



Report Card: 85th Texas Legislative Session



**Strong
Progress**



**Moderate
Progress**



No Progress



Goal: Ensure funding for women's preventive healthcare, including contraception, can fully meet the growing need among low-income, uninsured women.

Progress Report

The state's women's health programs (Healthy Texas Women, the Family Planning Program, and Breast and Cervical Cancer Services) have been funded at the same level as the previous biennium. In a particularly tough fiscal climate in which many programs were cut, this represents a substantial victory.

However, data shows that the state is still struggling to meet the needs of Texas women and return to 2011 service levels. The TWHC will closely monitor the Health and Human Services (HHSC) application for the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) 1115 Demonstration Waiver, which could have a significant impact on the funding, services, and structure of the state's women's health programs. The TWHC will also work to ensure the distribution of funding between the state's women's health programs matches the need for services within each program.



Goal: Identify areas with a shortage of qualified family planning providers and develop strategies to increase provider participation in the state's women's health programs.

Progress Report

HHSC Budget Rider 54 requires more comprehensive and timely data related to the women's health programs, which will help the state identify and address areas of greatest need.

The veto of SB 790 by Senator Borris Miles, which would have extended the Women's Health Advisory Committee to September 2019, was a missed opportunity to monitor and improve the development of the state's women's health programs. More work remains to increase the capacity of qualified providers in the state.



Goal: Ensure women have access to the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives of their choice, including the most effective forms of contraception – implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs).

Progress Report

HHSC Budget Rider 198 requires the development of a five-year strategic plan to reduce barriers for Medicaid recipients and those who may be eligible for HTW, the Family Planning Program (FPP), or CHIP Perinatal to access long-acting reversible contraception (LARC). It will be important during the legislative interim to work with HHSC and stakeholders to promote strategies that reduce barriers to LARC access.



Goal: Increase continuity of care for women by eliminating barriers to preventive healthcare access.

Progress Report

HHSC Budget Rider 209 requires a report on the potential cost-effectiveness and savings of automatically enrolling eligible women into HTW after they age out of CHIP or the Children's Medicaid Program. This is an important step towards addressing continuity of care for young adults, and the TWHC encourages HHSC to move forward with auto-enrollment.

HB 1161 by Representative Sarah Davis, which would have required health providers to provide a recipient up to a one-year supply of prescription contraception at one time, failed to pass. The Legislature also failed to take steps to fix the CHIP glitch preventing CHIP clients from receiving HTW services. More work remains to ensure women receive and maintain continuous healthcare coverage that improves health outcomes and reduces costs to the state.



Goal: Maximize the ability of the women's healthcare safety net to reach more women and save Texas taxpayer dollars.

Progress Report

Work remains during the interim to ensure that the state's partnership with the federal government results in an increased number of women able access quality preventive healthcare.