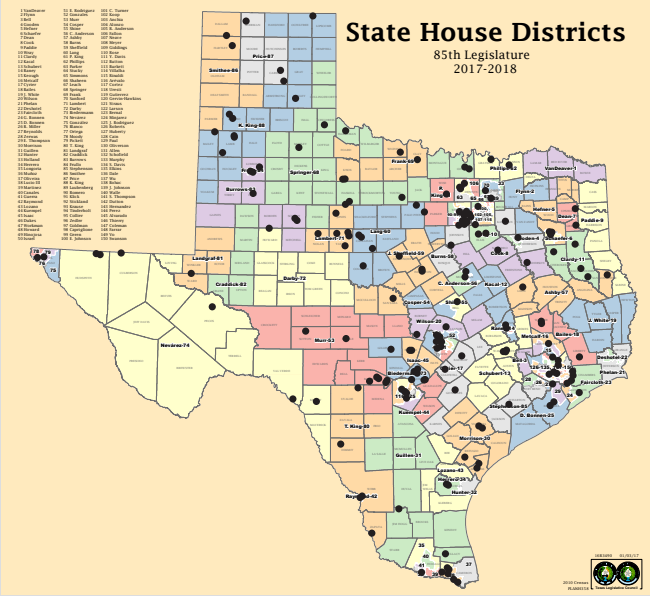
ENSURING ACCESS TO OUTSTANDING EMERGENCY CARE FOR TEXANS:

LOCAL PROJECT GRANTS

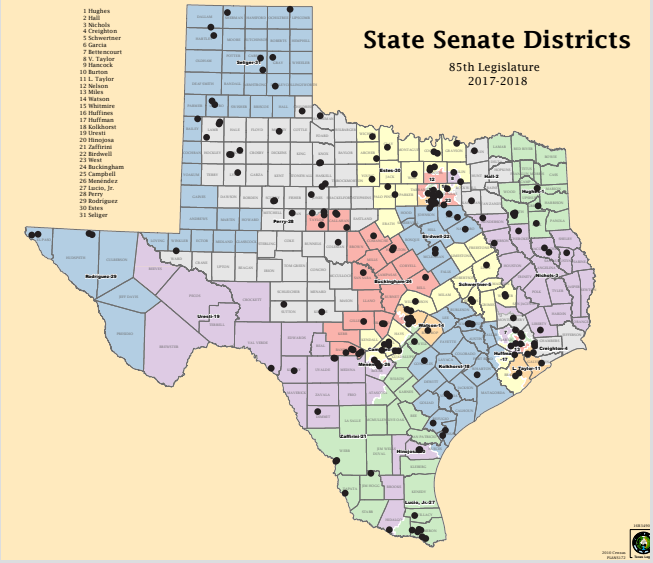
WHAT ARE LOCAL PROJECT GRANTS?

Both urban and rural Texas EMS agencies relied on the state's Local Project Grants (LPGs) to acquire equipment, fund training for EMS professions, and create injury prevention projects. Unfortunately, the "spend down" of the state's tobacco settlement fund resulted in the elimination of LPGs.

HB 1407 from the 2017 Texas Legislature created the framework to restore LPGs. TEMSA encourages the 2019 Legislature to restore funding for LPGs to help Texas EMS agencies deliver outstanding emergency care to Texas communities.



LPGs awarded to Texas House and Senate districts in 2013 and 2014.



EMS IN WEST TEXAS

From 2009 to 2014, Scurry County EMS relied on LPGs to help create their STEMI (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction) program through education for EMS professionals and the purchase of capital equipment and other supplies associated with cardiac care, stroke care programs, and critical care transport.

Possum Kingdom Westlake Volunteer EMS in Graham used a $30,000 LPG to acquire an ambulance remount. This allowed the agency to make use of an existing ambulance and to avoid a $200,000-plus purchase of a new ambulance by placing a new chassis under the ambulance's "box."

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) D, which represents the Big Country region, has coordinated over $107,000 in LPGs for 27 EMS agencies within the region. The LPGs have resulted in pulse oximeters, intubation kits, oxygen cylinders, stethoscopes, regulators, and many other reusable EMS supplies and equipment since the inception of LPGs.

BOOKER EMS & THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

Without LPGs, Booker EMS may not have been able to have acquire the following items that have greatly improved the community's 9-1-1 service over the past six years: a 2012 ambulance, three cardiac monitors, four IV pumps, two autopulse external cardiac assist device (CPR replacement device), and an iViz ultrasound device.

Without the LPG funding, the agency likely would have only been able to purchase the ambulance and cardiac monitors through local tax dollars.

With the closest trauma or stroke facility over 100 miles away, Booker EMS's equipment plays a vital role in patient survival.

CARROLLTON FIRE RESCUE & URBAN COMMUNITIES

The Carrollton Fire Department utilized LPGs that were passed through its RAC to acquire a 2012 grant so that ambulances can carry life-saving medications and fluids that must be refrigerated to be effective.

In addition, the Carrollton Fire Department used a 2013 LPG to purchase laryngoscopes to enhance their ability to protect a patient's airway in the field.

THE COASTAL BEND RAC

The Coastal Bend RAC, which represents EMS agencies in the Corpus Christi region, utilized LPGs in the FY 2015 period to purchase Stout-C collars for bariatric patients to be placed in every ambulance and every hospital emergency department in the RAC. In addition to acquiring important capital equipment, the Coastal Bend RAC utilized LPGs to train 120 EMS professionals through a cadaver course that focused on airway management, which is one of the most important pre-hospital skills.