

Housing Stability Services (HSS) Program Update
Provided to the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) on July 26, 2022

HSS at a glance

- Funded by the U.S. Department of Treasury through the [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA1 and ERA2\) Program](#).
- HSS program assists eligible households, who have been affected by (ERA 1) or during (ERA 2) the coronavirus pandemic, to help them maintain or obtain stable housing.
- Administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) through Subrecipient organizations including cities, councils of governments, public housing authorities, private nonprofit organizations, local mental health authorities, and local homeless coalitions.
 - ERA1 HSS
 - \$71 million awarded to 28 Subrecipients
 - Contracts effective 9/1/21 through 8/31/2022
 - ERA2 HSS
 - \$104 million awarded to 46 Subrecipients (some Subrecipients receive both ERA1 and ERA2 HSS funds)
 - Contracts effective 4/1/22 through 3/31/2024
- Between September 2021 and June 2022, more than **33,500 households** have received housing stability services.
- Use TDHCA’s Help for Texans portal to find HSS Subrecipients in your area: <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>

Program Spotlight: The HSS Program funds the *Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF)* in partnership with 10 legal services organizations statewide to provide counsel to accompany low-income households to their eviction proceedings, provide mediation services between tenants and landlords, and provide local in-person and online housing clinics to assist low-income households.

The TAJF Program is funded with \$40 million of ERA1 and ERA2 HSS funds through March 31, 2024.

Between June 2021 and June 2022, TAJF partners have served over **22,900 households** through legal services and over **13,600 households** through housing stability clinics.

To access legal help with COVID-related housing issues and find a legal aid organization in your area, visit: <https://texaslawhelp.org/eviction-referral> or call 855-270-7655 (Texas Legal Services Center)

Household Eligibility

1. Impacted financially, directly or indirectly, by the pandemic;
2. At risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; AND,
3. Income at or below 80% AMI.

Eligible Activities

Funds can be used to support eligible households, who are experiencing housing instability during or due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic, in maintaining or obtaining stable housing.

SERVICES

- Case management
 - Shelter services
 - Mental health counseling
 - Legal services
 - Childcare
 - Moving assistance
 - Employment assistance
- (not an exhaustive list)*

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Rental application fees
- Rent deposits
- Utility deposits
- Landlord incentive fees
- Short term payments for hotel/motel

- Although supported through the Treasury’s ERA funds, the HSS program does not provide direct rental assistance or utility assistance. These services are administered by TDHCA’s Texas Rent Relief Program.
- Additionally, the HSS program is only eligible for renter households or households experiencing homelessness. Homeowners should be assisted through TDHCA’s Homeowner Assistance Fund or other local and federal programs.

For more information, please visit <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/HSS.htm> or contact hss@tdhca.state.tx.us.



Update on Feedback for New Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness

July 26, 2022

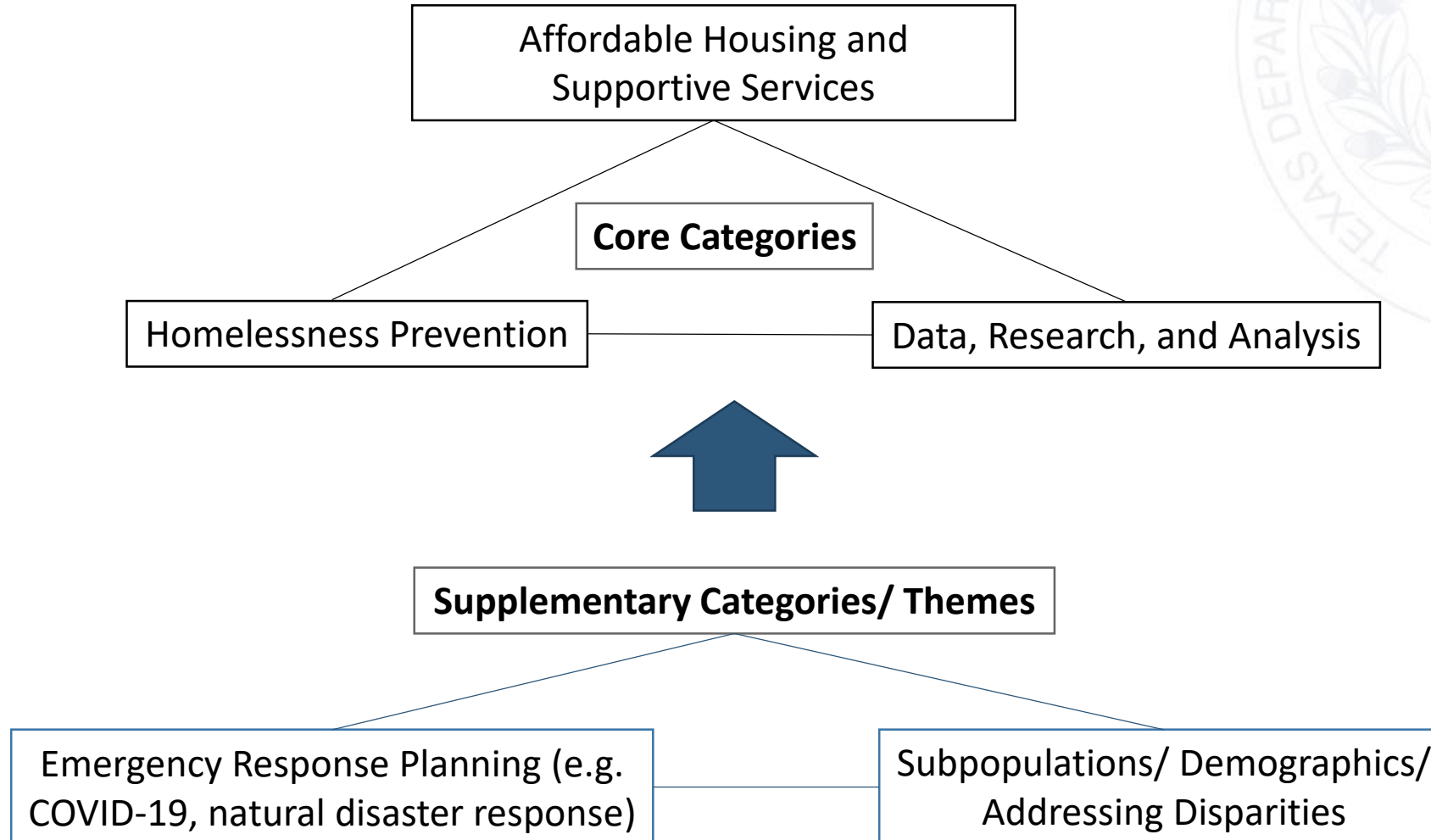
Sean Lonergan, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

Feedback Updates

- Organizational interviews
 - Homeless service providers
 - Advocacy groups
 - State agency representatives (TICH)
- TICH New Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness Survey
 - Likert scale responses
 - Open response input
- Virtual Roundtable Sessions
 - Gathering preliminary public feedback
- TICH Workgroup Meetings



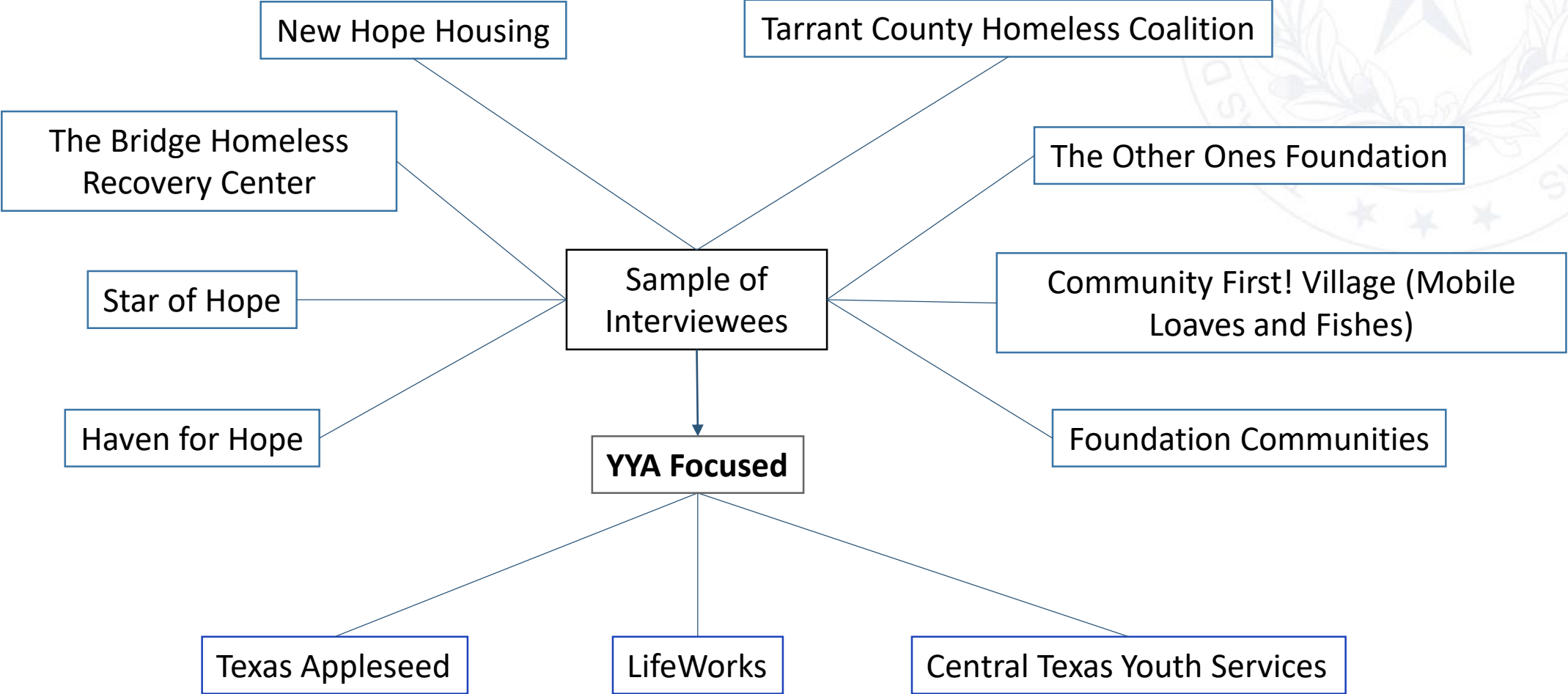
Revising *Pathways Home* – New Categorical Structure



Projected General Timeline

Update	Projected Date
Solicit and synthesize feedback via surveys, workgroup (WG) meetings, informational interviews, and virtual roundtables	May-July 2022
Integrate data from surveys, WGs, and informational interviews into new report; substantiate with national research and state data	July-September 2022
Submit proposed first draft for internal/external review	September 2022
Conduct public hearings to solicit feedback on first draft; evaluate public comments and incorporate as appropriate, finalize draft report	October 2022-November 2022
Edit draft and finalize	November 2022-December 2022
Submit final draft for internal/ external review	December 2022
Publish updated document	January 2023

Organizational Interviewees



Survey Feedback

- Likert scale feedback – *Pathways Home* retrospection and proposed category input
 - Assessed on 1-5 scale
 - 1=Needs Improvement/ Not at all
 - 2=Room for Improvement/ A little
 - 3=Fair/ A moderate amount
 - 4=Good/ A lot
 - 5=Excellent/ A great deal
- Dozens of comments collected via open response formatted questions
- Total respondents
 - TICH: n=14
 - External: n=131+ (still collecting responses)



Virtual Roundtable Sessions

- Turnout for each roundtable via GoToWebinar
 - Affordable Housing and Supportive Services – 114 registered, 69 attended
 - Homelessness Prevention – 94 registered, 42 attended
 - Data, Research, and Analysis – 81 registered, 27 attended
- Supplementary themes integrated into each session's discussion forum
 - Emergency Response Planning
 - Addressing Disparities
- Verbal and written commentary gathered from wide array of stakeholders (e.g. lived experience, nonprofit organizations, universities, state agencies, local government representatives)



TICH Workgroup Meetings

- Workgroup Chairs
 - Affordable Housing and Supportive Services – Kelly Davis, TWC
 - Homelessness Prevention – Naomi Cantu, TDHCA
 - Data, Research, and Analysis – Eric Samuels, THN
- Two meetings held for each workgroup through June and July
 - Same discussion format as virtual roundtables – primary followed by cross-disciplinary discussions
 - Meeting discussions driven by input from other three feedback channels



TDHCA Responsible Staff Contact Information

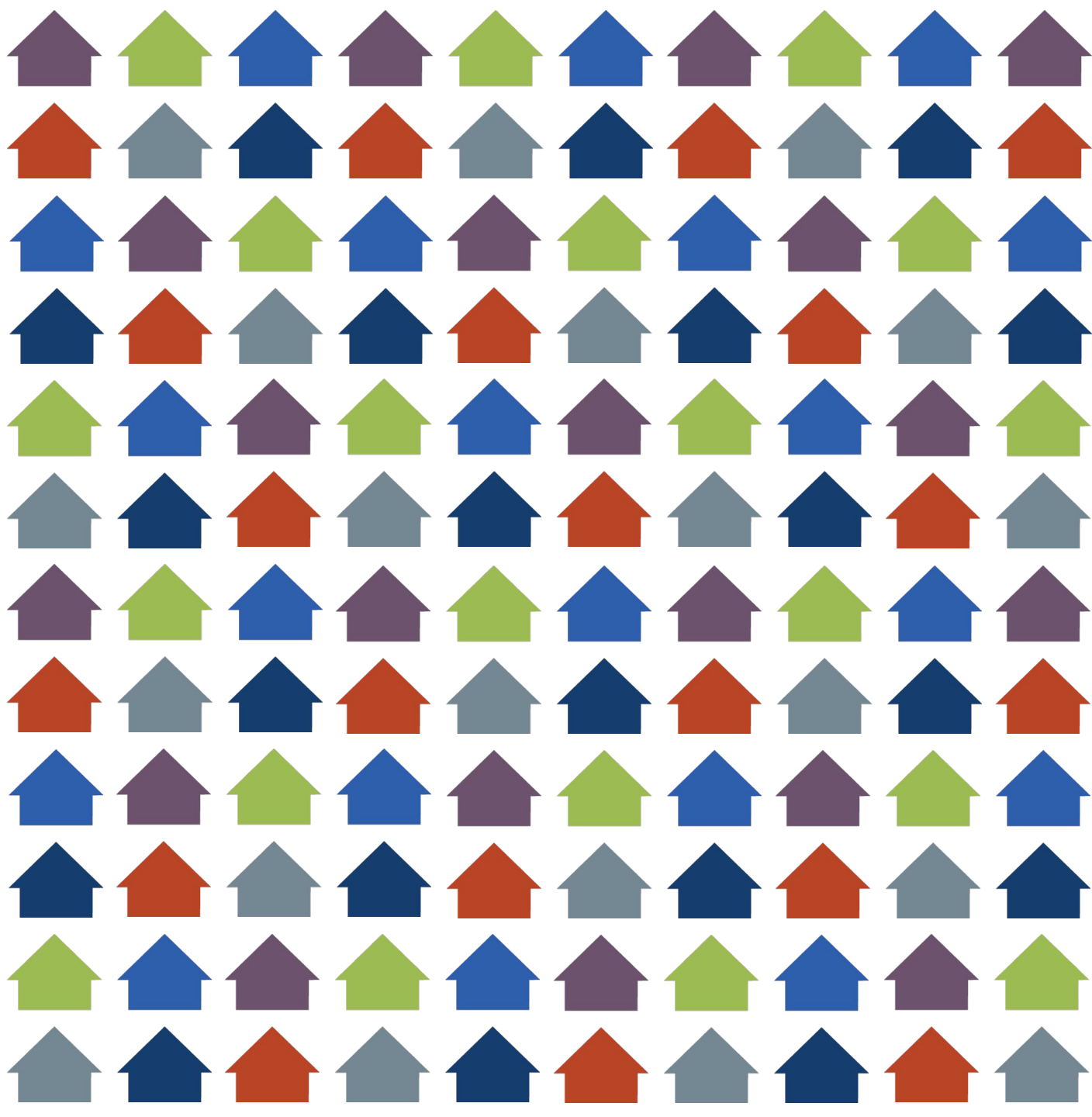
- TDHCA Lead Staff/ TICH Administrative Support

- Sean Lonergan, Homeless Policy Advisor, TDHCA – Housing Resource Center
- Contact email: sean.lonergan@tdhca.state.tx.us
- Contact phone number: (512) 475-3892

- TDHCA Secondary Staff

- Brian Thornton, Senior Advisor on Policy and Legislative Affairs, TDHCA – Department of Policy and Public Affairs (DPPA)
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TICH

**THN's role in the
TDHCA EHV Program**

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Objectives

- Provide overview of the structure of EHV in the Texas Balance of State
- Provide an overview of THN's Staffing Structure
- Communicate performance to date

Overview of the EHV Program

- Authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act
 - 70,000 vouchers allocated across the US
- ~1486 of the State total allocation was deployed in the Texas Balance of State CoC
 - 38 PHAs invited to administer
 - 28 PHAs administering including TDHCA
- PHAs are required to coordinate with and accept referrals exclusively from the CoC's Coordinated Entry Process
- Households accessing EHV must be offered at minimum, Housing Search Assistance

Overview of the EHV Program

- THN has a contract with TDHCA to refer and provide Housing Search Assistance to 380 referrals using the BoS CE System
- Notably, CE structures, nor THN staff capacity to implement this program existed prior to the EHV program in many parts of the State
- THN, TDHCA, TCFV, and Federal TA providers spent months developing this process
- All of this activity at THN is made possible by a \$750,000 award in Emergency Rental Assistance-Housing Stability Services funding made by TDHCA in November 2021

The Process

- THN maintains a Referral Portal where members of the General Public, Service Partners and Victim Service Providers can make referrals to THN to evaluate, and if appropriate, refer households to TDHCA for voucher issuance
 - This portal opens the second Monday of every month*
- Following submission THN staff verify eligibility, assess with Coordinated Entry, and refer those households as appropriate to THDCA
- THN staff support households throughout the Housing Search Process

THN EHV Staffing

Director of Planning-Jim Ward (Pre-existing)

EHV Manager - Allie Edmondson December 2021

EHV Referral Coordinator - Helen Garcia November 2021

EHV Service Coordinator - Billy Streu- February 2022

EHV Accounts Payable Specialist - Corrie Golightly- February 2022

EHV Service Coordinator- Jalisa McDuffy-June 2022

EHV Service Coordinator- Shamika Williams-2022

Administrative Staff- CFO, HR Generalist (Pre-existing)

Performance to Date

Referrals

- Referrals made to TDHCA - 269
- Survivors referred to TDHCA - 109
- Vouchers relinquished - 20

Housed

- April - 1
- May - 2
- June - 3
- July - 5 (11 anticipated)

We anticipate that the number of voucher holders housed monthly will continue to climb