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To: Potential Members

Enclosed you will find:

- (1) some background information about the Texas Indigent Health Care Association,
- (2) a membership application, and
- (3) a copy of a proposed minute order resolution.

Membership in Texas Indigent Health Care Association, or TIHCA, is open to all entities that have responsibilities under Chapter 61 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. To join this innovative new association, a political subdivision must adopt a minute order that states the following things:

1. Approving the Charter of the Texas Indigent Health Care Association;
2. Designating an official representative to Texas Indigent Health Care Association to serve as the primary point of contact.
(The representative will be invited to participate on conference calls where decisions that impact members are discussed. Information on decisions before they are made will be provided to the representative, and in situations where approval is needed – the representative will be consulted.)

Please send the completed membership application and the minute order resolution to Windy at the address listed below. Upon receipt, you will receive an invoice for payment. The cost of TIHCA charter membership is \$500 and general membership is \$200 (your entity designates which type of membership you will join in the resolution).

Checks should be made out to: Texas Conference of Urban Counties.

If additional information is needed, contact:

Windy Johnson
Texas Conference of Urban Counties
500 W. 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701
Phone - 512.476.6174
Fax - 512.476.5122
windy@cuc.org
www.tihca.org

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The Value of Working Together to Manage our IHC Programs

There are over 254 Chapter 61 entities (counties, hospital districts and public hospitals) in the State of Texas. Each is required to provide indigent health care (IHC) within their service area. This unfunded mandate from the state government can create political, financial and operational issues at the local and regional level.

Recently, the state has reduced administrative and financial support for IHC programs leaving each of them to – in effect – fend for themselves. The Texas Indigent Health Care Association has been formed to help Chapter 61 entities effectively address many of the issues surrounding IHC administration. TIHCA's intent is to meet and exceed the level of service formerly provided by the state.

What is TIHCA?

TIHCA is a program of the Texas Conference of Urban Counties working in concert with the Texas Association of Counties. Membership in TIHCA is open to all Chapter 61 entities in the State of Texas and is aimed at IHC program administrators.

What is TIHCA's purpose?

Basically, TIHCA is intended to foster better working relationships among IHC programs and to move toward developing a set of Best Practices for their administration. TIHCA's ultimate objective is to develop workable solutions to operational and budgetary issues.

How can TIHCA help?

TIHCA can assist member Chapter 61 entities in a number of ways, including:

- Keeping programs up to date with the latest news and information,
- Strengthening inter-program dialogue and networking among programs,
- Providing educational opportunities to programs,
- Providing programs with technical support and peer review, and
- Developing pooled-purchasing opportunities so that programs can use the power of group negotiating and purchasing to gain price reductions on things like pharmacology, durable medical equipment and laboratory services.

Individually each of the above would be better than what exists today, however, when taken together they represent an opportunity for IHC programs from around the state to work together to identify and effectively address IHC issues.

What is the benefit of being a member of TIHCA?

The answer is fairly easy. Working together TIHCA members can assist each other with finding solutions to operational issues that – when coupled with cost savings arising from pooled-purchasing opportunities – **will save you money**. That means that you will be able to provide the same level of services while reducing the burden on your taxpayers.

How does my IHC program join TIHCA?

Contact Windy Johnson at 512.476.6174. Or, visit our web site www.tihca.org.

TIHCA

Membership Application

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING MEMBERSHIP <i>ALL FIELDS REQUIRED</i>	
County Name	
Chapter 61 Program Type	
Contact Individual	
Title	
Physical Address	
City, State, Zip	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Fax	
Email Address	
Web Site Address	
Number of Full-Time Employees	
Number of Clients/Patients	
Federal Poverty Income Limit	

Upon completion please submit to Windy Johnson at Urban Counties ASAP.

confer the obligations, powers, and authority to the person named, who is hereby granted power to exercise the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the meeting at which this Resolution was approved was duly noticed and held in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, ch. 551 Tex. Gov't. Code.

This Resolution was approved and passed on the ____ day of _____, 2005.

[Governmental Entity]

By: _____
Authorized Representative

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Attest:

Name

Title