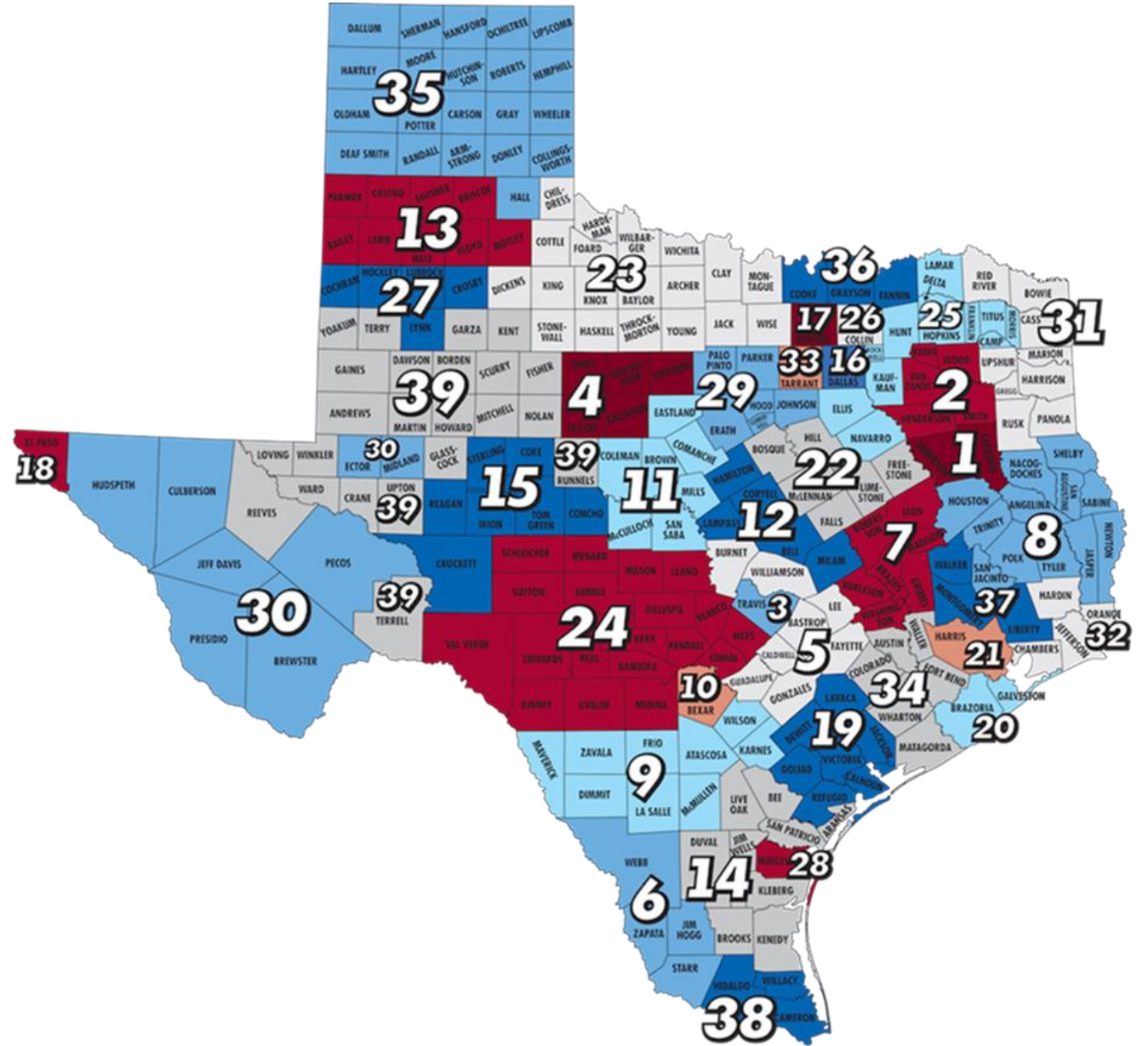


Legislative Update

Kelsey Bernstein, Chief of Government Relations,
Texas Council of Community Centers

Local Authority System Snapshot

- 39 statutorily authorized Community Mental Health (CMHCs) and IDD Centers cover all 254 counties
- Most CMHCs and IDD Centers also serve as the Local MH/BH Authority (LMHA/LBHA) and Local IDD Authority (LIDDA) for the local service area



State Leadership “The Big Three”



Governor Greg Abbott



Lieutenant Governor
Dan Patrick



House Speaker
Dustin Burrow

Texas Senate

- 31 Members
- 19 Republicans/ 12 Democrats
- Lt. Gov is a statewide elected
- 14 Standing Committees
 - 7 Select Committees



Texas House

- 150 Members
- 88 Republicans/ 62 Democrats
- 2-year term
- Speaker elected amongst the membership
- 31 Standing Committees
 - 16 Sub-committees
 - 6 Select Committees



A magnifying glass with a gold-colored frame and a dark wooden handle is positioned over a newspaper page. The lens is centered on the title 'Midterm Elections', which is printed in a large, bold, blue serif font. The handle of the magnifying glass extends to the left. The background shows other parts of the newspaper page, including a stylized American flag with wavy red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. Below the flag, there is a paragraph of text in a smaller, black serif font. The overall scene is brightly lit, with some shadows visible on the paper.

Midterm Elections

So, where do we go from here? The answer is not simple. Some say things will get worse. Others are more optimistic and say we are on the right path. It is hard to know.

There are ways for the Republicans and Democrats to effectively work together to find solutions to problems with the current administration. This is highly unlikely as it rarely happens. The main problem -- bodies of government -- do not work together. Bipartisan battles continue to tear the country apart even when there are devastating problems that need urgent remedies. And only with more cooperation in government will we find answers.

Finding solutions is critical. Without effective leadership by all involved, we stand the chance of chaos or much worse.

It will not be easy to fix this current

Primary Election Recap

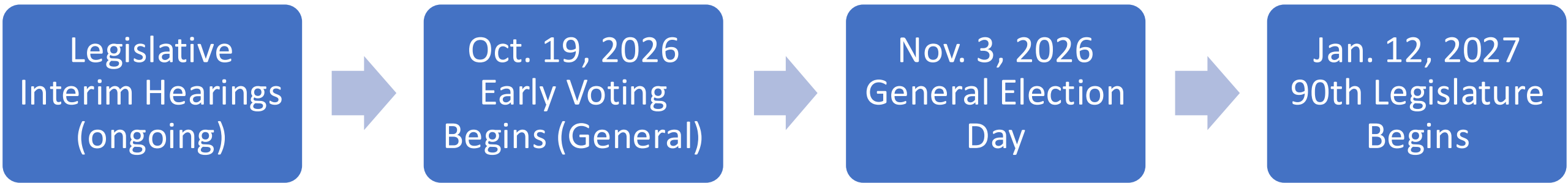
- Republican U.S. Senate primary is the most expensive in U.S. history, nearly \$130M in ads alone.
- Voter Turnout:
 - Primary: Over 2.59 million Texans voted before Primary Election Day
 - Runoff: 1.9 million Texans voted with the driver being the Republican U.S. Senate race.
- Current Fundraising Totals
 - Talarico= \$72M
 - Paxton= \$16.8M
 - Gov. Abbott= \$106M Cash on Hand



Legislative Landscape 90th Legislature

- 5 (minimum) New Senators
 - 2 New Senators won special elections and will face the same opponents in November
 - New chairs have already been announced.
- 25 (minimum) New Representatives
 - 6 (minimum) new committee chairs





Interim Charges and Hearings

- Monitoring numerous interim charges and hearings.
- Testifying in hearings on relevant interim charges.
- Engaging with Committees and Legislators as they draft interim reports.



Sunset Advisory Commission

- Sunset is the regular assessment of the continuing need for a state agency or program to exist.
- The Sunset process works by setting an automatic termination (Sunset) date in state law on which an agency will be abolished unless the Legislature passes a bill to continue it, typically for another 12 years.
- Public Hearing Scheduled for **November 18, 2026.**

Senate Members



Sen. Lois Kolkhorst
Chair

2025 - 2029
Brenham



Sen. César Blanco

2023 - 2027
El Paso



Sen. Donna Campbell, M.D.

2025 - 2029
New Braunfels



Sen. Bryan Hughes

2025 - 2029
Tyler



Sen. Kevin Sparks

2023 - 2027
Midland



Stacey Combest
Public Member

2025 - 2027
Huntsville

House Members



Rep. Lacey Hull
Vice Chair

2025 - 2029
Houston



Rep. Charles Cunningham

2025 - 2027
Humble



Rep. Donna Howard

2025 - 2029
Austin



Rep. Angelia Orr

2025 - 2029
Hillsboro



Rep. Matt Shaheen

2023 - 2027
Plano



Mont McClendon
Public Member

2025 - 2027
Lubbock



A collage of various US dollar bills, including \$100 and \$20 bills, is shown. The bills are overlapping and slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text "State Budget" in a bold, black, serif font.

State Budget

State Budget Outlook: SNAP Payment Accuracy

- Beginning FY 2028, state snap benefit costs are based on the payment error rate (PER).
- Currently, SNAP benefit costs are 100% federally funded. States will be required to pay a percentage of SNAP benefit costs if the state SNAP PER exceeds federal standards.

**FY 2024 SNAP benefit costs:
\$7,088,149,806**

**HHSC FY 2025 SNAP PER*:
8.96%**

**State cost share (FY 2028):
10%**

**Potential additional GR need
based on FY 2024:
\$708,814,980 (annually)**

*FY 2025 data is a state estimate.



System Overview

State Hospitals & SB 30 Projects

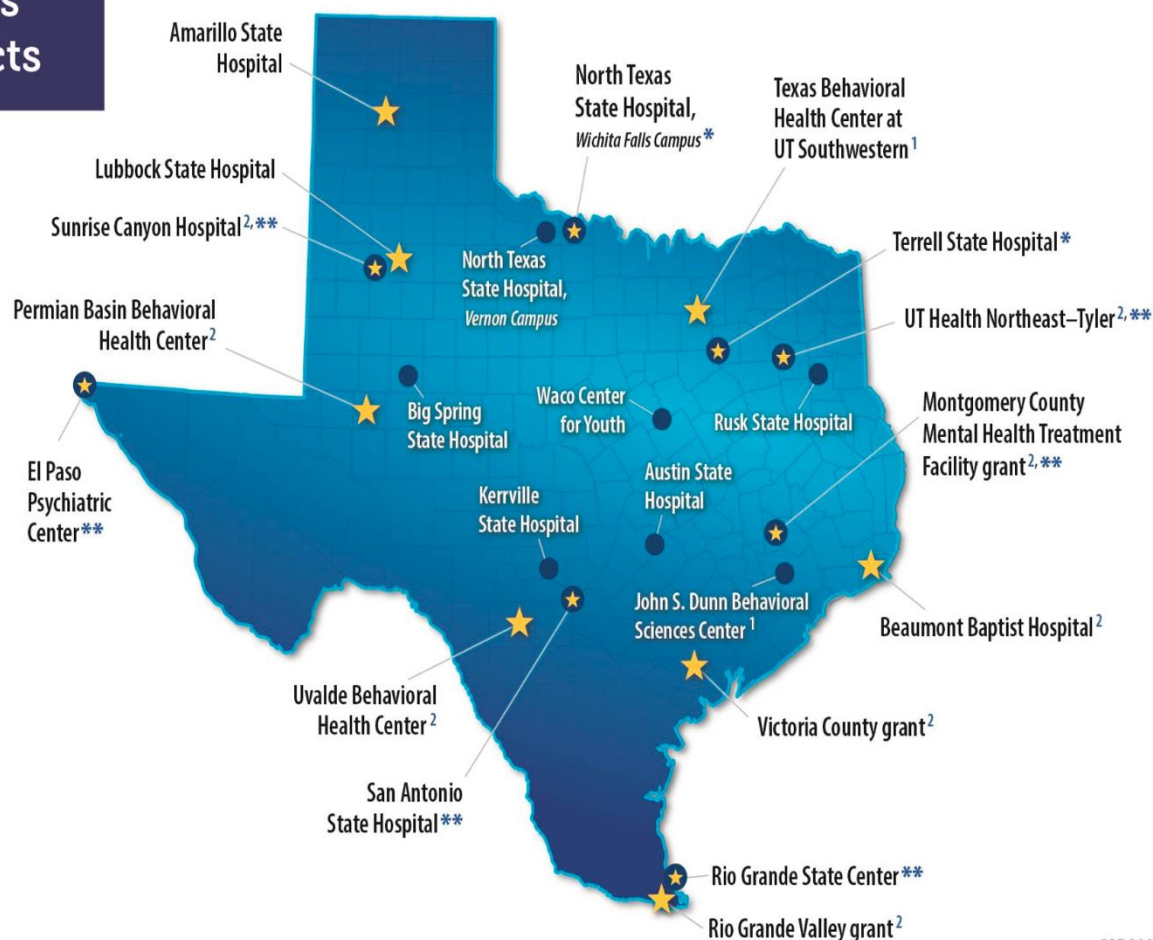
- Current state hospitals
- ★ SB 30 new facility projects
- ★ SB 30 expansion and renovation projects

* Rebuilding existing hospital

** Expanding capacity

¹ Owned by HHSC and operated by an academic partner

² Community mental health hospital



- Eleven **psychiatric hospitals**, including one psychiatric hospital owned by HHSC and operated by UT Health-Houston (Dunn Center),
- One youth **residential treatment center** (RTC),
- One primary care **outpatient clinic** and pharmacy,
- Over 300 **contract beds** at partner-operated hospitals,
- And several upcoming facilities.

HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request

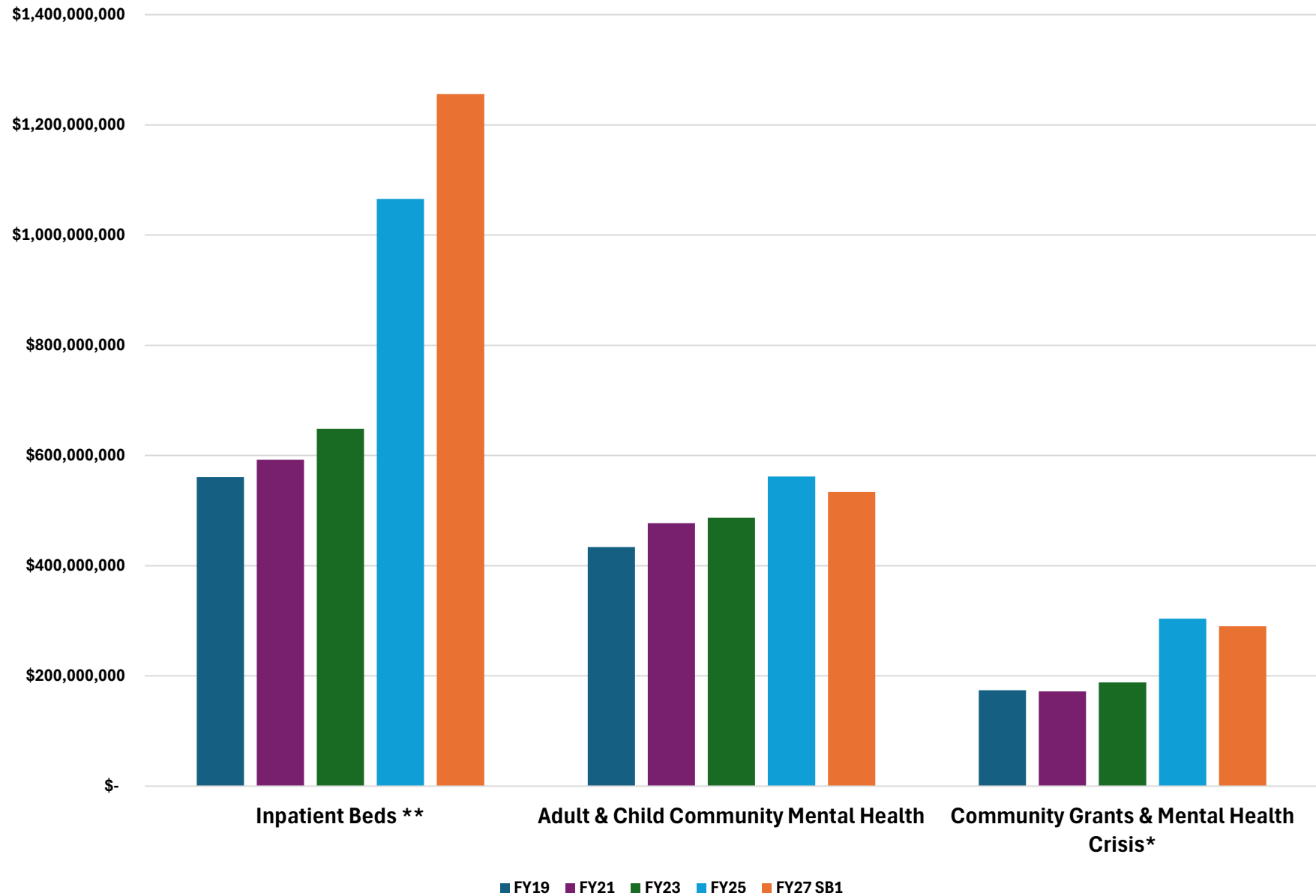
- In July 2026, the Big 3 instructed state agencies, appellate courts and universities to cut spending by 3% in their budget requests for the next two years “as a starting point for budget deliberations.”
- HHSC included a 3% budget reduction summary that specifies targeted and proposed reductions over the biennium to Mental Health First Aid (\$4.9M), Healthy Community Collaboratives (\$4.9M), and Community Mental Health Grants (\$4,946,676)



Preliminary Legislative Priorities

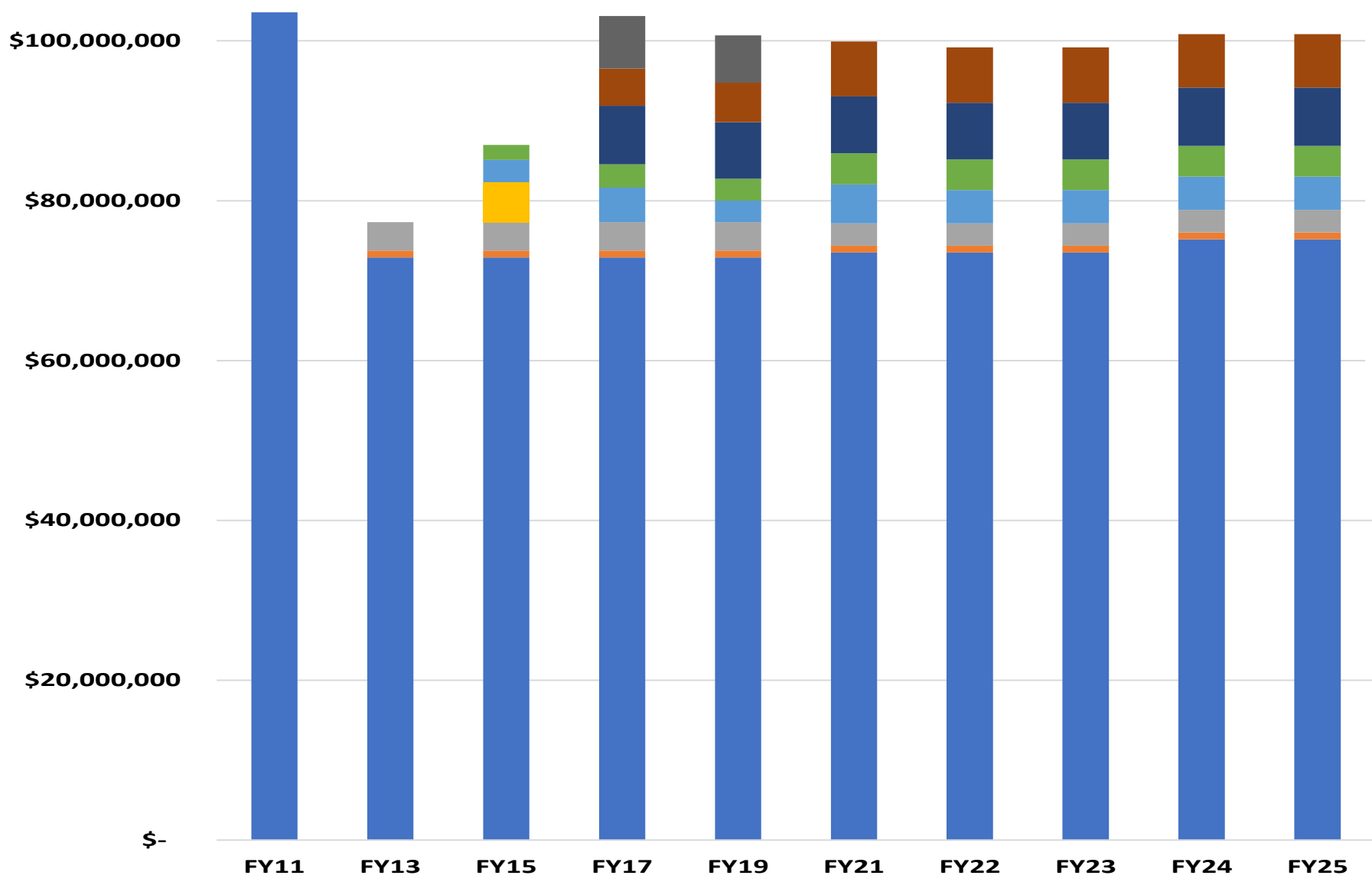
- Increase funding for:
 - Outpatient mental health treatment for adults and children
 - Crisis Mental Health Services
 - Expand MCOT and YCOT; Provide mobile mental health crisis response vehicles; Strengthen crisis center operational capacity
 - Peer Support Services
 - Community-based IDD safety net services
 - Local IDD Authority Targeted Case Management
- HHSC Sunset
- HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request

Mental Health Funding Distribution



Local IDD Authority Funding

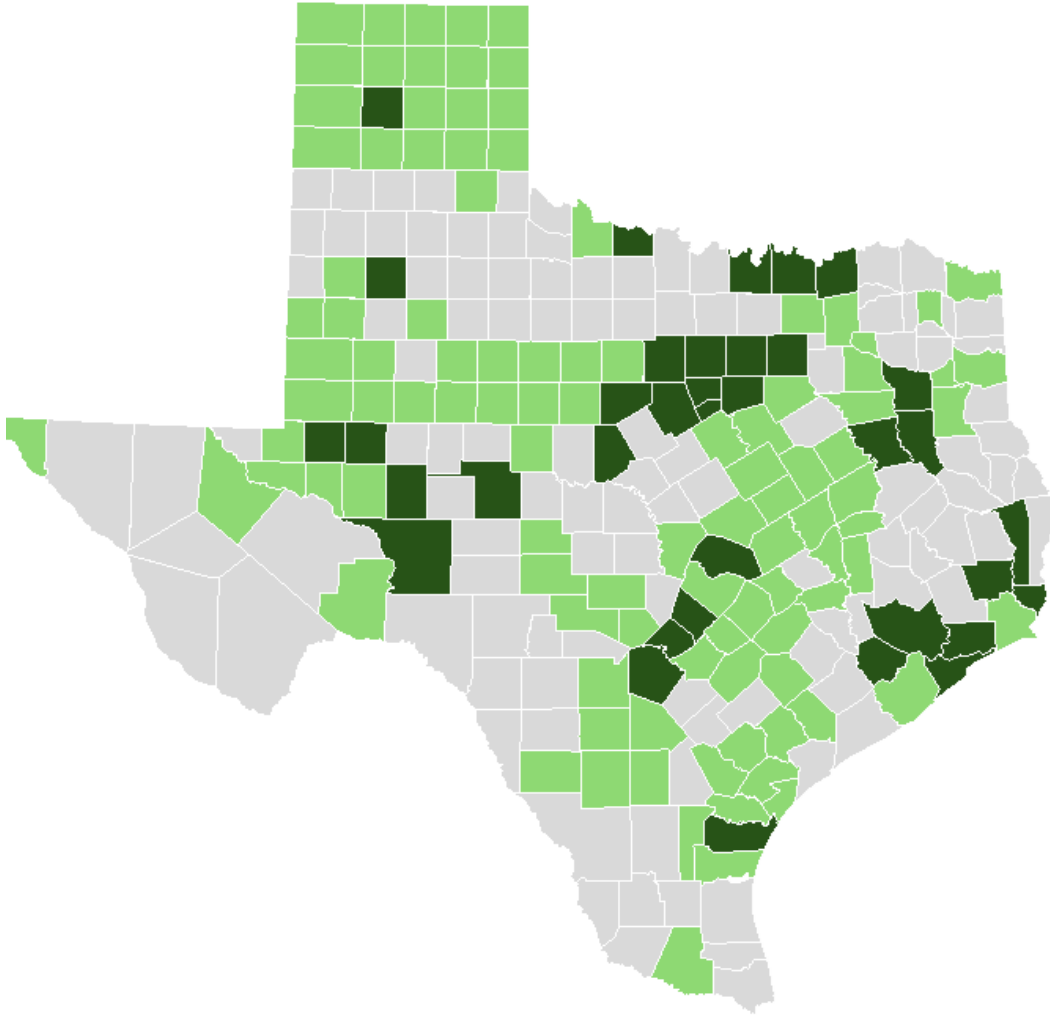
- Nursing Facility PASRR Service Coordination
- Crisis Respite
- Crisis Intervention
- Enhanced Community Coordination
- Transition Support Teams
- One-Time Community First Choice Implementation Funding
- Community Living Options Information Process
- Permanency Planning
- Safety Net Community Services



From FY11 to FY25,
Texas' population
grew by
23%
while
Local IDD
Authority Funding
decreased by **2.6%**

Jail-Based Services by LMHA/LBHA

Beyond Required Crisis Screening and Assessments



- LMHAs/LBHAs have agreements with **140 counties** (shown in green & dark green) to provide in-jail mental health services funded by the county and/or through grants such as Jail-Based Competency Restoration, Mental Health Grants for Justice Involved Individuals, and Community Mental Health Grants.
- LMHAs/LBHAs have agreements for Jail-Based Competency Restoration in **36 counties** (shown in dark green)

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GMG



Texas Council of Community Centers

www.txcouncil.com