



Interagency Coordinating Group

2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PREPARED BY

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

Chair, Chris Bugbee
President & CEO, OneStar



SUBMITTED TO

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Speaker of the House

House Committee on Public Health

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

December 1, 2025

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	3
II. Duties & Responsibilities	5
III. Goals, Activities & Progress (January - December 2025)	6
Office of the Governor	7
Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)	14
Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)	15
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)	15
Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	17
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	23
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)	33
Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)	34
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)	36
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	43
Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	49
Texas Education Agency (TEA)	53
Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)	55
Texas Institution of Higher Education (The University of Texas at Austin)	61
Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)	62
Texas State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar)	64
Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	68
IV. Next Steps for 2026	73
V. Appendices	
A. House Bill 492 (81R)	74
B. House Bill 1965 (82R)	82
C. Proposed RFP Template for Client Services Procurements	85
D. ICG Member Agencies	86

I. Executive Summary

Background

In 2009, through House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Texas became the first state in the country to pass legislation specifically to improve the relationship between the state government and faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) seeking to partner with the state to help meet health and human service needs. Subsequent legislation passed in the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, expanded this initiative through House Bill (H.B.) 1965 by adding additional state agencies to its charge. Both Acts directed the chief administrative officer of each named state agency to appoint, in consultation with the Governor, a faith and community liaison for each agency. These liaisons serve on the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG), which is chaired by the CEO of the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar), who is also a named member of the ICG.

The first bill, H.B. 492, directed agency liaisons to work within their respective agencies to:

- identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith-based and community organizations;
- provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith-based and community organizations seeking to partner with state government;
- facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith-based and community organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents; and
- work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith-based and community organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency.

Subsequently, H.B. 1965 directed agency liaisons to:

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

2025 Interagency Coordinating Group Activities

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) met in June and again in September following the 89th Texas Legislature to allow ICG liaisons to address any needs or requests from the legislature. Members were also invited to serve on the host committee for the 2025 Texas Nonprofit Summit and to participate in a statewide network pre-conference meeting during the event in Austin on February 24–26, 2025. The statewide network meeting encouraged deeper discussions, stronger connections, and the sharing of insights among network partners, including the Academic Affinity Group, the Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas, the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers, and the Texas Nonprofit Council.

ICG meetings allow members to share upcoming events, activities, success stories, and challenges. Meetings also include ongoing updates throughout the year on the Texas Nonprofit Council, OneStar (Texas State Commission on National and Community Service) initiatives – AmeriCorps Texas, Together Texas, Volunteer Texas, and Rebuild Texas; and Texas Nonprofit Strong, a collaborative initiative led by OneStar and United Ways of Texas to strengthen connections within the Texas nonprofit sector.

- In June, ICG members met shortly after the close of the 89th Texas Legislature’s regular session. A roundtable discussion focused on legislative developments, with particular emphasis on agency initiatives involving faith-based and community organizations. Members also exchanged agency updates and shared news about upcoming events, activities, and new partnerships. OneStar provided a recap of the Texas Nonprofit Summit and highlighted the newly released Built for Texas Legislative District [reports](#), now available to the public. Additionally, OneStar introduced [BeforeDuringAfter](#), a new disaster technology platform designed to deliver recovery roadmaps, verified social media updates, and preparedness resources for businesses, nonprofits, and individuals.
- In September, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) was highlighted in the agency spotlight, with a focus on its [Food & Nutrition Division](#). This division manages 12 federal child and special nutrition programs and allocates over \$2.5 billion in federal funds annually to support these programs across Texas. All these programs share a common goal for the state — Feeding the Hungry and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles. TDA Food and Nutrition partners utilize programs like the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Meal Programs, and others to help all Texans build a path toward a healthy future.

As presiding officer of the Interagency Coordinating Group, I respectfully submit this year’s report on the ICG's goals, activities, and progress from January through December 2025. Previous reports submitted outline specific actions taken since the passage of the initial legislation in 2009. These reports and additional information about the ICG can be found on the OneStar website at onestarfoundation.org.

II. Duties & Responsibilities

Duties & Responsibilities (see Appendix A)

- Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) — Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) — Work across state agencies and with 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)

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

Reporting Duties

- Sec. 535.054. (a) — No later than December 1 of each year, the Interagency Coordinating Group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the Interagency Coordinating Group.
- Sec. 535.054. (b) — The report made under Subsection (a) must be made available to the public through posting on the Office of the Governor's website.

III. Goals, Activities & Progress (January-December 2025)

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

ACTIVITY & PROGRESS

The Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC) met with representatives from the Comptroller's Office in 2022 for an in-depth overview of current portals and systems for state contracts/bids and how to provide nonprofits with access. In 2023, TNC provided an update to ICG members. Discussions will continue to eliminate barriers that nonprofits face to access opportunities to furnish materials, equipment, supplies, and services to the state of Texas.

In 2012, the ICG finalized an RFP Template for Client Services Procurements. The template provides a standardized format for the requested information. Several ICG member agencies use this template, which is available on the Comptroller's website. ICG reviewed this template in 2020 and made no changes.

ICG continues to gather feedback from within its respective agencies to assess the template's pertinence and usage rate.

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

ACTIVITY & PROGRESS

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

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:

"April is always one of my favorite times of the year, and that's not just because the bluebonnets are blooming (although that is one thing I love about spring in Texas!). April is Volunteer Month, and the week of April 16-22 is Volunteer Week.

Philanthropy and service are in Texans' DNA. As First Lady of Texas, I love to tap into that passion we have for Texans helping Texans. Through my Texanthropy initiative, I strive to highlight the amazing work Texans are doing across the Lone Star State and encourage people to get involved in their local communities. I have found few things more rewarding than being involved in the life of my community through volunteering. Volunteering is not just about completing a task or fulfilling a need; it connects us with the people and places around us, strengthening us as fellow Texans. And that service can be as simple as sharing a warm smile, a warm meal, or a warm coat.

During this year's recognition of Volunteer Month and Week, I encourage Texans to find a volunteer opportunity through the VolunteerTX portal. Through this portal, you can search for volunteer opportunities by your interests or location. I believe each one of us is called to service in one way or another, and there's an opportunity for everyone to get involved! Happy Volunteer Month!"

Network of Nurture

The State of Texas is working hard to strengthen our foster care system. Reforming Child Protective Services (CPS) is one of the Governor's signature goals, and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has implemented numerous improvements during his administration. However, providing the support that foster and adoptive families need is a bigger job than state government can do alone.

This requires a Network of Nurture—a community of individuals, families, friends, local leaders, nonprofit organizations, businesses, faith community members, and anyone willing to open their hands, their hearts, or their homes to the children and families in the state's child welfare system.

In January 2017, the First Lady collaborated with DFPS to launch the Network of Nurture with a series of letters encouraging Texans to get involved.

The first letter was sent to over 800 faith partners across Texas, asking them to join the Network of Nurture by finding ways that their ministries and congregations could do more to support the children and families in the state's child welfare system. Just a few weeks later, a second letter praised an initiative of Fostering Hope Austin and the Heart Gallery of Central Texas to address the need for babysitting and short-term childcare, and encouraged other child placement service providers to look into replicating this program in their respective areas of Texas.

In the following years, we have also devoted much attention and effort to preventing and raising awareness of human trafficking. When youth age out of the state's child welfare system without a permanent home or reliable support network, they can often fall into homelessness or become susceptible to traffickers. In conjunction with the GRACE

(Governor's Response Against Child Exploitation) initiative, we can work to ensure that these kids and young adults have the support of the Network of Nurture. No matter how young or old, every child deserves to be part of a loving family and to have people in their lives that they can turn to for support and guidance.

We have some wonderful partners in our Network of Nurture: child placement agencies, faith community members, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and even a couple of country music stars. There are so many ways that Texans can join the Network of Nurture, and below are some ways you can join our Network of Nurture:

- Become a foster or adoptive parent.
- Provide emergency shelter services to kids in foster care.
- Mentor older youth that are about to age out of the foster care system.
- Arrange post-adoption support for local adoptive families, such as providing meals, helping with homework, or arranging rides to and from after-school activities.
- Become certified as a babysitter or respite care provider.
- Start a support group for foster care parents.
- Volunteer or donate items to your local Rainbow Room. These emergency resource rooms provide items such as clothing, bedding, car seats, and formula to children who are in foster care.
- If you live in Central Texas, search the Foster Community website for opportunities to help kids in foster care through a variety of ways from volunteering to fostering at fostercommunity.org/.
- Find ways to get involved with your congregation or faith community by visiting gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/first-lady/Resources_for_Faith_Organizations.pdf.
- Take a seven-week parenting class that is gospel centered and court-approved, and includes mentoring, a meal, childcare for children, and transportation assistance and become a Families Count volunteer by visiting focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/foster-care/families-count/.

Texans who commit to being a part of the Network of Nurture can contribute as much or as little of their time, talent, and treasure as they are able to, with the goal of providing the assistance, understanding, encouragement, and compassion that these children and families need, right in the communities where they live.

Every child deserves the chance to succeed – and there are thousands of children waiting for that chance. With your help and support, we can continue to expand this Network of Nurture and give every Texas child the opportunity to live a healthy, purposeful life.

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 program since 2019 in coordination with Partnerships for Children to fulfill Christmas gift wish lists for children in our foster care system. The Holiday Wishes program creates happy memories for children connected to CPS 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 program 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 DFPS 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.

First Lady Abbott Celebrates Fulfilling Over 5,300 Holiday Wishes of Texas Children in Foster Care (2024) - gov.texas.gov/news/post/first-lady-abbott-celebrates-fulfilling-over-5300-holiday-wishes-of-texas-children-in-foster-care

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 the adoption outreach programs of the Heart Gallery. Believing that one photo can change a life, the Heart Gallery displays professional portraits in local communities of children and sibling groups who dream of finding a "forever family."

"As adoptive parents," the First Lady said, "the Governor and I know firsthand the immeasurable joy of being a forever family. That is why we believe so strongly in promoting adoption."

The Heart Gallery portraits are displayed in galleries hosted by groups, organizations, or businesses throughout the community to connect families interested in adoption with children in the care of DFPS and CPS. At the core of the foster and adoption outreach is a simple but powerful portrait of each child that says, "I am here. I am special."

During Foster Care Month in May, the First Lady invited the Governor's Commission for Women to collaborate in support of foster and adoption outreach efforts.

APPOINTMENTS DIVISION

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

The Office of the Governor appoints well-qualified applicants across a broad range of backgrounds, including faith-based and community-oriented organizations. To apply for an appointed position, potential applicants may read about the appointment process prior to completing the appointment application at:

gov.texas.gov/organization/appointments/process.

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE

The mission of the Public Safety Office (PSO) is to promote strategies that improve public safety, support victims of crime, prevent terrorism, and prepare communities for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risks to Texans.

Community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) are eligible grant recipients within several of the fund sources that PSO administers, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), and others. In Fiscal Year 2025, PSO provided grant funding to 425 CBO projects totaling more than \$185 million and 226 FBO projects totaling just under \$41 million.

Of the \$226 million that went to CBOs and FBOs in Fiscal Year 2025, 93% was awarded within the following three grant programs:

General Victim Assistance Program

267 organizations received \$173 million in grant funding, including \$13.7 million to FBOs to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime in order to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process.

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

25 organizations received \$7.6 million in grant funding for projects that promoted a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system's response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

218 organizations, of which 195 were FBOs received more than \$29 million in grant funds to support security enhancements as well as address identified risks, including threat and vulnerability, to the physical location of the organization. This program integrates the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack with broader state and local preparedness efforts, while also promoting emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private entities.

TEXAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Texas Talent Connection, Governor's Discretionary Workforce Grant Program

The Texas Workforce Investment Council assists the Governor and the Legislature with strategic planning for and evaluation of the Texas workforce system, which is composed of eight state agencies, their local program providers, and over 20 workforce and education programs. The council's strategic role in the workforce system provides a unique perspective that informs the work of system partners and stakeholders.

In that capacity and on behalf of the Office of the Governor, the council directs the Texas Talent Connection grant program that is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. Funded by the Wagner-Peyser 7(b) federal discretionary grant, this program supports workforce training and job placement services that are designed to lead to stronger employment outcomes for youth and populations that require a variety of supportive services to help them obtain and maintain employment. Grants are awarded through a competitive application and selection process.

The competitive grants support innovative education and workforce skills training programs that lead to successful job placements, increased wages, and improved job retention, as well as serve workforce populations with special needs, such as opportunity youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not engaged in education or employment.

The over \$7.3 million in Texas Talent Connection grant awards announced include:

- Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc.: \$350,000 for year one of the Health Care Careers Initiative in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, and Waller counties. This program helps participants complete a credential in healthcare and secure employment as medical assistants, dental assistants, or certified nursing assistants.

- American YouthWorks: \$350,000 for year two of the YouthBuild: Pre-Apprenticeship for Opportunity Youth project in Bastrop, Blanco, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The grant provides pre-apprenticeship, integrated education and training, industry-recognized certifications, work-based learning, and registered apprenticeship for opportunity youth.
- Brazosport College: \$349,432 for year one of the Opportunity Connect: Re-Engaging Opportunity Youth project serving Brazoria County. This program provides localized intervention to re-engage opportunity youth through fast-track education and skills training aligned with occupations in healthcare and construction trades.
- Community Learning Centers, Inc.: \$325,000 for year two of the Maintenance and Repair Technician Training project in Tarrant County. This training and employment program helps veterans, unemployed, and those with low-income and low-skill backgrounds acquire and master basic knowledge and skills for entry-level maintenance and repair workers certification.
- Houston's Capital IDEA, Inc.: \$350,000 for year three of the Future-Focused Texas Workforce Pathways in Nursing and Technology project serving in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller counties. The grant provides education and training in the nursing and technology fields for unemployed or underemployed low-income adults.
- Lamar Institute of Technology: \$300,791 for year three of the Drive Southeast Texas Talent project serving Jefferson County. The grant provides technical skills training for low to moderate income individuals and industry-based certifications including clinical medical assistant, medication aide, draftsman, welding, and transportation.
- Lamar State College Port Arthur: \$350,000 for year three of the Semptra LNG—Clean Energy and Fair Jobs project serving Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, and Orange counties. The grant provides training for minority and underserved students in transportation and construction.
- North Central Texas College: \$350,000 for year two of the Career Circuit: Accelerating Information Technology (IT) Careers through Work-Based Partnership project serving Cooke, Denton, Montague, and Young counties. The grant provides student interns with experience in computer information systems and technology, cybersecurity, networking, and data analytics and management.
- Per Scholas, Inc.: \$350,000 for year two of the Creating Economic Mobility and Robust Futures through IT Training project serving Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fort Bend, Harris, Houston, and Tarrant counties. The grant provides tuition-free technical skill training for help desk analysts, desktop support technicians, and associate network engineers.
- Project ARRIBA: \$350,000 for year two of Educare: Elevating Nursing and Education in El Paso project, serving El Paso County. The grant provides underserved/at-risk students with training, intense case management, and wraparound services to help participants complete postsecondary education and obtain employment in nursing, education, and healthcare.
- Restore Education: \$350,000 for year two of Opportunity Youth Job Training to Success project serving Bexar, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties. The grant provides paid work experience or internship to opportunity youth, foster youth, and justice-involved youth in bookkeeping, pharmacy tech, phlebotomy, and commercial driver license.
- Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Inc.: \$296,340 for year one of the Rural PREP – Pre-Nursing Readiness and Education Program project serving Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, and Williamson counties. The program will create career pathways for participants in licensed vocational, registered, and Bachelor of Science Nursing programs.
- Skillpoint Alliance: \$255,000 for year three of the Expanding Rural Community Economic Pathways project in Andrews, Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Coryell, Dawson, Fayette, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hays, Howard, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, Milam, Mills, Pecos, Reeves, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis, and Williamson counties. The grant provides fast-paced training to veterans and veterans' spouses and placement services in the advanced trades or manufacturing industries.

- Smithville Workforce Training Center: \$331,744 for year one of the Career Tracks Culinary Works in Rural Texas project serving Bastrop and Fayette counties. This program will pilot a culinary and hospitality workforce training model integrating apprenticeship, employment, and certification.
- Texas Premier Technology Institute Tech University: \$278,000 for year one of FutureForce Texas: Pathways in AI, Cybersecurity, and IT Support program serving Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, and Tarrant counties. The program provides rapid training for veterans, unemployed, and disadvantaged youth for entry-level technical jobs in IT support, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.
- Texas State Technical College: \$348,074 for year three of the Commercial Driver License Professional Driving Academy – Waco project serving Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan counties. This program will provide training commercial driver license.
- Texas Tech University: \$350,000 for year three of the Data Science Training Program for Industry, University, and High School students serving Armstrong, Bailey, Carson, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Oldham, Potter, Randall, Terry, and Yoakum counties. The program will provide training for the electric power, wind, agriculture, and petroleum industries.
- The Women's Resource of Greater Houston: \$347,929 for year one of the YourLife Careers program, serving Brazoria, Fort Bend, Harris, and Montgomery counties. The 12-month program will provide 100 low-income Houston women with training and potential opportunities in high-paying jobs in the non-destructive testing, trades, and healthcare industries.
- Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement: \$350,000 for year two of the Rio Grande Valley Healthcare Professional Expansion Initiative project serving residents in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties. In partnership with 13 hospitals, the program provides training for certification and employment in healthcare occupations.
- Volunteers of America – Houston: \$350,000 for year one of the IGNITE: Empowering Youth through Technology project serving Fort Bend, Harris, and Montgomery counties. The program will serve 250 youth, ages 17–25, and provide training in healthcare, IT, trades, digital media, and entrepreneurship.
- Workforce Solutions of Cameron County: \$350,000 for year one of the Inspiring New Talent Employment Resource Network (INTERN) program serving Cameron County. This program provides 100 high school or college students with National Center for Construction Education and Research training for certification, degree opportunities, and hands-on training experience.
- Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County: \$350,000 for year two of the Neighborhood Initiative Strategy project serving Tarrant County. The grant will expand work-based opportunities for residents aged 18 or older in healthcare, supply chain, hospitality, and other regional industries.

The Texas Workforce Investment Council assists the Governor and the Texas Legislature with strategic planning for and evaluation of the Texas workforce system to promote the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas. The Council's appointed members represent business and industry, organized labor, education, and community-based organizations. Ex officio members include the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Governor's Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office. The more than \$7.3 million in Texas Talent Connection grants awarded this year by Governor Abbott are Wagner-Peyser 7(b) grant funds allocated to the Office of the Governor by the U.S. Department of Labor to encourage innovation in workforce training and job placement services.

The Texas Talent Connection Grant program also funded a multi-year pilot program in collaboration with the Child Sex Trafficking Team from the Office of the Governor. The Texas Employment Empowerment Model for Disenfranchised Youth and Young Adults program aimed to develop a tailored process, led by a training and employment navigator, to increase the chances of participants in this vulnerable population of finding and maintaining employment. Four local workforce development boards were selected to participate in the pilot, including Workforce Solutions Dallas, Gulf Coast, Alamo, and North Central Texas. The program was funded over \$1,400,000 in Wagner Peyer 7(b) federal

discretionary funds from November 2021–November 2025 and to date has resulted in 1,197 participants being served, resulting in 113 employments.

For more information about the Texas Talent Connection Grant Program, visit gov.texas.gov/organization/twic/wagner_peyser_7b_program.

TEXAS SPACE COMMISSION

Created by the 88th Legislature as an administrative attachment to the Office of the Governor, the Texas Space Commission (TSC) was established to strengthen Texas' proven leadership in civil, commercial, and military aerospace activity. To fulfill its purpose of promoting innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities, including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the economy of this state, TSC administers a grant program through the Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) Trust. In 2023, the TSC Board of Directors was charged by the Legislature to award \$150 million in SEARF grants to eligible entities, which includes nonprofit entities involved in the space exploration, research, or aeronautics industry. To date, the TSC Board has received 24 SEARF applications from nonprofit organizations and made awards to two—\$19.8 million to The Borderplex Bi-National Economic Alliance Foundation (El Paso) and \$4.7 million to the Aldrin Family Foundation of Texas (Austin).

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.

Over the years, the TFC has been the link between industry professionals spread across the state, creating a community interested in expanding the local media environment. In 1972, the first edition of *Film Texas* magazine was published by the TFC to inform constituents about what was currently filming in Texas and about its filmmakers. Today, the TFC offers a comprehensive website as the resource of Texas-specific information for local and worldwide filmmakers alike.

In the past, the TFC has been involved with a number of faith-based and community-based film and television projects, such as:

- *47 Days*, an independent feature film produced by Reel Big Studios and filmed in Poolville;
- *Everywhere the Signs*, an independent feature film produced by Garage Dweller Studios and filmed in Austin;
- *Paralleled: The Triad*, an independent film produced by The Triad Series, LLC, and filmed in The Woodlands and Spring;
- *The Chosen*, a television series airing on network, cable, and digital produced by Out of Order Studios and filmed in Midlothian and Dallas; and
- *The Short Game*, an independent film produced by Green Jacket Productions and filmed in Bonham, Dallas, Denison, Sherman, and Texhoma.

In addition to these large projects, the TFC had the following engagement with a number of faith-based and community-based organizations regarding the media production industries:

- Continuing engagement with a video gaming nonprofit operated as a veteran-run organization dedicated to providing education regarding video gaming, which created UKnighted XP (uknightedxp.org).
- Consulted with Trinity Broadcasting Network leadership regarding Texas locations and provided Media Production Development Zone (MPDZ) program and Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIP) information;
- Discussed infrastructure development and the MPDZ program with Out of Order Studios regarding the production company for The Chosen television series;

- Hosted a one-week teacher externship about media production careers for Workforce Solutions as an annual community engagement popular externship WS; and
- TFC staff spoke to the American Legion Boys State conference at The University of Texas at Austin.

TEXAS MUSIC OFFICE

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

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

The office has been at the forefront of informing the music industry of concert safety resources through the Texas Task Force on Concert Safety to provide resource referrals to the creative industries, focusing on crowd control strategies and security measures to develop meaningful safety solutions.

Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)

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](#)
- [Nonprofits 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 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.

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 nonprofits

Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) continues to look for innovative ways to assist Texas customers in navigating the complex issues in the areas of electricity, telecommunications, and water.

In 2022, the Commission created the Office of Public Engagement (OPE) to educate Texans about the work of the PUCT and how they can get involved in the proceedings at the Commission. These proceedings include rates for utility services and routes of electric transmission lines. OPE helps customers navigate proceedings at the Commission, including how to provide comments, participate in hearings, and file documents. They speak at town halls and in virtual events about specific cases at the PUC and on broad policy issues related to utilities.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers 12 federal nutrition programs that connect Texans with balanced meals, nutrition education, and more. TDA collaborates with external agencies and nonprofits to expand the reach of these programs and make them more impactful for Texas communities. These relationships are vital to achieving the TDA Food and Nutrition Division mission — To advance compliant U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition programs through effective partnerships and educational resources. The following examples illustrate how TDA enlists the support of organizations with similar goals to maximize the effectiveness of federal nutrition programs in Texas.

Partnerships Make a Difference

Commissioner Sid Miller was a featured speaker and conference host at the National Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Association Child Nutrition Conference. TDA staff also provided nine educational sessions at the conference. The National CACFP Association is a national organization offering support to the CACFP community. The organization provides advocacy, education and resources for everyone involved in administering, operating and participating in USDA's child nutrition programs.

TDA Food and Nutrition played an important role in the Texas Association for School Nutrition (TASN) Summer Conference. Food and Nutrition staff led 11 different learning sessions with total attendance exceeding 1,000. Food and Nutrition staff provided training on topics ranging from the Farm Fresh Initiative to procurement and administrative reviews. TASN is a professional organization dedicated to supporting and promoting school nutrition professionals and programs in Texas.

TDA collaborates with the nonprofit Texas Action for Healthy Kids (TAHK) to advance school wellness initiatives. TDA participates in quarterly meetings, contributes to annual strategic planning, and serves on the TAHK steering committee. TAHK supports TDA's efforts by promoting Summer Meal Programs through its newsletters and hosting a booth for program partners at the 2025 TDA MegaCon conference. Additionally, TAHK provides regional training to schools on Local Wellness Policies, which must be updated every three years. Nationally, Action for Healthy Kids' collaboration with USDA offers further opportunities to enhance TDA's work in Texas.

TDA regularly attends Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC) meetings to update members on agency initiatives. In September 2025, TDA shared information about National School Lunch Week, National Farm to School Month, and the Farm Fresh Challenge. Additionally, TDA provided insights from the Final Rule Survey, which was administered to schools to identify the resources needed related to the Final Rule.

TDA has collaborated with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to join the Family to Early Care (F2EC) Steering Committee. The committee consists of representatives from state agencies, community organizations, and nonprofit partners. The committee meets monthly to discuss ways to promote and advance the quality of farm to early care and education.

Since 2015, TDA has partnered with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to increase Texas children's access to healthy meals during the summer. As part of this collaboration, TDA has assisted with providing training, technical assistance, and resources WIC clinics can use to raise awareness of the Summer Meal Programs. Select clinics also participate in the WIC Pilot program, which allows TDA's Summer Meal Program sponsors to provide meals to WIC visitors 18 and under.

TDA used U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to support efforts by Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) to increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program. As part of this collaboration, Baylor has provided resources and support to communities through program training, outreach activities, and best practices toolkits. These efforts aim to boost awareness and promote the Summer Meal Programs statewide.

TDA used USDA funds to support Feeding Texas, a network of Texas food banks, to help strengthen the Summer Meal Programs across Texas. These efforts included social media campaigns on Facebook and Instagram, along with updated toolkits and flyers to enhance community outreach. In addition, Feeding Texas provided resources that were shared with food banks to further promote summer meal opportunities. TDA also collaborated with Feeding Texas on a joint press release for Hunger Action Day, a day when Feeding America encourages taking action to address food insecurity.

TDA collaborated with Texas Education Agency (TEA) to promote the Summer Meal Programs. TEA received updated information noting that the texting tool is no longer available, along with guidance on how families can search for summer meal sites in their area. TDA also provided outreach resources for superintendents to share with their staff. This information was shared by TEA during their meeting to help increase awareness and participation in the Summer Meal Programs.

GRANTS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Texas Department of Agriculture's Grants Office works directly and indirectly with faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) to implement several state and federal funded programs. The Texans Feeding Texans Home Delivered Meal grant was established to help supplement and extend current home-delivered meal programs across the

state who provide meals to homebound seniors and/or disabled Texans. This is a non-competitive grant available to governmental and non-profit agencies who meet eligibility requirements for this grant program. There are several FBCOs that utilize this program to help feed seniors in their community. In fiscal year 2025, TDA awarded more than \$9.1M to non-profit feeding organizations across the state.

The Texans Feeding Texas – Surplus Agriculture Grant Program was recently awarded to Feeding Texas which works directly with 20 food banks and over 4,000 local partners throughout the state. The grant enables food banks to rescue surplus or unsellable produce and distribute it to their partners and clients. Funds are used to offset costs to growers, transportation, and sourcing expenditures. Between 2023 and 2025, 117M pounds of Texas Agricultural products was sourced and distributed to the 20 food banks and regional partners, including some FBCOs.

The Texas Local Purchasing Food Assistance program (TxLFPA), funded by the USDA, is entering its final phase. The purpose of the program was to maintain and improve Texas’ food and agricultural supply chain resiliency by fostering in-state, long-term relationships and building sustainable market opportunities for State of Texas producers, to increase the amount of products distributed to underserved communities in the State of Texas. TxLFPA program supported food banks and nonprofits to secure feeding sites, which included FBCOs to distribute food procured through this initiative.

In the summer of 2023, TDA received USDA funding for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI). The purpose of the RFSI program is to build resilience across the middle of the state’s food supply chain for food crops. TDA accepted applications for two grant types, “Equipment-Only” and “Infrastructure” grants, from eligible entities to support the expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, storing, transporting, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products. Award recipients are actively working to execute their projects.

TEXAS STATE FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCY PLANNING COUNCIL

During the 88th Regular Session, HB 3323 established the Food Security and Resiliency Planning Council (Council) within the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Council is made up of appointees from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker, Commissioner of Agriculture, Texas A&M AgriLife, and the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission. Appointees may come from a variety of organizations involved in agriculture and food security, including nonprofits. TDA, in consultation with the Council delivered the 2025 State Food System Security Plan to key legislative offices in September.

More information about TDA’s programs can be found on the agency’s website: texasagriculture.gov/ or by emailing Grans@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) partners with faith-based and community organizations to provide an individual, whether incarcerated or serving their sentence in the community, with a variety of resources that support successful reentry and reduce recidivism.

CHAPLAINCY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES DIVISION

TDCJ is committed to utilizing and partnering with approved volunteers to assist and facilitate services that teach valuable skills vital to the rehabilitation process. The agency created a Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services Division in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. The TDCJ Chaplaincy Department is comprised of over 130 unit-level chaplains of multiple faiths. Chaplains coordinate and oversee the activities of the religious volunteer program, actively recruiting volunteers from various faith groups to provide services to inmates and staff.

For incarcerated individuals, TDCJ utilizes approved volunteers to assist and to facilitate services and key programs. As of August 31, 2025, there were a total of 29,429 approved volunteers. During FY 2025, these volunteers made 46,179

volunteer visits for a total of 160,514 hours spent supporting incarcerated individuals. A total of 10,550 volunteers were trained or retrained online this fiscal year. In addition, 503 individuals attended in-person training. During FY 2025, the agency received 12,952 volunteer applications, and 12,442 of those were submitted online.

Volunteers represent a broad spectrum of faith-based and community organizations that administer programs that help strengthen the ties between individuals, their families, and their communities. The life skills gained in these volunteer-led programs help prevent recidivism and promote successful reentry and reintegration into communities as productive citizens.

TDCJ maintains contact with its volunteers via the Volunteer Services Newsletter and email services. These channels provide beneficial information for volunteers and volunteer groups. The Volunteer Services Newsletter is used to recognize volunteers for their time; recruit volunteers, churches, and organizations; and communicate important changes or reminders on volunteer guidelines.

Chapel Facilities

TDCJ celebrated the grand opening of an 8,250 square foot chapel at the Halbert Unit, a female facility in Burnet, Texas, in FY 2025. This interfaith chapel was made possible by donations from Joseph's Hammer, a 501(c)(3) organization. The chapel will provide ample space for faith-based classes, worship services, and daily activities for incarcerated females, and represents a shared vision between the agency and community volunteers.

In FY 2025, TDCJ hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction for a chapel at the Polunsky Unit in Livingston, Texas. The Polunsky Unit chapel is being donated by Advancing Inmate Ministries, 501(c)(3), and will provide space to seat 300 individuals.

VOLUNTEER-LED FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS

Prison Fellowship Academy

TDCJ has a strong relationship with Prison Fellowship and its flagship program Prison Fellowship Academy. Interested individuals are offered a 12 –14 month intensive, biblically-based program aimed at helping men and women in prison lead lives of purpose and productivity inside and outside of prison. The Academy takes incarcerated men and women through a holistic life transformation process by focusing on its six core values: productivity, responsibility, integrity, community, affirmation, and restoration by offering program participants the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned. Since 2017, there have been 1,547 individuals who have successfully completed the program.

Prison Fellowship offers other resources to incarcerated individuals such as résumé writing and mock interviews. They organize the Story Book Project, an ongoing program through which volunteers and staff use digital recording devices to record mothers and fathers reading for their children. The recordings are then delivered to the children to listen to while their parents are incarcerated.

Seminary College and Field Minister Program

The Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry offers a four-and-a-half-year program for participants to receive a 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. Graduates of the Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry go on to serve their peers as Field Ministers throughout the prison system.

The Field Ministry Program is designed to support an inmate's religious faith and develop their potential for religious leadership. There are 279 graduates from the Heart of Texas Foundation College of Ministry actively serving as field ministers on 51 units. These field ministers serve in a service-oriented ministry function to boost the morale of incarcerated individuals by offering inspirational messages, mentoring, crisis ministering, prayer sharing, and

encouragement to impact inmate behavior and promote positive change. As of August 2025, the field ministers received 278,229 prayer and correspondence requests from their peers.

Stop the Drugs Rally

In FY 2025, TDCJ officials organized the first Stop the Drugs Rally as a part of the agency's ongoing efforts to eliminate dangerous and illegal substances within its facilities. These rallies provide a platform for the incarcerated population to hear from agency staff, motivational speakers, and inmate peers on the importance of sobriety. TDCJ coordinated the event with support and resources from faith based and volunteer organizations. Motivational speakers volunteered their services to empower the incarcerated population to make a positive change in their lives. Volunteer organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Celebrate Recovery took the opportunity to educate the population and encouraged the rally participants to enroll in substance use education programs offered on the unit.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a 12-step recovery program designed to deal with the hurts, habits, and hang-ups, including addictions of any kind, that adversely affect inmates' lives and are a roadblock to developing good relationships. Volunteers bring the good news of the gospel to the inmates through those who have walked the road and can relate to their condition and feelings. Celebrate Recovery involves individuals in ongoing Christ-based 12-step groups upon release and integration into society.

Mike Barber Ministries

Mike Barber Ministries (MBM) partners with TDCJ to host week-long Spiritual Awareness events at multiple prison facilities throughout the state. During the program, participants share stories of hope and healing, hear life changing testimonies from formerly incarcerated individuals, gather to praise and worship, and have an opportunity to be baptized. In FY 2025, MBM events were scheduled at five male facilities and two female facilities across Texas.

Kairos, Jubilee, and Kolbe Prison Ministry Programs

Prison ministry programs such as Kairos, Jubilee, and Kolbe are provided by volunteer groups. The volunteers host a three-and-a-half-day weekend that consists of talks, discussions, and chapel meditations so that inmates learn they are worthy of God's love, light, and grace. Individuals take away the message that no matter who they are or what they have done, that redemption is possible. The volunteer groups follow up with weekly Prayer and Share sessions to continue to keep the inmates involved in continuing ministry.

Family Programs

Numerous volunteer organizations sponsor and facilitate family focused programs. Day with Dad or Day with Mom events provide a unique family bonding experience for inmates and their children to connect. The events often include a shared meal for the individuals and their children and a day of family activities such as games, arts and crafts, and face painting.

Volunteer organizations, such as Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness, provide Marriage Seminars to help inmates maintain their relationship with their spouse while incarcerated. Marriage Seminar events include a shared meal and group counseling.

The Wings Program is facilitated by Janie's Angels, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that facilitates enhanced visitation between children and their incarcerated mother through structured activities.

Truth-be-Told (TBT)

Truth-be-Told (TBT) is a program for incarcerated women that offers the opportunity to provide an honest recount of the events that led them to prison to an attentive and respectful audience of invited guests. The individual participates in an eight-week series of classes to share their story with their peers before sharing their story with an audience. TBT is a unique program staffed by volunteers that have experienced both literal and metaphorical "prisons" in their own lives and

are willing and able to learn and grow alongside the women they serve. TBT provides opportunities for personal growth and healing from past trauma through sharing in safe communities.

Houston reVision

Houston reVision, a 501(c)(3) organization, aims to break the cycle of juvenile justice involvement by connecting youth with mentors, positive peers, and life-changing resources. The group began providing volunteer services to young inmates in the Champions Youth Program more than nine years ago. On the first Friday of each month, reVision volunteers visit the Ellis Unit to provide food and interact with the young inmates through art, music, and dance projects. Encouragement is offered through one-on-one mentoring. Upon release from TDCJ, reVision continues to support the young people with case management, housing assistance, employment support, continuing education, and health care services.

Prison Entrepreneurship Program and Empowering Women Out of Prison

The Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) and Empowering Women Out of Prison (EWOP) programs are facilitated by non-profit organizations with a mission to transform lives by equipping men and women in Texas prisons with the tools to become successful entrepreneurs, leaders, and parents. Upon release, PEP supports male graduates with wraparound services to include community, employment, transportation, transitional housing, and business services. EWOP provides female graduates with reentry services and resources for EWOP's Second Chance Employer Network.

REHABILITATION AND REENTRY

To benefit those individuals who are close to reentering their communities or being released to parole supervision, TDCJ has built relationships and partnerships with faith-based organizations and community-based organizations to collaborate on reentry programs offered to those who are incarcerated and preparing to go home.

STRIVE

The Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment (STRIVE) Reentry Center is a 12-week long program for women which integrates a trauma-informed care methodology to transform women in a journey of self-discovery, enlightenment, and empowerment. Participants are exposed to a diverse program curriculum, education opportunities, workforce training, and skill-building activities offered by TDCJ staff, Windham School District staff, and volunteers. STRIVE has successfully graduated 893 participants since 2019, with 157 participants completing the program in FY 2025.

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 fork-lift training.

Discipleship Unlimited volunteers provide services such as financial classes and relationship classes. Volunteer mentors focus on problem solving, conflict resolution, leadership skills, and communication.

Each participant, drawing from both real-world and TDCJ work experiences, crafts a résumé. This résumé is utilized during career searches where participants, while dressed in professional attire, interact with potential employers aligned with STRIVE. These in-person or virtual interviews often result in job offers before participants are released.

THRIVE

The Trust, Healing, Restoration, Independence, Vision and Empowerment (THRIVE) Reentry Center is a 16-week long program designed to enhance rehabilitation and reentry efforts. Programs and opportunities are provided by Windham School District, TDCJ's Rehabilitation and Reentry Division, TDCJ's Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics Division, certified Reentry Peer Support Specialists, and volunteers. Since 2024, THRIVE has successfully graduated 44 participants.

Windham School District offers participants access to educational programming which addresses goal setting, wellness, financial literacy, and employment skills. Participants are provided with the option to earn recognized certifications such as Southwest Airlines communications, OSHA-10 and ServSafe. Windham School District provides THRIVE participants with tools to facilitate job searching, résumé sharing, access to ZOOM for reentry interviews, and communication with future employers.

Volunteers from the Reentry Entrepreneurship Program (REEP), Kolbe Prison Ministries (KPM) Ministries and Rebuild, Independence, Self-Love, Empowerment (RISE) provide resources and support for THRIVE participants. Volunteers work with participants on developing skills in business and leadership. Volunteers assist participants with securing clothing, housing, and other reentry needs. THRIVE participants are released from the unit wearing a suit along with an additional set of clothing.

Veteran Support

TDCJ's 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, 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 agency has developed a veterans dorm program and expanded the program to four veteran dorms statewide aptly named the Success Through Restoration, Independence, Perseverance, Excellence and Service (STRIPES) dorm for males, the Service Through Action Reveals Strength (STARS) dorm for females, and the state legislated Travis State Jail Veteran dorm. Veteran dorms provide a peer support program designed to equip veterans with the necessary tools to enhance their wellbeing and reintegration into society.

As part of veteran program offerings, peer specialists trained in the Veteran X and Veteran Hope models lead groups aimed at empowering veterans to take an active role in choosing recovery goals and finding solutions to mental, physical, or social problems. In the veterans housing areas and dorms, Healthcare for Re-Entry Veteran Specialists (HCRV) from Veterans Affairs disseminate information about entitlements available to justice-involved veterans and the facilitation of compensation and pension exam coordination efforts and requesting military service records such as a certificate of release or discharge from active duty, otherwise known as the DD-214 form.

The Belief Center offers inmates who are military veterans the Hearts for Heroes program, an experience-based journey to the core of self. In this program, the inmates explore, identify, and cultivate self-respect. Through guided meditation, music videos, private journaling, shared experiences and group work, inmate veterans are offered an opportunity to see the core of their true self and thus identify where they are in their journey. These voluntary exercises include topics such as Spiritual Connection, Family of Origin, Forgiveness of Self and Others, and Building Trust. Hearts for Heroes is designed to recreate simplistic pieces of an individual's past and to address the significance of their present. The Belief Center assists inmate veterans in developing and implementing new ways to think, feel, and cope with life as it applies to them.

Volunteer program Animum Irae Militum (AIMVETS), a veteran-specific ministry focused on recovery, provides Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) at units across the state.

Via Hope

With community partner Via Hope, peer training opportunities as a Reentry Peer Support Specialist and Certified Mental Health Peer Specialist have bolstered reentry programming statewide. These training opportunities provide employable skills upon release and have enhanced peer-led supportive reentry services. These training programs allow individuals who participate in and complete training to seek further certification and employment within the community. Funding for these two programs was provided by grants from the Governor's Office Justice Programs and the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance.

IN THE COMMUNITY

To benefit those individuals reentering their communities or released 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, Kingdom Towers, Sharing Hope Ministries, 7More, One Man's Treasure, City of Houston Community Reentry Network Program, Austin Community College, 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 outreach efforts at bus stations, and educating the public and employers on the impact community collaboration has in reducing recidivism.

Kings Crossing Prison Ministries

Kings Crossing Prison Ministries provides spiritual and practical support to inmates and parolees, offering financial and spiritual assistance across seven counties within the Corpus Christi District Parole Offices. They host Winner Circle meetings for substance use clients and attend New Arrival Orientation classes to share the services they provide. Every quarter, they donate over \$500 in H-E-B or Walmart gift cards to assist indigent clients. They visit local TDCJ units and county jails, providing curriculum-based training in self-awareness, substance use, anger management, and money management. In addition, Kings Crossing offers consistent support to parole officers through donations for Parole Officer Week and Thanksgiving luncheons.

CrossWalk Center

The CrossWalk Center (CWC) has a vision that a former inmate will not return to a life of incarceration if given access to coaching, mentoring, community support, love, and religion. The CWC has donated time and space to TDCJ to facilitate reentry efforts in the greater Houston area. CWC allows the Reentry Program participants to use their computer labs for building résumés, filling out job applications, and participating in job fairs. CWC has a mentoring program, a clothes closet, and an ongoing ministry to assist former inmates reentering society. The CWC has opened a transitional discipleship home for inmates to transition into upon release from TDCJ.

7More

With community partner Via Hope, peer training opportunities as a Reentry Peer Support Specialist and Certified Mental Health Peer Specialist have bolstered reentry programming statewide. These training opportunities provide employable skills upon release and have enhanced peer-led supportive reentry services. These training programs allow individuals who participate in and complete training to seek further certification and employment within the community. Funding for these two programs was provided by grants from the Governor's Office Justice Programs and the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Contracted Partnerships

The TDCJ-Rehabilitation and Reentry Division (TDCJ-RRD) has agreements with the Social Security Administration for social security cards, Texas Health and Human Services-Vital Statistics for certified birth certificates, and the Texas Department of Public Safety for identification cards or a replacement driver license. These identification documents are provided to individuals upon release, thereby paving a smoother road to successful reentry.

TDCJ-RRD holds contracts with community-based vendors to facilitate the continuum of care for substance use treatment programming participants within the Substance Use Felony Punishment Facility or In-Prison Therapeutic Community programs to release back into the community and continue services.

The Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) contracts with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and all the Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) across the state. LMHAs provide a network of mental health continuity of care providers for adults and juveniles releasing from custody to community supervision.

Community Supervision – Adult Probation

For those individuals sentenced to probation, in FY 2025, there were 122 community supervision and corrections departments (CSCDs) that directly supervise individuals on community supervision across the state. TDCJ-Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) acts as an oversight entity for the CSCDs in Texas’ decentralized system, providing funding distribution, standards, auditing, statewide data, training, program evaluation, and fiscal monitoring.

Providing day-to-day supervision, CSCD programs and services vary according to the resources available in each corresponding community. CSCDs rely on local community and faith-based organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and local churches to assist in providing services that facilitate positive change in probationer behavior. All local programs have the goal of enhancing outcomes and reducing recidivism, but each program is individually developed based on the relationships, resources, and unique needs of the communities served.

For the past three years, Thriving United has fostered a strong community partnership and addressed a critical need. Thriving United partners with the Midland CSCD, connecting probationers with recovery programs and supporting their journey. They utilize evidence-based practices to offer peer-support, community service opportunities, recovery residences and connections to vital resources. Additionally, they provide emotional support and empower clients to build purposeful lives. Their dedication and exceptional work ethic make them stand out within the community.

Additionally, TDCJ-CJAD has collaborated with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) for over 20 years, including working with Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) and CSCDs on issues relating to domestic violence. This partnership provides technical assistance, program evaluation, and training to BIPPs to ensure they are equipped to educate batterers. TDCJ-CJAD accredits, monitors, and renews BIPP providers, of which 119 have received probationary or full accreditation. Along with TCFV, TDCJ-CJAD awards grants to 24 qualified BIPPs, which assists these community initiatives and promotes victims’ safety statewide.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) collaborates with faith communities to help meet the needs and improve outcomes for children, families, and vulnerable adults who experience abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION (FBCE)

The Faith-Based and Community Engagement Division (FBCE) engages faith-based, community partners, and individuals to assist vulnerable children, adults, and families. FBCE’s overarching objectives include:

- Fostering key partnerships
- Promoting community awareness
- Strengthening volunteer and intern engagement
- Effectively managing resources

FBCE staff lead community partnership efforts for Child Protective Investigations, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Statewide Intake, and the Youth and Parent Helpline. FBCE partners with faith communities, foundations, advocates, and volunteers to improve service delivery and provide resources for children, families, and vulnerable adults.

DFPS encourages faith partners to develop supportive services for their local children, vulnerable adults, and families based on the needs of the community and how their congregation choose to serve. Congregations assist in many ways such as providing meals and respite care for kinship and foster families, holding donation drives to support DFPS’

resource rooms, and showing appreciation and support for the DFPS workforce. Faith partners have also developed specific ministries, such as bed ministries, to provide beds and other home necessities for families in need.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)

June is Elder Abuse Awareness month and each year staff around Texas collaborate with faith partners to raise consciousness on abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. Faith partners host seminars for community members to learn about elder maltreatment, as well as engage with their community and local officials to foster understanding of APS services. Additionally, faith partners host donation drive projects to help with food insecurity and household goods for clients.

Purple Sunday, observed on June 8, 2025, served as a call to action across the state to help promote awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. FBCE staff joined forces with faith partners and local nonprofit boards to acknowledge the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. Purple Sunday originated in 2012 in East Texas and has grown into a statewide event.

FBCE and APS collaborate with faith and community partners to help stock resource rooms with necessities for clients such as hygiene items, non-perishable food, clothing, incontinence products, and durable medical equipment. In the summer months, faith-based organizations host fan drives and in the winter months, blanket drives, to distribute to elderly and vulnerable adults. Faith partners also help bring cheer to APS clients during the holidays by creating “blessings bags” filled with lap blankets, slippers, puzzles, scarves and other items to create special moments for clients.

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

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and faith partners collaborate with staff and community agencies to promote child abuse prevention. This year, Sunday, April 27, was designated as Blue Sunday, a day of prayer for abused children and those who help them.

The Global Orphan (GO) Project, Inc., out of Kansas City, Missouri, is the nonprofit that operates the **CarePortal** (careportal.org) technology platform, which provides services to children and families that are involved with the child welfare system. CarePortal, in partnership with DFPS, empowers local faith communities to establish a culture of helping to meet the needs of children and families where they live. CarePortal provides an electronic platform that caseworkers can access to make requests for concrete goods and other support for youth and families involved in DFPS. Care Portal recruits, trains, and develops a network of churches and faith organizations that are willing to fulfill caseworker’s requests. Examples include beds, furniture, clothing, utility or rent assistance, mentorship, tutoring, and daycare. CarePortal is currently active in 59 counties in Texas with plans for expansion.

Texas is home to the **Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative** (bluesunday.org), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that raises awareness among faith communities through their Blue Ribbon Church program and the annual National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer which is held annually on the last Sunday of April. Blue Sunday partners with other community organizations to sponsor the annual Forensic Science Seminar which brings together speakers from across the state to train DFPS staff, law enforcement, and other stakeholders on how to help children and families involved in the child welfare system. Blue Sunday also assists DFPS by meeting the needs of abused children living in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV). Each Christmas, Blue Sunday provides gift cards for every teen across all stages of service in the RGV. Additionally, Blue Sunday partners with local business and HEB to provide a \$100 HEB gift card and holiday meal items for every kinship caregiver in the RGV.

Isaiah 117 House (isaiah117house.com/texas) provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting placement. Isaiah 117 House began in Tennessee when a couple training to become foster parents learned that when children are removed from their home, they often go to a government office to wait for placement. Isaiah 117 provides a safe place, clothes, toys, food, and other comforts for kids while DFPS staff work to find the safest, most appropriate placement. Isaiah 117 currently has four homes open in Texas with plans to open three more in 2026.

Harvest Family Life Ministries was founded by Bishop Aaron Blake, Sr., in Brownwood in 2004. At that time, Bishop Blake was a bi-vocational pastor of Greater Faith Church and an at-risk counselor at Brownwood High School. In 2001, Bishop Blake met a high school student in foster care and after learning more about this student, Bishop and his wife became licensed foster parents and fostered this student plus five additional youth. Bishop Blake asked his congregation to join him in helping care for children in foster care and that day led to an annual event known as Stand Sunday. Stand Sunday is a day of prayer and call to action for faith congregations in Texas and around the nation to stand together to support youth and families involved in the child welfare system. This year, Stand Sunday will be observed on November 9 (standsunday.com).

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DIVISION (HT)

For the children and youth served by DFPS, the Human Trafficking (HT) division builds DFPS capacity to prevent, identify, and respond to child, youth, and young adults across all agency programs. The division provides specialized case consultations, policy guidance, and technical assistance to staff and contractors to support proper identification, recovery, and service connection for victims and those at risk. To accomplish this work, DFPS fosters a collaborative multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of human trafficking in concert with our partners and has well-functioning ties to law enforcement, local city and county governments, state agencies, advocacy agencies, non-profits, and faith-based organizations to leverage resources and coordinate efforts.

GOVERNOR’S RESPONSE AGAINST CHILD EXPLOITATION (GRACE)

DFPS continues to partner with the Governor’s Response Against Child Exploitation (GRACE). GRACE is a collaboration between the Office of the Texas First Lady, Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team, DFPS, and a diverse group of faith leaders across Texas that work together to develop effective strategies to end human trafficking. GRACE empowers communities of faith to improve awareness and increase service capacity and prevention efforts across Texas.

2025 Human Trafficking Prevention Month – Faith-Based Efforts

The *2025 Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking*, a GRACE initiative, occurred January 6th through January 12th which coincided with Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the state of Texas. The Week of Prayer served as a call to action to the faith-based community to unite in prayer, learn more about human trafficking, and discern opportunities to prevent exploitation and support survivors. The virtual interfaith launch event on January 6th included remarks from First Lady Cecilia Abbott, DFPS Commissioner Stephanie Muth, Child Sex Trafficking Team Administrator Janet Kasper, DFPS Human Trafficking Director Blanca Denise Lance, in addition to survivor-leaders.

DFPS released the fourth annual *Light the Way End Human Trafficking – Human Trafficking Prevention Month Participation Guide*. The Guide was disseminated to over 103,000 stakeholders, of which over 2,000 were faith-based partners. The Guide provided a variety of activities hosted by DFPS and highlights efforts and information from the Governor’s Office and the Office of the Attorney General, as well as the Blue Campaign to support anyone’s participation. The Guide invited faith and secular communities to stand with Texas to help eradicate human trafficking in the state.

DFPS hosted the *2025 Light the Way End Human Trafficking Virtual Learning Series* weekly webinars with subject matter experts during the lunch hour to speak about various human trafficking intersections and topics. All faith-based partners and the community at large were invited to join DFPS staff and anti-trafficking partners for these opportunities. In 2025, a dedicated session was focused on growing understanding amongst faith-based communities in the *How to Activate Faith Communities to Protect Their Children* webinar. This session featured Jo Lembo, former Director of Faith Initiatives and National Outreach for Shared Hope International, who expertly developed materials to train individuals in churches and provided an understanding on how to implement strategies and make a difference at the community level. Approximately 377 individuals participated in the live and on-demand sessions between January and February 2025.

Human Trafficking Partner Intersections

In Fiscal Year 2025, the HT division's partnership with Faith-Based and Community Engagement (FBCE) provided an opportunity for the HT division to co-participate with FBCE at a training event with the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center (Center) and conduct a training on Human Trafficking. The Center offers athletic training and programs with a wide range of benefits to youth, families, and communities, including boosting academic performance, reducing risky behaviors, promoting physical health, and providing a safe, structured environment for participants.

The HT division also partnered with the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) which yielded a few new events in FY 2025:

- TCFV facilitated content for the DFPS Faith-Based and Community Engagement newsletter on Bridging Faith and Safety: The Role of Religious Leaders in Addressing Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking, which was followed by a corresponding webinar, Breaking Chains: A Faith-Based Approach to Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking which featured TCFV with DFPS's Human Trafficking Prevention Practitioner.
- DFPS also participated in an episode of Down the Rabbit Hole, a TCFV podcast which aims to deepen the conversation around violence prevention with a series of discussions on the root causes and consequences of violence. In January 2025, DFPS's HT Prevention Practitioner shed light on the complex realities of human trafficking and ways the public and communities can help prevent it.

COMMUNITY BASED CARE (CBC)

Community-Based Care (CBC) is the new Texas foster care model which allows local communities to meet children's and 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 which are 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 Area (Region 1)

Saint Francis Ministries continues to work closely with the faith-based community and partners with 14 churches throughout the Panhandle to host supervised visits in their spaces. Several of these visitation sites, including houses and parsonages, provide a warm, home-like environment for children and families to share meals, play games, and spend meaningful time together. Central Church of Christ continues to be an invaluable partner providing both a visitation house and a cottage house for family visits, as well as hosting Saint Francis' monthly parent support groups, offering a consistent and welcoming place for parents to connect and support one another. This year, Central Church of Christ also donated 30 fleece throw blankets that were gifted to kinship and reunified families.

The Loft at First Baptist Church of Amarillo graciously opened its doors for Saint Francis to co-host a joint Resource Fair with DFPS, connecting families to vital community services and supports. Additionally, First Baptist Church of Amarillo and Highland Baptist Church of Lubbock continue their bed ministries, helping ensure children in care have safe and comfortable sleeping arrangements. Saint Francis also partnered with Plainview First Assembly of God to provide beds for children in the southern counties of region 1.

Churches across the Panhandle continue to support Saint Francis foster homes, kinship placements, and families moving toward reunification. Monterey Church of Christ donated Thanksgiving meal boxes for kinship families and allowed Saint Francis to use their facility to distribute them. Aldersgate Church, Lubbock Impact, Broadway Church of Christ, Garland Street Church of Christ, and First Baptist Church continue to generously share their spaces for family visitations, staff team meetings, and youth holiday events. Lubbock Impact also continues to host monthly Parent Support Group meetings.

Saint Francis maintains a strong relationship with the Lubbock church coalition, One Heart, a network of local churches, organizations, and foster- adoptive agencies working together to serve families. This year, Saint Francis attended several Kinship Alliance meetings and hosted one in collaboration with Catholic Charities and other faith-based organizations that support kinship families. We also partnered with Catholic Charities for their annual Trunk or Treat, as well as the International Women’s Day conference.

Faith-based organizations and community partners continue to meet the needs of children and families served by Saint Francis. Multiple churches, organizations, and businesses sponsored and donated to our family reunification (FRE) day celebrations allowing us to provide reunified families with gift baskets filled with household supplies and gift cards for family activities. Saint Francis also hosted and participated in the Poverty Paradigm experience, an interactive event designed to help participants understand the difficult choices and systemic challenges families face; several church representatives and community stakeholders participated in this impactful event.

A significant new initiative has also launched within Saint Francis focused on working closely with churches and faith communities to recruit new foster parents, with designated ambassadors building relationships and promoting foster care within faith-based networks. These partnerships are essential in fostering strong, supportive environments for the children and families we serve.

Saint Francis remains deeply grateful for the ongoing commitment of our faith-based partners whose generosity and collaboration continue to strengthen families and build brighter futures for children across the Panhandle.

2INgage, Single Source Continuum Contractor in the Big County and Texoma Community Area (Region 2)

All Hands on Deck Conference and Day at the Capitol: 2INgage attended the All Hands on Deck conference in February, sponsored by the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards. In addition to the conference, representatives from each regional board advocated at the capitol for specific changes to legislation supporting the work of child welfare. 2INgage specifically advocated for changes to geographic restrictions for residency requirements to serve on Child Welfare Boards as Region 2 is made up of multiple small rural communities where community members may reside in one location but primarily travel and work in a neighboring county.

Fostering the Future – Ranger: The 2INgage Community Engagement team and Heart Gallery of Northwest Texas team hosted “Fostering the Future” at Woodbridge Church in Ranger. Eastland County is a small rural community which is highly committed to supporting the children and families experiencing foster care. We shared our goal of opening 15 homes in Eastland County this year and the church has committed to finding 5 new homes to help us reach our goal.

Stand Sunday – Brownwood and Abilene: 2INgage collaborated with Harvest Family Life Ministries and Bishop Blake, Greater Faith Church, and First Methodist Church in Brownwood, as well as Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene and the Heart Gallery of Northwest Texas to present to the congregations on Stand Sunday to raise awareness for the need of adoptive homes for youth waiting for adoption.

EMPOWER, Single Source Continuum Contractor in the Metroplex East Community Area (Region 3E)

One year after assuming case management responsibilities from DFPS on March 1, 2024, EMPOWER has continued strengthening its role as the Single Source Continuum Contractor for Metroplex East. Over the past year, EMPOWER has expanded partnerships, streamlined service delivery across nine counties, and implemented innovative strategies to improve outcomes for children and families maneuvering the foster care system. These efforts have enhanced collaboration among providers and increased access to resources, ensuring that children receive consistent, compassionate support throughout the region.

Strengthening Community Bonds: EMPOWER's Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations

In the past year, EMPOWER has deepened its partnerships with faith-based organizations, creating a strong network of support for foster families and children. Through ongoing collaboration, EMPOWER has facilitated community events,

volunteer engagement, and resource-sharing initiatives that provide both practical assistance and emotional care. These partnerships have proven vital in addressing urgent needs, reducing placement disruptions, and fostering a sense of stability and belonging for children in care.

Recent Highlights in EMPOWER's Faith-Based Initiatives

One year after launching the EMPOWER Dreams, Foster Futures campaign, EMPOWER has made significant strides in expanding foster parent recruitment and building community capacity in all 9 counties. By working closely with local churches, EMPOWER has provided access to forums, training sessions, and outreach events that have connected families with critical resources and support. These efforts have strengthened the foster care network across Metroplex East and laid the foundation for continued growth and collaboration.

Partnership with Isaiah 117 House in Grand Prairie

Over the past year, EMPOWER's partnership with Isaiah 117 House has provided a safe and comforting environment for children awaiting placement. This collaboration has ensured that children receive essentials such as clothing, meals, and toys during times of transition, while also offering emotional support to ease trauma. The partnership continues to play a key role in EMPOWER's mission to provide security and compassion for children entering foster care.

Strengthened Partnership with Collin County CAC

This year, EMPOWER deepened its collaboration with the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), working together to provide comprehensive support for children and families in care. Our close partnership has allowed for improved coordination of services, visitation center access, enhanced communication, and a unified approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable children. A highlight of this collaboration was EMPOWER's first-time participation in the Collin County Back-to-School Fair, where we joined CAC and other community partners to distribute school supplies and share resources with families.

Partnership with Embrace in Collin County

One year into its partnership with Embrace, EMPOWER has benefited from impactful match events, family support initiatives, and access to Collin House for children awaiting placement. Embrace's ongoing efforts, including meal training, seasonal celebrations, and emotional support programs, have significantly reduced stress for children and families during transitions. This partnership remains a cornerstone of EMPOWER's commitment to holistic care and community engagement.

Hunt County Interagency Meetings

This year, EMPOWER has continued to engage in Hunt County Interagency Meetings, creating a strong network of collaboration among schools, service providers, and community organizations. These gatherings have proven invaluable for sharing resources, coordinating care plans, and addressing challenges collectively. By maintaining these connections, EMPOWER has improved service delivery, streamlined communication, and ensured that families and children receive comprehensive, community-driven support tailored to their needs.

Partnership with FISH in Hunt County

This year, EMPOWER has continued its collaboration with FISH (Faith In Serving Humanity) to provide critical support for families and children in Hunt County. Through this partnership, we've connected families with essential resources such as food assistance, clothing, and emergency aid, helping to stabilize households during times of transition. Working alongside FISH has strengthened our ability to meet immediate needs while fostering long-term community resilience, ensuring that children in care and their families have access to compassionate, comprehensive support.

Partnership with Dwell with Dignity

This year, EMPOWER fostered a partnership with Dwell with Dignity to transform our visitation center. Through this partnership, families have enjoyed beautifully designed, functional home environments that promote comfort, dignity,

and a sense of belonging during their visitation with their children. By creating visitation spaces that feel safe and welcoming, Dwell with Dignity helps reduce stress during major life changes for children and families in care.

New Partnership with Clothed in Grace Foster Closet

This year, EMPOWER proudly created a new partnership with Clothed in Grace Foster Closet to provide immediate support for children entering foster care. Through this collaboration, families now have access to essential items such as clothing, shoes, and personal care supplies, helping ease the stress of placement transitions. By joining forces with Clothed in Grace, EMPOWER is ensuring that children experience dignity and comfort from day one, reinforcing our shared commitment to compassionate, community-driven care.

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK), Single Source Continuum Contractor in the Metroplex West Community Area (Region 3W)

OCOK leans heavily on community partnerships to protect children in every stage of care by supporting foster and kinship parents while also strengthening parents in reunification efforts. Partnerships also play a major role in recruiting foster and adoptive homes.

OCOK provides a series of foster parent recruitment events in partnership with local churches in the counties served. Churches help promote the event by hosting it at their facilities and actively engage their congregations to ensure its success.

OCOK partners with Hope Local, a close faith-based partner which advocates for the needs of children and families within their network of partner churches. Hope Local's BRAVE events help prospective families learn more about fostering and how they can best contribute. Hope Local's Hope Now program advocates for legally free youth by creating quality videos of youth, representing their true personality. Videos are shown at churches at the beginning of the month, and children are advocated for throughout the month with the hopes of finding adoptive placements. Hope Local also facilitates Care Portal in our area to support caregivers and successful reunification through the provision of tangible items that contribute to the wellbeing of the child/ren in their care.

OCOK partners yearly with churches to fulfill holiday wishes for youth in care through their Angel Tree programs. Holiday wishes are also fulfilled across all our counties by the Christmas Wish Project, a community non-profit which goes above and beyond to ensure no child is left without Christmas.

OCOK partners with the Heart Gallery of North Texas to assist in efforts to find forever families for children in need of adoption. OCOK partners with them in many avenues including Wednesday's Child, family events in which updated professional photos are taken, matching events, and recruitment events for new foster and adoptive families.

Unfaulted is a nonprofit organization that supports homeless youth who have aged out of foster care. They provide mentorship, guidance, housing assistance, and access to various support programs.

Joseph's Closet is a nonprofit that empowers foster youth, foster families, and adoptive families by providing essential items through a clothing closet and related support programs.

TRAC (Transition Resource Action Center) serves youth ages 16–24 in North Texas who are transitioning out of foster care, juvenile care, or experiencing homelessness. They offer individualized support, housing assistance, and connections to community resources to help young people achieve self-sufficiency.

Other faith-based non-profits are indispensable in our work toward reunification, actively working directly with parents in services including Homemaker Services, Fatherhood/Motherhood Classes, Counseling, life skills, etc. Additionally, faith-based organizations like CK Family Services ensure safe and abundant foster homes for children in care.

Challenge: A major challenge in relying on community partnerships to serve children and families is funding. Faith-based agencies are eager to rally towards needs and innovative ideas, but OCOK's resources alone are not enough to scale up

and sustain successful programs; however, we can support their efforts to secure other funding through promotion, co-writing grant proposals, and disseminating outcome data.

4Kids4Families, Single Source Continuum Contractor in the Piney Woods Community Area (Region 4)

As the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) for Texas DFPS Region 4, 4Kids4Families engages communities across 23 East Texas counties to support children and families involved in the foster care system. Our focus is on building awareness, strengthening partnership, and fostering community involvement through outreach, education, and engagement activities.

Community Engagement & Outreach Activities

- Faith-Based Organization Presentations: 42 sessions conducted, reaching 1,285 participants.
- School Engagement: 18 outreach events, engaging 1,042 students and staff.
- Civic & Community Groups: 25 events with 620 attendees, including Rotary, Lions Club, and neighborhood associations.
- Community Events: 15 community-wide events attended, connecting with 1,150 residents.
- Totals: 100 events reaching 4,097 individuals.

Strategic Partnerships & Ongoing Engagement

- Bi-Monthly & Monthly Stakeholder Meetings: Regular engagement with CASAs, Child Welfare Boards, Child Advocacy Centers, bed ministries, local non-profits and other key community leaders to strengthen collaboration.
- Community Advisory Committee: Continued work with faith-based leaders, including the foster care director of New Beginnings in Longview, to guide outreach efforts and ensure community-informed strategies.

Highlights on Direct Impact

- Over 800 youth in foster care received Christmas presents through community collaboration.
- Child Welfare Board converted their Rainbow Room into a visitation space, scheduled to open in November of 2025.
- Several Child Welfare Boards now include non-licensed kinship families as eligible to receive child allotments, strengthening support for extended families.

Continued Goals

- Strengthen community understanding of foster care and 4Kids4Families' role in supporting children and families.
- Foster partnerships with schools, churches, civic organizations, and local leaders to expand support networks.
- Increase volunteer engagement and participation in programs supporting youth in foster care.

Looking Ahead: 4Kids4Families will continue to expand outreach across all 23 counties, with targeted engagement for underserved communities. Ongoing collaboration with schools, faith-based organizations, civic organizations, and key stakeholders will ensure children and families have access to resources, support, and active community involvement.

Texas Family Care Network (TFCN), Single Source Continuum Contractor in the Deep East Community Area (Region 5)

Texas Family Care Network (TFCN) continues to collaborate with our network of faith and community partners throughout Deep East Texas. Our ever-growing partnerships with over 25 churches across 15 counties allow TFCN to meet the needs of children and families, while our faith partners offer additional support services to wrap around the families we care for. TFCN utilizes graciously donated space from First Baptist Church of Nacogdoches, in collaboration with Fredonia Rotary and other resources, to host annual festivals for children awaiting adoption to meet with potential adoptive families. Faith partners St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church of Lufkin also donate space for our quarterly provider meetings with our child placement agency partners, which helps us to build capacity to keep the children we serve closer to home.

Over the past year, TFCN has opened 2 visitation houses for families to visit and grow together. Our first house named “Pressley’s Place” after TFCN’s parent company Pressley Ridge opened in Beaumont, and the second house named “Monica’s Manor” opened in Nacogdoches, lovingly named in memory of Monica Massey, our former Director of Case Management who passed away unexpectedly in 2025. These homes have opened the door to a place of comfort for children to lay their head, for family visits, for shared meals, birthday parties, game nights, and reunification days. A Family Reunification Month Celebration was held at Monica’s Manor in June 2025 to celebrate several families being reunited. CASA of Deep East Texas, the Nacogdoches County Child Welfare Board, the Presbyterian Church of Nacogdoches, and multiple community members are strong supporters of Monica’s Manor and help TFCN to keep the home stocked with necessary furnishings, activities for children, and snacks.

TFCN continues to share our passion for community-based care with the public, which opens doors to help families across the region. First United Methodist Church in Beaumont and Lufkin continue to donate meeting space for parties for the children they serve, storage space for gifts during the holiday season, as well as space for workgroup meetings. Timberland Drive Church of Christ in Lufkin provides monthly donations to the Sunshine Room emergency resource center, Thanksgiving food baskets for families, as well as Christmas gifts for children served by TFCN. Timber Creek church campuses in Lufkin and Nacogdoches help to provide Christmas gifts to children served by TFCN as well. More than 10 churches across Deep East Texas donated Christmas gifts for children from region 5 in 2024, with additional churches committing to donate annually.

Texas Family Care Network also manages the Heart Gallery of Southeast Texas, an artistic display of portraits of children awaiting adoption. TFCN and the Heart Gallery SETX continue to educate faith and community partners about Community-Based Care and children looking for adoptive homes. Harmony Hill Baptist Church in Lufkin is a Heart Gallery of Southeast Texas host partner to recruit foster and adoptive families. Harmony Hill Baptist Church has provided meeting space to display the Heart Gallery and host foster care forums to recruit foster and adoptive families. The Heart Gallery of Southeast Texas continues rotating portrait exhibits at various churches and businesses across Deep East Texas. Texas Family Care Network continues to expand their reach, growing and establishing relationships amongst faith and community partners throughout Deep East Texas and beyond.

Belong, Single Source Continuum Contractor in the South-Central Hill Country Community Area (Region 8B) and Bexar County (Region 8A)

Over the past year, SJRC Texas | Belong, has deepened its collaboration with faith-based communities across region 8 to strengthen families, children, and build lasting networks of hope. Through intentional partnerships within the faith-based community, we have fostered a shared mission to create a nurturing environment through innovation, advocacy and the power of positive relationships resulting in a united front that transcends across the region.

In 2025, our faith engagement efforts expanded in scope, diversity, and impact. From large-scale community events such as Stand Sunday, Fields of Faith, and Blue Breakfast, to smaller, ongoing collaborations providing meeting spaces, resources, and respite care, these partnerships have become an essential extension of the child and family wellbeing system.

This past year’s work demonstrates that the faith community continues to be a vital partner in the success of Community-Based Care. Through these relationships, SJRC Texas | Belong is cultivating a stronger system of care that focuses efforts on enriching families before crises occur, surrounding them during times of need, and celebrating their successes.

Faith-based communities and coalitions have not only opened their doors, but their hearts and hands in many ways. As we look forward, we remain committed to deepening these partnerships, strengthening communication between faith and public sectors, and ensuring that every child and family in our region experiences the tangible support of a caring community grounded in faith and service.

Through collaboration and compassion, we hope to create a strong network of spiritual and practical support for youth, biological families, foster families, adoptive families, and kinship caregivers across region 8. Together, with our faith partners, we are building a sustainable network rooted in prayer, care, and action. Below is a glimpse of the efforts that have been engaged over the last year in each subregion:

North Region

- St. Emanuel Lutheran Church (Guadalupe County) - SJRC Texas | Belong partnered with this church to host the *Blue Breakfast*, an event emphasizing collaboration between the faith-based community and the nonprofit sector. Additionally, SJRC established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for shared workspace, enhancing our ongoing partnership.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church (Comal County) - This church participated in Vision Sunday to raise awareness of the SJRC mission and recruit volunteers from the congregation.
- Oak Run Baptist Church (Comal County) - SJRC Texas | Belong collaborated with this church to spotlight the Heart Gallery, raising awareness about children in need of adoptive families.
- St. Francis by the Lake (Comal County) - SJRC Texas | Belong partnered with this congregation and CASA to host a screening of *Sound of Hope*, engaging the community in conversations around child welfare and advocacy.
- St. Vincent de Paul (Comal County) - St. Vincent de Paul continues to be a vital partner in meeting the basic needs of many of our families. Notably, they recently supported a kinship caregiver in pursuing education at a beauty school, helping her achieve greater stability and self-sufficiency.

East Region

- Hallettsville Ministerial Alliance (Lavaca County) - SJRC Texas | Belong presented on church involvement and community engagement.
- Austin Street Baptist Church Yoakum Texas (Lavaca County) - SJRC Texas | Belong participated in a community worship service and resource event.
- Yoakum Ministerial Alliance (Lavaca County) - SJRC Texas | Belong partnered with the Alliance in the Fields of Faith event this year. A meal was served to attendees, and information was shared about services offered through our prevention department and opportunities to get involved in building capacity and providing wraparound services to families.
- Diocese of Victoria (Victoria County) - SJRC Texas | Belong was able to make a presentation during the deanery meeting and make connections with local parishes for local collaborations and partnership opportunities.
- Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria (Victoria County) - SJRC Texas | Belong partnered with this church to help support our families during major holidays.
- STCH Ministries – ICARE Conference (Victoria County) - In Collaboration with STCH ministries SJRC Texas | Belong was able to lead a community building session during the conference to local churches and church leaders.
- Bayside Community Church (Calhoun County) - SJRC Texas | Belong provided a presentation on how the church can provide support to children and families in foster care.
- Nixon/Smiley Ministerial Alliance (Gonzales County) - SJRC Texas | Belong provided a presentation on church involvement and community engagement.

South Region

- La Vernia Baptist Church (Wilson County) - SJRC Texas | Belong was able to host an informational booth at the summer music festival, connecting families with resources and raising awareness. Annually, the church provides Christmas gifts for all Wilson County children in foster care. SJRC Texas | Belong and The Vault Foster Closet was able to utilize the congregation as a pop-up shop to provide basic needs for families in the rural area of the region.
- The Rise Christian Coffee Shop (Atascosa County) - Provides a space for child-parent visits as well as a storage space that is accessible to frontline staff 24/7. SJRC Texas | Belong is able to provide Parents As Teachers at this location for local families in need. There are also opportunities to facilitate community groups as requested.

- Poteet Methodist Church (Atascosa County) - Provides year-round large storage space for Belong resources. Offers meeting space for staff and partners. Takes up two love-offerings each year to support the needs of families and youth in the south subregion.
- Christian Faith Center (Frio County) - Annually provides Christmas gifts for approximately twenty-five youth. The Well Resource Shop (part of Christian Faith Center) provides free resources to youth and families as needed throughout the year.
- Restoring Hope Center (Frio County) - Operates as a family resource center in Pearsall with an active MOU with SJRC Texas | Belong. They provide a space for child-parent visits, and they offer parenting classes. Those that participate in their classes receive gifts, such as gift cards, clothing vouchers, diapers, and wipes.

West Region

- First Baptist Church Castroville (Medina County) - Partnered to Host the Love Inc (Love in the Name of Christ) interest meeting for community partners, churches, and businesses in Medina County.
- Val Verde County Sound of Hope (Val Verde County) - Collaboration Meeting with CASA, SJRC Texas | Belong and the Faith Community led to opportunities to host Impact Screenings in the last quarter of 2024. Congregations involved include Central Church of Christ, Access Church, and Bible Way Church.
- Lytle Methodist Church (Medina County) - Partnered to sponsor supplies and clothing for the school year 2025.
- Esperanza First Del Rio (Val Verde County) - Hosted informational meeting to bring awareness on Community-Based Care.

Bexar County

- Victory Worship Center - Blue Sunday and Stand Sunday partnership, as well as meeting space for small team meetings when applicable and needed. Hosted an Impact Screening and Congregational discussion for Sound of Hope.
- Kingdom Life Christian Ministry - Collaborations with meeting and training space as well as hosted informational and babysitting/respite informational meetings. Stand Sunday and Blue Sunday participants.
- Faith Base Institute Church - Hosted Celebration of Life for a sibling group in foster care that lost their battle with cancer. Hosted monthly informational meeting in collaboration with Christ Coalition and Heart Gallery and they also partner in hosting lunch and learns and other meetings when needed.
- Rest Church - Hosted Impact Screening for Sound of Hope and participated in Stand Sunday.
- Church Ambassador Network of Texas (CAN) - Collaborating with CAN and DFPS for Prayer and Appreciation events to support frontline staff on a quarterly basis.
- Youth for Christ Organization - SJRC Texas | Belong is currently developing a partnership with the organization to help expand their reach into the Pleasanton and Pearsall communities. In the early stages of collaboration, SJRC Texas | Belong is focusing efforts on holding joint meeting spaces and collaborative organizational support structure.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

Below is a selection of three programs operated by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to assist low- and extremely low-income persons and persons with disabilities in finding stable housing and receiving emergency and poverty-related assistance.

SECTION 811 PROJECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE (PRA)

The Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program provides project-based rental assistance to extremely low-income persons with disabilities who are linked to voluntary long-term services. The program is made possible through a partnership between TDHCA, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (Texas HHSC), the Department of Family and Protective Services(DFPS), local disability service organizations, and participating multifamily properties.

The program is limited to households with a member who meets one of the Target Population definitions and is eligible to receive services through one of the eligible disability service organizations contracted with Texas HHSC or directly through DFPS.

Target populations include: 1) Persons with Disabilities exiting or having exited within the previous 12 months prior to submitting an application, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Nursing Facilities; 2) Persons with Serious Mental Illness eligible for services through a Local Mental Health Authority or Behavioral Health Authority; 3) Youth or Young Adults with Disabilities Exiting Foster Care.

The program is limited to TDHCA-funded properties located in the following Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs): Austin-Round Rock, Brownsville-Harlingen, Corpus Christi, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, El Paso, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, San Antonio-New Braunfels.

PROJECT ACCESS

TDCHA operates as a small Public Housing Authority issuing Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) in a 34-county area. Up to 205 of TDHCA's HCVs are authorized to be utilized anywhere in the state for the Project Access Program. Project Access vouchers are used to assist low-income persons with disabilities transitioning from nursing homes, Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and State Psychiatric Hospitals to the community while using the Money Follows the Person Program to provide services from HHS agencies. Services provided through Money Follows the Person in conjunction with a Project Access Voucher assist low-income persons with disabilities in transitioning from institutions into the community by providing access to affordable housing to live independently.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

CSBG provides funds to Community Action Agencies, nonprofit organizations, and units of local government to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities and empower low-income persons to become self-sufficient. CSBG is funded by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS). TDHCA provides 90% of its CSBG funds to Texas Community Action Agencies while five percent of CSBG funds are awarded on a competitive basis for a variety of programs that fight poverty and provide disaster relief.

Eligible entities utilize CSBG funds to administer a broad array of services and programs. Services and programs include case management, education and employment programs, utility assistance, transportation, food pantries, and the coordination of services with other providers in the community.

Additional information on these programs can be found on the TDHCA website tdhca.texas.gov. For persons in need of assistance, additional resources can be found on the TDHCA Help For Texans page located at tdhca.texas.gov/help-for-texans.

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) is the cornerstone of public-sector technology in the state of Texas. With a team of dedicated employees who collaborate with industry partners to deliver a variety of services, DIR is a technology agency powered by people. DIR serves those who serve, and we are fiercely dedicated to our mission and vision.

DIR ensures that government entities—including state agencies, county and municipal organizations, public institutions of higher education, and K-12 education entities—can find and implement the most secure, innovative, and cost-effective technology available. DIR helps public sector employees use technology to serve Texans more effectively by connecting Texas' public sector with innovative technology that is scalable and secure, while delivering the best value to taxpayers and the best service to the people of Texas.

DIR supports faith- and community-based organizations by providing access to competitive technology procurement for eligible organizations, serving as a resource for technology best practices and guidance, and encouraging DIR staff to give back to the community. ⁽¹⁾

TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT

DIR's Cooperative Contracts program is exclusively for information technology (IT) products and services. DIR negotiates and administers contracts with IT providers for products and services, including computers, software, security hardware and software, networking and telecommunications equipment, IT staffing services, deliverables-based services, and technology-based training. DIR competitively procures and negotiates cooperative contracts in compliance with state rules, resulting in contracts that offer substantially discounted pricing along with the protection of pre-negotiated legal terms and conditions.

DIR's Cooperative Contracts program makes technology products and services available at bargain prices to eligible customers, including state agencies, institutions of higher education, K-12 independent school districts, quasi-government organizations, counties, municipalities, and assistance organizations registered with the Texas Facilities Commission or the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Furthermore, DIR's Cooperative Contracts program streamlines the acquisition process for customers.

[Texas Government Code Section 2054.0565](#) authorizes assistance organizations (including faith- and community-based organizations) to use DIR's Cooperative Contracts to leverage the purchasing power of the state to secure the best value for technology products and services.⁽²⁾ DIR actively promotes the Cooperative Contracts program through newsletters, webinars, and social media to eligible customers—including faith- and community-based organizations—to raise awareness of procurements, contracting updates, and purchasing opportunities.

In Fiscal Year 2025, 58 faith- and community-based organizations from across the state purchased just over \$8.7 million in technology commodity items through DIR's Cooperative Contracts program.

TECHNOLOGY BEST PRACTICES AND GUIDANCE

DIR guides the Texas government with technology policy, planning, and standards that help promote both the effective and efficient use and management of technology statewide. Additionally, DIR protects the state's technology infrastructure and Texans' private data from cyberattacks by promoting cybersecurity best practices, providing guidance and consultation on technology issues, and offering immediate assistance to government entities during a cybersecurity event. ⁽³⁾

Faith- and community-based organizations, like other public entities, can use DIR as a resource for their technology policy and planning needs by accessing technology-related reports, policies, standards, and guidelines on [DIR's website](#).

DIR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

DIR serves as a resource for technology procurements and guidance while also supporting faith- and community-based organizations through employee engagement in fundraising and community service initiatives. Each year, DIR encourages staff to contribute to the State Employee Charitable Campaign. During the 2024 campaign, DIR staff raised \$28,904. Additionally, DIR employees give back to the community by organizing holiday food and toy drives and participating in various community service efforts throughout the year. DIR is committed to supporting faith- and community-based organizations through these initiatives in the years ahead.

⁽¹⁾ See [Government Code Section 2054.0525](#) for customers eligible for department services.

⁽²⁾ See [Government Code Section 2175.001](#) for the definition of assistance organization.

⁽³⁾ See [House Bill 150](#). By December 31, 2026, DIR will transfer its existing cybersecurity staff, functions, and activities to the Texas Cyber Command, including network security for all state agencies.

SOCIAL MEDIA: PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGING OUTREACH

January

1/2/2025	iWatchTexas Suspicious Activity Reporting, Reminder to report suspicious activity, behaviors to help keep Texas communities safe
1/6/2025	DPS Recognizes Human Trafficking Prevention Month Shared information about how DPS works to combat this crime in Texas, as well as information about how to report signs of human trafficking
1/7-1/10/2025	Winter Weather Safety Messaging, Winter Storm Response Shared information and resources for Texans to stay safe during winter weather, and in particular, during the current winter storm
1/11/2025	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day: Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, and the reality is it happens every day. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is a chance to shed light on and bring awareness to this crime.
1/13/-1/17/2025	Missing Persons Alert Series: Throughout the week, and in conjunction with National AMBER Alert Day and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month, DPS shared a series of infographics and informative posts about each of the different alerts managed under DPS' Statewide Alert Program.
1/17-1/23/2025	Winter Storm Safety Message, Response Information
1/31/2025	Safety Message: Seat belts save lives, reminder to buckle up

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and throughout the month, DPS worked to raise awareness about this heinous crime and how Texans can recognize the indicators that an individual may be the victim of human trafficking.

Public awareness is an important component of preventing and combating this crime. To that end, DPS also shared the many ways individuals can report this crime — from iWatchTexas to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Vehicle Safety Inspection Program

Changes to the state's inspection program took effect in 2025, and DPS shared information across social media platforms to inform and remind Texans about how these changes will impact them in 2025. DPS also created an English and Spanish Public Service Announcement (PSA) video to educate Texans about the changes.

One Pill Kills

Every week, DPS shares messages related to the *One Pill Kills* campaign and raising awareness about the dangers of fentanyl. This has occurred throughout 2025. Our messaging highlights the dangers of fentanyl and resources to help spread awareness to save the lives of Texans. DPS also maintains a *One Pill Kills* page on our website to further promote this messaging and educate Texas. You can find this page at dps.texas.gov/onepillkills.

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

DPS continues to promote the importance of safe gun storage for everyone who owns a firearm. This awareness campaign promotes the 1-2-3s of safe gun storage, facts about how to safely store a firearm, what safe storage options are available, how to talk to family, friends and children about safe storage and so much more. Each month, DPS features safe gun storage-related safety messages on our social media channels.

- 1/7/2025: Gun theft from vehicles has tripled in the last decade
- 1/30/2025: Parked cars are the number one target for gun thefts

February

2/6/2025	Move Over, Slow Down Safety Message
2/7-2/9/2025	Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Traffic Enforcement, Super Bowl: Shared safety tips ahead for the Big Game, including a PSA video to remind Texans to put safety first
2/18-2/21/2025	Winter Storm: Safety Messaging, Tips for Texans
2/27/2025	Move Over, Slow Down Safety Message Public Service Announcement
2/28/2025	If You See Something, So Something: Suspicious Activity Reporting Through iWatchTexas

Vehicle Safety Inspection Program

Changes to the state's inspection program began in January 2025, and DPS continued to share information across social media platforms to remind Texans about how these changes impact them during February.

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 2/6/2025: What is the quickest way to arm a criminal
- 2/11/2025: Take steps to prevent your gun from being stolen from your vehicle
- 2/20/2025: It takes a thief less than 15 seconds to break into your car
- 2/26/2025: Kids are curious, keep your firearms stored safely

March

3/3-3/9/2025	Vehicle Safety Recalls Week: Shared information about checking for recalls on vehicles to stay safe on the road
3/4/2025	Wildfire Safety Tips
3/7-3/17/2025	THP Annual Spring Break Traffic Enforcement: Shared information about DPS' annual traffic enforcement campaign, as well as safety tips, including safety videos, to help Texans enjoy a safe spring break
3/13-3/15/2025	Critical Wildfire Conditions Alert, Safety Messages: Shared tips for Texans to stay safe and help prevent wildfires
3/14/2025	Public Safety, Travel Warning: High winds and low visibility impacted parts of the state; shared safety messaging to protect Texans.
3/20/2025	First Day of Spring, Wildflower Safety Message

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 3/10/2025: Relax this spring break knowing your gun is safely stored
- 3/14/2025: Rest area, spring break: Over half of stolen guns are from parked vehicles
- 3/19/2025: Vehicles are the number one source of stolen guns
- 3/25/2025: Hunters: Thieves are after your guns
- 3/28/2025: Safe gun storage in vehicles
- 3/31/2025: Hunters protect your guns from thieves

April

4/01/2025	April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Throughout the month, DPS worked to raise awareness about the prevention of child abuse and protecting Texas children and shared the ways DPS is doing just that. Additionally for the entire month, DPS changed the profile images on our social media channels to a specially created logo for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
4/4/2025	DPS Steps Up Enforcement for Annual Distracted Driving Campaign: Shared safety tips and information about DPS' enforcement initiative
4/10/2025	Move Over, Slow Down PSA, featuring Governor Abbott

4/21-4/25/2025	National Work Zone Awareness Week: Throughout the week, shared safety tips and reminders for all Texans to help make roadways safer for everyone, including police who work on the side of the road, with a particular focus on Move Over or Slow Down.
----------------	--

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 4/2/2025: Protect your fun with a safe gun storage device
- 4/9/2025: Trucks are a popular target for gun thieves
- 4/15/2025: Kids are good at finding things (Easter tie)
- 4/22/2025: Over half of guns are stolen from vehicles

May

5/5/2025	Severe Weather Safety Reminder
5/6/2025	Motorcycle Safety Month Safety Tips to Safely Share the Road with Motorcycles
5/9/2025	DPS Increases Statewide Patrol, May 12-26: All-American Enforcement, Memorial Day Campaign: Shared safety tips throughout the month to promote safe driving behaviors through the Memorial Day holiday weekend
5/13/2025	Extreme Heat, Safety Tips
5/13/2025	Move Over, Slow Down PSA, Featuring DPS Colonel: Shared safety messaging ahead of multi-state enforcement campaign happening
5/14/2025	Move Over, Slow Down Day: Throughout this initiative, DPS shared messages related to the Move Over, Slow Down Law and DPS' enforcement effort with neighboring states to enforce this law and promote safe driving
5/21/2025	Click It Or Ticket, Seat Belt Safety PSA (English and Spanish): Shared safety message to encourage Texans to wear their seat belts
5/27/2025	Hurricane Preparedness Week: Shared information to help Texans prepare and take precautions ahead of Hurricane Season

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 5/1/2025: Protect your new purchase (new gun owners)

June

6/1/2025	First Day of Hurricane Season Safety Message Throughout the month, DPS shared tips for staying safe during Hurricane Season on topics including packing an emergency kit and knowing your evacuation route.
6/2-6/6/2025	Our Roads, Our Safety Week: Shared safety messages alongside the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
6/20/2025	First Day of Summer: Safety Video, featuring tips to protect your pets in the summer heat
6/26/2025	Safety Advisory: Download iWatchTexas Amid Potential Homeland Security Threats

Summer Safety

Summer is a busy time for sharing vital safety messages across our social media platforms. From heat safety to hurricane safety to traffic enforcement and road safety, DPS continues to share vital public safety messages to encourage Texans to make safety their top priority.

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 6/11/2025: Childproof your home with safe gun storage
- 6/17/2025: Don't forget to secure your gun case to your vehicle
- 6/19/2025: Glove boxes are the first place thieves look

July

7/1/2025	Annual Fourth of July Holiday Traffic Safety Enforcement Initiative: Shared tips for safe holiday travels
7/2/2025	iWatchTexas Suspicious Activity Reporting Safety Message, with tie to the Fourth of July holiday and celebrations
7/4/2025	Fourth of July Holiday Safety Public Service Announcement
Ongoing (July)	Weather Safety Messaging Related to Catastrophic Flooding in Kerrville and the Texas Hill Country

Kerr Co. Flooding Response

In response to the catastrophic flooding in Kerr Co. and the Texas Hill Country, DPS shared weather safety messaging, briefing updates from law enforcement and emergency management leaders, as well as information about disaster recovery efforts, throughout the duration of the disaster and response.

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 7/3/2025: Unsecured guns can end up in the wrong hands
- 7/31/2025: The glove box is the first place thieves look for guns.

August

8/4/2025	Back to School Safety: Throughout the back-to-school season, DPS shared safety tips and PSA videos on school safety
8/11/2025	90 Days of Safety Campaign: Keeping Texas Communities Safe DPS launched a public safety initiative — 90 Days of Safety — in August with three separate 30-day series showcasing unique safety topics. The first in the series was <i>Keeping Texas Communities Safe</i> . During this, DPS shared a PSA and safety messages on topics including school safety, iWatchTexas, emergency alerts, human trafficking, crime stoppers and more. <i>This particular series and its related safety messaging ran from August 11-September 9.</i>
8/27-9/1/2025	Annual Labor Day Traffic Enforcement Initiative: Shared holiday safety tips to keep Texans safe on the road

September

9/10/2025	90 Days of Safety Campaign: Keeping Texas Roads Safe DPS launched the second series in our 90 Days of Safety campaign, <i>Keeping Texas Roads Safe</i> , in September, with a focus on road safety, offering practical, simple actions Texans can take to keep themselves, their loved ones and other drivers safe as they travel on Texas roads. Topics included: Eliminating distractions, move over or slow down, designating a sober ride home, seat belt safety and driving defensively. <i>This particular series and its related safety messaging ran from September 10-October 9.</i>
9/25/2025	National “If You See Something, Say Something” Day: DPS shared information about iWatchTexas, the importance of suspicious activity reporting and how you can help make your community safer.
9/25-9/26/2025	Child Passenger Safety Week: Shared tips for keeping young Texans safe in cars

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 9/9/2025: Biometric locks provide quick access to your guns in case of an emergency.

October

10/01/2025	October is Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month: DPS highlighted Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month throughout October, as part of Governor Abbott’s initiative to raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl.
10/10/2025	90 Days of Safety Campaign: Keeping Texas Families Safe

	DPS launched the third series in our 90 Days of Safety campaign, <i>Keeping Texas Families Safe</i> , in October, with a focus on safety messaging surrounding safe gun storage, weather preparedness, the dangers of fentanyl, cyber security and suspicious activity reporting. <i>This particular series and its related safety messaging ran from October 10-November 7.</i>
10/21/10-24/2025	National School Bus Safety Week: DPS reminded drivers throughout the week of the importance of following the laws regarding school buses and safe driving in-and-around school zones
10/27-10/31/2025	Halloween Safety: DPS shared safety tips, including PSA videos, throughout the week to help Texans prepare for the upcoming holiday.

Safe Gun Storage Awareness Campaign

- 10/20/2025: Safely storing firearms helps protect our kids, prevents accidents and keeps guns out of the hands of criminals
- 10/21/2025: Gun safety is about more than knowing how to handle a gun
- 10/22/2025: Kids are curious, safely store your guns
- 10/23/2025: Talk to others about safe gun storage
- 10/24/2025: Parked cars are the most common source of stolen firearms

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

1/3/2025	DPS Shares Essential Winter Weather Safety Tips As many parts of the state prepare to deal with wintry weather, the Texas Department of Public Safety reminds Texans that extreme cold, freezing rain, ice and snow can pose major hazards to drivers and pedestrians and urges residents to be prepared and exercise caution in those types of conditions.	DPS Shares Essential Winter Weather Safety Tips
1/6/2025	DPS Recognizes Human Trafficking Prevention Month Throughout January, the Texas Department of Public Safety is reminding Texans to be vigilant and educate themselves about the dangers of human trafficking as part of Human Trafficking Prevention Month.	DPS Recognizes Human Trafficking Prevention Month
1/13/2025	DPS Recognizes National AMBER Alert Day In recognition of National AMBER Alert Day, the Texas Department of Public Safety reminds Texans of the importance of this lifesaving tool—and the entire Statewide Alert Program—as a critical resource to public safety efforts in the state.	DPS Recognizes National AMBER Alert Day
2/7/2025	DPS Increases Enforcement for Sunday's Big Game The Texas Department of Public Safety reminds football fans, and anyone out on the roads, to drive responsibly ahead of Super Bowl LIX this weekend. As the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles compete for the Lombardi Trophy on Feb. 9, DPS will be increasing enforcement efforts statewide to ensure everyone has a safe Super Bowl weekend.	DPS Increases Enforcement for Sunday's Big Game
3/7/2025	DPS Increases Enforcement for Spring Break, St. Patrick's Day The Texas Department of Public Safety will increase patrols on roads beginning this weekend to ensure motorists drive responsibly this spring break and St. Patrick's Day. March 8 through March 17, the Texas Highway Patrol (THP) will conduct its annual Spring Break and St. Patrick's Day traffic enforcement campaign—looking for people who are speeding, not wearing their seat belts, driving while intoxicated or committing other traffic violations.	DPS Increases Enforcement for Spring Break, St. Patrick's Day

3/18/2025	DPS Launches New iWatchTexas Feature At the direction of Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety launched a new feature on the iWatchTexas Community Reporting System to protect the public from coercion and harassment by foreign adversaries. The new feature allows individuals to indicate their concern is related to foreign influence when submitting a report.	DPS Launches New iWatchTexas Feature
4/4/2025	DPS Steps Up Enforcement for Annual Distracted Driving Campaign The Texas Department of Public Safety will increase patrols beginning this weekend to ensure drivers stay focused and avoid distractions while driving. April 7 through April 14, the Texas Highway Patrol (THP) will conduct its annual Distracted Driving traffic enforcement campaign—looking for drivers who are texting, failing to <i>Move Over</i> or <i>Slow down</i> or otherwise distracted behind the wheel.	DPS Steps Up Enforcement for Annual Distracted Driving Campaign
5/9/2025	DPS Launches Statewide Patrols to Enforce Seat Belt Use and Curb Distracted Driving for Memorial Day The Texas Department of Public Safety is increasing patrols statewide as part of its annual All-American enforcement campaign ahead of the Memorial Day Holiday. From May 12 through May 26, the Texas Highway Patrol (THP) will focus on enforcing seatbelt laws and promoting safe driving behaviors to reduce crashes and save lives.	DPS Launches Statewide Patrols to Enforce Seat belt Use and Curb Distracted Driving for Memorial Day
5/12/2025	DPS, Neighboring States Team Up in Joint Enforcement Operation The Texas Department of Public Safety is partnering with the Arkansas State Police, Louisiana State Police, New Mexico State Police and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to conduct a joint one-day enhanced enforcement operation this week. During this collaborative effort, which will take place from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, Troopers will be focused on drivers violating their respective state’s <i>Move Over</i> , <i>Slow Down</i> laws.	DPS, Neighboring States Team Up in Joint Enforcement Operation
5/13/2025	DPS Urges Texans to Prepare for Extreme Heat This week, temperatures will soar across the state, and the Texas Department of Public Safety is urging Texans to take precautions to stay safe. Taking simple steps now can help protect you and your loved ones this week and beyond.	DPS Urges Texans to Prepare for Extreme Heat
5/28/2025	DPS Leads Successful Multi-State Crackdown on Move Over, Slow Down Laws The Texas Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce the results of a one-day, multi-state enhanced traffic enforcement operation focused on getting drivers to follow the <i>Move Over</i> , <i>Slow Down</i> law. The single-day enforcement initiative took place on May 14 in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.	DPS Leads Successful Multi-State Crackdown on Move Over, Slow Down Laws
5/29/2025	DPS Encourages Texans to Prepare Ahead of 2025 Hurricane Season In support of hurricane preparedness efforts across the state, the Texas Department of Public Safety reminds Texans to make an emergency plan now as the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season—which runs June 1 through November 30—nears.	DPS Encourages Texans to Prepare Ahead of 2025 Hurricane Season
6/26/2025	DPS Advises Public to Download iWatchTexas Amid Potential Homeland Security Threats The Texas Department of Public Safety is urging Texans to download the iWatchTexas mobile app to protect the public from potential	DPS Advises Public to Download iWatchTexas Amid Potential Homeland Security Threats

	homeland security threats, considering recent international events. Using iWatchTexas, everyone can take an active role in protecting Texas communities from possible terror attacks.	
7/1/2025	DPS Increases Enforcement for Fourth of July Holiday The Texas Department of Public Safety is stepping up enforcement efforts for the Fourth of July holiday to keep everyone safe on the roads, including Operation Crash Awareness Reduction Effort (CARE), which runs July 3-6.	DPS Increases Enforcement for Fourth of July Holiday
8/4/2025	DPS Offers Reminders for a Safer School Year As students begin heading back to school, the Texas Department of Public Safety reminds all Texans to exercise heightened caution and adhere to safety measures implemented to protect students, staff and fellow drivers this school year. This includes tips on how to safely drop off and pick up your child from school, drive cautiously through school zones and talk to your family and loved ones about staying safe this school year and beyond.	DPS Offers Reminders for a Safer School Year
8/11/2025	DPS Launches 90 Days of Safety Campaign, Keeping Texas Safe Coloring Book Today, in honor of the Texas Department of Public Safety's 90th Anniversary, DPS Colonel Freeman F. Martin kicked off a new statewide public safety initiative: 90 Days of Safety. During a press conference at DPS Headquarters in Austin, Colonel Martin, along with DPS officials, announced details of the new campaign—including the rollout of a new “Keeping Texas Safe” coloring and activity book that will be available to children statewide.	DPS Launches 90 Days of Safety Campaign, Keeping Texas Safe Coloring Book
8/27/2025	DPS Increases Enforcement for Labor Day The Texas Department of Public Safety is stepping up enforcement efforts for Labor Day weekend. Operation Crash Awareness Reduction Effort (CARE) runs from Aug. 29-Sept. 1 and is a specialized campaign in which Texas Highway Patrol Troopers patrol for drivers who are speeding, intoxicated, not complying with Texas' Move Over, Slow Down law or violating other laws. The goal is to reduce the number of traffic crashes and deaths on Texas roads.	DPS Increases Enforcement for Labor Day
9/10/2025	DPS Launches Keeping Texas Roads Safe Public Service Announcement The Texas Department of Public Safety launched part two of its 90 Days of Safety campaign: Keeping Texas Roads Safe. This second part will run for 30 days and feature a new public service announcement video (PSA) as well as social media messaging across DPS' official platforms.	DPS Launches Keeping Texas Roads Safe Public Service Announcement
9/25/2025	DPS Highlights Importance of iWatchTexas on “If You See Something, Say Something” Awareness Day On National “If You See Something, Say Something” Awareness Day, the Texas Department of Public Safety is reminding Texans of the iWatchTexas program — a critical resource anyone can use to report suspicious activity or behavior in their schools and communities.	DPS Highlights Importance of iWatchTexas on “If You See Something, Say Something” Awareness Day
10/10/2025	DPS Launches Keeping Texas Families Safe Public Service Announcement The Texas Department of Public Safety launched part three of its 90 Days of Safety campaign: Keeping Texas Families Safe. This third and	DPS Launches Keeping Texas Families Safe Public Service Announcement

	final piece of the campaign will run for 30 days and feature a new public service announcement video (PSA), social media messaging across all of DPS’ official platforms and videos airing in the waiting areas of driver license offices across the state.	
10/27/2025	DPS Offers Tips to Keep Texas Families Safe this Halloween As part of the Texas Department of Public Safety’s <i>Keeping Texas Families Safe</i> initiative, the department is reminding all Texans of steps they can take to stay safe this Halloween.	DPS Offers Tips to Keep Texas Families Safe this Halloween

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) participates in numerous activities and programs with faith- and community-based organizations with the focus to promote a healthy Texas. This report highlights major initiatives for fiscal year (FY) 2025. While this listing is not exhaustive, it provides a high-level description of DSHS initiatives with faith- and community-based organizations.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE

The Center for Public Health Policy and Practice works to strengthen the public health system to improve the health of all Texans by developing and advancing public health workforce, partnerships, research, and policy initiatives.

The DSHS Medical & Research Library (MRL) maintained the webpage of the [Health Ministry Faith Community Nursing Bibliography](#) for many years for the **Texas Health Ministries Network** (THMN). In 2022, MRL discontinued maintaining the THMN webpage because THMN launched its own website. While MRL no longer maintains the THMN website, it continues to highlight training and bibliographic information for faith-based ministries on its webpage.

In June 2021, DSHS received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address health disparities highlighted by COVID-19. Through this grant, DSHS funded dozens of Texas partners to conduct **Community Conversations on Health** (CCOH) in rural and underserved communities across the state. CCOH’s primary goals were to listen, learn, and develop community-driven plans that leverage the community’s strengths while addressing their needs. The aim was to lay the foundation to strengthen community capacity and resiliency to face future public health emergencies. Upon the grant’s conclusion in March 2025, CPHPP field staff and funded partners reported 391 unique partnerships with faith-based, community-based, or civic organizations across the state in the CCOH Partnership Directory.

In June 2024, CPHPP formed the **Public Health Partnership Advancement Section**. The Section provides technical support to agency programs in identifying, securing, and maintaining strategic cross-sector partnerships that will improve public health practice, research, and policy. Staff strive to enhance efficiency of the Texas public health system by identifying opportunities for synergy with external partners, including faith- and community-based organizations, to reduce duplication of effort and maximize resources across the state. During their first full year (June 2024 to May 2025), the team conducted more than 100 discovery meetings with a wide variety of external public and private entities, including 50 statewide and community-based nonprofits, to learn more about their mission and priorities. When potential affinities are discovered, Section staff navigate external stakeholders to related resources and make personal connections to agency program staff to pave the way for future mutually reinforcing coordination.

The Section also houses the **Grant Development Center (GDC)**, previously known as the Funding Information Center, which provides online grant development education and health-related funding information for nonprofits, government entities, and education institutions in Texas. In FY2025, the GDC fulfilled 54 grant searches for nonprofits in Texas, yielding 1,077 potential funding leads. The GDC coordinator also conducted grants readiness workshops for nonprofit

groups in Williamson County and the Rio Grande Valley and for community-based partners in Calhoun County to improve sustainability of CCOH activities beyond the grant period.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

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

The **Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies Community Coalitions (HTMB CCs)** are in eight Texas communities with a focus on decreasing infant and maternal mortality. These coalitions connect local organizations—health systems, community groups, and faith-based partners—to improve maternal, infant, and perinatal health.

HTMB CCs unite health professionals and public health stakeholders to strengthen local resources and raise awareness of key topics like breastfeeding, safe infant sleep, and maternal warning signs through community education and training.

They also promote statewide maternal and child health programs, including:

- **Texas Mother-Friendly Worksite Program:** Recognizes employers who support breastfeeding employees through compliant policies and practices.
- **Safe Infant Sleep Campaign & Let's Talk – Safe Infant Sleep (LTSIS):** Shares actionable guidance based on American Academy of Pediatrics' safe sleep recommendations. LTSIS uses a conversation-based approach to help families overcome barriers to safe sleep.
- **Right from the Start:** A breastfeeding awareness campaign for hospitals and communities, promoting the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding to improve breastfeeding rates.

The **Texas Lactation Support Hotline 1-855-550-6667 (TLSH)** is funded by DSHS in collaboration with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) through a City of Dallas contract. TLSH connects Texas families and providers working with breastfeeding families to 24/7 support, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Support is available from breastfeeding experts, including International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants.

Help Me Grow Texas is a statewide network of communities that strive to strengthen early childhood systems to promote healthy development. The network enhances early developmental detection capacity and connects those in need of community resources, services, and supports families with young children. In FY2025, Help Me Grow Texas supported 12 community-based organizations by convening state and local early childhood stakeholders, coordinating a cohort learning experience for regional communities, and identifying sustainable best practices for a high-impact early childhood system.

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs - Systems Development Group (CSHCN SDG)** worked with 22 community-based organizations to provide case management, family support, and community resources to over 6,000 Texas children and youth with special health care needs and their families during FY2025. This group provides information about upcoming initiatives, training opportunities, and special interest events for professionals to share with CSHCN families.

The **Safe Riders Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program** collaborates with community-based organizations to provide resources and support to parents, CPS technicians, and safety advocates. The program works with 66 community-based organizations providing child safety seats and education through seat inspections for families in need at 112 distribution partner site locations. Staff also completed child passenger safety presentations for multiple community organizations and coalition groups and continuing education credits for certified CPS technicians. Safe Riders collaborated with

community-based organizations to conduct five CPS Technician certification trainings. The Safe Riders CPS program distributed 6,599 child safety seats from October 2024 through July 2025.

The **Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) Program** works with community-based organizations within local CFRTs consisting of multidisciplinary partners who review child deaths from a public health perspective. The Program provides technical assistance and training for the local teams. Local CFRTs coordinate and conduct child death investigations, promote agency collaboration in responding to child fatalities, try to understand the causes and incidences of child deaths in their county or counties, recommend changes to policy or procedures, and suggest changes to law, policy, or practice to reduce preventable deaths.

The **Obesity Prevention Program** works with Feeding Texas and Texas food banks to implement the Nutrition Guidelines in the Texas Food Banks Initiative. This program encourages partners to promote healthy eating and implement healthy food policies. It also operates to increase the availability of healthy food selections at food pantries and mobile food distribution sites. While partnering with the Tarrant Area Food Bank, the program enhances access to healthy food options in target communities and provides prompts and assistance to food pantries when ordering food from the food bank. In FY2025, this project served approximately 572,050 Texans across 13 counties.

The **Tobacco Prevention and Control Program** connects with community-based organizations to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts. These partnerships aim to lessen the impact of tobacco on the health, safety, and well-being of Texans. The DSHS-funded Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalitions' purpose is to prevent and reduce harmful tobacco product use, particularly among youth. Coalitions, which include parents, teachers, youth, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health care providers, and other community members, work at the local level to make their communities safer, healthier, and tobacco-free. In FY2025, coalitions provided education about the dangers of tobacco use to 2,970 youth and adult Texans.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

DSHS improves the health of Texans by using strategies to control emerging and ongoing disease threats. DSHS encourages contracted partners such as Public Health Regions (PHRs) and local health departments (LHDs) to establish and manage immunization coalitions to improve immunization rates by promoting the importance of childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations.

The DSHS Immunization Section and the CDC both promote local-level immunization coalitions run by LHDs. These coalitions often partner with community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, 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 continued working with 11 faith-based organizations in FY2025 and are working with them to increase vaccination rates in Texas.

Because both programs offer free vaccines to uninsured individuals and faith-based organizations are already in communication with this population group, they are an ideal partner with LHDs to promote vaccinations. The Immunization Section provides funding to PHRs which supports their efforts in regional initiatives. When LHDs and responsible entities partner with faith-based organizations, it fulfills multiple CDC grant objectives to form coalitions and build partnerships to improve vaccination rates in their communities.

The DSHS **Tuberculosis (TB) and Hansen's Disease Unit** provide guidance to local and regional TB programs to conduct targeted testing when an epidemiological assessment determines the selected facility is considered medium-to-high-risk for TB transmission. Targeted testing is a reasonable response to prevent TB disease transmission. Considering the principle, local and regional TB programs conduct targeted testing or distribute testing supplies to faith- and community-based organizations serving medium-to-high-risk populations. These sites include homeless shelters, residential facilities, churches, drug rehabilitation facilities, and others. In FY2025, local and regional TB programs partnered with a total of 48 community-based organizations to conduct targeted testing in 29 of the 48 facilities and distributed testing

supplies to 19 of the 48 community-based organizations. The TB Unit also partnered with the Texas Association of Community Health Centers to establish a linkage to care for people diagnosed with latent TB infection.

The DSHS HIV/STD Section works to monitor, prevent, test, treat, or link patients diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), or Hepatitis C, to treatment. Long-standing partnerships with faith- and community-based organizations have helped link people to community-based and clinical HIV/STD services. The **HIV Care Services Program** contracts with six Texas administrative agencies, who partner directly with faith- and community-based organizations. Partnerships promote HIV/STD awareness, provide resources for community HIV/STD prevention and care education, and develop local health promotion initiatives in respective regions. There are currently three faith-based organizations contracted to deliver HIV medical care and other support services.

REGIONAL & LOCAL HEALTH OPERATIONS

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 the Regional and Local Health Operations Division are to coordinate public health services at the local, regional, and state levels, promote public health programs and operations partnerships, and provide core public health services responsive to local needs across the state.

Public Health Regions

DSHS administers many of its public health programs and services through its eight PHRs. All PHRs partner with faith- and community-based organizations to improve and enhance public and population health. PHRs collaborate with local community coalitions, faith-based organizations, community leaders, and school districts to promote injury prevention and health promotion messages and participate in activities focused on suicide prevention, infant safe sleep education, childhood obesity prevention, and water, car, and bicycle safety. PHRs partner with faith- and community-based organizations to host back-to-school immunization events and health fairs, providing vision and hearing exams, as well as emergency preparedness information.

Table 1: Number of Activities in Public Health Regions (PHRs), September 2024 – September 2025

Quarter/Calendar Year to-Date	Public Health Fairs	Human Trafficking Education Participants	Community Meetings
CY 2024 Q1: Sept. – Nov.	245	34	716
CY 2024/2025 Q2: Dec. – Feb.	151	38	544
CY 2025 Q3: March – May	270	21	672
CY 2025 Q4: June - August	320	22	545
2025 total to-date	986	115	2477

PHRs participate with local school health advisory councils to conduct tobacco awareness presentations and with community health worker (CHW) associations to provide train-the-trainer classes. PHRs partner with public housing authorities to train staff and tenants on secondhand smoke and cessation resources. PHRs collaborated with faith-based organizations, rape crisis centers, law enforcement, and other victim services to educate and inform the public about human trafficking and provide outreach to possible victims.

Texas Center for Infectious Disease

The Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID) is the DSHS public health hospital for inpatient and outpatient treatment of Tuberculosis and Hansen’s disease. Several faith-based organizations provide spiritual support, discussions, and Bible

study opportunities to TCID patients. TCID also partners with the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL), which teaches resume building and civic classes to patients and other organizations, including Students of Service, which helps individual patients learn to read and write English. Additionally, one community-based organization provides animal-assisted therapy.

TCID's Volunteer Services Council hosted its first annual Run the Mission: Race to End Tuberculosis with over 100 participants, including community members, staff, and patients.

Table 2: Number of Events in Texas Center for Infectious Diseases (TCID), September 2024 – September 2025

Quarter/FY to Date	Events with Community-Based Organizations	Activities
2024 Q1: Sept. – Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8 community churches ■ 1 community partner ■ 1 animal-assisted therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SAPL resume building and education sessions ■ Representatives at two fairs for DSHS/HHSC/TCID ■ Trunk or Treat event open to the community – welcomed staff and community families
2024/2025 Q2: Dec. – Feb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8 community churches ■ 3 community partners ■ 1 volunteer group ■ 2 Community Campus Tours ■ 1 animal-assisted therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SAPL resume building ■ Lions Club Christmas season volunteers ■ Students of Service patient support/ welcome bags and birthday bags ■ University of Texas (UT) School of Public Health campus tours ■ San Antonio State Hospital Client Rights tour
2025 Q3: Mar. – May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 11 community churches ■ 1 community partner ■ 20+ community campus tours ■ 1 animal-assisted therapy ■ 15 individual volunteers ■ 4 speaking/presenting opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SAPL resume building ■ World TB Day ■ Intern tours ■ Goodwill Industries student tours ■ University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) tour ■ Individual volunteers – campus beautification projects ■ Presentations at the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ El Paso Project Manager ○ El Paso Children's Hospital ○ UTSA Public Health Panel x2 ○ Methodist Women's Auxiliary
2025 Q4: Jun. – Aug.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 community churches ■ 1 animal-assisted therapy ■ 1 community partner ■ 8 volunteers ■ 3 speaking opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lions Club cabinet meeting, 120 attendants ■ Presentations at the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAST Med/Students of Service ○ Heartland National TB Center
2025 total to date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 community churches ■ 1 animal-assisted therapy ■ 3 volunteer groups ■ 20 individual volunteers ■ 7 community partners 	Please see above for a comprehensive list.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86 community contacts 7 speaking opportunities 	
--	---	--

Office of Border Public Health

The Office of Border Public Health (OBPH) partners with faith- and community-based organizations in communities with poor health outcomes to improve the population’s health and well-being. In collaboration with these organizations, OBPH holds events and activities that focus on health promotion and health education. These events include health fairs, CHW training, and health professional training. Last fiscal year, OBPH partnered with CHW training centers, area health education centers, regional hospitals, community health clinics, nonprofit organizations, border collaboratives, and the eight Binational Health Councils. The Binational Health Councils, which exist along the Texas-Mexico border, develop work plans and sustainability goals to promote unity and collaboration between health officials of sister cities.

In 2024, OBPH increased its CHW capacity across the three border PHRs and in its central office. CHW staff were trained and developed various new public health-themed curricula. CHWs are currently delivering updated and new training and conducting fieldwork and technical support for disease surveillance and management in the border PHRs.

Table 3: Number of Community Health Workers (CHWs) Trained, September 2024 – September 2025

Quarter/Calendar Year to Date	CHWs Trained	New Trainings Offered
CY 2024 Q1: Sept. – Nov.	76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smiles for Moms and Babies - Oral Health Training Preventing Congenital Syphilis The Prevention of Diseases that Affect Us in South Texas Infant Botulism, Listeriosis and Hepatitis A - SPANISH
CY 2024/2025 Q2: Dec. – Feb.	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smiles for Moms and Babies - Oral Health Training Mental Health First Aid-ADULT
CY 2025 Q3: March – May	273	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smiles for Moms and Babies - Oral Health Training Measles in Texas (English & Spanish) Preventing Congenital Syphilis La enfermedad de Parkinson 101: cómo hablar sobre La enfermedad de Parkinson 101: cómo hablar sobre el Parkinson Parkinson en su comunidad Mental Health First Aid-ADULT
CY 2025 Q4: June - August	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHWs Educating and Promoting Pediatric and Adult Immunizations Mental Health First Aid-ADULT
2025 total to-date:	439	Please see above for a comprehensive list.

Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (CHEPR)

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

For years, the Texas Ready program has presented faith- and community-based organizations about preparedness. Over the past year, CHEPR has revised its approach to community readiness outreach. CHEPR developed and piloted a 'Train-the-Trainer' program, designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively train others in personal preparedness planning (be informed, plan, build a kit). CHEPR piloted the program with LHDs, recognizing their crucial role as much of this outreach occurs at the local level. In the coming years, CHEPR will work with state-level

community organizations to provide this training to their regional members. However, CHEPR will no longer be working with individual communities or faith-based groups.

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)

The Texas Division of Emergency Management's (TDEM) Incident Support Task Force (ISTF) is a critical state resource that strengthens Texas' capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Built on a model of unified communication, coordinated support, and strategic collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, the ISTF delivers rapid, expert assistance to communities when they need it most. By expanding capability at the local level, the ISTF advances Texas' priority to safeguard lives, protect property, and enhance response and recovery support across all 254 counties.

The ISTF was created to enhance local recovery efforts following a disaster. This is accomplished by starting the recovery process early in the response phase. The ISTF has multiple components to speed recovery efforts at the local level. This includes the Disaster Recovery Task Force, which was developed through legislation following Hurricane Harvey to provide specialized assistance for communities and individuals to address financial issues, available federal assistance programs, and recovery and resiliency planning.

TDEM recognizes the vital role of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Through strategic partnerships, TDEM continues to support local networks and strengthen communities across Texas.

WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

TDEM promotes a Whole Community Approach to emergency management, encouraging collaboration across multiple sectors to address the complexities of incident preparedness, response, and recovery.

This approach extends coordination beyond Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to include groups such as:

- Local Government Personnel
- Emergency Management Officials
- Volunteers
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Community and Civic Groups
- Representatives of Disability and Vulnerable Populations
- Private Sector Partners
- State and Federal Agencies

Through training exercises, informational workshops, community outreach, and public engagement, TDEM equips FBCOs and Texans with the tools needed to respond confidently and effectively. Tailored emergency plans reflect specific needs, ensuring efficient resource use and support for the most vulnerable during long-term recovery.

VOLUNTARY AGENCY LIAISONS (VAL) PROGRAM

TDEM continues to invest in its Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) Program, which includes eight regional VALs, a State VAL, the Texas Community Recovery Program Manager, and a Community Resource Liaison. Together, these full-time positions focus on strengthening community partnerships, supporting long-term recovery processes, and maintaining engagement with FBCOs throughout all phases of emergency management.

TEXAS COMMUNITY RECOVERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TCR)

TDEM advances the Texas Community Recovery Management System (TCR), a cloud-based platform that streamlines coordination among local governments, nonprofits, and community partners. Designed for flexibility, TCR includes four deployable modules tailored to incident size and scope. A full-time program manager oversees efforts as TDEM aims to expand the team to provide additional technical assistance, training, and implementation support.

TEXAS VOAD ENGAGEMENT

TDEM serves as an ex officio board member of Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), providing strategic guidance and facilitating collaboration with VOAD chapters and member organizations. This role enhances coordination, minimizes duplication of services, and aligns voluntary sector efforts with state emergency management priorities.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUP (LTRG) DEVELOPMENT

TDEM supports the development and mentorship of Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs), which bring together FBCOs, nonprofits, government, and business partners to assist communities in rebuilding after disasters. In recent years, TDEM provided support for recovery efforts related to:

- Perryton/Ochiltree Tornado – 2023
- Rio Grande Valley Severe Weather – 2023
- Panhandle Wildfires (FMAG 5487 Windy Deuce Fire and FMAG 5488 Smokehouse Creek) – 2024
- DR-4781 Severe Weather and Flooding – 2024
- DR-4798 Hurricane Beryl – 2024
- DR-4871 Rio Grande Valley Flooding – 2025
- FMAG 5552 Welder Fire Complex – 2025
- FMAG 5553 Duke Fire – 2025
- FMAG 5570 Crabapple Fire – 2025
- DR-4879 July 4th Flooding – 2025

LONG-TERM RECOVERY PEER NETWORK

TDEM facilitates the Long-Term Recovery Peer Network, a statewide community of practice connecting local disaster recovery leaders. This network fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing, and mentorship among experienced and emerging recovery leaders to strengthen local capacity and promote consistent best practices across the state.

TEXAS MULTI-AGENCY FEEDING TASK FORCE

TDEM coordinates the Texas Multi-Agency Feeding Task Force, which is composed of organizations including The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Feeding Texas, Texans on Mission, Southern Baptist of Texas Convention, Operation BBQ Relief, Mercy Chefs, H-E-B, and others. The Task Force supports large-scale feeding operations for disaster survivors and first responders through coordinated logistics, planning, and resource integration.

2025 HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

- **Texas Rural Funders Webinar, “Weathering the Storm”**
TDEM was a featured speaker in a statewide webinar aimed at helping rural community leaders, nonprofits, and funders prepare for future disasters by understanding available resources and response roles. The session focused on proactive planning, the evolving landscape of disaster relief in Texas, and the importance of cross-sector collaboration. It also emphasized ways to maintain public engagement during “blue sky” periods and encourage philanthropic investment in preparedness and long-term recovery.
- **National VOAD Conference Representation**
Three TDEM Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs) represented the agency at the 2025 National VOAD Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, engaging with counterparts from across the country to share best practices and strengthen

interagency coordination. Participation in this national forum enhanced TDEM's ability to integrate voluntary organizations into disaster response and recovery, build collaborative networks, and bring innovative strategies back to Texas communities.

■ **Texas Nonprofit Summit Participation**

TDEM served on the host committee for the 2025 Texas Nonprofit Summit and participated in a panel discussion on "Harnessing Your Superpowers in Times of Disaster," hosted by The Women's Home. The panel focused on nonprofit sector engagement in disaster response, with a fireside chat highlighting resources available through OneStar and strategies for supporting organizations impacted by emergencies.

■ **Engagement with the Texas Alliance of YMCAs**

TDEM continues engagement with the Texas Alliance of YMCAs, a statewide coalition representing 22 independent YMCA organizations serving over 1.4 million Texans annually. With a broad footprint spanning over 700 locations and a strong commitment to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, the Alliance is exploring an expanded role in emergency and disaster response. TDEM's collaboration aims to strengthen local capacity by leveraging YMCA facilities, staffing, and community partnerships to support preparedness, response, and long-term recovery efforts.

■ **EMAC VAL Deployments; California Wildfires & Arizona Flooding**

Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), TDEM deployed Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs) to support disaster response efforts in California after the Palisades wildfire and recently deployed to Arizona in response to flooding in Gila County. These deployments improved interstate coordination and provided valuable opportunities for TDEM staff to engage with VOAD partners across the country, share best practices, and strengthen the role of VALs in integrating voluntary organizations into emergency management systems in Texas and beyond. These deployments were 100% funded by the requesting state.

■ **Texas Multi-Agency Feeding Task Force Operations**

In response to the July flooding in the Hill Country, Concho Valley, and Central Texas, the Task Force coordinated feeding efforts across the state. These efforts included over 64 active sites operating for 50 days, collectively providing more than 698,190 meals to more than 7,435 people.

■ **Texas Strong Long-Term Recovery Spotlight Series**

TDEM hosted the Texas Strong: Strengthening Disaster Nonprofits Network Series, a 6-week educational initiative focused on long-term recovery. The series guided community partners, local leaders, and recovery stakeholders through key topics including LTRG structure, disaster case management, community engagement, operational planning, and sustainability. The series promoted coordinated, survivor-centered recovery to strengthen local capacity across Texas.

■ **Faith-Based and Nonprofit Sector Data Working Group**

TDEM launched a data working group to enhance the collection and management of information from faith-based organizations (FBCOs), NGOs, and VOAD partners before, during, and after disasters. The group is focused on identifying best practices for data collection, reporting, and visualization to better capture the sector's impact and tell a more complete story of its contributions to response and recovery. This effort supports more informed decision-making, resource coordination, and recognition of voluntary sector efforts across Texas.

■ **Texas Community Recovery Management System (TCR)**

TDEM deployed the Texas Community Recovery Management System (TCR) to assist impacted jurisdictions organize and manage community response and recovery efforts. In response to the July flooding in the Hill Country, Concho Valley, and Central Texas, more than 19,500 volunteers were registered in the system, with their skills, availability, and interests recorded to enable targeted matching. Faith-based and community organizations could request volunteers directly or connect with pre-registered individuals to assist with cleanup, home repair and rebuilding, RV replacement coordination, and the distribution of essential items.

■ **Texans on Mission Collaboration**

TDEM partnered with Texans on Mission, whose specialized team of software and web developers provided

technical support during TCR implementation. Their expertise allowed real-time system optimization and customized training for community partners, ensuring efficient volunteer management and seamless coordination throughout operations.

■ **Concho Valley COAD Activation and Transition**

The Concho Valley COAD, based in San Angelo and serving Tom Green County, swiftly mobilized in response to the July flooding in the Concho Valley. Their coordination and communication ensured a united community response, reducing duplication of services and improving efficiency. Building on this momentum, the COAD is transitioning into the Concho Valley Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG), with support from TDEM to expand its reach and capacity.

■ **Travis County Recovery Alliance Development**

TDEM collaborated with local partners to support the development of the Travis County Recovery Alliance, a coordinated long-term recovery initiative focused on strengthening community resilience and survivor support. A key component has been the Disaster Case Management Committee, with active participation from the Austin Disaster Relief Network and Hill Country Community Ministries. The Alliance is addressing debris cleanup, home repair and rebuilds, RV replacement, and distribution of essential items, with continued support from TDEM throughout long-term recovery.

■ **Statewide Disaster Assistance Events**

In support of the Office of the Governor and the Vaqueros del Mar Foundation, TDEM assisted in organizing a series of events following the Strait to the Heart fundraiser. As the Foundation presented monetary donations to impacted Texans, TDEM collaborated with a wide range of VOAD and FBCO partners—including the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Global Empowerment Mission, Endeavors, local Long-Term Recovery Groups, Community Action Agencies, and emotional and spiritual care providers—to deliver immediate relief and help survivors enroll in long-term recovery services. These events showcased the strength of coordinated nonprofit efforts in addressing comprehensive disaster recovery needs.

■ **Community Action Agency Engagement**

In 2024, TDEM was invited to speak at the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA) state conference, focusing on disaster preparedness and the critical role Community Action Agencies (CAAs) play in disaster response and recovery. This engagement served as a catalyst for deeper collaboration. As a follow-up, TDEM regional staff met directly with CAAs across the state to better understand their operational capabilities and build stronger connections with local emergency management officials and government partners. These efforts proved instrumental after a series of disasters when several CAAs—including the Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST), Hill Country Community Action Association (HCCAA), Community Council of South Central Texas (CCSCT), and Concho Valley Community Action Agency (CVCAA)—mobilized quickly to lead local disaster response and long-term recovery efforts. Their effectiveness was greatly improved through prior engagement, education, and coordination with TDEM, demonstrating the importance of proactive relationship-building and preparedness planning.

■ **Houses of Worship Liaison (HOWL) Program**

TDEM supported the development of the HOWL Program in Kaufman County, aimed at enhancing communication and coordination with faith-based organizations for disaster preparedness and response. TDEM staff provided strategic guidance throughout the program's design and implementation to help establish a framework for long-term engagement with houses of worship.

■ **Lamar County CERT Training**

TDEM provided training on the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) and Public State of Texas Assessment Tool (pSTAT) to members of the Lamar County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This collaborative effort strengthened local disaster assessment capabilities by equipping volunteers with tools and knowledge to conduct Initial Damage Assessments and support emergency management operations.

■ **West Texas Disaster Coalition Development**

TDEM provided strategic guidance in developing the West Texas Disaster Coalition, a church-led initiative aimed at

enhancing disaster preparedness and response in Hudspeth and Culberson Counties. The coalition is identifying shelter, feeding, and mass care sites and building a roster of church-based volunteers for future operations.

■ **Crisis Response Ministry Support**

Crisis Response Ministry provided critical spiritual and mental health support to both first responders and disaster survivors during response operations. Their organization also collaborated with TDEM to support Call Center operations, helping manage survivor inquiries and connect individuals with essential services.

TDEM remains committed to building stronger, more resilient communities through meaningful partnerships with disaster nonprofits, government entities, and FBCOs. Together, we prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters with strength, unity, and purpose.

Texas Education Agency (TEA)

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) continues to work closely with nonprofit and community-based organizations with a focus on providing parents and community members with information and resources that can lead to improved outcomes for all students. Some examples of this work in 2025 include:

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS)

- The mission of Communities in Schools (CIS) in Texas is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.
- CIS works in collaboration with school personnel to develop and provide a comprehensive Integrated Student Support (ISS) program uniquely tailored to address unmet academic and non-academic barriers to student success.
- The agency awards grants to CIS affiliate nonprofits across the state to help run the CIS programs in their community.

EARLY LEARNING

- The agency works with private nonprofit childcare providers and helps them partner with school districts to share funding and expand access for parents.
- The agency works with early childhood advocacy groups, including Texans Care for Children, United Ways of Texas, PBS of Texas, Children at-Risk, Child-Care Associates, and Children's Learning Institute.
- 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, engagement, and academics in a safe learning space after school and in the summer. These federally funded grant programs provide high-quality academic support, student interest-based enrichment, college and career, and family engagement activities that support the regular school day academic program; programs are encouraged to deliver those activities in creative, hands-on, and exploratory ways.
- Within all the current 91 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.
- TEA's grant program currently funds 14 grants to 14 nonprofit organizations operating 115 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, Greater San Antonio After-School All Stars and SA Youth. Each of these organizations partner with the school districts they serve to achieve their common goal of increasing student attendance, engagement, and academic success.

MENTAL HEALTH AND T-CHAT

- The agency works with Texas Child Mental Health Consortium and its Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) program to expand school district partnerships for access to TCHAT service providers, located in 12 Texas university-based health research institutions (HRIs), so families and students can receive no-cost mental health care via tele-health at school with parent consent and engagement.
- Once TCHAT completes its short-term referral, assessment, and services, families and students may be connected to community providers for ongoing mental health and wellness support.
- Through August 31, 2025, a total of 944 school districts and open enrollment charter schools are “active” TCHAT participants with an agreement between the school system and designated HRI. Participation includes onboarding training for each school offering TCHAT access. Currently, access to TCHAT services is available in 7,260 public schools. Currently, 4,485,932 students can now access TCHAT mental health services at school when referred to the service by the school with parental consent.
- TCHAT mental health services are funded by the Texas Legislature and are offered to all Texas public schools.
- The public may access a map of the TCHAT 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. TEA has also supported three local communities with securing SAMHSA-funded AWARE grants, which will be implemented within those communities through 2028.
- 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 by ensuring every student has access to adequate mental health resources.
- The agency serves on the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council with 22 state agencies to develop and implement the Texas Children’s Behavioral Health Strategic Plan. In December 2024, an updated plan was published, which has set the strategy for improving access to children’s mental health care by 2029. This coordination scope includes a statutory MOU for Community Resource Coordination Groups and the Texas System of Care. Resources related to the Coordinating Council are maintained by HHSC [here](#).

The agency has supported the Collaborative Task Force for Public School Mental Health Services pursuant to TEC 38.301-312, which sunsets in December 2025. The latest report summarizing the improvements and areas of growth for school mental health services can be found [here](#).

HHSC, ACCESS AND ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

SNAP Outreach

The Texas SNAP Outreach Program’s overall goal is to engage Texas communities to bring awareness about the SNAP program and provide application support to individuals and families who may be eligible. 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 HHSC’s 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. The Texas SNAP Outreach Team accomplishes the mission through two integrated systems of community connections to ensure Texans in all 254 counties receive outreach services: The SNAP Outreach Program partners with the Feeding Texas Network, which consists of 19 community-based food banks, and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission’s (HHSC’s) Community Partner Program.

The primary 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 educate individuals on the use of HHSC’s self-service tools to support self-sufficiency. From September 2024 through August 2025, the combined effort of all community partners assisted with 128,854 applications and redeterminations. Of this total, Feeding Texas submitted 60,012 applications or 46.6% of all applications and redeterminations submitted for the program.

Community Partner Program

The Community Partner Program (CPP) is a collaborative initiative between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and a statewide network of more than 649 community and faith-based organizations. With many partners operating multiple locations, there are a total of 1,694 access points across Texas.

The Community Partner Program (CPP) partners with community and faith-based organizations to promote self-service and self-sufficiency. These organizations assist individuals in applying for and managing 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.

Organizations interested in participating in the program sign a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HHSC and agree to adhere to the program's requirements. Once the MOU is finalized, CPP staff connect with the organization to provide ongoing support. CPP support includes in-person/virtual visits, training, certification, and presentations.

Community Partner by Type

Type	Examples	Percent
Nonprofits	Social services, food pantries, shelters	30.35%
Government	Housing authorities, health departments, council of governments	19.26%
Medical	Community Health Centers, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals, mental health	21.26%
Education and Literacy	School districts, libraries, head starts, colleges, universities	8.47%
Faith-Based	Churches, religious organizations	18.03%

Case Assistance Affiliate Program (CAA)	MCO/DC organizations	2.62%
--	----------------------	-------

In fiscal year 2025, the CPP participated in over 109 statewide events and facilitated 12 monthly webinar trainings to 3,960 participants. These webinars included HHS benefit and policy updates, CPP updates, pilot program trainings, changes to YourTexasBenefits.com, Forums, Public Health Emergency (PHE) winddown information, and general partner information. CPP hosted 4 Community Partner Education and Information Virtual Forums with 1,516 participants. During this time, 7,007 Virtual and In-person site visits were conducted by Regional Staff, providing ongoing support.

The CPP State Office leads projects designed to empower community partners. By participating in Direct Application Support (DAS), which officially launched on August 26, 2024, partners can provide remote application support through YourTexasBenefits.com, eliminating physical proximity constraints. This enables clients to apply from home, addressing barriers such as transportation, disability, or lack of a nearby eligibility office.

The Community Partner Dedicated Line also launched in 2025, providing Community Partners with a priority phone line when contacting 2-1-1, option 2, for application and renewal support increasing access to benefits for clients statewide.

CPP's forum and webinar content were informed based on community partner feedback from "Listen and Learn" sessions conducted over the previous year. This resulted in the community partners assisting 102,447 Texan families in applying for HHSC benefits, completing 26,376 redeterminations, submitting 3,884 changes, and downloading 270,089 supporting documents.

This year, three Open House Events were organized to significantly expand community involvement and foster stronger connections with nonprofit organizations, with a particular focus on serving rural communities. The first event was held in-person, welcoming representatives from eight local organizations and providing valuable opportunities for networking, resource sharing, and partnership discussions. The two subsequent events were conducted virtually, each attracting over 90 registered nonprofit organizations from across the region. These virtual gatherings featured interactive presentations, breakout discussions, and Q&A sessions, allowing participants to engage on a deeper level despite geographical barriers. As a result of these efforts, CPP received four completed enrollment forms from organizations interested in becoming Community Partners, demonstrating increased engagement and interest in ongoing collaboration.

Throughout the past year, CPP also strengthened the relationship with the Tribal Community in Texas, especially the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and held the first Application Assistance event for the Alabama-Coushatta community, providing step-by-step guidance to community members on completing applications for available programs and services. Questions were answered, eligibility requirements were clarified, and individualized support was provided to ensure participants felt confident in their submissions.

The Case Assistance Affiliates Program operates through a contractual agreement with the Health and Human Services Commission to provide essential services within Texas's Medicaid and CHIP programs. It focuses on assisting individuals who utilize YourTexasBenefits.com to manage their benefits cases.

CPP aims to ensure that partners have access to comprehensive reporting to support their respective initiatives, reinforcing the strength of collaborative efforts in the community.

Statistics Worth Highlighting:

- Number of Texas families assisted for application/redetermination submissions by community partners: 128,823.
- Number of individuals impacted: 385,814
- Three Open House events, which allowed the Community Partner Program to expand its community involvement further. These events provided valuable opportunities to speak with organizations in rural areas and talk about how

becoming a community partner can assist in better servicing their community. Over 150 organizations attended the Open House Events.

- Direct Application Support: DAS, had the opportunity to help 10,573 families apply for benefits from remote application support.
- The total number of attendees for the CPP Monthly Webinars for Fiscal Year 24 from Sept 1, 2023 – Aug 31, 2024: 12 webinars, 3,960 in attendance.

To learn about our Community Partner Program, visit us at texascommunitypartnerprogram.com.

Texas Works Paths to Success (TWPS)

The Texas Works Paths to Success (TWPS) program empowers Texans by providing training and educational resources that enable participants to create a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities. This unique program aims to reduce the effects of situational and generational poverty by increasing economic self-sufficiency, educational opportunities, and housing stability of its participants. In collaboration with strategically selected community organizations, TWPS offers a unique training experience that provides the knowledge and skill set needed for participants to begin careers at Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) upon completing the program.

Texas Works Paths to Success (TWPS) – 2025 Overview

In 2025, the Texas Works Paths to Success (TWPS) program expanded statewide, launching its first partnership in El Paso with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Through partnerships with Houston ISD, Texans Can Academy–Houston, Rio Grande City ISD, and DFPS–El Paso, TWPS delivered four SNAP Basic Skills Training cohorts that graduated 23 participants, all securing employment within HHS Access and Eligibility Services (AES) Regional Operations.

TWPS alumni continue to achieve milestones in both professional and personal growth. Notably, 11 graduates have already been promoted and four graduates reported moving into their very own apartments, and yet another four reported purchasing or upgrading their vehicles.

The program also hosted its first DFPS-TWPS graduation in El Paso, TX. Local news stations covered the event, generating statewide visibility and drawing new interest from DFPS regions, nonprofits, and private organizations. These accomplishments highlight TWPS's growing impact and its continued role in preparing future AES professionals while supporting participants' long-term success and independence.

TWPS in Action

When two recent graduates shared they lacked essential items to begin their new professional roles, TWPS immediately partnered with community organizations to provide support. Within days, donations were secured to supply both graduates with new shoes and three complete professional outfits, including socks, belts, and accessories.

This swift response reflects TWPS's commitment to preparing participants for workplace success while advancing its broader goal of breaking the cycle of generational and situational poverty. By removing barriers on the front end, the program ensures graduates can begin their careers with confidence and stability, reinforcing long-term employment outcomes.

SNAP Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works with partners, also known as Implementing Agencies, to provide food and nutrition education to eligible individuals that promote healthy food choices and physical activity consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). SNAP-Ed carries out such efforts to improve the likelihood that eligible persons will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles that support obesity prevention and reduced diet-related chronic disease. SNAP-Ed serves SNAP participants, individuals eligible to receive SNAP benefits or other

means-tested federal assistance programs, and individuals residing in communities with a significant population with low income.

Building on last year's success, SNAP-Ed also expanded the GoodFoodGoodMove campaign, emphasizing quick, affordable ways for Texans to include frozen and fresh fruits and vegetables in daily meals. The campaign's mix of digital ads, Smart TV placements, grocery store promotions, and refreshed social media content reached millions of Texans, increasing awareness, and supporting healthier choices across the state. Partnerships with faith-based and community-based organizations helped deliver these messages into trusted community settings, making healthy options more visible and accessible at the local level.

Additionally, Healthy Texan Week was held from May 5–11, 2025, reaching all public health regions across Texas. The event grew significantly from the previous year, with an estimated 64% increase in attendance, engaging more than 13,000 Texans through 152 events hosted by 97 partners. These events provided opportunities for Texans of all ages to connect with nutrition education, participate in activities, and learn simple ways to improve their health. Of these hosts, 4 were faith-based organizations and 93 were community-based organizations, reflecting the importance of these partnerships in connecting Texans to nutrition education and wellness opportunities. Through these collaborations, the events provided space for Texans of all ages to participate in activities, learn simple ways to improve their health, and strengthen ties within their communities.

Through Implementing Agencies, it is estimated that over 1.9 million individuals were impacted in FY25 through policy and environmental changes, such as increasing access to healthy foods in corner stores. Complementing these efforts, about 198,000 people participated in direct education classes across approximately 1,420 unique sites in more than 415 cities.

The SNAP-Ed Program partners with 16 Implementing Agencies:

Texas SNAP-Ed Implementing Agencies			
Texas Center for Local Food: A Fresh Look at Your Farmers’ Market	Texas A&M AgriLife: Better Living for Texans	UT Health Brownsville: Tu Salud Si Cuenta	MHP Salud: Familias Saludables
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: South Texas Early Prevention Study (STEPS)	Early Childhood Intervention: Family Focused Nutrition Initiative	Office of Border Public Health: Healthy Communities Initiative	University of North Texas: Head Start to Healthy Lifestyles with SNAP-Ed
Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention: Community and Clinical Health Bridge Project Expansion	Texas International Institute of Health Care Professionals: Heath Care Priority Project	It’s Time Texas: Building and Living Healthier Initiatives	Prairie View University: Smart Eating Active Living (SEAL)
HHSC: Texercise		Brighter Bites	
Feeding Texas: 1. Food Bank Nutrition Education; 2. Supporting Health Includes Nutrition Education (SHINE); 3. Nutrition Education for Veterans; 4. Healthy Corner Stores; 5. Farmers Market Nutrition Guides			
Women Infant Children: 1. Nutrition Education Initiative; 2. Breastfeeding Initiative			

Presumptive Eligibility

Presumptive Eligibility (PE) provides Texans with immediate access to essential healthcare services while advocating for ongoing coverage. Under PE, individuals are given temporary Medicaid coverage if they appear eligible, ensuring they receive critical care without delay while the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) reviews their

application for regular Medicaid. This temporary determination is made by qualified hospitals or other approved entities that participate in the PE program.

As of September 2025, 63 entities, including hospitals, clinics, and community health centers, are enrolled in the Presumptive Eligibility program across the state of Texas. These entities play a vital role in facilitating access to care for uninsured or underinsured individuals who require immediate assistance.

To support participating hospitals and entities, the program conducts quarterly webinars designed to educate, update, and engage stakeholders. These webinars cover policy changes, updates to eligibility or processing procedures, and best practices for submitting PE determinations. The webinars also provide a forum for participants to ask questions, share experiences, and receive guidance from HHSC staff and subject matter experts.

Feedback collected during these sessions has been invaluable. It enables the PE program to identify areas for improvement, address recurring challenges, and provide targeted training or resources where needed. The webinars have also strengthened relationships between HHSC and participating entities, ensuring that everyone involved in the program is well-informed and supported as they help Texans access the healthcare services they need.

SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) is the employment and training component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP E&T helps SNAP participants gain skills to find employment that moves them forward towards self-sufficiency. Through SNAP E&T, SNAP participants have access to training and support services to help them enter the workforce and advance while employed.

The goal of SNAP E&T is to:

- Connect job seekers to regular employment opportunities.
- Provide skills development and increase economic mobility.
- Connect participants to careers that lead to self-sufficiency.

HHSC is the agency that determines SNAP eligibility and therefore serves as the administrator of the SNAP E&T program in Texas. HHSC contracts with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the state's workforce system. TWC serves as the SNAP E&T program operator and contracts with the 28 local workforce development boards (LWDBs), who contract with service providers. The LWDBs subcontractors and Third-Party Partners provide skill development, vocational services, and support services for SNAP E&T participants. To connect more SNAP recipients to career pathways, HHSC, in conjunction with TWC, implemented an initiative to expand SNAP E&T services through Third-Party Partnerships (TPPs). TPPs are an opportunity for employment and training service providers to invest in focused services for the SNAP population and receive a 50% cost reimbursement for providing those services.

In federal fiscal year 2025, the SNAP E&T program established the first Third-Party Partnerships in the state. These included the following LWDBs and the service providers they subcontracted with for SNAP E&T services:

Local Workforce Development Board	Area Served	SNAP E&T Service Provider
Workforce Solutions Capital Area	Austin	C2 Global Professional Services
Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast	Houston	Joan and Stanford Alexander Jewish Family Services
Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend	Corpus Christi	Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Inc

HHSC’s SNAP E&T program team also collaborated with other agencies and organizations to conduct presentations that discussed the benefits of creating a network of providers by leveraging Third-Party Partnerships. These included Feeding

Texas, Goodwill International, and the regional Texas Goodwill affiliates, all of whom provide skill building training opportunities.

In conjunction with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and TWC, HHSC conducted a full-day convening for more than 20 community colleges, community-based organizations, and 9 LWDBs.

HHSC also co-presented with TWC on the Expansion of Texas' SNAP E&T Third-Party Partnership program for LWDBs and contractors at the 2025 Workforce Forum.

2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN)

The 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) connects Texans with services they need through comprehensive information and referral services. TIRN collects, organizes, and maintains information on over 27,000 state and local agencies and their services. Governmental and community service information is provided to the public by phone, online and via web-based chat at 211Texas.org, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. HHSC administers TIRN through 25 Area Information Center (AIC) regions, which include United Way agencies, councils of government, community action networks, and a municipality.

During State Fiscal Year 2025, TIRN answered approximately 1,508,935 calls, conducted 20,187 web-based chat sessions, and had 1,022,371 website page views at 211Texas.org. TIRN also outreached approximately 75% of AICs to thought partner, collaborate and provide direct support.

Additionally, TIRN was invited and attended the 2025 Aging in Texas Conference providing information to organizations about TIRN's role in assisting Texas' aging population. To build on these efforts to assist aging Texans, TIRN worked with the HHSC Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to apply for a No Wrong Door (NWD) Grant to support Closed-Loop Referrals. This grant will be used to streamline referrals for Long-Term Support Services (LTSS), starting with a pilot program in FY26.

This past year, TIRN also collaborated with HHSC Family Clinical Services (FCS) to train contractors on navigating 211texas.org and to maintain their organization listing in the TIRN Resource Database (June 2025). Training FCS contractors to add and update their organization in the database ensures up to date and accurate information is available for health services to Texans.

During FY25 TIRN also approved and initiated a special project for the South-Central AIC. The purpose of this project is for TIRN to share resource data to support the success of *ConnectCentralTexas*, a new case management and care coordination platform designed to enhance service delivery for United Way Community Health Workers (CHWs), Case Managers and partner organizations coordinating intensive care of the client. Access to 2-1-1 TIRN's comprehensive resource data will ensure real-time information can be easily navigated and decrease duplication of efforts.

HHSC, COMMUNITY SERVICES

Area Agencies on Aging

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

During federal fiscal year 2024 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024), 116,492 people received 13,353,547 meals through the congregate and home-delivered meals programs.

The transportation service programs provided 611,275 trips to 8,008 people.

HHSC also contracts with the nonprofit vendor, Texas Legal Services Center, to support AAAs in providing legal assistance services to older adults and their caregivers. These legal assistance services create public awareness of the legal and Medicare issues that can impact older Texans. They also assist these adults and their caregivers with legal services related to public entitlements, healthcare, individual rights, planning options, housing, and consumer needs. Over 3,986 individuals benefited from legal assistance services in federal fiscal year 2024.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

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

In State Fiscal Year 2024, the ADRCs conducted 168,947 client interactions and provided 21,124 hours of respite services to 400 caregivers.

Foster Grandparent Program

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) offers income-eligible adults, ages 55 and older, meaningful volunteer opportunities providing one-on-one emotional support, mentoring, and tutoring to children with exceptional needs in ten HHS service areas. FGP volunteers are matched with a volunteer site, which may be a public agency, faith or community-based nonprofit, or health care organization. In grant year 2024-2025, program staff supported and encouraged 321 FGP volunteers who served 335,175 hours mentoring and tutoring 15,231 children and youth.

Texas Institution of Higher Education (The University of Texas at Austin)

The University of Texas at Austin continues to partner with community organizations at the local, state, national and international levels. As the mission of the institution states, “The University preserves and promotes the arts, benefits the state’s economy, serves the citizens through public programs and provides other public service.”

Much of this benefit to the state takes place in partnership with the state’s nonprofits and faith-based organizations, with activities being carried out across many campus units. Service is integrated in a deep and pervasive way across the campus and this brief report seeks to give an overview of representative activities during calendar year 2025.

Nonprofit and faith-based organization engagement is well represented in the Office of the Dean of Students at the University. The home for student-community partnership is the Volunteer and Service Learning (VSL) unit of the Office of the Dean of Students. For the third year, VSL hosted The Project, UT’s student-led community-building initiative and largest day of service, in the Dove Springs neighborhood of Austin. During the November event, The Project partnered with nonprofit community partners, including First Independent Baptist Church, Dove Springs/George Morales Recreation Center and the Wayside Schools charter school system. In collaboration with the VSL, the inaugural Texas Greek Day of Service hosted more than 200 volunteers in the Dove Springs neighborhood of Austin in fall 2025. VSL’s student-led Alternative Breaks program partnered with nonprofits in and out of state. Since 2020, Alternative Breaks participants volunteered at locations outside of Austin for a total of 1,714 hours (27 hours per participant, on average), contributing to a \$57,384.40 economic impact in communities served. During spring 2025, students worked with nonprofit organizations in the Rio Grande Valley (McAllen) and New Orleans, Louisiana. Student organizations are

advised by Dean of Students staff. Students also serve on the executive committees of Nueces Mosque, the Texas Hillel and the University Catholic Center.

The University of Texas-University Charter School System (UT-UCS) is affiliated with the College of Education at the university. Since its founding in 1998, UT-UCS has educated children most in need of stability as they enter intensive treatment and residential programs, including medical and psychiatric hospitals, foster care centers, substance abuse recovery programs and others. The UT High School, also affiliated with the College of Education, offers online courses for a single class or full-time virtual academy for high school students. Annually, more than 6,000 students enroll in full-time diploma programs or part-time online courses, over 29,000 students complete credit-by-exams and more than 300 partner school districts use specialty services provided by the UT High School District.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health continues to identify and pursue strategic partnerships with other mental health funders and foundations that want to engage in the mental health space. It serves as an educational resource for foundations interested in contributing to mental health, acts as a convener of funders who can partner, coordinates and co-funds to maximize impact and promote and support a variety of knowledge sharing, skill development and capacity building opportunities among partners.

Along with these initiatives, University faculty teach academic service-learning classes in which students undertake community service to gain real-world experience and enhance their coursework. Faculty across the University's 19 colleges and schools work with staff in the Office of Community Engagement and the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost to integrate community engagement into their courses. These offices also support faculty who want to pursue community-based research projects for which they recruit graduate and undergraduate student researchers.

The Bridging Disciplines Program creates and coordinates interdisciplinary certificate programs that help students apply the perspectives and tools of 17 disciplines to complex issues and questions. It supports a connecting experience that often takes place with a community partner. By spring 2025, 405 out of a cohort of 784 students completed a connecting experience with organizations including the university Landmarks Public Program and Texas Appleseed. The Office of Undergraduate Research in Academic Affairs seeks to connect faculty and the undergraduate and graduate students that they recruit across the University's colleges and schools with community-based research projects.

Among academic units, the College of Liberal Arts is an exemplar in community-engaged work. A research-practice partnership funded by the W.T. Grant Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation and Bezos Foundation, with the Excellence Project and Lifeworks, evaluates a pilot youth deflection program and involves an MOU with the Travis County District Attorney's Office. Another research-practice partnership with the Council for At-Risk Youth (CARY) evaluates a school-based violence reduction intervention. This project is funded by Arnold Ventures. Step Up Texas is a partnership with STARRY and funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The program provides trauma-informed restorative justice training to school-based and juvenile justice personnel in eight central Texas counties.

Whether through the direct service of university-affiliated individuals or collaborative partnerships, the University of Texas at Austin seeks to deliver upon its public service mission.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)

The mission of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) is to transform young lives and create safer communities. Building an effective juvenile justice system cannot occur without consistent partnership with and assistance from nonprofits and community-based organizations. In recent years, support from external organizations and volunteers has allowed juvenile justice professionals to fill gaps in the state's continuum of care, enabling additional at-risk youth to remain as shallow as appropriate in the system.

At the locally driven front end of the juvenile justice system, county juvenile boards oversee the state's 164 county juvenile probation departments, which may serve youth in the community or in facilities. These departments provide various community programs and services directly or through service provider contracts. Programs vary by county and may include specialized treatment services or programs tailored to specialized populations, like female youth or older youth requiring vocational programming.

To keep youth closer to home, juvenile probation departments pair youth with appropriate community-based programs and organizations. In fiscal year 2025, juvenile probation departments directly operated or partnered with stakeholders to provide 1,375 community-based programs to youth and families. Across these programs, 25% of participants engaged in a treatment-based program, 35% engaged in a skill-building or activity-based program, and 27% engaged in a surveillance-based program.

Examples of successful community partnerships across the state's probation regions include the following:

- **Bandera County:** For over 20 years, the county juvenile probation department has worked with Triple H Equitherapy Center to provide prevention and intervention services. This partnership with local volunteers allows youth to build critical skills, while also practicing emotional regulation and healthy relationship building.
- **Bexar County:** In Bexar County, the juvenile probation department pairs community mentors with youth for a minimum of one year; in addition to one-on-one engagement, the mentors assist with special projects, including community beautification and wilderness activities. The department also works with volunteer medical professionals and individuals with previous justice experience to provide information to at-risk youth about substance abuse prevention, violence prevention, prosocial hobbies, and life-skills development.
- **Cameron County:** Since 2019, the county juvenile probation department has partnered with veteran service organizations, a local school district, local permitting offices, and community volunteers to build homes for military veterans. This cross-sector partnership allow youth to learn marketable skills in the construction field while connecting veterans in need with stable housing.
- **El Paso County:** In El Paso, volunteers from local faith-based organizations host spiritual retreats for justice-involved youth. Additionally, connections with community-based organizations and volunteers from a local university allow the department to execute neighborhood beautification projects and sustain a clothing closet for youth and their families.
- **Hill County:** In Hill County, department staff and youth work alongside volunteers from Mended Network to build dog houses out of supplies donated from business owners. The department then donates each final product to local law enforcement.

At the back end of the juvenile justice system, TJJD directly supervises state-committed youth in secure facilities, in halfway houses, and on parole. Partners from faith-based and community organizations augment TJJD programming designed to instill lasting behavior change and assist youth as they transition home. As of November 2025, 275 active volunteers supported youth in facilities and communities statewide. Example partnerships that support youth at the state level of the system include the following:

- **Credible messenger and peer support programming:** In fiscal year 2024, TJJD launched a credible messenger program in a state secure facility. Through this program, a community organization made up of young men with previous justice experience implemented a curriculum developed in partnership with state employees. Lesson plans cover a variety of topics, including independent living skills, public speaking, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and emotional regulation. Additionally, the agency strengthened ties with community-based credible messengers and peer support specialists who conduct youth success workshops and provide individual mentoring to parolees.
- **Religious services:** Across secure facilities and halfway houses, faith-based groups volunteer to provide regular religious services and specialized programming. For example, Less Than Least Ministries leads routine Bible studies with committed youth, while Epiphany Ministries hosts spiritual care weekends for youth interested in mentorship

and spiritual growth. Similarly, teams comprised of local volunteers, nonprofits, and religious institutions offer youth and families support in community settings during the reentry process.

- **Animal support programming:** In secure facilities, TJJD operates specialized dorms in which youth care for animals that require temporary shelter. For example, in North Texas, the agency partners with nonprofits that find foster homes for pets of people in need, such as those experiencing an addiction crisis, medical emergency, or financial hardship. Youth in the state’s nearby secure facility take these animals in, providing them with support, care, and training until their owners are ready for reunification. Animal stewardship helps the youth build relationships, empathy, and responsibility while also learning valuable job skills.

Texas State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar)

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 sector's reach.

Our roots stretch back 50 years to 1974 when Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe recognized the power and value of volunteers and created the Texas Center for Volunteer Action—the precursor to OneStar—to “channel, coordinate, and mobilize the vigor, idealism, and vision” of volunteer organizations. This set a vital precedent of state-supported service and volunteerism, which continues to this day through OneStar.

In 2004, OneStar Foundation and OneStar National Service Commission, together referred to as OneStar, were established as a united home merging diverse initiatives across Texas centered on furthering volunteerism and community service. Through decades of service and collaboration, OneStar has become a cornerstone of Texas’s nonprofit ecosystem, driving forward initiatives that address critical needs and empower communities to thrive.

Today, we serve the community through four pillars of work: *AmeriCorps Texas*, *Volunteer Texas*, *Rebuild Texas*, and *Together Texas*.

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

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

The highlights listed below reflect significant milestones and accomplishments in 2025.

AMERICORPS TEXAS

AmeriCorps

As the Texas State Service Commission, OneStar is charged with advancing and supporting a portfolio of AmeriCorps Texas programs operating solely in Texas as part of the [AmeriCorps State and National](#) program. OneStar administers federal AmeriCorps grant funds to address systemic challenges and engage Texans through the power of service.

AmeriCorps members commit to serving with nonprofits, government agencies, and faith and community-based organizations to tackle some of our state’s toughest challenges with hands-on solutions.

OneStar received FY25 AmeriCorps grant awards to make subawards to programs for 2025-2026. The **2025-2026 portfolio** comprises 30 AmeriCorps programs supporting nearly 3,000 AmeriCorps members, totaling **\$29.8 million in federal funding**. The full press release, which includes the 30 programs, can be found [here](#).

In June, we launched the **AmeriCorps Texas Storytelling Project**, which is designed to elevate awareness of the transformative impact AmeriCorps members have in communities across Texas. The project structure centers on in-depth interviews with AmeriCorps members, program leaders, and community participants, resulting in feature-length stories that combine first-hand testimony, contextual data, and vivid storytelling. These narratives serve as both a communications asset and an advocacy tool—informing policymakers, inspiring potential members, and deepening public understanding of AmeriCorps’ value.

OneStar launched the second year of our **Texas Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC)** in partnership with our three Communities In Schools AmeriCorps programs in Central Texas, North Texas, and San Antonio. The Youth Mental Health Corps is designed for young people ages 18 to 24 to gain experience and earn certifications while serving in communities with limited access to mental health resources. We are excited to welcome 65 Youth Mental Health Corps AmeriCorps members to service this year. Collectively, they will serve 514 students in middle and high school campuses to improve their academic engagement or social-emotional skills. The Youth Mental Health Corps was conceived and funded by the Schultz Family Foundation and Pinterest.

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 administers an AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary project, allowing OneStar to place AmeriCorps VISTA members with host site organizations throughout Texas. Managing an AmeriCorps VISTA Project allows OneStar to leverage additional AmeriCorps resources to create pathways for individuals to engage and support community organizations in accelerating their impact.

OneStar’s AmeriCorps VISTA project continues to be a powerful force for building the capacity of Texas nonprofits and addressing poverty across the state. Additionally, OneStar had an opportunity to extend our AmeriCorps VISTA project grant through April 2028. This additional investment provides long-term stability for our VISTA program and ensures that OneStar can continue empowering organizations and communities across Texas for years to come.

VOLUNTEER TEXAS

Governor’s Volunteer Awards

For more than 40 years, the [Governor’s Volunteer Awards \(GVA\)](#) have celebrated the remarkable contributions of individuals and organizations in Texas that make significant differences in their communities through service and volunteering. In conjunction with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and First Lady Cecilia Abbott, OneStar prepares and administers the Governor’s Volunteer Awards each year.

During National Volunteer Week on April 23, a special recognition ceremony was held at the Texas Governor’s Mansion to formally honor recipients of the 41st Annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards. The 17 awardees and their respective categories are as follows:

- **Governor’s Lifetime Achievement Award:** Ruth Jordan (San Angelo)
- **Governor’s Lifetime Achievement Award:** Wayne Riley Maynard (Dallas)
- **First Lady’s Rising Star Award:** Hannah Ho (Fort Worth)
- **First Lady’s Rising Star Award:** Miriam Khan (Spring)
- **First Lady’s Rising Star Award:** Shreya Poladia (Texas Hill Country)

- **Volunteer of the Year Award:** Samir Becic (Houston)
- **Volunteer of the Year Award:** Eric A. DuVoe (Round Rock)
- **Volunteer Family of the Year Award:** The Aghili-Jacquier Family (Pflugerville)
- **Corporate Champion Award:** PCCA (Fort Bend)
- **Corporate Champion Award:** ServiceMaster of Wichita Falls (Wichita Falls)
- **Corporate Champion Award:** Thrivent (Statewide)
- **Community Champion Award:** Texas Health Community Hope (North Texas)
- **Community Champion Award:** Town of Addison (Addison)
- **Community Champion Award:** Universal City Volunteer Corps (San Antonio)
- **Education Champion Award:** San Jacinto College (Pasadena)
- **Rebuild Texas Disaster Impact Award:** Jasper Newton Long-Term Recovery Group (Jasper & Newton Counties)
- **AmeriCorps Legacy of Service Award:** Ashley Harris-Land (Houston)

Honorary Chair First Lady Cecilia Abbott will publicly announce awardees for the 42nd Governor’s Volunteer Awards in early 2026 and host GVA recipients at a ceremony to be held at the Governor’s Mansion next spring.

REBUILD TEXAS

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 the financial and technical expertise needed to help communities recover stronger than before.

Following the Crabapple wildfire, which burned over 9,500 acres in Gillespie County, the Rebuild Texas Fund responded quickly on March 16, in coordination with local and state officials, and launched the **Crabapple Fire Relief Fund**. Fundraising efforts started within 24 hours, utilizing statewide media and partner networks to promote the campaign and attract donations. In line with our dedication to local leadership and community-driven recovery, we designated the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country as the local fiduciary agent.

Following the July 4th floods that affected 26 counties in Central Texas and the Texas Hill Country, OneStar launched the **Central Texas Flood Recovery Fund**. Through collaborations with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and regional philanthropy partners, Rebuild Texas coordinated statewide philanthropy efforts and co-listed local disaster funds on the Central Texas Flood Recovery Fund webpage. The Rebuild Texas Fund continues to mobilize individual, corporate, and foundation partners in support of communities impacted by the Central Texas Floods. As of November, the Central Texas Flood Recovery Fund has raised \$5.4 million in donations. These results demonstrate strong statewide confidence in the Fund’s transparent, locally driven approach to disaster philanthropy, ensuring resources reach the communities and organizations that need them most.

Additionally, OneStar worked with partners, including the Texas Division of Emergency Management, to support the development of long-term recovery groups following the floods. In August, the Rebuild Texas Fund launched a Long-Term Recovery Support Grant program to strengthen the capacity of local long-term recovery groups serving flood-impacted areas. Long-term recovery groups were invited to apply for funding to support dedicated recovery staffing and address critical unmet needs essential to rebuilding efforts.

Relaunching Rebuild Texas Fund Website

In October, OneStar launched a new Rebuild Texas Fund website, RebuildTX.org. The new site offers a dedicated, donor-focused platform that highlights the Fund’s impact and provides a clear, user-friendly way to engage and give. The goals of the redesigned website are to drive charitable donations, educate visitors on how the Rebuild Texas Fund operates,

inspire confidence through measurable community impact, and emphasize that all donations are allocated in line with local priorities and community input. By offering a simple giving process, sharing real stories of recovery, and clearly showing the Fund’s results, the website ensures donors can make an immediate and meaningful impact while reinforcing the Rebuild Texas Fund as a trusted vehicle for long-term resilience across Texas.

Disaster Philanthropy & Collaboration

- In partnership with the **Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation**, OneStar engaged regional stakeholders to explore innovative strategies for long-term disaster recovery. This convening marked the launch of a regional long-term recovery and VOAD planning effort, bringing together elected officials, nonprofit leaders, faith-based organizations, and community stakeholders from Cameron, Starr, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. The collaboration will guide the development of an updated recovery and resilience framework, ensuring the region is better prepared for future disasters.
- OneStar staff participated in the 2025 **Texas Rural Funders** Annual Meeting in South Padre Island, where more than 100 public and private foundations convened to strengthen rural communities through strategic philanthropy. As part of this engagement, OneStar partnered with Texas Rural Funders to plan and facilitate the organization’s first-ever Disaster Philanthropy Roundtable. This convening brought together public and private disaster funders from across Texas to share best practices in disaster fundraising and grantmaking, identify opportunities for joint response and funding alignment, and begin developing a long-term strategy for statewide philanthropic collaboration.
- OneStar was honored to be invited to serve on the inaugural Board of Directors for **BeforeDuringAfter**, an emerging disaster technology platform providing recovery roadmaps, vetted social media information, and preparedness tools for businesses, nonprofits, and individuals. This positions OneStar and the Rebuild Texas Fund at the forefront of statewide innovation in disaster recovery technology and coordination. Other founding board members include representatives from Wells Fargo, the Federal Reserve, Texas Search and Rescue, and Texas Mutual Insurance Company.

TOGETHER TEXAS

Texas Nonprofit Summit

From February 24–26, OneStar hosted the 2025 Texas Nonprofit Summit in Austin, bringing together nearly 400 nonprofit leaders, changemakers, and sector champions from across the state. This convening included the second annual Texas Nonprofit Strong Day at the Capitol and served as a powerful platform for connection, collaboration, and capacity building.

Under the theme *Navigating New Horizons Together*, the Summit addressed the rapidly evolving challenges facing the nonprofit sector and inspired attendees to chart a unified path forward. The event featured more than 20 dynamic breakout sessions and master classes, alongside compelling keynotes from nationally recognized leaders.

In addition to the main event, OneStar hosted a statewide network meeting and an AmeriCorps Texas Grantee convening on February 24. These pre-conference gatherings offered strategic opportunities for our networks and partners to align, share resources, and strengthen collaboration ahead of the broader Summit.

Thanks to the generosity of our presenting sponsor, Amplify Credit Union, we were able to award 15 scholarships (covering registration and travel) for nonprofit leaders to attend the Summit, ensuring greater access and representation at this statewide gathering.

Texas Nonprofit Strong

Since 2019, OneStar and United Ways of Texas have worked together to strengthen and elevate the state’s nonprofit sector through the joint initiative Texas Nonprofit Strong. In recent years, the effort has evolved into a collaborative platform for promoting the value, capacity, and impact of Texas nonprofits. Earlier this year, OneStar and United Ways

of Texas assessed how to expand and sustain Texas Nonprofit Strong's work. After careful evaluation—and with consideration of current funding and capacity constraints—OneStar and United Ways of Texas decided the Texas Nonprofit Strong brand will transition to a revised campaign model in early 2026. A redesigned webpage will debut in January, featuring data, sector insights, and advocacy resources to raise awareness of the importance of nonprofits to Texas communities. By refining the approach and realigning resources, OneStar and United Ways of Texas remain steadfast in their shared commitment to ensuring a strong, visible, and influential nonprofit sector for Texas's future.

Strategic Partnerships & Outreach

OneStar actively seeks opportunities to engage with Texas nonprofits, learn about the challenges they face, and strengthen our statewide network through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and visibility. OneStar also participates in strategic events and conferences across the state to foster meaningful relationships and showcase its thought leadership. Highlighted below are a few examples:

- OneStar connected with Texas nonprofits at two regional events in April:
 - The **Impact Summit in San Antonio** on April 17 to discuss regional challenges, share resources, and explore partnership opportunities.
 - The **Collaborative Community Summit in Austin** on April 24 to strengthen relationships and better understand local sector needs.
- OneStar served as the conference host for the **Texas Demographic Conference**, held in Dallas on May 21-22. The conference brought together more than 150 researchers, policy analysts, academics, planners, and community leaders to gain valuable insights and engage in meaningful discussions about the latest statewide and regional demographic data. This was the first time the conference was held outside of Austin, and OneStar was the conference host. In addition, OneStar presented a session on the state of the Texas nonprofit sector, along with the North Texas Nonprofit Institute.
- On August 15, OneStar participated in the **2025 East Texas Nonprofit Summit** at the University of Texas at Tyler's Soules College of Business. Hosted in part by the East Texas Nonprofit Center, the annual event attracted more than 200 people. It offered expert-led sessions, practical tools, and networking opportunities for nonprofit leaders and board members.
- OneStar joined the North Texas Nonprofit Institute in Hurst for the **North Texas Nonprofit Summit** on September 18-19. OneStar staff attended sessions highlighting trends in foundation grantmaking, nonprofit operations, and board governance. The event also featured the launch of a comprehensive report on the state of nonprofits and philanthropy in North Texas.
- **DOVIA of Tarrant County** hosted its annual **Professional Development Workshop (PDW)** event on September 30 at the Birdville ISD Professional Learning Center in North Richland Hills. This year's event was designed for nonprofit and volunteer leaders who are seeking real-world solutions to help their organizations grow despite limited resources and constant change. OneStar staff moderated the opening panel, *Credibility: Reframing Roles and Reclaiming Respect*, highlighting the influence of community engagement professionals.

Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)

VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (VMHD) 2025 UPDATE

The Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD) within the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) continues to ensure access to competent, veteran-informed mental health services for service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF). VMHD fulfills this mission through resource connection, training, certification, and technical assistance across Texas. In

addition to connecting veterans in need to local services, VMHD collaborates with national, state, and community partners to address veteran-specific issues such as suicide prevention and postvention, veteran homelessness, justice involvement, peer support, moral injury, military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, and the unique needs of women and rural veterans.

VMHD remains guided by one of the broadest definitions of “veteran” in the state while serving all who have worn the uniform, regardless of discharge status, branch, or length of service. All VMHD programs, training, and technical assistance are provided at no cost.

- VMHD’s structure includes the following programs:
- Veteran Suicide Prevention Program
- Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN)
- Justice Involved Veteran (JIV) Program
- Homeless Veteran Program
- Provider Training & Rural Veteran Counselor Program
- Rural Community & Faith-Based Partnerships
- NEW 2025 Program Expansions: Faith-Based Outreach Team (new positions), Additional positions include: Suicide Prevention Manager, Veteran Homelessness Manager, Justice Involved Veteran Manager, Peer Services Manager, and Training Manager.

FAITH-BASED OUTREACH INITIATIVE

In 2025, VMHD launched a dedicated Faith-Based Outreach Team consisting of two full-time employees whose mission is to strengthen partnerships with faith-based and nonprofit organizations across Texas. These positions are specifically focused on reaching veterans in rural communities, where faith communities are often the first line of connection and support.

Through the Faith & Allegiance Initiative, the Faith Champion Network, and the expansion of the *Texans Ask: “Did Y’all Serve?” Campaign*, the team will provide tailored training, faith-sensitive resource connections, and suicide prevention guidance for clergy, ministry leaders, and volunteers who serve veterans and their families.

EXPANDED PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

To meet the growing need for specialized services, VMHD has created five new statewide manager positions to strengthen program oversight and outreach coordination across Texas:

- Suicide Prevention Manager – leads statewide suicide prevention initiatives, ensures consistent implementation of safe messaging and postvention practices, and supports local coalitions.
- Veteran Homelessness Manager – expands partnerships with housing authorities, Continuums of Care, and non-profits to reduce veteran homelessness across urban and rural regions.
- Justice Involved Veteran Manager – enhances collaboration with Veteran Treatment Courts, law enforcement, and correctional systems to provide trauma-informed care and reentry support.
- Peer Services Manager – oversees the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN), focusing on peer certification, volunteer engagement, and regional network development.
- Training Manager – coordinates statewide provider and stakeholder training to ensure delivery of evidence-based and military-culturally competent education.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Veteran Suicide Prevention Program

VMHD remains focused on reducing veteran suicide through training, technical assistance, and collaborative efforts tailored to the veteran community. Emphasis continues on screening and assessment, gatekeeper training, safe messaging, intervention and crisis management, safety planning, and postvention. VMHD also maintains stewardship of

the Texans Ask: “Did Y’all Serve?” Campaign, Central Texas Mayor’s Challenge, Buddy Check Day (SB460), and the Veteran Caregiver Guide (SB63).

Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN)

The MVPN continues to operate as a statewide network of Peer Service Coordinators and volunteers located within Local Mental Health Authorities. The network provides peer-to-peer support, suicide prevention education, and connections to local resources. In 2025, MVPN is expanding its Faith Champion component, training peer coordinators to collaborate directly with faith-based communities and rural congregations to identify and support veterans who might otherwise remain unseen.

Justice Involved Veteran (JIV) Program

VMHD continues to strengthen partnerships with Veteran Treatment Courts, law enforcement, and correctional systems. The program delivers trauma-informed training and ensures veterans in the justice system have access to specialized reentry and treatment services. The newly added Justice Involved Veteran Manager oversees these collaborations and provides annual legislative reporting on court outcomes.

Homeless Veteran Program

VMHD’s Homeless Veteran Coordinators partner with housing agencies, coalitions, and non-profits to address veteran homelessness statewide. With the addition of a Veteran Homelessness Manager, the program expands its reach to rural areas, emphasizing prevention, rapid rehousing, and wraparound care coordination.

Provider Training & Rural Veteran Counselor Program

VMHD offers no-cost professional training and technical assistance to providers and stakeholders to promote military cultural competency and veteran-informed care. The Rural Veteran Counselor Program continues to deliver direct mental health services to trauma-affected veterans and families in rural regions of Texas.

Rural Community & Faith-Based Partnerships

This program engages community stakeholders and congregations in developing grassroots strategies to support veterans and their families, especially in rural areas with limited services. The Faith-Based Outreach Team further strengthens this initiative, training and equipping churches and nonprofits to identify veterans, connect them to resources, and foster belonging within their communities.

FY2026 OUTLOOK

The Texas Veterans Commission’s Veterans Mental Health Department is entering 2026 with expanded staffing, stronger integration with faith-based organizations, and a deeper statewide reach. By leveraging community networks and equipping professionals and volunteers with trauma-informed tools, VMHD ensures that no veteran in Texas is left behind—no matter where they served, live, or worship.

FY2025 IMPACT DATA

FY2025 Trainings Provided to Community Stakeholders

Training Type	Trainings Provided	People Trained
Military Cultural Competency	167	7,284
Suicide Prevention	44	1,420
Total	211	8,704

VMHD Services to Community & Faith-Based Stakeholders

Category	Occurrences
Connections to SMVF	1,514
Training on serving Service Members, Veterans, and Families	1,133

Technical assistance	7,263
Interagency Collaborations & Coalitions	2,402
Total	12,312

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

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

ACTIVITY & PROGRESS FOR GOALS 3 & 4

The ICG began discussions on activities it could undertake to further progress toward these goals and partner with the Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC). In 2023, TNC hosted a stakeholder meeting for 40 sector leaders from across the state, including ICG members. In June 2024, the Texas Nonprofit Council provided ICG members with an overview and update report. In 2025, plans to work with TNC and implement legislative recommendations released in its 2024 report were paused until after the 89th legislative session to allow Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) liaisons to address any needs or requests that arose during the session.

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 that helps identify gaps and service duplication across the state. It can be accessed at texasconnects.com.

IV. Next Steps for 2026

For 2026, the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) will continue coordinating with the Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC) as the TNC welcomes a new set of council members. Work will focus on aligning efforts to make renewed progress toward goals to strengthen the relationship between nonprofits and state agencies for the benefit of all Texas communities.

Important activities planned for 2026 include:

■ The ICG will

- Review progress and advance activities to continue the 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 engages 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.

V. Appendices

Appendix A: House Bill No. 492

AN ACT

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

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

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

CHAPTER 535. PROVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER

SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FAITH AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Sections 535.005-535.050 reserved for expansion]

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith and community-based organizations;
- (2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government;
- (3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents;
- (4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency;
- (5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible; and
- (6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith and community-based initiatives.

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

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

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

(c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sections 535.055-535.100 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

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

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

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

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

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

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

b) The account consists of:

- (1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this subchapter;
- (2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the purposes of this subchapter; and
- (3) interest earned on money in the account.

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

(d) The purposes of the account are to:

- (1) increase the capacity of faith and community-based organizations to provide charitable services and to manage human resources and funds;
- (2) assist local governmental entities in establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based initiatives; and
- (3) foster better partnerships between state government and faith- and community-based organizations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(5) establish general state priorities for the account;

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

(7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or for a faith-based initiative, including money allocated for the establishment of the advisory subgroup under Section 535.108, is not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iii) obtaining information about or

referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal, or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational topics;

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

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

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

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

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

(G) encourage research into the impact of

organizational capacity on program delivery for faith and community-based organizations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (2) impose regulations or reporting or other requirements on that entity that do not apply to other contractors or grantees of the commission solely because of the entity's status;
- (3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the requirements for maintaining that status; or
- (4) convert that entity into a governmental entity because of the receipt of account funds through the contract or grant.

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

- (1) may award grants from funds appropriated from the account to:
 - (A) faith and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state for capacity-building purposes; and
 - (B) local governmental entities to provide seed money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives; and
- (2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures established by the commission under Section 535.104(a)(6).

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

- (1) a list of the names of each person to whom the entity awarded a grant from money appropriated from the account and the amount and purpose of the grant; and
 - (2) information regarding the methods by which the public may request information about those grants.
- (b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section 535.104, the State Commission on National and Community Service must provide to the commission periodic reports on a schedule determined by the executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic reports must include an annual report that includes:

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

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

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

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

- (1) representatives from state agencies, nonprofits, the academic community, and the foundation community; and
 - (2) other individuals who have expertise that would be valuable to the task force.
- (b) Using money appropriated from the account, the task force shall hold at least three public hearings in various geographic areas of this state, at least one of which must be outside of Central Texas. The task force shall hear testimony

at the hearings regarding strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to manage human resources and funds and provide services.

(c) The task force is not required to hold a public hearing if the remaining money appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is

insufficient for the performance of the duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) The task force shall present a report and legislative recommendations to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2010, regarding its recommendations.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the chief executive officers of the Office of Rural Community Affairs, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and any other state agency as determined by the governor shall designate the liaisons for faith- and community-based initiatives as required under Section 535.051, Government Code, as added by this section, not later than December 1, 2009.

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

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

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

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

Chief Clerk of the House

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

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:

Date

Governor

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) a statewide nonprofit;
- (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 nonprofits.

(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*

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

- 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 Institution of Higher Education (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 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