



DPC Issue Brief

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for Texans with disabilities.

Title: Support a legislative solution for support from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for programs to address the housing needs of people with disabilities.

Background: During 2003-2005 TDHCA responded to the needs of people with disabilities by supporting these two programs to directly address the needs of people with disabilities:

- The Department's Olmstead set aside (**\$2 million annually**) addresses the housing needs of persons with disabilities residing in nursing homes or other institutional settings but who desire to transition back into the community. The funds are used to help eligible tenants pay rent, including security and utility deposits, as well as utility allowances for the rental of dwelling units. The HOME Program's Olmstead set aside was created in response to the Supreme Court's Olmstead v. L.C. decision and is part of TDHCA's larger effort to assist persons with disabilities access decent, affordable housing outside an institutional environment. Governor Rick Perry released an Executive Order on Community Based Alternatives for People with Disabilities, required TDHCA to work with Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to assure accessible, affordable, and integrated housing for people with disabilities.
- TDHCA will allocate **\$500,000** to the Home of Your Own (HOYO) Coalition for homeownership activities for persons with disabilities. The HOYO Program coordinates existing homeownership services, which streamlines the process homebuyers must follow, including homebuyer counseling, down payment assistance, and architectural barrier removal. These funds may be used statewide, including in participating jurisdictions.

For FY 2007, the department's commitment to serve people with disabilities has been **reduced** from approximately \$2.5 million annually (out of a \$40 million HOME award) to \$750,000 and **eliminate the Olmstead and HOYO programs set-aside**. The administrative funds for the activities will be reduced from **6% to 4%** and will require organizations to compete for funds under a regional allocation - \$750,000 divided by 13 regions for three different activities. This action will destroy the ten year HOYO partnership and eliminate the availability of downpayment and barrier removal funds through the six local HOYO projects coordinated through the HOYO set aside. It will also eliminate the opportunity for the current Olmstead TBRA projects to continue there projects at the level currently being provided thus potentially requiring individuals who were unable to secure other housing to return to the nursing home.

Recommendation: The Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) recommends that the Texas Legislature directs the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to establish set-aside funding for Olmstead Tenant Based Rental Assistance and the Texas Home of Your Own Program programs. The DPC further recommends that the Texas Legislature directs TDHCA to maintain a \$2.5 million per year funding level for these programs to serve people with disabilities.

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Statewide Members: Advocacy, Incorporated, Brain Injury Association of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Epilepsy Coalition of Texas, The Institute for Disability Access/ADAPT, Lone Star Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Mental Health Association in Texas, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Texas, National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Texas, Texas Advocates, Texas AIDS Network, Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living, Texas Association of the Deaf, Texas Center for Disability Studies/ Texas Technology Access Project, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Texas Legal Services Center, Texas Mental Health Consumers, Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas State Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, The Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, Council for Families for Children, United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, The Spina Bifida Association of Texas, Inc., and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas. Local Members: Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas. REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living – Dallas, Fort Worth and Denton, Corpus Christi Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Goodwill of Central Texas and Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living