



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

# Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services

Division Overview

Josh Hutchison

HIV/STD Section Director

# Texas Department of State Health Services

The Texas Department of State Health Services promotes and protects 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 everyone across Texas.

Everyone must work together to create a better system that includes prevention, intervention, and effective partnerships.



# Texas Department of State Health Services

## Our 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.

## Our Focus

Public and Population Health

## Our Vision

A Healthy Texas

# Texas Department of State Health Services

## Our Values

- Lead with vision
- Operate by science and data
- Partner with a purpose
- Engage and connect as a team

## Our Goals

- Improve and support health outcomes
- Ensure efficient access to services
- Protect the health and safety of vulnerable Texans
- Continuously enhance efficiency and accountability

# Texas Department of State Health Services



# Laboratory and Infectious Diseases Services

Immunizations

Laboratory Services

Infectious Disease Prevention

HIV/STD

## Infectious Disease Control

DSHS remains committed to preventing the spread of disease.

DSHS tracks outbreaks and educates Texans on how to stay healthy.

DSHS programs help local public health officials investigate, test, and treat infections.

# Immunizations Section

## Goals:

- Eliminate the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases
- Increase vaccine coverage for Texans
- Raise awareness of diseases that vaccines prevent
- Educate the public about vaccine safety
- Administer the Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) for access to immunization records
- Establish school immunization rules
- Administer Texas Vaccines for Children and Adult Safety Net programs that provide low-cost vaccines to eligible children and adults



# Laboratory Services Section

- Over 90 years of dedication to keeping Texans safe and healthy
- One of the largest public health laboratories in the U.S.
- Provides biannual screening for more than 350,000 Texas babies for 55 metabolic and genetic disorders
- Conducts water testing from over 6,800 public water systems to ensure safe drinking water
- Conducts annual testing of over one million samples for infectious and food-borne diseases, biological and chemical compounds, and biological agents



# Infectious Disease Prevention Section

## Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Unit

- Promotes epidemiology, surveillance, education, risk stratification and communication, consultation, and disease intervention
- Builds strong partnerships within DSHS (central and regional), and with our local, state, and federal partners

## Healthcare Safety Unit

- Reduces healthcare-associated infections by providing training and educational resources for the healthcare workforce

## Zoonosis Control Branch

- Informs the community about zoonotic diseases and animal control issues through education, disease surveillance, and epidemiologic investigations

# HIV/STD Section

## **Mission:**

- Prevent, treat, and control the spread of HIV, STDs, and other communicable diseases to protect the health of the citizens of Texas
- Assure that the citizens of Texas receive quality services
- Provide HIV/STD education and information
- Collect, interpret, and distribute data relating to HIV and STD
- Provide guidance to those who oversee, plan for, or provide HIV and STD services
- Provide medication and supplies to prevent, manage, and treat communicable diseases

# Housing for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA)

HIV/STD Section



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# Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

- DSHS administers the State of Texas HOPWA grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- 42 U.S. Code Chapter 131, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, Sections §12901 - §12912 regulates the program.
- Eligibility for the HOPWA program is not limited to persons with AIDS. All persons living with HIV – regardless of how advanced – are eligible for assistance.



# HOPWA Program Purpose

- HOPWA is the only federal program dedicated to addressing the housing needs of low-income persons living with HIV (PLWH) and their households.
- The goals of the DSHS HOPWA Program are to help low-income PLWH and their households establish or maintain affordable and stable housing, reduce their risk of homelessness, and improve their access to health care and supportive services.
- Stable housing allows PLWH to access comprehensive healthcare, adhere to HIV treatment, and achieve viral suppression.



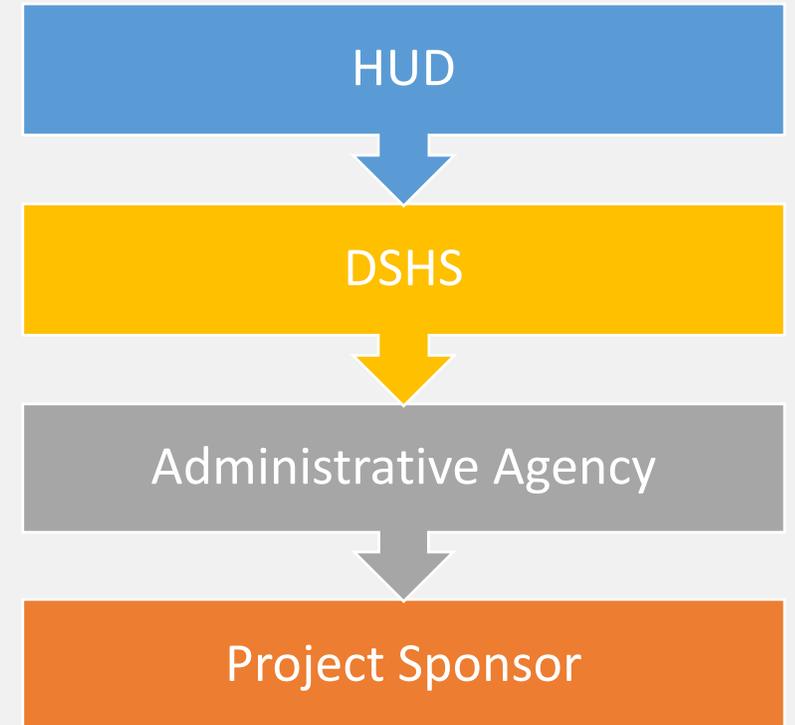
# HOPWA Program Purpose

- HOPWA provides a range of housing assistance and supportive services for low-income PLWH and their households.
- The HOPWA program began before the lifesaving HIV medications we have today and was intended to provide people with AIDS a place to die with dignity.
- With the advancements in HIV care and treatment, the HOPWA program now elevates and utilizes housing as an effective structural intervention in ending the HIV epidemic.
- The HOPWA program celebrated its 30-year anniversary on October 28, 2022.



# Administrative Structure

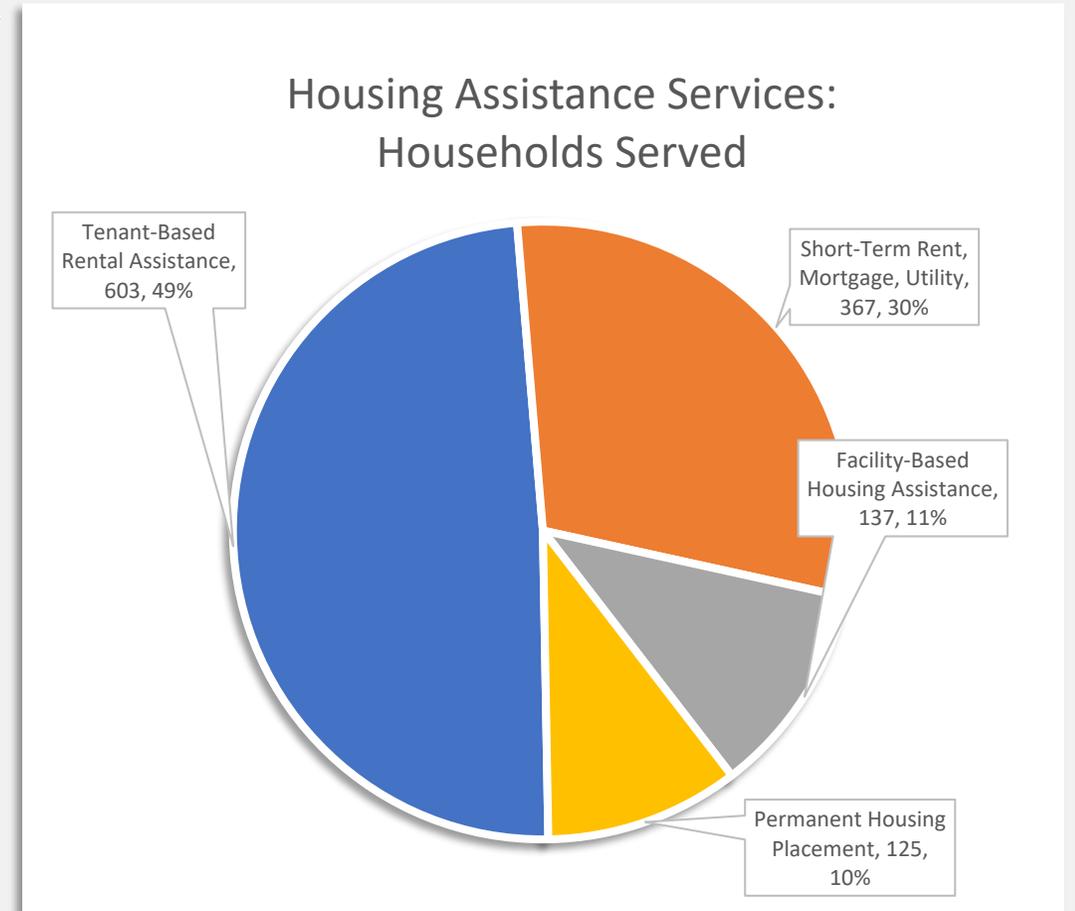
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of HIV/AIDS Housing manages the HOPWA program.
- DSHS administers the State of Texas HOPWA formula grant.
- DSHS contracts with administrative agencies (AAs) in six Ryan White Part B HIV Planning Areas, encompassing 26 HIV Service Delivery Areas.
- DSHS selects AAs through a combination of competitive and intergovernmental agency contracts.
- AAs act as an administrative arm for DSHS, with DSHS oversight, by administering the HOPWA program locally for a five-year project period.
- AAs subcontract with service providers in each HSDA for statewide service delivery.
- A service provider is a nonprofit organization or governmental housing agency which receives funds under a contract with the AA to undertake eligible HOPWA activities.



# HOPWA 2021 Program Outputs

For the 2021 program year (09/01/21 - 08/31/22), 28 HOPWA Project Sponsors provided housing assistance services to 1,131 unduplicated\* households.

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance: 603
- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility: 367
- Facility-Based Housing Assistance: 137
- Permanent Housing Placement: 101
- Housing Case Management: 1,091
- Housing Information Services: 10



**Thank you!**

## Supportive Housing Crisis for America's Autistic Adults<sup>1</sup>

Our country is undergoing a severe shortage of supportive housing for autistic adults. Supportive housing is housing that includes long-term services and supports. This shortage is at odds with the right of autistic adults to determine where they choose to live as codified in legislation and Supreme Court decisions such as the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision of 1999. If the shortage continues, these individuals will be at a greatly increased risk of homelessness or unnecessary placement in Medicaid-funded, provider-controlled settings or institutions.

You can help enact change to solve this crisis and provide supportive housing that positively impacts the lives of autistic adults and the communities they live in that benefit from neurodiverse citizens living in a home of their choosing.

### Reasons for this housing crisis include:

- There are over 5 million autistic adults in the United States. The population of autistic adults is growing. Over 500,000 autistic people will turn 18 in the next 10 years.
- Most autistic adults live with their aging parents.
- Autistic adults often have behavioral and medical challenges that require supervised long-term services and supports.

### What we can do:

1. Educate people, especially those with the power to implement meaningful changes, to help end this crisis.
2. Increase and expand the use of Medicaid funds to states so autistic adults can be provided affordable supportive housing of their choice with long-term services and supports.
3. Increase funding for Housing and Urban Development housing vouchers and programs to cover **all** autistic adults.
4. Increase financial support for parents, guardians, care givers, and direct care providers of autistic adults.
5. Create local, state, and federally funded sources including tax credits, bonds, and sales taxes to provide housing with long-term services and supports for this population.
6. Mandate that all local comprehensive planning and statewide housing plans include the housing needs of autistic adults due to being high risk for homelessness, community displacement or forced institutionalization.
7. Remove zoning laws or land-use barriers that hinder supportive housing and expedite approval to develop supportive housing on property owned or controlled by organizations that develop this type of housing.
8. Actively seek out organizations and businesses that develop supportive housing and encourage and incentivize them to do their work here.

### In conclusion:

The legislation and decisions are in place to support the right of autistic adults to independent and supported living, but the resources and housing options are not there. **We need additional comprehensive coordinated policies, programs, and legislation at local, state, and federal governmental levels to provide housing with long-term services and supports for autistic adults. With your help, we can start here.**

Mark Lyons  
114 Spring Garden Drive  
Hutto, Texas 78634

512-642-6482  
felinesthree@austin.rr.com  
SammySocks Etc. / contact@sammysocksetc.com

### Citations:

<sup>1</sup> "A Place in the World". (Resnik, D. D., & Kameka Galloway, D. (Eds.). (2020). *A Place in the World: Fueling Housing and Community Options for Adults with Autism and Other Neurodiversities*. Phoenix, AZ: First Place AZ; Madison House Autism Foundation; the Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of Arizona State University and its Morrison Institute for Public Policy at the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.) Available at: <https://www.firstplaceaz.org/a-place-in-the-world/>