

# Fund the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program



## Legislative Ask

Provide state funding of \$2.5 million annually for Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program, the state's breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment program for low-income uninsured and underinsured women administered by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

## About the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program

Created in 1981, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) program provides free breast and cervical cancer screening services to low-income, uninsured women across Texas. It is well-accepted that proactive, regular screening tests are useful in detecting pre-cancer and cancers at earlier stages, when treatment is less costly and more effective.

Specifically, BCCS program services include:

- Exams and tests to detect cancer when no symptoms are present, including clinical breast examination, screening mammogram, pelvic examination, and Pap test.
- Exams and tests used to detect cancer when symptoms are present or to check an area of concern on a screening test, including diagnostic mammogram, breast ultrasound, breast biopsy,
- Follow-up and treatment of abnormal cells found on the cervix.
- Help applying for Medicaid for breast and cervical cancer treatment.

## Why Screening and Prevention Programs Matter

- Early detection of cancer is critical to long-term survival. The five-year relative survival rate is 99% for localized breast cancer, and 92% for localized cervical cancer.<sup>i</sup>
- Women without insurance are less likely to obtain the cancer screening they need. In 2020, 67% of women between the ages of 45-64 in Texas were screened for breast cancer and 82% of women were up to date on screening for cervical cancer. Those rates dropped significantly among uninsured women, who were screened at 35% and 69% respectively.

<sup>i</sup>American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2020.

<sup>ii</sup>American Cancer Society. Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures 2020.