

Service Category: Residential Hospice

FUNDING NEED:

Restoration of 2010/2011 decrease in funding of \$30,000 (106 Days of Care) is needed to sustain the current level of services. This represents 106 additional units and 5 additional clients. This service is a core medical service and is a critical service in the community that is not provided any place else in Central Texas.

Significant funding cuts in Ryan White for the past several years (75% in 2006/07; 50% in 2007/08) have placed this critical service in jeopardy. Funding was restored to the minimum amount necessary to operate this program in 2009/2010, but decreased by \$30,000 for the current grant year. If the program is discontinued because of insufficient funding it cannot be restored without significant cost and effort.

Risk/Impact:

- **Increased hospitalizations/ER visits** - Clients are typically admitted to care because of critical illness, a medical crisis complicated by substance abuse and/or mental health issues and the absence of a support system that would allow the individual to remain in a non-facility setting. The principal option for such individuals is hospitalization in an acute care facility, which frequently is accessed via an emergency room
- **Clients die alone** – The vast majority of clients have no support systems and thus no one to care for them during periods of critical illness. There are no other residential hospice programs that meet this need in Central Texas.
- **Improved health status from access to supportive care** - Approximately two out of every five hospice clients (prognosis of 6 months or less to live) who come into the facility eventually leave the facility as a result of care provided, access to medical care and adherence to prescribed treatment regimens
- **Leverages community resources** – 70% of the total cost of this service is borne by the agency providing the service using private funds.

INDICATORS

As we have experienced decreases in RWA funding, the cost of providing care has increased as the result of the increased costs of caring for clients with complex medical and social issues (mental health, substance abuse, poverty and homelessness). The combination of decreases in funding and increases in costs place this program in jeopardy. Complicating the agency's ability to meet the demand for services and the associated increased costs is the country's current economic downturn. In the current economic climate, we, along with most other non-profit organizations, are experiencing a decrease in private funding from individuals, corporations, and foundations.