

The strength of Texas' regionalized healthcare system lies in its people and partnerships. Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), EMS providers, hospitals, and so many others work together every day to ensure Texans receive high-quality care for time-sensitive medical emergencies. The demand for trauma, stroke, cardiac, maternal, neonatal, and disaster-related healthcare services continues to rise in both urban and rural communities. These systems of care require attention and investment to ensure every Texan has access to lifesaving care when and where it is needed most.

TETAF recommends that the 90th Legislature:

IMPROVE EMS AND TRAUMA REGISTRY DATA SHARING WITH REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requires RACs to analyze regional EMS and trauma data to identify opportunities to improve patient care. DSHS's EMS and Trauma Registry (EMSTR) should be a critical source of data for RACs, but due to confidentiality restrictions, DSHS only shares limited, aggregated information back to the RACs. The data is not granular enough to be actionable. As a result, some RACs are duplicating state effort and dollars to build and maintain their own regional EMS and/or trauma data registries. Amending statute to authorize EMSTR data sharing with the RACs would promote efficiency and support patient care improvements.

STRENGTHEN TEXAS TRAUMA SYSTEM FUNDING

Statutory changes during the 89th Texas Legislative Session allocated a greater percentage of state traffic fine revenue to the state's designated trauma facility and EMS Account 5111. Increasing appropriations from Account 5111 would support all components of the Texas Trauma System. Further, the 90th Legislature should consider whether trauma system funding is keeping pace with system needs and uncompensated trauma care costs.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS TO MEET DEMANDS

The RACs serve as the critical infrastructure that connects and coordinates Texas' trauma, prehospital, maternal, neonatal, stroke, cardiac, and disaster response systems. Their role has expanded significantly as Texas' population and healthcare needs continue to grow. Without proportional funding increases that keep up with rising costs, RACs cannot sustain the coordination, planning, and system oversight required to ensure Texans receive timely, high-quality care.