

FISCAL YEAR

25



PUBLIC HEALTH

CITY OF EL PASO

ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Letter from the Director



Fiscal Year 2025 reminded us that public health is both long-term work and urgent work. We continued strengthening the systems and partnerships that support community health every day, and we also responded to emerging infectious disease activity with speed, coordination, and sustained outreach. This year's milestones reflect that balance, and the dedication of the teams and partners who made it possible.

Early in the fiscal year, we strengthened regional and international collaboration by hosting our first Tuberculosis Summit. Alongside Dr. Lisa Armitage and the Heartland National TB Center, we brought together partners from New Mexico and Mexico to share best practices and advance coordinated approaches to tuberculosis prevention and control across the border region.

Preparedness, early detection, and accountability remained central to our work throughout the year. In the spring, our wastewater surveillance efforts identified the presence of measles in El Paso, providing an early signal that allowed us to heighten monitoring and readiness. During this same period, we submitted our Readiness Assessment for Public Health Accreditation, reinforcing our commitment to performance standards, continuous improvement, and transparency.

In early April, we celebrated the grand opening of our newly renovated Public Health Department headquarters, home to many of our divisions and teams. This milestone reflected an important investment in our people, our infrastructure, and our ability to collaborate and respond effectively in service to the community.

Shortly thereafter, we confirmed local cases of measles within El Paso and activated a coordinated public health response. Recognizing the unique dynamics of our region, our teams closely monitored measles activity not only in El Paso, but also in neighboring communities, including Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juárez, reflecting the binational and multi-state community we serve. This regional awareness informed our response and strengthened coordination across jurisdictions.

As the outbreak progressed through the summer, we expanded vaccination, outreach, and education efforts to protect residents and reduce transmission. In addition to hosting a large-scale measles vaccination drive-thru at the El Paso Zoo, our Immunizations team organized 43 field vaccination events and administered more than 2,200 vaccines across the community. We also launched our first "VAX to School Tour", bringing vaccines and education directly into neighborhoods to help ensure students were protected and ready for the school year. Beyond measles, we continued our annual "Be POWERflu" campaign, providing over 15,000 free flu vaccines to the community and helping protect residents from seasonal influenza. These efforts demonstrated our commitment to meeting people where they are and ensuring equitable access to preventive care.

As Director, I am incredibly proud of the dedication, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by our staff throughout Fiscal Year 2025. I am grateful to our partners and community members who worked alongside us during a year that demanded both urgency and collaboration. Together, we continue strengthening our public health system and building a healthier, more prepared El Paso.

Veerinder Taneja
VEERINDER "VINNY" TANEJA

**HEALTH DIRECTOR
CITY OF EL PASO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**



PUBLIC HEALTH

CITY OF EL PASO

VISION

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

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

VALUES

- ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE SERVICE FOR ALL
- TRANSPARENCY
- TRUST
- INTEGRITY
- RESPECT
- EMPATHY

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP



Dr. Veerinder "Vinny" Taneja
Health Director



Dr. Hector Ocaranza
Health Authority



Sara Cera
Health Assistant Director



Melissa Hawthorne
Deputy Director of Public Health



Crystal Salcido
Deputy Director of Public Health



Soraya Ayub Palacios
Strategic Communications 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

YEAR AT A GLANCE



211 CALL CENTER

TOTAL CALLERS **91,015**
 CONNECTED THE COMMUNITY
 TO RESOURCES **64,254**



RAWLINGS DENTAL CLINIC

DENTAL PROCEDURES **20,066**
 NEW PATIENTS **320**



SEXUAL HEALTH

PATIENTS SERVED **3,456**
 TREATMENTS PROVIDED **2,430**



RESPIRATORY DISEASES

PATIENTS SERVED **1,703**
 TREATMENTS PROVIDED **1,973**



EPIDEMIOLOGY

REPORTS RECEIVED OF NOTIFIABLE
 CONDITIONS **3,029**
 CASES INVESTIGATED **1,224**



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED
11,855
 REGISTERED **171** STEAR
 COMMUNITY MEMBERS



HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED **35,422**
 PRESENTATIONS **592**



HIV PREVENTION

HIV TEST CONDUCTED **1,850**
 OUTREACH EVENTS **66**



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS (HOPWA)

RENTAL ASSISTANCE **89**
 CASE MANAGEMENT SESSIONS **4,777**



IMMUNIZATIONS

IMMUNIZATIONS **51,791**
 HEALTH FAIRS & OUTREACH EVENTS **749**



LABORATORY

TOTAL TEST PERFORMED **21,104**



PUBLIC HEALTH FOLLOW UP

HIV/STD LABS RECEIVED **10,553**
 CASES INVESTIGATED **2,339**



WOMEN INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

CLIENTS SERVED **25,586**
 BREAST PUMPS DISTRIBUTED **1,710**

EL PASO COMMUNITY CLINICS



Modernizing Public Health Service Delivery

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health officially opened its newly renovated 31,200-square-foot headquarters at 9566 Railroad Drive on April 3, 2025. The facility now serves as the central hub for multiple public health programs, including Immunizations, Laboratory Services, HIV Prevention, Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness, and the 211 Call Center.

Following the reopening, immunization activity at the Railroad location increased, as shown in the accompanying graph, reflecting expanded service capacity and improved access for residents. The \$8.5 million renovation was made possible through federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

8 Public Health Services Under One Roof
 211 Call Center, Epidemiology, HIV Prevention, Health Education Promotion, HOPWA, Immunizations, Laboratory services, Public Health Emergency Preparedness along with administrative and support divisions

IMMUNIZATIONS AT RAILROAD CLINIC SINCE HEADQUARTER OPENING



214

Services Delivered Through Mobile Unit Deployments

NEW MEDICAL MOBILE UNIT

During FY25, the Public Health Department's new mobile medical unit supported service delivery at large-scale community events, including Día de los Niños, Pride, and Juneteenth. These deployments demonstrate the Department's ability to provide preventive services directly in community settings and to reach residents who may face barriers to accessing care.

Once fully operational, the mobile unit is anticipated to be deployed at least three times per month, based on current staffing levels and planned operations, further expanding community-based service capacity.

PUBLIC HEALTH CALL CENTER

The headquarters also houses the Public Health Call Center, initially established during the measles outbreak and now providing residents with direct access to Department of Public Health services and information.



Measles Response

PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY

In early February 2025, Texas experienced a significant measles outbreak in Gaines County. The outbreak primarily affected unvaccinated individuals or those with unknown vaccination status, resulting in 762 statewide confirmed cases and two deaths. The El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) acted swiftly to contain the outbreak and protect the community.

- **MARCH 3, 2025** The Health Authority provided guidance to healthcare providers and hospitals on measles specimen collection
- **APRIL 4, 2025** El Paso received notification of wastewater surveillance detecting measles on a sample collected March 24, 2025, which promptly activated the Threat Assessment Group (TAG)
- **APRIL 8, 2025** The first laboratory-confirmed measles case of the 2025 outbreak was identified in the region, involving a three-year-old unvaccinated child
- **APRIL 9, 2025** DPH activated the Department Operations Center. With support from Office of Emergency Management (OEM), a WebEOC platform was established, and activation notifications were distributed. The DPH laboratory was also prepared for in-house testing, which commenced on April 23, 2025, following validation and coordination
- **APRIL 10, 2025** The Public Health Call Center was activated
- **APRIL 16, 2025** A public-facing dashboard went live, providing the community with timely case information
- **APRIL 30, 2025** Railroad Clinic extended weekend hours for measles vaccines
- **MAY 19, 2025** Free Measles Drive-Through event held at the El Paso Zoo, resulting in 264 MMR vaccines given to community members
- **AUGUST 11, 2025** The Health Authority released a letter to health providers and partners stating that no new measles cases had been identified in El Paso County, Texas. As of July 26, 2025, two incubation periods had been completed without any additional cases



2,255 MMR Vaccines (Measles, Mumps, & Rubella) Administered to Community Members



476 Cases Investigated

In-person Measles Education Provided to

546 Schools & Daycares

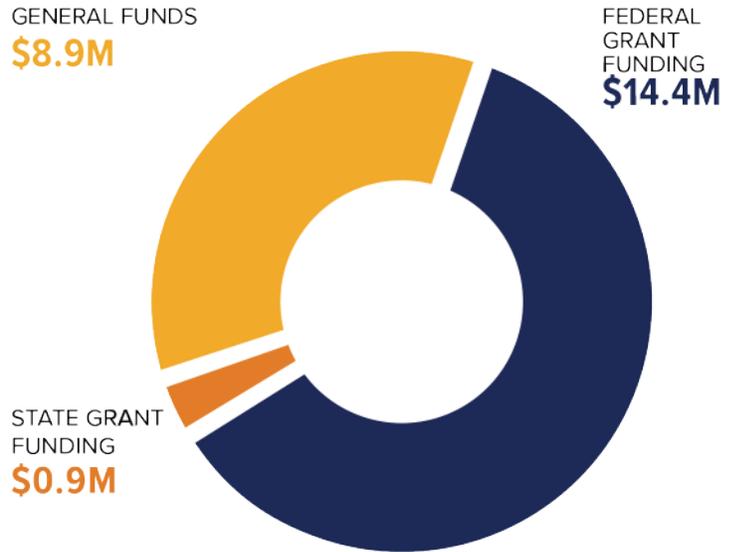
612 Calls to the Measles Hotline



Revenues

During FY2025, the Department experienced the recission of various Federal Grants, resulting in a \$3.2 million reduction in funding and the elimination of 21 grant-funded positions. Despite this funding loss, the Department remained committed to delivering essential public health services and worked strategically to prioritize resources, sustain core programs, and continue serving the community at the highest level possible within available funding

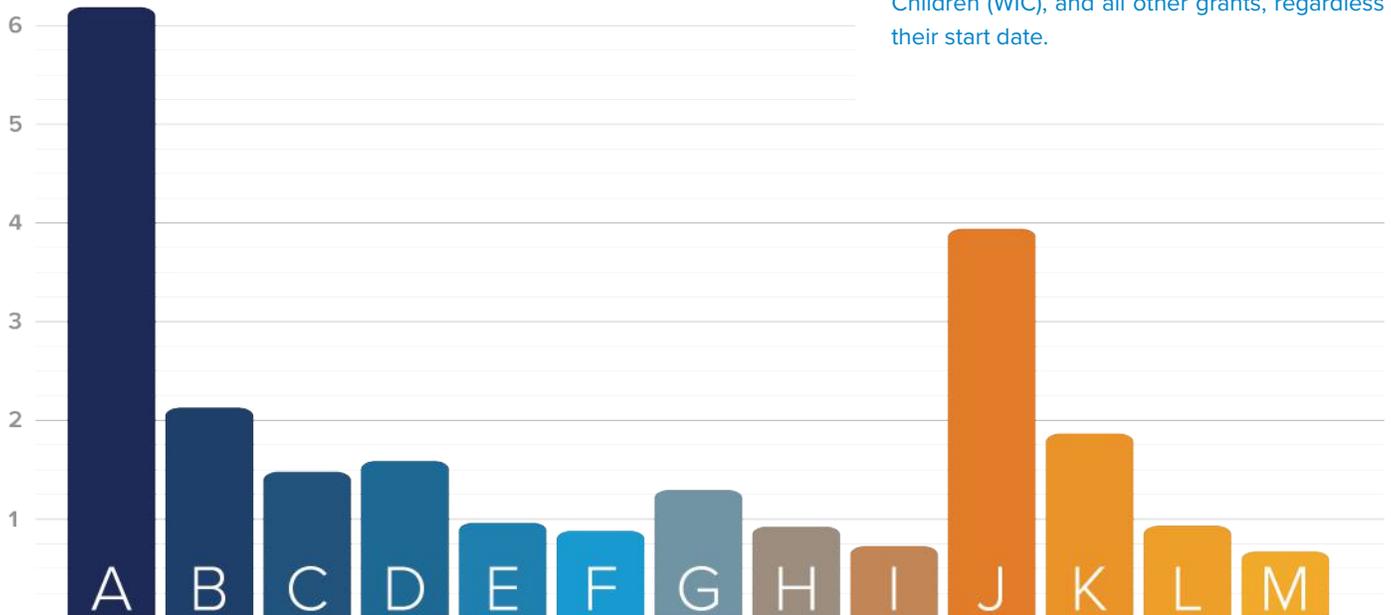
TOTAL FY25 FUNDING: \$23.6 MILLION



Budgeted Amounts Breakdown

INCLUDES GENERAL FUND AND GRANT FUNDING FOR APPLICABLE DIVISIONS

Budgeted amounts include all Office of Management and Budget adopted expenses, which begin September 1st and Women Infants & Children (WIC), and all other grants, regardless of their start date.



- A | Women Infants & Children (WIC) | **6.2M**
- B | STD/HIV Services | **2.1M**
- C | Environmental Health | **1.5M**
- D | Immunizations | **1.6M**
- E | Health Education | **0.96M**
- F | Dental Services | **0.88M**
- G | Respiratory Diseases/TB Services | **1.2M**
- H | Laboratory Services | **0.93M**
- I | Epidemiology | **0.73M**
- J | Administration | **3.9M**
- K | Public Health Infrastructure Grant A1 | **1.9 M**
- L | Public Health Infrastructure Grant A2 | **0.93M**
- M | Preparedness | **0.68M**



PUBLIC HEALTH

CITY OF EL PASO

PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT



Asa Aguilar-Ornelas
Public Health
Information Officer



Adriana Archer
WIC Program Manager



Dr. Semone Ben-Bani
Public Health Laboratory
Services Manager



Kelley Brooks
Chief Dentist



Vanessa Casner
Lead Epidemiologist



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



Joy Leos
Health Training &
Promotions Manager



Raymond Lucero
Organizational
Analyst



Cristina Macias-Lopez
Public Health Emergency
Preparedness Program
Manager



Antonio Martinez
Public Health
Workforce Officer



Cecilia Mungaray
Employee Relations
Officer



Jacob Ortega
HIV Prevention
Program Manager



Sarah Ortiz
Administrative
Services Manager



Aleciz Padilla
Public Health
Accreditation
Manager



Yahaira Perez
Dental Office
Manager



Juan Saenz
Grant Project
Manager



Sylvia Ware
Compliance, Quality &
Improvement
Program Officer



PUBLIC HEALTH

CITY OF EL PASO

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