

# State Women’s Health Programs & the Budget

## Healthy Texas Women, Family Planning Program, and Breast and Cervical Cancer Services

Legislators need to ensure funding for the state administered women’s health programs - Healthy Texas Women, the Family Planning Program, and Breast and Cervical Cancer Services - to help fully meet the growing need for preventive healthcare among low-income, uninsured Texans.

### Women’s Health Programs Save Texas Dollars

Healthy Texas Women (HTW), the Family Planning Program (FPP), and Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) provide essential preventive healthcare services that save state dollars. For example, contraceptive services in HTW and FPP help by avoiding unintended pregnancies. This results in savings by eliminating Medicaid labor and delivery costs and a year of infant healthcare. Medicaid pays for more than half of Texas births<sup>1</sup>, costing \$3.5 billion in 2016 for birth and delivery-related services for mothers and infants in the first year of life. Recent reports from HHSC detail the following general revenue cost savings for HTW and FPP.<sup>2 3 4</sup>

#### Family Planning Program

|                           | FY 2017        | FY 2018        | FY 2019        |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Clients Served</b>     | 96,984         | 106,224        | 99,778         |
| <b>State Cost Savings</b> | \$44.2 million | \$47.1 million | \$42.9 million |

#### Healthy Texas Women

|                           | FY 2017        | FY 2018        | FY 2019        |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Clients Served</b>     | 122,406        | 172,023        | 191,278        |
| <b>State Cost Savings</b> | \$63.1 million | \$87.9 million | \$96.8 million |

Savings are from fiscal years when HTW was fully funded by state general revenue (GR). With the Medicaid family planning waiver now in place, net GR savings are anticipated to be higher.



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## Women's Health Programs Save Texans' Lives

BCCS provides breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services, as well as patient navigation services to low-income under- and uninsured women. The program aims to improve early detection of breast and cervical cancer and decrease cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.<sup>5</sup>

HTW and FPP are key programs in the states' efforts to combat high maternal mortality and morbidity rate. Preventive services provided in these programs allow Texans to plan if and when to start a family. Healthy pregnancies begin well before conception. Women who obtain needed preventive care throughout their reproductive life-span are more likely to have better birth outcomes. With the help of these family planning services, many of the health issues that become further complicated during a pregnancy or delivery can be identified and addressed before becoming pregnant.

Any cuts to the state's women's health programs would undermine the Legislature's efforts to support healthy Texans, healthy pregnancies, and healthy babies. In recent years, the Legislature has shown its commitment to rebuilding these programs and ensuring Texas women have access to healthcare. It has taken many years to stitch the safety net back together after the 2011 budget cuts, and the work is ongoing. The populations these programs serve have been some of the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. Texas has the worst uninsured rate in the country, nearly double the national average.<sup>6</sup> Notably, Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation for women of childbearing age – with one in four women between the ages of 19-64 being uninsured.<sup>7</sup> Though the women's health programs are not comprehensive insurance programs, they provide essential services to those without access to other forms of healthcare coverage.

***Texas cannot afford to cut support to healthcare programs, especially ones that have proven cost-savings.***

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1. [Texas Health and Human Services. Texas Medicaid and CHIP Reference Guide: Thirteenth Edition.](#)
2. [Texas Health and Human Services. Women's Health Programs Saving and Performance Report Fiscal Year 2017. May 2018.](#)
3. [Texas Health and Human Services. Women's Health Programs Saving and Performance Report Fiscal Year 2018. May 2019.](#)
4. [Texas Health and Human Services. Women's Health Programs Saving and Performance Report Fiscal Year 2019. May 2020.](#)
5. Ibid
6. [Fernandez, Stacy. "Texas has the most people without health insurance in the nation — again." The Texas Tribune. September 10, 2019.](#)
7. [Kaiser Family Foundation. Health Insurance Coverage of Females 19 – 64: Timeframe: 2019.](#)



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