

Community Conversations on Health

REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES | BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES
ESTABLISHING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Update to PHFPC
Office of Public Health Policy
Center for Public Health Policy and Practice
August 31, 2022



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Grant Activities

- Current funding from 6/1/2021 – 5/31/2023
- Activities focus on 3 key CDC strategies:



Increase and improve data collection and reporting



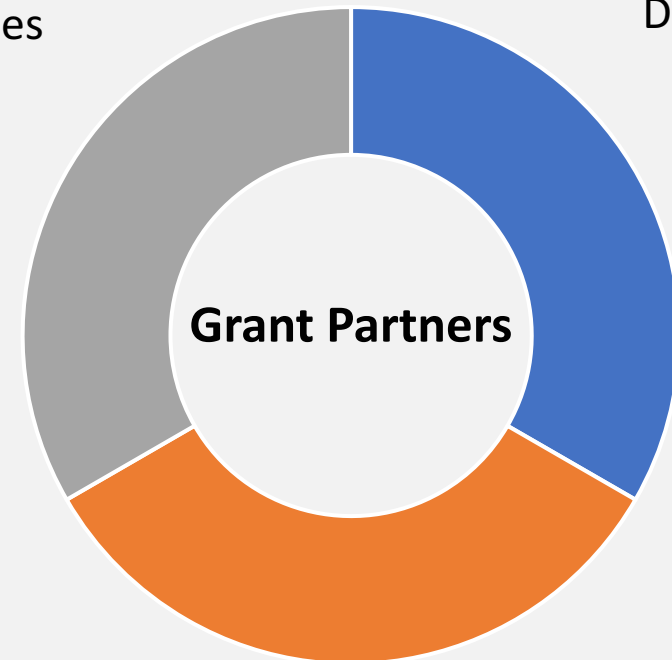
Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure and support



Mobilize and support partners and collaborators

DSHS Central and Regional Offices

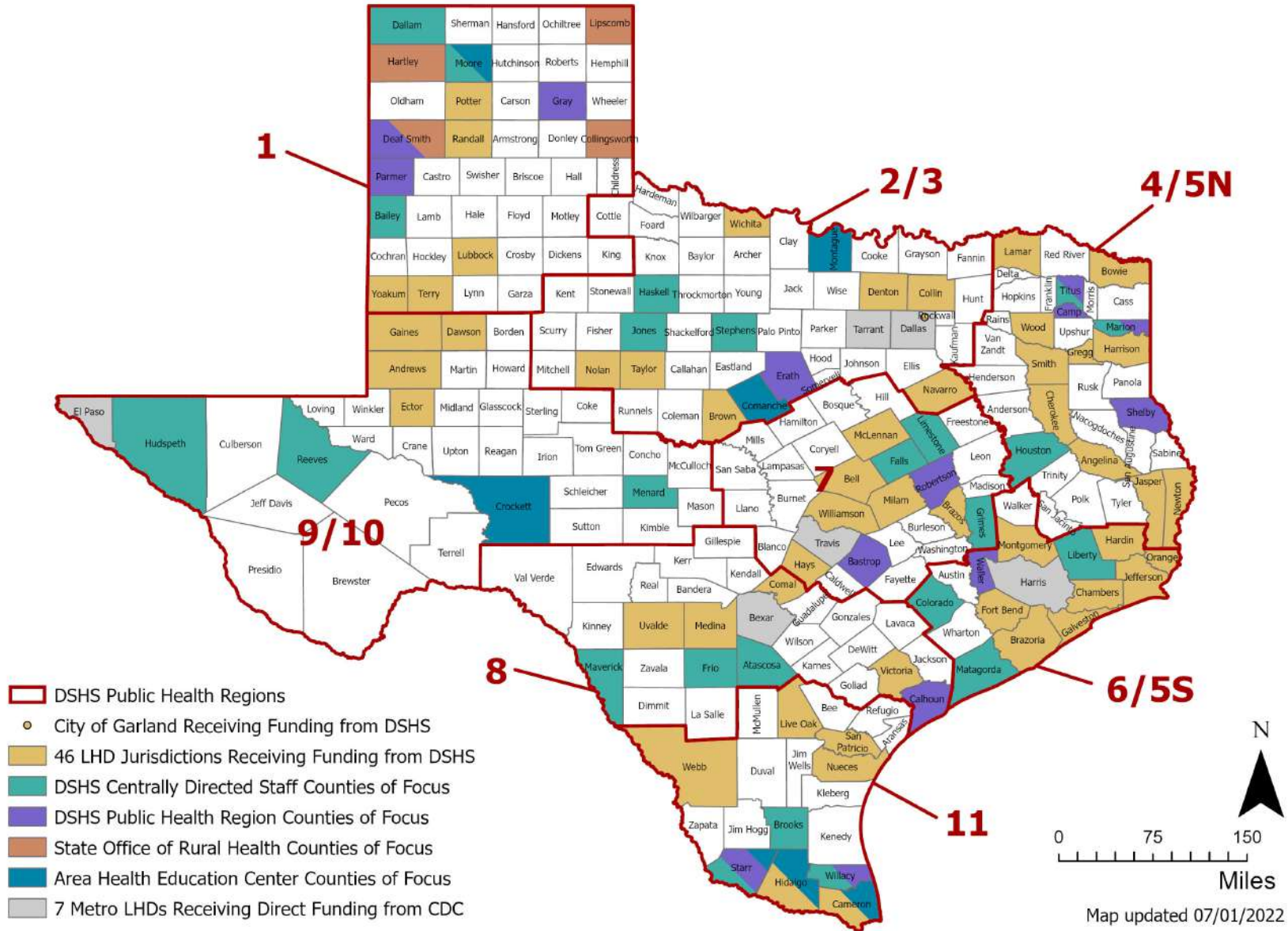
Local Health Departments



State Agency Partners

Community Conversations on Health

DSHS COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant



DSHS Activities

Regional activities to date:

- Met regional DSHS staff and regional grant partners
- Conducted windshield assessments in focus counties and reviewing available data
- Met with county judges to introduce the grant
- Ongoing meetings with potential partners and community organizations
- Developing community engagement strategy workplans with regional guidance

Top Priorities from County Judges

Mental Health

Access to
healthcare

Food
insecurity

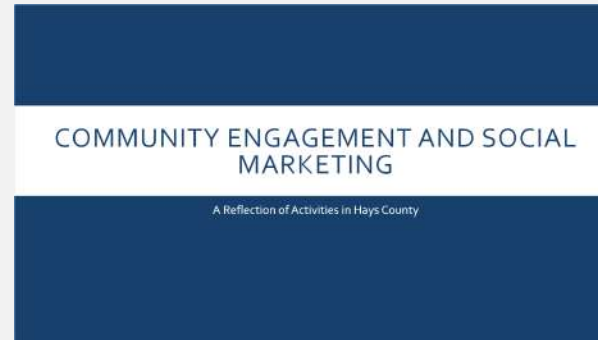
Transportation
needs

Chronic
disease
prevention

Access to
affordable
housing

Grant Coordination

- Monthly sharing sessions with all grant partners
 - Highlight grant partner successes
 - Discuss grant partner needs and challenges
 - Invite speakers from service providers and potential partners
- Routine regional coordination meetings



Texas Public Health Fellowship

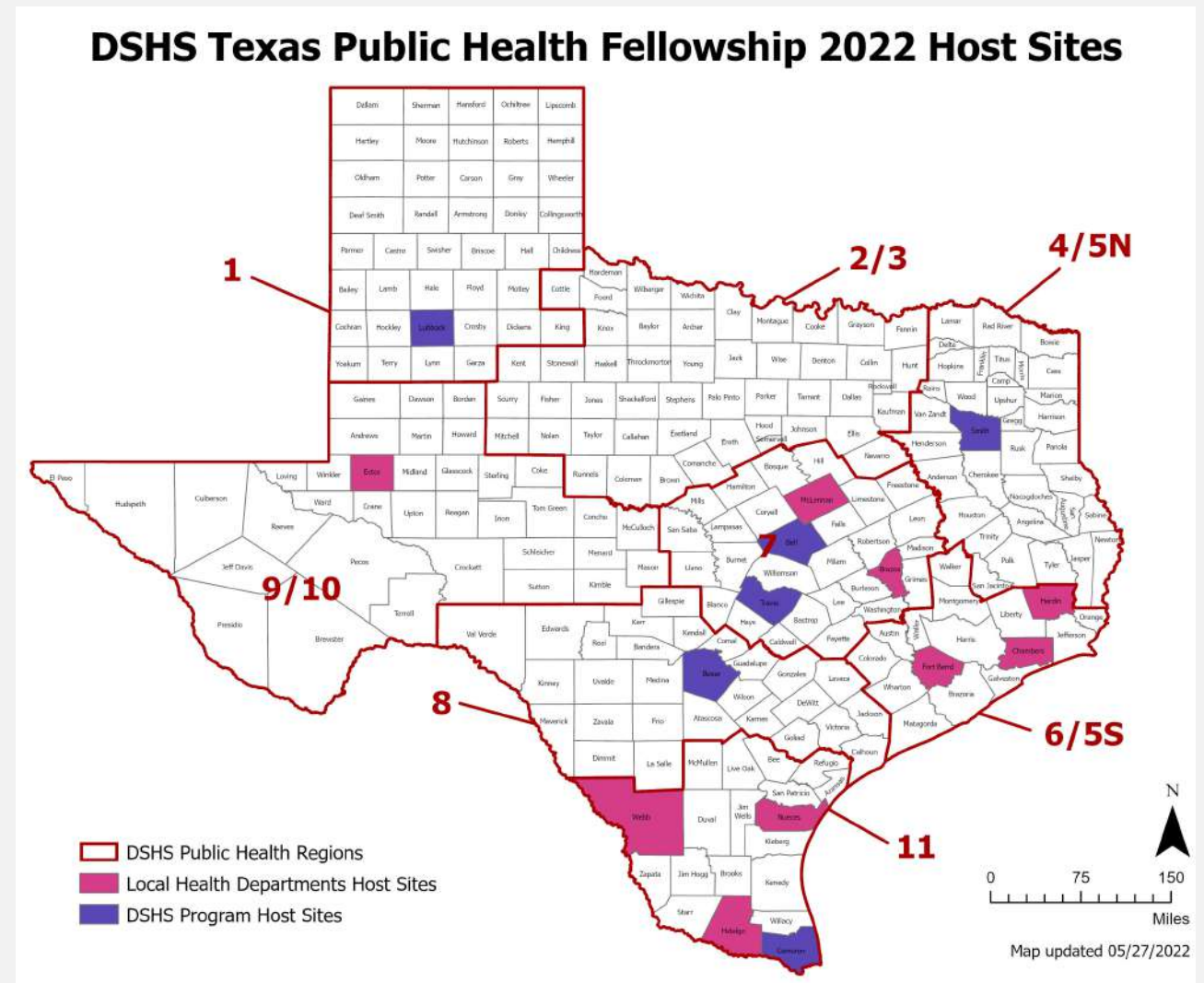
Overview:

- One-year, paid training program
- Hands-on, real-world experience
- Early career public health professionals
- Professional development and mentorship



2022-23 Fellowship Host Sites

- Local Health Departments
- DSHS Programs and Regional Offices
- 36 Fellowship Positions:
 - 13 positions with 9 LHDs
 - 23 positions with 19 DSHS programs



Fellowship Details

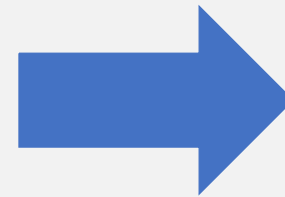
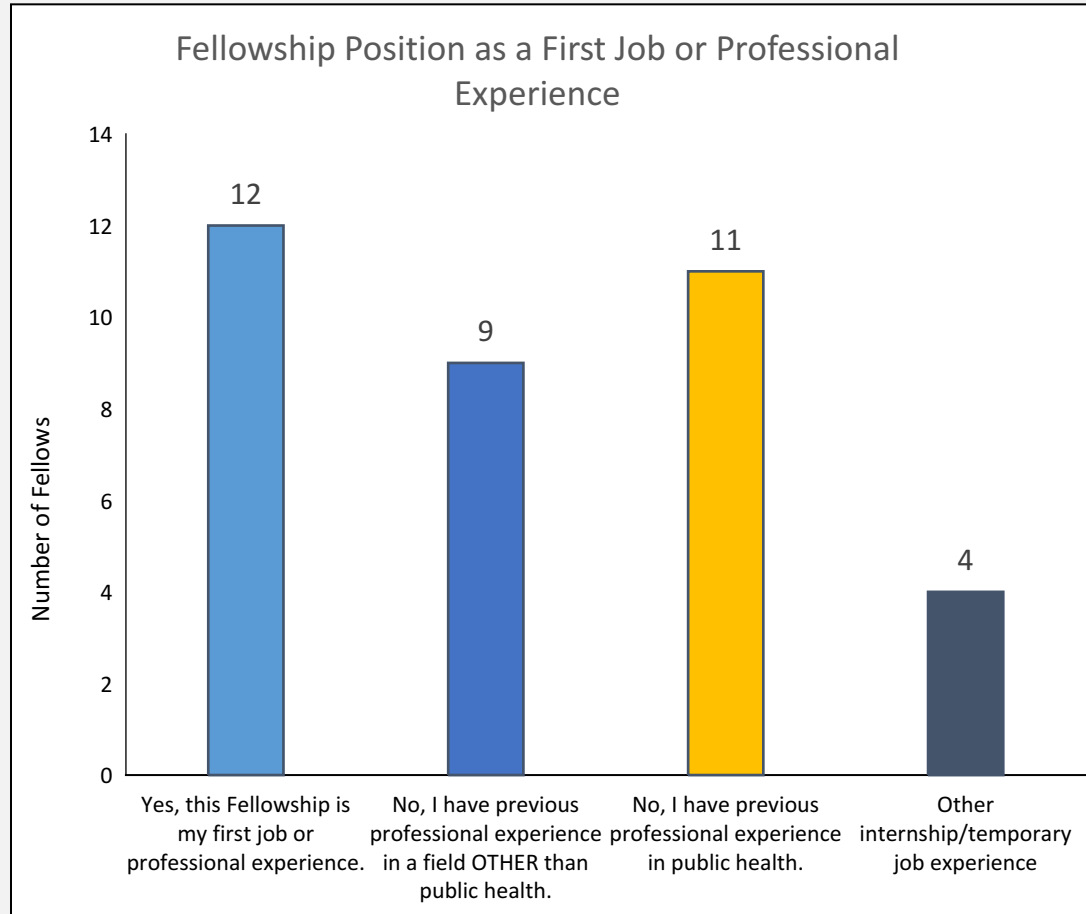
2022-23 Positions provide experience in:

- Community engagement
- Data collection
- Data analysis and data visualization
- Strategic planning and project management
- Disease surveillance and outbreak investigation
- Public health preparedness and emergency response
- Program evaluation and quality improvement
- Health education and communication
- Report and manuscript writing

Professional development opportunities:

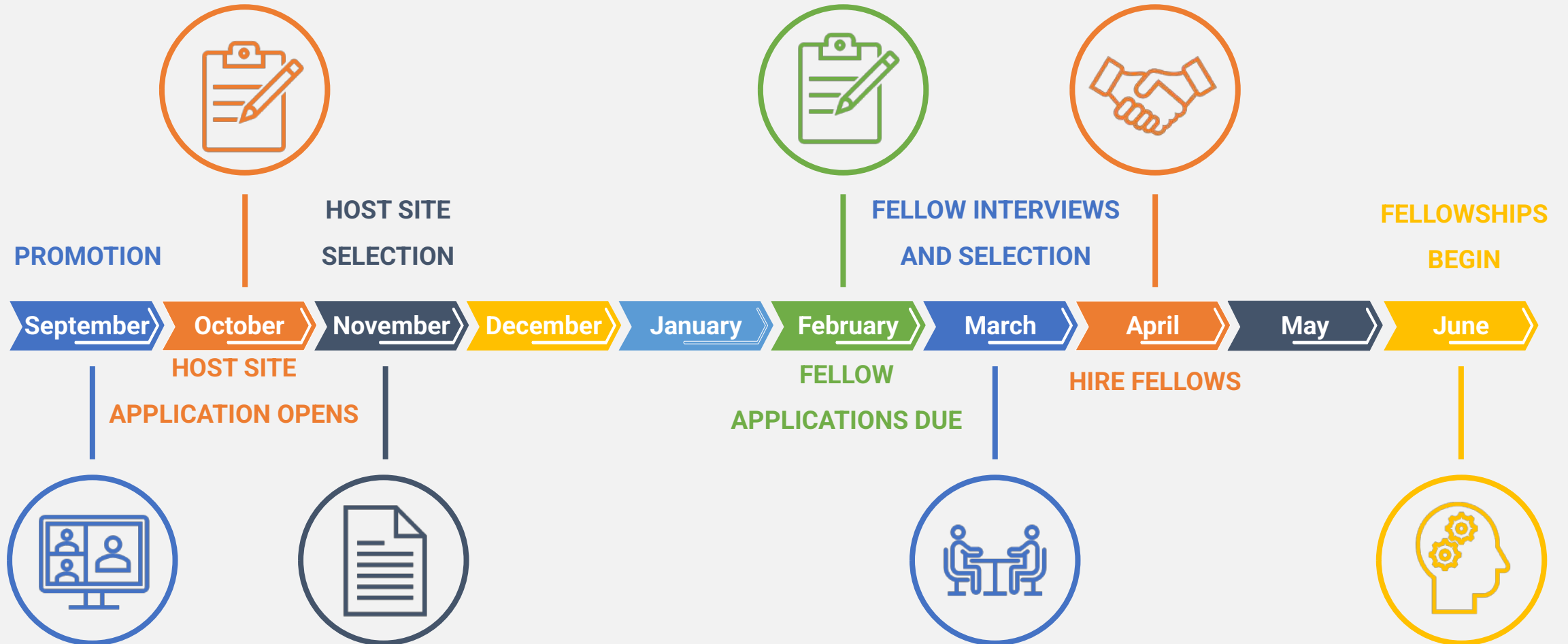
- Monthly skill building workshops hosted by Office of Practice and Learning (OPL)
- Fellows matched to an OPL coach to receive 1:1 mentoring
- Fellows will complete a personal professional development plan identifying:
 - Public health competency focus areas of interest
 - Training and development plan
- Networking opportunities with DSHS staff
- HHS Jobs presentations
- Culminating experience

2022-23 Fellowship: Professional Development



**Soft Skill
Development
&
Public Health
Systems
Education**

2023-24 Fellowship Timeline



Grant Successes

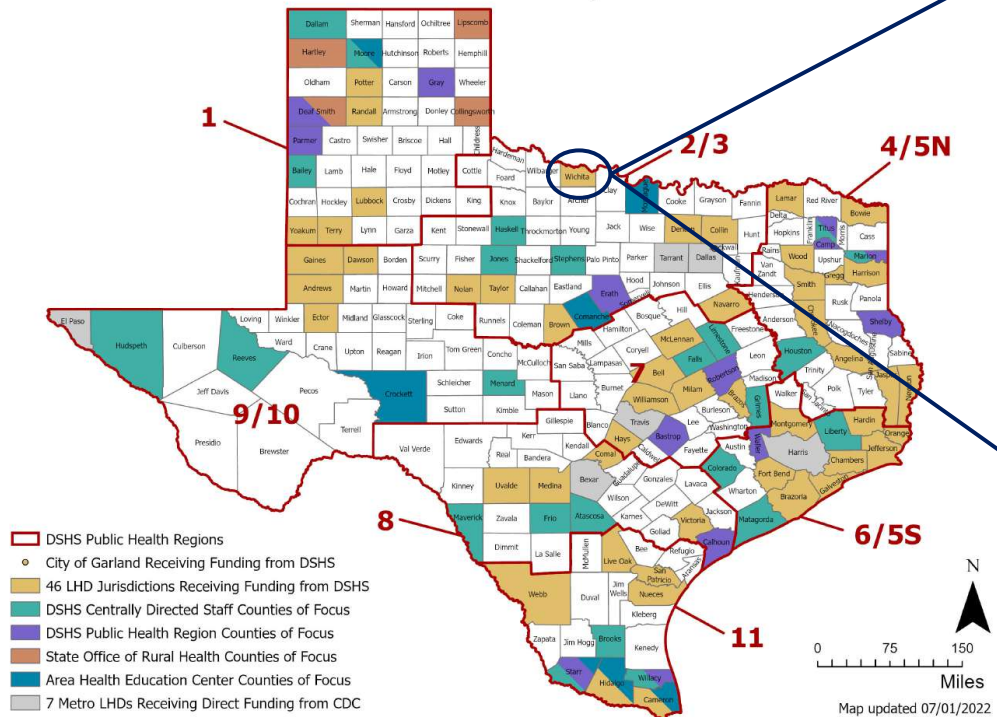


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Building Community Relationships

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DSHS COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

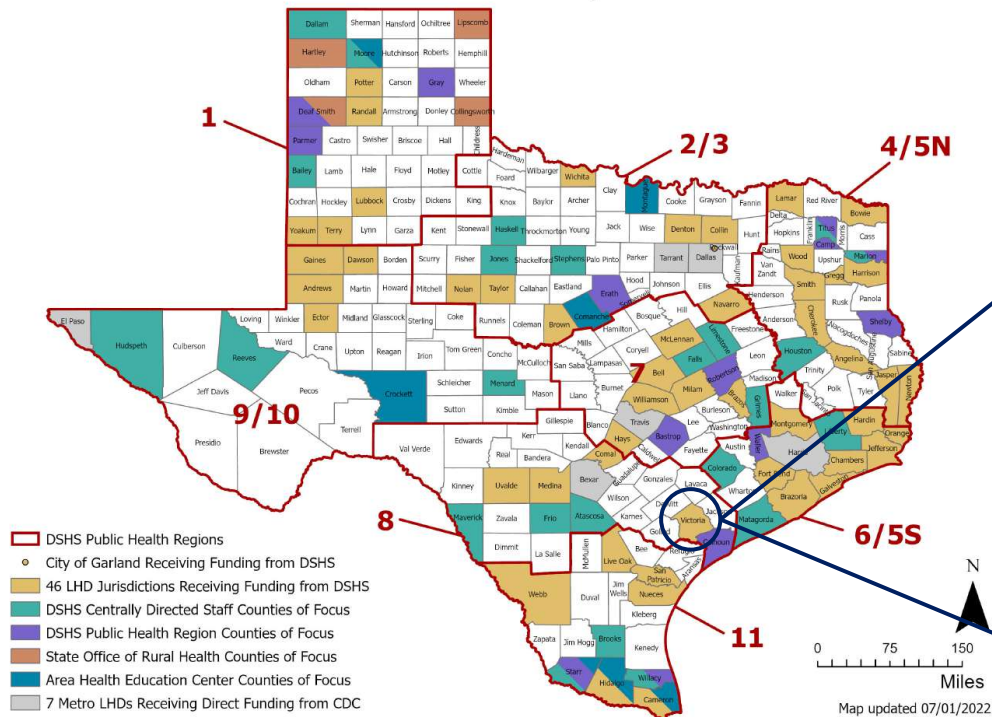


Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health Department:

- The grant has allowed the LHD to meaningfully engage the Hispanic and African American communities in the county.
- Launched the “Barber Talk” community outreach and education initiative to provide health education alongside barber services.
- The first event “Men’s Health-Mind, Body, Spirit” was held at the Wichita Barber Academy located in a Black neighborhood with high rates of chronic disease.

Addressing Community Needs

Community Conversations on Health DSHS COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

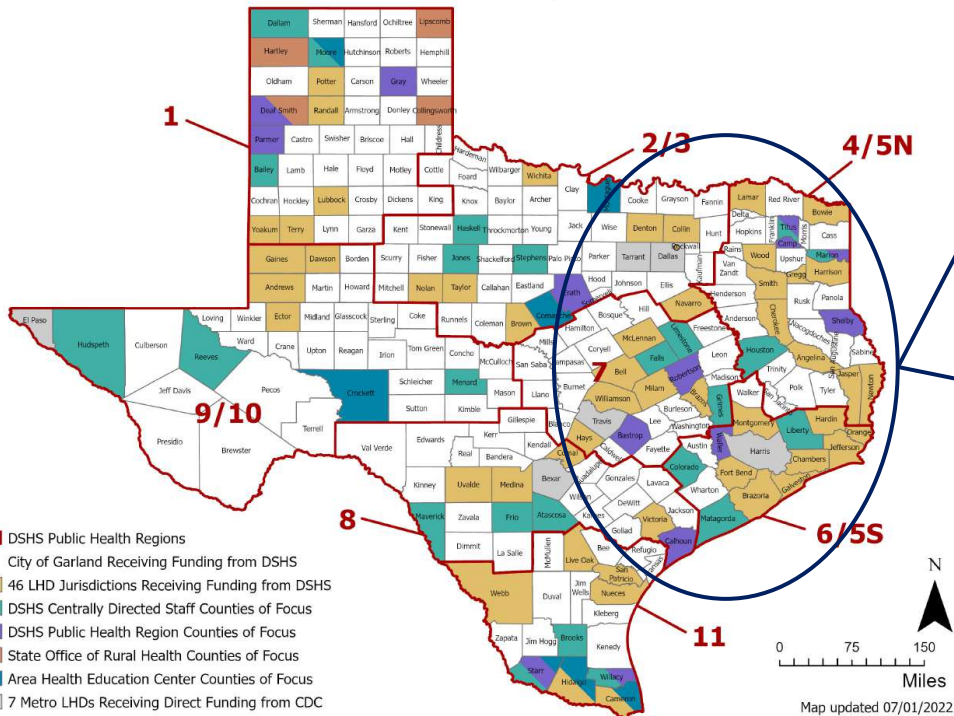


Victoria County Public Health Department:

- Financial literacy was identified as a need in the community.
- Partnered with a local federal credit union to host a “Personal Finance Workshop” for health department staff and residents.
- Topics included creating a budget, saving, and repairing credit history.
- The health department staff will share the information learned with residents.

Addressing Service Gaps

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 DSHS COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

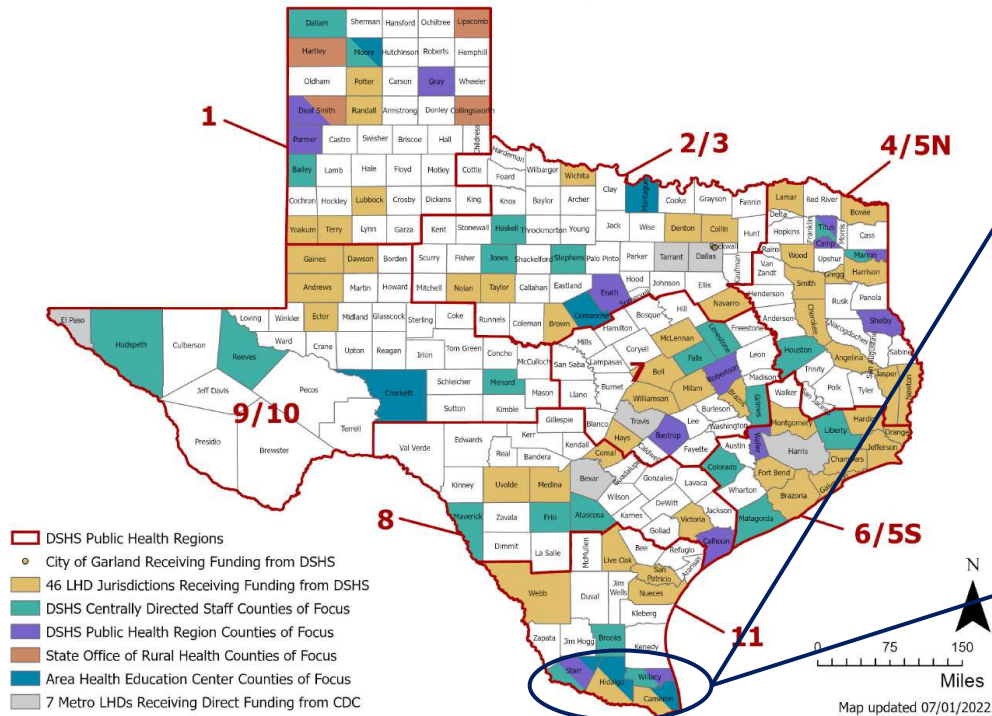


Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC) East:

- The AHEC serves 100 counties in East Texas.
- Developed the Community Health Integrated Response Portal (CHIRP) to help CHWs identify areas of high risk and low vaccination.
- Used to make data-informed decisions on resource allocation and targeted community outreach.
- Can be used to monitor effectiveness of outreach efforts in an integrated, seamless, and automated way.

Addressing Service Gaps

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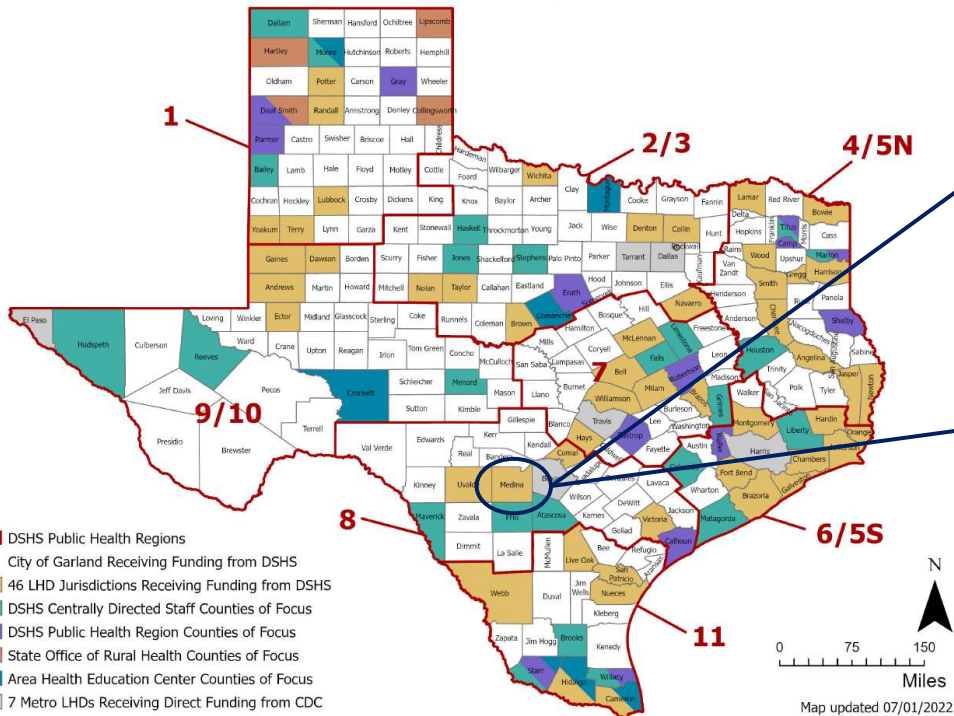


Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas Children in Nature Network:

- Hosted a workshop with regional grant partners and community organizations to discuss barriers and needs for increasing park utilization.
- Brainstorming pilot programs to expand access and utilization of parks and greenspaces.
- Ideas include an equipment library for residents to check out outdoor equipment, park pass “library cards” to provide sustained support for covering park fees, and park prescriptions.

Providing Health Education

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Medina County Health Unit:

- Partnering with public schools and summer programs to provide health education and training.
- Trainings include CPR classes and mental health first aid for school staff and community members.



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