Team Members

- **Judge** – presides at team staffings and court hearings. The primary responsibility is resolving criminal justice issues, to encourage and support participants' progress and achievements by providing incentives as well as to deter participants' noncompliance and violations by using graduated sanctions and clinical responses based on recommendations from the MHC team
- **Prosecutor** -represents the interests of the State and victims while collaborating with MHC team members to resolve problems and facilitate successful outcomes.
- **Defense Attorney** – Explains the provisions of the Mental Health Court Participant Agreement in addition to program requirements and benefits, the legal consequences of participation, and possible consequences of non-compliance. Provides input, pertinent, case-specific information and recommendations as he/she deems appropriate or as requested by the team. The Defense Attorney continues in that capacity until the participant successfully graduates or is unsuccessfully discharged from the court program.
- **Court Administrator** – prescreens referrals for eligibility, completes clinical assessments, is responsible for overall administrative coordination, management and supervision of MHC functions and processes. Maintains the docket and facilitates staffing meetings and collaborative partnerships with treatment providers and maintains data collection and clinical documentation.
- **Court Case Worker** – screens potential participants to determine eligibility for the program, collaborates with team members to coordinate services, link to resources., and make referrals, monitor participants' engagement in services, makes recommendations to the Judge. Creates bimonthly progress reports which is provided to all MHC team members.
- **Community Supervision Officer** – provides supervision of MHC participants in the community. Monitors adherence to alcohol monitoring devices, abstinence from drugs and alcohol, compliance with victim contact restrictions, restitution (if applicable), adherence to Participant Agreement and probation conditions. CSO's report on the participants' progress and any violations of conditions.
- **Treatment Providers** – The Local Mental Health Providers (LMHA) or contracted Mental Health Providers. Participants may also have private mental health treatment providers, but the provider must agree to update court staff as needed.

Providers are responsible for providing mental health and substance use assessments, outpatient and inpatient services, psychiatry, case management, medication management, therapy and counseling, group therapy, and rehabilitative services. They will report on treatment plan goals, symptoms, medications, appointment compliance, and provide recommendations for incentives, sanctions, and recommendations as requested by the Judge and court staff.

Program Participation

Mental Health Court (MHC) is a voluntary program designed to support participants in achieving mental health stability, maintaining sobriety, and reducing further involvement with the justice system. The program requires a minimum commitment of 12 months, though the length of participation may vary based on individual progress, the nature of the offense, and consistent engagement with treatment and program requirements.

What Successful Completion Looks Like:

To graduate from Mental Health Court, participants are expected to meet the following milestones:

- Stabilize their mental health, including consistent medication adherence (if prescribed)
- Maintain sobriety from drugs and alcohol
- Achieve the goals set in their individualized mental health and/or substance use treatment plan
- Follow all court orders, probation conditions, and MHC program guidelines

Please note: Attendance at the formal graduation ceremony is required to graduate from the court program. The commencement ceremony is an important moment to honor your hard work, growth, and the commitment shown during your recovery journey. It is an opportunity to hear from others, share your experiences with others (if desired), and be acknowledged by the community and other program participants.

In some cases, participants on deferred adjudication probation may be eligible to have their case dismissed upon successful completion of the program.

Reasons a Participant May Be Discharged:

While the goal is to support every participant through to graduation, there are certain circumstances where someone may be disqualified or discharged from Mental Health Court, including:

- No community-based treatment option is likely to support stability
- The need for long-term hospitalization due to risk of harm to self or others

- Repeated refusal to participate in treatment or follow program requirements
- Inability to secure an appropriate treatment placement
- Voluntary withdrawal from the program (must be submitted in writing to the Judge; final decision is at the Court's discretion)
- Becoming a fugitive or being charged with a new criminal offense
- Threats or acts of violence directed at MHC team members or other participants
- Reaching the maximum clinical or rehabilitative benefit the program can provide

Program Requirements

All participants must follow expectations outlined in the Mental Health Court Participant Agreement (see Exhibit B). In addition, participants are required to comply with all terms of their probation and actively work toward the treatment goals developed with their providers.

Court Appearances

Mental Health Court is held twice a month, usually held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at from 2:30-3:30 PM. The required frequency of court appearances depends on the participant's current phase in the program, their progress in treatment, if the case is a misdemeanor or felony, and probation requirements.

Participants may be called to appear outside of their regular schedule if there are concerns about non-compliance with treatment or probation. All court hearings are mandatory and must be attended to stay in compliance with the court program.

Before each docket, the Judge meets with the Mental Health Court team to review each participant's progress. This includes attendance, adherence to treatment and medication plans, and compliance with probation conditions. During the court session, the Judge will receive updates from the team and engage directly with the participant to acknowledge progress or address any concerns.

Failure to appear in court may result in serious consequences, including:

- A special court hearing or more frequent court hearings to address attendance
- A new charge for failure to appear
- Court sanctions

Graduation Requirements

- **Attendance at the formal graduation ceremony is required for successful program completion.** While participants may complete all treatment and probation requirements a month or two before the scheduled graduation, the ceremony serves as the official conclusion of the Mental Health Court program.
- Failure to attend graduation may result in the participant being marked as **incomplete.**
- This final step is more than symbolic – it honors each participant's commitment to accountability, healing, and long-term recovery.

Incentives and Sanctions

To encourage growth and accountability, the Judge may issue:

- **Incentives** for continued compliance, demonstrated progress, meeting special milestones
- **Sanctions** to address non-compliance and help redirect behaviors that interfere with treatment, probation, or program requirements.

Incentives for Progress

Mental Health Court recognizes and rewards participants who are consistently meeting program expectations, complying with probation conditions, and making meaningful progress toward their treatment goals. Incentives are designed to encourage continued engagement, build self-confidence, and celebrate personal growth.

Incentives may include, but are not limited to:

- **Court Fast Pass** (voucher to be first on the docket and able to leave early)
- **"Skip-a-Court" Pass** (voucher that can be used at the participant's discretion for a future court hearing however must inform court staff and send a photo of the skip a court pass in advance)
- **Recognition in Court** (verbal praise from the Judge or team)
- **Phase promotion and certificate** (certificate of acknowledgement provided and verbal praise)
- **Voucher for community service credit** (voucher to decrease community service hours)
- **Decrease in supervision requirements** (voucher)
- **Decrease in treatment sessions** (voucher)
- **Decrease in required court appearances** (voucher)
- **Verbal encouragement from team members**

These rewards are determined by the MHC team and tailored to each participant's needs and progress.

Graduated Sanctions for Non-Compliance

When participants struggle to meet program expectations, MHC uses a graduated response model. This approach allows for accountability while still offering opportunities for reflection, course correction, and continued support.

Non-compliance may include:

- Missing or arriving late to appointments
- Not taking prescribed medication
- Failing or refusing drug tests
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Committing a new offense
- Failing to follow supervision or probation requirements

- Using drugs or alcohol
- Committing a new offense
- Failing to follow supervision or probation requirements

Sanctions are determined on a case-by-case basis and may include:

- **Judicial reprimand**
- **Increased court appearances**
- **Additional community service hours**
- **GPS or electronic alcohol monitoring**
- **Curfew requirement**
- **Writing assignment (e.g., reflection or apology letter)**
- **Increased drug/alcohol testing**
- **Increased supervision visits**
- **Placement last on the court docket**

MHC staff work collaboratively with each participant to understand barriers to compliance and to re-engage them in treatment and recovery. The goal of any sanction is not punishment, but rather redirection and support.

Clinical Responses to Non-Compliance

When a participant shows signs of clinical instability, has difficulty maintaining sobriety, or is otherwise struggling to meet program expectations, the Judge may order additional treatment interventions. These clinical responses are not punitive—they are intended to provide increased support, ensure safety, and help the participant re-engage with their recovery plan.

Possible clinical recommendations may include:

- **Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)** for substance use
- **Detoxification services** when clinically necessary
- **Residential treatment placement** for stabilization
- **Supportive residential treatment** or **sober living housing**
- **Jail-based detox** while awaiting placement, if needed
- **Signed Release of Information (ROI)** to allow for doctor-to-doctor consultation
- **Mandatory attendance at recovery support meetings** (AA/NA/CA)
- **Increased medication monitoring** to ensure stability
- **More frequent case management visits** to enhance support
- **Referral to individual counseling**
- **Participation in structured group programs**, such as anger or stress management, parenting classes, or Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)
- **Medical follow-up** to address physical health needs

Phases and Graduation

Phases of the Mental Health Court Program

Mental Health Court is structured around a three-phase treatment model, designed to promote clinical stabilization, build healthy routines, and support long-term recovery and reintegration. Each phase has specific goals and expectations. Advancement is based on individual progress, treatment engagement, and overall compliance with program and probation requirements.

The three phases are:

- **Phase I – Clinical Stabilization**
  Focuses on establishing safety, stability, medication adherence, and consistent treatment participation.
- **Phase II – Pro-Social Habilitation & Rehabilitation Skills**
  Emphasizes building healthy relationships, developing coping strategies, and participating in pro-social activities such as work, education, or community engagement.
- **Phase III – Adaptive Habilitation & Continuum of Care**
  Prepares participants for independent success by reinforcing learned skills, strengthening natural supports, and coordinating long-term care and housing, if needed.

Exhibits (on following pages)

A - Attorney Permission Form

B – Release of Information

C – Participation Agreement

D – Phases

Exhibit A

Attorney Permission to Screen

Authorizing Mental Health Court Staff to Screen for Eligibility

I, _____, Attorney

for_____

DOB: _____

Hereby give permission and consent for the Hays County Mental Health Court (MHC) staff to meet with and screen my client for the purpose of determining eligibility and enrollment status for MHC program participation, provider services, as well as mental health treatment and support services needed by my client.
Mental health treatment and support services may include the following information and referrals to community-based services or non-profit providers:

- **Enrollment in Mental Health Court**
- **Case Management**
- **Access to Mental Health Treatment and Medications**
- **Substance Abuse Treatment**
- **Counseling/Support Groups**
- **Housing**
- **Transportation**
- **Food and/or clothing**

I understand that in order to provide these services, the Hays County Mental Health Court staff will have to secure an Authorization for Disclosure and Consent form from my client to participate. I understand that information collected by MHC staff is not confidential or privileged.
_____I will participate in the meeting where my client will be presented with these forms.
_____I will not participate in the meeting where my client will be presented with these forms: however, I give permission for the MHC staff to meet with my client without my being present.
_____I will not participate in the meeting where my client will be presented with these forms and do not give permission for the MHC staff to meet with my client without my being present.

_____ _____

Attorney at Law Date

Client's Phone#_____

Contact Name associated with phone #(if not client) _____

Exhibit B

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY MHMR CENTER NAME AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION CASE

Patient: _____ SSN: _____DOB:_____

I authorize and request the Hill County Community Mental Health Providers_____ to provide/receive the following information with regard to my clinical/hospital records on (specify dates of treatment):_____.

If I am signing as a parent/guardian/managing conservator of a minor or guardian of the person of an adult, I further understand the record released may contain references to family and myself. Provide to/Receive from: __ Hays County Mental Health Court Team. (including Probation, District Attorney's Office, Judge, Mental Health Court Administrator, and Mental Health Court Case Worker)

I understand that such disclosure will be made for the following purpose: To assist in additional funding, to coordinate discharge placement/planning, to assist in evaluation and treatment, to assist in educational placement, and to provide information to person(s)

_____

To request that the following information/authorizations (in addition to school records) be provided to assigned Service Coordinator:

- **Notification of all ARD meetings**
- **Copy of IEP (Individual Educations Plan) resulting from any ARD Meetings**
- **Visits and observations in the classroom and/or work locations**
- **Information regarding outcome of IEP implementation from teachers and other staff**

I also authorize the disclosure/use/receipt of my health information regarding:

HIV/AIDS (pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter F)

Alcohol and drug abuse treatment (pursuant to 42 CFR, Part 2, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records)

Other _____

And will be limited to the following specific types of information:

_____

_____

Exhibit B

I understand that I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization. Community Mental Health Providers will not withhold treatment, Medicaid benefits, or payment processing if I refuse to sign this authorization. I will receive a copy of this signed authorization.

I understand that if I am authorizing disclosure of information, then, except for information related to alcohol or drug abuse treatment, the potential exists for the information described in this authorization to be re-disclosed by the recipient. If the information is re-disclosed, then it is no longer protected by medical privacy laws.

I understand that I (or my personal representative, if any) have the right to revoke this authorization. To revoke this authorization, I must deliver a written statement, signed by my representative or me, to the organization or facility where I gave my authorization (identified above), which provides the date and purpose of this authorization and my intent to revoke it. My revocation will be effective the date it is received by the organization/facility, except to the extent that the organization/facility has already relied upon my authorization to use or disclose my health information as described in the Notice of Privacy Practices.

If not earlier revoked, this authorization shall terminate on: _____.
_____ _____

Consumer Date _____ _____

Representative Date _____

Relationship to Consumer _____ _____

Witness Date _____

NOTE: A photocopy or facsimile is as valid as the original

Exhibit C

Judge Elaine Brown
Hays County Court at Law 3

Hays County Government Center
712 South Stagecoach Trail San Marcos, Texas
Hays County Mental Health Court Participant Agreement

Hays County Mental Health Court Participant Agreement

Name: _____

Case Number(s): _____

I have chosen to pursue treatment and services in the Mental Health Court (MHC). This agreement is a contract between myself and the Judge. I understand that the purpose of the Mental Health Court is to help me stay engaged in treatment for my mental illness so that I can live a better life and remain law abiding. I acknowledge the opportunity to participate in this program is a privilege, not a right. I understand that personal accountability, engagement in services, and compliance with the court is an important part of the program. I acknowledge I have been accepted into the Mental Health Court; thus the following terms and conditions will apply to me (and I am bound to comply with them) as long as I am a participant in the program: (initial each term and condition)

_____ 1. Legal Obligations: I understand that entrance into the Mental Health Court requires a plea of "guilty" or "no contest." If I am granted in from regular probation, I agree to have my probation term extended as such to complete the Mental Health Court Program. For a felony, time in the program is a minimum of 18 months, and 12 months for a misdemeanor.

_____ 2. Payment of Fees: I agree to pay the Mental Health Court fee, not to exceed $250.00 to subsidize program costs. If I am unable to pay this fee due to financial restraints, a payment plan or arrangement will need to be discussed, agreed upon, and communicated with Mental Health Court staff, Attorney, and Probation Officer.

_____ 3. Legal Representation: I understand that upon entry into the Mental Health Court Program, I will be represented by a Defense Attorney assigned to the Mental Health Docket. This attorney will represent me for the duration of my program, or I can choose to hire a private attorney at any time.

_____ 4. Confidentiality with Attorney: I understand that attorney-client privilege is maintained throughout my participation in the MHC. The MH Defense Attorney will not disclose confidential information to the MHC team without my consent. The Attorney will attend and advocate for me throughout all phases of the MHC program, to include at staffing, court reviews and admonishment hearings. The MH Attorney is not my "best interest"

Exhibit C

_____ 5. Mental Health Court Reviews and Hearings: I understand I am required to appear at all Mental Health Court Reviews as instructed by any member of the Mental Health Court team. The Mental Health Court team is comprised of representatives from Hays County Probation Office, Defense Attorneys, Court Case Managers, treatment providers, Hays County Criminal District Attorney's Office, and the Judge. I understand that MHC is an open court and that my case will be discussed in front of other participants and any members of the public who may be in attendance. I also understand that court reviews will not be recorded by a court reporter unless I or my attorney so request since reviews are informal and non-adversarial in nature

_____ 6. Probation and Community Supervision: I understand that Hays County Probation Officers will conduct supervisory contacts concerning me. These contacts may occur at my home, my work, the treatment center, the courthouse, or anywhere deemed necessary and confidential. I will report when and whereas directed by the officers so as to keep open communication and remain in compliance. Representatives from the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA), or other contracted mental health provicer may also conduct these supervisory contacts. I understand and agree to the search of my person, property, place of residence, vehicle or personal effects at any time with or without a warrant and with or without probable cause. This search can be conducted by the MHC Probation Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or MHC staff. I specifically consent to the use of anything seized, as evidence in my MHC reviews.

_____ 7. Address Change and Travel: I understand I must maintain my residence of record within Hays County and get approval from my probation officer before changing residence. I understand I must notify my probation officer and Mental Health Court team members of any changes in phone number (or contact phone number) within 24 hours of a change. I understand that when traveling within Texas during the course of the program I will notify court personnel in advance of my travel plans, including the county/counties that I intend to be visiting. Before leaving the state or country, I understand that I am expected to notify MHC staff and my attorney, and the explicit permission is required before leaving the state. I understand the court must be informed of my destination, the length, and the purpose of my trip before engaging in interstate or international travel.

_____8. Employment: I understand that during the early phases of treatment and recovery, I may not be allowed to work or gain employment. However, within time and as directed by the MHC team; I will seek employment, job training and/or further my education as approved by the MHC team. If I am already employed, I need to disclose my employment information and provide proof of employment. Participants are encouraged to work.

_____9. Treatment Plan: I agree to attend and participate in all scheduled appointments with the Mental Health Court staff and treatment providers as ordered by the Judge and/or defined in my treatment plan. I understand that this is essential to my success in the program and my participation and commitment to these tasks will help me to be successful in achieving my goals. This includes but is not limited to meeting with the psychiatrist, taking prescribed medications, attending residential treatment and/or outpatient treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention treatment, support groups, classes, therapy, or any other supplementary treatment, counseling, or education considered essential to attaining my goals. I understand that depending on my income, I may be responsible for some or all treatment costs. I will communicate to my probation officer and Mental Health Court staff if I am facing financial difficulties.

Exhibit C

_____ 10. Psychiatric Medications: I agree to take medications as recommended by my prescriber for my mental health symptoms. I understand it is my duty to communicate any concerns or questions I have about my medications with the prescriber. I agree to receive treatment and medications under the care of one prescriber only. I understand refusal or repeated failure to take my medications will result in sanctions being imposed by the Judge and it may be required for another adult to verify my medication compliance. I agree to reports any and all medications, prescribed or over the counter to my treatment provider and the MHC team.

_____ 11. Drug and Alcohol Testing: I understand that I may be required to provide urine samples at any time during my participation in the program. Failure to provide a timely, valid sample may result in sanctions. Payment of any urinalysis fees are the responsibility of the participant to include confirmations on contested presumptive positive tests.

_____ 12. Drugs and Alcohol**: I will not use alcohol, illegal drugs, synthetic drugs (K2, Spice, Bath Salts, etc.) or medications not prescribed to me and I will not share any of my legally prescribed medications with someone else.** I will not use prescription drugs without a valid prescription and will disclose to the MHC team prior to taking the medications except in case of an emergency, in which disclosure can be the next day. I must disclose to the prescriber writing the prescription that I am a participant in the Mental Health Court. I will not enter an establishment whose primary purpose is to sell alcoholic beverages, nor will I remain at a location where alcohol is the main item for sale or consumption. If there is a relapse in drugs or alcohol, I understand that it is in my best interest to share this information with my probation officer and Mental Health Court staff so that I can be assessed for further treatment and avoid being discharged from the program. I understand that statements made by me to any MHC team member regarding drug use will not be used against me for further prosecution, I must be honest with all members of the Mental Health Court team about my recovery and understand this program is meant to support me in the community. MHC staff will discuss with you the best course of treatment, however sanctions may be required and implemented to remain in compliance with the program. If there is continued violations, I understand it is up to the Judge's discretion if I am to continue in the program or be discharged

____13. Criminal Activity: I will not unlawfully use or possess a firearm or other household. I will not violate the law or associate with any person engaged in criminal activity or affiliate with gang members. I will not commit any criminal law violations. If/when contacted by law enforcement, I shall report such contact to my Defense Attorney or Probation Officer within 24 hours regarding any potential charges and the receipt of any new citations. I understand that any new offenses may result in my discharge from the program.

_____ 14. Release of Information: I consent to allow information concerning me to be given to all Mental Health Court team members as needed to carry out official tasks for the program. Includes but not limited to: urinalysis testing, group attendance, medical and psychiatric treatment, appointment compliance and overall program progress.

_____ 15. Commencement Ceremony: I can be recognized publicly by the Judge and the MHC team for progress and achievements during the Mental Health Court. I will receive a certificate to acknowledge my accomplishments and advancement to each phase in the program. At the end of the program a Specialty Court Commencement Ceremony will be held to celebrate my graduation, and I am expected to be in attendance. At this time, I may also be terminated from probation depending on terms of my probation. If I have conditions of probation remaining, for example restitution, I may be extended in the Mental Health Court or on probation.

Exhibit C

_____ 16. Mentor Program and Alumni Participation: I understand that I have the opportunity to participate in the Mentor Program and Alumni Association. If I choose to be mentor, I will be trained to mentor incoming participants and provide support and guidance to others during their time on their program. As a mentor, I will be asked to participate in meetings, fundraisers and social activities that support current and past participants.

_____ 17. Sanctions: I understand I must abide by the conditions ordered by the Judge of the Mental Health Court including my individual treatment plan. Failure to comply may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, admonishment, verbal reports, written reports, increased drug/alcohol testing, increased treatment requirements, jail time, or involuntary termination of the program. The sanctions will be up to the Judge's discretion to revoke my probation and sentence me in accordance with the provisions of the law or transfer my case to regular probation.

_____ 18. Removal: If it is claimed that I have failed to comply with the rules or requirements of the Mental Health Court, I give up the right to a hearing or an attorney and agree to proceed with imposition of any non-jail sanction except removal from the Mental Health Court. Before I can be terminated from Mental Health Court, I am entitled to a full hearing with counsel. Jail sanctions will be decided with counsel present

I understand and accept the contents of this agreement which I have read or had read to me and agree to be bound by and follow all conditions.

Participant Date _____

Defense Attorney Date _____

(Assistant) District Attorney Date _____

Judge Elaine Brown Date
Hays County Court of Law 3
Mental Health Court Judge

Exhibit D

Phases

Mental Health Court Phase Overview

Your Progress, One Step at a Time

Phase I: Acute Stabilization

Motto: *Show Up and Be Honest*

Minimum Time: 3 Months

Focus: Establish stability, routine, and trust with your team.

Key Expectations:

- Meet with psychiatrist (within 30 days)
- Meet with counselor/therapist (within 45–60 days)
- Connect with case worker and keep in communication with court staff
- Take medications as prescribed (with verification)
- Attend all court hearings and supervision check-ins
- Begin making court-ordered payments
- Practice honesty and open communication

Phase II: Pro-Social Habitation

Motto: *Build Support, Stay Connected*

Minimum Time: 5 months

Focus: Strengthen your support network, get connected to a community, and strive to reach personal goals.

Key Expectations:

- Stay consistent with all appointments and communication
- Remain active in pro-social and sober support groups
- Complete all court-ordered classes
- Attend court and supervision check-ins

- Join at least one pro-social activity (support group, volunteering, classes, etc)
- Build or maintain a sober support network (sponsor, coach, group)
- Enroll in court-ordered classes (coping skills, psychoeducation)
- Make court-ordered payments
- Start or continue employment, school, or structured activity

Phase III: Adaptive Habitation & Continuum of Care

Motto: *Stay Committed and Look Ahead*

Minimum Time: 4 Months

Focus: Prepare for lasting success and continued stability after completion of the program.

Key Expectations:

- Stay consistent with all appointments and communication with providers and court staff
- Remain active in pro-social and sober support groups
- Complete all court-ordered classes
- Attend court and supervision check-ins
- Join the Alumni Association or Mentor Program (optional)
- Maintain employment, education, or daily structure
- Continue making payments as required
- Termination session with court staff to discuss transition plan and follow up services post graduation

Abundant Life
Christian Church

Equipping Saints to live Free and Victorious in Christ.

251 Uhland Road, P. O. Box 1350
San Marcos, Texas 78667-1350

Darius D. Todd
Senior Pastor

Paul E. Buntyn
Pastor Emeritus Founder

JoAnn Buntyn
Pastor Emerita

Pastor's Council

Jacqueline Todd
Elder

James Scott
Head of Finance

Guy Williams
Minister

Leroy Anderson
Deacon

February 26, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Hays County CCL Mental Health Treatment Courts and Lighthouse Landing Application for San Marcos CDBG Grant Application

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Abundant Life Christian Church, I am writing to express our strong support for the Hays County Court at Law Treatment Court and Lighthouse Landing CDBG Grant Application from the City of San Marcos.

Hays County Court at Law Mental Health Treatment Courts are requesting funding to expand access to transitional group housing for the court participants through Lighthouse Landing. Lighthouse Landing is a group living home that provides short-term emergency rental assistance and facilitates independent shared housing in Kyle and soon to be San Marcos.

Both court programs have admitted many participants who are housing unstable and access to safe housing has positively contributed to their success in the program. A quarter (8/34) of the current MHC caseload and 63% (5/8) of the current AOT caseload have utilized housing stability services including group or sober living. This statistic is similar when looking at previous MHC graduates (6/40 = 15% needing housing support). Of the court participants who needed housing assistance in MHC, 79% are San Marcos residents.

With San Marcos' rising rental costs, growing population, and limited affordable housing options this places extreme pressure on households living paycheck to paycheck. For vulnerable populations—including those transitioning to independence or re-entering the community—a single financial disruption often leads to eviction, housing instability, and ultimately homelessness. It is essential to have housing interventions that are low barrier, timely, and clinically appropriate in critical periods of housing instability to prevent displacement of low-income individuals including families, young adults, and the elderly.

The court has utilized transitional group living to assist program participants with housing instability with great success, by witnessing numerous court participants gain stability and structure in caring and compassionate environments, including at Lighthouse. Lighthouse Landing's model is grounded in evidence-based, nationally recognized, housing first

models. This program has already, and will continue to have, a significant and lasting impact on the well-being of individuals and families in the city of San Marcos.

Hays County Court at Law Mental Health Specialty Courts are well-positioned to implement this program expansion and partnership with Lighthouse Landing. The treatment courts have a proven track record of delivering high-quality mental health services, providing judicial accountability, and support services that promote wellness, recovery, and reintegration into the community. They bring well trained staff, clinical expertise, and strategic partnerships together to ensure success and sustainability of the court programs and success of the court participants. They have identified gaps in services and worked to fill those gaps and have maintained a 93% success rate.

I have worked with the leadership of Lighthouse Landing and am amazed with their ability to begin to meet the needs of our community. I also volunteer in support of the Mental Health Court's positive impact in our community. Therefore, I fully support Hays County CCL Mental Health Treatment Court's endeavor to partner with Lighthouse Landing to expand into San Marcos and offer transitional housing. I encourage your support of these critical programs.

Sincerely,

Darius D. Todd
Senior Pastor
pastor.todd@alccsm.org
512-787-0993

Lighthouse Landing, LLC

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Social Services Application Narrative
City of San Marcos

Executive Summary

Lighthouse Landing is requesting $60,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Social Services funding to provide housing stabilization services to low-to-moderate income residents of San Marcos experiencing homelessness or transitioning from incarceration. Operating for approximately 18 months, Lighthouse Landing has developed structured intake, eligibility verification, and case management systems to support vulnerable adults facing housing barriers.

The program will serve 40–50 unduplicated individuals annually. At least 60% of participants are expected to secure or maintain stable housing, with 55% of reentry participants maintaining housing stability for 90 days or more.

Community Need

San Marcos continues to experience rising housing costs and limited affordable housing availability for low-income residents. Individuals experiencing homelessness and those reentering the community face barriers including limited rental history, financial instability, and restricted access to housing. Without stabilization services, these individuals are at increased risk of prolonged homelessness and recidivism.

Project Description

The program will provide individualized housing stabilization case management, HUD-compliant income verification, transitional housing coordination, and limited short-term housing assistance tied directly to stabilization plans. All participants will meet HUD Low-to-Moderate Income requirements under the Limited Clientele (LMC) national objective.

Measurable Outcomes

- 40–50 individuals served
- 100% receive stabilization plans
- 60% secure or maintain housing
- 55% of reentry participants maintain housing for 90 days
- 100% income documentation maintained in compliance with CDBG requirements

Budget Summary – $60,000

Personnel – Housing Stabilization Case Management: $36,000
Direct Client Assistance: $15,000
Program Operations & Compliance: $9,000

All CDBG funds will be used exclusively for eligible housing stabilization services and documented personnel costs directly tied to service delivery. No CDBG funds will be used for profit distribution or unrelated business expenses.

Implementation Timeline

Months 1–2: Intake and eligibility verification
Months 3–9: Service delivery and case management
Months 10–11: Outcome tracking and housing retention verification
Month 12: Final reporting and financial reconciliation

Certification Statement

Lighthouse Landing will comply with all applicable federal CDBG regulations (24 CFR Part 570). All beneficiaries will meet HUD-defined Low-to-Moderate Income eligibility requirements. Financial records and documentation will be maintained in accordance with CDBG requirements.

Authorized Representative: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Hill Country MHDD since 1997

Caring People Dedicated to Quality Service

819 Water Street, Suite 300, Kerrville, Texas 78028
Tel: (830) 792-3300, FAX: (830) 792-5771
CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-(877)-466-0660
Website: www.hillcountry.org

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2/26/2026

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Hill Country MHDD Centers, I am writing to express our strong support for the Hays County Court at Law Treatment Court and Lighthouse Landing CDBG Grant Application from the City of San Marcos. Hays County Court at Law Mental Health Treatment Courts are requesting funding to expand access to a transitional group living home – Lighthouse Landing for the court participants. Lighthouse Landing provides short-term emergency rental assistance and facilitates independent shared housing in Kyle and soon to be San Marcos.

Hill Country MHDD is the Local Mental Health Authority in Hays County. As such, we are dedicated to ensuring access to essential mental health services, particularly for individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or experiencing a mental health crisis. We also work in close partnership with the Hays County Mental Health Court Program and the Assistant Outpatient Program, as these programs are rehabilitative in nature and strengthen the overall wellbeing of our community.

An increasing number of the individuals we serve as the LMHA are either experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness due to rising housing costs and lack of affordable housing options. This makes the provision of consistent mental health services less effective because these individuals are often unable to attend their mental health appointments due to the challenges that arise from housing instability.

With San Marcos housing costs rising and limited affordable housing options, our neighbors are increasingly at risk for homelessness. It is important to have housing interventions that meet the needs of individuals,

especially those transitioning back into the community after incarceration, psychiatric hospitalization, or residential treatment.

The AOT and MHC programs would specifically benefit from access to a transition/group housing environment because it would provide program participants with a safe and secure setting to live as they engage in rehabilitative interventions to make positive changes in their lives. This would help reduce the likelihood of reincarceration, repeated psychiatric hospitalization, recurrent use of emergency services, and ultimately help to reduce the financial toll of these events that are shouldered by our community.

Both court programs have admitted many participants who are housing unstable, and access to safe housing has positively contributed to their success in the program. 24% (8/34) of the current MHC caseload and 63% (5/8) of the current AOT caseload have utilized housing stability services including group or sober living. This statistic is similar when looking at previous MHC graduates (6/40) with 15% needing housing support. Of the court participants who needed housing assistance in MHC, 79% are San Marcos residents. Of those referred to AOT within the past year, 25 out of the 39 (64%) were unhoused and in San Marcos or were in jail and would be released without housing in San Marcos.

The court has utilized transitional group living to assist program participants with housing instability with great success, by witnessing numerous court participants gain stability and structure in caring and compassionate environments, including at Lighthouse. Lighthouse Landing's model is grounded in evidence-based, nationally recognized, housing first models. This program has already, and will continue to have, a significant and lasting impact on the well-being of individuals and families in the city of San Marcos.

Diversion programs such as MHC and AOT are vital to the community as they are truly rehabilitative in nature and methodically identify /treat underlying mental health challenges that commonly result in repeated use of emergency services. Without diversion programs of this nature, community members often experience repeated interactions with the criminal justice system due to untreated mental health symptoms. I cannot speak highly enough of our local MHC and AOT programs, as I have witnessed them seek to prevent these avoidable crisis interactions, significantly improve the quality of life of the program participants, and improve the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

Hays County Court at Law Mental Health Specialty Courts are well-positioned to implement this program expansion, and partnership with Lighthouse Landing. The treatment courts have a proven track record of delivering high-quality mental health services, providing judicial accountability, and support services that promote wellness, recovery, and reintegration into the community. They bring well trained staff, clinical expertise, and strategic partnerships together to ensure success and sustainability of the court programs and success of the court participants. They have identified gaps in services and worked to fill those gaps and have maintained a 93% success rate.

We fully support Hays County CCL Mental Health Treatment Court's efforts to partner with Lighthouse Landing to expand into San Marcos and offer transitional housing. I encourage your support of these critical programs.

Sincerely,

Christopher Winn, M.A., LPC-S

Mental Health Diversion Team Lead

Hill Country MHDD Centers

christopher6367@hillcountry.org

830-777-4246

RICK JONES
Executive Director/CEO

MEENU WALTERS
Managing Director

2/26/2026

RE: Letter of Support for Hays County CCL Mental Health Treatment Courts and Lighthouse Landing Application for San Marcos CDBG Grant Application

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Neighborhood Defender Service of Texas (NDS), I am writing to express our strong support for the Hays County Court at Law Treatment Court and Lighthouse Landing CDBG Grant Application from the City of San Marcos. NDS is a non-profit organization that holds a contract with Hays County to provide holistic public defense to individuals living in poverty who intersect with the criminal justice system. As part of those legal services, we represent clients who participate in the mental health treatment court. Our vantage point of working directly with system-impacted individuals suffering from mental health challenges informs us that transitional housing is much-needed and would help bring stability to our neighbors who need it the most. In fact, several of our current clients would benefit from this opportunity, and previous clients would have if it had been available to them.

Hays County Court at Law Mental Health Treatment Courts are requesting funding to expand access to transitional group housing for the court participants through Lighthouse Landing. Lighthouse Landing is a group living home that provides short-term emergency rental assistance and facilitates independent shared housing in Kyle and soon to be San Marcos.

Both court programs have admitted many participants who are housing unstable and access to safe housing has positively contributed to their success in the program. 24% (8/34) of the current MHC caseload and 63% (5/8) of the current AOT caseload have utilized housing stability services including group or sober living. This statistic is similar when looking at previous MHC graduates (6/40 = 15% needing housing support). Of the court participants who needed housing assistance in MHC, 79% are San Marcos residents.

With San Marcos' rising rental costs, growing population, and limited affordable housing options this places extreme pressure on households living paycheck to paycheck. For vulnerable populations—including those transitioning to independence or re-entering the community—a single financial disruption often leads to eviction, housing instability, and ultimately homelessness. It is essential to have housing interventions that are low barrier, timely, and clinically appropriate in critical periods of housing instability to prevent displacement of low-income individuals including families, young adults, and the elderly.

The court has utilized transitional group living to assist program participants with housing instability with great success, by witnessing numerous court participants gain stability and structure in caring and compassionate environments, including at Lighthouse. Lighthouse Landing's model is grounded in evidence-based, nationally recognized, housing first models. This program has already, and will continue to have, a significant and lasting impact on the well-being of individuals and families in the city of San Marcos.

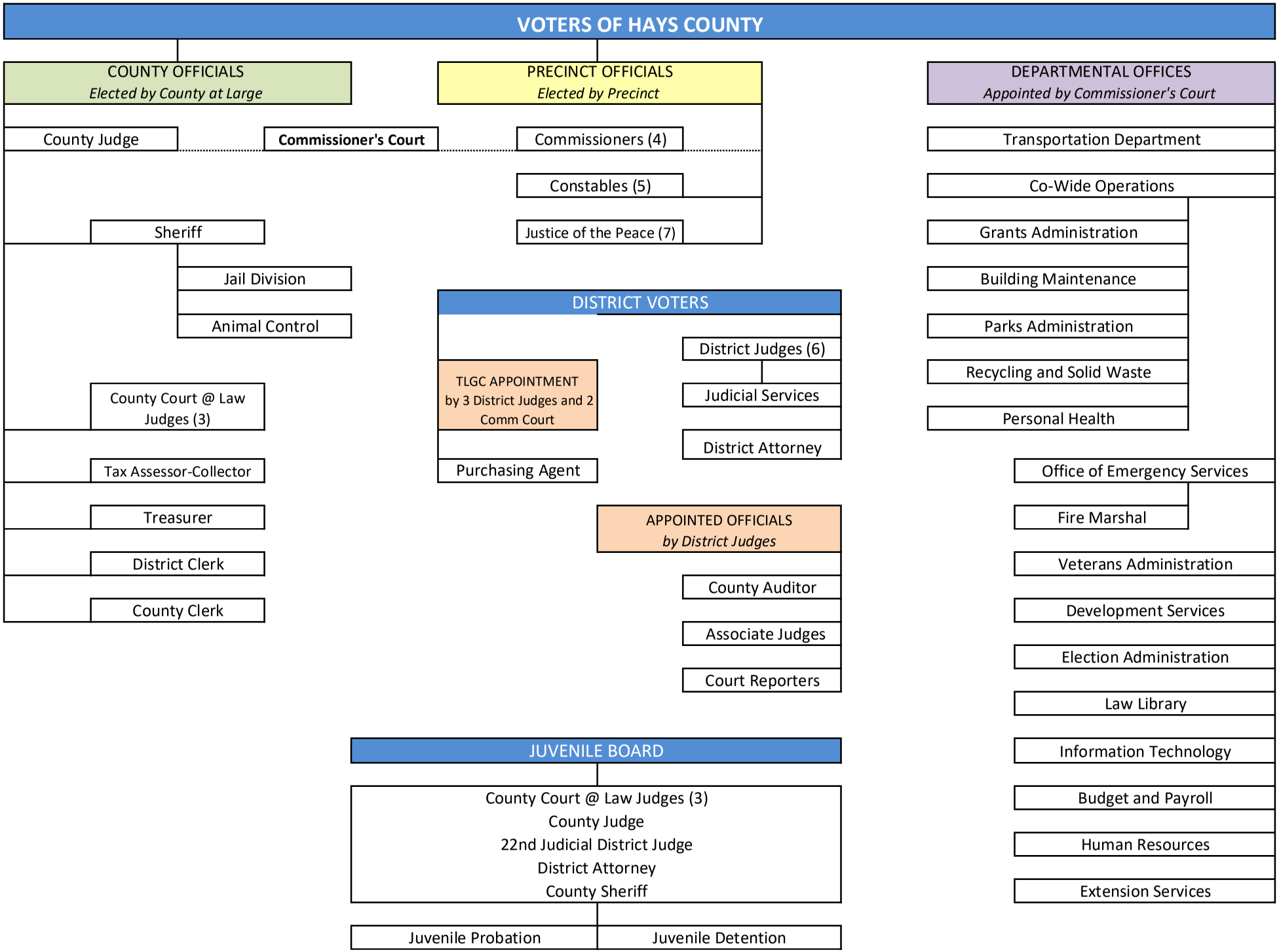
Hays County Court at Law Mental Health Specialty Courts are well-positioned to implement this program expansion and partnership with Lighthouse Landing. The treatment courts have a proven track record of delivering high-quality mental health services, providing judicial accountability, and support services that promote wellness, recovery, and reintegration into the community. They bring well trained staff, clinical expertise, and strategic partnerships together to ensure success and sustainability of the court programs and success of the court

participants. They have identified gaps in services and worked to fill those gaps and have maintained a 93% success rate.

We fully support Hays County CCL Mental Health Treatment Court's efforts to partner with Lighthouse Landing to expand into San Marcos and offer transitional housing, and encourage your support of these critical programs. Thank you for your commitment to our neighbors and bringing stability to marginalized individuals.

Sincerely,

Meenu Walters
Managing Director
Neighborhood Defender Service of Texas
210-294-2515


VOTERS OF HAYS COUNTY
COUNTY OFFICIALS
Elected by County at Large
County Judge
Commissioner's Court
Sheriff
Jail Division
Animal Control
County Court @ Law Judges (3)
Tax Assessor-Collector
Treasurer
District Clerk
County Clerk
PRECINCT OFFICIALS
Elected by Precinct
Commissioners (4)
Constables (5)
Justice of the Peace (7)
DISTRICT VOTERS
District Judges (6)
TLGC APPOINTMENT by 3 District Judges and 2 Comm Court
Judicial Services
District Attorney
Purchasing Agent
APPOINTED OFFICIALS
by District Judges
County Auditor
Associate Judges
Court Reporters
JUVENILE BOARD
County Court @ Law Judges (3)
County Judge
22nd Judicial District Judge
District Attorney
County Sheriff
Juvenile Probation
Juvenile Detention
DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES
Appointed by Commissioner's Court
Transportation Department
Co-Wide Operations
Grants Administration
Building Maintenance
Parks Administration
Recycling and Solid Waste
Personal Health
Office of Emergency Services
Fire Marshal
Veterans Administration
Development Services
Election Administration
Law Library
Information Technology
Budget and Payroll
Human Resources
Extension Services

HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS
OFFICIALS
September 30, 2024

Title	Name
County Judge	Ruben Becerra
Commissioner Precinct 1	Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe
Commissioner Precinct 2	Dr. Michelle Cohen
Commissioner Precinct 3	Lon Shell
Commissioner Precinct 4	Walt Smith
22nd Judicial District Judge	R. Bruce Boyer
207th Judicial District Judge	Tracie Wright-Reneau
274th Judicial District Judge	Gary Steel
428th Judicial District Judge	Joe Pool
453rd Judicial District Judge	Sherri Tibbe
483rd Judicial District Judge	Tanner Neidhardt
County Auditor	Marisol Villarreal-Alonzo, CPA
Sheriff	Gary Cutler
Criminal District Attorney	Kelly Higgins
County Court at Law 1 Judge	Jimmy Hall
County Court at Law 2 Judge	Chris Johnson
County Court at Law 3 Judge	Elaine Brown
District Clerk	Vacant due to Resignation
County Clerk	Dr. Elaine Cardenas
Tax Assessor/Collector	Jenifer O'Kane
County Treasurer	Daphne Tenorio
Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 1	Joanne Prado
Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2	Maggie H. Moreno
Justice of the Peace Precinct 2, 1	Beth Smith
Justice of the Peace Precinct 2, 2	J. R. Mendoza
Justice of the Peace Precinct 3	Andrew Cable
Justice of the Peace Precinct 4	John Burns
Justice of the Peace Precinct 5	Sandra Bryant
Constable Precinct 1	David Peterson
Constable Precinct 2	Michael Torres

HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS
OFFICIALS
September 30, 2024

Title	Name
Constable Precinct 3	Don Montague
Constable Precinct 4	Ronald Hood
Constable Precinct 5	John Ellen
Associate District Judge	Karl Hays
Associate District Judge	Benjamin Moore
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer	Lisa Day
Juvenile Detention Center Administrator	Brett Littlejohn
District Court Administrator	Stephen M. Thomas
District Court Reporter	Heather Holden
District Court Reporter	Richard E. Roberts Jr.
District Court Reporter	Ruby A. Castilleja
District Court Reporter	Sheri L. Rogers
District Court Reporter	Brenna Demoss
County Court Reporter	Kimberly Rice
County Court Reporter	Susan Green
County Court Reporter	Leticia Escamilla
Transportation Director	Jerry E. Borcherding
Countywide Operations Director	Tammy Crumley
Development Services Director	Marcus Pacheco
Fire Marshal	Stephen Seddig
Office of Emergency Services Director	Michael Jones
Veterans Services Officer	Jude J. Prather
Extension Services Agent	Kate Blankenship
Elections Administrator	Jennifer Anderson
Information Technology Director	Jeff McGill
Budget and Payroll Director	Vickie Dorsett
Human Resources Director	Shari Miller
Purchasing Agent	Stephanie Hunt

Program Analysis - Transitional Housing for Mental Health Court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Participants

Since the inception of the Hays County Mental Health Specialty Court in 2023, there has been an identified need to connect program participants to short- and long-term housing resources. The Mental Health Court has worked to identify partner organizations in Hays and adjacent counties to assist with this need, but funding for this issue is often hard to come by. With the addition of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program in 2024, this need has amplified. Although housing assistance is not a need for every participant, it is a need that the Mental health Court and AOT Program see often.

With the addition of these funds, the Mental Health Court and AOT Program would be able to provide short-term, transitional housing to 6 program participants for up to 2 months. The current caseload is 35 for the Mental Health Court and 25 for the AOT Program (maximum of 60 combined). This equates to an ability to help 10% of total program participants with short-term housing. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment program is largely funded by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. These funds cannot be used to help with housing for participants.

The Mental Health Court program has been exploring various avenues to secure funds to assist individuals with housing but have not received any grant dollars to assist with it as this point. All funds directed toward housing have come from the county budget and are restricted by limited resources.

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM: G. 11.

Hays County Commissioners Court

Date: 02/24/2026

Requested By: Kaimi Mattila

Sponsor: Commissioner Ingalsbe

Agenda Item

Authorize the execution of a resolution for the submission of a grant application to the City of San Marcos Community Development Block Grant. **INGALSBE/BOUTTE/BROWN**

Summary

The Mental Health Court is seeking funds in an amount up to $20,000.00 from the City of San Marcos' Community Development Block Grant program to support short-term transitional housing for participants in the Mental Health Court. The attached resolution must be signed before an application can be submitted. The grant deadline is March 2, 2026. A finalized application will be brought back to Commissioners Court for ratification on March 10th. There is no match required for this grant.

Attachments

Resolution

Resolution

STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF HAYS §

WHEREAS, the City of San Marcos has received an allocation of Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) funding and is requesting applications for projects from local entities that promote the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment; and expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate incomes.; and

WHEREAS, projects must benefit residents of San Marcos and at least 51% of individuals benefitting from the grant project must have an annual income less than 80% of the area median income; and

WHEREAS, The Hays County Commissioners' Court supports the submission of a grant application to the San Marcos Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) program; and

WHEREAS, The Hays County Commissioners' Court designates Ruben Becerra, Hays County Judge as the grantee's authorized official; and

WHEREAS, The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hays County Commissioners Court approves the submission of the grant application for the CDBG grant program.

ADOPTED THIS THE 24TH DAY of FEBRUARY, 2026

Ruben Becerra
Hays County Judge

ATTEST:

Deputy

Elaine Cardenas
Hays County Clerk

HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Note from City Staff:

Hays County submitted the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. It is more than 150 pages long, so we removed it from the application packet, but it is available upon request from Carol Griffith, Housing and Community Development Manager, City of San Marcos, cgriffith@sanmarcostx.gov or 512-393-8147.