



Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department



1115 Medicaid Waiver

A Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver was approved for Texas by the federal government on December 12, 2011. The Waiver allows local communities access through a preferred provider (HHSD) to additional federal funds designated to improve access to care, the quality of care, and the health of the population being served. Match funds are provided; for every dollar send up to the Federal government you receive \$1.46, 1-2 weeks later. This is a five year program, we are in year two.

Proposed Projects include:

1. Prenatal Program

Community based organizations will deliver the services such as outreach, case management, risk assessment, and referral to a medical provider with the coordinated support of existing community resources such as public health clinics, WIC, neighborhood/community centers, and private physicians/clinics. It is anticipated that multiple delivery modalities will be used to be more responsive to clients' needs. The initial design will be determined through an inclusive planning process involving multiple stakeholders, but may include programs that are delivered through flexible connections with different systems, such as: home visiting programs, faith communities, clinics, and neighborhood centers. Staffing of the program may vary as well using providers from nurse practitioners to promotores with a focus on staff who can be the most effective change agent for the clients. Ongoing review and evaluation will be built into the process to make adjustments, small or large, to improve outcomes.

2. Healthy Families Expansion (in partnership with Travis County)

Improve child health and development outcomes for families using a home visiting program based on the evidence-based Healthy Families America model. To address the disproportionality of child abuse rates, priority for service and outreach efforts will be focused on African-American's who are expectant or new parents, especially first-time parents.

3. Housing First Assertive Community Treatment Model for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

The Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model that we propose implementing in Austin will assist single adult men and women who have experienced chronic homelessness, severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), co-occurring substance abuse, and who have been recently placed in deeply subsidized housing despite significant physical and behavioral health challenges.

4. Adult Immunizations to High Risk Populations

Increase the provision of vaccines administered and immunization referrals to decrease morbidity and mortality within high-risk populations and lower health care costs with evidence based preventative service. The program is proposing to provide between 5400 and 6000 vaccination appointments targeting high risk populations annually. On average we expect each individual to receive between two and three vaccinations; however doses administered will differ based upon each client's risk factors and vaccination history. In total the program is anticipating to provide between 12,000 and 18,000 immunization doses annually. With the requested administrative support to the nurse the program will be able to provide recall and reminder services to help ensure clients are completing immunization series, when applicable.

5. Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

To prevent tobacco use among young people, the independent Task Force on Community Preventive Services' *Guide to Community Preventive Services* recommends Implementing school-based interventions in combination with mass media campaigns and additional community efforts. Interventions to prevent tobacco use initiation and encourage cessation among young people need to reshape the environment so that it supports tobacco-free norms. Because most people who start smoking are younger than 18 years of age, intervening during adolescence is critical. Community programs and school-based policies and interventions should be part of a comprehensive effort. ATCHHSD will work with the four largest independent school districts in Travis County and Break the Chain, the youth movement of the Austin Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition to use their influence at their seven schools to integrate new tobacco prevention interventions and expand these to reach up to 20 schools.

6. Community Diabetes Program

Expand diabetes self-management education, diabetes prevention education, and physical activity groups through the use of trained Community Health Workers or Promotores. The proposed project would greatly expand ATCHHSD's ability to offer self-management education, diabetes prevention education, and the Walk Texas! Active Austin 10 Week Challenge by utilizing Community Health Workers or Promotores to deliver these services. This change would be transformational both in the expanded diabetes classes and the increased capacity among Community Health Workers and Promotores to provide these services to the most disparate members of Austin and Travis County. Services would be provided through existing venues but would be expanded into new community locations including churches, schools, neighborhood centers and City of Austin Parks and Recreation. Services and on-going health messages will be promoted through media messaging for the target population.

For more information, and the posting of all draft DSRIP Projects;
<http://www.traviscountyhhd.org/>