

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

**MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP & LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY COUNCIL CORPORATION**

=====

Notice is hereby provided that the LRGVDC Board of Directors will hold a

Regular IN-PERSON Meeting at 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas

WEDNESDAY, January 28, 2026, at 12:00 P.M

Provide the public with the ability to view the meeting via the Internet

Live-streaming at: [LRGVDC COG - YouTube](#)

Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

=====

Item #1: Call to Order

- A. Roll Call
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2: Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes President

- 1. Annual Elections Meeting of May 28, 2025
- 2. Board of Directors Meeting December 18, 2025

Item #3: Public Comment

Item #4: Administration Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

- 1. Consideration and **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ACTION** on FY 2026 Annual Report & Budget
- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Adopt FY 2026 Annual Investment Report and Accept Quarterly Investment.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development.....Melisa Gonzalez-Rosas
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a resolution adopting the Rio Grande Valley Broadband & Digital opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) as the official framework for advancing broadband infrastructure and digital equity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Elections of Officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory committee shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, & Vice Chair Elect.

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration
- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund
- Solid Waste Management Program
- Water Quality Program
- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee
- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)
- Reservoir Levels

B. Health & Human Services Margarita Lopez
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the following Membership Application for the Citizens Advisory Council.

Program Status Reports

- Direct Consumer Services
- Care Coordination Services
- Senior Subrecipient & Senior Center Operations
- Home Delivered and Congregate Meal Program
- Special Services
- Care Transition Program
- Ombudsman Program
- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- Housing Navigator
- Special Initiatives Report & Information Referral and Assistance

C. Public Safety

C.1.A. Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Cesar Merla
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Resolutions for FY 2026-27 Non-Profit Security Grant Application Titled Regional Planning and Security.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Resolutions for FY 2026-27 State Homeland Security Program Grant Application Titled Regional Planning.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Resolutions for FY 2026-27 State Homeland Security Grant Application Titled Regional Fire Academy Training Coordinator.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Resolutions for FY 2026-27 Criminal Justice Assistance Grant Application Titled Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance.

Program Status Reports

- Committee Meetings: Criminal Justice, Homeland Security and Regional Response Group
- Local Emergency Safety & Planning Meeting within Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.
- Communication with Regional Preparedness with State Counterparts.

C.1B Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Cesar Merla
Director

Program Status Reports

- GIS Division
- 9-1-1 Information Technology
- Community Engagement Division

C. 2. Police Academy Program Javier Solis
Assistant Director

Program Status Reports

- Inservice Courses
- Officers Trained
- Contact Hours

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Sandra Carrizales
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the updated Section 5310 Program Management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Acquisition of Hardware for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Program Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO Michael Medina
Executive Director

Program Status Reports

Item #6 Executive Session

1. Personnel Matters under Section 551-074 (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee RE: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation.
2. Reconvene into an Open Session to Consider **ACTION**, if any on items Related to the Executive Session as described above.

Item #7 New & Unfinished Business

Item #8 Adjourn

Next Meeting
February 25, 2026

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated, and/or acted upon in a different order than those numbered above. The Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to adjourn into an Executive (Closed) session at any time during this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapters 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.075, Texas Government Code. No final action will be taken in the Executive Session.

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

At the beginning of each LRGVDC meeting, the LRGVDC will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one-half (1/2) hour, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the LRGVDC must sign up to do so, before the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to address issues or topics under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC. For issues or topics that are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, LRGVDC members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action or discussion shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the agenda posted for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on the posted agenda as items deemed appropriate by the Chair as these items are considered, and the same 3mins.

ITEM #2

MEETING

MINUTES

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL ANNUAL ELECTIONS / BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, May 28, 2025

HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA THE GLOBAL GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE
PLATFORM INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO,
TEXAS BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was attained. They moved on to Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Without questions from the board Mr. Cruz then moved on to Consideration and Action to Approve January 29, 2025, Meeting Minutes. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza motioned to approve meeting minutes from January 29, 2025. Mr. Luke Lucio seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.***

With no questions from the board Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item 3. Mayor Sepulveda recognized Mr. Cruz, Executive Director, to address the following.

A. Consideration and Action on recommendations from the nominating committee.

1. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with population under 10,000

<i>City</i>	<i>Designee</i>	<i>County</i>
Los Fresnos	Mayor Alejandro Flores	Cameron
La Villa	Mayor Rosa Perez	Hidalgo
Sullivan City	Mayor Alma Salinas	Hidalgo

B. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with a population from 10,000-24,999

<i>City</i>	<i>Designee</i>	<i>County</i>
Mercedes	Mayor Oscar Montoya	Hidalgo
Donna	Mayor David Moreno	Hidalgo
Raymondville	Commissioner Edward Gonzalez	Willacy

C. Two (2) Directors representing Educational Institutions

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Designee</i>	<i>County</i>
South Texas College	Mr. Paul Hernandez	Hidalgo
TSTC	Mr. Luke Lucio	Cameron

D. Two (2) Directors Representing Special Governmental Units.

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Designee</i>	<i>County</i>
Delta Lake Irrigation	Mr. Troy Allen	Hidalgo
Willacy County Navigation Dist.	Mr. Ron Mills	Willacy

E. One (1) Director Representing Grassroots' organizations.

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Designee</i>	<i>County</i>
Grassroots	Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez	Cameron

Mr. Cruz mentioned that this is a status update summarizing the activities and developments that took place during the specified dates. As a reminder, all relevant stakeholders are invited to participate virtually. Board members involved in these groups represent their respective constituencies—such as small cities, medium cities, educational institutions, special districts, and grassroots organizations—while collectively representing the broader region. This update is provided for the Board's review.

With no Action required for Item #3 Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item #4

Item #4 Act on Recommendations of Nominating Committee.

A. Election of 5 members at large to serve on General Membership for the 2025-2026 Term.

This item pertains to the election of five at-large members to serve on the General Membership for the 2025–2026 term. Included in your packet is an attachment listing the five selected individuals. For context, there are a total of ten at-large positions; five are elected by the General Membership during their meeting, which took place on Tuesday, May 7, 2025. The remaining five nominations are presented to this Board for consideration.

The Nominating Committee convened on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, both via GoToMeeting and in person, to nominate individuals for the LRGVDC General Membership. The members of the Nominating Committee are as follows:

The nominees are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. David Penoli	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mayor Pro-Tem Rene Estrada	Combes	Cameron
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

Mr. Cruz mentioned that this was an action Item. ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the following as is, Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion, upon a vote; the motion was carried out unanimously***

4.B Election of Officers for 2025-2026 Term. Mr. Cruz states that on the same day, May 7th, the Nominating Committee met and is recommending the following slate of officers for the 2025 –2026 term they are as follows:

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for the 2025-2026 term:

OFFICE	NAME	COUNTY
President	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza	Hidalgo
1 st Vice president	Judge Aurelio Guerra	Willacy
2 nd Vice President	Mayor John Cowen	Cameron
Secretary	Mayor Ramiro Garza	Hidalgo
Treasurer	Mayor Norma Sepulveda	Cameron

Mr. Cruz then states that this item would be an action item as well. ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 officers to serve the following term. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded that motion and upon a vote; the motion was carried out unanimously.***

With no further comments or questions from the board, Mayor Sepulveda then moved on following Item #5 New & Unfinished Business.

Item # 6 Adjourn.

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12:00PM Thursday December 18, 2025

HELD IN-PERSON AND BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE VIDEO CONFERENCE.
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:06 p.m. quorum was attained.

Present: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County
Commissioner Nurith Galonsky, City of Brownsville
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Rosa Perez, City of La Villa
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Pro Tem Rene Pena, Sullivan City
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito
Mr. Richard Sanchez, UTRGV
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION for approval of September 24, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Richard Sanchez made a motion to approve the minutes for September 24, 2025; Ms. Lupita Sanchaez Marinez seconded the motion upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Item #3: Public Comment – No public Comment

Item #4: Administration - Mr. Cruz and all board members decided to approve all the following action items all at once. They were as follows.

1. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION on approving a participation Agreement between the Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDRS) and the Lower Rio Grande Valley development Council (LRGVDC) as detailed in the Plan Agreement, pursuant to section 391.005(b) (4) (B) of the Texas Local Government Code, chapter 391 Regional Planning Commissions, with effective date January 1, 2026.
2. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION on approval and adoption of the LRGVDC Procurement and Procedures Manual, Version 3, revised as of October 2025.
3. Ratification on executive Committee ACTION to approve the Recommendation to obtain the GUIDE Contract, which will generate a new, sustainable revenue stream and support caregivers of Medicare participants living with Alzheimer's and Dementia through comprehensive respite services, education and care navigation.
4. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Policies, Procedures, and Scoring Criteria for FY 2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
5. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
6. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Policies, and Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
7. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory committee (CJAC) Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
8. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION to approve entering into a Building lease Agreement between the Edinburg economic Development Corporation (EEDC) and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)- Valley metro for the Edinburg Transit Terminal 1st Floor.

Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve all ratification Action items from 1-8 all at once. Mr. Richard Sanchez from UTRGV seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

9. Consideration and ACTION to adopt Annual Investment Policy and Accept Quarterly Investment Report. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve to adopt Annual Investment Policy and Accept Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

10. Consideration and ACTION to approve Revisions to the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual, including updates related to the new retirement System and additional Administrative Policy Amendments. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve Revisions to the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual, including updates related to the new Retirement System and additional Administrative Policy Amendments, Mayor Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
11. Consideration and ACTION to approve award and enter into agreement with Total Lawn Care (TLC) for Lawn and Landscape Services. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve to award and enter into agreement with Total Lawn Care (TLC) for Lawn and Landscape Services. Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
12. Consideration and ACTION on Date & Time for Annual report, and Budget Committee and State of the COG. It was discussed and everyone decided that the day of Jan. 8 at 12:00 PM was good for everyone. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the Date & Time for Annual Report, & Budget Committee and State of the COG. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
13. Consideration and ACTION to approve the 2026 Board of Directors meeting schedule. Mr. Cruz raised concerns about not meeting quorum during certain months and asked whether the Board would like to adjust the meeting schedule to adjust during holiday months. After discussion, the Board decided to keep the schedule as it is. **Mr. Jim darling made a motion to approve the 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule, Mayor Alejandro Flores seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
14. Consideration and ACTION to appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC). Mr. Cruz mentioned that we participate in the Texas Association of Regional Councils, which serves as our state-level advocate. All councils of governments convene twice a year, and attendance is the responsibility of the board member selected for this role. Currently, Mr. Jim Darling serves as the representative, with Mayor Sepulveda of Harlingen as the alternate. Mr. Darling has expressed his interest in continuing in this role; however, the final decision rests with the Board. At this point, the matter is being brought forward for direction on the appropriate motion. After further discussion they had decided to leave as is. Jim Darling and the alternate will stay as Mayor Norma Sepulveda. **Pepe Cabeza de Vaca made a motion to appoint the Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional councils (TARC). Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion upon a vote; motion was carried unanimously.**

B. Executive Directors Report. Mr. Cruz introduced all new staff that were brought in and started in November as well as promotions. Mr. Cruz then moved on to updates. At the federal level, discussions are still ongoing. We are currently experiencing uncertainty related to FEMA, as there have been proposals to eliminate or significantly restructure the agency; however, no final determination has been made. This uncertainty directly impacts our Homeland Security program, which receives funding through FEMA.

As a result, we are preparing to engage with the Texas Association of Regional Councils to advocate as strongly as possible for the continuation of this program. Soon, I will be requesting the Board's assistance in signing letters of support to help ensure the program remains in place.

As you know, this program provides critical support to first responders across the three-county region, including assistance with emergency management planning, equipment procurement, and equipment inventory, among many other responsibilities. Eliminating this program would be detrimental, as it plays a vital role in strengthening and enhancing first responder capabilities throughout the region.

No further question or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #5.

Item #5 Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve amending the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership. Melisa explained that we have extended the membership term for EDOs to address two current vacancies. The proposed change was included in your packet. Currently, I'm happy to answer any questions. If there is none, I would request your approval to amend the EDAC bylaws accordingly. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve Amending the economic development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and ACTION for approval for LRGVDC to accept Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Rider PM 2.5 Local Air Quality 2026-2027 Grant Funds. Melisa mentioned I am requesting approval to amend the Regional Small Cities Coalition bylaws under the membership section. The proposed amendment aligns with the Board's leadership structure by moving the chair to vice chair and the vice chair to chair. This approach mirrors the Board's existing process and will be applied consistently within the Regional Small Cities Coalition. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve LRGVDC to accept Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Rider PM 2.5 Local Air Quality. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration and ACTION to approve amending the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership, Sections D, E & F. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to amend the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership, Sections D, E & F. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration and ACTION to approve Regional Small Cities (RSCC) Elections of Officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the advisory Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary. The Chair would be Mayor Pablo Morales of the City of Lyford, the Vice Chair would be Mayor Sylvia Castillo of Sullivan City, and the Secretary would be Ben Medina from the City of Rio Hondo. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve regional Small Cities (RSCC) Elections of Officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration and ACTION to submit a funding application for the Texas regional Broadband program (TRBP). Melisa stated we are grateful to receive \$107,000 annually under a three-year contract to support broadband planning efforts or, since we already have a digital broadband plan in place, to begin implementing related activities. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve to submit funding application for the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP). Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports: Ms. Melisa Gonzalez just wanted to give a quick announcement. We will be hosting a Texas Water Development Board training and presentation with Geta, the Board's regional representative, on Wednesday, January 21st, at 9:00 a.m. here at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room. She will be discussing the current funding opportunities available through the Texas Water Development Board and will also be available for one-on-one questions. We encourage everyone to attend.

Our second announcement is that we will be issuing a Request for Applications for the 2026–2027 solid waste funding cycle. The RFA will be released in January, and we will notify everyone once it is available.

Lastly, please remind your teams that if they are applying for grants, they should not hesitate to reach out to us for letters of support. When a project can be tied to our region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, it significantly strengthens the application.

No further questions Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to next item.

B. Health and Human Services

Ms. Margarita Lopez had no action items on the agenda for this meeting.

Program Status Reports: Ms. Margarita Lopez stated, I will be very brief, as I am saving the full details of 2025 for the State of the COG presentation, and we hope to see you there for a more comprehensive overview of the work completed within the HHS Division at the COG.

In 2025, we faced several challenges, including funding and staffing shortages, as well as the Harlingen flood. Despite these hurdles, our team responded quickly and effectively to ensure continued service to our communities. As a result, we were able to serve more than 700,000 meals through our nutrition program, demonstrating our continued commitment to meeting community needs.

One of the key highlights this year, and one for which I am deeply grateful, was our coordinated advocacy effort. Working alongside the Board, our Executive Director, and community partners, we successfully gathered more than 500 letters in support of protecting aging and disability services nationwide. These efforts helped elevate the needs of our elderly community at a critical time, and this would not have been possible without your support.

I am also proud to report that our Ombudsman Program and CDBG-funded activities received zero findings during their monitoring reviews. This achievement reflects the resilience of our team and our continued commitment to compliance and strong stewardship of the funds entrusted to us.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue to focus on service delivery, compliance, emergency preparedness, vendor expansion, staffing stability, and ongoing advocacy, as uncertainty remains in several areas. My full report is included in your packet, and I am happy to answer any questions currently.

C. Public Safety

C.1.A. Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security &

Program Status Reports: Mr. Cesar Merla mentioned there are no action items at this time beyond those already approved by the Executive Committee. I would, however, like to reiterate and expand on a point Mr. Cruz mentioned earlier regarding the importance of our Homeland Security programs.

Earlier this year, we facilitated an active shooter incident management training through our Homeland Security division, along with preparedness training, senior official training, and several other initiatives benefiting the Rio Grande Valley. We continue to closely monitor the status of FEMA, as well as developments within the state's public safety and Homeland Security offices. As opportunities become available, we will share them accordingly. At this time, projects that were prioritized in March remain on hold as we await further guidance.

On the side of Criminal Justice, the current Request for Funding Applications is open. We will be hosting a workshop on Monday, December 22nd, at 9:30 a.m. here in this room. The workshop will be offered in a hybrid format, and funding opportunities are available for eligible criminal justice applications.

C.1.B Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.

Program Status Reports. Our 9-1-1 division has also been very busy across GIS, IT, and public education. The team has been hitting the ground running throughout the year and continues to make strong progress across the region, ensuring that 9-1-1 services are well understood throughout the service area and that meaningful strides continue to be made across the Rio Grande Valley.

C.2 Police Academy Program

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the Willacy County Sheriff's office for reporting the TCOLE training for the Willacy County Sheriff's Office and with Approval to have LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. Mr. Javier Solis stated that The Willacy County Sheriff's Office identified a need to report training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. The Sheriff's Office has qualified instructors, facilities, and resources available to support the implementation of law enforcement training programs for Willacy County. Currently, deputies with the Willacy County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies in the county must travel to Hidalgo or Cameron County, including South Texas College, to complete required training. Currently, there are no local law enforcement training opportunities available within Willacy County. In response, Willacy County Sheriff Joe Salazar has reached out to establish a partnership that would allow training to be hosted locally, making law enforcement training more accessible to officers within the county. Today, we are requesting your consideration and action to approve an interlocal agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the Willacy County Sheriff's Office for the reporting of TCOLE training. We are also requesting authorization for LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. **Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the Willacy County Sheriff's office for reporting the TCOLE training for the Willacy County Sheriff's office, and with approval to have LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, sign and finalize the agreement. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and ACTION to ratify the appointment of Police Chief Mark Perez, Police Chief Josue Trevino, and Cameron County Emergency Management Director Tom Huchen to the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. **Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the appointment of Police Chief Mark Perez, Police Chief Josue Trevino, and Cameron County Emergency Management Director Tom Huchen to the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. Mayor Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration and ACTION to have LRGVDC Executive Board appoint Willacy County Precinct 4 Commissioner Ernesto Garcia, to serve on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board as LRGVDC Executive Board Representative. Commissioner Garcia brings extensive law enforcement experience, having served as a Texas Peace Officer with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Texas Office of Inspector General, and the Willacy County Sheriff's Office. He holds a Master Peace Officer certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and is a certified firearms instructor and range master. Commissioner Garcia also has significant experience in detention and correctional operations, including converting multiple detention facilities into operational jails. He has expressed interest in serving on the LRGVDC Board of Directors as a representative on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to have LRGVDC Executive Board appoint Willacy County Precinct 4 Commissioner Ernesto Garcia to serve on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration and ACTION to approve amendments to the LRGV Academy Cadet Rules, Policies, and Procedures manual to include a section on United States Veteran benefits. Mr. Solis went on to mention that Our Police Academy provides support to military veterans, assisting with tuition and enrollment. In compliance with requirements from the Texas Office of Veterans Affairs, we have made several updates to our policy manual. These include language regarding the retention of records for enrolled students, a statement noting that the GI Bill is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and policies related to granting credit for courses previously completed by veterans prior to joining the Academy. **Mayor Alejandro Flores made a motion to approve amendments to the LRGV Academy Cadet Rules, Policies, and Procedures manual to include a section on United States Veteran Benefits. Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports Mr. Solis mentioned a couple of announcements. I'd like to share some updates on projects we are currently working on. Our Police Academy admissions process is underway, and we anticipate starting the next class in January. We are in the final stages of testing, background checks, and making our final selections.

We are also conducting testing for the Rio Grande City site, which will serve as our second academy in Starr County. Additionally, Zapata County has reached out expressing interest in partnering with the LRGV Academy. Overall, we have a busy and exciting schedule planned for 2026.

D. Valley Metro Transportation

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the updated Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro. Ms. Nancy Sanchez mentioned to board that these are annual federally mandated requirements that must be updated for the program. We have listed them in your packet for your review. **Mr. Jim darling made a motion to approve the updated Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley metro. Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve contract award for Bulk Diesel, DEF and fluids for LRGVDC Valley Metro Transit Operations. We issued a Request for Proposals, and the submissions were evaluated accordingly. Based on those evaluations, we are recommending Maverick Fuels LLC to provide bulk diesel, diesel exhaust fluid, and related maintenance fluids for Transit. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Contract award for Bulk Diesel, DEF and Fluids for LRGVDC Valey Metro Transit Operations. Mayor Alejandro Flores seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration and ACTION to approve award and enter contract with the highest-ranked proposer resulting from the evaluation of responses to RFP No.205-07, LRGVDC Valley Metro 5-year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan. **Mayor Alejandro Flores made a motion to award and enter contract with the highest-ranked proposer resulting from the evaluation of responses to RFP No.2025-07, LRGVDC Valley Metro 5 Year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
4. Discussion and ACTION to approve on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Inactive Grant and Scope Revision. At this time, we are making a recommendation related to our inactive grants. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has requested that we act on inactive grants to prevent potential recapture of funds. One of those grants is the Harlingen Transit Terminal project in partnership with the City of Harlingen.

This grant had been at a standstill due to funding challenges. As a result, FTA is requesting that we move forward with a budget revision or expend a portion of the funds to keep the grant active and avoid recapture. Therefore, we are recommending approval to submit a budget revision to reallocate some of the funds toward operating and preventive maintenance. This action will allow us to keep Grant TX-2021-064 active and maintained under Valley Metro.

Mr. Cruz provided additional background on the project. The project dates to around 2020. At that time, the City of Harlingen had not yet acquired the additional acreage needed for the terminal. The site consisted of approximately two acres owned by our facility. We proceeded with procurement and solicited bids for construction; however, this occurred during the pandemic, and all bids came in significantly over budget—by approximately \$5 to \$7 million. Due to those cost increases, the project did not move forward and has remained inactive since then.

Since that time, Harlingen has acquired approximately ten additional acres adjacent to the existing property using FTA grant funding. This brings the total site size to approximately 12 to 13 acres. FTA is now allowing us to temporarily reallocate funds, with the intent of potentially restoring them later.

It is important to note that there has been no lack of effort in pursuing additional funding. Applications were submitted through multiple avenues, including a congressional earmark request through Senator Ted Cruz, direct FTA funding opportunities, and most recently through the Rio Grande Valley MPO. While we were close to securing funding, we were ultimately unsuccessful.

Moving forward, we will continue to identify and pursue funding opportunities and re-evaluate the project given the expanded acreage. This will likely require re-engineering the building footprint to align with the existing structure on the adjacent AEP property. The primary goal currently is to ensure that no funds are lost and that we make every possible effort to preserve and secure funding for this project. Mr. Jim Darling then asked if we had a contract with Harlingen. Mr. Cruz then addressed those questions by explaining that, technically, the property is owned by Valley Metro, as it was purchased using FTA funds. While an interlocal agreement was in place with the City at the time the grant application was submitted, any property acquired through FTA funding is ultimately owned through the grantee—in this case, Valley Metro. The property has since been deeded to Valley Metro, providing full ownership, although certain contractual obligations remain in place under the interlocal agreements. ***Mr. Darling then stated that he believed the item should be approved and made a motion to approve it, with the additional request that staff review any existing contractual obligations to determine whether amendments are necessary because of this action. Mr. Richard Sanchez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports. We also provided a status report on ridership and the public involvement events we have attended. Year-to-date ridership for the Rio Grande Valley, from September 2025 through November 2025, totals 254,113. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask or reach out to me via email for additional information.

D.2 RGV MPO Program Status Reports:

Mr. Medina was not present therefore no reports at this time for RGV MPO

Item #6 New & Unfinished Business. Mr. Cruz just had a couple of words for the Board, once again, thank you for your leadership and dedication to the LRGVDC. We recognize that coordinating schedules can be challenging, and we truly appreciate the effort you make to be here. Your involvement has a meaningful impact on the entire region, and it is always encouraging to see you engaged in the decisions that will shape our collective future.

On behalf of myself, our staff, and our directors, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you next year. Please remember that the State of the COG will be our first meeting of the year, and lunch will be provided—this will be a plated meal, not boxed lunches. RSVP invitations will be sent out, and we kindly ask that you confirm your attendance so we can plan accordingly.

With that, happy holidays to everyone, and thank you again for being here today.

Item #7: Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adjourn at 1:09 pm

ITEM #3

PUBLIC

COMMENT

ITEM #4. A

ADMINISTRATION

ITEM #4. A

ADMINISTRATION

ANNUAL REPORT
& BUDGET

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday January 28, 2026

1. Consideration and **ACTION** on 2026 Annual Report & BudgetManuel Cruz
Executive Director

(2026 Performance Goal, 2025 Performance Outcomes, & 2026 Budget)

The Annual Report offers the general membership, board of directors, and members of the public a detailed outline of the LRGVDC's composition, organizational structure, and programmatic responsibilities.

The Annual Report outlines LRGVDC's 2026 performance goals and 2026 budget for the current year as well as productivity outcomes for FY2025.

Budget Summary:

- 2026 Annual Budget is \$45,224,006: reflecting an increase of \$2,676,681 from the 2025 budget due to additional funding awards, such as, RGV9-1-1, FTA, TXDOT, TWDB and TCEQ/Water Quality.
- 2026 Annual Budget does not reflect an increase in Membership dues.
- 2026 Fringe Benefit rate is 52.60% and reflects an increase of 2.51% over the 2025 fringe benefit rate of 50.09%.
- 2026 (Total Budget Expenditure) Indirect Rate is 9.16%, reflecting the State's revised guidance for calculation. Utilizing the revised calculation method, the 2026 indirect rate reflects a decrease of 2.43% from the 2025 amount of 11.59%. As per the Texas Local Government Code (Sec. 391.0115.e), an RPC may not spend an amount more than 15% of the commission's total expenditures, less capital expenditures, and any subcontracts, pass-throughs, or subgrants.

ADDRESSING TODAY'S CHALLENGES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



2026

ANNUAL REPORT & BUDGET

PREPARED BY: LRGVDC STAFF
PRESENTED TO: LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

956-682-3481
WWW.LRGVDC.ORG
301 W. RAILROAD ST. WESLACO, TX 78596

ITEM #4. A

ADMINISTRATION

**QUARTERLY &
ANNUAL
INVESTMENT
REPORT**

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

This quarterly report of pooled fund investments fully complies with the written investment policy and investment strategy approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors. It fully complies with the relevant portions of the Public Funds Investment Act.

Investments in TexPool Prime:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
Water Plan	81,606.68	-	-	3,630.66	85,237.34
RGV 911 District	8,925,241.15	-	-	397,081.86	9,322,323.01
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	311,609.74	51,933.00	(104,855.43)	10,653.82	269,341.13
Transit	961,504.76	634,862.20	(377,421.57)	45,305.29	1,264,250.68
Texas Water Development Board	10,537.70	154,839.29	(57,818.74)	2,362.61	109,920.86
GLO - Closing Costs	569,911.19	-	(423,774.84)	10,130.94	156,267.29
Kari's Law	70,736.82	-	-	3,147.06	73,883.88
Tire Project	25,595.95	-	-	1,138.74	26,734.69
Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan - Local	241,518.08	127,232.34	(70,000.00)	11,125.81	309,876.23
AAA - Local	-	18,610.43	-	350.37	18,960.80
RGV Explorer	45,117.13	-	-	2,007.26	47,124.39
TOTAL	11,243,379.20	987,477.26	(1,033,870.58)	486,934.42	11,683,920.30

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Investments in TexPool:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
FIF - TWDB - Escrow Account	4,921,182.30	-	(643,816.61)	203,116.26	4,480,481.95
FIF - TWDB	232,552.78	643,816.61	(604,674.01)	11,120.12	282,815.50
TOTAL	5,153,735.08	643,816.61	(1,248,490.62)	214,236.38	4,763,297.45
GRAND TOTAL	16,397,114.28	1,631,293.87	(2,282,361.20)	701,170.80	16,447,217.75

Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

This quarterly report of pooled fund investments fully complies with the written investment policy and investment strategy approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors. It fully complies with the relevant portions of the Public Funds Investment Act.

Investments in TexPool Prime:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
Water Plan	84,358.63	-	-	878.71	85,237.34
RGV 911 District	9,226,218.17	-	-	96,104.84	9,322,323.01
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	214,998.15	51,933.00	-	2,409.98	269,341.13
Transit	1,063,126.91	378,862.20	(190,421.57)	12,683.14	1,264,250.68
Texas Water Development Board	45,072.26	64,168.49	-	680.11	109,920.86
GLO - Closing Costs	154,656.37	-	-	1,610.92	156,267.29
Kari's Law	73,122.22	-	-	761.66	73,883.88
Tire Project	26,459.09	-	-	275.60	26,734.69
Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan - Local	270,364.71	36,571.11	-	2,940.41	309,876.23
AAA - Local	18,765.33	-	-	195.47	18,960.80
RGV Explorer	46,638.58	-	-	485.81	47,124.39
TOTAL	11,223,780.42	531,534.80	(190,421.57)	119,026.65	11,683,920.30

TexPool Prime Rate as of December 31, 2025 - 3.9784%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

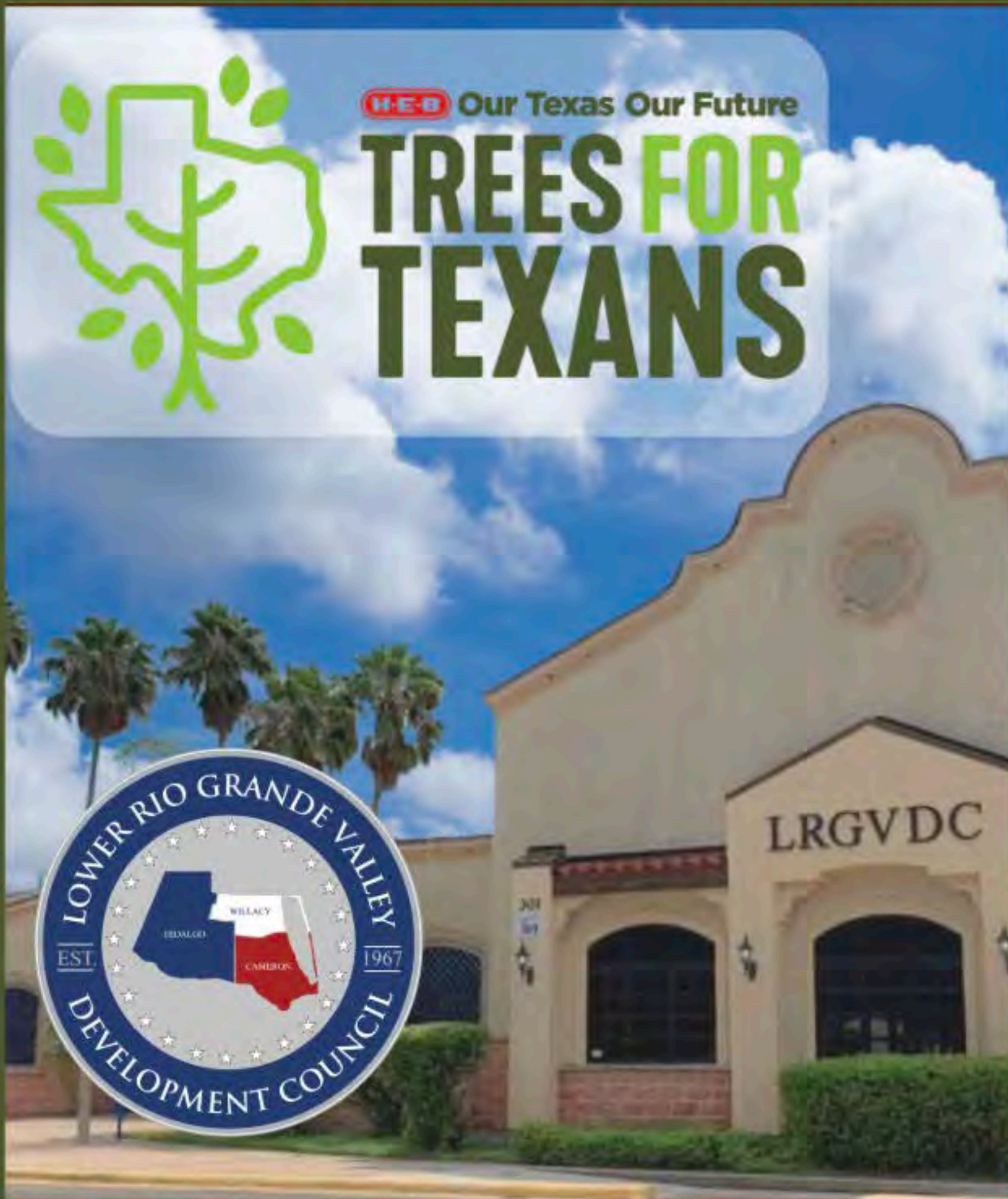
Investments in TexPool:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
FIF - TWDB - Escrow Account	4,682,881.74	-	(248,746.07)	46,346.28	4,480,481.95
FIF - TWDB	415,391.09	248,746.07	(384,327.90)	3,006.24	282,815.50
TOTAL	5,098,272.83	248,746.07	(633,073.97)	49,352.52	4,763,297.45
GRAND TOTAL	16,322,053.25	780,280.87	(823,495.54)	168,379.17	16,447,217.75

TexPool Rate as of December 31, 2025 - 3.8153%

Crystal Balboa
 Director of Finance

LRGVDC

TREE PLANTING EVENT



**CALLING ALL
NATURE
ENTHUSIASTS**



FEBRUARY 28, 2026



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



**301 W. RAILROAD ST
WESLACO, TX 78596**

**PLANT TREES
BUILD SHADE
SUPPORT OUR
REGION**

Thanks in partnership with HEB TREES FOR TEXANS PROGRAM

Volunteer - email jdominguez@lrgvdc.org to register

ITEM #4. B

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE

REPORT

ADMINISTRATION

**NEW HIRES &
PROMOTIONS**

LRGVDC New Hires

New Hire Date: December 22, 2025

Sandra Carrizales
Interim Director of Valley Metro
Transportation Valley Metro



LRGVDC Promotions

Promotion :

Klarissa Gonzalez
Planner III
RGV MPO



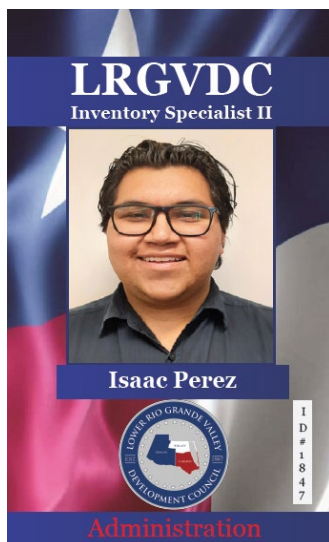
Promotion :

Cristina Garcia
HR Specialist II
Human Resources



Promotion :

Isaac Perez
Inventory Specialist II
Business Operations





Regional Recognition Awards



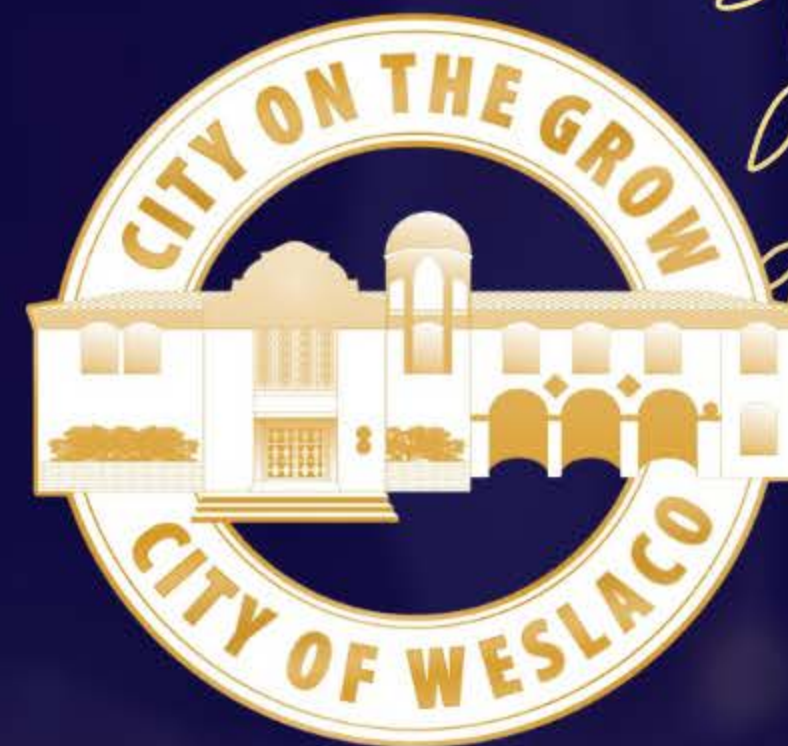
Cameron County

Hidalgo County

Willacy County



Willacy County



Hidalgo County



Cameron County

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday January 28, 2026

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve a Resolution adopting the Rio Grande Valley Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) as the official framework for advancing broadband infrastructure and digital equity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Through the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP), administered by the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) in partnership with the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO), broadband funds have been allocated to Councils of Governments (COGs) that maintain good standing with TARC. This initiative is designed to strengthen regional broadband capacity and advance digital opportunity planning efforts across Texas. Under this program, each participating COG will serve as a regional coordinator, leading outreach, data collection, and strategic planning to expand broadband access and promote digital inclusion within their region. These efforts will be carried out in collaboration with a consultant serving as the subject matter expert (SME).

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) submitted an Application of Interest on January 7, 2026, to secure funding through this program.

Additionally, LRGVDC has actively contributed to the development of this plan since 2023 and has supported broadband grant initiatives within the region, many of which have been successfully awarded as a direct result of this planning effort.



Regional Council of Governments & Economic Development District serving Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County

RESOLUTION 2026-01

WHEREAS, the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)** seeks to enhance connectivity and digital inclusion across the region by adopting the Rio Grande Valley Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) as the official framework for advancing broadband infrastructure and digital equity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

WHEREAS, under the guidance of the Rio Grande Valley Broadband Coalition, formed by the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), American Rescue Plan Act, & TX State Broadband Infrastructure Program;

WHEREAS, this plan will serve Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties to bridge the digital divide in the Lower Rio Grande Valley;

WHEREAS, this plan aligns with Focus Areas of the LRGV Comprehensive Economic Strategies for 2025-2030;

WHEREAS, this plan aligns with Focus Areas of the LRGV Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan;

WHEREAS, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) serves as the Economic Development District for the region;

WHEREAS, the LRGV staff will encourage all regional stakeholders to incorporate RGVBDO into local plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Rio Grande Valley Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) is hereby officially adopted.
2. That the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)** staff are hereby authorized to assist the RGV Broadband Coalition by implementing the RGVBDO.

Adopted and approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors this 28th, day of January 2026.

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President LRGVDC

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Elections of Officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice-Chair & Vice-Chair Elect.

At the January 22, 2026, STC4 meeting, the committee recommended the following members for the following positions:

- Chair: **Klarissa Gonzalez**
- Vice Chair: (Will be voted in Next Meeting)
- Secretary: (Will be voted in Next meeting)

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

- **Economic Development Administration**

Staff continue to collaborate with city officials, EDCs, EDOs, and other economic development partners to identify and develop potential Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects. These efforts help strengthen applications and secure letters of support aligned with our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Our team provides technical assistance, project development, and grant administration for EDA proposals and serves as the designated regional point of contact. We also coordinate with governmental entities to maximize project benefits and avoid duplication of resources. For more information on EDA funding opportunities, please contact the Community & Economic Development Department or visit, <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

Disaster Supplemental Funding. This funding is available exclusively to communities affected by natural disasters that received a FEMA Disaster Declaration in 2023 or 2024. For more information about this opportunity, please visit the website linked below. <https://www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/disaster-recovery/supplemental/2025>

Know these key facts:

1. Total funding of \$1.5billion for disasters nationwide.
2. The funding does not include regional allocations and will be made available until funding is fully committed.
3. There are three specific "Funding Pathways": Readiness Path, Implementation Path, and Industry Transformation Path.
4. The anticipated funding per project in each Pathway is: Readiness - \$250k-\$500k; Implementation - \$100k-\$5million; Industry Transformation - \$20million-\$50million (though in the Grants.gov webpage the grant ceiling is listed as \$30million).

The next EDAC is scheduled for February 18, 2026 @ 2 pm. The meeting will be virtual. You can find the meeting link on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

The LRGVDC continues to solicit nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following category: (2) Special EDO. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to vramos@lrgvdc.org.

- **Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)**

The Community & Economic Development Department remains committed to supporting small communities by providing resources that foster growth and success, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for residents. Therefore, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), in partnership with LRGVDC, held an in-person workshop on January 21, 2026, at the LRGVDC Main Campus in Weslaco, TX. The RSCC were invited to participate in this workshop to ensure they are well-informed about available water funding opportunities that can benefit their communities.

The session covered state funding opportunities for water, wastewater, and flood control projects, including programs such as:

- SWIFT
- Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)
- Drinking Water & Clean Water State Revolving Funds
- Texas Water Development Fund
- Texas Water Fund

Attendees received guidance on application processes, eligibility, and program guidelines, with time for Q&A and one-on-one discussions with TWDB Outreach Specialist Enriqueta Caballero.

A RSCC meeting has been scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM. All RSCC meeting information and GoToMeeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, or reach out to Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org.

- **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

LRGVDC received Community and Economic Development Assistance Funds (CEDAF) contract for Administrative and Technical Assistance Services. These funds are designated for technical assistance activities not tied to a specific Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) project. Instead, they support regional initiatives such as disseminating information from TDA, conducting outreach to promote fair housing objectives, and organizing regional meetings.

Texas Department of Agriculture Funding Opportunities:

Community Development Fund (2027-2028)

The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the TxCDBG Program. This fund is available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used.

- Application Deadline: December 2026
- Max Award: \$750,000

Downtown Revitalization Program (2026)

Provides grant funds for public infrastructure to eliminate deteriorate conditions and foster economic development in historic main street areas and rural downtown areas.

- Application Deadline: Spring 2026
- Max Award: \$1,000,000

For more information and resources on the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) funding opportunities, visit our Community Development webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html>, under the CDBG Rural for Texas tab.

• **Air Quality Program**

The Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality project is progressing as planned, with several key tasks already completed. A no-cost time extension was requested and approved by TCEQ to accommodate additional work required during the quality assurance process. Specifically, ALL4's independent reviewer identified an error in one section of the modeling results that required further explanation and analysis in the draft report. To resolve this, ALL4 reran the model to verify the results, which necessitated additional time. This extension allowed ALL4 to correct the issue and ensure accuracy. The draft report was submitted on December 12, 2025, and TCEQ provided comments on December 18th. ALL4 collaborated closely with staff and TCEQ to address these comments and finalize the report, which was on track for submission by the January 16, 2026, deadline.

Current Project Status:

- Prepare Scope of Work – Completed
- Prepare Quality Assurance Project Plan – Completed
- Emission Inventory – Completed
- Data Research and Analysis - Completed
- Air Quality Modeling – Completed
- Draft Report – Completed
- Final Report – Completed

- **South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)**

LRGVDC has initiated the recruitment process for an intern to assist with the coalition application effort. The Human Resources department posted the position on December 31, 2025. This opportunity was shared with UTRGV and STC Student Career Departments, as well as UTRGV's Transportation Department, to attract qualified candidates. The intern is expected to join the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) team by early February 2026. The selected candidate will play a critical role in supporting the preparation and submission of the coalition application, scheduled for June 2026.

An invitation letter was sent to 18 counties, including judges and municipal representatives, to encourage team members to join the STC4 coalition and support STC4 efforts. The meeting took place on January 22, 2026, where the STC4 Committee convened to review project updates and discuss key next steps. During the session, members provided input on the initiative's progress and collaborated on planning upcoming activities. Additionally, candidates for officer positions were selected at this meeting. The intern who will be supporting the project will be hired soon and introduced at the next meeting.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The 2026–2027 Solid Waste Funding Cycle is now officially open, providing an important opportunity for communities to secure resources for solid waste management initiatives. The TCEQ Grant Request for Applications (RFA) and the application form are available online and can be accessed through:

Community & Economic Development Department → Solid Waste Tab → Grants Program

To assist applicants, a Virtual Solid Waste Grant Workshop was held on January 20, 2026, offering detailed guidance on the grant process and addressing questions related to eligibility and qualifications.



Application Closing date: February 13, 2026, 12:00 noon

Should you have questions regarding the Solid Waste grant funding opportunity, please contact C&ED staff, Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org; or via phone (956)682-3481 ext. 123. Information regarding the next Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting will be shared once scheduling is finalized.

Under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, the CED Department continues to manage and support project activities. We are currently awaiting the setting up

of composting equipment at participating schools; once installed, the remaining phases will begin. Meanwhile, educators have started using the new curriculum in classrooms to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability, making these topics engaging and impactful for students.

The final step remaining for this project is determining the quantity of worms needed for each school that is participating in this composting project. This will enable us to complete the final coordination. We're also looking forward to visiting some of the schools to see the project in action.

Staff continue to provide technical assistance, outreach, and monitoring for all Solid Waste Projects. Information about the Solid Waste program is available at www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html.

- **Water Quality Program**

Staff remain committed to educating the public on water quality issues through a comprehensive range of outreach initiatives. In January, the Outreach Program Coordinator represented the organization at two (2) regional events, distributing educational materials and engaging community members on the topic of non-point source water pollution, litter prevention, and environmental responsibility. These efforts support our ongoing dedication to raising awareness and promoting responsible water stewardship throughout the community.

Outreach Planning for the Coming Months:

Since there are limited outreach events scheduled this month, staff are focusing on outreach planning and preparation for the coming months. This includes coordinating with regional partners and local jurisdictions to identify additional outreach opportunities, confirming participation in future events, preparing educational materials for distribution, and organizing outreach supplies. Staff will also continue strengthening partnerships and expanding outreach efforts to support public education on pollution prevention, litter reduction, and water conservation throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Outreach Events attended for the month of October:

- **Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-Off – City of Pharr** (January 17, 2026)
- **Community Cleanup – City of San Juan** (January 24, 2026)



Additionally, monthly themed Facebook posts are created to engage our online community, encouraging users to give a thumbs up or leave a comment. These posts are designed to raise awareness about water quality topics and provide valuable information to the public. CED Facebook: [Community & Economic Development | Facebook](#), LRGVDC Facebook: [Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | Weslaco TX | Facebook](#)

💧 Water Conservation 💧

Water is one of our most valuable natural resources. This month, we're highlighting the importance of protecting and conserving water to support our communities, agriculture, and wildlife.

🌱 Small actions—like fixing leaks, reducing runoff, and using water wisely—can make a big difference. Let's work together to protect our water resources for generations to come. ❤️

#WaterConservation #PublicParticipation #Sustainability #ProtectOurWater #CommunityAction



🦅 Wildlife Protection 🌿

Healthy wildlife depends on clean water, protected habitats, and responsible land use. This month, we're highlighting the important connection between water quality and wildlife preservation.

By supporting conservation efforts and staying informed, our community plays a vital role in protecting the wildlife that makes our region unique.

Together, we can help preserve Texas' natural beauty. ❤️

#WildlifeProtection #ConservationMatters #PublicParticipation #ProtectOurHabitat #TexasNature



🌱 Start the Year Clean – January Waste Reduction Goals

🌱 A fresh year is the perfect time to rethink our habits. By taking a simple household waste audit, we can see what we throw away, reduce unnecessary waste, and recycle or reuse whenever possible. ♻️ Less trash in, less trash out. Small changes at home can make a big difference for our community and environment. ♻️

Staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from TCEQ as well as other entities involved in water quality initiatives to strengthen partnerships and generate further activities related to water quality and to highlight its importance to the region.

Visit our Water Resource webpage at: <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- **Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)**

Staff remain committed to providing technical assistance and administrative support for the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) project. Bi-weekly meetings with RATES, Cameron County, and Hidalgo County continue to address updates and emerging issues. Additionally, staff are working closely with Hidalgo County to finalize a subcontractor agreement for TWDB approval, enabling consultants to execute Tasks 2.2 and 2.3. Efforts with Cameron County focus on ensuring RATES meets its deliverables, while progress is closely monitored to keep both tasks on schedule.

As mentioned in the Regional Small Cities Coalition section, TWDB, in collaboration with LRGVDC, cordially hosted an in-person workshop. This workshop provided valuable insights into available state funding programs. Attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session and engage in one-on-one discussions with TWDB Outreach Specialist and Program Administrator, Enriqueta Caballero.

💡 **PROGRAMS COVERED AT THE WORKSHOP:**

TWDB provided in-depth information on the application process, eligibility requirements, and program guidelines for key financial assistance resources, including:

- State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)
- Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Texas Water Development Fund (DFund)
- Texas Water Fund (TWF)

Information about water resources is available at, <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- **Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)**

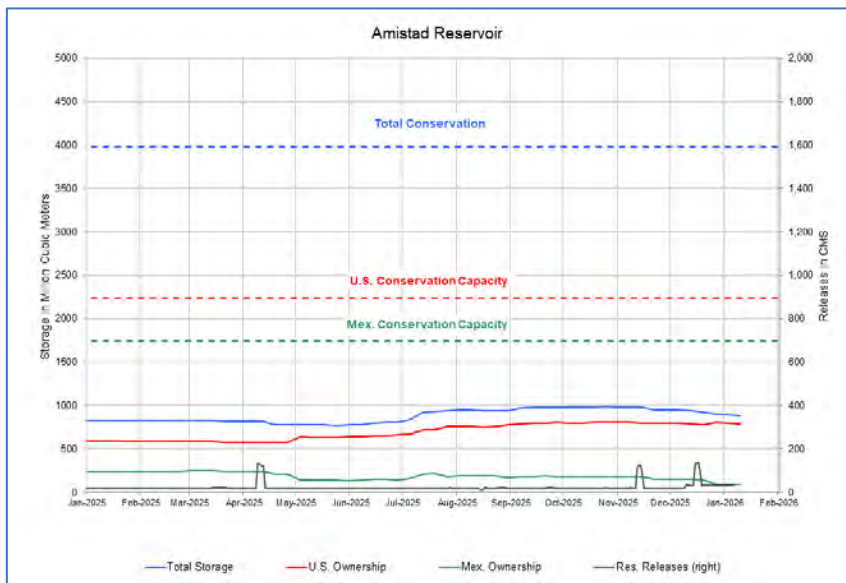
On January 7, 2025, the Region M meeting was held, during which the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) approved several key actions for the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning. At this meeting, the RGRWPG formally designated LRGVDC to initiate the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to procure Technical Consultant(s) for the 7th cycle of Region M Regional Water Planning.

In addition to administrative actions, the planning group authorized LRGVDC to begin soliciting nominations for three vacant membership categories: Water District, Agriculture, and Other. All nominations received will be presented to the planning group for approval to fill these positions.

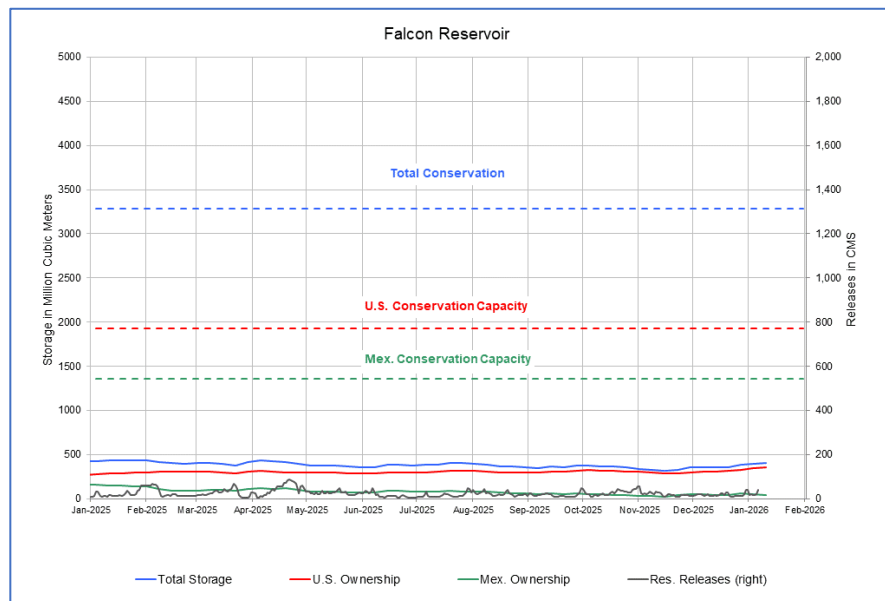
The next Region M meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2026, at 9:30 AM. Meeting details can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar webpage and the Region M website, <http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

For questions or additional information, you may contact Mrs. Melisa-Gonzales Rosas at (956)682-3481 ext.163 or melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org;

- Reservoir Levels as of January 15, 2026 (www.IBWC.gov)



AMISTAD RESERVOIR



FALCON RESERVOIR

ITEM # 5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN
SERVICES**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services – Area Agency on Aging

1. Consideration and **ACTION to Approve the following Membership Application for the Citizens Advisory Council.**

- **Miryoung Lee – Cameron County, Under the "Other" Category**

The appointment will span a duration of three (3) years, as per the Citizens Advisory Council Rules of Function Article V Membership – Section 4.

Miryoung Lee, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, with expertise in epidemiology and healthy aging. Her professional work focuses on promoting quality of life, independence, and fall prevention among older adults, including translating scientific evidence to support community decision-making. Dr. Lee seeks to contribute to the Citizens Advisory Council through grant development and evidence-based recommendations that address local ageing-related needs.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

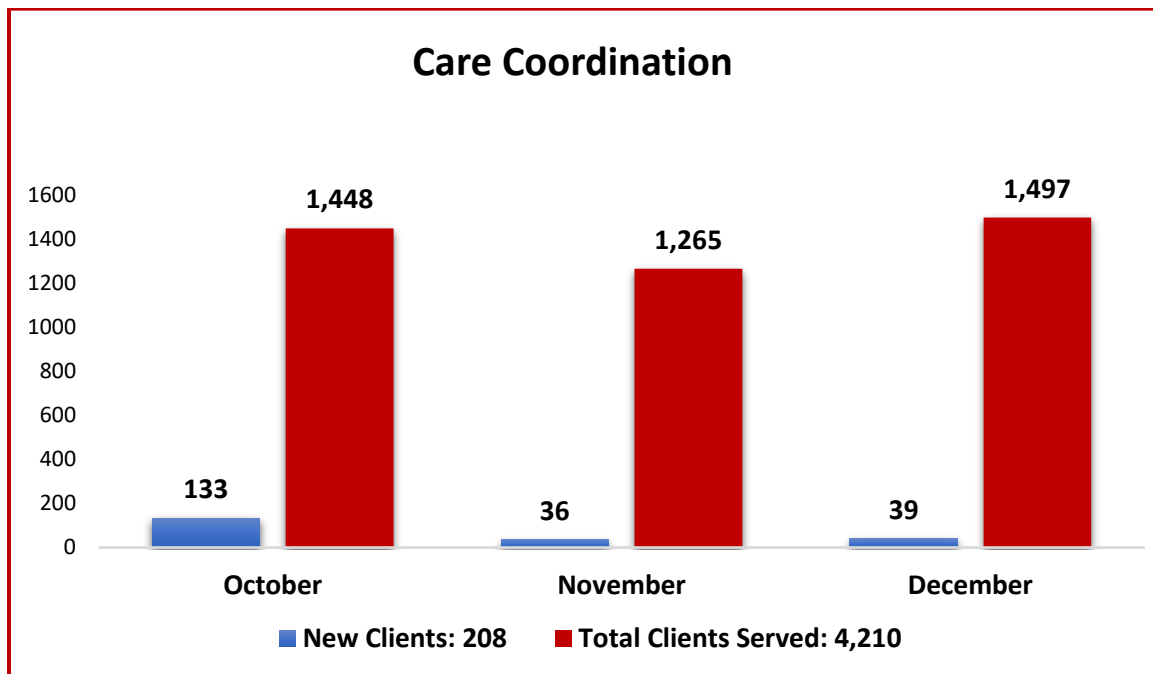
Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

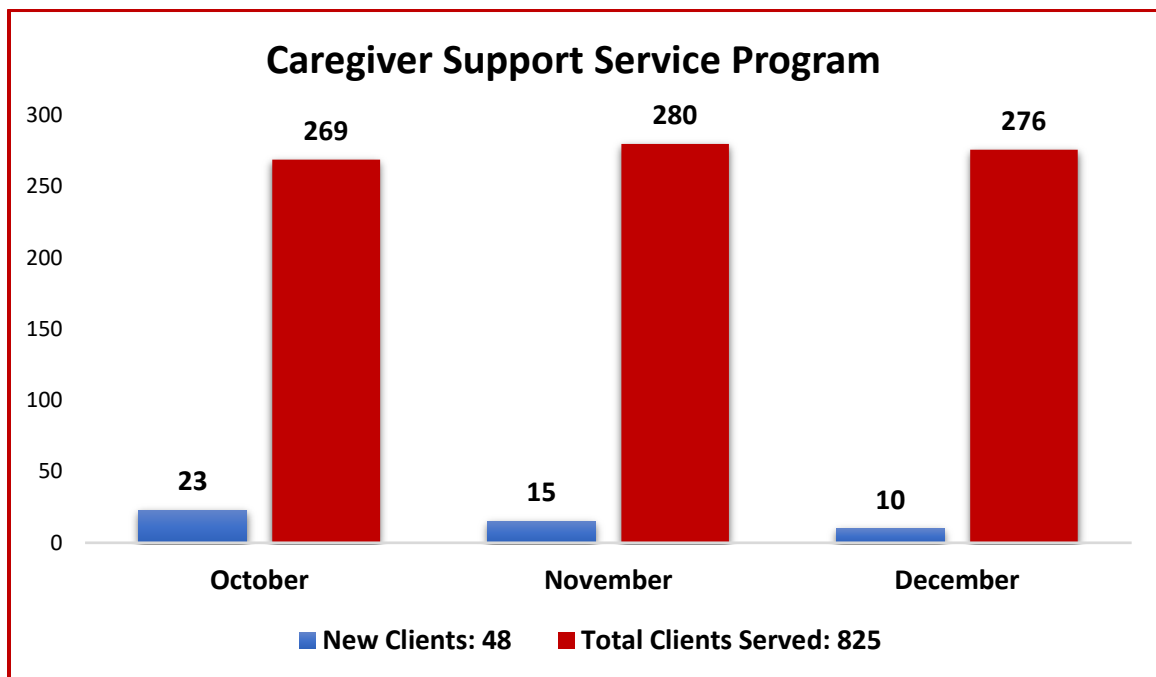
This document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's 1st quarter report for FY 2025, encompassing data from October 2025 to December 2025

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Program**
 - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 208 new clients.
 - A total of 4,210 individuals were provided with case management assistance.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Services**
 - *As of this reporting period, a total of **4,210 individuals** is currently **enrolled and awaiting Care Coordination services**. These services include **health maintenance, homemaker assistance, transportation, and residential repair support**. The agency continues to maintain regular contact with these individuals and actively monitors their needs while **awaiting final budget approval**. Once funding is authorized, services will be initiated promptly to address the growing demand and ensure timely and appropriate support for our clients.*

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services Program**
 - The Caregiver Support Services Program serviced a total of 48 new clients.
 - A total of 825 individuals were provided with assistance.

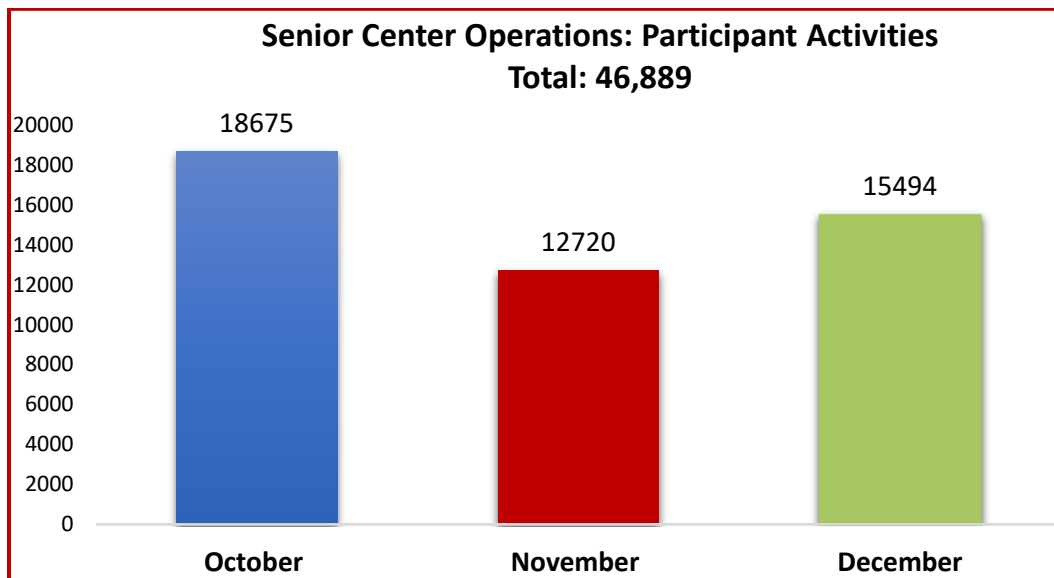
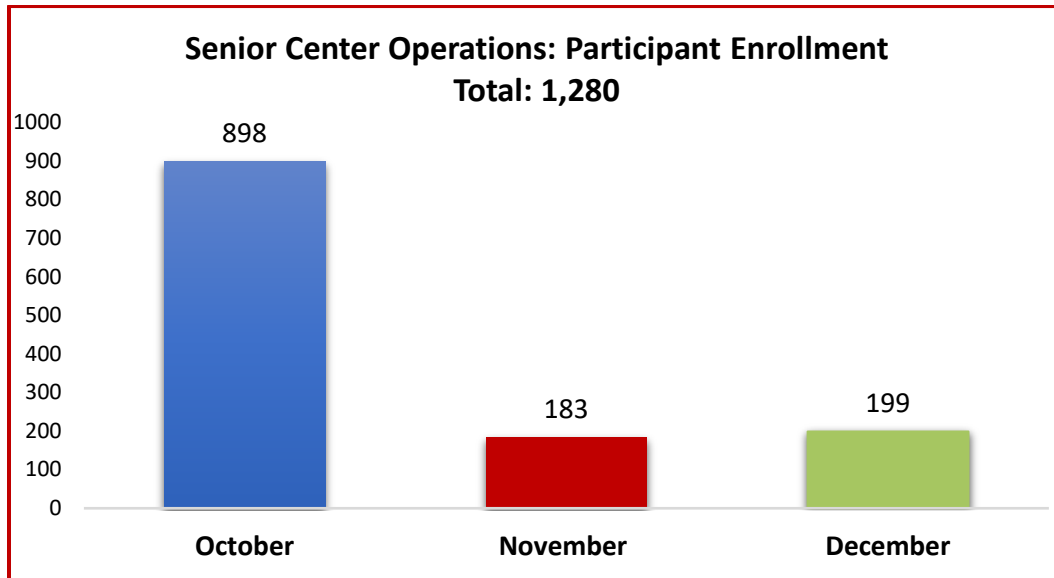


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services**
 - The **Caregiver Support Program** currently has **825 individuals awaiting respite services**. These services provide essential relief and support to family caregivers who dedicate their time and energy to caring for older adults and individuals with disabilities. The agency remains prepared to initiate services immediately upon budget approval, ensuring caregivers receive timely assistance that supports their well-being and sustains them in their caregiving roles.
- **Direct Consumer Services – Interest List**
 - As of January 7, 2026, 2,518 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging.

Direct Consumer Services Interest List	
Care Coordination Services	2,213
Caregiver Support Services	305
Grand Total	2,518

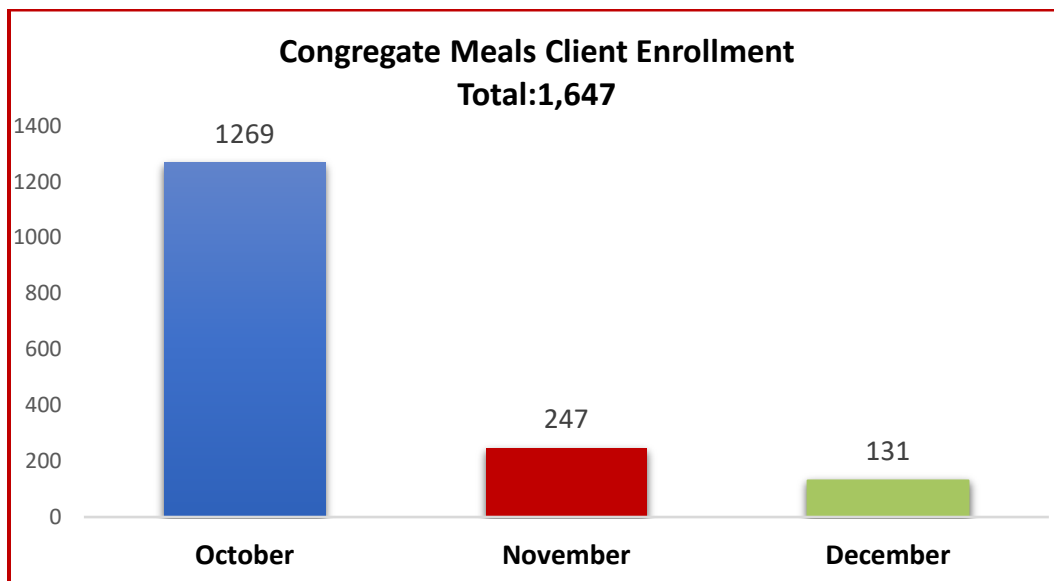
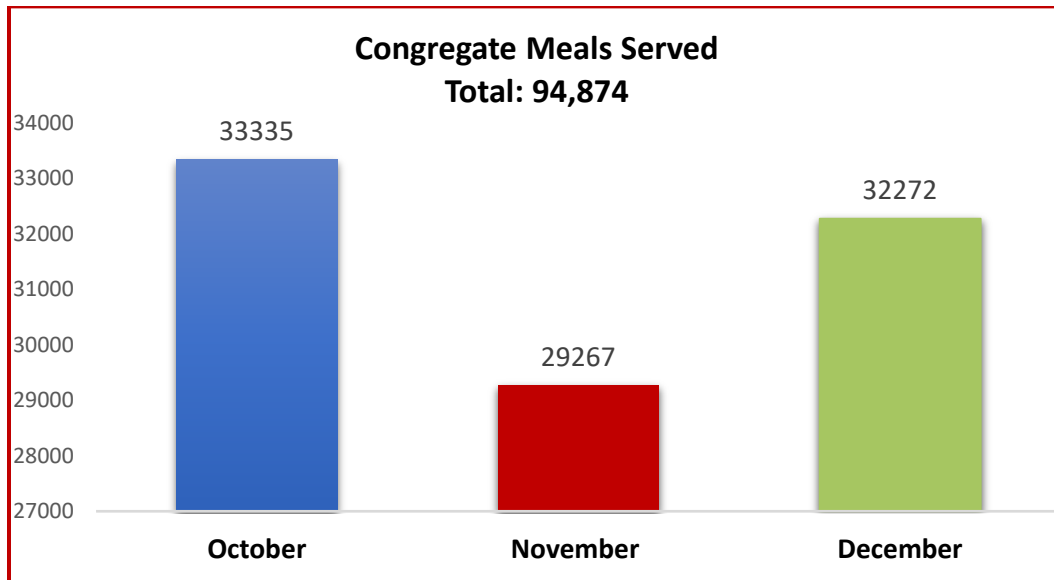
- **Senior Center Operations Report**

- Program successfully enrolled 1,280 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 46,889 activities with their clients.



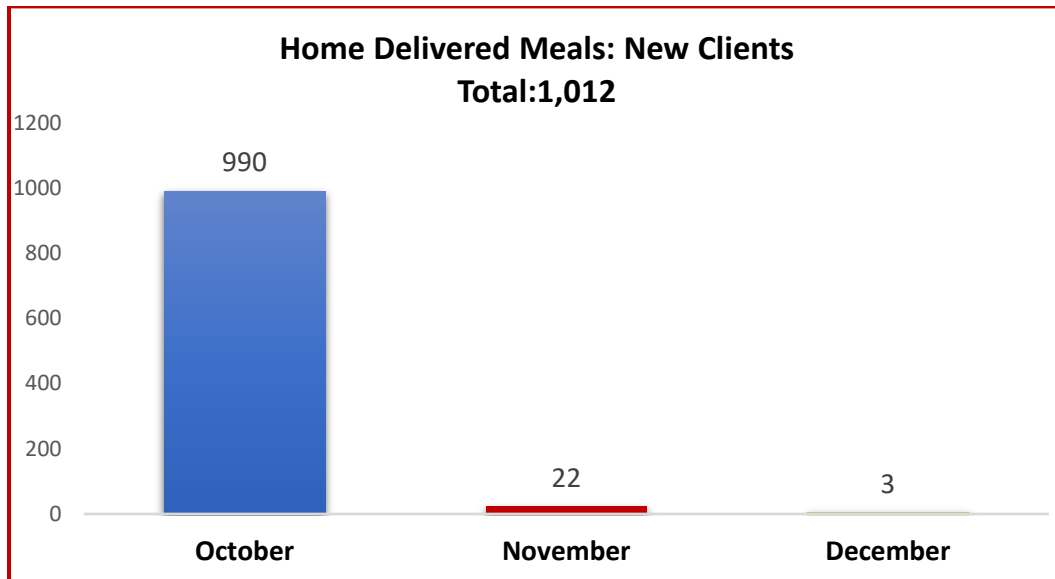
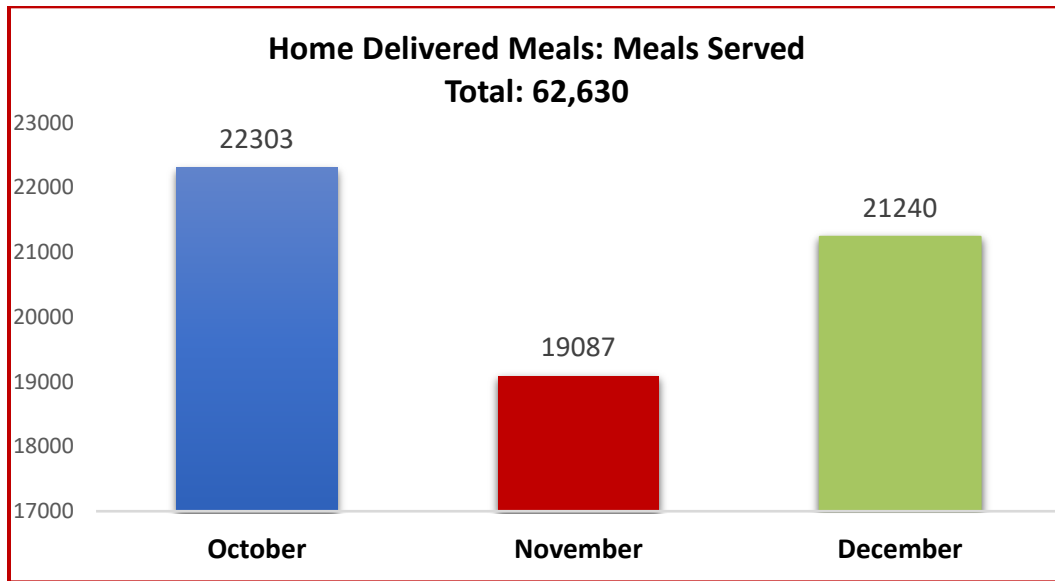
- **Nutrition Program Report – Congregate Meals**

- Program successfully enrolled 1,647 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Program successfully served 94,874 Congregate meals.



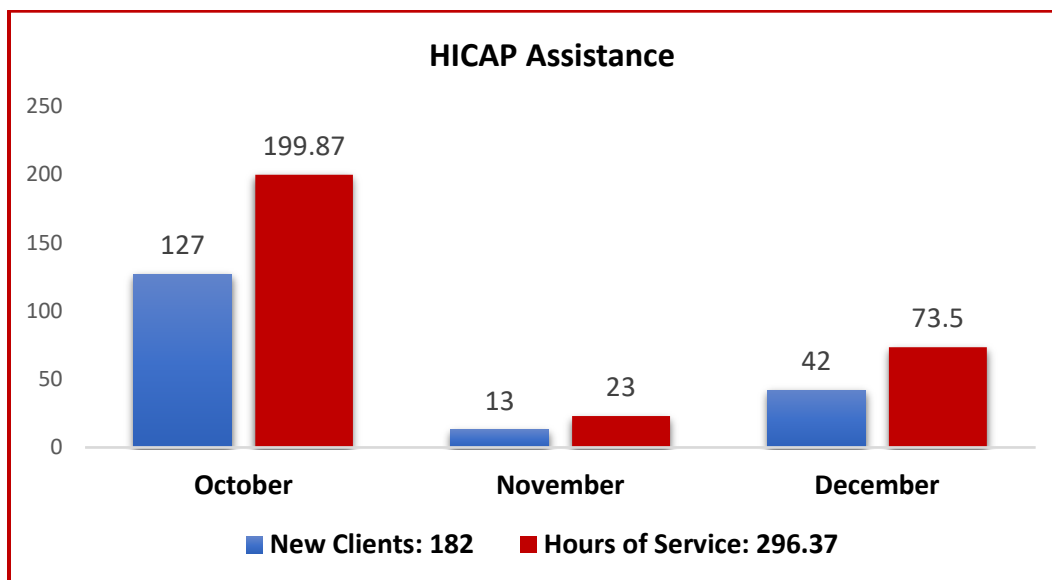
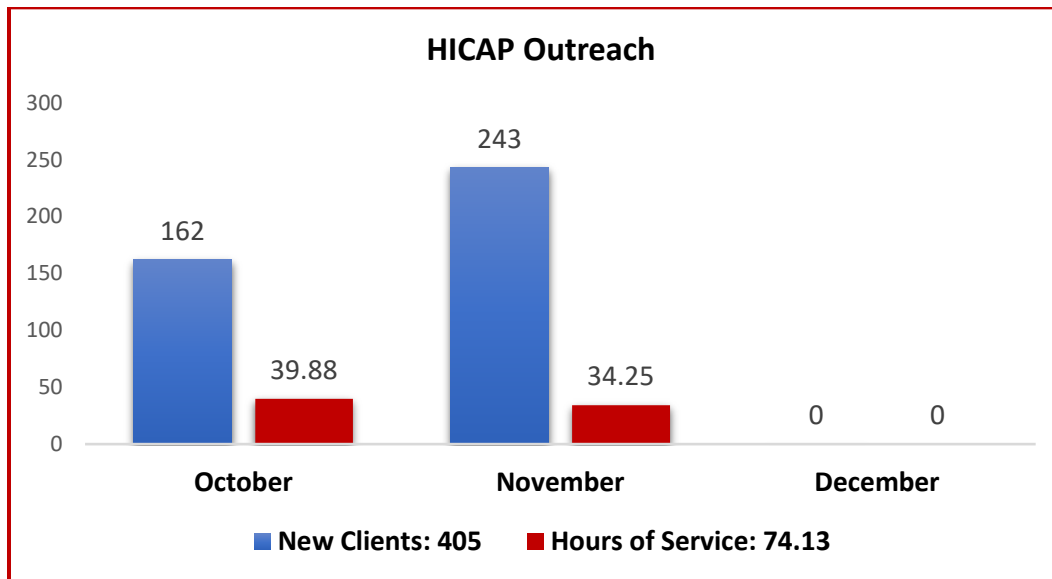
- **Nutrition Program Report – Home Delivered Meals**

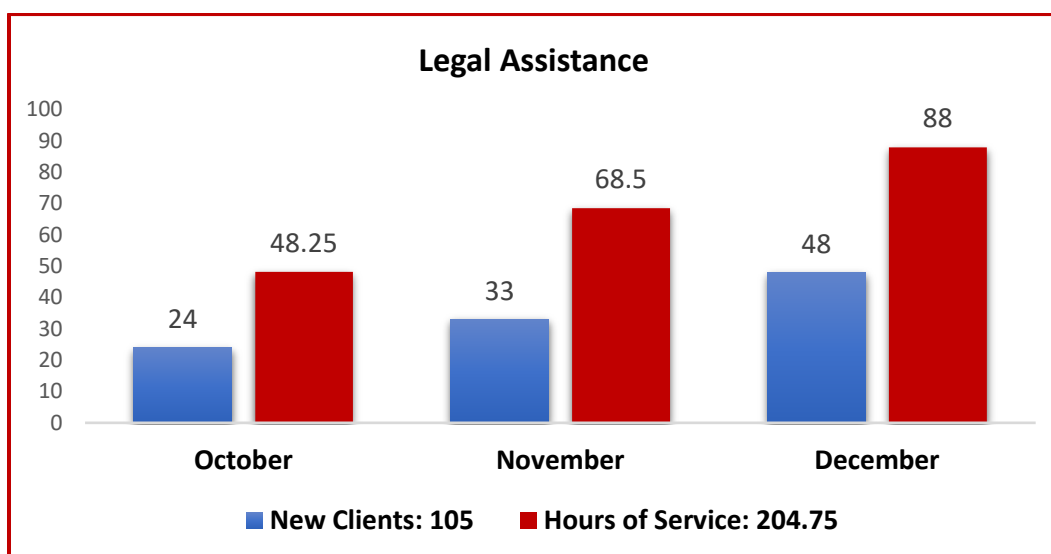
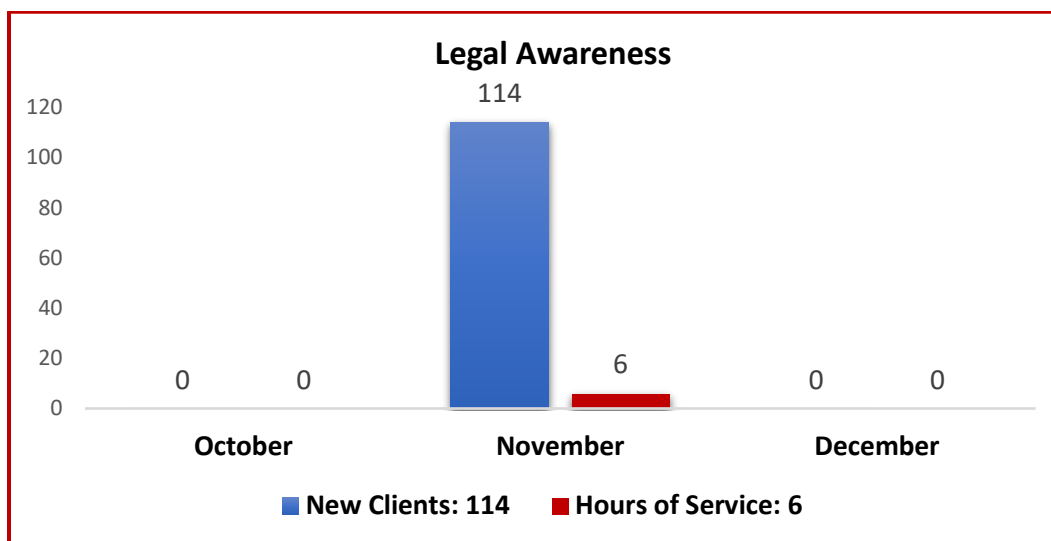
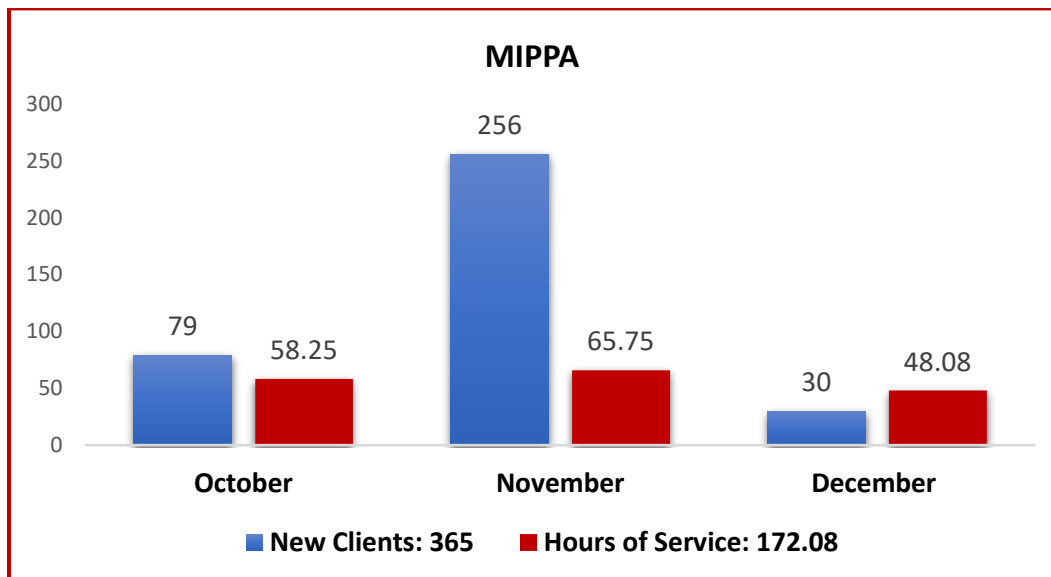
- Successfully enrolled 1,015 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program.
- Successfully served 62,630 Home Delivered meals.



- **Special Services Report – Benefit Counselors Program**

- Achieved the enrollment of 1,171 new clients and established 753.33 contacts through outreach activities and one-on-one assistance.

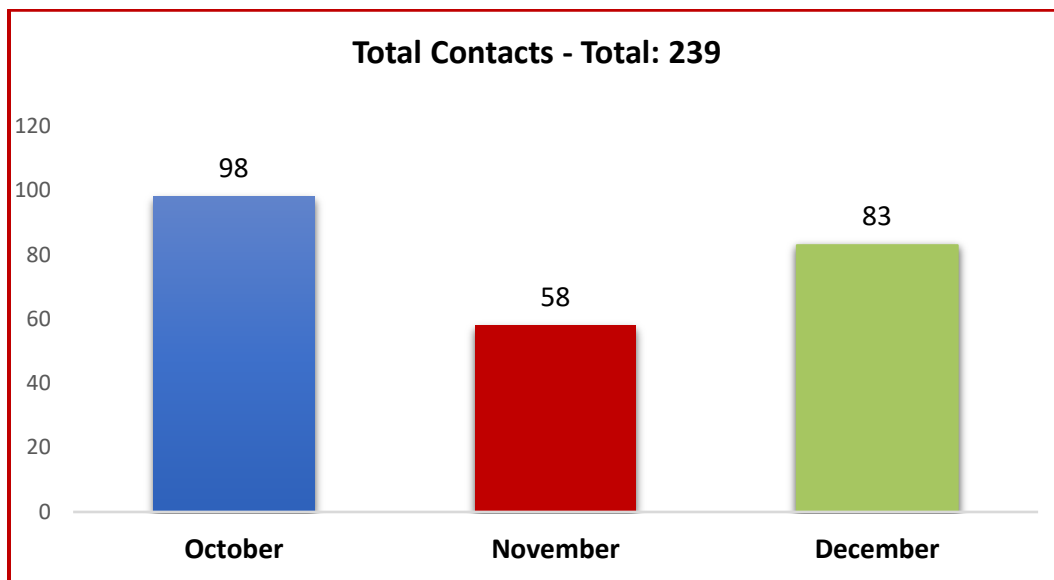
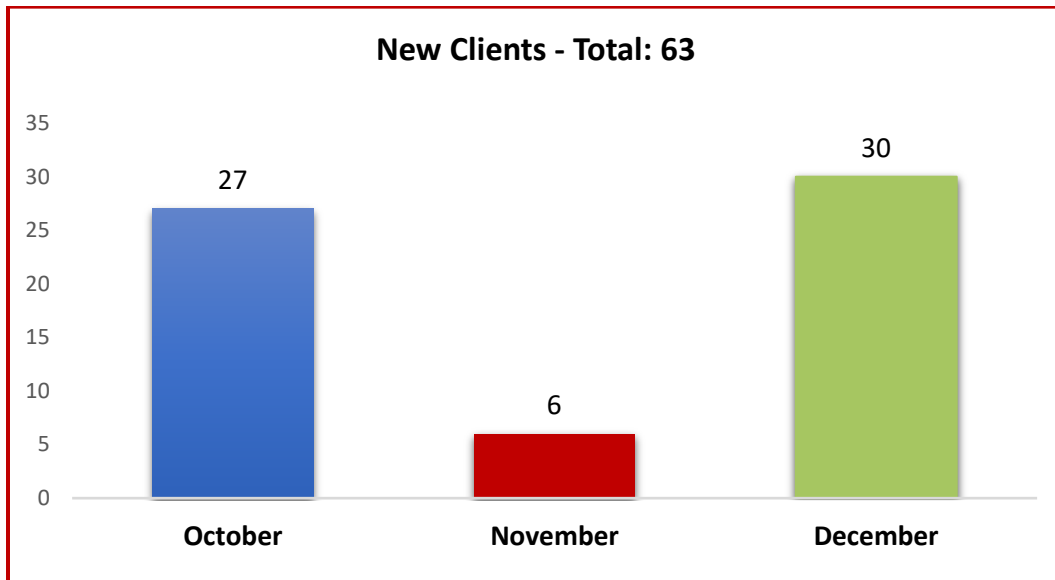




* Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)
* Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)

- **Special Services Report – Care Transition Intervention (CTI)**

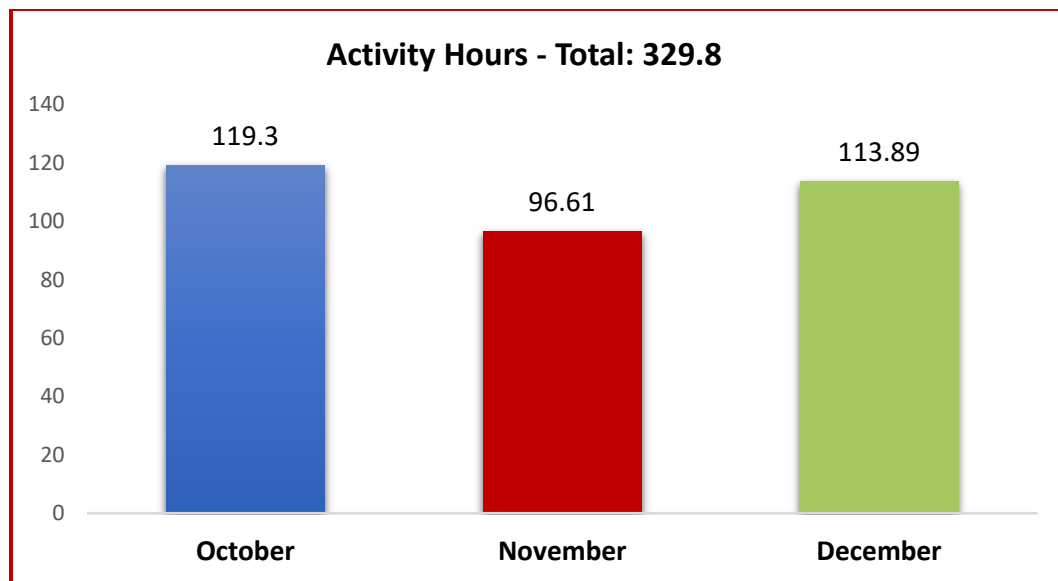
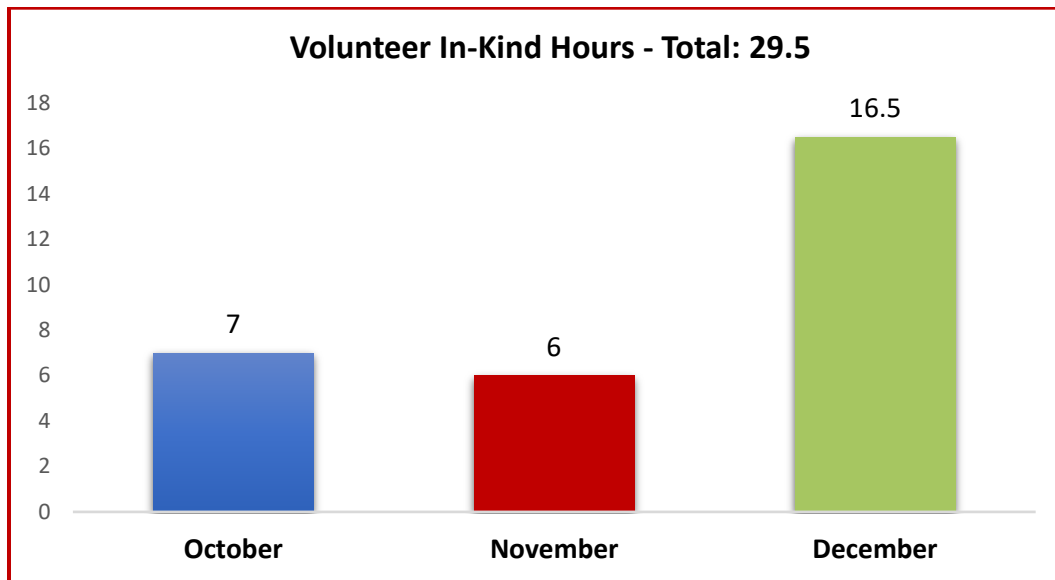
- During the 1st quarter, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 63 new clients.
- They made 239 contacts across a total of six hospitals within the tri-county area.



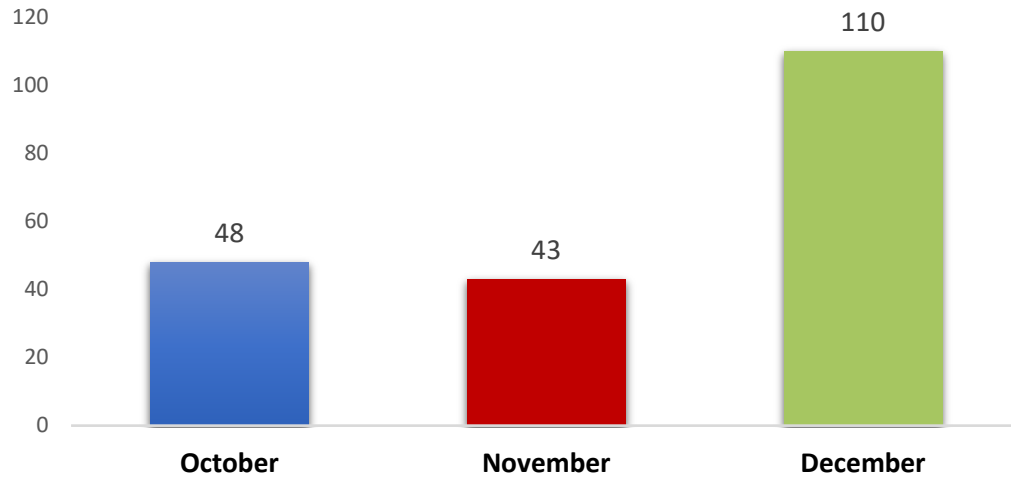
*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, Mission Regional Medical Center, and Edinburg Regional Medical Center

- **Special Services Report – Ombudsman Program**

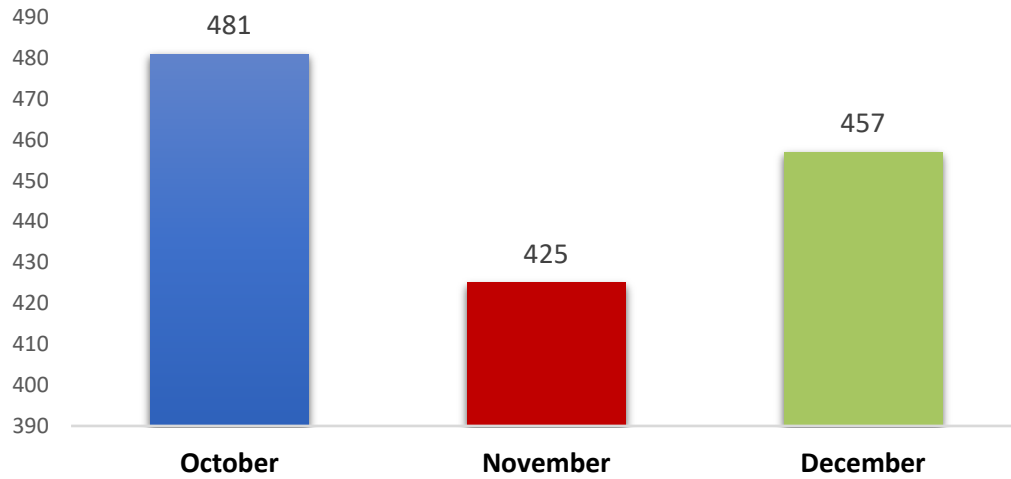
- During the 1st quarter, the Ombudsman handled 201 complaints.
- They dedicated 329.8 activity hours and recorded 1,163 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 29.5 in kind hours. Currently training 4 volunteers.



Investigated Complaints - Total: 201

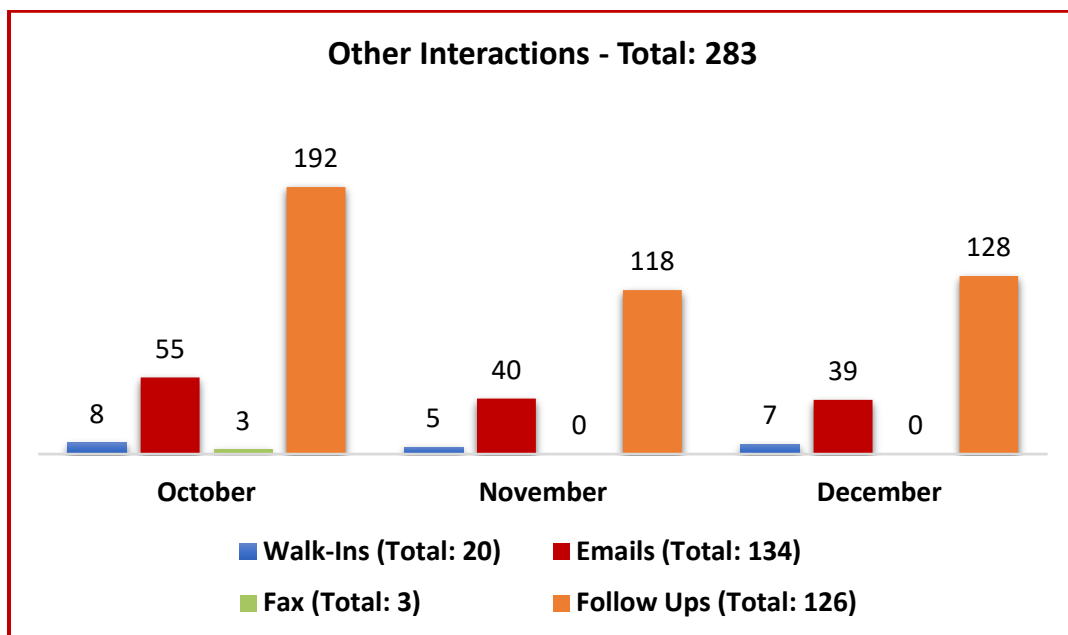
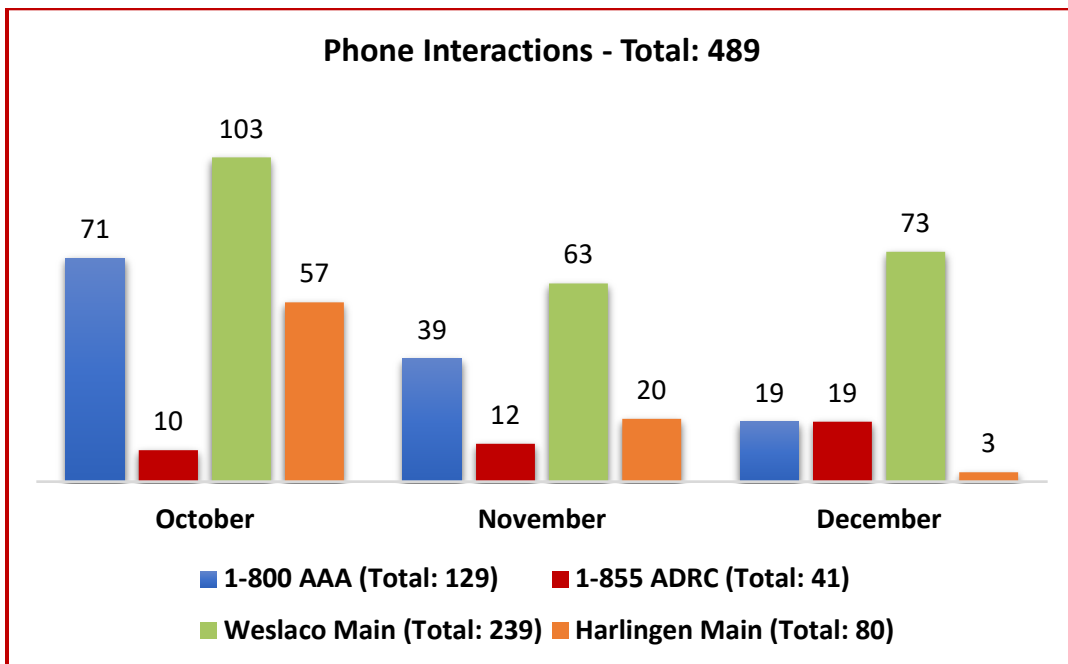


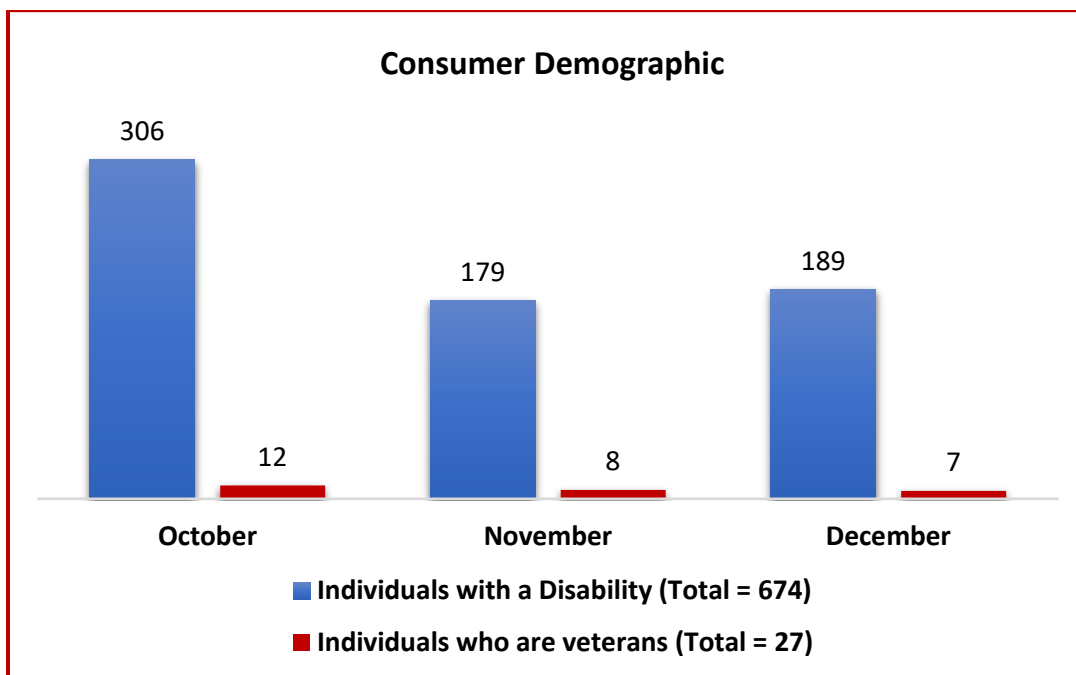
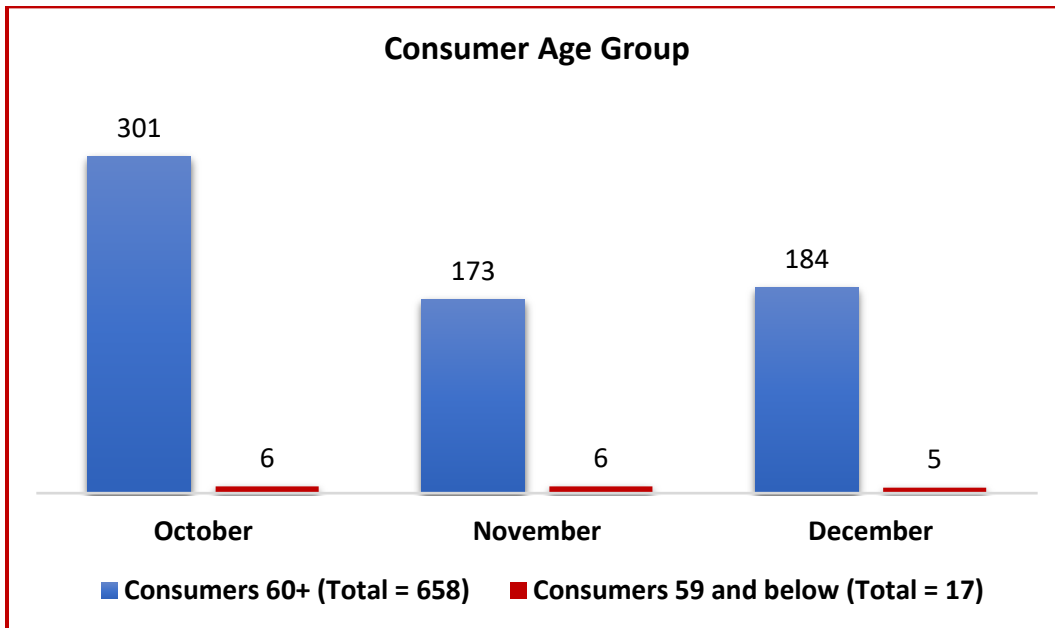
Activity Total - Total: 1,163



- **Information Referral and Assistance**

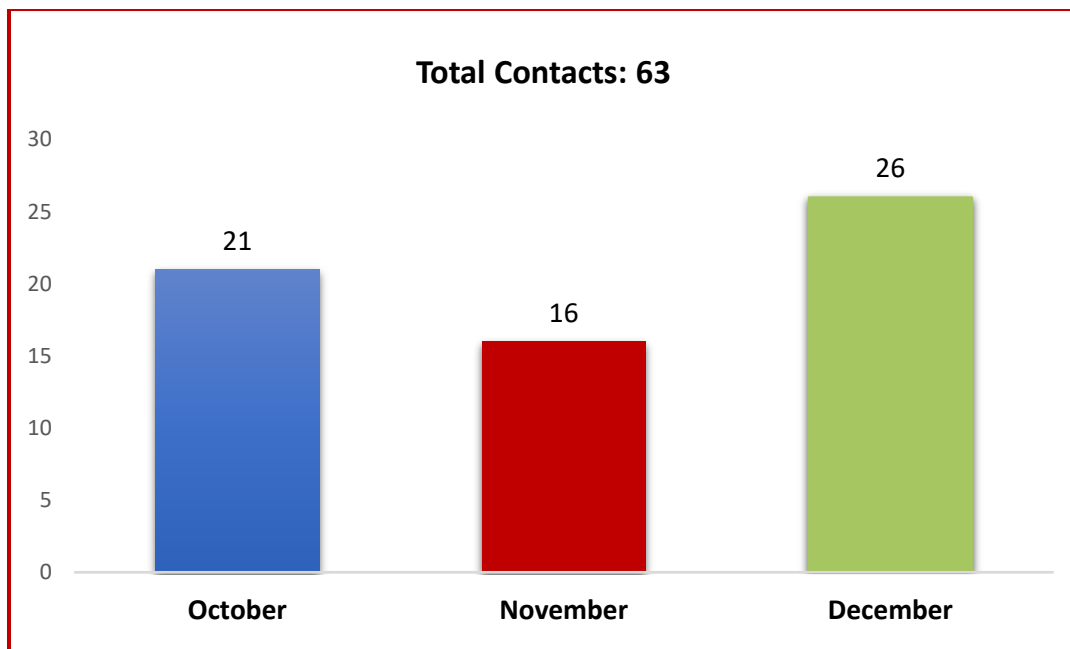
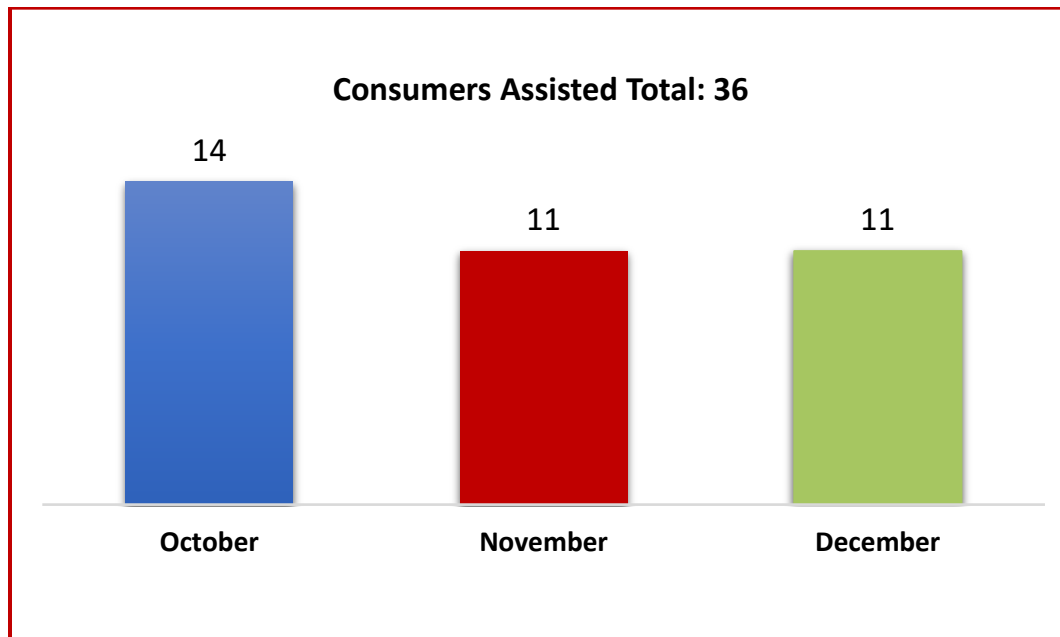
- The intake team had a total of 772 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.





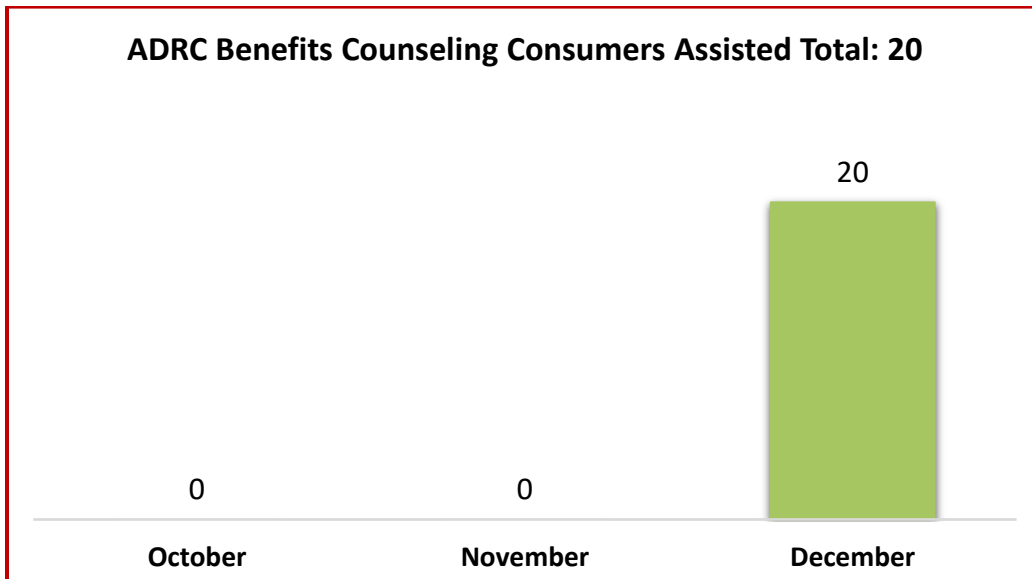
- **Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultant Report**

- The Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 36 new clients and 63 contacts across the tri-county area.



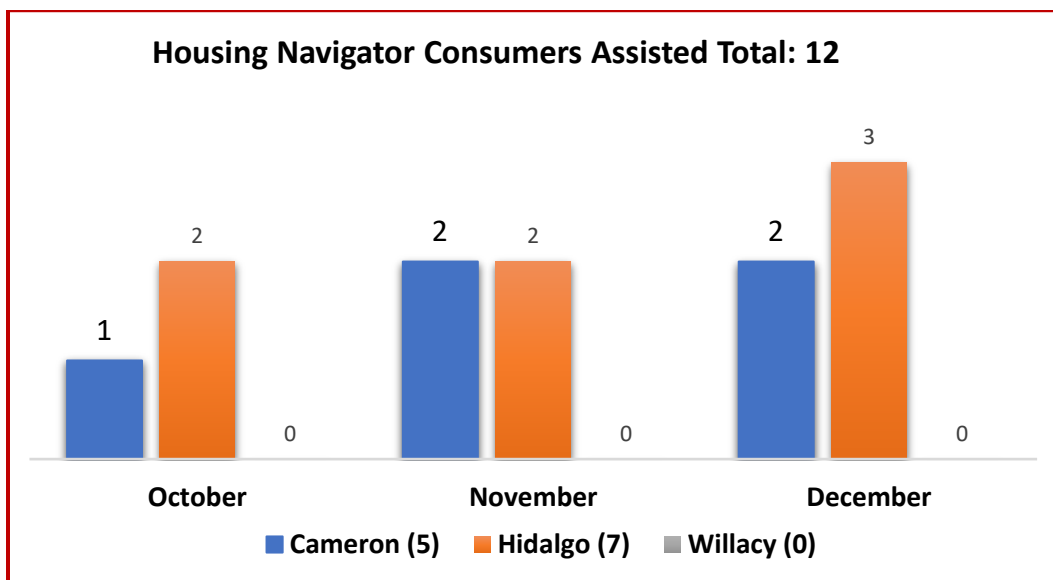
- **ADRC Report – Benefits Counseling**

- Assisted 20 consumers under the age of 60 with Benefit Counseling services including assistance with MIPPA.

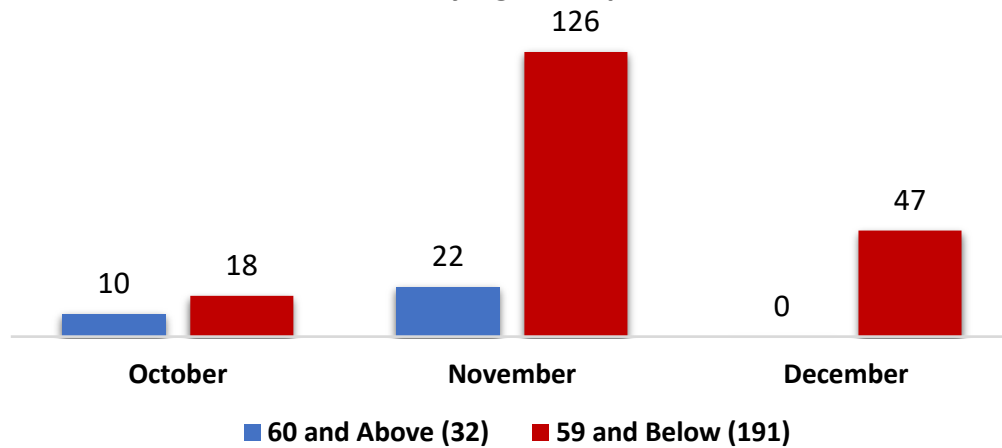


- **ADRC Report – Housing Navigator**

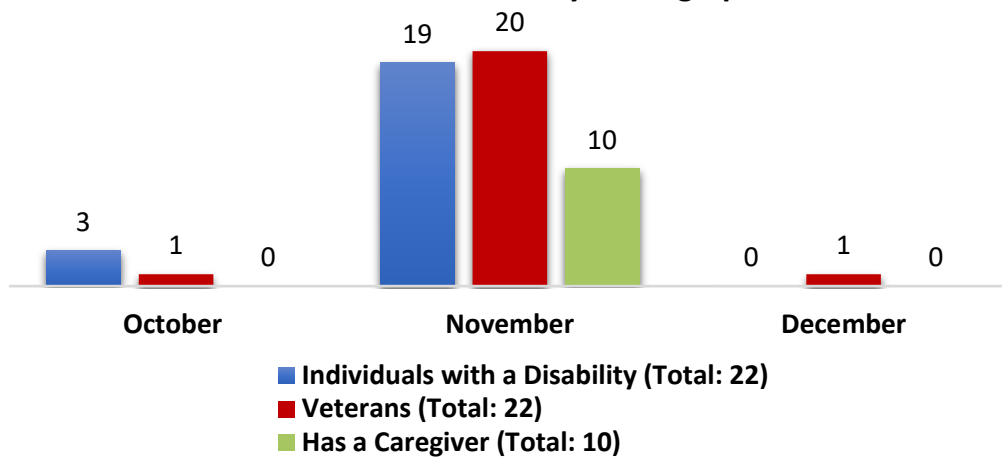
- Provided support to 12 consumers with housing inquiries by offering personalized resources, demonstrating the agency's expertise, and offering valuable support to community members encountering challenges regarding housing.



**ADRC Housing Navigator Outreach
Interactions By Age Group Total: 223**



**ADRC Housing Navigator
Outreach Interactions By Demographics**



SAVE THE DATE

2026 LIFE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

301 W. RAILROAD ST. WESLACO, TX 78596 BLDG. B

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**TECHNOLOGY & AI AS ASSISTANCE
TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS**

**LEADERSHIP-INNOVATION-INDEPENDENCE
FAMILY SUPPORT-EMPOWERMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (956) 682-3481

ITEM # 5. C.

**PUBLIC
SAFETY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security.....Cesar Merla
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution for FY 2026-27 Non-Profit Security Grant application title Regional Planning and Security.

As part of the Public Safety Office's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) grant guidelines, applications must include a resolution that contains information such authorization by its governing body for the submission of an application.



Non-Profit Security Grant for FY 2026-2027

Resolution 2026-02

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the *Non-Profit Security Grant* project to be operated for 09/01/2026 – 8/31/2027.

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the LRGVDC Board of Directors assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the LRGVDC Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the Finance Director as the grantee's financial officer. The financial office is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW TDHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the *Non- Profit Security Grant* project.

Passed and approved this 28th day of January 2026. Signed by:

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security.....Cesar Merla
Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to resolutions for FY 2026-27 State Homeland Security Program Grant Application titled Regional Planning.

As part of the Public Safety Office's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) grants guidelines, application must include a resolution that contains information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of an application. Upon approval the resolution will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline.



Regional Planning

Resolution 2026-03

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the COG-21 Homeland Security Regional Planning project to be operated for 09/01/2026 – 8/31/2027.

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the LRGVDC Board of Directors assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the LRGVDC Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized office is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the Finance Director as the grantee's financial officer. The financial office is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the COG-21 Homeland Security Regional Planning project.

Passed and approved this 28th day of January 2026. Signed by:

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security.....Cesar Merla
Director

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to resolutions for FY 2026-27 State Homeland Security Grant Program application titled Regional Fire Academy Training Coordinator.

As part of the Public Safety Office's the Regional Fire Academy grant guidelines applications from nonprofit organizations must include a resolution that contains specific information, such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of the application to HSGD. Upon approval the resolution will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline.



Regional Fire Academy Training Coordinator

Resolution 2026-04

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy project to be operated for 11/01/2025 – 10/31/2026.

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the LRGVDC Board of Directors assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the LRGVDC Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized office is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the Finance Director as the grantee's financial officer. The financial office is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy project.

Passed and approved this 28th day of January 2026. Signed by:

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of
Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security.....Cesar Merla
Director

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to resolutions for FY 2026-27 Criminal Justice Assistance Grant application titled Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance

As part of the Public Safety Office's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) grants guidelines, all applications must include a resolution that contains information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of an application. Upon approval the resolution will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline.



Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance

Resolution 2026-05

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the *Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance* project to be operated for 10/01/2026 – 9/30/2027.

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the LRGVDC Board of Directors assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the LRGVDC Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the Finance Director as the grantee's financial officer. The financial office is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW TDHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the *Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance*.

Passed and approved this 28th day of January 2026. Signed by:

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, LRGVDC President

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety.....Cesar Merla
Director

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on January 14, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Coordinated a Crisis Leadership Training taking place February 4, 2026.
- Criminal Justice staff member participated in the State of the COG for the LRGVDC at the Knapp Memorial Hospital on January 8, 2026.
- Staff continue to advise regional members and the community on open Criminal Justice grants that are available through the Texas Governor's Public Safety Office for the 2026-2027 cycle

Homeland Security Program

- One staff member participated in the bi-weekly call with the US Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis from the Cyber Intelligence Center
- Staff members participated in the webinar on January 2, 2026, Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable.
- Staff member participated in the State of the COG for the LRGVDC at the Knapp Memorial Hospital on January 8, 2026.
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on January 8, 2025, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff member participated in the Linage Hazmat Full Scale walk through on January 15, 2025, at Linage, 6800 S. Ware Rd., McAllen, TX
- Staff member participated in RGV-ETAB Meeting on January 15, 2026 at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX

CRISIS LEADERSHIP

MGT-3 4 0

Date: February 4, 2026

Time: 9am-1pm

Location: 301 W Railroad St, Bldg B Weslaco, Texas 78596



Scan to Register

<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT340&S=247>

DHS/FEMA-funded course



Ebola and Crime Scene photo credit: FBI Multimedia Images and [cdc.gov/dotw/ebola/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/ebola/index.html)



FEMA



Scan to Register

CRISIS LEADERSHIP

MGT-340

This seminar uses one of four case studies to examine the dynamics of crisis leadership and decision making from an elected or senior official's perspective. The four hour seminar uses the case study to frame the discussion on ways to overcome leadership challenges in planning and responding to a large scale incident. The final outcome of the seminar is the development of individual and jurisdictional action plans to guide improved preparedness and emergency response.

Available Case Studies:

- Hurricane Harvey: Chaos on the Gulf Coast
- Mayhem at Mandalay Bay Active Shooter
- The Camp Fire: Crisis in California

Course Length

One Half Day (4 hours)

Venue

Jurisdiction

Class Size

25-35 Participants

CE Credits

0.40 CEUs

Seminar Topics

Planning for Effective Disaster Response:

The plans that are in place at the outset of a disaster have a significant impact on the success of the response and recovery. In order to be effective, plans must be adequate, feasible, adaptable, and all-hazards based. It is imperative that leaders, both elected and appointed, understand the role they play in the planning process.

Leadership and Decision Making During a Crisis:

Senior officials must recognize their roles and responsibilities as leaders in advance, rather than discovering their obligations for the first time in the midst of a crisis. They must also identify ways in which they will develop the situational awareness necessary for decision making in a disaster.

Participants

- Elected Officials
- Senior Appointed Officials
- Chiefs/Department Heads
- Emergency Management Directors
- Educational Institution Administration
- Public and Private Sector Executives
- Public Health and Health Care Officials
- NGOs
- State/Federal Agency Representatives
- Public Information Officers (PIO)

Crisis Communications:

Disasters present unique communications challenges, from coordinating the response efforts of multiple agencies to ensuring the information needs of both the press and the public are met. Developing strategies for planning, conducting and managing public information and warning—to include the role social media plays—can be vital to successful response and recovery efforts.

Developing an Action Plan:

From the lessons learned during seminar discussions and reading of the case study, a broad personal and jurisdictional action plan will be developed to guide future emergency preparedness planning.

For more information, contact:

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE

execprograms@teex.tamu.edu

TEEX.org/nerrtc



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

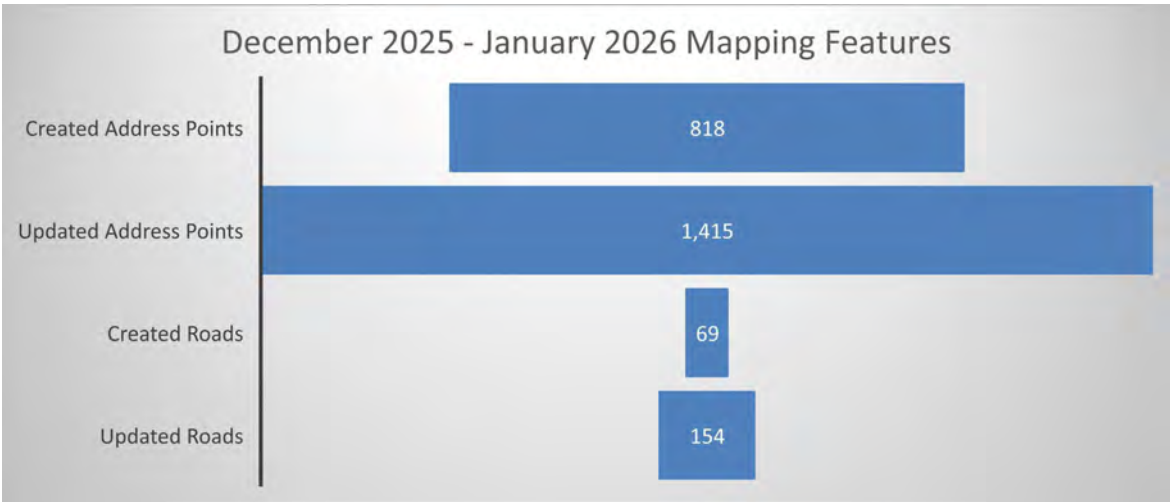
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

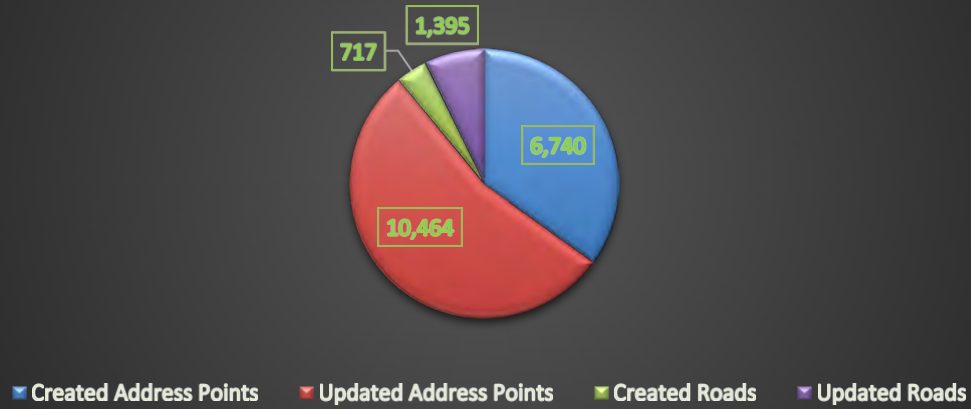
The GIS Division continues to demonstrate growth and innovation, strengthening regional geospatial data accessibility and enhancing emergency response capabilities. In 2025, the Division successfully upgraded its ArcGIS Enterprise environment to version 11.5.1, ensuring long-term system stability and improved performance across all GIS servers and services. Strategic initiatives planned for early 2026 include the implementation of Image Server 11.5 to support online aerial imagery for PSAP mapping and the deployment of ArcGIS Monitor to enhance system performance monitoring.

The Division remains committed to workforce development, implementing a structured training plan tracked through an internal Story Map and Dashboard. Staff participation in the NENA Standards and Best Practices Conference further supports readiness for emerging 9-1-1 GIS technologies.

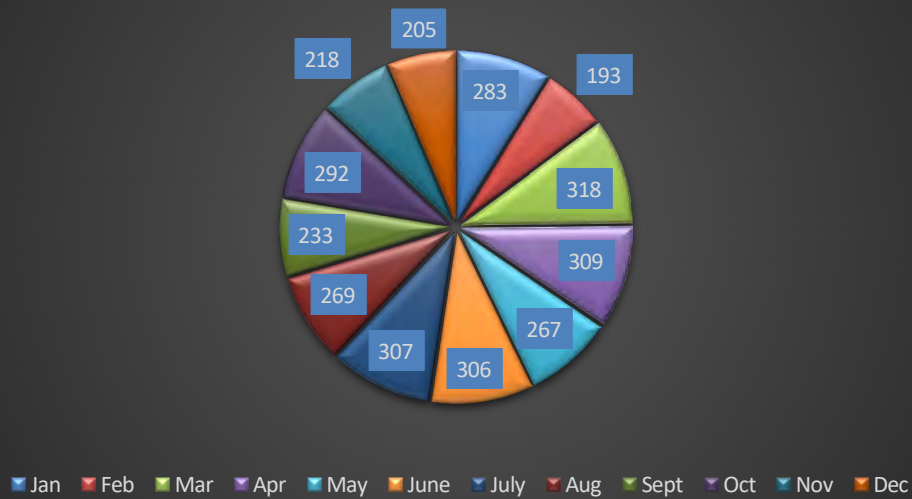
Operational metrics reflect continued growth, with average monthly GIS Hub page views increasing by approximately 20% in 2025 and a record 3,234 address tickets processed by GIS and Customer Service staff, demonstrating increased system usage and service demand.



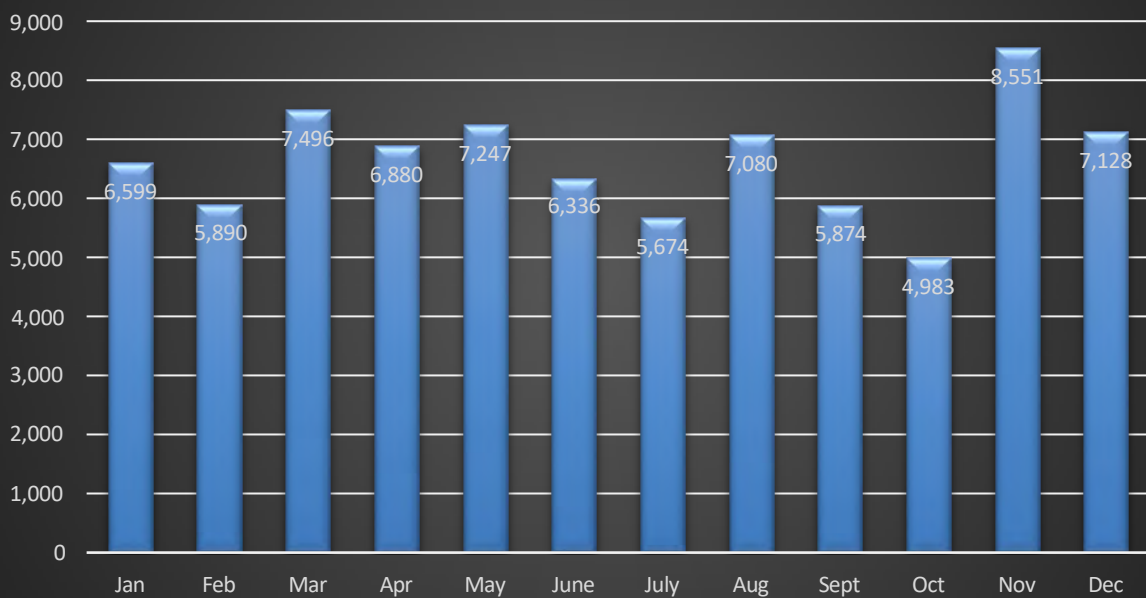
2025 Total Production : GIS



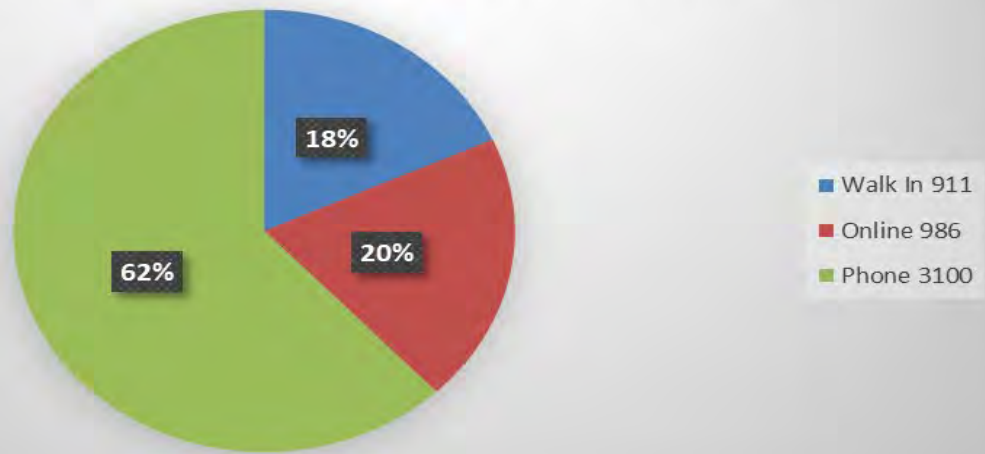
2025 Address Tickets Totals



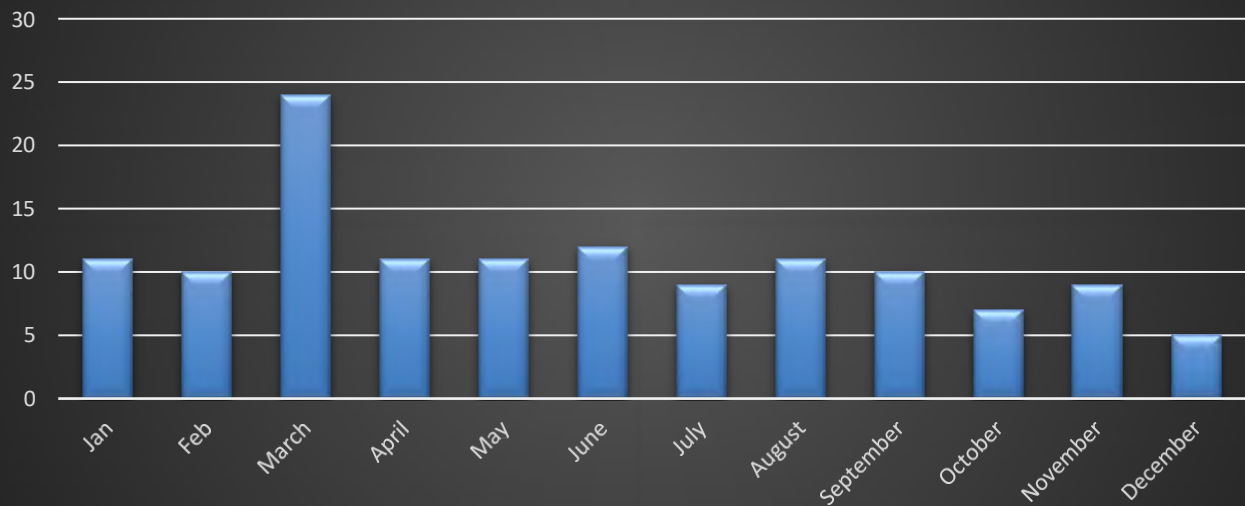
RGV911.org Pageviews 2025 Total



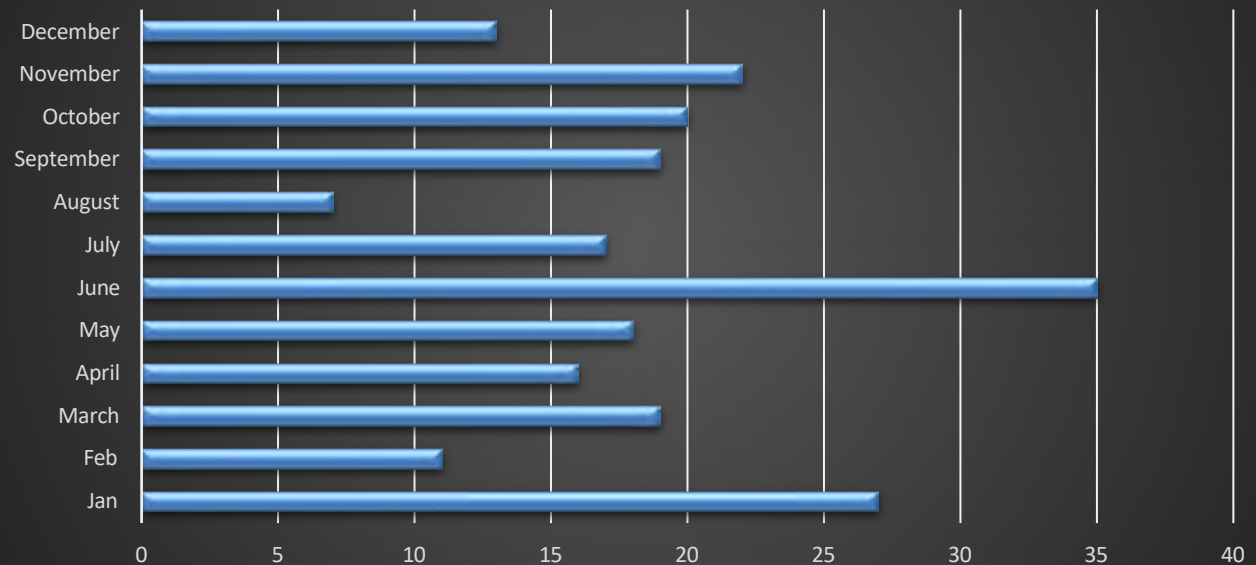
Address Ticket Request by Type 2025

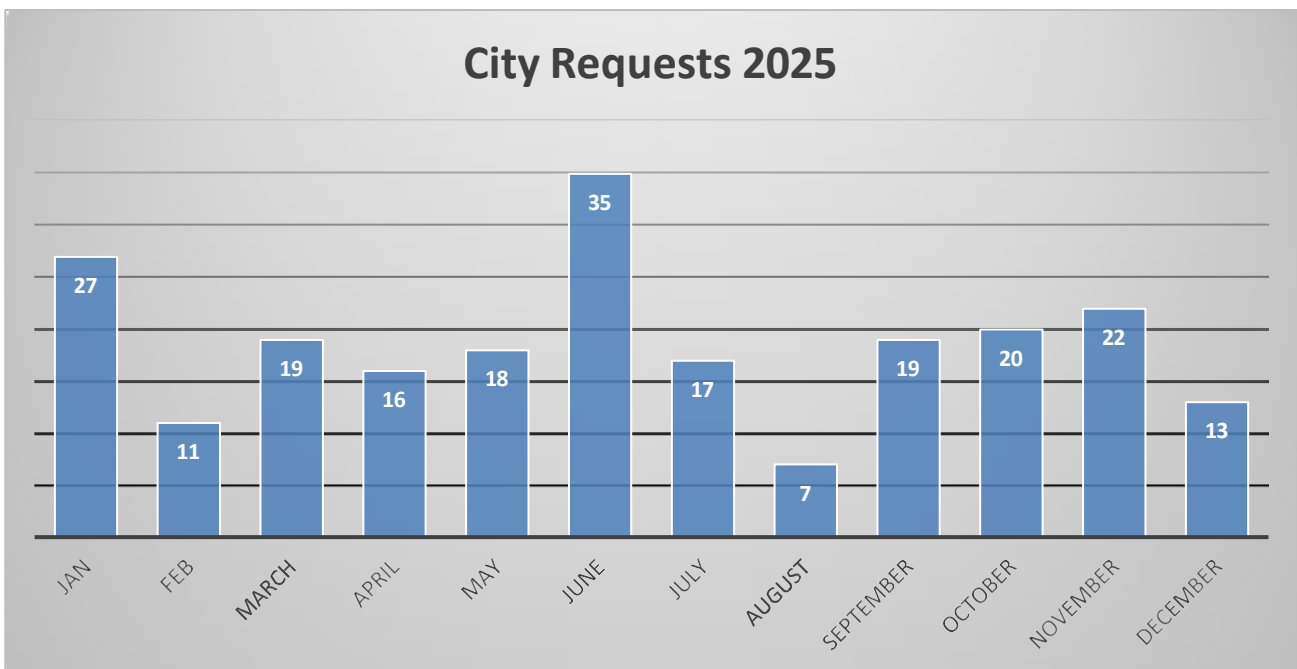
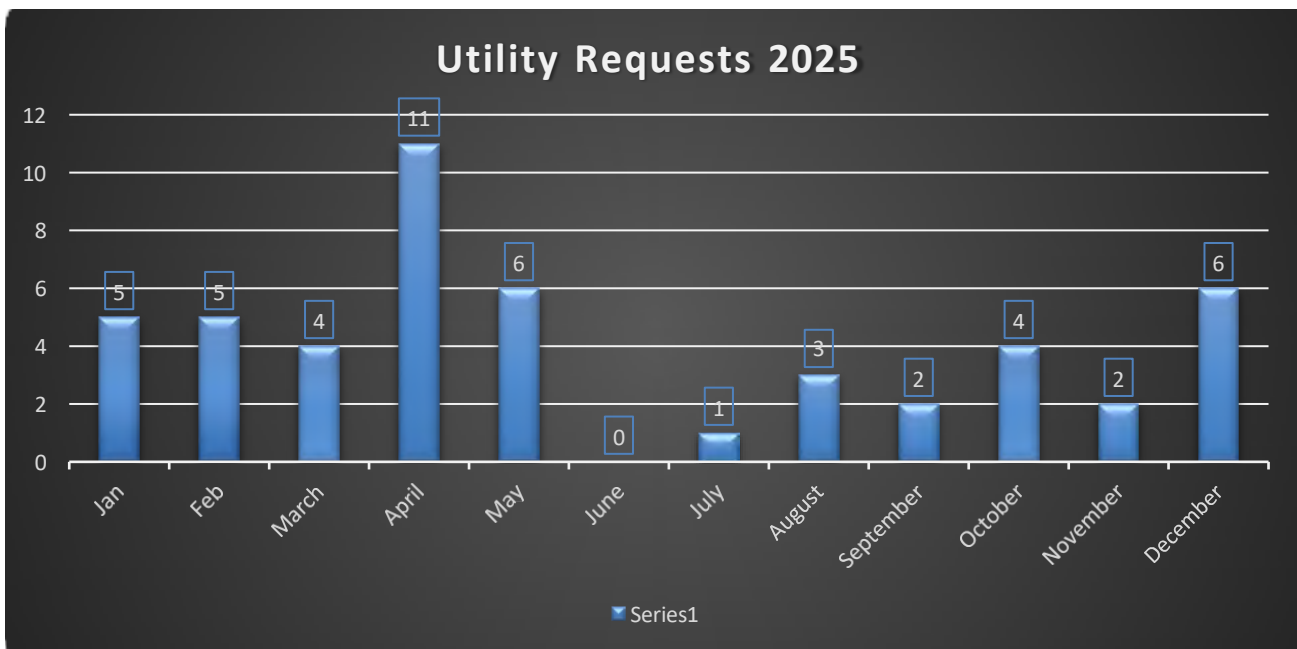


Subdivision Requests 2025



Street Name Requests 2025





- **9-1-1 | Information Technology**

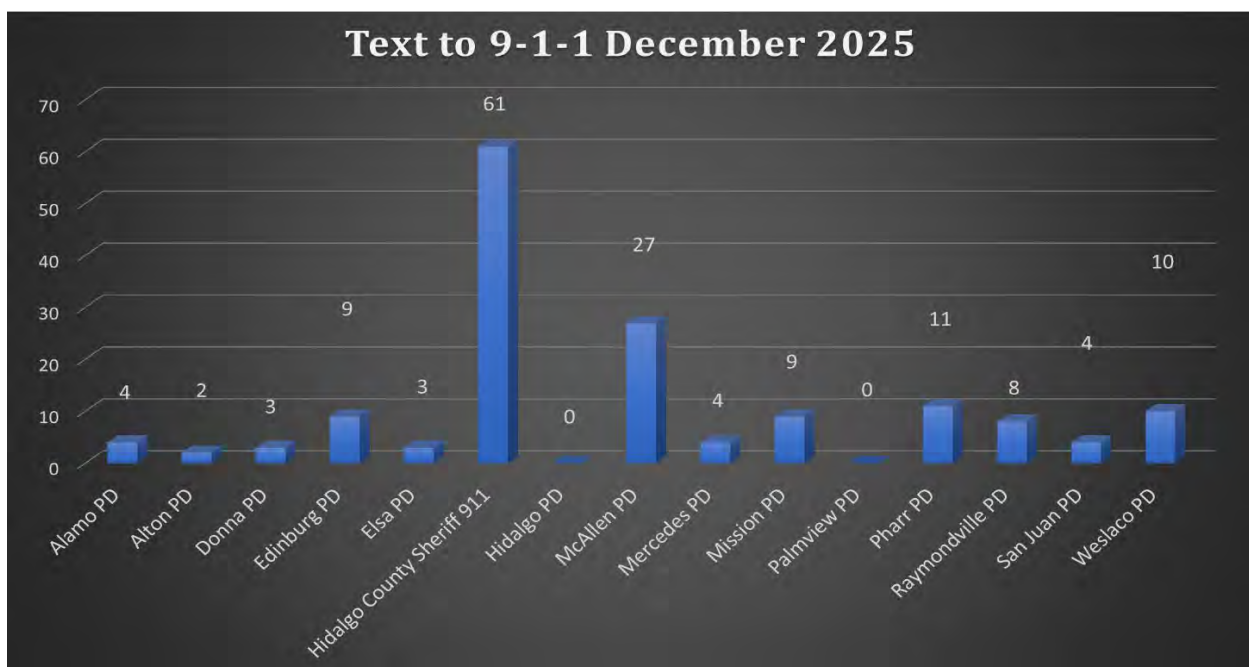
In October, the Information Technology Team coordinated panic button testing at select Mission Cisd campuses located in different PSAP jurisdictions. These tests were conducted alongside Mission Cisd security personnel and school administrators. The effort highlighted the importance of direct coordination between schools, PSAPs, and the RGV Emergency Communication District to ensure proper call routing and timely transfers when school-based alerts are activated.

To enhance situational awareness and interagency support, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) had call takers and dispatchers attend Power911 and MapFlex training on December 17th and 18th. The training provided an overview of how the 9-1-1 system operates, its available features, and how mapping tools are used in real-time. Texas DPS

personnel also shadowed Weslaco PD dispatchers to observe live 9-1-1 call handling and better understand PSAP operations.

Additionally, the District received two mobile generators ordered during the last quarter, marking the completion of Phase I of the generator project. Phase II will begin with the procurement and installation of transfer switches.

We remain committed to maintaining 99.999% operational efficiency, ensuring seamless integration between our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping. By doing so, we continue to support our public safety partners and the community with reliable emergency communication services.



- Community Engagement Division

December was a busy and festive month for the RGV911 Public Education Team as we wrapped up the year engaging with our community. From holiday parades and school visits to end-of-year outreach events, we continued spreading awareness about when and how to properly use 9-1-1. Cell Phone Sally and our educators connected with children, parents, and public safety partners, emphasizing the importance of emergency communication while celebrating the season. December closed out a successful year of growth, collaboration, and community education, ensuring more families feel confident and prepared when calling 9-1-1.

City of Mission at the Mayor's Season of Giving and Christmas Tree Lighting, December 5th, 2025. RGV911 reminded everyone to drive safely, avoid distractions, and plan ahead. In an emergency, if you cannot safely call, remember you can Text to 911.

Parent & Family Engagement Fall Conference hosted by Mercedes ISD, December 12, 2025. RGV911 Public Education attended the Parent & Family Engagement Fall Conference! We had the opportunity to share important information about when to call 9-1-1, how to call, what to say, and the option to text 911.

Weslaco Christmas Parade, December 13, 2025. We had a wonderful time participating in the parade and celebrating the holiday season with our Weslaco community. All three divisions participated in putting the float together and attending the parade.

Career Day at Andrew Jackson Elementary in McAllen, December 17, 2025. The RGV911 team attended Career Day at Andrew Jackson Elementary, where our I.T. team and Media Designer shared with students the important roles they play in supporting the 9-1-1 district and keeping emergency services running smoothly behind the scenes.

Coffee with Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza from the City of Mission, December 18, 2025. The 911 Public Education Team had the honor of enjoying coffee with Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza. We engaged in conversations about 911 Public Education and the important work we do with and for our schools, communities, and 911 telecommunications.

City of Mission at the Mayor's Season of Giving and Christmas Tree Lighting



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Jackie ready to talk to the community of the city of Mission



Pictured above: Attendees enjoying the event .

Parent & Family Engagement Fall Conference hosted by Mercedes ISD



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Jackie educating the parents and students on the importance of 911



Weslaco Christmas Parade



Pictured above: RGV911 Director Cesar Merla (The Grinch), Customer Service Rep. Ruby Garza, G.I.S. Sellenne Vallejo and Monica Estrada, Executive Analyst Javier Dominguez, 911 Public Education Coordinator Maribel Alonzo.

Career Day at Andrew Jackson Elementary in McAllen



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Ralph Gonzalez (Information and Technology Division) RGV911 staff Lizbeth Salazar (Media Designer) and RGV 911 staff Maribel Alonzo (911 Public Education Coordinator)

Coffee with Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza from the City of Mission



Pictured above: Mayor Norie Gonzalez-Garza and RGV911 Public Education Coordinator Maribel Alonzo



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Jackie collaborating on the event.

ITEM # 5. C.2

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE ACADEMY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Department Reports

Public Safety Javier Solis Jr
Assistant Director

Training Announcements

Solo Officer Rapid Deployment February 5-6– This course trains officers to respond and mitigate an active threat in a solo response capacity while in plain clothes or while off duty. This course provides 16 hours of training to satisfy the mandated ALERRT training requirement for all officers

Advanced Instructor Course February 9-13 – Training is focused on enhancing the skill set of Basic Instructors. This course focuses on the presentation aspect and delivery of individual courses. Attendees are provided with skill training on the development of advanced power point presentation, public speaking, adult learning, and course development.

LRGV Academy Training Calendar- The LRGV Academy Inservice Training Calendar has been posted online at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/academy.html> Registration is open for officers needing to attend intermediate and advanced courses. Attendees can register by emailing the LRGV Academy at www.jsolis@lrgvdc.org or by contacting LRGV Academy staff at 956-682-3481 ext. 181

LRGV Academy Staff are still accepting applications for all Spring Basic Peace Officer Courses including Rio Grande City Police Academy and Weslaco Part- Time Academy. Background investigations shall commence in the month of February, and the goal is to launch both academies by the end of March or early April 2026.

LRGV Academy class 232 of the Mission Police Department commenced on January 23, 2026. 17 cadets are currently in training and have begun their Basic Peace Officer Course.

ALERRT SORD
HOSTED BY LRGV ACADEMY
FEBRUARY 5 -6 2026
Contact Javier Solis 956-222-9417



REGISTRATION
REQUIRES APPROVAL BY
LRGV ACADEMY

- February 9 – 13 2026
- CIEDO
- 301 W. Railroad Weslaco, TX
- Contact LRGV Academy for Registration



- Currently Accepting Applications for our Part Time Academy
- March 2026
- Register Via QR CODE or Online Link via Facebook

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

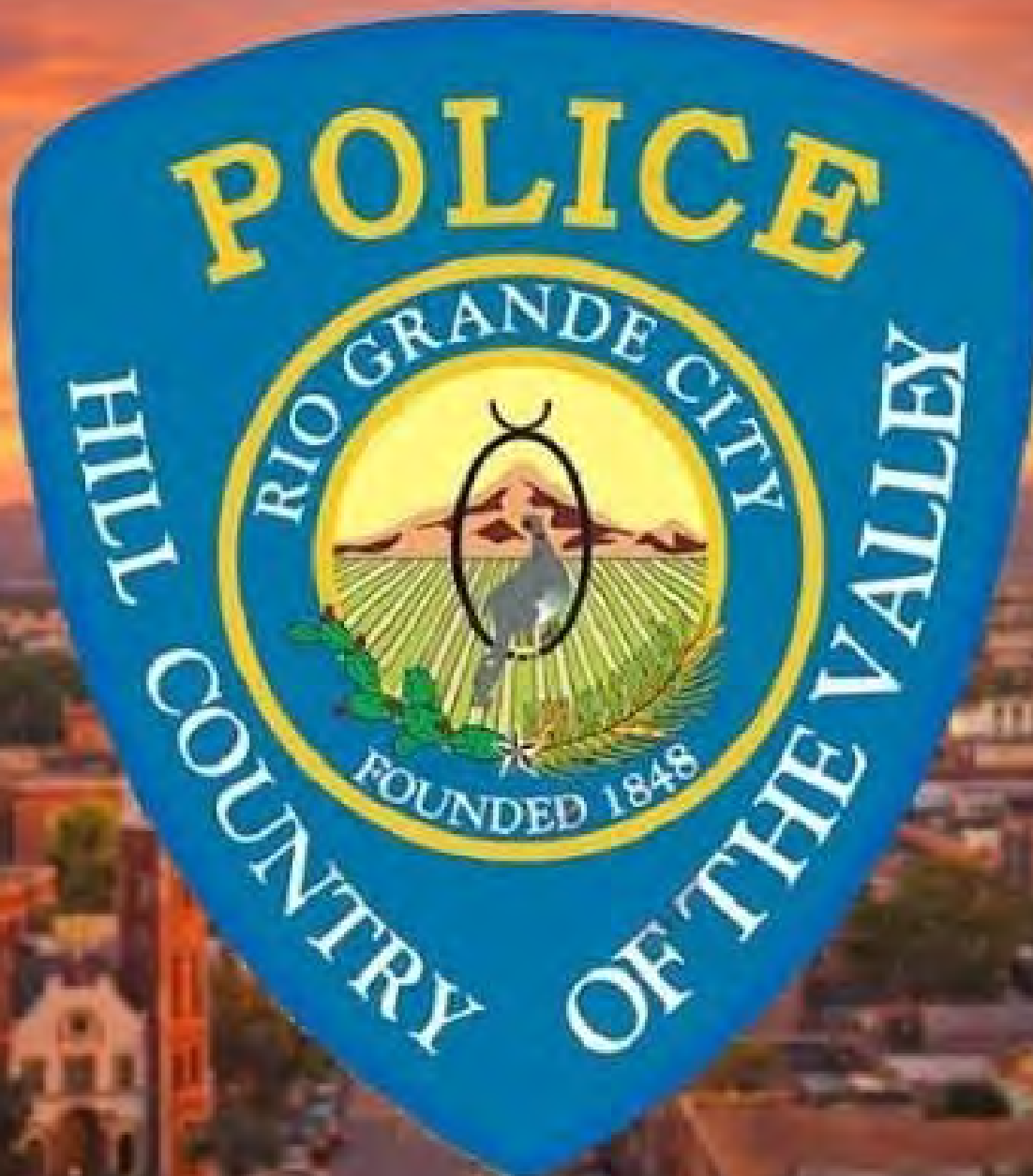
THE LRGV ACADEMY IS NOW
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR ALL UPCOMING SPRING
2026 ACADEMIES

**SCAN BELOW TO
REGISTER**



For more information, call
956-682-3481 EXT 153





- Accepting Applications

Applications can be accessed online or at the Rio Grande City Police Department

- 650 Farm to Market Road 755
- Rio Grande City, Texas

LRGV Academy

BASIC COUNTY CORRECTIONS COURSE



140 HRS
7 WEEKS
6PM - 10PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

ADDITIONAL
CERTIFICATIONS
-LESS LETHAL
ELECTRONIC DEVICE
-ASP BATON
-LESS LETHAL
CHEMICAL DEVICE

For Additional
information
Contact our office
at 956-682-3481
Ext. 186

LRGV Academy Training Calendar

- Intermediate Arrest Search and Seizure – February 25 – 26
- Special Investigative Topics – March 4
- Intermediate Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation
March 10- 12
- Intermediate Use of Force – March 23 – 24
- Cultural Diversity – March 27



ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5 Valley Metro

Transportation.....Sandra Carrizales
Valley Metro Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the updated Section 5310 Program Management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Valley Metro is seeking the Board's approval of the updated Section 5310 — Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Program Management Plan for LRGVDC–Valley Metro. This will ensure compliance with Federal and State requirements.

Purpose:

Provide a single, practical policy for administration of FTA Section 5310 funds for LRGVDC / Valley Metro that incorporates current FTA and State requirements, explains eligible activities and applicants, and establishes a clear Call for Projects (CFP) and project-selection process of available funding.

Guides: FTA Section 5310 Circular (C9070.1H), FTA program pages, TxDOT Section 5310 application instructions, and federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200).

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Valley Metro

Transportation.....Sandra Carrizales
Valley Metro Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Acquisition of Hardware for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Staff are seeking the Board's approval for the acquisition of Hardware essential for the operations of the transit agency.

A. Cradle Point devices : **RCN Technologies**
\$33,722.25 FTA Grant TX-2025-029

Real-Time Vehicle Tracking

- GPS and telematics data need to be transmitted to central systems.
- Cradle point ensures always-on connectivity, even in remote areas.

Security and Surveillance

- Video feeds from onboard cameras often stream to control centers.
- Requires high-bandwidth, low-latency connections that Cradlepoint routers can provide.

Payment and Ticketing Systems

- Mobile ticketing and card readers need secure, reliable internet.
- Cradle point supports PCI-compliant secure transactions.

B. Radio devices:

Motorola Solutions through South Texas Communications.
\$45,631.55 FTA Grant TX-2019-114

Instant Communication

- Drivers and dispatchers need fast, reliable communication for operational updates.
- Radios provide zero dialing time, unlike phones.

Coverage in Remote Areas

- Cellular networks can fail on rural routes or during disasters.
- Radios work on dedicated frequencies, ensuring consistent coverage.

Safety and Emergency Response

- In emergencies, radios allow group calls and priority override for critical messages.
- Essential for incident management and coordination with first responders.

Billing Address:
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
311 N 15TH
MC ALLEN, TX 78501
US

Quote Date:01/08/2026
Expiration Date:03/09/2026
Quote Created By:
Claudia Gonzalez
cgonzalez@stcradios.com

End Customer:
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Demitre Regehr
dregehr@lrgvdc.com
956-240-8201

Contract: 17724 - HGAC (TX)-RA05-21

Summary:

Any sales transaction resulting from Motorola's quote is based on and subject to the applicable Motorola Standard Terms and Conditions, notwithstanding terms and conditions on purchase orders or other Customer ordering documents. Motorola Standard Terms and Conditions are found at www.motorolasolutions.com/product-terms.

Line #	Item Number	Description	Qty	List Price	Sale Price	Ext. Sale Price
	APX™ 1500 Enhanced					
1	M36URS9PW1BN	APX1500 ENHANCED 7/800 MHZ MOBILE	11	\$2,151.00	\$1,570.23	\$17,272.53
1a	QA02756AD	ADD: 3600 OR 9600 TRUNKING BAUD SINGLE SYSTEM	11	\$1,848.00	\$1,349.04	\$14,839.44
1b	QA01648AA	ADD: HW KEY SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	11	\$6.42	\$4.69	\$51.59
1c	G444AH	ADD: APX CONTROL HEAD SOFTWARE	11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1d	GA00804AA	ADD: APX O2 CH (GREY)	11	\$579.00	\$422.67	\$4,649.37
1e	G66BF	ADD: DASH MOUNT O2 APXM	11	\$148.00	\$108.04	\$1,188.44
1f	G174AD	ADD: ANT 3DB LOW-PROFILE 762-870	11	\$50.00	\$36.50	\$401.50
1g	GA00235AA	ADD: NO GPS ANTENNA NEEDED APX	11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1h	W22BA	ADD: STD PALM MICROPHONE APX	11	\$85.00	\$62.05	\$682.55
1i	B18CR	ADD: AUXILIARY SPKR 7.5 WATT APX	11	\$71.00	\$51.83	\$570.13



Any sales transaction following Motorola's quote is based on and subject to the terms and conditions of the valid and executed written contract between Customer and Motorola (the "Underlying Agreement") that authorizes Customer to purchase equipment and/or services or license software (collectively "Products"). If no Underlying Agreement exists between Motorola and Customer, then Motorola's Standard Terms of Use and Motorola's Standard Terms and Conditions of Sales and Supply shall govern the purchase of the Products. Motorola Solutions, Inc.: 500 West Monroe, United States - 60661 ~ #: 36-1115800

Line #	Item Number	Description	Qty	List Price	Sale Price	Ext. Sale Price
1j	GA00318AC	ENH: 5 YEAR ESSENTIAL SVC	11	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$3,960.00
1k	QA05751AA	ADD: NO ENCRYPTION, CLEAR RADIO (NO ADP) (US ONLY)	11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1l	QA09113AB	ADD: BASELINE RELEASE SW	11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Product Services						
2	LSV00Q00202A	DEVICE PROGRAMMING	11	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$1,320.00
3	HMN1090D	ACCESSORY KIT,MODIFIED STANDARD MOBILE MIC,GREY	10	\$87.00	\$69.60	\$696.00

Grand Total **\$45,631.55(USD)**

Notes:

- Unless otherwise noted, this quote excludes sales tax or other applicable taxes (such as Goods and Services Tax, sales tax, Value Added Tax and other taxes of a similar nature). Any tax the customer is subject to will be added to invoices.



Line #	Item Number	Parametric Data
1b	QA01648AA	ASKHOMID = 02B5





Purchase Order Checklist NA OM

Marked as PO/ Contract/ Notice to Proceed on Company Letterhead
(PO will not be processed without this)

PO Number/ Contract Number

PO Date

Vendor = Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Payment (Billing) Terms/ State Contract Number

Bill-To Name on PO must be equal to the *Legal* Bill-To Name

Bill-To Address

Ship-To Address (If we are shipping to a MR location, it must be documented on PO)

Ultimate Address (If the Ship-To address is the MR location then the Ultimate Destination address must be documented on PO)

PO Amount must be equal to or greater than Order Total

Non-Editable Format (Word/ Excel templates cannot be accepted)

Tax Exemption Status

Signatures (As required)

NOTE: When an email order is submitted a confirmation is sent from Motorola AutoNotify referencing a **case number**.

Once checklist is complete, order still must go through **Order Validation/Credit Approval**



Estimate

Estimate# 865-036683

RCN Technologies

200 Jennings Ave.
Knoxville, Tennessee, 37917
865.293.0350

Bill To

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

LRGVDC - Demitre Regehr
301 W Railroad St
Weslaco, Texas, 78596
U.S.A

Ship To

Tom Logan
Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council
301 W RAILROAD ST
Weslaco, TX, 78596
United States

Estimate Date : 12/18/2025

Expiry Date : 02/10/2026

Sales person : Danny Sartain

Project Name : 5G 4GLTE Router - Lower
Rio Grande Valley
Development Council -
R1900 3YR(15)-RCN+CP

Terms : Net15

#	Item & Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
1	3-yr NetCloud Mobile Performance Essentials Plan and R1900 SKU : MB03-19005GB-GA 3-yr NetCloud Mobile Performance Essentials Plan and R1900 router with WiFi (5G modem), no AC power supply or antennas, Global *Pricing set according to OMNIA Partners Contract # R250307 **MRSP: \$2499.00 ***Not to Exceed Price: \$2399.04	15 Each	2,185.16	32,777.40
2	5G/LTE Device Setup & Configuration, Multiple Devices SKU : TL-SETUP-PRO-M Device/Line Configuration Provisioning for multiple units. -Seat SIM Cards -Partner with customer and carrier of choice for activation -Verify connection to the network -Establish up through Tier II device configurations according to submitted Setup and Configuration Form -QC against defects	15 Each	49.99	749.85

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Date : _____

#	Item & Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
	<p>This service's design results in a turn-key shipment of your device ready for field installation</p> <p>Included complimentary with each NOC Setup & Activation</p> <p>*Pricing set according to OMNIA Partners Contract # R250307</p> <p>**MRSP: \$69.99</p> <p>***Not to Exceed Price: \$67.19</p>			
3	Shipping (Standard) SKU : Shipping (Standard) Standard Ground Delivery	1 Each	195.00	195.00
Items in Total 31			Sub Total	33,722.25
			Total	\$33,722.25

Notes:

Please Remit To:
 RCN Technologies -C/O U.S. Bank TFM Lockbox
 PO Box 860573
 Minneapolis, MN 55486-0573
 Reference: RCN A/C 221414000

Looking forward to working with you in the future. Have a great day!

Flexible Financing Solutions from RCN Technologies

At RCN Technologies, we provide 100% financing with no upfront costs, offering payment plans that align with your cash flow and seasonal business cycles. Our flexible lease structures allow you to conserve working capital while accessing the equipment you need now.

Spread payments over time instead of making a large initial investment

Customize payment schedules to fit your budget or revenue patterns

Preserve existing credit lines and maintain liquidity for other priorities

Potential tax advantages depending on lease structure

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Date : _____

If you're interested in exploring financing options, please **contact** your RCN Technologies sales representative.

For W-9 forms or onboarding registration, email Accounting@rcntechnologies.com

Terms & Conditions

- Estimate pricing will be honored for 30 days from the Estimate Date.
- Payment Due Net 15 from the ship date for all goods.
- A Service fee of 3.5% of the subtotal payment will be added to all credit card transactions. Payment can be made via check or ACH with no fee.
- Orders containing Installation or other services may be billed separately.
- An executed estimate by an authorized signatory will result in a binding purchase order.
- Certain products may be returned or exchanged upon approval within 30 days
- Customer may be responsible for a minimum of a 20% restocking fee
- All licenses, services, and shipping fees are non-refundable
- View our Limited Return Policy here: <http://rcntechnologies.com/returns/>

Authorized Signature _____

Customer Signature

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Date : _____

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation.....Sandra Carrizales
Valley Metro Director

Valley Metro Status Report

- Ridership Report

Y-T-D Total Ridership FY 2025-2026:

Total ridership: **409,195 riders**

Breakdown of Ridership per system:

Service Area	Small Urban and Rural Ridership	Large Urban Ridership	Total Ridership
Valley Metro	40,942	74,960	115,902
UTRGV	-	288,635	288,635
STC	-	4,054	4,054
TSTC	604	-	604
	41,546	367,649	409,195

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 - YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP

"Connecting the Valley One Ride at a Time"

Route	Total Passenger Trips
Route 10	5,548
Route 12	1,919
Route 14	11,074
Route 15	1,670
Route 15-1	3,269
Route 16	5,495
Route 17	887
Route 20	7,399
Route 30	2,811
Route 11-1	7,316
Route 13-1	5,705
Route 22	599
Purple Line	900
Redline 1	6,250
Redline 2	5,995
Redline 3	1,136
STC Laplace/Ft. Vancouver Express	4,004
Vagueres Express	20,000

[illegible]

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 YEAR TO DATE TOTALS

	Rural	Urban	Total
Flex Routes	6	7	13
Express Routes	2	0	2
Demand Response	4	0	4
	12	7	19



Route	Ridership
Route 50-A	5,554
Route 50-B	6,036
Route 60	3,171
Route 61	1,061
Route 62	1,781
Greenline - L	1,490
Blue Line Sunday	248
Wilburys Express	612
Wilburys (DR)	861
Starr (DR-1)	1,619
Starr (DR-2)	-
Zapata (DR)	637
Zapata Express	248
Route 31-2	3,599
Route 40	3,070
Route 41	2,600
Route 42	921
Route 44	1,243
Route 45-1	2,910
Route 45-2	3,885

FY 2026 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

[illegible]

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

[illegible]

LARGE URBAN RIDERSHIP COUNT

[illegible]

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

[illegible]

RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

[illegible]

Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Sub-committee Meeting Activity:

Regional Transportation Advisory Panel updates:

The next RTAP meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2026.


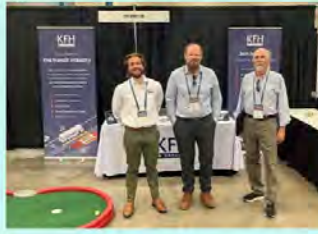
Ongoing Projects: Five-year Regional Public Transportation Cooperation Plan

- October 29, 2025: Request for Proposals was released and closed on November 19, 2025.
- November 20, 2025: Evaluations were conducted and finalized with a recommendation (KFH Consulting)
- December 18, 2025: Item of the LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting to approve recommended selection.

Consultant Selection
The consultant selection process was completed and presented to the LRGVDC Board of Directors for approval on December 18, 2025. **KFH Group** was selected as the consulting firm.

Study Scope & Objectives
The regional transit study will:
Conduct a comprehensive assessment of regional transportation needs, with a focus on:

- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- Low-income households
- Zero-car households
- Youth
- Limited English proficiency populations
- Veterans
- Workforce agency clients (job seekers)
- Identify service gaps within the existing Valley Metro transit system
- Evaluate current routes and recommend system improvements
- Develop strategies to strengthen coordination among regional transit providers
- Support long-range public transportation planning across the Rio Grande Valley



6th National RTAP Conference: Wrangling Access and Mobility in Rural and Tribal Transit

📍 208 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704

Valley Metro's Planners and Program Specialist attended the 6th NRTAP Conference in Austin to gain training, share best practices, and strengthen rural and tribal transit programs. The event offered workshops on compliance, planning, operations, and funding, helping staff improve service delivery and align with national standards while addressing Arizona's unique transit needs.

Conference Snapshots: Valley Metro Planning & Mobility's Claudia Olmedo & Stacie Garcia with Dora Cruz, Program Specialist, at the National RTAP Conference in Austin, TX December 7-10, 2025.



Valley Metro Activities

Expanding Transportation: *Meeting with San Juan EDC Director*

- Valley Metro leadership met with San Juan EDC Director Jorge Garcia to discuss opportunities to expand transit service within the City of San Juan.
- The discussion focused on extending route coverage along key corridors, including I Road and Nebraska Avenue, to better support residents, local businesses, and future growth.
- Participants reviewed the current Valley Metro transit network and explored potential service enhancements to improve accessibility and regional connectivity.
- The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continued collaboration and coordination on transit planning efforts for San Juan.



📍 512 S Nebraska Ave, San Juan, TX 78589

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting



Javier Dominguez, LRGVDC Executive Analyst; Rene Garza Jr., Program Supervisor, LRGVDC Valley Metro; Jorge Garcia, Director, City of San Juan EDC; Manuel Cruz, Executive Director, LRGVDC.

LRGVDC – Valley Metro *Weslaco Christmas Parade*

On December 13, LRGVDC – Valley Metro proudly joined the festive spirit of Weslaco's annual Christmas Parade, bringing holiday cheer to the community. Staff and volunteers showcased Valley Metro's commitment to serving the Rio Grande Valley by participating in the celebration, connecting with residents, and highlighting the importance of accessible public transportation. Their presence added to the parade's joyful atmosphere, reflecting Valley Metro's dedication to both mobility and community engagement during this special holiday tradition.



Vehicle Deliveries-Rural & Large Urban Replacement

December 12, 2025

Valley Metro received four TxDOT-funded vehicles designated for rural operations. The vehicles are Starcraft Allstar models designed to meet high standards for accessibility, safety, and passenger comfort.

Key features include:

- ADA-compliant wheelchair lift
- Two wheelchair securement positions
- Seating capacity for up to 20 passengers
- CDL-required vehicles, ensuring compliance with commercial driver licensing standards

December 19, 2025

An additional three vehicles were added to the fleet:

- Two TxDOT-funded vehicles for rural operations
- One vehicle funded under FTA Large Urban public transit



Rural & Urban Vehicle Replacements

The seven newly acquired Starcraft Allstar vehicles replace aging units that have met or exceeded their useful life. This proactive fleet replacement supports safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance while reducing maintenance costs, minimizing service disruptions, and improving overall operational efficiency.



ITEM #5. D.

RGVMPO

RGVMPO
NO Status Updates
Currently