



Interagency Coordinating Group

Legislative Report

Prepared by

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

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OneStar Foundation

Submitted to

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Speaker of the House

House Committee on Public Health

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

In 2009 through House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Texas became the first state in the country to pass legislation specifically to improve the relationship between state government and faith and community-based organizations (FCBOs) seeking to partner with the state to help meet health and human service needs. Subsequent legislation passed in the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, expanded this initiative through House Bill (H.B.) 1965, by adding additional state agencies in its charge. Both Acts directed the chief administrative officer of the named state agencies to appoint, in consultation with the Governor, a faith and community liaison in each agency. These liaisons serve on the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) chaired by the CEO of the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation), also a named member of the ICG.

The first bill, H.B. 492, directed agency liaisons to work within their respective agencies to: 1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith and community-based organizations; 2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government; 3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents; and 4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency.

Subsequently, H.B. 1965 directed agency liaisons to: 1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organization; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

2019 ICG Meetings

In 2019 the ICG met in June and October. The agenda for the June meeting included a viewing of a training film trailer on Human Trafficking called “Be the One,” presented by Amanda Sanders and Tom Smith of the Office of the Attorney General. This video, which was developed by the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, provides an understanding of what human trafficking is and is not, identifies vulnerable populations that are more likely to be victimized by human traffickers, identifies indicators of human trafficking and methods of reporting to the authorities, and highlights actual cases of human trafficking prosecuted in Texas. They also provided additional information about the types of human trafficking, buyers and sellers of human trafficking, red flags for sex and labor trafficking, tips on how to report human trafficking to authorities and links to additional resources available on the OAG website. Following the presentation, state agencies in attendance provided a summary report on bills or legislation pertaining to their agency for the current legislative session.

The October meeting of the ICG featured a Program Presentation Overview by Jenna Heise, MA, BC-DMT, Board Certified Counselor on HHSC’s Efforts to Reduce Suicide Among Youth and Veterans. Ms. Heise is the Texas State Suicide Prevention Coordinator in the HHSC Behavioral Health Division. Following the presentations, state agencies present provided a summary report on their agency as well as key initiatives and challenges that might be addressed in partnership with community organizations.

As presiding officer of the Interagency Coordinating Group, I respectfully submit this year’s report on the goals, activities, and progress of the ICG from January through December 2019. Previous reports submitted outline specific actions taken since the passage of the initial legislation in 2009. These reports can be found on the OneStar Foundation website.

II. ICG DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ICG Duties and Responsibilities (*APPENDIX A*)

- Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) — Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) — Work across state agencies and with State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(3) — Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

ICG Additional Duties and Responsibilities (*APPENDIX B*)

- Sec. 535.055. (c) — In addition to the Interagency Coordinating Group’s other duties, the Interagency Coordinating Group, in coordination with the Texas Nonprofit Council (per S.B. 993 83R) shall:
 1. Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations;
 2. Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations;
 3. Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations; and
 4. Identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

ICG Reporting Duties

- Sec. 535.054. (a) — No later than December 1 of each year, the Interagency Coordinating Group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the Interagency Coordinating Group.
- Sec. 535.054. (b) — The report made under Subsection (a) must be made available to the public through posting on the Office of the Governor’s website.

III. (a) ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRESS (*January – December 2019*)

Goal 1 — Continue implementation of the plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations.

Activity and Progress:

In 2012, the ICG finalized an RFP Template for Client Services Procurements. The template provides a standardized format for the requested information. Several ICG member agencies use this template which is available on the Comptroller’s website. Agencies reviewed this template in 2019. Agencies unfamiliar with the template were requested to inquire within their respective agencies, about the template’s pertinence and usage rate.

Goal 2 — Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations.

Activity and Progress:

The following pages provide a snapshot of agency best practices for 2019. Submissions were cleared through each agency's internal review process and compiled by OneStar Foundation, chair of the ICG.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS) *(Work with Faith and Community-Based Organizations)*

Maternal and Child Health

Children with Special Health Care Needs System Development Group (CSHCN SDG) works with 13 community-based organizations to provide case management, family support, and community resources to children and youth with special health care needs and their families throughout Texas. Through monthly newsletters, CSHCN SDG provides information about upcoming initiatives, training opportunities, and events of specific interest to professionals to share with families of children with special health care needs. The CSHCN SDG holds quarterly conference calls and provides ongoing technical assistance to share resources, facilitate discussions on innovative best practices such as Person-Centered Thinking and population-based services, and provide updates on contracting requirements.

A network of **Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies (HTMB) Community Coalitions** strengthen local systems for addressing infant mortality and maternal, perinatal, and infant health. HTMB Coalitions bring together health professionals, local health departments, hospitals, community-based organizations, and stakeholders to create a collaborative network of partners to lend resources and expertise towards a collective impact to address perinatal health issues relevant to their communities. HTMB Coalitions convene periodically, coordinate health assessments, and conduct training and outreach activities.

The **Maternal and Child Health Program** has engaged community-based organizations in community partner listening sessions to promote maternal and child health and breastfeeding initiatives and to seek stakeholder input about community opportunities and gaps for improving breastfeeding support in local communities across Texas. The program hosts a website, SupportFromDayOne.org, to support community partners in planning community-based breastfeeding support initiatives.

The Maternal and Child Health Program is engaging the nine Texas Historically Black Colleges and Universities to implement a **Preconception Peer Education (PPE)**

program and engage college administrators, counselors, community members, and college students in positive health and peer education training. The PPE program is an initiative of the national Office of Minority Health to reduce infant mortality in the African American community. Young men and women are trained to educate peers and members of their community on the importance of preconception health, seeking regular preventive care, having a reproductive life plan, and the impact of social determinants of health on their well-being.

The **Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)** program partners with Texas Hands and Voices for the TEHDI Parent Care Coordination project. As a parent-driven organization, Texas Hands and Voices contacts families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to provide information, resources, and parent-to-parent assistance. The organization works to make sure children who are deaf and hard of hearing are given the opportunities to reach their highest potential. Texas Hands and Voices staff serve as educators for healthcare providers to ensure they are aware of the importance of using the TEHDI Management Information System to report and track newborn and follow-up hearing screen records for continuity of care. The organization also assists healthcare providers with training and technical assistance.

Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries

The **Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch** collaborates with community-based organizations in areas impacted by hazardous waste sites to learn about community health concerns and distribute educational materials. This allows DSHS to provide important information to a greater number of community members, increase awareness about how to prevent hazardous exposures, and better address community concerns.

The **Blood Lead Surveillance Branch (BLSB)** partners with local Head Start programs to improve blood lead testing, communication, and general lead education. BLSB also partners with local health departments and health care providers to conduct trainings and educational sessions for health professionals and the public regarding lead testing and prevention.

Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

The **Diabetes Prevention and Control Program** partners with six academic institutions and four local health departments to provide diabetes prevention and control activities. These programs support positive lifestyle changes in individuals and families to help prevent or self-manage diabetes and its complications, in addition to reducing hospital admissions and readmissions.

The **Heart Disease and Stroke Program** partners with YMCA and food banks and pantries to promote self-measured blood pressure monitoring among patrons. The program provides participants with automatic blood pressure monitors, education

on their use, and tracking logs to record their blood pressure readings twice a day for 12-16 weeks.

The **Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch** partners with four community-based organizations to implement comprehensive coalition programs to reduce youth initiation and use of all tobacco products, increase cessation of tobacco users, increase local enforcement of all products, and create local infrastructure to reduce the toll of tobacco on the health, safety, and well-being of Texans. Three of these organizations implement the comprehensive coalition programs and the other organization provides technical support and training to the three funded coalition programs.

Infectious Disease Prevention

The **Immunization Unit** partners with immunization coalitions to improve immunization rates throughout the state by promoting the importance of childhood and adolescent immunizations at the community level. In support of its coalition-building efforts, DSHS promotes local immunization programs through its public website, paid media placement, newsletters, informative publications, webinars, and social media posts. Immunization coalitions have also partnered with DSHS public health regions, local health departments, and health care providers enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children and Adult Safety Net programs to conduct vaccination clinics and administer vaccinations to community health fair participants.

Tuberculosis/Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Sexually Transmitted Disease

The TB/HIV/STD Section has reorganized its **Texas HIV Medication Program** to assign teams to each region of the state. This arrangement promotes stronger relationships and collaborations between community-based organizations and health care providers around the access and provision of life extending medications for those persons living with HIV.

The TB/HIV/STD Section also contracts with local health departments in the delivery of STD prevention, partner notification services, and contact investigations as well as tuberculosis screening, contact investigations, and treatment. The Section contracts with local health departments on TB/HIV/STD surveillance and epidemiologic assessments.

Public Health Regions

DSHS administers many of its public health programs and services through its eight **Public Health Regions** (PHRs). Every one of the regions conducts partnerships with faith and community-based organizations that improve and enhance public and population health. Regional staff work with local community coalitions, faith-based organizations, community leaders, and school districts to promote injury prevention messages and participate in activities for suicide prevention, safe sleep education, childhood obesity prevention and water, car and bike safety. PHRs partner with faith

and community-based groups to host back to school health fairs providing vision and hearing exams, school supplies, and emergency preparedness information.

In the area of chronic disease prevention, PHRs participate with local school health advisory councils to conduct tobacco awareness presentations, and with community health worker associations to provide train-the-trainer classes on tobacco cessation resources. Regional staff also partner with public housing authorities to train staff and tenants on secondhand smoke and cessation resources. Regions have joined with local health departments and merchants to host an annual health fair and 5K walk/run for faith-based communities with a high prevalence of chronic disease.

PHRs collaborate with faith-based groups, rape crisis centers, law enforcement, and other victim services to educate and inform the public about human trafficking and outreach to possible victims. As members of Child Fatality Review Teams, regional staff collaborate with community organizations to improve the response to child fatalities by providing accurate information on how and why children are dying, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable child deaths.

Specialized Health and Social Services (SHSS) staff in all PHRs participate in community meetings and coalitions to share programmatic information and provide technical assistance on caring for children with special needs. These meetings promote the case management and referral services provided by SHSS while also ensuring staff remain well-informed of resources available to children with disabilities and their families. SHSS case managers participate in Community Resource Coordination Groups across the state, working with community members, parents, caregivers, youth, and adults to plan benefits and services for persons with special needs.

Office of Border Public Health

The **Office of Border Public Health** (OBPH) partners with faith and community-based organizations in communities with poor health outcomes to improve the population's health and well-being. In working with these organizations, OBPH holds events and activities that focus on health promotion and health education, including health fairs, community health worker trainings, and health professional trainings. OBPH has partnered with community health worker training centers, area health education centers, regional hospitals, community health clinics, nonprofit organizations, border collaboratives, and the eight existing Binational Health Councils along the Texas-Mexico border to develop work plans and sustainability goals that promote unity and collaboration between health officials of sister cities.

Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

Program staff within the **Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response** (CHEPR) as well as Preparedness staff in each DSHS Public Health Region engage with faith and community-based organizations to help meet health and human service needs before, during, and after a disaster or emergency event. Staff

attend meetings with community coalitions and faith-based ministry initiatives to coordinate with local emergency management, Red Cross, and similar organizations. Additionally, TexasReady program staff travel throughout the state to provide education regarding personal disaster preparedness, including making and practicing an emergency plan and building an emergency kit. TexasReady provides education and outreach to families and individuals through faith-based groups, childcare facilities, and community organizations.

Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID)

The **Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID)** is a DSHS public health in-patient and out-patient hospital in San Antonio that treats tuberculosis and Hansen's disease. Several church organizations provide spiritual support, discussions, and bible study opportunities to TCID patients. TCID partners with Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas to allow hospital patients to create and maintain garden boxes. Additionally, a community-based organization provides animal-assisted therapy.

Medical & Research Library

The **DSHS Medical & Research Library** maintains the Health Ministry-Faith Community webpage, which offers a calendar of events of interest to nurses working within faith communities in Texas; selected Internet web sites; names and contact information of persons who have agreed to serve as expert resources from around the country; and bibliographic citations that could be of use to nurses practicing within faith communities. Additionally, the DSHS Audiovisual Library has provided health-related audiovisuals to several faith-based schools upon request.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS)

Meeting the complex needs of children and families exceeds the capacity of any one agency. We need communities to join our agency to support and improve outcomes for children, families, older adults and people with disabilities. The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) works closely with faith-based and nonprofit partners to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Faith-Based Program

DFPS' Faith-Based Division invites people of faith to support children in foster care and their families in a variety of ways. Members may choose to serve as respite care providers, mentors, or become foster and adoptive parents.

The **Clergy in the Court Program** brings faith leaders into courtrooms to learn about the needs of families who are involved in the child welfare system. After a hearing, clergy take requests for food, counseling services, parenting classes, and other goods and services to their congregation to fulfill.

During National Adoption Month in November, churches are invited to observe “**Stand Sunday**” where clergy read the names of one or more foster children and pray that they will find a forever home.

CarePortal is an online interactive tool designed to help connect the faith community with children and families who have vital needs. A DFPS caseworker submits a request for an item on behalf of a family, such as a bed, and the request is instantly sent to church members to fulfill.

Churches also host Parents’ Night Out events where church members provide babysitting for children in foster care, giving foster parents or biological parents a short break.

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Division

The Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation (HTCE) Division and faith-based programs work together to raise public awareness with campaigns such as the ***Light the Way to Freedom to End Human Trafficking: Sunday Prayers*** was launched. Launched in January of 2019, the purpose of the campaign is to unite communities of faith during Human Trafficking Awareness Month and pray for survivors.

In August, HTCE and Shared Hope International trained the DFPS’s faith-based specialists on a new **Faith in Action Kit** that gives faith leaders tools to educate their members. In addition, HTCE developed a flyer that illustrates the ways that faith-based organizations can help in the fight against human trafficking.

Prevention and Early Intervention

The PEI division funds community-based organizations that provide early intervention and prevent risk factors that lead to child abuse or neglect or other childhood adversities. PEI requires its contractors to create partnerships and programs across multiple community sectors to support vulnerable families and youth.

These partnerships develop resources within places of worship to help children and families in their time of need. They share knowledge about community resources, prevention hotlines and support programs, and help reduce risk factors that lead to childhood adversities. They also promote programs that build strong families and strengthen bonds between the parent, child and the family. Some examples of community-based contractors who have successfully established collaborations with faith-based programs in their communities are:

- Paso Del Norte Center of Hope partners with Faith-Based Sites, Destiny Faith Center, Bethel Church of God and other churches’ youth ministries to provide outreach to vulnerable youth in El Paso. The churches also sponsor food pantries.

- Texas Home Visiting and HOPES (Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support) Program partners with several faith-based organizations to provide services. For example: Interfaith of The Woodlands provides family counseling services and utility assistance; Pregnancy Assistance Center North offers support group sessions, clothing, diapers and formula to families; and Society of Samaritans invites program participants to job and resource fairs.
- Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley collaborates with Buckner Family Hope Center to host Parent Cafés.
- Early Childhood Service of Tarrant County partners with several faith-based organizations within the community to offer community programs such as: Parent Cafes, Parenting Groups, Nurturing Parenting Program, as well as developmental groups for children ages 0 to 6 with any type of disability or delay.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) hosts **Purple Sunday** during the month of May which is Elder Abuse Prevention Month. During the Sunday service, faith leaders pray for victims of elder abuse and for those who protect and provide services to them.

Also in May, APS hosts a luncheon for faith leaders who support the older adults and people with disabilities. APS honors these leaders by providing lunch and presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation. The news media is invited as well.

Throughout the year, APS also trains religious leaders and presents at conferences and community forums, and for small groups within local churches.

Child Protective Investigations and Child Protective Services

Now in its third year, DFPS staff assist with the **Big Country Children's Benefit Hunt**. The club gives kids an opportunity to hunt, fish, and enjoy other outdoor activities like hunting for arrow heads, zip-lining, paddle boating, target shooting and hiking. Over 30 youth are paired with experienced guides and role models. The participants receive hunter's education, firearm safety and basic outdoor survival training. DFPS employees, law enforcement personnel, paramedics, and volunteers donate their time to work with the youth. All expenses, including meals, licenses, fees, training, meat processing, taxidermy, and outdoor gear for youth are covered. Throughout the day, youth also participate in contests for a chance to win prizes.

In March 2019, clergy from multiple faiths came together for a summit held in Henderson County to talk about how to report abuse and neglect, the need for more foster homes, and ways to help families.

The **Caring for People Remotely (CPR) Program** provides support to under-resourced areas and meets the critical needs of the family. The program operates to fill in the gaps.

“Loose Threads” is a sewing ministry that is hosted at First United Methodist Church in Huntington, Texas. Volunteers make personalized adoption blankets for children in foster care.

Beltway Boots on the Ground in Abilene builds wheelchair ramps for older adults and beds for children in foster care. The group also repairs vehicles and makes home improvements for families who have limited financial resources. In Odessa, volunteers helped with extensive home repairs so that a 67-year-old kinship caregiver could adopt her three young grandchildren. More than 50 volunteers came together to help.

AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION Austin Community College District

(Serving Special Populations in the Higher Education Environment)

Colleges and universities in Texas are committed to providing special populations with access to high-quality public higher education opportunities and to helping students with special needs achieve their dreams. Most, if not all, of the state’s 50 community colleges seek to build relationships with local, regional, statewide, and national nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and faith-based organizations to benefit students as they seek to attain a degree and enter the workforce.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board defines Special Populations as:

- individuals with disabilities
- individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children
- individuals preparing for nontraditional training and employment
- single parents, including single pregnant women
- displaced homemakers and
- individuals with other barriers to educational achievement, including individuals with limited English proficiency.

To meet the needs of these students, Austin Community College District (ACC) has established an office of Student Accessibility and Social Support Resources that includes:

- Administration of Perkins funds
- Accessibility services, such as sign-language interpretation, closed

- captioning, braille and other alternative services
- Medical accommodations for students who qualify
- A support center for students who have experienced emergencies or financial hardships impacting their ability to complete their education
- ADA compliance services for students who have aged out of foster care
- Childcare support services for students who qualify

As a community college, ACC recognizes that community involvement and support is critically important to ensure these programs are successful in assisting our students. Therefore, the college relies upon a strong network of local nonprofit partners and government agencies in working to meet the needs of our most vulnerable students. The following is a partial list of these interagency relationships:

- Access to benefits:
 - Texas Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of its Community Partner Program. ACC Special Populations Advocates have been specially trained by HHS staff to assist eligible students apply for state benefits, such as SNAP, TANF, WIC, and Medicaid.
 - Central Health. ACC Special Populations Advocates are in the process of becoming trained to assist eligible students to apply for low-cost healthcare services.
- Students with disabilities:
 - Texas Workforce Commission, including program coordination and support:
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Division for eligible students with disabilities;
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Division for coordination of sign-language interpreter and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services for eligible deaf/hard-of-hearing students;
 - Cris Cole Center for students who are blind or have low vision;
- Students needing childcare services:
 - Texas Workforce Commission, Childcare Services Division, to support low-income students with young children who need childcare services;
 - YMCA of Austin for on-site drop-in care (Highland Learning Center);
 - United Way of Austin for access for students seeking childcare and other family and social support information through the

211 system (pending);

- Special supports and resources for foster-care students:
 - Foster Angels of Central Texas;
 - One Simple Wish;
 - Mitte Foundation;
 - LifeWorks;
 - Baptist Children’s Home;
 - Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to coordinate operational programing and benefits for students currently or formerly in foster care.

- Case management support for primarily first-generation, low-income students in the high school to college pipeline:
 - College Forward;
 - Breakthrough Austin;
 - KIPP Austin.

- Jeremiah Program for coordination of services with client students who are low-income women with young children;

- Foundation Communities to provide support services for low-income students;

- Food insecurity:
 - Central Texas Food Bank;
 - Fresh Food for All.

ONESTAR FOUNDATION (OSF)

OneStar Foundation was created by the Office of the Governor to support the State of Texas by strengthening the nonprofit sector, encouraging civic engagement through service and volunteering, promoting innovative strategies to address local issues and facilitating public-private partnerships to expand the reach of the sector.

OneStar Disaster Services

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is a coalition of nonprofit organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters; provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster. As a respected neutral convener of state agencies and nonprofits, OneStar recognizes the critical assistance VOAD organizations provide during all phases of disaster and is

committed to helping facilitate and provide consistent administrative support to these volunteer-led coalitions. To this end, OneStar serves in positions of leadership with Central Texas VOAD, Texas VOAD, and National VOAD.

During times of disaster, OneStar continues to staff the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) State Operations Center (SOC) on behalf of Texas VOAD and is responsible for helping to support coordination of mass care, volunteer management and donations management.

OneStar continues to work closely with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Health & Human Services Commission, General Land Office, and FEMA to support communication and coordination between the nonprofit sector and government agencies related to Hurricane Harvey recovery, including support of the nonprofit Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) that formed to support local recovery efforts.

OneStar is identified in the Texas Emergency Management Plan (under Annex T, Volunteer & Donations Management) as the primary point of contact for all streams of National Service in Texas during times of disaster. This includes AmeriCorps*Texas, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and Senior Corps.

Rebuild Texas Fund

In fall 2017, at Governor Abbott's request, OneStar partnered with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) to house and administer the \$100 million **Rebuild Texas Fund** (RTF). The purpose of the RTF is to support long-term recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Grant awards totaling over \$100 million have been awarded to support recovery efforts across impacted communities. OneStar plans to obligate the remaining funds before the end of 2019. The first- and second-year reports can be found on the Rebuildtx.org website.

Texas Disaster Fund

The **Texas Disaster Fund** is a project of OneStar Foundation in partnership with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Division of Emergency Management. One of OneStar Foundation's stated purposes is the establishment, promotion, and operation of disaster funds, which exist to raise and distribute funds for disaster relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. The Governor of Texas appoints the OneStar Board and the CEO of OneStar Foundation. In August 2018, OneStar was asked to create a separate fund, similar to the Rebuild Texas Fund, to be referred to as the Texas Disaster Fund, to provide a mechanism for the receipt and distribution of charitable donations following future disasters. Like the Rebuild Texas Fund, the Texas Disaster Fund is about people helping people in our time of greatest need, and also about addressing the long-term effort required to recover from disasters.

Following a disaster, OneStar will actively solicit donations for the Texas Disaster Fund and will work with our partners to distribute the funds to eligible organizations working on the ground to support the economic recovery of Texas communities devastated by disasters. Distributions from the Texas Disaster Fund are intended to assist with needs unmet by insurance, government or other disaster relief organizations.

National Service

OneStar Foundation administers the **AmeriCorps*Texas** Program for the State of Texas. This \$17.8 million portfolio of 31 grantees collectively supports over 3,250 AmeriCorps members providing direct service in Texas communities. AmeriCorps members serve with nonprofits, public agencies and faith-based and community organizations, placing them at over 450 service sites to help them tackle pressing community challenges. Organizations are selected to receive a three-year AmeriCorps grant through OneStar's rigorous annual grant competition. Members all serve within one of the following six focus areas: Disaster Services, Education, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. Organizations are required to match the grant funds through both cash and in-kind services, this year AmeriCorps*Texas grantees will leverage an additional \$42.8 million in matching funds. For their term of service AmeriCorps members receive an education award that can be used to repay student loans or to attend a variety of continuing education programs; this year \$13 million in education awards will be earned by AmeriCorps members.

OneStar is also an **AmeriCorps VISTA** intermediary. VISTA is an acronym for Volunteers in Service to America. VISTAs do not provide direct services to individuals; rather, they work to increase the capacity of organizations through activities such as community outreach, establishment of volunteer recruitment and management systems, fundraising, and partnership development. An example of the capacity building work of VISTA is the Harris County Department of Education contract with OneStar Foundation for the placement of VISTAs with their CASE for Kids program supporting Out of School Time programs in the county. These VISTAs are developing communications and marketing processes, creating a volunteer program, and developing the CASE Debates program in coordination with the Houston Urban Debate League. OneStar is on track to place approximately 36 VISTA members in service before the end of 2019.

Texas Nonprofit Summit

For over 40 years, OneStar (and its legacy organizations) has hosted an annual nonprofit leadership conference in different cities throughout the State of Texas. In the early days this statewide conference was known as The Governor's Volunteer Leadership Conference. Later, as the nonprofit sector grew in influence and strength, the conference became known as The Governor's Nonprofit Leadership Conference and then the **Texas Nonprofit Summit**. Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott has attended most of the recent summits as a special guest. In alignment with her Texanthropy

Initiative, Mrs. Abbott has used these venues to champion volunteerism and philanthropy, which are critical to the health of Texas communities.

On Tuesday, October 29, 2019, about 300 nonprofit professionals, board members, funders, business leaders, and government and academic representatives enjoyed an energizing day of learning, networking, and idea-sharing at the most recent Texas Nonprofit Summit held in San Antonio. This year's theme was all about inspiring collaborative approaches to the work of nonprofits. Together, attendees explored how innovative partnerships with volunteers, philanthropists, business leaders, and other nonprofit organizations lead to extraordinary impact. By working together, everyone can amplify resources and talents to overcome the most pressing challenges facing our communities.

Governor's Volunteer Awards (GVA)

OneStar hosted the 36th annual **Governor's Volunteer Awards** at the Texas Governor's Mansion on October 14, 2019. Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott served as honorary chair. OneStar honored the contributions of individuals, businesses and organizations in Texas that have made a positive impact in their communities or across the state through service and volunteering.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES (DIR)

The Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) continues to support the information technology needs of faith and community-based organizations (FCBOs). Over the years, DIR has worked with the Texas Legislature to broaden the definition of qualified entities that are authorized by statute to purchase hardware, software, telecommunications and technology services (commodity items) through DIR's cooperative contracts. The 80th Legislature authorized assistance organizations, as defined by Texas Government Code, Section 2175.001, to use cooperative contracts developed by DIR. The 83rd Legislature authorized quasi-government entities to purchase commodity items through DIR in 2013. Cooperative contracts enable participating entities to optimize the purchase of IT commodities and services by leveraging the state's buying power to obtain the best value.

Through its **Cooperative Contracts** program, DIR serves state agencies, institutions of higher education, K-12 independent school districts, quasi-government organizations, counties, municipalities and assistance organizations registered with the Texas Facilities Commission or the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. DIR has made a concerted effort to further increase and expand outreach efforts to organizations that participate in the Cooperative Contracts program and purchase information technology.

In fiscal year 2019, fifty-five assistance organizations purchased over \$3.2 million through the DIR Cooperative Contract program, which is a 10 percent increase in purchases over fiscal year 2018. Top purchasers among these organizations include:

- Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
- Texas Neighborhood Services
- Child Care Associates
- El Centro Del Barrio Inc.
- United Medical Centers

Several FCBOs showed more than a three-fold increase in cooperative contract purchases over fiscal year 2018 including: Citizens Medical Center, Student Alternative Program, Inc., North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, and United Medical Centers. For example, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority cooperative contract purchases quadrupled to over \$45,000 in fiscal year 2019.

DIR provides customer outreach to faith and community-based organizations through monthly and quarterly emails providing awareness of recently completed procurements, contracting updates, and purchasing opportunities.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)

The Office of the Secretary of State continues to publicize on its website information regarding non-profits. This information is listed under Business and Public filings under the Non-Profits Organization link.

Information listed includes:

- [SOS Forms for Nonprofit Corporations and Unincorporated Nonprofit Associations](#)
- [FAQs for Nonprofits](#)
- [Doing Business with the SOS on and after January 1, 2010: A Guide for Texas Nonprofit Corporations \(PDF\)](#)
- [Forming a Nonprofit Tax-Exempt Corporation in Texas \(PDF\) \(2018 Texas C-BAR publication\)](#)
- [Search for Charities on the IRS Web Site](#)

Tax Issues for Nonprofits

Neither a nonprofit corporation nor an unincorporated nonprofit association is automatically exempt from federal or state taxes.

To become exempt, a nonprofit organization must meet certain requirements and apply with both the Internal Revenue Service and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Federal Taxes:

- [IRS Charities & Nonprofits page](#)
- To attain a federal tax exemption as a charitable organization, your certificate of formation must contain a required purpose clause and a dissolution of assets provision.
- [IRS Stay Exempt](#): tax information for 501(c)(3) organizations
- [IRS Publication 557 \(PDF, 1.06mb\)](#), *Tax Exempt Status for your Organization*.
- [Life Cycle of a Public Charity](#): sample organizational documents and IRS filings
- Questions about federal tax-exempt status? Contact the IRS Exempt Organizations Section at 877-829-5500.
- [IRS Form 1023 \(PDF\)](#) application for recognition of exemption and [instructions \(PDF\)](#).
- [Information about Form 990-N reporting requirements](#) for small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.

State Taxes:

- [Comptroller of Public Accounts Exemption page](#)
- Comptroller [Guidelines to Texas Tax Exemptions](#) page.
- [Exemption Forms](#).
- Questions about state tax-exempt status? Review the comptroller's [FAQs](#) or contact the comptroller's Exempt Organizations Section by phone at (800) 531-5441 or (512) 463-4600 or by [email](#).

Texas Nonprofit Resources

- [Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations](#): A gathering place for all nonprofits within the state of Texas.
- [Charitable Trust](#) Section of the Office of the Attorney General
- [Texas C-BAR](#): Community Building with Attorney Resources provides free legal assistance to Texas non-profit organizations.
- [One Star Foundation](#) - One Star promotes service and volunteerism, forges effective public and private partnerships, and works to increase the performance of non-profit organizations.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (TDHCA)

In October 2019, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) Governing Board approved the first distribution of funds through the Texas Ending Homelessness Fund (the Fund). The Fund provides an opportunity for Texans to donate to the state's efforts at combatting homelessness when completing their first-time Vehicle Registration or Vehicle Registration Renewal. Six Texas cities each

received approximately \$35,000 to complement their homelessness prevention services.

The Cities of Arlington, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Plano and Texarkana were the first to receive the grants, which will help further such services as homeless assistance, prevention, emergency shelter operations, and case management.

About the Texas Ending Homelessness Fund

Created during the 85th Legislative Session, the Fund officially launched in January 2018 through coordination between the TDHCA and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. From its launch through July 2019, contributions to the Fund totaled more than \$230,000. Maximizing every dollar graciously donated by Texans, TDHCA works to leverage contributions with the current federally-funded Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and state-funded Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP).

THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS (PUCT)

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) continues to look for innovative ways to assist Texas customers in navigating the complex issues in the area of electricity, telecommunications and water. In 2019 the commission redesigned the agency website to make it more user-friendly. An effort is also underway to rewrite and redesign its online informational factsheets.

The agency has also continued to work with faith and community-based organizations to provide educational materials and training on electric choice, energy conservation and customer assistance programs. Educational materials were distributed at many outreach events throughout the state. These events included Earth Day Texas in Dallas, and 6 Stones' "Operation Back 2 School" Day in Bedford. 6 Stones' "Operation Back 2 School" Day provided economically disadvantaged students from Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD a great start to the new school year. The religious service organization handed out free backpacks, school supplies, and other resource information to parents. At this event, not only did the PUCT provide students with school supplies, but also provided resource information regarding customer assistance programs and energy conservation tips for their parents.

The PUCT also participated in the Texas Black Expo and Energy Day in Houston. At those events, the PUCT provided area residents resource information regarding electric choice, energy conservation, and customer assistance programs. Numerous police departments, senior activity centers, and faith and community-based organizations contacted the PUCT throughout the year to request the agency's durable brochure-on-a-stick (hand fan) that provides customers energy conservation tips. The PUCT looks forward to continuing our partnerships with faith and community-based organizations in the next year.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (TJJD)

Within any of Texas' seven juvenile probation regions, a region's juvenile probation departments provide various community programs and services, operated by the departments, or through service provider contracts. Community programs or services vary greatly within departments and regions and may include: specialized treatment for substance abuse, mental health, and sexual behavior treatment, and programs for female offenders, violent offenders, and various psychoeducational and skills-building services for general offenders.

In order to keep delinquent juveniles closer to their home communities, juvenile probation departments have been charged with the task of pairing juveniles with appropriate community-based resources and services, including programming. In fiscal year 2019, juvenile probation departments offered 1,508 community-based programs to juveniles under their jurisdiction, their families, and at-risk youth in the area. Many programs offered by juvenile probation departments are designed to meet the needs of a wide array of youth. Of program participants in fiscal year 2019, 40% participated in a skill-building/activity-based program, 35% participated in a treatment-based program, and 25% participated in a surveillance-based program. TJJD has also established formal partnerships for re-entry, counseling and residential services with the following faith and community-based organizations and nonprofit organizations.

- AMIkids
- Crow Consultation
- Giocosa Foundation
- Gulf Coast Trade Center
- K16 Ready Society, Inc. (dba Texas Initiative Program)
- Lena Pope Counseling Services
- Life Support Counseling & Research, Inc. (dba Therapeutic Family Life)
- Pegasus Schools
- Southwest Key Program
- Vision Quest
- Wellspring Family/Community
- Youth Advocate Program

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION (TVC)

The Community and Faith-based Coordinator of the Texas Veterans Commission's Veterans Mental Health Department regularly attended the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) meetings to inform the members of the Interagency Coordinating Group of the work the Veterans Mental Health Department has been doing to address the issue of transitioning of current and former service members and their families out

of the military and into civilian communities through the Faith and Allegiance program.

Just as those who served in uniform and swore to bear true Faith and Allegiance to our Nation, the **Faith and Allegiance** program offers training to help faith and civic organizations learn to rally around current and former services members and their families to build awareness, connectivity, camaraderie and rekindled purpose among those who serve our Nation. The program offers a new path and opportunity to rekindle that sense of community and purpose the military offered by again serving something greater than ourselves.

Initially, four ways to engage with those who served our Nation are offered:

1. Organizations establish a process, if they do not already have one, to identify members or congregants who are current and former service members and their families.
2. Explore ways to connect and include current or former service members in organization and social activities.
3. Reach out to community partners and provide engagement opportunities to those whom served.
4. Learn about military culture and ways to positively communicate.

The Veterans Mental Health Department has 37 Peer Service Coordinators and approximately 4,000 community volunteers that come alongside interested organizations to provide additional training on:

1. Suicide awareness
2. Active listening
3. Military culture competence
4. Peer support opportunities
5. Peer ethics
6. Depression awareness
7. Addictive behaviors
8. Stress management
9. Justice-involved veterans
10. Texas Commission on Law Enforcement course
11. Counseling Access to Lethal Means (CALM)

The Peer Service Coordinators and volunteers work with participating organizations to offer these and other strategies to facilitate current and former service members

and their family's transition from military to civilian communities, whether that transition was just a few days ago or it has been many years.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG)

In FY 2019, the Grants Administration Division awarded grants to more than 200 non-profit organizations totaling over \$21.4 million for crime victim services (including domestic violence), choose life, and child support programs. Our Crime Victims Services Division collaborated with 40 non-profit and faith-based organizations on resources and programs for victims of crime.

We have coordinated with churches and various non-profit organizations to host showings of and promote our *Be The One in the Fight Against Human Trafficking* training video to educate the public on the issue.

The OAG's Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Unit (HTTOC) and Communications-Outreach Division works with non-profits to coordinate trainings for the public. The HTTOC Victim Advocate works with non-profits to provide assistance to victims from cases handled by the OAG.

The OAG oversees the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force that brings together state agencies, law enforcement, district attorneys, and non-profit organizations to address anti-trafficking challenges across Texas, collect data, provide training, and make legislative recommendations to advance Texas' anti-trafficking efforts. Click here for the Task Force's December 2018 Report.

OAG staff frequently meets with non-profits to learn about their impact in the state and plug them into the Task Force's affiliate members so they are able to stay up-to-date on the state's work on the issue. OAG staff has spoken at various non-profit conferences and panels to educate the public on the issue.

The OAG held a charity drive that collected thousands of needed items and clothing for *The Refuge*, a faith-based non-profit in Central Texas dedicated to providing housing, counseling, medical, and comprehensive care to female victims of trafficking up to age 19.

The Attorney General's Law Enforcement Division provided 40 joint trainings on cyber safety with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to middle school and high school students, parents, and teachers across the state.

TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (HHSC)

Community Partner Program

The **Community Partner Program** (CPP) is a collaboration between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and a statewide network of nearly 400 community partners helping Texans seeking assistance to complete an application and manage their benefits online using YourTexasBenefits.com. Interested organizations sign nonfinancial agreements with HHSC agreeing to adhere to program requirements. HHSC, then, trains and certifies qualifying organizations to serve as community partners.

Currently, the statewide network of community partners is comprised of faith- and community-based organizations, local governments, and other social service organizations, providing CPP services at 1,271 sites.

Table 1. Community Partners by Type

Type	Percent
Nonprofits	47%
Local Governments	25%
Medical	11%
Faith-Based	15%
Other	2%
Total	100%

In fiscal year 2019, CPP took part in 66 statewide events and facilitated 41 webinars to over 1,500 participants providing information about health and human services programs and YourTexasBenefits.com.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) support the Texas “No Wrong Door” system by serving as a key access point to person-centered, long-term services and supports needed to live independently in the community. The 22 ADRCs collaborate with area agencies on aging, affordable housing coalitions, local service providers, food pantries, and other community-based organizations to provide information and referral services. In addition to information and referral services, ADRCs often subcontract with faith- and community-based organizations to provide respite care to family caregivers. ADRCs also ensure that faith- and community-based organizations are represented on their local advisory groups.

Throughout the last quarter of fiscal year 2018 and the first three-quarters of fiscal year 2019, ADRCs assisted 127,037 callers and provided information at 1,668 outreach and education events, such as health fairs, Medicare open enrollment events, family caregiver workshops, and other community events. ADRCs provided nearly 34,315 hours of respite services to approximately 747 caregivers.

Foster Grandparent Program

The HHSC **Foster Grandparent Program** provides income-eligible adults, age 55 and older, meaningful volunteer opportunities providing one-on-one emotional support, mentoring, and tutoring to children with exceptional needs in eight HHSC service areas. Foster Grandparent Program volunteers are matched with a volunteer site, which may be a public agency, faith- or community-based nonprofit, or health care organization. Between July 2018 and June 2019, 476 Foster Grandparent Program volunteers provided 463,584 hours of mentorship to over 20,000 youths with exceptional needs.

Area Agencies on Aging

HHSC contracts with **Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)** to provide services to older adults to help older adults remain in their homes and communities. AAAs are designated by statute and are housed within community-based, nonprofit organizations and local governments. While AAAs contract with for-profit vendors for certain services, such as congregate and home-delivered meals and transportation, most services are provided through partnerships with nonprofit and faith-based organizations. In fiscal year 2019, more than 640,000 people received meals through the congregate and home-delivered meals programs and approximately 36,000 received assistance with transportation.

HHSC also contracts with the nonprofit vendor Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC) to support AAAs in providing legal assistance services to older adults and their caregivers. These services create public awareness of legal and Medicare issues impacting older Texans and assist them with public entitlements, health care, individual rights, planning options, housing, and consumer needs. Over 200,000 people benefited from these services in fiscal year 2019.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** offers nutrition education and obesity prevention services for SNAP participants, individuals, and families who are eligible for SNAP or other means-tested federal assistance programs and for individuals residing in communities with significant low-income populations. HHSC contracts with community-based providers, such as nonprofits, academic institutions, and governmental entities to provide these services.

Between October 2018 and July 2019, an estimated 808,275 unduplicated child and adult Texans were reached through SNAP-Ed direct and indirect education interventions. Direct education services were provided in 430 cities through 3,640 implementation sites. Participants of direct education learn about healthy eating, food safety, cooking skills, food resource management, and obesity prevention with the goal of increasing fruit and vegetable consumption as well as physical activity.

2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network

The **2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network** (2-1-1 TIRN) connects Texans with the services they need through comprehensive information and referral services. 2-1-1 TIRN collects and organizes information about state and local health and human services programs and provides this information to the public online at 211Texas.org and by phone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. 2-1-1 TIRN currently maintains information on more than 29,000 agencies and services. The top caller needs reported in fiscal year 2019 included electric payment assistance, rent payment assistance, food pantries, and housing assistance. HHSC administers 2-1-1 TIRN through 25 information and referral operations contracts, including United Way agencies, councils of government, community action networks, and municipalities.

2-1-1 TIRN handled more than 1.7 million calls and had over 1.4 million website visits at 211Texas.org in fiscal year 2019.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR (OOG)

Governor Abbott and the First Lady continue to support the empowerment of non-profit and faith-based organizations as a vital means of strengthening the cultural and civic fabric of Texas. In 2019, Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott delivered remarks at the OneStar Foundation's Texas Nonprofit Summit in San Antonio where she discussed the importance of volunteerism and philanthropy and highlighted the success of her Texanthropy initiative.

"My top priority," she said, "is encouraging Texans to give back through volunteerism and service, and I am grateful that the OneStar Foundation and the volunteers here today are committed to that same goal." She went on to say, "there is no force more powerful than Texans helping Texans. Through the generosity and service of each and every one of you, we will continue to create a brighter future for our great state."

The First Lady launched "Texanthropy" in 2016 as an initiative to promote volunteerism and service to others. The initiative also highlights entities and individuals all across Texas who are working to make our state a better place through volunteerism.

In September 2019, Governor Abbott released the Texas Safety Action Report in response to the despicable acts of violence in El Paso and Midland-Odessa, which follow on the heels of other mass-casualty events in Dallas, Sutherland Springs, Santa Fe, and places outside of Texas. The governor convened nearly 50 experts including faith leaders, community leaders, law enforcement officials, federal officials, business representatives, tech experts, counselors, advocates, lawmakers, and victims to study what has happened, identify any shortcomings in our current systems, and explore ways to prevent these horrific tragedies from taking place. The Texas Safety

Commission discussed strategies for community healing, combatting extremist groups and domestic terrorism, and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. The governor issued eight executive orders to address the results of the Texas Safety Action Report.

Public Safety Office of the Governor

The Public Safety Office (PSO) was formed in 2018 through a reorganization of existing staff and departments. The divisions of the new office are Criminal Justice (CJD), Homeland Security Grants (HSGD), Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT), and Grants Administration (GAD). The mission of the Public Safety Office is to promote strategies that improve public safety, support victims of crime, prevent terrorism, and prepare communities for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risks to Texans.

Criminal Justice Division

Resources within the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) are dedicated toward programs that protect people from crime, respond to the needs of crime victims, and promote accountability, efficiency and effectiveness within the criminal justice system. Nonprofit faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) are eligible grant recipients within several of the fund sources that CJD administers including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and others. FBCOs routinely apply for and receive grant funding to assist crime victims through crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, criminal justice system advocacy, transportation to court proceedings, safety planning, medical accompaniment and peer support-group counseling.

In Fiscal Year 2019, 317 nonprofit agencies received \$198.8 million in funding from CJD — \$7.0 million of which went to faith-based organizations. These grant-funded projects to FBCOs provided important services to Texans including a 24/7 hotline to rescue human trafficking survivors, transitional housing, mentoring for girls with incarcerated parents, crisis intervention, therapeutic counseling for domestic violence survivors, and many more. CJD continues to partner with nonprofit organizations on programs like Crime Stoppers and several juvenile justice initiatives including truancy reduction, school-based mentoring, and early intervention for at-risk youth.

Homeland Security Grants Division

The Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) serves as the pass-through agency for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), a federal program that seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack with broader state and local preparedness efforts. The NSGP also promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private entities.

Each year, HSGD solicits applications and awards grants to nonprofit organizations around Texas in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Eligible projects must support physical security enhancements and other security activities for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack based on the nonprofit organization's ideology, beliefs or mission. Prior to 2018, eligible nonprofits had to be located within one of the urban areas anticipated to receive funding under the federal Urban Area Security Initiative grant program, which is also administered by HSGD. Historically, these urban areas included Dallas Ft. Worth-Arlington, Houston and San Antonio. In 2018, the NSGP was opened to eligible nonprofits statewide.

Additionally, HSGD provides technical assistance to eligible nonprofits by conducting application-development webinars, providing grant management assistance and offering guidance on the preparation of environmental and historic-preservation screening documentation. This assistance is critical in helping the nonprofit organizations meet all requirements for federal grant funding through FEMA.

In fiscal year 2019, HSGD assisted 28 nonprofits with managing more than \$3.25 million in active grants. The nonprofit agencies receiving grant support and technical assistance were from areas across Texas including in Caldwell, Collin, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Montgomery, Tarrant and Travis counties.

Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT)

Sadly, children are sexually exploited in Texas every day. They are forced to engage in sexual activity, often for the financial gain of their abuser. The Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) in the Office of the Governor is fighting to end this crime and to help its young victims. The team's mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to:

- Protect children from sexual exploitation
- Help the public recognize signs of sexual exploitation
- Help victims recover
- Restore their sense of well-being
- Bring justice to those who exploit children.

Governor Greg Abbott has praised the Texas' Child Sex Trafficking Team for implementing "a number of statewide initiatives to help bring an end to the horrendous practice of child sexual exploitation, but we still have much work to do."

The Child Sex Trafficking Team implements strategies to prevent child sex trafficking, recognize, recover and restore victims to well-being, and bring them justice by holding their exploiters accountable. We do this largely by partnering with numerous nonprofit community and faith-based organizations. Each year, CSTT solicits applications and awards grants to organizations that can help survivors heal and thrive. The vast majority of these organizations are nonprofits that are faith-

based, including St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Arrow Child and Family Ministries, the Refuge for DMST, Hope Rising, Valiant Hearts, New Friends New Life, Traffick911, YMCA International, BCFS, For the Silent, Redeemed Ministries, Rahab's Retreat, and Unbound. We also partner with Love 146 to provide targeted prevention educations to youth in the foster care system.

The Child Sex Trafficking Team has also partnered with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute to develop a Roadmap for Texas Communities to Address Child Sex Trafficking. The Roadmap provides research, emerging practices, lessons learned, and resources for communities to effectively engage in the fight against child sex trafficking and align themselves with statewide strategies and goals.

In fiscal year 2019, CSTT granted over \$18,000,000 to partners, including the abovementioned agencies, to further its vision to end child sexual exploitation in Texas.

Possible Funding Sources for Faith-based and Non-profit Organizations

Non-profit organizations have a role in addressing vital issues facing Texans today. Possible funding sources for non-profit and faith-based organizations seeking to address these issues include:

Possible Federal Funding Opportunities:

- *Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)*. Promotes public safety efforts, crime reduction, and system improvements.
- *Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Program (JJDP)*. Supports prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth.
- *Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)*. Provides funding for target hardening and other physical security enhancements/activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.
- *Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)*. Supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to secure the Texas/Mexico and international water borders.
- *Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program (Coverdell)*. Reduces backlog and improves quality and timeliness in forensic laboratories. (CJD)
- *Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Prisoners (RSAT)*. Provides substance abuse treatment for incarcerated offenders.
- *Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP)*. Supports rape crisis centers that provide core services to victims of sexual assault. (CJD)
- *State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)*. Provides funding for local and statewide agencies to address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities where a nexus to terrorism exists. (HSGD)
- *STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA)*. Supports victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking through staff training, prevention and awareness, data collection, legal assistance, and treatment for trauma.

- *Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)*. Provides funding for three high-threat, high-density Urban Areas identified by FEMA (Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington, Houston, and San Antonio). Grants support local agency efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the core capabilities essential to preventing, protecting against, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic incidents.
- *Victims of Crime Act General Victim Assistance Program (VOCA)*. Devotes resources to provide direct services to victims of crime to help them recover and to navigate the justice system.

Possible State Funding Opportunities:

- *Body-Worn Cameras*. Supports municipal police departments and county sheriffs' offices in establishing or enhancing body-worn camera programs (one-time appropriation).
- *Border Prosecution Unit Program*. Provides funding to support prosecution resources and training as part of a collaborative initiative of district and county attorney offices within the Texas border region handling an increased number of cases resulting from border-related offenses.
- *Child Sex Trafficking Programs (CST)*. Fills services gaps for sexually exploited children by promoting regional and statewide programs that exemplify standards for trauma-informed care.
- *County Essentials*. Supports counties with the high and unexpected costs for the investigation and prosecution of capital murder crimes and other significant events.
- *Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund*. Supports local community-based partnerships operating anonymous tip lines.
- *Criminal Justice Planning Fund No. 421*. Fills system gaps throughout all areas of the criminal justice system and supports innovative concepts and best practices to achieve a safer Texas for all citizens.
- *Internet Crimes Against Children*. Supports investigation of internet crimes against children through task forces made up of multi-agency law enforcement personnel throughout urban Texas cities.
- *Local Border Security Program*. Provides funding for overtime and operating costs to sustain interagency law enforcement operations and support an increased law enforcement presence to detect, deter, and disrupt drug, human, and other contraband trafficking created by the close proximity to the Texas/Mexico border. (HSGD)
- *Rifle-Resistant Body Armor*. Funds purchases of rifle-resistant body armor for local law enforcement (one-time appropriation).
- *Sexual Assault Evidence Testing Grant Program*. Supports temporary or long-term expansions of testing capacity in crime laboratories to reduce the backlog of sexual assault kits in Texas.
- *Specialty Court Program*. Supports programs that focus on treatment for those with substance abuse or mental health issues or the specific needs of Veterans or sexually exploited persons.

- *Texas Anti-Gang Grant Program (TAG)*. Supports targeted, regional approaches to combat gang violence by coordinating prevention, intervention, and suppression activities.
- *Texas Conversion to the National Incident Based Reporting Program (NIBRS)*. Helps law enforcement agencies move to incident-based crime reporting to the Department of Public Safety.
- *Truancy Prevention and Intervention*. Supports school districts and local governments in providing case management and support to truant school children.

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CPA)

Summary Statewide Procurement Division

The Statewide Procurement Division (SPD) collaborates with its customers (state agencies, universities, local governments and other cooperative purchasing members) to meet their procurement needs by establishing competitively bid and awarded statewide contracts driven by best value. SPD's customer entities provide essential services and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' goal is to help them meet their obligations as efficiently as possible.

SPD supports nonprofit assistance organizations by providing access to our statewide term, managed and TXMAS contracts through the Texas SmartBuy Membership Program. As of September 2019, more than 120 assistance organizations participated in this program. The program coordinator works to maintain lines of communication with the nonprofit community to ensure they're aware of this opportunity and assists them in taking advantage of the program's benefits.

State Employee Charitable Campaign

The Comptroller's office participates annually in the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), the only statutorily authorized workplace charitable campaign for Texas state agency and higher education employees. Since its creation in 1993, the SECC has collected more than \$182.9 million in donations statewide, making it one of the nation's largest programs of its kind. The campaign allows employees to assist and empower those who are struggling through difficult times and support causes to improve our fellow Texans' quality of life. SECC represents more than 450 diverse charities and causes from small local organizations to well-known state, national and international groups, giving donors a chance to support causes important to them. Through the years, Comptroller employees have demonstrated what can be accomplished when caring individuals band together to support those enduring difficult challenges and hardships. In 2018, Comptroller employees raised \$115,956.21 for charities and held the largest per capita donor gift at \$48.42 in the 1,001-5,000 employee category.

Comptroller Employees and Employee Organizations

The Comptroller's office continuously seeks new opportunities to build relationships within the nonprofit community. One of our missions is to give back to the community. A new initiative this year is Holiday Wishes, a program that will help create positive, magical holiday memories for children. The program allows Comptroller employees to sponsor foster children and fulfill each child's three-item wish list. In all, our employees agreed to sponsor 135 children. Other examples of community outreach include silent auctions, fundraisers, volunteer work and item collections and cash donations for organizations such as Central Texas Food Bank, Safe Place (SAFE), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Hospice Austin, Christopher House and The Settlement Home for Children.

The Black American Comptroller Employees Association (BACE) supports charitable, benevolent, patriotic, employment-related and educational activities to better our community. Founded in 1981, BACE members are current and former CPA employees. In summer 2019, BACE partnered with Family Eldercare for its annual family drive, collecting new electric fans and monetary donations that are used to serve those who do not have or cannot afford air-conditioning as well as low-income seniors, adults with disabilities and families with children. BACE also held a back-to-school supply drive for Sims Elementary in Austin. The drive helps provide underprivileged children with the tools they need to be successful in the classroom. During November and December, BACE partners with Junior League of Austin for its annual Coats for Kids drive and Foundation Communities for its Adopt-a-Family Program.

Each year, BACE awards educational scholarships to recognize student merit in academics, leadership and special talents in areas including athletics and the arts. In 2019, BACE awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors and two \$1,000 scholarships to undergraduate college students. These scholarships were awarded at BACE's Juneteenth luncheon.

CPA Vets

The Comptroller's office is proud that its staff includes members representing all branches of the military. CPA Vets, established in 2006, conducts charitable and educational activities in support of Texas veterans. To fulfill its mission, the organization fosters greater public awareness of Texas veterans' contributions to American history and assists the agency and the state in recognizing Veterans Day and Memorial Day. CPA Vets also conducts classes on veteran benefits, helps to facilitate the assimilation of returning veterans to civilian life and promotes a greater understanding of the sacrifices made by returning veterans.

CPA Vets encourages and promotes participation in charities to support our troops and veterans deployed overseas. Every December, it collects care packages for deployed soldiers recovering from wounds and injuries, as well as for indigent veterans in the Central Texas area. CPA Vets members compile information on

veteran awards, memorials and hero biographies to be included in lobby exhibits set up throughout each year, to help employees visualize the sacrifices made by those who serve.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION (TWC) Child Care & Early Learning Division

TWC's Child Care & Early Learning Division oversees activities to improve the quality of and access to child care services across the state. TWC distributes funds to 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) to administer the subsidized child care program and the Texas Rising Star quality rating and improvement system.

Boards contract with service providers to provide direct care and Texas Rising Star activities in their communities, and nearly half of the Boards contract with non-profit organizations to provide these services.

Boards also have the flexibility to develop and fund local partnerships, programs, and events that bring together a wide variety of organizations to support child care quality improvements and to improve access to high-quality care for low-income families.

Additionally, TWC supports partnerships with community and faith-based organizations through the following statewide initiatives:

Prekindergarten Public-Private Partnerships

Child care programs that are recognized by the Texas Rising Star system as 3- or 4-star are eligible to enter into partnerships with local school districts and charter schools to provide high-quality prekindergarten at the child care program's site. Eligible children enrolled in these partnerships receive high quality pre-k instruction as well as needed wraparound child care that enables their parents to work. Many of the high-quality child care programs eligible for partnerships are non-profit or faith-based.

TWC makes resources available at the state and local level to support the development of pre-k partnerships, including providing funds to the Texas Education Agency to award grants to regional programs that support partnership development. Additionally, TWC has recently hired a state coordinator for pre-k public-private partnerships.

Professional Development Scholarships

TWC awarded funds to Texas Association for the Education of Young Children to provide financial assistance to child care providers and caregivers to complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or enroll in college-credit courses in early childhood development. Since 2011, the Texas T.E.A.C.H. program has awarded

1,634 CDA scholarships and 1,154 associate degree scholarships to early childhood professionals employed with Texas child care programs.

Child Progress Monitoring

TWC also awarded the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) a grant to provide assessment tools to early childhood educators to assess the development and learning of children from birth to five years of age. The grant supports training early childhood educators on the assessment tools, gathering and reporting data, and how to use child progress data to develop curriculum and instruction that is responsive to each child's individual needs.

Goal 3 — Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations.

Goal 4 — Identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

Activity and Progress:

Texas Connector Technology Tool

In response to Goals 3 and 4, a few state agencies are using OneStar Foundation's online, nonprofit mapping tool, Texas Connector, to identify duplication in services and gaps in services that faith and community-based organizations could fill. Texas Connector empowers communities, governments, funders and nonprofits to more effectively meet Texas' growing needs. Texas Connector combines an interactive GIS map, searchable database including social service providers and nonprofits from Texas 2-1-1 and GuideStar, USA, socioeconomic and demographic data and population summaries and visual layers such as public schools, public transit and more.

Texas Connector also offers a unique platform on which initiative-specific data, such as health or criminal justice data, can be overlaid to create information-rich maps and reports. Users can print, email, or export search results to identify gaps in service, collaborative partners or complementary services. From researching community resources to analyzing local continua of care, Texas Connector's powerful combination of nonprofit and demographic data gives users insight to better understand regional issues and resources and more effectively tackle community challenges.

Over 2,500 Texas Department of Criminal Justice agency staff across the Parole and Reentry Divisions use Texas Connector to provide individualized, location-specific community resource reports for re-entering clients and parolees.

Texas Workforce Commission and several other state agencies have smaller subscriptions to Texas Connector, but to our knowledge, no other agency is currently using this or any other technology tool to address Goals 3 and 4 above.

V. NEXT STEPS FOR 2020

ICG members will:

- 1) Keep agency information up-to-date on the OneStar website and continue to add new resources;
- 2) Further develop best practices for cooperation and collaboration between state agencies and FCBO networks;
- 3) Continue to work with agency leadership to reduce barriers for FCBOs and streamline procurement and contracting in alignment with all new directives.

For questions related to this report or to obtain more information on the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group, please contact Chris Bugbee, President/CEO of OneStar Foundation, at 512-287-2018 or chris@onestarfoundation.org.

VI. APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

H.B. No. 492

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services and social services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) Subtitle I, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 535 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 535. PROVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER
SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FAITH AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Community-based initiative" includes a social, health, human services, or volunteer income tax assistance initiative operated by a community-based organization.

(2) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that is located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

(3) "Faith-based initiative" means a social, health, or human services initiative operated by a faith-based organization.

(4) "Faith-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that:

(A) is operated through a religious or denominational organization, including an organization that is operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by or in connection with a religious organization; or

(B) clearly demonstrates through the organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the organization is guided or motivated by religion.

(5) "State Commission on National and Community Service" means the entity used as authorized by 42 U.S.C. Section 12638(a) to carry out the duties of a state commission under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.).

Sec. 535.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations and to forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government for the legitimate public purpose of providing charitable and social services to persons in this state.

Sec. 535.003. CONSTRUCTION. This chapter may not be construed to:

(1) exempt a faith or community-based organization from any applicable state or federal law; or

(2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by this state of the religious character, expression, beliefs, doctrines, or practices of a faith-based organization.

Sec. 535.004. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAW. A power authorized or duty imposed under this chapter must be performed in a manner that is consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 604a.

[Sections 535.005-535.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS FOR FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 535.051. DESIGNATION OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY-BASED LIAISONS.

(a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the commission and from each health and human services agency to serve as a liaison for faith and community-based organizations.

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

(1) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;

- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission; and
- (10) other state agencies as determined by the governor.

Sec. 535.052. GENERAL DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a) A faith and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith and community-based organizations;

(2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government;

(3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents;

(4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency;

(5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible; and

(6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith and community-based initiatives.

(b) A faith and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 may coordinate and interact with statewide organizations that represent faith or community-based organizations as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 535.053. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP. (a) The interagency coordinating group for faith and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service.

(b) The commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051 is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

(c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

(1) meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer;

(2) work across state agencies and with the State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(3) operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

Sec. 535.054. REPORTS. (a) A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(b) Each report made under Subsection (a)(2) must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose.

Sections 535.055-535.100 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

Sec. 535.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account" means the renewing our communities account.

Sec. 535.102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER. Recognizing that faith and community-based organizations provide a range of vital charitable services to persons in this state, the purposes of this subchapter are to:

- (1) increase the impact and effectiveness of those organizations;
- (2) forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government so that communities are empowered to serve persons in need and community capacity for providing services is strengthened; and
- (3) create a funding mechanism that builds on the established efforts of those organizations and operates to create new partnerships in local communities for the benefit of this state.

Sec. 535.103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT. (a) The renewing our communities account is an account in the general revenue fund that may be appropriated only to the commission for the purposes and activities authorized by this subchapter and for reasonable administrative expenses under this subchapter.

- b) The account consists of:
- (1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this subchapter;
 - (2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the purposes of this subchapter; and
 - (3) interest earned on money in the account.
- (c) The account is exempt from the application of Section 403.095.
- (d) The purposes of the account are to:
- (1) increase the capacity of faith and community-based organizations to provide charitable services and to manage human resources and funds;
 - (2) assist local governmental entities in establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based initiatives; and
 - (3) foster better partnerships between state government and faith- and community-based organizations.

Sec. 535.104. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING ACCOUNT. (a) The commission shall:

(1) contract with the State Commission on National and Community Service to administer funds appropriated from the account in a manner that:

(A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens national service and community and faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(B) leverages public and private funds to benefit this state;

(2) develop a competitive process to be used in awarding grants from account funds that is consistent with state law and includes objective selection criteria;

(3) oversee the delivery of training and other assistance activities under this subchapter;

(4) develop criteria limiting awards of grants under Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state;

(5) establish general state priorities for the account;

(6) establish and monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom grants are awarded under this subchapter; and

(7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or for a faith-based initiative, including money allocated for the establishment of the advisory subgroup under Section 535.108, is not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

(b) Instead of contracting with the State Commission on National and Community Service under Subsection (a)(1), the commission may award account funds appropriated to the commission to the State Commission on National and Community Service in the form of a grant.

(c) Any funds awarded to the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section must be administered in the manner required by this subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1).

(d) The commission or the State Commission on National and Community Service, in accordance with the terms of the contract or grant, as applicable, may:

(1) directly, or through agreements with one or more entities that serve faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state:

(A) assist faith- and community-based organizations with:

(i) writing or managing grants through workshops or other forms of guidance;

(ii) obtaining legal assistance related to forming a corporation or obtaining an exemption from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code; and

(iii) obtaining information about or referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal, or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational topics;

(B) provide information or assistance to faith- and community-based organizations related to building the organizations' capacity for providing services;

(C) facilitate the formation of networks, the coordination of services, and the sharing of resources among faith- and community-based organizations;

(D) in cooperation with existing efforts, if possible, conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in services in a community that present a need for developing or expanding services;

(E) work with faith- and community-based organizations to identify the organizations' needs for improvements in their internal capacity for providing services;

(F) provide faith- and community-based organizations with information on and assistance in identifying or using practices with demonstrated effectiveness for delivering charitable services to persons, families, and communities and in replicating charitable services programs that have demonstrated effectiveness; and

(G) encourage research into the impact of organizational capacity on program delivery for faith and community-based organizations;

(2) assist a local governmental entity in creating a better partnership between government and faith and community-based organizations to provide charitable services to persons in this state; and

(3) use funds appropriated from the account to provide matching money for federal or private grant programs that further the purposes of the account as described by Section 535.103(d).

(e) The commission shall monitor the use of the funds administered by the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section to ensure that the funds are used in a manner consistent with the requirements of this subchapter.

Records relating to the award of a contract or grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, or to grants awarded by that entity, and records relating to other uses of the funds are public information subject to Chapter 552.

(f) If the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service under this section, this subchapter may not be construed to:

(1) release that entity from any regulations or reporting or other requirements applicable to a contractor or grantee of the commission;

(2) impose regulations or reporting or other requirements on that entity that do not apply to other contractors or grantees of the commission solely because of the entity's status;

(3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the requirements for maintaining that status; or

(4) convert that entity into a governmental entity because of the receipt of account funds through the contract or grant.

Sec. 535.105. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT FUNDS. If under Section 535.104 the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, that entity:

(1) may award grants from funds appropriated from the account to:

(A) faith and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state for capacity-building purposes; and

(B) local governmental entities to provide seed money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures established by the commission under Section 535.104(a)(6).

Sec. 535.106. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The commission shall provide a link on the commission's Internet website to the Internet website of the State Commission on National and Community Service if the commission contracts with or awards a grant to that entity under Section 535.104. The entity's Internet website must provide:

(1) a list of the names of each person to whom the entity awarded a grant from money appropriated from the account and the amount and purpose of the grant; and

(2) information regarding the methods by which the public may request information about those grants.

(b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section 535.104, the State Commission on National and Community Service must provide to the commission periodic reports on a schedule determined by the executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic reports must include an annual report that includes:

(1) a specific accounting with respect to the use by that entity of money appropriated from the account, including the names of persons to whom grants have been awarded and the purposes of those grants; and

(2) a summary of the efforts of the faith- and community-based liaisons designated under Section 535.051 to comply with the duties imposed by and the purposes of Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(c) The commission shall post the annual report made under Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet website and shall provide copies of the report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the members of the legislature.

Sec. 535.107. TASK FORCE ON STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT CAPACITY. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall establish a task force to make recommendations for strengthening the capacity of faith and community-based organizations for managing human resources and funds and providing services. The members of the task force must include:

(1) representatives from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, the academic community, and the foundation community; and

(2) other individuals who have expertise that would be valuable to the task force.

(b) Using money appropriated from the account, the task force shall hold at least three public hearings in various geographic areas of this state, at least one of which must be outside of Central Texas. The task force shall hear testimony at the hearings regarding strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to manage human resources and funds and provide services.

(c) The task force is not required to hold a public hearing if the remaining money appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of the duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) The task force shall present a report and legislative recommendations to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on

Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2010, regarding its recommendations.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

Sec. 535.108. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT ADVISORY SUBGROUP. (a) The executive commissioner shall appoint leaders of faith- and community-based organizations in this state to serve on the renewing our communities account advisory subgroup. The advisory subgroup members must be representative of the religious, cultural, and geographic diversity of this state and the diversity of organization types and sizes in this state.

(b) The advisory subgroup shall make recommendations to the executive commissioner regarding the powers and duties with respect to the account as described by Section 535.104.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the advisory subgroup shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The advisory subgroup is not required to meet if the remaining amount appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of any duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory subgroup.

(e) The advisory subgroup is subject to Chapter 551.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the chief executive officers of the Office of Rural Community Affairs, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and any other state agency as determined by the governor shall designate the liaisons for faith- and community-based initiatives as required under Section 535.051, Government Code, as added by this section, not later than December 1, 2009.

(c) The interagency coordinating group established under Section 535.053, Government Code, as added by this section, shall hold its first meeting not later than

February 1, 2010.

SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program, creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the provision.

SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the House on April 24, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 119, Nays 15, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 492 on May 18, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
Date

Governor

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 535.051, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Texas Department [Office] of Rural [~~Community~~] Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission;
- (10) the office of the governor;
- (11) the Department of Public Safety;
- (12) the Texas Department of Insurance;
- (13) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- (14) the office of the attorney general;
- (15) the Department of Agriculture;
- (16) the office of the comptroller;
- (17) the Department of Information Resources;

(18) the Office of State-Federal Relations;

(19) the office of the secretary of state; and

(20) [(10)] other state agencies as determined by the governor.

(c) The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall designate one employee from an institution of higher education, as that term is defined under Section 61.003, Education Code, to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

SECTION 2. Sections 535.053(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service. The commission shall provide administrative support to the interagency coordinating group.

(b) The liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service [commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051] is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group. If the State Commission on National and Community Service is abolished, the liaison from the governor's office is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

SECTION 3. Section 535.054, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 535.054. REPORT [REPORTS]. (a) Not later than December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the interagency coordinating group. [A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

[(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

[(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith- and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and

Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.]

(b) The [Each] report made under Subsection (a) [(a)(2)] must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website[, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose].

SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 535, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 535.055 to read as follows:

Sec. 535.055. TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS.

(a) The interagency coordinating group task force is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the task force one representative from each of the following groups and entities:

- (1) a statewide nonprofit organization;
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups;
- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations;
- (6) experts in grant writing; and
- (7) a statewide association of nonprofit organizations.

(c) In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group, in coordination with the task force, shall:

- (1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
- (2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
- (3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

(d) The task force shall prepare a report describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group under this section. The task force shall present the report to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2012.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

SECTION 5. Not later than October 1, 2011, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the interagency coordinating group task force in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the House on April 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
Date

Governor

APPENDIX C

Interagency Coordinating Group
Subcommittee: Improving Contracting Relationships
Proposed [RFP Template](#) for Client Services Procurements*
March 2012 *

Client Services Procurement is defined as the purchase of goods or services that benefit the clients or recipients of a State agency.

Section I: General

Scope
Terms and Conditions
Compensation
Schedule of Events
Agency Point of Contact
Definitions
(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section II: Statement of Work

Service Requirements
Subcontractors
Performance Tracking
(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section III: Proposal Information

Revision to Schedule
Pre-Proposal Conference
Proposal Requirements
Inquiries
Proposal Submission
Delivery of Proposals
Proposal Opening
Proposal Evaluation and Award
(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section IV: Historically Underutilized Business Participation

Section V: Contract Information Section

Section VI: Attachments

APPENDIX D

ICG MEMBER AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture
Department of Family and Protective Services
Department of Information Resources
Department of State Health Services
Health and Human Services Commission
Office of Secretary of State
Office of State-Federal Relations
Office of the Attorney General
An Institution of Higher Education
(Austin Community College District)
Office of the Comptroller
Office of the Governor
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Texas State Commission on National and Community Service
(OneStar Foundation)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Texas Department of Insurance
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Education Agency
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Texas Veterans Commission
Texas Workforce Commission