



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*For more information contact:*

Maria Rios, Director of Communication

[mrrios@txcouncil.com](mailto:mrrios@txcouncil.com)

(512) 789-9819

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Texas Council of Community Centers Expresses Deep Concerns About Impact of Federal Government's Reversal of the 10-Year 1115 Waiver Extension**

(AUSTIN, Texas – April 19, 2021) – The following is a statement from Danette Castle, CEO of the Texas Council of Community Centers regarding the impact of the federal government's action to rescind the 10-year Medicaid 1115 waiver extension, agreed upon after months of negotiation between the State of Texas and the federal government.

"The Texas Council of Community Centers expresses deep concerns about the federal government's abrupt termination of the 10-year 1115 Medicaid Waiver Extension. Because of this action, the public mental health system will lose more than \$300 million a year in federal funding with disastrous consequences for more than 250,000 people with serious mental illness and substance addictions who currently rely on services funded by this program. Now slated to end on September 30, 2021, and with no replacement strategy in place, the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, which funds these life-saving services, has enabled the public mental health system to virtually eliminate waiting lists for mental health treatment and take important steps to improve care by advancing statewide implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, a service delivery model promoted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as an innovative treatment model. The Texas Council of Community Centers urges the federal government to take necessary and immediate steps to sustain critical healthcare funding for public safety net providers in Texas by approving the State's previously submitted request to continue the DSRIP program at current funding level or authorizing an alternate financing strategy until a longer-term solution can be approved and implemented."

About the Texas Council:

As an association, the Texas Council of Community Centers represents the statutorily authorized Community Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Centers of Texas that manage, develop and provide community based services to Texans with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and substance addictions across all 254 counties of Texas.

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**Texas Council of Community Centers, Westpark Building 3, Suite 240  
8140 N. Mopac Expressway Austin, Texas 78759  
[www.txcouncil.com](http://www.txcouncil.com)**