

Application: 8559

Fort Bend County HHS

Started at: 12/12/2023 02:57 PM - Finalized at: 12/20/2023 03:34 PM

Page: Entry Information

NACCHO is proud to be a partner of [CDC's Project Firstline](#), a comprehensive infection control program designed to help prevent the spread of infectious disease in U.S. healthcare settings through promotion of infection prevention and control (IPC) practices. The focus of NACCHO's Project Firstline work is to build the capacity of LHDs to deliver training and education to healthcare facility partners in their community. To support LHDs in providing training healthcare facility staff, NACCHO is pleased to offer the *IPC Learning Collaborative* to provide technical assistance, mentorship, and funding for LHDs to learn IPC fundamentals and adult learning principles.

This project provides an opportunity for LHDs to build capacity to train clinical and non-clinical healthcare facility staff on IPC basics and best practices improve infection prevention and response efforts. LHDs will participate in a health department mentorship program, in-person meetings, and piloting of NACCHO-developed curriculum.

All necessary information regarding the project and application process may be found in this [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#). Any updates will be shared on the [RFA announcement page](#) on NACCHO's website. Applicants may ask questions at any point during the application process by e-mailing infectiousdiseases@naccho.org (CC knalley@naccho.org).

Application category

Mentee

What is the name of your organization?

Fort Bend County HHS

Primary address

4520 Reading Rd
Rosenberg Texas 77471 US

Note: If you need to edit the organization address or your name on this submission, this information is stored in our membership database. Please visit your [MyNACCHO profile](#) to make updates, then log out and back into the application website. You may need to start a new application for the address to populate correctly. Additionally, you can reach out to membership@naccho.org for more information.

State/Territory where your organization is located

Texas

Organization website/URL

<https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/health-and-human-services>

First name

Nicolette

Last name

Janoski

Email address

nicolette.janoski@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Phone #

(832)600-9785

Are you the primary contact?

Yes

Are you the secondary contact?

No

If no, who is the primary contact for this project?

Kaye Reynolds

Project contact email address

Kaye.Reynolds@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Project contact phone number

+1 832-520-8517

Are you the lead finance contact?

No

If no, who is the lead finance contact?

Fort Bend County Auditor's Office - Accounts Payable

Finance contact email

Amanda.Ford2@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Finance contact phone number

+1 281-341-3767

Contact list for core team

Nicolette Janoski Epidemiology Division Manager Nicolette.Janoski@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Debbie Figueroa Colon Epidemiologist Supervisor Debbie.Figueroa-Colon@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Uchechi Onwudebe, Epidemiologist Uchechi.Onwudebe@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Gabriela Sanchez, Epidemiologist Gabriela.Sanchez@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Anum Ali Infection Control Nurse Anum.Ali@fortbendcountytexas.gov

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Jurisdiction served

County

Size of Population

Large: 500,000 +

Geographic Region

West South Central

Degree of urbanization

Suburban and Rural

Type of LHD governance

Local (LHD is unit of local government)

Number of full-time staff employed within LHD

200+

County(ies)/Jurisdiction(s) Served

The jurisdiction is Fort Bend County, which includes the cities of Sugar Land, Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford, Fulshear, Meadows Place, Katy, Needville, Simonton, Thompsons, Fresno, Arcola, Beasley, Kendleton, Orchard, Pearland, Pleak, and Fairchilds.

Page: Project Narrative**Jurisdictional Need**

Over the past decade, Fort Bend County has grown by more than 41% (2010–2021). The county consists of a very diverse population, economic growth, and suburban communities. Demographically, FBC has seen significant population growth and is characterized by a mix of ethnic groups, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds. Fort Bend County HHS plays a significant role in coordinating and facilitating infection prevention and control strategies and interventions in facilities within Fort Bend County. Over the years, Fort Bend County has collaborated, conducted site visits, conducted prevalence studies, and provided guidance for healthcare facilities within the county. Guidance often identifies gaps in infection control practices within facilities. These gaps include inconsistent adherence to protocols, insufficient knowledge about emerging infectious diseases, changes in guidance and best practices, challenges in implementing best practices, a lack of communication between facilities, reaching and training staff, staff cohorting strategies, and inadequate resources. New emerging threats, such as *Candida auris*, have challenged health care facilities within Fort Bend County. Since 2018, Texas has gone from one case a year to 160 in 2022. Fort Bend has also seen an increase in cases over those years. With its physical location being next to Harris County and the City of Houston, there are a number of cases that are transferred from the larger hospitals within Houston and Harris County to long-term care facilities in Fort Bend County. Many times, these long-term care facilities do not have the staff who are knowledgeable about *C. auris* and are often not notified of the patients' conditions until they have already arrived at their facility. This leads to the potential for spread within the facility and a need for local public health involvement and guidance.

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Strategy and Approach

Fort Bend County Epidemiology will align with Project First-Line mechanisms to provide the following activities: Activities (January – April): Work with an assigned mentor to define training skills. Complete an initial assessment to identify workforce needs, participate in Monthly Project Check-ins, attend and participate in a mentor site visit, and support the development of a highlights report with mentor. Develop meeting schedule and goals with assigned mentor. Participate in activities to track and measure progress. Designate staff to complete the NACCHO-developed curriculum. Complete an assessment regarding the curriculum. Analyze current capability for data collection, analysis, and visualization. Provide ongoing support throughout the mentoring period. Develop data collection and forecasting models for disease outbreaks. Identify team members and provide training plan for team. Provide Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR). Conduct pre-post knowledge tests and evaluations. Collaborate with LTC facilities and local health officials. Prepare healthcare workers with tools to prevent infectious diseases. Collaborate with healthcare workers for project engagement. Activities (May – June): Attend Prevention and Control educational opportunities training. Provide updates on new plans and standard operating procedures. Develop a communications plan, including audience identification and message crafting. Select different communication channels and draft tailored messages. Complete final participation in evaluation-related activities. Provide guidance, support, and advice based on project experience. Complete a final report detailing successes, challenges, and lessons learned. FBC will integrate mentorship by identifying target audiences, key messages, documenting lessons, and updates from all activities. This includes observations, assessments, and recommendations towards achieving the intended outcome. FBC will provide peer mentee relationships by providing Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) training, pre-post knowledge tests, practice exercises, and pre-post evaluation from the CIC Exam administered to all the participants for the Infection Control Program Workshop. FBC Epidemiology Division has an established Facilities Team including responsible county employees who will be part of the dedicated project team. The facility team consists of a nurse, epidemiologist, health equity, and communications staff.

Implementation Capacity

The established Facilities Team will implement and execute all the strategies/activities. The staffing management plan will support the project implementation. NACCHO module and assigned mentor will be some of the resources to define/identify training skills and complete the initial assessment. FBC supporting staff will include epidemiologists, an infection control prevention nurse, support staff. The staff will be conducting the following activities: FBC will conduct a needs assessment with ICP best practices in place and a survey that will be sent to all facilities to set training and capacity-related goals. Developing modules, educational curriculum, situational training, and educational material for dissemination and/or implementation. Drafting and providing an internal implementation report including monthly check-in calls to review progress, share lessons learned, practices, and mentoring site visits. Will attend in-person meetings, support the development of a highlights report, and develop a meeting schedule with the mentor; designated staff will complete a curriculum assessment. CIC-Workshop will include guidance/support from a CIC certified instructor and access to the APIC Learning System for CIC. Proposed evaluation-related activities will track and measure progress towards outcomes and will include pre-post knowledge tests, practice exercises, including the CIC Exam results from the participants. FBC partnerships with providers and facilities are essential for effective training programs; implementing new projects and in the decision-making processes integration. FBC collaborates with many community partners, including the healthcare sector, school districts, non-profits, academia, and other organizations and encourages cross-collaboration within the Health Department divisions, to improve their capacity and the community wellness. FBC has been offering ICP trainings, proactive checkups, and providing guidance to facilities. Existing and new partnerships must be fostered to improve current ICP practices. However, some facilities have been identified as having IPC training/knowledge gaps in their IP strategies and implementation barriers to IP measures. This project will seek for opportunities to building effective partnerships, and provide recommendations to promote equitable long-term partnerships with facilities and monitor key measures for success of project implementation and sustainability to complement their structures.

Health Equity

Fort Bend County is the 10th most populous county in Texas. From 2010 to 2020, Fort Bend County grew by 237,404 residents, or 41% over the decade. Around 72.2% of the non-U.S.-born residents arrived in the United States before 2010. The majority of Fort Bend County's non-U.S.-born residents are from Asia, followed by Latin America. Besides English, the prevalent languages spoken in Fort Bend County include Spanish, other Indo-European languages, and Chinese.

Given the diverse nature of Fort Bend County, it is evident that most residents will encounter a long-term care provider at some point in their lives. This is why it is crucial that all long-term care providers be well equipped with the knowledge and tools for current infection prevention practices, which ultimately benefit the entire FBC community.

The Fort Bend County LHD aims to deliver comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and culturally competent health education regarding infection prevention practices to our local long-term care providers. This will involve training modules and materials in languages other than English, both in print and online formats, ensuring all care providers, no matter their background, have access to infection control practices that are crucial to their intuitions. To cater to the unique needs and vulnerabilities of the population under the care of these long-term care providers, tailored prevention strategies will be developed. Implementing a "Train the Trainer" module ensures that despite the turnovers in staff that many of these facilities encounter, there will be an individual trained and knowledgeable of infection prevention methods directly from the module created to ensure a continued cycle of education and practice. The Fort Bend County LHD will allocate resources to long-term care providers in underserved communities, which will promote various infection control measures. This includes signage, Glo Germ kits to assess terminal cleaning effectiveness, as well as medical supplies for specimen collection of various hospital-acquired infections that are prominent in the community. Healthcare providers in these facilities would engage with one another by partaking in opportunities to demonstrate various infection prevention methods and best practices to foster an environment of learning and unity among the various long-term care providers present in the FBC community.

Page: Budget

Please attach your budget using the template provided.

[Download File](#)

Please attach a budget narrative (one page or less) to explain each line-item and how the amounts were derived.

[Download File](#)

Respond to the following three questions at the end of the budget narrative.

When researching contractors or vendors, was a reasonable inquiry used to ensure that contractors or vendors are compliant with Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act?

Yes

Do you have prior experience in federal contracting?

Yes

Have you completed a single audit?

Yes

Page: Upload

Please upload the required attachments below. Max file upload size for each attachment is 5 MB.

Vendor information form

[Download File](#)

Certification of non-debarment

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W-9

[Download File](#)

Certification regarding lobbying with federally appropriated funds

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Certification regarding non-applicability of audit requirement

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Fringe and Indirect Rates

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FFATA Data Collection Form

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Sam.gov number

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[Optional] Letters of Support

No File Uploaded

[Optional] Partnership Agreements

No File Uploaded

[Optional] Additional Documents

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[Optional] Additional Documents

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**Fort Bend County
Infectious Prevention & Control Learning Collaborative
Budget Justification**

Personnel

All the following staff time will be covered by other funding sources.

- Nichole Brathwaite-Dingle Deputy Medical Director
- Nicolette Janoski- Epidemiology Division Manager/ Chief Epidemiologist
- Debbie Figueroa-Colon- Epidemiology Supervisor
- Uchechi Onwudebe – Facilities Epidemiologist
- Gabriela Sanchez - Facilities Epidemiologist
- Kaila Williams- Health Communication, Engagement & Equity Director

Staff time covered by the grant

- Anum Ali- Infection Prevention Nurse
 - The Infection Prevention Nurse will be the team lead for this project. They will ensure the project meets the project deadlines and creates partnerships with facilities throughout Fort Bend County.

Salary **\$8,320**

Travel **\$9,176**

APIC Annual Conference – San Antonio, TX – June 3-5, 2024 \$7,876.00
4 employees (Anum Ali, Uchechi Onwudebe, Gabriela Sanchez, Debbie Figueroa-Colon)

APIC Annual Conference & Expo, June 3-5, 2024, in San Antonio. This conference features general sessions, pre-conference workshops, concurrent sessions, a poster hall, hundreds of exhibitors, and numerous opportunities to obtain up to 80 CNEs and 10 IPU. These opportunities directly contribute to my growth as an infection preventionist and support my desires of remaining educated and up to date on IPC research and developments.

Subjects to be featured:

Antimicrobial and diagnostic stewardship
Disinfection and Sterilization
Education, Training and Competencies
Environment of care
Implementation science and research
Information Technology and Surveillance
Leadership Development and Program Management
Occupation Health and Wellness
Public Health and Health Policy

Mileage between facilities during site visits, trainings and in person meetings \$1,300

Equipment

\$0.00

Supplies

\$19,984

- Atlas Stylus Metal Pen with Laser Pointer (Qty 100 @ \$4.12 each)
 - Will be used for items that promote infectious disease reporting and compliance with disease reporting laws with our facilities within Fort Bend County that are legally required to report. Promoting providers, laboratories, and schools to report notifiable conditions will provide valuable data for the landscape analysis, helping identify the current state of disease reporting and surveillance in Fort Bend County. The data collected from providers and schools will help identify the need for staffing. Reporting facilities play a vital role in disease reporting. This is essential for completing the relevant coursework and developing the skills needed for data collection, analysis, and communication with decision-makers. The data collected through reporting mechanisms will establish a framework for monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance. This is crucial for assessing the ongoing effectiveness and impact of enhanced disease forecasting and analytic capabilities.
- Texas Notifiable Condition Managements (QTY 100 @ \$1.69 each)
 - Will be used for items that promote infectious disease reporting and compliance with disease reporting laws with our facilities within Fort Bend County that are legally required to report. Promoting providers, laboratories, and schools to report notifiable conditions will provide valuable data for the landscape analysis, helping identify the current state of disease reporting and surveillance in Fort Bend County. The data collected from providers and schools will help identify the need for staffing. Reporting facilities play a vital role in disease reporting. This is essential for completing the relevant coursework and developing the skills needed for data collection, analysis, and communication with decision-makers. The data collected through reporting mechanisms will establish a framework for monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance. This is crucial for assessing the ongoing effectiveness and impact of enhanced disease forecasting and analytic S
- Softshell Jacket (Qty 20 @ 75.95)
 - Branding and visibility in the community while conducting site visits, field investigations and surveys. This creates security and trust among our citizens being interviewed.
- Zippered Portfolio
 - Will be used for items that promote infectious disease reporting and compliance with disease reporting laws with our facilities within Fort Bend County that are legally required to report. Promoting providers, laboratories, and schools to report notifiable conditions will provide valuable data for the landscape analysis, helping identify the current state of disease reporting and surveillance in Fort Bend County. The data collected from providers and schools will help identify the need for staffing. Reporting facilities play a vital role in disease reporting. This is

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- Glo Germ Deluxe Simulation Germ Kit
 - Glo Germ is a effective way to demonstrate handwashing, surface cleaning and hygiene, and containment. This will be used on site visits and to demonstrate the effectiveness of terminal cleaning.
- Medical Supplies
 - Prevalence studies are often required to identify potential spread of hospital acquired infections within a healthcare facility. Medical supplies such as swabs, gloves, gowns and other personal protection equipment are often need to conduct those studies.
- Laptop- Dell XPS 13
 - The Fort Bend Facilities often goes to site visits within Fort Bend County this laptop will be used for training and site visits in the field.
- HS Smart Wireless Printer
 - Mobile printers will be used to print off infection prevention signs and recommendations in the field.
- Projector Screen
 - Will be used for infection prevention training at health care facilities in Fort Bend County.
- Training Room Screen
 - Is needed to conduct in person training in the Epidemiology Office. Infection Prevention training will be offered to health and human services staff and infection preventionist within Fort Bend County.
- Bacteriology culture collection and transport system
- DOT shipping Labels (Biohazard, Right to know, Hazardous Waste, HMIL, Biological Substance, UN 3373)
- Biohazard trash liner
- Insulated shipping kits and biological substance shippers
- Printing cost for business cards, infection control guidance and information flyers
- Office Supplies

Contractual

\$32,500

In person Certification in Infection Control Review Course for 20 people @ 1625 each student with printed book included. The class will be open to all infection prevention staff in Fort Bend County HHS, surrounding local health departments and healthcare facilities.

In person Packing and Shipping Infectious Substance Training for up to 30 people. Personnel who handle, pack or ship hazardous materials (e.g., infectious substances) in commerce are considered hazardous material (hazmat) employees. All hazmat employees must be trained in their role, and most must be certified. This training will meet 49 CFR § 100-185 is the US

Department of Transportation's (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) which regulate the transport of hazardous materials. The training will be open to local health department staff.

Other

\$10,020.00

APIC CIC Exam fee qty 20

\$8,200

- Certification in Infection Prevention examination fee for 20 participants who attend the in person training. This certification shows the difference between novice and a professional in infection control.

Shipping for prevalence studies specimens, and education material \$1,000

- Shipping for lab testing, prevalence studies and educational material

APIC Membership fee 4 FTE @ \$205 each

\$820.00

APIC membership connects you with the largest network of infection preventionists and education to help you create and manage effective infection prevention programs.

Indirect Costs

\$0

Total Budget Request

\$80,000