

# Request for Applications Reopened

**Limited Slots Available!**

**Travel Stipends Now Available!**

## 2013 Housing & Services Partnership Academies

**Create a Community-Based Team and  
Develop Strategies for  
Affordable Housing for Persons with Disabilities!**

Create or build on local partnerships to increase the supply of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing for persons with disabilities in your community.

Learn about service and housing resources available to your community from funding experts, including information about TDHCA Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Funds.

Each Community is responsible for assembling their own teams of up to five members each. Each team is to include, at a minimum, three required members:

- A residential housing funder, provider, or developer;
- A services provider who works with individuals with a disability who are Medicaid eligible; and
- An individual with a disability receiving Medicaid services (or their representative).

All travel related expenses for the individual with a disability receiving Medicaid services (or their representative) will be covered, including personal care attendant services. For those teams who must travel and who request assistance, hotel expenses will be covered for each team member. Limited additional assistance to pay for travel expenses, such as flights, gas, and meal per diem is available, some restrictions apply.

**Selection priority will be given to teams seeking to create housing for people on Medicaid relocating from institutional settings, people with serious mental illness on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and youth with disabilities exiting foster care on SSI.**

**More Information:** Contact Kate Moore, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs at 512-936-7804 or [kate.moore@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:kate.moore@tdhca.state.tx.us)



TEXAS  
Department of Aging and Disability Services



Housing and Services Partnership Academies are funded 100% from a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and coordinated through a partnership of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

*Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and language assistance will be made available for persons with limited English proficiency.*

## Overview

This Request for Applications (RFA) is issued by TDHCA, in coordination with DADS, in support of the Texas Real Choice Systems Change Grant. The RFA has been reopened to solicit proposals from communities who wish to participate in one of two Housing & Services Partnership (HSP) Academies. There are a limited number of slots still available. The HSP Academies will provide training and technical assistance to Texas community teams to help them develop comprehensive plans for improving the quantity and quality of affordable, accessible, integrated housing and supportive services for people with disabilities, and prepare communities to address the housing needs of this population.

To apply, **interested communities must assemble a team** who will be responsible for the formation of local integrated, affordable, and accessible housing. These teams **of up to five people** will, at a minimum, include:

- A residential housing funder, provider, or developer;
- A services provider who works with individuals with a disability who are Medicaid eligible;
- An individual with a disability receiving Medicaid services (or their representative).

**Selection priority will be given to teams seeking to create housing for people on Medicaid relocating from institutional settings, people with serious mental illness on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and youth with disabilities exiting foster care on SSI.**

### **Selected teams will participate in:**

- Two pre-academy webinars, scheduled for April or May 2013;
- A day and a half intensive workshop scheduled for May or June 2013 in Austin or an alternative location selected based on applications received;
- Development of Community Strategic Action Plan and Goals;
- Learn about Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Funds.

### **Participating community teams will receive:**

- A Federal and State Housing and Services Resource Guide;
- A Localized Housing and Services Resource Guide outlining existing affordable housing inventory and local available service and housing resources to assist in the preparation of a step-by-step action plan;
- Follow-up webinars; and
- Strategies to build partnerships between housing and services, creating an infrastructure to build capacity and coordination.

## **Background**

The lack of decent, safe, affordable, and integrated housing is one of the most significant barriers to full participation in community life for people with disabilities.

It has long been the case that people with disabilities have lacked access to affordable, accessible, integrated housing. Only recently, however, has the number of individuals experiencing this lack of access begun to grow. According to a recent study by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), between 2007 and 2009, the number of households that include one or more persons with disabilities experiencing the most dire or severe forms of housing need increased by 100,000, reaching 1.1 million households nationwide. In this time period, the prevalence of worst case needs among very low-income renters with disabilities increased from 38 to 41 percent. Many of these persons with disabilities confronting housing challenges reside in Texas. In fact, during this same period, the number of persons with disabilities in Texas grew to more than 24 million. About 1.5 million of these individuals fall between the ages of 21 and 64 years. Also in 2009, the number of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI in Texas was 228,100. Thus, over one quarter of a million Texans are adults of working age whose incomes fall far below 30 percent of area median income. For this population, opportunities to reside in integrated, accessible housing are rare, and such opportunities are almost never affordable.

**It is the intent of this RFA to develop beneficial partnerships between providers of Medicaid services, housing, and other social services to create increased availability of integrated, affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities.**

Community teams of up to five members will be chosen to participate in one of two HSP Academies in May or June 2013. Communities are encouraged to create a team that focuses on the needs of Medicaid eligible persons with disabilities. The State of Texas, in a recent application to HUD for Section 811 funds, prioritized three Medicaid eligible populations, including people on Medicaid relocating from institutional settings, people with serious mental illness on SSI, and youth with disabilities exiting foster care on SSI. We encourage you to consider one of these populations or select an identified need in your specific community. Additionally, team members will be asked to participate in two pre-Academy webinars in April or May 2013.

**DUE DATE: APRIL 19, 2013**

A public forum is available on the TDHCA website to facilitate community networking and discussions at <https://tdhca.websitetoolbox.com/>

Additional application information is available on the TDHCA website at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/housing-center/real-choice-hsp.htm>

Thank you for your interest in the Housing & Services Partnership Academies. To streamline the review process, all applicants must submit a proposal using the following guidelines to be considered for selection as one of the community teams.

Proposals should be emailed to [penny.seay@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:penny.seay@austin.utexas.edu) in Microsoft Word or as a portable document format (PDF) format, or sent via the US Postal Service, FedEx, etc. to

**Penny Seay**  
**Texas Center for Disability Studies**  
**University of Texas at Austin**  
**10100 Burnet Road, Commons Learning Center, Suite 1.154**  
**Austin, TX 78758**

Applications must be received no later than **April 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. CST**

Submission of your proposal will be acknowledged by email within five working days. Additional information may be requested during the review process.

A Respondent's **past** performance will be measured based upon pass/fail criteria, in compliance with applicable provisions of Rule §1.5, Texas Administrative Code. TDHCA may conduct reference checks with other entities regarding past performance. TDHCA may examine other sources of performance including, but not limited to, notices of termination, cure notices, assessments of liquidated damages, litigation, audit reports, and non-renewals of contracts. Any such investigations shall be at the sole discretion of TDHCA, and any negative findings, as determined by TDHCA, may result in non-award to the Respondent.

If you have previous experience with state or federally funded multifamily development, please list that experience on a separate sheet of paper, listing the TDHCA ID# (if a TDHCA funded property), Property Name, Property City, Total # of Units, Program, Contract Begin Date, and Contract End Date.

**Signatures on the Submission Form of this proposal certify that all community team members are in good standing with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and are not affiliated with a rental property funded in full or in part by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that is in material non-compliance. In addition, this signature**

**authorizes the parties overseeing assistance administered by other states to release compliance histories to the Department.**

Proposals are public documents and may be released after award selections are made.

Participating community teams will be required to participate in follow up data collection on the success of their partnership three months after attendance.

# Application

In your application, respond to following issues (maximum four [4] pages, single spaced, 12 point font). The three requirements to be addressed are (1) a description of your local community team, (2) community participation, and (3) community commitment to permanent affordable, accessible, integrated housing and support services for people with disabilities.

## **1. Describe Your Team (1 page in length suggested) (10 points)**

Clearly identify your Local Community Housing & Services Partnership Team:

- Why have you come together as a team?
- What geographic area does your community serve?
- What is the role of each team member in the partnership?
- Have you identified a specific community population with whom to focus your housing efforts? If so, please describe briefly.

## **2. Community Participation (1 page in length suggested) (10 points)**

Please tell us about the partnerships in your community related to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing. Clearly describe the efforts that currently exist in your community toward this effort, including the groups that are currently involved and how community leadership will contribute to the efforts of your team.

- In your community, is there currently a disability services coalition or group that addresses the need for affordable, accessible, integrated housing for people with disabilities? If such a group does not exist, how are these issues addressed currently?
- Which community stakeholder groups are currently involved with this issue?
- How is broad community leadership incorporated in this partnership?

## **3. Community Commitment (2 pages in length suggested) (20 points)**

Please tell us about the efforts in your community related to affordable, accessible, integrated housing. Provide a clear description of the barriers, previous efforts, and possible solutions to addressing housing needs in your community. Tell us how your community has demonstrated its commitment to developing permanent affordable, accessible, integrated housing and support services for people with disabilities, and how the HSP Academies will help your team.

- What type of housing programs and services are available in your community for people with disabilities, and, if you have selected a community population for your efforts, for that community population specifically?
- What are the primary barriers that block access to housing resources? What has already been tried? What solutions do you have in mind to fulfill your goals?
- How has your community demonstrated commitment to developing affordable, accessible, integrated housing for people with disabilities?
- How could attending the HSP Academy help your community team reach its goals?

## **Travel Expenses**

- All travel related expenses for the individuals with a disability receiving Medicaid services (or their representatives) will be covered by the grant, including personal care attendant services.
- For teams that must travel to the Academy, hotel expenses for all additional team members who request it will be available.
- Limited additional travel funds will be available, including flights, meal per diems, parking, and fuel costs. The amount of funds available to communities for the additional travel expenses will be determined after all of the consumer and hotel related expenses have been finalized.
- Rates and restrictions for travel expenses, including determination of reimbursable expenses, will be finalized with participating teams after selection.

## **Scoring Procedures**

All applications will be reviewed and scored by a review panel. Selection of successful applicants will not be based solely on the numerical score.

Additional criteria used to evaluate submitted proposals will include, but not be limited to:

- Geographic diversity in the state;
- Diversity among populations identified with whom to focus housing efforts;
- Clear response to questions above;
- Extent to which the application describes how affordable, accessible, integrated housing can be addressed by attending the HSP Academies; and
- If teams are seeking to develop housing for people on Medicaid relocating from institutional settings, people with serious mental illness on SSI, and youth with disabilities exiting foster care on SSI.

**Submission Form**  
**Contact Information**

<b>Community Name</b>			
<b>Contact person for this application</b>			
<b>Name of Organization</b>			
<b>E-mail</b>			
<b>Phone</b>			
<b>Fax</b>			
<b>Street address</b>			
<b>Street address</b>			
<b>City, State, Zip Code</b>			
<b>Team Member Information</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Role (Housing provider/service provider/person with disability or representative)</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Signatures herein certify that all team members are in good standing with agencies involved (TDHCA and DADS). See page 4 of the Request for Application for additional information.</b>			

### Accommodations for Participation

So that we can provide appropriate supports to all those who attend, please identify any accommodations needed for full participation (e.g. language translation, sign language interpretation, physical accessibility, etc.) for any member of the community team.

**Information regarding accommodations will not be considered in award decisions.**

Team Member Name	Accommodations needed

### Travel Expenses and Support

- All travel related expenses for the individuals with a disability receiving Medicaid services (or their representatives) will be covered by the grant, including personal care attendant services.
- For teams that must travel to the Academy, hotel expenses for all additional team members that request it will be available.
- Limited additional travel funds will be available, including flights, meal per diems, parking, and fuel costs. The amount of funds available to communities for the additional travel expenses will be determined after all of the consumer and hotel related expenses have been finalized.
- Rates and restrictions for travel expenses, including determination of reimbursable expenses, will be finalized with participating teams after selection.
- **Information regarding travel expenses will not be considered in award decisions.**

Team Member Name	Estimated Need for Travel Support

