

**Texas Department of State Health Services
Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)
Project Proposal
FY 2027 (September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027)**

REQUESTING AGENCY/PROGRAM

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services
Hidalgo County-Reynosa Binational Health Council (COBINAS)

KEY PERSONNEL that must be invited:

- HIDAREY Hidalgo County-Reynosa Binational Health Council Members
- Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department – will provide representatives, participants, and staff.
- Secretariat of Health of Tamaulipas (entity)(Secretaría de Salud de Tamaulipas), Central Office (Cd. Victoria), and Health Jurisdiction No. IV - will provide participants and presenters.
- Department of State Health Services-Region 11 - Office of Border Public Health and other programs as needed.
- Other Health/Community stakeholders and organizations are optional and welcomed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

Binational Health Councils (known commonly as the COBINAS) Binational Health Councils for U.S. - México border sister-cities were established during the XXI U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association meeting in Nogales, Arizona in 1963. The initial purpose of the councils was to provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities. As the councils have matured, their purpose has evolved to include examining health needs, problems, and available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit for the population of both sides of the border.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal

To provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, **share epidemiological data**, assess current and emerging public health concerns, and share available programs with particular attention and concern to the council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border.

Objectives

- Continue with the Border Epidemiological Surveillance Team (BEST Team) and share epidemiological data on both sides of the border
- Strengthen communication and binational border collaboration between the HIDAREY Binational Health Council members.
- Provide updated information to the COBINAS members about current and emerging diseases, vector surveillance, and emergency.

Border Epidemiological Surveillance Team (BEST) Project Overview

The purpose of the BEST workgroup is to develop a joint effort to strengthen the Epi/Surveillance capacity by identifying issues, interests, and challenges on the sister cities on both sides of the border. Activities that may be included in this project will be writing or aiding in disaster plans for regional responses for multiple communicable diseases. This project would review disease conditions, transmission and the potential for outbreaks and determine trigger points for response activity along the border and with sister cities. There is an immense need to integrate a binational component. This program can help to review binational outbreak guidelines and create reference guides for distribution to local stakeholders, regional local health departments, and local healthcare providers.

Mission

The mission of the BEST is to utilize a multi-agency partnership to assess, analyze and facilitate public health surveillance activities and interventions in a binational setting for the purpose of improving the health status of border communities through identification, communication, and response to issues of public health significance.

Goals of BEST

- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- To decrease fragmentation of existing surveillance systems and increase knowledge of present surveillance systems to maximize limited resources.
- To provide an opportunity for bilateral exchange and interaction in public health and science.
- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- Increase border surveillance along public health region 11
- Acquire accurate infectious disease incidence rates
- Create a strong network of reporting sites

Potential projects:

- Current and emerging diseases
- Covid-19
- Chikungunya / Dengue / West Nile / Zika Surveillance
- Vector surveillance
- ILI
- Share epidemiological data and case numbers of current and emerging diseases.

Proposed Work Plan

- Host four Hidalgo-Reynosa (HIDAREY) COBINAS official meetings during Fiscal Year 2027
- Host one binational health event during Fiscal Year 2027.
- Other events or meetings cannot substitute for official COBINAS meetings.

Meeting Criteria Requirements for reimbursement:

A meeting must meet the following criteria to be considered for reimbursement as one of the four COBINAS meetings:

- Must be in-person (preferred) or on a virtual face-to-face platform such as, but not limited to, Zoom, MS Teams, Skype, etc.
 - Conference calls are permitted if all entities mentioned below are invited, exceptions for reimbursement include:
 - One-on-one conference calls will not count as COBINAS meetings for reimbursement.
 - One-on-one calls between health entities will not count for reimbursement.
 - Key Personnel listed above **must** be invited to each meeting to meet minimum requirements for reimbursement.
 - Must provide a sign-in sheet and/or list of participants. Screenshots of the participant list on virtual platforms are valid and welcomed.
 - Must provide a copy of epidemiological updates from both sides of the border presented at each meeting.
 - Share epidemiological data and case numbers of current and emerging diseases.
 - Must provide meeting minutes or transcripts and/or share a link to the meeting recording on a virtual platform.
- * **Other events or meetings that are related but don't meet meeting criteria established above will not count as a COBINAS meetings and therefore will not be reimbursed.**

HIDAREY Binational Health Council provides a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, sharing epidemiological data, assess current and emerging public health concerns, and share available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border. During the meetings, members present updates on current and emerging issues and provide presentations from subject matter experts on public health topics affecting the population of both sides of the border.

Binational Health Event

The binational health event is a community engagement event to educate the public about any current and/or emerging diseases (e.g. Covid-19 virus, Zika virus, West Nile virus, influenza) The intention of the event can inform and educate the binational community about disease prevention behaviors, current and emerging diseases, provide trustworthy and accurate information about and offer the necessary tools and resources for taking action to prevent emerging diseases of the moment.

Binational Health Event Criteria and Benefits

- Promote joint actions to address the health needs of the population on both sides of the border.

- Increased knowledge and awareness on current and emerging border public health issues.
- Strengthen collaboration and networking among public health agencies and community partners from both sides of the border.

Anticipated Outcomes of COBINAS Meetings and Binational Health Events

- Increase knowledge –Persons attending the binational health event will receive information about public health issues that affect the border.
- Increase knowledge on current and emerging border public health issues – All binational health council members will be better informed about public health issues that affect the border.
- All binational health council members will promote joint actions to address public health needs of the population on both sides of the border.
- All binational health council members will work on solutions to address public health issues that might arise.
- Strengthen the collaboration and coordination between HIDAREY Binational Health Council and the OBPH Office through COBINAS meetings to monitor, assess, and evaluate binational health council needs.
- Increased knowledge and awareness about the border and global vector control virus situation.
- Get the most recent updates from vector control experts.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal, and international agencies involved in the efforts against ongoing transmission of diseases.

Expected Deliverables:

The HIDAREY Binational Health Council will:

- Meet all “Meeting Criteria Requirements” as listed in this project proposal.
- Submit a sign-in sheets, agendas, and minutes of all meetings, as well as pictures and flyers of the binational health event.
- An event or other non-COBINAS meeting cannot substitute an official COBINAS meeting for reimbursement.

FUNDING REQUEST

FY27 (September 1, 2026-August 31, 2027)	
Meetings – Agenda, Sign-In Sheets, and Minutes \$800.00 x 4	\$3,200.00
<i>Binational health event criteria mentioned above.</i>	\$6,000.00
Supplies, Copies, Printing, Incentives, Educational Material, & Media	
Office & Technical Supplies	\$300.00
Total for FY27	\$9,500.00

Vendor: TX ID# 74-6000717

Contact Information:

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