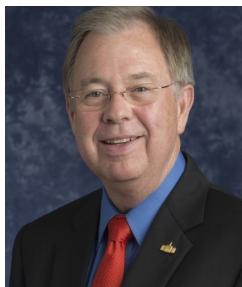


COUNTY JUDGE Quarterly

News & Notes from the Tarrant County Judge and important information from Tarrant County

Photo Courtesy of Lissa Willis

Unreimbursed Property Taxes Spent on State Prisoners in OUR Jail for October 1, 2020 to July 27, 2021 was \$12,296,100.



Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley

Transforming Our Community

This March, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), providing direct fiscal assistance to all counties, in an effort to combat the negative impacts of COVID-19. Of the \$409 million allocated to Tarrant County, half of those funds (\$204.5 million) are now available for use. The other half will be made available in 2022. Regardless of whether you supported this package, the reality is that the funds are here in our community and it is now up to us to spend them as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Your Commissioners Court has advocated for a strategic approach to spending these funds, with a focus on projects that will be transformative for our community. Tarrant County is engaging in a community-wide needs

assessment that will allow us to prioritize projects that have the potential for the greatest impact. We hope to leverage these dollars with the funds received by cities, school districts, and other agencies in order to make them go even further for our residents.

To date, the Commissioners Court has held three work sessions on this topic, where we have identified the four focus areas for our spending. Spending of the \$409 million in federal funds will focus on:

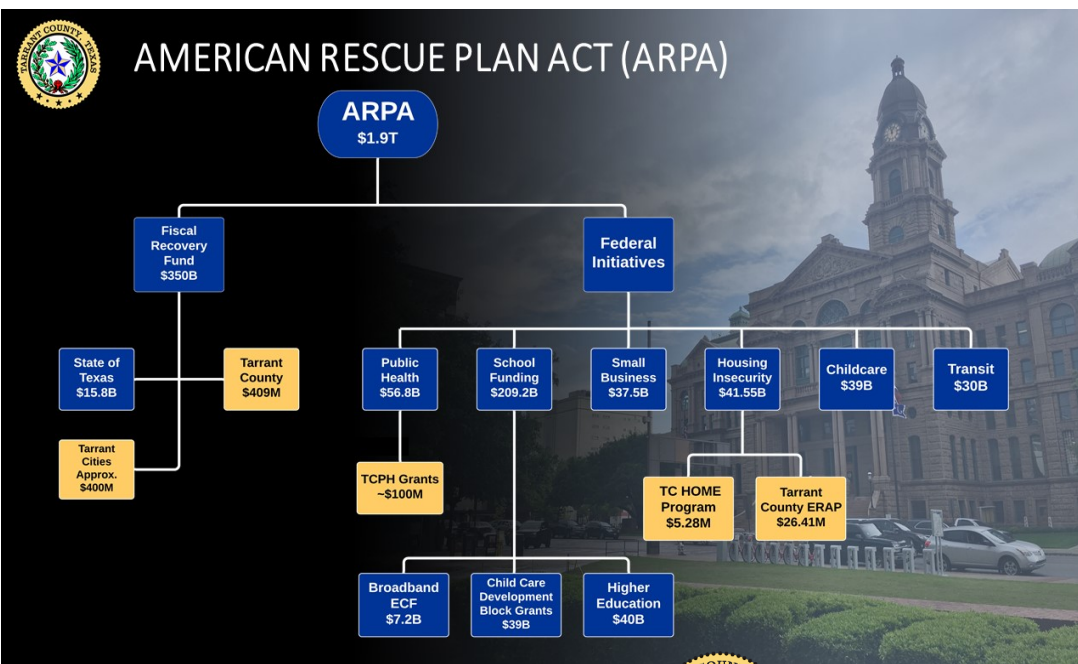
- Preparing for the Future
- Improving Public Health and Wellness
- Revitalizing the Economy
- Strengthening the Community

We plan to have the results of the needs assessment completed by the end of October. Additional work sessions are being scheduled for future dates where we will continue to discuss these categories and proposals for

spending. Those dates will be announced once they are set. I invite all who are interested in this topic to attend in person or watch online at

www.TarrantCounty.com.

I am proud of Tarrant County's approach to allocating these funds, and I believe that with the right strategy and collaborative approach, we can positively impact our community for generations to come.



Breakdown of ARPA direct funding allocations.





Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 9

Leading the Way for Mental Health Specialty Courts



The Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Program (MHDP) received the Judge Ruben G. Reyes Outstanding

12.02%, and a two-year recidivism rate of 15.19%. These numbers far exceed the national averages for clients with mental health disorders that are involved in the criminal justice system.

The MHDP recently had a Program Evaluation conducted by Dr. Clete Snell as part of a grant awarded by the Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH). Dr. Snell said it best: "The Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Program was a pioneer in the mental health court movement. Program recidivism statistics suggest the program has been a success from the start, meeting and, in most cases, exceeding the objectives of the essential elements. The Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Program should serve as a model for other pretrial diversion programs in the state and the nation."

Specialty Court Team Award at The Texas Association of Specialty Court Conference in Galveston, Texas, on April 21st. This award recognizes an outstanding specialty court team that epitomizes the idea that good intentions are not good enough and reflects Judge Reyes' examples of passion and expertise. This award has a special meaning this year as Judge Reyes passed away on Saturday, December 12, 2020.

The Tarrant County MHDP was started in 2003 with the mission of providing participants with the resources and support they need to attain emotional well-being and a foundation for long-term success. The MHDP is a pre-trial, post-booking specialty court program for participants who have a previous mental health history. The program is judicially supervised by Honorable Brent A. Carr and his multidisciplinary treatment team, which includes representatives from the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, The Clark Law Firm, Tarrant County Criminal Court Administration, Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, My Health My Resources of Tarrant County, and several other community agencies.

The program, which includes both misdemeanor and felony related offenses, has an established record of success as evidenced by the 691 admissions and 574 successful graduates.

Furthermore, the MHDP has a successful completion rate of 89%, a one-year recidivism rate of



Pictured from Left to Right: Assistant Criminal District Attorney Lucas Allan, MHDP Case Manager Pam Leary, TCAT Clinical Specialist Aaron Calvin, County Criminal Court No. 9 and MHDP Presiding Judge Brent A. Carr, MHDP Administrative Assistant Rachel Calderon, Defense Attorney Brad Clark, MHDP Program Manager Rane Wallace, and Judicial Staff Counsel and Mental Health Magistrate Judge Nelda Cacciotti.



COVID-19 Vaccinations Key to Containing Virus



With the number of COVID-19 cases on the rise, it is more important than ever to get vaccinated. Everyone 12 years of age and above in Texas is now eligible to receive the

vaccine. (Those at risk of catching, spreading or dying from COVID-19 are still encouraged to seek vaccination). To make an appointment visit tarrantcounty.com/vaccinefinder. To avoid long lines, we urge you to sign up for an appointment.

Additionally, businesses, community groups, churches, and other organizations can request that a team from Tarrant County Public Health or one of our

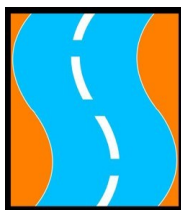
partners come on site to provide COVID-19 vaccinations. There is no cost to the participating group, other than a strong commitment to recruit persons to get vaccinated and the ability to provide a suitable space to conduct a clinic. To start the request process visit the [Public Health Vaccination Registration webpage](#) and click the **“New Clinic Request”** button.

It may take up to 5 business days for a representative from Tarrant County to get back to you about your request. To conduct an onsite clinic, a minimum of 25 individuals must be registered prior to the scheduling of the clinic date. Be sure to submit your request **before** you have people start registering with us, so we can link them with your event.



Make your appointment today by visiting tarrantcounty.com/vaccinefinder

Thank you to ALL our wonderful sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers for making this year’s event a success!



8th Annual SENIOR SYNERGY EXPO



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Homelessness Decreases in Tarrant County



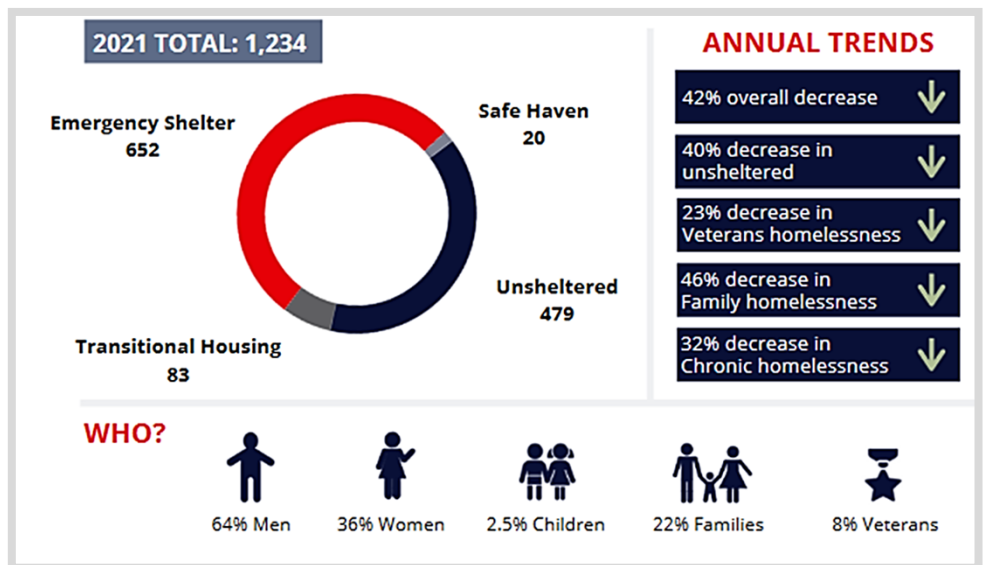
In Tarrant County we have an incredible homeless services response system- a system that jumps into action as soon as someone loses their housing. Our goal is to quickly respond to people’s needs, getting them off the streets, out of shelter and back into somewhere permanent to call home. 2020 posed challenges no one ever saw coming and our system of care was challenged in ways that we never could have predicted. However, we also responded together in incredible ways, keeping people safe and protecting people experiencing homelessness and the staff that work to serve them.

2021 is all about building on the incredible momentum we have after a year of protecting, responding, aligning and coordinating together to do the best work we could for our community. We continue to move forward working to better understand trends we’re seeing, figure out how to best serve people, and start to move upstream to prevent people from ever becoming homeless. The Homeless Coalition works with over 40 partner organizations to end homelessness, all working toward the shared vision of *a vibrant community where everyone has a place to call home.*

Something people might be surprised to learn is that homelessness is significantly down, as compared to previous years. The 2021 Point in Time Count found that 1,234 people were experiencing homelessness on a given night, a 42% decrease from the year before. Additionally, as this year has gone on, we continue to see that we are 30%-40% below the number of households who are typically homeless throughout the year. Fewer people have fallen into homelessness and our partners continue to help people get rehoused quickly. Even though Tarrant County has experienced explosive growth over the past decade, our homeless

population has not grown at the same rate. In fact, the number of people experiencing homelessness has stayed relatively flat, declining as a percentage of the population.

Additionally, we have not seen a significant increase in homelessness following the expiration of the eviction moratorium. We closely watch evictions and work to connect with people who are in need of rental assistance to stay housed. Make sure to visit www.gettrenthelp.com if you are in need or know someone in need. To stay up to date with the latest information on homelessness, check out our [community dashboards](#) where you can find lots of infor-



mation on what’s happening now.

We’re here to help! If you know someone in need, encourage them to [visit our website](#) or call the Homeless Helpline at 817-996-8800. We love to connect with neighborhoods and community groups who want to impact the issue and learn more. Let us know how we can support you or connect you to the dedicated partners we work with to serve people in need. Email us at tchc@ahomewithhope.org for more information and to get involved.



HOMELESS HELPLINE
817-996-8800
 CALL OR TEXT

Mental Health Diversion Center To Provide Alternative to Jail



How to reduce the number of inmates in our county jail with mental health issues and how to provide them with services has long been a topic of

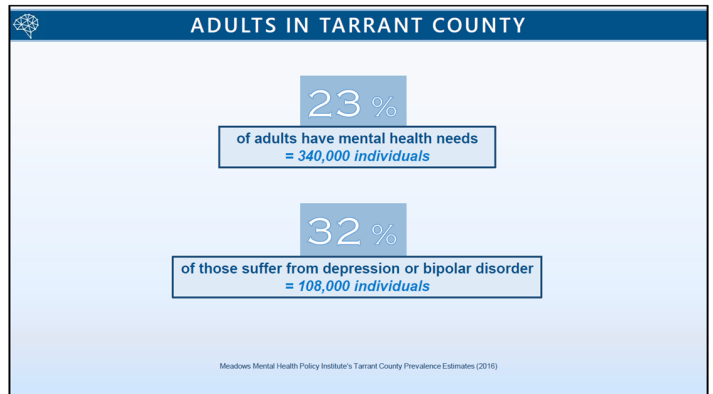
discussion. Recently, Tarrant County Commissioners have begun discussion about the creation of a mental health jail diversion center.

The mission of the center is to provide a recovery-oriented, short-stay alternative to incarceration for non-violent, justice-involved persons with mental health needs. Having a mental health jail diversion center would allow law enforcement officers to take people to a center where they can receive services and treatment instead of going to jail. This differs from the Mental Health Specialty Court (page 2) in that the Jail Diversion Center is an alternative to going to court in the first place.

Reducing the number of police drop-offs to the psychiatric emergency room involving people with eligible non-violent misdemeanor charges has a positive impact on our local law enforcement, jail and hospital. More importantly, the people admitted to the center will be provided immediate mental health and primary healthcare targeted to the needs of each individual. This would include providing individualized wrap around services engaging them with ongoing treatment. “We recognize the county jail is not the place for one to regain one’s mental health,” Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks said during a recent Commissioners Court meeting. “This is truly a diversion program. These people will never hit the back door of

the jail. ... The objective of this center is to stabilize this person and do a warm hand-off to community-based care.”

This effort would truly be a collaboration with key stakeholders and partners including local law enforcement agencies, JPS Hospital, MHMR of Tarrant County, and organizations providing wrap-around services. “The county jail is not meant to be a mental health hospital and those with mental health issues who are in our jail add additional pressure to the system,” Robert Earley, CEO for JPS Health Network, stated. “A mental health jail diversion center will be a release valve getting individuals with mental health issues the help they need instead of just taking them to jail.”



The County is currently evaluating land and existing suitable facilities within Tarrant County. Organization and operational governance is being developed to outline responsibilities with the implementation of a mental health jail diversion center.

Over the coming months, the Commissioners Court will be providing additional guidance and input regarding the operations and responsibilities related to the center.

24 **ICARE** Call Center
call or text

7 **local toll free**
city

(817)335-3022
(800)866-2465
(817)569-4488

Assistance available for:

- Food and clothing
- Rent and utilities
- Early childcare
- Family support
- Substance abuse
- Mental health
- Child abuse and neglect

ZIP code specific services in your area

TARRANT CARES.ORG

Call 9-1-1 if you are a danger to yourself or others or have a medical emergency.



Tarrant County Programs Recognized by NACo



Employees of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office with Judge Glen Whitley at the NACo Achievement Awards luncheon.

During their annual conference in July, the National Association of Counties (NACo) recognizes innovative programs implemented in counties across the country. Out of the hundreds of entries from counties and state associations, Tarrant County received seven achievement awards. Tarrant

County Criminal District Attorney's Office received three of these awards.

Recognizing the need for a program to focus specifically on misdemeanor assault bodily injury – family violence cases, Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson started the Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence Initiative began. A team made up of Felony Intimate Partner Violence Attorneys, Misdemeanor Attorneys and Investigators evaluated more than 2,000 cases. As a result, 18% of these cases were identified as felonies with enhanced charges or an indictment.

Additionally, CDA Sharen Wilson became aware of

more than 100 hospital visits occurring in just one month involving rape crisis counselors. The Prosecution of Adult Sexual Assaults initiative began in order to address adult sexual assaults and improve the success rate of taking cases to trial. By creating the initiative and a specialized team dedicated to sexual assault cases, significant improvement has been made in how cases are filed.

Through a partnership between the Criminal District Attorney's Office and Fort Worth Independent School District, the "Prosecutors in High School" initiative was developed. The initiative is designed to teach students about the criminal justice system and a variety of topics ranging from First Amendment Rights, Digital Forensics and how jury trials work. The hope is to reach thousands of students by having prosecutors in multiple school districts in the Fall of 2021.

Other achievement awards went to the County Clerk for the video conferencing kiosk for marriage license processing, the Information Technology Department for Remote Video Magistration in Arlington, Tarrant County's COVID-19 Response for Public Health, and the Computer Grab and Go program.

Congratulations to all the department recipients of the 2021 NACo Achievement Awards which represents the great work done in Tarrant County.

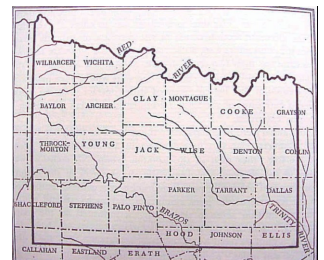
Did you know?

From 1918 to 1922, the Texas Motor Car Association had a factory in Fort Worth which built the luxury car called "The Texan" which sold for \$1,000 at the time?



Lake Worth completely iced over in 1930 becoming a winter wonderland with skating, ice fishing and dare devils driving across the lake in their cars?

The Peters Colony included all or part of what is today 26 counties, including Tarrant County? Tarrant County was established in 1849.



GetRentHelp.com



Visit
GetRentHelp.com

Questions?
Please call 817.850.7940
And select option 1



GetRentHelp.com is for Tarrant County residents having difficulty paying rent and/or utilities, and for landlords seeking assistance on their behalf.

Additional Resources for Renters

SITUATION...	WHERE TO GET HELP....
I live in the City of Fort Worth and need rental assistance because COVID-19 has impacted me.	Apply to the City of Fort Worth by calling (817) 392-5785 or apply online https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/emergency-rental-assistance OR with the Housing Channel at https://www.housingchannel.org/
I live in the City of Arlington and need rental assistance because COVID-19 has impacted me.	Apply to the Arlington Housing Authority by calling (817) 276-6713 or apply online https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/housing_authority Please call Arlington Urban Ministries at (817) 861-8585 if you are facing eviction
I live in the City of Grand Prairie and need rental and utility assistance.	Call Grand Prairie United Charities at (972) 262-2014 OR if you have a child in GPISD, call Lifeline for Families at (972) 642-7744 Download applications at https://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/environmental-services/coronavirus-covid-19/emergency-assistance-program
I live in Tarrant County , <u>but NOT in Fort Worth, Grand Prairie or Arlington</u> . I need short term rental assistance because of COVID-19 or another emergency.	Apply To Tarrant County by calling (817) 850-7940 or by filling out the form on this link: https://etoclient49.socialsolutionsportal.com/intake/96c63667-1f3b-4a7e-813c-6bf387a61c2a . A case manager will contact you about your short-term rental assistance request.
I live in Tarrant County and only need Utility Assistance (electric, gas and propane).	Apply with Community Action Partners by calling (817) 392-5720 or at https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/energy-assistance
I live in Tarrant County and need rental assistance, but NOT because of COVID-19.	Call Tarrant County Human Services at (817) 531-5620 or visit http://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/human-services.html



NOTE: If you are unsure of which program is best for you, go to [GetRentHelp.com](https://www.getrenthelp.com) and answer a few basic questions.

TARRANT COUNTY CONTACTS

<u>County Administrator</u>	817-884-1267	<u>Public Health</u>	817-321-4700		
<u>County Clerk</u>		<u>Resource Connection</u>	817-531-7600		
Criminal / Misdemeanor Records	817-884-1066	<u>Sheriff's Office</u>	817-884-3009		
County Courts at Law	817-884-1101	Jail Information	817-884-3116		
Passports	817-884-1408	Victim Identification	817-884-8463		
Probate Courts	817-884-1770	Warrant Division	817-884-1320		
Records Intake / Deeds	817-884-1062	<u>Tax Assessor-Collector</u>			
Records Library	817-884-1069	Auto Tag Renewal / Property Taxes	817-884-1100		
Vital Records: Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage		<u>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension</u>	817-894-1945		
Licenses, and Business Records/DBA's	817-884-1550	<u>Veterans Services</u>	817-531-5645		
<u>Criminal District Attorney</u>	817-884-1400	Commissioners Court meets every Tuesday at 10 am Tarrant County Administration Building 100 E. Weatherford Street, 5th Floor County Judge, Glen Whitley			
<u>District Clerk</u>				817-884-1441	
Civil Records	817-884-1240			Commissioner Roy C. Brooks, Precinct 1 ...	817-370-4500
Criminal Records	817-884-1342			Commissioner Devan Allen, Precinct 2	817-548-3900
Family Court / Divorce Records	817-884-1265			Commissioner Gary Fickes, Precinct 3	817-581-3600
<u>Jury Services</u>	817-884-3820	Commissioner JD Johnson, Precinct 4	817-238-4400		
<u>Fire Marshal</u>	817-838-4660				
<u>Human Services</u>	817-531-5620				

GENERAL INFORMATION 817-884-1111

For additional information, visit: www.tarrantcounty.com

Tarrant County Legislative Delegation

Texas House

<u>District 90 Representative: Ramon Romero, D-Fort Worth</u>	ramon.romero@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0740
<u>District 91 Representative: Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth</u>	stephanie.klick@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0599
<u>District 92 Representative: Jeff Cason, R-Bedford</u>	jeff.cason@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0522
<u>District 93 Representative: Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth</u>	matt.krause@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0562
<u>District 94 Representative: Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington</u>	tony.tinderholt@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0624
<u>District 95 Representative: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth</u>	nicole.collier@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0716
<u>District 96 Representative: David Cook, R-Arlington</u>	david.cook@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0374
<u>District 97 Representative: Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth</u>	craig.goldman@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0608
<u>District 98 Representative: Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake</u> ...	giovanni.capriglione@house.state.tx.us ...	512-463-0690
<u>District 99 Representative: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth</u>	charlie.geren@house.texas.gov	512-463-0610
<u>District 101 Representative: Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie</u>	chris.turner@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0574

Texas Senate

<u>District 9 Senator: Kelly Hancock, R-Westlake</u>	kelly.hancock@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0109
<u>District 10 Senator: Beverly Powell, D-Fort Worth</u>	beverly.powell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0110
<u>District 12 Senator: Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound</u>	jane.nelson@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0112
<u>District 22 Senator: Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury</u>	brian.birdwell@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0122

