



T E X A S
Women's Healthcare
COALITION

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More for Women's Health in the Texas Budget

Austin, TX -- The Texas Legislature voted today to approve the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Bill – which includes \$50 million in new funding for women's preventive healthcare, including contraception. The budget now goes to Governor Greg Abbott for his signature.

[Many recent reports](#) show the devastating effects of the 2011 cuts to women's healthcare funding and the subsequent decrease in provider capacity and the number of clients served. Despite the restoration of most of the funding in 2013, these programs still serve fewer than three in ten eligible women in need. This session's funding increase is a necessary step in maximizing the health of women, children, and families in Texas.

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition is immensely grateful for the impressive leadership of Senators Jane Nelson and Charles Schwertner and Representatives Sarah Davis, Jessica Farrar, Donna Howard, Four Price, and John Zerwas, along with the budget conferees and Article II budget work groups, in securing the recommended \$50 million budget increase for Texas women's health programs.

"We are celebrating this funding, which has the potential to help reverse the devastating effects of recent program upheavals," said Dr. Janet Realini, Chair of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition. "Of course, the key to meeting the need for preventive care and contraception will be in how these dollars are used and how these programs are developed. Program implementation must be informed by the providers, who will use the funding to best serve low-income Texas women."

In addition to increased funding, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition advocates for more providers enrolled in women's health programs, on-site eligibility to allow women to obtain same-day services, and broad eligibility guidelines to expand the number of low-income Texas women who can participate in these cost-effective programs.

For more information, contact Aimee Arrambide, Policy Associate, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition: AArrambide@TexasWHC.org.

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition is a coalition of 60 organizations dedicated to achieving access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women.