

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SAN ANTONIO

A strategic collaboration between UT Health San Antonio and UTSA to establish research intensive, community-centric programming to improve health and reduce morbidity and mortality



FUNDING REQUEST | \$15,000,000 for the biennium

OVERVIEW

As our state and nation emerge from the pandemic, the need to fortify Texas's public health infrastructure has only become more critical. With their combined talent and research prowess, UTSA and UT Health San Antonio have created a powerful new school for the benefit of all Texans. Launched in 2022, the new school is located in an existing building on the campus of UT Health San Antonio and serves as one of three schools of public health in The University of Texas System.

THE CHALLENGE

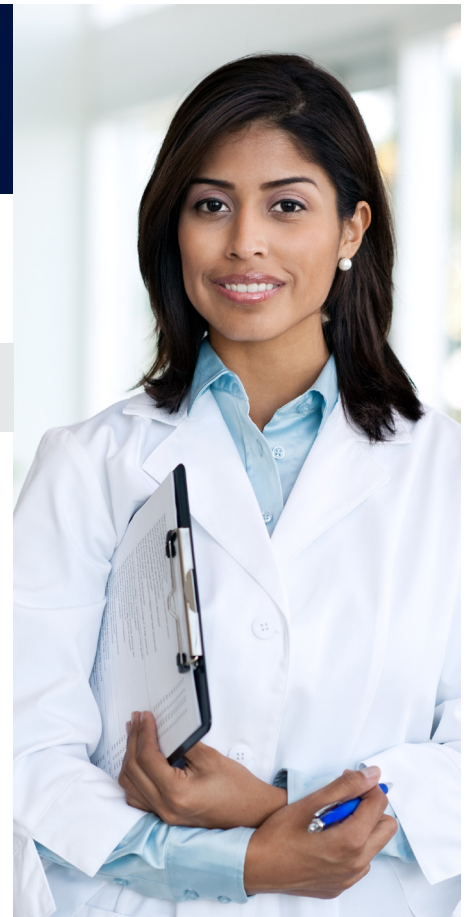
Public health is critical to quality of life, which is a major reason why the school is bolstered by a combined \$20 million investment from Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. This funding—combined with funds from additional sources—will be used to support programming areas such as: infectious disease; diseases of aging, cancer, access and stigma; rural health; COVID-19 and preparing for the next pandemic; Alzheimer's, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; survivorship; caregiver burden; mental health and substance use disorders; and access and quality for children and adults.

The Need

While San Antonio has a strong positive identity for public health leadership due to its pandemic response, South Texas has a disparate health landscape with growth opportunity. Unique health challenges include infectious diseases, diabetes, maternal and child health, mental health and substance use disorders, health care disparities, cancer and injury prevention. The new school's faculty will propose innovative public health solutions to these problems.

Why San Antonio

- 7th largest US city and largest without a school of public health
- Majority-minority city that reflects the country's demographic future
- Regional support: \$20M investment by San Antonio and Bexar County
- Home to two UT System institutions with shared missions and values
- Leading Texas area for job growth for public health professionals
- Health Professional Shortage Area with underserved rural & urban areas



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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LEGISLATIVE BRIEF



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THE IMPACT

This initiative will result in a cohesive public health strategy for San Antonio and South Texas that combines the strengths of two UT System universities into an innovative new school. Student enrollment is expected to reach 400 within the first five years, with a Master of Public Health degree offered beginning in 2024 and a Doctor of Public Health degree program to be developed. The School of Public Health will enable local residents to train for public health careers to meet ever-emerging health challenges. Careers in Public Health are likely to average 24% higher than the median family income for San Antonio (based on San Antonio’s median family income of \$53,482). The average salary for staff-level positions is estimated at \$66,301.

Combining Two UT System Institutions to Advance South Texas Health Care

- Leverages extensive public health expertise at UTSA and UT Health San Antonio
- Develops next generation of health professionals to serve critical needs across 38 counties
- Enables new research and program development in growth areas: evaluation, clinical informatics, and population health
- Positions UT System as the established public health leader/community partner in South Texas

INSTITUTION		
AREAS OF STRENGTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Community engagement» Clinical informatics and analytics» Social determinants of health» Health behavior» Epidemiology and biostatistics» Implementation science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Community engagement» Data science and cybersecurity» Social determinants of health» State demography» Behavioral science» Finance and business administration
INSTITUTES & CENTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Institute for the Integration of Medicine and Science» Institute for Health Promotion Research» Biggs Institute for Alzheimer’s & Neurological Diseases» Center for Research to Advance Community Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» AI Consortium for Human Well-Being» Brain Health Consortium» Institute for Health Disparities Research» Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research» Center for Community-Based and Applied Health Research



TAKEAWAY

Further support of The University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio is an investment in the future of the state’s public health infrastructure. The requested \$15 million will build on the existing successes of this collaborative institution and pave the way for a healthier South Texas.