HEART GALLERIES OF TEXAS

Request for Applications – Phase II

Strengthening positive permanency across Texas through the development and expansion of post-adoption and post permanency-supports.

In partnership with the Moritz Center for Societal Impact at the University of Texas Austin and the Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (the Center), the Heart Galleries of Texas seeks applications for the purpose of establishing or sustaining post-adoption and post-permanency supports throughout Texas.

The Heart Galleries of Texas project is focused on strengthening heart gallery programs as tools for positive permanency in communities by developing strong and thriving local heart galleries and supporting children and families post-adoption and post-permanency. The project received funding in the 88th Legislative Session.

Program Overview

Phase II of the Heart Galleries of Texas project will help identify the needs of families post-adoption, including: 1) the main supports and services requested and 2) gaps or barriers to accessing identified supports and services to prevent adoption dissolutions.

Examples of allowable services and supports to be provided by these grants include but are not limited to: case management, babysitting/respite, behavioral health services/therapy, camps, parent coaching, support groups, peer coaching/mentoring, wrap-around services, tutoring, afterschool programs, furniture, attorney's fees, and other resources and services as identified through the Heart Galleries of Texas Regional Needs Assessment.

Application Requirements

Applicants from community-based organizations interested in providing services and/or resources to post-adoption and post-permanency children, youth and families in Texas are eligible to apply. To ensure that these funds are utilized effectively and reach as many individuals and families as possible, we are implementing a flexible allocation approach. Organizations are invited to apply for a portion of this grant based on the specific services they can provide with the funding.

The following conditions are required for consideration:

1. Must be a nonprofit with Internal Revenue (IRS) 501(c)(3) status
2. Must have or develop a partnership with regional Heart Gallery (see list of galleries at https://heartgallerytexas.org/get-involved/)
3. Have a positive standing in community with key stakeholders.
4. Have a proven history of a good working relationship with DFPS or SSCC staff in the region. Funding requests must be driven by results from Heart Gallery community needs assessment and consider existing community collaborations and available resources.
5. Articulate a clearly outlined plan of how your organization proposes to meet community needs by providing post-adoption and/or post-permanency supports.

6. Budget request may include up to 5% administrative support OR 5% salary support, but not both.
   a. Budgets must limit the allocation of the use of funds for salary and overhead expenses to no more than 5% of the total budget, unless there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate the hiring of personnel to expand existing services.
   b. There may be situations where hiring additional personnel is essential to expand existing services or meet specific programmatic requirements. In such cases, organizations may request an exemption from the 5% limit on salary/overhead expenses by providing a detailed justification outlining the necessity and expected impact of the proposed staffing addition.
7. Include a sustainability plan within the application for continued programmatic health and growth post-funding, unless the intention is solely to utilize the funds for a one-year increase in service provision.
8. Each region is anticipated to receive between $250,000 and $300,000 collectively between selected applicants, on average. Amount requested per individual organization may not exceed justifiable direct service expense as outlined in the application.

To ensure success of the project, adherence to expectations outlined below will be required for any community-based organization applying (organizations will be asked to agree to expectations on RFA application):

1. Maintain and adhere to requirements outline in a grant agreement with the Heart Gallery serving the region
2. Regular, ongoing participation in all local adoption and/or foster care collaborative groups.
3. Maintain and report-out the required outcomes and data as outlined in grant agreement.
4. Maintain positive working relationships with regional Heart Gallery and DFPS and/or SSCC leadership within your region.

Components of Application

Applications must be submitted using the _**online application**_ that can be found **here** and is split into three sections:

1. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION
2. PLAN FOR UTILIZATION OF FUNDS
3. GRANT BUDGET & ORGANIZATIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please note that the current online system does not support saving your progress once you start filling out the application form. This means you will need to complete and submit the form in one session. We recommend reviewing the application requirements by carefully reading through all the application guidelines to gather the necessary information and documents before you start filling out the form. We also recommend drafting your response in a Word document and cutting/pasting at submission.

Funding Opportunity

Organizations may submit one application per organization. **Funds must be fully spent no later than August 30, 2025.** The intention is to distribute this funding to more than one community-based

organization per region in the state, so for this reason **we intend to limit most award amounts per applicant to $100,000 and under**. Applications that exceed the capped award amount may be submitted and will be considered through an exception process and based on the availability of funds**. If you anticipate requesting more than $100,000 please reach directly to Erin Argue eargue@tacfs.org to discuss prior to grant-closing deadline.**

Please clearly outline the services or initiatives that the funding will support, including a cost per service unit estimate. Proposals should include detailed specifications regarding the services or programs that you intend to implement or expand with the requested funding. This may include but is not limited to:

- Providing [specific service] to [target population] within our community.
- Expanding [existing program] to reach [number] additional clients.
- Implementing [innovative initiative] to address [specific need].

Grant awards will be announced via grant acceptance letters and project funding will be paid in one installment upon execution of the grant acceptance letter. All requirements within the grant acceptance letter must be met by the end date of the contract. This includes spending down funds and carrying out activities according to the approved application activities and established timelines, or organizations could risk having to pay back funds received.

Should an award organization need to make changes to the grant project description or budget post-award, an amendment for approval must be submitted. Amendments must also comply with all applicable grant requirements and are subject to negotiation for approval.

Application Evaluation

The Center will use a systematic scoring process by a panel of internal and external reviewers to select applicants for awards. Applications that do not include all required information or which do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be scored. The Center will score applications using a rubric based on the project plan components noted above.

Timeline

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RFA Release Date	June 15, 2024
Applications Due (no later than 5 PM Central Time)	July 15, 2024
Tentative Award Announcements	September 3, 2024
Anticipated Contract Start Date	September 30, 2024
Anticipated Contract End Date	August 31, 2025

RFA Submission and Contact

Please access the online application form **here**, applications are due by 5pm CST July 15, 2024. Direct any questions to eargue@tacfs.org.