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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Earns State Recognition for Building a Healthier Community

Department of Public Health Receives Silver-Level Award for Advancing Community Health

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH) has received the Silver Level Healthy Community Award from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for helping reduce chronic disease risk, promote healthy lifestyles, and improve quality of life through strong community partnerships.

“This recognition reflects the dedication of our staff and the many community partners working together to improve the health of our community,” said DPH Director Vinny Taneja. “Creating opportunities for residents to live healthier lives requires collaboration, education, and long-term commitment. Together, we are building a healthier, more vibrant El Paso.”

The award is part of the Texas Healthy Communities (TXHC) Program, which recognizes communities that implement evidence-based policies and strategies to improve health outcomes and reduce risk factors for chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease and stroke.

El Paso earned the Silver-Level designation for advancing policies, systems, and environmental improvements that make healthy choices more accessible for residents.

Among the initiatives recognized was the City's effort to promote active transportation by educating children and families about pedestrian and bicycle safety. As part of that effort, the City hosted a summer safety event that provided bicycles and helmets to community members.

The state also recognized El Paso's efforts to prevent youth vaping, opioid overdoses, and suicide, including the City's public health vending machine initiative, which expands access to health and wellness resources. DPH also continues working with community partners to develop sustainable policies and practices that support long-term community health.

Communities are evaluated in eight key areas:

- Physical Activity
- Healthy Eating
- Healthy Worksites
- Respiratory Health
- Health Care Quality and Access
- Healthy Aging
- Behavioral Health
- Emergency Preparedness

The state also commended El Paso's hospitals, clinics, and other health care providers for promoting the prevention, early recognition, and treatment of cardiovascular disease and stroke through education and outreach that encourages residents to recognize warning signs and seek prompt medical care.

“This award reflects what can be achieved when public health, health care providers, schools, nonprofits, and community organizations work toward a common goal,” Taneja said. “We remain committed to building on this momentum and creating even more opportunities for every resident to live a healthier life.”

For more information about the Texas Healthy Communities Program, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website. For information about local health initiatives, visit [EPHealth.com](https://www.elpasotexas.gov/EPHealth.com) and select the [Texas Healthy Communities tab](#).

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Leadership that is responsive + reliable

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