

**Interagency Coordinating Group**

Legislative Report to the 84th Texas Legislature

**Prepared by**

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

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OneStar Foundation

**Submitted to**

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Speaker of the House

House Committee on Public Health

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

With the passage of House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2009 and House Bill (H.B.) 1965, 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2011 Texas became the first state in the country to pass legislation specifically to expand and improve the relationship between state government and faith- and community-based organizations (FCBOs) seeking to partner with the state to help meet health and human service needs. These two bills directed the chief administrative officer of the named entities to appoint, in consultation with the Governor, a faith and community liaison in each agency. These liaisons serve on the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) chaired by the CEO of the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation), also a named member of the ICG. OneStar Foundation also serves as the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for the State of Texas. (APPENDIX F)

H.B. 492 directed agency liaisons to work within their respective agencies to: 1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith- and community-based organizations; 2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government; 3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents; and 4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency.

H.B. 1965 directed agency liaisons to: 1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organization; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill. Agency liaisons formed three subgroups: Improving Contracting Relationships; Cross-Agency Programs; Sharing Information and Resources.

In 2013 during the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, S.B. 993, was passed and signed into law by the Governor creating the first Texas Nonprofit Council. The passage of this Act is further acknowledgement of the critical importance of faith-and community-based organizations as partners with state government.

The purpose of the Council is to coordinate with the ICG in furthering the activities under H.B. 1965 as outlined above. The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in consultation with the presiding officer of the ICG (OneStar Foundation) appointed twelve members to the new council, through a competitive process, to represent the categories outlined in the bill.

As presiding officer of the ICG, I respectfully submit this year's report on the goals, activities, and progress of the ICG from January through December 2014. Previous reports submitted outline specific actions taken since the passage of the initial legislation in 2009. These reports can be found on the OneStar Foundation website.

## **II. ICG DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **ICG Duties and Responsibilities (APPENDIX A)**

- Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) – Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) – Work across state agencies and with State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(3) – Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

### **ICG Additional Duties and Responsibilities (APPENDIX B)**

- Sec. 535.055. (c) – In addition to the Interagency Coordinating Group’s other duties, the Interagency Coordinating Group, in coordination with the Texas Nonprofit Council (per SB 993 83R) shall:
  1. Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
  2. Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
  3. Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and
  4. Identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

### **ICG Reporting Duties**

- Sec. 535.054. (a) – Not later than December 1 of each year, the Interagency Coordinating Group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the Interagency Coordinating Group.
- Sec. 535.054. (b) – The report made under Subsection (a) must be made available to the public through posting on the Office of the Governor’s website.

### **III. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL**

The Texas Nonprofit Council (APPENDIX C) was established by S.B. 993 during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session in 2013 to help direct the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG). The Council, in coordination with the ICG will: 1) make recommendations for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

The Council held its initial meeting in October 2013. (APPENDIX E) Officers were selected and each Council member was assigned a small group of ICG agencies to interview. The purpose was for Council members to learn more about specific state agencies and their legislative mandates. State agencies identified specific programs that involved working with nonprofit organizations contractually or through memorandums of understanding to further the work of the state. In alignment with the charge to the Texas Nonprofit Council to assist and guide the activities of the ICG, Council members attended three scheduled ICG meetings in 2014. Council members and ICG liaisons also jointly served on one of three subgroups: Improving Contracting Relationships; Cross-Agency Programs; Sharing Information and Resources. The groups were co-chaired by one Nonprofit Council member and one state agency ICG liaison.

#### **IV. ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRESS (January – December 2014)**

- 1. Goal – Continue implementation of the plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.**

##### **Activity and Progress:**

The subgroup on Improving Contracting Relations was co-chaired by the liaison for the Comptroller of Public Accounts and a member of the Texas Nonprofit Council. ICG member agencies on the Improving Contracting Relations subgroup identified subject matter experts (SMEs) to sit on a working group. After several meetings to assess the most appropriate membership for this working group, sessions were held monthly from August through December. Working group members scanned existing resources available through a number of pertinent state agencies to determine what materials might be appropriately restructured for use by interested faith- and community-based organizations. The group decided upon curriculum designed formerly for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs). Although some of the for-profit aspects were determined unsuitable, several of the components were deemed appropriate for use in improving contracting relations between state agencies and nonprofits. Work to reframe these and other topics was begun in November and will continue into 2015.

- 2. Goal – Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations.**

##### **Activity and Progress:**



## **Sharing Information and Resources**

ICG member agencies continue to update their partnership and funding opportunities on the OneStar website [onestarfoundation.org](http://onestarfoundation.org). The home page features the “Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative” and includes:

- General information for FCBOs on partnering with state agencies
- FAQs on contracting from the Improving Contracting Relationships subgroup
- Equal Treatment Training for state employees and faith-based organizations
- Authorizing legislation

### **Best Practices Between State Agencies and Faith- and Community-Based Organizations**

H.B. 1965 directed members of the ICG to operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of the state who need assistance and to develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with FCBOs. Several ICG member agencies reported on multiple best practices with faith-and community-based organizations. The following are selected highlights for 2014:

#### **Department of State Health Services**

**Texas Healthy Adolescent Initiative (THAI)** Texas Healthy Adolescent Initiative (THAI) is a Title V funded community grant-based program to improve the overall health and well-being of Texas adolescents by increasing their protective factors, preparing them with a strong foundation for adult life, and supporting positive life choices. This is done through nine community grants using a Positive Youth Development model to address at least one of eight potential risk factors (chosen by the community-based agency) and to facilitate a Youth-Adult Council to guide programming.

THAI began in 2010 because of a vision by the Title V State Adolescent Health Coordinator to approach youth programming from a positive, strengths-based initiative. Fiscal year 2015 is the beginning of the second competitive grant cycle of THAI. This grant cycle is a result of lessons learned from the last cycle: 1) include an external evaluation component at the beginning of the cycle; 2) the inclusion of youth in decision-making activities; 3) data collection requirements; and 4) the requirement for a risk factor focus. This cycle continued the Positive Youth Development model because a strengths-based approach to youth change was found to work most effectively.

Grants were not limited to specific players other than the requirement that an agency have a youth-serving background. For Fiscal year 2015, there were nine community grantees – three of whom are universities, one school district, two non-profits, one health clinic, and two city health departments. Within the grant, there are some required community partners for the Youth-Adult Councils (youth with experience in the risk factor(s) chosen, agency representatives focused on the risk factor(s) chosen, and parents of youth experiencing the risk factor(s) chosen. Additionally, this cycle has added an external evaluator (a university with experience in evaluation) of the program. Title V is also requiring grantees to develop a media campaign (including social media) targeted to youth at risk of unhealthy experimentation in the risk factor(s) chosen.

DSHS/Title V and Office of Program Decision Support are working with an external evaluator to determine best practices in measuring youth connectedness, youth opportunity, positive youth development implementation, and reduction indicators for the risk factor(s) chosen.

**Sickle Cell Trait Notification**- The 81st Legislative Session (R) HB 1672 included Sickle Cell Trait (SCT) in the detection and notification in Chapter 33 of the

Health and Safety Code. Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is the most commonly inherited blood disorder in America. About 80,000 Americans have the disease, and another two million have Sickle Cell Trait (SCT). While individuals with the SCT do not usually get sick, they can pass the trait on to their offspring. When both parents have SCT, there is a 25% chance that each baby will have SCD. HHSC authorized the use of community-based sickle cell associations to provide direct notification to families by sending this information via certified mail including a bilingual Sickle Cell Trait Brochure, and a list of resources.

Funding was provided from HHSC Medicaid to begin this initiative. In a report by the Sickle Association of Dallas (1983 – 2002) it was noted that African American families had no prior knowledge of their genetic risk for sickle cell disease and did not receive prenatal testing or any other services to enable them to make informed reproductive choices with respect to sickle cell disease. An Open Enrollment period was posted open to any and all viable sickle cell associations in Texas. Initially three associations enrolled covering the Dallas, Austin and Ft. Worth areas. The target area was limited to the three associations' respective metropolitan areas (with the other areas of Texas covered by the Newborn Screening Clinical Care Coordination program.) The project is evaluated through performance measures specified in the contract.

### **Texas Department of Agriculture**

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) through Baylor University's School of Social Work partnered to ensure effective distribution of outreach materials in Texas related to the **Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option**. THI provided materials to ensure children in

high need areas were aware of the summer programs and were able to find access to meals during the summer months.

Using data analysis, TDA identified free and reduced populations in Texas compared to average daily participation in the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option. Based on analysis, 108 zip codes representing high need areas were identified. TDA engaged in coordinated efforts with the Texas Hunger Initiative and their 12 regional offices to support summer operations in the identified zip codes. Outreach materials including posters, postcards and door hangers were distributed by THI staff using a grassroots approach in communities to create awareness of the programs in areas of high need. Over 60,000 printed outreach materials, funded by TDA, were provided to THI to ensure effective distribution of materials.

The Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Hunger Initiative will evaluate the project's success and incorporate lessons learned into future outreach strategies pursued by the organizations. The organizations are planning a similar partnership for summer 2015.

### **Texas Department of Criminal Justice**

In 2013 the TDCJ partnered with GovDelivery, the number one referrer of traffic to more than 1,000 government organizations worldwide, including IRS.gov, SBA.gov, FEMA.gov, IN.gov, and BART.gov. The cloud-based platform allows government organizations to create and send messages to more than 70 million people around the world, enabling public sector organizations to connect with more people in the nonprofit sector in an effort to motivate people to respond to specific needs and opportunities. Additionally, GovDelivery solutions allow public sector organizations to deliver

emergency notifications, enhance online transactions, build online collaborative communities, and track customer requests.

The partnership is the result of a management directive to improve communications with agency volunteers and faith- and community-based organizations. Statewide volunteers and faith- and community-based organizations are the target audience. The project began June 2013 with 7,061 email and cell phone contacts.

The development of the volunteer mass communication project included identifying and researching various mass communication companies. The research was a collaborative effort by the TDCJ Volunteer Services and the TDCJ Information Technology Division to identify various options offered by each company to decide which company would best serve the needs of the agency. Research entailed the company's privacy policy regarding the clients (volunteers) information, the cost for the service, the company's customer services practices, and the successful delivery of the emails to the clients as well as the user-friendliness of the product. In the field of mass communications, one of the main objectives is to ensure the company monitors the delivery of the communications to clients email boxes or cell phones to ensure the emails are not tagged as spam.

GovDelivery was able to meet all of these components and was already servicing other government agencies. A feature that was only offered by GovDelivery was a network of other Texas State government agencies. The network feature allows other government clients to join the TDCJ Volunteer Services communication system. This feature has gained more than 5,901 new email contacts wishing to learn more about how to volunteer with the TDCJ.

The communication strategy includes keeping volunteers up-to-date through the TDCJ Volunteer Services monthly electronic newsletter. The newsletter features new policy updates and program highlights. The newsletter also features needs that are specific to the offender population. The system allows for the agency to notify clients with unit specific information such as program cancelations, unit volunteer needs and training information. TDCJ does not utilize social media.

The TDCJ Volunteer Services mass communication system grew from 7,061 to 18,606 clients in just over a year. The notifications that are specific to the client regarding the specific area they serve seem to be most effective. The clients further enjoy learning about what other volunteers are doing around the state. It is a system of like-minded individuals with common interests and the agency utilizes it to inform, recognize and inspire them in their service efforts.

The project continues to be evaluated by agency staff utilizing the reports gathered and provided by GovDelivery such as auto response reports, wireless message reports, bulletin links reports, bulletin analytics report, subscriber activity reports and network reports.

**TDCJ Volunteer Recruitment** - The Texas Department of Criminal Justice serves as a model for state agencies in active recruitment of faith-and community based organizations as volunteers for their programming. According to their website, “The Texas Department of Criminal Justice places a significant focus on volunteer services, realizing volunteers are an essential element in the rehabilitation and reentry of offenders into the community. The following is a list of TDCJ Divisions that provide volunteer services:

- Rehabilitation Programs Division (Chaplaincy Department, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and Sex Offender Program)
- Reentry and Integration Division
- Health Services Division
- Correctional Institutions Division
- Private Facility Contract Monitoring/Oversight Division
- Parole Division
- Victim Services Division
- Windham School District’

Since 1995, through a collaborative effort between the Office of the Governor and the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, the Annual Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards have honored 20 volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to the mission of the TDCJ.

The TDCJ **Volunteer Coordination Committee (VCC)** is comprised of members representing the TDCJ Divisions/Departments that utilize volunteers. The VCC serves as the reporting entity for and provides oversight of volunteer activities within the agency. Volunteers participate in a mandatory training session offered at various locations and every two years, volunteers must retrain to remain active. A handbook is provided for each volunteer outlining expectations for their involvement. The handbook states, “The TDCJ has enjoyed a long history of volunteer participation. Program areas in which a volunteer can participate include, but are not limited to:

- literacy and educational programs
- life skills
- job skills

- parent training classes and marriage classes
- drug and alcohol rehabilitation or education programs
- support groups
- arts and crafts
- faith-based/religious classes and programs
- mentoring
- other programs designed to assist in the transition between confinement and society and to reduce the incidence of recidivism
- assist staff with administrative duties
- internship programs, and
- restorative justice programs.”

Volunteers can also receive further training online to be a part of the TDCJ Mentor Program. Those who complete the course can serve as a volunteer mentor under the guidance of a Unit Volunteer Coordinator or Unit Chaplain. The **Chaplaincy Department** provides morally enriched programs that assist offenders in their institutional adjustment and prepare them for successful reentry. A variety of programs, activities and community participation encourage offenders to pursue their faith, reconcile relationships and strengthen their families. Participation in religious activities and attendance at religious services is voluntary. The Chaplaincy Department also coordinates the implementation of faith-based dorms. These dorms are designed to offer support and accountability for selected offenders who desire to incorporate religious faith and practice into a group setting. Faith-Based Dorms promote an atmosphere of forgiveness, integrity, responsibility, accountability, conflict resolution and anger management. The programming is conducted by local faith-based community volunteers



whose activities are directed by the unit chaplain and unit administration. Faith-based dorms are open to offenders of all faiths or no faith and generally include:

- life skills classes
- spiritual classes
- structured activities
- accountability principles, and
- support groups

TDCJ staff serve as partners to create effective communication between state and county agencies with the goal to reduce recidivism by promoting and coordinating rehabilitative opportunities for offenders. Additional Programs of the Chaplaincy Department include, but are not limited to:

- Religious Services
- Provision of Services to Building Projects/Chapel Construction
- Visitation/Hospitality House Ministry
- Hospice Care Ministry
- Ministry to death row offenders and their families
- Pastoral Care
- Religious Volunteer Programs
- Voyager Life Skills Programs
- Faith-Based Pre-Release Programs
- Mentoring
- Family Programs (Day with Dad, One Day with God, Marriage Seminars)
- Rehabilitation Programs, and
- Spiritual Growth Programs.

A great example of the partnership possibilities for Faith-based organizations includes the work of **G4 Faith-Based Row**, which received an award for their efforts with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. G4 Faith-Based Row, was the recipient of the “Most Innovative Program” award, as one of 20 individuals and initiatives from across the state recognized for their efforts to help inmates and those who are on parole or probation.

The G4 Faith Based Row is an off-shoot of the successful Faith-Based Dorm program that is being implemented at units across the state. The difference though is in the classification of the offenders who participate. G4 offenders are classified as medium custody because of behavioral problems and as a result, live with certain restrictions.

The G4 offenders participate in Life Change Groups, emphasizing Bible education, personal accountability and ministry to others. As a result, the G4 offenders began to make serious changes in their behavior and in their lives and they began promoting out of this restricted custody level through the classification process. The Wynne Unit now has a faith-based row on a general population cellblock so that these offenders can continue their spiritual journey even as they are promoted to less restrictive custody levels.

### **Department of Aging and Disability Services**

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) developed the **Age Well Live Well** campaign to help Texans “age well.” Through regional Age Well Live Well (AWLW) collaboratives, DADS and local organizations (public, private, nonprofit, academic and faith-based) work together to provide Texans with information and programs to help meet the challenges of aging.

AWLW focuses on:

- Improving the physical health of older adults, people with disabilities, their families, and the community,
- Providing opportunities for residents to stay engaged in the community through volunteer activities, and
- Creating awareness of aging issues and resources offered through AWLW collaboratives and the aging and disability network.

AWLW communities assess the programming and resources available in the three focus areas, develop an Operational Plan to guide their efforts, and assist with creating programming to fill identified gaps. DADS programs (Texercise, Aging Texas Well, Ombudsman, Volunteer You'll be Amazed) and state level partner programs (A Matter of Balance, Walk Across Texas, Master Memory) are available to help local collaboratives meet identified gaps.

The concept for AWLW began in Abilene when DADS staff were presenting three Volunteer and Community Engagement (VCE) programs to area partners. Discussions between the staff and partners identified strong links between the VCE programs. All the programs had components of wellness and ways to help Texans prepare for aging. From this, DADS VCE created AWLW as a way to package and promote health and wellness, volunteerism, community engagement, resource-sharing and collaboration building.

Funding for the initial pilot of five AWLW community collaboratives was provided through the DADS Access and Intake division. Federal funds were used to create mini-grants that would create community awareness and outreach, build and sustain a collaborative and fund staff support for the collaborative. Grant communities were awarded a total of \$25,000 between FY 2013 and FY 2014. The funds were

distributed through Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) which, in order to receive the funds, were required to be part of the collaborative. During the two years, communities developed a plan to expand and retain partner involvement and methods to develop their own ongoing funding.

The five grant communities that began AWLW included Bexar (San Antonio), Denton, Harris county (Houston), Tarrant (Ft. Worth) and West Central (Abilene). During FY 2014, other communities developed unfunded collaboratives, including Dallas, East Austin and Fort Bend. Expansions for FY2015 include the communities of Beaumont, Tyler, Garland, McAllen and Sherman.

Each local community develops its own collaborative. DADS created state-level partnerships with organizations that have statewide outreach and programming (Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension, Sam's Club and Cigna Health Springs) and encourage the local collaboratives to connect with these state partners to form a "foundation." Other key organizations that local AWLW collaboratives are encouraged to invite include DADS state and local offices, aging and disability service providers, city parks and recreation departments, academic institutions, civic and social organizations, networking groups, volunteer programs, hospital groups, local and statewide media organizations. As the collaboratives share their message, information, resources and host activities, more organizations become involved.

Each collaborative develops its own marketing and media strategies. Each member organizations promote the initiative and its resources and activities using websites, social media, print articles and ads. The most successful collaboratives are those that involve all members by giving defined roles and responsibilities. When all members see a value in their time and efforts, the benefit of their participation is quickly

realized. Having co-chairs is also working well, along with developing ground rules and committee structure through the implementation of by-laws of operation.

Barriers include:

- a collaborative growing too quickly and members losing sight of the purpose, vision and mission of the group;
- very limited funding to help collaborations form and develop; and
- having only one key partner in each group who steps up to coordinate the communications, collect the notes and communicate the needs.

DADS hosts monthly conference calls with developed collaboratives to provide support and a platform for communities to ask questions from their counterparts across the state. These calls have helped local collaboratives identify resources and solutions as well as form a state-level partnership. DADS VCE staff contacts all the collaboratives and often travels to local meetings to lend support, help troubleshoot and develop new members and resources.

### **Public Utility Commission of Texas**

Sharyland Utilities' opened their area to electric choice on May 1, 2014. Since the majority of the utility's customers are new to electric choice, Sharyland Utilities' hosted five informative town meetings. The Public Utility Commission of Texas participated in these events as part of their **Power to Choose** customer education outreach.

Many customers accustomed to one utility company didn't want to deal with choosing a retail electric provider (REP) because they felt nervous or overwhelmed by the many offers and various fees and charges. PUCT staff as well as Sharyland Utilities' staff were available to answer questions and concerns many of these customers had

regarding electric choice, during these town events. The PUCT staff further reached out to community organizations, libraries, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, and VA hospitals.

The PUCT staff felt they were only touching a small percentage of Sharyland Utilities' customer base; therefore, after the events, staff contacted three community organizations (West Texas Opportunities, Central Texas Opportunities, and Community Services Inc.) and 24 libraries in West and North Texas who helped distribute information regarding customer electric choice. Fifty copies of each publication that were distributed at the events were subsequently mailed to the three community organizations. For the libraries, staff determined that customers go to the libraries to use the Internet. Ten copies of "How to Shop for an Electric Provider," were provided as a guide on how to navigate the [PowertoChoose.org](http://PowertoChoose.org) website. An additional ten copies of the LITE-UP Texas application were also provided. Staff also contacted five Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFWs) posts and the VA hospital in Midland to help disseminate the informational material provided at the town events.

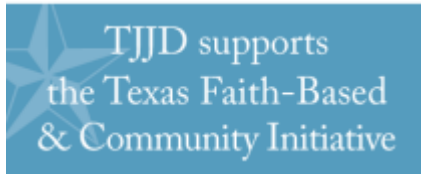
### **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has made good progress towards their goal to increase outreach to faith- and community-based organizations seeking partnerships/contracts with the agency. They have developed a banner on the TJJD website homepage calling attention to the Texas Faith-Based & Community Initiative, and have added a full page devoted to the initiative. The page features live links to OneStar Foundation's website and the Comptroller's RFP webpage. TJJD also drafted an addendum to the agency's RFP template that will ask applicants to self-identify as community and/or faith-based organizations and enable the agency to track the interest of such organizations.

TJJD began having internal progress meetings each month in 2014 to work towards achieving the following goals: provide web links on the agency website for CFBOs; participate in outreach events; develop an addendum to TJJD's RFPs to better identify organizations as CFBOs; train TJJD's purchasers on the initiative, HB 492, and HB 1965; and provide information to contractors about subcontracting with private contract care providers. Additionally, TJJD developed and posted a new banner on the agency's website homepage at: <http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/Default.aspx>.

## Partner with TJJD

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[Learn more](#) about the Texas Faith-Based & Community Initiative. The link directs the reader to the page: [http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/aboutus/icg\\_info.aspx](http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/aboutus/icg_info.aspx).

### **Texas Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management**

TDEM is responsible for developing a **Donations and Volunteer Management Plan** for the State of Texas and has done this with the help and assistance of the Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Texas VOAD) and One Star Foundation. The Adventist Community Services (Seventh Day Adventist) and the Salvation Army help with managing donations as they come in. After the April 2013 fertilizer plant

explosion that devastated the town of West, Texas TDEM - with the help of faith-and community-based partners – was able to efficiently process over 20 tons of unsolicited donated items within 6 days. Team Rubicon, a Texas VOAD Partner, and One Star Foundation who mobilized the Texas Conservation Corps within 24 hours, managed over 7000 volunteers within those same 6 days. By partnering with these organizations a second disaster of unmanaged donations and unsolicited volunteers was averted.

Subsequently, a video was produced between TDEM and the Texas Food Bank Network (TFBN is a member of the Texas Nonprofit Council) to be used in the TDEM Donations Management class illustrating how to set up a warehouse and manage volunteers in a disaster; and to assist the TFBN in developing a video that could be used by their organization to assist with their mission.

**The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)  
Community Partner Program (CPP)**

**Community Partner Program CPP** is a statewide network of community-based organizations (CBOs) helping Texans to apply for and manage their HHSC benefits, including Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, and TANF, online through the state’s self-service portal, [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com). The CPP provides free training, certification, and support for organizations who participate in the program. Community Partners (CPs) may provide only a computer with internet access for individuals to use YourTexasBenefits.com (Self-Service sites) or may certify their staff or volunteers to provide assistance (Assistance sites). CPs may also choose to serve the general public or their current client population.

HB 2610, 82<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session, directed HHSC to train and certify volunteers and staff of faith and community-based organizations to assist individuals applying for public



benefits through the new online system. With this direction, HHSC created the Community Partner Program in January 2012 with the mission to increase awareness and utilization of YourTexasBenefits.com and to leverage the existing relationships that CBOs have in their communities to create better outcomes for people applying for or receiving HHSC benefits.

The CPP began as a three-phase pilot. Each pilot phase lasted approximately six-weeks and included between 8-12 organizations from central Texas (Austin-area) and the other major metropolitan areas of Texas (Dallas, Houston, etc.), for a total of 36 organizations. Various HHSC stakeholders were included as advisory members throughout the pilot to provide guidance and feedback to HHSC on program structure, outreach strategies, etc. The CPP is a non-financial agreement between HHSC and CBOs and HHSC's administrative costs are funded by the agency budget.

During the CPP pilot, HHSC engaged various key internal and external stakeholder groups to assist with the recruitment of pilot organizations and the development of an outreach strategy for program expansion. Stakeholders included those with connections to statewide networks of non-profit organizations that were identified as potential Partners (i.e. Texas Association of Community Health Centers, Texas Food Bank Network) as well as those that could advise on overall strategy and program structure (i.e. Center for Public Policy Priorities, HHSC Office of Communications, etc.).

In October 2012, when the CPP was expanded statewide, HHSC contracted with Baylor's Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) to help recruit and support new Community Partners throughout the state. THI subcontracted with the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC) and Texas Impact (TI) and established a regional support team of 12 offices and over 30 staff throughout the state known as the

Community Partner Recruitment Initiative (CPRI). CPRI's recruitment efforts include both general and targeted outreach to specific types of organizations (i.e. health centers, faith-communities, etc.) to find potential CPs. They also support organizations through the CPP enrollment process to insure that interested groups complete the process to become fully enrolled and certified (if applicable) CPs.

The team that administers the CPP utilizes a wide-range of both regular and ad hoc communication methods to share information and connect with CPs. Regular CPP communication methods include: monthly statistical reports and updates, monthly webinars, and seasonal newsletters. The CPP also has a website, [TexasCommunityPartnerProgram.com](http://TexasCommunityPartnerProgram.com), where the CPP team posts information for CPs and organizations interested in joining the program and maintain a public Community Partner search feature. The CPP team also utilizes a shared mailbox, [OCA\\_Community\\_Partners@hhsc.state.tx](mailto:OCA_Community_Partners@hhsc.state.tx) and phone calls for ad hoc communications. CPRI also communicates with current and potential CPs using similar methods. At this time, HHSC does not utilize social media to communicate with CPs.

HHSC surveyed CPP pilot participants regularly throughout all three phases to evaluate program structure and overall satisfaction with the program. Modifications to CPP program structure and processes continue to be informed by both formal and informal feedback received from CPs and CPRI. The CPP team consistently reports to agency leadership on this feedback and the growth and status of the program. Specifically, the CPP tracks and regularly reports on the number of CBOs in the Community Partner Program and the number of transaction that CPs help their clients perform using [YourTexasBenefits.com](http://YourTexasBenefits.com) (e.g., applications submitted, documents uploaded, changes reported, online accounts created, and renewal application submitted).

CBOs are widely diverse in mission, service delivery model, clients, size, and capacity, which has made a one-size-fits-all approach to supporting the CPP network a challenge. Some CBOs require a considerable amount of technical support, while others may require in-depth policy support. The CPP responds to this challenge by connecting CBOs to appropriate HHSC resources, where available, working with the regional support team, or developing new resources to address unmet needs.

Additionally, HHSC has limitations when it comes to the type of support and resources that can be made available to CPs. For example, HHSC does provide organizations with funding or equipment when they join the CPP. HHSC works to overcome this barrier by providing non-financial support and other incentives (e.g., free promotional materials, reports on the assistance provided) and utilizing the resources of contractors when possible (i.e. to provide technological equipment or support).

As the CPP expands, the scalability of the program becomes increasingly important. As a statewide program, there are limits to the direct-contact HHSC staff are able to have with CPs. Also, the volume of organizations moving through the enrollment process at any given time has created various challenges that have caused the CPP team to have to adapt processes over time to become more efficient while still meeting the needs of CPs. In addition to adapting processes, the CPP team has engaged CPRI, asking them to facilitate certain pieces of the enrollment process.

These three challenges are ongoing, but the CPP team is constantly developing new ways to address them and to meet the needs of CPs, HHSC, and the mutual clients we serve.

## **Texas Workforce Commission**

**Veterans' Workforce Outreach Project.** The project's purposes are to: 1) outreach hard-to-serve veterans who are not currently being served through the Texas Workforce Centers; 2) address employment barriers faced by the hard-to-serve veterans; and 3) reintegrate the target population into meaningful employment. TWC recognizes that there are such veterans who may not use the traditional workforce center system. Funding is intended to support the outreach and engagement of these veterans in activities designed to assist them in accessing both public and community-based services that address their needs and help them with job placement and retention.

The project is a statewide initiative using budgeted federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds. Grants are competitive procurements and awards using a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Providers, or grantees, are Texas community-based organizations. The Office of the Governor (OOG) originally began the project. When OOG funding was no longer available, TWC was able to initiate a competitive procurement contingent on the availability of federal funding.

TWC structured the project as a workforce development intervention to serve a WIA-targeted priority population—veterans, and in this case, hard-to-serve veterans. The strategy was to develop an RFP based on the target population, TWC's research, and the OOG experience. The RFP requires deliverables, which become part of any contract, derived from the research and the state's desired workforce development outcomes. TWC relies on eligible offerors to self-identify and evaluates and scores their offers. Resulting grantees have included non-profit organizations that serve a statewide population using multiple sites and city or region-specific organizations.

Through this process, TWC learned that use of an RFP provision that allows optional year-to-year continuation funding, contingent on performance and funding availability, permits continued project activity without a break in service. The possible year-to-year approach to funding may permit services up to two to three years thereby avoiding discontinuations of services and the resulting negative effects on the hard-to-serve veteran population. On-site visits, especially for contract orientations and technical assistance visits, and frequent outcomes/deliverables queries, conversation, and review work well.

The primary barriers are the ability of providers to sustain services with state funding, due to insufficient funding to serve the needs of this population. There are a small number of service providers for this specialized population, and there is difficulty integrating the project into the workforce development system due to the transient and multiple service needs of the target population.

**3. & 4. Goals - Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.**

**Activity and Progress:**

Texas Connector [texasconnects.org](https://www.texasconnects.org) is an interactive geo-mapping tool designed by OneStar Foundation and the North Central Texas Council on Governments to assist nonprofits, government agencies, local governments, elected officials, grant-makers and researchers to analyze community needs and nonprofit services; to address gaps in service; identify nonprofits by service category to promote collaboration or show duplication; and create customized demographic, statistical and provider reports for user

identified regions of interest. Connector has been recognized nationally as the nation's most robust statewide nonprofit database. Several ICG member agencies are using Texas Connector to facilitate their work. Among those users are: DADS, DSHS, DFPS, TDCJ and Department of Agriculture.

ICG authorizing legislation directed state agencies to more actively pursue strategies to identify duplication of services as well as gaps in service that could be addressed through faith and community based organizations. One innovative example is in the **partnership between OneStar Foundation's Texas Connector and TDCJ**. TDCJ has been working in partnership with OneStar to plan several "Train-the-Trainer" hands-on trainings for probation and re-entry staff supervisors. In-depth, in-person trainings will be conducted regionally for staff from each of the 68 regional offices, in addition to a special training that will be for TDCJ administration. The TDCJ large scale subscription includes access to Texas Connector for 500 concurrent users (with up to 1,700 total potential users across the agency), as well as in-person orientation trainings and a robust customer support plan, with a dedicated telephone line and email address, live refresher-type webinar trainings and online resources such as a user forum and video tutorials. TDCJ leadership has decided that this subscription will initially focus on their Probation Department (including 1,400 officers), selected Re-entry Department staff and administration leadership.

## V. NEXT STEPS FOR 2015

ICG members, in coordination with the Texas Nonprofit Council, will:

- 1) Keep agency information up-to-date on the OneStar website and continue to add new resources;
- 2) Continue development on a tutorial on the contracting lifecycle so faith and community organizations can better understand the contracting process from solicitation through reporting, monitoring and closeout;
- 3) Promote the use of the Texas Connector [www.texasconnects.org](http://www.texasconnects.org) as a resource for state agencies to identify duplication of services and gaps in services;
- 4) Further develop best practices for cooperation and collaboration between state agencies and FCBO networks;
- 5) Continue to work with agency leadership to reduce barriers for FCBOs and streamline procurement and contracting per the above recommendations, as much as is practicable.

For questions related to this report or to obtain more information on the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group, please contact Elizabeth Darling, President/CEO of OneStar Foundation, at 512-287-2035 or [liz@onestarfoundation.org](mailto:liz@onestarfoundation.org).

## VI. APPENDIX

### APPENDIX A

H.B. No. 492

#### AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services and social services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) Subtitle I, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 535 to read as follows:

#### CHAPTER 535. PROVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER

#### SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

#### SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Community-based initiative" includes a social, health, human services, or volunteer income tax assistance initiative operated by a community-based organization.

(2) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that is located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

(3) "Faith-based initiative" means a social, health, or human services initiative operated by a faith-based organization.



(4) "Faith-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that:

(A) is operated through a religious or denominational organization, including an organization that is operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by or in connection with a religious organization; or

(B) clearly demonstrates through the organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the organization is guided or motivated by religion.

(5) "State Commission on National and Community Service" means the entity used as authorized by 42 U.S.C. Section 12638(a) to carry out the duties of a state commission under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.).

Sec. 535.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations and to forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government for the legitimate public purpose of providing charitable and social services to persons in this state.

Sec. 535.003. CONSTRUCTION. This chapter may not be construed to:

(1) exempt a faith- or community-based organization from any applicable state or federal law; or

(2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by this state of the religious character, expression, beliefs, doctrines, or practices of a faith-based organization.

Sec. 535.004. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAW. A power authorized or duty imposed under this chapter must be performed in a manner that is consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 604a.

[Sections 535.005-535.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS FOR FAITH- AND  
COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 535.051. DESIGNATION OF FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED  
LIAISONS. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall  
designate one employee from the commission and from each health and human services  
agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in  
consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as  
a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission; and
- (10) other state agencies as determined by the governor.

Sec. 535.052. GENERAL DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a) A faith- and  
community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the  
state agency the liaison represents and faith- and community-based organizations;

(2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government;

(3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents;

(4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency;

(5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible; and

(6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith- and community-based initiatives.

(b) A faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 may coordinate and interact with statewide organizations that represent faith- or community-based organizations as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 535.053. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP. (a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service.

(b) The commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051 is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

(c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

(1) meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer;

(2) work across state agencies and with the State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(3) operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

Sec. 535.054. REPORTS. (a) A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith- and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(b) Each report made under Subsection (a)(2) must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose.

Sections 535.055-535.100 reserved for expansion]

#### SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

Sec. 535.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account" means the renewing our communities account.

Sec. 535.102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER. Recognizing that faith- and community-based organizations provide a range of vital charitable services to persons in this state, the purposes of this subchapter are to:

(1) increase the impact and effectiveness of those organizations;

(2) forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government so that communities are empowered to serve persons in need and community capacity for providing services is strengthened; and

(3) create a funding mechanism that builds on the established efforts of those organizations and operates to create new partnerships in local communities for the benefit of this state.

Sec. 535.103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT. (a) The renewing our communities account is an account in the general revenue fund that may be appropriated only to the commission for the purposes and activities authorized by this subchapter and for reasonable administrative expenses under this subchapter.

b) The account consists of:

(1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this subchapter;

(2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the purposes of this subchapter; and

(3) interest earned on money in the account.

(c) The account is exempt from the application of Section 403.095.

(d) The purposes of the account are to:

(1) increase the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to provide charitable services and to manage human resources and funds;

(2) assist local governmental entities in establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(3) foster better partnerships between state government and faith- and community-based organizations.

Sec. 535.104. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING ACCOUNT. (a) The commission shall:

(1) contract with the State Commission on National and Community Service to administer funds appropriated from the account in a manner that:

(A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens national service and community and faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(B) leverages public and private funds to benefit this state;

(2) develop a competitive process to be used in awarding grants from account funds that is consistent with state law and includes objective selection criteria;

(3) oversee the delivery of training and other assistance activities under this subchapter;

(4) develop criteria limiting awards of grants under Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state;

(5) establish general state priorities for the account;

(6) establish and monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom grants are awarded under this subchapter; and

(7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is allocated to build the capacity of

a faith-based organization or for a faith-based initiative, including money allocated for the establishment of the advisory subgroup under Section 535.108, is not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

(b) Instead of contracting with the State Commission on National and Community Service under Subsection (a)(1), the commission may award account funds appropriated to the commission to the State Commission on National and Community Service in the form of a grant.

(c) Any funds awarded to the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section must be administered in the manner required by this subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1).

(d) The commission or the State Commission on National and Community Service, in accordance with the terms of the contract or grant, as applicable, may:

(1) directly, or through agreements with one or more entities that serve faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state:

(A) assist faith- and community-based organizations with:

(i) writing or managing grants through workshops or other forms of guidance;

(ii) obtaining legal assistance related to forming a corporation or obtaining an exemption from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code;

and

(iii) obtaining information about or referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal, or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational topics;

(B) provide information or assistance to faith- and community-based organizations related to building the organizations' capacity for providing services;

(C) facilitate the formation of networks, the coordination of services, and the sharing of resources among faith- and community-based organizations;

(D) in cooperation with existing efforts, if possible, conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in services in a community that present a need for developing or expanding services;

(E) work with faith- and community-based organizations to identify the organizations' needs for improvements in their internal capacity for providing services;

(F) provide faith- and community-based organizations with information on and assistance in identifying or using practices with demonstrated effectiveness for delivering charitable services to persons, families, and communities and in replicating charitable services programs that have demonstrated effectiveness; and

(G) encourage research into the impact of organizational capacity on program delivery for faith- and community-based organizations;

(2) assist a local governmental entity in creating a better partnership between government and faith- and community-based organizations to provide charitable services to persons in this state; and

(3) use funds appropriated from the account to provide matching money for federal or private grant programs that further the purposes of the account as described by Section 535.103(d).



(e) The commission shall monitor the use of the funds administered by the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section to ensure that the funds are used in a manner consistent with the requirements of this subchapter.

Records relating to the award of a contract or grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, or to grants awarded by that entity, and records relating to other uses of the funds are public information subject to Chapter 552.

(f) If the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service under this section, this subchapter may not be construed to:

(1) release that entity from any regulations or reporting or other requirements applicable to a contractor or grantee of the commission;

(2) impose regulations or reporting or other requirements on that entity that do not apply to other contractors or grantees of the commission solely because of the entity's status;

(3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the requirements for maintaining that status; or

(4) convert that entity into a governmental entity because of the receipt of account funds through the contract or grant.

Sec. 535.105. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT FUNDS. If under Section 535.104 the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, that entity:

(1) may award grants from funds appropriated from the account to:

(A) faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state for capacity-building purposes; and

(B) local governmental entities to provide seed money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures established by the commission under Section 535.104(a)(6).

Sec. 535.106. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The commission shall provide a link on the commission's Internet website to the Internet website of the State Commission on National and Community Service if the commission contracts with or awards a grant to that entity under Section 535.104. The entity's Internet website must provide:

(1) a list of the names of each person to whom the entity awarded a grant from money appropriated from the account and the amount and purpose of the grant; and

(2) information regarding the methods by which the public may request information about those grants.

(b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section 535.104, the State Commission on National and Community Service must provide to the commission periodic reports on a schedule determined by the executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic reports must include an annual report that includes:

(1) a specific accounting with respect to the use by that entity of money appropriated from the account, including the names of persons to whom grants have been awarded and the purposes of those grants; and

(2) a summary of the efforts of the faith- and

community-based liaisons designated under Section 535.051 to comply with the duties imposed by and the purposes of Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(c) The commission shall post the annual report made under Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet website and shall provide copies of the report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the members of the legislature.

Sec. 535.107. TASK FORCE ON STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT CAPACITY. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall establish a task force to make recommendations for strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations for managing human resources and funds and providing services. The members of the task force must include:

(1) representatives from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, the academic community, and the foundation community; and

(2) other individuals who have expertise that would be valuable to the task force.

(b) Using money appropriated from the account, the task force shall hold at least three public hearings in various geographic areas of this state, at least one of which must be outside of Central Texas. The task force shall hear testimony at the hearings regarding strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to manage human resources and funds and provide services.

(c) The task force is not required to hold a public hearing if the remaining money appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of the duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) The task force shall present a report and legislative recommendations to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public

Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2010, regarding its recommendations.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

Sec. 535.108. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT ADVISORY SUBGROUP. (a) The executive commissioner shall appoint leaders of faith- and community-based organizations in this state to serve on the renewing our communities account advisory subgroup. The advisory subgroup members must be representative of the religious, cultural, and geographic diversity of this state and the diversity of organization types and sizes in this state.

(b) The advisory subgroup shall make recommendations to the executive commissioner regarding the powers and duties with respect to the account as described by Section 535.104.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the advisory subgroup shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The advisory subgroup is not required to meet if the remaining amount appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of any duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory subgroup.

(e) The advisory subgroup is subject to Chapter 551.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the chief executive officers of the Office of Rural Community Affairs, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas

Workforce Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and any other state agency as determined by the governor shall designate the liaisons for faith- and community-based initiatives as required under Section 535.051, Government Code, as added by this section, not later than December 1, 2009.

(c) The interagency coordinating group established under Section 535.053, Government Code, as added by this section, shall hold its first meeting not later than February 1, 2010.

SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program, creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the provision.

SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the House on April 24, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 119, Nays 15, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 492 on May 18, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Governor

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 535.051, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Texas Department [Office] of Rural [~~Community~~] Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission;
- (10) the office of the governor;
- (11) the Department of Public Safety;

- (12) the Texas Department of Insurance;
- (13) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- (14) the office of the attorney general;
- (15) the Department of Agriculture;
- (16) the office of the comptroller;
- (17) the Department of Information Resources;
- (18) the Office of State-Federal Relations;
- (19) the office of the secretary of state; and
- (20) [(40)] other state agencies as determined by the governor.

(c) The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall designate one employee from an institution of higher education, as that term is defined under Section 61.003, Education Code, to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

SECTION 2. Sections 535.053(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service. The commission shall provide administrative support to the interagency coordinating group.

(b) The liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service [~~commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051~~] is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group. If the State Commission on National and



Community Service is abolished, the liaison from the governor's office is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

SECTION 3. Section 535.054, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 535.054. REPORT [REPORTS]. (a) Not later than December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the interagency coordinating group. [A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

~~[(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and~~

~~[(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.]~~

(b) The [Each] report made under Subsection (a) [(a)(2)] must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website[~~and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose~~].

SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 535, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 535.055 to read as follows:

Sec. 535.055. TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS. (a) The interagency coordinating group task force is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the task force one representative from each of the following groups and entities:

- (1) a statewide nonprofit organization;
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups;
- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations;
- (6) experts in grant writing; and
- (7) a statewide association of nonprofit organizations.

(c) In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group, in coordination with the task force, shall:

- (1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
- (2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
- (3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and
- (4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

(d) The task force shall prepare a report describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group under this section. The task force shall present the report to the House Subgroup

on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2012.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

SECTION 5. Not later than October 1, 2011, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the interagency coordinating group task force in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the House on April 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Nonprofit Council to assist with faith-based and community-based initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 535.055, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 535.055. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL [~~TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS~~]. (a) The Texas Nonprofit Council [~~interagency coordinating group task force~~] is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the council [~~task force~~].

(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the council two representatives [~~task force one representative~~] from each of the following groups and entities:

- (1) [~~a~~] statewide nonprofit organizations [~~organization~~];
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups;
- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations; and

(6) ~~[experts in grant writing; and~~

~~[(7) a]~~ statewide associations ~~[association]~~ of nonprofit organizations.

(c) The council ~~[In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group]~~, in coordination with the interagency coordinating group ~~[task force]~~, shall:

(1) make recommendations ~~[develop and implement a plan]~~ for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;

(2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;

(3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

(c-1) The council shall elect a chair or chairs and secretary from among its members and shall assist the executive commissioner in identifying individuals to fill vacant council positions that arise.

(c-2) Council members serve three-year terms. The terms expire on October 1 of every third year. A council member shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

(d) The council ~~[task force]~~ shall prepare a biennial report detailing the council's work, including ~~[describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include]~~ in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified ~~[by the group]~~ under this section. The council ~~[task force]~~ shall present the report to the House Committee on Human Services

or its successor, the House Committee on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or its successor not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year [~~September 1, 2012~~].

(e) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the Texas Nonprofit Council.

(f) The Texas Nonprofit Council is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act).

Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the council is abolished and this section expires September 1, 2019. [~~This section expires September 1, 2013.~~]

SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2013, and by October 1 every three years thereafter, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the Texas Nonprofit Council in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect August 31, 2013.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 993 passed the Senate on April 18, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 993 passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 2, one present not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

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Date

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Governor



## **APPENDIX D**

### **APPOINTED ICG LIAISONS**

Betsey Bishop - Department of Aging and Disability Services  
Catherine Wright Steele - Department of Agriculture  
David Hagerla - Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services  
Wynne Breece, Sasha Rasco - Department of Family and Protective Services  
Amy Baillargeon - Department of Information Resources  
Ricardo Garcia - Department of State Health Services  
Liz Garbutt, Michelle Harper - Health and Human Services Commission  
Jim Beck, Vincent Houston - Office of Secretary of State  
Dan Wilmot - Office of State-Federal Relations  
Jerry Strickland, Mindy Sue Cohen - Office of the Attorney General  
Janie Ramirez - Institution of Higher Education  
Ron Pigott - Office of the Comptroller  
Becky Dean - Office of the Governor  
Gabriel Cardenas - Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Elizabeth Darling - Texas State Commission on National and Community Service  
Brian Christian, Chris Gobert - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Marvin Dunbar - Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Elizabeth Yevich - Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
Melissa Hamilton - Texas Department of Insurance  
Nim Kidd - Texas Department of Public Safety  
Tammy T. Holland - Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Nydia D. Thomas - Texas Juvenile Probation Commission  
Kathy Wood - Texas Veterans Commission  
Phyllis Coombes - Texas Workforce Commission

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Appointed Members of the Texas Nonprofit Council**

**2013-2016**

Bee Moorhead, Chair – Texas Impact

Vicki Niedermayer, Secretary – Helping Restore Ability

Donna Chatham – Association of Rural Communities in Texas

Celia Cole – Texas Food Bank Network

Froswa' Booker-Drew – US Programs, World Vision

Tod Marvin – Easter Seals of Texas

Lidya Osadchey – ESCAPE Family Resource Center

Laurie Paarlberg – Bush School, Texas A&M University

Amy Ledbetter Parham – Habitat for Humanity Texas

Gabriela Saenz – CHRISTUS Health

Marolyn Stubblefield – University of the Incarnate Word