

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Annual Work Program (AWP)



301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas 78596

January, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i-ii
INTRODUCTION	1
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	
Organizational Structure.....	2
Organizational Charts	7
LRGVDC Staff Directory.....	18
Executive Committee	21
Board of Directors	21
Membership	21
Standing Committees.....	28
AREA AGENCY ON AGING DEPARTMENT	
Area Agency on Aging	30
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Economic and Business Development	32
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Community & Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAP).....	35
DISASTER RECOVERY/HOUSING	
Housing Program.....	36
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES	
Water Quality Management Planning	38
Regional Water Resource Planning	40
Regional Solid Waste Management Planning	41
DATA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	
Economic and Demographic Data.....	46
REGIONAL 9-1-1	
Emergency Communications (9-1-1)	47

VALLEY METRO	
Public Transportation for Non-Urbanized Areas (Section 5311)	49
Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307).....	50
 HOMELAND SECURITY	
Homeland Security	51
Criminal Justice	56
Metropolitan Medical Response System	59
 REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY	
Regional Police Academy	60
 REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER	
Regional Training Center	63

INTRODUCTION

Many regional projects and services have been accomplished since the inception of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) in 1967. In an effort to assess current services and to provide for the continuance of progressive programs, the LRGVDC Membership evaluates and adopts an annual plan of Council programs. This annual plan is referred to as the Council's Annual Work Program (AWP). Subject to review and approval, the AWP and Budget Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors and Membership that the AWP document be adopted as the Council's Annual Work Program. This document also provides the funding agencies and the general public with a better understanding of the LRGVDC's functions.

The AWP contains two major components: (1) the LRGVDC's Organizational Structure which describes the Council's purpose and composition; and, (2) LRGVDC's Programs listed according to major functions, as related to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Strategic Plan's Goals, Objectives and Specific Tasks.

LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The LRGVDC is a voluntary association of local governments formed under Texas Law to deal with problems and planning needs that cross the boundaries of individual local governments that require regional attention. The LRGVDC coordinates planning efforts, provides a regional approach to problem solving through cooperative action and sometimes provides direct services. LRGVDC's mission statement is as follows:

ENCOURAGE AND PERMIT LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT TO JOIN AND COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, CITIZEN GROUPS, AND GROUPS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC DISTRESS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS AND TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

The LRGVDC also serves an important role by implementing specific designated responsibilities as directed by Local, State and Federal agencies such as the following:

- 1) The Region's Economic Development District (EDD) as designated by the United States Department of Commerce under the Economic Development Administration (EDA). All EDA funded projects must be processed and recommended through the EDD office.
- 2) The Area Agency on Aging as designated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) under the Older American's Act of 1965 as amended provides direct and contract services for the elderly.
- 3) The Areawide Wastewater Management Planning Agency (AWMPA) as designated by the Governor's Office.
- 4) The Regional Solid Waste Management Planning Agency.
- 5) The regional transportation agency provides services and operates transit routes in rural and urban areas under the Valley Metro banner.
- 6) The regional 9-1-1 Planning Agency as designated by the Commission on State Emergency Communications. Emergency Communication services for Hidalgo and Willacy Counties are managed by the LRGVDC.
- 7) The LRGVDC is the Administrative/Fiscal Agent for the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO).

- 8) The LRGVDC is the designated political subdivision to perform administrative and financial accountability for the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). Region M covers eight counties in South Texas.
- 9) The Administrative/Fiscal Agent for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Certified Development Company (LRGVDC). This entity is the Certified Development Company approved by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to package and service SBA 504 loans.
- 10) The LRGVDC is the Administrative/Fiscal Agent for the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA).
- 11) The LRGVDC is the Administrative Agent for the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA).
- 12.) The LRGVDC Homeland Security Department is designated by The State Administrative Agency to provide assistance and support to local counties, city governments and first responders in homeland security grant administrative support and emergency planning and preparedness.

The LRGVDC is active in the fields of economic and industrial development; homeland security, criminal justice and law enforcement training; transportation planning and transit services; solid waste planning; water quality and quantity planning; services for the elderly; health; emergency communication; and, regional training.

Formed in 1967 by a merger of the Texas Southmost Economic Development District and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Council of Governments, the LRGVDC is now one of twenty-four (24) State Planning Regions; as chartered by the State (V.A.C.S. 1011m). The LRGVDC is considered the appropriate body to ensure coordination of development programs and to ensure local control of federal and state funded projects. This organization has also become a governmental forum to discuss and develop local efforts for the resolution of common problems and issues.

Geographically, the Development Council comprises the three (3) southernmost counties of Texas; Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy and encompasses 3,072 square miles. Membership in the Council consists of the governing bodies of Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, forty (40) municipalities, eleven (11) educational institutions, twenty-nine (29) special purpose districts, one (1) grassroots representative and ten (10) members at large. These entities represent the entire tri-county population estimated at 1,203,123 in 2010.

The Development Council is governed by a twenty-six (26) member Board of Directors. This Board is primarily responsible for the direction of all Council functions, and meets this responsibility through Council policies, committees, plans and programmatic activities. The Board has established numerous standing committees, which function in an advisory capacity.

Program activities are carried out by a professional staff of approximately one hundred twenty (120). Most projects are implemented with the assistance of twenty-two (22) standing committees consisting of volunteer members. A significant amount of volunteer time is provided by valley residents, which is coordinated with existing resources and programs.

A chart depicting the LRGVDC Organizational Structure is provided immediately after this narrative. Also included are the following: LRGVDC Staff Directory, LRGVDC Board of Directors, LRGVDC Membership and LRGVDC Standing Committees.

Historically, the Development Council has provided ongoing assistance to local governments in the areas of management services; human resources development; law enforcement and criminal justice; public health; economic and industrial development; natural resources management; data research and development; intergovernmental services; community development and transportation planning and services. These comprehensive planning functions conducted by the Development Council relate to all segments of the population, the economy and governmental activities.

Funding to support these programs originates from local, state and federal sources. Members of the LRGVDC contribute membership fees which are based on population for general purpose governments and a fixed fee for special purpose entities. These and other funds are then utilized as the local match contributions to secure federal and state funds from the Economic Development Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Transit Administration, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Water Development Board, State Office on Criminal Justice, Texas Department on Aging and Disability Services, Texas Department of Transportation, Commission on State Emergency Communications, Texas Department of Rural Affairs, Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs and the Texas Department of Health.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the Council of Governments (COG) and is responsible for the formulation of the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the LRGVDC.

The Executive Director has assigned the Department of Human Resources to be the custodian of the LRGVDC Personnel records. Maintain and update the Personnel Policies and Procedures, Personnel and Medical files, I-9's, and W-4's, ensuring compliance with equal employment criteria, the Fair Labor Standards Act, Classification Act, and other state and federal laws and regulations. This Department is also responsible for maintaining the medical, dental, and supplemental insurance(s) for all LRGVDC employees.

FINANCE

The Finance Department is in charge of all financial matters of Council affairs and maintains all accounting files. The Finance Department is also responsible for budget projections and Council audits.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The LRGVDC is designated as one of twenty-eight (28) Area Agencies on Aging in the State of Texas under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. It is the representative agency of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services for the Lower Rio Grande Valley and functions as the coordinating, and planning agency for services to persons who are 60 years of age and older. The overall objective of the Council's Area Agency on Aging is to improve the quality of life of older persons through the development and expansion of a comprehensive and coordinated social service delivery system at the regional level. The AAA is legally eligible to conduct direct services, as is any other Council program, and the AAA has continually provided direct services through case management and long term care projects. Most project funds are subcontracted to social service agencies in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Department has the primary responsibility of coordinating economic development planning for the three-county region. The LRGVDC is designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District (EDD). This designation enables local governmental jurisdictions, state agencies, and special purpose organizations to make applications to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for financial assistance.

REGIONAL PLANNING AND SERVICES

The Development Council provides Valley governmental entities with a variety of planning assistance activities and services. The Regional Planning and Services Department provides cities, state and federal agencies with a broad range of technical assistance and professional services. The department also manages and administers federal, state and local contracts to increase planning and direct services in the Valley. Departmental programs and activities include: Community Development and Economic Development; Census data; Solid Waste Management Planning; Disaster Recovery/Housing Program and Water Quality Management Planning.

TRANSIT

The need for public transportation services has long been recognized as one of the Lower Rio Grande Valley's priorities. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) administers and operates both rural and urban systems. Valley Metro provides a much-needed service to the population of the region, particularly the elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged.

HOMELAND SECURITY

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 established the Department of Homeland Security. LRGVDC Staff assists the Region in the coordination and implementation of several programs within this department. The programs include the Criminal Justice; Metropolitan Medical Response System; and the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Department.

9-1-1

The 9-1-1 Department provides quicker access to emergency care and adequate overall public safety facilities, personnel and equipment for law enforcement, fire protection and emergency medical services in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The 9-1-1 Department also provides administrative functions under the development council by maintaining the state 9-1-1 database, updating emergency maps, providing appropriate training to 9-1-1 call takers and by maintaining the 9-1-1 Public Outreach Program focusing on Texans 60 and older as well as elementary children from Pre-K to third grade.

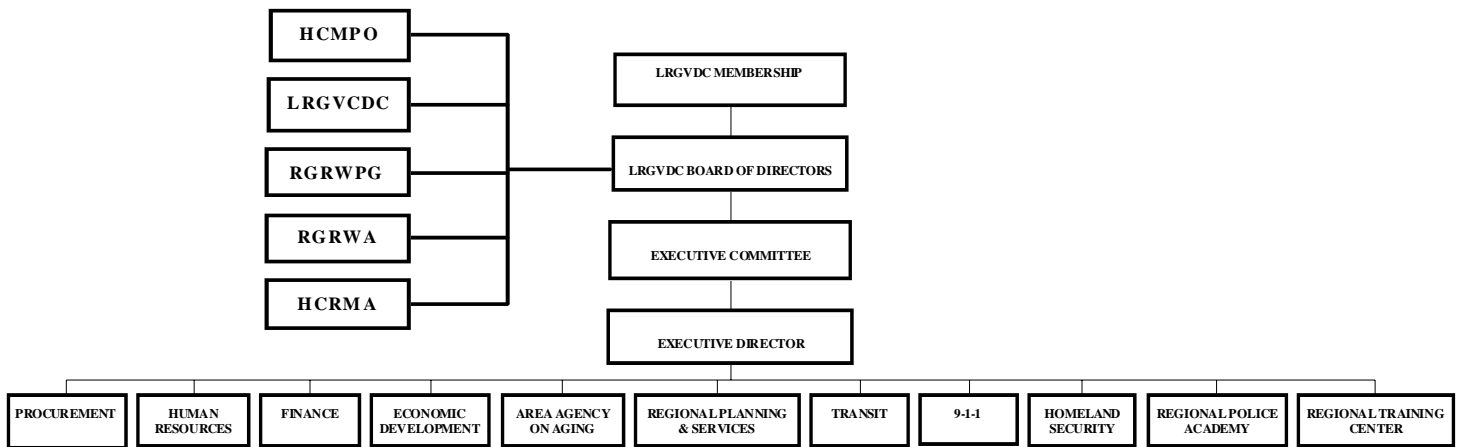
REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

The Regional Police Academy (RPA) is housed at our Harlingen location and empowered to deliver the Basic Peace Officer Certification (BPOC) course as stipulated by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). Currently, the BPOC is set at a minimum of 618 contact hours; however, as delivered by the RPA, the BPOC consists of at least 818 hours. The RPA includes subjects suggested by local agencies: OC Spray, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and expandable baton to name a few.

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

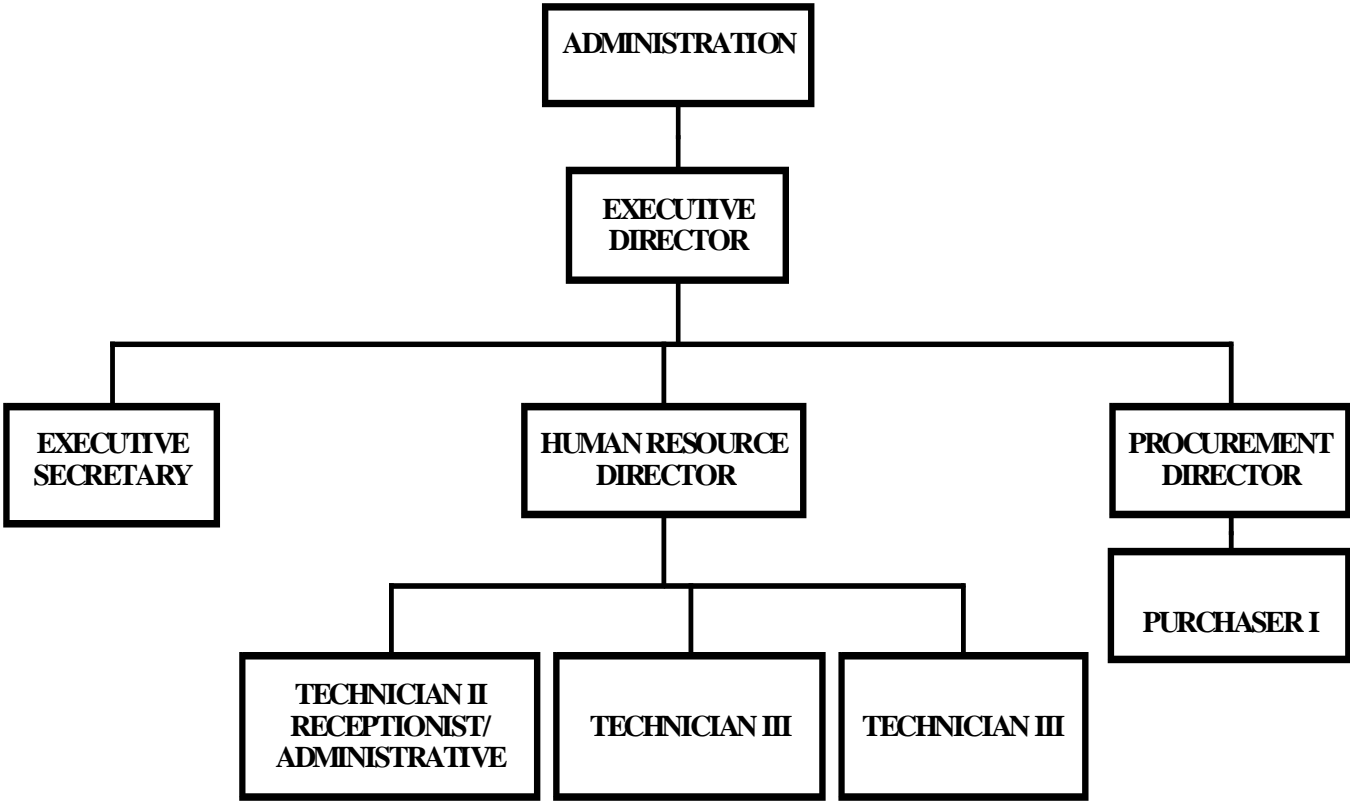
The Regional Training Center provides professional training and professional development to the region. Such courses include, but are not limited to, Decisions for Teens, Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness, Distracted Driving, Safety Awareness for Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Detention Officers, Safety Awareness for Transit Operators, etc. Upon request, the Regional Training Center can design courses tailored to meet the needs for stakeholders.

LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART MANAGEMENT

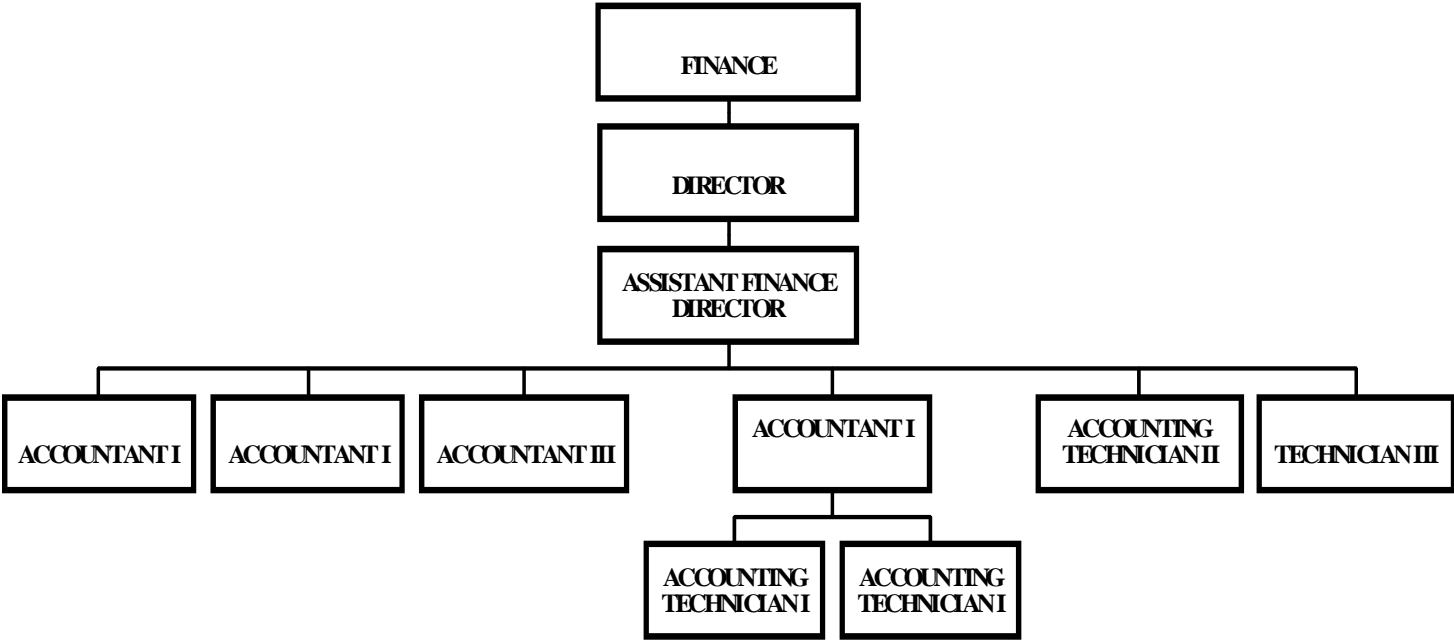


HCMPO - Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
 LRGVDC - Lower Rio Grande Valley Certified Development Company
 RGRWPG - Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group
 RGRWA- Rio Grande Regional Water Authority
 HCRMA - Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority

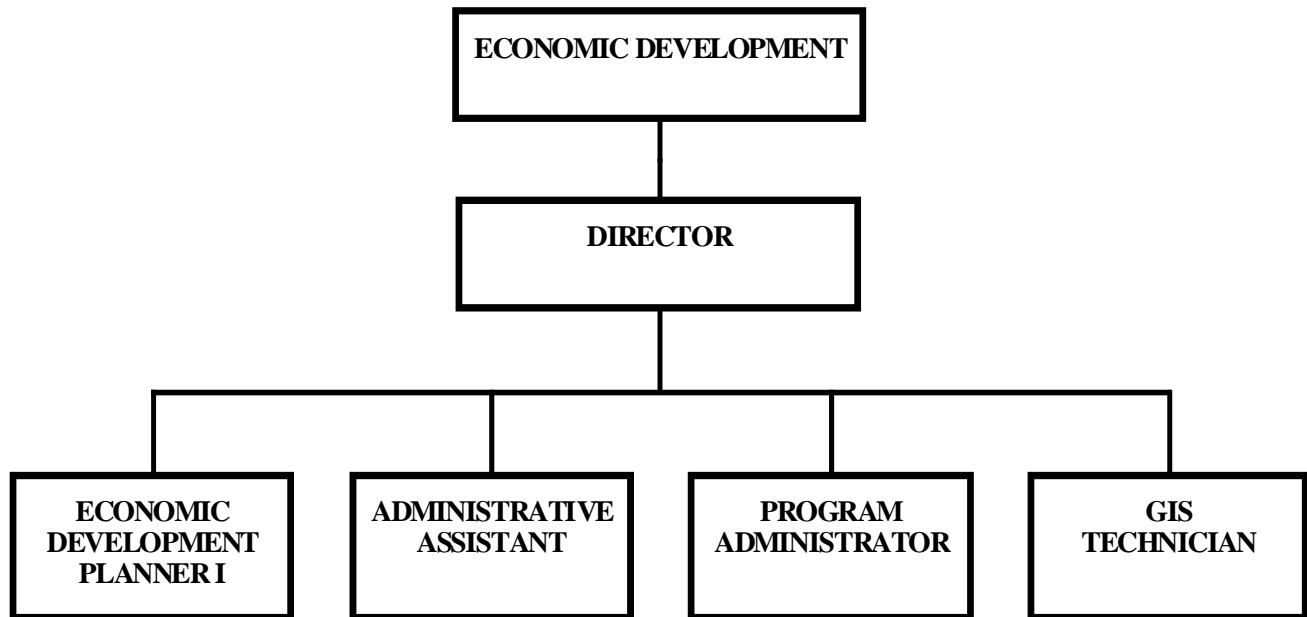
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART ADMINISTRATION



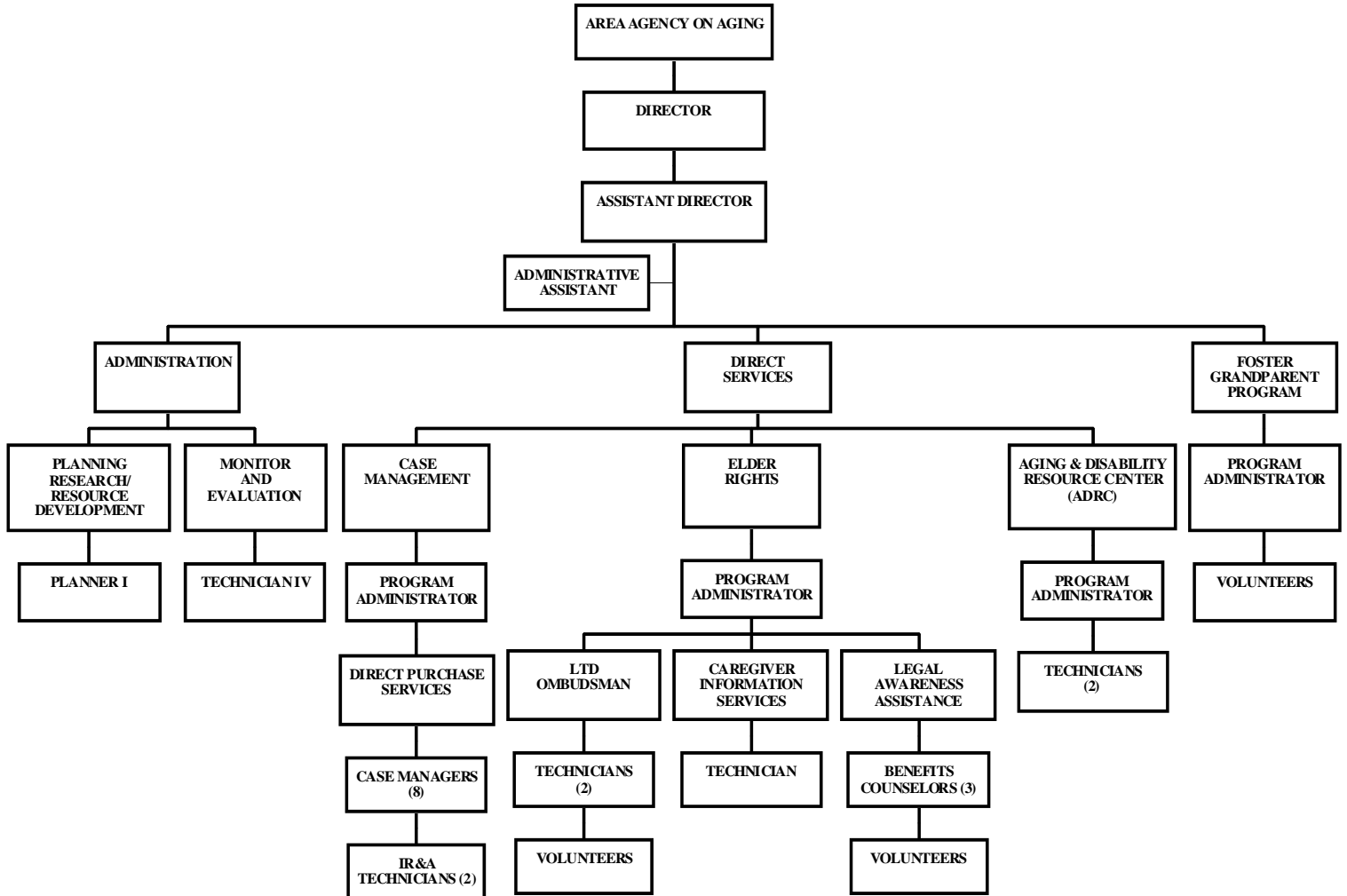
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FINANCE DEPARTMENT



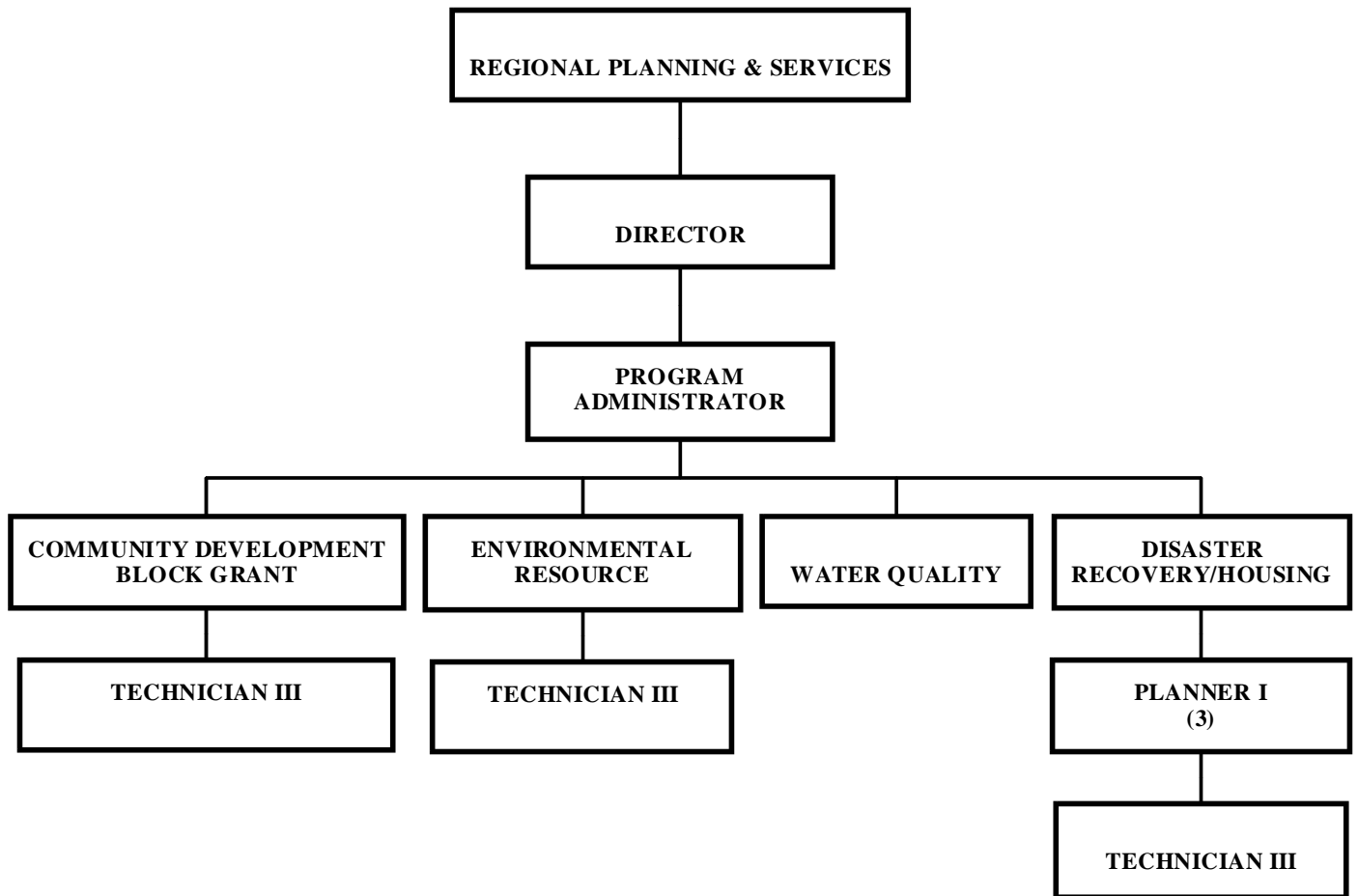
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



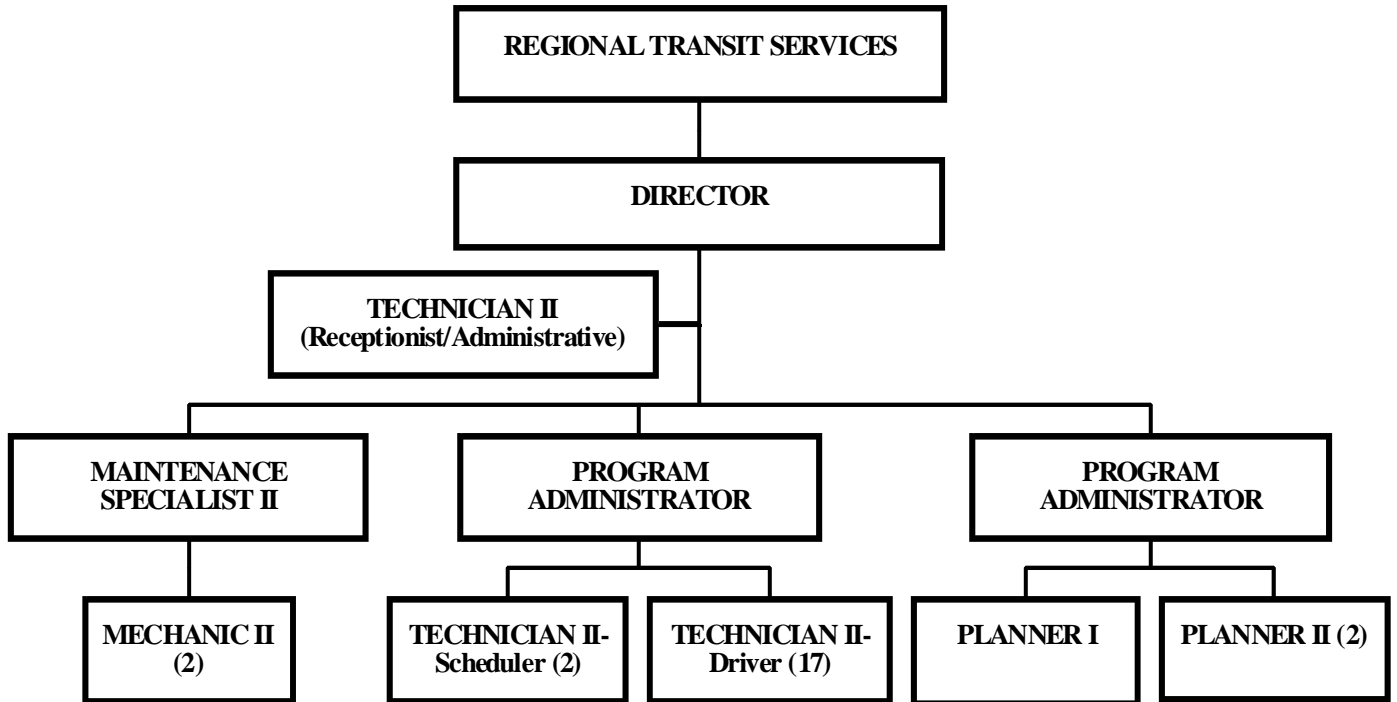
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AREA AGENCY ON AGING DEPARTMENT



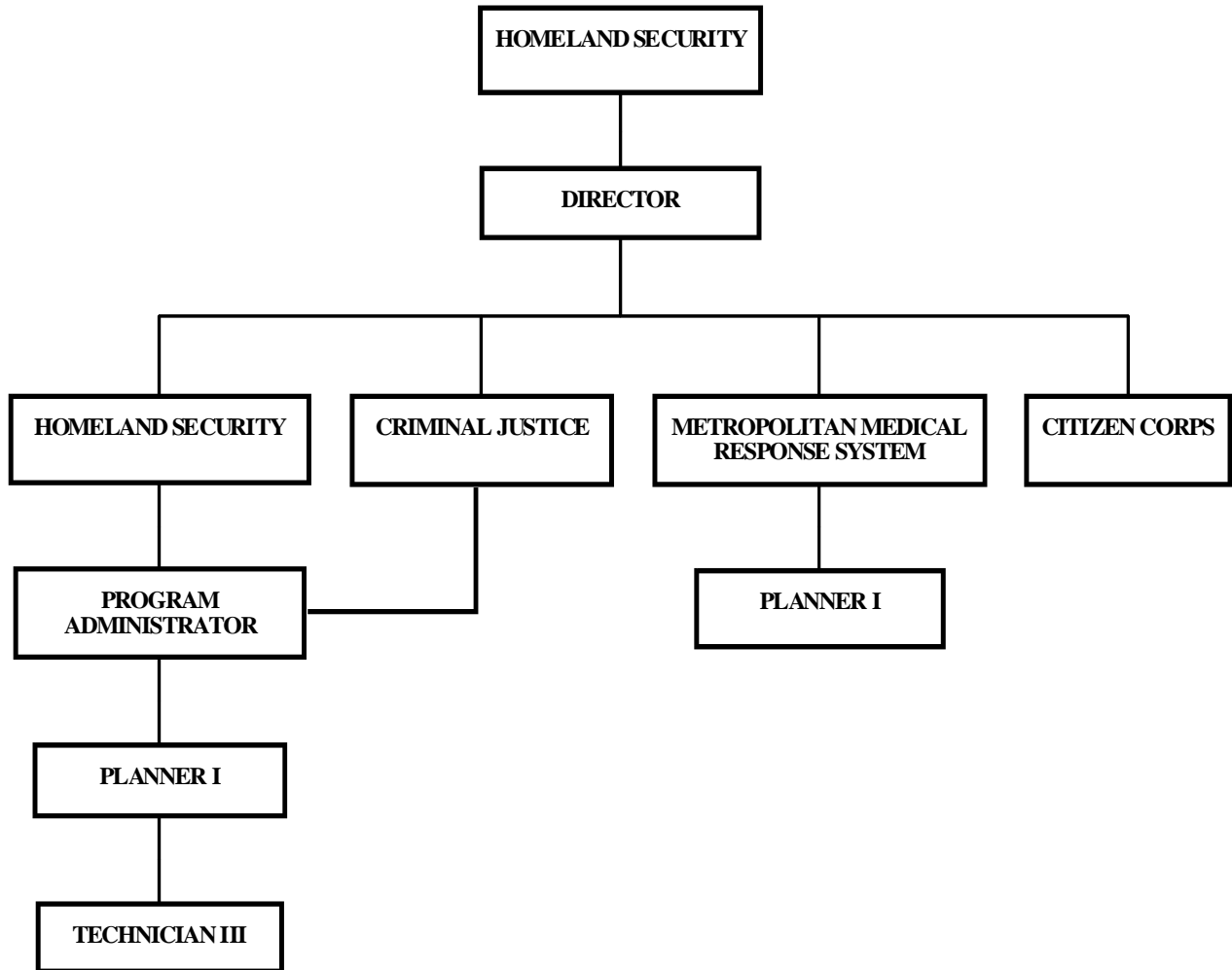
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REGIONAL PLANNING & SERVICES



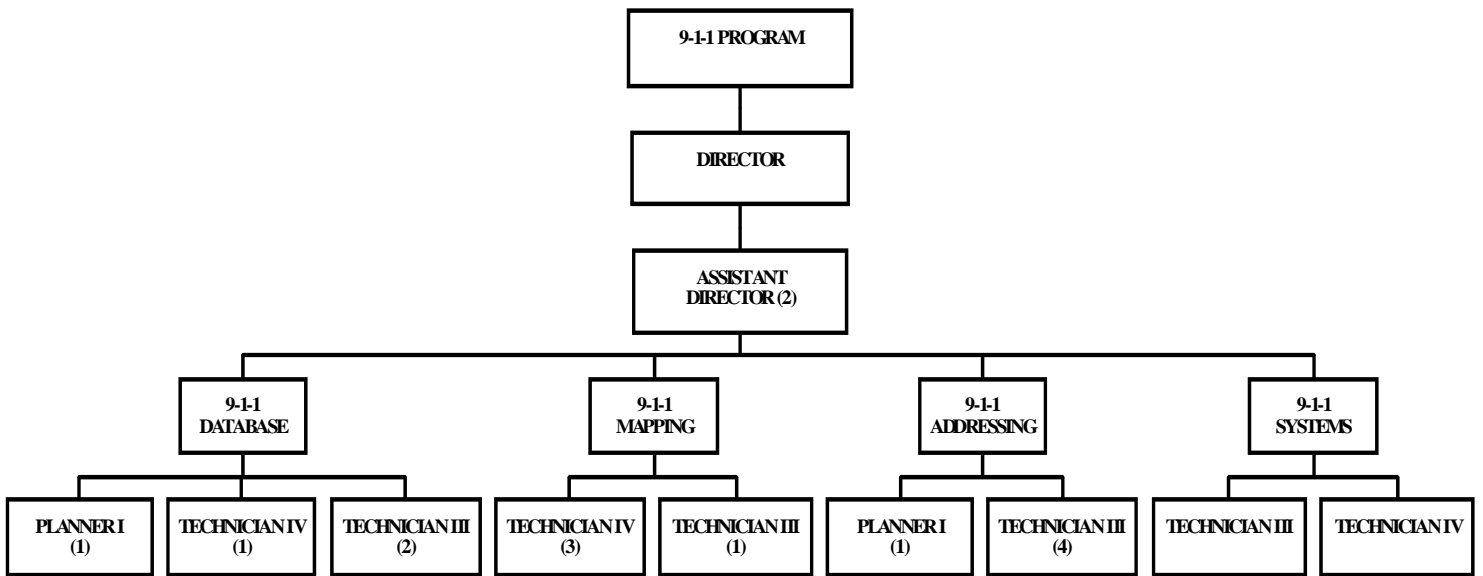
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICES



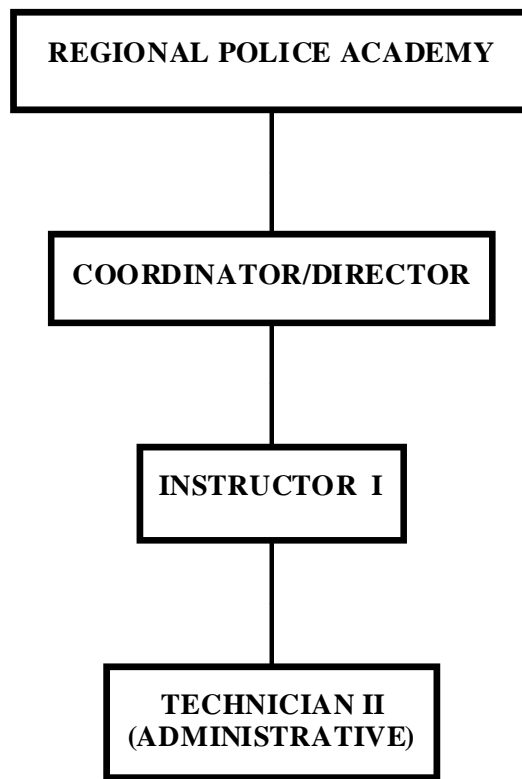
LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART HOMELAND SECURITY



LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 9-1-1 DEPARTMENT

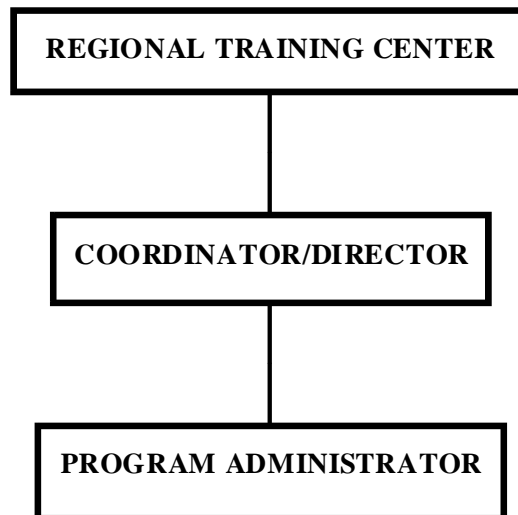


LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY *



* State Supportive

LRGVDC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER



LRGVDC STAFF DIRECTORY

Administration Department	
Name	Dept/Title
Kenneth N. Jones, Jr.	Executive Director
Deborah (Debby) Morales	Executive Secretary
Anna M. Hernandez	Director of Human Resources
Angelina (Angie) Rodriguez	Technician III – HR & Finance
Vernee D. Ortiz	Technician III – HR
Victor Morales	Director of Procurement
Carolina Leal	Purchaser I
Anali Pulido	Technician II - Receptionist/Administration
Finance Department	
D. Ann Lyles	Director
Crystal Balboa	Assistant Director
Olga Arias-Hernandez	Accountant III
Joanna Saenz	Accountant II
Celeste A. Nepomuceno	Accountant I
Alma Guerrero	Accountant I
Adalia Gonzalez	Accounting Technician I
Diana Alvarado	Accounting Technician I
Diana De Anda	Accounting Technician II
Eduardo Alvarado	Technician III
Area Agency On Aging	
Jose L. Gonzalez	Director
Elida Carranza	Technician IV
Belinda A. Tyler	Program Administrator
Marilu Fuentes	Planner I
Mary Rojas	Administrative Assistant
Israel S. Yañez	Technician III (Contract Management)
Foster Grandparent Program	
Sylvia A. Yanes	Program Administrator
Case Management – Area Agency on Aging	
Vacant	Program Administrator
Kathrine Betancourt	Technician III (Access & Assistance) Harlingen Office
Jaime Garza	Case Manager/Case Reviewer – Harlingen Office
Dora C. Moreno	Case Manager – Harlingen Office
Vivianna Moreno	Case Manager
Monica A. Rocha	Case Manager – Harlingen Office
Mary Villarreal	Case Manager
Albina H. Castro	Case Manager
Laura (Denise) Wylie	Case Manager (Caregiver)
Aleida Tirado	Technician III – Care Coordination
Rosa (Rosie) Recio	Technician III (Information & Assistance)

Claudia Miranda	Technician III
Elder Rights – Area Agency on Aging	
Debra Lachico	Program Administrator
Veronica (Ronnie) Alegria	Technician IV - (Public Benefits)
Mary L. Solis	Technician IV – (Public Benefits)
Anna De Leon	Technician IV – (Public Benefits) Harlingen Office
Anna M. Treviño	Technician IV– (Ombudsman) Harlingen Office
Amalia (Molly) Segovia	Technician IV – (Ombudsman)
Noemi Rodriguez	Technician III (Caregiver Info. Services)
Economic Development Department	
Terrie Salinas	Director
Mario Garcia	Program Administrator
Gloria Casas	Planner I
Vacant	GIS Technician
Christine Martinez	Administrative Assistant
Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	
Andrew Canon	Director
Maria Champine	Assistant Director
Linda De La Fuente	Transportation Planner II
Mary Escalona	Administrative Assistant
Amanda Longoria	GIS Specialist & Transportation Planner I
Sooraz Patro	GIS Specialist & Transportation Planner I
Leofredo Villarreal	GIS Specialist
Regional Planning & Services	
Maricela (Marcie) Oviedo	Director of Regional Planning
Ludivina (Ludy) Saenz	Program Administrator
Laura Gonzalez	Planner I
Brenda Salinas	Technician III
Valerie Ramos	Technician III
Regional Mobility Authority	
Flor E. Koll	Program Administrator
9-1-1	
Juan J. Gomez	Director of 9-1-1
Sergio Castro	Assistant Director
Stephen Tice	Assistant Director
Magdalena (Maggie) Garza	Planner I
Raul Madero	Planner I
Jose A. Garcia Jr.	Technician IV
Dorina Moya	Technician IV
Orlando Niño	Technician IV
Jessica M. Reyna	Technician IV
Rolando Vela	Technician IV
E. Juan Torres, Jr.	Technician III
Mary N. Carrillo	Technician III
Hector N. Chapa	Technician III
Juan E. Chapa	Technician III

Oscar L. Garza	Technician III
Rogelio (Roy) Martinez	Technician III
Jennifer Treviño	Technician III
Jose J. Peña	Technician III
Homeland Security	
Manuel Cruz	Director of Homeland Security
Claudia Wood	Program Administrator
Tanya Saldaña	Planner I
Rebecca J. Gonzalez	Technician III – Part-time (CJ)
Melissa Armijo	Planner I
Regional Police Academy – Harlingen (956) 364-4507 & Regional Training Center (956)682-3481	
Paul R. Williams	Coordinator/Director
Nathan Garza	Instructor I
Glenda Elizondo	Program Administrator – Regional Training Center (Weslaco Office)
Valley Metro – Weslaco (956) 969-5761	
Thomas Logan	Director
Rosie Cuevas	Program Administrator
Rodney Gomez	Program Administrator
Maribel Contreras	Planner I
Sandra Muñoz-Gama	Planner II
Luis Guajardo	Planner II
Dora Cruz	Technician II
Aime Nolasco	Technician II (Receptionist/ Administrative)
Yolanda Hernandez	Technician II (Scheduler)
Roberto (Robert) Diaz	Transportation Maintenance Specialist II
Robert Goodwin Jr.	Mechanic II
Jorge L. Ortega- Castillo	Mechanic II
Rodolfo Alejandro	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Francisco Cantu	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Fernando Castillo	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Paul Dulcet	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Medardo Garnica	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Vacant	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Andres H. Martinez	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Miguel Moncada	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Gilbert Morales	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Ruben Padilla Jr.	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Julio Perez	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Mario A. Perez	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Armando Robledo	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Fernando Rodriguez Jr.	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Alfred W. Rogers Jr.	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
James Salazar	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)
Ruben Ruiz	Technician II Driver (Transit Services)

2011-2012 LRGVDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MAYOR PRO-TEM EDDY GONZALEZ CITY OF EDCOUCH	PRESIDENT
HONORABLE NORMA G. GARCIA MEMBER- AT- LARGE	FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
MAYOR STEVE BREWER CITY OF LA FERIA	SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
MAYOR TONY MARTINEZ CITY OF BROWNSVILLE	SECRETARY
MAYOR PRO-TEM ALVIN SAMANO MEMBER- AT- LARGE	TREASURER
MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL CITY OF HARLINGEN	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**2011-2012 LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND MEMBERSHIP**

MEMBER

REPRESENTATIVE

COUNTIES:

*CAMERON COUNTY	Commissioner Sofia C. Benavides Cameron County Pct. 1
*HIDALGO COUNTY	Commissioner Hector “Tito” Palacios Hidalgo County Pct. 2
*WILLACY COUNTY	Judge John F. Gonzales, Jr. Willacy County Pct. 3

CITIES:

*ALAMO	Commissioner Roel Landa City of Alamo
ALTON	Mayor Salvador Vela City of Alton

BAYVIEW	Mayor Leon Deason City of Bayview
**BROWNSVILLE	Mayor Tony Martinez City of Brownsville
COMBES	Mayor Silvestre Garcia City of Combes
*DONNA	Mayor David S. Simmons City of Donna
**EDCOUCH	Mayor Pro-Tem Eddy Gonzalez City of Edcouch
*EDINBURG	Council Member Gus Garcia City of Edinburg
ELSA	Mayor Alonzo "Al" Perez City of Elsa
GRANJENO	Mayor Vicente Garza Jr. City of Granjeno
**HARLINGEN	Mayor Chris Boswell City of Harlingen
HIDALGO	Mayor John David Franz City of Hidalgo
INDIAN LAKE	Mayor Barbara Cullum City of Indian Lake
**LA FERIA	Mayor Steve Brewer City of La Feria
LAGUNA VISTA	Mayor Susie Houston Town of Laguna Vista
LA JOYA	Mayor J. A. "Frito" Salinas City of La Joya
LA VILLA	Mayor Hector Elizondo City of La Villa

LOS FRESNOS	Mayor Polo Narvaez City of Los Fresnos
LOS INDIOS	Mayor Rick Bennett City of Los Indios
LYFORD	Mayor Henry De La Paz, Jr. City of Lyford
*McALLEN	Commissioner Jim Darling City of McAllen
*MERCEDDES	Mayor Henry Hinojosa City of Mercedes
*MISSION	Council Member Norie Garza City of Mission
PALMHURST	Mayor Ramiro J. Rodriguez, Jr. City of Palmhurst
PALM VALLEY	Mayor Dean Hall City of Palm Valley
PALMVIEW	Mayor Jorge G. Garcia City of Palmview
PENITAS	Mayor Marcos Ochoa City of Peñitas
*PHARR	Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios, Jr. City of Pharr
PORT ISABEL	Mayor Jose Eliseo Vega City of Port Isabel
PRIMERA	Mayor Pat Patterson City of Primera
PROGRESO	Mayor Omar Vela City of Progreso
PROGRESO LAKES	Mayor O.D. Emery City of Progreso Lakes
*RAYMONDVILLE	Mayor Orlando Correa City of Raymondville

RIO HONDO	Mayor Alonzo Garza City of Rio Hondo
*SAN BENITO	Commissioner Celeste Sanchez City of San Benito
*SAN JUAN	Mayor Pro-Tem Armando Garza City of San Juan
SAN PERLITA	Mayor Oscar De Luna City of San Perlita
SANTA ROSA	Mayor Ruben Ochoa, Jr. City of Santa Rosa
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND	Mayor Bob Pinkerton, Jr. Town of South Padre Island
*WESLACO	Commissioner Robert J. Garza City of Weslaco
 <u>SCHOOL DISTRICTS:</u>	
HARLINGEN C.I.S.D.	Dr. Steve Flores, Supintendent Harlingen C.I.S.D.
*DONNA I.S.D.	Mr. Roberto Loreda Donna I.S.D.
MCALLEN I.S.D.	Mr. James Ponce, Superintendent McAllen I.S.D.
MERCEDES I.S.D.	Mr. Walter N. Watson, Superintendent Mercedes I.S.D.
MONTE ALTO I.S.D.	Mr. Gabriel Farias, Superintendent Monte Alto I.S.D.
PHARR-SAN JUAN- ALAMO I.S.D.	Dr. Daniel P. King, Superintendent P-SJ-A I.S.D.
RIO HONDO I.S.D.	Mr. Anneliese McMinn, Superintendent Rio Hondo I.S.D.
SAN BENITO C.I.S.D.	Mr. Antonio Limon, Superintendent

	San Benito C.I.S.D.
*TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE	Dr. Cesar Maldonado, President T.S.T.C
VALLEY VIEW I.S.D.	Mr. Lionel Galaviz, Superintendent Valley View I.S.D.
WESLACO I.S.D.	Mr. Richard Rivera, Superintendent Weslaco I.S.D.
<u>SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS:</u>	
BROWNSVILLE NAVIGATION DISTRICT	Mr. Eduardo Campriano Brownsville Navigation District
BROWNSVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD	Mr. John Bruciak Brownsville Public Utilities Board
CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	Mr. Scott Fry Cameron County Drainage District #1
CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #5	Mr. Alan Moore Cameron County Drainage District #5
CAMERON COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT #2	Ms. Sonia Lambert Cameron County Irrigation District #2
CAMERON WORKS	Mr. Pat Hobbs Cameron Works
DELTA LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Troy Allen Delta Lake Irrigation District
EAST RIO HONDO WATER SUPPLY	Mr. Brian Macmanus East Rio Hondo Water Supply
*EL JARDIN WATER SUPPLY CORP.	Mr. Gale Armstrong El Jardin Water Supply Corp.
HARLINGEN IRRIGATION DISTRICT, CAMERON COUNTY #1	Mr. Wayne Halbert Harlingen Irrigation Dist., Cameron County #1
*PORT MANSFIELD PUB & WILLACY COUNTY NAVIGATION DIST.	Mr. J. Shane Cameron Port Mansfield PUB & Willacy Co. Nav. Dist.

PORT OF HARLINGEN AUTHORITY	Mr. W. G. (Butch) Palmer Port of Harlingen Authority
HARLINGEN WATERWORKS SYSTEMS	Ms. Joyce Lamon Harlingen Waterworks Systems
HIDALGO CO. IRRIGATION DIST. #6	Mr. Cornelio Morales Hidalgo County Irrigation District #6
HIDALGO AND CAMERON COUNTY I.D. #9	Mr. Jo Jo White Hidalgo & Cameron Co. Irrigation Dist. #9
HIDALGO COUNTY MUD #1	Mr. Jack Martin Hidalgo County MUD #1
HIDALGO COUNTY WATER CONTROL DISTRICT #18	Mr. Jerry Ahrens Hidalgo County Water Control Dist. #18
LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT	Mr. Gavino Sotelo Laguna Madre Water District
AGUA SPECIAL UTILITY GROUP	Mr. Frank Flores Agua Special Utility Group
MCALLEN PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD	Mr. Tony Aguirre McAllen Public Utilities Board
MILITARY HIGHWAY WATER SUPPLY	Mr. Amado E. Salinas Military Highway Water Supply
NORTH ALAMO WATER SUPPLY	Mr. Steven Sanchez North Alamo Water Supply
OLMITO WATER SUPPLY	Mr. Victor Treviño Olmito Water Supply
PORT ISABEL-SAN BENITO NAVIGATION DISTRICT	Mr. Steve Bearden Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District
SHARYLAND WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION	Ms. Sherilyn Dahlberg Sharyland Water Supply Corporation
UNITED IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Mr. Mike Warshak United Irrigation District
VALLEY MUD #2	Mr. Robert Burkhart Valley MUD #2

BROWNSVILLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mr. Jason Hilts
Brownsville Economic Development Council

MCALLEN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Keith Partridge
McAllen Economic Development Corporation

WESLACO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Hernan Gonzalez
Weslaco Economic Development Corporation

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

** Honorable Norma G. Garcia

**Mayor Pro- Tem Alvin Samano

*Mr. Don Medina

*Mr. Arturo Ramirez

Mayor Pro-Tem Orlando Vela

Commissioner Leonard Garcia, Jr.

Dr. Andrew Lavine

Dr. Maria Cristina Garcia

Mr. Joe Saenz

Mr. Gilberto Hinojosa

Mr. Arturo Prida

* **Board of Directors**

** **Executive Committee**

LRGVDC STANDING COMMITTEES & SUB-COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION:

LRGVDC Membership - Meets January & May of every year

LRGVDC Board of Directors - 4th Thursday of every month unless otherwise approved

LRGVDC Executive Committee*

Annual Work Program (AWP)/Budget & Finance Committee - January of every year

Nominating Committee - May of every year

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee – 4th Thursday of every month

Hidalgo County Technical Committee – 1st Tuesday of every month

AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA):

AAA Advisory Council Committee - 2nd Tuesday of every month

Ad-Hoc Committee*

Foster Grandparent Advisory Council - 1st Tuesday of every other month

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)*

REGIONAL PLANNING & SERVICES:

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group*

Solid Waste Advisory Committee - meets quarterly

Regional Review Committee - Minimum of 2 times a year

Regional Housing Advisory Committee*

9-1-1 DEPARTMENT:

911 Advisory Committee – meets quarterly

REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICES:

Transportation Advisory Committee*

HOMELAND SECURITY:

Homeland Security Advisory Committee*

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee - minimum of 4 times a year

Citizen Corps Council*

Rio Grande Regional Response Association (HAZMAT)*

REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY:

Police Academy Advisory Committee - meets quarterly

***MEETS ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS**

AREA AGENCY ON AGING DEPARTMENT

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To develop a comprehensive network of public/private service delivery systems that promotes healthy communities.

Goal: To identify and enhance a network of public/private service delivery systems to promote healthy communities.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council –Area Agency on Aging is designated as one of twenty- eight (28) Area Agencies on Aging in the State of Texas under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. It is the representative agency of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services for the Lower Rio Grande Valley and functions as the coordinating and planning agency for services to persons who are 60 years of age or older. The overall objective of the Area Agency on Aging is to improve the quality of life of older persons through the development and expansion of a comprehensive and coordinated social service delivery system at the regional level. The Area Agency on Aging is legally eligible to conduct direct services, as any other Council program. The Area Agency on Aging has continually provided direct services through case management and long term care projects. The majority of project funds however are subcontracted to social services agencies in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties.

LRGVDC Goal: Provide planning, coordination and pooling of service and fiscal resources for the purpose of strengthening and/or expanding services to the region’s elderly and vulnerable population.

Objectives: 1) Develop, implement and update an Area plan to address the needs of the older population and assess the resources addressing those needs; 2) Solicit input from service recipients, agency representatives, community leaders and the general public on the Area Plan and the needs of the elderly of minority, low income and rural status; 3) Review and comment on policies and actions at the Federal, State or local levels which may have an impact on older persons and their caregivers; 4) Administer funds from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Corporation for National Services and other funding sources to assure coordination, accountability and a comprehensive delivery system of services; 5) Serve as the principle advocate agency and focal point in determining regional services, disseminating pertinent program information and coordinating outreach efforts for the elderly; 6) Ensure that the older persons of minority, low income and rural communities are aware of the services available in the community; and 7) Promote program visibility in the community by building partnerships with other agencies/organizations and carrying out public functions.

Performance Measures: 1) The Area Plan/Update is to be approved by the Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities state office; 2) Two (2) public forums are to be conducted during the fiscal year; 3) TAC and CFR reports will be reviewed on a quarterly basis during the fiscal year; 4) a.1. Procure seven (7) contracts for nutrition and support services during the fiscal year. Nutrition services will include congregate and home delivered meals. Support services will include but are not limited to transportation, homemaker services, senior center operation, caregiver information services and education/training of caregivers; 4) a.2. Procure thirty (30) agreements under the

Direct Purchased Services procurement method; 4) b. A minimum of fifty-five (55) Foster Grandparent volunteers will be maintained on an annual basis; 5) Distribute once a year pertinent program information to twenty-five (25) local stakeholders will be monitored and recorded during the fiscal year; 6) Distribute once a year program literature/information to one hundred (100) elderly of minority, low income and rural status monitored and recorded during the fiscal year; and 7) Participate in four (4) community activities and events during the fiscal year.

LRGVDC Goal: Maintain and improve current service delivery system aimed at allowing maximum independence for elderly individuals to remain in the least restrictive environment with dignity and self-respect.

Objectives: Monitor service contracts and vendor agreements with public/private entities and/or agencies to assure quality services to elderly individuals during the fiscal year.

Performance Measures: 1) Monitor nutrition and support services contracts on a quarterly basis to ensure services are provided in the three county area as contracted; and 2) Conduct an annual customer satisfaction survey for services provided under the Direct Purchased Service agreements.

LRGVDC Goal: Provide basic needed resources and services to older and vulnerable persons when they cannot provide for themselves and safeguard their dignity.

Objectives: 1) Collaborate with other entities or agencies to maximize resources that can be utilized on behalf of older and vulnerable persons who cannot care for themselves; 2) Provide locally based system of access and assistance to ensure that individuals have access to services and assistance; and 3) Maintain the RIO-Net as the Aging and Disability Resource Center for the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Performance Measures: 1) Participate with other state and local agencies in five (5) work groups, area wide projects, non-financial agreements and joint conferences; and 2) Maintain four (4) programs that provide access to services and safeguards the rights of the elderly.

LRGVDC Goal: Implement and maintain a Foster Grandparent program that provides low income individuals age 60 and over an opportunity to volunteer their services and remain active in their communities.

Objectives: 1) Recruit and train fifty five (55) senior volunteers during the fiscal year; 2) Develop and provide opportunities for input on program matters through a citizens advisory council; and 3) Promote program visibility in the community by building partnerships with other agencies/organizations and carrying out public functions.

Performance Measures: 1) Maintain at least fifty-five (55) Foster Grandparents during the fiscal year; 2) Hold at least six (6) advisory committee meetings during the fiscal year; and 3) Participate in four (4) community activities and events.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan

Goal: Create and Expand Industries and Business Development in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to take Advantage of Global Trade Opportunities.

Goal: Foster and Support Small Business and Entrepreneurial Initiatives for Domestic and International Markets.

The LRGVDC is an Economic Development District (EDD) designated and authorized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). It is an entity that functions in as a part of the Council of Governments.

Its purpose is to generate jobs, help retain existing jobs and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas. The Economic Development District provides grants for infrastructure development, local capacity building, and business development. It finances the long-term investments to help diversify local economies and foster job creation. These projects help distressed communities alleviate conditions of severe and persistent unemployment and underemployment.

Goal: Build local capacity to achieve and sustain economic growth for economically distressed communities.

Objective: Create jobs and private enterprise in economically distressed communities.

Performance Measures: Maintain and update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan. Provide technical assistance to local governments and economic development organizations with their federal assistance applications, and maintain capacity by providing grant administrative services to EDA applicants if requested.

Goal: Increase Domestic and International Trade.

Objective: Encourage the Continued Expansion of Domestic and International Trade.

Performance Measures: Continue and provide technical assistance to businesses for international trade, and provide technical assistance on regional infrastructure development projects on an as requested basis.

Small Businesses are the largest job creation sector for the nation; therefore, the EDD will

continue to support and promote local business development; long-term investments, and entrepreneurship. The Economic Development District will also continue to participate in local capacity building by providing technical assistance and support services to small businesses.

Goal: Foster and Support Small Business and Entrepreneurial Initiatives for Domestic and International Markets.

Objective: Identify all types of small business needs and opportunities.

Performance Measures: Support the development of small business by conducting or sponsoring one business conference/summit a year. Continue to support regional job creation and job training efforts by attending meetings with local, state, and federal business development organizations. Continue to promote and market educational programs that benefit small businesses such as the “Money Wise” financial literacy classes.

The LRGVDC received two “Disaster Recovery Assistance” Grants from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). One was used to develop a “Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities (Regional EAP). This project will provide for the development of a regional plan that potentially will ensure economic growth and economic recovery following natural disasters in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy and Starr Counties. The overall goal of the Regional EAP is to provide a framework for governmental entities within the Lower Rio Grande Valley to work together to plan and manage their current and future public works infrastructure and storm water related systems. This collaboration and regional planning will include a regional GIS central database to store this important data for future planning and development.

Goal: Develop long-term recovery efforts by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and productivity through infrastructure development (primarily focusing on drainage), capacity building and business development in order to attract private capital investments and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

Objective: To provide a framework for governmental entities to plan, manage, and restore critical infrastructure and facilities in the aftermath of a major storm in order to expedite recovery efforts and restore the economic base.

Performance Measures: Conduct four (4) outreach presentations to critical stakeholders. Sponsor or conduct a regional training session on economic self-sustainability models. Assist in the creation and development of an LRGVDC Centralized Data Base for the region using Geographic Information System (GIS). Create an Economic Development Subcommittee to identify critical economic centers and brainstorm on economic recovery strategies.

The second grant was used to promote economic recovery in the aftermath of natural

disasters such as Hurricanes Dolly and Alex. The scope of work included the development and implementation of marketing strategies for the purpose of image restoration, targeted marketing, communications, public relations supporting business retention and capacity development to support long-term economic recovery.

Goal: To develop long-term economic recovery by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and productivity through infrastructure development, capacity building and business development.

Objective: Provide Training on Emergency Actions Plans and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) to Valley Businesses, Organizations, and the general public.

Objective: Provide Technical Assistance and Information on Available Resources for Disaster Recovery.

Performance Measures: Continue to conduct COOP Training and Emergency Action Plans if requested to businesses and participants in order to facilitate their economic recovery after a natural disaster. Conduct a premier annual training event for Emergency Management and continue to market and promote information and resources to help communities in their economic recovery.

Goal: Support and expand the development of the Small Cities Coalition.

Objective: Implement regional processes that will maximize competitive as well as achieve an economic transformation for the small rural cities.

Performance Measures: Increase membership within Hidalgo and Willacy counties. Seek financial resources that will leverage local assets in order to obtain regional grants.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Provide Available, Decent and Adequate Housing for Valley Residents.

Goal: Assist Rural and Urban Communities to Incorporate Information Technology as a Tool for their Economic Development.

In accordance with Senate Bill 41, 72nd Legislature, Second Called Session, the Texas Department of Commerce's authority to administer the State of Texas' allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds was transferred to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs effective September 1, 1991. Currently the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers CDBG funds. The Governor's Office selected Council's of Government (COG) to provide assistance and support in three (3) general areas as follows: 1) Support the TCDP Regional Review Committee (RRC); 2) Provide TCDP Technical Assistance to the Non-Entitlement Cities in the Region; and 3) Provide non-entitlement cities general assistance on community and economic development.

The Governor's Office also appoints the Regional Review Committee (RRC) who has the primary responsibility of reviewing and scoring all applications within the region. The RRC is given the option of utilizing COG staff to assist with project review responsibilities and, as has been the case in previous years, it is anticipated that the RRC will designate the LRGVDC as its official staff support organization.

LRGVDC Goal: Assist rural and urban communities to incorporate information technology as a tool for their economic development.

Objectives: 1) Assist in drafting and/or adopting by-laws and procedures for the RRC for the preparation of the current and upcoming TCDP Program years; 2) Assist in determining the local needs and provide a copy of the regional priority list; 3) Provide verification and clarification of information contained in the TCDP applications, as requested by the RRC and/or the TCDP; 4) Prepare information packets for eligible jurisdictions and the RRC members providing any information requested by the State; 5) Prepare information packets of TCDP applications for the RRC; and 6) Prepare documents related to application scoring by the RRC.

Performance Measures: Conduct one (1) meeting and review fifteen (15) applications to provide assistance and technical support to the Regional Review Committee (RRC) and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) staff.

HOUSING PROGRAM

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Provide Available, Decent and Adequate Housing for Valley Residents.

Goal: Assure Adequate and Affordable Housing Opportunities for Families in the Valley.

Goal: Provide Adequate and Affordable Housing for the Elderly and Individuals with “Special Needs”.

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) was designated as the entity responsible to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the grant administration of the CDBG Disaster Recovery funding on behalf of the State of Texas. In this capacity, GLO will be responsible for execution of the CDBG grant award, development of Action Plan amendments, completion of quarterly reports, the associated letter of credit, and the end of the award report. GLO will also oversee the distribution of CDBG funds for all non-housing activities. GLO was designated as the agency responsible for housing activities and will continue to administer disaster recovery funding for those activities. Regional Councils of Governments (COGs) in the areas most impacted by the disasters have developed methods of distribution (MODs) for housing and non-housing funds not termed as categorical competitive activities or set asides (affordable rental housing, innovative housing approaches, and title clearance and legal assistance).

The LRGVDC has submitted an application to administer \$122,034,387 from the GLO for housing program funds allocated to the LRGVDC Region. The LRGVDC will adopt a regional approach to disaster recovery housing programs in an effort to address issues present in the various fair housing documents reviewed. The regional approach will help ensure housing needs are addressed throughout the area, achieve economies of scale, ensure program consistency, and build organizational capacity. Issues identified in the various documents related to fair housing will be provided to the staff and consulting firm to develop housing programs in a manner that those issues can be addressed in conjunction with housing recovery associated with Hurricane Dolly.

Housing activities to be undertaken will vary depending upon completion of the needs assessment. The primary objective is to ensure that each eligible family is placed in a habitable home that conforms with standard specifications including local and state building codes, housing quality standards (HQS), energy efficiency and necessary elevations to meet flood zone requirements. Disaster Recovery Program will directly improve housing infrastructure while at the same time revising local economy by creating jobs for contractors and general laborers. The program will also bring forth a positive, long-term change for all communities within the region.

Goal: Provide Available, Decent and Adequate Housing for Valley Residents.

Goal: Assure Adequate and Affordable Housing Opportunities for Families in the Valley.

Goal: Provide Adequate and Affordable Housing for the Elderly and Individuals with “Special Needs”.

Objectives: Perform the successful implementation of Housing Disaster Recovery Funds available to the LRGVDC Region.

Performance Measures: 1) Execute contract with Management Firm to implement Housing Disaster Recovery Funds; 2) Complete needs assessment to set priorities on the distribution of Housing Disaster Funds available; and 3) Comply with GLO deadlines and bench marks for utilization of Disaster Funds available.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Increase and Conserve the supply of Raw Water for Agriculture and Industrial use and to increase Supply of Treated Water for Domestic Use and Eliminate Water and Environmental Pollution Problems.

Goal: Improve Water Quality.

Goal: To Improve Flood Control/Drainage.

The LRGVDC was designated by the Governor of Texas in 1975 to serve as the Area wide Wastewater Management Planning Agency in accordance with Section 208 of Public Law 92-500. The LRGVDC has completed extensive water quality management planning and data compilations involving elected and administrative officials of communities within Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. The LRGVDC Board of Directors, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the previous Regional Water Quality Management Plan, revised and updated every 5 years. The Regional Plan identified water quality issues, formulated alternatives, recommended cost effective solutions and provided current monitoring of conditions. This work plan serves as a basis to accomplish necessary regional water quality planning data for construction funding, and aiding the management, coordination and enhancement of natural resources in the Rio Grande Valley.

- Objective I: Project Administration – Effectively administer the functions necessary to coordinate and monitor all work performed under this contract including technical and financial supervision, preparation of status reports and maintenance of project files.
- Objective II – Water Quality Management Plan Coordination with State Loan Projects - Review and assist state revolving fund loan (SRG) project applicants and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the resolution of conflicts between proposed project data and the approved Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), and assist the TCEQ in WQMP updates.
- Objective III – Public Outreach – LRGVDC will develop an information and communication process that informs the public. The process will be used to enhance partnerships with stakeholders and foster a public understanding of project goals and objectives. The process will also help the public achieve a better understanding of land use activities and their impacts on water quality.

LRGVDC Goal: Increase and Conserve the supply of Raw Water for Agriculture and Industrial use and to increase Supply of Treated Water for Domestic Use and Eliminate Water and Environmental Pollution Problems.

Goal: Improve Water Quality.

Goal: To Improve Flood Control/Drainage.

Objective: Provide information on the different Water Quality Programs and distribute information.

Performance Measures: LRGVDC will disseminate information about the project to the public by attending public meetings, presentations to educational institutions and providing updates to TCEQ for inclusion on the TCEQ web site and the LRGVDC's web site.

REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Increase and Conserve the Supply of Raw Water for Agriculture and Industrial use and to Increase the Supply of Treated Water for Domestic use and Eliminate Water and Environmental Pollution Problems.

Goal: Restore and Protect the Region's Natural Resources while Planning for Orderly Growth.

The LRGVDC is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. The Region's main economic thrust depends on agriculture, retail, service, manufacturing industries, tourism and commercial fishing. All of these economic sectors depend on a reliable water supply resource.

The LRGVDC has been designated as the political subdivision to assist the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) which is the designated group to develop the Eight County Regional Water Plan as required by Senate Bill 1. The Region is composed by Maverick, Webb, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. This plan has been successfully completed and the LRGVDC will be continuing to coordinate RGRWPG's future water supply planning activities.

LRGVDC Goal: Restore and Protect the Region's Natural Resources while Planning for Orderly Growth and increase and conserve Raw Water Supply for Agriculture, Industrial and Municipal uses.

Objective: 1) Quantify water needs to respond to visions for future growth in both municipal, industrial, and agriculture sectors; 2) Identify technical and environmental issues associated with plans to meet these goals; 3) Assess environmental needs relating to each solutions; and combine the component plans into alternatives that meet the plan objectives; and 4) Meet all requirements of S.B. 1 and S.B. 2 Legislation and amendments to ensure that the Study is in compliance to all State requirements.

Performance Measures: Provide for at least two (2) RGRWPG Meetings; and fulfill Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requirements regarding water plan updates.

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Improve the System of Waste Reduction, Recycling & Disposal: Sewage, Solid Waste, Brush and Hazardous Material.

Goal: Enhance the Region's Natural Resources while Planning for Orderly Growth.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Disposal of Solid Waste is a growing concern throughout the nation and to local governments. The United States generates more than 200 million tons of waste a year. This deluge of solid waste is growing steadily and sufficient methods to manage it safely and effectively must be maintained. More than one third of the nation's landfills will be full within the next few years and many cities are unable to find enough acceptable sites to address the situation. This concern indicates the need for solid waste management on a regional basis.

As directed in the Texas Health & Safety Code, one-half of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fee revenue collected by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is dedicated to grants to support regional programs and local projects consistent with the regional solid waste management plan. Under FY 2010/2011 program the LRGVDC will use the grant funds for the following purposes:

- Work on Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Updates;
- Maintain the Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Inventory;
- Conduct several regional coordination programs; including maintaining a solid waste advisory committee and reviewing MSW permit applications for conformance with the approved regional plan;
- Conduct additional regional programs and administration of funding to local government projects that directly support implementation of the goals and objectives, and recommendations in the approved regional solid waste management plans; and
- Administration of grant-funded activities, fiscal oversight of pass-through grants and reporting to TCEQ.

Amendment of Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment Including the Closed Landfill Inventory

The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Vol. 1 and Vol. II, has been developed and approved by TCEQ. The LRGVDC will conduct and complete activities for the distribution of Vol. 1 and Vol. II of the plan and amendments, including the Closed Landfill Inventory.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the System of Waste Reduction, Recycling & Disposal: Sewage, Solid Waste, Brush and Hazardous Material.

Goal: Enhance the Region's Natural Resources while Planning for Orderly Growth.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives: Conduct and complete activities for distribution of the Plan and Closed Landfill Inventory.

Performance Measures: Upon formal adoption distribute the plan and inventory to all appropriate entities.

COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

A. Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Maintain the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The SWAC will meet quarterly to discuss solid waste management activities in the region, solid waste management issues important to the region, new laws and regulations, opportunities for grants and other funding other issues of concern.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Objectives: 1) Establish and maintain the Solid Waste Advisory Committee; 2) Prepare and maintain minutes or other summary information; 3) Provide TCEQ a revised list of the committee membership and notify TCEQ of all committee meetings; 4) Establish written bylaws; and 5) Provide TCEQ any changes to the committee and include justification for level of private industry representation on the committee.

Performance Measures: Conduct Solid Waste Advisory Committee quarterly meetings as required.

B. Technical Assistance, Outreach, Education & Training and Regional Information Resource Center

Serve as central point of contact for solid waste management outreach, education, and training programs, to include serving as a regional contact for notices and information to the public, as requested by the TCEQ. In addition, maintain a regional collection of solid waste information and reference materials and provide the public access to those materials. Provide technical assistance regarding solid waste management plan, solid waste rules and regulations and any other issues.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Objectives: 1) Update the collection of information and materials as necessary and a regular inventory of materials shall be maintained; 2) Provide public access to the information and materials during regular working hours; and 3) Document visitation and usage of the resource center.

Performance Measures: Maintain a resource center of collection of regional solid waste information and reference materials.

C. MSW Facility Permit Application Review & Pre-application Review Process

Assist TCEQ with the review of permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities with input from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, for conformance with the adopted regional solid waste management plan for the region. A preliminary evaluation of the conformance of the proposed facility must be provided along with the regional plan. This includes a forum for the applicant to discuss the proposed facility with local governments and residents, and may be the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

LRGVDC Goal: Restore and Protect the Region's Natural Resources while planning for orderly growth.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives: 1) Assist TCEQ with the review of permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities.

Performance Measures: Review any permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities submitted to the LRGVDC.

Implementation Projects Funding Plan and Public Meetings

Prior to funding local implementation projects the LRGVDC must maintain a state approved regional solid waste-funding plan.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives: Identify specific projects, project categories, and regional funding priorities for the region.

Performance Measures: 1) Prepare a proposed Implementation Project Funding Plan prior to the public meetings; 2) Conduct at least one (1) meeting in the region to discuss the funding plan; 3) Submit the funding plan for approval by the LRGVDC Board of Directors & TCEQ.

Implementation Project Selection Process

Implement projects to achieve goals and objectives set forth in the state municipal solid waste management strategic plan and the regional solid waste management plan.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives: 1) Select projects for funding on a competitive basis; 2) Conduct a Request for Applications (RFA) process to announce the availability of funding and to solicit applications; 3) Conduct an application process for all competitive and non-competitive applications; 4) Conduct an initial screening of all applications to identify projects that meet the minimum screening criteria for project selection; 5) The Solid Waste Advisory Committee shall review and rank all applications and project proposals; 6) Submit information on projects selected for funding to the TCEQ; 7) Establish a list of additional projects from the applications submitted, to be funded if and when additional funding becomes available; and 8) Ensure that all projects meet private industry notification process.

Performance Measures: Review and rank Regional Solid Waste Implementation Projects for funding.

Sub-Grant Award and Administration and Program Reporting

The LRGVDC shall establish and administer the sub-grants selected for funding and provide progress and results on all projects funded.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives: 1) Enter into legal agreements with each sub-grant recipient to award funding and set the standards and requirements that must be adhered to by the sub-grant recipient; 2) Administer and manage each sub-grant in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations; 3) Establish and administer a financial management program to make reimbursements to sub-grant recipients.

Performance Measures: Complete Progress, financial and final result reports on all projects funded in 2010/2011.

ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To Mobilize Education and Training Resources into a Seamless System.

Data gathering and analysis are integral factors in all planning efforts. They are the basis in designing effective programs. Before solutions to local and regional problems can be addressed, there must be an accurate understanding of social, economic and physical conditions. Therefore, it becomes of utmost importance to maintain an accurate assessment of population and economic characteristics, as well as an updated analysis of trends, projections and patterns. There exists a continuous need for this type of data, and this information is utilized to support in-house programmatic planning endeavors.

LRGVDC Goal: To Mobilize Education and Training Resources into a Seamless System.

Objectives: 1) Collect, analyze and distribute data to support regional planning activities, as well as to assist local governments and agencies; 2) Coordinate activities with federal, state and local agencies, such as the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Texas Data Center Management Program, and other government agencies, to obtain current statistical information;

Performance Measures: The LRGVDC shall continue to identify and utilize various sources of data and develop systematical methods which best apply to the needs and demands of the public and private sectors, providing technical assistance to at least twenty (20) individuals/entities.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (9-1-1)

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Enhance and Sustain a Cost-Effective Technological 9-1-1 System.

In 1987, the 70th Legislature of the State of Texas passed House Bill 9-1-1 which allows for the planning, financing and implementation of Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Service in communities throughout the State of Texas. It required counties of 120,000 population or more to have 9-1-1 emergency service by September 1, 1995. A city or county with less than 120,000 population can also participate by resolution of its governing body. House Bill 9-1-1 required each of the 24 Regional Planning Councils of Government to develop a plan for providing 9-1-1 services throughout their geographic territory. The plan includes: levels of 9-1-1 service, equipment and operational standards, cost of service, administration, budget and funding allocations and more. The LRGVDC Regional 9-1-1 Plan was developed in 1989 and the Council is currently implementing and maintaining an update of that Plan.

Regional 9-1-1 Plan

Through coordination with Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), telephone companies, local governments, and public safety entities, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties received 9-1-1 services in September 1992. Hidalgo and Willacy County have fully implemented Phase II 9-1-1 systems during the fall of 2008, while providing continued training of call Takers at Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and upgrading current equipment.

LRGVDC Goal: Enhance and sustain a cost-effective 9-1-1 system.

Objectives: 1) Comply with all state law requirements under House Bill 9-1-1 and Article 1432f of State Statutes in maintaining a Regional Plan; 2) Provide quicker access to emergency care and public safety facilities, personnel and equipment for law enforcement, fire protection and emergency medical services in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; 3) Coordinate with cities, counties, public utilities, service providers, state and federal agencies and the public in maintaining a revised regional plan; 4) Provide technical assistance to the cities and counties on the 9-1-1 regional plan; 5) Maintain and update the state 9-1-1 database management system for the region; 6) Address and provide addresses for rural areas outside cities in Hidalgo and Willacy counties; 7) Provide Training to PSAP call takers as new equipment is installed; 8) Order and distribute 9-1-1 public education materials in our region; and 9) Implement new "Next Gen 911" (NG911) systems in concert with CSEC budget allowances to provide IP network connections with adjacent regions and the state.

Performance Measures: Maintain and uphold our regional 9-1-1 plan.

State 9-1-1 Database

The LRGVDC 9-1-1 department constantly works on maintaining and updating the State 9-1-1 Database throughout the year. This process involves updating street centerlines, subdivision annexations, Automatic Location Identifier (ALI) records, and most importantly proper 9-1-1 call routing. In conjunction with our mapping department, updates to Emergency Service Number (ESN) boundaries are made to properly and efficiently route these 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate PSAP. Maintaining the State 9-1-1 Database is critical for urban and rural addressing in our region. For this reason, an up-to-date database and mapping system equates to a more efficient 9-1-1 system.

Rural Addressing

LRGVDC provides rural addressing for Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Rural addressing maintenance involves identifying rural structures, assigning an address, and assistance in naming or re-naming roads. This is accomplished with the cooperation of city and county governments and U.S. Postal Service. Rural addressing enables rural residents to have the full benefits of the 9-1-1 services, and is an ongoing project of the 9-1-1 program. LRGVDC may assist cities address their Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) areas using city addressing ranges, which are different than the county addressing ranges. Power 911/Power Map is a program that has been implemented to bring Map ALI to Hidalgo and Willacy County. This program shows the wireline TN (telephone number) with address on 9-1-1 Call Taker Equipment or the location where the call is coming from, by GPS or network triangulation for wireless callers.

Public Safety Answering Point Training

Training is provided to our call takers in order to provide a quality service to our residents in an emergency situation. PSAP personnel are routinely trained on: how to properly answer a 9-1-1 call, how to deal with people with disabilities (sight, motion, and hearing impairments), new equipment or software updates for call taking, and any new technologies that impact 9-1-1 such as Wireless Phase II or Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). The LRGVDC Police Academy assists in providing TCLEOSE certified communication courses for all 9-1-1 call takers in Hidalgo and Willacy County.

VALLEY METRO
(FOR NON-URBANIZED AREAS – SECTION 5311 PROGRAM)

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To Provide an Effective and Efficient Regional Transit System

Addressing public transportation services in non-urbanized areas has long been recognized as one of the Lower Rio Grande Valley's goals. These rural areas had no access to public transportation until the Development Council began administering and operating the Section 5311 program. The Council's rural transit system provides a much-needed service to the rural population of the region, particularly to the elderly, disabled, and economically disadvantaged. The program has been a great success in the region. During the first month of operations in March 1978 the program transported 1,314 passengers. In 2011, the program transported 58,001 passengers.

A major beneficiary of transit service in rural areas is the colonia population. Most of the rural population live in colonias. These areas are commonly populated by those at or near the poverty level who are often beset by a variety of health and other issues. These problems are further exacerbated by lack of transportation to reach human service providers. Valley Metro connects these residents to much-needed assistance found at health care clinics, workforce centers, elderly care facilities, benefits offices, and many other key locations. In addition, the private sector is benefited through the movement of consumers into business districts.

LRGVDC Goal: To Provide an Effective and Efficient Regional Transit System.

Objectives: 1) Continue coordination of a rural fixed route network connecting Brownsville to Port Isabel, Brownsville to rural communities along Highway 281, and San Benito to the towns of Los Fresnos and South Padre Island. This network will provide rural community members access to larger metropolitan areas, providing connectivity to locations of interest such as shopping plazas, medical facilities, education and training institutions, etc; 2) Continue rural service in eastern Hidalgo County, connecting Sullivan City to Mission, and northern Hidalgo County, connecting Hargill to rural communities along Highway 107 to Edinburg; 3) Continue demand response service in Willacy County.

Performance Measures: Provide at least a 5% increase in passenger trips over the previous year on rural routes and demand response service from the span of January 2012 to January 2013.

(URBANIZED AREAS PROGRAM - SECTION 5307)

The Urbanized Area Formula Program was established by the Surface Transportation Act of 1982. That statute and related transit laws are now codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 5307. The Urbanized Area Formula Program makes federal funds available to urbanized areas for operations, capital, and planning. The Census Bureau designates an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more at density of 1,000/sq. miles as an urbanized area. For urbanized areas with at least 200,000 in population, Urbanized Area Formula Program funds are apportioned and flow directly to a designated recipient(s) selected locally to apply for and receive federal funds. Valley Metro operates transit service under the 5307 program in both the McAllen urbanized area (covering most of Hidalgo County) as the designated recipient and the Harlingen urbanized area (covering Harlingen, San Benito, and neighboring cities).

Service in the McAllen urbanized area reaches Mercedes, Weslaco, Donna, Alamo, San Juan, Pharr, Mission, and Edinburg through six (6) established bus routes. The routes are intended to assist low-income people and others reach employment and employment-related services such as jobs, vocational training, education, daycare, and similar destination. The routes connect with Valley Metro's rural routes and routes operated by McAllen Metro and the McAllen Central Station. Service in the Harlingen urbanized area reaches Harlingen, San Benito, La Feria, Primera, and Santa Rosa, through five (5) bus routes. These routes connect at the Valley Transit Company bus station in downtown Harlingen.

LRGVDC Goal: To Provide an Effective and Efficient Regional Transit System.

Objectives: 1) Implement a regional coordination plan that involves human service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders; 2) Facilitate a regional transportation network with local providers such as McAllen Metro, Brownsville Urban System, The Wave, and other key stakeholders; and 3) Continue service in the McAllen and Harlingen urbanized areas.

Performance Measures: Provide at least a 5% increase in passenger trips over the previous year on designated urban routes from the span of January 2012 to January 2013.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

- Goal:** Enhance Homeland Security in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Goal:** Provide the Resources to Maintain a Comprehensive Local Emergency Management Program and Assist in Enhancing Local Emergency Management Plans.
- Goal:** Provide resources and assistance to counties and cities to establish and maintain a statewide interoperable radio communications system that is accessible by local, regional, state, and federal responding agencies when needed.
- Goal:** Promote and increase information on the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) within the region.

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, much has been accomplished to improve prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation capabilities and coordination processes in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Councils of Government (COG's) are provided homeland security grant funds to perform homeland security planning and emergency preparedness related activities within their regions. As a result, the approach that the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) has taken in addressing emergency planning across all jurisdiction functional disciplines has improved the effectiveness of emergency response providers.

In 2002, the 107th Congress of the United States of America passed H. R. 5005, otherwise known as the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which established the Department of Homeland Security. As a result of the passage of the Homeland Security Act, all of the states are actively participating in the President's initiative in securing the United States and its borders against terrorism and all hazards, whether man-made, technological or natural.

Although few in numbers, maximum efforts have taken place to protect the homeland within the LRGVDC region, the LRGVDC along with the regions first responder community continues striving to support and provide the finest possible assistance to the population within the region. Due to Homeland Security Funding Programs, this region is better off today than ever before. When combined with the approximately \$32 million allocated to the region for homeland security since 2002, these programs as well as funds have provided the region with increased capacity to respond with overwhelming capability to potential threats that face our communities and the citizens.

Enhance Homeland Security in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

As required under Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) enables responders and authorities from different jurisdictions and disciplines to better work together within a consistent framework for incident management. The National Response Plan (NRP) is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan, which relies on the principles of the NIMS, to coordinate and integrate incident management activities and emergency support functions across Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments, private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, HSPD-8 requires the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate with other Federal, State, tribal, and local governments to develop the National Preparedness Goal. The Goal establishes readiness priorities, targets, and metrics, enabling the Nation to easily recognize capabilities that need improvement and sustain capabilities to manage major events using the protocols established in NIMS. Coupled with the NIMS and NRP, the Goal defines what needs to be done to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from an incident, how it needs to be done, and how well it needs to be done. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Integration Center - Incident Management Systems Division developed the NIMSCAST to help local jurisdictions to maintain their national baseline compliance, as established in FYs 2005-2006, compliance with the NIMS.

LRGVDC Goal: Enhance Homeland Security in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Objectives: Provide assistance to local governments with limited staff resources to develop their own disaster catastrophic plans. Train local governments in completing risk/threat/capability assessments as required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). To provide assistance in the development of protection/prevention plans for critical infrastructure and key assets as required. To provide emphasis in system usage with all interoperability communication, protocols, and hurricane regional exercises.

Performance Measures: The level of emergency preparedness will increase by providing state and federal guidelines to 46 jurisdictions. Conduct one (1) planning workshop with the Homeland Security Advisory Committee to update the LRGVDC Homeland Security Implementation Plans' 3 goals that are linked to performance measures and implementation milestones. Conduct one (1) regional communications exercise and request participation from 100% of the jurisdictions that have utilized homeland security funding. Assist in identifying critical infrastructure by conducting one (1) regional state preparedness report workshop. Identify and define needs to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from an incident, man-made or natural, by disseminating state and federal preparedness guidelines to all 46 jurisdictions.

Provide the resources to maintain a comprehensive local emergency management program and assist in enhancing local emergency management plans.

Through a current and up-to-date Emergency Management Plan local governments have addressed the issues of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The plan cites the legal authority for conducting emergency operations, describes the hazards that the community faces, explains the general concept of emergency operations and assigns responsibility for emergency planning and operations. Developing and maintaining the plan is a crucial and vital task, and the LRGVDC will assist with preparing and/or updating the jurisdictions' respective emergency plan. If there is insufficient staff at the smaller jurisdictions, meetings will be conducted between the larger neighboring jurisdictions or their County entity in securing an inter-jurisdictional or joint ordinance that will cover the smaller jurisdiction in the Emergency Management Plan.

LRGVDC Goal: Provide the resources to maintain a comprehensive local emergency management program and assist in enhancing local emergency management plans.

Objectives: Encouraging inter-jurisdictional emergency management programs to incorporate smaller cities that have limited resources and cannot reasonably maintain their own plans, ultimately enhancing collaboration. Provide assistance to those counties and cities that have emergency management plans which are outdated or do not meet state standards in terms of upgrading and revision. Train cities and counties with limited staff and resources to develop their own plans, preferably as part of an inter-jurisdictional program.

Performance Measures: It is estimated that out of the 35 eligible jurisdictions identified in FY2011, technical assistance will be made available to 35% to 50% of jurisdictions that will become ineligible over the course of the year due to the imposition of new deadlines and standards set by the State and Federal Governments. Provide legal documents and state guidelines establishing an emergency management program and plans through Commission Court Orders, City Ordinances and Joint Resolutions to the 10 remaining ineligible cities. An estimated one hundred (100) planning documents (annexes) will be submitted for state approval. Continue to assist the thirty-five (35) currently eligible jurisdictions over the course of the year in maintaining eligibility status and assist newly eligible jurisdictions with eligibility standards. Distribute state guidelines and eligibility requirements to forty-six (46) jurisdictions on the basic and intermediate level of emergency preparedness. Continue to facilitate the implementation requirements of NIMS for the thirty-five (35) currently eligible jurisdictions within the region. Update the current thirty-five (35) approved emergency management plans and specific annexes with new NIMS standards. Coordinate the scheduling of two (2) Incident Command System (ICS) Courses for first responders in order to meet the NIMS standards and NIMS certification of local jurisdictions' first responders as well as senior level management and elected officials.

Provide resources and assistance to counties and cities to establish and maintain a statewide interoperable radio communications system that is accessible by local, regional, state, and federal responding agencies when needed.

National and regional level public safety information systems provide unique and invaluable capabilities to the homeland security communities within the region. Local jurisdictions must fully leverage state and federal information sources and channels and remain engaged in all state level technology initiatives so that information continues to flow within the region in a way that optimally supports investigative and intelligence activities in Texas.

The LRGVDC must also assist in building new capabilities to address information technology gaps. Current and future systems must be designed to optimize a vast amount of data collection by many local, state and federal public safety agencies within the region, as well as other data relevant to the homeland security community. The LRGVDC's past and current ongoing efforts have increased the number of jurisdictions who will be able to participate under homeland security programs, thus increasing the regions communication capabilities.

LRGVDC Goal: Provide resources and assistance to counties and cities to establish and maintain a statewide interoperable radio communications system that is accessible by local, state, and federal responding agencies when needed.

Objectives: Identify the vulnerabilities and or deficiencies within the COG region. Provide sources of funding to agencies to meet identified needs and deficiencies. Facilitate the collection of data and equipment on regional communication systems and information on the jurisdictions in the region; Assist local officials and emergency responders in identifying training needs.

Performance Measures: Collaborate with existing Homeland Security Advisory Committee and other Steering Committees and three (3) counties to identify the best avenue to continue to enhance a statewide interoperable communications system by the target date of 2015. Encourage the forty-six (46) jurisdictions to participate as a region and develop projects that will improve the LRGVDC region and coincide with the LRGVDC Regional Interoperability Communications Plan (RICP) and State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) which addresses Interoperable communications standards and procedures. Disseminate information to the forty-six (46) jurisdictions on homeland security grant programs, annual state requirements, and deadlines and continue to enhance the regions RICP on a yearly basis to identify and close any gaps.

Promote and increase information on the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) within the region

The LRGVDC has created a committee to provide citizens in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr counties with guidance and opportunities to volunteer through the Citizen Corps Program. Participants can learn all about public safety, emergency preparedness, crime prevention, and health issues. Volunteer opportunities include:

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs, The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program helps medical, public health and other volunteers offer their expertise during local emergencies and other times of community need. MRC volunteers could be active or retired health professionals or any citizens interested in health issues, An expanded Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training, and Fire Corps supports fire departments by encouraging citizen advocates to serve in non-emergency roles. Fire Corps actively involves citizens in public education; training, volunteer efforts focused on fire prevention and safety. The Citizen Corps is dedicated to creating stronger, safer, and better prepared communities through volunteerism.

LRGVDC Goal: Promote and increase information on the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) within the region.

Objectives: Identify preparedness vulnerabilities and deficiencies in the COG region. Establish a Community-Wide Network of Neighborhood Groups to assist in local incidents and training. Coordinate preparedness training with local volunteer agencies and organizations. Identify sources of funding and other related sources to meet identified needs.

Performance Measures: Provide resources to two (2) Citizen Corps Councils. Train two (2) community or organization groups in Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Provide assistance as requested to the Regional Citizen Corps Council and Harlingen Citizen Corps Council in enhancing the plan for resource allocation throughout the year. Through the Homeland Security Advisory Committee, encourage 46 jurisdictions to participate in making their communities safer, stronger and better prepared in order to prevent and respond to all crimes and disasters by engaging with their communities and providing them with preparedness material. Provide one (1) community outreach meeting. Train and collaborate with faith based agencies, local community organizations within the region.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To improve communication and coordination between law enforcement, courts victim service agencies, and educational institutions.

Goal: Create and support programs that protect people from crime, reduce the number of crimes committed and to promote accountability, efficiency and effectiveness within the Criminal Justice system.

Goal: To develop a comprehensive network of public/private service delivery systems that promotes healthy communities.

Passage by the Sixty-Seventh Legislative Session of Senate Bill 127 marked the establishment of the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Office of the Governor. The Bill charged the Criminal Justice Division with administering state funds and limited amount of federal funds to local and state criminal justice agencies through Regional Councils of Government (COG's) such as the LRGVDC. The Criminal Justice Division provides funds for crime reduction programs that are locally planned, designed and coordinated through the local governments.

Regional planning activities include an effort to coordinate and consolidate the activities of the criminal justice agencies within the three-county region and to maximize available funds and resources. This process involves identifying the local crime problem, system resources, goals and objectives, and projecting program and funding needs.

Technical assistance is made available through CJD and the COG in order to facilitate the funding application process developed by the local governments on behalf of the criminal justice agency. This assistance is provided in order to assure that projects developed are consistent with the needs identified, and to not duplicate services or programs. Funds for the activities of the LRGVDC's Regional Criminal Justice Coordination Program are obtained from the Criminal Justice Division of the State of Texas.

To improve communication and coordination between law enforcement, courts victim service agencies, and educational institutions

The Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) directive is for the Council of Government to promote the use of resources available in our region for coordination of services provided by victim advocacy programs, law enforcement agencies, family violence centers, and civic groups for increased safety and protection for victims.

Goal: To improve communication and coordination between law enforcement, courts victim service agencies, and educational institutions.

Objective: To provide safety and protection to victims of family violence, sexual assault and other crimes against persons through establishing and/or enhancing our current networking system. This will enable eligible grantees within the three county regions to have an opportunity to obtain Criminal Justice Funds for personnel and programs that will assist with crime prevention, crime awareness, drug prevention, drug treatment programs, juvenile delinquency deterrence, and equipment for City and County Programs, Law Enforcement, School Districts, and non-profit organizations, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Assist local governments in the development of Regional Community Plans consistent with CJD guidelines.

Performance Measure: Provide technical assistance as needed to as many as 26 eligible entities in the development of their grant applications with direction on where to seek statistical data.

Create and Support Programs that protect people from crime, reduce the number of crimes committed and to promote accountability, efficiency and effectiveness within the Criminal Justice system

The Governor’s Criminal Justice Division (CJD) directive is for the Council of Government to focus on the enhancement of the Rio Grande Valley’s capabilities by the creation and support of programs to prevent crime, provide service and treatment options, enforce laws, train staff and volunteers, and the restoration of crime victims to full physical, emotional and mental health.

Goal: Create and Support Programs that protect people from crime, reduce the number of crimes committed and to promote accountability, efficiency and effectiveness within the Criminal Justice System.

Objectives: Establish and enhance the Rio Grande Valley’s capacity in ensuring funding is widely disseminated to prevent crime, provide service and treatment options, enforce laws, train staff and volunteers, and restore crime victims to fullest physical, emotional and mental health.

Performance Measure: Assist as many as 26 entities which include local governments, non-profit agencies, and school districts in the development, coordination, and operation of 26 projects within the three-county region funded through the Criminal Justice Division of the State of Texas.

The Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) has determined that community planning is necessary and essential. The Community Planning process involves a partnership between local organizations, the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, community leaders, grantees, and other agencies as appropriate.

Goal: To develop a comprehensive network of public/private service delivery systems that promotes healthy communities.

Objectives: Maximize coordination and partnership building between federal, state, and local agencies or employers.

Performance Measure: Ensure that networking amongst the agencies remains in existence through the facilitation and notification to all federal, state and local agencies of our strategic planning process held in all three counties with anticipated attendance of 60 participants. Analyze the three (3) county criminal justice environments and establish 3 goals, priorities, and standards for criminal justice, juvenile justice, victim restoration, and crime stoppers programs that increase public safety and reduce crime.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To Strengthen the Capacity of Communities to Address Public Health Issues along the US/Mexico Border.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council – Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) will provide MMRS emergency planning assistance to the cities and four counties within the LRGVDC Region, carry out other authorized emergency planning initiatives, which will cover all aspects of the Capability Focus Areas (CFA) under MMRS, provide assistance on basic emergency plans for those entities where such plans do not now exist. The purpose of this effort is to significantly increase the number of all hazard emergency plans and thus the percentage of the state's population covered by such plans. Conduct operational planning, carry out specialized planning, and develop protocols, and processes to enhance local, and regional emergency preparedness and assist in the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System adoption process and implementation for local health departments.

Liaison to the MMRS Steering Committee for first responders and health communities operating in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties. This process will take into consideration maximizing local investments such as stakeholders terms of office; public-private funding mechanisms; public-private resources; human resources needed to effect local implementation of the interface of first-responders to first receivers; policy implications; and, legislative support. Wherever and whenever possible, first responders and first receivers from the Mexico side of the border will be included in strategies and plans so as to minimize the chaos that would more than likely affect both countries in a major catastrophic mass casualty event

LRGVDC Goals: To Strengthen the Capacity of Communities to Address Public Health Issues along the US/Mexico Border.

Objectives: Further enhance and sustain a comprehensive regional mass casualty incident response capability during the initial hours of an incident. To organize and hold public forums and develop advocacy training for community based groups and organizations. To raise awareness of basic health issues in the community.

Performance Measures: Based on funding availability coordinate the provision of equipment to strengthen response capabilities of regional emergency medical response teams. Promote creation of one (1) additional Medical Reserve Corps and enhance medical surge capabilities. Provide assistance in coordination of one (1) health campaign in the region and support the organization of a Border Bi-National Health week. Provide two (2) training opportunities for health care professionals to include a focus on the required National Incident Management System/Incident Command Structure training courses. Provide assistance to the public health agencies within the region as part of the annual exercise.

REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Mobilize education and training resources into a seamless system.

Goal: Deliver updated training on techniques, procedures, laws and any other areas related to the law enforcement profession and the region's law enforcement community.

Goal: Provide professional development opportunities for law enforcement personnel to maintain their state licenses and complete courses designed to fulfill the requirements for the different levels of peace officer licenses (basic, intermediate, advance, master).

Within the region, emphasis is placed on upgrading and increasing the availability of training for law enforcement officers. The State of Texas, through the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE), requires a minimum of 618 hours of training for participants in the Basic Peace Officer Course.

In addition to this basic training, TCLEOSE requires each peace officer to receive a minimum of 40 hours of professional development within each 24 month training unit and a total of 80 hours of professional development within each 48-month training cycle. As part of this ongoing training, each officer must receive training in topics specified by the state legislature each biennium. Officers must also receive specialized training in areas unique to their duty assignments and their individual license level (basic, intermediate, advance or master). For many officers, the level of certification can mean higher pay, promotion, and transfer.

Attrition in law enforcement, the ever changing criminal sophistication, and demands of stakeholders necessitates a program of continuing education from the Basic Peace Officer Course to specialized advanced training. In addition, changes in state and federal statutes, court decisions, development of new procedures and techniques, and the development of advanced technology require that continuously updated training is provided. Improved training and education enhances the law enforcement officer's capabilities to perform the more complicated and intricate nuances required and demanded by modern society and allow officers to specialize in certain areas (e.g. investigations, homicide, juvenile justice, family violence, traffic, etc.)

This law enforcement training is provided through the LRGVDC's Regional Police Academy and Training Center. The Academy is monitored by TCLEOSE and the Criminal Justice Division of the State of Texas to ensure that training needs and standards comply with state requirements and meet the needs of the agencies serviced by the Academy. Funds for the operation of the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center are obtained from the Criminal Justice Division of the State of Texas, and tuition and other fees.

LRGVDC Goal: Continue to operate the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center.

Objective: Act as the coordinator for activities and resources utilizing the Academy.

Performance Measures: 1) Conduct an annual survey of law enforcement agencies to determine topical priorities for regional law enforcement training; and 2) Notify all agencies, within our service area of training available through the Academy.

Objective: Act as a liaison between the LRGVDC and local law enforcement agencies and attend meetings relevant to the operation of the Academy and Training Center.

Performance Measures: 1) Staff attendance at a minimum of one (1) training course which will offer updated or new courses; 2) Attend LRGVDC Board of Directors meetings; 3) Conduct Academy Advisory Board meetings in accordance with the bylaws of the Advisory Board; and 4) Attend the annual TCLEOSE coordinator conference.

Objective: Ensure continuation of Academy activities through preparation of application for continual funding of the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center.

Performance Measures: Complete and submit funding grant application for the Academy program.

LRGVDC Goal: Ensure the availability of education and training for law enforcement officers within our service area.

Objective: Train cadets in the Basic Peace Officer Course, consisting of at least the minimum required hours (refer to TCLEOSE Rules), to become licensed peace officers.

Performance Measures: 1) Conduct at least two (2) Basic Peace Officer Courses annually.

Objective: Offer in-service courses to improve officers' functional abilities in law enforcement and community relations.

Performance Measures: Conduct a minimum of forty (40) in-service trainings utilizing Academy staff instructors and adjunct instructors throughout the region.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the education and training level of peace officers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Objective: Improve the quality of training offered by the Academy.

Performance Measures: 1) Each staff instructor will develop one new course annually; and 2) Each academy instructor will be evaluated at least once annually by another staff instructor and at least once annually by the Academy Coordinator/Director.

LRGVDC Goal: Encourage local law enforcement agencies to provide all law enforcement officers with opportunities to further professional growth and development.

Objective: Develop system for electronic notification of agencies of Academy scheduled and available training.

Performance Measures: Develop e-mail listing for all agencies in the service region and also post training opportunities on the Regional Police Academy and Training Center's website and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, etc.

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To integrate education and training resources into a seamless system.

The LRGVDC frequently sponsors and/or co-sponsors workshops and training sessions of interest to member governments. Such topics may include, but are not limited to, new legislation, grant information and referrals, health and social services, citizen participation, application preparation, litter abatement, transit driver safety, etc. These workshops and/or training sessions are held in conjunction with other federal, state and local governments where applicable and appropriate.

LRGVDC Goal: To integrate education and training resources into a seamless system.

Objectives: 1) Coordinate and keep in contact with federal, state and local governments regarding possible workshops and/or training sessions; 2) inform appropriate individuals of any workshops and/or training sessions; 3) prepare and distribute any necessary material and/or information; 4) search for and obtain appropriate meeting sites; 5) assist in obtaining all necessary equipment and materials for the workshop and/or training session; 6) assist in obtaining guest speakers; and 7) compile and maintain an updated mailing list of interested individuals, organizations and governments.

Performance Measures: The LRGVDC will continue to coordinate with state and federal agencies to conduct and/or co-sponsor at least one (1) workshop and/or session thereby allowing the Region to have better equipped and trained law enforcement officers.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596
PHONE (956) 682-3481, FAX (956) 631-4670
[E-Mail-info@lrgvdc.org](mailto:info@lrgvdc.org)
Website – www.lrgvdc.org