



TRAVIS COUNTY
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M E M O R A N D U M

Date: October 24, 2019

To: Social Service Contractors of Travis County HHS

From: *Sherri E. Fleming*
Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive for
Travis County Health and Human Services and AgriLife Extension Services

Subject: Travis County HHS – Social Service Investments

In light of changes to state statute that took effect October 1, 2019, local government revenue will no longer grow at past rates. Under this new circumstance, we now must revisit our plans for future social service investments to account for a level of funding that is, at best, flat, for the foreseeable future. To accommodate this reality, Travis County Commissioners Court has approved a delay of up to 2 years before our next competitive investment cycle will begin. Travis County HHS will use this period to revisit priorities and strategies that will best focus our investments in a no-growth budget.

This process may include any or all of the following questions:

- In a resource constrained environment, how will we...
 - Target investments based on one or more options? Issue areas, outcomes, populations, geographies?
 - Maintain or change our issue area array? Do we continue with all current issue areas or make shifts?
 - Maintain or change our issue area continuums? Within each existing issue area, do we maintain all current services or make shifts?
 - Consider alternative approaches to investing? How can we maximize efficiencies and where would it be appropriate to do so?
 - Consider both direct and purchased services in a holistic strategy? Examine ways to better integrate internal and external services

In the short term, this will mean that the next round of competitive RFS processes originally planned for 2020 **will not take place**. This may also mean modification of some contracts, and the addition of more renewal options for contracts that remain in good standing (i.e. continue to meet performance expectations and compliance requirements). Appropriate HHS staff will be in communication with individual contractors

should they require modifications. Please note **this is not a guarantee of funding** beyond the terms of the current contracts; this just allows the option to extend over a longer period.

If you would like more information on this decision, both the transcript of the Court discussion and the backup can be found at the following link:

http://traviscountytexas.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=SplitView&MeetingID=1962&MediaPosition=6870.227&ID=22836&CssClass=