

✓ FY19 Accomplishments

Engaged legislators and policymakers on strategies to return all the ERS retirement trust funds to actuarial soundness.

Provided ongoing promotion and support for virtual visits, use of which increased by more than 67%, and implemented mental health virtual visits.

Collaborated with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to provide convenient breast cancer screenings using the Center's mobile mammography van, at no cost to the health plan or participants.

Developed customized health and wellness reports for the state's largest agencies to encourage agency leadership to promote wellness.

Conducted a Board election to fill the seat of outgoing Trustee Doug Danzeiser. Members and retirees elected Brian Barth of the Texas Department of Transportation.

Published a new, easier-to-understand *Participant Guide to the Appeals Process* and implemented new procedures that allow for more direct participation by members filing appeals.

Enhanced agency information systems to strengthen the security of members' data.

Performed a comprehensive risk assessment to evaluate conditions or trends that pose the greatest risk to the agency's ability to meet its mission.

Created a data governance unit led by a dedicated data enterprise officer to establish and implement standards and policies for managing and securing data assets.

Completed the transition from a rules-based investment policy to a principle-based policy that enhances collaboration between the ERS Board and the Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) and creates a stronger framework for sound and prudent investment decisions.

Broke ground on a new office building that will generate revenue for the Retirement Trust Fund through leased space while also accommodating ERS' growing personnel needs.

Maintained high-quality benefits while avoiding increases in premiums for most plans and holding out-of-pocket costs steady.

ERS engaged with members through:

 440,849 phone calls

 3,800 one-on-one visits

 25,000 emails

Wellness Programs

Resources to help employees and retirees live their best—and healthiest—lives



Illness prevention plays an important role in controlling health care costs. In 2019, ERS further enhanced and expanded its wellness and disease management initiatives to encourage health plan participants to maintain or improve healthy habits and manage chronic conditions. All GBP health plans offer programs and individualized support for heart health, weight management, stress management, nutrition, exercise, tobacco cessation and more.

Under the guidance and coordination of a dedicated health promotion administrator, ERS is engaging state agencies in these initiatives and helping them promote their own wellness improvements. In the long term, these efforts could help manage health care costs for all by contributing to a healthier workforce.

ERS will continue to work with state legislators, agency and higher education institution employers and its contracted plan administrators to provide competitive benefits that enhance the lives of its members—and help make Texas a great place to work and live.

ERS health plans offer tools and assessments that make it easier for employees, retirees and their participating family members to actively monitor and manage their health.

Changing the Script

Comprehensive strategies to address the opioid epidemic



ERS is collaborating with health plan administrators and experts from the medical and pharmaceutical fields to fight opioid abuse. Changing the Script is a comprehensive initiative to prevent opioid misuse before it starts, stop the progression to dependency and support those on a path to recovery. ERS health plans incorporate safe prescribing guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and allow medication-assisted therapies for opioid dependency without prior authorization. Virtual visits for mental health services provide further support through convenient access to licensed professionals. The effort has had an immediate impact: HealthSelect of Texas reports that in one year, the number of individuals using long-acting and short-acting opioids declined 70% and 35%, respectively.



Benefits for Texans Serving Texans

FISCAL YEAR 2019 AT A GLANCE



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