

TEXAS
WOMEN'S
HEALTHCARE
COALITION
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2021

Ensure funding for the state administered women's health programs to help fully meet the growing need for preventive healthcare among low-income, uninsured women across Texas.

WHY: Healthy Texas Women (HTW) and the Family Planning Program (FPP) connect Texas women with essential healthcare services and save state dollars. Continued support and funding for the women's health programs is absolutely critical for improving health outcomes for women and families. Especially now during a global health pandemic, where so many have lost or at risk of losing employer sponsored healthcare coverage, safety net programs will be even more crucial.

HOW:

- Increase funding to meet the preventive healthcare need for women, and those impacted by COVID-19.
- Increase funding for FPP whose providers historically expend all funds well before the end of the fiscal year due to high demand for services.
- At a minimum, maintain the 2020-2021 funding levels for the state's women health program.
- Support budget riders that help administer the women's health programs.

Ensure Texas has a strong qualified provider network with the capacity to serve all women in need of preventive health services.

WHY: Texas needs more providers to deliver preventive care to women, especially in rural areas. In FY 2019, there were a total of 3,255 HTW and FPP providers that served over 291,000 individuals.[i] However, location, specialty, and number of clients seen by a provider varies and can impact accessibility of care. A more cohesive and active provider base is needed to properly address women's health needs in Texas.

HOW:

- Increase the number of qualified women's health and specialty providers available to deliver services in women's health programs, including Healthy Texas Women Plus.
- Enhance provider engagement, recruitment, and technical assistance.

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), as well as counseling and medically accurate information on the full range of FDA approved contraceptives.

WHY: Improving health outcomes includes empowering women to plan if, and when, to become pregnant. Promoting access to all FDA approved birth control methods and medically accurate counseling for Texas women will women plan for a future that is right for them.

HOW:

- Ensure that women can receive a 12-month supply of birth control at a single pharmacy visit, if prescribed.
- Add FDA-approved contraceptive coverage to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Increase access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (implants and IUDs) through increased and/or dedicated funding for providers to purchase inventory and have contraceptives on hand when needed.

Support innovative new healthcare policies that benefit the health of Texas’ women and families.

WHY: Texas’ family planning programs provide vital, but very limited health services. These programs are not a substitute for comprehensive healthcare coverage. In Texas, three out of ten women are low income and one in five are uninsured. [ii] Updated census data from 2019 shows that Texas remains the state with the highest number of uninsured residents with 5.2 million or 18.4% of Texans without insurance,[iii] and we know the pandemic is exasperating these rates. The numbers highlight the extent to which Texas women face challenges with inconsistent or unavailable healthcare coverage to have healthy pregnancies and babies, to manage postpartum issues, and everything in-between.

HOW:

- Extend Medicaid coverage for eligible mothers from 60 days to 12 months postpartum, as recommended by the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.
- Develop a workable solution for the coverage gap that will maximize federal funding and substantially increase the number of low-income women able to access a medical home where they can receive important preventive care and family planning services.

[i] Texas Health and Human Services. Women’s Health Programs Saving and Performance Report Fiscal Year 2019. May 2020.

[ii] Hamel, L., Wu, B., Brodie, M. Sim, S., & Marks, E. (2018). Views and Experiences Related to Women’s Health in Texas, Selected findings from the Kaiser Family Foundation/Episcopal Health Foundation 2018 Texas Health Policy Survey.

[iii] Katherine Keisler-Starkey and Lisa N. Bunch U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Reports, P60-271, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2019, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, DC, 2020.



Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

PROMOTING ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE
HEALTHCARE FOR ALL TEXAS WOMEN

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Members

Texas Medical Association
District XI (Texas) American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Teaching Hospitals of Texas
Every Body Texas
Texans Care for Children
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Chair - Healthy Futures of Texas

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition General Members

- Access Esperanza Clinics Inc.
- Amistad Community Health Center
- Austin Advanced Practice Nurses
- Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility
- AWHONN Texas
- Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
- Brazos Valley Nurse Practitioner Association
- Cactus Health
- Cardea
- Center for Community Health, UNTHSC
- Centering Healthcare Institute
- Central Texas Nurse Practitioners
- Children's Hospital Association of Texas
- Circle Up United Methodist Women
- Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice
- Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses
- Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation
- Community Healthcare Center
- Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives
- Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health, UNTHSC
- El Buen Samaritano
- El Centro de Corazón
- El Paso Area Advanced Practice Nurse Association
- Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley
- Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners
- Haven Health
- Hill Country Advanced Practice Nurses & Physicians Assistants Association
- Houston Area Chapter of NAPNAP
- Houston Area Nurse Practitioners
- Improving Maternal Health
- Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice Texas
- League of Women Voters of Texas
- Legacy Community Health Services
- Lone Star Family Health Center
- March of Dimes – Texas
- Mental Health America of Greater Houston
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
- National Council of Jewish Women—Texas State Policy Advocacy Network
- North Harris Montgomery Advanced Practice Nurse Society
- North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy
- North Texas Nurse Practitioners
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Panhandle Nurse Practitioner Association
- Pasadena Health Center
- People's Community Clinic
- Port Arthur Housing Authority
- Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Alliance of Texas SALVERE
- San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
- San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice
- Schneider Communications
- South Plains Nurse Practitioner Association
- South Texas Family Planning & Health Corp.
- Southeast Texas Nurse Practitioner Associates
- Special Health Resources
- St. David's Foundation
- Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC
- Texas Association of Community Health Plans
- Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Texas Council on Family Violence
- Texas Health Institute
- Texas Hospital Association
- Texas Medical Association Alliance
- Texas Nurse Practitioners
- Texas Nurses Association
- Texas Oral Health Coalition
- Texas Pediatric Society
- Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
- Texas Women's Foundation
- The Contraceptive Initiative
- The SAFE Alliance
- The Women's Fund for Health Education and Resiliency
- University Health System
- Valley AIDS Council
- Women's & Men's Health Services of the Coastal Bend, Inc.
- Young Invincibles

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The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition is a project of Healthy Futures of Texas, a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in San Antonio.