



**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**  
**IMPACTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE**  
*As of Thursday, March 20, 2003*

**I. Public Health and Healthcare Programs**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FUNDS RECEIVED BY HEALTH DISTRICT</b>	<b>TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED</b>	<b>\$ AMOUNT OF PROPOSED REDUCTION</b>	<b>GALVESTON COUNTY IMPLICATIONS</b>
<b>Title XX Women's Health Services</b>	\$147,000	Well woman care for low-income women	30% Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current District funding is less than cost of services provided</li> <li>• District contract with TDH requires seeing patients beyond funding limit</li> <li>• A negative fiscal impact is expected</li> </ul>
<b>Texas Department of Health HIV Social Services</b>	\$112,201	Psychosocial support services for county residents living with HIV/AIDS. Services include transportation, dental care, food pantry, and case management	12.5% Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District subcontracts with local social services agencies</li> <li>• Less money to contract out to service organizations</li> <li>• 4C's Dental clinics may see an increase in patients seeking HIV specialized oral health care.</li> </ul>
<b>Texas Department of Health HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Services</b>	\$154,575 (Excluding state assistance)	Public health disease investigations, reporting to the state, testing, prevention education, and counseling	12.5% Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative fiscal impact to District and to other organizations providing services</li> <li>• District may lose one FTE</li> </ul>
<b>Tuberculosis Program</b>	\$43,648 (Excluding state assistance)	Public health tuberculosis screening, treatment, directly observed therapy (DOT), clinic follow-up visits, reporting to the state, and control measures	12.5% Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative fiscal impact to District</li> <li>• District may lose one FTE</li> </ul>
<b>Triple Zero Local Public Health Support</b>	\$190,286 (Excluding state assistance)	Core and essential public health services	12.5% Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased capacity to perform food service establishment inspections</li> <li>• District may lose two FTE's</li> </ul>

## II. Health Care Financing

NAME	FUNDS RECEIVED BY HEALTH DISTRICT	TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED	\$ AMOUNT OF PROPOSED REDUCTION	GALVESTON COUNTY IMPLICATIONS
<b>Medicaid Fee For Service Program (Regular Medicaid Reimbursements)</b>	\$323,000 (FY 02 Reimbursement to District)	Services includes Texas Health Steps (well children visits), Medicaid dental programs for children, regular Medicaid for adult ambulatory care, prenatal care, and pediatric services	Statewide Reduction of 33% in Payments to Private Providers in County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a federally qualified health center we receive cost-based reimbursement. Therefore, there may be no fiscal impact unless the District serves fewer people on Medicaid (SEE ***)</li> <li>District may have increased demand for services due to loss of private providers who will accept Medicaid</li> <li><u>The Center for Public Policy Priorities estimates that these cuts would result in a loss up to \$37,171,352 in Galveston County.</u></li> </ul>
<b>Medicaid for the Aged/Disabled above the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) income level</b>  ***	Not Applicable	Coverage for qualified medical expenses (e.g., nursing and home care benefits) for identified populations	Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May have impact on District and other county healthcare providers</li> <li>May increase demand for EMS and emergency room services</li> <li><u>The Center for Public Policy Priorities estimates that these cuts would result in a loss of \$1,954,202 in Galveston county and 122 county residents losing services.</u></li> </ul>
<b>Medicaid for pregnant women between 134% to 185% of poverty</b>  ***	Included in overall Medicaid Reimbursement figure above	Coverage for qualified medical expenses (i.e., prenatal & delivery services) for identified population	Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect a negative fiscal impact on District and other county healthcare providers</li> <li><u>The Center for Public Policy Priorities estimates that monthly, 189 women in Galveston county would lose services if cuts are implemented.</u></li> </ul>

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NAME	FUNDS RECEIVED BY HEALTH DISTRICT	TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED	\$ AMOUNT OF PROPOSED REDUCTION	GALVESTON COUNTY IMPLICATIONS
<b>Medicaid Breast and Cervical cancer coverage</b> <b>*** (Medicaid waiver program)</b>	Included in overall Medicaid Reimbursement figure above	Treatment for qualified program participants	Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect a negative fiscal impact on area hospitals.</li> <li>May increase demand for emergency services and related healthcare cost</li> </ul>
<b>Medicaid Prescription drug coverage for qualified adults</b> <b>***</b>	Not applicable	Provision of qualified medical prescriptions	Elimination of all coverage except pregnant women & nursing home clients (e.g., low income women who are not pregnant and low income elderly and disabled who are not in nursing homes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Impact to District pharmacy due to increase demand for District's pharmacy services</li> <li>May be increased demand for financial assistance from other organizations</li> <li><u>The Center for Public Policy Priorities estimates that these cuts would result in a loss of \$23, 817,764 in Galveston County and 1,341 county residents losing services.</u></li> </ul>
<b>CHIP Dental</b>	\$0  (District recently authorized to bill for CHIP-eligible dental services)	Program provides insurance for children of "working poor" who are not eligible Medicaid  The Dental benefit is currently capped at \$300 annually	Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District will not receive reimbursement for eligible dental services</li> <li>Currently the demand for dental services in the District's clinics far exceeds available resources</li> <li><u>The Center for Public Policy Priorities estimates that these cuts would result in 3,071 county residents losing services.</u></li> </ul>

## OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES WHICH MAY IMPACT HEALTHCARE IN THE COUNTY

- **Reducing Continuous Eligibility from 12 to 6 Months** - Holding Continuous eligibility at 6 months (vs. going to 12, as required by S.B. 43, 2001) cuts children's Medicaid caseloads by 221,000 in 2005.
- **Reinstating the requirement of face-to-face interviews to apply for Medicaid** - at a DHS office to apply for children's Medicaid; reinstating documentation of assets for children's Medicaid, and possibly for CHIP. These provisions reduce children's Medicaid caseloads in 2005 by another 180,000. The Center for Public Policy Priorities estimates these changes would result in a loss of \$9,420,734 in Galveston County with 1,036 county residents losing services!
- **Cutting CHIP eligibility to 150% of federal poverty line**, from the current level of 200% (a family of 3 would only be eligible if it has less than a \$22,890 income, versus the current \$30,520 cap).
- **Increasing CHIP co-pays and premiums** to federal limits (\$14 per month).
- **Cutting continuous eligibility for CHIP** kids to 6 months (from current 12 months).
- **Delaying the start of CHIP coverage** so it does not start until 90 days after a child is declared eligible (a child already has to be uninsured for 90 days to become eligible).
- **Loss of Nursing Home Coverage** - If proposed legislation is implemented up to 19,000 aged or disabled Texans lose nursing home coverage by 2005. The center for Public Policy Priorities estimates these cuts would result in 229 Galveston County residents losing coverage, and a loss of \$20,544,048 to the county!
- **Medicaid Co-Pay** – Information in *Texas Register* indicates that co-pays are to be implemented for Medicaid recipients for services received in outpatient clinics, specialty and hospital care, and prescriptions.