



DATE: November 17, 2020  
TO: City Council  
VIA: Bert Lumbreras, City Manager  
FROM: Victoria Runkle, Interim Finance Director  
SUBJECT: Human Services Advisory Board Recommendations

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Seven members of our community comprise the members of the Human Services Advisory Board. Over the past 12 weeks, this Committee first reviewed 22 Human Service agency applications. They then either physically or virtually met with the agencies to determine the programs and the assistance each of them provides to the community. After they reported to each other their findings, they then had the herculean job of allocating \$500,000 to the programs.

The Board members recommends funding 22 agencies offering 28 separate programs. The recommended program allocations ranged from a high of \$50,000 for the Hays County Food Bank to a low of \$3,000 for the Central Texas Dispute Resolution Center and Hands of Hope.

The following highlights each agency and the programs the money will support.

**Any Baby Can of Austin: \$18,000:** This agency provides a host of services for families with children up to 3 years of age with developmental delays, disabilities or other medical diagnoses that may impact development in Hays and other regional counties. The agency will use the City's money for assessment, specialized skills training, implementation of Therapies, and case management to help families locate other services.

**Cenikor Foundation: \$20,000:** These monies will be used for two separate programs: Prevention of Substance Abuse and Youth Recovery.

The Committee recommends \$14,000 be dedicated to provide prevention training curriculum and materials in our schools.

An additional \$6,000 will be dedicated to the Youth Recovery Community Program that targets adolescents ages 13- 21 who are struggling with substance use/misuse. The program addresses not only the young person, but offers support to the families.

**Central Texas Dispute Resolution Center: \$3,000:** This agency, located in San Marcos, provides mediation services to the unserved in our County. Community mediations range from neighborhood disputes (barking dogs, noise and roommates) to court ordered mediation issues.

**Combined Community Action - Meals on Wheels Program: \$15,000:** With the COVID closure of Senior Centers, this vital service not only served 118,170 meals last year, but also ensured volunteers were able to ensure citizens were contacted in these vital times. The volunteers, of course, delivered the 10 meals a week practicing all CDC and state safety rules.

**Community Action Inc. – Senior Citizen Center: \$16,000:** Even in the COVID environment, we need to ensure our community's seniors are not isolated. The Center is open for lunch meals, virtual activities,

and distribution of food, if necessary. The Center also provides a clearinghouse for utility assistance, and other social service needs.

**Family Justice Center: \$5,000:** This money is used to provide a Client Safe Network Terminal for victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes. People can use the terminal to receive private messages, apply for employment, and communicate for other services through this free technology.

**Girls Empowerment Network: \$5,000:** This program is developed to provide young women with a belief in themselves. This organization is developing materials and outreach methods to meet the COVID constraints. The organization is using the tools young people use: texts, online opportunities, and Spark Kits with virtual programming. Schools use this service when they identify young women who clearly exhibit signs of stress or trauma.

**Greater San Marcos Youth Council: \$57,000:** The Youth Council will be funded for two separate programs: Children's Shelter and Youth and Family Services (YFS), \$24,500 and \$32,500, respectively.

The first program operates a shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children between ages 2 – 17. They served 12 San Marcos Children from a total base of 171 children.

The YFS Program is designed to reduce child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency. The Services include, but are not limited to: individual and family counseling, parenting and anger management classes, and youth skills groups. A crisis hotline is maintained 24 hours a day. The agency served 318 San Marcos clients from a total base of 536.

**Hands of Hope: \$3,000:** A free, adult, educational, ecumenical ministry targeting under-educated and disadvantaged women. The program is two ten-week trainings for women to encourage and support each other to meet life skills. Examples of skills include, but are not limited to: bill paying, job readiness, money management, language skills, and computer skills. Other case management needs can be organized through this agency.

**Hays County Food Bank: \$50,000:** Food insecurity has doubled since the COVID pandemic. The agency served 3,366 San Marcos residents. Each resident receives 40-50 pounds of food per week.

**Hays Caldwell Women's Center: \$63,000:** This agency operates three separate programs: Family Violence Program (\$23,000); Sexual Assault (\$20,000); and Children's Advocacy Center (\$20,000).

In the last year, the Family Violence Program assisted 374 San Marcos clients. This portion of the organization operates a shelter, 24-hour HELpline, counseling and support when dealing with law enforcement, medical, and legal issues.

Sexual Assault Program aided 312 San Marcos citizens in providing crisis intervention to individuals who experienced sexual assault. The support included everything from counseling to medical support at the time of the incident.

The Children's Advocacy Center provided counseling and support groups for 194 children who are survivors of child abuse and their protective caregivers.

**Hays Caldwell Child Protective Board: \$15,000:** This Board is an all-volunteer program. The Hays County Commissioners Court appoints the volunteers to ensure a safe environment for Hays County

children as they must engage with the County Court system. The organization served 141 children in substitute care and 85 children received “preservation services.”

**Nosotros La Gente: \$9,500:** This organization raises money to provide footwear for needy children in our community. A total of 1,226 clients were served in 2020.

**Pet Prevent A Litter (PALS) of Central Texas: \$9,500:** PALS provides pet spay/neuter/vaccination services to low income families. Last year a total of 707 clients were served in San Marcos last year.

**The Salvation Army-San Marcos Financial Assistance Program: \$10,000:** This program assists people in emergency need in San Marcos with Utilities (water, natural gas, and electric). It provides \$150 assistance during the calendar year. Assisted 2,774 clients in 2020. The need has expanded. However, there are other programs to address utility and rent programs.

**School Fuel: \$15,000:** In the 2020-2021 school year over 1,000 children in grades K – 7 received weekend meals. The program costs approximately \$215 per child for the school year. If more resources are generated, the program will add children in other grades.

**San Marcos Housing Authority: \$28,500:** Service coordinators at the Allen Woods Homes, Springtown Villa, and the CM Allen Homes help identify and access various services for the housing population. This is also referred to as case management, and the Authority aided 205 direct clients in the past year.

**SMCISD Age Parenting Program: \$15,000:** This program helped 118 students who are pregnant, parenting or experiencing the loss of a pregnancy or child. The overall goal is to ensure the young person remains in school. The program helps the student access necessary services.

**San Marcos Youth Service Bureau: \$17,500:** Provided 423 youth between the ages of 11 – 17 with outdoor recreational opportunities to expose them to cultural and natural opportunities with mentors that are available to help them understand future choices. Its overall goal is to maintain interest in school and future employment.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul: \$18,000:** The San Marcos program aids with utility bills, prescriptions, gasoline, and bus tickets. The organization helped 1,008 families in the last year. They did provide \$42,453 in San Marcos’ utility support in 2019.

**Scheib Opportunity Center: \$29,000:** This organization provides services to San Marcos citizens who have mental illness or intellectual development disabilities. They provide outpatient mental health support, day workshop programs, a mobile crisis outreach team, and mental health support to veterans and family support. They provided direct support to 4,056 direct clients in 2020.

**Southside Community Center: \$78,000:** The Board funded three separate programs in this agency: Specific Assistance, \$28,500; Transitional Shelter, \$28,500; and Housing Rehabilitation, \$21,500.

Specific Assistance program offers \$100 rental support and \$50 in utility support once every six months. In 2019 they helped 9,200 clients.

The Transitional Shelter program provides laundry services, showers, and daily meals for clients that cannot enter a shelter program. They also offer lockers for homeless clients. The life program is centered on getting families independent through training and case management. The program supported 17,000 San Marcos clients in 2019.

The Housing Rehabilitation Program performs construction maintenance on current homes to accommodate the physical life changes people experience to ensure they can continue to remain in their homes. Ramps, shower changes, window improvements, door widening, and other odd jobs are performed. Most of the work is accomplished by talented volunteers.

There were two themes throughout this year's presentations. First, agencies are being creative in ways to continue to provide services in this current COVID environment. They are using as much technology as possible, but they are also ensuring they employ all CDC safety issues in delivering services. They are very conscious of the safety for their employees, volunteers, and clients.

Second, every agency reported a growing need. It is difficult for them to document the needs, but it is evident. It will take months to unwind the damage COVID created for some of our citizens - even after a vaccine. One of staff's recommendations is: if there is interest in providing more support to these non-profits, it would be good to ensure we can document the COVID relationship in case there is any additional federal support.

Finally, effort would not be possible without staff and Board members. Christina Tureaud from the Finance Department spent time first managing the payments and criteria over the past several years. This year she accepted and organized the applications for the Board members. She finally was the Board's staff support through the process.

The Human Services Advisory Board is an extraordinary group of people who have amazing relationships with the community's service providers. They know the agencies and the services. As with all community efforts, the goal does need to be to develop more people to be on the Board. This year's members, listed below, spent more than 20 hours of their own time on Tuesday evenings reviewing proposals. They also spent time visiting and talking with the agencies. A community is only as good as its volunteers. Please join me in thanking them for their work.

• Alfretta Lee	• Monica Gonzales
• Gloria Quinn	• Mary Earls
• Joann Parsons	• Megan Campbell
• Eleanor Owen-Oshan	

Please let us know, if you have additional questions. A summary of the allocation follows on the next page.

	Agency	Program	FY21 Recommendations
1.	Any Baby Can of Austin Inc	Early Childhood Intervention	18,000
2	Cenikor Foundation	Prevention of Substance Use	14,000
		Youth Recovery Community	6,000
3.	Central Texas Dispute Resolution Center	Cite & Divert/Mediations	3,000
4.	Combined Community Action	Meals on Wheels of the Rural Capital Area	15,000
5.	Community Action	Senior Citizen Center	16,000
6.	Family Justice Center	Client Safe Network Terminal	5,000
7.	Girls Empowerment Network	Girl Connect	5,000
8.	Greater San Marcos Youth Council	Children's Shelter	24,500
		Youth and Family Services (YFS)	32,500
9	Hands of Hope	Hands of Hope	3,000
10.	Hays County Food Bank	Food Distribution Program	50,000
11.	Hays Caldwell Women's Center	Family Violence Program	23,000
		Sexual Assault & Abuse Program	20,000
		Children's Advocacy Center	20,000
12.	Hays County Child Protective Board	Child Protective Board	15,000
13.	Nosotros La Gente	Shoe Program	9,500
14.	Pet Prevent A Litter (PALS) of Central Tex	PALS, Helping Underserved Ppl for a Healthy Comm	9,500
15.	The Salvation Army-San Marcos Service C	Emergency Assistance Program	10,000
16.	School Fuel	Weekend Food for Hungry Children	15,000
17.	San Marcos Housing Authority	Resident Services -Service Coordination	28,500
18.	SMCISD Age Parenting Program	Follow Up Program	15,000
19.	San Marcos Youth Service Bureau	Teen Network/Active Community Teens	17,500
20.	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	18,000
21.	Scheib Opportunity Center	Developmental Disability & Mental Health Svcs	29,000
22.	Southside Community Center	Specific Assistance	28,500
		Transitional Shelter	28,000
		Housing Rehabilitation	21,500
			500,000