



# Dr. Elba Garcia Dallas County Commissioner District 4 Newsletter

500 Elm Street, Suite 7400, Dallas, TX 75202  
214-653-6670 - District4@DallasCounty.Org

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Happy New Year 2023

*As we start a new year, we can look back and celebrate all that we accomplished together, even our mistakes, because they have helped us grow. However, we need to continue igniting the desire within us to keep on doing more.*

*Lets look forward to a new year of bettering ourselves, our families and our communities. Lets be proactive in eating healthier, excercising more, going back to school and being a more active community member to be a voice for others. Hey, perhaps this year you will finally register to vote. Whatever your goals are for this year, I wish you the best and remind you that I am always here to support you in any way I can.*

Saludos,  
*Dr. Elba Garcia*

## NTBHA Recieves Funds for Additional Beds



Dallas County has approved a new agreement with the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) to add psychiatric hospital beds for inmates. If inmates in Texas are deemed unfit to stand trial by clinical experts, efforts are made to restore competency before a trial.

The recent agreement will provide one year of funding for NTBHA to contract with behavioral health providers and reserve a hospital unit of 16 beds at a rate of \$800 per day, including NTBHA administrative oversight and outcome monitoring. This will facilitate approximately 113 individuals receiving treatment to regain competency.

Dallas County will spend just over \$4.3 million fulfilling this agreement. These funds will be sourced from the \$511 million the county received in taxpayer-funded federal relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## National Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is National Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Every year on January 11<sup>th</sup>, Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers target vulnerable populations, including men, women, children, citizens and non-citizens, forcing them into servitude and/or the sex trade. Texas ranks 2nd in the country for trafficking prevalence, with more than 300,000 annual victims statewide, and in Dallas, an estimated 400 teens are sold for sex every night, as part of a \$99 million illegal industry. Let us raise awareness about the different forms of human trafficking and educate others on how to spot and end human trafficking.

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1 (888) 373-7888

SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")

Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week

<http://humantraffickinghotline.org>



**STOP  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

# Dallas County Approves Online Translation Services

As you may know, I am always looking for ways to provide services to our constituents in a more efficient way. One of the obstacles that I felt we were still behind on was communicating correctly to our Spanish speaking taxpayers. This year, I am very excited to share with you that I spearheaded an effort to become more accessible in different languages. Thanks to that, a contract was recently approved by the Dallas County Commissioners Court, which will add translation features and pilot a bilingual "virtual agent" to help visitors navigate the site. This is important as it will help more residents find streamlined access to services and documents. Through the agreement, the County will use an estimated \$378,000 in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to contract Virginia-based IT solutions provider Carahsoft Technology Corp. and engage with Google for the implementation of the new features. For constituents that historically called Dallas County for assistance or visited our departments in person, this new method of communication offers important features that can reduce frustrations.



# AARP Funds Awarded to 34 Non-Profits

The Dallas County Commissioners Court recently approved the two-year service contract called: Request for Proposal 2022-037-6952 American Rescue Plan Act State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funding ARP Nonprofit Partnership Program. With this approval, almost \$49M in grants were awarded to 34 suppliers to enhance their nonprofit program and services to serve individuals, families, and households harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proposal	Recommended Amount
The Visiting Nurse Association of Texas - Proposal A	\$1,862,072.00
The National RHCA Training and Safety Foundation - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Texas Health Research and Education Institute - Proposal B	\$1,267,838.00
Family Gateway, Inc. - Proposal A	\$1,657,080.00
Communities in Schools of the Dallas Region, Inc. - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Regional Black Contractors Association Community Development Corporation - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Jewish Family Service of Dallas, Inc. - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Bonton Enterprises dba Bonton Farms - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. - Proposal A	\$1,999,973.00
Genesis Women's Shelter and Support - Proposal A	\$1,920,980.00
AVANCE - Dallas dba AVANCE North Texas - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Common Threads - Proposal A	\$552,000.00
Homeward Bound, Inc. - Proposal A	\$1,087,565.90
The Salvation Army, a Georgia Corporation - Dallas - Proposal A	\$1,940,322.00
Austin Street Center - Proposal A	\$1,027,500.00
Helping Restore Ability - Proposal A	\$506,635.94
Brighter Tomorrows - Proposal A	\$811,940.00
National Council for Development, Inc dba National Development Council - Proposal A	\$1,990,886.00
Nexus Recovery Center, Inc. - Proposal A	\$1,966,239.00
Shared Housing Center, Inc. - Proposal A	\$1,896,300.00
Readers 2 Leaders - Proposal A	\$809,420.00
After-School All-Stars dba After-School All-Stars North Texas - Proposal A	\$310,000.00
Housing Crisis Center - Proposal A	\$1,009,238.00
Metrocrest Services - Proposal A	\$1,984,963.00
Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Child Protective Services Community Partners, Incorporated - Proposal A	\$724,000.00
Sharing Life Outreach, Inc. - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Brother Bill's Helping Hand - Proposal A	\$1,092,553.00
Chris Howell Foundation - Proposal A	\$2,000,000.00
Bachman Lake Together - Proposal A	\$923,954.88
Interfaith Family Services - Proposal A	\$318,225.00
K16 Ready Society, Inc. - Proposal A	\$1,222,002.00
Texas Health Research and Education Institute - Proposal A	\$354,959.00
The Family Place - Proposal A	\$1,584,930.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,819,576.72</b>

# Holiday Giving Spirit in District 4

Dallas County is a giving community! Thank you to all these organizations for making families feel the spirit of generosity:

The Law Office of Domingo Garcia and Dr. Elba Garcia distributed toys to:



- Casa Guanajuato
- St. Cecilia Catholic Church
- Oak Cliff Caring Foundation
- Asociacion Colombiana del Metroplex
- Dental Office Family



Law Office of Miller, Weisbrod & Olesky (toy distribution) The Chris Howell Foundation (food and toy drive), Oak Cliff Caring Foundation (toy distribution), The Dream Center of Dallas (toy drive), Casa Guanajuato (Posada and toy distribution) and West Dallas Christmas lights in the Barrio. From all of us in Dallas County Commissioner District 4: Blanca, Noemi, Kayla, Brooks and I, we look forward to continue working with all of you. Best wishes for a prosperous 2023!



# Dr. Martin Luther King Day January 16<sup>th</sup> 2023



"Make a career of HUMANITY,  
Commit yourself to the struggle  
for Equal Rights"

~Dr. Martin Luther King~

