



**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

**INTERIM  
CITY MANAGER**  
Cary Westin

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**  
Brian Kennedy

**District 2**  
Alexsandra Anello

**District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez

**District 4**  
Joe Molinar

**District 5**  
Isabel Salcido

**District 6**  
Art Fierro

**District 7**  
Henry Rivera

**District 8**  
Chris Canales

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

08 / 21 / 2023

# City Welcomes Community to Renovated HIV Prevention + Services Building

## Officials Aim to Bring Awareness, End Stigma

**El Paso, Texas** – The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) HIV Prevention and Services Program invites the community to the newly renovated center at 701 Montana.

The HIV Prevention and Services Program, which offers the community free HIV testing and other essential HIV prevention services, is open to the public from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. **No appointment is needed.**

“HIV preventive services are essential in any community and our goal is to make these services readily available to those who need them while also working to eliminate any stigmas,” said City-County Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. “The renovated and new site will enable staff to provide adequate care in a safe, confidential and comfortable environment.”

Ocaranza said testing is especially important to reduce HIV transmission, as 2,455 El Paso County residents live with HIV, 109 of whom were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2021. Based on 2021 data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, 102,800 individuals were living with HIV in Texas and 4,377 were newly diagnosed. Nationwide, according to the CDC, an estimated 30,365 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV in the United States at the end of 2020, the most recent year for which this information is available.

The program offers the following services:

### HIV Prevention Services

- Free Confidential/Anonymous HIV Testing, Confidential Syphilis and Hepatitis C Testing (*HIV Prevention offers both the rapid finger stick and venipuncture blood draw*)
- After-Hour Testing is offered from 5 to 8 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month

### Linkage-to-Care Services

- Free Linkage-to-Care navigation services for people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C needing a healthcare provider.
- Free Linkage-to-Care navigation services for people seeking healthcare providers/clinics who provide PrEP/PEP services in the El Paso region.

### Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA)

Offering safe and stable housing options for those living with AIDS with the following eligibility requirements:

- People living with HIV who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness
- Must be HIV Positive and residing within the City limits of El Paso
- Low income

—more—



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
Among All Members of the Community

**Media contact:** Soraya Ayub Palacios  
Strategic Communications Office  
(915) 212-1040 or (915) 781-4386



**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

**INTERIM  
CITY MANAGER**  
Cary Westin

**CITY COUNCIL**

**District 1**  
Brian Kennedy

**District 2**  
Alexandra Anello

**District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez

**District 4**  
Joe Molinar

**District 5**  
Isabel Salcido

**District 6**  
Art Fierro

**District 7**  
Henry Rivera

**District 8**  
Chris Canales

### **Monthly MFactor Social Networking**

Social Networking group of gay/bi and queer-identified men.

- Community building and outreach through fun social monthly events
- Monthly workshops focusing on healthy relationships and safer sex
- Safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and opportunities to get involved in the community.

### **Condom Distribution Services**

- Free condoms and lubricant

For more information and tips visit [EPHealth.com](http://EPHealth.com) under [STD/HIV Prevention](#) tab or call (915) 212-6700 for more information on the services listed.

###



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
Among All Members of the Community

**Media contact:** Soraya Ayub Palacios  
Strategic Communications Office  
(915) 212-1040 or (915) 781-4386