



# **Annual Report on Federal Community Mental Health Block Grant Expenditures**

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**As Required by  
2023-2024 General Appropriations Act  
House Bill 1, 88th Legislature, Regular  
Session, 2023 (Article II, Health and  
Human Services Commission, Rider  
49)**

**Texas Health and Human Services  
June 2024**



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

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## Executive Summary

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) submits the *Annual Report on Federal Community Mental Health Block Grant Expenditures* in compliance with the 2024-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 49). Rider 49 requires HHSC to submit a report, no later than June 1 of each fiscal year, on the annual expenditures of federal Community Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funds awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to HHSC in the previous fiscal year, including supplemental and one-time awards received by HHSC.

HHSC uses the MHBG to fund a variety of mental health programs across the continuum of care. It offers a comprehensive array of adult, child, and community crisis mental health services. This report includes all expenditures for MHBG funds during the state fiscal year 2023 (September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023).<sup>1</sup>

In the fiscal year 2023, HHSC expended regular MHBG funds totaling \$66,584,360. Of the total, HHSC expended \$47,982,440 (72 percent) for adult mental health services, \$15,787,153 (24 percent) for children's mental health services, and \$ 2,814,768 (4 percent) for mental health crisis services.

During this timeframe, HHSC expended regular MHBG funds totaling \$66,584,360. It also expended \$52,317,817 in COVID-19 Supplemental Award funds to support local mental health authorities (LMHA) and local behavioral health authorities (LBHA) in their efforts to provide services in an environment affected by the lingering effects of COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> Expenditures as of January 16, 2024. Amounts may change until fiscal year close-out is complete.

# 1. Introduction

Rider 49 requires the Executive Commissioner of HHSC to submit to the Legislative Budget Board, Governor's Office, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and permanent committees in the Senate and House of Representatives with jurisdiction over Health and Human Services a report that provides information about actual annual expenditures of the federal MHBG funds received by HHSC, including supplemental and one-time awards.

HHSC expended<sup>2</sup> regular MHBG funds totaling \$66,584,360 in fiscal year 2023, as follows:

- \$47,982,440 (72 percent) for Adult Mental Health (AMH) Services;
- \$15,787,154 (24 percent) for Children's Mental Health (CMH) Services; and
- \$2,814,767 (4 percent) for Mental Health (MH) Crisis Services.

HHSC also expended COVID-19 Supplemental Award funds totaling \$52,317,817 in fiscal year 2023, as follows:

- \$6,648,255 (13 percent) for the expansion or enhancement of existing MHBG-funded projects; and
- \$45,669,559 (87 percent) for the continued implementation of projects started with COVID-19 funding.<sup>3</sup>

HHSC fully obligated its MHBG awards, including the regular and COVID-19 Supplemental Award funds, through contracts with mental health providers, such as, LMHAs and LBHAs and other entities such as universities, Recovery-focused Clubhouses and Consumer Operated Service Providers.

- Total MHBG Funds Expended: \$119,392,955
- Total Unexpended and Unobligated balances: \$0

HHSC used COVID-19 grants to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the provision of comprehensive community mental health services to adults with

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<sup>2</sup> Expenditures are as of January 16, 2024. Amounts may change until the fiscal year close-out is complete.

<sup>3</sup> This amount is inclusive of AMH, CMH, and MH Crisis Services programs.

serious mental illness (SMI) and children with serious emotional disturbances (SED).

The regular MHBG has a two-year budget period and HHSC requires the entirety of this period to expend the award. Similarly, the COVID-19 Supplemental awards have multi-year budget periods, and HHSC requires the full budget period to expend those awards. In fiscal year 2023, HHSC expended all regular MHBG awards.

## 2. Background

Texas allocates MHBG funding to 37 LMHAs and two LBHAs to provide AMH, CMH, and MH Crisis Services in communities across Texas.

HHSC's AMH service delivery system ensures the provision of interventions and treatment to promote recovery and resilience from SMI and co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders (COPSD). HHSC funds AMH programs and services based on evidence-based practices to help people manage their mental illness.

HHSC's CMH service delivery system offers an array of community mental health and substance use services for children with SED to help them become resilient and lead healthy lives. Through the promotion of mental health and early intervention and providing quality services, children learn how to manage their SED as they grow and mature by using a trauma-informed care approach and system of care framework<sup>4</sup>.

MH Crisis services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can include prompt crisis screening and crisis assessment when determined necessary. Crisis intervention services, crisis follow-up, and relapse prevention services are also available.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://txsystemofcare.org/about/>

### 3. Actual Annual Expenditure Data

#### Adult Mental Health Programs

Table 1. FY 2023 Expenditures for AMH Services by Program Type shows the AMH Services expenditures by program type for fiscal year 2023.

**Table 1. FY 2023 Expenditures for AMH Services by Program Type - Agency Budget Strategy D.2.1**

Program	Description	Regular MHBG Expenditures	COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures
<b>Centralized Training Infrastructure</b>	Platform developed in partnership with UT Health San Antonio that promotes the Texas Resiliency and Recovery model of behavioral health care by offering training in evidence-based and promising practices to contracted providers in their delivery of mental health and substance use services in Texas for child and adult populations.	\$844,114	N/A
<b>Community MH Services</b>	LMHAs and LBHAs provide an array of community services that prioritize adults with SMI and children with SED, ensuring adherence to federal guidelines for state-funded treatment services.	\$28,235,825	N/A
<b>Consumer Operated Service Provider</b>	An evidence-based program, recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, operated and governed by people in recovery. It includes peer support as a central feature and part of a recovery-oriented system of care.	\$965,200	\$563,992
<b>Coordinated Specialty Care</b>	Outpatient behavioral health services to people ages 15 to 30 years of age, experiencing an early onset of psychosis, designed to empower the person's ability to lead a self-directed life within the community through a team-based approach typically involving a psychiatrist, certified family partner, certified peer specialist, licensed therapist, and supportive employment and education specialist.	\$8,498,802	\$3,798,922

Program	Description	Regular MHBG Expenditures	COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures
<b>COVID-19 Call Center</b>	Created in coordination with The Harris Center to provide MH crisis counseling services and referral resources by trained staff, in up to 40 different languages, to all 254 counties in Texas for those affected by COVID-19 through March 2023, which marked the official end of the pandemic.	\$262,672	N/A
<b>High Fidelity Supported Employment Program</b>	Helps people with SMI or a substance use disorder find competitive employment of their choosing in their community using evidence-based practice, Individual Placement and Support.	\$355,016	N/A
<b>Hospitality House Assessment</b>	A comprehensive assessment and recommendations for a housing transition plan for people residing at Hospitality House, which is a Type B assisted living facility, conducted by The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.	\$42,052	N/A
<b>Job Development Supported Employment</b>	Helps people aged 17 and older with SMI as a primary diagnosis, find jobs in integrated settings that pay competitive wages and that align with that person's interests and preferences.	\$937,160	N/A
<b>Mental Health Peer Re-Entry</b>	Employs certified peer support specialists to provide reach-in services to incarcerated people with a mental health diagnosis to enable them to successfully transition from the county jail into clinically appropriate community-based care; and available at three LMHAs and their associated county sheriffs' offices.	\$298,713	N/A
<b>Mental Health Recovery and Resilience</b>	The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work conducted research into the impact of the peer services Medicaid benefit. The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health also supports the growth of peer run organizations through a collaborative approach to the development of outcomes and training and technical assistance. The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health coordinates the Peer Organization Growth Academy that focuses on developing individual and organizational leadership within mental health and substance use recovery organizations.	\$586,228	\$348,215



Program	Description	Regular MHBG Expenditures	COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures
<b>Mental Health Recovery Clubhouse</b>	An evidence-based, recovery-oriented program for adults diagnosed with a mental illness, designed to improve a person’s ability to function successfully in the community through involvement in a peer-focused environment; and encourage member participation in activities, such as clerical duties, reception, food service, transportation, financial services, and other activities to promote improvement in quality of life (e.g., outside employment, education, and meaningful relationships)	\$495,619	N/A
<b>Mental Health TX Website</b>	Online information about agency behavioral health resources, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to assistance via telephone, chat, or text,</li> <li>• A service locator for behavioral health services by zip code,</li> <li>• Educational information about behavioral health, and</li> <li>• Translation in 64 languages.</li> </ul>	\$218,048	N/A
<b>Outpatient Competency Restoration</b>	Mental health and substance use screening, referral, access to treatment services, and legal education for people found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) pursuant to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 46B. These programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to potentially reduce the number of IST people with mental illness or COPSD on the state hospital waiting list for inpatient competency restoration services,</li> <li>• Increase prompt access to clinically appropriate outpatient competency restoration services for people determined to be IST who don't require a state hospital level of care setting, and</li> <li>• Help to potentially reduce the number of bed days in state hospitals used by forensic patients from a contractor's local service area.</li> </ul>	\$1,000,000	N/A
<b>State Hospital Step-Down Program</b>	State Hospital Step-Down program identifies, assesses, and facilitates the successful transition of adults with SMI, or a combination of SMI and medical needs, whose needs exceed the supports available in a traditional setting but are also clinically appropriate for transition from a state hospital to community-based services with proper supports.	\$2,612,552	\$1,937,126

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Regular MHBG Expenditures</b>	<b>COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures</b>
<b>Supportive Housing Rental Assistance</b>	Supportive housing and MH services for people eligible to receive services at the LMHA or LBHA, which includes a plan to address barriers to housing and employment and become self-sufficient; and which prioritizes people transitioning from HHSC-funded psychiatric beds.	\$2,592,587	N/A
<b>Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium</b>	Annual event produced by the Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative that features expert speakers and promotes best practice information to enhance suicide prevention work statewide.	\$37,852	N/A
<b>Total</b>	Total FY 2023 Expenditures for AMH Services	<b>\$47,982,440</b>	<b>\$6,648,255</b>

## Children's Mental Health Programs

Table 2. FY 2023 Expenditures for CMH Services by Program Type shows the CMH expenditures by program type for fiscal year 2023.

**Table 2. FY 2023 Expenditures for CMH Services by Program Type -Agency Budget Strategy D.2.2**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Regular MHBG Expenditures</b>	<b>COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures</b>
<b>Centralized Training Infrastructure</b>	Platform developed in partnership with UT Health San Antonio that promotes the Texas Resiliency and Recovery model of behavioral health care by offering training in evidence-based and promising practices to contracted providers in their delivery of mental health and substance use services in Texas for child and adult populations.	\$1,699,687	N/A
<b>Children's Crisis Respite Pilot</b>	Services and treatment for children with SED and co-occurring diagnosis, including a substance use disorder or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.	\$1,439,268	N/A
<b>Children's System Navigator</b>	Services and treatment for children with behavioral health needs provided by an LMHA or LBHA system navigator whose role is to enhance partnerships and promote collaboration across local child-serving systems for children in or at risk of entering state conservatorship; or at risk of parental relinquishment.	\$437,205	N/A

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Regular MHBG Expenditures</b>	<b>COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures</b>
<b>Community MH Services</b>	LMHAs and LBHAs provide an array of community services that serve children with qualifying diagnoses from ages 3 through 17.	\$7,317,707	N/A
<b>Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)</b>	An evidence-based curriculum that introduces participants to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use concerns, builds an understanding of their impact, and provides an overview of common treatments and resources through three types of training: Adult MHFA, Youth MHFA, and Teen MHFA.  Includes funding for LMHAs and LBHAs to hire MHFA outreach workers to connect with their communities, including schools, first responders, veterans, service members, and their families. All this for the purpose of building an interest in MHFA and providing MHFA training.	\$3,466,661	N/A
<b>Mental Health TX Website</b>	The MH TX website communicates and coordinates information about agency behavioral health resources to people across the state. Visitors may access assistance via telephone, chat, or text; a service locator for behavioral health services by zip code; and educational information about behavioral health. Information is available in 64 languages.	\$10,283	N/A
<b>Suicide Care Pilot Project</b>	Improves suicide care by LMHAs and LBHAs through implementing the Zero Suicide framework to fidelity and increasing provider capacity to improve suicide care across the spectrum (prevention, intervention, treatment, and postvention).	\$1,344,424	N/A
<b>Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium</b>	Annual event produced by the Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative that features expert speakers and promotes best practice information to enhance suicide prevention work statewide.	\$71,919	N/A
<b>Total</b>	Total FY 2023 Expenditures for CMH Services	<b>\$15,787,154</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Community Mental Health Crisis Services

Table 3. FY 2023 Expenditures for Community MH Crisis Services shows the MH Crisis Services expenditures by program type for fiscal year 2023.

**Table 3. FY 2023 Expenditures for Community MH Crisis Services - Agency Budget Strategy D.2.3**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Regular MHBG Expenditures</b>	<b>COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures</b>
<b>Forensic Technical Assistance</b>	Technical assistance support, provided by the Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center for professionals working in Texas' behavioral health and justice systems (e.g., law enforcement agencies, jails, judiciary, state agencies, LMHAs, LBHAs, and other local agencies and community organizations) that includes Sequential Intercept Model mapping workshops, tailored training, technical assistance, learning collaboratives, a collegial network for peer-to-peer support, webinars, publications, and resources.	\$175,000	N/A
<b>Jail-based Competency Restoration</b>	Restoration services to adults deemed IST pursuant to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 46B. To potentially reduce the number of IST people with mental illness or COPSD on the forensic waitlist for inpatient competency restoration services and increases access to clinically appropriate jail-based competency restoration services.	\$141,796	N/A
<b>Lifeline Capacity Building/988</b>	As authorized by federal legislation that established 988, provides confidential, evidence-based emotional support and prevention and crisis resources for persons in a MH or suicide crisis at no cost 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	\$2,497,971	N/A
<b>Total</b>	Total FY 2023 Expenditures for Community MH Crisis Services	<b>\$2,814,767</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Community Mental Health Block Grants COVID-19 Funding

Table 4 shows MHBG COVID-19 expenditures inclusive of AMH, CMH, and MH Crisis Services programs funded only with MHBG COVID-19 Supplemental Award funds for fiscal year 2023.

**Table 4. FY 2023 MHBG COVID-19 Supplemental Award Expenditures inclusive of AMH, CMH, and MH Crisis Services Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>COVID-19 Supplemental Expenditures</b>
<b>COVID-19 Texas Housing Support Line</b>	Provides housing support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for persons with SMI, SED, or COPSD; and housing instability or homelessness.	\$462,154
<b>Crisis Hotline and Mobile Crisis Outreach Expansion</b>	Expands services offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained crisis staff, who provide crisis screening and assessment, crisis intervention services, mental health, and substance use referrals.	\$2,412,850
<b>Initiatives to Address Housing Instability and Homelessness</b>	Bundled services for people with SMI or COPSD experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness that include supportive housing, mental health crisis care management and coordination, and substance use disorder services.	\$13,771,812
<b>Mental Health Outpatient Capacity Expansion</b>	Expands outpatient mental health services for persons with SMI and or SED to address growing demand due to population growth and address funding disparities and other local challenges.	\$24,484,603
<b>Rural Crisis Response and Diversion</b>	Provides criminal justice diversion programs in rural Texas services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	\$4,538,140
<b>Total</b>	Total FY 2023 MHBG COVID-19 Supplemental Award Expenditures	<b>\$45,669,559</b>

## 4. Conclusion

Texas has both the opportunity and obligation to use MHBG funds to substantially improve the lives of many of the state's most vulnerable citizens. HHSC accomplishes this by allocating MHBG funds to provide, plan, implement, and evaluate mental health services.

HHSC remains focused on helping mental health service providers successfully serve people in Texas, prioritizing adults with SMI and children with SED for state-funded treatment services that follow federal guidelines. HHSC provides administrative oversight and controls of funded contractors to ensure state-funded programs improve Texans' lives to the extent possible.

HHSC also provides regular technical assistance to funded contractors, using data to inform program design and identify opportunities for improvement.

## List of Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name</b>
AMH	Adult Mental Health
CMH	Children's Mental Health
COPSD	Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
IST	Incompetent to stand trial
LBHA	Local Behavioral Health Authority
LMHA	Local Mental Health Authority
MH	Mental health
MHBG	Community Mental Health Bock Grant
MHFA	Mental Health First Aid
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SED	Serious emotional disturbances
SMI	Serious mental illness