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Texas Essential
Healthcare Partnerships

Texas Indigent Healthcare Association Joins TEHP Efforts to Unfreeze Federal Funding for Texas' Hospital Safety Net

AUSTIN – The Texas Indigent Healthcare Association (TIHCA) today joined the Texas Essential Healthcare Partnerships (TEHP) efforts to unfreeze federal funding for Texas' hospital safety net by sending a letter to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. These funds have been frozen due to ongoing negotiations over Texas Medicaid 1115 waiver, jeopardizing over \$10 billion in annual Medicaid funds for the Lone Star State. This funding, supplied through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Texas' Directed Payment Programs (DPPs), which support basic healthcare functions for low-income patients in Texas, has been shut off since September 1.

In TIHCA's letter to CMS, program director, Windy Johnson, points out that Texas' "indigent care programs rely on the viability of our local safety net hospitals. Right now, our communities are feeling pressure from the decision not to approve three Medicaid managed care directed payment programs, and we are hopeful that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will approve them before the end of the year."

"Countless Texans are currently at risk of losing vital healthcare services due to the stalemate over the 1115 waiver," said TEHP President, Don Lee. "As TIHCA's letter makes clear, timely relief is critical to shoring up our hospital safety net. Those who are uninsured and underinsured cannot afford to be without these essential healthcare programs and TEHP is grateful to have allies in its effort to restore this funding immediately."

To read TIHCA's full letter, click [here](#).