

**Texas Department of State Health Services  
Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)  
Project Proposal  
FY 2026 (September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026)**

**REQUESTING AGENCY/PROGRAM**

Laredo-Nuevo Laredo Binational Health Council - Consejo Binacional de Salud (COBINAS)

**KEY PERSONNEL that must be invited:**

- LOS DOS LAREDOS Laredo-Nuevo Laredo Binational Health Council (COBINAS)
- City of Laredo Health Department– will provide representatives, participants, and staff.
- Secretariat of Health of Tamaulipas, Health Jurisdiction No. V - will provide some of the presenters and staff.
- Department of State Health Services-Region 11, Office of Border Public Health - will provide staff to participate in the meetings and send announcements of meetings and Vector Control Action Day event.
- CDC - will provide some of the presenters and staff.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Background**

Binational Health Councils (known commonly as the COBINAS) Binational Health Councils for U.S. - México border sister-cities were established during the XXI U.S. Mexico Border Health Association meeting in Nogales, Arizona in 1963. The initial purpose of the councils was to provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities. As the councils have matured, their purpose has evolved to include examining health needs, problems, and available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border.

**Project Goals and Objectives**

Goal

To provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, **share epidemiological data**, assess current and emerging public health concerns, and share available programs with particular attention and concern to the council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border.

Objectives

- Establish a Border Epidemiological Surveillance Team (BEST Team) and share epidemiological data on both sides of the border.
- To strengthen communication and binational border collaboration between the BROMA Binational Health Councils members.
- Provide updated information to the community about current and emerging disease, vector surveillance and emergency.

## **Border Epidemiological Surveillance Team (BEST) Project Overview**

The purpose of the BEST workgroup is to develop a joint effort to strengthen the Epi/Surveillance capacity by identifying issues, interests and challenges on the sister cities on both sides of the border. Activities that may be included in this project will be writing or aiding in disaster plans for regional responses for multiple communicable diseases. This project would review disease conditions, transmission and the potential for outbreaks and determine trigger points for response activity along the border and with sister cities. There is an immense need to integrate a binational component. This program can help to review binational outbreak guidelines and create reference guides for distribution to local stakeholders, regional local health departments and local healthcare providers.

### **Mission**

The mission of the BEST is to utilize a multi-agency partnership to assess, analyze and facilitate public health surveillance activities and interventions in a binational setting for the purpose of improving the health status of border communities through identification, communication and response to issues of public health significance.

### **Goals of BEST**

- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- To decrease fragmentation of existing surveillance systems and increase knowledge of present surveillance systems to maximize limited resources.
- To provide an opportunity for bilateral exchange and interaction in the area of public health and science.
- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- Increase border surveillance along public health region 11
- Acquire accurate infectious disease incidence rates
- Create a strong network of reporting sites

Potential projects:

- Current and emerging diseases
- Covid-19
- Chikungunya / Dengue / West Nile / Zika Surveillance
- Vector surveillance
- ILA
- Share epidemiological data and case numbers of current and emerging disease.

### **Proposed Work Plan**

To have four Laredo-Nuevo Laredo BHC COBINAS official meetings during the FY26 and to have a Health Education Event/ each fiscal year. Other events or meetings cannot substitute for official COBINAS meetings.

### **Meeting Criteria Requirements for reimbursement:**

A meeting must meet the following criteria to be considered for reimbursement as one of the four COBINAS meetings:

- Must be in-person (preferred) or on a virtual face-to-face platform such as but not limited to Zoom, MS Teams, Skype. Etc.
- Conference Call are permitted if all entities mentioned below are invited, exceptions for reimbursement include:

- One-on-one conference calls will not count as COBINAS meeting for reimbursement
- One-on-one calls between health entities will not count for reimbursement.
- Key Personnel **must** be invited to each meeting to meet minimum requirements for reimbursement:
  - LOS DOS LAREDOS Laredo-Nuevo Laredo Binational Health Council
  - City of Laredo Health Department – will provide participants and staff.
  - Secretariat of Health of Tamaulipas, Health Jurisdiction No. V - will provide participants and presenters.
  - Department of State Health Services-Region 11, Office of Border Public Health - will provide staff to participate in the meetings and send announcements of meetings and Health Event Day.
- Must provide a sign-in sheet and/or list of participants. Screenshots of the participant list on virtual platforms are valid and welcomed.
- Most provide a copy of epidemiological updates from both sides of the border presented at each meeting.
  - Share epidemiological data and case numbers of current and emerging disease.
- Must provide meeting minutes or transcript and/or share link to meeting recording on virtual platform.
- **Other events or meetings that are related but don't meet meeting criteria established above will not count as a COBINAS meeting and therefore will not be reimbursed.**

LOS DOS LAREDOS BHC provides a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, sharing epidemiological data, assess current and emerging public health concerns, and share available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border. During the meetings, members present updates on current and emerging issues, and presentations by subject matter experts on public health topics affecting the population of both sides of the border.

**Binational Health Month Event (October) or Health Education Event (other months if October not permitted)**

Health Education Event (on any current and emerging disease) is a community engagement event to educate the public and any emerging diseases at hand (Covid-19, Zika, West Nile, Flu, etc.) The intention of the event can inform and educate the binational community about disease prevention behaviors, current and emerging diseases, provide trustworthy and accurate information about and offer the necessary tools and resources for taking action to prevent emerging diseases of the moment. This may include a conference that meets the criteria below.

**Binational Health Month Event or Health Education Day/Event Criteria and Benefits**

- Promote, celebrate, and bring awareness to Bination Health Month in October.
- Promote joint actions to address health needs of the population of both sides of the border.
- Increased knowledge and awareness on current and emerging border public health issues.

- Increased knowledge and awareness about Vector control or other current and emerging disease of the moment.
- Gain a broad bird's eye view of the border and global of current and emerging diseases and vector control situation.
- Give the freshest updates of current and emerging disease of the moment.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.
- Network with colleagues from both sides of the border.
- Learn how an organization/agency can prepare for a Vector outbreak or of current and emerging disease.

### **Anticipated Outcomes**

- Increase knowledge –Persons attending the Health Education Day Event will receive information about public health issues that affect the border.
- Increase knowledge on current and emerging border public health issues – All binational health council members will be better informed about public health issues that affect the border.
- All binational health council members will promote joint actions to address public health needs of the population on both sides of the border.
- All binational health council members will work on solutions to address public health issues that might arise.
- Strengthen the collaboration and coordination between Laredo – Nuevo Laredo BHC and the OBPH Office through BHC meetings and by holding conference calls once a month to monitor, assess, and evaluate binational health council needs.
- Increased knowledge and awareness about Vector control.
- Gain a broad bird's eye view of the border and global Vector control virus situation.
- Get the freshest updates from Vector control experts.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.

### **Expected Deliverables:**

The LOS DOS LAREDOS binational health council will:

- Meet all “Meeting Criteria Requirements” as listed on the Scope of Work
- BHC will work with OBPH to develop and submit a final evaluation report which will include pictures and sign-in sheets, agendas, and minutes of all meetings, as well as pictures and flyers of Health Education Day or Health Education event.
- An event or other non-COBINAS meeting cannot substitute an official COBINAS meeting for reimbursement.

## FUNDING REQUEST

<b>FY26 (September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026)</b>	
Meetings – Agenda, Sign-In Sheets and Minutes \$500.00 x 4	\$2,000.00
<i>Health Education Day or Binational Health Month (OCTOBER) event criteria mentioned above.</i>	\$7,700.00
Supplies, Copies, Printing, Incentives Educational Material, & Media	
Video and Calling Services	\$ 299.00
<b>Total for FY26</b>	<b>\$9,999.00</b>

**Vendor: TX ID# 74-60015732**

### Contact Information

Name: Richard Chamberlain, City of Laredo Health Department Director

Address: 2600 Cedar Ave. Laredo, Texas 78040

Telephone: (956) 795-4918

Fax (956) 726-2632

Email: [rhambarlain@ci.laredo.tx.us](mailto:rhambarlain@ci.laredo.tx.us)