The Bridge Over Troubled Waters Faces $600,000 Funding Crisis Effective October 1

Funding loss threatens critical survivor services amid significant statewide demand for domestic violence services.



The Bridge for Kids Art Show in honor of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- The Bridge Over Troubled Waters received notice last week that $600,000 in funding will be discontinued effective October 1, creating a significant financial gap that could affect the organization's ability to provide critical services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families.

The unexpected loss comes as the need for safe shelter, crisis intervention, advocacy, and supportive services remains high throughout the Southeast Texas region.

> Harris County families face increasing affordability pressures and growing barriers to safety and stability."
>
> *The Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

"This funding supports services for individuals and families during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives," said Olivia Rivers, CEO. "We are committed to continuing this work, but replacing $600,000 on such short notice will require an urgent and substantial response from our community, philanthropic partners, and public leaders."

Changes in federal eligibility, including the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program, bring new compliance and funding challenges for safety-net organizations such as The Bridge. These changes come as Harris County families face increasing affordability pressures and growing barriers to safety and stability.

The funding loss also comes amid significant statewide need. According to the Texas Council on

Family Violence 2025 Needs Assessment, approximately 65,000 Texans sought services from domestic violence programs statewide. From January through December 2025, The Bridge provided emergency shelter to 15,141 individuals. In total, The Bridge serves approximately 25,000 individuals annually through its continuum of services, including emergency shelter, therapy, youth and childcare services, and direct advocacy.



A two-story house in Pasadena was the first safe space for women reentering post incarceration.

Leadership at The Bridge is evaluating the operational impact and identifying immediate funding opportunities to preserve essential services and minimize disruption for those who depend upon the organization. The funding shortfall directly threatens the safety and stability of more than 300 individuals currently in housing.

The consequences of inadequate shelter capacity can be severe. According to the Texas Council on Family Violence, 2024 data show that 50% of survivors seeking shelter who could not be accommodated were turned away because of a lack of space. Of those, 35.6% returned to abusive partners and 23.7% went to unsafe environments, including vehicles or outdoor locations.

Speaking specifically about The Bridge and the funding issue on Sunday, August 30, Commissioner Adrian Garcia highlighted the urgency: “Families and children should never be political pawns.”

The Bridge is calling upon foundations, corporations, government partners, and individual donors to help close the $600,000 funding gap before October 31. Corporate partners can support through sponsorships, in-kind giving, and employee engagement programs to help protect access to critical services while long-term funding solutions are secured.

For information about supporting The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, please visit www.tbotw.org or contact Tiye McKethen, Director of Advancement and Engagement, at tmckethen@tbotw.org.

About The Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Founded in 1978 as a halfway house for women exiting incarceration, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters has expanded over nearly five decades into a comprehensive support system across Southeast Texas. Operating facilities such as The Bridge for Kids, as well as over 100 transitional

and permanent housing units, the agency provides safety, crisis intervention, advocacy, therapy, youth and childcare services, housing, and direct support to help approximately 25,000 individuals each year move toward safety, stability, and independence.

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