



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

87th Legislature – House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Article II

March 3, 2021

Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner

Donna Sheppard, DSHS Chief Financial Officer

Overview

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Agency Overview

DSHS Mission: To improve the health, safety, and well-being of Texans through good stewardship of public resources, and a focus on core public health functions.

DSHS Vision: A Healthy Texas

DSHS Goals:

- Improve health outcomes through public and population health strategies, including prevention and intervention.
- Optimize public health response to disasters, disease threats, and outbreaks.
- Improve and optimize business functions and processes to support delivery of public health services in communities.
- Enhance operational structures to support public health functions of the state.
- Improve recognition and support for a highly skilled and dedicated workforce.
- Foster effective partnership and collaboration to achieve public health goals.
- Promote the use of science and data to drive decision-making and best practices.

Agency Overview: Divisions & Functions

Chief State Epidemiologist

- ◆ Health statistics
- ◆ State epidemiologist

Laboratory and Infectious Disease

- ◆ State public health laboratory
- ◆ Infectious disease

Consumer Protection

- ◆ Emergency Medical Services & trauma care system
- ◆ Environmental health
- ◆ Food and drug safety
- ◆ Radiation control

Community Health Improvement

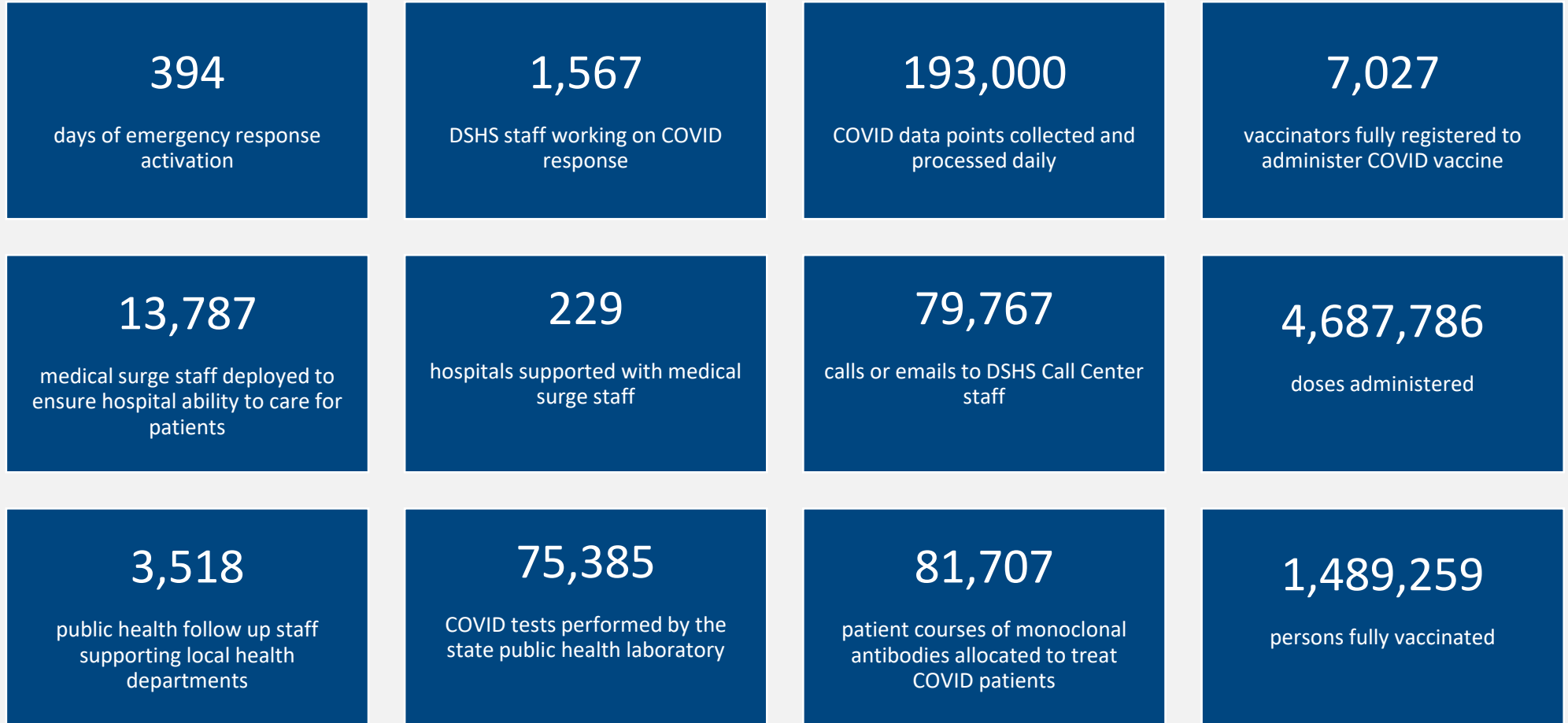
- ◆ Environmental epidemiology & disease registries
- ◆ Maternal and Child Health
- ◆ Health promotion & chronic disease prevention
- ◆ Vital statistics

Regional and Local Health Operations

- ◆ Healthcare emergency preparedness and response
- ◆ Regional public health clinics
- ◆ Texas Center for Infectious Disease
- ◆ Border health



COVID Response by the Numbers



Texas Department of State Health Services

**as of February 24, 2021*

COVID-19 Pandemic Expenditures (Estimated)

Category	How much we spent
Medical Surge Staffing	\$4.0 Billion
Local Response	\$255.8 Million
Disease Surveillance	\$160.1 Million
Local Contracts	\$68.0 Million
Lab Costs	\$27.7 Million
Repatriation	\$5.5 Million
Other Costs	\$0.5 Million
Total	\$4.5 Billion

**as of March 1, 2021*



Texas Department of State
Health Services

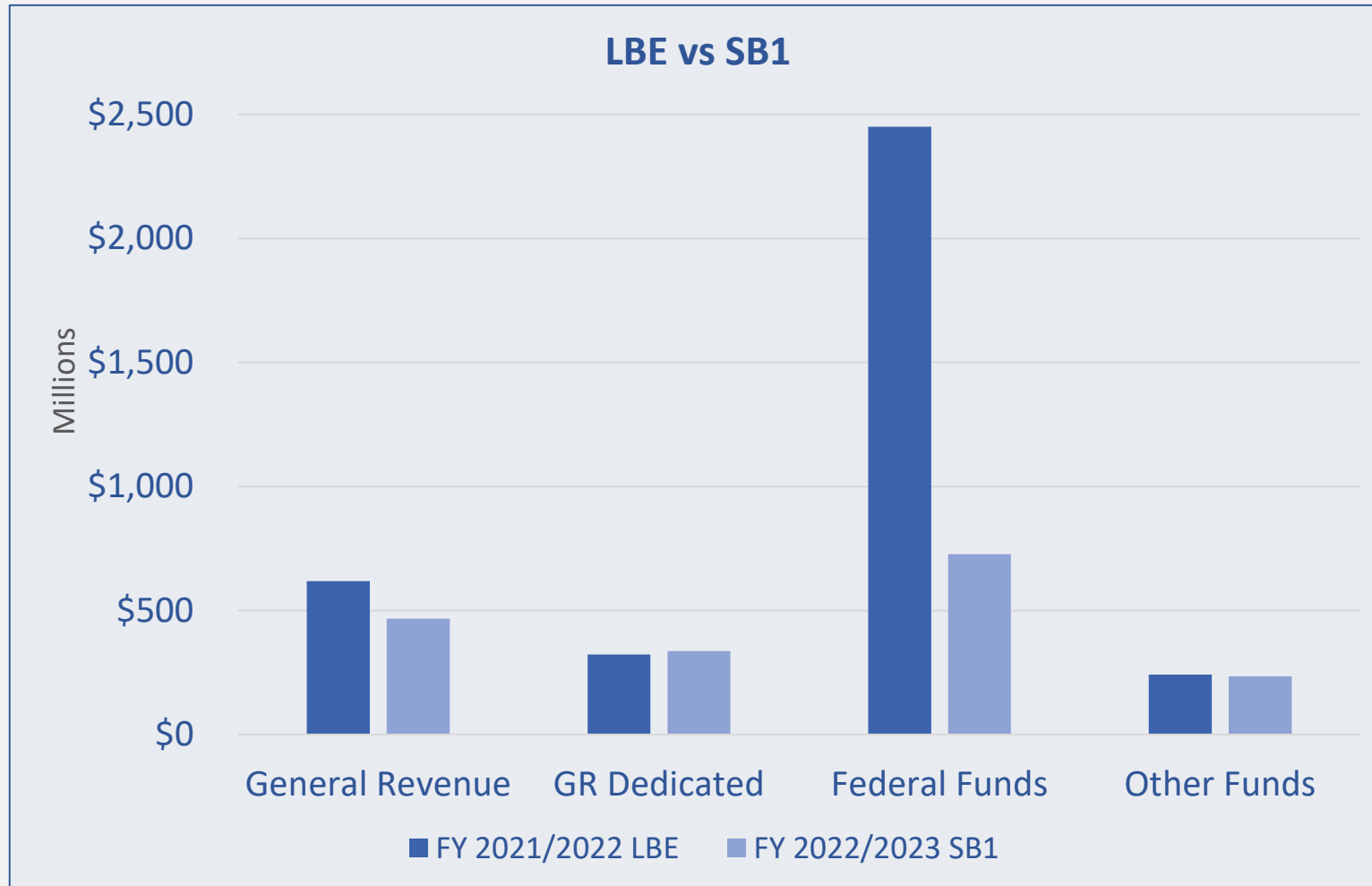
COVID-19 Federal Funds

24 Awards, Total \$6.79 Billion.

- ◆ 5 FEMA Awards, \$2.4 Billion
- ◆ Award dates vary, from ending in 2020 to ending in 2024.
- ◆ FEMA 100% Reimbursement for DSHS projects
- ◆ Epidemiology and Lab Capacity, \$1.5 Billion
 - ◆ Develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, and related activities.
- ◆ COVID Supplemental Round 3, Vaccination Award, \$227 Million
 - ◆ Local Health Contracts and Grants
 - ◆ Vaccine Administration
 - ◆ IT



Budget Comparison

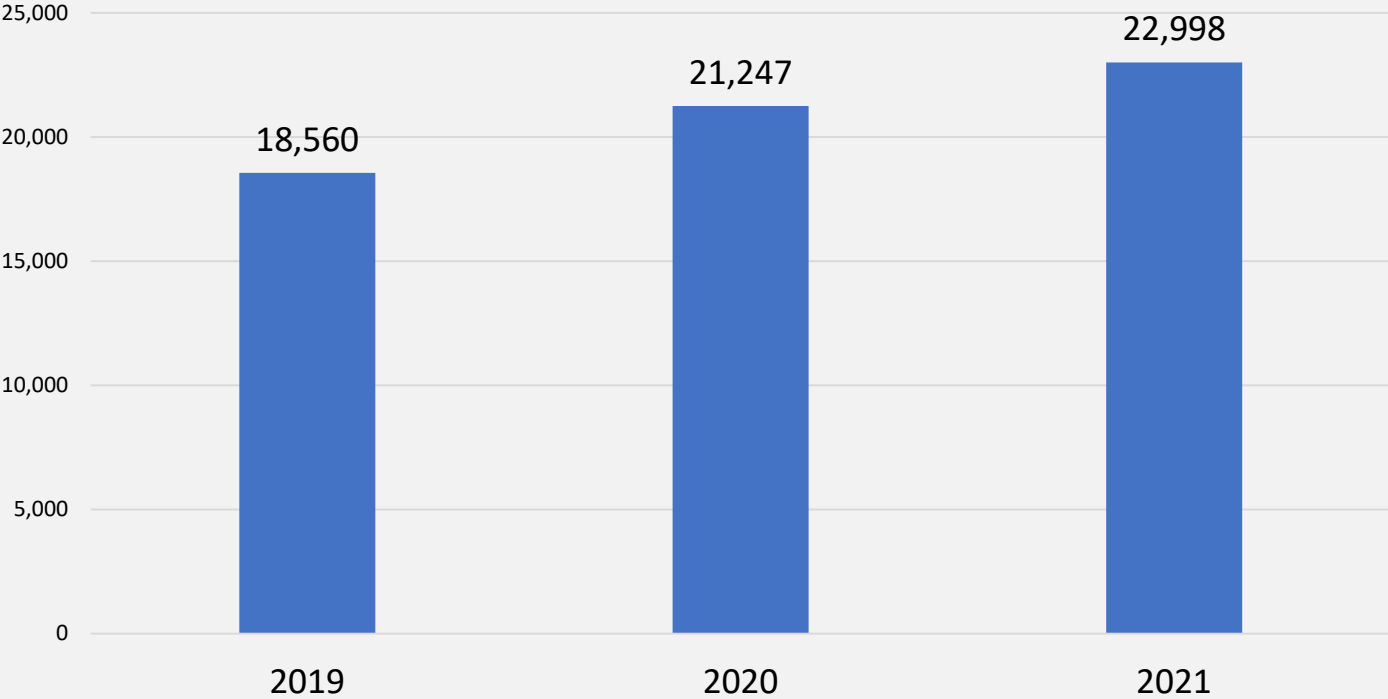


FTEs
FY 2021: 3,452.9
FY: 2023: 3,285.9
Variance: (167)



COVID-19 Cost Driver: HIV Program

Unduplicated Clients in Texas HIV Medications Program - FY2019 to FY2021



FY	Percent Increase
2019	baseline
2020	14.48%
2021	23.91%

- Subset: AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) - 34% increase since March 2020



Exceptional Item Objectives

DSHS exceptional item objectives are tightly limited:

- ◆ Ensure the ongoing availability of essential public health services in rural and frontier communities where DSHS is the primary public health service provider
- ◆ Meet current legislative requirements and direction
- ◆ Address audit findings and security risks
- ◆ Address unsustainable operational gaps

Summary of FY 2022-2023 Exceptional Items

	Exceptional Item	Biennial GR/GRD	Biennial All Funds	2022 FTEs	2023 FTEs
DSHS FY 2022-2023 Base Request		\$803,299,432	\$1,765,770,154	3,327.9	3,285.9
1.	Rural and Frontier Public Health Services	\$13,058,537	\$13,058,537	36	36
2.	Consumer Protection and Safety	\$7,664,749	\$7,664,749	29.4	28.4
3.	Effective Business Operations and IT Security	\$34,780,431	\$34,780,431	36	36
Total, Exceptional Items		\$55,503,717	\$55,503,717	101.4	100.4
Total, DSHS Base + Exceptional Items		\$858,803,149	\$1,821,273,871	3,429.3	3,386.3

EI 1: Rural and Frontier Public Health Services

- ◆ **Rural and Frontier Clinic Services, \$13.1 M:**
Provide essential public health services to underserved rural communities that lack adequate access.
 - ◆ 14 additional rural and frontier satellite field offices, to provide much-needed services related to core public health functions including surveillance, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases.
 - ◆ 3 Mobile Clinic vehicles and support staff to serve harder-to-reach areas.

Method of Finance	FY 2022	FY 2023	Biennium
General Revenue	\$8.4 M	\$4.7 M	\$13.1 M
All Funds	\$8.4 M	\$4.7 M	\$13.1 M
FTEs			
FY 2022: 36	FY 2023: 36		
Program Data			
Counties with DSHS as the Main Public Health Provider		194, or 85%	
Percentage of Frontier Counties Covered by DSHS		100%	
Annual DSHS Clinic Visits		30,000	

EI 2: Consumer Protection and Product Safety

- ◆ **Food Safety FTEs, \$5.9 M:** Increase the number of food safety inspectors operating in DSHS regions in response to audit findings and provide targeted equity adjustments to prevent costly turnovers.
- ◆ **Consumable Hemp Program, \$0.6 M:** Better align the program based on anticipated license and registrations, as well as product testing and enforcement activities required by statute.
 - ◆ The revenue generated by the license and registration fees are expected to cover the cost of the additional FTEs.
- ◆ **Customer Service Efficiency, \$1.2 M:** Increase the functionality of the existing online licensure and registration system (RAS) to streamline processes, increase security, and improve inspection processes.

Method of Finance	FY 2022	FY 2023	Biennium
General Revenue	\$1.1 M	\$1.1 M	\$2.2 M
All Funds	\$3.8 M	\$3.9 M	\$7.7 M

FTEs	
FY 2022: 29.4	FY 2023: 28.4

Program Data	
Food Safety Licenses Overseen by DSHS	38,700
Estimated Hemp Licenses and Registrations	5,000
RAS Customers	439,000

EI 3: Effective Business Operations and IT Security

- ◆ **Business Infrastructure, \$29.4 M:** Increase the number of fiscal management FTEs in response to federal & internal audit findings, provide targeted equity adjustments to prevent costly turnovers. Cover increasing Data Center Services costs.
- ◆ **Registry System Viability Assessment, \$5.4 M:** Obtain a third-party vendor to conduct an assessment of long-term IT needs of critical public health registries: EMS/Trauma, Birth Defects, Blood Lead, and TB/HIV/STD registries.
- ◆ **Vital Statistics Services (FTE's Only):** Partially restore FTE cap to maintain a low backlog. Revenue is available to support this request.
- ◆ **Texas Center for Infectious Disease (capital only):** \$0.8 Million in Capital Budget Authority for TCID Hospital Equipment replacement/repairs.

Method of Finance	FY 2022	FY 2023	Biennium
General Revenue	\$16.8 M	\$18.0 M	\$34.8 M
All Funds	\$16.8 M	\$18.0 M	\$34.8 M

FTEs	
FY 2022: 36	FY 2023: 36

Program Data	
Applications in DCS	82
Records in Registry System	40.4 M

Appendix



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Appendix

- Federal Grants to Support COVID-19 Expenses
- Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Public Health Accomplishments

Federal Grants to Support COVID Expenses

Grantor	Description	Total in Millions	Uses
FEMA	Public Assistance - FEMA Category B	\$2,399.6	General disaster public assistance. The funds require a 25% state match. Additional funds can be requested.
Dept of Treasury	Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)- CARES Act	\$2,009.5	Various uses, funds allocated to DSHS for direct care medical staffing needs.
CDC	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act/Epi & Lab Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion	\$1,535.4	Develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, and related activities.
CDC	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act/Epi & Lab Capacity for Testing (PPPHEA-ELC)	\$473.6	Develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, and related activities.
CDC	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act/Implementation and Expansion of the Vaccine Program	\$227.1	Vaccine distribution and administration
CDC	Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations (Crisis CoAg)	\$55.1	Crisis response and recovery, information and surge management, surveillance
CDC	CARES Act/Epi & Lab Capacity to Reopen America. (ELC)	\$39.1	Surveillance, epidemiology, lab capacity, data surveillance and analytics infrastructure, disseminating information about testing, and workforce support necessary to expand and improve COVID-19 testing.
CDC	COVID-19 Supplemental via 2020 CARES ACT Round 1	\$14.4	Plan and implement COVID-19 vaccination services
CDC	PPPHEA National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases	\$10.1	Enhanced Influenza-COVID19 response for staffing, communication, preparedness and vaccination, with emphasis on enrolling new vaccinators. Funds may not be used to purchase vaccines.
CDC	COVID-19 Supplemental via 2020 CARES ACT Round 2	\$10.1	Plan and implement COVID-19 vaccination services

Federal Grants to Support COVID Expenses

Grantor	Description	Total in Millions	Uses
ASPR	CARES Act - Hospital Preparedness Program Supplemental Award for COVID-19 (CARES HPP)	\$8.7	Urgent preparedness and response needs of hospitals, health systems, and health care workers on the front lines.
CDC	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act Epi & Lab Capacity	\$5.4	focus on genetic testing lab preparedness; and ensuring safe travel through optimized data sharing and communication with international travelers
CDC	ELC /Healthcare-associated Infections/ Antimicrobial Resistance Program (ELC-HAI)	\$3.7	Funds support Project Firstline, a CDC training collaborative for health care infection prevention and control.
HRSA	CARES Act - Ryan White HIVAIDS	\$1.5	Infrastructure and practice improvement needed to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 for Texans living with HIV.
HUD	CARES Act - Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS COVID-19 Supplemental (CARES HOPWA)	\$0.7	Allowable activities authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act to maintain housing for low-income persons living with HIV (PLWH) and their households.
ASPR	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPPHEA) (PPP HPP Ebola)	\$0.4	Funds dedicated for Special Pathogen Hospital to increase the capability of health care systems to safely manage individuals with suspected and confirmed COVID-19.
ASPR	CARES Act - Hospital Preparedness Program Ebola (CARES HPP Ebola)	\$0.3	Funds dedicated for Special Pathogen Hospital to increase the capability of health care systems to safely manage individuals with suspected and confirmed COVID-19.
CDC	Rape Prevention & Education: Using the Best Available Evidence for Sexual Violence Prevention - COVID-19	\$0.3	The OAG will interagency cooperation contracts with Texas Association Against Sexual Violence and Texas A&M University Health Science Center to enhance existing activities that address the most pressing COVID-19 related violence issues including Intimate Partner Violence
HHS	ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure – COVID-19	\$0.2	Development of a training and educational module on safe ways to disinfect for COVID-19 at home-based child care facilities.
USDA	Cooperative State Meat and Poultry Inspection – COVID-19	\$0.01	COVID-19 specific prevention and safety activities.

Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Public Health Accomplishments

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

- Manage the registration, allocation, ordering, and reporting of COVID-19 vaccine administration
- Supports the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel by providing information to support data driven decision making for guiding principles and allocation strategies
- Develop and implement vaccine awareness campaign to address vaccine hesitancy, at-risk demographics, and harder to reach audiences

COVID-19 Information & Guidance

- Provided leaders and the public with guidance on COVID-19 research, prevention recommendations, and treatment.
- Monitored and shared new developments of COVID-19 pandemic from government and academic sources.
- Collaborated with local, state, and federal partners for supporting long term care facilities, schools, and other congregate settings.

State Public Health Laboratory

- Implemented newborn screening for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD).
- Rapidly stood up COVID-19, influenza-COVID multiplex testing, and COVID-variant testing to support the pandemic response.

Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Public Health Accomplishments

Restoration of Asthma Control Program

- DSHS received a competitive CDC award of \$800,000 per year for five years to reduce emergency department visits and hospitalizations due to uncontrolled asthma.
- DSHS is working with local health departments in Dallas County, Harris County, and City of San Antonio.
- The program anticipates a reach of 408,000 persons living with asthma by 2024.

Texas AIM

- 219 of 223 hospitals are now enrolled in Texas AIM, accounting for 99% of all Texas births and 10% of all births in the US.
- 1,200 health care workers from 220 hospitals have participated in Texas AIM Obstetric Care and COVID-19 learning collaborative.
- Faculty recruitment for the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Learning Collaborative is now underway.

Meat Safety Regulation

- Secured from US Food and Drug Administration permissions to reduce the regulatory sampling burden for small state-inspected meat processors.
- This has led to a 40% reduction in the sampling burden on these small businesses.

Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Public Health Accomplishments

Improved Operations for Businesses & Agency Processes

- Trauma program developed virtual survey guidelines to meet hospital designation and EMS licensing needs during COVID-19
- Converted radiation program to electronic filing to improve application and renewal process.
- Transitioned Medical Advisory Board to secure electronic platform to continue case review during COVID-19.

Vital Statistics

- Reduced the backlog of applications from 26,400 to less than 100.
- This was possible by improving work process efficiencies, leveraging new technologies, and targeting performance improvements

Consumable Hemp Program

- Created and implemented the consumable hemp program in alignment with statute.
- To date, the program has processed around 1,600 licenses and registrations.

Thank you

Presentation to the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee Article II

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