

# HOSPITAL DISTRICTS



TSDC



- Hospital Districts are political subdivisions of the State of Texas, created to provide healthcare services, particularly to underserved or low-income populations.
- There are over 140 hospital districts in Texas.
- Have the authority to levy taxes, issue bonds, receive federal funds to finance their operations, and in some cases, impose sales taxes with voter approval.
- Each hospital district is administered by a board composed of five to seven members, appointed by the commissioner's court, and members typically serve a two-year term.
- The creation and operation of a hospital district are authorized by the Texas Constitution and require approval from the voters within the proposed district and are further defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapters 281-286.
- Hospital districts have had a significant positive impact on public health outcomes in Texas, especially in rural areas where healthcare access is limited. By providing essential medical services, these districts help reduce barriers to care, resulting in better health outcomes and an improved quality of life for residents. Furthermore, the establishment of hospital districts fosters community engagement and ensures that local voices are heard in shaping healthcare services, ultimately contributing to more effective public health initiatives.
- Associated Organization: Texas Organization for Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH).