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### Duties & Responsibilities (see Appendix A)

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- 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 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.
- 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)

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- 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

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- 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.









## 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:

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*“I am thrilled to recognize the 14 outstanding winners of this year’s Governor’s Volunteer Awards for their selfless dedication to Texans across the state. The true strength of Texas is found in our people, and this year’s award winners are a moving testament to the character of the Lone Star State.”*

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### 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 20 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 32 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 fewer than three officers, and all serve without salary. The organization funds many of the commission’s important projects.

### Adoption and the Heart Gallery

Together with the First Lady of Texas, the Governor’s Commission for Women is proud to support the foster and adoption outreach programs of the Heart Gallery.

## TEXAS FILM COMMISSION

The Texas Film Commission (TFC) was created in 1971 by Governor Preston Smith, who found that it was, “in the social, economic and educational interest of Texas to encourage the development of the film-communication industry.” Since then, the TFC has expanded to include the television, commercial, video game, animation, visual effects, and extended reality (augmented reality, virtual reality, and mixed reality) industries.







- If a project has received three years of funding for similar grant activities and outcomes, the project is no longer eligible for funding.

Additional guidance can be found at [gov.texas.gov/organization/twic/wagner\\_peyser\\_7b\\_program](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/twic/wagner_peyser_7b_program).

## Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)

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The Office of the Secretary of State continues to publicize information regarding nonprofits located [here](#). Other useful links include:

- [Corporations Section Forms](#)
- [Business and Nonprofit Forms](#)
- [Nonprofit Organizations FAQs](#)
- [Texas Business Organizations Code: 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](#) (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

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 Charities & Nonprofits page](#)
- [IRS Stay Exempt](#): tax information for 501(c)(3) organizations
- [IRS Publication 557](#), Tax Exempt Status for our Organization
- [Life Cycle of a Public Charity](#): sample organizational documents and IRS filings
- [IRS Form 1023 \(PDF\)](#) Application for Recognition of Exemption and [instructions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Information about Form 990-N reporting requirements](#) for small tax-exempt organizations

Questions about federal tax-exempt status? Contact the IRS Exempt Organizations Section at 877-829-5500.

#### State Taxes

- [Comptroller of Public Accounts Tax Exemptions for Qualified Organizations](#)
- [Comptroller Guidelines to Texas Tax Exemptions](#)
- [Texas Applications for Tax 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 at [exempt.orgs@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:exempt.orgs@cpa.texas.gov).

### TEXAS NONPROFIT RESOURCES

- [Proceedings Involving a Charitable Trust](#) Section of the Office of the Attorney General
- [Texas CBAR](#): Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources provides free legal assistance to Texas nonprofits
- [OneStar](#) - OneStar promotes service and volunteerism, forges effective public and private partnerships, and works to increase the performance of nonprofit organizations



TDA and Culinary Institute of America Texas in San Antonio (CIA) worked together to develop three original recipes that feature Texas products and meet National School Lunch Program standards. CIA chefs participated in recipe development, nutrition analysis, taste testing, and training for school staff on how to make the three entrees. A CIA chef also appears in videos demonstrating how to use the recipes in a school nutrition kitchen. The collaboration was funded by a USDA Team Nutrition grant.

TDA continued its longstanding partnership with WIC in 2023 to offer the Summer Meal Programs at 40 WIC offices through a limited USDA pilot program. TDA collaborates with all WIC clinics by encouraging them to promote the Summer Meal Programs and directing them to TDA resources at SquareMeals.org. TDA also shares and promotes SNAP-funded WIC materials during Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week and at CACFP conferences.

Other TDA efforts to improve the health of our youngest Texans include participating in Outdoor Living Environment (OLE!), a statewide initiative from the Texas Education Agency that promotes healthy, nature-based outdoor spaces at early childcare and education programs. TDA is working with Children at Risk in the development of resources to encourage interested CACFP childcare sites to join TDA programs.

TDA's work with the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) includes information sharing about TDA Food and Nutrition initiatives and promotion of the BCHP support available to meal program operations. TDA's Assistant Commissioner for Food and Nutrition was a panelist at BCHP's Together at the Table: Hunger and Poverty Summit in 2023.

Other efforts include communicating directly with local elected leaders through TDA's Healthy Community Network (HCN). A newsletter keeps HCN participants apprised of the impact federal nutrition programs have on their communities.

TDA offers a range of resources that partners and stakeholders can use to advertise the availability of good nutrition and education through federal nutrition programs. The value of these resources goes up exponentially when used locally and promoted by a trusted advocate for community health. TDA will continue implementing a variety of tactics to increase the effectiveness of these partnerships.

### **Collaboration Advances Technology**

TDA is committed to using the latest technology in its collaboration with nonprofits and state agencies. Collaborating with Texas food banks was instrumental as TDA implemented Web-Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) for ordering and monitoring USDA Foods. Food banks were the pilot recipient agencies and paved the way for implementation of WBSCM for schools and other contracting entities.

### **Growing Relationships for Nutrition**

To promote Texas agriculture and agricultural producers, TDA provides resources that support the Austin-based nonprofit Sustainable Food Center's (SFC) Texas Farm to School Learning Collaborative.

TDA produces the monthly E-Harvest newsletter for subscribers interested in receiving news and information designed to increase the availability of fresh and local foods in nutrition programs and for all Texans. It highlights available TDA resources and relevant stakeholder initiatives and resources.

TDA continues exploring opportunities for collaboration that cultivate stronger local and regional food systems and support the purchase of local and minimally processed foods for nutrition programs.

## **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 nonprofit agencies are





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

For incarcerated individuals, TDCJ utilizes approved volunteers to assist and facilitate services and essential programs. As of August 31, 2023, there were 27,552 approved volunteers. During Fiscal Year 2023, these volunteers made 58,301 volunteer visits for a total of 203,826 hours spent supporting inmates. A total of 8,007 volunteers were trained or retrained online this fiscal year. In addition, there were 947 attending in-person training. In January 2022, the volunteer application was converted to online submission. During FY2023 there were a total of 10,727 volunteer applications received and 9,567 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 Programs, Family Programs, Rehabilitation Programs, Reentry Programs, Spiritual Growth Programs, and Non-Religious Programs). The efforts of these volunteers are recognized each year during the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony.

Programs such as the 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 191 active male field ministers on 41 units. These field ministers serve to boost the morale of the incarcerated by offering inspirational correspondence, prayer sharing, and one-on-one encouragement to impact inmate behavior and promote positive change. As of August 31, 2023, the field ministers have received 246,337 prayer and correspondence requests.

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

The Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry located at the Hobby Unit (female) began in August 2021. As of August 31, 2023, there are 27 female students currently enrolled in the program. The Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry offers a four-and-a-half-year program for participants to receive a fully accredited Bachelor of Arts in Applied Ministry degree at no expense to the inmates. The purpose of this program is to promote moral rehabilitation and ministry to other inmates.

### **Prison Fellowship Academy**

Prison Fellowship Academy offers a 12–14-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, 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 Prison Fellowship's graduate component, where they practice peer leadership skills by exhibiting the six core values and making positive contributions in 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 use digital recording devices to record mothers and fathers reading to their children and the recordings are delivered on CD's, and Crosswalk Center which helps the inmate reenter into society. Prison Fellowship is located on the Vance Unit, Polunsky Unit, Crain Unit, and Clements Unit, with a total capacity of 342 beds. Since September 1, 2017, there have been 739 inmates enrolled in the program and over 600 successful program completions.



## STRIVE Reentry Center

The STRIVE (Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment) Reentry Center was launched in August 2019 at the Mountain View Unit. Spanning 12 weeks, the program integrates a trauma-informed care methodology to address a range of issues. These encompass domestic violence, sexual assault, traumas from both childhood and adulthood, gender socialization, parenting, and substance abuse. Through the knowledge and skill-building activities offered, participants can embark on a journey of self-discovery, enlightenment, and empowerment. The diverse STRIVE curriculum is centered on themes related to trauma and abuse. The Windham School District offers educational programming that encompasses goal setting, wellness, financial literacy, employment skills, and the chance to obtain recognized certifications such as Southwest Airlines Professional Communications, ServSafe, OSHA-10, and Forklift training. 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. Each participant, drawing from both previous and TDCJ work experiences, crafts a resume. This resume is utilized during career expositions where participants, dressed in professional attire, interact with potential employers aligned with STRIVE. These interviews, held both in-person and virtually, often result in job offers before participants are released. If not selected immediately, participants are assured another interview opportunity. Since its commencement in August 2019, STRIVE has successfully graduated 568 participants, with 161 participants completing the program successfully in 2023.

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 (PTSD), substance use disorders, communication, leadership, and coping mechanisms, and post-release support. In addition, 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 wellbeing and reintegration into society.

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

To benefit those individuals reentering their communities or releasing to parole supervision, TDCJ has built relationships and partnerships with local Workforce Solutions, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations, such as Goodwill of Central Texas, Catholic Charities of San Antonio, 7More, One Man's Treasure, 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.



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. 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.

### **ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)**

June is Elder Abuse Awareness month and faith partners collaborate with APS staff around the state to pray for and bring awareness about, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

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. Purple Sunday was created in 2012 to unify faith-based communities through prayers during Elder Abuse Awareness Month. This year, Purple Sunday was observed on June 11 and APS joined forces with faith partners across the state to acknowledge the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

World Elder Abuse Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006, by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. The world is encouraged to wear purple on this date to raise awareness for elder abuse prevention. In 2023, WEAAD was recognized on June 15 and faith partners around the state wore purple, prayed, and held community awareness events in recognition of the day.

### **CHILD PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPI/CPS)**

Rock Faith Center and Pastor Hallback in El Paso leads his community in meeting the needs of children and families in crisis. Pastor Hallback is passionate about preventing abuse and neglect as well as permanency for children who become orphaned due to abuse and/or neglect. Pastor Hallback is a former member of the Advisory Committee on Promoting Adoption of Minority Children (ACPAMC), as well as the state board for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Harvest Family Life Ministries in Dallas County collaborates with various churches and nonprofits to assist with DFPS needs from prevention, preservation, and reunification to assist youth who age out of care. The ministry provided pastoral care to DFPS staff who were affected by second-hand trauma from the tragic loss of children's lives in Italy, Texas.

Lakeland Baptist Church in Denton partners with DFPS to donate luggage and duffle bags for children who are removed from their homes. The church is also renovating two visitation rooms located at the DFPS office in Lewisville.

Fellowship of The Parks (FOTP) in Tarrant County continues to support DFPS by providing hundreds of beds across Texas. The church serves DFPS children and families in under-resourced areas by providing essential items such as bedding, beds, clothes, car seats, and other items provided to families in crisis. FOTP supports other ministries in rural counties by funding their work with DFPS. FOTP provides foster adoption recruitment, support and training, and kinship support to strengthen families and build capacity.

Mobberly Baptist Church in Gregg County, through its Thrive Ministry, has been actively involved in providing support for various events and activities yearly. They have provided meals for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and graduation events for youth in care as well as organized self-care days for DFPS staff in Gregg County including massages, yoga, and facials.





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 finalized a public facing [toolkit](#) designed to bring the framework to life, and assist Texas communities and prevention stakeholders to identify where they can fit in prevention efforts.

During Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), 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.

Additionally, during this fiscal year, the federal government awarded the state of Texas \$16 million a year for the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through 5 (PDG B-5). The funds are from January 2023 through December 2025. As part of this grant, PEI was awarded \$5.5 Million to support efforts related to **Early Childhood Systems Building**. To receive funding PEI grantees had to agree to become a Help Me Grow (HMG) affiliate or engage in HMG-aligned activities, family engagement and systems building. Help me Grow helps states and communities, including faith communities, leverage existing resources. The model is made up of four core components that work together to promote optimal child development.

With the model, communities can:

- Identify vulnerable children;
- Link families to community-based services; and
- Empower families to support their child's optimal development.

Further, PEI developed a new series of videos on [GetParentingTips.com](#) that 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. For more, visit [Three Families Get Real About Parenting](#).

## COMMUNITY-BASED CARE (CBC)

Community-Based Care (CBC) is the new Texas foster care model. It allows local communities to meet children's and their families' unique and individual needs by tapping into the strengths and resources of each community. The goal is to expand CBC to all of Texas by 2029. Most Child Protective Services' duties will transition to local service networks, each operated by a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC). The SSCC is responsible for finding foster homes or other living arrangements for children in state care and providing a full range of services, including case management. The SSCC's also build relationships with faith and community partners to help meet the needs of the families they serve.

### St. Francis, Single Source Continuum Contractor in the Panhandle Community

- St. Francis continues to work closely with our faith-based community, and we now have 17 churches in the Panhandle that are available to host our supervised visitations at their spaces. Three of these visitation spaces are houses/parsonages which provide more of a homelike setting for our children and families where they can play outside in the backyard, have a meal together, or play games in a family-friendly atmosphere.
- Many of our churches continue to support our foster homes, kinship placements, and families moving toward reunification. Our churches provide many essentials including clothing, toiletries, school supplies, backpacks, and furniture just to name a few. They are quick to provide 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.







## Belong, Single Source Continuum Contractor in the South Central and Hill Country Community:

- Belong partners with the Frio County Translational Advisory Board (TAB) interagency coalition and Methodist Healthcare Ministries in Pearsall, Texas to provide wraparound services and resources to our families in the area. The collaboration with the Frio County TAB interagency coalition and Methodist Healthcare Ministries not only enriches the support available but also creates an opportunity to connect with other organizations and churches in the South Region.
- Belong's partnership with the Christ Coalition organization initiative aims to bring together various sectors, including the state, church, and community, to enhance the collective capacity and support available for those in need in the child welfare space. By providing networking opportunities, resources, cross-collaboration trainings, and team building, they are fostering a collaborative and supportive environment.
- Belong's partnership with the First United Methodist Church of Carrizo Springs continues. Their ongoing support for families in need through the free clothing closet is helpful. Their commitment to standing with Belong for Blue Sunday and Stand Sunday highlights their dedication to raising awareness about the local community's needs and available resources.
- Belong partners with the South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO). A part of their mission is to create stronger support networks for our foster, adoptive, and kinship families. The Alliance hosts Pastors Gatherings, Babysitting Collaboratives, and they mobilize churches and congregation to play their part by assigning each congregation a church engagement specialist. The involvement looks different for everyone, but everyone can get involved. This year so far approximately 100 churches have become involved.
- Belong partnered with Home of Living Faith Church in Crystal City for several of their monthly food distribution outreaches. During outreach, we distribute information regarding the needs in the area and the opportunities to connect and serve. We also serve our kinship, adoptive, and foster families in the area. Home of Living is also planning to host parent supervised visits, and unit and staff meetings. We plan to start those conversations in 2024.
- Belong partners with CAMAL House Cuero in Cuero, Texas for several of their monthly food distributions. We distribute information to the families in the area and we also serve our kinship, foster, and adoptive families in the area. The Food Bank is an outreach of the Cuero Ministerial Alliance.
- Belong partners with the New Braunfels United Methodist Women Group. In May of this year, they chose us as their benefactor for their monthly fundraisers. They also made hygiene baskets for our kinship families and some of them signed up to provide respite care for our foster and kinship families in their area.
- Belong's Partnership with Grace Bible Church continues. The Ministerial Alliance for the area has started and works along with the collaborative which includes Wilson County Cares, Floresville Independent School District (ISD), Lavenia ISD, and STAFO. They have provided car seats, school supplies, and Equine Therapy services were made available for our children through one of the participants.
- Belong partnered with First Baptist Church of Castroville for the Vacation Bible School (VBS) back in June 2023. The focus was on service to the community, supporting children and families. The youth attendees hosted a book drive and gift card donations throughout the week to benefit Belong.
- Belong is partnering with several churches for the upcoming Holiday season to provide gifts for families. Collaborative efforts like these can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need, especially during the holidays. Partnering with Place for Life, Victory Worship Center, The Rock San Antonio, True Vine, Kingdom Life Christian Ministry, and Family Life International Ministries shows a strong commitment to helping the community and spreading holiday cheer.
- Belong partnered with the United Hearts Musical Festival to serve the community in Victoria. This collaborative event had a significant positive impact on the local community. The outreach involved seven churches and several community businesses. Such initiatives help strengthen community bonds, promote unity, and provide families with a fun and engaging day out.
- Belong completed a presentation at 1st Presbyterian in Karnes City and is working to secure a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for training and meetings. This partnership could have a significant positive impact. The

























healthier, and tobacco-free. In FY 2023, Tobacco Coalitions provided education on tobacco use dangers to over 11,047 youth and adult Texans.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION (IDP)**

DSHS improves the health of Texans by using strategies to control emerging and ongoing disease threats. DSHS partners with immunization coalitions, CBOs, and LHEs to improve immunization rates by promoting the importance of childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations.

Immunization coalitions also partner with Public Health Regions (PHRs), LHEs, 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 (TB), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD), or Hepatitis C to treatment. Long-standing partnerships with FBOs have helped to link people between community-based and clinical **TB/HIV/STD services**. In 2022, regional and local TB programs partnered with 29 community-based programs, such as homeless shelters and substance abuse centers, to perform targeted TB testing.

The HIV Care Services Program contracts with six Texas administrative agencies, who partner directly with FBOs and CBOs. 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.

The administrative agencies established regional HIV Planning Councils, and other advisory groups 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 public health needs of Texas through direct provision of essential public health services, support to local public health agencies, and leadership and coordination for public health emergency preparedness and response.

The core functions of RLHO are to coordinate public health services at the local, regional, and state level, promote public health programs and operations partnerships, and to provide core public health services responsive to local needs across the state.

### **Public Health Regions (PHRs)**

DSHS administers many of its public health programs and services through its eight **Public Health Regions (PHRs)**. All regions partner with faith and community-based organizations to improve and enhance public and population health. PHRs collaborate with local community coalitions, FBOs, community leaders, and school districts to promote injury prevention messages and participate in activities. These activities are focused on suicide prevention, infant safe sleep education, childhood obesity prevention, and water, car, and bicycle safety. PHRs partner with faith and community-based groups to host back-to-school immunization events and health fairs that provide vision and hearing exams and emergency preparedness information.

PHRs participate with local school health advisory councils to conduct tobacco awareness presentations and with community health worker associations to provide train-the-trainer classes on tobacco cessation resources. PHRs partner with public housing authorities to train staff and tenants on secondhand smoke and cessation resources. PHRs joined with LHEs and merchants to host an annual health fair and 5K walk/run for FBOs with a high prevalence of chronic disease.

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













organizations, voluntary organizations, and community partners) in identifying the appropriate long-term recovery group structure and offer technical assistance, education, and ongoing mentorship for long-term community recovery efforts.

The work of an LTRG ranges from rebuilding homes and providing financial assistance to offering emotional support and helping survivors navigate the complex recovery process. A strong, well-organized LTRG can ensure no one is left behind in the long community recovery journey and the impacted residents can emerge stronger and more resilient.

Acknowledging the high-pressure nature of LTRG Leaders' work, ISTF is partnering with local leaders to establish a peer network to provide a forum to exchange ideas, share experiences, and gain valuable insights from each other. This approach is aimed at promoting collaboration, enhancing problem-solving skills, and fostering best practices. Furthermore, this network can provide emotional support and resilience, which are vital in the stressful context of disaster recovery efforts.

### **Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) – Ex Officio Board Member**

Texas VOAD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, membership-based association that brings together more than 50 voluntary organizations that respond to disasters as a part of their overall mission. Their mission is to serve as a convening and supportive body for 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.

TDEM is proud to be represented as an ex officio board member and offer valuable guidance to local communities and governments on how to effectively engage and collaborate with VOAD Chapters and affiliated organizations throughout Texas.

### **Texas Strong: Strengthening Nonprofit Disaster Networks Series – Host, Facilitator**

The purpose of this TDEM-hosted series and quarterly gatherings is to provide an opportunity for local disaster resilience and recovery partners and networks (e.g., VOADs, COADs, LTRGs) from across Texas to come together to: discuss current activities and unmet needs, participate in facilitated conversation, learn from presenters, share lessons learned and successes, and connect with other partners and networks. Previous topics of discussion have included: philanthropic giving, case management, faith-based engagement, volunteers and donations management, disaster housing, the role of advocacy, and policy.

### **Speaking Engagements & Educational Opportunities**

TDEM actively participates in local community educational opportunities with Faith-Based and Community Organizations providing insight on how to best support disaster recovery efforts and engagement with emergency management; including resiliency, preparedness, and capacity building.

## **HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES**

- The **Texas Panhandle VOAD** is a coalition of voluntary organizations that operate in the 26 northernmost counties in the Texas Panhandle, providing disaster assistance to individuals and communities impacted by disasters. In January 2023, TDEM facilitated a tabletop exercise for VOAD member organizations and stakeholders to test and improve coordination, communication, and collaboration amongst stakeholders in disaster response and recovery. Soon after, the Texas Panhandle experienced an unprecedented range of disasters.
  - On May 27, 2023, severe storms and flooding commenced in the Texas Panhandle, High Plains, and South Plains regions. This had a devastating impact on the region, causing damage to homes, businesses, and the agriculture industry.
  - On June 15, 2023, a tornado struck the city of Perryton, resulting in loss of life, injuring dozens of community members, and causing significant damage to residential and commercial property.

- Subsequently, on June 22, 2023, a tornado hit Matador, a small town in northwest Texas, resulting in the loss of life, extensive damage to homes and businesses, and a significant impact on the community.

The Texas Panhandle VOAD with great support from the **United Way of Amarillo and Canyon, Amarillo Area Foundation**, and **Panhandle Regional Planning Commission** worked closely with TDEM personnel throughout each response to coordinate resources and ensure the aid distribution was both efficient and equitable. This included facilitating multiple disaster assistance centers while also establishing long-term recovery groups in the communities of Hereford, Perryton and Matador.

- On January 24, 2023, a powerful tornado with wind speeds ranging between 86 to upwards of 135 mph wreaked havoc in **Pasadena and Deer Park**, causing extensive damage to homes and businesses in the area. In the aftermath, TDEM personnel quickly responded and collaborated with local faith-based organizations, voluntary organizations, and community partners to assess community efforts and identify unmet needs or gaps in services. The joint efforts of local government and emergency management, with the generous support of the **Pasadena Chamber of Commerce**, led to the opening of a Disaster Assistance Center. This center provided a centralized hub of resources for individuals, families, and businesses impacted by the tornado, with over 20 organizations offering their assistance and expertise. This successful collaboration later led to TDEM personnel being invited to present to the Pasadena Private-Nonprofit Network on engagement in times of disaster.
- The **Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN)** is a network comprised of over 200 Greater Austin churches and thousands of trained volunteers bringing hope into crisis through providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to disaster survivors to meet short and long-term needs. ADRN's network enables and empowers church members to organize, prepare, mobilize, and respond quickly in the event of a disaster, great or small. In the aftermath of **Winter Storm Mara**, local government officials, ADRN staff, and TDEM personnel teamed up to help Central Texas community members in need of disaster cleanup aid. This effort led to the identification of affected individuals and the provision of critical disaster services to support recovery efforts.
- The OneStar Foundation's **Texas Nonprofit Summit** is a key event for networking and training in the nonprofit sector. In April 2023, TDEM sent a delegation of personnel to attend this momentous event. The occasion allowed personnel to take part in training sessions and gain valuable insights through networking with a variety of nonprofit and community-based organizations from across the state. Leading up to the summit, TDEM was honored to have a representative chosen to serve on the summit advisory committee.
- Following **Hurricane Ian** in September 2022, TDEM deployed a team of subject matter experts to Florida for several weeks to provide technical assistance as Voluntary Agency Liaisons and Mass Care Specialists. Thanks to the established relationships with disaster nonprofits and VOAD networks coordination, collaboration, and communication were seamless. At the **2023 Texas Emergency Management Conference**, TDEM and **Team Rubicon** presented a session together to share insights on how Texas relationships were employed to provide effective, coordinated support to EOCs and communities across Florida.
- TDEM had representation at the **2023 National VOAD Conference** hosted in St. Louis, Missouri. Attending this annual gathering was essential in establishing relationships with National VOAD member organizations and gaining further insight into potential disaster assistance resources for communities in Texas. National VOAD is an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.
- Local faith-based organizations, voluntary organizations, and community partners play a vital role in our communities every day, especially during times of disasters. Earlier this year, TDEM presented to the **Coastal Bend United Way network** on the significance of Nonprofit Disaster Preparedness. The webinar emphasized that disaster preparedness plans should include both internal and external plans. This level of preparedness is especially critical for nonprofits and community partners since it allows them to be better equipped and continue serving our communities during and after disasters.

- The **Center for Disaster Philanthropy** recently invited TDEM to participate in a webinar on "Funding Low-Attention Disasters: from Preparedness to Long-Term Recovery." In this role, TDEM had the opportunity to raise awareness about the important efforts of local long-term recovery groups and community recovery efforts, as well as highlight the unique challenges faced in low-attention disasters.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management is committed to building stronger and more resilient communities by fostering genuine partnerships between disaster nonprofit organizations, government entities, and faith-based and community organizations. By working together, we can better prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies, minimizing their impact on the communities in which we serve.

## Texas Education Agency (TEA)

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The Texas Education Agency 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 2023 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. In partnership with community providers, professional CIS staff provide and coordinate a range of intentionally targeted services that are provided to all students on campus and to a cohort of "case-managed" students to ensure all students consistently come to school ready to learn and remain on the path to graduation.
- The agency awards grants to CIS affiliate nonprofits across the state to run the CIS programs in their community.

### EARLY LEARNING

- The agency works with private nonprofit childcare providers to support partnerships 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.
- The agency works to develop family engagement activities to support home visiting programs and decrease the school readiness gap.

### 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 13 grants to 13 nonprofit organizations operating 111 learning centers across the state. Organizations include local subsidiaries of national nonprofits such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Communities in Schools, as well as local and regional organizations like Clayton Youth Enrichment Services and Greater San Antonio After-School All-Stars. All these organizations partner with the school districts to achieve their common goal of increasing student academic success.

- Within all the current 96 grants are partnerships with more than 100 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-CHATT

- The agency works with Texas Child Mental Health Consortium and its Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT) program to expand school district partnerships for access to TCHATT service providers, located in 12 Texas university-based health research institutions (HRIs), so families and students can easily receive no-cost mental health care via tele-health at school with parent consent and engagement.
- After initial TCHATT referral, assessment, and services, which are designed as short-term services, families and students may be connected with community service providers to continue delivering mental health and wellness support to the students and families.
- Through August 31, 2023, a total of 690 school districts and open enrollment charter schools are “active” TCHAAT participants with an agreement between the school system and designated HRI. Participation includes onboarding training for each school offering TCHATT service access. Currently access to TCHATT services is available in 5,546 public schools. Currently 3,529,555 students can now access TCHATT mental health services at school when referred to the service by the school with parent consent.
- TCHATT mental health services are funded by the Texas Legislature and are offered to all Texas public schools this year.
- The public may access a map of the TCHATT roll-out status information by regional education service center, public school system, and school [here](#).

## MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATION (OTHER)

- 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 school systems, and to help the agency build statewide infrastructure to support school systems with mental health best practices and programs through September 2026.
- The agency coordinates with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) to identify and publish research-based programs and evidence-based practices for schools pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC) 38.351 [here](#).
- The agency coordinates with a list of statewide agencies and organizations pursuant to TEC 38.351-353 to identify regional and statewide mental health resources that are available to school districts. The agency and ESCs publish the resources identified for school districts [here](#).
- The agency is implementing a Statewide Plan for Student Mental Health pursuant to TEC 38.254 [here](#). The agency’s plan is designed to support the Safe and Supportive School Program.
- The agency serves on the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council with 22 state agencies to develop and implement the Texas Behavioral Health Strategic Plan. In 2023, the agency is collaborating to develop the Texas Statewide Plan for Children’s Mental Health. Both initiatives are facilitated by HHSC. This coordination scope includes a statutory MOU for Community Resource Coordination Groups and Texas System of Care. Resources related to the Coordinating Council are maintained by HHSC [here](#).

The agency supports the Collaborative Task Force for Public School Mental Health Services pursuant to TEC 38.301-312. Reports of the Task Force to the legislature are [here](#).

The public may access a map of the T-CHATT roll-out status information by regional education service center, public school system, and school [here](#).



## **SNAP OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The Texas SNAP Outreach Program's overall goal is to reach Texas communities to bring awareness about the SNAP program and provide potentially eligible individuals assistance when applying for benefits. The SNAP Outreach Program partners with community organizations to perform outreach activities to inform low-income households about the availability, eligibility requirements, and application procedures for SNAP benefits, focusing on increasing the utilization of self-service tools. The mission is to create opportunities to inform low-income households about SNAP's eligibility requirements, application procedures, and benefits. The vision is to establish a statewide network of community organizations supporting Texans in pursuing economic and personal self-sufficiency.

Community connections are the key to ensuring Texans in all 254 counties receive outreach. The Texas SNAP Outreach Team accomplishes the mission through two integrated systems of community connections: The SNAP Outreach Program partnership with the Feeding Texas Network and Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC's) Community Partner Program.

One goal of the SNAP Outreach program is to assist SNAP applicants in all 254 Texas counties with comprehensive application guidance, program information, and resources. The objective is to ensure the successful submission of "process-ready" online applications and encourage individuals to use HHSC's self-service portals effectively.

From October 2022 through June 2023, the combined effort of all community partners assisted with 72,306 applications and redeterminations. Of this total, Feeding Texas submitted 39,900 applications, with 92.73% of them submitted through YourTexasBenefits.com.

SNAP Outreach also seeks to increase Texan's awareness and knowledge of SNAP benefits and self-service resources by developing and disseminating targeted messaging.

- SNAP Outreach contractors translated educational materials, social media ads, web pages, and videos into Vietnamese.
- There were 5,111 post reactions (likes and shares), and 192,792 video plays in the social media campaign.

Another component of the SNAP Outreach Program is the Referral Partner Program (RPP). This program assists applicants in progressing toward economic and personal self-sufficiency by connecting SNAP applicants with supplemental services to address needs other than food security. These services include health, housing, childcare, and transportation assistance.

- From October 2022 to June 2023, approximately 41,561 clients received wrap-around support through the RPP's partnering organizations.
- Approximately 4,068 community organizations have partnered with the RPP to offer comprehensive services to clients as of June 2023.

Organization Type	# of partnering organizations	% of partnering organizations
Food/Nutrition services	1128	27.7%
Healthcare	716	17.6%
Housing/Shelter	612	15%
Income/Expenses	293	7.2%
Childcare/Education	241	5.9%
Employment	176	4.3%
Crisis Emergency	150	3.7%
Aging/Disability	139	3.4%
Legal Aid/Victims Services	125	3.1%
Veterans Benefits	60	1.5%
Criminal Justice	18	0.4%
Other Services	410	10.1%

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

The Community Partner Program (CPP) is a collaboration HHSC and a statewide network of over 600 community and faith-based organizations. Because some of these partners have multiple locations, there are a total of 1,655 access points throughout the state. CPP establishes partnerships with community and faith-based organizations that promote self-service and self-sufficiency by helping individuals apply for and manage their Medicaid, CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits through YourTexasBenefits.com and the Your Texas Benefits mobile app.

### *Community Partner by Type*

Organization Type	Examples	% of partnering organizations
Nonprofits	Social services, food pantries, shelters	49.14%
Local Governments	Housing authorities, health departments, council of governments	10.02%
Medical	Community Health Centers, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals, mental health	21.75%
Education and Literacy	School districts, libraries, head starts, colleges, universities	10.64%
Faith-Based	Churches, religious organizations	5.63%
Case Assistance Affiliate Program (CAA)	MCO/DC organizations	2.82%

In fiscal year 2023, the CPP participated in over 65 statewide events and facilitated 12 monthly webinar trainings to 3,828 participants. These webinars included HHS benefit and policy updates, CPP updates, pilot program trainings, YourTexasBenefits.com changes, Forums, the unwinding of continuous Medicaid coverage, and general partner information. CPP hosted four Community Partner Education and Information Virtual events with 1,499 participants. During this time, 1,973 virtual and in-person site visits were also conducted by regional staff, providing ongoing support with best-in-class customer service.

Since May, the CPP has organized a series of eight renewal assistance events across Texas. These initiatives assist families in need during these challenging times and support their well-being. CPP collaborated with Feeding Texas, local food banks, and eligibility workers for these activities.

The redetermination events guide clients through the renewal of their benefits, offering on-the-ground support and assistance in their communities. They serve as a direct resource for individuals seeking to apply for or renew their benefits while addressing any questions they may have about the process. The renewal assistance events also ensure Texans have access to the resources they need during uncertain times. In addition to addressing benefit renewals, these events promote community well-being and health awareness.

#### Renewal Assistance Events Highlights:

- **Number of people served:** Over 1,160 attendees participated in the events.

- **Total events and cities visited:** We conducted eight events in various cities, including Dallas, San Antonio, Denton, Mission, Houston, and El Paso.
- **Applications and renewals:** Many Texans received assistance via YourTexasBenefits.com application assistance, application/renewals processed, and submitting missing information by teams across AES.
- **Future events:** More events are planned for 2024, to occur once a quarter.
- **Additional resources:** Attendees accessed other resources via vendors at events, including back-to-school supplies, haircuts, food boxes, phones/tablets, HHSC employment opportunities, health screenings, free flu shots, breast cancer screenings, and a health and resource fair.

## TEXAS WORKS PATHS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM

Texas Works Paths to Success (TWPS) empowers individuals to become self-sufficient, enabling them to create a better future for themselves, their family, and their communities. In collaboration with strategically selected community organizations, TWPS offers a unique training experience that provides the knowledge and skill set needed to become a Texas Works Advisor (TWA) I. This position is responsible for determining eligibility for social services programs. Upon completing the program, individuals are guaranteed job placement in a local benefits office where they can begin a career with HHSC and learn invaluable skills to improve their lives.

In 2023, TWPS completed year three with the current program partners, Houston Independent School District, Texas CAN Academies Houston Southwest, and The Houston HAY Center. HHSC has provided over 9,500 training hours to administer an innovative career training curriculum that has produced 87 graduates. Graduates have served over 250,000 families through their eligibility casework and issued over \$25 million in benefits to Texans. More than 20 graduates have been promoted in the Texas Works Advisor career ladder.

Through strategic planning and effective collaboration and promotion, AES has expansion agreements with Rio Grande City Independent School District and Texans CAN Academy Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin campuses.

## 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. The goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption as well as physical activity. HHSC contracts with community-based providers, such as nonprofits, academic institutions, and other governmental entities in HHS to provide these services.

Between January 2023 and June 2023, SNAP-Ed implementing agencies facilitated 30,719 direct education classes both virtually and in-person to 123,536 SNAP-Ed eligible participants. SNAP-Ed eligible participants spent an estimated 6,761 minutes engaged, on average, in direct education interventions both virtually and in-person. Participants attending direct education classes learn about healthy eating, food safety, cooking skills, food resource management, and obesity prevention. Implementing agencies reported a total of 422,514 impressions across 12 different social marketing channels. Impressions represent the total number of times content is displayed to an audience during a given period.

A total of 1,414 policy, systems, and/or environmental (PSE) changes were either adopted or maintained by implementing agencies during the last reporting period. There were 319 unique sites and approximately 1,755,736 unique individuals were reached across all PSE changes. Implementing agencies collaborated with 295 active partners. Active partners include “individuals or organizations who regularly meet, exchange information, and identify and implement mutually reinforcing activities with SNAP-Ed to contribute to the adoption of one or more PSE changes”.

## 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 organizes and maintains information on over 27,000 state and local agencies and their services. 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 the top caller needs from September 1, 2022, to August 29, 2023, including electric service payment assistance, rent payment assistance, food pantries, housing authorities, food stamps or SNAP applications, low income/subsidized private rental housing, water service payment assistance, Area Agencies on Aging, homeless shelters, and gas service payment assistance. 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 2,077,777 calls, 31,926 web-based chat sessions, and had 2,032,720 website pageviews at 211Texas.org from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

## Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)

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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 use disorder treatment, mental health treatment, 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 the fiscal year 2022, juvenile probation departments offered 1,196 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 2022, 38% participated in a treatment-based program, 31% participated in a skill-building/activity-based program, and 31% participated in a surveillance-based program.

The source of this information is the Annual Rider Report to the Governor and LBB located [here](#).

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
- K16 Ready Society, Inc. (dba Texas Initiative Program)
- Lena Pope Counseling Services
- Pegasus Schools
- Southwest Key Program
- 3Strands Global Foundation
- Casa Garcia dba Trinity Charter School

For youth committed to the State by local courts, TJJD also procures and provides services via volunteers. Here are statistics related to TJJD the secure facilities, halfway houses, and parole district offices for FY 2022:

**Number of Active Volunteers: 332**

**Total Volunteer Hours: 11,030**

- Chaplaincy Hours: 6,633
  - *General Chaplaincy Services: 1,479 hours*
  - *Epiphany Ministry of Texas: 2,895 hours*
  - *Kairos of Texas: 2,259 hours*
- Holiday & Birthday Celebrations: 701 hours

- Mentoring Hours: 2,869
  - *Mentors (Basic): 617.5 hours*
  - *Mentors (Faith-Based): 2,251.5 hours*
- Power of Harmony (Gainesville State School): 118 hours
- Professional Services & Special Projects: 374 hours
- Volunteer Training Hours: 303
- Other (Misc.) Hours: 32
- Number of Interns: 30
- Intern Total Hours: 6,232

## Texas State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar)

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OneStar was created by the Office of the Governor to support the State of Texas by strengthening the nonprofit sector, encouraging civic engagement through service and volunteering, promoting innovative strategies to address local issues, and facilitating public-private partnerships to expand the reach of the sector.

- **AmeriCorps Texas** | Administer AmeriCorps funding throughout Texas and advance national service as an effective solution to our state’s toughest social challenges.
- **Together Texas** | Build a strong nonprofit sector to ensure that organizations have the knowledge, resources, and networks to effectively address priority issues for local communities.
- **Volunteer Texas** | Strengthen the statewide volunteer infrastructure, making it easy and accessible for all Texans to take action and make a difference in their communities.
- **Rebuild Texas** | Equip Texas communities with expertise, resources, and tools to be more resilient during all phases of disaster.

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 below highlight major milestones and accomplishments of programs and initiatives.

### AMERICORPS

As the Texas State Service Commission, OneStar is charged with advancing and supporting AmeriCorps throughout the state of Texas. OneStar administers federal AmeriCorps grant funds to address systemic challenges and engage Texans through the power of service. AmeriCorps members commit their time to serve with nonprofits, government agencies, and faith and community-based organizations to tackle some of our state’s toughest challenges with hands-on solutions. OneStar administers a portfolio of AmeriCorps Texas programs operating solely in Texas as part of the [AmeriCorps State and National](#) program.

OneStar will have a 2023-2024 portfolio of 41 AmeriCorps programs, that will support over 3,500 AmeriCorps members. The total portfolio will be **\$33.5 million in federal funding**. The full press release that includes the 41 sites can be found [here](#).

The **AmeriCorps Texas Program Success Guide** was launched this year. The one-stop hub with on-demand training materials supports AmeriCorps Texas programs in running compliant and impactful AmeriCorps programs. Current modules include an overview of applicable grant requirements, short-format training videos, templates, policy and procedure best practices, flow charts, and more. Additional modules will be created based on feedback from host sites on the most pressing topics.

## AMERICORPS VISTA

[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.

OneStar was selected for a pilot multi-year funding opportunity for an AmeriCorps VISTA grant. The grant, approved for \$1.8 million over a three-year grant period starting in September 2023, will support 20 VISTA members each year serving with host sites throughout the state to build capacity at organizations working to alleviate poverty in their community.

## GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

During National Volunteer Week on April 19, OneStar hosted an awards ceremony at the Texas Governor's Mansion to recognize winners of the 39th annual [Governor's Volunteer Awards \(GVA\)](#). The GVA 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 marks the 40th anniversary of GVA and in honor of the anniversary, we renamed and realigned several award categories to increase accessibility and eligibility to more individuals and organizations across the state. Categories for the 40th annual GVA are as follows:

- Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award
- First Lady's Rising Star Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Volunteer Family of the Year Award
- Corporate Champion Award
- Community Champion Award
- Education Champion Award
- Rebuild Texas Disaster Impact Award
- AmeriCorps Legacy of Service Award

For the second year, the GVA Review Committee included members of OneStar's networks in addition to staff and board. Members from the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers, Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas, Academic Affinity Group, and the Texas Nonprofit Council were invited to participate. Awardees will be announced in early 2024 by the Governor's office, and they will also be recognized at a ceremony to be held at the Governor's Mansion in April 2024.

## TEXAS NONPROFIT STRONG | 2023 BUILT FOR TEXAS REPORT

In partnership with OneStar and United Ways of Texas, Texas Nonprofit Strong is an initiative created to elevate the power and impact of Texas nonprofits, including their benefit to local communities, value to the state's economy, and critical role in civil society. Texas Nonprofit Strong is focused on building a collaborative, connected, and more unified nonprofit sector. This fall, the 2023 edition of the [Built for Texas report](#) was released with research partner, the Center for Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Bush School at Texas A&M University. The report, *Built for Texas: Creating a More Connected & Resourced Future for our Nonprofit Sector*, offers new data on the state of the Texas nonprofit sector and its critical role in our state. The report highlighted the continued growth of the state's nonprofit sector and the importance of collaboration and partnership. A toolkit has been developed to showcase and leverage data from the report, and a webinar was held to delve deeper into report findings.



## TEXAS NONPROFIT SUMMIT

After a three-year hiatus, OneStar hosted the **Texas Nonprofit Summit** on February 27 - March 1 in Austin. More than 350 people attended the conference and networking event that brought together social sector agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses, foundations, and state agencies to create lasting collaborative relationships. The event focused on inspiring participants to take bold action to move the nonprofit sector forward together and included over 20 workshops and sessions. The Summit wrapped up with the inaugural Texas Nonprofit Strong Day at the Capitol hosted by OneStar and United Ways of Texas. Attendees had an opportunity to learn about the Texas Nonprofit Strong initiative, receive guided tours of the Capitol, observe committee hearings, and ensure all legislative members received important information on the power and impact of the nonprofit sector.

Some of the results and feedback:

- **93%** of attendees stated the overall Summit as very positive and/or positive.
- **85%** of attendees felt more connected to others because of the experience.

Quotes from participants:

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*“This summit was such a great networking opportunity. It is important that we are able to learn and share with others. It definitely assisted me in seeing the big picture and how important each nonprofit is in the lives of our citizens.”*

*“Many of the challenges I face in my nonprofit are similar to others, so I am not alone in facing the challenges. I have taken away a lot of resources to refer back to in terms of sessions, books, and people.”*

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## 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.

In 2023, a new and improved program design was rolled out. The new program will provide four distinct philanthropy support pathways to disaster-impacted communities that include short-term and long-term fundraising and grantmaking options, an innovative modular philanthropy program, and blue-sky preparedness and mitigation investments for Texas communities.

The new program design has been supported and reviewed by partners in the nonprofit, government, and private sectors including Texas Mutual, Texas Legal Aid, and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to ensure all products are meeting statewide unmet needs in both urban and rural communities without duplicating existing services. In addition, OneStar staff led a workshop at the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Austin Chapter's annual conference in September on *Responding to Statewide Disasters: Lessons Learned and the Future Ahead* that summarizes our latest insights on disaster philanthropy.

OneStar also partnered with TDEM to co-teach the G-288: Disaster Donations Management Course in San Antonio, educating over 80 new TDEM and Regional staff on successful donations management practices including best practices and lessons learned from previous deployments.



The following is an update regarding the most recent progress made in the Texas Veterans Commission Veteran Mental Health Department on mental health services for Texas veterans.

Over the past year, we have witnessed a significant rise in our engagement with veterans, leading to the successful completion of two crucial endeavors: the Homeless Veteran Initiative and the Veteran Suicide Prevention Program. To strengthen our collaboration with the Community & Faith-Based Program, Military Veteran Peer Network, Veteran Provider, and Justice-Involved Veteran Program, we have expanded our team one and half years ago with a skilled and competent group of providers. Our community's faith-based groups and nonprofits have been offered multiple outreach and training opportunities through these initiatives, resulting in enhanced confidence for them.

However, there have been certain modifications made to the program recently. We bid a sincere farewell to our esteemed colleague, John Wilson, who has served as the manager for VMHD's faith-based program. After a well-deserved retirement party, John gracefully wrapped up his time in office. He displayed unwavering support for VMHD's faith-based initiative. Don Hipp, the Training Manager at the Texas Veterans Commission VMHD, has taken over the position and responsibilities that John used to hold. Despite the temporary disruption caused by this transition, we view it as an opportunity for growth. VMHD is seizing this opportunity to reassess the objectives of the faith and initiative program.

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Areas of concentration for the years 2023 and 2024 include the Texas Veterans Commission's Veterans Mental Health Department's commitment to addressing the alarmingly high rate of veteran suicide, with approximately 17 veterans taking their own lives daily. The department focuses on suicide prevention by providing training to government, nonprofit organizations, and faith-based groups.

In the past year, the Austin Mayors Challenge has expanded its scope, moving beyond Austin, and encompassing multiple regions and counties in Central Texas. It has been renamed as the Central Texas Challenge through a vote led by committee members. This initiative comprises three key committees: Connections, Safety and Screening, and Lethal Means. These committees are dedicated to preventing veteran suicide by collaborating with government, faith-based, and nonprofits, working towards the development and implementation of various initiatives.

Additionally, the Central Texas Challenge is collaborating with the Houston SPARC suicide prevention group, formerly known as the Houston Mayors Challenge, on various projects aimed at reducing veteran suicide. An example of one such initiative is the Texans ASK, "Did you Serve Campaign," formerly known as "Ask the Question, Did You Serve?" The name was changed to "Texans Ask, Did You Serve?" to highlight the focus on Texas veterans. The final phase of approval for the Texans Ask the Question toolkit is currently underway, facilitated by the Central Texas Challenge and Houston SPARC group. Once approved, these toolkits will be made accessible and promoted on TVC's VMHD website, and they will also be integrated into upcoming training sessions for government, faith, and nonprofit organizations.

### **MORAL INJURY**

Veteran providers often overlook and fail to fully grasp the significance of moral injury. In the medical field, moral injury is not officially recognized as a distinct diagnostic category, and the Veterans Affairs (VA) follows suit by including moral injury within the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Unfortunately, this approach often falls short in adequately acknowledging the presence of moral injury.

For many individuals, especially veterans, seeking assistance for moral injury tends to lean more towards faith leaders rather than medical professionals or therapists. Faith communities play a pivotal role in offering support for individuals on their path to healing. Pastors and clergy can provide guidance and aid individuals when they feel they have transgressed their faith or committed acts with spiritual implications.

In the past year, a workshop focused on moral injury was organized, with faith communities taking center stage, thanks to the collaboration of multiple organizations. Some of these organizations included: Texas Veterans Commission, CAREFORCE, Memorial Christian Counseling Great Oaks Recovery Center, The Harris Center HERO, PTSD Foundation of America VET Center.

### FAITH CHAMPIONS

Currently, VMHD is improving its "Faith Champion" program as part of its evaluation process. The aim of this program is for individuals from faith-based organizations to be assigned the duty of actively connecting and helping service members within their respective organizations. The Faith Champion and the peer service coordinator at VMHD will work together closely to provide tailored services that address the individual requirements of veterans. What truly excites us about this program is its ability to bring together peer service coordinators with more faith-based and nonprofits, enabling them to connect with individuals they were previously unable to reach. At present, the initial phase of this expansion is underway, with its primary objective being the development of a training program designed for individuals who will be referred to as "Faith Champions." Following the completion of this training, it will be made available to faith-based organizations to enhance our capacity in providing support to veterans in need.

### PEER SERVICE COORDINATORS

TVC VMHD currently has oversight for around 50 peer service coordinators stationed across the State of Texas. Their primary role is to serve as points of contact and resource experts assisting veterans in both rural and non-rural areas through collaboration with Local Mental Health Authorities.

Lately, this group of peer service coordinators has expressed the desire for additional training to enhance their ability to engage with faith communities in support of veterans. VMHD is actively developing a specialized training program to meet this specific need.

#### *VMHD Engagement with Community & Faith-Based Organizations in FY23*

Organization	Activity	Occurrences
Community Partners	Connections to SMVF	2,646
Community and faith-based organizations	Training on how to better serve SMVF	17
Community and faith-based organizations	Technical assistance	372
Community Partnerships and local stakeholders	Interagency collaborations, initiatives, & coalitions	1,452

As part of TWC's ongoing efforts to improve customer interactions and experience, TWC has made improvements to the agency's website and is also working on a comprehensive "Main Door" approach to customer service.

On October 1, 2023, TWC completed its effort to re-design the agency's website ([www.TWC.texas.gov](http://www.TWC.texas.gov)) that receives over 30 million visits each year. The re-designed website utilizes modern design principles and provides customers with an improved experience that is mobile and tablet responsive, provides easier navigation, and includes real-time language translation. TWC's re-designed website also offers improved accessibility features to streamline functionality for visitors of all abilities.

TWC is working to improve public interactions with the agency and its partners, as well as the ability to effectively track those interactions, by implementing a "Main Door" approach. The "Main Door" concept will allow TWC to meet the customer where they want to be when doing business with TWC and the local workforce boards. The project will improve our IVR systems, allow customers to receive services through texting, chatbots, and online portals that are interconnected into a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.

During the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, the Texas Legislature provided TWC with Capital Budget Authority to spend \$3.2 million in TWC's federal funding on this effort that will serve approximately 900,000 customers annually. TWC expects that this effort will deploy in 2024.

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

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

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**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 2024. One activity of note is the stakeholder meeting the Texas Nonprofit Council held in January. More than 40 sector stakeholders from across the state, including ICG members, participated in a scenario planning and strategic thinking exercise to guide the next phase of work.

In 2021, OneStar completed the full transfer of 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](https://texasconnects.org).

## IV. Next Steps for 2024

In accordance with the recommendations from the Texas Nonprofit Council, 2024 is slated to be an active year for the ICG to improve state agency partnerships with faith-based and community organizations in Texas. ICG is reestablishing relationships with the Council, and work will focus on aligning efforts to make renewed progress toward goals for the benefit of Texas communities.

Important activities anticipated for 2024 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, at (512) 287-2018 or [chris@onestarfoundation.org](mailto:chris@onestarfoundation.org).

# V. Appendices

## Appendix A: House Bill No. 492

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### 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

## Appendix B: House Bill No. 1965

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### AN ACT

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

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

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

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

- (1) the Texas Department [Office] of Rural [Community] Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission;
- (10) the office of the governor;
- (11) the Department of Public Safety;
- (12) the Texas Department of Insurance;
- (13) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- (14) the office of the attorney general;
- (15) the Department of Agriculture;
- (16) the office of the comptroller;
- (17) the Department of Information Resources;
- (18) the Office of State-Federal Relations;
- (19) the office of the secretary of state; and
- (20) [(10)] other state agencies as determined by the governor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

interagency coordinating group. [A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) a statewide nonprofit organization;

(2) local governments;

(3) faith-based groups;

(4) community-based groups;

(5) consultants to nonprofit corporations;

(6) experts in grant writing; and

(7) a statewide association of nonprofit organizations.

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The task force shall prepare a report describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group under this section. The task force shall present the report to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2012.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

SECTION 5. Not later than October 1, 2011, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the interagency

coordinating group task force in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

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

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

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

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

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor



## Appendix C: Proposed RFP Template for Client Services Procurement\*

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### 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

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