



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAMI Texas joins forces with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas to increase affiliate capacity and support

Austin, Texas, August 6th, 2019 – NAMI Texas Inc. announced today it was awarded a \$75,000 grant by [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas](#) (BCBSTX). The funding is part of the company's statewide effort to support community-based organizations addressing social factors that impact health.

The grant will fund a statewide initiative to offer more robust in-person support to local NAMI affiliates as well as offering an online support group to families and peers throughout the state of Texas who do not have access to NAMI services due to having physical disabilities or living in remote, rural areas.

“We are excited and appreciative of this opportunity to be of further assistance to our affiliates”, said Greg Hansch, Executive Director of NAMI Texas. “Moving forward we will be focusing a lot on our small, rural affiliates who need the extra support from us. We will be assisting them with recruiting members, providing support groups and classes to their communities and advocating for families whose adult children find themselves in the criminal justice system”.

NAMI Texas plans on hiring one or more affiliate outreach support liaisons throughout the state in order to provide one-on-one assistance with technical support, non-profit management as well as fundraising and education.

Investing in and partnering with like-minded organizations on community health initiatives builds on BCBSTX's long history of supporting local communities and helping families and individuals thrive. Through these efforts, BCBSTX aims to help improve the lives of people in the communities it serves by addressing social factors that affect health and well-being.

“As the largest health insurer in Texas with a presence in 254 counties, we have a unique and big-picture perspective about social influencers that are affecting not only our members but Texans in general,” said Dr. Dan McCoy, President of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. “We also have a responsibility to be actively involved with helping to change the trajectory for Texans when it comes to community health and those social and environmental conditions that prevent people from having healthy lives.

“Our aim in seeking collaborative partners to invest in is to not only improve the health of our members, but also the health of communities we serve,” McCoy continued, “That's why partnering with organizations that are on the ground connecting people to the services that they need – transportation, housing and behavioral health resources – is so vitally important.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines social determinants of health (SDOH) as conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.



We thank Dr. Dan McCoy and everyone at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas who believe in the mission of NAMI Texas and who support our efforts to make mental health care more accessible to Texans everywhere.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Texas (NAMI Texas) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded by volunteers in 1984. NAMI Texas is affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and has 27 local affiliates throughout Texas. NAMI Texas has nearly 2,000 members made up of individuals living with mental illness, family members, friends, and professionals. Its purpose is to help improve the lives of people affected by mental illness through education, support, and advocacy.