



TCOG Wins Emergency Respite Assistance Mini-Grant

SHERMAN, JUNE 15, 2015 – Dr. Susan Thomas, Executive Director of Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG), announced today that TCOG's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is one of three ADRCs in the State to receive a mini-grant from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) for the provision of emergency respite services.

Beginning June 2015, TCOG will address the need for emergency respite services among caregivers who experience a health crisis, accident, extreme exhaustion or even death, wherein care recipients' quality of life might otherwise be significantly compromised.

Today, Dr. Thomas stated, "TCOG now has the opportunity to address this critical gap by matching caregivers in crisis with respite services that will ensure a continuum of care for vulnerable care recipients." Care recipients must be under the age of 60 and ineligible for respite through other programs in order to be eligible. TCOG Area Agency on Aging serves individuals 60 and over through the Caregivers Respite Assistance Program.

TCOG aims to increase access to long-term care resources through strong collaboration between the ADRC and community partners; and through the provision of accurate information, assistance and referral services via the ADRC's statewide toll-free line (1-855-YES-ADRC).

ADRC consumers are often frail, have low income, are in great social need, and face the greatest risk for more costly institutional care or long-term community based services and supports. TCOG's ADRC serves Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Delta, Hopkins, Red River, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Bowie and Cass counties.

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities. Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region and assists the elderly through a variety of Area Agency on Aging programs. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security and criminal justice.

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