NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Managers

FROM: Jonny Hipp

DATE: November 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Texas Health and Human Services Commission — Community Partner Program

I. PURPOSE

This memorandum examines the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Community Partner Program (CPP) principally as a potential network of additional community access venues through which indigent Nueces County residents could learn about, be referred to, and receive assistance enrolling in the Hospital District's Nueces Aid Indigent Healthcare Program. The District's interest is not primarily to administer HHSC benefits; it is to explore whether organizations already assisting applicants for SNAP, Medicaid, CHIP, and other benefits can also identify residents who may need Nueces Aid and facilitate an appropriate, voluntary referral or application pathway.

II. BACKGROUND

The CPP is a statewide initiative through which HHSC collaborates with community organizations to help Texas residents apply for, renew, and manage public benefits using the Your Texas Benefits system. It addresses barriers such as limited internet access, unfamiliarity with online applications, language difficulties, and challenges with eligibility documentation and renewals.

Programs supported include Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and certain other HHSC-administered benefits, as applicable. Community Partners assist applicants; they do not determine eligibility or administer benefits independently.

III. COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Level 1 — Self-Service Access

Organizations provide computers and internet connectivity for individuals to use Your Texas Benefits independently.

Level 2 — Application Assistance

Trained personnel assist with accounts, applications, documentation, changes, and renewals.

Level 3 — Enhanced Assistance

Organizations may receive additional authorized case-information and account-support capabilities, subject to consent and confidentiality controls.

Level 4 — Contracted Services

Separate contractual arrangements may involve requirements and financial terms distinct from ordinary community partnerships.

The District's preferred approach may be to collaborate with existing CPP sites rather than itself become a CPP merely to advertise Nueces Aid. HHSC must confirm whether its CPP agreements, site workflows, and branding rules permit independent Nueces Aid outreach, referral materials, or application assistance at participating sites. CPP status alone does not authorize a partner to enroll applicants in Nueces Aid or exchange HHSC applicant information with the District.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Enrollment generally involves an agreement with HHSC, commonly a nonfinancial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ordinary Community Partners. Such participation ordinarily does not provide HHSC compensation for application assistance. HHSC should confirm the current agreement term and enrollment conditions.

- Signature authority: an official authorized to execute the agreement.
- Site manager: an individual responsible for coordinating activities and supervising authorized personnel.
- Navigators: employees or volunteers who provide permitted application and renewal assistance.

Applicable training, certification, background screening, and operational requirements should be reviewed with HHSC before implementation.

V. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SECURITY

Benefits applications can contain sensitive household, financial, and health-related information. HHSC Form H0926, Sharing Facts About Me and My Case with a Community Partner, provides a mechanism for applicants and recipients to authorize specified disclosures and assistance. Access depends on consent and the partner's approved permissions.

District procedures would need to address confidentiality, access controls, training, secure handling and retention of records, and incident response. Existing technology and administrative safeguards should be evaluated against applicable HHSC requirements.

VI. NUECES AID ENROLLMENT ACCESS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Potentially overlapping applicant populations

Residents seeking Medicaid or CHIP assistance may include uninsured adults, families with limited incomes, and individuals whose eligibility differs by program or household member. A person who does not qualify for an HHSC health coverage program may still warrant screening under Nueces Aid's separate residency, income, resource, and other eligibility rules; conversely, receiving SNAP or Medicaid does not establish Nueces Aid eligibility.

SNAP and other benefit encounters as referral opportunities

SNAP applicants often disclose household size, income, and other circumstances relevant to identifying financial hardship. Food assistance encounters may therefore provide a practical occasion to offer

information about Nueces Aid and ask whether the person wants a referral. TANF encounters may reach families with limited resources; Medicaid/CHIP encounters may reach households with coverage gaps or mixed eligibility. These are plausible overlaps in populations and service needs—not evidence that a particular CPP client is eligible for Nueces Aid.

Community coordination

Identify CPP organizations, including food banks and community service providers, whose clients may include uninsured or underinsured Nueces County residents. Explore opt-in referral arrangements, staff orientation, printed or digital Nueces Aid information, and warm handoffs to District enrollment staff. Coordinate with existing District outreach agreements to avoid duplicate efforts.

Broader assistance

The District would use encounters involving SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, CHIP, and other HHSC services as potential outreach touchpoints, not as substitutes for District eligibility screening. Any application for Nueces Aid would remain governed by the District's own procedures and authorized staff or contractors.

These are proposed outreach and referral uses, not demonstrated local conversion rates. No verified evidence was located establishing how many Nueces County CPP visitors are uninsured, meet Nueces Aid criteria, or would enroll after referral. The District should collect baseline and pilot data before estimating enrollment effects.

Evidence and eligibility distinctions

HHSC describes the CPP as a network helping residents apply for and manage HHSC benefits. Its 2025 self-evaluation identifies food banks, faith-based groups, and nonprofits among SNAP outreach partners. This supports the feasibility of outreach through established community assistance venues; it does not quantify the overlap with Nueces Aid. Nueces Aid's published eligibility policy separately requires Nueces County residency and applicable household income and resource qualifications. A referral should trigger independent screening, not presumptive qualification.

Practical referral model

A feasible initial model would be: (1) provide participating CPP sites with District-approved Nueces Aid materials and screening contact information; (2) invite residents to request a referral voluntarily; (3) transmit only minimum necessary contact information with documented permission; (4) have District personnel conduct Nueces Aid screening and application processing; and (5) report aggregate referral and enrollment outcomes. No direct access to HHSC case records, automated matching, or transfer of benefits applications should be assumed.

VII. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

The principal proposed benefit is additional access points for Nueces Aid enrollment. Potential costs include partner training, outreach materials, referral protocols, District application support, accessible communications, secure intake and consent procedures, and monitoring. The District should compare a referral-only pilot at existing CPP sites with more resource-intensive co-located application assistance or District CPP enrollment. HHSC CPP participation ordinarily does not itself finance Nueces Aid outreach.

Measures should include partner sites engaged, Nueces Aid information contacts, voluntary referrals, completed applications, eligibility determinations, new enrollments, processing time, and cost per completed enrollment. SNAP participation or HHSC case status should not be used as an automatic eligibility proxy. Fiscal effects and incremental enrollment remain uncertain until tested.

VIII. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER HEALTH CARE FINANCING PROGRAMS

The CPP is distinct from Nueces Aid, Medicaid supplemental payment arrangements, and the District's Health Care Provider Participation Program. Your Texas Benefits is an HHSC benefits platform; it does not currently establish an approved Nueces Aid application channel. Any proposed integration, link, data exchange, or joint intake requires separate HHSC and District review and authorization. The Board has previously considered the potential use of YourTexasBenefits.com to facilitate Nueces Aid enrollment (August 17 and October 27, 2026 agendas).

IX. CONCLUSION

The District's central interest in the CPP is to expand the number and accessibility of places where indigent Nueces County residents encounter information and assistance concerning Nueces Aid. SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and CHIP service settings may reach people experiencing financial hardship or health coverage gaps, but benefit participation alone does not establish Nueces Aid eligibility. A voluntary, privacy-protective referral pathway through existing CPP organizations may be explored without assuming that CPP membership provides access to HHSC case data or authority to process Nueces Aid applications.

This matter is presented for the Board's information. Staff could identify existing CPP sites in Nueces County; consult HHSC about permissible referrals and site activities; review the District's authority and current enrollment procedures; and propose a limited, measurable referral pilot with participating organizations before requesting approval of any formal arrangement.