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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$1.4 Million Awarded to Train Mental Health Policy Fellows in Texas

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health is excited to announce that ten nonprofit advocacy groups received a total of \$1.4 million in grants over two years to hire in-house policy fellows. The fellows will receive intensive training, education, and experience in mental health advocacy and policy work.

The foundation first launched the [Mental Health Policy Academy and Fellows](#) initiative in 2010. The grant program builds both individual and organizational capacity for effective mental health policy and advocacy work.

In 2016, the initiative was expanded with the launch of the Peer Policy Fellows program. This program built on our existing fellows program by creating a track for peer policy fellows, increasing the role and voice of consumers in mental health policy development and implementation.

Each fellow is provided with an experienced mentor. Both fellows and mentors attend the Hogg Mental Health Policy Academy. The academy provides training and support for the fellows, their mentors and others involved in advocacy work in Texas.

“We’re looking forward to working with these amazing organizations to increase their capacity to impact mental health policy and support the well-being of all Texans,” said Alison Mohr Boleware, director of policy at the Hogg Foundation.

Recipients of the Peer Policy Fellow grants are:

- Emergence Health Network, El Paso (\$126,000)
- Penitent’s Grace, Inc., Houston (\$127,000)
- RecoveryPeople, Elgin (\$126,000)
- Texas Harm Reduction Alliance, Austin (\$149,000)

- Young Invincibles, Austin (\$128,000)

Recipients of the Policy Fellow grants are:

- Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Austin (\$141,000)
- Girls Empowerment Network, Austin (\$139,000)
- Prosper Waco, Waco (\$140,000)
- Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative, Austin (\$153,000)
- TexProtects, Dallas (\$141,000)

“Our communities continue to face challenges related to the pandemic and the health care inequities it exposed,” said Dr. Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., executive director of the Hogg Foundation and senior associate vice president for diversity and community engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. “We all stand to benefit from the difficult and important work that these policy fellows will be doing.”

ABOUT HOGG FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Established in 1940, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health envisions a future in which the people of Texas thrive in communities that support mental health and well-being. Using a variety of approaches, including grantmaking, convening, research and public policy, the foundation works collaboratively to transform how communities promote mental health in everyday life.

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