

# TEXAS

**INTRODUCTORY NOTE:** *Texas is a leader in government-faith community collaboration. Following the recommendations of a state Faith-Based Task Force, then-Governor George W. Bush issued an Executive Order, at the end of 1996, to state agencies to begin aggressive implementation of the Charitable Choice provisions. In 1999, the Texas state legislature passed a law calling for the establishment of faith community liaisons within the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS). Subsequently, the DHS appointed eleven such liaisons, one for each of the state's regions. These liaisons communicate needs to the faith community and help promote the involvement and coordination of FBOs in providing services to low-income Texans. In late 2001, Sharon Zambrzycki, the DHS's Director of Voluntary and Community Services, reported that the DHS had, over the years, formed over 469 partnerships with community organizations; these partnerships range from financial contracts to nonfinancial collaboration to informal referral relationships. About half of the partnerships have been with FBOs. One major example of nonfinancial faith-government collaboration is the Texas Family Pathfinders mentoring program. As of October 2001, Ms. Zambrzycki reports there were 142 active mentoring teams in place assisting TANF families; 103 of the teams were composed of volunteers drawn from the faith community. Congregations are also involved in Texas' "Adopt a Nursing Home" program. Under it, volunteer teams adopt long-term nursing care facilities and visit patients on a regular basis. Over 1,500 faith-based groups were involved in this initiative as of October 2001.*

*In fiscal year 2000, the state legislature authorized \$7.5 million over two years in federal TANF funds for its "Local Innovation Project." DHS has underwritten 29 "local innovation grants," several with FBOs. Organizations competing for these grants could propose projects having an annual budget of up to \$250,000. (Though called "grants," these were actually cost reimbursement contracts.) Many of the entries below are of contracts made under the Local Innovation Project.*

*Another state agency, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is also involved in promoting government-faith collaboration. The TWC shares responsibility with DHS for administering TANF funds; TWC's role is to support employment/workforce related projects. In addition to the state TWC, there exist in Texas 28 local workforce development boards which are funded annually by the Commission. Local workforce development boards designate regional liaisons that promote and encourage charitable organizations' (including FBOs) involvement in serving TANF clients. Listed below are contracts between the TWC itself and FBOs; our research project's timeframe did not allow time to contact all of the local workforce development boards individually. We suspect that many more faith-based contracts exist, since these local boards oversee over 1000 contracts in total.*

*Most of the contracts listed below are funded with TANF dollars. There are also a few instances of WtW funded-programs. We also decided to include some Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs in the Texas listing. While WIA does not contain the Charitable Choice provisions, Texas has chosen to apply the principles to its WIA contracts with FBOs.*

## (1) Harris County: Santa Maria Hostel

**Nature of Service Provided:** Outpatient counseling with indigent women with a history of drug abuse; the organization also provides these women (as needed) with vehicle repair aid, phone/utility assistance; clothing/uniforms for work; and twice-weekly tutoring for their children

**Amount of Contract:** \$268,160 to serve 500 women (TANF – "Local Innovations Grants")

**Contacts:** Sharon Zambrzycki, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-4037  
Cheryl Empey, Santa Maria Hostel (713) 228-0125

**Address:** 807 Pascall Street  
Houston, TX 77009

**Points to Note:** *This contract is for a term longer than 12 months.*

## (2) **Smith County: Salvation Army**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Drug abuse counseling; vehicle repairs; relocation assistance; phone/utility deposits and assistance; emergency housing assistance; adult literacy and ESL classes; teen pregnancy avoidance

**Amount of Contract:** \$250,000 for work with 550 low-income families (TANF – “Local Innovations Grants”)

**Contacts:** Sharon Zambrzycki, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-4037  
Eugene Davis, Salvation Army (903) 592-4361

**Address:** 717 N. Spring Street  
Tyler, TX 75702

## (3) **Travis County: Caritas of Austin**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Rent and utility assistance; relocation assistance for households with incomes at less than 150% of the federal poverty income level, with special focus on battered women

**Amount of Contract:** \$204,633 for 90 participants (TANF – “Local Innovations Grants”)

**Contacts:** Sharon Zambrzycki, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-4037  
Eileen Oldag, Caritas of Austin (512) 479-4610 ext. 220

**Address:** P.O. Box 1947  
Austin, TX 78767-1947

## (4) **Travis County: Lutheran Social Services of the South**

**Nature of Service Provided:** For a target population of single heads of household with less than a 9th grade education and/or with language barriers who are victims of domestic violence: case management; assistance with clothing/uniforms, rent/utilities/phone deposits; ESL and GED classes; self-esteem training; domestic violence counseling

**Amount of Contract:** \$262,092 for 180 participants (TANF – “Local Innovations Grants”)

**Contacts:** Sharon Zambrzycki, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-4037  
David Yarborough, Lutheran Social Services of the South (512) 459-1000 ext.254

**Address:** 314 Highland Mall Blvd, #2000  
Austin, TX 78752

**Points to Note:** *This contract is for a term longer than 12 months.*

**(5) Tarrant County: Catholic Charities of Ft. Worth**

**Nature of Service Provided:** For a target population of low-income families in Tarrant County: counseling, vehicle repairs, clothing/uniforms; phone/utility deposits and assistance; emergency housing; relocation assistance; GED testing

**Amount of Contract:** \$250,000 for 960 participants (TANF – “Local Innovations Grants”)

**Contacts:** Sharon Zambrzycki, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-4037  
Carol Riley, Catholic Charities (817) 534-0814

**Address:** 2701 Burchill Road North  
Fort Worth, TX 76105

**(6) El Paso: Young Women’s Christian Association, El Paso Del Norte**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Counseling, career guidance, mentorship, and apprenticeship programs for pregnant and parenting teens

**Amount of Contract:** \$427,083 (TANF)

**Contacts:** Larry Jones, TX Workforce Commission (512) 463-8556  
Marty Brown, YWCA (915) 577-9922 ext. 255

**Address:** 1918 Texas St. Sarah D. Lea Bldg.  
El Paso, TX 79901

**(7) San Antonio: Young Women’s Christian Association**

**Nature of Services Provided and Contract Amounts:**

**#1** Job retention: \$1,804,815 (TANF)

**#2** Reemployment services \$20,719 (TANF)

**#3** Local innovation services: \$5,967,016 (TANF)

**Contacts:** Larry Jones, TX Workforce Commission (512) 463-8556  
Rita Fisher, YWCA (800) 765-9622

**Address:** Camp Flaming Arrow  
P.O. Box 770  
Hunt, TX 78024

**(8) Travis County: Capital I.D.E.A.**

**Nature of Service Provided and Contract Amounts:**

**#1** Develop and deliver customized training programs: \$137,828 (TANF)

**#2** Establish Wagner-Peyser 7(b) funds (programs to match employers with unemployed individuals): \$200,000 (WIA)

**Contacts:** Larry Jones, TX Workforce Commission (512) 463-8556  
Dazzie Mckelvy, Director of Operations, Capital I.D.E.A. (512) 457-8610 ext. 101  
Steven Jakobs, Executive Director, Capital I.D.E.A. (512) 457-8610

**Address:** P.O. Box 1784  
Austin, TX 78767

**(9) Dallas County: Young Women's Christian Association**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Community Capacity Building

**Amount of Contract:** \$81,771 (TANF)

**Contacts:** Larry Jones, TX Workforce Commission (512) 463-8556  
Pam Chicol, YWCA (214) 826-9922

**Address:** 4621 Ross Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75204

**(10) Taylor County: Just People, Inc.**

**Nature of Service Provided:** To establish Wagner Peyser 7(b) funds (programs to match employers with unemployed individuals)

**Amount of Contract:** \$200,000 (WIA)

**Contacts:** Larry Jones, TX Workforce Commission (512) 463-8556  
Mark Waters, Executive Director, Just People (915) 672-2118

**Address:** 410 N. 13th St.  
Abilene, TX 79601

**Points to Note:** *Funding was for FY 2000.*

**(11) Travis County: Institute for Responsible Fatherhood/ Family Revitalization**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Provision of Welfare-to-Work services to non-custodial fathers in the Gulf Coast and Tarrant County Board areas

**Amount of Contract:** \$1,500,000 (Welfare to Work)

**Contact:** Larry Jones, TX Workforce Commission (512) 463-8556  
Christopher Brown, Institute for Responsible Fatherhood (512) 260-1229

**Address:** 4301 Burnet Rd., Ste. B  
Austin, TX 78756

**(12) Tarrant County: Catholic Charities Immigration Counseling**

**Nature of Service Provided:** ESL and adult literacy classes to eligible low-income immigrants in Ft. Worth. The plan is to serve 60-125 individuals through six classes, each lasting six months.

**Amount of Contract:** \$90,000 (TANF – “Local Innovations Projects”) This is a 22-month, reimbursable contract that began December 2001.

**Contacts:** Bo Platt, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-3450  
Vanna Slaughter, Catholic Charities (214) 634-7251

**Address:** Catholic Charities Immigration Counseling  
5415 Maple Avenue, Ste. 400  
Dallas, TX 75235

### (13) Denton: Salvation Army

**Nature of Service Provided:** Assistance with vehicle repairs, work clothing/uniforms, fees/licenses, rent/utility assistance and relocation assistance. This is supplemental assistance to clients currently under case management. Approximately 700-800 clients connect to this aid through a One Stop Center.

**Amount of Contract:** \$219,000 (TANF – “Local Innovations Projects”) This is a 22-month, reimbursable contract that began December 2001.

**Contacts:** Bo Platt, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-3450  
Capt. Glenn Queener, Salvation Army (940) 566-3800

**Address:** 2801 N. Elm  
Denton, TX 76202

### (14) Beaumont: Ubi Caritas Health Ministries

**Nature of Service Provided:** Adult literacy and ESL classes and “crisis assistance” (transportation, vehicle repairs, emergency housing/utility assistance are provided). The plan is to serve 484 persons.

**Amount of Contract:** \$406,060 (TANF – “Local Innovations Projects”) This is a 22-month, reimbursable contract that began December 2001.

**Contacts:** Bo Platt, TX Dept. of Human Services (512) 438-3450  
Kim Moncla, Ubi Caritas (409) 832-1669

**Address:** 4400 Highland Avenue  
Beaumont, TX 77705