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CITY OF EL PASO

PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF EL PASO

FY 2026 ANNUAL REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Message from the Interim Health Director



The City of El Paso Department of Public Health plays an important role in protecting the health and well-being of our community. From preventing the spread of disease and promoting healthy behaviors to preparing for emergencies and connecting residents with essential services, our work touches the lives of El Pasoans in many ways.

Fiscal Year 2026 brought important accomplishments across the Department. We celebrated the opening of the El Paso Community Clinic at the Medical Center of the Americas, continued providing vaccinations and testing throughout our neighborhoods, strengthened emergency response efforts, and worked with community partners to improve access to health services and resources. These accomplishments reflect the work of employees across our programs and the partnerships that help us serve El Paso.

As the Department moves through a period of leadership transition, our commitment to providing reliable, high-quality public health services remains unchanged. One of our priorities is pursuing national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). We are working toward accreditation to ensure that our programs and services meet nationally recognized standards and continue to address the health needs of El Paso residents. In May 2026, the Department also achieved a significant milestone by adopting the City's first-ever Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), developed in collaboration with more than 30 community organizations and partners to address chronic health conditions and mental and behavioral health. Together, these efforts help us identify opportunities for improvement, strengthen community partnerships, and better serve El Paso residents. Ultimately, achieving accreditation and advancing the CHIP reflect our commitment to providing quality public health services, using resources responsibly, and building a healthier El Paso for years to come.

As we reflect on the past year, we remain focused on the work ahead and our responsibility to protect and promote the health of the El Paso community.

SARA CERA

Interim Health Director
City of El Paso Department of Public Health

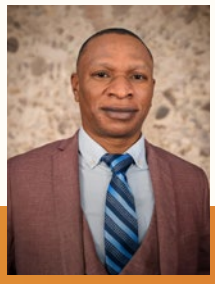
Health Leadership



Dr. Veerinder "Vinny" Taneja
Former Health Director



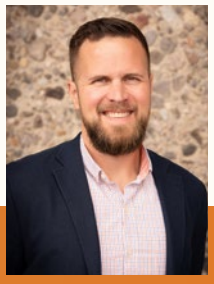
Dr. Hector Ocaranza
Health Authority



Dr. Eric Musungayi
Heath Assistant Director



Crystal Salcido
Deputy Director of Public Health



Brandon Rohrig
Deputy Director of Public Health



Soraya Ayub Palacios
Strategic Communications Officer

Mission

We are dedicated to reducing health inequities by providing and promoting diverse, proactive services for our community through empathy, engagement, education, and disease prevention

Vision

Excel as a leading health authority through innovation, integrated technologies, and collaborative efforts by developing highlight trained, versatile professionals to meet and exceed the growing needs of our community

Values

Accessible & Inclusive Service for All
Transparency
Trust
Integrity
Respect

Year at a GLANCE



211 Program
Total Callers - **20,882**
Referrals to Services - **23,298**



Rawlings Dental Clinic
Patients Served - **2,258**
Dental Services Provided - **17,684**



Sexual Health Clinic
Patients Served - **3,452**
Treatments Provided - **1,894**



Respiratory Diseases Clinic
Patients Served - **1,595**
Treatments Provided - **2,172**



Epidemiology
Reports received of notifiable conditions - **2,049**
Cases Investigated - **1,202**



Emergency Preparedness
Community Members Reached - **4,161**
STEAR Registrants - **240**



Health Education & Promotion
Community Members Reached - **108,000**
Presentations - **397**



HIV Prevention
HIV Tests Conducted - **1,894**
Outreach Events - **63**



Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)
Rental Assistance - **64**
Case Management Sessions - **3,951**



Immunizations
Immunizations - **41,062**
Patients Served - **25,005**
Outreach Events - **164**



Laboratory
Total Tests Performed - **21,206**



Public Health Follow Up
HIV/STD Labs Received - **10,470**
Cases Investigated - **2,157**



Women Infants & Children (WIC)
Participants Served - **25,062**
Breast Pumps Distributed - **1,929**

A New Chapter in Community Care

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARE

On April 2, 2026, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health celebrated the opening of the El Paso Community Clinic at the Medical Center of the Americas (MCA). The new facility brings respiratory disease care, sexual health services, the Public Health Follow Up program, and immunizations together in one convenient location, providing residents with access to preventive care, screenings, diagnostic testing, vaccinations, follow-up services, and treatment.

Representing an investment of approximately $9 million, the 10,500-square-foot facility, located at 4240 Alameda Avenue in Central El Paso, is the final community clinic constructed using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

The clinic also utilizes a BD Pyxis system to improve medical supply management, inventory tracking, and accountability. This technology supports more efficient clinical workflows, helps ensure essential supplies are readily available, and contributes to the Department's ongoing efforts to modernize public health services.







SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

From the clinic's opening through August 31, 2026:

641
Tuberculosis Patients Served

1,903
Sexual Health Patients Served

465
Immunization Patients Served

908
Public Health Follow Ups Conducted

Bringing Prevention Into Our Neighborhoods

SUPPORTING OVERDOSE PREVENTION

The MCA Clinic serves as a designated location for a naloxone vending machine. This initiative supports the prevention of opioid overdose deaths by increasing access to naloxone, raising awareness of overdose prevention, and equipping individuals with the resources needed to respond to a potential opioid overdose free of cost.



Between July and August 2026,

300 DOSES

of Naloxone were dispensed, making this life-saving medication more accessible to residents

VAX TO SCHOOL TOUR

The 2026 Vax to School Tour brought free vaccinations directly into El Paso communities through 33 events, expanding access to immunization services beyond traditional clinic settings through countywide outreach events. Through partnerships with school districts, City departments, charter schools, the Housing Authority, and nonprofit organizations, the Department of Public Health reduced barriers to care and created additional opportunities for students to receive recommended vaccines.

These efforts helped keep students up to date on their immunizations, protecting their health and promoting healthier, safer school communities throughout El Paso.



1,059
Patients Seen

2,825
Vaccines Administered

COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING

Public Health teams continued bringing preventive services directly into the El Paso community through outreach efforts offering rapid testing for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C, along with screening for tuberculosis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. These ongoing efforts help make essential testing services more accessible, supporting early detection and connecting residents to care.

TESTS CONDUCTED THROUGH FIELD WORK

DISEASE INTERVENTION AND HIV PREVENTION

727
HIV

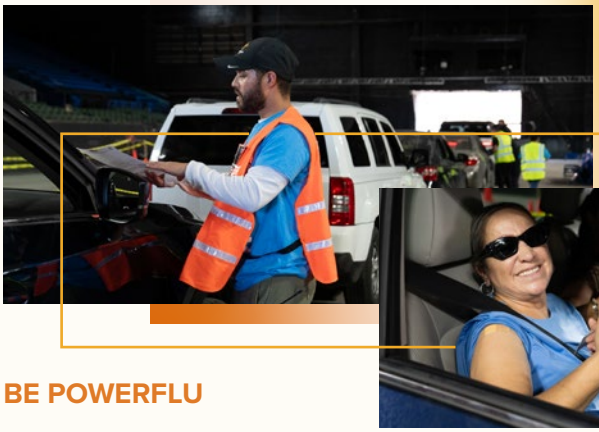
711
Syphilis

SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

226
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea

RESPIRATORY DISEASE CLINIC

98
Tuberculosis (TB)



BE POWERFLU

The Be POWERflu campaign continued making flu vaccinations free, convenient, and accessible to residents ages 6 months and older. Through 55 neighborhood events, including four drive-through vaccination events, and five El Paso Community Clinics, the Department of Public Health expanded access to flu protection across 20 ZIP codes throughout El Paso City and County.

11,755 Flu Vaccines Administered

Responding When Our Community Needs Us

PUTTING PREPAREDNESS TO THE TEST

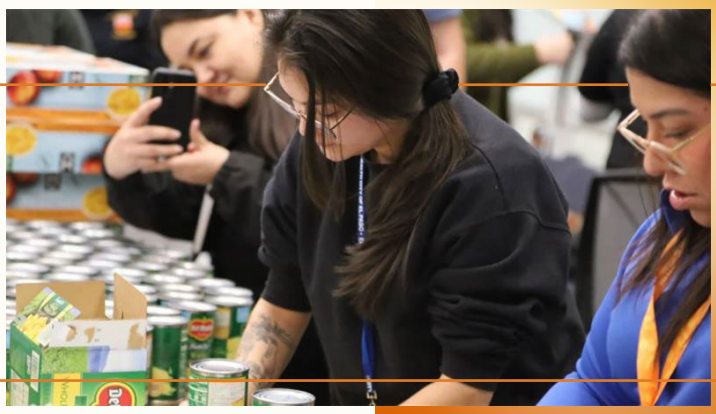
The Department of Public Health strengthened its emergency response capabilities through a two-day BioWatch full-scale exercise simulating a potential biological threat. The exercise included laboratory testing of simulated BioWatch filter samples, followed by a Jurisdictional Coordination Call (JCC) with local, state, and federal partners to assess the situation and determine the appropriate response. The exercise also tested the Department's emergency response procedures, including the activation of the Department Operations Center (DOC).

The exercise culminated on the second day with a drive-through Point of Dispensing (POD) operation, bringing together Emergency Preparedness staff and representatives from eight additional divisions, including members of the Department's Emergency Response Team (ERT). These employees volunteer to support emergency operations beyond their regular divisional responsibilities, demonstrating the Department's commitment to preparedness, interagency collaboration, and a coordinated response to public health emergencies.









RESPONDING WHEN IT MATTERS

When a major water main break disrupted water service across Northeast and parts of Central El Paso in January 2026, the Department of Public Health's Emergency Preparedness team mobilized its planning, coordination, and community outreach efforts to help protect residents and address urgent public health needs. The response demonstrated the importance of year-round preparedness and the Department's commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of El Paso residents during unexpected emergencies.

In partnership with the City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the team helped facilitate emergency water distribution to residents impacted by the disruption. Through the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR), the Department identified individuals requiring additional support and helped connect them with essential resources, ensuring vulnerable residents were considered throughout the emergency response.

THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE SUPPORTED

351 Households

&

728 Cases of Bottled Water Distributed

Beyond emergency response, the Department of Public Health continues to strengthen community resilience through education, outreach events, and STEAR registration, helping ensure residents have access to information and resources before emergencies occur.

Strengthening Public Health Through Shared Knowledge

ADVANCING TUBERCULOSIS EDUCATION

In partnership with the Heartland National TB Center, the Department hosted a tuberculosis education summit, bringing together healthcare professionals and organizations from across the region. The training provided opportunities to strengthen knowledge of tuberculosis prevention, testing, and treatment while supporting collaboration among healthcare providers.



49

Healthcare providers educated representing 21 organizations

27 Participants receiving 4.5 continuing Education hours



SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The Department of Public Health continued partnership with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso by hosting medical resident rotations in January 2026. Residents gained hands-on exposure to multiple public health programs, including WIC, Immunizations, Epidemiology, Health education and promotion, Laboratory Services, HIV Prevention, Sexual Health, and respiratory disease clinic. These collaborative experiences helped build future public health leaders, expand awareness of community health services, and strengthen the connection between academic training and local public health practice.

KEEPING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS INFORMED

Throughout FY26, Rawlings Dental Clinic continued its role as a teaching site for future dental professionals through partnerships with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, El Paso Community College, and The University of Texas at El Paso. A total of 35 dental and dental hygiene students participated in clinical rotations and shadowing at Rawlings Dental Clinic, gaining hands-on experience in dental patient care and public health dentistry, strengthening the future dental workforce.



KEEPING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS INFORMED

The Department of Public Health's Epidemiology, Respiratory Diseases (TB), HIV Prevention, and Immunizations programs provided local healthcare professionals with education, resources, and guidance on disease prevention, reporting requirements, and notifiable conditions. These efforts supported early detection, timely reporting, and coordinated efforts to protect community health.

1,652

Medical Providers Educated

Community Progress

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

In April 2026, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar's office visited the El Paso Community Clinic – Henderson to review the Department of Public Health's proposal to modernize the facility. The proposal was approved in June 2026, securing funding to enhance the clinic environment, improve patient access, and strengthen delivery of essential health services to the community.





RECOGNIZING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

The Texas Healthy Communities (TXHC) program, led by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), recognizes communities that implement policy, systems, and environmental changes to reduce chronic disease risks and promote healthier lifestyles. In 2026, the Health Education program within the City of El Paso Department of Public Health achieved Silver level recognition for its efforts to support a healthier community.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO CARE

For 10 years, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health has partnered with UTEP's H.O.P.E.+ (Homefree. Outreach. Prevention. Education.) initiative and local community organizations to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with essential health services and resources. Through continued collaboration, the Department brings services directly to those who need them, helping reduce barriers to care and making public health resources easier to access.

These outreach efforts provide vaccinations, tuberculosis and sexual health testing, health education, and emergency preparedness assistance, including STEAR registration and guidance on developing emergency plans.

1,264 **Individuals Accessed Services**



The Department of Public Health was recognized for its continued partnership and contributions to the H.O.P.E.+ Mobile Clinic & Health Fair during the initiative's 10th anniversary in September 2026.

Financial Overview

FY 2026 REVENUES



Intergovernmental
$1,592,065 • 52.6%

Indirect Cost
$805,634 • 26.6%

Charges for Services
$630,592 • 20.8%

FY 2026 BUDGETED FUNDING

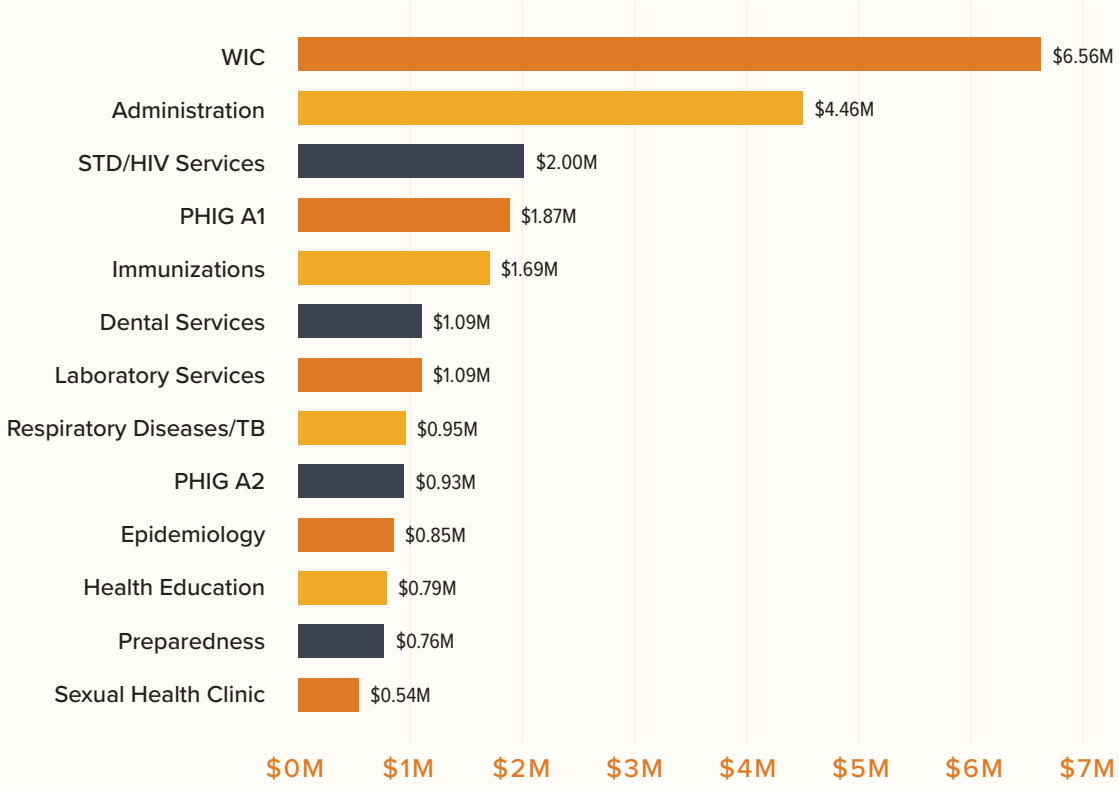


Federal Grant Funding
$14,865,709 • 63.0%

State Grant Funding
$931,102 • 3.9%

General Fund
$7,798,417 • 33.1%

FY 2026 BUDGETED AMOUNTS BY PROGRAM



Includes Grants and General Funds for divisions that have General Funds

Public Health Management



Dr. Edward Ager
Medical Laboratory Director



Asa Aguilar-Ornelas
Public Health Information Officer



Adriana Archer
WIC Program Manager



Jislem Avila
Health Education & Promotion, 211 & Call Center Health Manager



Dr. Kelley Brooks
Chief Dentist



Vanessa Casner
Lead Epidemiologist



Ana Garibay
Public Health Laboratory Services Manager



Annett Gonzalez MSN, APRN, FNP-C
TB & STD Clinics Program Manager



Pilar Hernandez
Immunizations Program Manager



Argentina Lara
Biostatistician



Raymond Lucero
Organizational Analyst



Dr. Pablo A. Marrero-Nunez
Pharmacist



Antonio Martinez
Public Health Workforce Officer



Cristina Munoz
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Manager



Jacob Ortega
HIV Prevention, DIS & HOPWA Program Manager



Sarah Ortiz
Administrative Services Manager



Aleczis Padilla
Public Health Accreditation Manager



Yahaira Perez
Dental Office Manager



Alejandra Rivera
Human Resources Business Partner



Edward Rodriguez
Lead Financial Research Analyst



Yuliana Rosales
Medical Billing Supervisor



Juan Saenz
Grant Project Manager



Sylvia Ware
Compliance, Quality & Improvement Program Officer

City Leadership

Renard U. Johnson
MAYOR

Dionne Mack
CITY MANAGER

Richard Bristol
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

Alejandra Chávez
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 1

Dr. Josh Acevedo
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 2

Deanna Maldonado-Rocha
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 3

Cynthia Boyar Trejo
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 4

Ivan Niño
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 5

Art Fierro
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 6

Lily Limón
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 7

Chris Canales
CITY REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 8

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