



Interagency Coordinating Group

Legislative Report

Prepared by

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

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OneStar Foundation

Submitted to

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

In 2009 through House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Texas became the first state in the country to pass legislation specifically to 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. Subsequent legislation passed in the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, expanded this initiative through House Bill (H.B.) 1965, by adding additional state agencies in its charge. Both Acts directed the chief administrative officer of the named state agencies 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.

The first bill, 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.

Subsequently, 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.

2020 ICG Activities

The ICG met in May and October of 2020. The May meeting included a discussion of challenges and opportunities agencies are facing in partnering with faith-based and community organizations considering the COVID-19 pandemic. Agencies shared activities and ideas to resolve issues and promote safe practices. Additionally, the meeting featured a presentation by Adrianna Cuellar Rojas, President and CEO, United Ways of Texas, and Chris Bugbee, President and CEO, OneStar Foundation on [the report](#) “Built for Texas: The Impact and Opportunity of Our Nonprofit Sector” and the [subsequent survey](#) assessing the impact of COVID-19 on Texas nonprofits. Both activities are part of a partnership initiative aiming to strengthen the Texas nonprofit sector.

The ICG's October meeting featured a presentation by Sarah Richards, Director of Community Affairs, OneStar Foundation on the new VolunteerTX program, an aggregator website that will create a centralized feed of Texas specific volunteer opportunities allowing residents throughout the state to access volunteer and service opportunities more efficiently. Agencies discussed how VolunteerTX could be useful in outreach and engagement of Texans in volunteer opportunities at a number of state agencies. Additionally, the October meeting included a facilitated discussion about the effectiveness of the ICG and opportunities to improve efforts in 2021. Several agency liaisons self-selected to join a Planning Committee to solicit feedback and develop recommendations to inform the ICG, OneStar Foundation, and the soon-to-be reactivated Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC) of ways to enhance effectiveness of individual liaisons, the ICG, and ICG-TNC collaboration in the years ahead.

The ICG Planning Committee met in November to kick off efforts, outline activities and begin work. By March 2021, the Committee hopes to achieve the following goals: 1) Review liaison and ICG duties and responsibilities and assess progress over the last ten years; 2) Gather and review data, including feedback from ICG members on experience to date and ideas for improving effectiveness; 3) Develop recommendations to enhance effectiveness of ICG in supporting liaisons in their work and in advancing the government code purpose; and 4) Develop recommendations to support the ICG and soon-to-be-reactivated Texas Nonprofit Council in achieving their joint mandate. The Committee is currently developing a survey and interview questions and will move forward with administering these activities later this month.

Lastly, with the Office of the Governor working to make new appointments to the Texas Nonprofit Council, ICG liaisons are assisting OneStar Foundation in identifying and conducting outreach to prospective Council applicants. The ICG looks forward to supporting the Council with its important work in the years ahead.

As presiding officer of the Interagency Coordinating Group, I respectfully submit this year's report on the goals, activities, and progress of the ICG from January through December 2020. Previous reports submitted outline specific actions taken since the passage of the initial legislation in 2009. These reports and additional information about the ICG can be found on the OneStar Foundation website at www.onestarfoundation.org.

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 S.B. 993 83R) shall:
 - Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations;
 - Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations;
 - 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.

ICG Reporting Duties

- Sec. 535.054. (a) — No 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. (a) ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRESS (*January – December 2020*)

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

Activity and Progress:

In 2012, the ICG finalized an [RFP Template](#) for Client Services Procurements. The template provides a standardized format for the requested information. Several ICG member agencies use this template which is available on the Comptroller's website.

Agencies reviewed this template in 2020 and made no changes to it. Agencies unfamiliar with the template were requested to inquire within their respective agencies, about the template's pertinence and usage rate.

The ICG began discussions on additional activities to engage in towards achieving this goal and will continue discussion and move towards implementation in 2021.

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

Activity and Progress:

The following pages provide a snapshot of agency activities relating to cooperation and collaboration with faith and community-based organizations. Submissions were cleared through each agency's internal review process and compiled by OneStar Foundation, chair of the ICG.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS) *Work with Faith and Community-Based Organizations*

Maternal and Child Health

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs System Development Group (CSHCN SDG)** works with 13 community-based organizations to provide case management, family support, and community resources to children and youth with special health care needs and their families throughout Texas. Through monthly emails, CSHCN SDG provides information about upcoming initiatives, training opportunities, and events of specific interest to professionals to share with families of children with special health care needs. The CSHCN SDG holds quarterly conference calls and provides ongoing technical assistance to share resources, provide contract requirement updates, and facilitate discussions on innovative best practices, such as Person-Centered Thinking and population-based services.

Help Me Grow Texas is a statewide network of communities maximizing the efficiency of early childhood systems to promote the healthy development of Texas children. The network enhances capacity for the early detection of developmental concerns and the linkage of families with young children to needed community resources, services, and supports. The DSHS Maternal and Child Health Unit is the organizing entity for the expansion of the Help Me Grow model in Texas, in collaboration with the Department for Family and Protective Services. Key functions include convening state and local early childhood stakeholders, coordinating a cohort learning experience for regional communities, and identifying sustainable best practices for a high impact early childhood system. Help Me Grow Texas has convened a fiscal year 2021 cohort consisting of six community-based organizations across the state.

A network of **Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Community Coalitions** strengthen local systems for addressing infant mortality and maternal, perinatal, and infant health. HTMB Coalitions bring together health professionals, local health departments (LHDs), hospitals, community-based organizations, and stakeholders to create a collaborative network of partners to lend resources and expertise to address perinatal

health issues relevant to their communities. HTMB Coalitions convene periodically, coordinate health assessments, and conduct training and outreach activities.

The Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies **Maternal Health and Safety Awareness, Education, and Communication Campaign**, currently in development, will focus on implementing a comprehensive strategy for communication, education, and outreach to increase public awareness and prevention activities related to maternal mortality and morbidity in Texas. The campaign will engage and mobilize stakeholders including community-based organizations in activities to create a maternal health and safety culture in Texas.

The **Maternal and Child Health Program** has engaged community-based organizations in community partner listening sessions to promote maternal and child health and breastfeeding initiatives. The program also seeks stakeholder input about opportunities and gaps for improving breastfeeding support in local communities across Texas. Additionally, the program hosts the SupportFromDayOne.org website to support community partners in planning community-based breastfeeding support initiatives.

The **Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)** program partners with Texas Hands and Voices for the TEHDI Parent Care Coordination project. As a parent-driven organization, Texas Hands and Voices contacts families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to provide information, resources, and parent-to-parent assistance. The organization works to make sure children who are deaf and hard of hearing are given the opportunities to reach their highest potential. Texas Hands and Voices staff serve as educators for healthcare providers to ensure they are aware of the importance of using the TEHDI Management Information System to report and track newborn and follow-up hearing screen records for continuity of care. The organization also assists healthcare providers with training and technical assistance.

The **State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)** is composed of 19 community members and six state representatives. They develop an understanding of the causes and incidences of child deaths in Texas; identify procedures within agencies represented on the committee to reduce the number of preventable child deaths; promote public awareness; and make recommendations to the governor and legislature for changes in the law, policy, and practices to reduce the number of preventable child deaths.

Local Child Fatality Review Teams (CFRTs) are volunteer-based and organized by county or multi-county geographic areas. Membership mirrors that of the SCFRT and includes representation from DSHS regional staff. Local CFRTs conduct retrospective reviews of deaths of children 17 years of age or younger in their geographic areas. Team members collect information that corresponds to their disciplines and specific questions from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP) database. Local CFRTs meet to share what each member knows about the specific child deaths being reviewed and identify risk factors specific to their communities. All reviews consider if the death was preventable. Per the NCFRP database, a child's death is considered preventable if an

individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. This information is used by local CFRTs to discuss prevention initiatives. Additionally, local teams provide recommendations to the SCFRT. As of December 2019, there were 83 active local CFRTs covering 211 of the 254 Texas counties with 94 percent of Texas children residing in a county where child deaths are reviewed.

Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries

The **Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch** collaborates with community-based organizations in areas impacted by hazardous waste sites to learn about community health concerns and to distribute educational materials. This collaboration allows DSHS to provide important information to a greater number of community members, increase awareness about how to prevent hazardous exposures, and better address community concerns.

The Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch also partners with the Texas Veteran's Commission and community groups on education and outreach regarding the Veteran Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

The **Blood Lead Surveillance Branch (BLSB)** partners with local Head Start programs to improve blood lead testing, communication, and general lead education. BLSB also partners with LHDs and health care providers to conduct trainings and educational sessions for health professionals and the public regarding lead testing and prevention.

Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

The **Diabetes Prevention and Control Program** partners with six academic institutions, five LHDs, and one non-profit organization to provide diabetes prevention and self-management activities. These programs support positive lifestyle changes in individuals and families to help prevent or manage diabetes and its complications, in addition to reducing hospital admissions and readmissions.

The **Heart Disease and Stroke Program** partners with Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCAs) and food banks or pantries to promote self-measured blood pressure monitoring among patrons. The program provides participants with automatic blood pressure monitors, education on their use, and tracking logs to record their blood pressure readings twice a day for 12-16 weeks.

The **Obesity Prevention Program** works with Feeding Texas, a statewide nonprofit, and five LHDs to encourage healthy food policies at Texas food banks and availability of healthy foods for selection at food pantries. This initiative provides prompts and assistance to food pantries when ordering food from participating food banks, as well as guidance on how to display healthy foods within their food pantries to increase selection by clients.

The **Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch** partners with three community-based organizations to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts. They work to reduce youth initiation and use of all tobacco products, increase cessation of tobacco products, increase local enforcement of Texas tobacco laws, and create local infrastructure to reduce the toll of tobacco on the health, safety, and well-being of Texans.

Infectious Disease Prevention

The **Immunization Unit** partners with immunization coalitions, community-based organizations, and local health entities to improve immunization rates throughout the state by promoting the importance of childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations. In support of its coalition building efforts, DSHS promotes local immunization programs and services through the following methods: the ImmunizeTX.com website; paid media placement via television, radio and digital outlets; newsletters for LHDs, providers, and the public; informative publications; webinars; and social media posts. Immunization coalitions have also partnered with DSHS public health regions, LHDs, and health care providers enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children and Adult Safety Net programs to conduct vaccination clinics and administer vaccinations to community health fair participants.

The **Tuberculosis/Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Sexually Transmitted Disease (TB/HIV/STD) Section** works in collaboration with LHDs, faith and community-based organizations, and academic institutions in key areas across the state for the monitoring, prevention, and treatment/linkage to treatment of TB, HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis C.

The Section monitors and evaluates the impacts of TB, HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis C statewide through contracts and other agreements with LHDs to conduct surveillance activities and epidemiologic assessments. Based on data assessments, the Section works in partnership with LHDs, faith and community-based organizations, and others to prevent, test, and treat TB, HIV, STDs and Hepatitis C in Texas. A sampling of activities that occur in the Section include:

- Contracts with LHDs for TB screening, public health follow-up, and treatment;
- Contracts with LHDs for STD prevention, testing, and treatment, partner notification services, and public health follow-up;
- Free or low-cost access to, and provision of, life extending medications for persons living with HIV;
- Engagement of faith and community-based organizations, people living with HIV, clinicians, researchers, and other stakeholders interested in HIV prevention and care services through community input meetings, surveys, townhalls, and needs assessments;
- Funding for LHDs and faith and community-based organizations to provide HIV care services in all 254 counties of Texas for medical care and supportive services, including case management, to persons living with HIV;

- Funded partnerships with faith and community-based organizations, LHDs, multiple healthcare systems, and academic institutions for HIV prevention services, including testing, linkage to care, pre-exposure prophylaxis and non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis, and prevention education; and
- Collaborations with LHDs and faith and community-based organizations with higher frequency areas of Hepatitis C testing to provide linkage to care, education, and resources for medical providers and the public.

Public Health Regions

DSHS administers many of its public health programs and services through its eight **Public Health Regions (PHRs)**. Every region partners with faith and community-based organizations to improve and enhance public and population health. Regional staff work with local community coalitions, faith-based organizations, community leaders, and school districts to promote injury prevention messages and participate in activities for suicide prevention; safe sleep education; childhood obesity prevention; and water, car, and bike safety. PHRs partner with faith and community-based groups to host back to school health fairs providing vision and hearing exams, school supplies, and emergency preparedness information.

To address chronic disease prevention, PHRs participate with local school health advisory councils to conduct tobacco awareness presentations and with community health worker associations to provide train-the-trainer classes on tobacco cessation resources. Regional staff also partner with public housing authorities to train staff and tenants on secondhand smoke and cessation resources. Regions have joined with LHDs and merchants to host an annual health fair and 5K walk/run for faith-based communities with a high prevalence of chronic disease.

PHRs collaborate with faith-based groups, rape crisis centers, law enforcement, and other victim services to educate and inform the public about human trafficking and outreach to possible victims.

Specialized Health and Social Services (SHSS) staff in all PHRs participate in community meetings and coalitions to share programmatic information and provide technical assistance on caring for children with special needs. These meetings promote the case management and referral services provided by SHSS while also ensuring staff remain well-informed of resources available to children with disabilities and their families. SHSS case managers participate in Community Resource Coordination Groups across the state, working with community members, parents, caregivers, youth, and adults to plan benefits and services for persons with special needs.

The **Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID)** is a DSHS public health in-patient and out-patient hospital in San Antonio that treats tuberculosis and Hansen’s disease. Several church organizations provide spiritual support, discussions, and bible study opportunities

to TCID patients. Additionally, a community-based organization provides animal-assisted therapy.

The **Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)** partners with faith and community-based organizations in communities with poor health outcomes to improve the population's health and well-being. In working with these organizations, OBPH holds events and activities that focus on health promotion and health education, including health fairs, community health worker trainings, and health professional trainings. OBPH has partnered with community health worker training centers, area health education centers, regional hospitals, community health clinics, nonprofit organizations, border collaboratives, and the eight existing Binational Health Councils along the Texas-Mexico borders to develop work plans and sustainability goals that promote unity and collaboration between health officials of sister cities.

Program staff within the **Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (CHEPR)** as well as preparedness staff in each PHR engage with faith and community-based organizations to help meet health and human service needs before, during, and after a disaster or emergency event. Staff attend meetings with community coalitions and faith-based ministry initiatives to coordinate with local emergency management, Red Cross, and similar organizations.

Additionally, **TexasReady** program staff engage organizations across the state to provide education regarding personal disaster preparedness, including making and practicing an emergency plan and building an emergency kit. TexasReady provides education and outreach to families and individuals through faith-based groups, childcare facilities, and community organizations.

Medical & Research Library

The DSHS **Medical & Research Library** maintains the [Health Ministry-Faith Community](#) website which offers a calendar of events of interest to nurses working within faith communities in Texas; selected Internet web sites; names and contact information of persons who have agreed to serve as expert resources from around the country; and bibliographic citations that could be of use to nurses practicing within faith communities.

The DSHS **Audiovisual Library** provides upon request health-related audiovisuals to faith-based schools throughout the state.

TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (HHSC)

Community Partner Program

The Community Partner Program (CPP) is a collaboration between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and a statewide network of nearly 600 community and faith-based organizations. Community partners provide assistance

to Texans seeking help with completing applications for food, health care, or cash assistance benefits or with managing their benefits through YourTexasBenefits.com.

Organizations interested in participating in the program sign nonfinancial agreements with HHSC agreeing to adhere to program requirements. Once the agreement is finalized, CPP staff connects with the organization to begin providing ongoing support. CPP support includes in-person visits, training, certification, and presentations.

The composition of participating partner organizations remains diverse. In fiscal year 2020, the CPP network of participating partner sites expanded to 1,558 from 1,271 last fiscal year.

Table 1. Community Partners by Type

Type	Example(s)	Percent
Nonprofits	Social services, food pantries, shelters	45%
Medical	Community health centers, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals	20%
Local Governments	Housing authorities, health departments, councils of government	14%
Education and Literacy	School districts, libraries, head starts, colleges, universities	15%
Faith-Based	Churches	6%
Total		100%

In fiscal year 2020, the CPP participated in over 160 statewide events and facilitated 20 webinars to over 2,100 participants. These webinars included HHS benefit and policy updates, CPP updates, YourTexasBenefits.com changes, COVID-19 related updates, and general partner information. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPP developed a COVID-19 resource directory for partners and created and implemented a virtual visit process to continue providing ongoing support.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) support the Texas “No Wrong Door” system by serving as a key access point to person-centered, long-term services and supports needed to live independently in the community. The 28 ADRCs collaborate with area agencies on aging, affordable housing coalitions, local service providers, food pantries, and other community-based organizations to provide information and referral services. In addition to information and referral services, ADRCs often subcontract with faith- and community-based organizations to provide respite care

to family caregivers. ADRCs also ensure that faith- and community-based organizations are represented on their local advisory groups.

Throughout the last quarter of fiscal year 2019 and the first three-quarters of fiscal year 2020, ADRCs assisted 131,936 callers and provided information at 1,073 outreach and education events, such as health fairs, Medicare open enrollment events, family caregiver workshops, and other community events. ADRCs provided nearly 24,493 hours of respite services to approximately 560 caregivers.

Foster Grandparent Program

The HHSC Foster Grandparent Program provides income-eligible adults, age 55 and older, meaningful volunteer opportunities providing one-on-one emotional support, mentoring, and tutoring to children with exceptional needs in eight HHSC service areas. Foster Grandparent Program volunteers are matched with a volunteer site, which may be a public agency, faith- or community-based nonprofit, or health care organization. Between July 2019 and June 2020, 512 Foster Grandparent Program volunteers provided 495,420 hours of mentorship to over 17,000 youth with exceptional needs.

Area Agencies on Aging

HHSC contracts with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to provide services to older adults and to help older adults remain in their homes and communities. AAAs are designated by statute and are housed within community-based, nonprofit organizations and local governments. While AAAs contract with for-profit vendors for certain services, such as congregate and home-delivered meals and transportation, most services are provided through partnerships with nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

For fiscal year 2020, more than 117,000 people received more than 13 million meals through the congregate and home-delivered meals programs and approximately 7,800 people received transportation services, providing more than 456,000 trips.

HHSC also contracts with the nonprofit vendor Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC) to support AAAs in providing legal assistance services to older adults and their caregivers. These legal assistance services create public awareness of legal and Medicare issues impacting older Texans and assist them with public entitlements, health care, individual rights, planning options, housing, and consumer needs. Over 311,000 groups and/or individuals benefited from legal assistance services in fiscal year 2020.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) offers nutrition education and obesity prevention services for SNAP participants, individuals, and families who are eligible for SNAP or other means-tested federal assistance programs and for individuals residing in communities with significant low-income populations. HHSC contracts with community-based providers, such as

nonprofits, academic institutions, and governmental entities to provide these services.

Between October 2019 and July 2020, an estimated 2,144,062 unduplicated child and adult Texans were reached through SNAP-Ed direct and indirect education interventions. Participants of direct education learn about healthy eating, food safety, cooking skills, food resource management, and obesity prevention with the goal of increasing fruit and vegetable consumption as well as physical activity. There were 27,038 direct education classes provided at 2,886 implementation sites. Since Governor Abbott's disaster declaration in March 2020, in-person direct education has been replaced with virtual programming, and 695 virtual classes have been offered.

2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network

The 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network (2-1-1 TIRN) connects Texans with services they need through comprehensive information and referral services. The 2-1-1 TIRN collects and organizes information about state and local health and human services programs and provides this information to the public online at 211Texas.org and by phone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The 2-1-1 TIRN maintains information on more than 30,000 agencies and services. The top caller needs from August 1, 2019, to July 31, 2020, include electric service payment assistance, rent payment assistance, food pantries, COVID-19 diagnostic tests and information, food stamps/SNAP applications, water service payment assistance, housing authorities, low-income housing, and homeless shelters. HHSC administers 2-1-1 TIRN through 25 area information center operations contracts, which include United Way agencies, councils of government, community action networks, and municipalities.

The 2-1-1 TIRN handled more than 2.2 million calls and had over 1.5 million website pageviews at 211Texas.org from August 1, 2019, to July 31, 2020. As part of the implementation of the 2020-21 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 174) and House Bill 2325, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, web-based chat was implemented two months ahead of schedule to support COVID-19 response efforts. Since the release of web-based chat (April 2, 2020, to August 19, 2020), over 7,600 sessions have been handled.

AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING Austin Community College District

Meeting community needs in the midst of a global pandemic: Like every individual, business, and institution in the state of Texas, higher education institutions are deeply impacted by COVID-19. With regard to Austin Community College District (ACC) and our institution's experience, the pandemic forced an immediate shift from in-person to online

education in mid-March and disrupted the lives of thousands of students. However, the community college story of the COVID-19 pandemic is not only one of disruption, it is also a story of resiliency, collaboration, creativity, and hard work to ensure that the community colleges of Texas continue to meet the workforce and educational needs of our state and its employers. ACC and the other community colleges of Texas are contributing to the state's response and recovery in several meaningful ways, including:

PPE Donations: As the first wave of the pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, community colleges across Texas mobilized an effort to donate their spare personal protective equipment (PPE) to front-line health-care workers across Texas. At ACC, the institution's Health Sciences Department donated masks, gloves and other PPE to the Austin/Central Texas Public Health Consortium which made strategic determinations about distribution of PPE. In addition, the college deployed its fashion design department to manufacture masks and its 3D-printing capability to produce plastic face shields for front-line health-care workers.

Transition to online learning: Over the span of two weeks, Texas community colleges transitioned most instruction to an online modality. After the initial shock of the move to online learning, many community colleges, including ACC, sought to improve technology and training for faculty and staff in an effort to deliver the highest-quality online learning possible. Community colleges worked together sharing best practices. They regularly collaborated with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on developing best practices for the eventual return of in-person learning. In addition, many institutions used their CARES Act funds and institutional funds to make wifi-enabled devices available to students who did not have access to technology. Abiding by the need to have social distancing, ACC boosted its wifi signals to its parking lots so students who did not have wifi at home could drive to a campus and study in their vehicles. Higher education institutions continue to research the technology and wifi challenges faced by students. Understanding this will help institutions anticipate future needs and work with partners in the nonprofit, for-profit, and government sectors to develop solutions seeking to bridge the digital divide.

Low-cost workforce certifications in areas of critical need: Across the state, community colleges are seeking to meet the needs of workers who have been displaced by the pandemic and are in need of re-skilling or upskilling. This is also a critical component of the state's overall economic recovery. Community colleges, working with the Texas Workforce Commission, are developing a Texas Talent Pathways program that seeks to offer uniform low-cost or no-cost online credentials across the state in fields where there is great demand. The Texas Association of Community Colleges is coordinating this undertaking, which also includes an effort to secure federal and philanthropic grants to develop and deploy this program. While Texas Talent Pathways is being developed, ACC has taken the initiative to cut the tuition on a dozen short-term workforce Fast Track Career programs to engage students who have been displaced by the pandemic. These include:

- Accounting and Bookkeeping
- Administrative Assistant

- Certified Nurse Aide
- Certified Production Technician
- Dental Assistant
- HVAC
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Medical Office Support
- PC Technician
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Welding

Collaborating with nonprofits: Throughout the pandemic, collaborations with nonprofit organizations have been strengthened, as both nonprofits and institutions have played complementary roles in serving Texans in need. Some examples include:

- Working with the Trellis Foundation on the design and implementation of student emergency aid programs.
- Working with the Texas Higher Education Foundation on a \$711,000 grant to provide students with emergency aid at 57 institutions, many in poor or rural areas.
- Organizing drive-up food-bank distributions in the parking lots of ACC campuses.
- Helping coordinate additional PPE donations from nonprofits and individuals to health-care workers.
- Working with nonprofits specializing in bridging the digital divide.

Though the pandemic has been a disruptive force in the lives of every Texan, Austin Community College District and the higher education institutions of Texas are working hard to secure the state’s economic recovery by upskilling displaced workers, collaborating with our partner nonprofits and agencies, and adjusting our teaching and learning modalities to ensure students can continue their progress and Texas remains competitive.

THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS (PUCT)

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) continues to look for innovative ways to assist Texas customers in navigating the complex issues in the area of electricity, telecommunications and water. In 2020 the PUC’s outreach program was diminished with cancellations related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic the agency continued to work virtually with faith and community-based organizations to provide educational materials and training on electric choice, energy conservation and customer assistance programs. Educational materials typically are distributed at many outreach events throughout the state. These events include Earth Day Texas in Dallas, and 6 Stones’ “Operation Back 2 School” Day in Bedford. 6 Stones’ “Operation Back 2 School” Day provides economically disadvantaged students from Hurst-

Eules-Bedford ISD a great start to the new school year. The religious service organization hands out free backpacks, school supplies, and other resource information to parents. At this event, not only does the PUCT typically provide students with school supplies, but also provides resource information regarding customer assistance programs and energy conservation tips for their parents. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend these events in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The PUCT also typically participates in the Texas Black Expo and Energy Day in Houston. At those events, the PUCT provides area residents resource information regarding electric choice, energy conservation, and customer assistance programs. Numerous police departments, senior activity centers, and faith and community-based organizations contacted the PUCT throughout the year to request the agency's durable brochure-on-a-stick (hand fan) that provides customers energy conservation tips. The PUCT looks forward to continuing our partnerships with faith and community-based organizations in the next year.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)

The Office of the Secretary of State continues to publicize on its website information regarding non-profits. This information is listed under Business and Public filings under the Non-Profits Organization link.

Information listed includes:

- [SOS Forms for Nonprofit Corporations and Unincorporated Nonprofit Associations](#)
- [FAQs for Nonprofits](#)
- [Doing Business with the SOS on and after January 1, 2010: A Guide for Texas Nonprofit Corporations \(PDF\)](#)
- [Forming a Nonprofit Tax-Exempt Corporation in Texas \(PDF\)](#) (2018 Texas C-BAR publication)
- [Search for Charities on the IRS Web Site](#)

Tax Issues for Nonprofits

Neither a nonprofit corporation nor an unincorporated nonprofit association is automatically exempt from federal or state taxes.

To become exempt, a nonprofit organization must meet certain requirements and apply with both the Internal Revenue Service and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

- **Federal Taxes - [IRS Charities & Nonprofits page](#)**
- To attain a federal tax exemption as a charitable organization, your certificate of formation must contain a required purpose clause and a dissolution of assets provision.

- [IRS Stay Exempt](#): tax information for 501(c)(3) organizations
- [IRS Publication 557 \(PDF, 1.06mb\)](#), *Tax Exempt Status for your Organization*.
- [Life Cycle of a Public Charity](#): sample organizational documents and IRS filings
- Questions about federal tax-exempt status? Contact the IRS Exempt Organizations Section at 877-829-5500.
- [IRS Form 1023 \(PDF\)](#) application for recognition of exemption and [instructions \(PDF\)](#).
- [Information about Form 990-N reporting requirements](#) for small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.
- **State Taxes** - [Comptroller of Public Accounts Exemption page](#)
- Comptroller [Guidelines to Texas Tax Exemptions](#) page.
- [Exemption Forms](#).
- Questions about state tax-exempt status? Review the comptroller's [FAQs](#) or contact the comptroller's Exempt Organizations Section by phone at (800) 531-5441 or (512) 463-4600 or by [email](#).

Texas Nonprofit Resources

- [Charitable Trust](#) Section of the Office of the Attorney General
- [Texas C-BAR](#): Community Building with Attorney Resources provides free legal assistance to Texas non-profit organizations.
- [OneStar Foundation](#) - One Star promotes service and volunteerism, forges effective public and private partnerships, and works to increase the performance of non-profit organization.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (TDCJ)

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) partners with faith-based and community organizations to provide an individual, whether they are incarcerated or serving their sentence in the community, with a multitude of resources with a goal of successful reentry and reducing recidivism. TDCJ is committed to utilizing and partnering with approved volunteers to assist and facilitate services essential in the rehabilitation process. These volunteers represent a broad spectrum of faith-based and community organizations that administer programs which help individuals develop life skills that prevents recidivism and promotes successful reentry and reintegration as productive citizens.

While incarcerated, TDCJ utilizes approved volunteers to assist and facilitate services and essential programs for inmates. As of August 31, 2020, there were 19,589 approved volunteers. During Fiscal Year 2020, these volunteers made 66,470 volunteer visits for a total of 220,502 hours spent supporting inmates. A total of 3,751 new volunteers were trained this fiscal year. Also, in Fiscal Year 2020, 4,682 approved volunteers received their two-year re-certifications through a combination of online and in-person trainings.

These volunteers represent a broad spectrum of faith-based and community organizations that administer programs that help the inmate-based population with skills to help them not recidivate. Life Changes Curriculum is utilized in Specialized Programs (i.e. Mentor Programs, Family Programs, Rehabilitation Programs, Reentry Programs, Spiritual Growth Programs, and Non-Religious Programs). The efforts of these volunteers are recognized each year during the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony.

Programs such as InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) and the Field Ministry Program offer restorative justice values and illustrate the strong partnerships between TDCJ and faith-based organizations. The Field Ministry Program is designed to support an inmate's religious faith and develop their potential for religious leadership. There are 159 active field ministers on 33 units. These field ministers serve to boost the morale of the incarcerated by offering inspirational correspondence, prayer sharing, and one-on-one encouragement as examples of programs employed to impact inmate behavior and promote positive change.

In dealing with the current pandemic environment, the TDCJ has implemented new venues in which volunteers can maintain and enhance their impact by use of innovative means to maintain services, as well as innovative ways for inmates to complete a program. Such means include use of technology to maintain connectivity, i.e., Facetime calls, and online access for volunteer groups to expand program instruction. One such program is Bridges to Life (BTL), a correspondence program where inmate participants view an instructional video and follow the program workbook with weekly homework to be turned in for BTL staff to review.

TDCJ maintains contact with our volunteers via the Volunteer Services Newsletter and email services. These provide information for volunteers and volunteer groups beneficial for their services. The Volunteer Services Newsletter is used to recruit volunteers, churches, and organizations interested in sponsoring or possibly beginning a Faith Based Dorm. The newsletter has also been utilized as a tool to seek alternative programming during this pandemic.

To benefit those individuals reentry their communities or releasing to parole supervision, TDCJ has built relationships and partnerships with local Workforce Solutions, faith based-organizations, and community based-organizations, such as Goodwill of Central Texas, Catholic Charities of San Antonio, 7More, One Man's Treasure and Unlocking Doors. These organizations assist in a variety of ways to include co-hosting second chance job fairs, providing education and job skills training, offering cognitive and peer support groups, providing professional sets of clothing, coordinating supportive engagement at the bus station, and educating the public and employers on the impact community collaboration has in reducing recidivism. Parole regional chaplains assist in establishing resources for clients for things such as food, clothing and shelter. The chaplains also assist in recruiting and maintaining information for volunteers. Volunteers within the regions facilitate various classes for the clients to assist in successful reintegration which includes recovery support programs such as Overcomers and Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous.

TDCJ Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) established a contract with the Department of State Health Services to serve persons living with HIV who release from custody by engaging them with the Texas HIV Medication Program, local community AIDS Service Organizations, and community clinics. Additionally, contracts are held with all Local Mental Health Authorities across Texas to provide a network of mental health continuity of care providers for individuals releasing from custody to supervision. TDCJ also entered into agreements with the Social Security Administration, Texas Health and Human Services-Vital Statistics, and Texas Department of Public Safety to request, process and have available valid forms of identification for the individual, thereby paving a smoother road to successful reentry.

For those individuals sentenced to probation, there are currently 123 Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs) administered through TDCJ to supervise individuals on probation across the state. CSCDs rely on local community and faith-based organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and local churches to assist in providing services that facilitate positive change in inmate behavior. All of the local programs have the same goal of enhancing outcomes and reducing recidivism, but each are developed out of different relationships and reflect the needs of the community, as a result the type of services provided differ due to the decentralized nature of Texas probation.

Additionally, TDCJ has collaborated with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) for over twenty years, including working with Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) and CSCDs on issues relating to domestic violence. TDCJ has accredited over 100 BIPPs, of which TCFV provides technical assistance and training to the providers to ensure they are equipped to educate batterers. TDCJ and TCFV continue to support community initiatives across the state which promote victim safety.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (TDHCA) AND THE CARES ACT

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law to provide emergency assistance for individuals, families and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. A number of provisions in the CARES Act affect several of the programs administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). TDHCA programs receiving CARES Act funding include:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

TDHCA will receive a total of \$141,846,258 in CDBG funds. On June 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas identified TDHCA as the designated agency to receive all CDBG CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funding allocated to the State of Texas. TDHCA was allocated \$40,000,886 in an initial tranche of CDBG-CV funding, \$63,546,200 in a second round of funding, and

\$38,299,172 in a third and final round of funding. CDBG funds will be used for Rental Assistance including Eviction Diversion, Food Bank Distribution Assistance, Provider Relief Assistance for Persons with Disabilities and Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities. Assisted households must be at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) and have been economically affected by the pandemic.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

TDHCA's CSBG program was allocated \$48,102,282 by the CARES Act. CSBG provides funds to Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which deliver a broad range of services designed to eliminate poverty and foster self-sufficiency for very low-income Texas residents in all 254 counties. While CSBG eligibility is typically limited to individuals whose household income does not exceed 125 percent of the federal poverty limit, individuals with a household income of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty limit will be eligible for CSBG services funded through the CARES Act. CAAs will have until September 30, 2022 to spend CSBG funds allocated by the CARES Act.

Additionally, TDHCA has reprogrammed approximately \$1.5 million of 2019 and 2020 CSBG funds for direct client assistance. These funds have been made available to CSBG-eligible entities in addition to the \$48.1 million in CARES Act funding allocated to TDHCA's CSBG program.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

TDHCA's ESG program was awarded a total of \$97,792,616 in CARES Act funding, consisting of an initial award of \$33,254,679 and a second award of \$64,537,937. The ESG program funds private nonprofit organizations, cities, and counties in the State of Texas to provide the services necessary to help persons who are at-risk of homelessness or homeless quickly regain stability in permanent housing. While ESG program services are typically limited to individuals whose household income does not exceed 30 percent of their area median income (AMI), individuals with a household income of up to 50 percent of AMI will be eligible for ESG services funded through the CARES Act. The initial round of ESG CARES Act funding has been distributed to existing ESG subgrantees and to agencies identified by Continuums of Care (CoCs) through local awards processes or to existing CoC awardees if CoCs choose not to administer a local awards process.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

TDHCA's Comprehensive Energy Assistance (CEAP) program was allocated \$94,023,896 in LIHEAP funds allocated by the CARES Act. CEAP is designed to assist low-income households in meeting their immediate energy needs and to encourage consumers to control energy costs for years to come through energy education. The program is administered through subrecipients that collectively cover all 254 counties of the state. CEAP administrators will have until September 30, 2021 to spend LIHEAP funds allocated by the CARES Act

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Housing Choice Voucher Program

TDHCA's Housing Choice Voucher Program has received \$110,302 in funding for the Mainstream Voucher Program. This will equate to 15 additional Mainstream Vouchers to serve individuals currently on TDHCA's Project Access waitlist. The Project Access program utilizes Housing Choice Vouchers to assist low-income persons with disabilities in transitioning from institutions into the community by providing access to affordable housing. Additionally, the Housing Choice Voucher Program has received \$258,139 in administrative funds from the CARES Act. TDHCA will use the administrative funds to upgrade software and to provide incentive payments for landlords.

In addition to reprogramming CSBG funds as described above, TDHCA staff has reprogrammed existing funds from the HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) for use in COVID-19 response efforts.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY (TEA)

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) continues to work closely with nonprofit and community-based organizations with a focus on providing parents and community members with information and resources that can lead to improved outcomes for all students. Some examples of this work in 2020 include:

Communities In Schools (CIS)

- The mission of Communities In Schools (CIS) in Texas is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.
- CIS partners with educators, students, and parents to identify needs of students who are at-risk of dropping out of school.
- The agency works with nonprofits across the state that receive TEA grants to help run the CIS programs in their community.

Early Learning:

- The agency works with private nonprofit childcare providers and helps them partner with school districts to share funding and expand access for parents.
- The agency works with early childhood advocacy groups, including Texans Care for Children, United Ways of Texas, PBS of Texas, Children at Risk, Child Care Associates and Children's Learning Institute.
- Current RECESS non-profit grantees include United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, United Way of Greater Austin, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, and The Commit Partnership.

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)/Texas ACE

- Texas ACE programs aim to improve student attendance, behavior, and academics while providing a safe learning space while school is not in session. These grant-funded programs provide high-quality supplemental enrichment activities that support the regular academic program; programs are encouraged to deliver those activities in creative, hands-on and exploratory ways.

- TEA’s grant program directly funds 15 nonprofit organizations operating 110 centers across the state. Organizations include local subsidiaries of the Boys and Girls Clubs, Communities In Schools, the YMCA, and Save the Children Federation as well as local and regional organizations like Clayton Youth Enrichment Services, Foundation Communities, Greater San Antonio After-School All Stars and SA Youth. All of these organizations partner with the school districts that they serve in order to achieve their common goal of increasing student academic success.

Among all 83 grantees of the 21st CCLC program are partnerships with more than 160 nonprofit organizations providing meals, physical fitness, leadership, mentoring, learning materials, career training, arts programs, basic needs, and a wide variety of enrichment programs.

**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION’S VETERANS (TVC)
Mental Health Department**

1. The Community and Faith-based Coordinator, John Wilson, advised the Interagency Coordinating Group of the work the Veterans Mental Health Department has been doing to address the issue of current and former service members and their families transitioning out of the military and into civilian communities through the Faith and Allegiance program. The Initiative seeks to partner with community and faith-based organizations by training them on issues relevant to the successful transition from military to civilian life for current and former service members and their families.
2. Just as those who served in uniform and swore to bear true Faith and Allegiance to our Nation, the Faith and Allegiance initiative offers training to help faith and civic organizations learn to rally around current and former services members and their families to build awareness, connectivity, camaraderie and rekindled purpose among those who serve our Nation. The program offers a new path and opportunity to rekindle that sense of community and purpose the military offered by again serving something greater than ourselves.
3. Initially, eight strategies to engage with those who served our Nation are offered to participating organizations:
 - a. When asking about military service, ask the question “Did you serve?” instead of “Are you a veteran” to help establish rapport since not all who served identify as veterans.
 - i. If you are not currently tracking whether your members and/or visitors are veterans, service members or spouses, consider adding that to your process.

- b. Ask your current and former service members and spouses how you could support their need for social connectedness, a sense of community engagement efforts and renewed life purpose.
 - c. Based on feedback, consider creating military or veteran affinity groups, small groups, or service groups and pray for them to see what they want or need.
 - d. Since less than 1% of U.S. adults have served, learn about military culture to build awareness. Examples:
 - i. Texas Veterans Commission, Veterans Mental Health Department's Peer Service Coordinators (PSCs) offer live trainings — <https://www.milvetpeer.net/>
 - ii. Psych Armor's 15 Things Veteran Want You to Know video is a great place to start — (<https://youtu.be/V23PWHZHUV>), and other Psych Armor resources
 - e. Build a sense of social connectivity by being intentional and invitational, reaching out to those who served inviting them to your activities, both formal and casual.
 - f. Based on feedback from your former and current service members and spouses, consider distributing a resource guide, or hosting a community resource fair to provide volunteer opportunities within and outside your organization to help build social connectedness, community and rekindled life purpose.
 - i. PSCs can help with these tasks — <https://www.milvetpeer.net/>
 - g. Learn about Veterans' behavioral health related issues and speak to the subject at events, articles and bulletins. Examples:
 - i. Faith, Hope, Life Campaign- suicide prevention campaign involving every US faith community regardless of creed — <https://theactionalliance.org/faith-hope-life>
 - ii. This example from the Episcopal Veterans Fellowship of Texas addresses the issue of Moral Injury among Service Members and Veterans — <https://episcopalveteransfellowship.org/>
 - h. Train your pastoral and counseling staff on simple, evidence-based methods that have been proven to reduce suicide, such as Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) — <https://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/calm-counseling-access-lethal-means>. We can provide this training for you.
4. The Veterans Mental Health Department has 37 Peer Service Coordinators and approximately 4000 plus community volunteers that come alongside interested organizations to provide additional training on:
- a. Suicide awareness
 - b. Active listening

- c. Military culture competence
 - d. Peer support opportunities
 - e. Peer ethics
 - f. Depression awareness
 - g. Addictive behaviors
 - h. Stress management
 - i. Justice-involved veterans
 - j. Texas Commission on Law Enforcement course
 - k. Counseling Access to Lethal Means (CALM)
5. The Peer Service Coordinators and volunteers work with participating organizations to offer these and other strategies to facilitate the transition of current and former service members and their families from military to civilian communities, whether that transition was just a few days ago or it has been many years.
 6. John Wilson also proposed that given the fact that the ICG mission is to be “... a forum for state agencies to work together and across agencies to improve Texas’ working relationship with the faith-based and community organization sector” then the ICG should explore the possibility of inviting faith-leaders to the ICG. The forum would then benefit from direct engagement instead of the current construct. The use of virtually meeting platforms should also ease travel concerns and broaden engagement from faith leaders, perhaps at the denomination headquarters level, across the state.

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CPA)

Statewide Procurement Division (SPD)

The Statewide Procurement Division (SPD) collaborates with its customer entities (state agencies, universities, local governments and other cooperative purchasing members) to meet the procurement needs of the state by establishing competitively bid and awarded statewide contracts driven by best value. SPD’s customer entities provide essential services, and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ (CPA’s) goal is to help them meet their obligations efficiently.

SPD supports nonprofit assistance organizations by providing access to our statewide term, managed and TXMAS contracts through the Texas SmartBuy Membership Program. As of November 2020, there were over 100 assistance organizations in this program. The program coordinator communicates frequently with the nonprofit community to ensure it knows about and takes advantage of the program’s benefits.

State Employee Charitable Campaign

CPA participates annually in the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), the only statutorily authorized workplace campaign for Texas state agency and higher education employees. Since its creation by legislation in 1993, the SECC has collected over \$189 million in donations statewide, making it one of the largest state employee campaigns in the nation. Exemplifying the campaign motto “We are Texas strong,” employees can assist and empower those who are struggling through difficult times and support causes to improve the quality of life for fellow Texans. SECC represents more than 450 diverse charities and causes (from small local organizations to those that are large and well-known statewide, nationally and internationally), giving donors a chance to show their compassion for causes important to them.

Through the years, Comptroller employees have demonstrated what can be accomplished when caring individuals band together to support those facing challenges and hardships. Comptroller employees raised \$93,883.97 for charities during the 2019 campaign.

Comptroller Employees and Employee Organizations

One of the missions at the Comptroller’s office is to give back to the community. This is evident in our participation in Holiday Wishes, a program that helps create positive, magical holiday memories for children. Comptroller employees agreed to sponsor 255 children by fulfilling a child’s three-item wish list. Other examples of community outreach include silent auctions, fundraisers, volunteer work and item collections and cash donations for organizations such as Central Texas Food Bank, Safe Place (SAFE), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Hospice Austin, Christopher House and The Settlement Home for Children.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS)

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) relies on faith and community partners to help meet the multifaceted needs and to improve the outcomes, for the children, families, older adults, and people with disabilities we serve. DFPS collaborates with the faith community to promote positive outcomes for children and families, to enhance the well-being of DFPS clients, and to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Office of Faith-based and Community Engagement

The office of Faith-based and Community Engagement partners with the faith community, foundations, advocates and volunteers to improve service delivery for children, families and adults. DFPS encourages each faith community to develop supportive services for their local children and families. Congregations assist in many ways, such as providing day care, parties for special occasions, holding drives for resource rooms, and assisting with transportation. Congregation members have become respite care providers, babysitters, foster parents, and adoptive parents.

DFPS partners with over 20 different **Bed Ministries** throughout the state to ensure all children in care have a bed to sleep on and that no children sleep on floors. The Bed Ministries, run by churches, build and deliver hundreds of beds to families each year. The **CarePortal** is an interdenominational network collaborating with DFPS for the benefit of children and families in their communities. Through relationships accelerated by technology, CarePortal empowers the local faith community, and DFPS in partnership, to establish a culture of helping to meet the needs of children and families where they live. When a need is identified, a CPS caseworker goes online to www.careportal.org to make the request. The faith community in the area is notified of the request and works with the caseworker to assist the child or family.

DFPS partnered with churches throughout the state to provide **USDA Farmers to Families** food boxes to the community. Over 5 million pounds of food have been distributed, feeding over 860,000 people.

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Division

DFPS fosters a collaborative multidisciplinary approach in the prevention of human trafficking, in concert with our partners, and has well-functioning ties to law enforcement, local city and county governments, state agencies, advocacy agencies, and faith-based organizations to leverage resources and coordinate efforts.

DFPS collaborated with The Office of the Texas Governor on strategies to address child sex trafficking in Texas. **GRACE (Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation)** empowers communities of faith to improve awareness and increase service capacity and prevention efforts across Texas. It complements the agencies' shared vision of a statewide Network of Nurture, as proposed by Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, to meet the needs of children and their families.

As a part of the GRACE initiative, DFPS invited all faith communities to join in a day of prayer to put an end to human trafficking on January 12th, or any other day during the month, and Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott's promotional video was distributed to all partners.

DFPS has continued the collaborative partnership with Shared Hope International to marry the **DFPS Light the Way End Human Trafficking campaign** with Shared Hope's Faith in Action toolkits to equip faith leaders with tools to educate men, women, youth, and to help protect children in communities everywhere from the threat of trafficking. Initially launched in January 2020, congregations were invited to self-identify their interest. To further these efforts, DFPS developed outreach materials, screening and selection criteria as well as metrics for evaluation to establish a pilot program with three congregations in the Winter of 2021.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) takes a public health approach to strengthening families and promoting positive outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities.

Through funding programs intended to provide early intervention or prevent risk factors that lead to child abuse or neglect or other childhood adversities, PEI supports the healthy social, emotional, and mental development of children and assists in the development of safe and stable families and nurturing communities. In addition, PEI provides information on their website, HelpandHope.org, for faith-based programs and the faith community on how to get involved in strengthening the community to promote healthy relationships between children and the adults that care for them.

Approximately 75% of PEI-funded programs have some form of partnership with faith-based organizations. The two most common collaborations PEI's community-based contractors have established with the faith community are providing meeting space, free of charge, for programs and partnering to help support families with basic needs.

Good Samaritan Community Services has two locations (San Antonio and Brownsville) and both are funded in part by the Episcopal Dioceses of West Texas with 51% of their board members belonging to the episcopal faith. They partner with catholic churches in their neighborhood to reduce duplication of services such as food pantry and other basic need assistance. They welcome volunteers from all faiths to be mentors to the youth they serve in their Community Youth Development (CYD) program and Incarnate Word Academy, a Catholic School, has hosted their summer camp in Brownsville for the last several years at no cost.

Family Service Center of Galveston County (Dickinson & Galveston) partners with Faith Lutheran Church in Dickinson and Moody Methodist Church in Galveston providing various parenting classes to the community and confidential rooms to provide Family and Youth Success (FAYS) services.

Aware Central Texas (Bell County) identified several faith-based organizations in their area that supports the Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES) program and provides ongoing collaboration on their community coalition efforts. The United Methodist Church of Temple has been steadfast in providing basic needs support to clients and, the Ocker Brethern Church in Rogers, and the Presbyterian Church of Salado, supports their parent education program.

Child Protective Services

Child Protective Services relies on faith partners to help meet the needs of children and families. Faith partners provide goods and services and may create ministries that provide support to CPS clients.

CPS partnered with **Shearer Hills Baptist Church**, which provided 2000 "kits for kids" to all the units in Region 8. The kits consist of a duffel bag with a laundry bag inside, as well as a children's bible, and a coupon for a Chick-Fil-A kid's meal, which allows the caseworkers to get the children something to eat after the removal or placement change. These bags are provided to each unit to keep on hand for those after hours or last-minute removals.

The Alliance for Orphans puts on “Kinmarts” during back to school time which allows Kinship Families, as well as families involved with Family Based Safety Services, to come “shop” (with play money) for the school supplies they need. This helps provide normalcy to the children by allowing them to pick out their own back packs and supplies.

Wesley United Methodist Church, via The Care Cottage, is a home located across the street from the church campus that is used by caseworkers for children waiting for placement. Furnishings, supplies, and “hands-on” help are all gifts from the church community and local citizens from the ministry. The church provides clothing, food, and funds for purchasing needed items.

Adult Protective Services

APS provides trainings to religious leaders and presents at conferences and community forums, and for small groups within local churches. This year APS is partnering with the faith community on a new initiative called **Caring by Calling**, where volunteers from faith organizations will make social calls to APS clients who may be isolated and lonely.

In Houston APS collaborated with the **Duchesne Academy**, a Catholic girl’s school, who for their Saint Francis Day community project, collected pet food and donated it to the Silver Star rooms which provide emergency resource items to older adults and people with disabilities.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES (DIR)

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) continues to support the information technology needs of faith and community-based organizations (FCBOs). Over the years, DIR has worked with the Texas Legislature to broaden the definition of qualified entities that are authorized by statute to purchase hardware, software, telecommunications, and technology services (commodity items) through DIR’s cooperative contracts. The 80th Legislature authorized assistance organizations, as defined by section 2175.001 of the Government Code, to use cooperative contracts developed by DIR. The 83rd Legislature authorized quasi-government entities to purchase commodity items through DIR in 2013. Cooperative contracts enable participating entities to optimize the purchase of IT commodities and services by leveraging the state’s buying power to obtain the best value.

Through its Cooperative Contracts program, DIR serves state agencies, institutions of higher education, K-12 independent school districts, quasi-government organizations, counties, municipalities, and assistance organizations registered with the Texas Facilities Commission or the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. DIR has made a concerted effort to further increase and expand outreach efforts to organizations that participate in the Cooperative Contracts program and purchase information technology.

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, 67 assistance organizations purchased \$7.5 million through the DIR Cooperative Contracts program, which is more than three times the amount of purchases in FY 2019. Given the challenges of 2020, such as natural disasters and COVID-19, it is

reasonable that these organizations would take advantage of cost-saving cooperative contracts to meet their technology investment needs.

Several FCBOs showed a significant increase in cooperative contract purchases over FY 2019. Top purchasers among these organizations include:

- Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc.,
- El Centro Del Barrio Inc.,
- Lutheran Social Services,
- Citizens Medical Center, and
- Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

DIR provides customer outreach to faith and community-based organizations through monthly and quarterly emails providing awareness of recently completed procurements, contracting updates, and purchasing opportunities.

OFFICE OF THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG)

COVID-19 Related Outreach

The OAG Communications Division's Outreach Director and the Consumer Protection Division created and virtually distributed information on COVID-19 related scams and price gouging to non-profit and community based organizations in the state, as well as conducted live trainings with Q&A for many community organizations. Additionally, the Outreach Director and Consumer Protection Division team worked with Meals on Wheels of Texas to create and distribute in-person handouts with information on COVID-19 related scams and price-gouging to the elderly and vulnerable populations across the state. The agency also issued guidelines for churches operating during the COVID-19 pandemic and virtually sent the guidelines to all church/faith organizations in Texas.

Regular OAG Outreach

In FY 2020, the Grants Administration Division awarded grants to more than 200 non-profit organizations (12 of which identified as faith-based) totaling over \$25.7 million for various Crime Victim Services grants, Choose Life grants, and Big Brothers Big Sisters grants. The agency also provided virtual trainings on cyber safety and human trafficking for members of the Texas Parent Teacher Association so that their learning programs could continue during the pandemic.

The Crime Victims Services Division conducted outreach with nearly one dozen organizations prior to COVID-19 to provide resources for victims of crime.

The OAG's Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section (HTTOC) and Communications-Outreach Division works with community and nonprofit organizations to coordinate trainings for the public. The HTTOC Victim Advocate works with nonprofits to provide assistance to victims from cases handled by the OAG. The OAG oversees the Texas

Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council that bring together state agencies, law enforcement, district attorneys, and nonprofit organizations to address anti-trafficking challenges across Texas, collect data, provide training, and make legislative recommendations to advance Texas' anti-trafficking efforts. Here is the Task Force's [December 2019 Report](#). OAG staff regularly meets with nonprofits to learn about their impact in the state and plug them into the Task Force's affiliate members so they are able to stay up-to-date on the state's work on the issue. OAG staff have spoken at various nonprofit conferences and panels to educate the public on the issue.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (TJJD)

Within any of Texas' seven juvenile probation regions, a region's juvenile probation departments provide various community programs and services, operated by the departments, or through service provider contracts. Community programs or services vary greatly within departments and regions and may include: specialized treatment for substance abuse, mental health, and sexual behavior treatment, and programs for female offenders, violent offenders, and various psychoeducational and skills building services for general offenders.

In order to keep delinquent juveniles closer to their home communities, juvenile probation departments have been charged with the task of pairing juveniles with appropriate community-based resources and services, including programming. In fiscal year 2020, juvenile probation departments offered 1,412 community-based programs to juveniles under their jurisdiction, their families, and at-risk youth in the area. Many programs offered by juvenile probation departments are designed to meet the needs of a wide array of youth. Of program participants in fiscal year 2020, 37% participated in a skill-building/activity-based program, 35% participated in a treatment-based program, and 28% participated in a surveillance-based program.

TJJD has an active volunteer count of 1,151 who put in 59,777 hours of service last year as well as 405 special event volunteers.

TJJD has also established formal partnerships for re-entry, counseling and residential services with the following faith and community-based organizations and nonprofit organizations.

- AMIkids
- Giocosa Foundation
- Gulf Coast Trade Center
- K16 Ready Society, Inc. (dba Texas Initiative Program)
- Lena Pope Counseling Services
- Life Support Counseling & Research, Inc. (dba Therapeutic Family Life)
- Pegasus Schools

- Southwest Key Program
- Wellspring Family/Community
- Youth Advocate Program

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (TDA)

Federal nutrition programs administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) serve millions of Texans in many ways. TDA's 12 federal programs include the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Meal Programs. In addition to supporting contracting entities serving meals, TDA engages with state agencies, community organizations and nonprofits to ensure the programs serve Texans with customer service excellence and high professional standards.

Collaboration

Dedicated staff members serve on external committees to gather input from other organizations that can enhance TDA's program administration. This participation provides community-level connections for reaching more Texans with federal nutrition programs and keeping nutrition advocacy partners updated on TDA activities. TDA's work with the Texas Hunger Initiative included identifying areas where there was a need for more access to Summer Meal Programs. Other efforts include communicating directly with local elected leaders by engaging them in TDA's Healthy Community Network.

Working with nonprofit organizations and local leaders allows TDA to leverage low-cost or free resources that facilitate statewide promotion of its programs. TDA supplies its community partners with information and graphics that can easily be added to their existing newsletters and communications platforms. In 2020, six organizations shared program information provided by TDA in their newsletters. All community partners received an email from TDA in April 2020 describing how families could find meals during COVID-19.

Innovation

TDA is committed to using the latest technology in its collaboration with nonprofits and state agencies. A data-share agreement with the nonprofit Share Our Strength provided texting tools families could use to access information about site locations where federally funded meals were available at no cost during the pandemic. In response to social distancing, TDA participated in or hosted virtual meetings to maintain local engagement in its programs and initiatives. TDA collaborated with other state agencies and nonprofits to increase awareness of Summer Meal Programs and the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer program that connects children with a card accepted at grocery stores.

Cultivation

TDA has expanded partnerships that promote Texas agriculture, farmers and ranchers, and the healthy benefits of eating local foods. Staff members participate in meetings and provide input for the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation's work to fund schools' efforts to

purchase more Texas foods. Improving outdoor learning environments such as school gardens is the focus of other agriculture-based collaborations with nonprofit organizations.

TDA staff members provide valuable insight and support for many organizations working to expand Texans' understanding of good nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Even as the COVID-19 pandemic shifts the opportunities for collaboration and networking, TDA has continued cultivating partnerships that will help build a healthier future for the Lone Star State.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR (OOG)

Governor Abbott and the First Lady continue to support the empowerment of nonprofit and faith-based organizations as a vital means of strengthening the cultural and civic fabric of Texas. While the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected every sector and community in Texas in 2020, the Lone Star State's nonprofit and community-based organizations rose to the challenge by working through difficult situations and quickly pivoting to collaborate in the virtual environment while still maintaining needed services for their communities.

Governor Greg Abbott and OneStar Foundation announced the Texas COVID Relief Fund, which provides critical funding and resources to organizations across the state who work on the ground to support the economic recovery of local communities. Funds raised were distributed through grants focused on community and economic development, health care, and education; funds were also used to support local priorities and organizations serving the unmet needs of vulnerable populations and underserved communities.

"There is nothing more powerful than Texans helping Texans, and the Texas COVID Relief Fund is another way we can come together to support those in need and help our communities respond to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Governor Abbott. "I thank OneStar Foundation and their partners for their commitment to helping Texans through these trying times. By coming together and supporting one another, we will overcome this challenge."

Office of the First Lady

The Governor's Commission for Women

For more than 50 years, the Governor's Commission for Women has served as a resource and champion for women throughout the Lone Star State, working to benefit all Texans by supporting the endeavors and well-being of women across the state. The Commission currently operates with a one-person staff and modest biennial budget, creatively utilizing interns, volunteers, and nonprofit funds to advance women-owned businesses, prevent human trafficking, and provide leadership to women and girls through outreach and education.

Beacon State Fund

The Beacon State Fund is a nonprofit organization established in 1996 to educate and improve Texans' civic participation by promoting community leadership and volunteerism. The board of directors consists of no less than three officers, and all serve without salary. The Beacon State organization funds many of the Commission's important projects.

2020 Governor's Volunteer Awards

First Lady Cecilia Abbott, Honorary Chair of the 2020 Governor's Volunteer Awards, announced the recipients of the 37th annual Governor's Volunteer Awards on November 6, 2020. These awards are presented in conjunction with the OneStar Foundation and honor the exemplary service of individuals, groups, and organizations that have made a significant and measurable contribution to Texas communities through service and volunteer work in the past year.

"The irrepressible spirit of service shines brightly in Texas," the First Lady said. "I am honored to celebrate the extraordinary generosity of these 12 outstanding awardees, who have found selfless and compassionate solutions to strengthen their communities."

The recipients of the 2020 Governor's Volunteer Awards are:

- *Governor's Lone Star Achievement Award: Bill Gilliland of Abilene:*
Since 1990, Bill Gilliland has devoted himself to making "Christmas Lane" at the Abilene State Supported Living Center the region's essential holiday destination. 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of this beloved seasonal tradition, which features more than 100 festive displays and hosts thousands of guests from across the region. This community extravaganza generates free-will donations from guests for the state-supported living center, which provides direct services and assistance to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Bill devotes more than 500 hours in service each year to coordinating Christmas Lane, and he has been instrumental in various fundraising events that have raised more than \$650,000 in medical upgrades for the center.
- *First Lady's Rising Star Award: Annie Zhu and Shirley Zhu of Houston:*
Twin sisters Annie Zhu and Shirley Zhu (17) take decisive action when they see a need in their community. To tackle the issue of food insecurity in Houston, they launched Project Fresh Hub, a student-led volunteer service initiative dedicated to providing under-served communities with rescued food. From April 2018 to October 2020, the two young women led 18 food distribution events, rescuing 11,800 pounds of unsold fresh produce and bread from grocery stores and delivering these groceries to 1,550 residents in food deserts. Upon learning about budget cuts in their school district,

Annie and Shirley also started summer math camps and workshops in 2019 that helped more than 90 fourth- through sixth-graders prepare for their standardized tests.

- *First Lady's Rising Star Award: The Three Mask-eteers of Houston:* When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Amar Sehgal (17), Karthik Bhagavatula (15), and Praneel Bhagavatula (13) — known as “The Three Mask-eteers” — banded together to apply their ingenuity and community spirit toward designing and producing high-quality, long-use masks that have helped prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The team spent weeks researching and developing a reusable 3D-printed mask prototype with disposable filters, then collaborated with environmental officers at local hospitals to further refine the mask design. Over the course of five months, more than 200 masks and 2,000 filters have been distributed at no cost to vulnerable populations across the state, including health care workers and first responders.
- *Partners in Education Award: The Women's Fund for Health Education and Resiliency of Houston:* The Women's Fund understands that “good health promotes education, and education promotes good health.” For more than 40 years, The Women's Fund has provided creative and effective health education programs for at-risk adolescent girls in the Greater Houston community. Their programs engage well-trained volunteers to serve as mentors and facilitators at campuses and community centers across the Houston area, and the organization collaborates closely with health professionals and teen groups to produce up-to-date, research-based curricula, serving more than 12,000 girls annually.
- *Service to Veterans Award (Individual): Brandy Baxter of Dallas-Fort Worth:* Air Force veteran Brandy Baxter has collaborated with nearly every veterans organization in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to increase awareness of the unique needs of women veterans. She uses her professional experience in personal finance to host webinars and workshops for women veterans who may need assistance in managing their household income, and she has been a voice for women veterans as a frequent speaker on panels, podcasts, and advocacy and training events. Through her work with At Ease Texas, a nonprofit organization made up of women veterans who are working for women veterans, Brandy was instrumental in bringing the Women Veteran Network program to Dallas and has created many networking opportunities for women veterans who want to connect with each other.
- *Service to Veterans Award (Organization): Carry The Load (Northeast Texas):* What started in 2011 as an event with the mission to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day has grown into a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that provides active ways for Americans to connect with the

sacrifices made by our military, veterans, first responders, and their families. Carry The Load began as a 20-hour walk in Dallas; 10 years later, it is now a movement and awareness program featuring a national relay which traverses 45 states and hosts over 70 rallies throughout the month of May, culminating in Dallas over Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers participate year-round by cleaning headstones at National Cemeteries, attending Patriot Day and Veterans Day events, and helping educate the next generation through the Carry The Flag program.

- *Higher Education Community Impact Award: Rebuild Texas Carpentry Skills Training Program at Del Mar College Continuing Education (Coastal Bend):* Three years after the Coastal Bend endured the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, Del Mar College remains invested in the long-term recovery of the region with its innovative Rebuild Texas Carpentry Skills Training Program, which launched during the summer of 2019. This unique 10-week program was created to address the Coastal Bend's immense housing loss and growing unemployment numbers with a practical and versatile solution rooted in community service. The coursework combines traditional classroom instruction with hands-on experience in construction and carpentry. Participants engage in a service learning project using the essential skills they have learned to build a tiny home that is donated to a local school or church.

- *Corporate Community Impact Award: Texas Mutual (Central Texas and Statewide):* On a mission to build a stronger, safer Texas, Texas Mutual fosters a culture of service spurred by team members who are dedicated to making our state a better place to live and work. In 2019, 473 Texas Mutual employees volunteered an impressive 5,300 hours for 103 nonprofit organizations across the state. The strength of Texas Mutual's engagement is evident in their longstanding partnership with the Central Texas Food Bank; in addition to providing nearly 550 hours of volunteer support to the organization, they also used their business expertise to revamp pantry distribution logistics and operations to better serve families in need.

- *Community Leadership Award (Individual): Pastor Blake Jennings of College Station:* Pastor Blake Jennings noticed a need in 2015 when multiple single mothers in his College Station congregation came to him with vehicle problems. Blake and his wife Julie created a nonprofit called OnRamp, which provides reliable transportation to people in need, setting them on the path to self-sufficiency and enabling them to offer better care for their families. OnRamp's impact has been substantial, donating 51 vehicles to date, and repairing approximately 30 more. OnRamp actively engages volunteers in both vehicle

repair and client care, and partners with more than two dozen local businesses and charitable organizations.

- *Community Leadership Award (Organization): Crime Stoppers of Houston:* Crime Stoppers of Houston leads Texas and the U.S. with innovative crime prevention programming in order to keep our communities safe. Established in the early 1980s as a Tip Line Program, Crime Stoppers remains committed to its mission to solve and prevent all crimes, and now offers a robust public safety program that reaches millions each year through its Safe School Institute, Safe Community Program, and victim services and advocacy programs. In 2019, Crime Stoppers reached more than 5.2 million community members, educated over 1.2 million students, and provided crisis services and support to nearly 250 victims and survivors. Through the power of volunteers, they also successfully spearheaded the passage of three legislative bills to enhance victims' rights and public safety, and reached over 850 victims through peer support, legal advocacy, parole board hearings, support group meetings, and annual events.
- *Community Leadership Award (Network): AmeriCorps Central Texas:* AmeriCorps Central Texas (formerly ServeAustin Collaborative) is a collaboration of nine organizations that offer a wide range of opportunities to create a better future for everyone in Central Texas through paid AmeriCorps service. Together, the organizations engage over 500 AmeriCorps members annually in providing direct services to youth and adults living in low-income communities across the region. Because completing a service year can be a life-changing experience that builds skills, expands networks, and creates pathways to higher education and employment, AmeriCorps Central Texas is working to build an increasingly local and more diverse service corps whose members will shape their own futures while strengthening their local community.
- *National Service "Make a Difference" Award: Samantha Mariel Sandoval Hernández of Manor:* Samantha Mariel Sandoval Hernández has served as an advisor to Manor New Technology High School juniors and seniors for the past two years as an AmeriCorps member with College Forward, which pairs recent college graduates with students to empower them to achieve their post-secondary goals. During the 2019 school year, she served a caseload of 16 seniors and 17 juniors in the College Forward program. All 16 seniors completed the FAFSA or TASFA, compared with the national average of 60 percent. In addition to managing her required caseload, Coach Sam also provided individualized support and guidance to many additional New Tech students — 100 percent of graduating seniors and 75 percent of juniors — introducing them to the college application process and discussing post-secondary plans.

Public Safety Office

The Public Safety Office (PSO) was formed in 2018 through a reorganization of existing staff and departments. The divisions of the new office are the Criminal Justice Division (CJD), the Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD), the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT), and the Grants Administration Division (GAD).

The mission of the Public Safety Office is to promote strategies that improve public safety, support victims of crime, prevent terrorism, and prepare communities for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risks to Texans. These goals are accomplished through the investment of federal and state grant dollars towards programs that prioritize public safety. In Fiscal Year 2020, 381 nonprofit agencies received \$188 million in funding from PSO; included in this amount was \$19 million for faith-based organizations.

Criminal Justice Division

CJD's goal is to improve public safety and support victims of crime by filling system gaps and promoting innovative solutions to common challenges. The division's mission is to support those who make Texas a safer place and those who help victims of crime to recover and feel safe again, and CJD carries out those efforts through a number of programs.

- *Victim Service Programs*
Nonprofit and faith-based organizations (FBOs) routinely apply for and receive grant funding to assist crime victims through crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, criminal justice system advocacy, transitional housing, transportation to court proceedings, safety planning, medical accompaniment, and peer support-group counseling.
- *Justice Programs*
PSO continues to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide re-entry services, crime prevention activities, and Crime Stoppers programs, as well as several juvenile justice initiatives including truancy reduction, school-based mentoring, and early intervention for at-risk youth.

Homeland Security Grants Division

The HSGD Homeland Security Grants Division promotes strategies to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare communities for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security and resilience of Texas and the nation. The HSGD administers the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack based on the nonprofit organization's ideology, beliefs, or mission with broader state and local preparedness efforts. The NSGP also promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private entities. The grant funding assists Texas jurisdictions in building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities to further the National Preparedness Goal: "A secure and resilient nation

with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

Child Sex Trafficking Team

The Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) is fighting to end this heinous crime and to ensure the safety and well-being of all Texas children. The mission of the CSTT is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to:

- Protect children from sexual exploitation;
- Help the public recognize signs of sexual exploitation;
- Help victims recover;
- Restore victims’ sense of well-being; and
- Bring justice to those who exploit children.

The Child Sex Trafficking Team implements strategies to prevent child sex trafficking, recognize, recover and restore victims to well-being, and bring them justice by holding their exploiters accountable. This is largely done by partnering with and awarding grants to nonprofit community and faith-based organizations who are focused on helping survivors heal and thrive.

Additionally, **GRACE (Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation)** is a collaboration between the Office of the First Lady, the Governor’s Child Sex Trafficking Team, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and a diverse group of faith leaders across Texas to end human trafficking and exploitation. GRACE’s vision is that every community of faith in Texas works collaboratively with the State of Texas and local agencies to end human trafficking, help survivors heal and flourish, and protect the vulnerable; GRACE’s mission is to empower leaders of the diverse faith communities in Texas to achieve our shared vision to eradicate human trafficking through education, advocacy, prayer, and the provision of resources to survivors of trafficking and those who are vulnerable.

Funding Sources for Faith-based and Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofit organizations play a vital role in addressing critical issues facing Texans today. Funding sources available through the Governor’s Public Safety Office for nonprofit and faith-based organizations seeking to address these issues include both federal and state funding opportunities.

Federal Funding Opportunities:

- *Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program* promotes public safety efforts, crime reduction, and system improvements.
- *Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Program (JJDP)* supports prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth.

- *Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)* provides funding for target hardening and other physical security enhancements/activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.
- *Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)* supports projects that are designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime, including, but not limited to, addressing criminal gangs and felonious possession and use of firearms.
- *Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP)* supports rape crisis centers that provide core services to victims of sexual assault.
- *State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)* provides funding for local and state agencies to address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities where a nexus to terrorism exists.
- *STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA)* supports victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking through staff training, prevention and awareness, data collection, legal assistance, and treatment for trauma.
- *Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)* provides funding for three high-threat, high-density Urban Areas identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington, Houston, and San Antonio. Grants support local agency efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the core capabilities essential to preventing, protecting against, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic incidents.
- *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) General Victim Assistance Program* devotes resources to provide direct services to victims of crime to help them recover and navigate the justice system.

State Funding Opportunities:

- *Child Sex Trafficking (CST) Programs* fill service gaps for sexually exploited children by promoting regional and statewide programs that exemplify standards for trauma-informed care.
- *Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund* supports local, community-based partnerships operating anonymous tip lines.
- *Criminal Justice Planning Fund No. 421* fills system gaps throughout all areas of the criminal justice system and supports innovative concepts and best practices to achieve a safer Texas for all citizens.
- *Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Ready Facilities* support hospital facilities seeking to achieve or maintain a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)-Ready designation as defined in Chapter 323 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- *Truancy Prevention and Intervention* supports school districts and local governments in providing case management and support to truant schoolchildren.

Nonprofit Resources Toolkit

The Office of the Governor provides nonprofit leaders and organizations a toolkit of resources to help them succeed:

Blue Avocado Magazine: Created by and for community-based nonprofits, this monthly newsletter includes board selection, volunteer management, operational, and financial information specifically geared toward nonprofits.

Boards That Excel: With a focus on strengthening nonprofit organizations through a seven-step process, Boards That Excel can assist with best practices to achieve your goals.

OneStar Foundation: With a vision of Texas boasting the strongest, most effective nonprofit sector in the country, OneStar Foundation connects partners and resources to build a stronger nonprofit sector in Texas.

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (CBAR): Texas CBAR offers a Pro Bono Legal Referral Program designed to connect eligible nonprofits and microenterprises with volunteer attorneys who provide free legal assistance regarding business, corporate, and legal matters that do not involve litigation. To be eligible for assistance, all organizations are evaluated under a set of criteria and preferences listed on the website.

Web Design & Technology: TechSoup connects nonprofits, foundations, and libraries with tech products, services, and learning resources.

Texas Music Office

For nearly 30 years, the Texas Music Office (TMO) has served the Texas music industry by creating opportunity and connecting businesses. The core functions of the Music Office are to serve as a clearinghouse for Texas music industry information via the TMO's Texas Music Industry Directory (a business referral network comprised of over 15,000 Texas music businesses), serve as a liaison between music businesses and government offices and agencies, publicize significant developments within the industry, and foster the economic development of Texas music businesses and musicians. To accomplish their goals, the Texas Music Office collaborates with many Texas nonprofit and community organizations.

Beginning in June 2020, the Music Office began a collaboration with Austin-based nonprofit KOOP Radio 91.7 FM to produce a weekly radio show called the Texas Music Mixtape for the radio station's airwaves. In April 2020, the Music Office began working with the new nonprofit Houston Music Foundation to promote their emergency grant program for music business professionals suffering from income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Music Office has also worked with the nonprofit Recording Academy to promote and solicit applicants for their emergency grants for artists who have lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Texas Music Office has issued a number of grants in 2020 to 501(c)(3) nonprofits. One such grant provided \$3,000 to the nonprofit Texas Folklife for their 4th Annual Big Squeeze Statewide Youth Accordion Competition, which was held virtually. The accordion contest, presented by Texas Folklife, is a music education event that began in February and drew

dozens of young musicians from across the state who entered through live competitions and recorded submissions.

The Texas Music Office also collaborated with the following communities as a part of its Music Friendly Community Program:

- Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Alpine Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Levitt Pavilion Arlington
- Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau
- SIMS, Austin
- Austin Music Foundation
- Visit Bastrop (CVB)
- Brenham Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Conroe Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Visit Dallas
- Booker T. Washington HSPVA, *nonprofit*, Dallas
- Denton Music and Arts Collaborative
- Denton Economic Development Partnership
- Destination Dripping Springs (CVB)
- Destination El Paso
- El Paso International Music Foundation
- Visit Fort Worth
- Hear Fort Worth
- Visit Lindale (CVB)
- Lubbock Cultural Arts Foundation
- McKinney Convention and Visitors Bureau
- The Guitar Sanctuary, McKinney
- Play It Forward, *nonprofit*, McKinney
- Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau
- City of New Braunfels
- New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
- New Braunfels Arts Council
- Richardson Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Rockwall Chambers of Commerce
- San Angelo Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Get Creative San Antonio and the San Antonio Department of Arts & Culture
- San Marcos Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Victoria Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Keep Waco Loud, *nonprofit*
- Creative Waco, *nonprofit*

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (TDEM)

The Texas Division of Emergency Management continues to work with volunteer organizations active in disaster or VOADs to strengthen Texas resiliency to disasters that may occur. During the 86th legislative session, House Bill 3616 was passed which tasked TDEM in creating a Task Force on Faith-Based Disaster Response. The Task Force on Faith-Based Disaster Response, which is comprised of representatives of faith-based organizations active in disaster response appointed by the Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, was established to study the participation of faith-based organizations in disaster response. The duties of the Task Force, as outlined in Sec. 418.258 of the bill, are as follows: (1) Develop and implement a plan for improving data collection regarding faith-based organizations that participate in disaster response; (2) Develop best practices for communicating, cooperating, and collaborating with faith-based organizations to strengthen disaster response in this state; (3) Identify and address inefficiencies in disaster response provided by the state and faith-based organizations; and (4) Identify and address gaps in state services that could be provided by faith-based organizations.

In order to ascertain how faith-based organizations currently integrate into emergency management systems and identify recommendations for improvement in alignment with the duties of the Task Force, a survey was distributed to the faith-based member organizations of Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and members of Texas Impact, which is the entity that authored the “Time and Treasure: Faith-Based Investment in Hurricane Harvey Response” report that helped to inform H.B. No 3616. The results of the survey and the committee’s recommendations are currently under review and will be sent to the 87th legislature once it has convened.

In addition to HB 3616, the 86th Texas Legislature passed HB 6, amending Section 2, Subchapter C, Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code through the addition of 418.054 established the Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF) under the Texas Division of Emergency Management. This task force would assist in the speed of recovery efforts at a local level through the deployment of members that are able to provide the support in volunteer and donations management, disaster finance assistance, guidance and/or manpower for damage assessments and within the EOC, and support in the establishment of a long-term recovery group and plan. Additionally, this task force will call upon the experience of state agency support and other local emergency management professionals across the state to provide mutual aid or contract assistance to those affected by disasters or emergencies.

The Disaster Recovery Task Force is comprised of Regional Coordinators, Regional Disaster Finance Specialists, Infrastructure and Community Recovery subject matter experts, and Voluntary Agency Liaisons. Through the support provided by the DRTF, partnering state agencies, and volunteer organization support the local jurisdiction will be able to put in to place processes that will increase the efficiency of recovery, documentation of damage to

aid in further federal funding opportunities, and long term recovery group rebuild programs.

TEXAS STATE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OneStar Foundation

OneStar Foundation (OneStar) was created by the Office of the Governor to support the State of Texas by strengthening the nonprofit sector, encouraging civic engagement through service and volunteering, promoting innovative strategies to address local issues and facilitating public-private partnerships to expand the reach of the sector. OneStar believes that the best way to strengthen Texas communities is through collaboration, and as such partnership and engagement with faith and community-based organizations and state agencies and promotion of cross sector collaboration is central to our work.

The updates included below highlight several OneStar programs that promote and incorporate best practices in collaborating with faith and community-based organizations. In addition to OSFs programmatic efforts, in May 2020, OneStar onboarded a Director of Community Affairs, a new position for the organization tasked with leading OneStar’s Faith-Based and Community Initiative, Disaster and other programs that aim to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Texas. OneStar looks forward to utilizing this new position to proactively shape the important programs it operates for the benefit of Texas communities. In November of this year, the OneStar board of directors approved new vision and mission statements for our organization that highlight our purpose and commitment to cross sector collaboration for the state of Texas. Our new vision statement is: *We are One Texas, united in building resilient and thriving communities.* Our mission statement is: *OneStar strengthens Texas communities by creating pathways for individuals and organizations to engage, connect, and accelerate their impact.*

Faith-Based and Community Initiative Programs

OneStar Foundation operates several programs that aim to strengthen the Texas nonprofit sector, including faith-based and community organizations, and support cross sector collaboration to accelerate impact for Texas communities. Each of these programs allows OneStar to identify and share out best practices for nonprofits and for organizations aiming to collaborate with nonprofits.

- *Built for Texas Initiative*
In an ongoing partnership with the United Ways of Texas (UWT) to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Texas, OneStar Foundation launched Spring and Fall 2020 statewide surveys to gather input from Texas nonprofits on the impact of COVID-19. Data from each survey was analyzed and released in a report that highlights key themes regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Texas nonprofits and opportunities to better support this important sector—a key economic driver in our state.

Among the findings detailed in reports, surveys consistently found that Texas nonprofits are finding it challenging to fulfill their missions due to the widespread impact of the pandemic, and many face insurmountable financial challenges due to significant declines in individual donations and fee for service revenue needed to sustain operations. The most recent survey also found that Texas nonprofits led by or serving historically underrepresented groups, those located in rural communities, and organizations with annual operating budgets under \$100,000 have been hit hardest by the pandemic and economic downturn. Learn more about the Initiative and survey findings at www.txnonprofits.org.

- *Interagency Coordinating Group*
OneStar continued to champion the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) this year by serving as appointed chair of this important group per H.B. 492. General updates on ICG efforts and plans for 2021 can be found throughout this report.
- *Texas Nonprofit Council*
In the years following the establishment of the ICG in 2009, and as part of the Texas Faith-based and Community Initiative, legislation established the Texas Nonprofit Council, a council of twelve nonprofit leaders setup by the Legislature to work alongside the ICG to strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations and to forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government. When active, OneStar coordinates the work of the Council.

The Office of the Governor intends to make new appointments to the Council so it can continue its good work alongside the ICG beginning in 2021. In November and December 2020, OneStar is working to identify and encourage prospective Council members to apply for this important service opportunity, and we look forward to supporting the Council with its important work in the years ahead.

Service & Volunteerism Programs

OneStar believes that service and volunteerism are a cornerstone of what it means to be Texan, and that everyone can make a difference and contribute to building thriving communities. Further, we know that the nonprofit sector depends on service and volunteerism to operate effectively. We operate several Service and Volunteerism Programs that strengthen pathways to citizen service to ensure opportunities to serve are available to all, that nonprofits are equipped with best practices in managing service members and volunteers, and that Texas communities benefit from service.

- *National Service*
OneStar Foundation administers the **AmeriCorps Texas Program** for the State of Texas. This \$18.8 million portfolio of 32 grantees collectively supports over 3,400 AmeriCorps members providing direct service in Texas communities. AmeriCorps members serve with nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations, placing them at over 450 service sites to help

them tackle pressing community challenges. Organizations are selected to receive a three-year AmeriCorps grant through OneStar's rigorous annual grant competition. Members all serve within one of the following six focus areas: Disaster Services, Education, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. Organizations are required to match the grant funds through both cash and in-kind services, this year AmeriCorps Texas grantees will leverage an additional \$41.2 million in matching funds. For their term of service AmeriCorps members receive an education award that can be used to repay student loans or to attend a variety of continuing education programs; this year \$13 million in education awards will be earned by AmeriCorps members.

Also of note, Equal Heart, an AmeriCorps Texas program, received national recognition and was honored with the [Most Impactful Service Award](#) by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Equal Heart was selected for its response to the increase in community hunger caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its Texas Service Corps, the organization created the state's first COVID Disaster Response Team. This new team deployed 270 AmeriCorps members to 28 sites working to alleviate hunger, providing 20 million pounds of food to over 900,000 Texans.

In addition to administering the AmeriCorps Texas program, OneStar is an **AmeriCorps VISTA** intermediary. VISTA is an acronym for Volunteers in Service to America. VISTAs do not provide direct services to individuals; rather, they work to increase the capacity of organizations through activities such as community outreach, establishment of volunteer recruitment and management systems, fundraising, and partnership development. OneStar is on track to place approximately 36 VISTA members in service before the end of 2020.

- *Governor's Volunteer Awards*
OneStar Foundation received 74 nominations for the 37th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards (GVA) across the nine awards categories. The Governor's Volunteer Awards program honors the extraordinary impact of individuals, organizations, and businesses in Texas that have made a significant and measurable difference in their communities through exemplary service and volunteering. Honorary Chair Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott announced award recipients in November of this year. Learn more about the awards program and this year's awardees at onestarfoundation.org/governors-volunteer-awards/.
- *VolunteerTX*
As the State Commission on Service and Volunteerism, OneStar has identified a need to better coordinate and promote volunteerism across the State of Texas. Currently, no public database of statewide volunteer opportunities exists in Texas, creating a significant barrier to residents of the state interested in engaging through time, resources, or expertise to make a difference in their

community. In order to address this need, OneStar, in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, is in the process of developing a white label version of the All For Good Volunteer Aggregator branded as **VolunteerTX.org**. The VolunteerTX.org aggregator will create a centralized feed of Texas specific volunteer opportunities that will allow residents throughout the state to access opportunities more easily in their community. This platform was chosen due to its inclusive feeds from a wide variety of volunteer management platforms and existing Points of Light partnerships that include 8 of 10 Volunteer Connector Organizations (VCOs) in Texas. The past few months, OneStar has been conducting outreach with partners including the Interagency Coordinating Group and the site is scheduled for public launch in early 2021.

Disaster Services Programs

As one of the most disaster-prone states in the country, OneStar recognizes that Texas is strongest when communities are resilient in the face of disaster. Our Disaster Services Programs aim to strengthen and connect nonprofits and faith- and community-based organizations with one another and with state and local government agencies so they can best support communities in disaster relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts.

- *Texas COVID Relief Fund*

In May 2020, Governor Abbott announced the Texas COVID Relief Fund, a statewide Fund administered by OneStar Foundation to provide critical funding to organizations working to meet the needs of communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, \$920,000 has been distributed across the state to nonprofits and government entities working in the areas of health, education & childcare, and community & economic development.

OneStar received more than 400 applications totaling over \$32 million in funding requested. At the end of July, the OneStar Foundation Board approved grants to 15 nonprofits and 1 government entity. You can read more about the Fund and grantee recipients at onestarfoundation.org/txcovidfund.

- *Rebuild Texas Fund*

In fall 2017, at Governor Abbott's request, OneStar partnered with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) to house and administer the \$100 million Rebuild Texas Fund (RTF). The purpose of the RTF is to support long-term recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Grant awards totaling over \$100 million were awarded to nonprofit organizations and government agencies to support recovery efforts across impacted communities. A number of multiyear projects scheduled to close this year experienced delays and setbacks due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. To accommodate the needs of grantees, timeline extensions are being granted and most projects will be complete on or before August 2021. This year, OneStar and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation finalized a three-year report that highlighted the impact of Hurricane Harvey and the Rebuild Texas Fund which can be found at

rebuildtx.org. Also this year, OneStar and MSDF successfully transitioned all functions of the Rebuild Texas Fund to OneStar Foundation.

OneStar is currently developing a plan for an evergreen statewide disaster relief fund under the Rebuild Texas Fund brand, expected to launch in 2021. OneStar will work with partners to distribute the funds to eligible organizations working on the ground to support the economic recovery of Texas communities devastated by disasters. Distributions from this Fund are intended to assist with needs unmet by insurance, government, or other disaster relief organizations.

- *Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)*
VOAD is a coalition of nonprofit organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters; provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster. As a respected neutral convener of state agencies and nonprofits, OneStar recognizes the critical assistance VOAD organizations provide during all phases of disaster and is committed to helping facilitate and provide consistent administrative support to these volunteer-led coalitions. To this end, OneStar serves in positions of leadership with Central Texas VOAD, Texas VOAD, and National VOAD.
- *Additional Disaster Services Activities*
OneStar continues to work closely with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Health & Human Services Commission, General Land Office, and FEMA to support communication and coordination between the nonprofit sector and government agencies related to Hurricane Harvey recovery, including support of the nonprofit Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) that formed to support local recovery efforts.

OneStar is identified in the Texas Emergency Management Plan (under Annex T, Volunteer & Donations Management) as the primary point of contact for all streams of National Service in Texas during times of disaster. This includes AmeriCorps Texas, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and Senior Corps.

Goal 3 — Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations.

Goal 4 — Identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

The ICG began discussions on activities it could engage in towards further progress on achieving this goal and will move towards implementation of new activities in 2021.

Additionally, and in response to Goals 3 and 4, a few state agencies continued using OneStar Foundation's online, nonprofit mapping tool, Texas Connector, to identify duplication in services and gaps in services that faith and community-based organizations could fill. Texas Connector empowers communities, governments, funders, and nonprofits to meet Texas' growing needs more effectively. Texas Connector combines an interactive GIS map, searchable database including social service providers and nonprofits from Texas 211 and GuideStar, USA, socioeconomic and demographic data and population summaries and visual layers such as public schools, public transit and more.

Texas Connector also offers a unique platform on which initiative-specific data, such as health or criminal justice data, can be overlaid to create information-rich maps and reports. Users can print, email, or export search results to identify gaps in service, collaborative partners, or complementary services. From researching community resources to analyzing local continua of care, Texas Connector's powerful combination of nonprofit and demographic data gives users insight to better understand regional issues and resources and more effectively tackle community challenges.

Over 2,500 Texas Department of Criminal Justice agency staff across the Parole and Reentry Divisions use Texas Connector to provide individualized, location-specific community resource reports for re-entering clients and parolees.

Texas Workforce Commission and several other state agencies have smaller subscriptions to Texas Connector, but to our knowledge, no other agency is currently using this or any other technology tool to address Goals 3 and 4 above.

During the first quarter of 2020, OneStar finalized and fully executed a tri-party assignment and novation agreement (ANA) between OneStar and the University of Texas, with consent by the Texas Health and Humans Services Commission, to transfer the Texas Connector to the University of Texas. We are now working through the logistics of transferring the underlying agreements and assets related to Texas Connector to the University of Texas. State agency access to this tool will continue throughout the transition.

IV. NEXT STEPS FOR 2021

With internal analysis and recommendations under development by the ICG Planning Committee and movement underway to reactivate the Texas Nonprofit Council, 2021 looks to be an important year for the ICG and state agency partnership with faith and community-based organizations in Texas. It will be a year to take stock of progress since initial legislation was filed in 2009, reintroduce the Council, an important body needed to advance partnership efforts, and realign efforts to enhance the impact of the ICG and Council for the benefit of the State of Texas and our communities.

Important activities anticipated for 2021 include:

- 1) The ICG will
 - a. Review progress and advance activities to continue movement toward achieving all ICG goals.
 - b. Continue to work within respective agencies to improve cooperation with faith and community-based organizations.
 - c. Ensure agency information and resources on the OneStar website are accurate and up to date.
 - d. Support and collaborate with the Texas Nonprofit Council as it reengages in related activities.

- 2) OneStar will
 - a. Audit ICG resources on the OneStar website and recommend enhancements that will support ICG and Council efforts.
 - b. Support and facilitate ICG meetings and other key activities.
 - c. Support and facilitate ICG and Texas Nonprofit Council collaboration.

For questions related to this report or to obtain more information on the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group, please contact Chris Bugbee, President/CEO of OneStar Foundation, at 512-287-2018 or chris@onestarfoundation.org.

V. 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.

President of the Senate

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) [(10)] 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.

President of the Senate

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.

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.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
Date

Governor

APPENDIX C

Interagency Coordinating Group
Subcommittee: Improving Contracting Relationships
Proposed [RFP Template](#) for Client Services Procurements*
March 2012 *

Client Services Procurement is defined as the purchase of goods or services that benefit the clients or recipients of a State agency.

Section I: General

Scope
Terms and Conditions
Compensation
Schedule of Events
Agency Point of Contact
Definitions
(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section II: Statement of Work

Service Requirements
Subcontractors
Performance Tracking
(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section III: Proposal Information

Revision to Schedule
Pre-Proposal Conference
Proposal Requirements
Inquiries
Proposal Submission
Delivery of Proposals
Proposal Opening
Proposal Evaluation and Award
(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section IV: Historically Underutilized Business Participation

Section V: Contract Information Section

Section VI: Attachments

APPENDIX D

ICG MEMBER AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture
Department of Family and Protective Services
Department of Information Resources
Department of State Health Services
Health and Human Services Commission
Office of Secretary of State
Office of State-Federal Relations
Office of the Attorney General
An Institution of Higher Education
(Austin Community College District)
Office of the Comptroller
Office of the Governor
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas State Commission on National and Community Service
(OneStar Foundation)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Texas Department of Insurance
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Education Agency
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Texas Veterans Commission
Texas Workforce Commission