



HIV Hurricane Relief Effort Application

Please provide your responses to the items below. Responses should be in a minimum of 11-point font, and the total application should not exceed 2 pages in length. If submitting your application by email, please convert it to a PDF file, if possible. Submit your application by email to HurricaneRelief@aidsunited.org or by fax to 202-408-1818. Applications are being accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

1. Please provide your organization's name and address:

Fort Bend County
Health and Human Services Clinical Health
301 Jackson Street
Richmond, TX 77469

2. Please provide the full information (name, title, telephone number and email address) for two agency contacts:

Ngombe Bitendelo, RN, BSN, MPH, CIC
Director of Clinical Health Services
Office: 281-238-3548
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Cynthia Smith
Administrative Assistant, Clinical Health Services
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3. Amount of funding requested: \$25,000

4. Estimated total amount needed to address current and emerging HIV-related service needs of your clients impacted by the hurricanes and an explanation of those total needs. (This information will help with identifying and planning for future funding needs for the affected regions).

The mission of Fort Bend County by and through Clinical Health Services office is to prevent, control and eliminate communicable diseases among the residents of Fort Bend County. The Clinical Health Services office provides clinical services in the core public health areas of STD treatment; tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; and provision of childhood and adult immunizations. Relative to HIV, Clinical Health Services provides prevention education, testing services, and counseling services.

The estimated total amount needed to address current and emerging HIV-related service needs in Fort Bend County is \$313,000. Hurricane Harvey dramatically impacted Fort Bend County and the entire Houston region by displacing residents, damaging homes and infrastructure, disrupting employment, and more. The magnitude of the damage and extended recovery period has caused significant stress, both at the community level as a whole and for individual residents. During times of ongoing burden, people tend to function in survival mode, making the next necessary decision about their damaged home or workplace, while sometimes neglecting proper healthcare, especially preventive care. Clinical Health Services is working to promote a healthy community by encouraging Fort Bend County residents to access its testing and counseling services. Additionally, Fort Bend County was considered in 2016 to be the fifth fastest growing county – and the fastest growing large county – in the nation. The estimated 2017 population is nearly 765,000, an increase of 175,000 people in the past seven years. As the population of Fort Bend County continues to grow, the Clinical Health Services office must enhance the effectiveness of its outreach services in order to continue meeting existing and emerging needs.

5. Briefly describe the HIV client population (s) served by your organization:

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Texas ranked third in the nation in number of HIV diagnoses in 2015, with an estimated 4,476 new diagnoses that year, 60 of which were in Fort Bend. In 2017, among people seeking HIV testing from Fort Bend County by and through Clinical Health Services, there were 7 HIV diagnoses, an increase of 2 from the prior year. The HIV client population served is primarily African American and Latino males, ages 20 to 40, who have sex with other males. As is often the case, the LGBT community in Fort Bend County is largely hidden, which presents challenges to Clinical Health Services effectively reaching the most vulnerable populations with classic community marketing of its prevention education and testing services.

6. Briefly describe the overall impact of the hurricane on your agency and the community:

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey brought more than thirty inches of rain and caused reservoir flooding that damaged or destroyed about 6,800 homes in Fort Bend County, in the Houston metropolitan area of southeast Texas. More than 200,000 Fort Bend County residents were forced to evacuate their homes. The school system remained closed until September 11 to allow staff and students' families to manage the immediate aftermath of the storm. Seven months later, recovery efforts continue in Fort Bend County. Some damaged infrastructure has been repaired, though much work remains to be done.

As residents navigate the long-term stresses of hurricane recovery, Fort Bend County Clinical Health Services office wants to promote healthy choices and to ensure that the community's health needs are met. The Clinical Health Services office sees a strategic opportunity to provide prevention education and to promote its services to a wider audience during this time when more people are connecting with government and nonprofit service providers in the course of seeking hurricane recovery assistance.

7. Briefly describe your proposed use of funds:

With funds from AIDS United, Fort Bend County will increase the community's access to HIV-related services by developing a more robust community outreach initiative. Clinical Health Services will accomplish this goal through increased prevention counseling focused on reducing behavioral risk, promoting the importance of testing as it relates to early diagnosis, and educating the community about the testing and counseling services available. For maximum effectiveness, Clinical Health Services will target its outreach activities to the demographics among which HIV is most prevalent in Fort Bend by partnering with LGBT social groups and entertainment venues to promote services in a variety of ways that are setting-appropriate, from printed marketing materials to public presentations to on-site opportunities for individual counseling services. The office will also partner with other local nonprofit service providers for more widespread marketing of its HIV-related services.

8. Briefly describe your organization's current capacity regarding staffing, fiscal operations, and the current level of services provided:

The Clinical Health Services office, is comprised of 29 staff members, including the Director of Clinical Health, Case Managers, Epidemiologists, an HIV Consultant, and other team members who play important roles in program management and service delivery. In terms of fiscal operations, the 2018 budget for the Clinical Health Services office is \$1,302,553. Overall, the Fort Bend County total budget for 2018 is \$365,481,719. Clinical Health Services provided HIV-related services to approximately 1250 people last year through screenings and prevention services.

9. What other funding sources are providing support for your organization for emergency relief?

Fort Bend County has the ability to receive FEMA funding and has seen private donations increase as a result of natural disasters.
