



Network adequacy waiver request hearings

April 24, 2024

# **TDI** | Network adequacy waiver hearings

- Background on House Bill 3359.
- Hearing process.
- Submitting evidence.
- Reviewing published data.
- Demo of waiver hearing sites.

# TDI | Background

In 2023, the Texas Legislature passed [House Bill 3359](#), which amended [Texas Insurance Code 1301](#). The new requirements of the bill:

- Strengthens network adequacy standards.
  - Sets travel time and distance standards based on county designation.
  - Sets maximum appointment wait time standards.
- Permits insurers to request a network standard waiver. For example:
  - Not enough cardiologists within 10 miles from an enrollee living in a large metro county.
  - Not enough neonatologists within a facility.
- Requires TDI to hold a public hearing before granting waivers.

# TDI | Hearing notices

- All hearings will be on Zoom.
- TDI will post the hearing notice at least two weeks in advance.
  - Hearing schedule is on the [Agency Calendar](#).
  - TDI will post the recordings on the [Network adequacy archived recordings](#) page.
- Sign up to receive email notices through GovDelivery.
- Insurers will be notified through SERFF.
- Physicians and providers that insurers tried to contract with will get hearing notices.

# TDI | Submit evidence

Anyone can give evidence by:

- Speaking at a hearing:
  - Complete the [witness registration form](#) two business days before the hearing, if possible.
  - TDI may limit speaking time to let all witnesses to speak.
- Submitting written evidence:
  - Email [NetworkWaivers@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:NetworkWaivers@tdi.texas.gov). Use the subject "SERFF ID#" and include specific ID number.
  - TDI will accept written submissions up to one week after the hearing.

# TDI | Texas Open Data Portal (ODP)

Network data will be published into three datasets on the Texas [ODP](#).

- Datasets can be filtered and sorted. Datasets include:
  - [Major medical](#): compliance with time and distance standards.
  - [Facility-based providers](#): adequacy within in-network hospitals and other facilities.
  - [Vision](#): shows network adequacy for vision plans.
- Users can create and save reports.

The [Network adequacy standards waivers](#) webpage includes:

- [Agency Calendar](#).
- [Network adequacy archived recordings](#).
- [Email signup](#) for network adequacy news and hearings.
- [Witness registration form](#).
- [Open Data Portal \(ODP\)](#).
- [Network adequacy waiver request filings](#).
- Frequently asked questions.

# TDI | Next steps

Network filings for 2024 are due May 1.

- TDI will:
  - Upload data to the [Texas Open Data Portal](#).
  - Schedule hearings on waiver requests.
- For more information:
  - Email [MCQA@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:MCQA@tdi.texas.gov).
  - Visit TDI's [Network adequacy standards waivers webpage](#) for updates.