

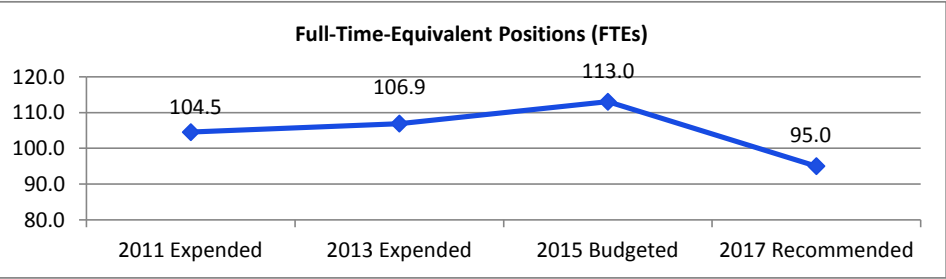
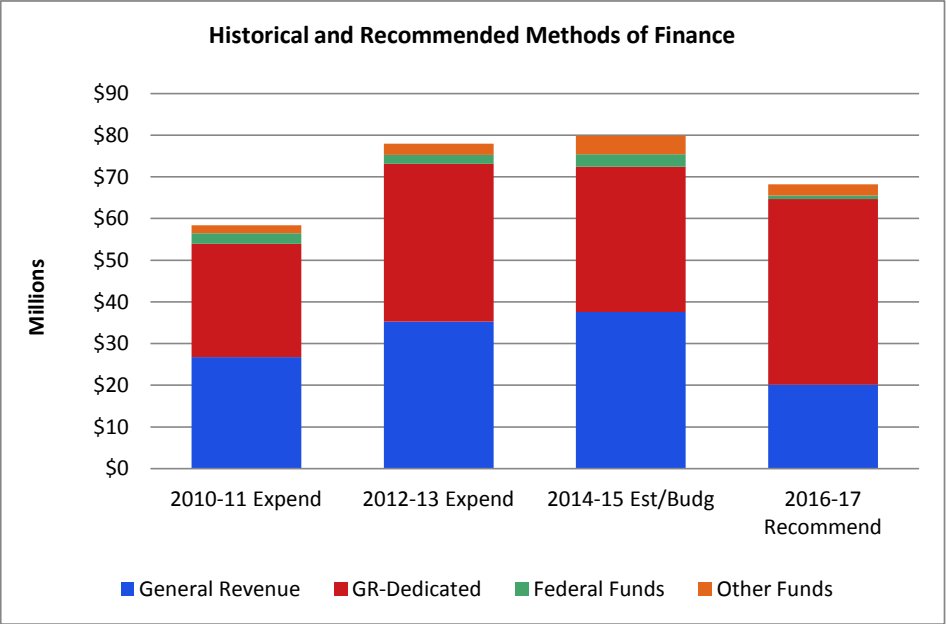
Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
Senate Budget Recommendations: SB 2 as Introduced
Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)
Schedule 1: Agency Overview

The staff of the Legislative Budget Board conducted the Strategic Fiscal Review in the fall of 2014. The analysis contained in these materials reflects that staff review. The budget amounts for 2016-17 reflect budget recommendations contained in Senate Bill 2 as Introduced.

Mission Statement: To work in partnership with Texans with disabilities and families with children who have developmental delays to improve the quality of their lives and to enable their full participation in society.

Legal Authority: Human Resources Code, Chapter 117, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services; Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 2

Total Number of Programs: 9



Overview and Significant Findings

- Nine programs were originally under Strategic Fiscal Review (SFR), but only seven include recommendations for 2016-17. SB 2 as Introduced reflects a Sunset Advisory Commission recommendation to transfer the Business Enterprises of Texas (BET) and the BET Trust Fund to the Texas Workforce Commission, contingent upon passage of legislation. Therefore, only historical information is reflected.
- 2016-17 recommended funding for the Autism Program reflects a phase-out of the program to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2017. The estimated savings (\$5.6 million) are included in additional funding (\$18.4 million) at the Texas Education Agency for widespread support of autism services.
- The seven programs under Strategic Fiscal Review with recommendations for 2016-17 represent 47.2% of the biennial recommended General Revenue-related Funds but only 15.8% of All Funds.
- All of the programs align with the agency's mission at a moderate or strong level. Two programs (Autism and Comprehensive Rehabilitation) have no specific authority in statute; they are ranked as the agency's top two priorities.
- The agency offered only their exceptional items for enhanced funding alternatives and submitted the default reduction amount of 20% per program.

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Schedule 2A: Program Listing -- Services and Administration

Agency Submission		Review and Analysis								
Agency Ranking	Program Name	Year Created	State Authority	Federal Authority	Authority	Mission Centrality	State Service Category	Service Area	Significant Audit and/or Report Findings	Outsourced Services?
1	Autism Services	2008	Administrative Code	NA	Weak	Strong	Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care	Regional	No	Yes
2	Comprehensive Rehabilitation (CRS)	1991	Administrative Code	NA	Moderate	Strong	Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care	Statewide	Yes	Yes
3	Children's Blindness Services (Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development)	1990	Statute, Administrative Code	NA	Moderate	Strong	Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care	Statewide	Yes	No
4	Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment (BEST) Program	1997	Statute, Administrative Code	NA	Strong	Moderate	Health Care - Disease Prevention, Treatment & Research	Regional	No	Yes
5	Business Enterprises of Texas (BET)	1936	Statute, Administrative Code	Public Law	Moderate	Strong	Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care	Statewide	Yes	No
6	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Education	1979	Statute, Administrative Code	Public Law	Strong	Strong	Business & Workforce Development & Regulation	Statewide	No	Yes
7	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Interpreter Certification	1979	Statute, Administrative Code	NA	Strong	Strong	Business & Workforce Development & Regulation	Statewide	No	Yes
8	ECI Respite Services	2000	Statute, Administrative Code	Public Law	Moderate	Strong	Family and Nutrition Services	Statewide	No	Yes
9	Business Enterprises of Texas Trust Fund	1936	Statute, Administrative Code	Public Law	Moderate	Moderate	Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care	Statewide	No	No
	Program Summary Included									

Notes: **Service Area:** Autism providers (8 total in FY 2015) are located in only six of the health and human services (HHS) regions in the state. BEST screening services are offered only in major metropolitan areas due to availability of funds. Treatment services are available statewide, however most consumers are in South Texas.

Significant Audit and/or Report Findings: The Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report (GEER) for the 81st Legislative Session included a report on the Business Enterprises of Texas (BET) Program. Recommendations included the development of a customer satisfaction survey, annual reporting of survey results and operating costs covered by each host agency, and the creation of a performance measure to track the number of blind or disabled employees hired by BET managers. The recommendations have been implemented, however the number of blind/disabled employees remains low. The 2017 target of 100 individuals represents just 6.4% of all employees. Findings for Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Children's Blindness services are addressed in the Program Summary sections.

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
Senate Budget Recommendations: SB 2 as Introduced
Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Schedule 2B: Program Listing -- Fiscal

Agency Submission					Review, Analysis and Funding									
Agency Ranking	Program Name	1st Year Full Implementation	2010-11 Expended	2012-13 Expended	2014-15 Est / Budg	2015 FTEs Budg	2016-17 SB 2 - Intro	2017 FTEs Rec.	Percent Change from Base	FTEs Change from Base	Revenue Supported?	Appropriate Use of Constitutional and GR-Dedicated Funds?	Agency Funding Alternatives in Recs?	
1	Autism Services	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 6,597,777	\$ 6,548,787	\$ 9,110,856	2.0	\$ 3,671,058	2.0	-59.7%	0.0	No	NA	No	
2	Comprehensive Rehabilitation (CRS)	\$ 1,975,000	\$ 28,977,851	\$ 51,941,603	\$ 49,949,962	17.7	\$ 50,146,320	17.7	0.4%	0.0	Yes	Compliant	No	
3	Children's Blindness Services	\$ 1,391,581	\$ 9,493,129	\$ 9,738,067	\$ 9,649,690	69.4	\$ 9,610,172	69.4	-0.4%	0.0	Yes	Compliant	No	
4	Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment (BEST) Program	\$ 960,000	\$ 619,465	\$ 799,245	\$ 856,532	0.0	\$ 983,600	0.0	14.8%	0.0	Yes	NA	Partial	
5	Business Enterprises of Texas (BET)	\$ 758,955	\$ 5,368,876	\$ 4,439,621	\$ 4,930,444	18.0	\$ -	0.0	-100.0%	-18.0	Yes	Compliant	No	
6	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Education	\$ 212,640	\$ 2,019,233	\$ 2,197,938	\$ 2,535,053	3.9	\$ 2,334,567	4.1	-7.9%	0.2	Yes	Compliant	No	
7	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Interpreter Certification	\$ -	\$ 566,505	\$ 539,441	\$ 977,660	2.0	\$ 649,412	1.8	-33.6%	-0.2	Yes	NA	No	
8	ECI Respite Services	\$ 500,000	\$ 780,118	\$ 746,414	\$ 800,000	0.0	\$ 800,000	0.0	0.0%	0.0	No	NA	No	
9	Business Enterprises of Texas Trust Fund	\$ 359,147	\$ 3,930,162	\$ 997,635	\$ 808,424	0.0	\$ -	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	Yes	Compliant	No	
Total			\$ 58,353,116	\$ 77,948,751	\$ 79,618,621	113.0	\$ 68,195,129	95.0	-14.3%	-18.0				
	Program Summary Included													

Notes: SB 2 as Introduced transfers the BET and BET Trust Fund programs to the Texas Workforce Commission, therefore 2016-17 recommendations are not reflected here.

The reduction in funding in 2016-17 for Autism Services reflects the phase-out of the program.

Data included in the column labeled **1st Year of Full Implementation** may reflect several different fiscal years and therefore it is not summed.

Partial indicates that the LBB Recommendations contain some portion of the agency's funding alternative either in terms of amounts or methodology.

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
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Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Schedule 2C: Program Listing -- Explanation of Recommendations

Agency Submission		Review and Analysis	
Agency Ranking	Program Name	Funding Compared to 2014-15	Explanation of 2016-17 SB 2 Introduced
1	Autism Services	↓	Decrease in General Revenue Funds for phase-out of program. Offset slightly by increase to Interagency Contracts (Other Funds) to annualize administrative support of the Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (TCAPDD). Responsibilities were transferred from DADS to DARS in FY 2015. HHS agencies, TEA, and Workforce Commission all contribute funds for support of the Council, and 1.0 FTE was transferred from DADS.
2	Comprehensive Rehabilitation (CRS)	↑	Increase in Comprehensive Rehabilitation Fund Account No. 107 to include the estimated ending FY 2015 balance and LBB estimated revenue for the biennium. General Revenue Funds are decreased to align program funding with FY 2014-15; includes a slight decrease in estimated Subrogation Receipts (Other Funds).
3	Children's Blindness Services	↓	Small net decrease due primarily to General Revenue reduction for capital project offset slightly by increased General Revenue Funds for less favorable FMAP and an increase in LBB revenue estimate for the Blind Endowment Fund (Other Funds).
4	Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment (BEST) Program	↑	Increased to align with LBB revenue estimate. Will be adjusted for the Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate in January 2015.
5	Business Enterprises of Texas (BET)	↓	Program transferred to Texas Workforce Commission, contingent upon passage of legislation.
6	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Education	↓	Decrease due to repurposing authority to Interpreter Certification, as reflected in agency's LAR.
7	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Interpreter Certification	↓	Decrease due to reduction to General Revenue Funds for one-time interpreter test development and decrease to agency-estimated Interagency Contracts (Other Funds).
8	ECI Respite Services	▬	Maintain 2014-15 funding level.
9	Business Enterprises of Texas Trust Fund	↓	Program transferred to Texas Workforce Commission, contingent upon passage of legislation.
Program Summary Included			

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
Senate Budget Recommendations: SB 2 as Introduced
Schedule 3: Assessments of Mission Centrality and Authority

Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Mission centrality is a judgment of how directly connected a program is to the core mission and goals of the agency, as identified in statute, agency strategic plans, or other documents.

Authority is an assessment of how strong and explicit the legal basis is for the existence of the program and the way in which the agency is administering it.

		MISSION CENTRALITY		
		Weak	Moderate	Strong
AUTHORITY	Strong		Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment (BEST)	Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Education Education, Training, Certification-Deaf: Interpreter Certification
	Moderate		Business Enterprises of Texas (BET) Trust Fund	Business Enterprises of Texas (BET) Children's Blindness Services Comprehensive Rehabilitation ECI Respite Services
	Weak			Autism Services

Note: The matrix does not include Indirect Administration programs.

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
Senate Budget Recommendations: SB 2 as Introduced
Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Schedule 4: Constitutional and General Revenue-Dedicated Accounts

1	Account:		GR Dedicated - Comprehensive Rehabilitation Account No. 107						
	Legal Cite(s):		TX. HUM. RES. CODE ANN. § 111.060; TX. LOC. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 133.102						
	Authorized Use:		To receive court costs collected from defendants convicted under certain sections of the Penal Code. Defendants convicted of a felony pay \$133, convicted of a Class A or B misdemeanor pay \$83 and convicted of a nonjailable misdemeanor pay \$40. This account receives 9.8218 percent of total collections. The account may be used only for purposes provided by TEX. HUM. RES. CODE ANN. § 111.052						
	Revenue Source:		Court Costs, Fees from Misdemeanor or Felony Cases, Warrants Voided by Statute of Limitation – Default Fund						
			In Compliance with Authorized Use?	1st Full Year Appropriated	2010-11 Expended	2012-13 Expended	2014-15 Est/Budg	2016-17 SB 2 - Intro	Comments
	Program(s) Funded								
	Rnk 2 Comprehensive Rehabilitation		Compliant	\$ -	\$ 19,526,026	\$ 33,694,688	\$ 32,755,342	\$ 44,587,456	Increase in 2012-13 due to legislation which increased the percent of the collections allocated to DARS. 2016-17 increase is offset in program by like decrease in General Revenue Funds.
	Total, GR Dedicated - Comprehensive Rehabilitation Account No. 107			\$ -	\$ 19,526,026	\$ 33,694,688	\$ 32,755,342	\$ 44,587,456	
2	Account:		Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Endowment Fund for the Blind						
	Legal Cite(s):		TEX. CONST. art. XVI, § 6						
	Authorized Use:		To receive gifts and grants from individuals, associations, and corporations, plus depository interest earned for the purpose of providing direct client services and carrying out the provisions of ch. 91.0301, Human Resources Code.						
	Revenue Source:		Gifts/Grants/Donations – Non-Operating Revenue/Program Revenue – Operating Grants and Contributions,Warrants Voided by Statute of Limitation – Default Fund, Interest on State Deposits and Treasury Investments - General, Non-Program						
			In Compliance with Authorized Use?	1st Full Year Appropriated	2010-11 Expended	2012-13 Expended	2014-15 Est/Budg	2016-17 SB 2 - Intro	Comments
	Program(s) Funded								
	Rnk 3 Children's Blindness Services		Compliant	\$ -	\$ 25,916	\$ 216,938	\$ 8,043	\$ 14,086	Variability due to restrictions on use of donations (specified by donor).
	Total, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Endowment Fund for the Blind			\$ -	\$ 25,916	\$ 216,938	\$ 8,043	\$ 14,086	

5

Account:

Legal Cite(s):

Authorized Use:

Revenue Source:

GR Dedicated - Business Enterprise Program Trust Fund 5043

TEX. HUM. RES. CODE ANN. sec. 94.016

This account is created in General Revenue to record receipts from vending machines on federal property accruing to the state licensing agency. Used to create a trust fund for a retirement program for blind individuals licensed to operate vending facilities under the Business Enterprises Program.

BET Managers contribute 5% of their net proceeds. Program rules allow managers to contribute less (determined by formula) if they employ blind or otherwise significantly disabled employees.

Program(s) Funded	In Compliance with Authorized Use?	1st Full Year Appropriated	2010-11 Expended	2012-13 Expended	2014-15 Est/Budg	2016-17 SB 2 - Intro	Comments
Rnk 9 Business Enterprises Program Trust Fund	Compliant	\$ 359,147	\$ 3,930,162	\$ 997,635	\$ 808,424	\$ -	Decrease in 2012-13 relates to a one-time partial distribution of funds after the existing retirement plan was abolished.
Total, GR Dedicated - Business Enterprise Program Trust Fund		\$ 359,147	\$ 3,930,162	\$ 997,635	\$ 808,424	\$ -	2016-17 funds at Texas Workforce Commission contingent upon statutory change.
Total		\$ 1,118,102	\$ 27,193,173	\$ 38,111,121	\$ 34,926,319	\$ 44,601,542	

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Schedule 5: Program Summary

All 2016-17 funding recommendations reflect SB 2 as Introduced

Program: Autism Services

Agency Ranking

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The DARS Autism Program serves children ages three through fifteen with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Services are provided through grant contracts with local community agencies and organizations that provide applied behavioral analysis (ABA). There are currently eight contractors.

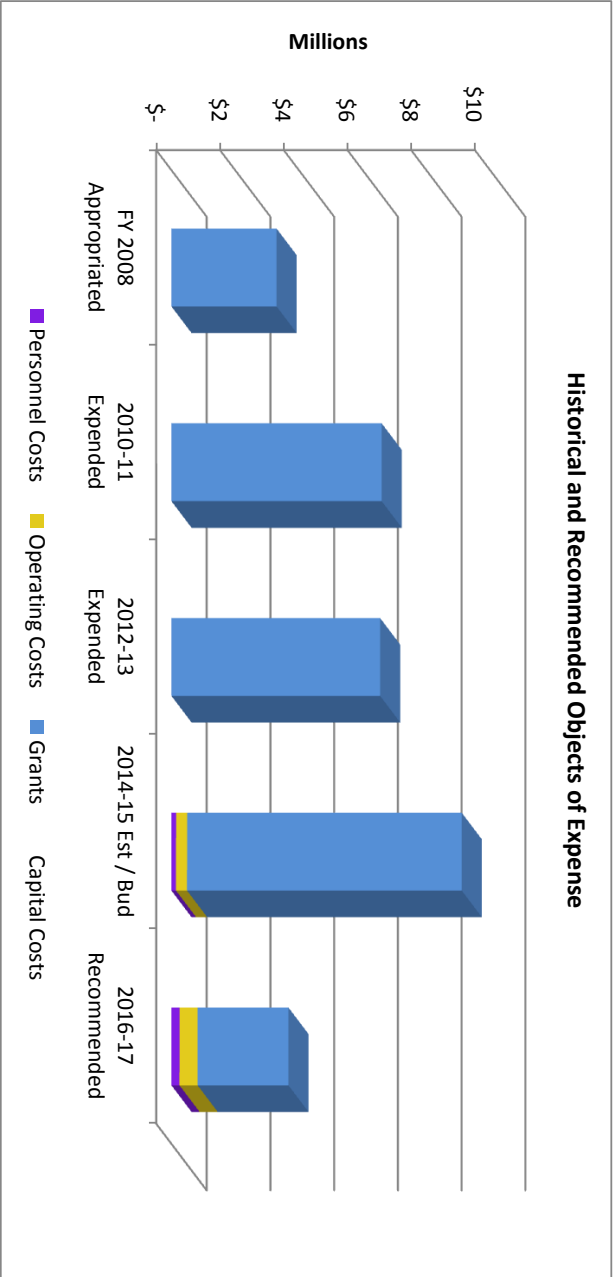
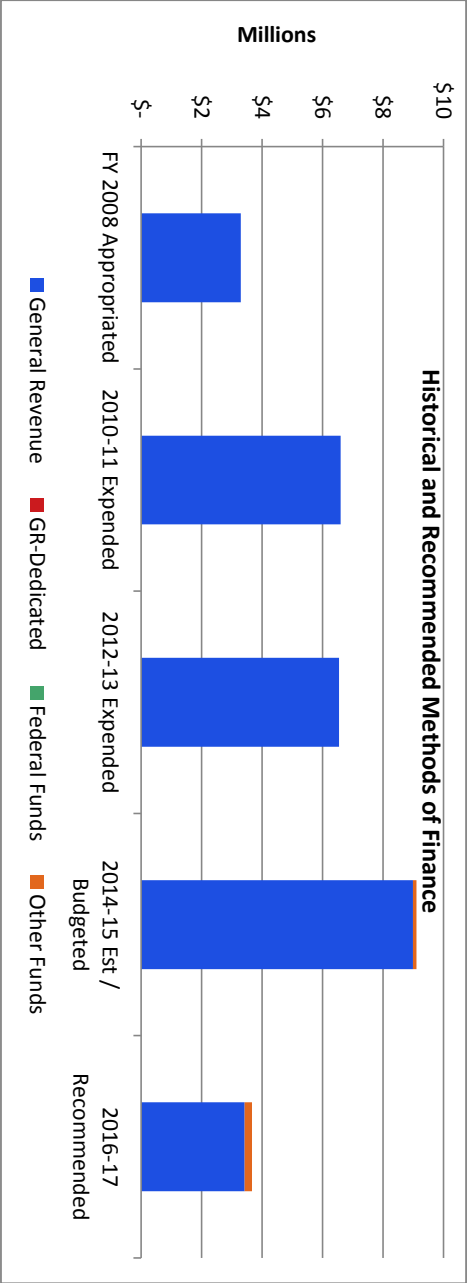
Services are provided under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Most services are provided in a clinic setting but can be provided in the home or other settings. Parent training is offered, though no minimum requirements exist. Autism Program contractors bill private insurance, when available, and each family must participate in the cost of services based on a sliding fee scale.

In September 2014, the Autism Program began offering two ABA treatment services – Comprehensive ABA (3-5 years of age, average 16-20 hours per week, 24 consecutive months) and Focused ABA (3-15 years of age, average 30 hours per month, limited to six months per 12-month period and lifetime maximum of 24 months).

Legal Authority: Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 2, Chapter 105

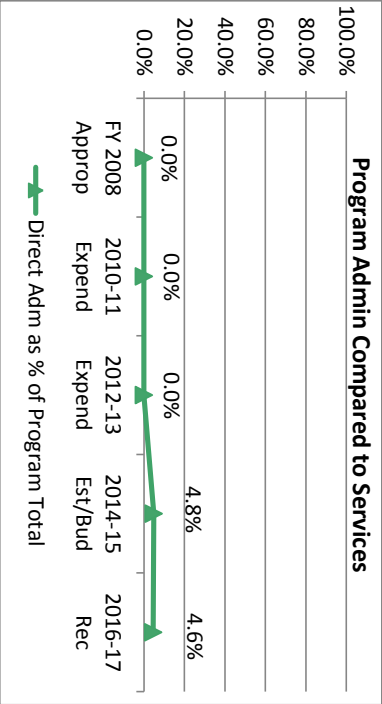
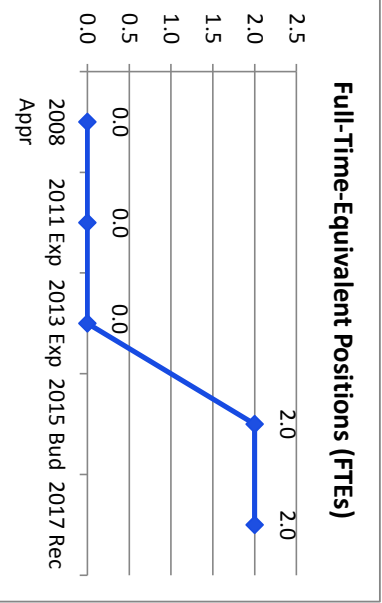
Year Created	2008	Performance and/or		Outsourced Services	Yes
Authority	Weak	Operational Issues	Partial	Revenue Supported	No
Centrality	Strong	Use of Dedicated Funds			NA
Service Area	Regional	State Service Category Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care			

Major Activities	2014-15 Estimated	2015 FTEs	2016-17 Recommended	2017 FTEs	% of Total
Combined ABA	\$ 7,558,420	0.0	\$ -	0.0	0.0%
Comprehensive ABA	\$ 385,639	0.0	\$ 2,430,000	0.0	66.2%
Focused ABA	\$ 306,434	0.0	\$ 414,000	0.0	11.3%
Other Programs	\$ 860,363	2.0	\$ 827,058	2.0	22.5%
TOTAL	\$ 9,110,856	2.0	\$ 3,671,058	2.0	100.0%



Program: Autism Services

Agency Ranking 1 out of 9



Summary of Recommendations and Fiscal and Policy Issues

- 1 **Recommendation:** Funding for the 2016-17 biennium includes a reduction of \$5.6 million in General Revenue (GR) Funds from 2014-15 to support services only to children enrolled before September 1, 2015; the program will be phased out by the end of fiscal year 2017.
- 2 Included in the introduced bill is \$0.2 million in Other Funds and 1.0 FTE for the support of the Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Development Disorders (TCAPDD) and the Texas Autism Research and Resource Center (TARCC) during the 2016-17 biennium. Continuation of this support will need to be addressed as the program is phased out at DARS.
- 3 Special Provisions Sec. 57(a), 83rd Legislature, made \$2.4 million (General Revenue Funds) in additional funding contingent on an effort by DARS to develop a plan to serve more children in the Autism Program, which the agency completed in July of 2014. New program rules were in place as of September 1, 2014, and the program now provides two levels of applied behavioral analysis (ABA): comprehensive and focused. The two ABA treatment services differ in the ages served, the number of service hours, and the maximum lifetime services per child.
- 4 The number of children receiving services per year was 295 in FY 2014 (original program) and 253 in FY 2015 (comprehensive plus focused); totals decrease to 201 in fiscal year 2016 and 50 in 2017. According to the agency, there will be an estimated 79,000 Texas children ages 3-15 with ASD in FY 2016.
- 5 As of October 2014, DARS has contracted with a provider in Corpus Christi and one in El Paso (HHS regions 10 and 11), bringing the total number of providers to eight in six HHS regions.
- 6 According to the agency, the Affordable Care Act has resulted in more children having insurance coverage for ABA services, which has increased the demand for ABA services statewide. The increase in coverage affects the DARS program, as families could choose the insurance co-pay amount over the DARS sliding fee schedule.

Recommended Statutory Changes for Program Improvement

- 1 Establish the Autism Program in statute.

Supplemental Schedule
Autism Program

COMPARISON OF TREATMENT SERVICES				
	Original Program (FY 2013 - FY 2014)	New Program (began FY 2015)		
		Comprehensive	Focused	
Age Served	3 through 8	3 through 5	3 through 15	
Service Hours Cap	no cap (average: 15 hours per week, range: 8 - 35 hours per week)	16-20 hrs per week	30 hrs per month	
Period Eligible	24 months	24 consecutive months	6 months in a 12-month period, 24 months lifetime	

PROVIDER DATA FOR FY 2015						
Contractor	Contract Number Served	HHSC Region	Location	Comprehensive ABA Services	Focused ABA Services	
Autism Treatment Center	19	8	San Antonio	19		
Center for Autism & Related Disorders	28	7	Austin	28		
Child Study Center	12	3	Fort Worth	12		
Easter Seals North Texas	24	3	Dallas, Carrollton, Fort Worth	24		
MHMRRA of Harris County	48	6	Houston, Clear Lake	48		
Texana Center	33	6	Rosenberg, Sugarland	33		
New in FY 2015						
Center for Autism & Related Disorders	29	11	Corpus Christi	17	12	
Paso del Norte	60	10	El Paso		60	
Total be served in FY15				181	72	

PERFORMANCE AND FUNDING			
	Reported in ABEST		Estimated by agency; assumes funding split 50/50 between treatment service types
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Average Monthly Served			
Original	142	200	
Comprehensive			178
Focused			21
Total	142	200	199
Number Served per Year			
Original	199	295	
Comprehensive			181
Focused			72
Total	199	295	253
Average Monthly Cost			
Original	\$ 1,923.77	\$ 1,812.00	
Comprehensive			\$ 1,735.31
Focused			\$ 362.21
All Funds - LAR	\$ 3,271,826	\$ 4,487,800	\$ 4,623,056

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17

Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Schedule 5: Program Summary

All 2016-17 funding recommendations reflect SB 2 as Introduced

Program: Comprehensive Rehabilitation (CRS)

Agency Ranking

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The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services (CRS) program provides services to Texans 16 years and older who have sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI), traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI), or both. The program focuses on three primary areas that affect both function and quality of life: mobility, self-care, and communication skills. Services are provided in the person's home, a hospital, a residential facility, an outpatient clinic, or in a combination of settings. These services are outsourced to community providers.

- Services are categorized as:
- inpatient comprehensive medical rehabilitation services (ICMRS),
 - outpatient therapy services, and
 - post-acute brain injury rehabilitation services (PABI).

CRS counselors work with the consumers and their families as services to coordinate services, track progress, and make referrals to other support services.

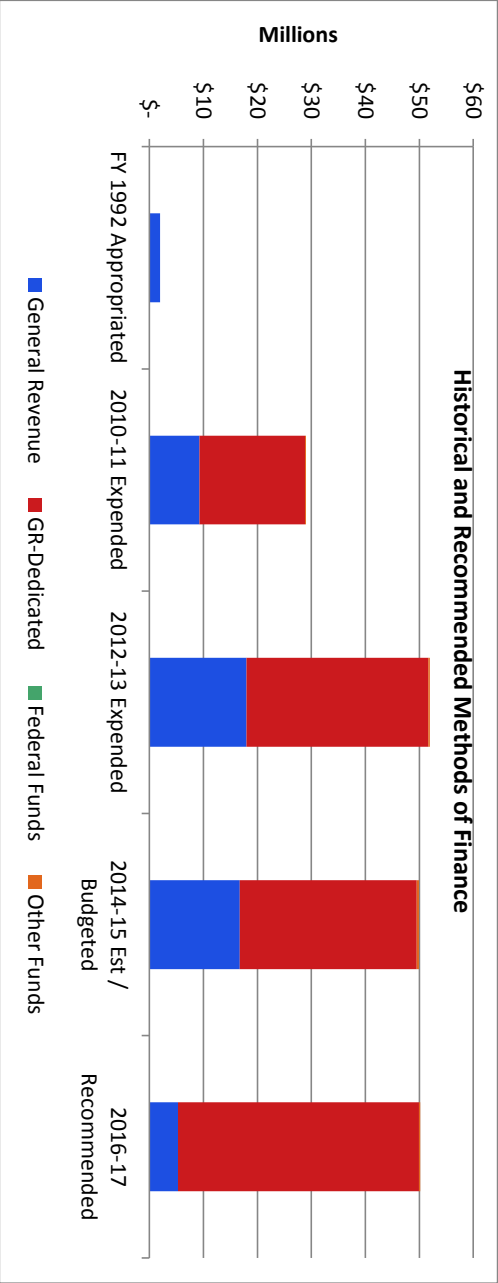
A Memorandum of Agreement between DARS and the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services focuses on the coordination of services to veterans with TBI and SCI.

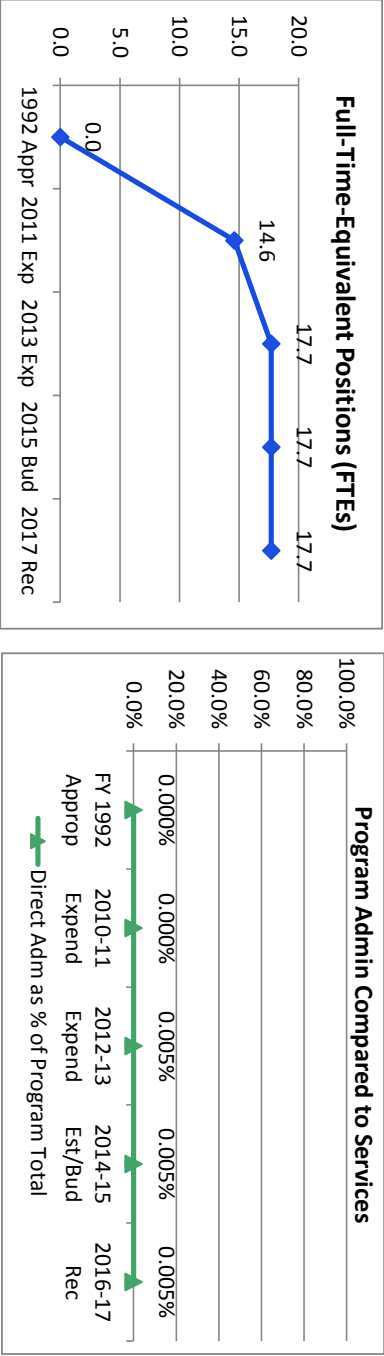
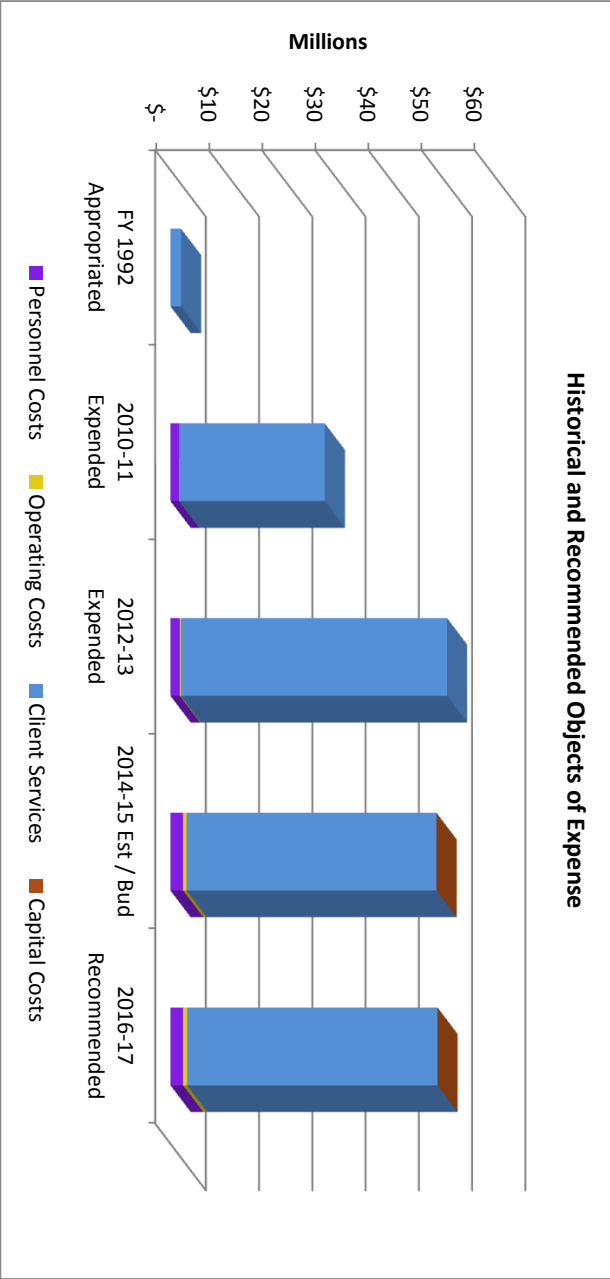
Approximately 250 consumers per year will close their Comprehensive Rehabilitation cases and become Vocational Rehabilitation consumers in order to meet employment goals.

Legal Authority: Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 2, Chapter 107, Subchapter D

Year Created	1991	Performance and/or		Outsourced Services	Yes
Authority	Moderate	Operational Issues	Partial	Revenue Supported	Yes
Centrality	Strong			Use of Dedicated Funds	Compliant
Service Area	Statewide	State Service Category	Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care		

Major Activities	2014-15 Estimated	2015 FTEs	2016-17 Recommended	2017 FTEs	% of Total
Direct Administration	\$ 2,735	0.0	\$ 2,006	0.0	0.0%
Program Case Management Services	\$ 47,949,337	17.0	\$ 48,138,461	17.0	96.0%
Program Compliance Monitoring and Technical Assistance	\$ 1,997,890	0.7	\$ 2,005,853	0.7	4.0%
TOTAL	\$ 49,949,962	17.7	\$ 50,146,320	17.7	100.0%





Summary of Recommendations and Fiscal and Policy Issues

- 1 Recommendation: The introduced bill includes \$44.6 million for the biennium in GR-D Comprehensive Rehabilitation Fund Account No. 107 from estimated revenue and an FY 2015 ending balance. To align funding with the Biennial Revenue Estimate and with a statutory maximum available balance of \$1.5 million per fiscal year (anything above is swept to General Revenue), an increase of \$7.5 million in General Revenue Funds (with a like decrease in GR-D Fund 107) will be required to maintain base-level funding. The agency has regularly carried forward approximately \$1.5 million; recommendations instead remove the unexpended balance (UB) authority across biennia in Rider 24 and appropriate the estimated balance in the first year. UB authority within the biennium remains in the rider.
- 2 DARS reports that the Comprehensive Rehabilitation waiting list was 0 at the end of FY 2014, and 46 individuals are on the list as of February 2015.

Recommended Statutory Changes for Program Improvement

- 1 Establish the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program in statute.

Funding Alternatives Not Included in the Recommendations	Change from Recommendations				2017 FTEs
	GR-Related	All Funds			
1 Address the CRS waiting list (estimated at 46 consumers as of February 2015). This is the agency's revised Exceptional Item #6.	\$	4,672,128	\$	4,672,128	0.0

Strategic Fiscal Review 2016-17
Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of (538)

Schedule 5: Program Summary

All 2016-17 funding recommendations reflect SB 2 as Introduced

Program: Children's Blindness Services (Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development)

Agency Ranking

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The Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development (BCVDD) Program provides services to children who are blind or permanently severely visually impaired from birth to 22 years of age and their families. A majority of the children (65% in FY 2013) have at least one other disabling condition. Program services include the following:

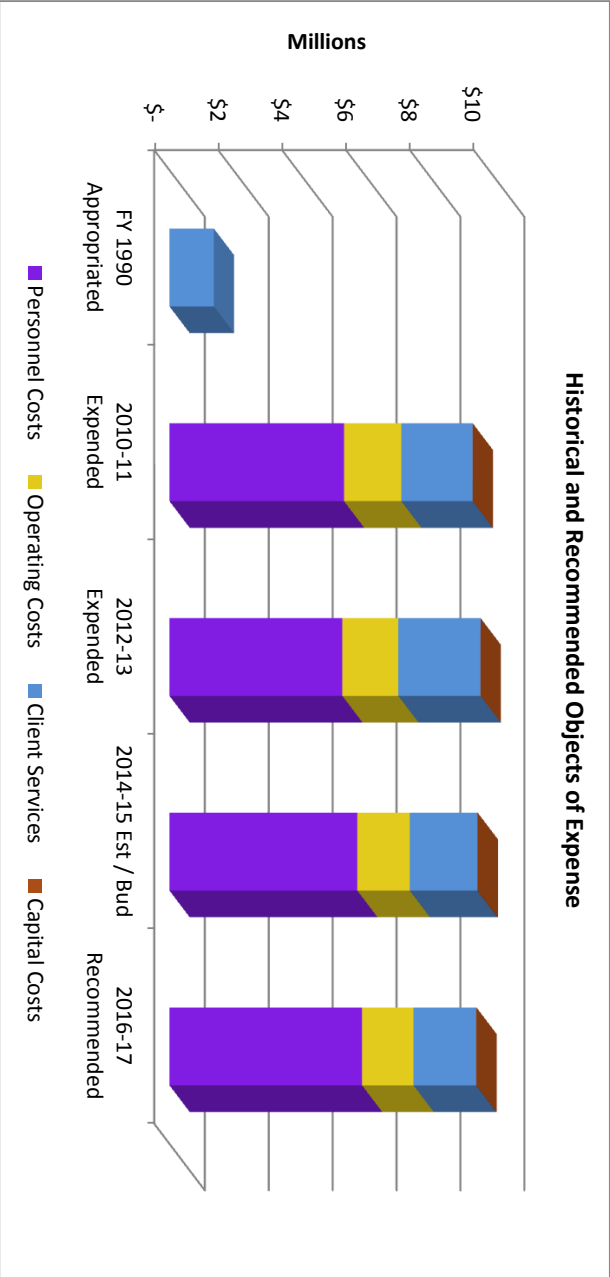
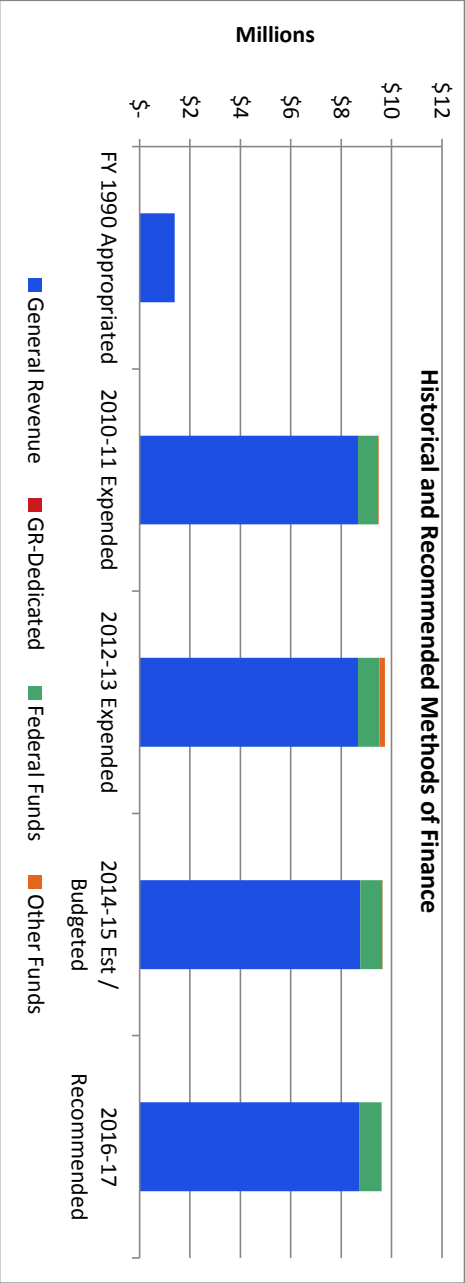
- Training for children and their parents in independent living skills such as communication, money skills, organization, and travel.
- Purchasing of assistive technology, such as optical low vision devices and brailers.
- Educational support, including parent training on special education services and communication with special education systems.
- Targeted case management services (Medicaid) and referrals to other public health programs.

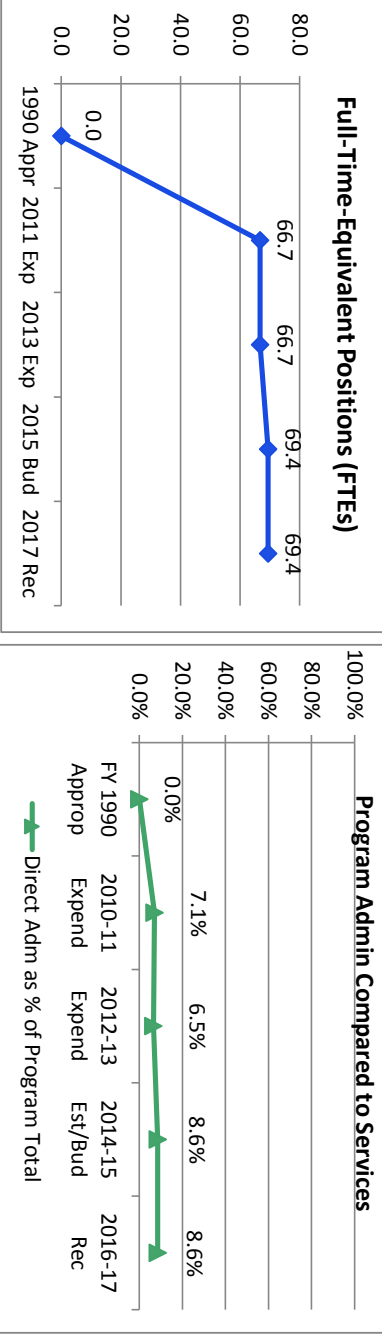
A 2014 survey of educational and community partners indicated that current services are effective but indicated a need for additional staff and funding.

Legal Authority: Human Resources Code, Sec. 91.028

Year Created	1990	Performance and/or Authority	Moderate	Outsourced Services	No
Centrality	Strong	Operational Issues	Partial	Revenue Supported	Yes
Service Area	Statewide	Use of Dedicated Funds	State Service Category Health Care - Rehabilitation, Disability & Long Term Care	Compliant	

Major Activities	2014-15 Estimated	2015 FTEs	2016-17 Recommended	2017 FTEs	% of Total
Direct Administration	\$ 826,337	3.6	\$ 822,953	3.6	8.6%
Targeted Case Management	\$ 1,499,970	11.2	\$ 1,493,827	11.2	15.5%
Purchased Consumer Services	\$ 2,205,841	16.5	\$ 2,196,808	16.5	22.9%
Training for Children and Parents	\$ 5,117,542	38.1	\$ 5,096,584	38.1	53.0%
TOTAL	\$ 9,649,690	69.4	\$ 9,610,172	69.4	100.0%





Summary of Recommendations and Fiscal and Policy Issues

- 1 Recommendation: The introduced bill for 2016-17 includes a small net decrease due primarily to a \$50,000 reduction to General Revenue Funds and All Funds in FY 2016 for IT enhancements to the Texas Reporting, Oversight, and Coaching System (TxROCS). Offsetting this reduction slightly is a small increase in GR due to a less favorable FMAP and an increase in the LBB revenue estimate for the Blind Endowment Fund (Other Funds).
- 2 The program was cited in several areas of the Sunset Staff Report relating to the lack of case oversight (Issue 2), with findings on the program itself and as part of the Division for Blind Services.
- 3 The agency reports that 74% of the children served in the program are covered by Medicaid. However, Medicaid General Revenue matching funds and Medicaid Federal Funds comprise only 15.6% of the program's total funding in 2016-17. Outside of the Targeted Case Management activity, none of the other services provided are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
- 4 According to the agency, there are more than 9,000 children registered by the Texas Education Agency as blind or severely visually impaired. The program currently serves approximately half of this population (4,361 per year in FY 2014).

Recommended Statutory Changes for Program Improvement

- 1 Sunset Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 would establish improved guidelines for case workers and a consistent case review system, resulting in more objective outcomes and better prioritization of reviews in the program. Services can extend over several years, and expenditure oversight was recommended more frequently in those cases.

Funding Alternatives Not Included in the Recommendations	Change from Recommendations				2017 FTEs
	GR-Related	All Funds			
1 Expand Children's Blindness Services. This is the agency's revised Exceptional Item #3(a).	\$	1,713,481	\$	1,806,608	13.0