



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER 145580
PAGE 1 OF 2
DATE: 8/5/2025

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A PARTNERSHIP MODEL TO SUPPORT HUMAN SERVICES IN TARRANT COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider adopting a partnership model to support human services in Tarrant County.

BACKGROUND

Tarrant County is reviewing opportunities to create financial efficiencies within its assistance-focused departments while increasing the amount of funding to support Tarrant County’s most vulnerable residents.

One department, where ample opportunity to create financial efficiencies exists, is the Tarrant County Department of Human Services (TCDHS), the County's temporary financial assistance program. The mission of TCDHS is to provide social services and economic assistance to individuals and families. Financial assistance is provided to eligible households for rent, mortgage, utilities, hygiene items, and transportation on a limited basis.

In FY25, the TCDHS total budget was \$4,582,435. The proposed FY26 Budget will include the following: Deceased Pauper Budget (Medical Examiner) of \$504,678; Community Outreach Budget of \$2,300,000. The estimated taxpayer savings is \$1,777,757. The additional services to the community are projected to be \$1,000,000.

To effectively and efficiently serve Tarrant County residents, the Tarrant County Budget and Risk Management Department (BRM) proposes the County move to a partnership model with a community partner/s to distribute funding directly to Tarrant County residents.

This process would replicate the already successful models being used across numerous Tarrant County Departments – Community Development, HIV Administration Agency, Tarrant County Public Health - to issue requests for proposals (RFPs) to non-profits, community-based agencies, and faith-based organizations that provide residents with temporary help for rental, utility, and food/hygiene assistance.

The RFP process would include:

1. The notice of the RFP would be issued to an established list of Tarrant County service organizations.
2. Organizations would be given the opportunity to submit their proposals within a designated window of time (one month, for example) from time of issue to the deadline.

SUBMITTED BY	Budget and Risk Management	PREPARED BY:	Matthew Jones
		APPROVED BY:	Helen H. Giese



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER: 145580 DATE: 8/5/2025 PAGE 2 OF 2

3. The proposals would be reviewed and scored by members of a committee made up of County representatives.
4. Based on the scoring criteria, vendors would be chosen to help with one or all of the funding categories: rental assistance, utility assistance, and food/hygiene assistance.

The selected community partner/s would then enter into a services contract that would define the scope of services, goals, outcomes, and outputs. Community partners would be repaid on a reimbursement basis, with requests for reimbursements (RFRs) submitted each month along with performance metrics. Tarrant County BRM staff would work directly with the community partner(s) for both RFRs and performance metrics, arranging for site visits and quarterly meetings to ensure that funding is being correctly, accurately, and efficiently delivered. Performance reports would be shared with members of the Commissioners Court. By moving to a community-based model for the distribution of funding to Tarrant County residents, not only does the County save money but it helps put more money into the community. The savings is realized by exponentially lowering the cost to perform these services.

The recommendation is to eliminate the Tarrant County Department of Human Services and move to a partnership model during the FY 2026 fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact will be presented in the FY 2026 Budget Hearing.



Tarrant County Community Assistance Plan

Background

Tarrant County is reviewing opportunities to create financial efficiencies within its assistance-focused departments while increasing the amount of funding to support Tarrant County's most vulnerable residents.

One department, where ample opportunity to create financial efficiencies exists, is the Tarrant County Department of Human Services (TCDHS), the County's temporary financial assistance program. The mission of TCDHS is to provide social services and economic assistance to individuals and families. Financial assistance is provided to eligible households for rent, mortgage, utilities, hygiene items, and transportation on a limited basis.

In FY 2024, TCDHS had the following expenditures supporting Tarrant County residents:

Rental Assistance	410,633
Utility Assistance	566,074
Food/Hygiene Assist	55,174
	\$1,031,881

In contrast, TCDHS spent the following amounts to support the distribution of funds to Tarrant County residents:

Salaries	1,732,518
Temp/Part Time Sal	2,538
Overtime Salaries	986
FICA	126,151
Retirement	338,127
Employee Group Ins	268,850
Mileage Allowance	350
Mobile Phone Allow	480
Supplies	18,917
Dues	285
On-line Service	1,500
Equipment Maint.	1,841
Promotional Expenses	797
Education	381
	\$2,493,721



In FY 2024, it cost TCDHS \$2.42 to provide \$1.00 in services. According to the Charities Review Council, the national average is to spend 65-75 cents for each dollar of services.

With actuals through May 31, 2025, TCDHS is on track to spend \$2.72 per dollar of service, which represents an increase of 30 cents per dollar over FY 2024.

The Future of Human Services Funding in Tarrant County

To more effectively and efficiently serve Tarrant County residents, staff is proposing the County move to a partnership model with community service organization(s) to distribute funding directly to Tarrant County residents.

This process would replicate the already successful models being used across numerous Tarrant County Departments – Community Development, HIV Administration Agency, Tarrant County Public Health - to issue requests for proposals (RFPs) to non-profits, community-based agencies, and faith-based organizations which provide residents with temporary help for rental, utility, and food/hygiene assistance.

The RFP process would include:

1. The notice of the RFP would be issued to an established list of Tarrant County service organizations.
2. Organizations would be given the opportunity to submit their proposals within a designated window of time (one month, for example) from time of issue to the deadline.
3. The proposals would be reviewed and scored by members of a committee made up of County staff.
4. Based on the scoring criteria, vendors would be chosen to help with one or all of the funding categories: rental assistance, utility assistance, and food/hygiene assistance.

The selected community partner/s would then enter into a services contract which would define the scope of services, goals, outcomes, and outputs. Community partners would be repaid on a reimbursement basis, with requests for reimbursements (RFRs) submitted each month along with performance metrics. Tarrant County staff would work directly with the community partner(s) for both RFRs and performance metrics, arranging for site visits and quarterly meetings to ensure that funding is being correctly, accurately, and efficiently delivered. Performance reports would be shared with members of the Commissioners Court. By moving to a community-based model for the distribution of funding to Tarrant County residents, not only does the County save money but it helps put more money into the community. The savings is realized by exponentially lowering the cost to perform these services.



In summary, the recommendation is to eliminate TCDHS during the FY 2026 budget process.

The one statutorily required function currently handled by TCDHS, the Deceased Pauper Program, has been transferred to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office (TCME), and proposed funding will be made available to TCME to support the transition in the FY 2026 budget.

The estimated savings to the County is shown below (initial projections):

FY 2025 TCDHS Total Budget	FY 2026 Deceased Pauper Budget (ME)	FY 2026 Community Outreach Budget	Estimated Taxpayer Savings
\$4,582,435	\$504,678*	\$2,300,000	\$1,777,757

*Includes the creation of three FTEs in the Medical Examiner’s Office

Estimated additional services to the community are projected to be \$1,000,000.

Estimated savings to the taxpayers are projected to be \$1,777,757.

FY26 Tarrant County Department of Human Services (TCDHS) Staffing and Continuity Plan

To assist with ongoing service delivery to Tarrant County residents, TCDHS staff will continue to work to ensure program continuity and service delivery for all eligible Tarrant County residents during the onboarding period for the community partner/s. The proposed reduction in force and service continuity plan is outlined below (dates could be subject to change):

Aug. 22 – RFP release date

Sept. 12 – RFP deadline

Sept. 19 – Community partner/s review/scoring finalized

Oct. 1 – Elimination of vacant positions

Oct. 7 – Consideration to approve community partner/s contract/s by Commissioners Court *Partner/s start date effective upon Commissioners Court approval

Nov. 1 – Reduction in force up to seven TCDHS positions

Dec. 1 – Reduction in force up to seven TCDHS positions

Jan. 1, 2026 – Final reduction in force of all remaining TCDHS positions



Human Services Data & Background

Special Utility Assistance Program (SUAP) (represents calendar year)

- FY24 SUAP applied = 879
- FY24 SUAP supported = 393

- FY25 SUAP applied = 646
- FY25 SUAP supported = 399 (as of 7/28/25)

Rental Assistance Program (represents fiscal year)

- FY24 Rental Assistance applied = 9,189
- FY24 Rental Assistance supported = 353

- FY25 Rental Assistance applied = 6,726
- FY25 Rental Assistance supported = 292 (as of 7/28/25)

TC Human Services Website Closure by Staff (3rd Quarter of FY25)

April

- 21 business days
- 11 days with zero online applications processed

May

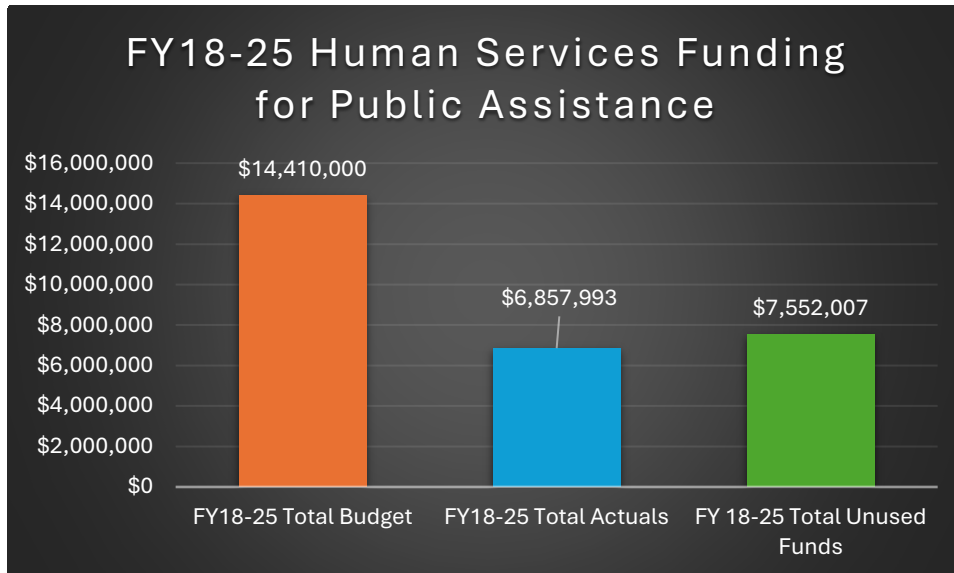
- 21 business days
- 16 days with zero online applications processed

June

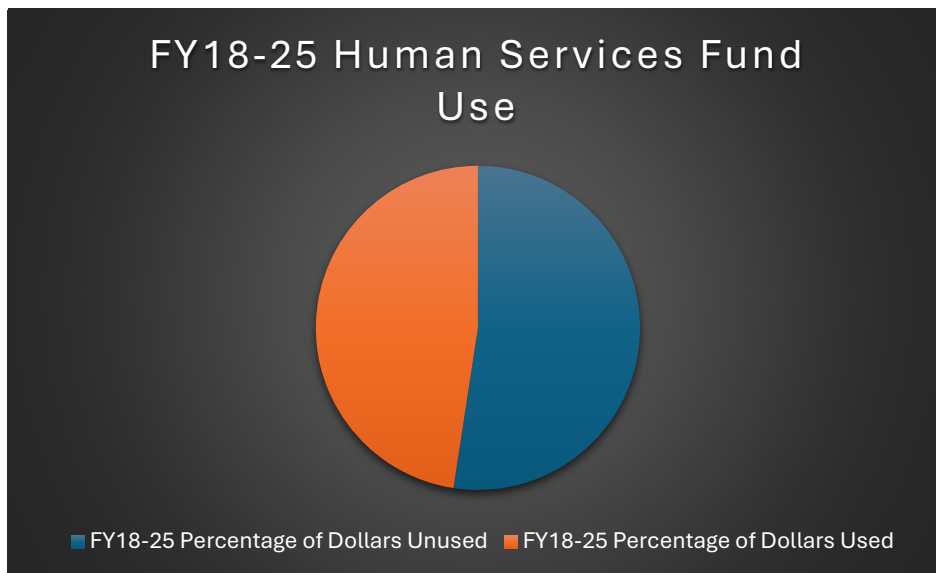
- 20 business days
- 15 days with zero online applications processed



Human Services Budget Background



*Rental Assistance, Utility Assistance, Food/Hygiene Assistance



*Rental Assistance, Utility Assistance, Food/Hygiene Assistance