



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Information Technology (IT) Projects & Needs Presentation to the House Committee on Appropriations, Article II Subcommittee

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DSHS and HHSC IT Roles

- The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) supports DSHS through the provision of IT functions and services.
- Examples include:
 - Internet Access and Network Services
 - Telephony Services
 - Help Desk and Desktop Support
 - Application Development and Maintenance via the Public Health Portfolio
 - Liaison with Department of Information Resources (DIR) Data Center Services (DCS).
- Roles and responsibilities for IT functions and services between HHSC and DSHS are outlined through Support Services Agreements (SSAs).
- The designated HHSC Information Resource Manager serves that role for DSHS as well.



Prioritization of DSHS IT Projects

- IT projects are managed through the HHS IT governance process, which allows strategic decision-making.
- Projects vary based on funding, size, and scope
 - Some projects are short term and are funded with existing resources.
 - Some projects are long-term and based on federal grants or funding.
 - Other projects take multiple years and may need appropriations or capital authority from the Legislature.
- The DSHS role focuses on ensuring the project meets programmatic objectives.
- The HHSC IT role focuses on technological components and project management.



IT Governance and the Public Health Portfolio

- In the HHS IT governance decision framework, DSHS information systems supported by HHSC IT fall within the Public Health Portfolio
- A Public Health Executive Steering Committee composed of DSHS Executive Management, with the support of HHSC IT:
 - Develops three to five-year roadmaps for IT projects, applications, and contracts with technology components
- HHSC IT manages intake for new requests for DSHS-related IT services or acquisitions
 - DSHS management committees review the requests and make recommendations to the steering committee
 - The Public Health Executive Steering Committee approves and prioritizes new IT projects, applications, and contracts
- DSHS frequently reviews the status of IT projects, new initiatives, and contracts to provide HHSC IT direction on resource allocation or needs through the governance process.
 - Given the current workload due to COVID-19, there has been a project checkpoint with IT at least twice a week during pandemic response.



Major IT Systems

Immtrac2

Central automated statewide immunization tracking registry that records immunizations administered to citizens in the State of Texas. Except for disaster-related information, consent must be obtained for records to be retained in the registry.

NEDSS

The NEDSS “ecosystem” (NEDSS, Rhapsody, PHINMS, sftp, etc.) is an electronic infectious disease case reporting system used to collect and maintain data for the majority of notifiable conditions as defined in the Texas Administrative Code. Provides the means for hospitals, laboratories, and providers to send infectious disease electronic lab reports to DSHS; local jurisdictions to complete case investigations; and DSHS Central Office to manage notifiable condition data and subsequently send disease data to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Texas Electronic Vital Events Registrar (TxEVER) System

For managing Texas vital events registration and certificate issuance, such as birth, death, marriage, adoption and others.

TB/HIV/STD Integrated System (THISIS)

THISIS allows DSHS, local, and regional health jurisdictions to securely track and report disease information; this allows public health to prevent and contain the spread of TB, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases within the state.

EMS and Trauma Registries

The EMS and Trauma Registries collect data on Texas EMS runs, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, submersions, and other acute traumatic brain injuries.

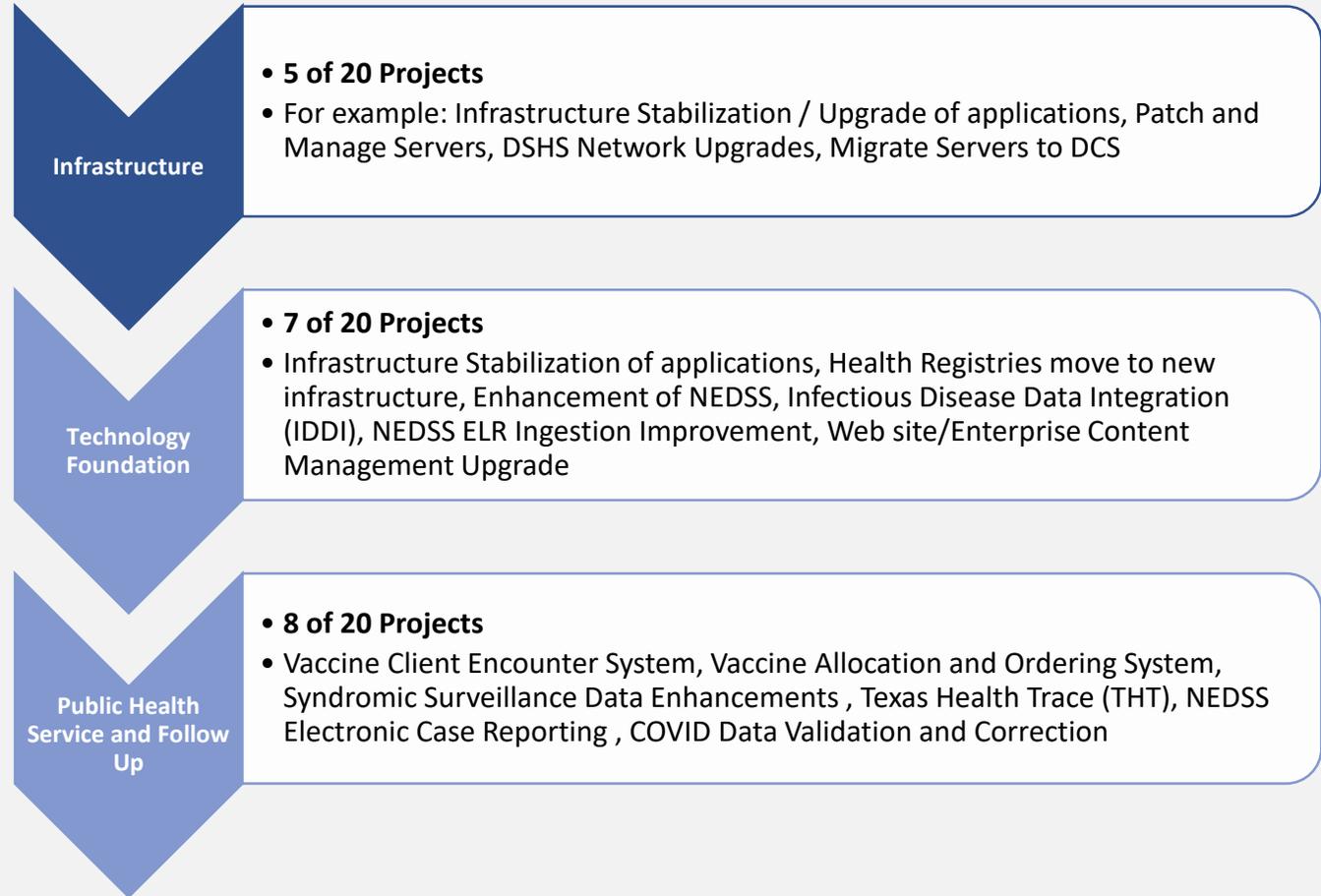
HIV2000, Real Time Education and Counseling Network, AIDS Regional Information Evaluation System (HRAR)

Allows clients and contractors to administer and apply for HIV prevention, medications, and care services.



COVID-19 Projects

- Since the beginning of pandemic, DSHS has initiated 20 IT projects.
- These projects have been coordinated with HHSC and Department of Information Resources (DIR).



Exceptional Item 3: Effective Business Operations and IT Security

Overall Item Amount: \$34.8 Million and 36 FTEs for the Biennium

Data Center Services: \$21.8 Million in GR over the Biennium

- DSHS has outdated applications that must be remediated to an up-to-date status for compliance with DIR standards.
- Greater levels of cloud-based DCS support, following significant upgrades to infectious disease surveillance systems essential to responding to COVID-19.



Exceptional Item 3: Effective Business Operations and IT Security

Overall Item Amount: \$34.8 Million and 36 FTEs for the Biennium

Registry System Viability Assessment: \$5.4 Million in GR over the Biennium

- Obtain a third-party vendor to conduct an assessment of long-term IT needs of several critical public health registries to be able to transition to a more stable and functional solution. Registries include:
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Trauma
 - Birth Defects
 - Blood Lead
 - Tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases (THISIS)



Thank you

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