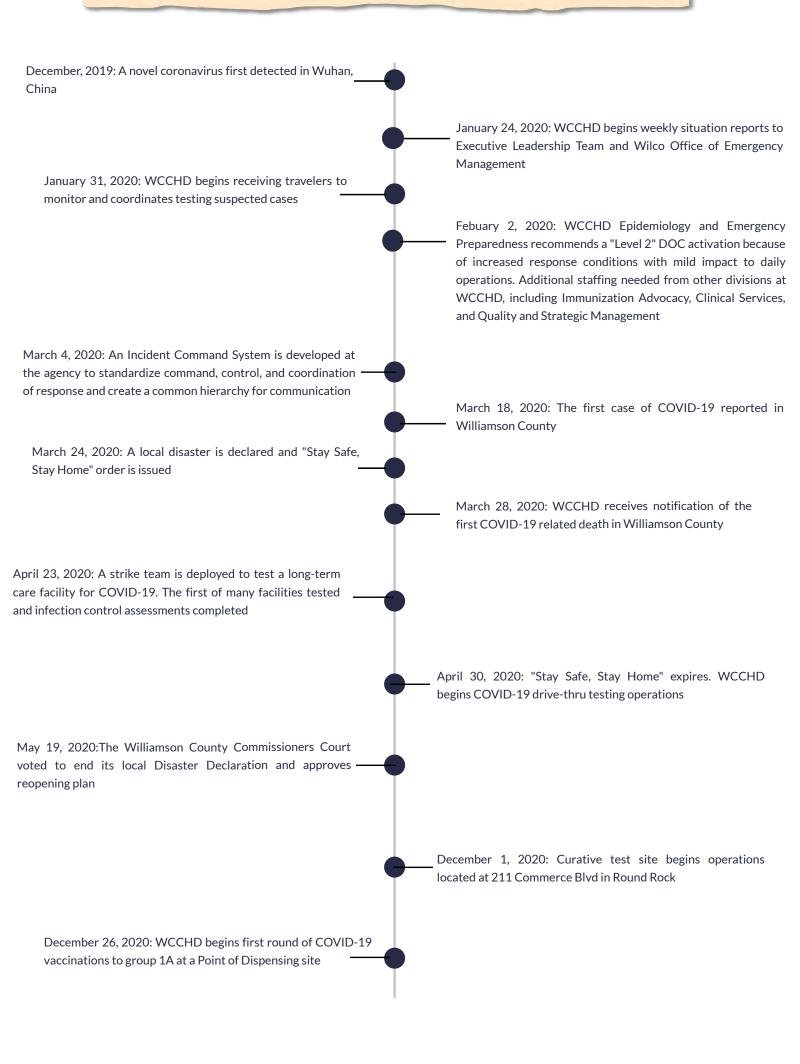








# **COVID-19 RESPONSE TIMELINE**



# **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

# 9.500 CASES

Investigated and their contacts monitored

# 24.000 CASES

Entered into Texas Health Trace (THT)

# 4.000 HOURS

Estimated time spent entering cases into THT (at an average of 10 minutes per case)

#### 123 COVID-19 CLUSTERS

# Investigated by WCCHD

Clusters can range from a few cases to hundreds of cases. They are essentially separate outbreaks within a larger pandemic. They require a great degree of coordination with facility administrators and contacts, and therefore also require a good deal of dedicated investigation time and personal follow-up

# **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

# 1.7M

COVID-19 Dashboard Views

#### **9M**

Social Media Impressions (5000% increase from 2019)

# 230 DAILY REPORTS

Issued in 2020



# **TESTING**



# WE TESTED 10,652 PEOPLE BETWEEN APRIL AND NOVEMBER OF 2020

In April 2020, WCCHD launched a drive-through COVID-19 test site in Williamson County. In addition to a standalone site, WCCHD worked with community partners to hold two pop-up sites in Leander and Liberty Hill. WCCHD worked closely with the Williamson County Medical Reserve Corps, Georgetown Fire Department, Weir Fire Department, Round Rock Fire Department, St. David's Foundation, and local community partners to increase testing in the community.

# **COVID-19 CALL CENTER**

# 15.000 CALLS

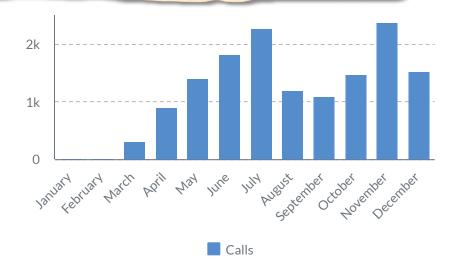
Answered at the Call Center

# 2380 CALLS

Answered in November 2020. This is a 14775% increase compared to January 2020

# 3000 PEOPLE

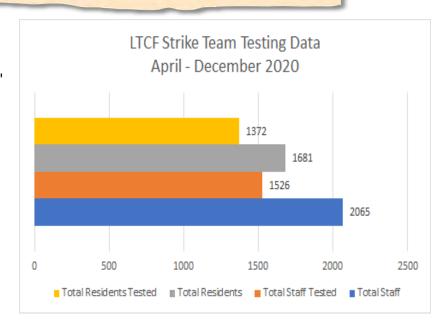
Referred to county testing sites from the Call Center



# LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES STRIKE TEAM

The Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) Strike Team conducted over 100 infection control visits to facilities. This team was primarily led by the Williamson County Emergency Medical Services' (EMS) Community Health Paramedicine Team and supported by WCCHD.





# **VACCINATIONS**

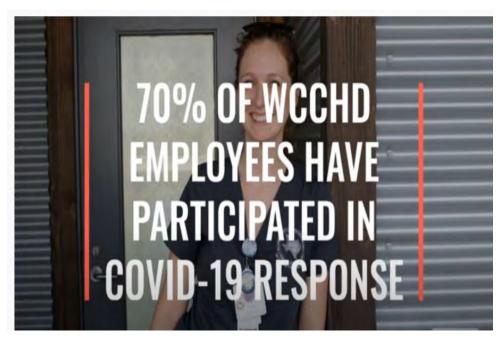


900 COVID-19 VACCINES
Administered as of December 2020

10 LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Received first dose

# WE GAVE IT OUR ALL... AND THEN SOME...



WCCHD Nurses Susanna Thornton and Lori Eitebach at the Hutto COVID-19 Vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) site





Employees spent a total of 58,000 hours doing COVID-19 response work



October Flu Event: Rain or Shine!



Epidemiologists and nurses in action at the District Operations Center (DOC) in March 2020

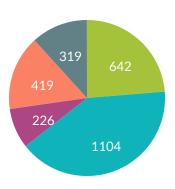
# **OUR NEW NORMAL**





# **BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR CLINICAL SERVICES**

# Clinical Services by Visit Type



- Children Vaccination and Titer (23.69%)
  - Latent TB Testing and Treatment (40.74%)
- Adult Vaccination and Titer (8.34%)
- Other (Well Woman Exams, Physicals, Know Your Numbers) (15.46%)
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Testing and Treatment (11.77%)



Flu vaccines for our local law enforcement

October Flu Event: We administered 78 flu vaccines to WCCHD staff and Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC)/Adult Safety Net (ASN) eligible participants.

# Active TB Encounters by Month



Active TB encounters

# **LIFE OF A WCCHD NURSE DURING COVID-19**

**Q & A with Public Health Kaitlin Murphee** 



Kaitlin administers COVID-19 vaccine to a homebound patient

#### How did you typical work day change in 2020?

At the start of the pandemic, I was fielding calls from providers and the general public. I also performed contact tracing, outbreak and cluster management, and COVID-19 testing at long-term care facilities and WCCHD drive through testing sites. Since December, I have been administering the COVID-19 vaccine at mass vaccination sites, medical facilities, and to homebound individuals.

### What roles were you involved in during the response?

I began working on COVID-19 response from the start of the pandemic: fielding calls from providers, and the general public. I then began performing contact tracing, outbreak and cluster management, COVID-19 testing at long-term care facilities and WCCHD drive thru testing sites. Working in the call center on and off throughout the year as needed. Since December I have been a part of the WCCHD COVID-19 vaccine administering.

#### How was your experience with COVID-19 response?

The experience has been interesting to say the least! I have learned so much! Some times were certainly stressful with frequently changing job roles and a steep learning curve at times but a plus side is I have gotten to work with many WCCHD staff members that I didn't know and had never gotten the opportunity to interact with before. The most rewarding thing was when we started giving vaccines in December. It was very powerful and moving to know we were now a part of ending the pandemic.

Kaitlin has been a Public Health Nurse at the WCCHD Round Rock Public Health Clinic for 3 years. She sees patients for childhood & adult immunizations, tuberculosis (TB) testing & latent TB treatment, STD testing & treatment, as well as pregnancy testing.

# WCCHD OFFERS TELEHEALTH DURING COVID-19

**Thoughts from WCCHD Nurse Practitioner, Jennifer Ontiveros** 

In 2020, society found themselves having to create separation from the outside world, but life did not slow down. Hospitals and clinics had to become more creative to provide services for their patients, and telehealth was the answer. "Telehealth is a great option for patients with busy work and life schedules. In the future, telehealth can be utilized for patients with limited access to transportation."

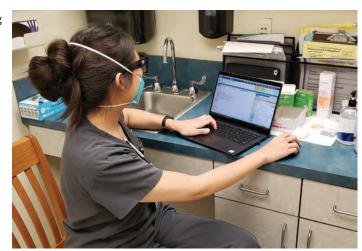
Telehealth has been utilized by the medical field since the 1950's. It has not been until recently the service has become more readily available with the help of technology. WCCHD Clinics were not utilizing telehealth until COVID-19. "At the beginning of the pandemic, we experienced some technical difficulties as we transitioned to using telehealth. However, these IT issues were resolved, and we have been successfully providing telehealth services ever since!"

WCCHD found patients felt safe and comfortable utilizing telehealth services. WCCHD was able to provide sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services, and birth control to patients. "We encountered patients who never obtained STI testing prior to the telehealth visit and felt comfortable seeking care because of the telehealth option."

Telehealth can be a hurdle for patients who are less tech savvy, and/or do not have access to a computer or smartphone. If a patient is experiencing technical difficulties, our staff will conduct the appointment via phone call instead of using telehealth. "As we have seen with the COVID-19 vaccines, some elderly patients have struggled with technology, so this could limit them for these types of services as well."

Looking towards the future, Jenny hopes WCCHD will continue to provide telehealth as an option. "I hope STI telehealth and PrEP visits remain as an option for our patients, even after WCCHD clinics reopen. This modality has proven useful for patients with transportation issues and possible scheduling conflicts. Also, patients feel empowered to take charge of their reproductive health, which contributes to overall community health."

Jenny has been a women's health nurse practitioner since 2009, and has worked with WCCHD since 2019 where she sees patients for reproductive health services, including well woman exams, STI testing and treatment, and PrEP services. Upon clinic closures due to COVID-19, she also sees patients via telehealth for STI-related care, and PrEP services.



Jennifer checking EWS Telehealth Portal for upcoming patient appointments

# **2020 ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH SUMMARY**



EH permitted & inspected approx

# 1925 FIXED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS 11% INCREASE FROM 2019

Issued 225 Temporary Food Event permits
Performed 250 School Routine Food Inspections
Reviewed 267 Blueprints/Plans
Issued 120 Mobile Food Vending permits.



# EH INVESTIGATED 285 TOTAL COMPLAINTS





# FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION OFFICERS PERFORMED:

179 General Sanitation/Environmental Inspections

**265** Pre-Operational Inspections

285 Complaint Investigations

**→ 528** Compliance/Follow-up/Other Inspections

**1257** Routine Food Establishment Inspections

# "EVEN COVID-19 CAN'T STOP US FROM PROTECTING THE PUBLIC!"

In 2020, the Environmental Health Division was challenged by the global pandemic. The local "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order did not apply to retail food establishments, which were deemed "essential" and could stay open during the pandemic. This meant in addition to regular operations, our health inspectors also had to monitor, respond, document, and educate permitted retail food establishments on infection control measures.

The Pool and Spa Inspection Program went into effect in January 2020. Supervisors, Vince Delisi followed by Mark Churilla, led this program to begin the permitting process and inspection of 368 public and semi-public pools, spas, and PWIF (public water interactive feature/fountains) such as splash pads. There are an estimated 500 pools in Williamson County that fall under the oversight of this new program. The primary goals of this program are to prevent unintentional drownings/injuries and water-borne illnesses.

The WCCHD Retail Food Safety Program is led by Jovette Newton. Registered sanitarians educate and perform food establishment inspections, investigate citizen-based food complaints, and provide rapid response to foodborne illness investigations in conjunction with WCCHD epidemiologists. These educational, accountability and enforcement activities are based upon the 2015 Texas Food Establishment Rules, WCCHD Retail Food Order, and the local ordinances of our member cities.

The Environmental Health Division is supported by the hard work and dedication of two customer service representatives who manage a daily barrage of phone calls, emails, postal mails, and walk-in customers while also supporting the needs of an entire division. Becky Tomlinson and Sierra Roberts worked to meet our customers' needs despite 2020 changes including the closing of the lobby, new exterior dropbox, new customer service main email address, and creation of an inspector hotline.

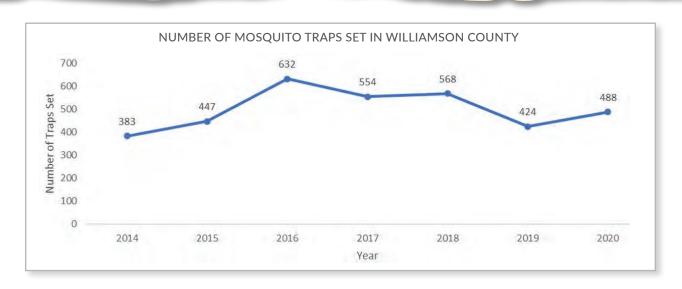


Lucy Estrella in front of water slides at a new resort that opened in Round Rock in 2020.



Health Inspector, David Urban prepares to leave his home-based office to investigate a COVID-related complaint.

# **WCCHD Integrated Vector Management (IVM)**



# **2020 IVM Summary**

















WCCHD Medical Reserve Corps' VECTOR Team at mosquito outreach at Brushy Creek MUD movie night.

# MARKETING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

From January 2020 to October 2020, we reached over 22,000 people through outreach efforts and had almost 12,000,000 digital ad impressions.

The Marketing and Community Engagement (MCE) Division, in partnership with the Quality and Strategic Management (QSM) Division, led census outreach efforts that targeted hard-to-count populations in Williamson County. Our teams conducted outreach in neighborhoods, at WIC events, and at the WCCHD COVID-19 test site. Additionally, we partnered with numerous community organizations from food pantries to schools to share information about the census.

# **EVERYONE COUNTS**



# **BUILDING A RESILIENT COMMUNITY**



Mid-year, the MCE Division was awarded funding to support the Resilient Wilco (RW) Working Group of Healthy Williamson County! This allowed our MCE Division to provide additional support to the core Resilient Wilco team. MCE assisted RW by improving data collection and communication methods, generating two survey data reports, providing outreach to community stakeholders, coordinating Resilient Wilco presentations with local partners, and providing administrative support at Resilient Wilco meetings.

# BECOMING AN ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY FOR HEALTH

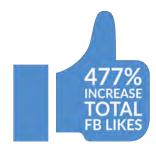
In 2020, the MCE Division participated in the Episcopal Health Foundation's Accountable Communities for Health Initiative. WCCHD is leading efforts in this initiative to improve the system of care in Williamson County, which will have a long-lasting impact on the community. Essentially, ACHs serve as a local platform for bringing stakeholders and community residents together to transform systems to improve community health and achieve greater equity on a sustainable basis rather than provide "one-time" interventions based solely around a health care delivery system. Designed to strategically leverage resources across sectors, the ACH model presents tremendous opportunities to reduce costs, enhance quality of care, and improve population health.

# **FACEBOOK REACH**

3,757 AVG
TOTAL DAILY
AUDIENCE REACH

1,371,336
YEARLY TOTAL FOR AUDIENCE REACH

FB REACH IS DEFINED AS THE NUMBER OF UNIQUE PEOPLE WHO SAW WCCHD CONTENT



5,952 AVG

DAILY TOTAL FOR AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS

2,172,506
YEARLY TOTAL FOR AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS

FB IMPRESSIONS ARE DEFINED AS THE NUMBER OF TIMES WCCHD CONTENT IS DISPLAYED ON A PERSON FEED.

healthywilliamsoncounty.org as a trusted data resource





Up 83.7% from 2019

Up 62.2% from 2019

# **WILCO Medical Reserve Corps**

# **MRC VOLUNTEER TEAMS**

#### MRC WOI (Wise Owls Initiative):

The Wise Owl Team recognizes the desire and fundamental need for our elders to have some sort of outside contact with others. Because of the social restrictions placed on assisted living, memory care, and nursing homes facilities, we have organized scheduled phone calls to engage residents.

#### MRC NPA (New Parent Assistance):

Our volunteers serve a tremendous role in providing wellbeing check-ins, ensuring all necessities for new parents are met, and directing resources where needed.

#### MRC YES (Youth Engagement Services):

The Youth Engagement Services Team was established to teach and mentor high school and undergraduate students about public health and medical professions. This includes a six-week webinar series which covers topics ranging from how to apply for college, how to find scholarships, to how to prepare for pre-med classes and how to find internships.

# MRC VOLUNTEER BY THE NUMBER



#### MRC Uni-Te (University Team):

The MRC University Team was developed to focus on recruiting undergraduate and graduate students in Williamson County and empowering them to create new MRC projects that they care about, as well as volunteer with other MRC projects.

#### MRC VECTOR (Volunteers Educating Communities and Teaching Outdoor Readiness):

The VECTOR Team increases awareness and prevention methods for mosquito-transmitted disease through outdoor events. Volunteers also assist WCCHD staff with setting of mosquito traps, collecting the traps and checking for the presence of specific disease vectors, and set up an information booth at outdoor events to distribute information and insect repellant..

#### MRC VOT (Volunteer Office Team):

The VOT work alongside WCCHD staff to provide support for various departments and projects including Census 2020, Covid-19 testing preparation and Covid-19 Mass Vaccination preparation, as well as, basic office responsibilities.

#### MRC HSSO (High School Student Organization):

MRC partners with local high schools' HOSA Future Healthcare Professionals Programs to provide students with several opportunities, including a competitive event designed for students to demonstrate the spirit and mission of both the MRC and HOSA in joint activities.

#### STAFF SPOTLIGHT: TIM ST. PETER

MRC Coordinator, Tim St. Peter, was a guest speaker for Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) "Celebrate Public Health" Webinar along with Dr. Eduardo Sanchez. Tim shared information about WilCo MRC, the different MRC teams and the work MRC volunteers have done for COVID-19 response efforts.

Dr. Eduardo Sanchez currently serves on the Board of Directors of Trust for America's Health. He is a member of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Disparities Standing Committee and has served on numerous federal, state, and local committees and advisory bodies.

Dr. Sanchez recognized the Wilco MRC and WCCHD several times during his presentation to over 200 participants statewide for the outstanding efforts made to help the community both within the COVID-19 response and needs of the community.







Photos Clockwise: MRC volunteer guiding cars are WCCHD COVID-19 testing site. Tim St. Peter consulting with MRC volunteer at WCCHD COVID-19 vaccine POD in Hutto, TX. Volunteers are MRC outreach event for Fight the Bite.

# **WIC SERVICES GOES REMOTE!**

To protect the health and safety of our staff and clients, the WCCHD WIC staff quickly transitioned from in-person client services to providing services remotely while working from home, beginning on April 1, 2020. For this new service model to be possible, the USDA put waivers into place in March 2020 that allowed WIC providers to offer remote services and onboard new families by phone and expand allowable WIC food items.

All client certifications have been completed remotely, via phone, along with the use of e-mail, text messaging, fax, and applications for remote document uploads that has been deployed into our TXIN system by the Texas WIC Agency. Once appointments are completed remotely to include nutrition and/or breastfeeding counseling, the staff must upload food/ formula benefits to the client's WIC EBT card. As an alternative to waiting on a new card to be mailed out, the plan to deploy our WIC Bus was put into place for clients to simply drive up to safely get their WIC benefits loaded to their WIC EBT card.



WCCHD WIC announced the launch of their very own Facebook page to help improve communication with our applicants and clients.



# **DRIVE UP SERVICES OFFERED**



The WIC BUS drive up location also serves as a location for participants to have WIC benefits uploaded to their WIC EBT card, obtain a new WIC card, complete a formula exchange, breast pump pick-up and drop off, and distribution of incentive items for clients.

WCCHD WIC began providing drive up services on April 13, 2020 at the WIC only store, Family Market, in Round Rock. Later the bus moved to the Round Rock office.

# SECURITY BLANKETS MADE WITH LOVE



WCCHD WIC has been a recipient organization of the beautiful handmade blankets from the Linus Connection for many years. The Linus Connection is a Central Texas 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to make and deliver handmade security blankets for children in crisis situations in our area.

The blankets go to children in hospital emergency rooms, in crisis centers, in foster care, shelters, and to any child who needs a little extra security. Many infants receiving WIC benefits at the WIC Bus in Round Rock throughout 2020 have received a handmade blanket.

Throughout 2020, a team of 24 dedicated WCCHD WIC staff helped and served an average of 5,963 clients per month.

This monthly average is up by 315 clients per month, as the average number of clients served per month in 2019 was 5,648.

Williamson County residents benefited from 71,553 encounters with the WIC Program.

# WHAT CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT WCCHD WIC!

"I love that WIC has the bus we can go to. I also absolutely love the amazing & beautiful blanket they gave me. I want whoever makes those to know that I truly love those blankets. They are amazing & I'm truly grateful!"

"Friendly and very easy to talk to. Great mobile set up with good people there. Thank you!" "I would like to say Thank You soo much to Joanna in the WIC bus in Round Rock, Texas!! I absolutely love the set up and happy welcoming faces when I drove up to get my benefits put into my card. This pandemic has been hard on all of us, but I want to send my most heart-warming thank you to EVERY-ONE that helped put together the tent, tables, WIC station and to the amazing workers that work there day after day to make sure our little family has a healthy meal in our home."

# WCCHD RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

# **United Way of Greater Austin- All Together ATX- \$20,000**

Funding from United Way helped purchase interactive "Resilient Wilco Kits," filled with social and emotional learning tools and resources for children and parents, which help them learn how to self-regulate their emotions and communicate their emotions to others. This is especially important as youth and families struggle with numerous mental health needs and extraordinary stressors during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.





# St. David's Foundation- COVID-19 AID- \$110,000

Funding from St. David's Foundation allowed WCCHD to increase COVID-19 testing early in the pandemic when testing capacity was extremely low. This helped WCCHD uncover more cases of COVID-19, which is crucial for preventing transmission of the virus.





"Grant funding helps WCCHD make significant progress in our mission to be the healthiest county in Texas. Sustainable funding ensures that WCCHD has the tools, resources, and staff to promote the health of our residents, especially those who are vulnerable and underserved."

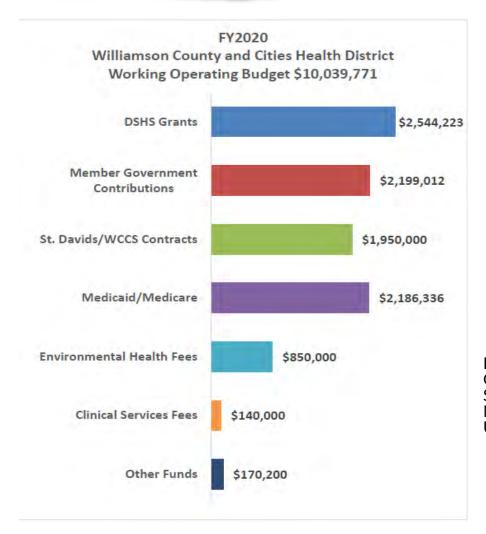


As the Public Health Strategist for WCCHD, Shelbi Davis leads our agency's funding approach, which involves researching grant opportunities, writing and reviewing grant applications, tracking grant deliverable progress, and reporting to and corresponding with funders. She collaborate with WCCHD leadership and program staff to identify projects in need of funding and ensure that funding opportunities align with our goals and mission.





# **OPERATING BUDGET**



The total operating budget for FY2020 is \$10,039,771. The three largest sources for operating funds are grants from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), member government contributions to the General Fund, and Medicare/Medicaid inclusive of 1115 Waiver incentive payments.

# **GRANTS**

# **Awarded Grants in CY2020**

Educate Texas \$30,000 Georgetown Health Foundation \$50,000 St. David's Foundation \$110,000 NACCHO \$188,000 United Way for Greater Austin \$20,000

\$398,000

# **Recently Completed Grants-\$65,000**

- Texans Care for Children (\$5,000): Final report submitted July 2020
- United Way of Austin (\$30,000): Final report due October
- Educate Texas (\$30,000): Final report submitted November 2020

# Active Grants- \$591,000

- NACCHO-Local Public Health Initiatives to Increase Vaccine Confidence- \$13,000
- Georgetown Health Foundation- \$50,000
- Episcopal Health Foundation- Accountable Communities for Health- \$210,000
- St. David's Foundation- COVID-19 AID- \$110,000
- NACCHO-Building Operation Capacity for COVID-19- \$100,000
- NACCHO- MRC COVID-19 Operational Readiness Awards- \$5,000
- NACCHO-Addressing Needs of People with Disabilities in COVID-19 Local Preparedness Planning, Mitigation and Recovery Efforts- \$83,000
- United Way of Greater Austin- All Together ATX- \$20,000

# **APPENDIX**





Table 1: Total Clinical Services Encounters by Service Type, 2020

Service Type	Total	Percent
Children Vaccination and Titer	642	23.7%
Latent TB Testing and Treatment	1,104	40.7%
Adult Vaccination and Titer	226	8.3%
Other (Well Women Exams, Physicals, Know Your Numbers)	419	15.5%
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Testing and Treatment	319	11.8%
Total	2,710	100.0%

Table 2: Total Clinical Services Encounters per Month by Public Health Center, 2020

Month	WCCHD Cedar Park	WCCHD Drive Thru Clinic	WCCHD Georgetown	WCCHD Hutto COVID Vaccine	WCCHD Round Rock	WCCHD Taylor	Total
January	196		89		335	16	636
February	152		78		294	13	537
March	69		42		166	12	289
April					3		3
May					2		2
June					15		15
July					23		23
August					24		24
September		3			36		39
October		53			88		141
November	45		1		22		68
December	6	1		903	23		933
Total	468	57	210	903	1,031	41	2,710

**Table 3: Total Investigations Conducted, 2020** 

Condition Category	2020
Healthcare Associated Infections/Multidrug- Resistant Organisms	18
Foodborne/Waterborne Conditions	155
Hepatitidies	82
Invasive Respiratory Conditions/Other Neurological	45
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	78
Zoonotic/Vector-borne Diseases	25
Total	403

Table 4: Total Program Eligibility and Social Service Encounters per Month by Public Health Center, 2020

Month	Cedar Park	Georgetown	Round Rock	Taylor
January	276	143	280	177
February	201	79	166	81
March	152	92	100	67
April	56	51	84	37
May	46	47	54	34
June	36	40	54	36
July	49	50	40	35
August	51	31	58	23
September	62	40	74	26
October	78	54	46	29
November	46	32	47	22
December	39	23	48	16
Total	1092	682	1051	583

Table 5: Number of Clients Receiving WIC Benefits per Month by Public Health Center, 2020

Month	Cedar Park	Georgetown	Round Rock	Taylor
January	1,654	1,304	2,169	616
February	1,673	1,326	2,143	626
March	1,652	1,316	2,150	616
April	1,598	1,298	2,139	604
May	1,564	1,307	2,079	616
June	1,572	1,347	2,132	645
July	1,565	1,426	2,175	689
August	1,634	1,535	2,265	705
September	1,692	1,617	2,265	723
October	1,706	1,617	2,333	719
November	1,697	1,629	2,345	702
December	1,706	1,638	2,305	699
Total	17,360	7,960	26,500	19,703