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## **Commissioners Court recognizes foundations for funding A/C unit giveaway as part of DCHHS' heat response**

Four philanthropic organizations that recently awarded Dallas County Health and Human Services \$132,800 in grant funding were recognized today by the Dallas County Commissioners Court with a resolution detailing the foundations' support of the department at the court's regularly held Tuesday meeting.

Thanks to The Meadows Foundation, DCHHS has been awarded \$80,000 in grant funding. The Harold Simmons Foundation awarded DCHHS \$20,000. A grant award of \$10,000 was awarded by Communities Foundation of Texas and The Dallas Foundation granted \$22,800 in funding.

The funding will be used to furnish air conditioning units to Dallas County residents in need as part of the annual response to the heat.

“Without this funding, we would not be able to provide air-conditioning units,” said DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson.

Thompson and DCHHS staff members were also recognized by Commissioner John Wiley Price for their ongoing efforts in responding to the needs of Dallas County residents in the heat.

“We're very fortunate to have Mr. Thompson and his staff,” Commissioner Price said. “They work seven days a week. The staff is spending a lot of time vetting the calls for help.”

As of today, 12 confirmed heat-related deaths have been reported to DCHHS.

After applauding the contributions of the foundations, Judge Clay Jenkins made a plea Tuesday to any Dallas County resident who may be suffering in the heat unnecessarily.

“Please go cool off,” Jenkins said, after mentioning cooling centers that are open to the public during the day. “Please don’t be one of these deaths.”

So far this summer, DCHHS has installed about 400 air-conditioning units in Dallas County homes.

With the help of these grant awards, DCHHS will install more air conditioning units that are free to residents.

The department staffs a phone bank Monday through Friday for the heat hotline it operates each summer. Low-income, elderly, disabled residents are encouraged to call 214-819-6001 if they are living without a working air-conditioning unit in their home.

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