

April 2022

FEATURED NEWS



Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds for Qualified Clients, Effective Feb. 21 – Sept. 30

To assist families in need who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, [Texas Health & Human Services](#) has awarded The Harris Center with \$2,932,582 in Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds to distribute to our eligible client population.

What are the eligibility requirements?

In order to receive assistance funds, eligible families must:

- Live in Harris County, Texas
- Be an active client at The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
- Have a dependent under the age of 18 years old living in the home
- Have a member in the household with a mental health, intellectual and developmental disability or substance use diagnosis
- Have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Assistance funds are to address the urgent needs of eligible families. This includes:

1. **Rental Housing Support Services:** May include rent and utility assistance, security deposit assistance and other time-limited expenses to help maintain current housing or move quickly into housing
2. **Housing Modifications:** Allowing for physical adaptations to a member's home that are necessary to ensure the member's health, welfare and safety or that enable the member to function with greater independence in the home. Limitations do apply
3. **Emergency Housing and Hotel Vouchers:** Short-term emergency housing or hotel vouchers when a member of the household tests positive for COVID-19 to reduce the chances of spreading the virus and to eliminate the financial burden associated with a safe and healthy living environment
4. **Ancillary Expenses:** Short-term basic needs such as purchasing diapers, clothing,

emergency food, burial assistance and other necessary personal care items to promote short-term family stability

Funds may not be used for the following purposes:

- Childcare expenses
- Transportation
- Short-term education or training

How much funding can each participant receive?

The Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund will be available from Feb. 21, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2022.

- Funding cannot be provided for more than four (4) consecutive months
- Families of 3 or less, can receive a maximum of \$7,000 towards eligible services
- Families of 4 or more, can receive a maximum of \$10,000 towards eligible services

Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis and participants may not receive more than four consecutive months of assistance. No funding will be available after Sept. 30, 2022.

Speak to your care team today to see if you are eligible.



New Program to bring Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Children with Autism and Anxiety

Co-occurring anxiety disorders affect 40 to 50% of children with autism spectrum disorder, contributing to substantial distress and impairment. Personalized cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has been found to be effective for this underserved group, but it is not readily available currently, and the core treatment mechanisms are not well understood.

The Harris Center, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill is proud to announce an awarded grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to implement a cognitive behavioral therapy intervention and clinician training protocol called CAPTA (Community-based Anxiety Program Tailored for Autism).

The program will work to treat youth with anxiety and autism and will be available in community mental health settings. Researchers will then evaluate clients' preliminary response to the treatment. Drs. Eric Storch and Andrew Guzick are leading the project at Baylor College of Medicine while Dr. Rinita Roberts, Dr. Sylvia Muzquiz, and Tiffanie Williams-Brooks are project champions at The Harris Center.

[Learn More](#)

TOGETHER for Mental Health

Mental health is an incredibly important part of overall health. With a growing number of Americans experiencing mental health symptoms, we need to join together to advocate for improving our nation's mental health care system.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. During May, we join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Each year we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families. The theme for 2022 is "Together for Mental Health". Together, we can help transform the lives of those with mental health needs.

[Learn More](#)



The NAMI Walk is back! Participate May 21

Get your walking shoes on! Join us on May 21 for NAMIWalks Your Way 2022. This event works to advocate for better mental health resources for all. It's FREE to participate. We'll cheer each other on while raising our voices to be heard, united in our commitment to raise awareness for mental health.

Event Date: May 21, 2022

Time: 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Sam Houston Park, 1000 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002

[Register](#)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



Juvenile Forensic Evaluation Unit Program

All clinical services, with the exception of Children's Forensic Evaluation Services, are provided for the child and family primarily in the home, school, probation or parole office. Forensic Child and Adolescent: Age 10-17 Referrals are received from Probation, Parole, Alternative Schools and the Justice of the Peace Courts. However, parents can seek services and walk-ins are welcome.

- Community Based Stabilization Unit (CBSU)
- Community Unit Probation Services (CUPS)
- CHOICES
- Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)
- TRIAD Children's Forensic Evaluation Services
- TRIAD Children's Mental Health Services
- TCOOMMI Jr (Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments)

[Watch the Video](#)

IN THE MEDIA

Click 2 Houston



[Mayor Turner, City Council Approves Funding for 3 Mental Health Initiatives](#)

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"We wanted to do everything we can to reduce the footprint of the criminal justice system in the lives of those with serious mental illness", said The Harris Center's CEO, Wayne Young.

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about The Harris Center?

Visit our website to learn more about our programs and services or view our [FY2022-2024 Strategic Plan](#) to see how we're working to transform lives in Harris County and beyond.

[Visit The Harris Center's Website](#)

Questions? Contact Communications@TheHarrisCenter.org.

