

Protect Women's Public Health Programs



T E X A S

Women's Healthcare
COALITION

Increase Funding for Texas Women

Women's preventive care saves lives and money. In an era when Texas' leaders are looking to constrain costs while also promoting healthier families, improving access to women's preventive healthcare, including contraception, is one of the single best economic and public health strategies for the state.

Higher levels of state funding are essential to serve Texas women in need of preventive healthcare, in order to provide for healthier women, babies, and families.

- Current funding levels can serve only three in 10 of the 1.3 million women in Texas in need of publicly subsidized care.
- These services include screenings for cancer and other diseases; well-woman care; and contraceptive counseling and methods.
- Such services help women avoid unplanned pregnancies, which have higher risks of prematurity and low birth weight; educational and economic disadvantage; and poor child mental and physical health.
- Women's preventive services and contraception save the state money by reducing the number of births paid by Medicaid; by reducing the chance a newborn will be sick; and by detecting diseases early, when complications can be prevented.

Seeking efficiencies, the 84th Texas Legislature may reconfigure the three state programs that provide preventive care and birth control to low-income and uninsured women in Texas:

- Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Family Planning Program
- DSHS Expanded Primary Health Care Program
- Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Texas Women's Health Program

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition strongly recommends that:

- Any reconfiguration minimize upheaval, given the multiple rounds of major changes to the safety net in the past several years
- Any streamlining of programs be done with an achievable timeline that does not disrupt services or reduce provider participation
- The process of drafting legislation and creating policy includes extensive, ongoing stakeholder involvement and feedback
- State agencies collect and publicize historical and projected data to identify service gaps and improve service provision and program coordination

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE BY THE NUMBERS

1.3 million

Number of Texas women who need publicly subsidized preventive healthcare¹

3 in 10

Number of Texas women who received the publicly funded preventive care they need²

\$1.3 billion

Annual amount taxpayers spend on unplanned childbearing in Texas³

\$6 for \$1

Texas taxpayers' return on investment per dollar invested in contraception⁴

Coalition Membership

as of September 2014

Members of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition are organizations that endorse the TWHC Principles. By endorsing the Principles, Organizational Members agree to be publicly associated with the coalition.

Steering Committee Members

Texas Medical Association
District XI (Texas) American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas
Healthy Futures of Texas
Teaching Hospitals of Texas
Texans Care for Children

General Members

Texas Medical Association Alliance	Gateway to Care
Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives
Texas Pediatric Society	University Health System
Texas Hospital Association	San Antonio Metro Health Clinic
Texas Nurses Association	South Texas Family Planning & Health Corp.
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Council on Family Violence
Department of Ob/Gyn of UNTHSC and the ForHER Institute	People's Community Clinic
National Council of Jewish Women—Texas State Policy Advocacy Network	St. David's Foundation
Susan Wolfe and Associates	Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice
Family Health Care, Inc.	League of Women Voters of Texas
Healthy Futures Alliance	Texas Nurse Practitioners
Texas Health Institute	AWHONN Texas
Cardea	SALVERE (Striving to Achieve Literacy via Education, Research, and Engagement)
Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility	Amistad Community Health Center
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry	Schneider Communications
Center for Community Health, UNTHSC	Legacy Community Health Services
	Generation Covenant Healthcare

References

¹ Frost J, et al. Contraceptive Needs and Services. Guttmacher Institute 2014.

² Number of women served in 2014 (per FY16-17 DSHS and HHSC Legislative Appropriation Requests), plus clients served by federally funded Title X June 2013 through May 2014, divided by number of women in need (per Frost et al).

³ Sonfield A, et al. The Public Costs of Births Resulting from Unintended Pregnancies. Guttmacher Institute 2011; 43(2):94-102.

⁴ Kaye K, et al. The Benefits of Birth Control in America: Getting the Facts Straight. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy 2014.



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"Serving Humanity to Honor God"

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Healthy Futures
of Texas

Development and leadership of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition is a project of Healthy Futures of Texas

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