Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition
PROMOTING ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL TEXAS WOMEN

JOINT BUDGET HEARING
Health and Human Services Commission | September 24, 2026

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Testimony on the HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request

FY 2028–29 Biennium

On behalf of the **Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC)**, thank you for this opportunity to provide support and recommendations.

TWHC and its 75 healthcare, faith, and community-based member organizations are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women. Access to these services throughout a woman's reproductive years—including health screenings and contraception—contributes to healthy, planned pregnancies as well as early detection and treatment of cancers and other chronic conditions.

In alignment with this mission, we wish to make recommendations from our coalition regarding the Legislative Appropriations Request from the Health and Human Services Commission for the FY 2028–29 Biennium.

Continue investing in access to preventive women's healthcare to address chronic diseases that cause maternal and infant morbidity and mortality

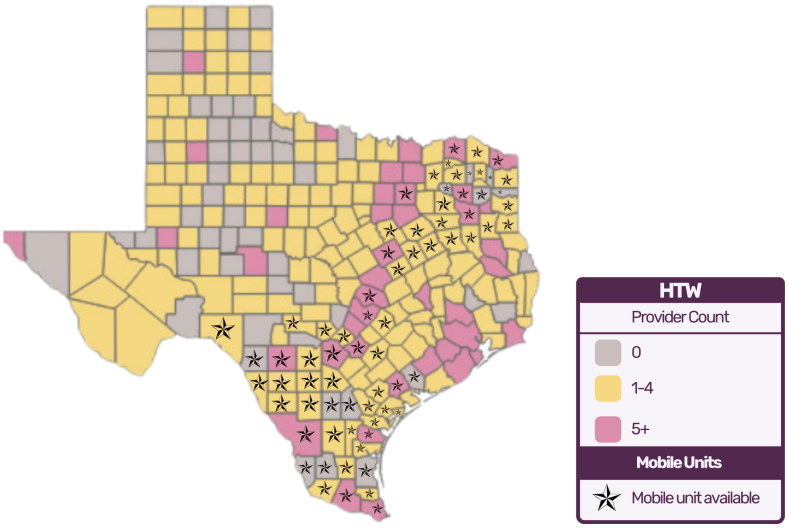
1. **Fund Cost Reimbursement grants for Healthy Texas Women providers doing critical access healthcare work.** With over 50% of Texas counties being maternal health deserts, smaller providers that are willing to provide services in these areas need the stabilizing support that grants provide, to allow them to reach these patients.

2. **Continue funding Patient Navigators for the Women's Health Programs.** These low-cost investments allow clinicians to focus on clinical services, and not on Medicaid applications or phone tag with state contractors.

3. **Ensure funding levels for the Family Planning Program accurately reflect the need that exists and support growth in women's health deserts.**
   - Mobile health units continue to expand into healthcare deserts.
   - As rural hospitals close, the demand for preconception and prenatal care is increasing.
   - These are some of the **only providers** willing to see patients in hard-to-reach counties; it is critical they do not cut services due to insufficient funding levels.

The 89th Legislature's investment is working

The investment into Women's Health Programs and Mobile Units by the 89th Legislature has shown a tremendous response from providers and the communities they are reaching. The units are currently reaching over 70 counties, one-third of the state, with the Women's Health Programs. Three additional units are adding services later in 2026. These providers are equipped to provide contraception and treat diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, congenital syphilis, and other illnesses that contribute to mortality rates and long-term healthcare costs. Many providers are giving out prenatal vitamins and other supplements to women who live long distances from pharmacies and would otherwise go without.



Healthy Texas Women provider count by county, with mobile unit coverage

294,954
Texans served through HTW or FPP in FY 2024

+14.64%
growth in clients served over FY 2023

~$90M
saved each year by the Women's Health Programs

$18
in future healthcare costs saved per $1 invested in mobile units

In fiscal year 2024, 294,954 Texans received services through HTW or FPP, a **14.64 percent increase** from fiscal year 2023.[1] Collectively, the Women's Health Programs save the state of Texas approximately $90M per year, due to averted births and NICU admissions that would otherwise be paid for by Medicaid.

Additionally, Harvard research on the cost savings of Mobile Units shows that for every $1 invested into them, they save a community $18 in future healthcare costs.[2]

We believe these programs continue to pay enormous dividends in healthcare savings for our state, and are a way for women and families to access healthcare services that would otherwise be completely unavailable to them. We strongly encourage continued investments by the Legislature and are eager to work with you to implement effective policy strategies.

[1] Women's Health Savings and Performance Report, Fiscal Year 2024. Health and Human Services Commission, August 2025.

[2] Mobile Healthcare: The 2025 Mobile Clinics Landscape Report. Harvard Medical School, 2025.