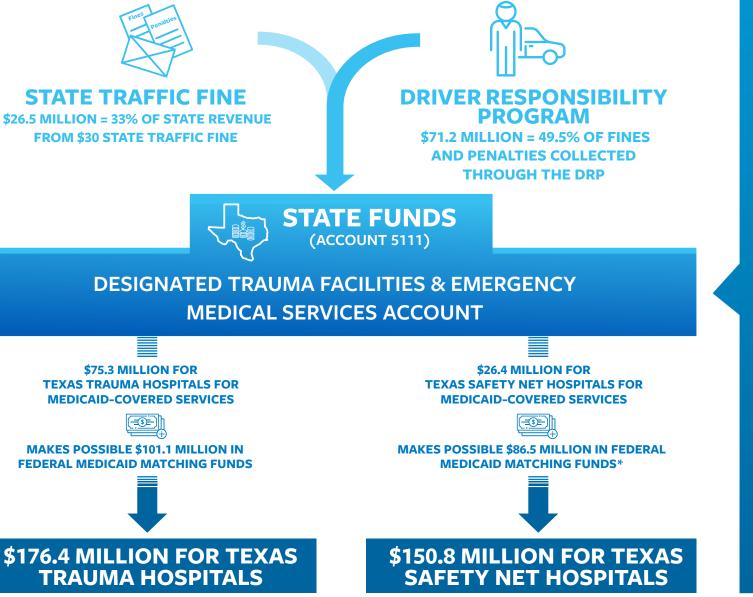


Securing the State Trauma Fund to Protect Patient Care

Texas Trauma Hospitals Rely on \$176.4 Million in State and Federal Funding Made Possible Because of State's Trauma Fund (Account 5111)



*The state also provides \$37.9 million in general revenue for the Medicaid rate add-on for safety net hospitals.

According to Texas Government Code 305.027, this material may be considered "legislative advertising." Authorization for its publication is made by John Hawkins, Texas Hospital Association, 1108 Lavaca, Austin Tx 78701-2180.

Medicaid underpays Texas hospitals for medically necessary covered services. On average, Medicaid payments cover approximately 70 percent of the audited allowable costs of providing services. At the same time, designated trauma hospitals incur more than \$320 million in unreimbursed trauma care costs annually.

Since 2015, the Texas Legislature has appropriated funds to increase Medicaid payments for certain particularly high-need hospitals – rural, safety net and trauma hospitals – to offset part of the Medicaid shortfall and unreimbursed trauma care.

State funds for the payment increase for safety net and trauma hospitals come in large part from the state's trauma fund (Account 5111), fed mostly by fines and penalties imposed on drivers for excessive speed, driving while intoxicated or other reckless behaviors, through the Driver Responsibility Program. These state funds leverage federal funds, which combined contribute \$327.2 million to Texas trauma and safety net hospitals.

Maintaining state funding for Account 5111, whether through the DRP or another source, is critical.