

## Jonny F. Hipp (NCHD)

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**From:** Flores, Belinda <FloresB3@uthscsa.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:04 AM  
**To:** Jonny F. Hipp (NCHD)  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent Request for Support: HIV Prevention Program in Crisis Due to State & Federal Funding Pause

Good morning,

I received this from Bill with CBWF. What do you think? Perhaps we can help with a some funding.

Call me if you would like to discuss.

Bel

***Ask me about our SCHOLARS Program!***

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**From:** Bill Hoelscher  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2025 10:50 AM  
**To:** Flores, Belinda <floresb3@uthscsa.edu>  
**Subject:** Urgent Request for Support: HIV Prevention Program in Crisis Due to State & Federal Funding Pause

For over 30 years, Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation (CBWF) has been a cornerstone of public health in our region, offering no-cost HIV screenings, testing, and linkage to care. This program has maintained nearly 100% linkage to care for those newly diagnosed with HIV—an outcome critical to both individual health and broader community prevention efforts. This work is a critical part of our region's public health safety net.

However, this vital service is now at risk.

On May 30, 2025, we received formal notice from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that all HIV Prevention contracts are paused until further notice. This pause is the result of the state not receiving its Notice of Award from the CDC, which funds our HIV prevention services. On a follow-up call with DSHS on June 10, we learned there is no timeline—or even assurance—of when, or if, these funds will be reinstated.

This sudden and indefinite pause in funding jeopardizes a program that costs \$237,075 annually. With six months remaining in our current programmatic year, this leaves us with an immediate shortfall of \$118,537.50.

In the meantime, we are scrambling to piece together funding from multiple sources—including unrestricted funds—to maintain even a reduced level of service. This is not sustainable. Without urgent support, we may be forced to pause or permanently end our HIV testing and linkage services, leaving a significant gap in care for our community at a time when access and early detection are more crucial than ever.

We are respectfully requesting emergency funding to help cover this gap—specifically \$118,537.50—to allow us to continue operations through the end of the calendar year while we await federal and state decisions. Even partial funding would allow us to maintain core staff and services. If a six-month investment is not feasible, we would gratefully accept any amount of support that would allow us to keep the program operating even for a few additional months.

CBWF's HIV prevention work has long served as a frontline defense in public health. Pausing or ending it now, particularly with no clear federal support on the horizon, risks not only the health of individuals, but also undermines decades of progress in the fight against HIV.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further, and provide any documentation, data, or reporting needed to support our case.

Thank you,  
Bill



**Bill Hoelscher** He/Him  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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