

# REPORT 2020 April Cycle

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> South Texas Alliance for Orphans		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 82-2119250	
<b>Address:</b> 115 Kendall View Dr.	<b>City:</b> Boerne	<b>State:</b> Tx	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78006
<b>Website:</b> www.alliance4orphans.org		<b>Fax:</b> (210) 216-6223	

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Jennifer Smith	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> jennifer@alliance4orphans.org	<b>Phone:</b> (210) 216-6223

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Jennifer Smith	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> jennifer@alliance4orphans.org	<b>Phone:</b> (210) 216-6223
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## REPORT INFORMATION

<b>Report Funding Cycle:</b> 2020 April Cycle	<b>Report Date:</b> 04/01/2021 12:00 am
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**1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.**

Awarded Amount: 30,000	Date: 04/01/2021
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**2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.**

Goal: Alliance supported; active church ministries activate 60 families to start the process to become foster families in 2020.

We introduced 12,855 people to the crisis through limited in person info meetings and launched monthly Zoom informational meetings throughout

2020. Launched three new faith communities including our first Catholic Church.

Result: 63 new foster and kinship families recruited. 105% of our goal.

Goal: 100% of foster families will foster longer than one year.

Church ministries ensured their foster and kinship families were supported with meals, babysitting, resources and supplies.

Result: 100% of foster families served greater than one-year. 100% of our goal.

Goal: Alliance active church ministries will support 300 foster families.

Result: 306 Foster families supported in 2020 through their local faith community. 102% of our goal.

Goal: Educate, equip and connect churches with opportunities and events to serve biological families, foster families, grand-families, and caseworkers to

ensure children have safe, thriving families and equipped caseworkers.

Result: We trained 74 short term babysitters in various child placing agencies in 2020. Our KinMart School Supply Shopping event was shifted to limited in person shopping and mobile pickup. Four churches served 411 children in kinship care with basic school supplies. We launched five Community Support Groups in January. Three were able to continue virtually intermittently throughout 2020.

Goal: Increase the number of caregivers, teachers, parents trained in Trauma Informed Care by 500 in our community, so children who have experienced trauma have a larger healing community in 2019.

Result: 165 trained in trauma informed care. 33% of our goal.

### **3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.**

The quarantine orders limiting in person gatherings increased strain on faith communities and posed a challenge to increasing growth for recently launched ministries. Also, ministry leaders at seven of our faith communities stepped down from leading due to family challenges. We are actively pursuing new leaders in 2021 and anticipate most returning to active status. We support 36 active churches at the end of 2020.

We cancelled all Parent's Night Out events, ConnectedEvents and Hospital Sitter training in light of the Covid risk and hospital limits on visitors.

Our trauma training program was very limited due to covid restrictions. TBRI long courses were not compatible with virtual learning and thus rescheduled for 2021. We were able to do shorter Trauma Competent Caregiver modules over 10 months and created short trauma informed approach topic videos. We completed the Train the Trainer for Trauma

Competent Caregiver with 12 of our ministry leaders. They will now be able to train volunteers at their church.

We planned to develop all logistics for a two-day Restore to Me conference designed to support, connect and equip foster, adoptive and kinship parents to be held in February of 2021. We were forced to cancel the Restore to Me conference due to Covid restrictions. We are re-evaluating in 2022.

### **4: What needs were addressed?**

In South Texas alone, an average of six children are removed for abuse and/or neglect everyday. Our community has an insufficient number of quality foster and adoptive homes; and the lack of prevention and support services for families are perpetuating a cycle of abuse and neglect. As a result, we have an ever-expanding prison pipeline due in large part to fragmented community efforts.?

Research has shown that the local church is the most robust service delivery system in America with the essential infrastructure to help solve the foster crisis. The state of Texas is also actively asking the faith community's help. The South Texas Alliance for Orphans, a trauma informed, family centric, collaborative organization, seeks to create a movement in our community by utilizing the faith community in collaboration with all community efforts.. The Alliance is equipped to transform the system through two key interdependent programs: church engagement and community engagement.

The Alliance's Church Engagement and Community Engagement programs fill the critical gap between the robust local church network, children and families in crisis and local organizations serving along the continuum. The Alliance model has proven outcomes for children and their families through stability and placement within our community, activating thousands of individuals to serve in a variety of ways and providing a natural on-ramp for new foster families. These collaborative relationships in connection with strong partnerships with churches create a force multiplier that amplifies energy of all players to have greater collective impact for children, families and communities.

### **5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?**

The Alliance utilizes anonymous surveys to provide feedback on our events and training sessions. Our surveys ask for: demographic information, how they heard about the event or training, how we can make the event or training better, and event specific questions to gauge their learning. Our team debriefs after events by completing event debrief assessments then use the responses to improve promotion, market targeting, location selection, gauge clarity of communication and ease of process.

Our Church Engagement Specialists meet quarterly with ministry leaders from each supported church for 1:1 interviews. We use the information gained to refine the model, determine what new resources we need to find or create, identify gaps or areas where families are struggling, and evaluate what current resources they most use and why. We make minor adjustments throughout the year and thoroughly evaluate all programs in the fourth quarter to help plan the next year. We plan to add surveys for our collaborating organizations to ensure we are serving them well and also work together to fill gaps in our community. We also analyze our social media and newsletter metrics to guide us in improving our communications with constituents.

**6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?**

We plan to continue you the More Than Enough project. We plan to sustain it structurally through the recent hiring of a Community Engagement Specialist who will lead our new prevention program, Care Portal. We have also expanded our Communication team. Programmatically, we are diversifying the faith communities we support in ministry and have added a Spanish speaking staff member to serve our Spanish speaking community. The unexpected benefit of Covid was the addition of virtual meetings and the resulting increased productivity and decreased travel cost and time. We plan to continue a hybrid in person and virtual model going forward.

Financially, we are pursuing eight new foundation in 2021 and growing our individual donations. The launch of Care Portal will also open doors for businesses to contribute both in kind and financially.

**7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.**

Due in large part to your continued generous investment in our innovative solution to a shared burden, 2020 was a success despite the world altering pandemic. Your support allowed the Alliance to respond to the new crisis landscape and continue serving children and families through 2020 while researching new projects slated to launch

in 2021.

In 2020, 74 individuals trained to become verified babysitters for foster families for a total of 508 individuals trained since 2017! Verified sitters not only directly ensure foster families serve children the length of the case, but also save foster agencies greater than \$71k in recruitment, training and attrition costs.

The 411 children in kinship families served with school supply free shopping events result in a savings for families of over \$25k while also helping them get connected to support.

We diversified our funding with a 16% increase in individual giving and added two new grant and foundation sources.

Various child placing agencies estimated the cost of recruiting one foster family to be \$1-2,000. Our events resulted in 63 families and individuals taking next steps to become a verified foster home. Assuming a modest rate of completion of 50%, the Alliance saved local child placing agencies \$63,000 in recruitment costs. The state does not cover this

cost for agencies.

**8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.**

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Church Engagement	\$79,482	\$15,000	\$61198.84	\$15000

Community Engagement	\$89,893	\$15,000	\$62677.83	\$15000
Babysitting Collaborative	\$6,000	\$0	\$1854.08	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$175,375</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$125,731</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Signature</b> Jennifer Smith				