



July 22, 2021

To Texans interested in Sickle Cell Disease and Sickle Cell Trait issues:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is accepting applications for membership on the Sickle Cell Task Force. The task force advises the Department of State Health Services and HHSC on implementing the recommendations made in the 2018 Sickle Cell Advisory Committee Report, or any other report the DSHS Commissioner or HHSC Executive Commissioner deems appropriate.

The HHS executive commissioner will appoint members to the task force to serve a term expiring Aug. 31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Currently, HHSC is seeking representatives to be selected from the following categories:

- Members of community-based organizations with experience addressing the needs of individuals with sickle cell disease (Term expires Aug. 31, 2022.)
- Members of the public, each of whom either has sickle cell disease or trait or is a parent of a person with sickle cell disease or trait
- Representative of a health-related institution

A task force member must regularly participate in task force meetings and may also have to participate in subcommittee meetings, projects and presentations. Task force meetings will be held in Austin about once every three months or at the call of the presiding officer. *To the extent permitted by the current state budget, a task force member may be repaid for their travel expenses to and from meetings if money is available and in accordance with the HHS Travel Policy.*

If you would like to apply to serve on the task force, please complete and return the attached application by **Aug. 13**. Submitting a resumé is strongly recommended. It is preferred that you submit your application electronically, but you may submit the application by email, mail or fax. Here are the addresses:

Email:
HHS_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov
Attn: SCTF

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Mail:
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
P.O. Box 13247, Mail Code 0223
Austin, TX 78711
Attn: Susanna Sparkman

Fax:
512-206-3984
Attn: SCTF

HHSC or DSHS will notify applicants if they have been selected to serve as a member of the Sickle Cell Task Force.

In selecting members to serve on the task force, HHSC and DSHS consider the applicants' qualifications, background and interest in serving on the task force. HHSC tries to choose task force members who represent the diversity of all Texans. For that reason, HHSC and DSHS consider applicants' ethnicity, gender and geographic location.

For more information about the task force, [visit the task force website](#) or contact Aimee Millangue at Aimee.Millangue@dshs.texas.gov.

For more information about applying to be on the committee, or for Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, email Susanna Sparkman at HHS_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov or call 512-438-2897.