

*We urge esteemed members of Senate Finance and House Appropriations to add an additional \$25 million dollars (\$12.5 million each year of the biennium) to continue our shared goal to ensure all survivors can access shelter, services, and a new safe home*

## 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, including housing, and reduced the denied rate.
- 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.

## Severity of Violence and Urgency of Need

**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 import of this service.

## Investing in Housing Can 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.