

Family Violence Services Funding: Supporting Every Survivor

Severity of Violence and Urgency of Need Are Growing

205

Texans were killed by their intimate partners in 2023

- Since 2018, calls to law enforcement for family violence incidents reported by the Texas Department increased by 26%.
- Texas family violence programs funded through HHSC offered over 200,000 more services in FY 24 than FY 23 showing a huge growth in need for survivors across Texas.

Rising Needs Result in Waitlists and Capacity Crisis

50%

of survivors will be denied shelter solely because the program is full.

- A 2024 study shows that nearly 60% of survivors who are denied shelter will live outside, in a car or return to the home with violence.
- In the same study, 88% of survivors who obtained shelter reported feeling safe or very safe, demonstrating the importance of this service.

Enhanced Funding for Barrier Reductions is Working

66,629

Texans sought services at a family violence center in FY 24.

23,047 children were served that year.

- Service numbers increased thanks to funds invested by the Legislature. In Texas, three more survivors per day are served by a family violence center in FY 24 compared to FY 23.
- Increased funds led to thousands of Texans receiving services that would have been otherwise unavailable, chief among them, housing.
- With 1 in 3 Texans experiencing family violence in their lifetime, survivors' access to shelter and safety is critical. Investment in housing specific to survivors will reduce the ongoing capacity crisis.

Investing in Housing Will Prevent Violence

71%

of survivors in a Texas-based study stated they needed help finding housing.

- 88% of survivors in a 2024 study experienced homelessness. 60% of these survivors experienced homelessness more than twice, indicating a need to focus on safe and stable housing.
- Though many factors can create this access issue, the housing crisis leaves shelters full, and survivors all too often lack an ability to transition to safer stable housing.

We appreciate HHSC's Legislative Appropriations Request of \$93.9 million dollars over the FY 2026-2027 biennium, but additional funds are desperately needed. We urge the Legislature to include a \$21.6 million-dollar biennial increase to continue our shared goals to ensure all survivors can access shelter, services and ultimately a new safe home.