

## About The Harris Center

The Harris Center is the largest mental health and developmental disability care center in Texas. We have an inherent passion for helping those with mental illness and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities live to their fullest potential. We never lose sight of the vast importance of a person's self-worth. As advocates of respect and acceptance for all, we remain committed to making individuals the central focus of our work.

We partner with hundreds of community advocacy organizations, hospitals, foundations, governmental entities, non-profit groups, and others to connect consumers with the best available care. We are working hard to reduce the stigmas that surround mental illness and intellectual & developmental disabilities through the provision of high-quality services that include community outreach and education.

Harris County's population of more than four million is represented by at least 90 different languages and cultures. Our team is comprised of skilled physicians, clinicians and support staff fluent in several languages to meet the needs of Harris County residents.

As the state-designated Local Mental Health Authority and Local Intellectual and Developmental Authority for Harris County, The Harris Center provides services and supports that are as high quality, efficient, and cost effective as possible such that persons with mental disabilities may live with dignity as fully functioning, participating and contributing members of our community, regardless of their ability to pay.



Revision 1.4.19

### Rights Protection Offices

If you feel you have been unfairly treated, have been denied needed services or accommodation by The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD (The Harris Center), or if you are unable to resolve a complaint regarding services with an employee of The Harris Center or their supervisor, you may contact the following Rights Protection Offices:

#### The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

Rights Protection Officer  
9401 Southwest Freeway  
Houston, Texas 77074  
713-970-7742  
Accessible 24/7

#### Texas Health and Human Services

Civil Rights Office  
701 W. 51st Street  
Mail Code W206  
Austin, Texas 78751  
1-888-388-6332  
HHSCivilRightsOffice@hhsc.state.tx.us

#### Disability Rights Texas

1500 McGowen St.  
Houston, Texas 77004  
713-974-7691  
1-800-252-9108

Individuals with hearing impairment or loss may call any of the offices above using the free service of Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989.

All complaints are handled confidentially.

 **The HARRIS CENTER** for  
Mental Health and IDD

*Transforming Lives*

**YES Waiver Inquiry Line: 713-970-7212**

Appointments are scheduled Monday through Friday

If you are experiencing a psychiatric crisis, or if you have an after-hours medication concern, please call The Harris Center 24/7 Crisis Line at 713-970-7000, option 1.

[www.TheHarrisCenter.org](http://www.TheHarrisCenter.org)

 **The HARRIS CENTER** for  
Mental Health and IDD

## Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver



Youth and Family Information

## What is the YES Waiver?

The YES (Youth Empowerment Services) Waiver is a 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver that allows for more flexibility in the funding of intensive community-based services to assist children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances to live in the community with their families.

Waiver services are provided in combination with services available through the Medicaid State Plan, other federal, state, and local programs the individual may qualify for, and the natural supports that families and communities provide.

### Goals

1. Reducing out-of-home placements (JJ,CPS) and inpatient psychiatric treatment by all child-serving agencies;
2. Providing a more complete continuum of community-based services and supports;
3. Ensuring families have access to parent partners and other flexible non-traditional support services as identified in a family-centered planning process;
4. Preventing entry into the foster care system and relinquishment of parental custody; and
5. Improving the clinical and functional outcomes of children and adolescents.

### Services

- Adaptive Aids & Supports
- Community Living Supports
- Family Supports
- Minor Home Modifications
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Paraprofessional Services
- Therapy
- Respite
- Supportive Family Based Alternatives
- Transitional Services



## Who is eligible for YES Waiver services?

To participate in the YES Waiver, the child or adolescent must meet the following criteria.

### Demographic Criteria

- Be between 3-18 years of age;
- Reside in Harris County; and
- Reside in a non-institutional setting with the child's or adolescent's Legally Authorized Representative; or in the child's or adolescent's own home or apartment, if legally emancipated.

### Clinical Criteria

- Serious functional impairment or acute severe psychiatric symptoms as indicated by:
  - Risk of Self-Harm
  - Disruptive or Aggressive Behavior
  - Family Resources
  - School Behavior
  - Current Diagnosis
- There is a reasonable expectation that without YES Waiver services, the child or adolescent would qualify for inpatient care.

### Financial Criteria

- A child or adolescent must be eligible for Medicaid.
  - If you are a current Medicaid recipient, you may already meet financial requirements for the YES Waiver or additional information may be required.
  - If you are not a current Medicaid recipient, you may qualify to receive Medicaid through the YES Waiver (Special Waiver Income Group).

Financial eligibility is based on standards to determine eligibility for Medicaid in institutions and parental income is not counted.

All YES Waiver participants will also receive benefits to access all Medicaid State Plan Services that are medically necessary.

## Who do I contact about receiving services?

Services are accessed through the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) in Harris County. The LMHA in Harris County is The Harris Center.

To obtain more information or to register on the Inquiry List, please call (713) 970-7212.

## How long will I have to wait to see if I am eligible? Will there be a wait list?

The amount of time you may have to wait to see if you are eligible will depend on whether there is a YES Waiver spot currently available and the date you were registered on the Interest List.

When a spot is available, the Local Mental Health Authority will contact you by phone and in writing notifying you of an available spot and to schedule an appointment to begin the eligibility determination process.

You may continue to receive other services that you qualify for while on the YES Waiver Inquiry List.

## What if I have more questions?

- You may call The Harris Center's **Patient Assistance Line** at 713-970-7000, **option 2**
- Visit the YES Waiver webpage on the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) website: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/childrens-mental-health/yes-waiver> for updated information about the YES Waiver