



State Legislative Priorities

- **Medicaid Payments to Rural Hospitals** – Realize the intent of state statute (SB170) that requires cost-based reimbursement to rural hospitals in Medicaid (traditional and managed care, inpatient and outpatient)
- **Obstetrics** – Increase targeted Medicaid rate enhancement for deliveries at rural hospitals
- **Workforce** – Increase appropriation and annual payment amounts for health care professional loan repayment programs based on health professional shortage area score
- **Behavioral Health** – Increase state funding to ensure timely and appropriate access to inpatient and outpatient, community-based services and supports for Texans with a behavioral health diagnosis
- **Trauma** – Maintain consistent funding for the state’s trauma care network and allow flexibility for low volume (level 4) centers specific to trauma coordinator staffing
- **Telehealth** – Support the implementation of Medicaid telehealth legislation (HB4) from prior session
- **Broadband** – Ensure new funding and office are making progress in the most geographically isolated areas of Texas

TORCH is the voice and principle advocate for rural and community hospitals/clinics in Texas and provides leadership in addressing the special needs of those facilities in the communities they serve.