

COMMUNITY PLAN

Scurry County

FY2025-FY2028

Scurry County Community Plan for FY2025 – FY2028

Any local agency or entity planning to apply for funds through Texas' Criminal Justice Division (CJD) or Governor's Office are required to participate in the West Central Texas Council of Government's Community Plan process and attend the in-person meeting.

Attached is the Scurry Co. Community Plan for FY2025 – FY2028. The community plan strategic planning process for Scurry County, Texas begins with representatives from law enforcement, adult and juvenile probation, state mental health and substance abuse programs, department of family and protective services, victim service agencies, hospitals, school systems, and interested parties submitting current data from their prospective fields regarding problem areas, resources, gaps in services, and a plan of action to the committee chairperson. The chairperson or their representative will compile this data and email it to the representatives for review and/or corrections.

Next, an in-person meeting is set and the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) is notified at least 72 hours in advance. WCTCOG will send a representative to the meeting if scheduling allows. During the meeting, attendees will review the plan section by section for additions and/or corrections. This is a productive time to network, describe new issues, trends, services, programs, gaps in services and a plan of action. Following this meeting, the committee chairperson or their representative will edit the community plan. The final version will be sent to each representative and submitted to WCTCOG by their due date. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee of the WCTCOG will then use the data from this community plan in their prioritization process when reviewing annual CJD grant applications.

Scurry County's most critical needs in the issues identified in this plan are:

- Funding for criminal justice equipment, vehicles, technology, ongoing training, and personnel.
- Funding to sustain current local and state agencies/entities and existing programs, including the family violence shelter and sexual assault crisis center, children's advocacy center, MHMR, school resource officers, school violence prevention programs, etc.
- Manpower; finding, hiring, and retaining qualified personnel for law enforcement, probation, victim services, state mental health entities, and school resource officers.
- The changing nature and increase in crimes due to the Internet and technological advances.
- Lack of resources for victims of all type crimes in our rural area.

Scurry County Community Plan for FY2025 – FY2028
Problems/Resources/Deficiency Identification

JUVENILE CRIME

PROBLEMS:

1. Drug use and the drug related crimes, burglary, theft, assault, tobacco/vaping use, and truancy. There are also limited resources for treatment, both residential and non-residential.
2. Mental health/depression is increasing among youth and there are extremely limited resources to help combat depression in our area. (i.e. counselors, treatment centers) Limited appropriate residential mental health programs for qualified youth offenders. Very Limited mental health services from state agencies for adolescents by qualified personnel.
3. Premature sexual involvement, inappropriate involvement in sexting, etc. Bullying/Dating Violence - which includes: juveniles sexually assaulting other juveniles, bullying, dating violence, cyber bullying (social networking), sexting.
4. Limited and affordable secure placement for youth offenders (long-term detention). Lack of affordable residential services for sex offenders outside of Juvenile Justice commitment. Lack of adequate space to provide both long and short-term detention.
5. Limited community activities/resources for juvenile age children throughout the school year and lack of parental involvement. Large population of single parent households. Also limited juvenile job and vocational training programs.
6. Juvenile Probation Officer caseloads are too high.
7. No residential independent living programs for adolescents.

RESOURCES:

1. Community Resources Coordinating Group. (CRCG)
Meeting on a monthly basis to present difficult cases and develop the resources necessary to meet the identified needs of individual students and/or adults in need.
 - a. Psychological counseling activities:
 - i. Individual – Scurry County Juvenile Probation Dept. – limited resources.
 - ii. Churches – Ministerial Alliance. Limited unlicensed counseling is available.
 - iii. Cogdell Hospital counseling for their patients only
 - iv. Very limited resources from Texas Tech University through Snyder ISD.
 - b. Scurry County Juvenile Probation.
Counseling is provided to juvenile offenders and their families through purchase of service agreements with small number of area therapists.

- c. S.T.A.R.
A non-residential boot camp environment for youth, 6th grade to 17 years of age. Funded by city, county and school district. (younger grades accepted on a case by case basis)
- d. Gateway Family Services.
Provides advocacy, support, and referrals for juvenile victims of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, and human trafficking.
- e. West Texas Children’s Advocacy Center.
Provides service to victims of child abuse and their non-offending family members during and after an investigation and during prosecutorial procedures. Services are provided through a multi-disciplinary team by coordinating investigations and sharing information and resources to better serve the victims. Primary services include forensic interviews in a child friendly environment during an investigation of a child abuse report, crisis intervention, on-site Licensed Professional Counseling, case status updates from CPS and Law Enforcement, SANE accompaniment, court schooling and accompaniment, and 24 hour on call forensic interviewers.
- f. West Texas Council Mental Health/Mental Retardation.
- g. Department of Family and Protective Services.
- h. JETS Childcare, Early Head Start and Head Start.
- i. Rivercrest Hospital – San Angelo, Texas. Usually limited to three days services.
- j. Child Care Providing Organization (CCPO) – Abilene, Texas.
Services assisting with the cost of daycare so that a single parent or family can afford to work. Income guidelines apply and the parent must be working or attending school to qualify.
- k. Scurry County Health Unit.
- l. Health and Human Services.
- m. Snyder Resource center
- n. Snyder ISD Academy
- o. Pegasus Juvenile sex offender treatment (Lockhart, TX)
- p. ECI (Early Childhood Intervention Age 0-3)
- q. OCEANS- Abilene
- r. Abilene Behavioral Health

2. Residential Placement Options.

None in Scurry County. Listed below are the facilities closest to Scurry County.

Taylor County:

Hendrick Home for Children. Co-ed facility.
Abilene Behavioral Health
Juvenile Detention Center

Midland County:

Barbara Culver Youth Center.
A short-term, secure detention center for detention orders.

High Sky Children’s Ranch. Residential foster home residential ranch.
Lillie Smith Farmer Acute Care and Diagnostic Center. Short term, diagnostic and emergency care for both boys and girls.
Lacy Treatment Center.

Girls' treatment center.

Garza County:

Juvenile Detention Center.

Regional juvenile detention facility; long-term secure detention for boys 10-17 years of age. Level 1-4.

Cornerstone.

Floyd County:

Parent Adolescent Center.

Pre/post adjudication. Residential facility for males/females but not secure.

Misc. Other facilities:

Adam's House (Beaumont)

Reed Adolescent Center (Plainview)

Phoenix House (Dallas & Austin)

3. Education Services.

a. Western Texas College.

- Community service classes provide the community with non-credit leisure and recreation classes.
- Workforce education classes provide community, job-related instruction. Continuing Education Units may be available through these programs related to vocational conditions.

- TRiO:

- Talent Search and Upward Bound. These programs are pre-college opportunities that provide services to low income and/or first generation students in grades 6-12, They are federally funded through grant sources of the Department of Education.
- Student Support Services is an assistance program for students actively attending college designed to help them successfully complete post-secondary education. Pell grant money, along with supplemental Dept. of Ed. money combine to assist with any need the student has in order to achieve successful completion. Other services for students include; free tutoring, academic advising, transfer assistance and the completion of financial aid paperwork.

- GED/ESL classes for juveniles and adults

b. Snyder Independent School District.

- At-Risk Coordinator that monitors and assists all students who are identified as "at risk". At-Risk students are provided with individualized interventions and opportunities that will improve academics, attendance and other areas as needed.
- Child Development Clinics. A child find program initiated by the SISD Special Education Department. Pre-school aged children suspected of having

a disability may be referred for evaluation in the areas of speech and learning capabilities.

- Family Literacy.
 - ESL classes for parents Monday through Friday 8am-12pm
 - ACE Program. Focusing on family literacy, this enrichment program provides academic learning opportunities in math, reading and science, along with cultural enrichment in art, music and foreign language.
 - School Violence Program.
 - Prevention recognition and intervention for school staff.
 - ECH-ACE Family Literacy Program- Adults & children
 - Parent's Café- Provides information on topics of interest to parents on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.
 - Multiple bullying prevention, drug prevention, leadership and Character education programs on all campuses.
- c. Snyder Resource Center – ESL classes for parents.
An alternative school program.
 - d. Gateway Family Services: Dating Violence, Sexual Assault/ Harassment, Family Violence, and Human Trafficking Education.
Gateway Family Services provides age-appropriate, curriculum-based education programs for pre-kindergarten through college age persons within this five-county service area. Gateway Family Services also provides access to family violence and sexual assault video/literature resources for doctors, clergy, school counselors and teachers as requested. A 24-hour hotline staff answers crisis calls. NetSmartz internet safety presentations provide awareness and recognition of the dangers to children on the internet.
 - e. West Texas Children's Advocacy Center: Prevention Education.
Provides prevention education and personal safety education to children from pre-K to 5th grade. WTCAC also provides child abuse related training to professionals and organizations that work with children.
 - f. JETS Head Start and Early Head Start.
Serving pregnant women and children 0-5. Federally funded program fostering total child development and public school readiness, which includes health, safety, nutrition, disability services and resources to meet family needs.
 - g. Shattered Dreams Program.
Awareness program targeted toward anti-drinking offered every other year to the high school level.
 - h. High Sky Children's Ranch: Services for at risk youth.
 - i. Scurry County Fire Marshall Juvenile Fire Setter classes.

4. Parenting Classes and Support Services.

- a. Gateway Family Services.
Provides parenting classes and support group services for victims and families in need of guidance. Safety planning and education are provided for children in crisis.
- b. P.E.P – Pregnancy, Education and Parenting.
This is a Co-Op program through Texas Education Assoc. that assists pregnant teens. Nurses will monitor and provide prenatal care and education to the teen parents and help access WIC and other agency assistance. Job placement and fatherhood assistance is offered to the fathers as well.

- c. Snyder ISD ACE program. District-wide after school program. Offered to all students in PK-12th grade. This program offers a safe place to be, academic support and enrichment activities.
- d. HHSC program for children and women on Medicaid
- e. Cogdell Hospital
- f. Snyder PD education program
- g. Fire prevention classes.

5. Adolescent Job Training.

None in Scurry County. Listed below are the programs closest to Scurry County.

- a. Gulf Coast Trade Center.
Residential job training for a 6-12 month learning experience. Walker County location.
- b. Job Corp.
United States Department of Labor sponsors this education and vocational training program. Income and age requirements apply. Training centers are located at 4 locations in Texas.
- c. Workforce Upward Bound Program.
- d. Scurry County: Jr. Firefighter program, EMS Ride Along program, Hunter's education program through EMS.

6. Mental Health Services.

- a. M.H.M.R. Crisis Services.
Persons experiencing emotional, behavioral or psychiatric crisis have access to a 24-hour hotline, crisis walk-in, crisis support and mobile crisis intervention.
- b. M.H.M.R. Child and Adolescent Services and ECI
Will provide counseling services to qualifying children and adolescents.
- c. North Texas State Hospital.
Mental commitments of adolescents and children may be made to Wichita Falls, Texas. Services are minimal.
- d. Rivercrest Hospital – San Angelo, Texas.
Residential placement with insurance provides short-term care.
- e. Abilene Behavioral Health
In-patient psychiatric facility and services for adolescents.
- f. Counseling Associates of West Texas
Licensed professional counseling payable on a sliding scale basis.
- g. West Texas Children's Advocacy Center.
Provides referrals to licensed professional counseling through contracted means for victims of child abuse and to their non-offending family members. Licensed counselors for WTCAC clients

7. After School and Summer Recreation.

- a. SISD Enrichment and Special Programs.
Program for migrant, homeless and at-risk students.
- b. Scurry County Youth Center.
Provides supervised recreation for Snyder youth & sports.

- c. Little Dribblers Association.
Supervised basketball competition for youth.
- d. Volleyball.
- e. Little League Baseball
- f. Girls Softball Association.
- g. WTC youth soccer league
- h. Summer reading program at Scurry County Library
- i. Shining Star Sports

8. Medical and Pre-Natal Care.

- a. W.I.C. – Women, Infants, Children
Must meet income, residency and nutritional need requirements. Services include supplemental food coupons for pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children less than 5 years of age. Nutrition education and counseling and referrals to other health care providers.
- b. Scurry Community Services.
Pre-natal program for qualifying mothers.
- c. Sparrow’s Nest – agency providing for pregnant women and newborns.
- d. Snyder Resource Center.
- e. Lions Club.
Provides vision and hearing assistance for school age children who qualify.
- f. Gateway Family Services.
Provides transportation and hospital accompaniment for victims of sexual assault and/or family violence. SANE exams and medical appointments are included in this transport service. Trained victim advocates provide assistance in completing Crime Victim Compensation fund applications for the reimbursement of expenses incurred from this medical care and counseling as needed.
- g. West Texas Children’s Advocacy Center.
Provides SANE accompaniment for child abuse victims. Also provides limited funding for medical treatment related to child abuse not compensated by Crime Victim Compensation, insurance, CHIPS or Medicaid.
- h. Cogdell Health Care.
Breast feeding class
Provides physicals for juvenile justice system and SISD student athletes by appointment.
- i. Scurry County Health Unit.
Provides health care, STD testing and treatment.
- j. SISD Screenings.
School nurses provide free lice screening for school age children. Dental screening is conducted by local dentists at the elementary locations to evaluate children who are at risk. Other student screening consists of vision, hearing, scoliosis and special education eligibility. Employees are screened for blood pressure evaluation three times per school year.
- k. Family Planning.at Scurry County Health Unit.
- l. CHIPS – Children’s Health Insurance Program.
Affordable health insurance for children through the TexCare Partnership. Dental services also included. Pregnant women with no Medicaid also qualify.
- m. Women’s health program/ family planning at Scurry County Health Unit

n. Cogdell, Hospital's breastfeeding classes, Patient Matters program.

9. Supervision and Community Restitution

- a. Scurry County Juvenile Probation Department.
Random and unannounced home visits by certified Juvenile Probation Officers. These officers also supervise community service projects and arrange placement of children in public non-profit programs for completion of community service hours assessed by the juvenile court.
- b. S.T.A.R. Boot Camp
A non-residential boot camp environment for youth, 6th grade to 17 years of age (younger grade on case by case basis). Funded by city, county and school district. If sanctioned by the school system, length of placement may be up to 2 weeks. If sanctioned by Juvenile Probation & Justice of the Peace, length of placement could last 6 weeks. Along with school attendance, the conditions include supervised community service.
- c. Scurry County Youth Center.
Provides after school and summer facilities with activities designed to enhance self-esteem. Responsible adults and older exemplary youth supervise these activities.

PLAN OF ACTION AND ASSOCIATED GAPS IN SERVICES FOR JUVENILE CRIME ISSUES

Lack of adequate funding remains an issue where gaps in services and implementation of a successful plan of action occur. There is a large gap in drug and tobacco prevention services throughout the county. Local residential and non-residential services are needed to work with juvenile offenders. Many of the residential resources listed above do not accept female offenders thus creating a large gender-specific gap in services. The local agencies/entities working with juveniles are under-staffed and/or have had to cut programs or services due to lack of funds to address the many varied needs of juvenile offenders.

With the advent of the Opportunity Scholarship for graduates of Scurry County, these students would be available for this money to go on to the college level and therefore improve their lives even further.

Although it appears that we have many resources for this issue, the truth is that many of the resources available to address juvenile crime and correction are located a great distance away, causing us to lose direct input to the opportunity for success of these juveniles. In addition, there are costs incurred of equipment, time and personnel involved with accessing many of these resources.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

PROBLEMS:

- 1. Lack of supervision/parental ability. Limited prevention, education and professional training.

2. Distribution, Usage, and Manufacture of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
Limited personnel to enforce zero tolerance for under-aged tobacco use and drinking.
3. Various types of violence within the community: dating, family oriented, acquaintance or random acts are affected by substance abuse.
4. The effect on the education process and literacy rates.
5. Medical intervention, detox and lack of treatment options for offenders.
6. Fetal alcohol syndrome & drug use during pregnancy.

RESOURCES:

1. Enforcement Agencies:
 - a. Snyder Police Department.
 - b. Scurry County Sheriff's Office.
 - c. Texas Rangers.
 - d. Department of Public Safety.
 - e. DA's office.
 - f. Fire Marshall's Office.
2. Prevention and Education.
 - a. Law Enforcement Agencies.
 - b. Shattered Dreams Program – performed every other year at the high school level presenting alcohol awareness scenarios and consequences.
 - c. School Resource Officer.
Dedicated police officer specifically serving the campuses of SISD.
 - d. Gateway Family Services.
Provides bullying prevention, safe dating, internet safety planning, sexual harassment and assault prevention programs along with support group services for each of these issues.
 - e. School Violence Prevention.
West Texas Council of Governments Law Enforcement Academy.
 - f. S.T.A.R. Boot Camp.
 - g. West Texas CAC.
 - h. Deputies visiting County Schools weekly.
3. Treatment and Counseling.
 - a. M.H.M.R.
 - b. Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon.
 - c. Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments.
 - d. Child Protective Services.
 - e. Ministerial Alliance- limited counseling.
 - f. Faith based 12-step program at local churches (Celebrate Recovery).
 - g. Snyder Resource Center.
 - h. BCA hospital in Midland.
 - i. LPC through WTCAC.

4. Screening and Assessment.
 - a. M.H.M.R.
 - b. Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments.
 - c. ARCADA - Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

5. Drug Testing.
 - a. Adult Probation Department.
 - b. Juvenile Probation Department.
 - c. Cogdell Memorial Hospital.
 - d. Ira ISD/Snyder ISD/Hermleigh ISD, WTC (through contractor).

PLAN OF ACTION AND ASSOCIATED GAPS IN SERVICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

Awareness programs are needed. We plan to explore new options for education and counseling programs through public school systems, law enforcement agencies, medical community, CRCG and other available resources while maintaining and supporting existing programs. Snyder school counselors, Faculty & staff could also become educated to recognize potential drug and alcohol problems – this could reduce truancy. Expansion of education to support stricter legislation, date rape, and zero tolerance for tobacco and alcohol abuse should also be explored. Reduction of drug abuse helps to reduce juvenile crime as well.

The rural nature of Scurry County relegates us to limited resources, therefore collaboration and grant applications for funding are key to addressing these issues.

VICTIMIZATION

PROBLEMS:

1. Lack of reporting in all areas of violence, abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, cybercrimes, and/or neglect. Often this is due to fear, apathy, embarrassment, or lack of resource knowledge.
2. Increasing number of victims of family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking seeking residential and non-residential services.
3. Lack of funding in the following areas:
 - a. Transportation needs. No public transportation in our rural county. SPARTAN is available, but limited.
 - b. Few trained, qualified service providers; too few trained caseworkers to cover the large rural geographical area.
 - c. Victim restoration.
 - d. MHMR Services.
 - e. Childcare so victims can keep or get jobs.
 - f. Cybercrime staff and resources such as investigative tools, equipment, and training.
4. Limited availability of translators for non-English speaking victims.

5. Decreasing, limited rural resources, services and programs available regarding all types of abuse such as dating violence, sexual and family violence, child abuse, and human trafficking. Limited programs and/or funding for programs focusing on victim restoration.
6. Minimum availability of progressive parenting classes for those lacking in parenting skills. Very limited professional counseling for families and individuals.
7. Lack of awareness of victim resources and programs available to educate the general public.
8. Very limited affordable housing.
9. Limited resources available for medical and legal aid for victims.
10. Limited resources available for equipping victims with marketable job skills. This is especially crucial in dealing with victims of domestic violence who may be entering the workforce for the first time and, in many cases, will be the only provider for themselves and their children.
11. Limited support for families of child abuse in general but also during the investigation and/or prosecution process.
12. Lack of programs geared at rehabilitating the offenders of child abuse, sexual abuse and family violence.

RESOURCES:

1. Department of Family and Protective Services. Child Protective Services. Civil investigation of child abuse/neglect, family preservation services and services to families and children when children are in FPS conservatorship. These are contracted services.
2. County Child Welfare Board.
3. Community Resources Coordination Group – CRCG.
4. Gateway Family Services.
Domestic violence and sexual assault center providing crisis intervention to Scurry, Nolan, Mitchell, Fisher, and Kent counties. Gateway Family Services provides outreach and advocacy services in each of these surrounding counties on a weekly basis in addition to operating the Shelter located in Scurry County. Residential and non-residential services are provided with a goal of victim restoration. Services provided are: shelter, food, clothing, peer counseling, transportation, child care assistance, medical and legal advocacy and accompaniment, educational support for children, support agency referrals, support groups for adult and child victims of family violence and sexual assault, assistance with crime victim compensation fund applications, 24-hour crisis hotline and 24 hour on-call staff.
5. West Texas Children’s Advocacy Center.
Provides service to victims of child abuse and their non-offending family members during and after an investigation and during prosecutorial procedures. Services are provided through

a multi-disciplinary team by coordinating investigations and sharing information and resources to better serve the victims. Primary services include forensic interviews in a child friendly environment during an investigation of a child abuse report, crisis intervention, refer Licensed Professional Counseling, case status updates from CPS and Law Enforcement, SANE accompaniment, court schooling and accompaniment, and 24-hour on call forensic interviewers.

6. Office of the Attorney General.
Sexual Assault program funding and assistance.
7. 211
8. North Central Texas Legal Aid – located in Abilene, Texas.
9. Western Texas College.
 - Distance learning, and GED certification.
 - TRiO; Talent Search, Upward Bound and Student Support Services programs
10. West Texas Opportunities.
Assistance with utilities payment and weatherization of home.
11. SISD Homeless Identification Program.
A program funded by the McKinney-Vento grant.
12. Ministerial Alliance. (limited pastoral counseling, limited voucher program, food cupboard)
13. Counseling Associates of West Texas
14. ECI
15. Snyder Community Resource Center

PLAN AND GAPS IN RESOURCES FOR VICTIMIZATION

Funding, manpower and ongoing training and accessibility continue to be hurdles to meeting the needs of victims in Scurry County. Support is needed to create an effective and sustained level of intervention that continues on past the initial crises event. The low level of protective orders issued and cases taken to trial, lack of counseling services, lack of low-income housing, and no public transportation all are gaps in the services needed to support victims.

Collaboration of local agencies help to ensure comprehensive services are being provided to victims of sexual assault/abuse, dating and family violence, child abuse, and human trafficking without duplication. These agencies work to help victims through their physical and emotional trauma, legal/justice system and work towards complete victim restoration.

In addition, agencies provide education programs directed at the public school system with Gateway Family Services also providing them to law enforcement agencies, civic organizations, TDCJ and the general public. West Texas Children's Advocacy Center conducts education

programs on how to address and prevent child sexual abuse in the community. These presentations are not limited to any agency or group, but specifically designed for organizations who deal with children on a day-to-day basis. The purpose of the education programs is to lay down a preventive base to address the violence before it even starts.

With prevention being such an imperative part of the solution, it is difficult to prevent family violence with only half of the equation being addressed as the community is currently have no access to Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Programs. Funding and support from the courts would be required for us to fill this large gap in service.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

PROBLEMS:

1. Lack of funds for law enforcement vehicles and all necessary equipment, and technology such as communication equipment and mobile equipment, body cameras, and bullet proof vests, night vision equipment, active shooter equipment, surveillance equipment.
2. Lack of funds to send law enforcement (LE) staff to ongoing and specialized trainings. Not only funds for the trainings, but the fact that someone has to cover the duties for the officer in training.
3. Changing nature of and increase in crimes due to the Internet, cybercrimes, and technology advances.
4. Manpower shortages. It is difficult to keep LE agencies fully staffed in rural areas that tend to pay less is salaries and benefits.

RESOURCES:

1. West Central Texas Law Enforcement Academy. The academy provides basic and ongoing officer training, but they have had budget costs and do not have the funds to provide all the ongoing training needed for their nineteen-county area.
2. Local county funding.

PLAN AND GAPS IN RESOURCES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

Funding for up-to-date equipment, manpower, and ongoing training continue to be hurdles in meeting the needs of LE agencies to serve citizens in Scurry County. Local county/city budgets are strained in meeting the myriad of necessities, especially in rural areas. Our two LE agencies will continue to work together to leverage the current resources as we seek ways to fill these gaps in resources by increasing efforts to obtain the limited federal and state funding needed to address these gaps.

