

## Texas women's health programs provide access to essential services, including:

- Annual well-woman exams
- Pap tests
- Breast cancer screening
- Screenings/treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Diabetes screenings
- High blood pressure screenings
- Cholesterol screenings
- Contraceptive methods
- Diagnostic services for abnormal breast or cervical cancer test results
- Health education and counseling

### Why are these services important?

These essential services are important because they save the state money and:

- Ensure newborns are healthy;
- Reduce the number of births paid for by Medicaid;
- Detect diseases early, when complications can be prevented.

Women's preventive services and contraception help women avoid unplanned pregnancies, which can lead to higher risks of prematurity and low birth weight, educational and economic disadvantage, and poor child mental and physical health.



TEXAS  
COALITION

Women's Healthcare

### Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

2300 W. Commerce St. #212, San Antonio, TX 78207  
(210) 223-4589, info@TexasWHC.org

[www.TexasWHC.org](http://www.TexasWHC.org)

## Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Members

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

### General Members

Access Esperanza Clinics Inc.  
Amistad Community Health Center  
Austin Advanced Practice Nurses  
Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility  
AWHONN Texas  
Brazos Valley Nurse Practitioner Association  
Cardea  
Center for Community Health, UNTHSC  
Central Texas Nurse Practitioners  
Children's Hospital Association of Texas  
Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice  
Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses  
Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation  
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives  
Department of Ob/Gyn of UNTHSC and the ForHER Institute  
El Paso Area Advanced Practice Nurse Association  
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley  
Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners Gateway to Care  
Good Neighbor Health Center  
Hill Country Advanced Practice Nurses & Physicians Assistants Association  
Houston Area Chapter of NAPNAP  
Houston Area Nurse Practitioners  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Legacy Community Health Services  
March of Dimes - Texas  
Mental Health America of Greater Houston  
National Council of Jewish Women – Texas State Policy Advocacy Network  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
North Harris Montgomery Advanced Practice Nurse Society  
North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy  
North Texas Nurse Practitioners  
Panhandle Nurse Practitioner Association  
People's Community Clinic  
Port Arthur Housing Authority  
SALVERE (Striving to Achieve Literacy via Education, Research, and Engagement)  
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  
St. David's Foundation  
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 Pediatric Society  
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry  
The Contraceptive Initiative  
University Health System  
Women's & Men's Health Services of the Coastal Bend, Inc



## Texas Women Need Preventive Healthcare

**The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition** is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive healthcare – including contraception – for all Texas women.

TWHC brings together healthcare, faith, and community-based organizations committed to increasing access to women's healthcare.

### The TWHC Legislative Agenda

- 1 **Ensure funding for women's preventive healthcare, including contraception, meets the needs of Texas women**
- 2 **Increase provider capacity**
- 3 **Ensure women have access to effective contraception**
- 4 **Increase continuity of care for women**
- 5 **Maximize taxpayer savings**



TEXAS  
Women's Healthcare  
COALITION

# The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Legislative Agenda

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

**WHY:** Roughly 1.8 million Texas women are in need of publicly funded preventive services, yet less than a quarter of these women currently receive the services they need.<sup>1</sup> Access to preventive and preconception care – including health screenings and contraception – means healthy, planned pregnancies and early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions.

### HOW:

- Provide funding to serve, at a minimum, as many women with family planning care as were served in State Fiscal Year 2010, taking into account population growth.
- Ensure the distribution of funding between the state's women's health programs matches the need for services within each program.

## 2 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.

**WHY:** Texas needs more providers to deliver preventive care to women, especially in rural areas. The launch of the state's new women's health programs – Healthy Texas Women and the Family Planning Program – represents an opportunity to strengthen provider engagement throughout the state.

### HOW:

- Identify areas of greatest need by collecting and analyzing data that provides an accurate picture of unduplicated provider capacity in the state.
- Increase provider outreach and eliminate barriers to provider enrollment.
- Increase provider capacity, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- Increase payment rates for providers.

## 3 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).

**WHY:** Ensuring women have access to the most effective form of contraception that works for them is key to enabling women to plan and space their pregnancies. All FDA-approved birth control methods should be accessible, including implants and IUDs, which are twenty times more effective than other methods and considered a first-line choice for women by medical organizations.<sup>2</sup>

### HOW:

- Increase access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (implants and IUDs).
- Regularly adjust payments and ensure adequate reimbursement for long-acting reversible contraceptives.
- Ensure adequate provider training that aligns with Quality Family Planning (QFP) best practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## 4 Increase continuity of care for women by eliminating barriers to preventive healthcare access.

**WHY:** When women experience gaps in their healthcare coverage, it increases their risk for negative health outcomes and unintended pregnancy. Enabling eligible women to access and maintain continuous healthcare coverage improves health outcomes and reduces costs to the state.

### HOW:

- Address the technological glitch that prevents eligible clients who are enrolled in CHIP from receiving services through the Healthy Texas Women program.
- Address the technological glitch that prevents eligible clients who have private insurance with high deductibles and/or copays from receiving services through the Healthy Texas Women program.
- Ensure that women receive effective referral services into women's healthcare programs.

- Enable women in the state to receive a 12-month supply of birth control at a single pharmacy visit, if prescribed.
- Automatically enroll eligible 19-year-olds into the Healthy Texas Women program when their CHIP or Children's Medicaid certification period ends.

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

**WHY:** 74% of the state's unplanned births are publicly funded, and the most recent research shows that unintended pregnancies in Texas cost taxpayers \$2.9 billion (\$842.6 million of it paid for by the state).<sup>3</sup> For every dollar invested in contraception, taxpayers see a return of \$7.09.<sup>4</sup>

### HOW:

- Ensure adequate funding for the women's healthcare safety net to save Texas taxpayer money.
- Increase health insurance coverage in a way that will maximize federal funding and substantially increase the number of women able to access a medical home where they can receive critical preventive care and family planning services.

<sup>1</sup> Frost et al., "Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2014 Update," New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, "Increasing Access to Contraceptive Implants and Intrauterine Devices to Reduce Unintended Pregnancy," Committee Opinion No. 642, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Sonfield & Kost, "Public Costs from Unintended Pregnancies and the Role of Public Insurance Programs in Paying for Pregnancy-Related Care: National and State Estimates for 2010," New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Frost et al., "Return on Investment: A Fuller Assessment of the Benefits and Cost Savings of the US Publicly Funded Family Planning Program," *The Milbank Quarterly*, Vol. 92.4, 2014.