



Access to Cancer Care For Low-Income and Uninsured Patients in Zapata County

- [*I want to be checked for cancer. Where do I go?*](#)
- [*I have been told I have cancer. Where do I go?*](#)
- [*Where can I learn more about cancer?*](#)



I want to be checked for cancer. Where do I go?

If you want to be checked for cancer and:

- You live in Zapata County
- You make a low income
- You do not have health insurance
- You cannot get Medicare or Medicaid

You may be able to get help through one of the programs listed below. Each one may have different rules about how you qualify and apply for services, so call the number listed for more information.

Zapata County Indigent Health Care Program

If you live in Zapata County you may be able to get help through the **Zapata County Indigent Health Care Program**.

For more information, call the number, go by the office, or visit the website listed below:

Zapata County
801 N US HWY 183
Zapata, TX 78076

(956) 765-8498





Mailing address:
2329 Stop 23B
Zapata, TX 78076

<http://www.co.zapata.tx.us/page/zapata.Indigent.Program>

Federally Qualified Health Centers

If you cannot get help from the Indigent Health Care Program, you may be able to see a doctor at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinic that will let you pay on a **"sliding scale."** This means that the amount of money you pay is based on how many family members live in your house and how much money you make. For example, if you have a big family and make just a little money, you would pay less for medical care. If you have a smaller family or make a little more money, you would pay a little more.

For more information and to find the nearest clinic, call the numbers below. Clinics that see adult patients are listed alphabetically by city and clinic name.

<p>Community Action Corporation of South Texas Duval 115 W Main St Benavides, TX 78341-1004 361-256-3663 https://cacost.org/programs/fqhc/</p> 	<p>Community Action Health Center Falfurrias 1302 S St Mary's St Falfurrias, TX 78355 361-325-9404 https://cacost.org/programs/fqhc/</p> 
<p>Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Hebronville Clinic 473 State Hwy 285 Hebronville, TX 78361-4430 361-527-4053 https://gatewaychc.com/hebronville-clinic/</p> 	<p>Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Laredo Central Clinic 1515 Pappas St Laredo, TX 78041-1705 956-795-8100 https://gatewaychc.com/laredo-central-clinic/</p> 
<p>Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Laredo College South Clinic 5500 S Zapata Hwy Laredo, TX 78046-8944 956-795-8100 https://gatewaychc.com/laredo-college-south-clinic/</p>	<p>Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Laredo North Clinic 208 Shiloh Dr, Suite 1 Laredo, TX 78045-7402 956-718-6281 https://gatewaychc.com/north-clinic/</p>



Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - South Laredo Clinic

2007 S Zapata Hwy
Laredo, TX 78046-6510
956-795-8101
<https://gatewaychc.com/south-laredo-clinic/>



Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Zapata Clinic

210 N Rathmell Ave
Zapata, TX 78076
956-765-4367
<https://gatewaychc.com/zapata-clinic/>



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For U. S. Military Veterans

If you are a **veteran**, you may be able to be seen at a **Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic**. To find out more about veterans' benefits, go to <https://www.va.gov/health-care/>. For more information, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at the number below:

Health Benefits Hotline: 1-877-222-VETS(8387)

You may also call or visit the following VA facilities in or near **Zapata County**. Clinics are listed alphabetically by city and clinic name.

Laredo VA Clinic

4602 N. Bartlett
Laredo, TX 78041-3803
956-523-7850
https://www.texasvalley.va.gov/locations/Laredo_OP_C.asp



McAllen VA Clinic

901 E. Hackberry Ave.
McAllen, TX 78503-6502
956-618-7100
https://www.texasvalley.va.gov/locations/McAllen_OP_C.asp



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For Women

Women who want to get checked for **cervical cancer or breast cancer** may be able to get help through a special program called **Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS)**. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Services program services include:

- Screening services
 - Clinical breast examination
 - Mammogram
 - Pelvic examination and Pap test
- Diagnostic services
- Cervical dysplasia management and treatment
- Help applying for Medicaid for Breast and Cervical Cancer



You may receive these benefits if you:

- Are a female.
- Are a resident of Texas.
- Are 18 or older.
- Don't have health insurance.
- Meet income requirements (200% Federal Poverty Level)

If you have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer and don't have health insurance that will pay for your treatment, you may be eligible to receive full Medicaid benefits by applying for Medicaid for Breast and Cervical Cancer. Contact a Breast and Cervical Cancer Services clinic to see if you qualify for this Medicaid program.

For more information, visit <https://www.healthytexaswomen.org/bccs-program> or call **2-1-1**.

You may also call or visit one of the following BCCS clinics in or near **Zapata County**. Clinics are listed alphabetically by city and clinic name.

<p>Community Action Corporation of South Texas Duval 115 W Main St Benavides, TX 78341-1004 361-256-3663 https://cacost.org/programs/fqhc/</p> 	<p>Community Action Health Center Falfurrias 1302 S St Mary's St Falfurrias, TX 78355 361-325-9404 https://www.tachc.org/center/community-action-corporation-of-south-texas</p> 
<p>Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Hebbronville Clinic 473 State Hwy 285</p>	<p>Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Laredo Central Clinic 1515 Pappas St</p>

Hebbronville, TX 78361-4430
361-527-4053
<https://gatewaychc.com/hebbronville-clinic/>



Laredo, TX 78041
956-795-8100
<https://gatewaychc.com/laredo-central-clinic/>



Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - South Laredo Clinic
2007 S Zapata Hwy
Laredo, TX 78046
956-795-8100
<https://gatewaychc.com/south-laredo-clinic/>



Gateway Community Health Center, Inc. - Zapata Clinic
210 N Rathmell Ave
Zapata, TX 78076
956-765-4367
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Healthy Texas Women

Healthy Texas Women is a program dedicated to offering women's health and family planning at no cost to eligible women in Texas.

Healthy Texas Women provides a wide variety of women's health and core family planning services, including pelvic examinations, breast and cervical cancer screenings, clinical breast examination, mammograms, and other services.

The program pays only for specific services. If a health problem such as cancer is found, you will be referred to a doctor or clinic that can treat you. You can receive these benefits if you:

- Are a woman between the ages of 18 to 44 years old. (Women are considered 18 years of age on the day of her 18th birthday and 44 years of age through the last day of the month of her 45th birthday.)
- Are a woman between the ages of 15 to 17 years old and have a parent or legal guardian apply, renew, and report changes to your case on your behalf. (Women are considered 15 years of age the first day of the month of her 15th birthday and 17 years of age through the day before her 18th birthday.)
- Are a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant.
- Are a resident of Texas.
- Don't have health insurance.
- Are not pregnant.
- Meet the income requirements - monthly family income below 200% Federal Poverty Level. (See website for details.)

For more information, visit the website at <https://www.healthytexaswomen.org/healthcare-programs/healthy-texas-women/htw-who-can-apply>

or call 2-1-1. Pick a language and then press 2. If you can't connect to 2-1-1, call 1-877-541-7905 (toll-free).

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Other Screening Programs

Free Colorectal Cancer Screening

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Texas, but the number of people dying from this disease is dropping. One reason may be that colorectal cancer can be prevented by screening people who do not have any symptoms of cancer.

[The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#) is working with primary care clinics to get this life-saving screening to patients in Texas communities who are not otherwise able to afford or access it.

The FIT stool test is a colon cancer screening exam you can do at home. It is easy and it may save your life. To get a free FIT test through this program you should:

- Have a low-income and no medical insurance
- Be between 45 and 75 years old
- Not have any symptoms of colorectal cancer (rectal bleeding or blood in stool, persistent changes in bowel habits, unexplained weight loss)
- Not have inflammatory bowel disease (acute diarrhea, colitis, diverticulitis, Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis)

If your FIT test from a participating clinic shows that you have blood in your stool, you will be offered a free colonoscopy.

Contact a clinic from the list, below, to find out if you qualify to receive the free FIT colon cancer test. Patients who have already been diagnosed with colorectal polyps or cancer, or who have family members with colon polyps or colon cancer, should talk to a health care provider at the clinic about screening options. Clinics are listed alphabetically by city and clinic name.

These projects are funded in part by the [Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas \(CPRIT\)](#). For more information, visit <https://www.texasancer.info/prevscreentreat/colonscreen.html>.

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Appointments

When you go for your appointment, be sure to bring any medical records you have. This information will help the doctor understand your needs better. For example, bring:

- Results of past medical or lab tests
- Records of any treatments you have had
- A list of any medicines you are taking right now

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What if I still cannot get help for cancer care?

If you cannot get help from the county program or a Federally Qualified Health Center, you may want to call one of the hospitals below.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has named four cancer centers in Texas as leaders in cancer research. Two centers are in Houston, one is in Dallas and one is in San Antonio. These centers focus on finding new treatments for cancer through clinical trial testing. To find out more, visit the websites or call the numbers below:

The Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine (713) 798-1354

<https://www.bcm.edu/centers/cancer-center/>

Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center

214-645-8300 or 817-882-2700

<https://utswmed.org/cancer/>

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

1-877-MDA-6789 (1-877-632-6789)

<https://www.mdanderson.org/about-md-anderson/contact-us.html>

UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center

1-800-340-2872 or 210-450-1000

<https://www.uthscsa.edu/patient-care/cancer-center>

You may want to contact other hospitals in your area that may also treat low-income or uninsured patients. You would need to contact each hospital to find out if you can make an appointment to be seen. Please visit the Texas Cancer Information Hospitals page at <https://www.texasancer.info/prevscrtreat/hospitals.html> to search for a hospital in your area that does cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment or continuing care.

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Where can I learn more about cancer?

- There are many groups that help cancer patients. These groups may offer financial assistance, support services or free information about cancer. You can get a list of these groups from the National Cancer Institute by clicking on or typing in the following link:

<https://supportorgs.cancer.gov/>

You may also call the **[National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service \(CIS\)](#)** at **1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)**.

- The **American Cancer Society (ACS)** also has support groups and information about cancer. You may call **1-800-227-2345** or go to the website: <https://www.cancer.org/>
- **LIVESTRONG** has information about financial assistance and support groups. Call **1-855-220-7777** or visit the website: <https://www.livestrong.org>
- **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** is a breast cancer helpline. Call **1-877-456-6636 (1-877-GOKOMEN)** or visit the website: <https://www.komen.org>
- Visit the **Texas Cancer Information (texascancer.info)** website at <https://www.texascancer.info/> for lists of doctors, hospitals, breast, colon and skin cancer screening services and hospices. You can find support, counseling, education and other help such as transportation, housing and medical equipment by clicking on [Find Cancer Services](#).

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I have been told I have cancer. Where do I go?

If you have been told that you need treatment for cancer and:

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- You make a low income
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Print or Download *Access to Cancer Care for Low-Income and Uninsured Patients*

Click on one of the following links to download or print a PDF (updated 05/07/2021) of all access to care information for Zapata County. **Please note: For the most up-to-date information, use the interactive search tool at <https://www.texascancer.info/access/>.**

- [access_zapata.pdf](#) (English)
- [acceso_espanol_zapata.pdf](#) (en español)

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Information on Zapata County last updated on 05/07/2021

Date of search: 05/07/2021