

Job Title	Vulnerable Populations Specialist
Employer / Agency	Texas Department of State Health Services
Job Description	<p>Under the direction of the Specialized Health & Social Services (SHSS) Manager, the Vulnerable Populations Specialist (VPS) performs highly advanced social service public health emergency preparedness work. Using the one health and a whole community approach, the VPS is responsible for assessing, building, and sustaining resilient communities. The VPS performs this work using the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning framework. The VPS will define, locate, and reach at-risk and vulnerable populations. Conducts analyses, assesses needs, identifies gaps, and formulates strategies. In coordination with regional planners, provides input to existing plans and provides insight to develop new plans to serve at-risk and vulnerable populations. Develops and facilitates listening sessions and coalitions. Provides presentations and training to external partners and DSHS staff. Actively participates in work groups to include PHEP-C and regional work groups focusing on emergency preparedness issues concerning at-risk communities. Coordinates work with preparedness program staff and documents all community work in agency software. Primary focus on vulnerable populations which include Medicaid clients, specifically pregnant women and Medicaid-eligible children. Works within the SHSS program case management infrastructure and makes recommendations on preparedness related planning. Works with program social workers, including partnering during home visits, to improve preparedness planning and readiness with the families served by the SHSS program. Considers mental health needs and links with appropriate partners. The VPS collaborates with local health department preparedness programs to facilitate networking, foster good relationships, offer subject matter expertise, and provide training support. Works closely with the Preparedness and Response Program's VPS to partner on joint efforts and share strategies. More specifically, works in partnership with the Preparedness and Response Program's VPS on projects to mitigate the increased threats and risks which vulnerable populations face during disasters, with an emphasis on public health and emergency management policy, planning and inclusiveness. When staff are activated to respond to public health emergencies, the VPS is required to be available to assume a range of Incident Command System roles and provide subject matter expertise on public health, mass care and sheltering topics. Must comply with HHSC, DSHS, and Texas Department of Public Safety applicable policies/procedures/standards.</p> <p>Essential Job Functions:</p> <p>Develop and facilitate community listening sessions and coalitions. Actively participates and/or leads regional workgroups focusing on emergency preparedness issues concerning at-risk communities. Partner with TEPHI to host a monthly "Vulnerable Populations Workgroup". Partner with TEPHI to conduct outreach and strengthen relationships with strategically located churches within the region. Participate on Regional collaborative work groups such as Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PHEP-C). Build relationships with self-advocates and vulnerable population partners who can act as subject matter experts and provide feedback on regional disaster plans and supporting documents, as well as participate in exercises. Participate in various vulnerable population partner meetings, such as: Mass Care Coalition, Disaster Access and Functional Needs Committee, and Texas Gulf Coast Regional Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (TGCRVOAD). (25%)</p> <p>Assess, build, and sustain resilient communities, with emphasis on at-risk and vulnerable populations. Define, locate, and reach at-risk and vulnerable populations using available technology and partnerships with other entities. Conduct analyses, assess needs, identify gaps, and formulate strategies to mitigate additional burdens to populations already facing hardships. In coordination with regional planners, provides input to existing plans and provides insight to develop new plans to serve at-risk and vulnerable populations. Provide presentations and training to external partners and DSHS staff. Promote state resources such as the State Pharmacy Contract among vulnerable population partners, and work to ensure that this contract is more easily accessible if activated during disasters. Use the whole community approach to ensure vulnerable population participation in our county-specific Family Assistance Center planning meetings. (25%)</p>

	<p>Work within the SHSS program case management infrastructure and makes recommendations on preparedness related planning. Work with program social workers, including partnering during home visits, to improve preparedness planning and readiness with the families served by the SHSS program. Consider mental health needs and links with appropriate partners. This work is also coordinated with local health department preparedness programs when serving in their jurisdictions. Primary focus on vulnerable populations which include Medicaid clients, specifically pregnant women and Medicaid-eligible children. (20%)</p> <p>Other duties as assigned. Participates in DSHS initiatives, including regional work groups and projects. All DSHS employees are required to actively participate and/or serve in a supporting role to meet the agency's obligations for disaster response and/or recovery or Continuity of Operations (COOP) activation. Such participation may require an alternate shift pattern assignment and/or location. When staff are activated to respond to public health emergencies, the social worker is required to be available to deploy in a range of Incident Command System roles and provide subject matter expertise on public health, mass care and sheltering topics. Serves as the subject matter expert on Functional Needs Support Services. May also serve as the lead for the social work component of the shelter and community strike teams in accordance with regional plans. (20%)</p> <p>Documents all community work in agency software such as TWICES and Qualtrics. Completes required preparedness documentation to support federal and state grant deliverables. Meets regularly with and works closely with Preparedness and Response Program's Vulnerable Populations Specialist. (10%)</p>
Qualifications	<p>1. Bachelor's degree in Social Work from an accredited college or university is required. Master's degree in Social Work preferred.</p> <p>2. Current, unrestricted license to practice Social Work issued by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners is required.</p>
Salary/Hours	\$3,543.41-\$5,639.25 monthly /Full-time
Address	5425 Polk St
City, State, Zip	Houston, TX 77023
Contact Person	Ashley Childers-Dykes
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Application Method	https://jobshportal.hhsc.state.tx.us/ENG/careerportal/Job_Profile.cfm?szOrderID=594506&szReturnToSearch=1&&szWordsToHighlight=
Opening Date	Immediately

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