



**2020-21 GRANT CYCLE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT No. 3**

JANUARY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2021

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Grant Advisory Committee

Laura Nassri Warren, Finance Commission Representative
Eric Norrington, Credit Access Business Industry Representative
Laura Rosen, Consumer Advocate Representative
Roy Lopez, Financial Education Consultant
Justin Accola, Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending
Larry Long, Finance Commission Representative

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 third reporting period (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021), grant funds provided 4,539 hours of direct financial education training to 19,789 Texas consumers through group presentations, one-on-one financial coaching sessions, and virtually. Thanks to one organization’s efforts to move to a virtual platform TFEF funded programs were available to students throughout their community and beyond.

Funds Disbursement to Date

Amount Awarded	\$300,000.00
Total Requested Amount for Reimbursement Request No. 1:	\$39,876.27
Total Requested Amount for Reimbursement Request No. 2:	\$64,636.77
Reimbursement Requests (No. 3 January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)	
Building Financial Capacity Coalition	\$10,199.90
Center for Transforming Lives	\$12,501.28
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	\$10,000.00
Family Eldercare	\$28,789.50
Family Service Association of San Antonio	\$0.00
FirstLight Community Foundation	\$0.00
Foundation Communities	\$10,040.99
Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas	\$15,454.11
Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation	\$0.00
Women’s Resource of Greater Houston	\$11,616.94
Total Requested Amount for Reimbursement Request No. 3:	\$98,602.72
Total Requested Amount to Date:	\$203,115.76
% of Funds Expended to Date:	67.71%
Amount Of Funds Remaining	\$96,884.24

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: \$10,199.90 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$26,838.40

Program Update

During the third reporting period Building Financial Capacity Coalition far exceeded program expectations by moving to an online platform. The organization was able to reach more than 16,000 teachers and students using their Money Smart Ambassador program.

Turning the pandemic from a problem into a platform helped the organization see that it could reach out to more students than ever before. In conclusion, the Money Smart Program was made available to more than 16,000 High School Students at the 9- 12 grade levels.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- Meet and exceeded program goals by moving to a virtual option encompassing the whole school district reaching students at these schools
 - Hanna High School 2,603
 - Lopez High School 2,013
 - Porter High School 1,995
 - Veterans High School 1,988
 - HCISD 4,405
 - La Feria 1,000
 - Santa Rosa 1,998

Major Achievements

- Updates to the organization’s website
- Established BFCC Zoom Account to conduct meetings and trainings with students and teachers
- Successfully conducted the Train the Trainer training for students and teachers

Biggest Challenges

- Economic instability in the community due to COVID-19 leading to sponsorship declines
- Reliable access to the internet for students and teachers

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: \$12,501.28 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$30,027.28

Program Status to Date

Despite the pandemic creating ongoing problems for participants, coaches have provided comprehensive services to assist with rental assistance, food resources, and technology support.

Center for Transforming Lives continues to host monthly Asset Builder Clinics, promote the Save2Build credit improvement program, and conduct virtual one on one coaching sessions. Through the expanded small business services, coaches have also had an increase in coaching low-income entrepreneurs.

Center for Transforming Lives is on track to exceed program goals, having already successfully met the number of participants needed to reach their projected goal.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- Center for Transforming Lives is seeking accreditation with the Council on Accreditation to improve the agency's uniform standards

Major Achievements

- 34 participants were reached through financial coaching
- 170 Direct contact hours with participants
- Seven participants established or increased their savings
- There was an average increase in savings of \$326 by participants

Biggest Challenges

- Online participation is a challenge due to many of the clients not having access to a computer during their scheduled time
 - Moved to over the phone to help those individuals meet their goals

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: \$10,000.00 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$26,666.67

Program Status to Date

During the third reporting period, Easter Seals of Greater Houston continued to meet with the client one-on-one to assess financial status and goals despite COVID restrictions. Follow-up counseling was provided via email and phone as they worked toward their goals.

Debt was the main factor for most clients as they worked to qualify for a mortgage loan. A debt payoff schedule was frequently used in the savings and debt reduction plan to prioritize counseling sessions and monitor progress.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- Counselors now use multiple applications and maintain hard files as a means to monitor the clients progress
- More efficient tracking measures allow more counselor/client time to deliver the homebuyer education necessary for first-time home buyers

Major Achievements

- 29 unduplicated individuals directly served
- 180 direct contact hours with participants
- 27 participants established or raised their credit scores with an average increase of 10%
- 25 individuals established of increased their savings

Biggest Challenges

- Serving clients virtually made it harder to educate them on the most advantageous mortgage products and the costs of the loan
 - Second lien documents were read, reviewed and discussed over the phone to insure the home buyer understood their responsibilities associated with the grant
 - Meeting in-person for signatures during a pre-closing meeting to emphasize the home owner's responsibilities

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: \$28,789.50 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$30,000

Program Status to Date

Family Eldercare is pleased to have new curriculum that has been undergone a peer review and approval process. The organization is now testing the curriculum with clients.

The key indicator will be client feedback and official assessment through the pre-post survey. As outlined in the organization's original project plan performance measurements, it hopes to pilot the curriculum with at least 20 clients by the end of 2021 and have at least 80% of participating clients report feeling more financially stable.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- The program curriculum has been finalized under a peer review and approval process
 - Now in the testing phase
- Now that the organization is able to have in-person meetings project activities have resumed

Major Achievements

- The curriculum has been completed and is currently in the testing phase

Biggest Challenges

- Implementation of the project has been significantly slower than anticipated
- As everyone experienced, COVID-19 added an extra layer of complications and requiring the organization to stop any non-essential face to face interactions, which are necessary for disseminating a financial literacy curriculum
- The staff member who was part of the rollout team of this program left the agency, further creating a setback to its projected time line

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: \$0.00 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$5,439.17

Program Status to Date

During the third reporting period, Family Service Association of San Antonio provided 1,161 participants with 3,815 direct contact hours of one-on-one financial coaching sessions. In addition, the organization helped 249 individuals increase their credit scores by an average of 10% and 434 participants reduced their debt.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- Family Association Service of San Antonio expanded its ability to provide emergency assistance to participants to help stabilize their household income and continue to provide benefit enrollment and emergency assistance
 - Increased the number of individuals served by more than 50%

Major Achievements

- The organization continues to have strong programmatic achievements and participants achieve high outcomes in a relatively short period of time
- 85 participants counseled on pre-homeownership
- 11 participants purchased homes

Biggest Challenges

- More demand for the program than the organization staff can assist
 - Increased funding to add an additional financial counselor
- In 2020, COVID 19 created barriers for participants which lead to the need for emergency assistance

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. The financial literacy program was hit hard by the pandemic delaying the organization's program activities.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- No program activities to date

Major Achievements

- No achievements to date

Biggest Challenges

- Pandemic caused major restructuring of the financial literacy program, postponing it until the 2020-2021 school year
- Staffing changes have led to unexpected challenges

Foundation Communities

Foundation Communities 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: \$10,040.99 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$27,563.50

Program Status to Date:

During the third reporting period, Foundation Communities provided financial education services to 219 individuals. Two participants were able to raise or establish their credit scores by an average of 4% and five participants established or increased their savings by an average of \$3,680.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- Continued to provide all Financial Coaching virtually in order to safely meet the needs of our community
- In April, Foundation Communities welcomed two new staff members to the Prosper Centers whose focus it has been to meet with renters and help them complete both Foundation Community's internal rent and utility assistance applications, and the City of Austin's RENT program application
- In May, Foundation Communities opened virtual training for new Financial Coaches to increase the capacity of our program.

Major Achievements

- Assisting 275 Foundation Communities (FC) residents access rent assistance from FC, as well as 302 community members (some FC residents, some not) access rent and utility assistance through the City of Austin
- Increasing the capacity of the Financial Coaching program by recruiting and training a new cohort of Financial Coach volunteers
 - As of July, 2021, 12 volunteers have completed training, and 7 are in the process of completing training.

Biggest Challenges

- One of Foundation Community's biggest challenges was being able to continue to serve a higher number of people who need emergency assistance while at the same time training and onboarding new volunteers and new staff

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.

The organization's 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 (2-3); 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: \$15,454.11 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$20,112.00

Program Status to Date:

During the third reporting period, the program has currently exceeded the planned number of girls to be served.

For this reporting period, 1,129 girls in grades K-8 registered for the financial literacy sessions. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas is delivering the programs in collaboration with 19 program partners that include 16 schools and 3 nonprofit organizations.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- 12 program facilitators were trained to deliver the programming, which included AmeriCorps members who serve in GSNETX Community Programs

Major Achievements

- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas exceeded the number of girls estimated to be served through the expansion to the East Texas partners in Tyler and Longview.
- An increase in direct contact hours from 30 to 60 this reporting period

Biggest Challenges

- Adjusting the program to meet COVID-19 protocols and shifting, in some cases, to virtual programming in 2020-2021

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: \$12,000.00

Program Status to Date:

Due to ongoing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization made the decision to postpone returning to in-person training.

The 2021 Housing Connection training workshop is taking place virtually. While transitioning the program to a virtual format presented some logistical challenges, the cost savings associated with offering the courses virtually also presented new opportunities to expand course offerings.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- The organization has partnered with Habitat for Humanity Texas to offer education codes for their Lone Star Academy to its nonprofit network
 - A total of 64 nonprofit staff benefitted the additional training opportunities

Major Achievements

- The ability to offer more online training opportunities helped the organization adjust its Housing Connection training program to the restrictions created by COVID-19 and allowed it to continue serving and supporting Texas housing nonprofits and housing counselors through this crisis when their services are so greatly needed

Biggest Challenges

- COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the time line of the program
 - The 2021 Housing Connection training will take place virtually in July 2021 and two instructor-led courses will be offered

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, 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.

PROGRAM TYPE: ADULT FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAPABILITY

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

FUNDS REQUESTED THIS PERIOD: \$11,616.94 | TOTAL REIMBURSED YTD: \$24,468.74

Program Status to Date

This grant has allowed the organization to increase its presence and quality on social media and with online marketing. This allowed the organization to reach new populations within the greater Houston Area and advertise services effectively to women who otherwise may not have known about the Women's Resource of Greater Houston.

The organization's long-term plan before the pandemic involved offering public classes outside of its partner model. Now it has had to evaluate potential for serving women independent of its partnerships, and have found the ability to operate in this manner. Women's Resource of Greater Houston anticipates being able to serve even more women outside of the financial mainstream for year to come.

Reporting Period Update (January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021)

Program Activities

- 1,100 of individuals directly served through 147 courses
- Facilitated eight Possibility Groups and enrolled 120 women in the program
 - Hosted two groups with 18 total women enrolled

Major Achievements

- Roll out of the organization's On-Demand YourLife Finance Classes
- Women's Resource of Greater Houston has been selected by the United Way of Greater Houston to serve as the lead facilitator for the Financial Coaching certification program
- One of the organization's greatest achievements during this reporting period is its ability to reach participants outside of its partner agencies and capability to provide public classes virtually

Biggest Challenges

- Technology divide continues to play a role in the decrease in regular participation rates