

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGE

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As the County Judge, I am proud to highlight the invaluable contributions of the Indigent Health Care Program (IHC) and its dedicated department head, Lisa Akers. With over eight years of service to our community, including four years within the IHC program and one year at the helm of the department, Mrs. Akers has played a vital role in ensuring that the healthcare needs of our most vulnerable residents are met. The Atascosa County Indigent Health Care Program is a lifeline for qualified, adult indigent individuals who face the daily challenge of low income. To be eligible for this program, individuals must provide proof of their income and resources, adhering to the guidelines established under Chapter 61 of the Health and Safety Code. This chapter, passed during the 1st Called Special Session of the Texas 69th Legislature in 1985, was created with the intention of safeguarding the health of needy Texas residents who do not qualify for other state or federal healthcare assistance programs. It is our responsibility to ensure that these individuals receive the essential healthcare services they require through the County's Indigent Health Care Program. The IHC department under Ms. Akers' leadership has two primary

responsibilities. Firstly, it administers the County Indigent Health Care Program, providing a safety net for our vulnerable residents. Secondly, it manages the processing of healthcare claims for Atascosa County jail inmates, ensuring that they receive the medical attention they need. The department's commitment lies in maintaining a strong and positive working relationship between our healthcare providers and indigent clients while being responsible stewards of the county's tax dollars.

In the past fiscal year, they were able to serve 266 clients, including inmates. The IHC program offers coverage ranging from basic preventive and maintenance healthcare services to specialized care, surgeries, and treatment for major illnesses. However, it's important to note that the program does not cover mental or behavioral health services. The indigent department also collaborates closely with the Atascosa Inter-Agency Council, a nonprofit organization that serves as the central hub for information on services provided in our county. By working in partnership, they can closely identify and address the various needs of clients. If you or someone you know may be eligible for the County Indigent Health Care Program, I encourage you to contact our office. The IHC department can be reached at [830-769-4174](tel:830-769-4174) or via email at coindigent@aihc-tx.org. Lisa and her staff will provide guidance and support to those who need it most. The indigent program has a profound impact on the lives of our residents who are most in need. Atascosa County remains committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has access to essential healthcare services, regardless of their financial circumstances. We will continue to work diligently and passionately toward this goal, and we appreciate the support and collaboration of our community in this endeavor. Together we are Atascosa Proud!