

## Williamson County, Texas

### Recovery Plan Performance Report

#### **Executive Summary:**

Williamson County has strived for good communication with key stakeholders throughout the pandemic. The Williamson County Commissioners Court has worked closely with Williamson County Emergency Management; the Local Public Health Authority - Williamson County & Cities Health District (WCCHD); the Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Services; Texas Health and Human Services and Texas Office of Emergency Management. Communication also included local independent school districts (ISD's), cities within the county, local and area medical and psychiatric hospitals, emergency services districts (ESD), non-profits and safety net providers. This wide range of partners helped ensure that the response to the new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was inclusive and allowed crucial information on guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be disseminated. This allowed Williamson County leaders to gather information on needs of local communities that was vital in creating a plan that met the needs of families and individuals, while also designing a plan that promoted economic recovery.

After needs were identified through public input, the Williamson County Auditor and Treasurer's offices drafted program designs to meet urgent community needs, which were then approved by the Commissioners Court. Programs adopted created an equitable delivery model, with safeguards and outcome goals for each project. The criteria adopted ensured requests for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) were for eligible purposes, with no fraud, waste, or abuse.

#### **Use of Funds:**

Williamson County has approved and provided funding for Emergency Rental Assistance and Small Business Grants that helped keep families in their homes and small businesses from permanently closing their doors. The Williamson County Commissioners Court has also approved programs funded through the American Rescue Plan - SLFRF program that meet the needs of communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which respond to and promote at least one of the following criteria:

- Public Health
- Negative Economic Impacts
- Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- Premium Pay
- Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure
- Revenue Replacement

A brief description of each project and how they respond to the above criteria are outlined below:

### **Felony Justice Disposition Project**

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to have a significant impact on mental health. Isolation, anxiety, and depression has increased in many who are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic. During the pandemic there has also been a steady increase in the incidence and filing of the most serious cases. The number of First-Degree Felony Offenses filed in the District Attorney's office increased 28% from 2019 to 2020 and the data for 2021 is on pace to meet or exceed these numbers. Emergency Orders from the Texas Supreme Court, as well as COVID-19 safety protocols have had an impact on the ability of the DA's office in disposing of cases. These factors have increased the case load of prosecutors and has increased the amount of time it takes for accused individuals and victims to receive justice. At the end of 2019, there were 947 pending cases older than 6 months. At the end of 2020, that number grew to 1421. As of June 30, 2024, there are 799 cases that have been pending for over 180 days (from Tyler Odyssey). The addition of a prosecutor in each of the Judicial District Courts (26<sup>th</sup>, 277<sup>th</sup> and 368<sup>th</sup>) will help reduce the number of pending cases and achieve justice for those involved in the criminal justice system. American Rescue Act Plan funds will pay for salary and benefits of three felony prosecutors hired to reduce the increasing number of pending felony cases.

**Subrecipient** – Williamson County District Attorney's Office

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – June 15, 2021

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$1,753,414.41

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$1,193,386.87

**Primary place of performance** – Williamson County Justice Center, Georgetown, TX

**Performance period** – July 20, 2021 – December 31, 2025

**Performance Indicators** – Increase in the number of felony cases disposed quarterly.

**Funding Category** – 3 Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

**Project Update** – The District Attorney's Office has hired three experienced felony trial prosecutors who are quickly learning our Courts, our process, their new caseloads, and have already begun to have an impact on the backlog of cases. The overall numbers are beginning to trend in the right direction and the backlog of pending felony cases is now decreasing. Pre-pandemic clearance rates were 104.9%. Clearance rates began to improve in August of 2021, only to decrease again in January and February 2022 due to the impact of the "Omicron" Variant. Clearance Rate from March 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020: 81.4%  
Clearance Rate December 2021: 112%  
Clearance Rate February 2022: 87.6% (Omicron variant)  
Clearance Rate June 2022: 123%

## **Project Update (July 2023)**

### **Felony Clearance Rates:**

July 2022: 87%  
August 2022: 142%  
September 2022: 123%  
October 2022: 140%  
November 2022: 140%  
December 2022: 120%  
January 2023: 109.6%  
February 2023: 124.4%  
March 2023: 95.4%  
April 2023: 125%  
May 2023: 116.2%  
June 2023: 119.3%

## **Project Update (July 2024) – Data from the Texas Judicial Branch of Office of Court Administration (OCA)**

### **Felony Clearance Rates:**

July 2023: 103.7%  
August 2023: 94.9%  
September 2023: 113.4%  
October 2023: 117.2%  
November 2023: 127.4%  
December 2023: 101%  
January 2024: 130.2%  
February 2024: 115.2%  
March 2024: 111.7%  
April 2024: 70.7%  
May 2024: 88.6%  
June 2024: 86.2%

### **Overall Number of Active Felony Cases**

The District Attorney's Office is seeing a reduction in overall felony case numbers in the Office of Court Administrations (OCA) District Court Activity Detail Reports. On March 1, 2020, the OCA reported 1771 active felony cases in the Williamson County District Courts. By August 1, 2021, that number had risen to 2584. On September 1, 2021, the number reached a high of 2604. The number of active felony cases pending on the District Court Dockets are also trending in the right direction.

***Felony Court Cases Pending:***

September 2021: 2592  
October 2021: 2568  
November 2021: 2560  
December 2021: 2532  
January 2022 (Omicron): 2603  
February 2022 (Omicron): 2638  
March 2022: 2629  
April 2022: 2589  
May 2022: 2547  
June 2022: 2482  
July 2022: 2528  
August 2022: 2399  
September 2022: 2336  
October 2022: 2244  
November 2022: 2204  
December 2022: 2101  
January 2023: 2083  
February 2023: 2018  
March 2023: 2036  
April 2023: 1976  
May 2023: 1942  
June 2023: 1895

**Project Update (July 2024): Data from the Texas Judicial Branch of Office of Court Administration (OCA)**

July 2023: 1895  
August 2023: 1915  
September 2023: 1886  
October 2023: 1855  
November 2023: 1798  
December 2023: 1794  
January 2024: 1717  
February 2024: 1686  
March 2024: 1654  
April 2024: 1739  
May 2024: 1777  
June 2024: 1814

Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Texas. Even with significant and sustained population growth, the additional prosecutorial resources provided by the American Rescue Plan Act have helped maintain clearance rates above 100%. The Williamson County District Attorney's office will continue our work to reduce the backlog of felony criminal cases in Williamson County.

### **Misdemeanor Justice Disposition Project**

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to have a significant impact on mental health. Isolation, anxiety, and depression has increased in many who are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic and has a direct effect on already growing problem of mental health crisis within our community.

*Civil*—Goal is to address the growing number of mental health applications being filed as a direct result of the pandemic and its effect on our most vulnerable population within our community and prevent a backlog of cases. Given the very sensitive nature of the issues involved, Mental health cases operate on an expedited timeline that necessitates immediate court intervention to prevent further harm to self or others within the community and to curb new crimes.

*Criminal*—Our goal is to solve the backlog of misdemeanor cases pending in the County Courts, and to decrease the average number of days to file a case to increase the efficiency with which cases are resolved.

**Subrecipient** – Williamson County Attorney's Office

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – June 15, 2021

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$1,269,175.33

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$860,611.18

**Primary place of performance** – Williamson County Justice Center, Georgetown, TX

**Performance period** – July 20, 2021 – December 31, 2025

**Performance Indicators** – Decrease of criminal misdemeanor cases backlogged as pending or filed; Decrease in the amount of time to reach case disposition; decrease time to resolve mental health cases due to the increase in cases being filed.

**Funding Category** – 3 Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

**Project Update (July 2023):**

*Criminal*— Three (3) additional prosecutors were hired (one for each County Court at Law - CC1, CC2, CC3). The additional resources have helped with the backlog of pending and unfiled misdemeanor cases.

Based on the most up-to-date numbers at the time of reporting, with the assistance of our three ARPA-funded prosecutors, the County Attorney's Office has filed 2,965 cases to date in 2023. At this time in 2022, the County Attorney's Office had filed 2,713 cases. At this time in 2021, the County Attorney's Office had filed 2,076 cases. Therefore, with the assistance of our

three ARPA-funded prosecutors, the County Attorney's Office has increased the number of cases filed by 252 over year 2022, and 889 over year 2021.

**Civil**— Civil prosecutors are making a substantial impact on cases involving mental health. Some of the duties being completed: Processing Applications for Mental Health Services, Applications for Order to Administer Psychoactive Medications, Applications to Administer Psychoactive Medication, Applications for Appointment of a Permanent Guardian of a Person, and Applications for Commitment to a Residential Treatment Facility. Facilitating workshops for both current and new mental health facilities, medical facilities, and private doctors to improve best practices and procedures for application submissions to increase accuracy. Attending, participating, and researching novel issues arising out of monthly Crisis Response Team (CRT) Meetings, quarterly Mental Health Round Table Meetings, and STU meetings as requested. Researching and answering legal questions posed by law enforcement officers, mental health facilities and medical facilities regarding the completion of applications for mental health services and other issues as assigned. Collaborating with other jurisdictions to improve their models for mental health applications and improve relationships across county lines. Creating new forms, updating existing forms, policies, and procedures to assist in complicated dismiss and transfer hearings, IDD commitment hearings, County to County Transfers of Applications for Mental Health Services, Assisted Out-Patient Treatment (AOT) Program, the new Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) program, new emergent mental health-related issues, and walk-ins from the general public seeking mental health assistance. Collaborating with current and new hospitals, law enforcement officers, and working groups to research new legal issues as they arise, streamline, improve, and make existing processes more efficient for those involved in the process and to better serve the growing and vulnerable populations we work with.

Additional Civil attorneys have resulted in the following:

- **Increase in mental health cases received, reviewed, and filed** - In 2020 the County Attorney's Office had 303 mental health cases filed and in 2022 there were 384 mental health cases filed, an increase of over 26%. As of June 30, 2023, the office has received and reviewed 257 cases and filed 195 cases. Between July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023, the County Attorney's Office received and reviewed 444 Applications for Mental Health Services, 2 Applications for Appointment of a Permanent Guardianship of a Person, 1 Application for Commitment to a Residential Treatment Facility, and filed 388 mental health cases.
- **Mental Health System Improvement Projects** - the County Attorney's office has worked on 37 mental health-specific projects to increase capacity and improve access to mental health system of care.
- **Improved mental health access for individuals incarcerated or receiving emergency crisis services** - In 2020, the County Attorney's Office had six (6) required medication hearings for inmates at the local jail. For the first six months of 2023, there have been 11

required medication applications for inmates, resulting in 10 required medication hearings. There were an additional 11 required medication hearings on applications filed by mental health facilities, for a total of 21 hearings involving the administration of medications to patients who were unable to make competent decisions. These hearings and resulting medications ensured the health, safety and well-being of individuals confined for mental health treatment.

### **Project Update (July 2024):**

**Criminal**— The three (3) additional prosecutors hired, one for each County Court at Law, have continued to help decrease the backlog of pending and unfiled misdemeanor cases.

The County Attorney's Office has filed 2796 cases through June of 2024. This is an increase of 2.34 percent from the cases filed during the same time period in 2023, and an increase of 10.86 percent from the cases filed during the same time period in 2022; the biggest gain can be seen when comparing the number of cases filed through June of 2024 to the same time period in 2021, with an increase of 57.07 percent during the same time period. The assistance of the ARPA-funded prosecutors has helped the County Attorney's Office increase the number of cases filed by 1016 over the year 2021, 274 over 2022, and 64 over year 2023.

**Civil**— The Civil prosecutors are continuing to make a substantial impact on cases involving mental health. The duties of the prosecutors include many court orders that help justice involved individuals receive the mental health care and services they need to achieve disposition of a case. Some of the duties include applications for: Mental Health Services, Order to Administer Psychoactive Medications, Appointment of a Permanent Guardian of a Person, and Commitment to a Residential Treatment Facility. Specialized prosecutors also continue to work with mental health and medical hospitals, and private doctors on application submissions.

The additional ARPA resources have allowed a prosecutor to attend monthly Crisis Response Team (CRT) meetings, quarterly Mental Health Roundtable meetings and Special Task Force meetings as requested. These meetings help members involved in the local mental health system identify gaps, collaborate on ways to fill identified needs, and research and answer legal questions posed by law enforcement and others. By working together, the County Attorney's Office has been able to improve communication, update forms, policies and procedures that assist with dismiss and transfer hearings, IDD commitment hears, County-to-County Transfers of Applications for Mental Health Services and Assisted Out-Patient Treatment (AOT) Program. In addition, the Civil prosecutors have been able to support the highly successful Jail-based Competency Restoration Program that reduces the amount of time that a person with mental illness spends in jail and helps them receive the mental health treatment needed to resolve their criminal charges.

Additionally Civil attorneys have resulted in the following:

- **Increase in Mental Health Cases Received, Reviewed and Filed** – In 2020 there were 303 mental health cases filed, in 2021 there were 319 filings in 2022, 331 filings in 2023 and as of June 30, 2024, the office has received and reviewed 218 cases. Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, the County Attorney’s Office received and reviewed 411 Applications for Mental Health Service, 0 Applications for Appointment of a Permanent Guardianship of a Person, 3 Applications for Commitment to a Residential Treatment Facility, and filed 352 mental health cases.
  
- **Mental Health System Improvement Projects** – the County Attorney’s office continues to work on mental health projects to help increase capacity and improve access to mental health system of care.
  
- **Improved Mental Health Access for Incarcerated Individuals** – In 2020, the County Attorney’s Office had six (6) required medication hearings for inmates at the local jail. With assistance of ARPA funded attorneys the number of inmates receiving required mental health medications has increased as follows:
  - 2020 – 6 hearings
  - 2021 – 11 hearings
  - 2022 – 14 hearings
  - 2023 – 26 hearings
  - 2024 – 21 hearings (Jan. 1 to June 30, 2024)

PC Hearings

- 2020 – 21 hearings
- 2021 – 22 hearings
- 2022 – 37 hearings
- 2023 – 36 hearings
- 2024 – 14 hearings (Jan. 1 to June 30, 2024)

Commitment Hearings

- 2020 – 36 hearings
- 2021 – 32 hearings
- 2022 – 22 hearings
- 2023 – 39 hearings
- 2024 – 17 hearings (Jan. 1 to June 30, 2024)

Meds Hearings (private)

- 2020 – 23 hearings
- 2021 – 24 hearings
- 2022 – 14 hearings
- 2023 – 27 hearings
- 2024 – 18 hearings (Jan. 1 to June 30, 2024)

### Judicial Mental Health Surge

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to have a significant impact on the mental health of many individuals and families, many that have become justice involved. Other ARPA projects have addressed the needs of increasing numbers of cases being filed that involve a mental health component. The Judicial Mental Health Surge Project addresses the need with additional hours available by Associate Judges, who are specialized and experienced in handling mental health commitments and related hearings. The project also addresses the need for additional Court Reporters, necessary for the hearings. This project shortens the time it takes for a person with mental health issues to receive fair and speedy justice. The project also helps increase access of mental health services for those incarcerated.

**Subrecipient** – Williamson County Court at Law

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – January 18, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$208,415

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2023:** \$107,144.55

**Primary place of performance** – Williamson County Justice Center, Georgetown, TX

**Performance period** – July 20, 2021 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators** – Decrease of criminal misdemeanor cases backlogged as pending or filed; Decrease in the amount of time to reach case disposition; decrease time to resolve mental health cases due to the increase in cases being filed.

**Funding Category** – 3 Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

#### Project Update (July 2024):

The ARPA funding allocation providing for additional judicial time has helped facilitate hearings promptly, resulting in increased access to mental health services and medications by inmates in the Williamson County Jail. Probable cause hearings are scheduled within three days of an application being filed. Commitment hearings and Orders to Authorize Psychoactive Medications are scheduled within fourteen (14) days of filing. A summary of mental health cases between July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, is following:

New Applications Filed (Temporary Mental Health Services)	312
Deniel of Application	9
Probable Cause Hearings	27
Final Commitment Hearings Held	42

New Applications Filed (Order to Authorize Psychoactive Medications)	86
Hearings Held	70

### **Specialized Inpatient Youth Psychiatric Wing**

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to have a significant impact on the mental health of many individuals and families. Isolation, substance abuse, anxiety, and depression has increased in many who are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic. The number of youths requiring inpatient psychiatric treatment has increased during the pandemic, but there are very few beds available within Williamson County. When beds are available, they are not designed specifically to meet the treatment needs of children and adolescence between the ages of 8 - 18. Through a contract with our Local Mental Health Authority, a 24-bed unit, specifically designed to meet the needs of children and adolescence, will be constructed. Upon completion of construction, treatment for children and adolescence will be evidenced-based models and with trauma-informed care, to ensure that youth served receive quality care for mental illness and addiction. Having more beds available within the county will allow families of young patients to remain in proximity and to participate and support their child during treatment. A children's specialty wing will increase access to quality mental and behavioral health care, improving equity for children of marginalized and underserved families, who are often uninsured. Quality care will aim to destigmatize mental illness and addiction, which are conditions that transcend race, gender, ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic class. All programs include an educational component so kids can keep up with their schoolwork.

**Subrecipient** – Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Centers

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 31, 2021

**Award amount** – \$3,000,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$3,000,000

**Primary place of performance** – Rock Springs, Private psychiatric hospital, 700 Southeast Inner Loop, Georgetown, TX 78626

**Performance indicators** – Completion of architectural design, engineering, and construction; Opening of unit to serve youth in need of acute psychiatric care; number of youth served/quarter.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** – Reimbursement of architectural, engineering and construction invoices.

**Funding Category** – 1 Public Health

**Project Update (July 2023)** - To date, engineering; surveys; architectural plans and renderings; and retention pond have been completed. The architect and construction manager submitted revised plans for permitting to the City of Georgetown – and permitting has been completed for

all construction steps to-date. Due to continuing delays with supplies, materials and equipment, progress has slowed due to shortages and competing construction projects across the nation. As a result, the anticipated opening for the 24-bed children's unit is now January 2024.

- Completion of architectural design: Revisions underway, approval and permitting secured from the City of Georgetown.
- Engineering and construction: Engineering surveys, construction permits, and retention pond are completed.
- Opening of unit to serve youth in need of acute psychiatric care: Opening day is now estimated to be January 2024.
- Number of youths served per quarter: To be reported by Rock Springs Hospital when the new unit is opened.

Project Update (July 2024) - Completion of the Specialized Youth Wing at Rock Springs Hospital has been accomplished. The ribbon cutting for the new wing took place on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. The hospital accepted its first patient on February 21, 2024. The addition of the 24 beds, increases access to exceptional mental health and addiction treatment for youth in Williamson County and the surrounding area. Since the opening of the new wing, Rock Springs Hospital has provided treatment for 123 Williamson County youth, with an additional 136 being treated from the surrounding area. The average length of stay has been 9.13 days since the wing's opening.

### **Specialized Inpatient Youth Psychiatric Wing – (Operational/Staffing)**

**Subrecipient** – Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Centers

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 31, 2021

**Award amount** – \$1,500,000.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$191,600.53

**Primary place of performance** – Rock Springs, Private psychiatric hospital, 700 Southeast Inner Loop, Georgetown, TX 78626

**Performance indicators** – Opening and operation of specialized unit to serve youth in need of acute psychiatric care; number of youth served/quarter.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** – Reimbursement of psychiatric staffing and operational expenses of specialized youth wing.

**Funding Category** – 1 Public Health

### **Project Update (July 2024):**

The ribbon cutting for the new wing took place on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. The hospital accepted its first patient on February 21, 2024. The addition of the 24 beds, increases access to exceptional mental health and addiction treatment for youth in Williamson County and the surrounding area. Since the opening of the new wing, Rock springs Hospital has provided treatment for 123 Williamson County youth, with an additional 136 being treated from the surrounding area. The average length of stay has been 9.13 days since the wing's opening.

### **Contracted Psychiatric Bed Days for Uninsured Youth**

The Williamson County Commissioners Court approved funding to help families without insurance and/or lack of ability to pay for inpatient psychiatric care for their children. This funding will provide youth treatment without cost to the family. These services are vital to young children suffering from the impacts of the pandemic. Without those funding dollars, low income and uninsured children have a barrier for receiving care that can help them be more successful in school, relationships, and life. If mental health problems are left untreated in children, studies show that they can later become involved in the criminal justice system, leading to the "Pipeline to Prison", can increase suicide rates, decrease life expectancy, well-being, and productivity in communities. If children and youth have access to treatment, more severe and lasting problems can be prevented as they get older. The facility will provide evidence-based care, in a safe, secure space where kids can grow and heal.

**Subrecipient** – Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 31, 2021

**Award amount** – \$1,500,000

**Expenditures through June 30, 2024:** \$0.00

**Primary place of performance** – Private psychiatric hospitalization in Georgetown, Texas 78626, as priority – when not immediately available or able to meet the critical psychiatric needs of the youth, all Central Texas private hospitals for which the subrecipient has a contract are accessed.

**Performance indicators** – Number of youth and children served/month; Number of bed/treatment days provided; Percent of families that see improvement in their children.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** – Reimbursement of a contracted bed rate (to be determined) for under and uninsured families.

**Funding Category** – 1 Public Health

**Project Update (July 2023)** - This Williamson County financial investment provides one thousand, two hundred (1,200) private psychiatric bed days per funding year, for a minimum of two-hundred and twenty-six (226) Williamson County residents. The following metric results provide insight into the care provided through the ARPA investment:

- Number of Williamson County uninsured youths served through June 30, 2023 –  
Calendar Year 2023: From January 1 – June 30, 2023, 137 eligible Williamson County

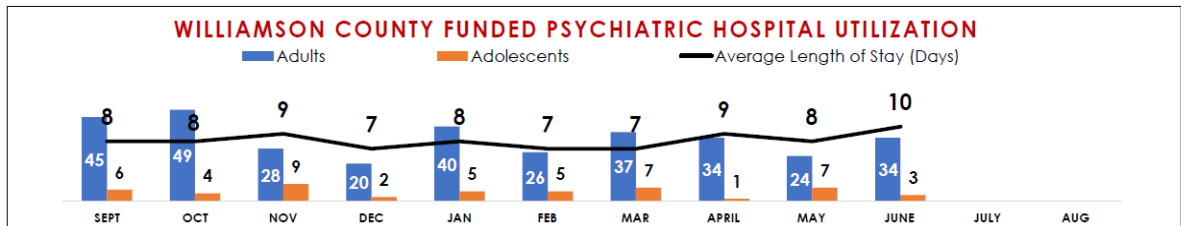
youths utilized 776 bed days through this six-month funding period. The average length of stay for all youths is 5.7 bed days per eligible Williamson County youth.

- Of the 137 youths served calendar year-to-date, 9 eligible Williamson County youths are awaiting admittance to long-term psychiatric care at Waco Center for Youths or in Residential Treatment Center (RTC) settings. During the calendar year-to date, these youths have been hospitalized for 181 bed days, an average length of stay-to-date of 20 days.

**Project Update (July 2024):**

This Williamson County financial investment provides one thousand, two hundred (1,200) private psychiatric bed days per funding year, for a minimum of two-hundred and twenty-six (226) Williamson County residents. The following metric results provide insight into the care provided through the ARPA investment:

- Number of Williamson County uninsured adults served from September - June 2024:



- Of the 54 children and youths served from September 2024 – June 2024, the average length of stay was 10.7 days for Williamson County youths (and 6.4 days for Williamson County adults).
- BTCS staff continue to meet monthly with Williamson County staff, healthcare providers and law enforcement to review admission data and outcomes.

**Youth Therapeutic Respite Center**

At the time of the ARPA funding application, Williamson County had a 16-bed respite center for adults experiencing a psychiatric crisis, but there is no therapeutic place addressing the needs of youths in crisis. Funding approved by the Commissioners Court renovated an existing building in Round Rock staffed by professionals offering mental health care, primary health care, substance use treatment, intellectual/developmental disability services and autism treatment. The center welcomes youth between the ages of 5 to 17 years and their families. Overseen 24/7 by a Registered Nurse (RN), these youths have a demonstrated need for respite including treatment, crisis services and wraparound care, including innovative therapies, active family reunification strategies, care coordination, case management, psychiatric medication management and more. The goal for youths and families is successful reunification with connection to meaningful ongoing care. The length of stay may be as short as a few hours or as long as 30 days, depending on the needs of the youth and their family. Working closely with caregivers every step of the

way, pairing them with a Family Partner and involving them in care planning and therapy services. Academic success of each youth will be supported by an Educator and by Care Coordinators collaborating with each student's school to plan for a smooth transition upon returning home. The program is a trauma-informed and evidence-based community crisis intervention program that will serve as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization. As there are no therapeutic respite options in Williamson County serving the needs of children and families, the Youth Therapeutic Respite center offers that safe and therapeutic place, stabilizing the psychiatric crisis that previously may have resulted in a criminal charge for assault, dismissal from school, admission to juvenile justice services, or admission to a state facility.

**Subrecipient** – Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Center

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 31, 2021

**Award amount** – \$6,345,840.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$5,189,618.00

**Primary place of performance** – Bluebonnet Trails Community Center, Round Rock, TX - 78664

**Performance indicators** – Number of children served; number of families served; number of crisis days provided; number of children connected with appropriate treatment resources.

**Wilco Task Number** – 5.8 and 2

**Award payment method** – Reimbursement of mental health services and related axillary costs

**Funding Category** – 1 Public health

**Project Update (July 2023)** - Opening its doors during May 2022, the program was fully staffed with 24-hour RN coverage, a child psychiatrist, Board Certified Behavioral Analysts, licensed counselors, qualified mental health professionals and family wraparound partner – all with access to Bluebonnet Trails Community Services existing professionals supporting a youth continuum of care from Early Childhood Intervention (0-3 years of age), Autism Treatment, Mental Health Services, Substance Use Treatment and Intellectual and Developmental Services. The school program manager has been hired with Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) secured with Williamson County ISDs.

- Sustainability Planning: The application securing Williamson County ARPA funding included the intent to ensure sustainability of this unique program in Texas.
  - Our sustainability plan including current contracts for these critical services through the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) was initiated during late December 2022. This funding stream achievement is a step toward sustainability of the respite program in Williamson County.
  - During the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, Texas Health and Human Services was directed to initiate competitive grant applications for the purpose of youth and family wellness. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services is submitting our application as a local mental health authority seeking to expand care for young Texans by August 18, 2023. Awards through this competitive bid process are expected to be announced by October 2023. If awarded, our ability to financially

sustain this program will be attained. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services will be seeking letters of support from Williamson County leaders as a part of our application for the legislated funding. The letters of support for the application will also be shared with our local legislators as an expression of thanks for their support for this funding opportunity.

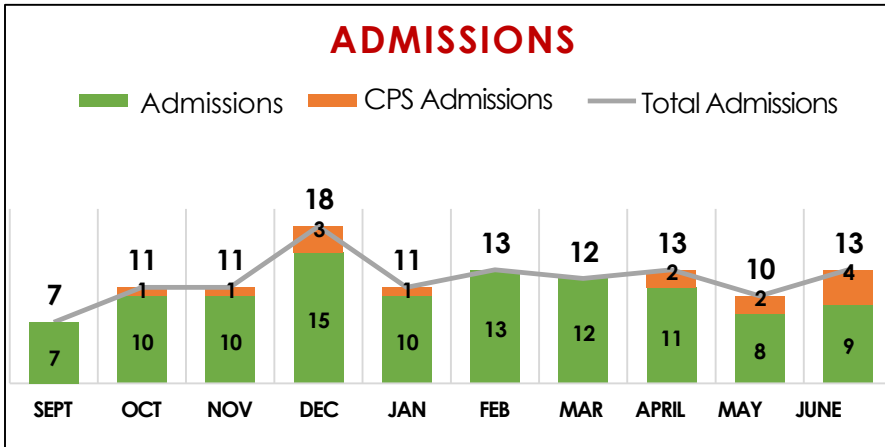
- Number of Children and Families Served: 105 youths have been admitted since opening our doors on May 15, 2022; with 84 youths served from January – June 30, 2023.
- Number of referrals from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services: 12 total referrals since December 2022; with 9 admissions from January 1 – June 30, 2023.
- Average length of stay: 12.7 Days
- Since opening our doors through June 30, 2023:
  - 86 youths have successfully graduated from the program and returned to the family home with a plan for ongoing care.
  - The psychiatric needs of 5 youths required a more intensive level of care whereby placement was coordinated with a contracted private psychiatric hospital.
  - The psychiatric needs of 2 youths required a more intensive level of care whereby placement was coordinated with Austin State Hospital and Waco Center for Youth, respectively.

#### **Project Update (July 2024):**

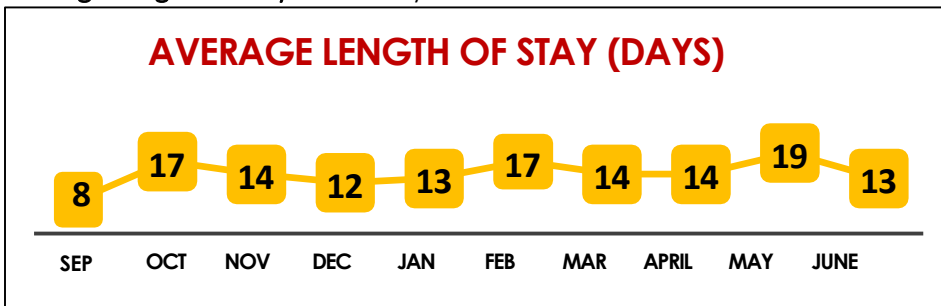
Opening its doors during May 2022, the program was fully staffed with 24-hour RN coverage, a child psychiatrist, Board Certified Behavioral Analysts, licensed counselors, qualified mental health professionals and family wraparound partner – all with access to Bluebonnet Trails Community Services existing professionals supporting a youth continuum of care from Early Childhood Intervention (0-3 years of age), Autism Treatment, Mental Health Services, Substance Use Treatment and Intellectual and Developmental Services. The school program manager was hired with Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) secured with Williamson County ISDs.

- **Sustainability Planning:** The application securing Williamson County ARPA funding included the intent to ensure sustainability of this unique program in Texas.
  - Our sustainability plan includes single-case contracts for youths benefitting from these critical services through the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) was initiated during late December 2022. This collaboration focuses on the children DFPS serves through its Children Without Placement (CWOP) program. Children enter the CWOP program when no other immediate option is available to safely house a child when the family is engaged in DFPS action.
  - During the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) was directed to initiate competitive grant applications for the purpose of youth and family wellness. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services applied for funding the Senate Bill 26, Supporting Mental Health and Resiliency of Texans (SMART) competitive grant opportunity. BTCS applied during January 2024, was advised of a pending grant award during July 2024 supporting operating costs – and awaits final details from HHSC. If the requested amount is fully awarded, our ability to financially sustain this program will be attained.

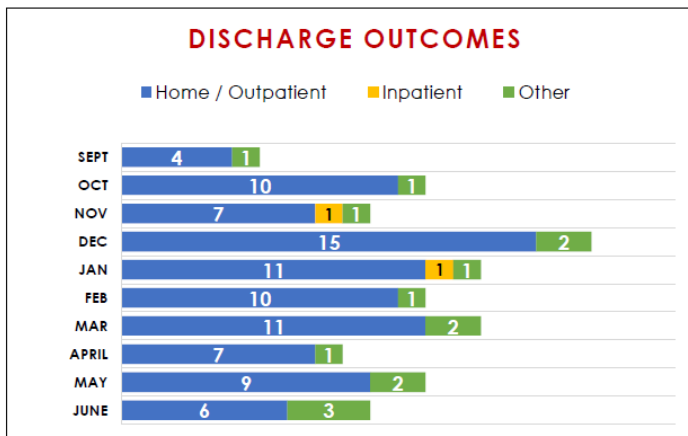
- **Number of Children and Families Served:** 224 youths have been admitted since opening our doors on May 15, 2022; with 119 youths served from September – June 30, 2024.



- **Number of referrals from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services:** 26 total referrals since December 2022, including 14 since September 2023 – June 30, 2024.
- **Average length of stay:** 14.1 Days



- **Discharge Outcomes September 2024 - June 2024:**



## Private Psychiatric Bed Expansion for Uninsured Adults

Research shows that the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the mental health of adults and children. A National Institutes of Health study conducted in 2021 showed that “nearly half of Americans surveyed reported recent symptoms of an anxiety or depressive disorder, and 10% of respondents felt their mental health needs were not being met. Rates of anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder have increased since the beginning of the pandemic.”<sup>3</sup>

Mental illness affects millions each year. It can make everyday life challenging, impacting a persons’ ability to work, perform, create, compete, laugh, love, and inspire. People with untreated mental illness have a higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, have higher substance use disorder, homelessness, and suicide. Mental illness is treatable, but sometimes requires hospitalization, which can be a barrier for those without insurance.

ARPA funding has been allocated to provide inpatient psychiatric treatment for Williamson County residents who are uninsured and in need of crisis behavioral health services. The inpatient private psychiatric beds will be contracted by Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) in the Central Texas area and throughout Texas, as psychiatric hospitalization meeting the unique needs of an individual may be available. Private psychiatric beds will be used when the State of Texas hospital system is on diversion and a local psychiatric bed is unavailable.

<sup>3</sup>National Institute of Health. (2023, July 27). <https://covid19.nih.gov/covid-19-topics/mental-health/>

**Subrecipient** – Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – June 27, 2023

**Award amount** – \$1,500,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$1,062,525.00

**Primary place of performance** – Central Texas.

**Performance indicators** – Provide vital behavioral health hospitalization services for uninsured Williamson County residents when State Hospital System is on diversion.

- Will reimburse the private psychiatric hospital for an all-inclusive contracted bed day rate of \$625 per bed day.
- Provide one thousand, two hundred (1,200) private psychiatric bed days, for a minimum of two-hundred and twenty-six (226) Williamson County residents.
- Will provide monthly reporting of admissions into private psychiatric hospitals.
- BTCS staff will develop and coordinate a longer-term recovery plan for individuals upon being discharged from private psychiatric hospitalization.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** –Reimburse \$625/bed day.

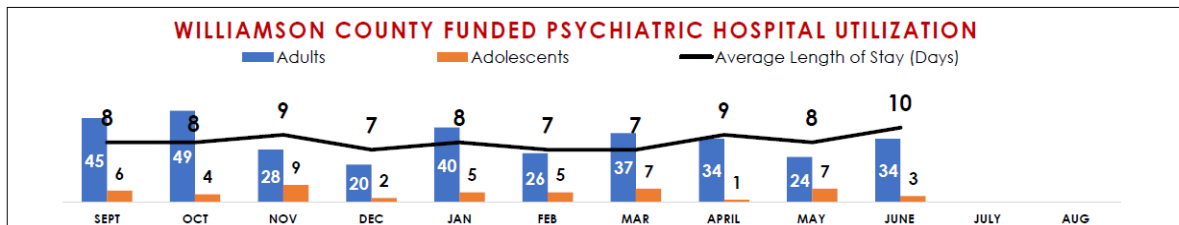
### Funding Category – 1 Public Health

**Project Update (July 2023)** – BTCS is identifying individuals in need of private psychiatric hospitalization, who do not have insurance. Individuals in need of hospitalization are identified through the Outreach, Screening, Assessment and Referral (OSAR) program. Individuals are also identified by referrals from the Crisis Diversion Center and by Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT). Screening is completed to ensure that the individual does not have insurance prior to allocating ARPA funds from the Private Psychiatric Bed Expansion program. BTCS staff meets monthly with Williamson County staff, healthcare providers and law enforcement to review admission data.

### Project Update (July 2024):

This Williamson County financial investment provides one thousand, two hundred (1,200) private psychiatric bed days per funding year, for a minimum of two-hundred and twenty-six (226) Williamson County residents. The following metric results provide insight into the care provided through the ARPA investment:

- Number of Williamson County uninsured adults served from September - June 2024:



- Of the 334 adults served from September 2024 – June 2024, the average length of stay was 6.4 days for Williamson County adults (and 10.7 days for Williamson County youths).
- BTCS staff continue to meet monthly with Williamson County staff, healthcare providers and law enforcement to review admission data and outcomes.

### Sober Peer Support - Yellow House Foundation

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to have a significant impact on mental health and substance use. Isolation, anxiety, and depression has increased the use of substances in many who are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic. Alcohol and substance abuse are diseases that do not discriminate and can affect those from all walks of life. Addiction affects not only individuals, but their families who suffer with them, their friends, their co-workers and employers, and anyone who share the road or interacts with them. Recently researchers at the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) used the national death certificate database to assess changes in alcohol-related deaths during the first year of the pandemic. The results showed that after increasing around 2.2% per year over the previous two decades, deaths involving alcohol jumped 25.5% between 2019 to 2020, totaling 99,107 deaths. The study showed that alcohol-associated liver disease deaths increased 22.4% (from 24,110 to 29,509) with the largest change occurring among people ages 25 to 44. The number of deaths involving

a combination of alcohol and opioids increased by 40.8% (from 8,503 to 11,969), with deaths involving alcohol and synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl) increasing by 59.2% (from 6,302 to 10,032). In 2020, the first year of the pandemic, sales of alcohol increased by 2.9%, the largest annual increase in over 50 years. Increased alcohol consumption during the pandemic has been associated with negative health outcomes and increased emergency department visits. Additionally, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported a 14% increase in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 2020 after decades of general decline. <sup>1</sup>

The Yellow House Foundation, a 501(c)3 provides a safe place for recovery in Williamson County. The non-profit was created in 2003 and is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors who are committed to the mission of recovery for individuals and families. In 2019, the Texas House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 2149, honoring the Yellow House Foundation for “its contributions to substance abuse recovery in Williamson and Travis Counties.” The Yellow House Foundation gives people and their families the tools to overcome the disease of alcohol and substance abuse. They provide a permanent secular home for meetings and recovery. The Yellow House Foundation does not discriminate with race, creed, color and provides a safe place for recovery seven days per week.

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2022, June 30). Deaths involving alcohol increased during the COVID-19 pandemic – Research Update. <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/research-update/>

**Subrecipient** – Yellow House Foundation 501(c)3

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – May 23, 2023

**Award amount** – \$301,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024-** \$223,000.00

**Primary place of performance** – 161 South Bell Boulevard, Cedar Park. New construction will be on 3.268-acre site is located on FM 2243

**Performance indicators** – Yellow House will provide a safe secular location for recovery from alcohol and substance abuse in Williamson County. They will provide a location for recovery meetings and peer support for individuals and families suffering from substance disorders. Services offered at the location will include Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Alateen, Cocaine Anonymous, Primary Purpose, Nicotine Anonymous and Spanish Speaking Alcohol Anonymous. The Yellow House location will provide meetings, counseling, recovery events and sober social activities for those practicing the 12-Step Recovery program. Yellow House will provide a minimum of forty (40) meetings per week and/or a minimum of 125 meetings per month. Construction of a 6,175 sq. ft. building located in Leander Texas will commence during the term of the agreement with the subrecipient to help meet the growing need for peer support for substance use. Subrecipient will provide information on the number of meetings per month and

the number of individuals attending Hope Group (alcohol), Alanon (families), Cocaine Anonymous, Adult children of Alcoholics, Alateen, and Spanish AA.

**Wilco Task Number – 2**

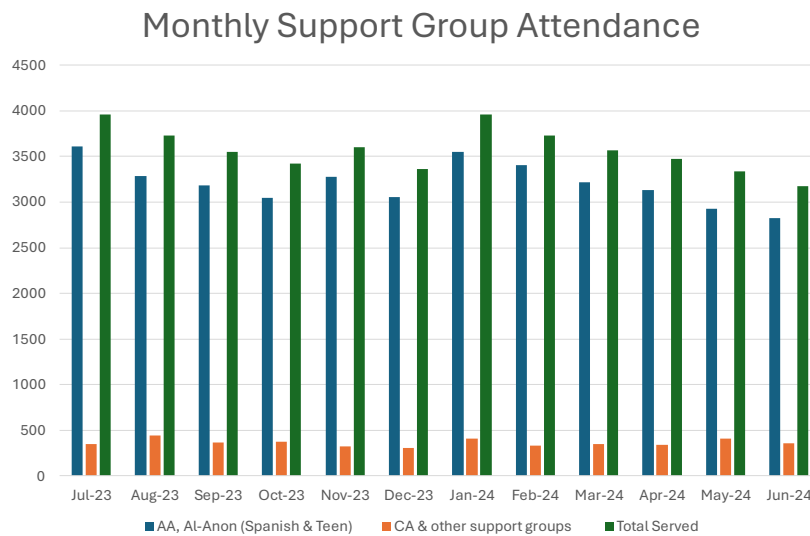
**Award payment method** – Reimbursement of transitional location expenses, including rent, utilities, and some furniture and fixtures when new construction is complete.

**Funding Category** – 1 Public Health – Behavioral Health – Substance Use Services – 1.13

**Project Update (July 2023)** – A groundbreaking ceremony occurred for the construction of the new building on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The ceremony was well attended by Chamber of Commerce, supporters, peers, and elected officials. Repairs have been completed at location where current meetings are being held. Attendance at support group meetings remains high, with over 3,000 meetings attended per month.

**Project Update (July 2024):**

Construction of the new building is underway, and completion is anticipated in fall 2024. The building framing and roofing is complete. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing is currently in process. Insulation and finishing is expected to begin soon. 12-step peer support meetings are still being held in the temporary rental location. A summary of the number of meetings held per month and the number of attendees in each of the groups is below:



**Inpatient Detox Services**

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to have a significant impact on mental health and substance use. Isolation, anxiety, and depression has increased the use of substances in many who are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic. Alcohol and substance abuse are diseases that do

not discriminate and can affect those from all walks of life. Addiction affects not only individuals, but their families who suffer with them, their friends, their co-workers and employers, and anyone who share the road or interacts with them. Alcohol intoxication may include inappropriate behavior, unstable moods, poor judgement, slurred speech, problems with attention or memory, and poor coordination. Very high blood alcohol levels can lead to coma, permanent brain damage or even death. Alcohol withdrawal can occur when alcohol use has been heavy and prolonged and then is stopped or greatly reduced, causing sweating, rapid heartbeat, hand tremors, problems sleeping, nausea and vomiting, hallucinations, restlessness, agitation, anxiety, and occasionally seizures and even death.<sup>2</sup>

Our Local Mental Health Authority, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, will be providing residential withdrawal management (formerly known as detox) services for individuals with intensive substance addictions. The Withdrawal Management Center will provide medical treatment for persons detoxing from drugs. During detox, withdrawal symptoms will be monitored 24-hours per day by nurses skilled to treat the effects experienced during withdrawal. After detoxing in a safe environment with constant access to medical care, individuals can safely return to a drug-free state. While detoxing, the patient will reside temporarily at the Withdrawal Management Center which will provide 24/7 access to medical care as needed along with an intensive program of psychiatric care, including individual and group therapy sessions. This program will reduce the risks and dangers of alcohol and drug addiction withdrawal that is self-managed. After stabilizing physical health, the treatment shifts to deeper psychological issues that underlie substance use.

<sup>2</sup>Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alcohol-use-disorder/>

**Subrecipient** – Local Mental Health Authority – Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS)

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – June 27, 2023

**Award amount** – \$862,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$462,633.36

**Primary place of performance** – San Gabriel Respite Center - 711 N. College Street, Georgetown, TX. Could begin in July and would prorate costs for 2023.

**Performance indicators:**

1. Serve 80 individuals with intensive addictions during the first 12 months of operation.
2. Provide appropriate step-down care and assistance for 100% of patients discharged after accomplishing short-term goals while admitted to the Withdrawal Management Center.
3. For persons refusing treatment and seeking to leave the Withdrawal Management Center, 100% will receive a recommended plan with referrals to continue outpatient treatment and will receive follow up contacts within 24 hours, 3 days, and 7 days of leaving the program to ensure community connections are made and the individual is welcome to return to the program.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** – Reimburse 5 registered nurses that would provide services 24/7/365.

## **Funding Category – 1 Public Health**

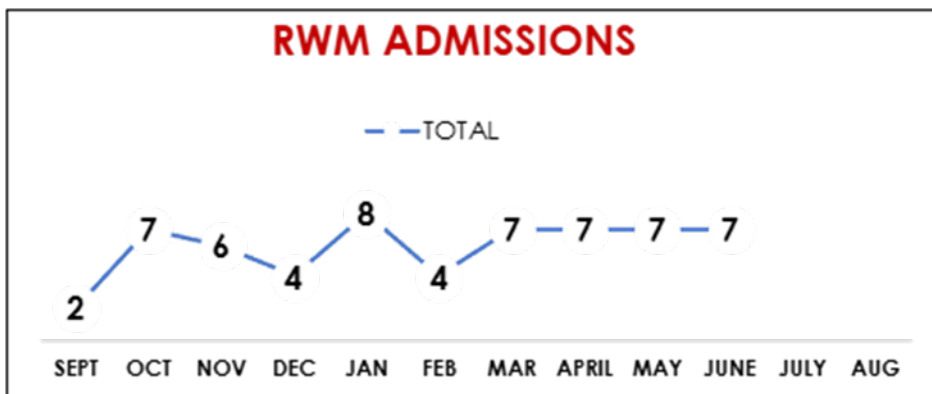
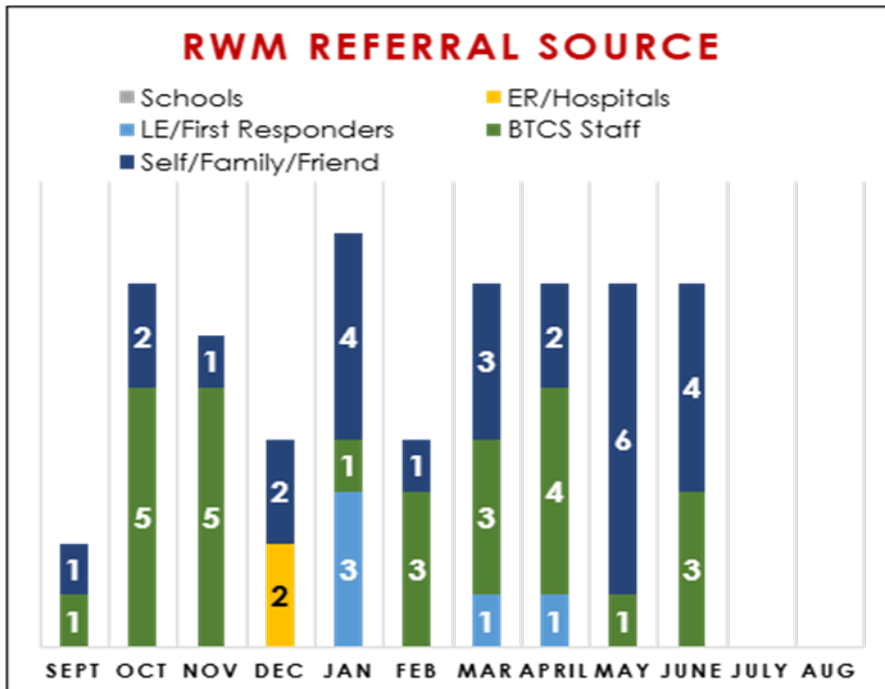
**Project Update (July 2023)** – BTCS will provide detox services for individuals that are identified with substance use problems. BTCS is licensed with the State of Texas and can begin services promptly after hiring staff. BTCS has started the hiring process for the program. Currently, two of the five registered nurses have been hired. Hiring is expected to be complete by September, and the program will begin accepting patients by the end of August, after training is complete. Data collected will help BTCS's request to become a detox provider for the State, which would help with sustainability. A meeting with the State of Texas is scheduled for August to discuss the program and sustainability.

## **Project Update (July 2024):**

The **Residential Withdrawal Management** (Inpatient Detox Services) center was fully staffed on September 1, 2023. The program opened its doors on September 13, 2023, upon successfully achieving expectations of the mandatory licensure review conducted by Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Substance Use Disorder Services auditors. From September 14, 2023, through June 30, 2024, the following outcomes were achieved.

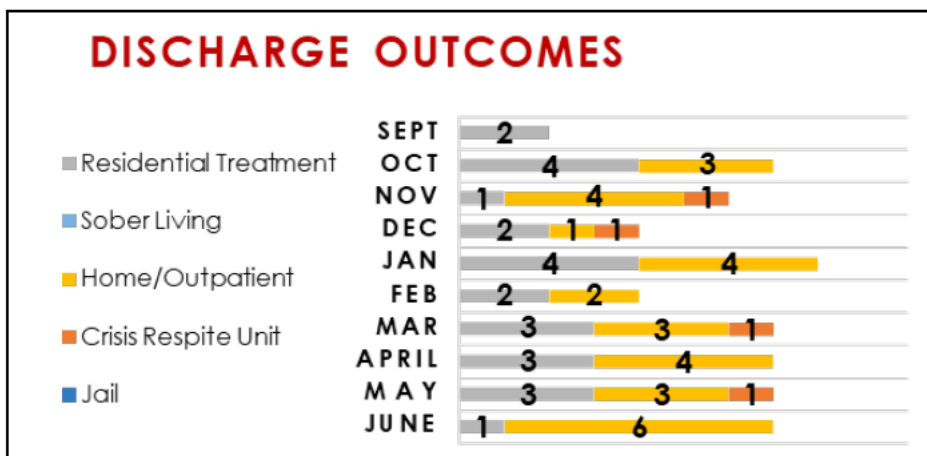
### **1. Number of Persons Served:**

- a. **Expectation:** Serve 80 individuals with intensive addictions during the first 12 months of operation.
- b. **Performance Outcomes Achieved:** During the first 9.5 months of operation (9/14/2023 through 6/30/2024), the program has received 59 referrals and admitted each of the 59 individuals into the substance addiction withdrawal management program. BTCS projects it will achieve 93% of the annual metric, anticipating a total of 73 admissions during the first 12 months of operation. This projection recognizes a lower than anticipated referral rate from Williamson County community partners and BTCS internal resources. A concerted communication strategy is underway with local emergency departments and hospitals.



2. Follow-up Care:

- a. **Expectation:** Provide appropriate step-down care and assistance for 100% of patients discharged after accomplishing short-term goals while admitted to the Residential Withdrawal Management center.
- b. **Performance Outcomes Achieved:** 100% of persons referred to the program were transitioned to care following detox. BTCS provided internal and external referrals to 100% of patients discharging from the Residential Withdrawal Management (Inpatient Detox Services) program. Each referral was made in partnership with the patient, securing the best opportunities for the individual to remain healthy and safe while continuing recovery from substance use/addiction. To continue their recovery after detoxing, the following notes that 42% of participants are discharged to residential treatment; 51% are discharged to home with outpatient treatment; and 7% are discharged to the BTCS Crisis Respite Unit.



### 3. Planning for Persons Refusing Treatment:

- a. **Expectation:** For persons refusing treatment and seeking to leave the Residential Withdrawal Management center, 100% will receive a recommended plan with referrals to continue outpatient treatment and will receive follow up contacts within 24 hours, 3 days, and 7 days of leaving the program to ensure community connections are made and the individual is welcome to return to the program.
- b. **Performance Outcomes Achieved:** As of June 30, 2024, no person referred into the program has refused treatment. As defined within the discharge plans, 100% received follow up contacts by BTCS within 24 hours, 3 days, and 7 days of leaving the program to ensure community connections were secured. Although no patient has required this option at this point, any individual refusing treatment is welcomed to return to the program when ready to move toward recovery.

### Homelessness Reduction - Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Individuals that are experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk of contracting and spreading the Coronavirus Disease, since they do not have ready access to sanitary facilities. Increasing numbers of individuals suffering from mental health and substance abuse problems due to the pandemic have also increased the number of homeless.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) operates and maintains Community First! Village, a 51-acre master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing, and supportive community for the disabled and chronically homeless in Central Texas. The Community First! Village provides a transformative residential program that lifts homeless men and women up off the streets, into community and homes. MLF will shelter, cultivate community, and promote dignity for people experiencing homelessness.

Williamson County is investing in Phase 3 site preparation, installation of water and wastewater lines, electrical connectivity, drainage, and roadway infrastructure, required to support the construction of five hundred (500) Microhomes and Park Model RV homes at the Community First! Village. MLF will provide access to fifteen (15) microhomes or Park Model RV units in Phase One, Phase Two, or Phase Three of Community First! Villages for eligible Williamson County residents. MLF will partner with another non-profit (Family Eldercare) to provide wrap-around support services and coordination of housing to reduce the number of Williamson County residents experiencing homelessness. MLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit that has served the homeless since 1998.

**Subrecipient** – Mobile Loaves & Fishes a 501(c)3 non-profit

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – May 23, 2023

**Award amount** – \$1,400,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$1,400,000

**Primary place of performance** – 76-acre addition located at 9301 Hogg Eye Road, Austin, Texas.

**Performance indicators** – Reduce homelessness, which increased during COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Completion of Infrastructure supporting housing construction – December 2024
- Completion of a minimum of fifteen (15) Micro Homes and Park RV Homes

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** – Reimbursement of infrastructure and housing costs with appropriate back-up documentation

**Funding Category** – 1: Negative Economic Impacts

**Project Update (July 2023)** – The groundbreaking for Phase 3 has begun. There has been no rain delays and infrastructure completion are still expected by the end of 2024. A project kick-off meeting occurred on July 26th. Draft processes for identification and enrollment of homeless individuals living in Williamson County were begun. Project team members from MLF and their provider, Family Eldercare will begin attending monthly Williamson County Crisis Response meetings.

**Project Update (July 2024):**

The infrastructure for Phase 3 has been completed. The Williamson County Auditor's office has received back-up receipts and cancelled checks for the construction of Community First! Village, which is a master-planned neighborhood that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women that are coming out of homelessness.

**Homelessness Reduction - Family Eldercare**  
**New subcontractor – Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (effective January 2024)**

Individuals that are experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk of contracting and spreading the Coronavirus Disease, since they do not have ready access to sanitary facilities. Increasing numbers of individuals suffering from mental health and substance abuse problems due to the pandemic have also increased the number of homeless.

Williamson County is partnering with Mobile Loaves & Fishes and Family Eldercare to help reduce homelessness in Williamson County. Family Eldercare will provide an array of wrap-around supportive services to support housing stability for identified individuals to reduce homelessness and increase housing sustainability for individuals in Williamson County. Services may include outreach and engagement, rapid rehousing, housing navigation, housing retention, homeless prevention, benefits enrollments, SOAR Navigation and financial assistance. Services will be individualized to meet the needs of identified participants.

Family Eldercare staff will work closely with Williamson County to identify individuals who are eligible for the program. The staff will work with clients and develop a client-centered approach. Family Eldercare staff will provide core components of rapid rehousing, which includes:

- Housing Navigation and Placement
- Financial Assistance (if needed)
- Case Management Service to address individualized service plan.

**Subrecipient** – Family Eldercare a 501(c)3 non-profit (ARPA agreement cancelled)

**New Subrecipient** – Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (Local Mental Health Authority)

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – May 23, 2023

**Award amount** – \$600,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$24,807.56

**Primary place of performance** – Williamson County and Community First! Village, located at 9301 Hog Eye Road, Austin, Texas 78724. Family Eldercare office is located at 1700 Rutherford Lane, Austin, Texas 78754.

**Performance indicators** – Reduce homelessness, which increased during COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Provide housing support services to 15 individuals (minimum)
- Locate housing for ten Williamson County homeless (minimum)
- Obtain housing for Williamson County homeless at Community First! Village (15 individuals)

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

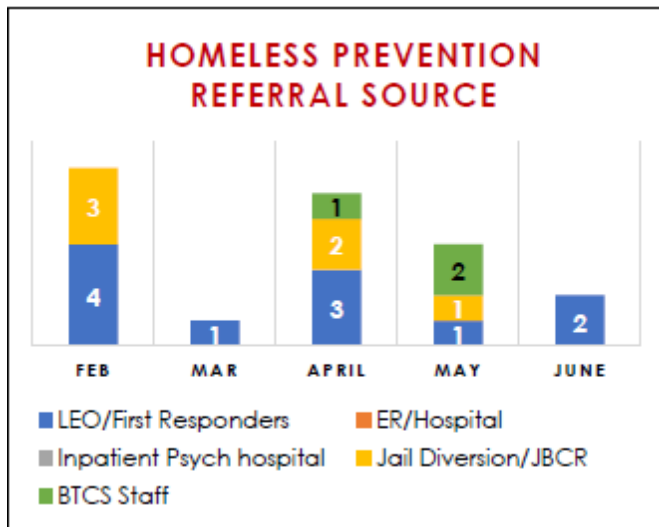
**Award payment method** – Supportive Housing Services (\$24,000/individual x 25 individuals)

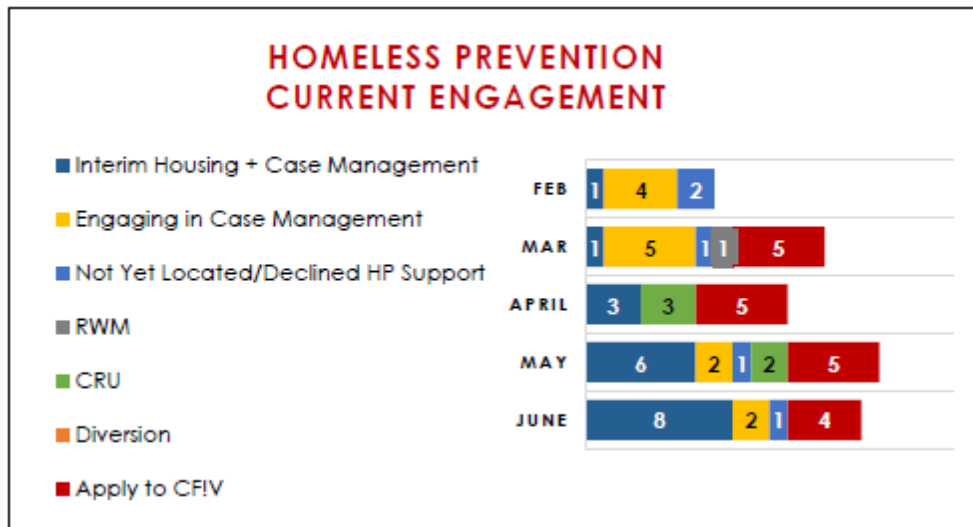
**Funding Category** – 1: Negative Economic Impacts

**Project Update (July 2023)** - A project kick-off meeting occurred on July 26th. Draft processes for identification and enrollment of homeless individuals living in Williamson County were begun. Project team members from MLF and their provider, Family Eldercare will begin attending monthly Williamson County Crisis Response meetings.

**Project Update (July 2024):**

Due to staffing issues and delays in implementing the homelessness prevention program, a change in program subrecipients took place. In January 2024, the Williamson County’s Local Mental Health Authority - Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) was approved to be the provider of the homelessness prevention program. The Homeless Prevention program provides an array of wrap-around support services to support housing stability of identified Williamson County residents to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability. This is achieved through support through permanent housing in partnership with Community First! Village, transitional housing opportunities, and supported housing services. During the reporting period, BTCS hired homelessness prevention staff, coordinated with the sub-recipient (Mobile, Loaves & Fishes) who is constructing and expanding the master-planned community (Community First! Village), created program policies and procedures, and began serving individuals experiencing homelessness. BTCS is also working with individuals on homelessness prevention and are providing housing support. The first successful transition from a homeless man into permanent housing at Community First! Village has occurred. Additional information is provided below:





#### Emergency Shelter Expansion - Hope Alliance

The adverse effect of COVID-19 on employment and mental health led to a rise in domestic violence during the pandemic. Isolation during stay-at-home orders exposed or worsened vulnerabilities of women due to a lack of established social systems. During the pandemic the need for emergency shelter beds increased and local data showed that there was an increase in depression, anxiety and crimes being committed of a more serious nature. The waitlist at Williamson County’s only emergency shelter continued to grow during the pandemic, with 2,446 women being put on the list in 2022. When a woman makes the decision to leave a violent and dangerous living situation, it is when she and her children are in the most danger.

The ARPA allocated funding and conversion of a Williamson County owned property into an auxiliary emergency shelter will provide emergency shelter for an additional 120 women, for 4,400 sheltered nights of safety. Woman will be helped navigating complex legal and hospital systems, as well as being provided with food, shelter, counseling, case management, and court and hospital accompaniments. These services will provide hope, healing, and prevention of being a victim of a more serious crime.

**Subrecipient** – HOPE Alliance a 501(c)3 non-profit

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – Feb 28,2023

**Award amount** – \$570,112.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$427,836.66

**Primary place of performance** – Main office 1011 Gattis School Road, Suite 110, Round Rock, Texas 78664. Emergency shelter location is not identified for safety and security reason.

**Performance indicators** – the number of women sheltered at the new auxiliary shelter; the total number of bed days provided to sheltered women at the new auxiliary shelter.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award payment method** – Reimburse cost for emergency shelter for women in need of safety.

**Funding Category** – 1: Negative Economic Impacts

**Project Update (July 2023)** – After a Lease Agreement and separate Funding Agreement were signed and approved in February 2023, by both the County Commissioners’ Court and Hope Alliance, and in the interests of Public Safety, a County-owned property was turned into an Auxiliary Shelter and made operational by the Williamson County Crisis Center d/b/a Hope Alliance on April 1, 2023. The Auxiliary Shelter has a 12-bed capacity. Hope Alliance has operated another emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault in Round Rock, TX since 1990. The Round Rock Shelter has a 30-bed capacity.

Staffing a new shelter with a qualified Shelter Director, Case Manager, and qualified Victim Advocates in one month’s time proved to be difficult, but Hope Alliance was able to recruit, hire and train a “skeleton crew,” and opened the new auxiliary Shelter on April 1, 2023, with a few staff and 3 clients. Four more clients entered the new facility during the month of April. Clients for Sheltered Nights of Safety at the new facility are pre-selected from a Master Shelter Waitlist. Hutto Shelter clients are chosen based on the following criteria:

1. The client has completed a formal “Intake” process,
2. The client is an individual with no children needing shelter, and
3. The client has their own transportation.

The following Chart indicates the month of operation, the number of client intakes, exits, the total sheltered nights of safety provided, and updates for both the Master Waitlist and the Waitlist for the Hutto facility.

MONTH	# OF INTAKES	# OF EXITS	# OF SHELTERED NIGHTS	# ON NEW SHELTER WAITLIST
April	7	2	151	15
May	5	5	176	13
June	8	7	200	11
July	8	6	146	15
<b>Total Year-To-Date</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>54</b>

During a call to our 24/7/365 Hotline, or an inquiry via the web on our Crisis Chat, victims are asked questions from a Lethality Questionnaire to determine the danger level in which the victim is living. Those scoring “high danger” are moved to the head of the line for access to the Shelter.

Those who score “medium or low danger” are asked if they’d be willing to be placed on our Waitlist. Those unwilling to go on a Waitlist are referred to other agencies with shelters outside of Williamson County.

Our Waitlists are updated daily and fluctuate based on the number of Hotline and Crisis Chats received. By the end of June 2023, the volume of Hotline Calls and Crisis Chats is 14% higher than the same time in 2022. The number of Sheltered Clients, Shelter Stays, and Sheltered Nights of Safety have all increased in comparison to the same time in 2022. Hope Alliance would not be providing increased Shelter Services were it not for the unprecedented cooperation and Agreements with Williamson County.

**Project Update (July 2024):**

The following Chart indicates the number of client intakes, exits, total nights of sheltered safety, and the number of clients currently on “The Ranch’s” Waitlist.

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024	# OF INTAKES	# OF EXITS	TOTAL # OF SHELTERED NIGHTS OF SAFETY	CURRENT # ON SHELTER WAITLIST
Total	60	62	2,198	14

For 25 to 30 years, psychological research proves one’s level of “HOPE” is the single most determinative factor in one’s ability to overcome trauma particularly the type of trauma induced by domestic abuse and/or sexual assault. One’s level of “Hope” can be measured. Hope Alliance measures clients’ levels of Hope upon intake, and we measure clients’ levels of Hope at exit from our care. On a 100-point scale, clients entering our care have Hope Scores in the mid-fifties. Upon exiting our care and after receiving individualized, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and hope-centered services, clients’ Hope Scores are measured in the mid-nineties. Because of support from the Williamson County Commissioner’s Court, Hope Alliance provided 21.4% more clients, a total of 24.7% more Sheltered Nights of Safety than during the same time the previous year. Thank You for your support; may it continue into 2025 until we move into a new facility in December 2025.

**Breast Cancer Identification and Treatment**

Breast cancer was a public health concern before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the pandemic exasperated the devastating results and health outcomes of women. Breast cancer affects women of all races between 20 years old to women in their 80’s. One in four women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, and according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) there were 264,121 new cases diagnosed in the United States in 2019, with over 42,000 women dying from the disease. Unfortunately, this number is expected to increase due to the

reduced number of preventative and diagnostic testing for this cancer. In Texas, all non-emergent medical procedures were stopped for over two months during the pandemic, resulting in women having appointments cancelled and not being able to receive life-saving mammograms and biopsies. Due to the fear and anxiety that was shown to have increased during the pandemic, many women did not reschedule appointments, as COVID-19 surged. According to the National Cancer Institute it is predicted that there will be an additional 10,000 deaths due to lack of screening and catching more cancers in the later stages, when it is more difficult to treat. The 5-year survival rate for Stage-1 (localized) breast cancer is 98%, as opposed to 29% for Stage-3 (distant) cancer that has spread. According to Austin Area Research Organization (AARO) data shows that uninsured women in Central Texas are behind on mammogram screenings and African American women in our region who are diagnosed with cancer are twice as likely to die from it than their white peers.

In addition, many families and women became unemployed and lost healthcare benefits because of the pandemic, which greatly reduced the ability to receive preventative medical care, such as mammograms and vital biopsies needed to catch breast cancer in the early stages, where it is far more likely to be cured. To compound this problem, women identified with breast cancer who did not have insurance or a payment source for high medical bills, were not able to receive life-saving treatment.

With American Rescue Act Plan funding, approved for the Breast Cancer Outreach and Prevention program, uninsured women will be able to receive life-saving preventative screenings, diagnostics, biopsies, and patient navigation to help them with often complex medical systems. Funding will also provide uninsured women with breast cancer treatment through hospitals and oncology partners, including breast surgery (lumpectomies, mastectomies, and node surgeries). Hospital charges such as anesthesia, supplies, medical devices, pre-admission testing, operation costs, imaging, and inpatient hospital stays will be covered for uninsured women of Williamson County. Related hospital and medical facility ancillaries such as pathology, radiology, intraoperative radiation therapy, nutrition and physical therapy related to breast cancer will also be covered. To ensure that funding is used effectively and to increase the number of women who will be able to receive breast cancer treatment, the program will purchase Affordable Health Insurance (ARA) insurance plans for women identified with breast cancer.

**Subrecipient** – United Way of Central Texas (non-profit partner) (ARPA agreement cancelled)

**New Subrecipient** – Williamson County & Cities Health District (WCCHD – effective November 2023)

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – January 11, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$2,088,514

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$97,490.74

**Primary place of performance** – Local hospitals and medical facilities

**Performance period** – January 11, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators** – Increase the number of low-income and uninsured women who are identified with breast cancer; Increase the 5-year survival rate for women identified with breast cancer; Reduce the number of women that are behind on preventative screenings and diagnostic testing.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse medical cost with required back-up information and receipts.

**Funding Category** – 1 Public Health

**Project Update (July 2023)** - With American Rescue Act Plan funding, approved for the Breast Cancer Outreach and Prevention program, uninsured women will be able to receive life-saving preventative breast screenings, diagnostics, biopsies, and breast cancer treatment. In the first 18 months, the program established an effective pathway to treatment and helped 12 women across the region access treatment for breast cancer. This including navigating patients to surgical oncologists and ensuring they were connected to ongoing oncology treatment. The program also helped patients to complete financial assistance applications and submitted them on patient behalf to hospitals to secure coverage for surgeries. Along the way staff helped troubleshoot patient and coverage issues to ensure a positive patient experience. Through arrangements with healthcare providers to provide care at a reduced rate and use of patient assistance programs, the Breast Cancer Outreach and Prevention program offered quality care at the lowest possible cost, saving patients tens of thousands in medical bills.

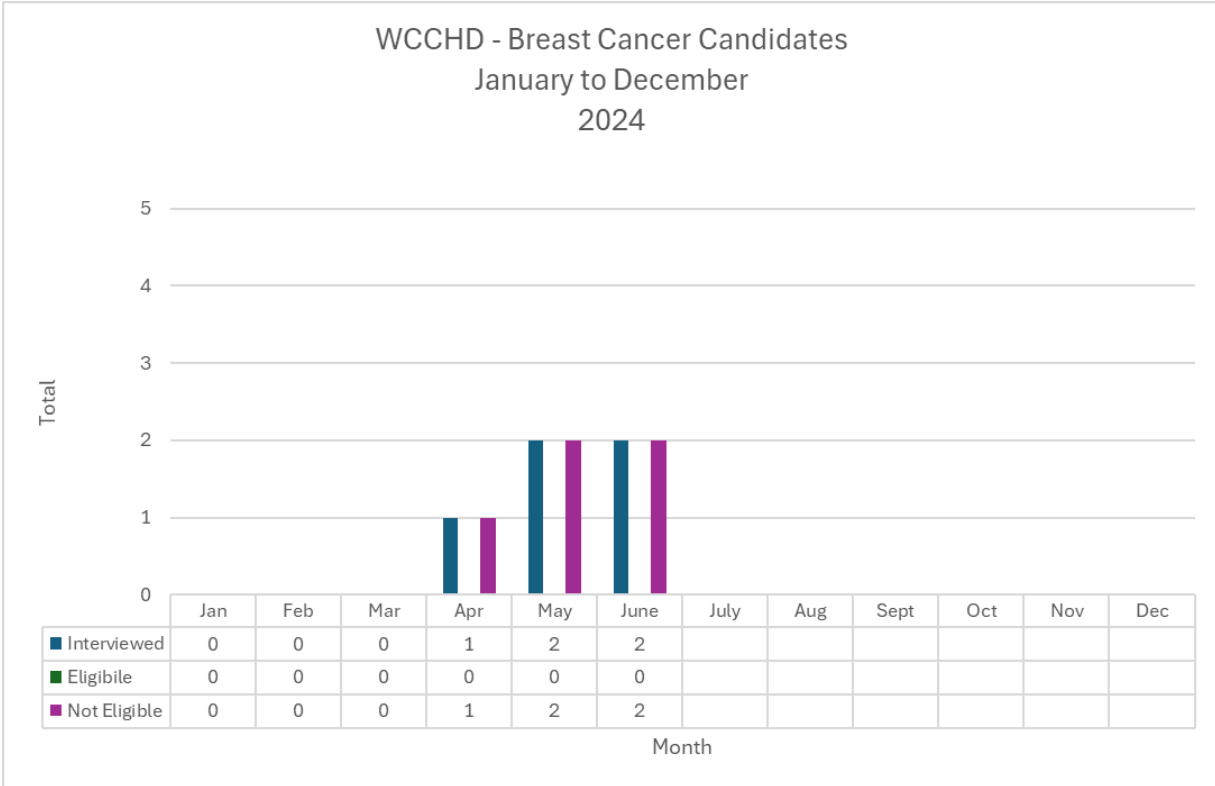
While the anticipated referrals for screening and diagnostics have not occurred as anticipated, program staff have secured a contract that will resolve this issue. Staff are working to put systems in place to receive and pay for the screening and diagnostic referrals. Significant numbers of referrals are expected beginning Fall 2023.

As a start-up program, a few unexpected challenges have occurred. However, with persistence, staff continue to work through challenges to ensure that patients access the care they need.

**Project Update (July 2024):**

From November 2023 to present, Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) is implementing a program that provides financial and program navigation services to improve screening and treatment rates for breast cancer in Williamson County. The initial phases of the program required collaboration with a local Federally Qualified Health Center as well as an imaging facility to work in partnership to care for the residents of Williamson County. In addition, WCCHD hired an experienced program lead and a navigator to assist with clients and perform outreach within the community. The program now boasts a thorough participant guide, program guide for staff, and an array of outreach materials to support program efforts.

An outreach plan was developed to increase program awareness within the target population by utilizing valued community partners such as the Community Health Paramedic Program, Sacred Heart Community Clinic, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, and four food pantries in the county. The Breast Cancer team at WCCHD reached out to the Breast Cancer Resource Center and are currently discussing potential areas for further collaboration together. In addition, a plan for connection with local churches is underway and part of the outreach plan.



Eligibility for the above candidates was based on the following program requirements:

- Has a valid social security card
- Resident of Williamson County
- 40 to 74 years old or
- Any age that has evidence of potential breast cancer
- A female for screening, diagnostics or with a diagnosis of breast cancer
- A male with a diagnosis of breast cancer
- Must not be insured
- Must not qualify for other health programs (state, county, etc.)
- Income at or below 250% of Federal Poverty Level

## EMS Respirators for Life

COVID-19 put a strain on the Williamson County Emergency Medical Services division, due to increased calls and use of respirators in EMS trucks responding to emergency calls involving respiratory complications. This project helped replace respiratory equipment that was vital to life saving efforts due to the increase in COVID-19 cases.

**Subrecipient** – Williamson County Emergency Services (EMS)

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – June 01, 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$668,000.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$663,401.82

**Primary place of performance** – EMS trucks responding to emergency calls

**Performance Indicators** – Replacement of respirators in EMS trucks in service

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse of cost of respirators, with receipts.

**Funding Category** – 1 Public Health – COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention – Medical Expenses – 1.6

### Project Update (July 2024):

Replacement of respirators in all EMS trucks has been completed with new state-of-the-art equipment that improves response to calls involving respiratory issues.

## Williamson County Fiber Improvement

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the need for improvements to IT systems that supported tele-services for residents and the ability for remote working conditions for employees. This project will install fiber lines to improve connection between Williamson County buildings. The project will use an RFP to seek proposals for the installation of outside fiber, consisting of both aerial and underground pathways, connecting Williamson County facilities throughout the county. The selected comply will be responsible for the full scope project, including survey, permitting, and construction costs, as well as any necessary right-of-way, attaching to existing poles, setting poles, boring and pull boxes. The installation of fiber will be done in three phases.

**Subrecipient** – Williamson County IT Department

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – Feb 14, 2024

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$8,101,396.60

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$366,928.70

**Primary place of performance** – Fiber optic lines between County buildings

**Performance Indicators** – Fiber optic lines installed and improved connectivity.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse of costs for fiber optic installation, with required back-up information and receipts.

**Funding Category** – 5 Infrastructure

**Project Update (July 2024):**

An RFP was written for this project, and the Williamson County Commissioners Court authorized the advertisement for RFP #23RFP111 – Williamson County Fiber Optic Cabling Expansion for Information Systems on September 21, 2023. The lowest price and best-scoring vendor was selected for the project. A contract with the vendor has been approved to build the fiber-optic cable network in the county. Materials have been ordered and permits are in process for several phases of the installation. The total value of the contract is \$8,081,857.00, with Williamson County paying the remaining amount over the allocated ARPA funding.

### **Williamson County Domestic Violence Detective**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Williamson County experienced an increase in domestic violence cases, that is thought to be attributed to increased isolation, mental health issues and reported increases in substance abuse. A Domestic Violence Detective was requested and hired to address the increased number of sexual assaults, stalking and harassment cases that have occurred during the pandemic.

**Subrecipient** – Williamson County Sheriff's Department

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$257,645.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$167,668.92

**Primary place of performance** – Williamson County response to crime within the county.

**Performance period** – August 2023 – December 2025

**Performance Indicators** – Number of cases responded to by the detective hired.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse of personnel costs and equipment needed for additional detective, with required back-up information and receipts.

**Funding Category** – 3: Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity – Public Sector Workforce (Public Safety) – 3.1

### **Project Update (July 2024):**

The Domestic Violence Detective was hired in September 2023. To date the detective has successfully completed the training program and has been actively involved in investigating a variety of complex domestic violence cases. The detective specializes in cases requiring advanced training. A breakdown of the cases assigned to the detective from September 28, 2023, to June 30, 2024, is following:

- Total Cases Assigned: 60
- Total Arrests Made: 15
- Number of Homicides: 2
- Number of Family Violence/Assaultive Offenses: 16
- Number of Sexual Assaults: 26
- Stalking: 1
- Harassment: 9
- Violation of Bond Conditions: 2
- CPS Referrals: 4

Performance metrics to measure the success of investigations, case resolution rates and community satisfaction with the detective investigations has been implemented. Regular reviews of the investigative processes, seeking feedback from both internal and external stakeholders have also been implemented. Adaptive strategies based on data analysis, lessons learned lessons, and emerging trends in domestic violence, ensures the detective remains responsive to evolving community needs. The Domestic Violence Detective aims to play a pivotal role in creating a safe, strong community with a customer focused work group while highlighting the County's resolve to be a high performing government agency focused on victims of crimes.

### **Sacred Heart Community Clinic Medical Expansion for Uninsured**

The COVID-19 pandemic created an increased need for medical and mental health services. This need was especially seen and vital for individuals without medical insurance. ARPA funding helped support and address the physical and emotional needs of patients served by Sacred Heart Health Ministries (SHM), who is a non-profit located in Round Rock, Texas. Sacred Heart's goal of this project is to provide no cost medical, dental and mental health services to low-income, uninsured residents of Williamson County who are living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Providing healthcare services will help improve the community's health status by expanding access to affordable medical, mental health and dental services to those that might

otherwise seek services at emergency departments of medical hospitals. Services to be provided will include:

- General Outpatient Medical Services
- Annual Well-Woman Exams and Cancer Screenings
- Pharmacy Services with limited prescription medications
- Laboratory Services
- Limited Mental Health Counseling
- Diabetic Screening, Treatment and Education
- Nutrition Counseling and Support
- Dental Screening Exams and Digital Radiographs
- Dental Restorative Services, including Composite Restorations
- Dental Extractions
- Dental Prophylaxis, Periodontal Scaling and Root Planning
- Oral Hygiene Education
- Crowns, Bridges and Partial Dentures

**Subrecipient** – Sacred Heart Community Clinic, a Texas non-profit 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – October 31, 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$200,000.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$200,000.00

**Primary place of performance** – Medical Clinic located at 620 Round Rock West Drive, Round Rock, Texas 78681

**Performance period** – October 31, 2023 – December 31, 2024

**Performance Indicators** – Medical, mental health and dental visits performed for individuals that are at or below 200% of FPL.

**Wilco Task Number** – 2

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse of costs for eligible healthcare treatment, with receipts and allowable back-up information.

**Funding Category** – 2: Negative Economic Impacts – Assistance to Non-Profits – 2.34

#### **Project Update (July 2024):**

With the ARPA funding, Sacred Heart Community Clinic was able to keep their doors open during the stressful times of the pandemic. During this time, they were able to provide over 740 patient visits to support the medical and emotional needs of patients, thereby providing them with quality healthcare and keeping them out of local emergency rooms. The clinic is continuing to provide services to the uninsured of Williamson County.

**Samaritan Health Ministries**  
**Medical Expansion for Uninsured**

The COVID-19 pandemic created an increased need for medical and mental health services. This need was especially seen and vital for individuals without medical insurance. ARPA funding helped support and address the physical and emotional needs of patients served by Samaritan Health Ministries (SHM), who is a non-profit located in Leander that has collaborated with volunteers and community partners to serve as a safety net clinic for marginalized communities in Williamson for over 20 years. The service model is built on a combination of paid staff and volunteers to contain costs while ensuring continuity of care. Eligible patients must be uninsured and earn 250% or below of the federal poverty level (FPL), though over 90% earn less than 200% of the federal poverty limit. Established patients have access to all services which include primary care, mental health, dental, women's health (annual exams and breast cancer screening) and medications from our onsite pharmacy. The clinic is open five days/week with evening hours once a week and specialty clinics on Saturdays. Patients pay based on income and family size. Fees are \$12 - \$45 per visit. Medications, imaging and labs are provided at no additional cost to the patient. SHM has a strong referral network that allows us to obtain these services for patients in the form of in-kind and discounted services from our community partners.

Patients are the working poor, earning minimum wage, often in essential jobs with no sick days and no health care insurance. Patient population consists of uninsured, low-income, chronic care patients, predominantly from communities of color. Over 70% are Hispanic, Black or Asian. Because they are uninsured and have not received regular health care, many patients come to us with multiple uncontrolled conditions. Top diagnoses among our chronic care patients include diabetes, hypertension, asthma and high cholesterol. Because most are diagnosed with more than one of these, they are at increased risk for poor health outcomes. Chronic diseases that go unmonitored end with emergency room visits that could have been prevented. Helping patients control their conditions ensures better health outcomes for them. In turn, emergency room visits are reduced, resulting in less medical debt for patients, providers and hospitals. When patients stay healthy, they take fewer sick days which benefits employers in our community, especially small businesses.

**Subrecipient** – Hill Country Medical Ministries, D/B/A Samaritan Health Ministries, a Texas nonprofit, 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – October 31, 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$200,000.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$200,000.00

**Primary place of performance** – Fiber optic lines between County buildings

**Performance period** – October 31, 2022 – December 31, 2024

**Performance Indicators** – Medical, mental health and dental visits performed for individuals that are at or below 250% of FPL.

**Wilco Task Number – 2**

**Award Payment Method –** Reimburse of costs for eligible healthcare treatment, with receipts and allowable back-up information.

**Funding Category – 2:** Negative Economic Impacts – Assistance to Non-Profits – 2.34

**Project Update (July 2024):**

With the ARPA funding, Samaritan Health Ministries was able to keep their doors open during the stressful times of the pandemic. During this time, they were able to provide over 740 patient visits to support the medical and emotional needs of patients, thereby providing them with quality healthcare and keeping them out of local emergency rooms. The clinic is continuing to provide services to the uninsured of Williamson County.

**American Rescue Plan Act Water/Sewer Projects**

Williamson County Commissioners approved \$72,500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funding on May 24, 2022, for infrastructure development to assist Williamson County Communities in addressing water and wastewater concerns. The following subrecipient projects are under contract as of June 30, 2023.

**City of Cedar Park**

The Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (“BCRUA”) Phase 1D Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project will increase the treatment plant capacity from 32.5 MGD to 42 MGD, which will provide the City of Cedar Park with an additional 2.5 MGD of treatment capacity. This additional capacity will ensure the City of Cedar Park has enough high-quality drinking water for current and future customers as the city continues to grow.

**Subrecipient –** City of Cedar Park

**Award number –** 445P, 445A

**Award date –** December 13, 2022

**Award amount –** Not to exceed \$4,000,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$1,148,005.25

**Primary place of performance –** 450 Cypress Creek Road, Cedar Park Texas

**Performance period –** December 13, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators –** Construction of the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority Phase 1D Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project.

This project will increase the treatment plant capacity from 32.5 MGD to 42 MGD, which will provide the City of Cedar Park with an additional 2.5 MGD of treatment capacity.

**Wilco Task Number – 12**

Award Payment Method – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.10 Drinking Water Treatment

**Project Update-** Construction of Phase 1D is ongoing and still scheduled for substantial completion at the end of January 2025 and final completion at the end of March 2025. Construction of the Underwater Pipeline Project is substantially complete.

### City of Leander

This project will provide a phased reclaimed water system at the RM 2243 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Phase 1 of the project will include facilities to divert reclaimed water to a filling station located at the plant site and will include pressurization equipment, a Point of Sale (POS) system, as well as provisions for expansion. Phase 2 of the project will include a 3,000 GPM (Gallons Per Minute) low-head transfer pump station, re-chlorination system, 250,000-gallon capacity ground storage tank (GST), 1,750 GPM high-service pump station with an associated 20,000-gallon capacity hydro tank, and approximately 7,000 linear feet of 12-inch transmission main from the WWTP to the Northline project 10-inch reclaimed water line.

**Subrecipient** – City of Leander

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – December 13, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$3,500,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$0.00

**Primary place of performance** – RM 2243 and Main Street (Mel Mathis Boulevard)

**Performance period** – December 13, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators** – The Phase 1 improvements are intended for supplying water for the construction industry, helping the City's conservation efforts, Reclaimed water from the Phase 2 system can be used for multiple purposes, including irrigation, industrial, water features, and other authorized uses.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

Award Payment Method – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.10 Drinking Water Treatment

**Project Update-** This project is under design and will be going out for bid.

### City of Liberty Hill

Downtown Area AC Water Pipe Replacement: Replacement of failing water lines is important to protect the water supply as well as prevent non-compliant low-pressure areas due to line breakage. The City's water system began as a rural water supply in the 1960's and was known as Liberty Hill Water Supply Corporation. One of the primary materials used to construct this water system was Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe. This pipe is now starting to fail and is a serious health

hazard for workers completing repairs. The projects in this section would replace these failing AC pipes with modern PVC pipes through the downtown area. The estimated cost for these improvements is \$2,625,000.

Water Tower #3 Rehabilitation: Elevated storage is important (and required by TCEQ) for system reliability and operation. The City's largest elevated storage tank needs rehabilitation to meet the state's drinking water system requirements. This project will keep the City's water system in compliance with state regulations for elevated storage. The estimated cost for these improvements is \$225,000.

Liberty Hill Elementary Wastewater Collection System Improvements: Wastewater collection system capacity is necessary to provide service for the expansion of Liberty Hill Elementary School. The current wastewater collection system does not have the needed capacity to serve the school's expansion, therefore new collection system improvements are required. The estimated cost for these improvements is \$650,000.

**Subrecipient** – City of Liberty Hill

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – March 22, 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$3,500,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$0.00

**Primary place of performance** – Downtown area AC water pipe, water tower #3, Liberty Hill Elementary School

**Performance period** – March 22, 2023 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators** – The Phase 1 improvements are intended for supplying water for the construction industry, helping the City's conservation efforts, Reclaimed water from the Phase 2 system can be used for multiple purposes, including irrigation, industrial, water features, and other authorized uses.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water projects.

**Funding Category** – 5.10 Drinking Water Treatment

**Project Update**- This project is under design and will be going out for bid.

### City of Round Rock

This Segment A water supply project includes the construction of a waterline along Chandler Creek Road and FM 1660 to State Highway 130 to meet future needs in Williamson County. Segment A will bring Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer groundwater and transport it to existing and future customers in the County.

**Subrecipient** – City of Round Rock

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – September 20, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$14,000,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$0.00

**Primary place of performance** – Chandler Creek Road and FM 1660 to State Highway 130

**Performance period** – September 20, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators** – This water supply project is one of the many future water line segments that will be constructed to meet future needs in Williamson County. Segment A will bring Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer groundwater and transport it to existing and future customers in the County. This segment extends a waterline along Chandler Road from FM 1660 to State Highway 130.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.11 Drinking Water Transmission & Distribution

**Project Update-** The Chandler Creek Road waterline project is currently under design and due to open bids on July 2, 2024. Once awarded and approved by Council in August, construction will begin in late fall.

### **City of Thrall**

The project will include the Install a new 12" water line parallel and adjacent to the existing water line starting at the west side city limits extending to the wholesale meter connection.

The 12" water line will connect to the end of the current project funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) through the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program. The TDA project is in design and anticipated to be completed in Calendar Year 2023. The attached Exhibit shows the approximate location of the proposed new 12" water line.

**Subrecipient** – City of Thrall

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – January 10, 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$500,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$490,928

**Primary place of performance** – intersection of Highway 79 and FM 619

**Performance period** – January 10, 2023 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators** – Install a new 12" water line parallel and adjacent to the existing water line starting at the west side city limits extending to the wholesale meter connection.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.11 Drinking Water Transmission & Distribution

**Project Update-** The construction portion of the project has been completed.

### **Coupland Water Supply**

The scope of services will include maintenance and repair of wastewater collection and process system to ensure reliable consistent wastewater treatment to the residents of the Coupland CWSC CCN. Will do upgrades to current outdated non- working systems of sewage treatment plant, fixing broken sewage pipes, fixing treatment plant pump and substation pumps that are broken.

**Subrecipient** – Coupland Water Supply Corporation

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – March 22, 2023

**Award amount** – \$500,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$121,451

**Primary place of performance** – Lift station by school, post office, and treatment plant

**Performance period** – March 22, 2023 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators-** Upgrades to current outdated non- working systems of sewage treatment plant, fixing broken sewage pipes, fixing treatment plant pump and substation pumps that are broken.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse the water supply corporation for costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.1 Clean Water Centralized Wastewater Treatment

**Project Update-** The Coupland Water Supply Corporation has repaired three vital lift stations, have updated all the electrical needs for the lift stations with these funds. They are in the process of replacing the air control equipment, air piping and valving and all the failing electrical control panels.

### **Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District**

The scope of services will include infrastructure improvements to community water and wastewater systems including without limitation, any one or more of the following:

Cat Hollow Wastewater Lift Station Improvements

- Emergency power installation at raw water intake facility
- Emergency power installation for groundwater wells
- Winterization of raw water intake vault
- Winterization improvements at the Water Treatment Plant
- Winterization improvements for groundwater wells
- Hillside Lift Station removal

**Subrecipient** – Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 9, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$4,000,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$0.00

**Primary place of performance** – Lift station at Cat Hollow

**Performance period** – August 9, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators-** Construction and Construction Administration for any one or more of the above public infrastructure improvements.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse the district for construction and administrative costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.2 Clean Water Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance, 5.10 Drinking Water Treatment, 5.13 Drinking Water Source

**Project Update-** The District Engineer for Brushy Creek MUD’s wastewater projects, reports that they are currently at a 60% design milestone. Brushy Creek MUD plans to finalize the plans and specs and submit to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) this fall.

It is anticipated that the water projects will be at 90% submittals in September 2023. We plan to finalize the plans and specs and submit to TCEQ this fall. Brushy Creek MUD board has selected a contractor and will be executing a contract for the water project.

### **Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA)**

The scope of services will include underwater pipeline replacement which includes the construction of a parallel underwater pipeline that conveys raw water from the BCRUA barge to the Water Treatment Plant. The proposed pipeline will replace an approximately 1,500 ft portion of the Phase IA, Contract 2 underwater 36-inch diameter ductile iron pipeline that failed in December 2020.

**Subrecipient** – Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – September 20, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$5,000,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$5,000,000

**Primary place of performance** – 1906 Hur Industrial Boulevard, Cedar Park Texas

**Performance period** – September 20, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators-** Construction cost for Underwater Pipeline Replacement project

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse the Utility Authority for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.10 Drinking Water Treatment

**Project Update-** BCRUA advertised the construction proposals on June 28, 2023. A Pre-Proposal Conference was held on July 19, 2023. Proposals will be opened on August 2, 2023. The BCRUA board must coordinate with the cities of Leander, Cedar Park, and Round Rock. The anticipated schedule for the boards and cities approvals are:

- Leander City Council – Thursday, August 17, 2023
- BCRUA Board – Wednesday, August 23, 2023
- Cedar Park City Council – Thursday, August 24, 2023
- Round Rock City Council – Thursday, August 24, 2023

We are awaiting repair of one valve to be able to close out the project. Depending on when the parts ship, the project may not be at final completion until the fall.

#### **City of Bartlett-Clark Street Lift Station**

The scope of services will include upgrades to the Clark Street lift station.

**Subrecipient** – City of Bartlett

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 8, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$50,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$42,140

**Primary place of performance** – Clark Street

**Performance period** – August 8, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators-** Upgrades to the Clark Street lift station.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.5 Clean Water Other Sewer Infrastructure

**Project Update-** The upgrades to the Clark Street lift station have been completed.

#### **City of Bartlett-Pietsch Project**

The scope of services will include a new manhole and upgrade wastewater lines and connections to prevent residential sewer issues.

**Subrecipient** – City of Bartlett

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – December 20, 2022

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$27,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$26,932.13

**Primary place of performance** – Pietsch Street

**Performance period** – December 20, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators-** Upgrades and a new manhole and upgrade wastewater lines and connections to prevent residential sewer issues.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.5 Clean Water Other Sewer Infrastructure

**Project Update-** a new manhole and upgraded wastewater lines and connections to prevent residential sewer issues have been completed.

### **City of Bartlett**

The scope of services will include replacing the standpipe, thrust blocks, valves, and related components located in the interior of the water tower. We will also be installing additional booster pumps, 50k gallon ground storage tank to create redundancy to the system.

**Subrecipient** – City of Bartlett

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – August 8, 2023

**Award amount** – \$430,900

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$115,000

**Primary place of performance** – Pietzsch Street

**Performance period** – December 20, 2022 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators-** Upgrades and a new manhole and upgrade wastewater lines and connections to prevent residential sewer issues.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse city for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.5 Clean Water Other Sewer Infrastructure

**Project Update-** Replacing the standpipe, thrust blocks, valves, and related components located in the interior of the water tower.

### **Lone Star Regional Water Authority**

The scope of services will include improve drinking water transmission and distribution in northern Williamson County, Texas by constructing 6.5 miles (34,400 L.F.) of 16-inch water line and by constructing a one-million-gallon elevated water storage tank.

**Subrecipient** – Lone Star Regional Water Authority

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award date** – April 11, 2023

**Award amount** – Not to exceed \$14,000,000

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$0.00

**Primary place of performance** – Southern part of Jarrell, west side of IH 35 north of County Road

310

**Performance period** – April 11, 2023 – December 31, 2026

**Performance Indicators**- Design phase, plans and specification, design surveys, geotechnical investigation report, bidding and administration, easement acquisitions.

**Wilco Task Number** – 12

**Award Payment Method** – Reimburse Water Authority for construction costs for the water project.

**Funding Category** – 5.11 Drinking Water Transmission & Distribution, 5.14 Drinking Water Storage

**Project Update**- This project is under design and will be going out for bid.

### **Essential Government Service Programs (Revenue Replacement)**

The US Department of Treasury allowed local governments to utilize \$10 million of their ARPA allocation for regular government services. The Commissioner's Court has funded projects in this category of spending. Examples include Expansion and Renovation projects for county facilities. These projects provide for more access to mental health services, family violence services, and improved social distancing in county facilities. The addition of Generators to several critical 24/7 County facilities have also been funded. The purchase of Personal Protective Equipment is also funded under this category. Items continue to be identified for funding.

**Award number** – 445P, 445A

**Award amount** – \$10,000,000.00

**Expenditures thru June 30, 2024:** \$7,170,799.08

**Primary place of performance** – Williamson County, Tx Facilities

**Award payment method** – Direct payment to vendors after following procurement requirements related to purchases.

**Funding Category** – 6 Revenue Replacement

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

Williamson County Commissioners Court has worked diligently to gather information from those impacted by the pandemic and to disseminate information on SLFRF programs available to communities throughout the county. Awareness of opportunities for assistance have been dispersed in many ways, including newsletters by Commissioners and the county's Public Affairs Office. Weekly meetings of the Commissioner Court were made available for viewing, both through live broadcasts and with both recorded audio and video available, on demand. Most weekly agendas included an update on funding assistance programs available to individuals, families, and businesses. Court updates also included data on numbers served and funds distributed. The awareness program has helped reach individuals in need of assistance, throughout the county, in both the more urban and rural areas.

Commissioners, representing all four sections of the county, also directly communicated with constituents, businesses, non-profits, providers, and others in their precincts, to determine

needs. The information brought forward by Commissioners, from outreach with their constituents, was used to help design and implement programs that were effective in meeting identified needs and filling the gaps in resources available. Programs created or under development have safeguards in place to avoid misuse of funds, but at the same time guidelines were created that were understandable, efficient and did not create administrative barriers to receiving assistance. Programs in place and those under design and planning, have been created to bring resources to underserved communities, many who are low income, often suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and frequently under or uninsured. Programs are being designed to help increase access to resources and to divert non-violent individuals in crisis from the criminal justice system.

### **Community Engagement:**

Community engagement has been an important priority of Williamson County, well before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Input and ideas are routinely sought from a broad cross-range of residents in the community. Public information campaigns are common, and some collaborations have been in existence for nearly two decades. For instance, the Williamson County Behavioral Health Task Force is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals, from many areas, including the fields of mental health, social service, law enforcement and justice. Advocates for mental health improvements and individuals with first-hand experience in an often-complex delivery system, also share their input. Staff from Williamson County, the Health District (WCCHD), and the Local Mental Health Authority (Bluebonnet Trails Community Services), and the Local Federally Qualified Health Center (Lone Star Circle of Care) are all comfortable in gathering opinions from individuals with varying opinions and perspectives, including those of low income and often marginalized groups.

This pre-established system of collaboration and community engagement is continuing to be an effective mechanism for obtaining feedback from a diverse group of people and organizations on the effects of COVID-19. In addition, Commissioners and other elected officials will continue to listen to the needs of their constituents, through meetings, telephone, e-mails, fax, and public comment opportunities during Commissioners Court. In Williamson County, we strive to provide exceptional public service and recognize the importance of listening to constituents needs.

### **Communication with Intergovernmental Partners**

Commissioners Court is working with all Intergovernmental Partners (i.e., Cities, Municipal Utility Districts, etc.) to identify projects that qualify for ARPA funding such as Infrastructure Projects related to water. Funding in the amount of \$72.5 million has been set aside specifically for Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects. Most of the projects are under contract and summaries are provided in the report.

### **Labor Practices:**

Williamson County has projects awarded to subrecipients that involve construction and/or infrastructure projects. Williamson County does have a strong record of providing effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects. Williamson County is very familiar with prevailing wage requirements and has policies and procedures in place to ensure that labor standards are followed, and taxpayer's money is carefully spent. Subrecipients are being monitored to ensure these requirements are met.

Infrastructure projects in the future, that will be implemented with SLFRF funding, will continue to follow these policies and procedures. SLFRF funded projects will help stimulate the local economy by hiring local firms, which helps reduce the unemployment rate in our county.

**Use of Evidence:**

Williamson County has a strong history of using data-driven and evidence-based programs, not only in mental health, public health, and social services, but in departments throughout the county government. The Commissioners Court recognizes the importance of data and evidenced-based solutions to ensure that the best possible results are achieved with taxpayer's dollars. If metrics and performance measures are not being met, the county is able to make corrections and adjustments to programs, helping ensure continuous improvement, performance measures are met, and excellent results delivered.

**Performance Report:**

Williamson County will provide timely reporting as required by the SLFRF funded expenditures. Reporting will include goals set, key performance indicators, including output and outcome measures.

**Required Performance Indicators and Programmatic Data:**

Williamson County will report on all required performance indicators and understand the importance of reporting these measures. Williamson County will strive to include data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors, when possible.