



December 10, 2014

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Denton County

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El Paso County

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McLennan ~ Midland
Nueces ~ Potter
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Tarrant ~ Travis
Webb ~ Williamson
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To: Honorable Ramon Garcia; Hidalgo County Judge
Honorable A.C. Cuellar; Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable Hector Palacios; Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 2
Honorable Joe Flores; Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Joseph Palacios; Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 4

From: Donald Lee, Executive Director

Re: **Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account Administration
Advisory Committee**

Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, is invited to nominate a candidate for appointment to the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account Administration Advisory Committee. The pending appointment is to fill an unexpired term on the committee where the current holder has resigned. This term will expire August 31, 2017.

Eligible to nominate candidates to the advisory committee are the 10 entities that received the 3rd through 12th greatest distribution amounts from the Tobacco Settlement Trust in 2014. Hidalgo County is one of these entities.

This is an important committee. The committee provides oversight and adopts rules regarding the allocation of the annual distributions of the earnings from the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account.

The 76th Texas Legislature created the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account as a cooperative project between the Texas Department of Health (now DSHS) and the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in order to provide local health departments and hospital districts a portion of the payments from the state's tobacco settlement.

Payments from the permanent fund are based on the amount of unreimbursed health care expenditures the local health agency reports to DSHS. It is the responsibility of DSHS and the Administration Advisory Committee to certify to the State Comptroller's office the percentage of the annual distribution to be paid to each qualified recipient.

Currently the three Texas Conference of Urban Counties appointed positions on the Tobacco Settlement Trust Account Administration Advisory Committee are held by;

- Mr. Jonny F. Hipp, CEO of Nueces County Hospital District;
- Ms. Carolyn Konecyn, CFO of Travis County Healthcare District; and
- Mr. Michael Nunez, CFO of El Paso County Hospital District.

While all ten nominating entities are eligible to nominate candidates for the open position, our preference will be to broaden representation on the committee.

There are two criteria of paramount importance when reviewing nominees for these appointments:

1. An absolute commitment to attend all committee meetings (one or two a year);
and
2. Experience with the operations and finances of public hospitals, hospital districts and counties in regards to health care expenditures.

Please have nominations to us by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2015. Appointments will be made prior to February 13, 2015.

Please forward a copy of your nominating resolution along with a resume and contact information prior to **Monday, January 5, 2015**, via mail to our office, or email to Windy Johnson, windy@cuc.org.

Thank you for your assistance and participation in this process. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional assistance on this or any matter. I can be reached at 512.476.6174, or donlee@cuc.org.