

Saving Lives and Saving Money with a Statewide Perinatal Database

Texas faces a long-term challenge to improve perinatal outcomes. It is believed that neonatal and maternal level of care designations have improved care for mothers and babies in Texas. However, the state lacks patient-level data to verify. Timely, accurate, and consistent data is necessary for Texas to make critical, policy-informed decisions and improve its perinatal outcomes.

The following organizations support a budget rider requesting funds for a statewide perinatal database that directly reflects a white paper developed by the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB).

A Statewide Perinatal Data System Has Support



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Proposed Funding Rider - Perinatal Data System

Department of State Health Services Proposed Funding and Rider Perinatal Data System

Overview

Add funding and a new rider at the Department of State Health Services for a perinatal data system.

Required Actions

- 1) On page II-XX of the Department of State Health Services bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy B.1.1, Maternal and Child Health, by \$5,000,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024.
- 2) On page II-XX of the Department of State Health Services bill pattern, add the following rider:

____. **Perinatal Data System.** Included in appropriations above in Strategy B.1.1, Maternal and Child Health, is \$5,000,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 for the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to contract for a data system to capture timely, patient-centric data for the purpose of identifying areas for improvement in the delivery of perinatal care. The department shall enter into an interagency contract with University of Texas System for the purpose of establishing a perinatal data system to support the quality improvement efforts of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies. DSHS shall include in the contract sufficient parameters to enable the Collaborative, in consultation with stakeholders, to provide data system oversight, determine the data elements necessary to achieve its perinatal quality improvement objective, and provide guidance on access to and use of data in the system, consistent with state and federal law. Information obtained from the data system shall not be used by any entity to limit reimbursement or for regulatory purposes.

Any unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, 2024, are appropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.