



**2020-21 GRANT CYCLE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT No. 1**

MARCH 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2020

Table of Contents

Grant Administration	3	
2020-2021 Grant Summary	4	
Building Financial Capacity Coalition	5	
Center for Transforming Lives	6	
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	7	
Family Eldercare	8	
Family Service Association of San Antonio	9	
FirstLight Community Foundation	10	
Foundation Communities	11	
Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas	12	
Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation	13	
Women's Resource of Greater Houston	14	



Grant Advisory Committee

Molly Curl, Finance Commission Representative
Laura Nassri Warren, Finance Commission Representative
Eric Norrington, Credit Access Business Industry Representative
Steven O’Shields, Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending Representative
Laura Rosen, Consumer Advocate Representative
Roy Lopez, Financial Education Consultant

Grant Coordinator

Andrea Johnson, Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner

2020-21 TFEE Grant Recipients

Building Financial Capacity Coalition	K-12 Financial Education & Capability
Center for Transforming Lives	Financial Coaching
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	Financial Coaching
Family Eldercare	Adult Financial Education & Capability
Family Services Association of San Antonio	Financial Coaching
FirstLight Community Foundation	K-12 Financial Education & Capability
Foundation Communities	Financial Coaching
Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas	K-12 Financial Education & Capability
Texas State Affordable Housing Corp.	Financial Coaching
Women's Resource of Greater Houston	Adult Financial Education & Capability

Summary

The Texas Financial Education Endowment awarded ten organizations an aggregate amount of \$300,000 in funds for program activities related to the 2020-21 grant cycle. These organizations promote and strengthen financial education and capability across Texas.

During the first reporting period many of our TFEE recipients struggled to meet their goals due to the pandemic. The numbers reflected are a direct result of having to change or postpone program activities due to the pandemic. During the first reporting period (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020), grant funds provided 2,204 hours of direct financial education training to 1,610 Texas consumers through group presentations and one-on-one financial coaching sessions. In addition, 84 teachers were trained to be better prepared to provide financial education to their students in accordance with Texas standards.

Funds Disbursement to Date

Amount Awarded	\$300,000.00
Reimbursement Requests (No. 1 March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)	
Building Financial Capacity Coalition	\$7,534.80
Center for Transforming Lives	\$8,184.54
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	\$6,666.67
Family Eldercare	\$1,210.50
Family Service Association of San Antonio	\$4,333.15
FirstLight Community Foundation	\$0.00
Foundation Communities	\$5,641.06
Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas	\$1,363.75
Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation	\$0.00
Women’s Resource of Greater Houston	\$4,941.80
Total Requested Amount for Reimbursement Request No. 1:	\$39,876.27
Total Requested Amount to Date:	\$39,876.27
% of Funds Expended to Date:	13.3%
Amount Of Funds Remaining	\$260,123.73

Building Financial Capacity Coalition

The Building Financial Capacity Coalition’s mission is to foster community prosperity for the Rio Grande Valley by enhancing the knowledge and skills needed for improved financial decision making.

The Money Smart Ambassador Program was created to teach young adults the importance and the basics of personal finances. Building Financial Capacity Coalition partners with local high schools to embed the curriculum into required classes and holds an Annual Financial Literacy Summit in partnership with congressmen from the area.

PROGRAM TYPE: K-12 FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEAR | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$27,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$7,534.80 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$7,534.80

Program Update

During this first reporting period 164 teachers and students were reached through 612 direct contact training hours.

The organization is working on modifying best practices due to COVID-19 affecting school districts across Texas. K-12 Financial Education and Capability programs were hit hardest due to the pandemic.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Restructuring the program to accommodate an online platform
- Facilitates annual Financial Education Summit in the Rio Grande Valley reaching 1,000+ students each year

Major Achievements

- Started 2020 early with the Ambassador Training – Train the Trainer for students and teachers
 - 26 Students from Brownsville ISD
 - 16 Students from Harlingen CISD
 - 24 Students La Feria ISD, Santa Rosa ISD
 - 10 Students from San Perlita ISD
- 10 additional teachers to represent the different school districts

Biggest Challenges

- Coronavirus Pandemic caused restructuring
- Four Congressional summits were cancelled due to the pandemic

Center for Transforming Lives

Center for Transforming Lives helps homeless and impoverished women, children, and families move from poverty to independence through homeless services (an emergency shelter for women and housing assistance for families), Early Childhood Development (providing free or subsidized early childhood education to impoverished and homeless families), and Financial Empowerment Services (individual financial coaching and other programs to promote financial self-sufficiency).

The goal for this program is to empower participants to develop financial self-sufficiency, credit improvement, and asset building through one-on-one, long term financial coaching.

PROGRAM TYPE: FINANCIAL COACHING

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$35,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$8,184.54 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$8,184.54

Program Status to Date

During the first reporting period, Center for Transforming Lives provided 26 participants with one-on-one financial coaching.

While on track to meet or exceed their goal, the organization was hit hard by the pandemic causing certain unavoidable setbacks. In mid-March the organization discontinued all in-person workshops and individual coaching sessions. Although staff quickly transitioned to virtual platforms there were challenges completing the forms traditionally done in person and engaging participants who had other family priorities related to children, employment, and loss of income.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Providing virtual financial coaching
- Supporting clients where they are through the new service offered thanks to virtual coaching

Major Achievements

- Due to virtual classes clients were able to attend more sessions multiple times a week
- Provided a total of 26 participants with financial education services
- Increase in the number of sessions clients participate in

Biggest Challenges

- Retaining participation after transitioning from in-person financial coaching to virtual financial coaching due to the pandemic
- Completing pre- and post- surveys
- Clients not being able to complete forms due to technological challenges

Easter Seals of Greater Houston

For over 70 years, Easter Seals of Greater Houston has been offering help, hope, and answers to people of all ages with disabilities and their families. Through therapy, training education, and support services, Easter Seals creates life-changing solutions so that people with disabilities can live, learn, work, and play in our community.

The goal of the organization's adult financial education and capability program is to provide financial coaching to low income families, especially veterans and people with disabilities, to help them meet their goals of creating a budget, reducing debt, increasing savings, improving credit scores, becoming banked and saving for a specific purpose such as the purchase of a new home.

PROGRAM TYPE: ADULT FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$35,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$6,666.67 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$6,666.67

Program Status to Date

During the first reporting period, Easter Seals of Greater Houston was able to assist 36 people to build a financial blueprint to lead them to homeownership. 11 of those individuals have gone on to purchase their first home.

Despite success, Easter Seals of Greater Houston did face setbacks brought on by the pandemic. The organization quickly transitioned to online services in order to continue to reach their clients. The organization is harnessing virtual coaching sessions to help people achieve their financial goals.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Began virtual homebuyer classes for clients
- Began virtual financial coaching sessions for groups and one-on-one
- Working with their Bridging Apps Program to provide loaned devices and assistance/training with the use of devices to access the internet to reach client's needs in order to continue financial education and capability for those they serve

Major Achievements

- 25 Families counseled one-on-one through grant funds
- 11 Families purchased their first homes
- Counseling hours increased due to the shift to online coaching

Biggest Challenges

- Continuing to serve clients during the almost total shut-down of normal operations due to the pandemic
- Technological setbacks due to some clients not having internet access

Family Eldercare

Family Eldercare was founded in 1852 by a group of professionals concerned with supporting the family's role as caregiver for frail elders through training and information. The agency expanded to include services to prevent abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of elders and adults with disabilities.

The purpose of their program is to develop and pilot a curriculum to support the capacity of Family Eldercare's case managers to promote the financial capability of aging Texans, especially those who have experienced homelessness. The goal is to offer a continuum of services to empower more of our clients to become financially independent and secure, while also enabling case managers to focus their attention on the clients requiring more intensive money management services.

PROGRAM TYPE: ADULT FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$30,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$1,210.50 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$1,210.50

Program Status to Date

Family Eldercare is using grant funds to develop and pilot a financial education curriculum that will allow select Money Management clients whose income is actively managed by their staff to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to independently manage their finances. During the pilot phase of the program, clients will be practicing their own money management under the oversight of their current manager or case manager. Upon completion, students will understand their household budgets and have a system for managing their own money.

The program is central to the organization's mission because it promotes independence and stability through an individualized, person-centered approach.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- The program is in its preliminary stages; staffing and research

Major Achievements

- Successfully hiring the individual to head-up the project with former Family Eldercare Money Management program experience.

Biggest Challenges

- Tailoring existing financial education curriculum to the specific needs of the organization's clients
- Modifying curriculum to meet various cognitive levels, reading abilities, and ideal learning styles of the broad spectrum of clients the organization serves
- Due to the pandemic staff had to quickly implement a remote work environment to include the financial education program

Family Service Association of San Antonio

Family Service Association of San Antonio seeks to increase economic opportunities for low-income families and individuals. The Financial Empowerment Services program provides San Antonio residents financial education and capability services through one-on-one financial counseling. The focus is on reducing debt, increasing credit scores, savings, banking, and wealth building.

Family Service Association of San Antonio has provided financial empowerment consisting of one-on-one financial counseling and coaching for over six years in an effort to effect low-income family's economic stability and sustainability in impactful and measurable ways.

PROGRAM TYPE: ADULT FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$30,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$4,333.15 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$4,333.15

Program Status to Date

During the first reporting period, Family Service Association of San Antonio provided 1,122 participants with 1,592 direct contact hours of one-on-one financial coaching sessions. In addition, the organization helped 210 individuals increase their credit scores by an average of 10% and 264 participants reduced their debt.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Added another financial counselor to help meet the demand of the program
- Constant contact with clients to keep them engaged in and help them to re-evaluate financial goals

Major Achievements

- Strong programmatic achievements and participants achieve high outcomes in a relatively short amount of time
- 144 participants counseled on pre-homeownership
- Seven participants purchased homes

Biggest Challenges

- More demand for the program than the organization can staff to assist
 - Determined the level of emergency financial assistance needed to help streamline and decrease overflow

FirstLight Community Foundation

FirstLight Community Foundation strives to help youth and families in the El Paso and Las Cruces communities improve their lives by achieving financial independence. The FirstLight Community Foundation charitable foundation was founded in 2015. Through strategic analysis, the decision was made to incorporate financial literacy and scholarships as focus for the foundation, in order to help youth and families achieve financial independence.

FirstLight Community Foundation believes that it has a social responsibility to play a vital role in the overall financial capability of the communities it serves. The focus is to incorporate social change in the community, find new ways to get vulnerable people access to capital, and to be part of the framework and driving force behind community financial literacy efforts.

PROGRAM TYPE: K-12 FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: ONE YEAR | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$13,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$0.00 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$0.00

Program Status to Date

FirstLight Community Foundation focuses on the Brighter U Financial Literacy Program providing implementation of financial education into El Paso Independent School District High Schools. Brighter U is an engaging, online resource that uses video, animations and interactive activities to bring complex financial concepts to life for students.

The program is typically implemented in the spring semester. Due to the pandemic the financial literacy program was hit hard. The organization's grant funding and program activities have been moved to the 2020-2021 school year.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- No program activities to date

Major Achievements

Biggest Challenges

- Pandemic caused major restructuring of the financial literacy program, postponing it until the 2020-2021 school year

Foundation Communities

Foundation Communities is a local, homegrown nonprofit since 1990. It provides affordable, attractive homes and free on-site support services for thousands of families with kids, as well as veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The organization offers an innovative, proven model that empowers residents and neighbors to achieve educational success, financial stability, and healthier lifestyles. The organization owns and operates 23 communities all over Austin and in North Texas. The organization's programs are made possible in large part by more than 2,500 volunteers each year.

PROGRAM TYPE: ADULT FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$30,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$5,641.06 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$5,641.06

Program Status to Date:

Due to the pandemic, the Financial Coaching program had to pivot from goal-oriented coaching delivered in-person, to emergency response-based coaching delivered virtually, in order to safely meet the needs of our community. Remaining in line with Foundation Communities' mission to provide housing where families succeed, meant helping residents and other community members financially keep their heads above water through access to emergency resources. Financial Coaching was closed for a month while we assessed community needs, trained Financial Coaches on how to help clients meet those needs, and set up systems to provide services virtually.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Volunteer training has been switched to virtual training
- Transitioned to fully virtual delivery model of financial coaching
- Change focus of coaching from long-term goal planning to short-term resource attainment
- Trained 10 financial coaching volunteers on community resources and virtual delivery

Major Achievements

- Provided 163 participants with financial coaching
- Served the community through 226 direct contact hours
- Biggest success conducting a pivot in service to help clients access emergency resources when they need them most

Biggest Challenges

- Tracking and measuring success due to the necessary quick transition to virtual delivery brought on by the pandemic
 - Spent more time planning and executing the transition into a new data system which was completed in July
- The launch of Fig Loans was postponed when in-person events were cancelled also due to the pandemic

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas *inspires girls everywhere to stand up and make a difference. By nurturing innovation and developing leadership skills, they prepare girls to overcome challenges and advocate for their ideas now and later. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas is more than 25,000 girls and 12,500 adult members strong.*

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas covers 32 counties beginning just North of Waco extending to the Oklahoma state line and from Irving to the Louisiana border.

Their financial literacy program is geared toward girls in grades K-8 and will run in tandem with the Girl Scout Cookie program which teaches entrepreneurship skills. The curriculum offers interactive, hands-on activities to engage girls while they learn about financial education. It is designed to support Girl Scout program levels and school grade levels: Daisy (K-1); Brownie (2-); Junior (4-5); and Cadette (6-8).

PROGRAM TYPE: K-12 FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$35,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$1,363.75 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$1,363.75

Program Status to Date:

For the period of March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020, Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas is on track for the grant plan. The first reporting period staff created age-appropriate curriculum focused on financial literacy alignment with the TEKS standards. Curriculum is complete and is being reviewed internally and externally by program managers and partners.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Seven in-school curriculum modules and eight after-school modules were created to be implemented in the 2020-2021 school year
- Curriculum is now under review by external partners

Major Achievements

- Designed and completed new financial education curriculum to be better suited for their target audience

Biggest Challenges

- The pandemic is a large concern going into the 2020-2021 school year

Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation

Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1994. Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation was created at the direction of the Texas Legislature to serve as a self-sustaining, statewide affordable housing provider. It operates under the belief that every Texan deserves the opportunity to live in safe, decent, and affordable housing. As the population of our state continues to grow at a record rate, the need for affordable housing in Texas has only increased.

The organization's programs target the housing needs of low-income families and other underserved populations who do not have acceptable housing options through conventional financial channels. Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation's mission is to address this critical and expanding need with initiatives such as first time home buyer grants and other down payment assistance programs.

PROGRAM TYPE: FINANCIAL COACHING

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$30,000

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$0.00 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$0.00

Program Status to Date:

Due to the pandemic, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation had to postpone its 2020 in-person Housing Connection workshop from June 1-5, 2020 until December 7-11, 2020. The organization is still planning to utilize TFEE grant support for its Homeownership Counseling Certification course offered during that workshop, which will then be in-person or online. The course teaches counselors how to provide one-on-one counseling sessions to help consumers prepare for homeownership by addressing savings, credit, and debt barriers.

During the 2020 summer, the organization offered the Mortgage Math Made Simple for Homeownership Professionals. It is an online course taught by NeighborWorks America. It is designed to help housing and financial counselors gain confidence with basic calculations used in residential mortgage lending.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Worked to move to online options for their homeownership coaching

Major Achievements

- Staff has been able to adapt and shift gears to an online coaching platform in order to keep the program on track with the option of virtual coaching
- Added Mortgage Math Made Simple for Homeownership Professionals classes

Biggest Challenges

- Reevaluation and postponement of the 2020 in-person Housing Connection workshop due to the pandemic
 - Moved from June to December

Women's Resource of Greater Houston

Women's Resource of Greater Houston helps women and girls make choices toward becoming independent, productive and financially stable. In the organization's programs, women acquire the essential financial knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to make sound decisions and improve their lives – for themselves and for generations to come.

For 2.8 million Houstonians who are experiencing financial distress, The Women's Resource trains and coaches women and girls, meeting them where they are. The organization inspires financial change, improving financial health, and overall individual and family wellbeing.

Women's Resource of Greater Houston envisions a day when every woman and girl has the KNOWLEDGE and HOPE she needs to reach her financial goals.

PROGRAM TYPE: ADULT FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

GRANT TERM: TWO YEARS | AMOUNT AWARDED: \$35,000.00

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$4,941.80 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$4,941.80

Program Status to Date

Women's Resources offers two programs for adult clients - YourLife Finance Classes (group presentations) and YourLife Possibility Groups (small group counseling).

Due to the pandemic, in-person classes were put on hold as the organization transitioned to a virtual platform. It's anticipated that virtual will be the main source of class delivery for the remainder of 2020.

Reporting Period Update (March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020)

Program Activities

- Trained 35 volunteers to become virtual instructors
 - Uses two volunteers: one to train and the other monitors questions
- Extensive use of social media to drive registration numbers
- Designed and launched "Crushing Your Credit in 2-Days" online

Major Achievements

- Greatest achievement is to the ability to quickly pivot to a virtual learning environment to continue to meet the needs of women in the community
- Most successful online class is a 2-day "Brunch & Budgets" on the weekend
- 349 individuals were directly served through 76 courses

Biggest Challenges

- Eliminating large class gatherings, due to the pandemic, has been a challenge because of technological issues such as streaming capacity and client resources