



## House Bill 13

**Apparent Funding Award  
for Expanded Access to  
Mental Health Care**

**through**

**Texas Health and Human  
Services Commission**

**Williamson County**



**Increasing Intensity of Care**

### Three Projects Driven by the Williamson County Community Needs Assessments

#### Expanded Access

Extended Observation Unit (EOU)  
in Partnership with  
Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute (GBHI) –  
Georgetown

#### Increased Intensity

Crisis Residential Unit at San Gabriel Crisis Center -  
Georgetown

#### Unmet Need

Eastern Williamson County (EWC) Wellness Center  
- Taylor



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### Apparent Award for Expanded Access to Mental Health Care

Williamson County

Level of Intensity: High – Emergency Care

### Expanded Access

Extended  
Observation  
Unit (EOU)  
in  
Partnership  
with GBHI

- **Purpose:** 24-hour unit embedded in local psychiatric hospital diverting adults experiencing acute psychiatric crisis from the jail, local hospital emergency departments and the state hospital by offering emergency stabilization for a voluntary admission or under an Emergency Detention Warrant for 48-hours under the care of a psychiatrist, licensed clinicians and case managers
- **Application Goal:** Expand the capacity within the existing EOU from 4 beds to 12 beds allowing adults experiencing a mental health crisis access to acute care
- **Recommended Length of Stay:** Up to 48-hours before stepping down to a less acute level of care.
- **Funding Under Consideration by HHSC:** Cost of 8 additional beds, expanded staffing along with increased cost of medications and supplies to address the needs of 12 individuals per day.
- **Local Match:** \$513,000 under Williamson County Resolution + \$200,000 discounted bed day rate + \$199,500 through BTCS.
- **Partner:** Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute – Georgetown.



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### Apparent Award for Expanded Access to Mental Health Care

Williamson County

Level of Intensity: Medium – Crisis Residential

#### Increased Intensity

Crisis  
Residential  
Unit

- **Purpose:** 24-hour staffed residential unit diverting adults from more intensive levels of care through short-term crisis treatment in a residential setting, establishing resources and preparing persons for successful re-entry into their lives in the community. Also beneficial for persons stepping down from intensive care, this level of care is for voluntary admissions under the care of a psychiatrist including registered nurse, medical assistants, substance addiction specialists, certified peer specialists, case managers and techs.
- **Application Goal:** Enhance the current level of care (Crisis Respite Unit) to allow for persons needing less intensive options for detoxification; requiring residential care for medication-assisted treatment (MAT); and addressing the need for a longer term length of stay for persons who are homeless allowing the team to identify placement in the community.
- **Recommended Length of Stay:** 1-14 days before stepping down to a less acute level of care.
- **Funding Under Consideration by HHSC:** Cost of registered nurse coverage, additional physician coverage, medications and supplies to address the needs of 16 individuals per day.
- **Local Match:** \$209,880 Georgetown Health Foundation.





## House Bill 13

### Apparent Award for Expanded Access to Mental Health Care

### Williamson County

Level of Intensity of Care: Low - Outpatient

#### Unmet Need

Eastern  
Williamson  
County  
(EWC)  
Wellness  
Center

- **Purpose:** Based on the Community Needs Assessment of Eastern Williamson County (Bartlett, Coupland, Granger, Taylor and Thrall), a wellness center will be designed for a multi-agency campus serving all generations through an interconnected system of care. At the core, community partners include Boys and Girls Club, Blacklands Food Pantry, Opportunities (Head Start and Meals on Wheels), Career Life Ministries, Age of Central Texas, Williamson County and Cities Health District and Bluebonnet Trails.
- **Application Goal:** Initiate development of a community center accessible by EWC residents allowing for wellness beyond medical and social services. In addition to collaborative provider office spaces, the activities on this campus include an industrial kitchen, food distribution point for Central Texas Food Bank, soccer field, 8-acre walking trail, community garden, auditorium/gymnasium, trade education and employment development. The financial goal is to fund the construction of the building so that community partners may more easily sustain and grow their programs.
- **Recommended Length of Stay:** Throughout a lifetime.
- **Funding Under Consideration by HHSC:** Cost of engineering, initial architectural plans, legal counsel for collaboration and development of plan documents to engage potential funders.
- **Local Match:** \$625,000 in donated land for 10-acre campus – Christ Fellowship Church, Taylor; \$265,000 St. David's Foundation awarded to Bluebonnet Trails Community Services.





January 25, 2018

**Since the last Williamson County Behavioral Health Task Force Meeting:**

**Naloxone Award.** The opportunity to apply for free Evzio (Naloxone) auto-injections was made available to BTCS in partnership with the University of Texas School of Social Work. BTCS was awarded funding to obtain 40 doses of Naloxone. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist developed for the emergency treatment of opioid overdose. When administered, Naloxone is a life-saving drug immediately reversing opioid overdoses by blocking the opioid from receptors in the brain. BTCS was awarded its requested doses in mid-December and has developed the protocol for providing these to caregivers of family members who are at high risk of opioid overdose. Today, we are working to expand and sustain this opportunity in our communities.

**House Bill 13.** During 2017, Senator Charles Schwertner spoke with the Task Force about the competitive funding opportunity legislated during the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session. BTCS partnered with counties, cities and local partners in developing an application to expand mental health care in our communities. On January 22, 2018, we were notified that our application was selected to receive funding—whereby BTCS will be in contract negotiations with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). We are grateful for the matching funds through Williamson County and the valued partners ensuring the success of our application including, but not limited to, Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute, Williamson County and Cities Health District, Georgetown Health Foundation, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, City of Georgetown and 19 valued partners developing the wellness center in Eastern Williamson County.

**Expansion of Access to Psychiatric Beds.** Additional welcomed news was received from HHSC on January 22, 2018. Through a competitive bid process, BTCS was selected to receive funding allowing for the purchase of psychiatric hospital bed days for children and adults. We are in the process of contract negotiations with HHSC. The application requested access to 2 local hospital beds for 365 days each year to serve children and adults experiencing a psychiatric crisis.

BTCS will continue learn from our partners discerning needs in our communities—and will continue to apprise the Task Force during future meetings.

**Impact of Grant Awards for Williamson County Residents**

