

# 2025 PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## **Ensure Funding for HIV/STI Treatment and Prevention Services**

- Fully fund the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) for FY 2025-27
- Fully fund HIV state prevention services for FY 2026-27
- Fully fund the Exceptional Item to address the statewide congenital syphilis epidemic

## **Include an HIV Test in Routine STI Testing**

- Include an HIV test as part of a routine medical screening, unless the patient chooses to opt out verbally or in written form

## **Create a Syringe Exchange Pilot Program**

- Establish infectious disease control syringe exchange pilot programs in Bexar, Harris, Travis, Dallas, Webb, El Paso, and Nueces counties

## **Remove HIV as a Deadly Weapon from the Penal Code**

- Amend Sections 22.02 and 22.021 of the Penal Code by stating “The use of a deadly weapon does not include the transmission of bodily fluid by an individual infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).”

*In conjunction with the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC)*

## **Invest in Primary Care and Coverage**

- Fund the FQHC Incubator Program

## **Strengthen the Behavioral Health Workforce**

- Allow behavioral health associates (LMFT-A, LPC-A, and LMSW) to be reimbursed for Medicaid services while completing their supervised clinical hours
- Invest in training and education pipelines to increase behavioral health professionals ready to work in FQHCs

## **Improve Efficiencies in Medicaid**

- Add FQHCs as providers eligible for expedited credentialing from Medicaid MCOs and private payers
- Remove the FQHC three-visit limit in the Healthy Texas Women program

## **Protect 340B for Health Center Patients**

- Require drug manufacturers to allow the use of contract pharmacies in the 340B program
- Protect FQHCs from discriminatory contracting and other efforts by PBMs to take 340B savings from health centers