

Texas Public Health Priorities

for a healthy Texas

WHY

Texas has an opportunity to help Texans and their communities become healthier. Tremendous advances have been made in longevity and health status in the last 150 years. Texans, however, continue to face high rates of chronic and infectious disease, substance abuse, mental health crises, and other health conditions. Individual health is influenced by many environmental and social factors, such as where people live, the air they breathe, foods they eat, and their relationships with family and friends. A healthier Texas would lead to a healthier workforce-- which means more economic opportunities for our state.

WHO

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will lead the charge for a healthier Texas. Over the past two years, DSHS has been restructured to sharpen our focus on public health. Our job is to promote and protect the health of people, and the communities where they live, learn, work, worship, and play. We understand no single entity working by itself can improve the health of all across Texas. We must all work together to create a better system that includes prevention, intervention, and effective partnerships.

WHAT

DSHS will lead the development of Texas Public Health Priorities, and in collaboration with partners across the state, will work to improve outcomes for 3-5 health priorities by 2023. Many organizations across the state are doing great work on important health issues. Given DSHS's renewed focus on public health, we have the opportunity to coordinate and leverage statewide organizational efforts for even greater synergy and impact. The selection of the Texas Public Health Priorities will be driven by stakeholder input, data, and feasibility, and will consider impacts on elements such as quality of life, morbidity and mortality, economic savings, and health disparities.

Long-term benefits and outcomes include:

- Innovative collaboration with diverse stakeholders and partners
- Enhanced awareness & opportunities for individual Texans to make better health choices
- Improved health, quality of life, and life expectancy for all Texans
- A healthier workforce and Texas economy that continues to thrive

HOW

Partner with a Purpose: Join us to guide the future health of Texas. The Texas Public Health Priorities initiative is a tremendous opportunity to move the needle on health outcomes in our great state. Once the priorities are identified, we will work with partners to develop initiatives that improve outcomes for each priority. We look forward to working collaboratively to implement real change for Texas.

For more information, please email: publichealth@dshs.texas.gov

