



Interagency Coordinating Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PREPARED BY

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

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OneStar Foundation

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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-based and community organizations (FBCOs) 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-based and community organizations; 2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith-based and community organizations seeking to partner with state government; 3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith-based and community 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-based and community 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-based and community organization; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith-based and community organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith-based and community organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith-based and community organizations could fill.

2021 Interagency Coordinating Group Activities

The ICG met in March, July, and November of 2021. The March meeting included obtaining feedback from state agencies on how the ICG can inform future work in collaboration with nonprofit organizations. Additionally, the ICG Planning Committee presented their research overview and results from the liaison survey and interviews that were conducted. The committee shared their recommendations with the ICG and created a plan as to how those recommendations will be completed in 2021.

The ICG's July meeting featured a presentation by Kharley Bagley Smith, Section Chief of Disaster Recovery Task Force and Courtney Goss, Voluntary Agency Liaison of Disaster Recovery Task Force, both from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM provided an overview of their agency and how they work with faith based and community organizations. Additionally, Molly Weiner, Director of Nonprofit Engagement for United Ways of Texas, presented on the intersection of nonprofits and public policy, highlighting the ways in which nonprofits and the nonprofit sector were impacted by legislation passed during the 87th session.

The ICG's November meeting featured a presentation by Andrea Earl, Communication and Engagement Manager, Immunization Unit, and Alex Whitman, Deputy Communications Director, both from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). DSHS provided an overview of their COVID-19 campaign and the Texas Vaccine Outreach and Education

Grant Program. DSHS' strategy is to help faith-based and community organizations with their local outreach to the communities they serve.

The ICG Planning Committee met in January 2021 to report their findings on the survey that was sent to ICG liaisons on ways to enhance effectiveness of the ICG and provide recommendations for the group. A key recommendation was to make introductory materials available for ICG members when they start with the group. The materials have been created and are being used to support newly appointed liaisons. The remaining recommendations will be implemented once the Texas Nonprofit Council is convened in 2022.

Lastly, the Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC) was reestablished on October 1, 2021, when Governor Greg Abbott appointed 11 members to the TNC. The TNC was created to strengthen relationships between local nonprofits and state government. This group will work in conjunction with the ICG to provide input to state agencies from their perspective as representatives from nonprofits, local governments, faith based & community groups, consultants, and statewide associations. 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 2021. 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 onestarfoundation.org.

II. Duties & Responsibilities

Duties & Responsibilities (see 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.

Additional Duties & Responsibilities (see 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.

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. Goals, Activities & Progress (January-December 2021)

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

Activity & 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 2022 now that the Texas Nonprofit Council has been appointed.

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

Activity & Progress:

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

STATEWIDE PROCUREMENT DIVISION (SPD)

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

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 2021, more than 100 assistance organizations were participating in this program. The program coordinator communicates frequently with the nonprofit community to promote 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 1993 creation by legislation, the SECC has collected more than \$195 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 people 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 large groups known across the state, nation, and world), giving donors a chance to show their support for causes important to them.

Through the years, Comptroller employees have demonstrated what can be accomplished when compassionate people band together to support others facing challenges and hardships. Comptroller employees raised \$78,314.33 for charities during the 2020 campaign.

COMPTROLLER EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

One of the missions at the Comptroller's office is to give back to the community. Holiday Wishes, a program that helps create positive, magical holiday memories for children, is another example of this mission. Comptroller employees agreed to sponsor 321 children in 2021 by fulfilling each 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 Alliance, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Hospice Austin and its Christopher House and The Settlement Home for Children.

The Black American Comptroller Employees Association (BACE) supports charitable, benevolent, patriotic, employment-related, and educational activities to better our community. BACE was founded in 1981, and its members are current and former CPA employees. In summer 2021, BACE partnered with Family Eldercare for its annual family fan drive, collecting new electric fans and monetary donations to support people who do not have or cannot afford air conditioning, as well as low-income seniors, adults with disabilities and families with children. Each year, BACE awards educational scholarships to recognize student merit in academics, leadership and special talents in areas including athletics and the arts. At a virtual ceremony BACE hosted in 2021, the organization awarded \$3,000 scholarships to high school seniors and one undergraduate college student.

During November and December, BACE partners with the Junior League of Austin for its annual Coats for Kids drive and Foundation Communities for its Holiday Assistance Program.

CPA VETS

The Comptroller's office is proud that its staff represents all branches of the military. CPA Vets, established in 2006, conducts charitable and educational activities in support of Texas veterans. To fulfill its mission, the organization fosters greater public awareness of Texas veterans' contributions to American history and assists the agency and the state in recognizing Veterans Day and Memorial Day. CPA Vets also conducts classes on veteran benefits, helps facilitate the assimilation of returning veterans to civilian life and promotes a greater understanding of the sacrifices made by returning veterans.

CPA Vets encourages and promotes participation in charities to support our troops and veterans deployed overseas. Every December, the group assembles and mails care packages for deployed soldiers recommended by Comptroller employees. To help employees better understand the sacrifices made by those who serve, CPA Vets members create lobby exhibits featuring information on veteran awards, memorials, and hero biographies.

Higher Education (Austin Community College District)

As higher education institutions sought to meet the needs of their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, the state's colleges and universities forged strong partnerships with the local ecosystem of community- and faith-based organizations. At the Austin Community College District (ACC), which covers a service area the size of Connecticut, those partnerships took on many forms. Below is a partial list of ACC's various collaborations with community- and faith-based organizations that were undertaken to strengthen community resilience. Some of these are longer-term partnerships, but many have been initiated over the prior two years.

- Partnered with local churches to offer on-site language and short-term workforce continuing education courses.
- Partnered closely with Hill Country Community Ministries (HCCM) for monthly Fresh Food for All distributions at ACC's Cypress Creek and San Gabriel campuses. Through this partnership with HCCM, ACC served more than 800 families and distributed more than 16,000 pounds of food.
- Engaged with Central Texas Food Bank to provide additional monthly food distributions at ACC's Hays and Riverside campuses.
- Launched a systemwide focus on understanding and seeking to meet the needs of military families in Central Texas. This effort is related to growth in the military population due to the location of the Army Futures Command in Austin. As a result of this focus, ACC will be hiring a Military Families Manager in 2022 to connect families to services offered by the college. ACC will also begin developing co-working spaces for military spouses who own businesses or work remotely.
- Began the deployment of college ACCess Hubs around Central Texas. ACCess Hubs are a dedicated one-stop shop for college information and enrollment support and will be located in high-traffic community-based and faith-affiliated organizations.
- Partnered with Manos de Cristo, Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), Austin Independent School District (AISD), Barbara Jordan Elementary, Families as Partners, Austin Voices, the Adult Education Department, Austin Public Library, and Austin Youth Works to offer several programs including digital literacy, entrepreneurship, English, Teacher Assistant Certification, CPR training, GED, HVAC training, entrepreneurship, accounting, and welding.
- Redesigned classes so that they can also be taught online with any device.
- Educated our network of community partners about the various ways they can access learning and skills development.
- Educated community members in low-income, high poverty areas on how to use online communication and education tools to better connect them to learning opportunities and to each other.
- Began offering more short Basic English classes online.
- Restarted in-person HVAC programs on remote sites such as charter schools.

- Initiated a Women’s Entrepreneurship Program at a local library to assist emerging entrepreneurs.
- Worked with Adult Education to increase outreach to adults needing to increase their skills or grow their businesses by offering entrepreneurship courses, accounting and bookkeeping courses, and para-educator courses.
- Partnered with Austin Voices for Education and Youth to support parents with digital-literacy challenges who needed to help their children with online learning. Redesigned digital literacy classes, so parents could access the Internet through any device (phone, tablet, computer). Taught parents about the applications their children used for online learning. Trained more than 300 parents in digital literacy and 90 parents in Basic English classes through this partnership.
- Partnered with non-profit organizations to educate local residents in a “Train the Trainer” Digital Literacy program so that they could help bridge the digital divide in their own communities.
- Partnered with Austin Public Library locations in high-poverty areas to launch on-site bilingual welding courses
- Partnered with AISD to help 143 AISD parents/family members complete the Teacher Assistant Training and Certification.
- Kicked off a partnership with the San Marcos Public Library to begin offering HVAC training inside the library Space.
- Established a new Partnership with SW Key Programs to provide ESL, GED Preparation, and Digital literacy classes. Launched classes in September 2021. Enrolled more than 100 students in the programs.
- Worked with HACA to launch a welding program for HACA residents.
- Provided recruitment and enrollment information for the congregants at Summit Worship Center’s annual Summit Fest event.

Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

The Child Support Division (CSD) has been working diligently to support community-based programs who provide family centered services. In the last year, the Program Innovation section has been collaborating with two non-profit, community-based programs. In August 2021, CSD and the Bexar County Children’s Shelter – Compadre y Compadre fatherhood program began meeting monthly. Program Innovation staff and the Program Director for Compadre Y Compadre meet to share information and education materials to support the families engaged at the local and state level. This collaboration has created opportunities for the CSD to enhance its public facing materials and have direct access to community resources and programming supporting fathers. Additionally, the Child Support Division has agreed to support Goodwill of Central Texas’ Fatherhood Works program which is federal grant receiving funding from the Administration of Children and Families. This program is designed to help establish and strengthen relationships, improve long-term economic stability, and overcome obstacles and barriers that prohibit individuals from being effective and nurturing parents. The CSD region serving Williamson, Hays, Travis, and Bastrop counties refers participants to the program to receive nurturing fathers training program, domestic violence and child maltreatment training, case management, career advancement training, financial assistance, occupational training, and other opportunities. The CSD has provided a “train the trainer” training to Goodwill case managers on common custody and child support frequently asked questions. This collaboration with Goodwill of Central Texas will last through September 30, 2025.

On September 30, 2020, the Program Innovation section of CSD received a federal grant award totaling \$999,560. This funding opportunity allows CSD to modernize its Parenting and Paternity Awareness curriculum that is currently delivered to school districts throughout the state as a parenting prevention resource for educators. To meet the target population, CSD has partnered with the Department of Family Protective Services’ Nurse Family Partnership program serving young first-time mothers and the Preparation for Adult Living program serving young adults transitioning out of the foster care system. The grant objective is to educate teens and young adults in a digital format on the emotional,

social, legal, and financial responsibilities of parenting to increase economic self-sufficiency and mobility. This grant aims to provide teens and young adults methods to build healthy relationships and prevent dating violence while strengthening communication patterns.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

The OAG Crime Victims Division conducted crime victims programs trainings for staff and volunteers of 36 non-profit and faith-based organizations in Fiscal Year 2021.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Grants Division awarded 319 grants totaling more than \$26 million to non-profit organizations in Fiscal Year 2021. The total number of non-profit organizations who received a grant in Fiscal Year 2021 is 218 across 85 counties.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Sgt. Brandon Reiser is an active member of BACA, Bikers Against Child Abuse. Sgt. Joe Baca an active committee member/volunteer with Special Olympics of Texas.

Office of the Governor (OOG)

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 organization funds many of the Commission for Women's important projects.

2021 Governor's Volunteer Awards

First Lady Cecilia Abbott, Honorary Chair of the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Awards, announced the recipients of the 38th annual Governor's Volunteer Awards on October 11, 2021. These awards are presented in cooperation 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. Awardees were selected for engaging in volunteer service that effectively addressed a critical need, made a sustained positive impact on the community, and inspired others to get involved in their cause or community.

This year, the Governor's Volunteer Awards introduced three new categories to address the ever-evolving volunteer landscape: Innovation in Volunteerism, Excellence in Disaster Volunteering, and Volunteer Family of the Year. These new award categories highlight the resilience and adaptability of volunteers throughout the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The First Lady noted, “Texans truly are generous by nature. I am so inspired by the generosity and selfless dedication demonstrated by volunteers across this great state over this past year. Now more than ever, we need to embrace our communities, and I am thrilled to recognize this year’s 11 outstanding awardees for leading the way.”

The recipients of the 2021 Governor’s Volunteer Awards are:

■ **Chuck & Gena Norris (Navasota): Governor’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award**

Known as an actor and martial arts legend, Chuck Norris, alongside his wife Gena, has channeled his skills and celebrity into helping youth develop the mental and physical strength to deal with life’s challenges. Chuck launched Kickstart Kids in 1992 with the goal that students will develop character, create stronger school and family connections, strive for higher academic and social success, and become productive members of their community. The program engages students, often from vulnerable communities, with a healthy peer group and the positive influence of a strong role model and mentor in their instructor. More than 110,000 students have benefited from this life-changing program since its inception. In addition to their ongoing leadership with Kickstart Kids, volunteer efforts by the Norrises also include visiting hospitalized and active troops, serving as spokespersons for United Way, and serving on the boards of both the Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools and Rachel’s Challenge. Additionally, Gena serves on the advisory board for the Council for Life and on the Board of Reference on the Christian Film and Television Commission.

■ **Cindy Brinker Simmons (Dallas/Fort Worth): Governor’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award**

Cindy Brinker Simmons has devoted her life to uplifting the lives of pediatric cancer patients throughout Texas and supporting those battling illness, hopelessness, or isolation fostered by this disease. Since Cindy established Wipe Out Kids’ Cancer (WOKC) in 1980, it has grown to be one of Dallas’ largest pediatric cancer organizations, providing critical seed money for childhood cancer research, supplying comfort items to young cancer patients during hospital stays, and offering year-round social events and programs designed to encourage these brave heroes and their families. She has proven to be a powerhouse fundraiser while also personally engaging with young “WOKC Warriors” and their resilient families battling pediatric cancer.

■ **Betty Ann Taylor (Houston): Governor’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award**

For 24 years, Betty Ann Taylor has run the Year-Round Manna Ministry, a program of Chapelwood United Methodist Church that builds a bridge of hope for families in crisis in the Houston community. What started as a Christmas giving campaign has evolved under her leadership to provide basic necessities—rent, utilities, food, and clothing—to more than 3,600 families. By working with the Spring Branch Independent School District and Communities in Schools social workers on school campuses, Betty Ann has created a sustainable system for serving the most vulnerable families in the community, even throughout the past pandemic year.

■ **Hannah Guan (San Antonio): First Lady’s Rising Star Volunteer Award**

At age 11, Hannah Guan founded San Antonio Math Include (SaMi) to offer greater access to STEM education for students from different backgrounds, experiences, and cultural perspectives. In just four years, Hannah has grown SaMi into an international network, connecting more than 36,000 students with tutors, principals, counselors, teachers, and after-school program coordinators in hundreds of schools around the world. SaMi offers free classes, develops curricula, and awards scholarships to close the digital divide for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Through partnerships with the United Nations Major Group of Children & Youth as well as the Global Youth Constituency for Quality Education, SaMi’s online curriculum programs are accessible to more than 300,000 students around the world. As a leading member of the Texas Student Bill Demands and vice chair of the San Antonio Youth Commission, Hannah leads the AI Closing the Digital Divide Move to introduce artificial intelligence and provide training to teachers in all high schools in San Antonio.

■ **Dr. Madan G. Luthra (Houston): Volunteer of the Year Award**

Since COVID-19 hit the Houston community, Madan G. Luthra has volunteered more than 30 hours a week to

support families in distress through Sewa International's Family Services program. In addition to answering calls on the nonprofit's helpline and connecting families to groceries, supplies, funeral arrangements, and other social services, Madan actively volunteers with local food and COVID-19 vaccination drives organized in collaboration with local faith-based and community organizations. As a retired research scientist, Madan has spearheaded the creation of a donor registry website that connects plasma donors with COVID-19 patients undergoing convalescent plasma therapy. Madan was honored by the Hindus of Greater Houston with the 2020 Akhil Chopra Unsung Heroes Award and was featured for his efforts in the Houston Chronicle's "Heroes of the Front Line" series and in the alumni magazine of University of Leeds, where he received his doctorate education.

■ **Richard & Linda Zoll (Houston): Volunteer Family of the Year**

Richard and Linda have served with SEARCH Homeless Services for over 20 years — from preparing and serving meals to essentially adopting one of the sites at which SEARCH's clients reside. Every month, the Zolls visit the Temenos apartments to create connections and celebrate milestones with those making the emotional transition from homelessness to housing. They host bingo games, birthday celebrations, and lead field trips, allowing residents to integrate more fully into the community. They also verified and assisted with voter registration for all 115 residents at Temenos.

■ **Diamondback Energy, Inc. (Midland/Permian Basin): Corporate Volunteering Champion Award**

Diamondback Energy, Inc., understands the importance of building a culture of giving back and has channeled this into support for local public schools. With the Permian Basin's growing population of English as a Second Language learners, the company encourages employees as well as other local groups to get involved and has implemented literacy and STEM programs at school campuses and other youth nonprofits. In addition, Diamondback Energy leaders and employees are encouraged to actively serve on boards that support the work of educating students; providing adequate facilities, technology, and safety for public schools; and building up the local workforce. In addition to their support of education, the Diamondback Energy team also assists local nonprofit Keep Midland Beautiful and their efforts to keep the city growing and green. Since the start of 2020, the company has contributed about 430 hours of service and over \$5.2 million dollars to the Permian Basin community.

■ **The Edinburg High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (Edinburg): Service-Learning Champion Award**

The Edinburg High School Chapter of the National Honor Society has been a major asset in helping the South Texas Literacy Coalition with community outreach. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the group was instrumental in setting up and preparing for drive-by distributions and handed out more than 10,000 free books to students whose families are financially challenged. In addition, they have developed literacy activities, presented bilingual online book readings, and are presently hosting a virtual book club with the goal of helping students develop a love for reading and writing. Many of the members also serve with the South Texas Literacy Coalition as interns, helping to manage the office and organize literacy resources. In addition to these efforts, the members of the Edinburg Chapter of the National Honor Society assist other nonprofits in the South Texas Region, including the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Ronald McDonald House, Greater Gold Foundation, Capable Kids Foundation, and Kiwanis International.

■ **Hookset Brothers Combat Recovery 501c3 (Bullard): Innovation in Volunteerism Award**

Hookset Brothers Combat Recovery 501c3 provides free hunting and fishing trips to aid veterans recovering from combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Founded by wounded soldiers from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, this small East Texas nonprofit engages volunteers to support more than 100 combat veterans and their families each year. In addition to reaffirming the outdoors to veterans who are struggling with PTSD or suicidal thoughts, the organization provides Gold Star families with hunting and fishing excursions while serving as male role models to help youths heal during their time of need. Beyond the outdoor programs, Hookset Brothers Combat Recovery 501c3 has raised funds for the funerals of fallen servicemen and women and host holiday celebrations for military families. They also volunteer as boat captains for high school fishing teams and as youth sports coaches within their community.

■ **Somebody Cares America (Houston): Excellence in Disaster Volunteerism Award**

During times of disaster, Somebody Cares America (SCA) mobilizes local churches and partner organizations to serve communities by providing financial and material resources, along with training, manpower, leadership, and expertise. As a result, churches and their members become a volunteer army equipped to meet the needs of their neighborhoods. In every region of Texas and following every major disaster, SCA partner volunteers have distributed meals, supplies, and resources, and assisted survivors with property repair and clean-up. Following Winter Storm Uri, SCA distributed plumbing supplies to address problems created by the freezing cold and provided nearly \$100,000 in community grants and individual assistance to those impacted. In response to COVID-19, SCA supplied thousands of N-95 masks to first responders, medical professionals, and others throughout Texas. In the greater Houston area alone, SCA gave out \$280,000 in funding as well as valuable in-kind gifts through dozens of partner churches and ministries to assist with hardships caused by the pandemic.

■ **Nuria A. Diallo Padro (San Antonio): National Service “Make a Difference” Award**

As an AmeriCorps member with Communities in Schools of San Antonio, Nuria A. Diallo Padro was innovative with the programming and outreach she provided to empower middle school students to excel academically, grow in their social-emotional learning, and explore their future aspirations. Through a combination of trusting relationships and strategic execution, Nuria was able to effectively respond to the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri. In the midst of disaster, Nuria worked systematically to compile and share resources and outreach to disproportionately affected families. Responding to the urgent need for sustained food assistance, Nuria raised emergency funds to deliver grocery gift cards, and she partnered with the San Antonio Food Bank and the local school district to host a Mobile Food Pantry at her campus. As an AmeriCorps VISTA alumna, Nuria used the skills from her VISTA experience to promote a food distribution event that engaged local community pantries and provided food support to 450 families.

GRACE’s Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking

The First Lady hosted the Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation (GRACE) initiative, which held a statewide interfaith Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking January 11 through January 17, 2021. The week of prayer coincided with Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the state of Texas and served as a call to action to the faith-based community to unite in prayer, learn more about human trafficking, and discern opportunities to prevent exploitation and support survivors.

TEXAS MUSIC OFFICE

The Texas Music Office in the Governor’s Economic Development and Tourism Division is constantly expanding their Music Friendly Community program to provide Texas communities with a network for fostering music industry development and send a clear message to industry professionals that certified communities are serious about attracting and developing music industry growth.

The Music Education and Community Grant Program seeks to provide opportunities for the next generation of Texas musicians and to provide support for music programming in under-served and under-resourced communities. \$22 of the \$30 fee from the purchase of every Texas music specialty license plate goes directly toward providing music instruments and lessons to Texas school children in need around the state. In addition, this fund can partner with non-profit organizations to create experiences featuring Texas music in under-served communities statewide, working hand in hand with Texas 501(c)3 non-profits to foster the development of young musicians throughout the state so they can continue developing their craft, regardless of financial challenges.

The office has been at the forefront of informing the Texas Music Industry of COVID-19 response resources to provide direct assistance and resource referrals to the Texas creative industries, focusing on recovery, and the next steps to position our industries for future success.

APPOINTMENTS DIVISION

The authority to make governmental appointments is one of the powers given to the Governor of Texas by the Texas Constitution. During a four-year term, the Governor will make about 1,500 appointments. Most appointments are members of state boards, commissions, and councils that carry out the laws and direct the policies of state government activities. Other appointments are for members of task forces that advise the Governor or executive agencies on specific issues and policies. Finally, some appointments are for state elected and judicial offices when vacancies occur by resignation or death of the office holder.

The Office of the Governor appoints well-qualified applicants across a broad range of backgrounds, including faith-based and community-oriented organizations. To apply for an appointed position, potential applicants may [read about the Appointment Process prior to completing the Appointment Application here](#).

The majority of these appointments are volunteer positions, representative of our citizen government. Most appointees are entitled to standard travel expenses and/or per diem to attend meetings and conduct business of the board or commission.

The list of current appointments may be found at: gov.texas.gov/organization/appointments/positions

Applicants may download the application form at: gov.texas.gov/organization/appointments/application

One example of the key role appointments play in state government is the appointment by the Governor of the Texas Nonprofit Council. The Council makes recommendations for improving contracting relationships, develops best practices, and identifies and addresses gaps in services provided by—and which could be filled by—faith-based organizations.

- **Kile Bateman** of Wichita Falls is the senior pastor of Evangel Church. He serves as the director of Family First Orphan Care and is the founder of Phased In. He is a member of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) Advisory Committee on Promoting Adoption of Minority Children. Bateman received a Bachelor of Science in ministry from Southwestern Assembly of God University.
- **Sereniah Breland** of Pflugerville is the city manager for the City of Pflugerville. She is the president of the Texas City Management Association (TCMA). Breland received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Public Affairs from The University of Texas at Dallas.
- **Deborah Healey Drago** of Beaumont is a Low-Income Customer Service Specialist for the east region of Entergy Texas, Inc. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Beaumont board of directors, Leadership Southeast Texas Advisory Council, and the South East Texas Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the Leadership Beaumont Class of 2022 and is an active member on several nonprofit boards and parent associations. Drago received a Bachelor of Science in Applied Learning and Development from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Business Administration from Lamar University, and holds a Texas teaching certificate.
- **Fedora Galasso** of Austin is the executive director of Texas Network of Youth Services. She is an advisory member of the Texas Interagency Council on Homelessness and a member of DFPS's Committee on Advancing Residential Practices, Children's Commission Collaborative Council, Statewide Collaborative on Trauma Informed Care Taskforce, Houston Area Partners for Youth, and Austin Ending Youth Homelessness Coalition. Galasso received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from Texas A&M University-Commerce, as well as a Master of Public Affairs and a Master of Social Work from the University of Texas.
- **Jenifer Jarriel** of Houston is the president of DePelchin Children's Center. She is a board member and center chair for Texas Alliance for Child and Family Services, as well as a board member for Network of Behavioral Health

Providers, LifeGift, and Periwinkle Foundation. Jarriel received a Bachelor of Science in education from the University of Houston and a Master of Business Administration from Houston Baptist University.

- **Katherine "Kathy" Keane** of San Angelo is a consultant and former executive director of Texas Midwest Community Network. She is a director of the Fort Concho Museum board and a member of both the Texas Rural Practitioners and the executive committee for the Digital Texas coalition. Keane attended Angelo State University and received a public manager certification from Texas Tech University Center for Public Service.
- **Virginia "Ginny" Lewis Ford** of Austin is the executive director of Texas Association of Regional Councils. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, chair of the Department of State Health Services Preparedness Coordinating Council, a member of Health and Human Services Commission's Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee, a member of the Texas Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Council, and a board member of the National Association of Development Organizations. Ford received a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing from Texas Tech University and a Juris Doctor degree from St. Mary's University School of Law.
- **Amy Ledbetter Parham** of Buda is the chief executive officer for Habitat for Humanity Texas. She received a Bachelor of Arts in government from the University of Texas at Austin, a bachelor of family consumer sciences from Texas State University, and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs.
- **Adrianna Cuellar Rojas** of Austin is president and CEO of United Ways of Texas. She is also immediate past board chair for Foundation Communities and on the board of the United Way Retirees Association. Cuellar received a Bachelor of Arts in French and international studies from Trinity University and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin.
- **Phillipa Williams** of Dallas is the executive director of ilooklikeLOVE, Inc. She attended El Centro College and studied public relations at the University of Texas at Arlington.
- **Carol Zernial** of San Antonio is the executive director of WellMed Charitable Foundation. She is a member of both the American Society on Aging and of Grantmakers in Aging and is board secretary for the Winston School of San Antonio. Zernial received a Bachelor of Arts in French from Trinity University and a Master of Arts in Social Gerontology from the University of the Incarnate Word.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE

The mission of the Public Safety Office (PSO) 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.

Nonprofit and faith-based organizations (FBOs) are eligible grant recipients within several of the fund sources that PSO administers, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant Program, Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), and others.

The Public Safety Office produced a guide for organizations to use, titled [Common Issues in Managing your Grant](#).

This guide does not provide every rule or policy that governs a grant. It is meant to provide information about the most common issues and to point to other source documentation that will develop a deeper understanding of the grant process from the Public Safety Office.

The following are grant programs managed by the Office of the Governor:

Victims of Crime Act General Victim Assistance Program (VOCA)

In fiscal year 2021, 184 nonprofit corporations received \$102.3M in grant funding, including \$6.3M to FBOs to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime in order to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. Services include:

- Responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- Assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization;
- Assisting victims in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system; and
- Providing victims with safety and security.

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA)

In fiscal year 2021, 17 nonprofit corporations received \$6M in grant funding for projects that promoted a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system’s response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention

In fiscal year 2021, 34 nonprofit corporations received \$2.4M in grant funding for projects that provided mental health services, after-school activities, and other community-based programs and services that work with youth at risk or currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

The NSGP integrates the preparedness activities of FBOs that are at high risk of a terrorist attack with broader state and local preparedness efforts, while also promoting emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private entities.

In fiscal year 2021, 93 FBOs received more than \$12.9 million in grant funds to support security enhancements as well as address identified risks, including threat and vulnerability, to the physical location of the FBO. The FBOs receiving grant support and technical assistance were from 33 counties, including Bexar, Caldwell, Collin, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, and Williamson counties.

Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT)

The Child Sex Trafficking Team’s mission 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;
- Support healing; and
- Bring justice to those who exploit children.

Each year, CSTT funds and provides training and technical assistance to organizations across Texas in order to accomplish this mission. The vast majority of these organizations are faith-based and community-based nonprofits. These organizations have played a critical role in filling gaps related to specialized advocacy and case management, emergency and long-term residential placements, service capacity, and preventing exploitation.

In conjunction with the Office of the First Lady and DFPS, CSTT also leads GRACE—Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation. GRACE is comprised of faith leaders from various religious backgrounds and communities across Texas. In January 2021, GRACE launched a statewide Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking, encouraging Texans to unite in prayer, become educated about human trafficking, and take action. In 2021, GRACE members also helped launch an online safety campaign to empower families with tools to protect children from harmful content, grooming, and online exploitation. GRACE is currently preparing for the next annual Week of Prayer in January 2022.

Possible Funding Sources for Faith-based and Nonprofit Corporations

Nonprofit corporations have a role in addressing vital public safety issues facing Texans today. Funding sources available through the Public Safety Office for non-profit and faith-based organizations seeking to address these issues include the following:

Federal Funding Opportunities:

- *Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)*: promotes public safety efforts, crime reduction, and system improvements.
- *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 statewide 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; and 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 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.
- *Child Sex Trafficking Programs (CST)*: fills 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.
- *Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Ready Facilities*: supports hospital facilities seeking to achieve or maintain a SAFE-Ready designation as defined in Chapter 323 of the Texas Health and Safety Code
- *Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention*: supports prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth.

HOMELAND SECURITY

The Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is the state's framework for establishing homeland security priorities and focusing its broad range of efforts to develop, sustain, and employ homeland security capabilities. The plan builds upon the foundation established in the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2015-2020 and includes many adjustments based on progress made in implementing that strategy and changes in Texas' risk landscape.

Securing Texas and enhancing its resilience to incidents that do occur requires close coordination among jurisdictions at all levels. This strategy applies to state and local agencies, and Texas also encourages and recognizes the critical importance of voluntary private sector cooperation. Effective implementation will require active monitoring, assessment, and management of homeland security risks, with corresponding adjustments to our priorities and activities. Section I of the strategy explains its purpose and scope, establishing the state's vision for homeland security and the fundamental principles that will guide our actions. Section II summarizes the breadth and magnitude of the homeland security challenges facing Texas. It describes the state's homeland security environment and discusses threats and hazards, vulnerabilities, potential consequences, and notable trends. Section III establishes the goals, objectives, and priority actions that indicate our homeland security priorities over the next five years. It includes five goals (one for each mission area of Prevent, Protect, Mitigate, Respond, and Recover), 25 objectives, and 123 priority actions.

Texas Homeland Security Goals 2021-2025

- **Goal 1: Prevent**
Prevent terrorist attacks and organized criminal activity in Texas.
- **Goal 2: Protect**

Reduce the state's vulnerability to terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters.

■ **Goal 3: Mitigate**

Minimize the impact of terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters through proactive mitigation planning and programs.

■ **Goal 4: Respond**

Increase the capability of the state's response system to minimize damage and loss of life from terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters.

■ **Goal 5: Recover**

Ensure rapid, effective, and comprehensive community recovery following terrorist or criminal attacks and natural or technological disasters.

Goal 4 speaks to the involvement of trained and vetted volunteers from private, public, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations for statewide homeland security response activities. Goal 4.2.5 speaks directly to the continued use of trained and vetted volunteers from private, public, non-profit, and faith-based organizations for statewide homeland security response activities.

The strategy recognizes that trained, qualified response teams as well as personnel at the state, regional, and local levels are the essential building blocks for all response operations. Focused investments in personnel, teams, and equipment—based on assessments of risk and gaps—are necessary to sustain and build capabilities. These investments may be funded by federal and state grants and state and local appropriations. Texas continues to develop response teams from various disciplines, including the multi-jurisdictional Public Works Response Team (PWRT) and the Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT), increasing jurisdictional participation through memorandums of understanding (MOUs). The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), through the administration of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) and Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) grants, has increased firefighting capacity across the state. Plans anticipate that Urban Search and Rescue Texas Task Force 3 (TX-TF3) will be stationed in the Rio Grande Valley.

At the local level, jurisdictions take a variety of actions, including training, exercising, and replacing equipment, to sustain special response team capabilities. Texas will continue to track training of new personnel and teams on new tactics and equipment. Volunteers are central to Texas' emergency response operations. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners provide the state with a trained and dedicated emergency workforce.

These groups can provide specialized resources and subject matter expertise to the state, such as shelter, food, medicine, case management, debris removal, and recovery support. Texas will continue to coordinate emergency management training and planning with VOADs, NGOs, and the private sector and ensure state agency plans and processes are in place for the effective utilization of these partners in preparedness, response, recovery, exercise, and training efforts. Local jurisdictions will receive training on the benefits of including VOADs, NGOs, and the private sector in emergency management preparedness.

Texas will continue to maintain and market the Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry (TDVR) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to increase the volunteerism necessary to support local public health and healthcare providers during disasters and will identify health professionals available to serve the most vulnerable areas of the state in the event of a disaster. TFS is responsible for developing, training, maintaining, and mobilizing Incident Management Teams (IMTs) to provide incident management support for state, disaster district, and/or local operations. The agency currently manages 18 IMTs, located strategically throughout the state, as part of both the Regional IMT program and the Lone Star State IMT program. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) provides financial and coordination support for the Regional IMT program, and IMTs are rostered and mobilized in coordination with TDEM for all-hazard missions. To ensure effectiveness in supporting a broad stakeholder community, IMTs regularly participate in Texas emergency management training and exercise events. Since 2015, IMT members have responded to hurricanes, tropical storms,

tornadoes, wildfires, explosions, flood events, and public health emergencies. TFS has also delivered 96 IMT-related courses to 1,560 students and held an IMT conference each year, totaling 632 IMT attendees.

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 \(PDF\)](#), 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](#) - OneStar promotes service and volunteerism, forges effective public and private partnerships, and works to increase the performance of non-profit organizations

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 2021, 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-based and community 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-Euless-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-based and community 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-based and community organizations in the next year.

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.

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.

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 strengthen the ties between individuals, their families, and their communities. The life skills gained in these programs help to prevent recidivism and promote successful reentry and reintegration as productive citizens.

For incarcerated individuals, TDCJ utilizes approved volunteers to assist and facilitate services and essential programs. As of August 31, 2021, there were 12,755 approved volunteers. During Fiscal Year 2021, these volunteers made 12,905 volunteer visits for a total of 47,290 hours spent supporting inmates. A total of 1,825 new volunteers were trained this fiscal year. Also in Fiscal Year 2021, 3,601 approved volunteers received their two-year re-certifications through online trainings.

These volunteers represent a broad spectrum of faith-based and community organizations that administer programs that provide valuable skills to the inmate-based population 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 203 active field ministers on 41 units. These field ministers serve to boost the morale of the incarcerated by offering inspirational correspondence, prayer sharing, and one-on-one encouragement to impact inmate behavior and promote positive change. As of October 2021, the field ministers have received 14,000 prayer and correspondence requests.

The GO KIDS initiative was established to identify resources that offer basic, fundamental services to inmates and their children. Recognizing that solid family ties impact the success of individuals under criminal justice supervision, various units offer family-inclusive programs and/or programs focused on strengthening parenting and relational skills. These programs help inmates maintain constructive focus during their incarceration, allow families to remain connected, and positively impact the future of their children.

The Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment (STRIVE) Reentry Center, launched in August 2019 at the Mountain View Unit, is a twelve-week reentry program for women leading up to their release. Through coordination with multiple divisions within TDCJ, Windham School District, and volunteers, participants are provided with gender-responsive, trauma-informed, pre-release programming designed to help female inmates prepare for their transition to the community. Volunteer group Discipleship Unlimited, a faith-based organization, provides services such as Bible studies, financial classes, resumes, life skills classes and trauma-based programming. Trae Kendrick, women's ministry director and mission's coordinator with the First Baptist Church of Crawford, works as a volunteer mentor for the participants focusing on overcoming trauma. STRIVE graduates return to society with secured employment, professional and leisure clothing, shoes, accessories, hygiene products, and, most importantly, the skills for success.

The TDCJ Veterans Coordinator collaborates with multiple agencies and organizations to provide services for incarcerated veterans. The agency's services for veterans include volunteer-provided unit programming and housing dedicated to veterans, assistance with veterans benefit applications, access to education benefits, and continuity of care coordination with veteran peer groups for post-release assistance. Volunteer program Animum Irae Militum (AIMVETS), a veteran-specific ministry focused on recovery, provides Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) on units across the state. Most recently, the Success Through Restoration, Independence, Perseverance, Excellence and Service (STRIPES) Veterans Dorm opened in July 2021 at the Coffield Unit. AIMVETS and multiple TDCJ divisions collaborated on the STRIPES Veterans Dorm to provide a one-year peer support program designed to equip veterans with the necessary tools to enhance their wellbeing and reintegration into society.

Throughout the pandemic, the TDCJ utilized innovative means to continue to allow volunteers to maintain and enhance their impact, as well as continue to enable methods for inmates to complete programs. Technology is used to maintain connectivity and online access for volunteer groups to expand program instruction. The agency completed over 156,000 wellness calls on behalf of inmates across the state. These calls connected inmates and their loved ones when the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the use of community phones. Additionally, state-issued cell phones were utilized to conduct 1,231 Facetime Video Calls for the terminally ill and inmates' family funerals. Pastors or Spiritual Advisors of the inmate's family are allowed to pray and provide encouragement to the inmates during the facetime call. Bridges to Life (BTL), a volunteer-facilitated program, modified their program delivery from in-person to 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. The BTL correspondence program was facilitated on over 50 prison facilities with 4,000 inmate participants.

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 starting a Faith Based Dorm. The newsletter has also been utilized as a tool to seek alternative programming during this pandemic.

To benefit those individuals reentering 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) contracts 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 has agreements with the Social Security Administration, Texas Health and Human Services-Vital Statistics, and Texas Department of Public Safety to request, process and provide valid forms of identification for individuals upon release, thereby paving a smoother road to successful reentry.

For those individuals sentenced to probation, there are 123 Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs) which directly supervise individuals on probation across the state. TDCJ acts as an oversight entity for the probation departments in Texas' decentralized system, providing funding distribution, standards, auditing, statewide data, training, program evaluation and fiscal monitoring. Providing day-to-day supervision, CSCD programs and services vary according to the resources available in each corresponding community. 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 probationer behavior. All the local programs have the goal of enhancing outcomes and reducing recidivism, but each are individually developed based on the relationships, resources, and unique needs of the communities they serve.

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 120 BIPPs, of which TCFV provides technical assistance, program evaluation and training to the providers to ensure they are equipped to educate batterers. TDCJ provides 25 grants to qualified BIPPs to support their local community programs. TDCJ and TCFV continue to support community initiatives across the state which promote victim safety.

Texas 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.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, located in Houston, has been an ongoing partner with APS providing non-perishable groceries for 24 families bi-monthly. This partnership has helped to provide emergency food to APS clients that are in need.

Trademark Church of Fort Worth's Youth program conducted a donation drive for the Silver Star Room in Ft. Worth for Elder Abuse Prevention Month. The youth collected 240 toothbrushes, 500 disposable gloves, 60 bars of soap, and six boxes of adult diapers.

A Christian men's group in El Paso called **Fisherman of Hope**, partnered with APS to provide minor home repairs to clients. The group cleaned yards, removed weeds, painted homes, and installed ramps. The group recently received a grant to provide new kitchen stoves to those in need.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

For the past four years the **Sathya Sai** organization, under the direction of Mr. Patel in Houston, has provided donations and services to CPS clients. Sathya Sai has donated shoes, diapers, hygiene items, snacks, medicine cups, and household items. Most recently, Sathya Sai read books with some of the children.

Loose Threads, of the Huntington First United Methodist Church in Huntington has been a longtime supporter of CPS and the families we serve. The group has **sewn over 200 adoption blankets** for children adopted from CPS in regions 4 and 5. They also have sewn masks, clothing, baby blankets, bibs, quilts, weighted blankets, and toys.

First United Methodist Church (UMC) of Lufkin offered their support by allowing their recreation center to be used for child watch and offered their building as an evacuation site for youth without placement in our coastal areas during hurricane season. Lufkin FUMC also collected paper goods for child watch locations, and one of their Bible study groups donated \$200.00 specifically for birthdays and special meals for child watch youth.

Heritage Assembly of God in Wichita Falls provided a room for children awaiting placement. The room is set up like a bedroom and offers both a twin bed as well as a crib so that it can be used for children of all ages. The facility provides all hygiene items, a shower, meal cards for the child, and access to a young child's indoor playground or for older children game rooms.

Calvary Baptist Church, of Beaumont hosts a foster closet in the church for foster/adopt parents to utilize for the children in their care. The church also provides babysitting training and other training resources at the church for foster families.

THE 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.

The **CarePortal** is an interdenominational network of churches 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 CPS caseworkers identify needs of local children and families, they go online to [careportal.org](https://www.careportal.org) and make a request via the website. The faith community then has the option to respond to meet the need. The CarePortal is currently in 51 counties in Texas and, during the COVID-19 pandemic, was expanded to APS families. To date, resources through the CarePortal have helped serve 16,154 children, with an economic impact of \$4,398,097.

COMMUNITY BASED CARE AND DFPS

The **South Texas Alliance for Orphans**, a faith-based nonprofit organization that exists to serve and equip churches in fulfilling the biblical call to care for children and families impacted by the foster care system, led the charge to donate transportation kits to Belong. These transportation kits are to be provided to children prior to placement. These wonderful kits include items like tote bags, water bottles, hair care, coloring books, crayons, snacks and more.

Through the **Region 8 Council of Child Welfare Boards, Thin Blue Line Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club**, Guadalupe County community leaders and Day 1 bags, more than 3000 duffel bags were donated for the children in care in Region 8. The mission of Day 1 Bags is for foster youth to have high-quality duffel bags for their belongings to ensure there are no more black trash bags. These duffel bags also come complete with much needed personal hygiene items.

In Comal County, faith-based organizations and members of the community come together to assist nonprofits during the **Big Serve through the Serve Spot**. The Serve Spot exists to connect needs to resources. Individuals volunteered their time at a general residential operation in Region 8b to expand and mulch a play area for youth to enjoy the outdoors.

One Heart Lubbock is a coalition of churches across Lubbock County, organizations, and foster-adoptive agencies that believe we are called to look after the orphan together. They want to cultivate a community that nurtures children in foster care from every side and believe everyone has a unique role to play. Through partnership with One Heart Lubbock, Saint Francis has been able to provide over 80 overnight bags for children who are transitioning into their next placement. These overnight bags are made specifically for boys and girls, both younger children and teens. They contain a bed pillow, pillowcase, water bottle, toiletries (like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, hair ties, razors, etc.), coloring books, pencils, crayons, snacks, and so much more. Also, through partnership with One Heart Lubbock, we were able to provide 75 full Thanksgiving meals to Lubbock County kinship families. These meals include a full-size (13-15 lb.) frozen turkey, dressing, green beans, a frozen pie, rolls, and more.

Panhandle Orphan Care Network, a nonprofit organization built to “walk with families, work alongside churches, and wake up the community to better carry out the Biblical Mandate of caring for orphans.” Panhandle Orphan Care Network (POCN) provides “Moses Closets” – which are closets at area churches where they collect new items for children, such as clothing, diapers, wipes, highchairs, strollers, cribs, as well as many other things. Through partnership with POCN, Saint Francis Ministries have been able to help four Child Placing Agencies in the Amarillo area distribute “Placement Packages” to foster families when a child comes into care.

South Plains College of Nursing Partnership, a dedicated group of nursing students who volunteer to help the community. Through partnership with South Plains College of Nursing, Saint Francis Ministries was able to provide 40 pieces of luggage (backpacks, suitcases, and duffel bags) along with ID tags for the children in our care.

Texas Tech University, a department of Texas Tech University, the College of Media and Communication, has donated their senior capstone project to create four full Public Relations/Marketing campaigns for use throughout the years to come, free of charge.

Hope Now/Hope Local Adoption Recruitment Partnership, is a nonprofit agency based out of Fort Worth. Hope Local’s program called Hope Now partners with local churches to find adoptive families for children and youth waiting for their forever family. Hope Local produces a video of the child detailing their dreams and wishes for a family. The church plays the video during their Sunday Service, and members share Facebook posts of the video. Features on three children are currently being worked on.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD EXPLOITATION (HTCE)

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.

Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation (GRACE) is a collaboration between the Office of the Texas First Lady, Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), and a diverse group of faith leaders across Texas that work together to develop effective strategies to end human trafficking. GRACE 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. DFPS has continued to participate in ongoing GRACE convenings and events with faith-leaders.

Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking coincides with Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the state of Texas and serves as a call to action to the faith-based community to unite in prayer, learn more about human trafficking, and discern opportunities to prevent exploitation and support survivors. DFPS cross-promoted the 2021 Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking with all DFPS faith-based partners.

Light the Way End Human Trafficking included cross promotion of 2021 Human Trafficking Awareness Month activities with DFPS Faith-based partners. DFPS Faith-based partners were invited to participate in DFPS's Light the Way End Human Trafficking: 2021 Virtual Learning Series.

Light the Way End Human Trafficking: Faith in Action is a 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 help protect children in communities everywhere from the threat of trafficking. This comprehensive training tool is equipped with videos, discussion questions, Human Trafficking Fact Sheets, and a 30-Day Prayer booklet. In partnership, HTCE's goal is to create survivor-informed congregations committed to combatting human trafficking in their communities and offers the Faith in Action Kit to any ministry or congregation seeking to initiate its use.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) assists communities in identifying, developing, and delivering high quality prevention and early intervention programs. These programs promote opportunities for partnerships with families that capitalize on the strengths of parents and children together to build healthy families and resilient communities. PEI's leadership is currently at the helm of the Texas Prevention Framework Workgroup, an interagency collaborative focused on advancing and enhancing prevention efforts in Texas. This year, the workgroup produced the prevention framework foundations to exemplify how the supports of strong communities intertwine to wrap around a family and promote their success. Within this framework, the faith community is identified as a critical component of the fabric that makes up a community. In addition, many of PEI's grantees lead or participate in community coalitions that include the faith community to expand services to families and enhance community strengths.

This year, PEI launched the [Community Toolkit](#) which offers a range of resources to support a collaborative approach to preventing child maltreatment and promoting positive outcomes for children, youth, and families in Texas communities. This one-stop resource hub supports community members, including members of the faith community, who are searching for ways to promote protective factors in children, youth, and families and reduce the need for costly intervention later. In the coming year, PEI will incorporate additional resources specific to how the faith community can engage in and promote prevention efforts.

Finally, PEI launched the community facing, parenting tip website [GetParentingTips.com](#) which includes a variety of informative articles and video content created and published by subject matter experts as well as content created for parents – by parents. Faith-based partners are encouraged to utilize the website as a resource to share with parents and other members of their faith institution as well as other community partners.

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) continues to support the information technology needs of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs). 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. Section 2054.0565 of the Government Code authorizes assistance organizations to use DIR's cooperative contracts. This enables FBCOs to leverage the state's buying power to obtain the best value for technology purchases.

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.

In fiscal year 2021, 64 assistance organizations purchased approximately six million dollars in technology commodity items through the DIR Cooperative Contract Program.

DIR continues to promote the cooperative contracts program through newsletters, webinars, and social media to eligible customers, including faith-based and community organizations. This assistance provides organizations awareness of recent procurements, contracting updates, and purchasing opportunities.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SOCIAL MEDIA: PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING OUTREACH

January 2021

- **Human Trafficking Awareness Month** - Human trafficking is a crime that happens every day, and it often goes unreported. DPS works hard to combat this crime — from tasking units of Special Agents with investigating trafficking crimes to providing vital training to front-line officers to recognize indicators that an individual may be exploited or at-risk. Throughout the month of January, DPS worked to spread the word about human trafficking and its presence in our communities, while also providing helpful resources for victims and ways to report suspicious activity.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign** - DPS continues to promote the importance of safe gun storage for everyone who owns a firearm. This awareness campaign promotes the 1-2-3s of safe gun storage, facts about how to safely store a firearm, what safe storage options are available, how to talk to family, friends and children about safe storage and guns, and so much more. Each month, DPS features these safety messages on our social media channels.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: January Messaging** - Gun Fact #5: Safely storing firearms is the duty of EVERY gun owner.
- **End the Streak** - As Texas continues to see daily fatalities on our roadways, DPS shares this safe driving message, encouraging Texans to make safety their No. 1 priority on the road in the New Year.
- **New Year, Back to School Safety** - With students returning to class after the holidays, DPS reminds all drivers to be cautious and stay alert in school zones. Remember to slow down and be mindful of all posted speed limits, follow traffic laws and exercise additional caution around school buses.
- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** - With National Human Trafficking Awareness Day coming up on Jan. 11, DPS began to spread the message about the reality of human trafficking crimes and how Texans can bring awareness to these crimes.
- **Winter Safety Message** - As another round of winter weather heads towards Texas, DPS provides key safety message to our followers, including staying up-to-date and monitoring local weather broadcasts, check the latest weather conditions from the National Weather Service, as well as offering tips if you must travel, including to monitor road conditions at [DriveTexas.org](https://www.drive-texas.org).
- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** - DPS focused on bringing awareness to human trafficking and its presence in Texas communities, as well as shared a safety video message from DPS' Southeast Texas Region.

- **AMBER Alert Anniversary** - DPS joined in the observing of national AMBER Alert Awareness Day on Wednesday, Jan. 13, marking 25 years since 9-year-old Amber Hagerman of Arlington, Texas, was abducted.
- **iWatchTexas: Suspicious Activity Reporting** - DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using the iWatchTexas program, as well providing information on how to submit a report by phone, the web or mobile app.

February 2021

- **Heart Awareness Month:** 0 To bring awareness to heart health, DPS shared a message from news media, KRGV, that highlighted the story of DPS Trooper Stephen Ricci and his journey in wellness as a first responder.
- **Winter Storm Response, Safety Messaging** - As a historic winter storm impacted Texas, DPS shared critical safety messages, including road safety reminders, carbon monoxide safety tips, home safety tips, road condition updates, office closures and more.
- **National Missing Persons Day** - According to NamUs, more than 600,000 people go missing in the U.S. every year. Every day, DPS works with our partners to help search for and locate missing persons, including through the Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MPCH). Clearinghouse personnel assist law enforcement agencies and the public in locating persons who are missing from Texas or who are missing from other states but believed to be in Texas. MPCH also maintains a public website to help disseminate information regarding missing and unidentified persons.
- **Super Bowl Safety** - DPS offered safety tips for Texans to celebrate the big game responsibly.
- **Texas Highway Patrol – Super Bowl Weekend Traffic Enforcement Initiative** - DPS Troopers increased patrols all day Feb. 7, as part of the nationwide CARE (Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort) initiative. Troopers will be on the lookout for drivers who violate the law. We encouraged everyone to please celebrate responsibly.
- **Consumer Safety Notice: Spoofing** - DPS shared an importance consumer notice about spoofing, as the department recently became aware that phone numbers originating from our Austin Headquarters were being spoofed. DPS reminded our social media followers that the department will NOT contact them and ask for personal information, and we shared helpful tips for what to do if you get one of these calls. If you receive a spoofed call, hang up and do NOT share your personal information.
- **Traffic Law Tuesday, Safety Message from the Texas Highway Patrol - #TrafficLawTuesday:** It is illegal to pass a school bus from either direction when the bus is stopped with its flashing red lights activated to receive or discharge a student. This does not apply to vehicles passing a bus on the other side of a grassy median or physical barrier.
- **Winter Weather Safety Tips** - With winter weather impacting many regions of the state creating hazards on the roadways, DPS shared key safety messages to help Texans combat this winter weather. (Sample tips included: Monitor local weather conditions and take precautions to prepare for any freezing rain, sleet, snow, ice or other wintry mix that may impact your area in the coming days; avoid traveling when winter weather is predicted; monitor road conditions on [DriveTexas.org](https://www.drive-texas.org).)
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: February Messaging**
 - 2/8/2021: Restrict unauthorized access to firearms
 - 2/23/2021: Gun Fact #6: There are safe storage devices that allow access within seconds
 - 2/26/2021: Gun Fact #7: Safe gun ownership means practicing safe gun storage at ALL times.
- **Winter Weather Safe Driving Tips Series** - Throughout the month, DPS shared key messages for how to stay safe in the winter, from driving safety to home safety. As well, we shared winter weather notices in real-time to keep Texans up to date on the latest weather news and the department's response to the winter storm.

March 2021

- **Safe DRIVE: Distracted Reckless Impaired Visibility Enforcement initiative, March 2-4.** - DPS reminded Texans to do their part to help keep our roadways safe: Wear your seat belt; avoid distractions and drive the speed limit.
- **iWatchTexas: Suspicious Activity Reporting** - DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using the iWatchTexas program, as well providing information on how to submit a report by phone, the web or mobile app.

- **NHTSA Safety Recall Week** - Provided resources for how to check for safety recalls on vehicles, like using NHTSA's FREE VIN lookup tool.
- **Texas Highway Patrol, Annual Spring Break Traffic Enforcement Initiative** - DPS encouraged all Texans to make safety their No. 1 priority on the road and provided vital tips for how to do so. As well, DPS reminded our online communities that DPS Troopers will be increasing their enforcement efforts and will be on the lookout for drivers who violate the law.
- **Traffic Law Tuesday, Safety Message from the Texas Highway Patrol - #TrafficLawTuesday:** Following Too Closely. A motorist following another vehicle should maintain an assured clear distance between vehicles so that the operator can safely stop without colliding with the preceding vehicle or veering into another vehicle, object, or person on or near the highway. Reference: TRC 545.062. For more, visit bit.ly/TRC-545.
- **Springtime in Texas, Safety Reminder for Bluebonnet/Wildflower Pictures** - DPS encouraged motorists to be mindful of laws against impeding traffic and reminded everyone to exercise caution when slowing down to enjoy the view while providing a series of safety tips.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: March Messaging**
 - 3/2/2021: Always keep your guns safely stored when not in use
 - 3/23/2021: Teach your kids about safe gun storage

April 2021

- **40th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 18-24 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Spotlight on DPS' Victim & Employee Support Services (VESS) Unit** - Provided our information on VESS: Our VESS team is dedicated to providing direct, personal service to victims and their families throughout Texas. We have counselors located throughout all of DPS' regions, offering support services to victims across the state. Provided resources for how to learn more about VESS' specialized services and find a counselor.
- **Distracted Driving Awareness Month** - DPS joined our partners at NHTSA to remind Texans to avoid distractions while driving and encourage your family and friends to do the same.
- **Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas' Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Holiday** - From April 24 to 26, certain emergency preparation supplies are tax free in Texas.
- **iWatchTexas: Suspicious Activity Reporting** - DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using the iWatchTexas program, as well providing information on how to submit a report by phone, the web or mobile app.
- **National Work Zone Awareness Week** - Provided key safety messages about Move Over, Slow Down law and how to make safety our No. 1 priority on Texas roads.
- **Move Over, Slow Down** - Shared video from partners at TxDOT about Move Over, Slow Down and when Texans must move over and slow down on the road.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: April Messaging**
 - 4/6/2021: Make safe gun storage part of your spring cleaning
 - 4/26/2021: Practice safe gun storage at all times 4/27/2021: PSA on safe gun storage with DPS NW Texas Region, Lubbock PD and Lubbock Co. Sheriff's Office
 - 4/29/2021: Safe gun storage – video on different storage options

May 2021

- **Cinco de Mayo Holiday Safety Reminder**
- **Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month** - May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. DPS provided tips on how to keep everyone safe, particularly motorcyclists, on the road. Safety tips included: Always check your mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles; Allow extra distance when you're following a motorcycle; Never drive distracted or impaired; For motorcyclists, be road ready and make sure you're properly licensed; Motorcyclists can wear brightly colored clothes and reflective tape to increase visibility; Ride your motorcycle in the middle of the lane—that way you're where you'll be more visible to other drivers; and ride responsibly.

- **Click It or Ticket, Safety Reminder** - Seat belts save lives, so be sure you buckle up every time.
- **NHTSA Safety Message: Click It or Ticket**
- **Severe Weather Safety Alert** - As the threat for severe weather and flooding continued to impact Texas, DPS provided key safety messages and resources for our fellow Texans to stay safe.
- **Turn Around, Don't Drown Safety Message** - As heavy rain and flooding impacted areas of the state, DPS reminded everyone to stay weather aware, check the latest road conditions on [DriveTexas.org](https://www.drive-texas.org), and always [#TurnAroundDontDrown](https://www.instagram.com/turnarounddontdrown).
- **Texas Highway Patrol, Click It or Ticket, Memorial Day Weekend Traffic Enforcement Initiative** - DPS encouraged all Texans to make safety their No. 1 priority on the road and provides vital tips for how to do so. As well, DPS reminds our online communities that DPS Troopers will be increasing their enforcement efforts and will be on the lookout for drivers who violate the law. DPS Troopers are also participating in Click It or Ticket, an enforcement campaign to encourage people to wear their seat belt, as well as Operation CARE (Crash Awareness Reduction Effort).
- **Click It or Ticket PSA Video Message, Shared from DPS' West Texas National Missing Children's Day** - DPS joined our partners in spotlighting efforts to protect children here in Texas and around the nation. At DPS, we have teams dedicated to combating crimes against children; learn more about a few of them below. Highlighted efforts throughout DPS, including the Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC), the Missing Person Alerts program, the Missing Persons Clearinghouse and DPS' Criminal Investigations Division's teams of dedicated Special Agents.
- **iWatchTexas: Suspicious Activity Reporting** - DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using the iWatchTexas program, as well providing information on how to submit a report by phone, the web or mobile app.
- **Click It or Ticket, Safety Message: Seatbelts save lives** - Commemorated the 19th anniversary of the Click It or Ticket campaign—a campaign that for 19 years has been encouraging Texans to buckle up, as well as provided key safety reminders and reasons for why everyone should buckle up. Also shared information about DPS increasing its enforcement efforts as part of the annual Click It or Ticket campaign and for the Memorial Day holiday.
- **Memorial Day Safety PSA Video, Share from DPS' Central Texas Region**
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: May Messaging**
 - 5/4/2021: Safe gun storage, storage device checklist: Find what works best for you
 - 5/7/2021: Speak to your children about safe gun storage (English/Spanish versions)
 - 5/11/2021: Practice safe gun storage in your vehicle
 - 5/14/2021: First-time gun owners: Make safe gun storage part of your purchase

June 2021

- **Hurricane Season Begins** - DPS reminded Texans that now is the time to put emergency plans in place, so that you're prepared in the event of a disaster and provided key steps to take now to prepare for potential storms.
- **Turn Around, Don't Drown Safety Message** - As many areas of the state continue to deal with heavy rainfall, it's important to remember to always turn around, don't drown.
- **Move Over, Slow Down Safety Reminder for Texas Drivers DPS Encourages Texans to Be Smart in Summer Heat** - As temperatures rise this summer, DPS urged the public to take extra safety precautions to avoid some common heat-related dangers, especially for vulnerable populations like children and the elderly.
- **Summer Heat Safety Series** - As part of our kickoff to the official start of summer, DPS shared safety tips for people, pets, and homes to keep them safety during intense summer heat over several weeks.
- **Summer Safety Tips** - Safety message focused on visiting the beach and precautions to take.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: June Messaging**
 - 6/9/2021: A hidden gun is not a safely stored gun (English and Spanish)
 - 6/11/2021: Make safe gun storage part of your firearm purchase
 - 6/15/2021: Talk to others about safe gun storage
 - 6/17/2021: Safe gun storage saves lives (English and Spanish)
 - 6/21/2021: Make safe gun storage a priority this summer

- 6/24/2021: Make gun ownership safes (English/Spanish)
- 6/28/2021: Gun Fact #8: Safe gun storage must be practiced 24/7.

July 2021

- **Texas Highway Patrol, Annual Fourth of July Traffic Enforcement Initiative** - DPS encouraged all Texans to make safety their No. 1 priority on the road and provides vital tips for how to do so. As well, DPS reminds our online communities that DPS Troopers will be increasing their enforcement efforts and will be on the lookout for drivers who violate the law.
- **Summer Safety Message** - With school out for the summer, that means more kids are playing outside. DPS reminded Texans to exercise additional caution when driving in neighbors and around parks.
- **Move Over, Slow Down: PSA Video Shared from DPS' Central Texas Region New Permitless Carry Law, Education Awareness on Benefits of License to Carry (LTC) Program** - With HB 1927 becoming law, DPS worked to spread the message about the LTC program and the benefits it provides for Texans, as well as a direct link to learn more about the LTC program on DPS' website.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: July Messaging**
 - 7/1/2021: Restrict unauthorized access to firearms
 - 7/5/2021: Talk to your community about safe gun storage
 - 7/7/2021: Talk to your friends and family about the importance of safe gun storage
 - 7/9/2021: Practice safe gun storage when traveling
 - 7/13/2021: Safety store guns this summer
 - 7/16/2021: Safe gun storage: Leesa Ross Testimonial

August 2021

- **Back to School Safety Reminders from DPS' Southeast Texas Region** - As Texas headed towards the start of a new school year, DPS reminded drivers to be aware of school zones, increased school bus and pedestrian activity, and possible traffic congestion. Texans were asked to do their part to make sure kids get to-and-from school safely every day.
- **Back to School Safety, DPS Urges Drivers to Be Aware as School Year Begins** - With the school year beginning in person for many districts across the state, DPS reminded the public of steps they can take to keep students and staff members safe. This includes slowing down in school zones, staying off cell phones and being aware at all times while around school buses.
- **Vehicle Safety Recall Notice** - As of Aug. 7, drivers can find additional safety recall information on vehicle inspection reports (VIR). This helps improve Texas motorists' awareness about urgent safety recalls on their vehicles. Safety recalls can be repaired free of charge by the vehicle's manufacturer.
- **Back to School Safety Tips Series** - Over the several weeks surrounding back to school time, DPS provided a series of safety tips for drivers to abide by to help ensure Texas children make it to school safely; also reminded drivers of laws surrounding school buses.
- **LTC Benefits Series, Education Awareness on Benefits of License to Carry (LTC) Program** - With HB 1927 becoming law, DPS worked to spread the message about the LTC program and the benefits it provides for Texans, as well as a direct link to learn more about the LTC program on DPS' website. Over several weeks, DPS shared multiple different benefits of having an LTC.
- **iWatchTexas: Suspicious Activity Reporting** - DPS reminds Texans to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using the iWatchTexas program, as well providing information on how to submit a report by phone, the web or mobile app.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: August Messaging**
 - 8/5/2021: Assume children can and teens can find hidden guns
 - 8/10/2021: Gun Fact #9: There is no harm in asking others about safe gun storage
 - 8/12/2021: Safe gun storage saves lives

- 8/16/2021: Store gun and ammunition safely
- 8/18/2021: What do your children already know about gun safety?
- 8/23/2021: Safely store firearms to prevent unwanted access
- 8/26/2021: Spread the safe gun storage message
- 8/30/2021: Bolt down gun safes at home

September 2021

- **Texas Highway Patrol, Annual Labor Day Traffic Enforcement Initiative** - DPS encouraged all Texans to make safety their No. 1 priority on the road and provided vital tips for how to do so. As well, DPS reminded our online communities that DPS Troopers will be increasing their enforcement efforts and will be on the lookout for drivers who violate the law.
- **LTC Benefits Series, Education Awareness on Benefits of License to Carry (LTC) Program** - With HB 1927 becoming law, DPS worked to spread the message about the LTC program and the benefits it provides for Texans, as well as a direct link to learn more about the LTC program on DPS' website. Over several weeks, DPS shared multiple different benefits of having an LTC.
- **September, National Preparedness Month** - September 2021 was declared as Preparedness Month in Texas by Governor Abbott. It's important for Texans to make a plan to prepare for a disaster and what happens after. DPS shared a video from the Texas Division of Emergency Management with helpful tips.
- **Hurricane Safety Tips** - Tropical Storm Nicholas was making its way towards Texas, with heaving rainfall and a threat of flash flooding expected. DPS reminded Texans of basic hurricane safety tips: Stay alert; Monitor Local Weather; Avoid High Water; Heed Local Warnings; and Turn Around, Don't Drown.
- **Senate Bill 313 Education Post** - Senate Bill 313 promotes responsible gun ownership by exempting firearm safety equipment from state sales tax. DPS reminded Texans of what storage equipment is included as part of this exemption.
- **Texas.gov Service Outage Notice** - Provided notice to Texans that Texas.gov would experience a planned outage, and that driver license online applications and driver record monitoring services will be down for maintenance.
- **Child Passenger Safety Week 2021** - Child Passenger Safety Week is Sept. 19-25, and DPS reminded the public that having your children properly secured in a car seat is crucial in reducing their risk of injury and death in a vehicle crash. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among children. While most people believe their children are properly buckled up, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration points out that 46% of all car seats are misused.
- **National Preparedness Month: Prepare to Protect** - September is recognized as National Preparedness Month. While Texas is no stranger to handling disasters, it's critical to bring awareness to the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies. DPS did just that by encouraging Texans to take the steps now to be prepared for the future.
- **iWatchTexas and National "If You See Something, Say Something" Awareness Day** - The goal of #SeeSayDay is to help educate the public on the importance of reporting suspicious activity to local law enforcement. By reporting suspicious activity, you play a role in keeping your community safe. DPS encouraged everyone to spread the word on how to recognize and report suspicious activity with us on #SeeSayDay. Additionally, we spread the message about iWatchTexas and asked Texans to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using the iWatchTexas program; also provided information on how to submit a report by phone, the web or mobile app.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: September Messaging**
 - 9/3/2021: Find the right safe gun storage device for you
 - 9/8/2021: Safely store guns when not in use 9/13/2021: Have the safe gun storage talk
 - 9/15/2021: Add safe gun storage to your end-of-summer checklist
 - 9/20/2021: Store your firearm locked and unloaded
 - 9/30/2021: Gun Fact #10: The safe gun storage device you choose will depend on your needs and budget

October 2021

- **Cyber Security Awareness Month** - October is Cyber Security Awareness Month, and DPS joined the collaborative, global effort to promote cyber awareness. Additionally, DPS provided our online communities with times on how to be cyber smart and where to go for resources on protecting your privacy online.
- **Senate Bill 313 Education Post** - Senate Bill 313 promotes responsible gun ownership by exempting firearm safety equipment from state sales tax. DPS reminded Texans of what storage equipment is included as part of this exemption.
- **Cyber Security Awareness Month, Start with the Basics** - Provided tips for our followers to own their role in cybersecurity by starting with the basics: create strong passwords and using multi-factor authentication; back up your data and update.
- **Cyber Security Awareness Month, Fight the Phish** - Phishing attacks and scams are thriving since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, and today, phishing attacks account for more than 80 percent of reported security incidents. As Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues, DPS asked everyone to pay extra attention to emails, text messages or chat boxes that come from strangers or someone you were not expecting. Think before you click on any suspicious emails, links, or attachments, and don't forget to report ALL suspicious activity.
- **National School Bus Safety Week** - National School Bus Safety Week is Oct. 18-22 and DPS reminded the public that they play an important role in ensuring the school buses make it to their destinations safely each day, as well as provided key safety tips.
- **National School Bus Safety Week: Safety Tips Series** - Over the course of the week, DPS provided specific safety tips to ensure drivers are careful and know the laws surrounding school bus safety.
- **Halloween Safety** - DPS offered safety tips and reminded Texans about the many ways to keep Halloween safe for all. This included a series of tips for trick-or-treating, as well as driving safety surrounding the holiday.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: October/November Messaging**
 - 10/6/2021: Speak to other parents about safe gun storage
 - 10/20/2021: Gun Fact #11: Safe gun storage can still provide quick access
 - 10/29/2021: Prevent accidents on Halloween and every day
 - 11/3/2021: Gun Fact #11: Safe gun storage can still provide quick access

PRESS RELEASE: PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING OUTREACH TO MEDIA, COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- **DPS Recognizes AMBER Alert Anniversary**

DPS and the nation recognized 25 years since Amber Hagerman, age 9 of Arlington, was abducted and later found dead. Her case prompted the creation of the AMBER Alert system.
- **DPS Urges Safety on Super Bowl Sunday**

DPS increased patrols on Feb. 7 as part of the nationwide CARE campaign and encouraged drivers and residents to practice safe driving and to report any suspicious activity.
- **DPS Increases Road Enforcement for Spring Break**

DPS increased traffic enforcement for St. Patrick's Day and spring break, from March 13-21, encouraging drivers to practice safe driving.
- **Fallen Trooper Honored with Highway Dedication**

DPS recognized Trooper Matthew Dewayne Myrick, who was killed in a vehicle crash in 2006, with a portion of U.S. 60 in Hereford, renamed the Trooper Matthew Dewayne Myrick Memorial Highway.
- **DPS Honors Fallen Officers at Memorial Service**

DPS recognized those who have died in the line of duty, including the most recent deaths of Troopers Moises Sanchez (August 2019) and Chad Walker (March 2021).
- **DPS Increases Highway Enforcement for Click It or Ticket, Memorial Day Weekend**

DPS held an enforcement campaign to encourage drivers and passengers to wear their seat belts, as well as to encourage safe driving during the Memorial Day holiday.

■ **DPS Encourages Texans to Be Smart in Summer Heat**

DPS encourages people to take appropriate precautions in rising temperatures, including not leaving children, pets, or the elderly in vehicles for any length of time. Tips were also listed on protecting yourself from the heat while being outdoors.

■ **DPS Kicks Off Two Operations to Keep Roads Safe This Holiday**

DPS held an enforcement campaign to keep roads safe for the July Fourth holiday.

■ **Highway Dedication Honors Fallen Trooper**

A dedication ceremony was held to recognize the renaming of U.S. 281 in Brooks County for Cpl. Roel Garcia, who died in March 1997 in a wreck in his patrol vehicle.

■ **DPS Urges Drivers to Be Aware as School Year Begins**

Tips for drivers as the school year begins, to ensure students will have a safe start to the beginning of school. It includes info on traffic laws and being alert for children at crosswalks, as they cross streets, giving them extra room and don't assume they are paying attention.

■ **DPS Encourages Safety for Labor Day Holiday**

DPS conducted an enforcement campaign for the Labor Day holiday, ensuring roads were safe.

■ **Child Passenger Safety Week**

DPS offered tips to properly secure children in different types of safety seats, reminding the public that it's the law and the safest way to keep children safe in a wreck.

■ **National School Bus Safety Week**

DPS offered several tips for students on practicing safe habits while waiting for the bus and getting on and off the bus, as well as for adults and drivers when they see a bus and the law for stopping for a bus.

■ **DPS Offers Safety Tips for a Spooktacular Halloween**

DPS offers tips for safe trick-or-treating and for people driving on Halloween.

■ **DPS Seeking Public's Assistance to Return Stolen Items**

DPS and Austin Police recovered numerous stolen items and are seeking to return them to the property owners.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The **Maternal and Child Health Program** has engaged community-based organizations and employers to promote maternal and child health and breastfeeding initiatives. The program also seeks stakeholder input to identify gaps in services and opportunities for improving breastfeeding support in local communities across Texas. Additionally, the program hosts the DSHS website to support community partners in planning community-based breastfeeding support initiatives, see dshs.texas.gov/mch/breastfeeding. As of August 2021, there are 3,304 mother-friendly worksites supported by the program.

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs System Development Group (CSHCN SDG)** works with 16 community-based organizations to provide case management, family support, and community resources to over 1,000 children and youth with special health care needs and their families throughout Texas annually. CSHCN SDG provides information about upcoming initiatives, training opportunities, and special interest events 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 by sharing resources, providing contract requirement updates, and facilitating discussions on innovative best practices.

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.

In fiscal year 2022, a new initiative will focus on implementing a comprehensive strategy to increase public awareness and prevention activities related to maternal mortality and morbidity in Texas. This will be a collaboration between Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies, Maternal Health and Safety Awareness, Education and Communication Campaign, **Hear Her Texas**, and CDC's Hear Her campaign. The campaign will engage and mobilize stakeholders, including community-based organizations in activities to create a maternal health and safety culture in Texas.

The **Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)** program contracts with the Statewide Outreach Center at Texas School for the Deaf and works with Texas Hands and Voices for the "Guide by your Side" project. This parent-driven organization contacts families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to provide information, resources, and parent-to-parent assistance by sharing their direct experiences and wisdom. From April 2020 through March 2021, the team increased follow-up contacts by 22 percent over the prior year. Overall, 6,457 contacts were made with 4,815 families at risk for loss to follow up. Texas Hands and Voices staff serve as educators for healthcare providers. They provide training, technical assistance, and emphasize the importance of using the TEHDI Management Information System to report and track newborns and follow-up hearing screen records for continuity of care.

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 review 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 September 2021, 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.

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 national Help Me Grow model in Texas, in collaboration with the Department for Family and Protective Services. Currently, Help Me Grow Texas is supporting six community-based organizations across the state with model implementation. 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.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

The **Diabetes Prevention and Control Program** partners with five 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. As of August 2021, 476 diabetes prevention and self-management education classes were held with 3,392 participant encounters.

The **Heart Disease and Stroke Program** partners with three academic institutions and one LHD to advance the use of evidence-based strategies to identify and manage hypertension and high cholesterol. In fiscal year 2021 eight clinics have implemented new workflows that utilize these strategies impacting 47,960 patients. The program supports nine community-based sites to promote self-measured blood pressure monitoring among patrons.

The **Obesity Prevention Program** works with Feeding Texas and five LHDs. The program encourages healthy food policies at Texas worksites and food banks, the availability of healthy foods selections at food pantries, and the increase of the number of mobile food distribution sites. These initiatives enhance the access to healthy food in target communities and provide prompts and assistance to food pantries when ordering food from participating food banks. As of August 2021, these initiatives have increased access to healthy foods for four community sites and venues and implemented food services guidelines that potentially impacted a total of 590 people. Likewise, 16 worksites have increased access to healthy foods and implemented food services guidelines that potentially impacted 888 employees. Through expansion of mobile distribution sites, we estimate an average of 378 people in approximately 132 households per week have been impacted.

The **Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch** partners with three community-based organizations to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts. These community partners aim to reduce the toll of tobacco on the health, safety, and well-being of Texans. Their goals are to keep young Texans from ever starting tobacco use, to support enforcement of tobacco laws, to help more Texans quit smoking and stay smoke-free, to eliminate exposure of secondhand smoke, to reduce tobacco use among high-risk populations, and to develop and maintain statewide capacity to support these goals. As of August 2021, 96 municipalities across the state have passed a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance, 49 percent (44) of these ordinances are located within a current or former DSHS-funded Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition (TPCC) area. DSHS-funded TPCCs educated 13,029 youth and 2,985 adults on the dangers of tobacco use, conducted 97 consultations with healthcare providers on referring patients to the Texas Tobacco Quitline, and educated 167 worksites on the dangers of secondhand smoke.

ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DISEASE REGISTRIES

The **Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch (ESTB)** 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. ESTB partners with local non-profits, LHDs and health care providers to conduct education and outreach for reducing and preventing environmental and occupational exposures, such as lead, silica, asbestos, pesticides, and related injuries and illnesses.

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 partners with LHDs and health care providers to conduct trainings and educational sessions for health professionals and the public regarding lead testing and prevention.

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](https://www.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 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 to monitor, prevent, test, and treat/link TB, HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis C to treatments. The Section 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.

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-based and community 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. These activities are focused on suicide prevention, safe sleep education, childhood obesity prevention, and water, car, and bike safety. PHRs partner with faith-based and community groups to host back to school health fairs that provide vision and hearing exams, school supplies, and emergency preparedness information.

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 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 and ensure 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 and work 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-based and community organizations in communities with poor health outcomes to improve the population's health and well-being. In collaboration with these organizations, OBPH holds events and activities that focus on health promotion and health education. Some of these events include 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 Binational Health Councils. The Binational Health Councils, which exist along the Texas-Mexico borders, work to develop work plans and sustainability goals to 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-based and community 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](#). This website 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 may be useful to nurses practicing within faith communities.

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

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)

The Texas Division of Emergency Management continues to work with the faith-based community and volunteer organizations active in disaster (VOADs) to strengthen Texas resiliency. Through the utilization of new initiatives at TDEM and the shift in virtual collaboration, several advancements have been made in building relationships and identifying resources. In the 86th legislative session, Texas made disaster recovery and connectivity with the faith-based community's priorities through two legislative actions. The first being the development of the Disaster Recovery Task Force which will aid local jurisdictions through whole community recovery efforts. And the second, the Task Force on Faith-Based Disaster Response, which is comprised of representatives of faith-based organizations active in disaster response. Both initiatives have been successful in their development, engagement, and support over the past two years.

In December of 2020, the Faith-Based Disaster Response Task Force published its findings and established the next engagement steps. Through the utilization of this report and the staff provided for through the development of the Disaster Recovery Task Force, TDEM has been successful in identifying and engaged nonprofit partners in 186 Texas counties thus far. Disaster Recovery Task Force Regional Coordinators have cataloged this connectivity along with county centric and historical disaster information to utilize in tailoring recovery planning for each jurisdiction.

In alignment with the Faith-Based Disaster Response Task Force's recommendations, TDEM is in the process of developing several technological platforms to aid disaster non-profits and government entities with information sharing, collaboration on resiliency efforts, and disaster survivor recovery initiatives. Through the utilization of these platforms, the extensive efforts of Texas VOADs and faith-based community organizations will reach more survivors and continue to build resiliency at the local level.

Additionally, the Disaster Recovery Task Force hosts the Texas Strong: Strengthening Nonprofit Disaster Networks series. The purpose of this series and monthly gatherings is to serve as a time for disaster resilience and recovery partners and networks (e.g., VOADs, COADs, LTRGs) from across Texas to come together to: discuss current activities and unmet needs, participate in facilitated conversation, learn from presenters, share lessons learned and successes, and connect with other partners and networks.

Texas Division of Emergency Management remains committed to growing the necessary partnership between disaster nonprofit organizations, government entities, and volunteer organizations to build stronger and more resilient communities.

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 2021 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 CIS affiliate 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 AFTERSCHOOL CENTERS ON EDUCATION (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 currently funds 18 grants to 16 nonprofit organizations operating 151 learning centers across the state. Organizations include local subsidiaries of national nonprofits such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Communities in Schools, and YMCA, as well as local and regional organizations like Clayton Youth Enrichment Services, Foundation Communities, Greater San Antonio the After-School All Stars and SA Youth. All these organizations partner with the school districts that they serve in order to achieve their common goal of increasing student academic success.
- Within all the current 97 grants are partnerships with more than 117 nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and foundations providing meals, physical fitness, leadership, mentoring, learning materials, career training, arts programs, basic needs, and a wide variety of enrichment programs.

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 help Texans complete applications for food, health care, or cash assistance benefits. Community partners also assist individuals with managing their benefits through YourTexasBenefits.com.

Organizations interested in participating in the program sign nonfinancial agreements with HHSC 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. Last fiscal year, the CPP network had 1,435 participating partner sites. In fiscal year 2021, the number of partner sites expanded to 1,589.

Community Partner by Type

Type	Examples	Percent
Non-Profits	Social services, food pantries, shelters	39%
Local Governments	Housing authorities, health departments, council of governments	18%
Medical	Community Health Centers, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals	20%
Education and Literacy	School districts, libraries, head starts, colleges, universities	20%
Faith-Based	Churches, religious organizations	3%

In fiscal year 2021, the CPP participated in over 27 statewide events and facilitated 30 webinar trainings to over 5,200 participants. These webinars included HHS benefit and policy updates, CPP updates, pilot program trainings, YourTexasBenefits.com changes, COVID-19 related updates, and general partner information. The CPP launched two pilots with seven Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act organizations and 20 Level III federally qualified health centers. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPP has continued the virtual visit process and providing ongoing support with best-in-class customer service.

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.

State Fiscal Year 2021, the ADRCs assisted 193,031 callers and provided 21,399 hours of respite services to 393 caregivers.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The HHSC Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) offers 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. FGP volunteers are matched with a volunteer site, which may be a public agency, faith- or community-based nonprofit, or health care organization. In fiscal year 2021, program staff supported and encouraged 381 FGP volunteers. They also explored alternative activities by offering volunteers a tablet to engage in virtual mentorship and training opportunities.

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

HHSC contracts with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to provide services 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, they provide most services through partnerships with nonprofit and faith-based organizations. During federal fiscal year 2021, 113,130 people received over 13 million meals through the congregate and home-delivered meals programs. The transportation service programs provided 224,383 trips to 4,664 people.

HHSC also contracts with the nonprofit vendor Texas Legal Services Center to support AAAs in providing legal assistance services to older adults and their caregivers. These legal assistance services create public awareness of the legal and Medicare issues that can impact older Texans. They also assist these adults and their caregivers with public entitlements, healthcare, individual rights, planning options, housing, and consumer needs. Over 326,000 groups, individuals, or both benefited from legal assistance services in federal fiscal year 2021.

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 other governmental entities in HHS to provide these services.

Between October 2020 and July 2021, SNAP-Ed Implementing Agencies facilitated 19,095 direct education classes both virtually and in-person to 181,007 SNAP-Ed eligible participants. Participants attending direct education classes learn about healthy eating, food safety, cooking skills, food resource management, and obesity prevention. The goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption as well as physical activity. An estimated 13,440,228 SNAP-Ed participants attended direct education interventions, encountered an indirect educational intervention, or were influenced by social marketing and policy, systems, and environmental efforts implemented by SNAP-Ed Implementing Agencies.

This number includes estimated and actual counts. A degree of duplication is expected since some SNAP-Ed participants may receive both direct education and indirect education services, in addition to being influenced by social marketing and policy, systems, and environmental efforts.

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. 2-1-1 TIRN collects and organizes information about state and local health and human services programs. This information is provided to the public online and via web-based chat at

211Texas.org and by phone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. 2-1-1 TIRN maintains information on 47,366 agencies and services. The top caller needs from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 include electric service payment assistance, rent payment assistance, food pantries, food stamps or Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program applications, COVID-19 diagnostic tests, COVID-19 immunization clinics, water service payment assistance, gas service payment assistance, housing authorities, and vaccine information. 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 a municipality.

2-1-1 TIRN answered 2,200,735 calls, 32,775 web-based chat sessions, and had 1,773,946 website page views at 211Texas.org from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021.

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

- AMIkids
- 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 State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation)

OneStar Foundation 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 we are One Texas, in which we are united in building resilient and thriving communities. OneStar will continue to strengthen Texas communities by creating pathways for individuals and organizations to engage, connect, and accelerate their impact.

The updates included below highlight OneStar programs that promote and incorporate best practices. In addition to OneStar's programmatic efforts, in October 2021, OneStar onboarded a Program Specialist for the Nonprofit Strong program, a new position for the organization to assist with the Faith-Based and Community Initiative and other programs that aim to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Texas.

ACCELERATE IMPACT & STRENGTHEN THE TEXAS NONPROFIT SECTOR

OneStar Foundation operates several programs that aim to strengthen the Texas nonprofit sector, including faith-based and community organizations, as a neutral convener and trusted cross-sector partner for Texas communities. Each of these programs allows OneStar to identify and share best practices for nonprofit and for organizations aiming to collaborate with nonprofits.

Built for Texas Report

The report "Built for Texas: The Impact and Opportunity of Our Nonprofit Sector" serves as a vehicle to unite, rally, and strongly articulate the added value – as well as the capacity limitations – of the overall sector. The key goals include raising the visibility to shape public perception and understanding of the Texas nonprofit sector, empower the Texas nonprofit sector to be effective advocates and build strong relationships with system leaders and advocate for public policies that support and strengthen the success of all Texas nonprofits.

Interagency Coordinating Group

OneStar continued to champion the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) this year by serving as the appointed chair of this group per H.B. 492. General updates on ICG efforts and plans for 2022 can be found throughout this report.

Texas Nonprofit Council

OneStar will begin to support the work of the newly appointed Texas Nonprofit Council in 2022 and will promote collaboration between the Council and the ICG and state agency liaisons.

Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas

Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas (NMAT) is an alliance of regional nonprofit infrastructure organizations working together to foster the best nonprofit sector in the country by ensuring all nonprofits in the state have access to high quality affordable management and governance strengthening services. OneStar supports NMAT and will be working with the group to determine goals for the network over the next three to five years.

Academic Affinity Group

OneStar's Academic Affinity Group (AAG) convenes Texas colleges and universities with accredited certificate or degree programs in the field of nonprofit management, philanthropy, volunteerism, and civic engagement or that are active in research and evaluation of the nonprofit sector. OneStar supports AAG and will be working with the group to determine goals for the network over the next three to five years.

ENGAGE TEXANS IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

OneStar Foundation ensures Texans know how and can engage to make a difference in their communities. Each of these programs allows OneStar to promote existing pathways to volunteer and explore additional opportunities, beyond service and volunteerism, to engage Texans.

Governor's Volunteer Awards

OneStar Foundation received a 63% increase in submissions over last year, which we attribute to a streamlined nomination process, refocusing of award categories on volunteerism, and enhanced media coverage. OneStar announced the 2021 winners in coordination with the Governor's Office and First Lady Cecilia Abbott in October 2021. After careful consideration of the ongoing public health concerns with COVID-19, OneStar hosted the Governor's Volunteer Awards virtually for a second year in a row. The 2020 and 2021 awardees will be recognized at an in-person

ceremony at the Texas Governor’s Mansion in April 2022 in recognition of National Volunteer Month. [Learn more about this year’s awardees.](#)

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. OneStar identified a lack of a public database of statewide volunteer opportunities in Texas, which created a significant barrier to residents of the state interested in engaging through giving of their time, resources, or expertise to make a difference. In order to address this need, OneStar, in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, developed a white label version of the All for Good Volunteer Aggregator branded as VolunteerTX and accessible at volunteertx.org. The VolunteerTX.org aggregator created a centralized feed of Texas specific volunteer opportunities that allows residents throughout the state to access opportunities more easily in their community. This platform was chosen due to the ability to accommodate 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 VolunteerTX.org platform was launched in April 2021 to coincide with National Volunteer Month. OneStar continues to work with partners across the state, including nonprofits and state agencies, to become feed partners with the VolunteerTX platform.

BUILD MOMENTUM FOR AMERICORPS IN TEXAS

OneStar Foundation strengthens pathways to service by leading and building momentum for AmeriCorps in Texas. Each of these programs allows OneStar to increase engagement and develop new key partners for national service.

National Service

OneStar Foundation administers the AmeriCorps Texas Program for the State of Texas. Our portfolio has seen steady increases in the number of AmeriCorps members, number of programs, and federal funding. This year has seen a sharp increase in all three, in part due to additional funding through the American Rescue Plan, which included \$1 billion for AmeriCorps. Our 2021-2022 portfolio is made up of 38 organizations, over 3,600 AmeriCorps members, and \$23.9 million in federal funding. 32 organizations have been awarded an operating grant, which is adding three new programs to our portfolio:

- Austin Achieve Public Schools
- Big Thought
- Texas Network of Youth Services

Additionally, this portfolio includes six planning grants:

- Access Health
- BookSpring
- Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas
- Houston: reVision
- Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston
- Texas Department of State Health Services

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.

FOSTER RESILIENT TEXAS COMMUNITIES

OneStar Foundation promotes community resilience before, during, and after disasters. Each of these programs allows OneStar to strengthen and broaden the disaster nonprofit network and promote opportunities for nonprofits to engage in community resilience-building efforts.

Texas COVID Relief Fund

The Texas COVID Relief Fund raised and distributed just under \$1 million to 16 nonprofits and government entities working in the areas of health, education & childcare, and community & economic development in August 2020. Since launching the Texas COVID Relief Fund, grantee partners have served more than 600,000 individuals. All projects are expected to complete their work by end of 2021.

Rebuild Texas Fund

OneStar launched the Rebuild Texas Hurricane Season Recovery Fund, which preemptively coordinates donations to ensure funding is readily available and can be quickly deployed in the aftermath of a storm. While the fund has been available these past few months, no significant donations have been received. In addition to launching the Hurricane Season Recovery Fund, OneStar is developing a long-term plan for the Rebuild Texas Fund program by undergoing a fundraising feasibility study. Over the past few months, the team has been conducting interviews to inform future programing.

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Texas VOAD is a coalition that brings together more than 50 voluntary organizations that respond to disaster as part of their overall mission. The group serves as a convening and supportive body for the membership, which is comprised of Texas organizations and local representatives of national organizations, all of whom adhere to the hallmark of the VOAD movement – the 4 C’s: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration. OneStar recognizes the critical assistance VOAD organizations provide during all phases of disaster, and OneStar entered into an MOU with Texas VOAD in January 2021 to provide administrative support to ensure consistency and continuity for the VOAD and its members and partners.

Additional Disaster Services Activities

OneStar works in close partnership with the Office of the Governor and Texas Division of Emergency Management to strengthen the state’s ability to effectively move resources—such as volunteers, money, and in-kind donations—to nonprofits and Texas communities during all phases of disaster.

Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)

VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (VMHD)

TVC’s Community & Faith-Based Partner Program is housed within the Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD). The intent of the Community Faith-Based Partner Program is to involve community and faith-based organizations in developing and implementing strategies to support the wellbeing of veterans and their families. In addition to training and technical assistance, this aim is accomplished through building and strengthening relationships with community partners and through the implementation of the Faith Allegiance Initiative, a program founded by Community & Faith-Based Partner Coordinator, John Wilson. The Faith and Allegiance Initiative seeks to help community and faith-based organizations understand that transitioning out of the military and back to civilian status can be a bumpy road for many; a road that is filled with potholes for some and hard to see for a few. Effectively making this military-to-civilian transition, whether recently or many years ago, is generally determined by whether three goals are achieved: finding social connectivity; gaining a sense of community; rekindled life purpose. When these goals are not realized, some may

develop issues such as family disfunction, social and economic instability, substance use disorders, depression, homelessness, or other negative behavioral health outcomes.

Every year, approximately 200,000 men and women leave U.S. military service and return to life as civilians, a process known as the military to civilian transition according to the [Transition Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Labor](#). With their extensive training, technical skills, leadership qualities and “soft skills” such as time management, strong work ethic, team orientation and self-confidence, as well as their military benefits, one might assume that newly minted veterans find it easy to resume their lives as civilians. But many veterans find that rejoining the civilian world presents unique challenges.

Those views are reflected in the [2019 Post-Separation Transition Assistance Program Assessment](#), conducted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which found that more than 50 percent of participating veterans said the process of returning to civilian life was more challenging than they expected.

[According to the Texas Comptroller](#), more than 1.7 million veterans from all branches of the military call the Lone Star State home, and every year, 22,000 to 28,000 military service members choose to return to or remain in Texas when transitioning from military service to civilian life, the Texas Comptroller notes:

While changing careers can be overwhelming for anyone, it’s especially disruptive for veterans who are making the transition to civilian employment, which typically doesn’t resemble the highly structured culture that permeates all facets of military life. Furthermore, the decisions vets must make after separating from active service — finding a home and a job, attending school, or starting a business — can create a sort of crisis of choice for veterans. Too many life options can spur feelings of bewilderment and anxiety.

The Faith and Allegiance Initiative understands the complexities of this transition and is expanding in two directions in response.

First, the newly formed Veterans Champions will assist transitioning military & veterans in our state’s many faith traditions. Veterans Champions are akin to Peer Volunteers, individuals from across the community who are trained by the TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators of the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN). The first three Veterans Faith Champions in Texas received their initial training in April 2021 through collaboration of the Samaritan Center of Austin’s Peer Service Coordinator and TVC’s Veterans Mental Health Department. Veterans Champions are volunteers who act as resource guides to transitioning military and veterans within their local faith communities. In addition to being resources for veterans and transitioning military, Veterans Champions help congregations understand veterans’ issues and military culture. They work in concert with the local MVPN Peer Service Coordinators to inform veterans and members of their faith communities aware of local supportive services related to veterans’ benefits, military culture, employment, education, behavioral health, and more. In providing all these services, the Veterans Champions coordinate with TVC’s VMHD, the local MVPN Peer Service Coordinator and their faith community leadership. Faith community leaders are encouraged to introduce Veterans Champions to their congregations and make their availability known at services and events.

Second, to improve transitions from military service, VMHD, in partnership with the Faith and Allegiance Initiative, is leading the state-wide implementation and outreach to Community and Faith-based leaders of both rural and metropolitan areas, Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) and their affiliated MVPN Peer Service Coordinators. Under this plan, VMHD will encourage community and faith-based organizations to adopt the Faith and Allegiance Initiative affirmation:

Just as those who swore an oath to bear true Faith and Allegiance to our Nation, we choose to rally around them and their families to do the same by offering connectivity, community, and rekindled life purpose.

And implement its eight strategies which are to:

- 1) Ask the question, "Did you serve?" instead of "Are you a veteran?"
- 2) Be informed about resources through Military Veteran Peer Network.
- 3) Create military or veteran affinity groups, small groups, or service groups.
 - a) Veterans Champions
 - b) Peer Volunteers
- 4) Since less than 1% of U.S. adults have served, learn about military culture:
 - a) TVC's VMHD staff - [tvc.Texas.gov/mental-health](https://tvc.texas.gov/mental-health)
 - b) MVPN TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators- trainings-<https://www.milvetpeer.net>
- 5) Build social connectivity
 - a) Be intentional & invitationals - Who's got their six?
 - b) Reach out to those who served
 - c) Invite to activities (formal & casual)
 - d) Ask how you can support social connectedness, community engagement rekindled life purpose.
- 6) Host community resource fair providing volunteer opportunities
 - a) Military Veteran Peer Network - milvetpeer.net
 - b) TexVet, trusted state resource guide - texvet.org
- 7) Learn about veterans' behavioral health related issues and speak to subject from the pulpit, dais, board room, bulletins, etc.
 - a) Faith, Hope, Life Campaign - theactionalliance.org/faith-hope-life.
 - b) National Action Alliance - theactionalliance.org/communities/workplace
- 8) Train staff on simple, evidence-based methods proven to reduce suicide via staff- [tvc.Texas.gov/mental-health](https://tvc.texas.gov/mental-health)
 - a) Military Cultural Competency and Military Informed Care
 - b) Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Postvention
 - c) Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Crisis Intervention Training
 - d) Military-related Trauma such as Moral Injury, Military Sexual Trauma, Post Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury

TVC's Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD) stands ready to fulfill its mission to ensure access to competent mental health services for service members, veteran, and their families through its Military Veteran Peer Network, Justice Involved Veteran Program, Mental health Provider Program, Homeless Veteran Initiative, and the Community & Faith-Based Partner Program.

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

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

Activity & Progress for Goals 3 & 4:

The ICG began discussions on activities it could engage in towards further progress on achieving this goal and is excited to take actions in partnership with the Texas Nonprofit Council in 2022.

During the first quarter of 2021, OneStar fully completed the logistics of transferring the underlying agreements and assets related to the Texas Connector mapping tool to the University of Texas. State agency access to the tool continued throughout the transition. The tool continues to provide information helpful in identifying gaps and duplication of services across the state and can be accessed at texasconnects.org.

IV. Next Steps for 2022

In accordance with the recommendations from the ICG Planning Committee and given the reestablishment of the Texas Nonprofit Council, 2022 is going to be an active year for the ICG and efforts to improve state agency partnerships with faith-based and community organizations in Texas.

Important activities anticipated for 2022 include:

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

- OneStar will
 - Audit ICG resources on the OneStar website and recommended enhancements that will support the ICG and Council efforts.
 - Support and facilitate ICG meetings and other key activities.
 - 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.

VI. Appendix

Appendix A: House Bill 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

Interagency Coordinating Group Subcommittee: Improving Contracting Relationships March 2012

Section I: General

- A. Scope
- B. Terms and Conditions
- C. Compensation
- D. Schedule of Events
- E. Agency Point of Contact
- F. Definitions

Section II: Statement of Work

- A. Service Requirements
- B. Subcontractors
- C. Performance Tracking

Section III: Proposal Information

- A. Revision to Schedule
- B. Pre-Proposal Conference
- C. Proposal Requirements
- D. Inquiries
- E. Proposal Submission
- F. Delivery of Proposals
- G. Proposal Opening
- H. Proposal Evaluation and Award

Section IV: Historically Underutilized Business Participation

Section V: Contract Information Section

Section VI: Attachments

(Additional components may be added as needed)

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

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 the Attorney General
- Office of Secretary of State
- Office of State-Federal Relations
- An Institution of Higher Education (Austin Community College)
- 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 Division of Emergency Management
- 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