

Texas Diaper Bank-Texas Families Cluster of Care

<p><u>Project Title:</u> Texas Families of Cluster of Care; to support the Texas Families of Cluster of Care program network expansion, which addresses the diaper gap and its impact on low-income children in crisis in Bexar County.</p>

<p><u>Amount of Request:</u> \$40,000</p>

Brief Statement of the Organization's Purpose and History: Previously a part of the Hispanic Religious Partnership for Community, Texas Diaper Bank (TXDB) evolved in 2011 as a solution to an unnoticed, yet swelling problem: the diaper gap. The diaper gap is the lack of access to an adequate supply of diapers, incontinence products, other healthcare products that impacts physical health, mental health, and self-sufficiency of low-income individuals (children). With an original goal of 500 children, the organization has grown into a regional diaper bank providing access to over 1.2 million diapers and other health supplies to over 15,600 infants, children with disabilities, and seniors throughout Bexar County and 9 surrounding counties. Today, the organization accomplishes its mission to serve low-income Texan children and families in crisis through its program network, Texas Families of Cluster of Care (TFCC).

Project Description: According to the U.S. Census, over 6 million families currently live in poverty in Texas, including 2 million children under 4. While poverty cripples families in many ways, individuals ignore one critical material hardship affecting families: diaper insufficiency. Yet, the price of diapers proves too costly. Babies typically need 6-12 diapers daily, a monthly cost of \$125/child. Nevertheless, many federally-funded safety net programs—including Medicaid, WIC, and SNAP—do not subsidize diapers. Seniors and children with disabilities must qualify through their insurance, a benefit most lack. Or, even if parents work to change their financial situation, childcare may be limited, as most daycares require parents to provide diapers. Low-income families must decide between food and diapers.

However, diapers are healthcare products, not just basic necessities. Without frequent changes, babies can develop UTIs and other serious infections that could require hospitalization. These individuals fall victim to unnecessary, preventable health issues stemming from diaper and healthcare product insufficiency. Moreover, diaper insufficiency impacts mental health. For new parents, the helplessness of not knowing how to soothe a crying child decreases familial bonding and mental health. A decreased parental bond causes resentment, and even compels parents to neglect, or even abuse their child—leading to the 4,550 reported neglect/abuse cases in San Antonio last year.

Because a family should never reach this situation, the TXDB promotes its mission: to address the diaper gap and its impact on Texans in crisis. As the phenomenon results from various circumstances, the diaper gap remains difficult to solve. To combat these facets, TXDB partners with 30 partner agencies to extend its reach in 10 contiguous counties in Texas. Treating these issues holistically, TXDB established the Texas Families Cluster of Care (TFCC), a devoted program network, to close the diaper gap. Through this unique model, TXDB not only links families to basic needs, but also valuable crisis management services, parenting and child healthcare education, and other community resources through its 4 programs: Earn and Learn, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Safe Haven, and Disaster Relief.

The Earn and Learn program reduces the diaper gap by combining 2 vital components of self-sufficiency: education and access to resources. First, parents/guardians learn about parenting, child healthcare, and wellness from one or more of TXDB's 11 local nonprofit partner agencies in Bexar County. These workshops cover child healthcare on topics on how to be better

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parents, such as child healthcare, prenatal education, and SIDS prevention. Second, they gain access to child healthcare products to supplement what they learn about in class; to help with additional basic needs, parents/guardians may also receive other healthcare items. By providing parents/guardians both education and access to goods, this program creates a deeper foundation in parenting skills, which fosters client confidence, and assures healthy child development.

A first point of entry for families, Emergency Assistance program provides families in crisis access to diapers, wipes, and other healthcare products. Families enrolling in this program receive monthly assistance of one diaper package and wipes per infant or child with special needs. As many of its clients face crises requiring immediate action, TXDB also refers clients to government benefits and other resources.

Displaced and disoriented by turbulent circumstances, such as homelessness and domestic abuse, many clients have no money, food, or shelter—much less their child’s diapers. The Housing and Safe Haven program connects clients to diapers and agencies that provide sheltering. Supplementing vital resources to clients during urgent times, TXDB serves the most vulnerable population segment truly representing the individuals comprising the diaper gap.

The Disaster Relief program supplies those affected by natural disasters in Texas with diapers—the only organization providing victims diapers. TXDB collaborates with partner agencies who coordinate and provide relief services to communities affected by natural disasters.

Although each individual program within TFCC focuses diaper insufficiency, it does not close the diaper gap completely. To serve targeted populations, TXDB will continue its popular Calm Parent classes and expand “My Healthy Child” classes.

To focus on the mental health aspect of the diaper gap, TXDB has begun its newest classes, Calm Parent. Teaching practical parenting skills that providers rarely offer, this class teaches parents diapering, potty training, and “baby proofing” one’s house. The classes not only help parents gain practical parenting skills, but also ensure success through access of “resource kits”. For example, a parent/guardian attending the Calm Parent – Potty Training class will receive a kit containing a potty training chair, a training book, training pants, bathroom tissue, reward, stickers, etc. By developing these basic skills, parents/guardians gain confidence. Subsequently, parents reduce the stress of raising a child, thereby increasing child bonding. In 2017, TXDB will provide Calm Parent to a minimum of 150 parents/caregivers (participants), impacting over 300 children. For 2018, TXDB will expand these classes into 4 new counties (Atascosa, Frio, Kendall, Guadalupe); the organization expects to serve 500 parents/caregivers, impacting 1,000 children.

The TXDB will also expand its “My Healthy Child” classes to include additional sites in Bexar County, as well as 6 additional counties (Atascosa, Frio, Guadalupe, Kerr, Medina, Wilson). Through a partnership with Methodist Healthcare Ministries, these classes will serve an additional 425 families, impacting 850 children.

Due to the organization’s success, partner agencies will serve more children annually. To sustain its partners’ increase in diapers and healthcare products, TXDB will need to obtain more product. In 2017, TXDB will serve 5,000 more children, a total of 11,500 children for Earn and Learn. In 2018, TXDB will create multiple sites for its Emergency Assistance program. TFCC will require resources to serve 25,000 unduplicated children.

Brief Statement of any previous funding received from the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation: TXDB received funding in 2015 for \$20,000 for the Healthy Babies program expansion; in 2016, \$35,000 for the TFCC program network.

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How proposed project relates to The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation’s funding priorities:

This project directly complements Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation’s priorities in its commitment to the health and wellness of disadvantaged infants and children with disabilities in Bexar County. By increasing a family’s access to diapers and wipes, the TFCC reduces infections requiring hospitalization, such as diaper rash and UTIs. By

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Request
Diapers, and other Program items (cash/noncash)	1,150,000	40,000
Equipment & Furniture	29,100	
Maintenance, Rent, Telephone & Utilities	74,880	
Marketing, Meetings/Conference, Office Supplies, Travel	23,800	
Payroll & Benefits	396,000	
Professional & Consultants Fees	22,500	
Total Program Budget	\$1,696,280	\$40,000
Organization FY revenue and expenses		\$ 2,384,000
Project Timeline	Start Date: 8/10/17	End Date: 12/31/18

Children Impacted: TFCC will impact 25,000 unduplicated children. NFF’s funding of \$40,000 will impact 520 unduplicated children (\$77/unduplicated child).

Evaluation: To track programs impact on client’s physical health, mental health, and self-sufficiency, TXDB measures both qualitative and quantitative data through validated evaluation tools and anecdotal evidence. Evaluation tools include client intake forms, pre-, post-, and post-follow-up surveys. Measures include: diaper dermatitis, stress levels, and children served. TXDB uses Apricot, a client data management system, to track data to measure evidence-based impacts.

Committed Foundations (\$1,438,150): HEB- \$20,000, Impact-\$16,000, Klesse-\$10,000, Kronkosky-\$95,000, Mays-\$15,000, Methodist Health Ministries-\$200,000, Nationwide-\$10,000, Texas Cavaliers-\$3,850, United Way-\$78,000, Greehey-\$35,000, Valero-\$50,000; In-Kind as of August-\$905,300
Pending Foundations (\$285,500): Baptist Health-\$60,000, Bank of America-\$30,000, Myra Stafford-\$35,000, SAAF-\$50,000, Trull-\$3,000, Dixie Wenger-\$5,000, Meadows-\$75,000, Walmart-\$27,500
Amount requested from The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation: \$40,000

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