



REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO R. ALONZO'S capitol report



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Home Repairs?



**Rep. Alonzo Announces Funding Opportunity for Home Repairs
From the Texas State Affordable Housing Corp.**
~ Awards Up to \$50,000 Available to Non-profits and Governmental Entities ~

Rep. Alonzo announces the opening of the 2012 application cycle for the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation's (TSAHC) Texas Foundations Fund.

"This is certainly a great opportunity for our local non-profits and governmental entities to attain significant support for their outstanding organizations," said Rep. Alonzo. ***"I encourage those who provide eligible housing related services to submit an application. And it is not too late to file an application either, as the deadline is not until September 12th,"*** continued Rep. Alonzo.

Through its Texas Foundations Fund program, TSAHC partners with non-profit organizations and rural government entities across Texas to support housing services that meet the critical housing needs of very low-income Texans. These services include home repairs to fix unsafe living conditions, accessibility modifications to help households with a family member with a disability, and multifamily supportive housing services, such as mental health counseling and adult education, for individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

TSAHC selects partners through an annual competitive application process and provides awards of up to \$50,000 to support partners' housing service programs. TSAHC funds its Texas Foundations Fund awards by blending private donations with earned revenue from its affordable housing programs.

"Our goal under the Texas Foundations Fund is to partner with organizations who are providing much needed housing services, such as critical home repair and supportive housing services to very low-income families in their community," said David Long, president of TSAHC. ***"We hope organizations, especially those who have not previously partnered with TSAHC, will apply for funding."***

Applications can be found on TSAHC's website at www.tsahc.org. Applications are **due by Friday, September 14th at 5 p.m.** It is anticipated that the TSAHC Advisory Council will submit its award recommendations to the Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled Board meeting in November.

For more information on the Texas Foundations Fund, please contact Katie Howard at (512) 334-2152 or by email at khoward@tsahc.org.



Research: Electronic Prescriptions Reduce Medication Errors *

Research continues to reinforce the medication errors are far less likely to occur if doctors choose the drug and the dosage from a computerized list and submit the prescription to a pharmacy electronically. Using this method avoids the longstanding problem of indecipherable prescriptions.

In one recent study of electronic prescriptions led by Rainu Kaushal of Weill Cornell Medical College, research tracked prescriptions made by a sampling of outpatient providers in New York. Some of the providers involved used paper prescriptions and others prescribed through electronic means.

The research showed a wide disparity in errors for paper prescriptions compared to electronic prescriptions. For every 100 prescriptions made on paper, there were 37 errors. This compared to about seven errors per 100 electronic prescriptions.

The high number of errors for paper prescriptions did not include those with obvious legibility issues, in which the pharmacist had to contact the doctor to verify the prescription.

Experts estimate that 7 percent of prescription errors carry a risk of harm. The Institute of Medicine estimates that these errors add to a national cost in the United States for preventable adverse events of about \$2 billion per year.

About one in three (36%) of prescriptions in the United States were delivered electronically last year.

[* This information is excerpted in part from the **Capitol Health Beat**, newsletter of the Texas Assoc. of Health Plans, Aug 2012 Edition]