



Interagency Coordinating Group

2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PREPARED BY

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

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OneStar Foundation

SUBMITTED TO

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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House Committee on Public Health

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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 the 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 organizations; 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.

2022 Interagency Coordinating Group Activities

The ICG met in June, August, and November of 2022. The June meeting included an update on the Faith-Based and Community Initiative, including an overview of the Texas Nonprofit Council and its appointees. ICG member agency, OneStar Foundation (Texas State Commission on National and Community Service), was also spotlighted with a review of work in the areas of Volunteer Texas, AmeriCorps, Nonprofit Strong, and Disaster Resilience. There was a recap and overview of the 2021 ICG Liaison Survey results and ICG members were provided an opportunity to share feedback, success stories, or challenges. This meeting also included a review of the purpose of the ICG, the role of agency liaisons, collaboration across agencies, and identifying best practices and expectations.

The August meeting included an update on Texas Nonprofit Strong, a collaborative network led by OneStar and United Ways of Texas created to strengthen connections within the Texas nonprofit sector. Additionally, ICG liaisons were updated on the 2023 Texas Nonprofit Summit happening on February 27th – March 1st, including how the ICG could become involved. Lastly, ICG liaisons discussed an opportunity to participate in several smaller focus groups to further learn and strengthen the collaboration with the ICG and other state agencies.

The ICG's November meeting featured a presentation by Michael Britt, Director of Governmental Relations, at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). TWC provided an overview of agency programs and services, as well as an initiative to

improve the customer experience for Texans who engage with the agency. The meeting was also attended by a special guest representing the Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC), Kathy Keane, who provided an update on TNC.

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 2022. 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 2022)

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 2023 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 goal of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) 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 2022, more than 100 assistance organizations participate 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 \$200 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, CPA employees have demonstrated what can be accomplished when compassionate people band together to support others facing challenges and hardships. CPA 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. CPA employees agreed to sponsor 412 children in 2022 by fulfilling each child's three-item wish list. Other examples of community outreach include silent auctions, fundraisers, volunteer work, 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 2022, 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 2022, the organization awarded \$6,000 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 CPA 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 (The University of Texas at Austin)

In a rapidly evolving Central Texas area, the higher education sector continued to partner with community organizations at the local, state, national and international levels to ensure that higher education met the priorities of our vibrant communities. In 2022, The University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) leveraged its position as a resource to the entire university to foster mutually beneficial partnerships with the communities of Austin and beyond (particularly those that have been underserved), to support innovative partnerships through the 18 colleges, schools, and units across the campus, and to elevate the collaborative partnerships of the entire university.

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) in the DDCE serves to connect the resources of the university with the communities of Central Texas, the state, and the nation. Through its student-, faculty-, and community-facing programs, as well as the Texas Grants Resource Center, the CCE connects the university to community-based organizations and faith-based organizations. The CCE is also a resource hub for the university, keeping abreast of partnerships across the campus and leading campus-wide community-focused assessments, including the application for the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, and a volunteer management database. As of this report, the CCE's VolunteerUT database counted 275 community partners among its registered users. All students and faculty can connect with any of these community partners.

Student highlights across the university include The Project, UT's student-led community-building initiative and largest day of service, which this past year partnered with Austin Voices for Education and Youth and St. John Regular Baptist Association, as well as schools in Austin's independent school district. UT's student-advised Alternative Breaks program partnered with nonprofits out of state, in New Orleans, including Hands On New Orleans and Trinity Episcopal Church of New Orleans. Students also serve on the executive committees of Nueces Mosque, the Texas Hillel, and the University Catholic Center. In partnership with Texas Athletics, the LEAD initiative gives student-athletes the opportunity to engage in impactful collaborations with nonprofit organizations in Texas that serve underrepresented populations with resources in the following areas: education services, recreation activities, basic needs and/or emergency services. Moreover, 327 registered student organizations are service-focused, partnering with nonprofits including Medicins Sans Frontieres, Habitat for Humanity, and We Are Blood.

Faculty-led initiatives at UT partner with organizations in their efforts to provide service-learning and undertake engaged scholarship. While there are too many partner institutions to list in this space, these are examples of faculty-focused sustainable partnerships with organizations and faith-based groups:

- The business school has partnered with Austin Asian Family Support Services.

- The office of population health in Dell Medical School partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Health to create the Community Council for Mental Health.
- Faculty in liberal arts and law convened several nonprofits, including Youth Rise Texas, Austin Justice Coalition, and Latino Justice, to discuss reforms in the criminal legal system.
- Social work students in field work partner with hundreds of domestic and international nonprofit organizations, including Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, Adonis Musati Project, and the American Red Cross.
- Geosciences faculty seek to diversify their faculty pipeline through partnership with groups like E4 Alliance.
- The exemplar program, Projects in Underserved Communities, enable engineering and social work students to work with community-based organizations abroad, and students in community and regional planning, sustainable design, and landscape architecture work with community partners through coursework.

As it relates to community-focused programming, the CCE’s Community Classroom series partnered with AMEN (African American Mental Health and Wellness Program), itself in partnership with Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Rehoboth Baptist Church of Austin. In addition, leaders of the DDCE serve on nonprofit boards and committees, including those for Preservation Austin, Interfaith Coalition of Texas, Austin Asian Family Support Services, the African American Youth Harvest Foundation, the Austin Area Urban League, and Six Square. They also serve on coalitions working alongside leaders of nonprofits and nonprofit collectives, including the United Way, Any Baby Can, Austin Child Guidance Center, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Central Texas Food Bank. In this way, UT remains aware of the priorities of the constituents of these area nonprofits.

Also, within the DDCE, the UT Charter School System partners with twenty-three facilities around the state, including nonprofit entities like Helping Hand Home. The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health works with communities to strengthen conditions that support mental health and eliminate conditions that harm mental health. Among their partners are the Children’s Grief Center of El Paso, Center for Play Therapy at University of North Texas, NAMI Central Texas. Faith-focused organizations include Gods Way Christian Fellowship, and Christus Foundation for HealthCare.

For more than 60 years, the Texas Grants Resource Center (TGRC) has served as a bridge between the grant-seeking and the grant-making communities. The TGRC is the fifth-oldest Candid Funding Information Network partner. The Candid Foundation Information Network maintains the Foundation Directory, which houses information on 140,000 funders and over 12 million in grants. The TGRC regularly offers How to Search for Nonprofit Grant Opportunities, offering the training 18 times in the last year, with 540 people participating. The TGRC has been a valuable resource and steward for other UT System schools. In Spring 2022, TGRC staff presented the tools associated with Candid to six other UT System schools, seeking to outreach to grantsmanship organizations associated with those universities and to seek to create a statewide network of grantsmanship. In like manner, TGRC staff now represents UT on the boards of Nonprofit Strong and Mission Capital.

Whether through the direct service of UT-affiliated individuals or collaborative partnership, UT seeks to deliver upon its public service mission.

Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

The Child Support Division (CSD) continues its efforts to connect and collaborate with community-based programs that provide family-centered services. Over the last year, CSD and the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) program have worked to establish cross-agency priorities. These efforts led the two agencies to commit to quarterly meetings to identify and leverage existing community-based organizations funded by DFPS-PEI that support fathers across the state.

On September 1, 2022, the Program Innovation section of CSD received a federal grant award totaling \$1.2 million over five years. This funding opportunity allows CSD to implement the Case Assessment, Review, and Engagement project. The primary goal of the grant is to provide improved services to survivors of domestic violence so they can access the services and financial support they need to achieve economic stability for themselves and their children. The CSD looks forward to enhancing internal OAG policies related to family violence cases, collaborating with external partners regarding approaches to best assist survivors, better-educating staff about new case management strategies, and advancing the child support process for survivors of family violence.

The Program Innovation section continues to carry out its federal grant requirements under the Economic Mobility and Responsibility Parenting opportunity by modernizing its Parenting and Paternity Awareness curriculum. This curriculum is currently delivered to school districts throughout the state as a parenting prevention resource for educators. To meet the target population, CSD 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 with methods to build healthy relationships and prevent dating violence while strengthening communication patterns.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DIVISION

The Human Trafficking Division partnered with the high school Youth Action Board (YAB) under Project Protect Our Children (PPOC). During this partnership, OAG staff and YAB members highlight their efforts in the fight against human trafficking, discuss the current climate and concerns for youth in schools today, and talk through other ways YAB members could help get more youth involved in the fight. Project Protect Our Children (PPOC) is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to preventing child sex trafficking, exploitation and abuse through proactive community engagement, preventative educational programs, awareness, and empowerment opportunities. Under the supervision of PPOC, the YAB Advisor and their school campus sponsor, students will be given the opportunity to answer the call to action, encouraged to use their passion to make a difference and given the platform for their voice to be heard.

The Human Trafficking Division have trained staff members at Boysville, Inc. on human trafficking. Participants learned about the myths vs. realities, sex trafficking vs. labor trafficking, and how to respond and report human trafficking. Boysville Children's Home and Shelter provides a continuum of trauma-informed services and care for children and caregivers affected by abuse, neglect, and family crisis. Through holistic wrap-around services, they provide each child the opportunity to heal from past trauma while focusing on their future.

During the 87th Texas Legislative Session HB 390 was passed, requiring extensive hotel training. Working with the nonprofit organizations Unbound, ECPAT-USA, Texas Advocacy Project, and Refugee Services of Texas, the division approved training which will certify hotel employees across the state of Texas to recognize, respond, and report suspected human trafficking activities on their premises. Unbound Now is a network of anti-human trafficking agencies working in communities in the United States and around the world. ECPAT-USA is the leading anti-trafficking policy organization in the United States. As a member of ECPAT International, ECPAT-USA belongs to a network of organizations in more than 100 countries all working together to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Texas Advocacy Project's mission is to end dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Texas. Texas Advocacy Project empowers survivors through free legal services and access to the justice system, and advances prevention through public outreach and education. Refugee Services of Texas has seven service centers across Texas, offering programs uniquely designed to assist refugees, asylees, survivors of human trafficking, and other vulnerable populations, helping them to become self-sufficient as quickly as possible. For more information, visit OAG Approved Human Trafficking Training Videos: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking-section/human-trafficking-training-and-signage/commercial-lodging-training-resources/available-training/approved-training>

The Human Trafficking Division developed a human trafficking curriculum in conjunction with Texas PTA to educate parents and school administrators on how to better prevent human trafficking on and off campuses. The division has also developed human trafficking awareness posters for BIG 12 baseball and basketball games. Additional awareness materials have been distributed for the Dallas Sports Commission, including American Airlines Center, City of Dallas, Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks, Dallas Stars, FC Dallas, and Texas Rangers.

CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

The Consumer Protection Division partners with a myriad of non-profit organizations including NAGTRI, PLI, Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office, NAAG, Texas Association of Regional Councils, UT Law School, ABA, NASCO, Washington University Law, and NEO law Group, to educate individuals on how to spot and avoid possible scams.

Office of the Governor (OOG)

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

First Lady Abbott Recognizes Our Volunteers

The First Lady shared her appreciation for volunteers during National Volunteer Month in April and wrote these words of encouragement to the volunteer community:

What a month it's been! During National Volunteer Month, I have had the privilege of spending time with and recognizing some amazing volunteers for their extraordinary service to their fellow Texans. I was so excited to host the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Awards at the Governor's Mansion. After two years of virtual ceremonies, it was so much fun to honor these awardees in person. And I was inspired anew by all their incredible work! We are so blessed to live in a state where people truly take service to their friends and neighbors to heart.

Additionally, I was thankful to be welcomed to speak at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's 27th Annual Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Hearing about the many Texans who have committed hours and hours of service to those affected by the criminal justice system was a powerful reminder of not just the character of Texas, but also of the willingness of Texans to help those in need as if they were their own families.

This month itself has also been a powerful reminder of the importance of volunteers and their immense contributions to making Texas a better place. On behalf of all Texans, Greg and I cannot thank you enough.

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.

The Governor's Commission for Women and the State Agency Council have sponsored the Holiday Wishes Project since 2019 in coordination with Partnerships for Children to fulfill Christmas gift wish lists for children in our foster care system. The Holiday Wishes Project creates happy memories for children connected to Child Protective Services by fulfilling a child's wish list for Christmas gifts. The gifts on these lists may be the only gifts that some of them receive, but we know this small act of kindness can bring great joy.

The Holiday Wishes Project primarily serves the central Texas community, which consists of twenty different counties. In 2020 the Governor's Commission for Women worked with various regions outside Central Texas under the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to fulfill wish lists throughout the State of Texas. In 2021, 46 state agencies participated in the project, and thanks to the generosity of the participating agency employees, the wish lists of over 3,100 children in Central Texas were fulfilled and an additional thirty-two children in other regions were served. Due to this incredible response and for the second year in a row, Partnerships for Children was able to serve 6,800 children in foster care in Central Texas.

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'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.

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 musical 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 Music Industry of Concert Safety resources through the Texas Task Force on Concert Safety to provide resource referrals to the creative industries, focusing on crowd control strategies and security measures to develop meaningful safety solutions.

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 for 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 at:

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/appointments/process>

Most 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:

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/appointments/positions>

Applicants may download the application form here: <https://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 the 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.
- **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 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.

Community-based organizations (CBOs) 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), Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), and others. In the fiscal year 2022, PSO provided grant funding to 399 CBO projects totaling more than \$180 million and 90 FBO projects totaling just under \$16 million.

Of the \$196 million going to CBOs and FBOs in fiscal year 2022, 90% was awarded within the following three grant programs:

Victims of Crime Act General Victim Assistance Program (VOCA)

293 organizations received \$165 million in grant funding, including \$9 million to FBOs to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process.

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA)

Twenty-seven organizations received \$6.3 million 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.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

46 FBOs received more than \$6.5 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. This program 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.

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 Services under Let's Do Business/Starting a Business and then proceed to the link for Non-Profit Organizations.

Information listed includes:

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

TAX ISSUES FOR NONPROFITS

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

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

Federal Taxes

- [IRS Charities & Nonprofits page](#)
- To attain a federal tax exemption as a charitable organization, your certificate of formation must contain a required purpose clause and a dissolution of assets provision.
- [IRS Stay Exempt](#): tax information for 501(c)(3) organizations
- [IRS Publication 557 \(PDF, 1.06mb\)](#), *Tax Exempt Status for your Organization*.
- [Life Cycle of a Public Charity](#): sample organizational documents and IRS filings
- Questions about federal tax-exempt status? Contact the IRS Exempt Organizations Section at 877-829-5500.
- [IRS Form 1023 \(PDF\)](#) application for recognition of exemption and [instructions \(PDF\)](#).
- [Information about Form 990-N reporting requirements](#) for small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.

State Taxes

- [Comptroller of Public Accounts Exemption page](#)
- Comptroller [Guidelines to Texas Tax Exemptions](#) page.
- [Exemption Forms](#)
- Questions about state tax-exempt status? Review the comptroller's [FAQs](#) or contact the comptroller's Exempt Organizations Section by phone at (800) 531-5441 or (512) 463-4600 or by [email](#).

TEXAS NONPROFIT RESOURCES

- [Charitable Trust](#) Section of the Office of the Attorney General
- Texas C-BAR: Community Building with Attorney Resources provides free legal assistance to Texas non-profit organizations.
- [OneStar Foundation](#) - One Star promotes service and volunteerism, forges effective public and private partnerships, and works to increase the performance of non-profit 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 electricity, telecommunications, and water. In 2022 the PUC's outreach program continues to be diminished with cancellations related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, the agency continued to work virtually with faith and community-based organizations to provide educational materials and training on electric choice, energy conservation and customer assistance programs. Educational materials typically are distributed at many outreach events throughout the state. These events include Earth Day Texas in Dallas, and 6 Stones' "Operation Back 2 School" Day in Bedford. 6 Stones' "Operation Back 2 School" Day provides economically disadvantaged students from Hurst-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 2022 due to the pandemic.

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

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

FOOD AND NUTRITION

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, 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 Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) includes information sharing about F&N initiatives and promotion of BCHP support available to meal program operations at TDA conferences.

TDA is also working directly with Children at Risk to improve outcomes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). In fiscal year 2023 Children At Risk and TDA will work to identify and remove barriers to participation in CACFP through identification of participation challenges and resource and material development. This includes working with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to improve CACFP awareness of availability provided by business coaching staff within the Child Care & Early Learning Division to childcare business owners.

Other efforts include communicating directly with local elected leaders by engaging them on how to support F&N programs through 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. Share Our Strength also supported distribution of summer outreach materials to community organizations across Texas to ensure awareness of summer meal sites. 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. TDA is committed to fostering the growth of Farm to School programs and facilitating local purchasing relationships in Texas. TDA has committed staff resources to the implementation of the Sustainable Food Center's USDA Farm to School Grant, which aims to improve access to local foods in eligible schools through comprehensive farm to school programming that includes local procurement and agricultural education efforts.

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.

TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Trade & Business Development division houses the Grant Office which works directly with FBCOs on the Texans Feeding Texans Home Delivered Meal grant (Program). The Program was established to help supplement and extend current home-delivered meal program for seniors and/or disabled Texans. Governmental and non-profit agencies are eligible for this grant program. There are several FBCOs that utilize this program to help feed more seniors in their community. In fiscal year 2022, TDA awarded more than \$9.1M to non-profit feeding organizations across the state.

The Grants office has also launched the Texas Local Purchasing Food Assistance program (TxLFPA) with the support of funding from USDA. The purpose of the program is to maintain and improve Texas' food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. The goal of this program is to foster in-state, long-term relationships and build sustainable market opportunities for State of Texas producers, with an emphasis on supporting local or regional and socially disadvantaged producers to increase the amount of products distributed to underserved communities in the State of Texas. In addition, TDA aims to tailor food distribution for unique local challenges to serve the State's population and feeding programs, including food banks and other organizations that target underserved communities.

TxLFPA will work with food banks and nonprofits to secure sites, which may include the potential of FBCOs to distribute food procured through this process. Results will be available as early as Fall 2023.

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 reduce 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, 2022, there were 23,376 approved volunteers. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, these volunteers made 41,075 volunteer visits for a total of 146,649 hours spent supporting inmates. Online training was made available for new applicants to complete their initial training. A total of 3,386 new volunteers were trained this fiscal year. Also in FY 2022, 3,534 approved volunteers received their two-year re-certification through the online trainings, and there were 324 volunteers retrained in-person. In January 2022, the volunteer application was converted to online submission. During FY 2022 there were a total of 6,546 volunteer applications received and 4,295 of those were submitted online.

These volunteers represent a broad spectrum of faith-based and community organizations that administer programs that provide valuable skills to the inmate population to help them not recidivate. Life Changes curriculum is utilized in specialized programs (i.e., mentor, family, rehabilitation, reentry, spiritual growth, 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 Prison Fellowship Academy and the Field Ministry Program offer restorative justice values and illustrate the strong partnerships between the 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 199 active male field ministers on forty-one 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 August 31, 2022, the field ministers have received 18,744 prayer and correspondence requests.

The Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry at the Hobby Unit

The Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry at the Hobby Unit (female) began in August 2021. As of August 31, 2022, there are 30 female students currently enrolled in the program. The Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry offers a four-year program for participants to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Ministry degree at no expense to the inmate. The purpose of this program is to promote moral rehabilitation and ministry to other inmates.

Prison Fellowship Academy

Prison Fellowship Academy offers a twelve to fourteen-month non-parole voted program to help men and women in prison become good citizens in the communities they live in today and the communities they will return to tomorrow. The Academy achieves this goal by focusing on its six-core values: productivity, responsibility, integrity, community, affirmation, and restoration, and by offering program participants the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned. As they live out the core values, Academy participants and graduates have a prosocial influence on their peers and communities, resulting in positive social impacts and enhanced community safety. Graduates of the Academy who remain incarcerated can continue to practice these values by participating in the Prison Fellowship's graduate component, where they practice peer leadership skills by exhibiting the six core values and making positive contributions to their current community. Graduates who are released will have the tools and experience to make positive life decisions that are beneficial to themselves, their families, and their communities as they re-enter society.

In addition, Prison Fellowship offers resume writing, mock interviews, Story Book Project where volunteers/staff record mothers and fathers reading to their children and the recordings are delivered on CDs, and Crosswalk Center which helps the inmate reenter into society. Prison Fellowship is located on the Crain, Polunsky and Vance Units, and will soon be offered on the Clements Unit, with a total capacity of 342 beds. Since September 1, 2017, there have been 609 inmates enrolled in the program and over 500 successful program completions.

GO KIDS Initiative

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.

Numerous volunteer organizations sponsor and facilitate Day with Dad/Day with Mom events to provide a unique family bonding experience for inmates and their children to reconnect. The events often include a meal for the inmate and their children to share together and a day of family activities such as games, arts and crafts, and face painting. Additionally, volunteer organizations provide marriage seminars to help inmates maintain their relationship with their spouse while incarcerated. Marriage seminar events typically include a shared meal and group counseling.

The Sisterhood of RUTH

The Sisterhood of RUTH (Restoration, Unity, and Trans-formation through the Holy Spirit) is a volunteer-provided program managed through collaboration between Prison Fellowship Ministries, the TDCJ Rehabilitation Programs Division, and the Carole Young Medical Facility. RUTH offers academic, emotional, cultural, social, and spiritual enrichment to the female inmates, as well as their families.

Truth-be-Told

Truth-be-Told (TBT) offers female inmates the opportunity to provide an honest recount of the events that led them to prison to an attentive and respectful audience of invited guests. Before sharing their story with an audience, the inmate participates in an eight-week series of classes in which they share their stories with their peers. TBT is a unique program staffed by volunteers who have experienced both literal and metaphorical “prisons” in their own lives and are willing and able to learn and grow alongside the women they serve. TBT provides opportunities for personal growth and healing from past trauma through telling in safe communities.

reVision Houston

The reVision Houston program works with every youth (age fourteen-seventeen) in the state of Texas who has been certified to stand trial as an adult or is currently serving an adult prison sentence in the TDCJ. The youth are matched with mentors who write them letters and send them birthday cards. On the first Friday of every month, reVision Houston provides the youthful inmates lunch and connects through art, music, and dance projects. The reVision Houston program has hundreds of volunteers whose mission is to see the inherent potential of disconnected youth and work to empower them to revision, create, and choose hopeful pathways.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a program designed to deal with the hurts, habits, and hang-ups that adversely affect inmate’s lives and are roadblocks to developing good relationships. Volunteers bring the good news of the gospel to the inmates through those who have walked the road and can relate to their condition and feelings. Celebrate Recovery also gets inmates involved in ongoing Christ based twelve-step groups when they leave prison and integrate into society.

Prison ministry programs such as Jubilee, Kairos, and Kolbe are provided by volunteer groups. The volunteers host a three-and-a-half-day weekend that consists of talks, discussions, and chapel meditations so that inmates learn that they are worthy of God’s love, light, and grace; that no matter who they are or what they have done, God forgives them. The

volunteer groups follow up with weekly Prayer and Share sessions to continue to keep the inmates involved in continuing ministry.

Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment (STRIVE) Reentry Center

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 the 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 financial classes, relationship classes to include trauma-based programming, and life skills classes. 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. Another integral part of the program is a professional clothing drive which allows the women to dress professionally at career expos with potential employers. Each cohort participates in a Career Expo before release. STRIVE graduates return to society with secured employment, professional and leisure clothing, shoes, accessories, hygiene products, and, most importantly, the skills for success. As of August 31, 2022, the program has graduated 407 participants since its inception.

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. The Samaritan Center's Hope for Heroes staff provide programming at the Travis State Jail, a state-legislated veterans reentry program, that provides educational classes on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, substance use disorders, communication, leadership, coping mechanisms, and post-release support. In addition, the volunteer program Animum Irae Militum (AIMVETS), a veteran-specific ministry focused on recovery, provides Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) in units across the state. Most recently, the Success Through Restoration, Independence, Perseverance, Excellence, and Service (STRIPES) Veterans Dorms for males and females have opened. AIMVETS, other volunteer groups, and multiple TDCJ divisions collaborated on the STRIPES Veterans Dorms to provide a peer support program designed to equip veterans with the necessary tools to enhance their well-being and reintegration into society.

The TDCJ maintains contact with its volunteers via the Volunteer Services Newsletter and email services. These provide information for volunteers and volunteer groups that is beneficial for their services. The Volunteer Services Newsletter is used to recognize volunteers for their time, recruit volunteers, churches, and organizations, and provide important changes or reminders on volunteer guidelines. The GovDelivery Email system is utilized to notify subscribers of unit lockdowns, distribute the Volunteer Newsletter, as well as recruitment for programming at specific units, important updates or reminders and volunteer approval, training requirements, and retraining reminder notifications.

To benefit those individuals reentering their communities or releasing to parole supervision, the 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, City of Houston Community Reentry Network Program, Alvin Community College Reentry Program, 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 and reentry community case managers 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 to assist the clients in successful reintegration which includes recovery support programs such as Overcomers and Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous.

The TDCJ Reentry and Integration Division (RID) has agreements with the Social Security Administration, the Texas Department of State Health Services- Vital Statistics, and the Texas Department of Public Safety to request, process, and provide valid forms of identification to individuals upon release, thereby paving a smoother road to successful reentry. The TDCJ RID in collaboration with the TDCJ Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) holds contracts with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and all the Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) across the state. The DSHS contract provides services to persons living with HIV who are released from custody by engaging them with the Texas HIV Medication Program, local community AIDS service organizations, and community clinics. Contracts held with LMHAs provide a network of mental health continuity of care providers for adults and juveniles releasing from custody to community supervision. Additionally, the TDCJ's reentry special needs case managers and TCOOMMI human service specialists work together with community providers and resources to build successful reentry plans and linkages for continuity of care for those releasing with special needs.

For those individuals sentenced to probation, there are 123 Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs) which directly supervise individuals on probation across the state. The 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, the 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. The TDCJ has accredited over 129 BIPPs, of which TCFV provides technical assistance, program evaluation, and training to the providers to ensure they are equipped to educate batterers. The TDCJ provides twenty-five grants to qualified BIPPs to support their local community programs. The 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) collaborates with faith communities to help meet the needs and improve outcomes for children, families, and vulnerable adults, and to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

THE FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION

The Faith Based and Community Engagement Division (FBCE) establishes policies and procedures for agency volunteers and interns, assists with outreach and public awareness events, and provides training to DFPS staff and community stakeholders. FBCE staff support partnership efforts with Child Protective Investigations, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Statewide Intake, and the Youth and Parent Helpline. FBCE partners with the faith community, foundations, advocates, and volunteers to improve service delivery for children, families, and vulnerable adults. DFPS encourages each faith community to develop supportive services for their local children and families. Congregations assist in many ways such as providing meal trains, hosting parties for special occasions, and holding drives for resource rooms. Congregation members have become respite care providers, babysitters, foster parents, and adoptive parents.

Through relationships accelerated by a technology connecting platform, 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 DFPS caseworkers identify the needs of local children and families, they go online to www.careportal.org and

make a request via the website. The faith community then has the option to respond to meet the need. CarePortal is currently active in fifty-two counties in Texas and is planning to expand to 65 counties in the next 3 years. To date, resources through the CarePortal have helped serve over 20,000 children, with an economic impact over \$6,000,000.00.

DFPS is proud to partner with a variety of faith and community partners to meet the needs of the children, families, and vulnerable adults we serve. These are only a few examples of the successful collaborations we have with faith partners around the state.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In June during Elder Abuse Awareness month, The South Texas Adult Protective Services Community Board partnered with the Silver Sabbath Committee to host a symposium called “Aging Well: Informed and Engaged.” At the event, Texas Senator Jose Menendez proclaimed June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. During his presentation, Senator Menendez reminded attendees about the importance of reporting elder abuse and renewed his commitment to working on behalf of older Texans.

The Purple Sunday Day of Prayer serves as a call to action across the state of Texas to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This year, the event was held on June 12. Adult Protective Services non-profit boards join forces with faith partners across the state to acknowledge the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. Purple Sunday was originated in 2012 in East Texas and has grown into a statewide event.

Adult Protective Services was one of the organizations chosen to receive a \$30,000.00 donation from Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston. The donation will cover costs to assist vulnerable adults such as costs for pest extermination, paying for medications, building ramps, and purchasing hygiene items and cleaning supplies.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Rock Faith Center and Pastor Hallback in El Paso leads his community in meeting the needs of children and families in crisis. He is passionate about prevention of abuse and neglect in children as well as permanency for children who become orphaned due to abuse and/or neglect. Pastor Hallback served on the Advisory Committee on Promoting Adoption of Minority Children (ACPAMC), a church and state partnership committed to providing permanent families for Texas children in need of forever homes. Pastor Hallback also served on the state board for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

The First Baptist Church in Lubbock assisted DFPS with housing for children without placement (CWOP). The church also assists families get licensed to be foster homes by purchasing fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. The church assists DFPS and child placing agencies with buying special birthday and holiday gifts for kids in care, and meal boxes for foster and adoptive families.

The First United Methodist Church in Graham hosts a clothing and resource closet called Garments of Grace which provides clothing and other necessities to children in need in Young county. Garments of Grace also provides regular donations to the local Rainbow Room, and coordinates with local hairstylists to assist with haircuts and braiding for youth of all ethnicities.

Fostering Hope provides items such as clothing, appliances, furniture, car seats, beds and other necessities to families and children in need. They also train foster, adoptive and kinship families, and coordinate babysitting collaboratives to assist adoptive and foster families.

The Champion Project provides support to residential treatment centers and shelters in the form of back-to-school programs, reading programs, and supports youth attending college and summer camps. The Champion Project is also funding a Mentoring Coordinator position within DFPS as part of Rider 39. The Mentor Coordinator will be a resource for DFPS caseworkers to match youth in care with a mentoring program.

Our Forever Hope in Webb County takes the lead in gathering ministry partners together to assist families in need. They coordinate bed building, foster parent's nights out, adoption picnics, excursions for PAL youth, and other activities for youth and families.

Hope Works in Ft. Worth has been a long-standing partner with DFPS. Some of their work includes a Foster/Adopt ministry, recruiting and awareness events, kinship care, donations, bed building ministry, and other ministries supporting children and families in need.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For the children and youth served by DFPS, the Human Trafficking (HT) Division serves all 254 counties, and all child welfare stages to improve DFPS's capacity to identify, report, recover and support victims of trafficking in their restoration journey. To accomplish this work, 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) DFPS continued partnership with GRACE, a collaboration between the Office of the Texas First Lady, Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team, 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.

2022 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. Commissioner Masters participated in 2022's kick-off event and asked faith-based partner to continue to:

- Support the work of the local community and government organizations committed to ending trafficking,
- Answer the call by becoming aware and knowledgeable of the signs of Human Trafficking; and
- Challenge injustice by reporting when child abuse and/or human trafficking was suspected.

2022 Human Trafficking Prevention Month Participation Guide

DFPS released its first annual Light the Way to End Human Trafficking – Human Trafficking Prevention Month Participation Guide (Guide). The Guide was disseminated to over 93,000 stakeholders, of which over 2,000 were faith-based partners. The Guide provided a variety of activities hosted by DFPS, and highlighted efforts and information from the Governor's Office and the Office of Attorney General, as well as the Blue Campaign. The Guide invited faith and secular communities to stand with Texas in the fight against human trafficking to improve awareness, services, and prevention efforts and help eradicate trafficking in Texas. Additionally, DFPS faith-based partners were invited to participate in DFPS's Light the Way to End Human Trafficking: 2022 Virtual Learning Series.

Light the Way to End Human Trafficking: Faith In Action is a partnership with Shared Hope International to marry the DFPS Light the Way to 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, HT Division'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. In 2022, DFPS partnered with Southern Grit Advocacy who hosted Wichita County faith-based leaders and community partners to learn about trafficking and ways to get involved.

Light the Way to End Human Trafficking 2022 Summit

In June 2022, Jacquelyn Aluotto, and Dr. James W.E. Dixon, II presented at the DFPS's third annual Light the Way to End Human Trafficking Summit on the *Importance of Implementing No Trafficking Zones (NTZ)*, which also highlighted *NTZ's Faith Fights Trafficking* initiative. This summit is open to individuals from all disciplines and seeks to elevate the understanding and knowledge of staff and key partners on the complexities and impact of human trafficking on children and youth. Over 1,200 DFPS staff and partners from all over Texas and out-of-state were in attendance.

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 upstream from crisis and the need for intensive interventions.

PEI leadership continues to lead the **Texas Prevention Framework Workgroup**, an interagency collaborative focused on advancing and enhancing prevention efforts in Texas. In 2020, 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. This fiscal year, PEI is working to further develop a public facing [toolkit](#) designed to bring the framework to life, and assist communities to identify where they can fit in prevention efforts.

During Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), PEI continued to provide leadership and support to the Early Childhood Interagency Work Group. This collaboration of Texas state agencies works together to identify, coordinate, and implement cross-sector initiatives for young children. In March 2022, the collaborative work group launched the **Early Childhood Texas website**. The website serves as a one-stop-shop to connect Texas parents and communities, including faith communities, to a variety of free or low-cost services and resources available through different state agencies. The Early Childhood Texas website offers Texans information and resources in health and development, parenting, childcare and education, and eligibility programs.

Further, PEI collaborated with the Texas Department of State Health Services to develop a **new series of videos** housed within the community facing, parenting tip website [GetParentingTips.com](#). These videos take a deep dive into how featured parents deal with parenting challenges as they work to build strong families. Parents and community members, including faith communities, are encouraged to watch and share these videos to learn behaviors and techniques that parents can use that reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

- [Building Healthy Families](#)
- [Construyendo Familias Saludables](#)

COMMUNITY BASED CARE AND DFPS

2INGage:

- High Ridge Church in Graham is hosting a Brave Event with Hope Local, A World for Children, PCHAS, TFI and 2INGage 11/14/2022. BRAVE events help everyone find their fit and make a difference. Attendees will learn about fostering, adoption, mentoring, and other ways to serve vulnerable kids and families, as well as have an opportunity to meet the organizations and agencies that can help them get started.
- One Life in Wichita Falls has hosted program meetings as recently as last week for 2INGage staff. One Life also hosted a CASA and 2INGage Meet and Greet in July.

- Big Country CASA, 2INGage, Beltway Park Church/Foster 325, Safe Families for Children, River Crest Hospital, New Horizons, DFPS, Region 14 Education Service Center and Methodist Children’s Home partnered to bring the first ever Foster Care Simulation to Texas on February 21, 2022. Each participant was assigned a role as either a biological parent, child, foster parent, case manager or child placing agency and went through a month in foster care, learning what all is involved and the strenuous tasks each role is expected to complete in short time frames. With over seventy-five participants, 30 volunteers, and 34 community resource agencies, this event helped raise awareness of the foster care crisis and inspired participants to think about the role we each can play in helping the children and families experiencing foster care. Many participants pledged to either become a foster parent, volunteer with the local child welfare board or pledged to donate items to children in care and educate their community and personal network on the foster care crisis.

Belong:

- Belong has partnered with Grace Bible Church to form collaborative partnerships with the NPO Wilson County Cares, South Texas Alliance for Orphans, Floresville ISD, and Lavernia ISD to provide wrap around services for families in the system. We are also working to inform other faith partners/churches of the needs and opportunities to get involved in this space. A few short-term goals are hosting a resource fair, recruiting more foster and/or foster to adopt homes in the county, prevention services, a grandparent’s initiative, and providing tutoring services as needs are identified by school districts. A long-term goal is a Children’s home for Wilson County.
- Belong partners with Community Bible Church in Bulverde to quarterly host “Orphan Sunday” to bring awareness to the needs and issues for children in the foster care system. The church members also serve our children and families in various ways such as mentoring, providing maintenance for homes of foster families as well as providing babysitting and respite care.
- Belong partners with First Protestant Church of New Braunfels Mission Outreach Team as they provide financial support to assist with activities for the kids in care throughout the year. They also assist families by providing home repairs, babysitting, and respite care. They also do a clothing drive twice a year to assist with the clothing needs of the children in our region.
- Belong partners with First Baptist Church of Carrizo Springs and First United Methodist Church of Carrizo Springs to bring awareness in Dimmit and Zavala Counties about child welfare needs. We work together to find and provide solutions to many of those needs within the area. Resources provided so far consist of assistance with utility bill payments for kinship families, a free clothing closet for our children from First United Methodist, and First Baptist is beginning to work on offering Mother’s Day Out and Foster Parent Nights out to foster families.
- Belong has a seasonal partnership with Hope Fellowship Church in San Antonio, Texas as they provide free turkey baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas for foster families in care in Bexar, Comal, and Guadalupe counties.
- Belong partners with St. Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of Victory Church in Victoria, TX to offer various resources to assist our foster and kinship families. This partnership has led to assistance with car repairs, utilities assistance, home repairs, and this organization also purchased an air conditioner for a foster family.
- Belong partners with First Baptist Church in Goliad, TX as they assist with resources for children and families in this area. First Baptist Church has assisted kinship families with food, clothing, school supplies, gas assistance, home maintenance, and helped to fund skirting that was greatly needed under a mobile home of one of our kinship families.
- Belong will be partnering with Poteet Baptist Church as well as Karnes Methodist Church as they will be providing gifts to our children and families in their areas for the upcoming holiday season.

St. Francis:

- Currently, there are fourteen churches in the Panhandle that have offered to host our supervised visitations at their spaces; three of which have granted us “houses” (parsonages) with backyards, kitchens, and showers, and we have a key/code to these facilities. The children and families can sit down on the couch and play games together, play in the backyard, enjoy a meal or snack together, in a cozy, family-friendly atmosphere. For this, we are so grateful! (Those specific churches are Central Church of Christ (Amarillo), First Baptist Church of Borger, and First Baptist Church of Lubbock.)
- In addition to visitation spaces, there have been numerous churches who have offered up support to foster, kinship, and families moving toward reunification—with clothing, toiletries, school supplies, backpacks, furniture, and much more. Some churches have provided gift cards for gasoline and assistance with electric bills. These include churches such as Broadway Church of Christ, Southcrest Baptist, Church on the Rock, and so many more.
- We have a very strong relationship with both the Lubbock church coalition called “One Heart” as well as the church ministry of First Baptist Church of Amarillo called “Fostering Hope.” They are advocates of Community-Based Care and frequently volunteer to help at our events, send or hold worker appreciation lunches/events/gift cards/snacks for our teams. Monterey Church of Christ in Lubbock held a “workday” during the summer where church volunteers packed donated duffle bags with toiletries and supplies for the kids that come through Saint Francis. This same church also facilitated a Thanksgiving dinner giveaway the past two years, where we were able to give seventy-five kinship families (each year) full Thanksgiving meals with 13-14 lb. turkeys.
- As a faith-based organization, Saint Francis calls upon other faith-based organizations for help to meet the needs of children and families we serve. We have had great feedback and wonderful partnerships emerge from the churches. In fact, we are participating in the Trunk-or-Treat at a church in Amarillo this year (Washington Ave. Christian Church), as well as participating in other ministry events across the Panhandle. Earlier this year, a Catholic parish in Stratford helped us with a funeral mass and reception for the family of a baby who passed.
- And, last but certainly not least, several churches are starting to reach out about how to get involved in promoting foster care and adoption to their membership. We have had requests for the digital Heart Gallery to be played on a loop during Sunday morning services and for us to come speak at church services about foster care and adoption. Our next commitment is at FBC Shallowater.

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)

OCOK engages with the faith-based community directly and through our close partner Hope Local. The OCOK Community Engagement team works with churches in partnership with Hope Local to speak on foster care and adoption, set up recruitment booths, provide materials, and guide conversations as foster care ministries are getting started. Hope Local has very deep engagement with churches and hosts BRAVE events throughout the region that focus on foster care and adoption. These events are always very well attended, as they give a first-hand look into what foster care and adoption looks like as presented by real foster/ adoptive parents and their children. In addition to the recruitment work that Hope Local does, they are also the administrator of the Care Portal locally and work to engage and onboard churches to support the families we serve.

[Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs \(TDHCA\)](#)

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) is committed to expanding fair housing choice and opportunities for Texans through the administration and funding of affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, weatherization, and community-based services with the help of for-profits, nonprofits, and local governments. Many of TDHCA’s programs rely heavily on nonprofit organizations as sub-recipients such as the Emergency Solutions Grants, Community Service Block Grants, Comprehensive Energy Assistance and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance programs’ subrecipients. One of TDHCA’s newest programs is the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) which was established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to ease financial hardships associated with the

COVID-19 pandemic. HAF provides assistance to eligible homeowners to help avoid mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, and help prevent the displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. TDHCA will administer \$842,214,006 under HAF. Each household can receive up to \$65,000 in total assistance, provided in the form of a grant. Since its launch in March 2022, TXHAF has disbursed more than \$175M and assisted more than 18,000 unique households. Full program details, an eligibility screener, program dashboard, online application and more are available at [TexasHomeownerAssistance.com](https://www.texas.gov/txhaf). For questions, TXHAF has a toll-free call center available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. by calling 833-651-3874. Help is available in multiple languages.

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) serves the Texas government by leading the state’s technology strategy, protecting state technology infrastructure, and offering innovative and cost-effective solutions for all levels of government.

DIR supports the information technology needs (IT) of faith and community-based organizations (FCBOs) by serving as a resource for technology best practices, providing access to competitive technology procurement for eligible organizations, and encouraging DIR staff to give back to the community.

TECHNOLOGY BEST PRACTICES AND GUIDANCE

DIR delivers the technology solutions, products, and services on which government entities rely to serve the public. DIR protects the public’s privacy and critical data by promoting cybersecurity best practices and offering guidance and consultation on technology issues. DIR also directs and offers immediate assistance to government entities during a cybersecurity event. In addition, DIR enables public sector cost savings by leveraging the state’s buying power for technology purchasing and contracting. Continuing its founding purpose, DIR provides vision and guidance for the Texas government through technology policy, planning, and standards that help promote consistent and effective use of technology across the state.

Like other public entities, FCBOs can use DIR as a resource for their own IT policy and planning through the technology-related reports, policies, standards, and guidelines available at: <https://dir.texas.gov/> or by calling 1-855-ASK-DIR1.

TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT

DIR’s Cooperative Contracts Program offers IT products and services to eligible customers, including 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.

Government Code Section 2054.0565 authorizes assistance organizations¹ to use DIR’s cooperative contracts and enables them to leverage the state’s buying power to obtain the best value for technology products and services. DIR proactively promotes the cooperative contracts program to eligible customers, including FCBOs, to bring awareness of recently completed procurements, contracting updates, and purchasing opportunities.

In fiscal year 2022, 59 assistance organizations purchased approximately \$4.7 million in technology commodity items through the DIR Cooperative Contracts Program.

DIR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

In addition to serving as a resource for IT guidance, products, and services, DIR supports FCBOs through fundraising and volunteerism. Each year, DIR engages staff to participate in the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC). During the

2021 SECC campaign, DIR staff raised approximately \$28,000 in contributions. DIR's employees also give back to the community by organizing holiday food and toy drives and participating in Meals on Wheels.

¹ See Government Code Section 2175.001 for the definition of assistance organization.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SOCIAL MEDIA: PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING OUTREACH

January 2022

- **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 and into February, 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.
- **Spotlight on Tuesday, January 11: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** - Ahead of Jan. 11, DPS reminded the public that anyone can be a victim of human trafficking and encouraged Texans to help bring awareness to this crime by participating in #WearBlueDay on Tuesday, January 11.
- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** - Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, and the reality is it happens every day. It happens in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. It is a crime that impacts individuals around the world and right here in Texas. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is a chance to shed light on and bring awareness to this crime. There are victims of human trafficking right here in Texas. Every day, DPS works to combat this crime and take predators off our streets, along with providing resources and support for the victims of human trafficking.
- **LATEST NEWS: DPS Offers Safety Tips Ahead of Wintry Weather**
- **Winter Safety Tips, Shared resources from Texas Division of Emergency Management**
- **Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Spotlight on CID** - DPS' Criminal Investigations Division has teams of dedicated Special Agents stationed across the state — from El Paso to Lubbock, San Antonio to Dallas, Brownsville to Houston — who are charged with investigating human trafficking crimes. Human trafficking is a profitable enterprise, and DPS Special Agents work every day to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle major human trafficking organizations.
- **iWatchTexas Reminder: Texans Encouraged 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. Below are the featured posts for January.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: January Messaging**
 - 1/4/2022: Gun Safe/Vault Storage Option
 - 1/10/2022: Cable Lock Spotlight
 - 1/13/2022: Share safe gun storage tips with teens “make gun ownership safer”
 - 1/18/2022: First time gun owner’s tip: Put locking devices that use keys in a place children are unaware of

February 2022

- **Winter Weather Safety Messaging** - Provided key messaging surrounding the winter storm that impacted much of the state. Shared safety messages from our partners, including Austin Fire Department, Texas Division of Emergency

Management, National Weather Service, TxDOT. Shared a series of safety tips from DPS, with particular focus on roadway safety during winter weather.

- **Human Trafficking Awareness: Interdiction for the Protection of Children Program Spotlight** - As part of our efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking and equip front-line officers, we spotlighted several recent IPC trainings, including one in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- **Human Trafficking Awareness: Spotlight on Resources to Help Victims and Report** - Suspicious Activity, including National Human Trafficking Hotline and iWatchTexas.
- **LATEST NEWS: DPS Increases Enforcement, Offers Tips for a Safe Super Bowl Sunday**
- **Human Trafficking Awareness, Myth and Fact Series #1** - Human trafficking only happens in other countries. Reality: Human traffic happens every day, and it can happen anywhere.
- **Winter Weather Safety Reminder** - Encouraged all Texans to stay up-to-date on the latest local weather conditions and take extra safety precautions during winter weather.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: February Messaging**
 - 2/1/2022: Store Ammunition Safely
 - 2/17/2022: Safe Gun Storage Option: Gun Cabinet
 - 2/22/2022: Tips for Gun Owners: Store your guns unloaded and locked
 - 2/25/2022: Talking about Safe Gun Storage
- **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 2022

- **National Vehicle Safety Recalls Week** - Shared safety messages from partners (National Safety Council and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) to encourage Texans to get their vehicles checked for recalls and how to get repairs made to their vehicles.
- **DPS Increases Patrols for Spring Break** - Provided safety tips for travelers
- **Spring Break Safety Video**
- **St. Patrick's Day Safety Message**
- **Shared Wildfire Safety Tips, in conjunction with the Texas Division of Emergency Management**
- **Spring Break Traffic Enforcement Campaign** - Reminder featuring helpful safety tips
- **Human Trafficking Awareness Spotlight** - Myth #2: Recovering victims is the end of the process to save someone.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: March Messaging**
 - 3/1/2022: Keep your firearms from reaching the wrong hands
 - 3/21/2022: Safely Store Guns when Traveling
 - 3/25/2022: Tips for Gun Owners: Biometric locks allow for quick access in case of emergencies
 - 3/30/2022: Safe Gun Storage Option: Trigger Lock

April 2022

- **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Texas** - Shared Governor's message and proclamation, and reiterated DPS' commitment to standing with survivors and bringing awareness to this heinous crime throughout the month.
- **Human Trafficking Awareness Series** - Featured the myth — Victims know they are victims — and provided tips for what to look for and resources available for assistance.
- **Safe Gun Storage – Collaboration with new Safe Gun Storage Saves Lives Campaign**
 - Promoted this new campaign and its efforts to help spread awareness and educate Texans about the importance of safely storing firearms and the many available storage options.
 - DPS is one of several local and state organizations who are working together on this initiative to raise awareness about safe gun storage.

- **April: Autism Awareness Month** - Shared an article from the Victoria Advocate featuring DPS Trooper Rob Mallory, his journey with his autistic son and how it impacts him in his role as a DPS Trooper and law enforcement officer.
- **National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 24-30**
 - This week-long initiative was established to promote victims' rights and honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week has worked to raise awareness about victims' rights and the resources and community services available to help victims.
 - As part of this, MCO highlighted DPS' Victim & Employee Support Services unit and their counseling services to victims of crimes.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: April Messaging**
 - 4/5/2022: Storing firearms video
 - 4/13/2022: Keep your guns safe this Easter
 - 4/19/2022: Safe gun handling does not equal safe gun storage
 - 4/22/2022: Video on safe gun storage devices
 - 4/27/2022: Tips for gunowners: Ask family and friends about safe gun storage

May 2022

- **Shared Cinco de Mayo Safety PSA from DPS' Central Texas**
- **LATEST NEWS: DPS Reminds Drivers to Buckle Up, Drive Safely for Memorial Day**
- **Click It or Ticket Spotlight** - highlighting a recent press conference in DPS' Northwest Texas Region with TxDOT and local law enforcement partners.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: May Messaging**
 - 5/11/2022: Tips for gunowners: Always safely store your firearm when you are done with it
 - 5/18/2022: Store ammunition safely
 - 5/24/2022: Safe gun storage in vehicles video

June 2022

- **Summer Heat Safety Series**, various posts featuring safety tips to help Texans beat the summer heat.
- **June - Airbag Recall Repair Month (Safety message)**
- **LATEST NEWS: DPS Increases Enforcement for Fourth of July Holiday**
- **iWatchTexas** - Reminder to all Texans to report suspicious activity using iWatchTexas and the various ways to submit a report.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: June Messaging**
 - None

July 2022

- **Summer Heat Safety Series**, various posts featuring safety tips to help Texans beat the summer heat.
- **Fourth of July Safety Messages** - Reminder about THP Enforcement Initiative and Safety Tips for Traveling on Texas Roads.
- **Summer Travel Safety Reminder** - Shared tips for traveling safely on the roadways this summer.
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: July Messaging**
 - 7/21/2022: Tips for gun owners: Storing a gun in a glove box is not safe gun storage

August 2022

- **iWatchTexas, Reminder to Report Suspicious Activity**
- **LATEST NEWS: DPS Offers Tips and Resources Ahead of New School Year**
- **Back to School Safe Driving Tips Series**
 - Six posts with individual safety tips related to driving and back-to-school time

- Created video/reel with all safety tips combined to further promote safety in-and-around school zones and school buses

■ **License to Carry Series** - Having an LTC is cost-effective, and the benefits really add up.

■ **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: August Messaging**

- 8/3/2022: Prevent your gun from reaching the wrong hands
- 8/9/2022: Safe gun handling does not equal safe gun storage
- 8/12/2022: Practicing gun safely is more than just handling
- 8/23/2022: Safe gun storage saves lives
- 8/29/2022: Safe gun storage option: Gun case

September 2022

■ **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.

■ **iWatchTexas Feature** - Shared steps for submitting a report using iWatchTexas

■ **Labor Day Safe Driving Video**

■ **License to Carry Series** - Spotlight on required training for LTC holders and its importance.

■ **DID YOU KNOW? iWatchTexas Suspicious Activity Reporting Highlight, Encouraged Texans to Report Suspicious Activity**

■ **License to Carry Series** - Spotlight on reciprocity agreements between Texas and other states.

■ **See Something, Say Something Day & Suspicious Activity Reporting Series (All posts led up to See Say Day on Sept. 25)**

- 9/19/2022: Introduction to “If You See Something, Say Something®” Awareness Day and the importance of suspicious activity reporting
- 9/20/2022: DID YOU KNOW? Post on iWatchTexas and how to submit a report
- 9/21/2022: Tips on what to report to iWatchTexas, specifically related to school safety
- 9/22/2022: Tips on what to report to iWatchTexas, general suspicious activity
- 9/22/2022: Detailed tips on what information to report; shared the who, what, when and where of the types of suspicious activity/information to report using iWatchTexas
- 9/23/2022: Recognizing the Signs of Suspicious Activity
- 9/25/2022: September 25 has been designated as National “If You See Something, Say Something®” Awareness Day; shared the goals of the day and how individuals can make a difference in their communities by reporting suspicious activity.

■ **License to Carry Series** - One of the many benefits of having an LTC is that it can be used as a valid form of personal identification.

■ **LATEST NEWS: DPS Reminds Drivers to Put Safety First During Child Passenger Safety Week**

■ **Child Passenger Safety Week: Safety Tips Feature**

- Highlighted a series of tips to ensure children are properly restrained while riding in a vehicle

■ **Child Passenger Safety Week: Additional Safety Tips Feature**

- Highlighted a series of tips to ensure children are properly restrained while riding in a vehicle

■ **License to Carry Series** - LTCs can be used as an alternative to the NICS background check.

■ **LATEST NEWS: iWatchTexas App Now Available in Spanish Versions**

■ **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: September Messaging**

- 9/08/2022: Choose the safe gun storage device that works for you
- 9/15/2022: Store ammunition safely
- 9/26/2022: Talk to friends and family about safe gun storage
- 9/29/2022: (Video) Safe gun storage is duty of every gun owner

October 2022

- **License to Carry Series** - LTC holders can carry on certain premises, like university campus, where LTCs are required.
- **Cyber Security Awareness Month** - Shared resources for Texans to learn how to be cyber smart.
- **License to Carry Series** - Shared the many benefits of having an LTC.
- **Cyber Security Awareness Month** - Safety tip to be cyber smart: Use two-factor authentication.
- **iWatchTexas Suspicious Activity Reporting** - Reminder to stay vigilant and report suspicious behavior/activity to law enforcement using iWatchTexas.
- **One Pill Kills** - Fentanyl awareness messaging.
- **Cyber Security Awareness Month** - Safety tip to be cyber smart: Use a password manager.
- **National Safety Council, Check to Protect** - Provided information on safety recalls for vehicles and how to check for open recalls.
- **Halloween Safety Tips for Drivers** - Created a video featuring safety tips for drivers.
- **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.
- **DPS Launches Campaign to Fight Fentanyl**
- **Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign: October/November Messaging**
 - 10/31/2022: Kids may not be able to tell the difference

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

January 2022

- [DPS Reminds Texans to Use iWatchTexas, Other Valuable Resources](#) - DPS encourages Texans to report any suspicious activity at schools, and elsewhere, through the iWatchTexas app.
- [DPS Announces Waiver for Select CDLs to Assist with School Bus Driver Shortage](#) - DPS announced a new waiver for select commercial driver licenses as a way to assist with more people getting licensed to drive school buses.
- [DPS Offers Safety Tips Ahead of Wintry Weather](#) - Tips for Texans to remember as a round of winter weather approached many areas of the state.
- [State of Texas Announces Launch of Texas by Texas](#) - DPS assisted partner agencies in spreading the word about the launch of Texas by Texas, a digital assistant that helps with licensing, registration, and other actions.

February 2022

- [DPS Reminds CDL Applicants about Entry Level Driver Training](#) - DPS offered a reminder for CDL Applicants about upcoming changes that would impact them.
- [DPS Increases Enforcement, Offers Tips for a Safe Super Bowl Sunday](#) - DPS offers safety tips and reminders for a safe Super Bowl Sunday.

March 2022

- [DPS Increase Patrols for Spring Break](#) - DPS increased patrols for the Spring Break time period to help crackdown on people violating traffic laws like speeding and not wearing a seat belt.

May 2022

- [DPS Reminds Drivers to Buckle Up, Drive Safely for Memorial Day](#) - DPS announced enforcement efforts through Click It or Ticket and Operation CARE for the long Memorial Day weekend

June 2022

- [DPS Increases Enforcement to Keep Roads Safe on July Fourth](#) - DPS encouraged drivers to be safe on the roads for the July Fourth holiday and let them know about two enforcement campaigns that would be underway.

August 2022

- [DPS Offers Tips and Resources Ahead of New School Year](#) - DPS provided safety tips and reminders for children, parents and school administrators as kids prepared to head back into classrooms across the state.

September 2022

- [DPS Offers Safety Tips ahead of Labor Day Holiday](#) - DPS conducted an enforcement campaign for the Labor Day holiday, ensuring roads were safe.
- [Celebrate Forensic Science Week with DPS](#) - DPS recognized the work and dedication of its many crime lab workers and offered public tours for people to get a firsthand look at the work being done in labs across the state.
- [DPS Reminds Drivers to Put Safety First During Child Passenger Safety Week](#) - DPS offered tips to properly secure children in different types of safety seats, reminding the public that it is the law and the safest way to keep children safe in a wreck.
- [DPS Partners with Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to Offer IPC Program](#) - DPS partnered with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to provide critical training to stop human trafficking and protect children in vulnerable populations.
- [iWatchTexas App Now Available in Spanish](#) - DPS encouraged people to download the iWatchTexas app on their phones and announced that the app was now available in Spanish.

November 2022

- [DPS Launches Campaign to Fight Fentanyl](#) - DPS took another step in the fight to stop deadly fentanyl in our communities by launching a multi-pronged public awareness campaign. It will continue to boost Governor Abbott's 'One Pill Kills' campaign by sharing the message with as many people as possible.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

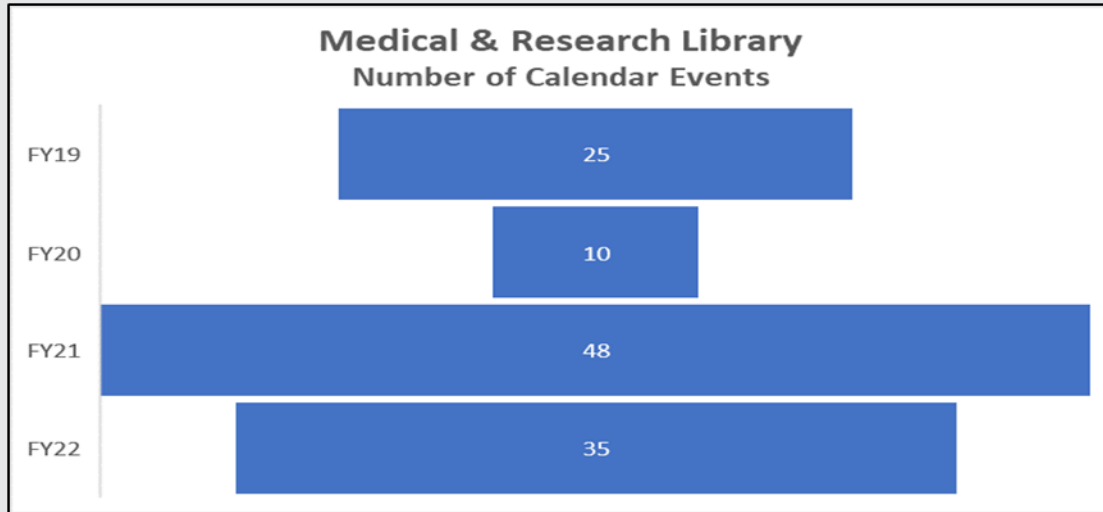
DSHS participates in numerous activities and programs with faith and community-based organizations with the focus to promote a healthy Texas. This report highlights major initiatives for fiscal year (FY) 2022. While this listing is not exhaustive, it provides a high-level description of DSHS initiatives with faith and community-based organizations.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE (CPHPP)

DSHS works to strengthen the public health system to improve the health of Texans by linking policy, academia, and workforce to public health practice.

The DSHS Medical & Research Library maintained the webpage of the [Health Ministry Faith Community Nursing Bibliography](#) for many years for the **Texas Health Ministries Network (THMN)**. The page contains a calendar of events and health citations that may be useful to nurses practicing within faith communities; however, beginning September 2022, THMN is maintaining their own website and calendar of events. The old webpage continues to list the link to the new THMN website. The following chart (Figure 1) depicts the number of calendar events maintained by the Medical and Research Library in the past four years.

Figure 1: DSHS Medical and Research Library Calendar Events



In June 2021, DSHS received a \$39 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address health disparities highlighted by COVID-19. These funds were distributed to dozens of Texas partners to conduct **Community Conversations on Health (CCOH)** in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. CCOH’s primary goals are to listen, learn, and develop community-driven plans that leverage the community’s strengths while addressing their needs. Ultimately, the aim is to lay the foundation to strengthen community capacity and resiliency to face future public health emergencies.

As of September 2022, our funded partners reported 141 faith organizations and 96 community-based or civic organizations in the CCOH Partnership Directory.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT (CHI)

DSHS promotes improved Texas community health outcomes through various initiatives focusing on maternal and child health, child safety, chronic disease prevention, tobacco use prevention, and epidemiological surveillance. DSHS partners with a variety of stakeholders to make a positive health impact, including collaboration with faith and community-based organizations.

The **Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB)** initiative helps Texas communities decrease maternal and infant mortality. HTMB works with community coalitions to create a network of local systems that focus on improving maternal and infant mortality, as well as maternal, perinatal, and infant health. The nine 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 local communities. Coalitions convene periodically, coordinate health assessments, and conduct training and outreach activities.

Additionally, HTMB engages community-based organizations and employers to promote maternal and child health and breastfeeding initiatives. The program uses stakeholder input to identify gaps in services and opportunities for improving breastfeeding support in local communities. This work includes the support of the Mother-Friendly Worksite program, which partners with employers to develop best practices to support nursing mothers. There were 3,482 Mother-Friendly Worksites in FY 2022.

Help Me Grow Texas is a statewide network of communities that strives to strengthen early childhood systems to promote healthy development. The network enhances capacity for early detection of developmental concerns and connects those in need of community resources, services, and supports to families with young children. In FY 2022, Help Me Grow Texas supported six community-based organizations by 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.

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group** (CSHCN SDG) worked with sixteen community-based organizations to provide case management, family support, and community resources to over 6,000 Texas children and youth with special health care needs and their families during FY 2022. This group provides information on upcoming initiatives, training opportunities, and special interest events for professionals to share with CSHCN families.

The **Safe Riders Child Passenger Safety Program** works with community-based organizations to provide resources and support to parents, child passenger safety technicians, and safety advocates. The program works with community organizations to provide car seats, seat inspections, and seat checkups for families. Staff also provided presentations and educational materials to over thirty-five community organizations. The Safe Riders Child Passenger Safety program distributed 3,600 car seats from October 2021 through September 2022.

The **Obesity Prevention Program** works with Feeding Texas, food banks, faith-based organizations, and LHDs. This program encourages partners to promote healthy eating and implement healthy food policies. It also operates to increase the availability of healthy food selections at food pantries and the number of mobile food distribution sites. While partnering with 24 Texas food distribution sites, the program enhances access to healthy food options in target communities and provides prompts and assistance to food pantries when ordering food from participating food banks.

The **Tobacco Prevention and Control Program** connects with community-based organizations to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts. These partnerships aim to reduce the toll of tobacco on the health, safety, and well-being of Texans. The DSHS-funded Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalitions' purpose is to prevent and reduce harmful tobacco product use, particularly among youth. Coalitions, which are comprised of parents, teachers, youth, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health care providers, and other community members, work at the local level to make their communities safer, healthier, and tobacco-free. In FY 2022, Tobacco Coalitions provided education on tobacco use dangers to over 15,000 youth and adult Texans.

LABORATORY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICES (LIDS)

DSHS improves Texans' health by providing essential laboratory services and uses strategies to control emerging and ongoing disease threats.

DSHS partners with immunization coalitions, community-based organizations, and local health entities to improve immunization rates by promoting the importance of childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations.

Immunization coalitions also partner with Public Health Regions (PHRs), LHDs, and health care providers enrolled in the **Texas Vaccines for Children** and **Adult Safety Net** programs to host vaccination clinics and administer vaccinations to community health fair participants.

DSHS works to monitor, prevent, test, and treat or link patients diagnosed with Tuberculosis/Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Sexually Transmitted Disease (TB/HIV/STD) or Hepatitis C to treatment. Long-standing partnerships with faith-based organizations have helped to link people between community-based and clinical **TB/HIV/STD services**. In 2021, regional and local TB programs partnered with twenty-nine community-based programs, such as homeless shelters and substance abuse centers, to perform targeted TB testing.

HIV Care Services Ryan White Part-B HIV Program contracts with six Texas administrative agencies who partner directly with faith and community-based organizations. These partnerships promote HIV/STD awareness, provide resources for community HIV/STD prevention and care education, and develop local health promotion initiatives in their respective regions.

Ryan White programs have established regional HIV Planning Councils that are comprised of local community leaders, stakeholders, and work directly with faith and community-based organizations to develop integrated HIV prevention and care plans.

REGIONAL & LOCAL HEALTH OPERATIONS (RLHO)

DSHS serves the local public health regions and local communities in building and maintaining the capacity to provide essential public health services. DSHS coordinates public health services at the local, regional, and state level; to promote public health programs and operations partnerships; and to provide core public health services that are responsive to local needs across the state.

DSHS administers many of its public health programs and services through its eight **Public Health Regions (PHRs)**. Every region collaborates with faith and community-based organizations to improve and enhance public and population health. Regional staff work with local community coalitions, faith-based organizations, community leaders, and school districts to promote injury prevention messages and participate in activities. PHRs also partner with faith and community-based groups to host back-to-school health fairs that provide vision and hearing exams, school supplies, and emergency preparedness information.

Figure 2: Public Health Regions Events and Activities

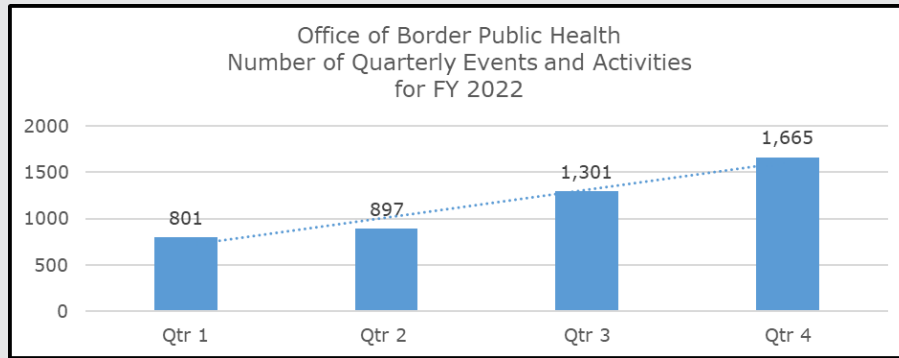
Public Health Regions (PHRs) Number of Events and Activities by Fiscal Year		
Quarter/ Year to Date	Number of Public Health Fairs	Number of Community Meetings
2019 Total	212	1,662
2020 Total	61	1,498
2021 Total	265	1,587
2022 Year	408	1,664
Qtr 1: September – November	99	372
Qtr 2: December – February	97	370
Qtr 3: March – May	108	381
Qtr 4: June - August	104	541

The **Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID)** is a 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 patients. Additionally, a community-based organization provides animal-assisted therapy.

The **Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)** partners with faith and community-based organizations 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, and border collaboratives.

As shown in the following chart (Figure 4), the number of activities increased with OBPH as the year progressed.

Figure 4: Office of Border Public Health Quarterly Events and Activities



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

Additionally, CHEPR staff engage organizations to provide educational materials on personal disaster preparedness, including making and practicing an emergency plan and building an emergency kit. The program provides education and outreach to families and individuals through faith-based groups, childcare facilities, and community organizations.

ACRONYMS (Alphabetical order)

- **CCOH** - Community Conversations on Health
- **CDC** - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **CHEPR** - Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **CHI** - Community Health Improvement
- **CHW** - Community Health Worker
- **CPHPP** - Center for Public Health Policy and Practice
- **CSHCN SDG** - Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group
- **DSHS** – Department of State Health Services
- **FCH** - Family and Community Health
- **FY** - Fiscal Year
- **HTMB** - Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies
- **LHDs** - Local Health Departments
- **LIDS** - Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services
- **OBPH** - Office of Border Public Health
- **PHRs** - Public Health Regions
- **RLHO** - Regional & Local Health Operations
- **TB/HIV/STD** - Tuberculosis/Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Sexually Transmitted Disease
- **TCID** - Texas Center for Infectious Disease
- **THMN** - Texas Health Ministries Network

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 2022 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 works in collaboration with school personnel to develop and provide a comprehensive Integrated Student Support (ISS) program uniquely tailored to address unmet academic and non-academic barriers to student success.
- The agency awards grants to CIS affiliate nonprofits across the state 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.

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 17 grants to 15 nonprofit organizations operating 147 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 to achieve their common goal of increasing student academic success.
- Within all the current 96 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.

MENTAL HEALTH AND T-CHAT

- The agency works with Texas Child Mental Health Consortium and its Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) program to expand school district partnerships for access to TCHAT service providers, located in 12 Texas universities, so families and students can receive no-cost mental health care via tele-health at school.
- After initial TCHAT assessment and services, which are short term services, families and students are then connected regionally with non-profit organizations and services providers to continue offering needed community support to the students and families.
- The agency was awarded Project AWARE Texas (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to place mental health professionals in high-

need schools, and to build local partnerships with community service organizations to connect families with resources.

- TEA has appointed diverse members from non-profit organizations including Mental Health America (MHA), National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI), the Hogg Foundation, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI), TCHAT programs, parents, and other organizations to serve the Collaborative School Mental Health Task Force to study and evaluate mental health services and training in schools.
- The agency built a Texas Mental Health Resources Database in collaboration with Texas mental health organizations and regional education service centers (ESCs) to support school systems with over 1375 resources for mental health and substance abuse including non-profit organizations, philanthropy, and voluntary sector provider organizations statewide.
- The agency facilitates a collaborative professional learning community with the 20 ESCs and 20 non-profit community-based Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) that place non-Physician Mental Health Professionals (NPMHP) in ESCs and who together facilitate partnerships on the regional/local level between schools and non-profit service providers.

Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

The Texas Community Partner Program (CPP) is a statewide network of faith- and community-based organizations (CBO) that help Texans apply for, renew, and manage their benefits on YourTexasBenefits.com. Community Partners (CPs) assist residents with online application and renewal of social service benefits. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) serves as the lead agency and coordinates partnerships with community organizations including Food Banks, Health Clinics, Area Agency on Aging (AAA), Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other non-profit CBOs.

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 589 partner organizations and 1,589 participating partner sites. During the State fiscal year 2022 (September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022), CPP expanded to 604 partner organizations and 1,661 participating partner sites.

Community Partner by Type

Type	Examples	Percent
Non-Profits	Social services, food pantries, shelters	58%
Local Governments	Housing authorities, health departments, council of governments	11%
Medical	Community Health Centers, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals	15%
Education and Literacy	School districts, libraries, head starts, colleges, universities	10%
Faith-Based	Churches, religious organizations	6%

In the State fiscal year 2022, the CPP participated in over 28 statewide events and facilitated 12 monthly webinar trainings to 3,884 participants. These webinars included HHS benefits and policy updates, CPP updates, pilot program trainings, YourTexasBenefits.com changes, COVID-19 related updates, and general partner information. During this time, HHSC regional staff also conducted 3,094 virtual and in-person site visits, 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.

In State Fiscal Year 2022, the ADRCs conducted 148,450 client interactions and provided 22,903 hours of respite services to 410 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 the State fiscal year 2022, 373 FGP volunteers provided mentorship and tutoring to over 8,807 children and youth across Texas. With the addition of American Rescue Plan funds during this past fiscal year, the program was also able to expand FGP Volunteer services in the Fort Worth and Temple/Belton/Killeen areas.

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 2022 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022), 120,711 people received over 12,322,523 meals through the congregate and home-delivered meals programs. The transportation service programs provided 401,249 trips to 6,692 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 3,972 groups, individuals, or both benefited from legal assistance services in federal fiscal year 2022.

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 2021 and June 2022, SNAP-Ed Implementing Agencies facilitated 34,115 direct education classes both virtually and in-person to 125,001 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 1,013,211 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.

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 49,813 agencies and services. The top caller needs from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, included electric service payment assistance, rent payment assistance, food pantries, food stamps or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program applications, water service payment assistance, housing authorities, homeless shelters, gas service payment assistance, and information and referrals to Area Agencies on Aging. 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 2,145,754 calls, 32,147 web-based chat sessions, and had 1,760,052 website pageviews at 211Texas.org from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.

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.

To keep youth closer to their home communities, juvenile probation departments have been charged with the task of pairing youth with appropriate community-based resources, services, and programming. In fiscal year 2021, juvenile probation departments offered 1,259 community-based programs to youth under their jurisdiction, at-risk youth, and the families of these youth. Programs offered by juvenile probation departments are designed to meet the needs of a wide array of youth. Of program participants in fiscal year 2021, 40% participated in a treatment-based program, 30% participated in a skill-building/activity-based program, and 30% participated in a surveillance-based program.

TJJD has also established formal partnerships for re-entry, counseling, residential, education and model training services with the following faith and community-based 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
- 3Strands Global Foundation
- Casa Garcia dba Trinity Charter School

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.

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 nonprofits and for organizations aiming to collaborate with nonprofits.

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. AAG met in August and October to discuss important updates of OneStar's current work and how members can become involved and distribute the information to their networks. We are continuing our strategic planning conversations to better structure the networks for the remainder of 2022.

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.

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. NMAT met in August and October to discuss important updates of OneStar's current work and how members can become involved and distribute the information to their networks. We are continuing our strategic planning conversations to better structure the networks for the remainder of 2022.

Texas Nonprofit Council

The Texas Nonprofit Council was reestablished on October 1, 2021, when Texas Governor Greg Abbott appointed 11 members. The Council 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.

The Texas Nonprofit Council had their first meeting on January 14, 2022. During this meeting, a brief history of the Council and expectations for Council members moving forward with their roles and responsibilities was discussed. Council members reviewed resource material and reports from prior state task forces as they begin their work. Additionally, the Council will be collaborating with the ICG to continue strengthening relationships with nonprofit organizations and state agencies.

In March, the Council had its first Lunch & Learn webinar. Staff from United Ways of Texas discussed the Built for Texas report to highlight the importance the nonprofit sector plays in Texas. The Council held its second meeting on April 6, during which members elected officers, received an update on the 2021 legislative session, and learned about state contracting practices from the Texas Comptroller's office.

TNC leadership and members are planning for an event to engage stakeholders to learn more about the diverse needs and challenges facing the sector and to guide their future work to develop recommendations for the Texas Legislature.

Texas Nonprofit Summit

The Texas Nonprofit Summit is a premier event where we bring nonprofits together to create lasting collaborative relationships within the community. OneStar is planning to host the Texas Nonprofit Summit on February 27-March 1, 2023, in Austin. The finalized theme of "*RE:engage – Taking Bold Action to Move Forward Together*" is designed to inspire participants to take bold action to move the nonprofit sector forward together. Our stakeholders have received promotional materials about the Summit to share with their networks.

ENGAGE TEXANS IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

OneStar ensures Texans know how they can become engaged to make a difference in their communities. Each of these programs under the Volunteer Texas initiative allows OneStar to promote existing pathways to volunteer and explore additional opportunities, beyond service and volunteerism, to engage Texans.

Governor's Volunteer Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Awards program honors the exemplary service and volunteerism of individuals and organizations making a significant impact in communities across Texas. In conjunction with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and First Lady Cecilia Abbott, OneStar prepares and administers the Governor's Volunteer Awards each year.

This year, the GVA Review Committee included OneStar's stakeholder networks in addition to our staff and board. Members from the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers, Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas, and Texas Nonprofit Council were invited to participate. Awardees will be announced to the public by the Governor's office, and they will also be recognized at a ceremony to be held at the Governor's Mansion in early 2023.

VolunteerTX.org

As the first digital aggregator for volunteer opportunities statewide, **VolunteerTX.org** serves as the hub for volunteers to get connected to local needs. When OneStar launched VolunteerTX in April 2021, high priority was placed on making strategic partnerships to create a comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities statewide. In partnership with Points of Light, we have worked to build a robust portal that pulls Texas specific listings from national partners. The portal also redirects Texans to volunteer locally at the biggest volunteer centers across the state.

Texas Association of Volunteer Centers

OneStar recognizes the importance of bringing volunteer leaders across the state together to exchange ideas and resources, resulting in increased capacity. OneStar serves as a neutral convener in supporting the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers (TAVC). The regional volunteer centers across Texas are active in TAVC and are convened quarterly to discuss opportunities, challenges, and how the association can function to provide support.

Increasing Accessibility to Volunteer Management Education

The Texas Volunteer Management Conference (TVMC), powered by VolunteerNow in Dallas, is a leading educational event for volunteer management professionals in the state and around the world. This high-quality conference has been held in North Texas for the past 30 years and went virtual in 2021. OneStar partnered with VolunteerNow and the rest of the TVMC Planning Committee to support their 2022 conference in being accessible to all volunteer managers in Texas. OneStar subgranted funding to VolunteerNow for administrative, technical, and marketing support. This enabled VolunteerNow to better connect with more organizations in Texas, especially those in rural communities, so that the number of Texas organizations attending the conference increased. OneStar also provided scholarships to 30 nonprofits to attend the conference.

Rural Philanthropy Day, hosted by the Fayette Community Foundation and Stanzel Family Foundation, was designed to build the capacity of rural nonprofits. The event allows funders from all over the state to learn from local nonprofits, gain a better understanding of the unique challenges facing rural communities and discuss collaborative partnerships. Rural Philanthropy Day was held in Schulenberg, TX, on November 4, 2022. OneStar provided scholarships to 30 rural nonprofits so that they could learn, grow, and enhance internal capabilities in various areas including governance, fundraising, operations, volunteer management, grant writing, and marketing.

Texas Rural Nonprofit Network

OneStar is committed to better engage rural nonprofits that do not have access to the support and resources offered through a volunteer center. In partnership with Resilia, a social impact technology organization, OneStar has developed a capacity building pilot program for rural communities around the state. Through this partnership, 25 rural nonprofits across Texas were invited to form OneStar's inaugural cohort of the Texas Rural Nonprofit Network (TRNN). TRNN membership grants access to Resilia's suite of on-demand tools and capacity building resources to support organizational growth and impact. Network members can invite unlimited users from their organization to access all Resilia's services from September 2022 - July 2023.

BUILDING 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.

AmeriCorps Texas Updates

As the Texas State Service Commission, OneStar is charged with advancing and supporting AmeriCorps throughout the state of Texas. We administer federal AmeriCorps grant funds to address systemic challenges and engage Texans through the power of service. Our staff provides expertise in grant making, evaluation, and advanced training & technical support to bring these critical funds to Texas.

AmeriCorps brings people together in service—harnessing the passion and enthusiasm of everyday Texans to strengthen communities. AmeriCorps members commit their time to serve with nonprofits, government agencies, and faith & community-based organizations to tackle some of our state's toughest challenges with hands-on solutions. AmeriCorps invites individuals to serve alongside each other for the betterment of every Texas community. OneStar administers a portfolio of AmeriCorps Texas programs operating solely in Texas as part of the [AmeriCorps State and National](#) program.

OneStar AmeriCorps VISTA Project

[AmeriCorps VISTA \(Volunteers in Service to America\)](#) is a national service program designed to build capacity and infrastructure within organizations to fight poverty. OneStar serves as a sponsor organization for AmeriCorps VISTA, placing AmeriCorps VISTA members with host site organizations throughout the state of Texas. Managing an AmeriCorps VISTA Project allows OneStar to leverage additional AmeriCorps resources in creating pathways for individuals to engage and support organizations in accelerating their impact.

Nonprofit Career Development Certificate

OneStar announced a new Nonprofit Career Development Certificate program in partnership with the Center for Nonprofits and Philanthropy at The Bush School at Texas A&M University. This certificate program is for AmeriCorps members and recent AmeriCorps alums to further prepare them for careers in the nonprofit sector. This program is made possible with the support of the National Philanthropic Trust as recommended by the Schultz Family Foundation. AmeriCorps members and recent alumni will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship through OneStar. The scholarship will cover the full cost of the certificate program.

Workforce Development Learning Collaborative

OneStar awarded \$1 million in AmeriCorps funds to 15 organizations to develop more opportunities to support committed AmeriCorps members in leveraging their service experience into employment opportunities, equipping them to continue making a difference after their service ends. Selected programs are creating program models that focus on the service-to-career pipeline, including:

- designing and developing training opportunities,
- developing community and employer partnerships,
- creating data tracking systems, and
- developing certificate or training programs

All 15 organizations receiving this funding are participating in a monthly learning collaborative to share ideas, best practices, and lessons learned. These learnings will then be shared more broadly within the AmeriCorps Texas network.

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.

Assisting the Uvalde Community through Philanthropy Management

In response to the May 24, 2022, school shooting in Uvalde, OneStar was asked to assist with philanthropic donations by the Office of the Texas Governor. In response, OneStar moved quickly to create a one-stop webpage for donations to support the victims' families, teachers, and the Uvalde community. All donations were designated to the Robb School Memorial Fund, which was established by the First State Bank of Uvalde to ensure financial support is given to those impacted by the horrific tragedy. A local steering committee recommended, and the OneStar Foundation approved, directing the Robb School Memorial Fund to the Uvalde Together We Rise Fund at the National Compassion Fund. The fund provides direct financial assistance to the survivors of the deceased and those directly affected by this tragedy. As of November 14th, \$22 million in donations were collected by the National Compassion Fund for victims families and survivors through five primary accounts, including over \$7 million processed through OneStar.

Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, membership-based association that brings together more than 50 voluntary organizations that respond to disaster as a part of their overall mission. Texas VOAD serves as a convening and supportive body for their membership, which is comprised of Texas organizations and local representatives of National organizations, all of whom adhere to the 4 Cs: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration. Texas VOAD is a member of the Texas Emergency Management Council and serves as the Texas affiliate of National VOAD. OneStar continues to provide administrative support to Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (TXVOAD), and OneStar serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

Rebuild Texas Fund

OneStar serves as the organization designated by the Office of the Governor to receive private donations following a disaster. Through the Rebuild Texas Fund, OneStar strategically collects and distributes funding and additional resources to eligible organizations in impacted areas to build resilience. Working with local leaders to identify community-driven priorities, unmet needs, and funding gaps in affected regions, OneStar provides local leaders and organizations with the financial and technical expertise needed to recover stronger than before. During 2022, OneStar managed the following active funds: Robb School Memorial Fund, Texas COVID Relief Fund, and the Hurricane Season Recovery Fund.

Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)

VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (VMHD)

The Texas Veterans Commission's (TVC) Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD) has expanded its veteran's engagement footprint over the past year. Enhancing the effective work of VMHD's Community & Faith-Based Program, Military Veteran Peer Network, Veteran Provider Program, and Justice-Involved Veteran Program, VMHD has added a Homeless Veteran Initiative and Veteran Suicide Prevention Program staffed with subject matter experts.

In fiscal year 2022, VMHD's Community & Faith-Based Program provided 77 trainings for community and faith-based organizations; this is +200% increase from the 24 trainings provided in fiscal year 2021. The Community & Faith-Based Program also provided technical assistance to 186 community and faith-based stakeholders, TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators (PSCs), and service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) across Texas. In addition, TVC's Community & Faith-Based Program Manager participated in suicide prevention efforts at local and state levels, providing input and connectivity.

The Community & Faith-Based Program Manager's focus is to involve community and faith-based stakeholders in the development and implementation of veteran-centric strategies to support sustained success in the transition from military service. To accomplish this mission, the Program Manager works at building and strengthening relationships with community partners through the implementation of the Faith & Allegiance Initiative is key. The Faith & Allegiance Initiative, founded by the Community & Faith-Based Program Manager, John Wilson, seeks to help community and faith-based organizations understand how transitioning out of the military can be problematic and that the success of the transition is generally determined by whether those separating have acquired three attributes: finding connectivity; gaining a sense of community; renewed mission or purpose. When these attributes are not realized, some may develop negative behavioral health outcomes such as family disfunction, social and economic instability, substance use disorders, depression, homelessness, among others. Community and faith-based stakeholders can be provided training by VMHD on the Faith & Allegiance Initiative, military culture, suicide prevention gatekeeper training and other subjects so these organizations maximize their responsiveness to these presenting needs.

According to the Department of Labor (DOL), [Transition Assistance Program | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](https://www.dol.gov/eopss/transition/), approximately 200,000 men and women leave U.S. military service through a process known as the military-to-civilian transition. Given the extensive training, technical skills, strong work ethic, team orientation and self-confidence, as well as military benefits, some assume that newly minted veterans find it easy to resume their lives as civilians. Conversely to popular belief, many veterans find that rejoining the civilian world is filled with unique challenges.

Many of these challenges are highlighted in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Outreach, Transition and Economic Development (OTED) of the Post-Separation Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Assessment (PSTAP) Outcome Study 2020 Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Survey Report <https://benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/docs/2020-PSTAP.pdf>. Per this report:

- Veterans seek support for mental and emotional difficulties at lower rates than physical ailments (53% versus 65%). Compared to the 2019 results, more veterans reported having an ongoing mental/emotional health condition in 2020. At the same time, fewer of those veterans reported seeking treatment for these conditions. Of those not seeking help, over 40% disagreed when asked if the VA Benefits Briefings helped provide information on seeking help for mental health concerns. One participant commented: “The mental transition was the hardest for me, and it was barely touched on. It was like a slap in the face once it hit me that I was out.”
- Veterans in the 2020 PSTAP Assessment who took TAP: 1) sought support for mental and emotional ailments at lower rates than physical ailments (53% versus 65%); 2) were more likely to be satisfied with their lives if they have positive feelings about their mental health and personal relationships.
- Mental and emotional health is the leading factor impacting a veteran’s overall life satisfaction. Compared to the 2019 results, more veterans reported having an ongoing mental/emotional health condition in 2020 but fewer reported seeking treatment. It was recommended that information regarding mental health resources be clear and concise and additional strategies to improve healthcare services for veterans and increase awareness of those services prior to separation should be provided, particularly as service delivery continues to adapt to the conditions created by the ongoing pandemic.
- Approximately 70% of veterans reported some sort of ongoing physical health condition, illness, or disability. Among those with an ongoing physical health condition, more than 60% were seeking treatment. Almost 50% of veterans indicated they had an ongoing mental/emotional health condition. Approximately one-half of the veterans with a mental/emotional health condition said they were seeking treatment. This stands in contrast to the 2019 Cross-Sectional Survey in which fewer respondents noted they had a physical or mental health condition, but the volume of veterans seeking treatment was higher compared to the 2020 Cross-Sectional Survey. This discrepancy could be related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in an increase in the number of individuals reporting a mental/emotional health condition, yet some were reluctant to seek help. In addition, some providers decreased the number of appointments per day, reducing the ability to treat ailments. A respondent’s commenting about COVID-19 said: “I have had several VA medical appointments rescheduled or canceled due to COVID 19. When attempting to reschedule, the available appointments are always a considerable amount of time in the future making planning very difficult. I would appreciate more regular engagement about the chance to reschedule an appointment that has been canceled or needing to be moved.”
- Fifty-seven percent of veterans that sought out mental/emotional health treatment agreed that the VA Briefings course provided information on how to seek help for mental health concerns. For those *not* seeking treatment for their mental/emotional health issues, only 41% of veterans felt the VA Briefings course provided information on seeking help for mental issues. This shows that those veterans who felt they understood how to seek help for mental conditions were more likely to be seeking help. Ample information on how to get the mental health services that many veterans need when transitioning to civilian life is needed.
- A regression analysis identified two main challenges veterans encounter when transitioning to employment: 1) How to translate military experience to civilian job requirements; and 2) Learning to have a better work-life balance after the transition. These were identified as important as many veterans did not understand the magnitude of the issues they might face when transitioning to civilian life. One participant commented: “If I had to find one thing I wish I knew before getting out, it was just how difficult it could be to translate my military skills to civilian skills. When applying to jobs many people did not seem interested in my job title while enlisted. They only saw USAF and took everything I said as the gospel. It was like they were trying to meet a quota rather than making sure I was a good fit for the company. So maybe spending more time on translating military skills to civilians’ ones. Also, as far as now, maybe just doing surveys like these to see how things have changed!”

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 as many as 28,000 military service members choose to return to or remain in Texas when transitioning from military service to civilian life, <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2021/may/txvets.php>. Changing careers can be overwhelming for anyone but is especially disruptive for veterans

who are making the transition to civilian employment, which does not typically resemble the highly structured culture that permeates all facets of military life.

- VMHD understands the magnitude and complexities of this transition and responds through its various personnel and programs. The MVPN, which is made of TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators (PSCs) and Peer Volunteers who are strategically placed across Texas to create a statewide peer-to-peer network for any service member, veteran, or family member. The MVPN provides services including direct peer-to-peer support, training on suicide prevention and military cultural competency, coordination of mental health first aid, and warm-handoffs to local resources based on the individual needs of the veteran and family.
- VMHD, in partnership with the Faith & 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 resources, and the MVPN. Under this plan, VMHD is encouraging community and faith-based stakeholders to adopt the Faith & Allegiance Initiative and implement its eight strategies:
 - Ask the question, "Did you serve?" instead of "Are you a veteran?"
 - Be informed about resources available through the Military Veteran Peer Network.
 - Create military or veteran affinity groups, small groups, or service groups.
 - Since less than 1% of U.S. adults have served, learn about military culture.
 - Build social connectivity.
 - Host community resource fair providing volunteer opportunities.
 - Learn about veterans' behavioral health related issues and speak to subject from the pulpit, dais, board room, bulletins, etc.
 - Train staff on simple, evidence-based methods proven to reduce suicide.

The Community & Faith-Based Program Manager established relationships with the Lead Chaplains of the Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) and provides joint presentations with the Lead Chaplains on the Rural Clergy Training Program where he also introduces the Peer Service Program Manager and the local PSCs. The PSCs then talk about how they can be a resource to the faith leaders for their area and the various courses and programs they offer.

He benchmarked the Memorandum of Care Coordination Agreement as part of a plan to enhance the responsiveness to individuals who may have served in the military and receive community-based mental health and/or substance use disorder services from treating Local Mental Health Authorities. This benchmark began as part of the Austin Mayors Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF. Participating treating Behavioral Health facilities are asked to determine if a client served in the military and, if so, notify the VHA hospital near them so that facility staff can reach back to the former service member and advise on the earned benefits potentially available to him or her. The concept has now expanded from Austin to statewide as part of our collaboration with the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VSIN 17) leadership and continues with a goal of identifying SMVF and screen for suicide risk using a public health approach.

TVC's VMHD stands ready to fulfill its mission to ensure access to competent mental health services for SMVF through the standalone and combined efforts of its Veteran Suicide Prevention Program, Homeless Veteran Initiative, Justice-Involved Veteran Program, Veteran Provider Program, Military Veteran Peer Network, and the Community & Faith-Based Partner Program.

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING DIVISION

TWC's Child Care & Early Learning Division oversees activities to improve the quality of and access to childcare services across the state. TWC distributes funds to 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) to administer the subsidized childcare program and the Texas Rising Star quality rating and improvement system.

Boards contract with service providers to provide direct care and Texas Rising Star activities in their communities, and nearly half of the Boards contract with non-profit organizations to provide these services.

Boards also have the flexibility to develop and fund local partnerships, programs, and events that bring together a wide variety of organizations to support childcare quality improvements and to improve access to high quality care for low-income families.

Additionally, TWC supports partnerships with community and faith-based organizations through the following statewide initiatives:

Prekindergarten Public-Private Partnerships

Childcare programs that are recognized by the Texas Rising Star system as 3- or 4-star are eligible to enter into partnerships with local school districts and charter schools to provide high-quality prekindergarten at the childcare program's site. Eligible children enrolled in these partnerships receive high quality pre-k instruction as well as needed wraparound childcare that enables their parents to work. Many of the high-quality childcare programs eligible for partnerships are non-profit or faith based.

TWC makes resources available at the state and local level to support the development of pre-k partnerships, including providing funds to the Texas Education Agency to support partnership development. Additionally, TWC has recently hired a state coordinator for pre-k public-private partnerships, and twenty-five local staff that are working with Local Education Agencies to develop pre-k partnerships with local community based childcare programs.

Professional Development Scholarships

TWC awarded funds to Texas Association for the Education of Young Children to provide financial assistance to childcare providers and caregivers to complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or enroll in college-credit courses in early childhood development. Between 2019 - 2021, the Texas T.E.A.C.H. program has awarded 348 CDA scholarships and 283 associate degree scholarships, and 39 Bachelor's degree scholarships to early childhood professionals employed with Texas childcare programs. In Fiscal Year 2021 T.E.A.C.H. was expanded to include payment for apprenticeship training and supported twenty apprentices.

Child Progress Monitoring

TWC also awarded the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) a grant to provide assessment tools to early childhood educators to assess the development and learning of children from birth to five years of age. The grant supports training early childhood educators on the assessment tools, gathering and reporting data, and how to use child progress data to develop curriculum and instruction that is responsive to each child's individual needs.

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 these goals and is excited to take actions in partnership with the Texas Nonprofit Council in 2023.

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 2023

In accordance with the recommendations from the ICG Planning Committee and given the reestablishment of the Texas Nonprofit Council, 2023 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 2023 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 recommend 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 of 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 (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 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