



The Hackett Center Annual Report 2025

Putting Policy into Practice™

Organization Overview

Introduction to The Hackett Center for Mental Health

The Hackett Center for Mental Health continues to play a leading role in uniting partners and advancing mental health solutions across the Greater Houston area and Gulf Coast region. Since its founding as the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute's first regional center in 2018, The Hackett Center has remained focused on putting policy into practice, ensuring children, families, and communities have equal access to effective, evidence-based behavioral health care.

In 2025, The Hackett Center advanced its work at a critical time for behavioral health, helping turn new state investments into real improvements for children, families, and communities by focusing on four major areas of impact: policy and systems change, school and youth systems, women's behavioral health, and early relational health.



Message from the Executive Director

As we reflect on 2025, I am struck by the momentum and responsibility that shaped this year. Across Texas, and especially in Greater Houston, behavioral health is increasingly recognized as essential for healthy families, strong communities, and a thriving economy. This year, The Hackett Center continued to fulfill its founding purpose: Putting Policy into Practice™.

The 89th Texas Legislative Session brought significant new behavioral health investments. In 2025, we partnered with leaders across Harris County and the Gulf Coast to help inform how those investments support improvements in crisis response, prevention, and access to care.

We also deepened our leadership in women's behavioral health through the *With Women in Mind* series and the Maternal Behavioral Health Roundtable, advancing a coordinated approach that recognizes maternal mental health as foundational to family stability and workforce participation.

Through Brain Builders, Pathways to Strength, and the Trauma and Grief Center, we strengthened early relational health and expanded access to evidence-based trauma-informed care. The outcomes are measurable, resulting in resilience, restored hope, and stronger families.

Our Trauma and Grief (TAG) Center, a nationally recognized leader in evidence-based trauma and grief care for youth, continued to strengthen how communities support children experiencing trauma and loss across Houston and beyond. When tragic flooding struck Central Texas, the TAG Center supported parents, caregivers, educators, and mental health professionals as they cared for children affected by the disaster, including many families here in the Greater Houston region.

As we look toward 2026, our focus remains clear: ensure investments yield measurable results, support workforce sustainability, and continue integrating behavioral health into places where people are. Mental health is health and is vital to our region's economic vitality and community well-being.

I am deeply grateful for the partners who make this work possible. The progress reflected here is collective and the opportunity ahead is even greater.

Quianta Moore, MD, JD
*Executive Director of The Hackett Center
for Mental Health*



Influencing Systems Change

In 2025, The Hackett Center helped translate legislative momentum into coordinated, system-level improvements across Harris County and the Gulf Coast. By aligning policy, research, implementation support, and evaluation, we worked to ensure new investments strengthened prevention, crisis response, and long-term care capacity.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE WINS

Senate Bill 1: Youth Crisis Outreach Teams (YCOT) Expansion

The Legislature allocated \$40 million statewide to expand Youth Crisis Outreach Teams, which are mobile, community-based crisis response teams designed to de-escalate behavioral health emergencies involving children and adolescents.

The Harris Center became Texas' first Tier 1 YCOT site, launching a 24/7 mobile crisis team with enhanced clinical staffing and stronger integration with emergency and diversion systems. This designation positions Harris County as a statewide leader in youth crisis response.

Rider 52: Statewide Children's Crisis Needs & Capacity Assessment

Rider 52 directed a comprehensive statewide assessment to identify gaps in children's behavioral health crisis services. The findings elevated several priorities that align directly with regional needs, including:

- Short-term children's crisis respite
- Multisystemic therapy and intensive family-based interventions
- Community-based diversion centers

More Than \$23 Million Directed to Harris County Providers

Targeted appropriations strengthened the local safety net, supporting organizations such as DePelchin Children's Center, Harris County Public Health, The Harris Center, The Montrose Center, and The Women's Home. These investments expand prevention services, early intervention, and community-based care before crises escalate.

House Bill 500: Strengthening Inpatient Capacity An additional \$12.9 million was allocated for renovations at the Harris County Psychiatric Center, improving infrastructure and expanding access to high-acuity inpatient behavioral health care.

TRANSLATING POLICY INTO PRACTICE

The Next Day Project: As the evaluation partner for this SAMHSA-funded youth suicide prevention initiative, The Hackett Center supports continuous quality improvement and fidelity monitoring. The project provides rapid assessment and intervention for youth experiencing suicidal ideation or self-harm behaviors, helping clinical partners achieve measurable outcomes.

Integrated Pediatric Behavioral Health Care: In partnership with Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Pediatrics, behavioral health was integrated into pediatric primary care settings.

- Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) launched at one pilot site
- Two additional sites partnered with Bend Health
- Measurement-Informed Care was integrated across 30 behavioral health sites

Standardized screenings and consistent tracking of outcomes were integrated into daily workflows, which strengthened decision-making by clinicians and improved accountability for patient progress. The ongoing use of Measurement-Informed Care ensured sustainable, data-driven integration.

Knowledge for Impact 2025 Learning Brief: Building on our applied research portfolio, the 2025 learning brief documented how Houstonians, including opportunity youth, navigated behavioral health systems and identified persistent barriers, including cost, stigma, insurance gaps, and system complexity. Findings are informing philanthropic strategy, policy discussions, and community-based solutions aimed at improving access and coordination.

Behavioral Health Emergency Response Initiative (BHERI):

BHERI is a multi-state initiative working to strengthen behavioral health crisis response systems. The initiative advances cross-system models designed to ensure:

- The right response at the right time
- Reduced reliance on unnecessary law enforcement response
- Improved outcomes for individuals and communities

In Texas, The Hackett Center leads the Meadows Institute’s evaluation and learning efforts, helping assess implementation progress, identify emerging lessons, and support continuous improvement of crisis response systems. Lessons from Texas are helping inform broader efforts to strengthen behavioral health emergency response nationally. Funding is provided by Blue Meridian Partners, with additional support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

STRENGTHENING SCHOOL & YOUTH SYSTEMS

San Antonio Mobile Mental Wellness Collaborative (SAMMWC):

Through qualitative analysis with school district staff and families in rural South Texas, The Hackett Center identified strengths, service gaps, and implementation challenges in school-linked mental health systems. Findings directly informed the Phase 2 playbook rewrite, supporting replication and sustainability of coordinated school-based models.

Texas Juvenile Justice Continuum of Care Initiative: The Hackett Center was the regional partner in Houston for the Meadows Institute. The project identified service gaps and opportunities for earlier intervention, and the findings informed a region-specific playbook aimed at reducing unnecessary juvenile justice system involvement and strengthened cross-system coordination.

Minding College Minds Learning Communities: Twenty-five Texas colleges, serving more than 584,000 students, including Houston Community College and San Jacinto College, are implementing coordinated, public-health oriented campus mental health systems. Through structured learning communities and the Minding College Minds Framework, institutions strengthen prevention, early identification, and access to care for transition-age youth.



Advancing Women's Behavioral Health

In 2025, The Hackett Center strengthened its regional leadership in women's behavioral health, advancing research, dialogue, and cross-sector collaboration across the Greater Houston area. Grounded in the understanding that behavioral health across the lifespan from adolescence through motherhood, midlife, and beyond shapes family stability, workforce participation, and long-term community well-being, this work continues to position The Hackett Center as a catalyst for coordinated regional action.

Maternal Mental Health Roundtables:


The Maternal Behavioral Health Roundtable continues to serve as a central convening body for more than 50 cross-sector organizations representing health care, public health, philanthropy, education, and community-based organizations across the region.

In 2025, the roundtable:

- Held quarterly convenings to identify regional priorities
- Organized and planned a 2026 symposium aligned with World Maternal Mental Health Day
- Launched subcommittees focused on event strategy and digital platform development
- Identified a top policy priority: expanding and standardizing postpartum depression screening to improve early identification and intervention

Work is underway to establish shared metrics, strengthen coordination across systems, and align philanthropic and health system investments to improve maternal mental health outcomes across Greater Houston.





“The Greater Houston Maternal Behavioral Health Roundtable allows our community of practitioners and advocates to come together to learn, grow, collaborate, and advocate for our better coordinated access for our moms, their babies, and families.”

Alicia Lee, MHA, Director, MCH Collective Impact, March of Dimes

With Women in Mind Webinar Series

Through the *With Women in Mind* series, The Hackett Center convened regional and national experts to examine behavioral health across key life stages and social contexts. Topics in 2025 included:

- Perimenopause and menopause
- Integrated and collaborative care models
- Culturally responsive behavioral healthcare
- Substance use disorders
- The impact of incarceration on women and families

The series engaged providers, policymakers, researchers, community leaders, and corporate partners, creating a shared learning platform that bridges clinical practice, lived experience, and policy strategy.

Women in Mind Series IMPACT

 **1,000**
registrants in the first half of 2025

 **3**
Partners included The Council on Recovery, Community Science, BP.

Improving Early Childhood and Relational Health

The Hackett Center continues to promote early relational health as foundational to lifelong mental wellness. Grounded in neuroscience and two-generation approaches, our work recognizes that strong, stable caregiver-child relationships are among the most powerful protective factors against toxic stress, adversity, and long-term behavioral health challenges.

In 2025, we expanded partnerships, strengthened implementation capacity, and deepened our focus on families experiencing elevated risk of mental health challenges, ensuring that early intervention translates into measurable, intergenerational impact.

Pathways to Strength: In partnership with the Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) and funded through the Harris County Early Childhood Resiliency Fund, Pathways to Strength

integrates trauma-informed adaptations of an evidence-based parenting model to support families impacted by domestic and intimate partner violence.

This initiative equips caregivers with tools to:

- Rebuild safe, nurturing parent-child relationships
- Support emotional regulation following trauma
- Promote healing within family systems

By embedding relational science into domestic violence recovery services, Pathways to Strength bridges behavioral health, early childhood development, and family stabilization efforts—strengthening both caregiver well-being and child brain development during critical developmental windows.



“Houston Area Women’s Center has partnered with The Hackett Center for Mental Health for many years, and their team recognizes the unique needs of our highly mobile, trauma-impacted clients and worked closely with us to support their healing and resilience. We are grateful for this partnership and for the lasting impact it has had on the families we serve.”

Chanica M. Brown, M. Ed.
Chief Client Services Officer
Houston Area Women’s Shelter

Brain Builders: The Hackett Center’s signature parenting initiative equips caregivers with neuroscience-based tools that translate early brain science into practical, everyday strategies.

The program promotes:

- Healthy brain development
- Stress regulation and co-regulation
- Relational resilience
- Protective buffering against adversity

Delivered through a train-the-trainer model, Brain Builders strengthens community capacity by equipping local organizations to facilitate the curriculum within trusted family-serving settings.

Partner organizations expanded local implementation capacity, increasing access to early relational health programming across diverse communities. Through these efforts, The Hackett Center continues to strengthen the caregiving environments that shape children’s lifelong mental health trajectories.

Brain Builders IMPACT

 **179**
Caregivers served

 **17**
Organizations trained



Trauma & Grief Center at The Hackett Center

In 2025, the Trauma and Grief (TAG) Center, led by Executive Director Julie Kaplow, PhD, ABPP, expanded its national and international leadership in evidence-based trauma- and grief-informed care. Through training, consultation, and direct service, the TAG Center strengthened the capacity of schools, hospitals, and community providers to support youth exposed to trauma, bereavement, and disaster.

Expanding Access to Care: The TAG Center hosted 10 Learning Collaboratives, training clinicians in Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents (TGCTA) and Multidimensional Grief Therapy (MGT), which are assessment-driven interventions designed to reduce posttraumatic stress and maladaptive grief while promoting resilience.

Growing demand underscores the TAG Center’s role as a national hub for best-practice trauma and grief care.

Measurable Outcomes: Among youth completing baseline and follow-up assessments:

- 80% showed reductions in posttraumatic stress
- 65% showed reductions in maladaptive grief

These improvements reflect strengthened coping, improved functioning, and increased resilience following trauma and loss.

Reach

 **10**

Learning Collaboratives hosted



583

Clinicians trained

428

Clinicians trained in Texas

148

Clinicians trained in Greater Houston

163

Clinicians waitlisted



500+

Youth assessed



151

Rostered School & Community Providers

An adolescent receiving care from a TAG Center-trained clinician carried the loss of his sister alone for two years until therapy gave him the first safe place to speak about it and begin healing:

“When I first started, I felt worried because I did not know how much I should share. Over time, I felt more confident telling my story and trusting my therapist. The loss narrative helped remind me of who I am. I am human. We all are. Those thoughts like ‘I have to be the best’ or ‘I will never be good enough’ have no use. My future is mine.”

National & Global Expansion: In 2025, the TAG Center:

- Launched its first Mountain West site at Primary Children’s Hospital, in Salt Lake City
- Conducted its first MGT Learning Collaborative in Israel
- Designated five international “Champions” to sustain local training and cultural adaptation

Disaster Response: Following the Central Texas floods, the TAG Center partnered with the Kerrville Mental Health Coalition to support long-term recovery efforts, producing Helping Children After a Natural Disaster and delivering statewide webinars and resource toolkits for caregivers and providers.

Through training, evaluation, and rapid-response efforts, the TAG Center continues to translate research into practice—strengthening systems of care that promote healing and resilience for children and families.



The Hackett Center is honored to recognize its 2025 programmatic donors:

The Boone Family Foundation	Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
Stephen Brasel	Kate Marmion Charitable Foundation
The Brown Foundation	Kozmetsky Family Foundation
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To learn more about The Hackett Center's work,
please visit thehackettcenter.org