



Public Notice - Texas State Plan for Medical Assistance Amendment Effective September 1, 2021

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announces its intent to submit an amendment to the Texas State Plan for Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The proposed amendment is to be effective September 1, 2021.

The purpose of the amendment is to update the current Texas Medicaid State Plan by modifying the Medicaid inpatient reimbursement rate setting process, primarily for rural hospitals. The amendment ranges sections by hospital type to enhance clarity, consistency, and specificity. The proposed amendment also includes language related to a Medicaid managed care minimum fee schedule for all rural hospitals.

The proposed amendment is estimated to result in no foreseeable implications relating to costs or revenues.

Copy of Proposed Amendment. Interested parties may obtain additional information and/or a free copy of the proposed amendment by contacting Holly Freed, State Plan Team Lead, by mail at the Health and Human Services Commission, P.O. Box 13247, Mail Code H-600, Austin, Texas 78711; by telephone at (512) 428-1932; by facsimile at (512) 730-7472; or by e-mail at Medicaid_Chip_SPA_Inquiries@hhsc.state.tx.us. Copies of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the local county offices of HHSC, (which were formerly the local offices of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services).

Written Comments. Written comments and/or requests to review comments may be sent by U.S. mail, overnight mail, special delivery mail, hand delivery, fax, or e-mail:

U.S. Mail

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Attention: Provider Finance Department, Mail Code H-400

P.O. Box 149030

Austin, Texas 78714-9030

Overnight mail, special delivery mail, or hand delivery

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Attention: Provider Finance Department, Mail Code H-400

North Austin Center

4601 W. Guadalupe

Austin, Texas 78751

Phone number for package delivery: (512) 730-7401

Fax

Attention: Provider Finance Department at (512) 730-7475

E-mail

PFD_Hospitals@hhsc.state.tx.us

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Notice of Opportunity to Comment on Revision of State Long-range Master Plan for Higher Education

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB or Coordinating Board) staff is providing an opportunity for written public comment on a revision of the state long-range master plan for higher education.

TEC §61.051(a-1) allows THECB to develop or revise the state's long-range master plan for higher education. This plan must establish long-term, measurable goals and provide strategies for implementing those goals, assess the higher education needs of each region of the state, and take into account resources of private or independent institutions of higher education.

In 2015, the Coordinating Board adopted *60x30TX* (www.60x30tx.com), the current state strategic plan for higher education. The current strategic plan has the following four goals:

--Overarching Goal: 60x30 Educated Population. By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.

--The Second Goal: Completion. By 2030, at least 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from an institution of higher education in Texas.

--The Third Goal: Marketable Skills. By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills.

--The Fourth Goal: Student Debt. By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.

The Coordinating Board proposes to revise this existing plan to include an additional focus on the following four issue areas:

1. Leveraging and accelerating innovation to drive research, commercialization, and economic development. The challenges posed by COVID-19 have spurred and accelerated innovations globally. By prioritizing research, data, and technology, our institutions will drive discoveries and economic development opportunities that are crucial for the state's future prosperity.

2. Expanding focus to adult learners beyond 25-34-year-olds. Building a more adaptable workforce that can navigate current challenges and drive long-term economic growth requires a strategic emphasis on expanding opportunities for all Texans.

3. Prioritizing high-value credentials to align with workforce needs. Certain skills and credentials will be especially important to help displaced workers immediately return to work, and create a more resilient Texas workforce for the future.

4. Ensuring all Texans have equal access to tools and resources that promote educational attainment. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Hispanic, rural, and low-income Texans has magnified the importance of removing barriers to high-quality postsecondary education and training so all Texans can participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the Texas economy.

The Board intends to consider revisions to the Plan during its quarterly board meeting scheduled for October 21, 2021.