# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



#### AGENDA

# MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notice is hereby provided that the LRGVDC Board of Directors will hold a Regular IN-PERSON

#### Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 12:00 P.M

301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas

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

Live-streaming at: LRGVDC COG - YouTube

Presiding: Mayor Norma Sepulveda, President

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#### Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve April 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes ......President

#### Item #3: Public Comment

Item #4: Administration.......Manuel Cruz Executive Director

A. Consideration and ACTION on Recommendations from Nominating Committee	Manuel Cruz
1. Selection of (5) Persons for election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership	Executive Director

2. Selection of Three (3) At-Large members to be elected to the 2025-2026 Board of Directors.

B. Consideration	of the	RATIFICATIO	N o	f Executive	Committee	ACTION	on t	the following	
item					••••••		••••••	Manu	el Cruz
								Executive D	irector

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Overhaul of Vehicles under TXDOT Section 5539-Rural Bus and Bus facilities Program approved Grant 5539-R-2024 LRGVDC -00029 for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

**Executive Director** 

#### E. 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
	Assistant Director

#### 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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Letter of Support on behalf of the LRGVDC Board of Directors for Congressional Offices addressing the proposed FY 2026 Federal Budget impacts to Older Americans Act Programs.

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 & Assistance

C. Public Safety	
Criminal Justice & Homeland Security	Cesar Merla Assistant Director

#### 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.

Police Academy Program	Javier Solis
	Assistant Director

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas to accept the transfer of sixteen level4 ballistic vests from the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.
- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas to accept the transfer of two 2016 Dodge Ram Police Vehicles from Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.

Program Status Reports

- Inservice Courses
- Officers Trained
- Contact Hours

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District

Assistant Director

#### Program Status Reports

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

D. Transportation Valley Metro	Tom Logan
	Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy. Revisions have been made in accordance with the Executive Order to align with current federal definition and requirements.

#### Valley Metro Status Reports

• Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO...... Michael Medina Executive Director

#### **RGVMPO Status Reports**

• May 2025 STIP Revision Cycle Updates

Item #6 New & Unfinished Business

Item #7 Adjourn

# **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

12:00 Noon

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 posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on the posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chair as these items are considered, and the same 3minutc

# ITEM #2 MEETING MINUTES

#### MINUTES

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

#### 12:00PM Wednesday April 30, 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 12:06 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:07 pm quorum was attained.

#### Present: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission **Commissioner Ernie Garcia, Willacy County** Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville **Commissioner Pete Garcia**, City of Weslaco **Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County** Mayor Alma Salinas, Sullivan City Mayor George Guadiana, City San Perlita Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV Edinburg Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC Mr. Ron Mills, Willacy Co. Nav. Dist. Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large Mr. Tony Chavez, Member at Large Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

#### Absent :

Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County Mayor JR Garza, City of Alamo Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID Without any questions from the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda, moved on to Item #2

Item #2: 1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2025. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2025. Ms. Lupita Sanchez seconded the motion and upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

Item #3: Public Comment- No Public Comment currently.

With no further comments and questions, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Item #4.

# Item #4: Administration

4.A. Mr. Cruz began by stating the first action item addressed was the consideration and action to set the date and format for the 2025 Nominating Committee meeting. As board elections are scheduled for May, it is necessary to establish the Nominating Committee at the beginning of the month.

The Nominating Committee will include all general membership and the Board of Directors. The meeting can be held either in person or virtually, and will address the following:

# 1. Review and Selection of Members-at-Large

- There are ten total members-at-large.
- $\circ$   $\;$  Five are appointed by the general membership.
- $\circ$   $\;$  Five have been appointed by the Board of Directors.
- From these ten, three will be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors as representatives of the members-at-large, with final approval at the end-of-month board meeting.

# 2. Executive Committee Officer Recommendations

 $\circ~$  The committee will also discuss and recommend officers for the Executive Committee for the 2025–2026 term.

The nominating committee meeting is typically held during the second week of May.

# Following the Nominating Committee

Subsequent meetings will be held by various member groups to select their representatives to the Board of Directors. These groups include:

- **Small Cities:** Total of 26 members, from which three representatives are selected.
- **Medium Cities:** Comprising six members; three representatives are selected based on population.
- **Special Government Units:** Two representatives are selected.
- School Districts and Public Education Institutions: Two representatives will be selected to represent educational entities.
- **Grassroots Organizations:** Will also conduct their own selection process.

The board must determine the date and format (in-person or virtual) of the 2025 Nominating Committee meeting to proceed with the outlined selection and nomination processes.

A discussion then took place among the Board members on what date would be best for everyone to join virtual. Upon the discussion the board all came to an agreement that May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 8:30am would be a perfect time for everyone to attend the Nominating Committee Meeting. *Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the Date & Time for the Virtual Nominating Committee Meeting; Mayor Alma Salinas seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.* 

4.B. Presentation and Action to Accept Quarterly Investment Report. Mrs. Crystal Balboa presented the First Quarter Investment Report for the Board's review. She noted that, if there were no questions, the report would require Board approval. Mr. *Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report, Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.* Mr. Cruz noted that there was a brief financial update to share, acknowledging that changes continue to occur frequently under the current administration.

Crystal reported a slight decrease in interest rates, noting a 0.13-point drop from the fourth quarter to the third quarter. She added that during the same period last year, the decrease was more significant, at one full basis point.

4.C. Economic Development Strategy and Diversification Study Presentation. Ms. Shonda Mace was recognized and started her presentation. The presentation was delivered by the Manager of Research Studies Development (also known as Cleaning Studies) within the Community Development and Revitalization Division. It was noted that the speaker was not the project manager for the study. Due to time constraints, questions may not be addressed immediately, but the presenter offered to share their email in the chat following the presentation for any follow-up inquiries.

#### Background

The study focused on Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties and was funded through mitigation funding associated with the 2019 floods. It was a 15-month project targeting HUD-designated counties significantly impacted by the flooding. Approximately 38.32% of the study area lies within a 1% annual chance floodplain.

#### Stakeholder Outreach

Stakeholder engagement was an ongoing component throughout all three phases of the project.

## Phase 1: Research and Inventory Development (Sept 2022 – Mar 2023)

- Conducted research across eight focus areas
- Included study area site visits and asset mapping surveys

## Phase 2: Economic Diversification Strategy Development (Mar 2023 – Aug 2023)

- Drafted and refined strategies and goals based on stakeholder input
- Conducted stakeholder interviews and virtual strategy review sessions
- Distributed a stakeholder survey to gather additional feedback

#### Phase 3: Action Plan Finalization (Mar 2023 – Aug 2023)

- Developed and refined action plan strategies within five goal areas
- Held both virtual and in-person sessions for review

• Final strategies were updated and incorporated into the final plan

# Approach and Methodology

- Engaged 405 stakeholders
- Conducted 61 meetings and received 42 survey responses
- Study duration: approximately 15 months
- Broad representation from various stakeholder groups

# Vision and Goals

*Vision Statement:* To position the Lower Rio Grande Valley as a collaborative region characterized by resilience and a sustainable economy benefiting all communities and individuals.

## Goal Areas:

- 1. **Organizational Capacity** Enhance resilience through strengthened partnerships and market access
- 2. **Transportation & Infrastructure** Support regional growth via strategic infrastructure projects
- 3. Housing Promote affordable, workforce-supportive housing with flood risk mitigation
- 4. **Economic Development & Diversification** Foster economic resilience and inclusion
- 5. **Quality of Life & Community Resilience** Improve community appeal and environmental stewardship

# **Final Deliverable**

The final product is a comprehensive report titled *Economic Development Strategy and Diversification Study*.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item B on the agenda.

Executive Report: Mr. Cruz then moved on to introduce all LRGVDC New Hires. Mr. Cruz went on and stated that on another item I'd like to report on is the ongoing legislative session. I want to take a moment to sincerely thank all of you—your elected officials, not only for your efforts this month but throughout the entire year. Over the past month, since the legislature convened, I've seen a noticeable increase in your activity and engagement in representing the Valley. I've come across several online videos and live streams where many of you spoke on behalf of our region on a variety of important issues. Most recently, our president gave a presentation regarding the recent disaster that affected the region, particularly the City of Harlingen.

Thank you for consistently putting the Valley at the forefront. Your efforts are making a real difference in ensuring our voices are heard. Your dedication and advocacy continue to elevate the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and that means a great deal to all of us. Once again, thank you for your commitment, your leadership, and the strong representation you provide. It truly speaks volumes.

Lastly, for the remaining updates, I'll turn it over to our staff, specifically Ms. Margarita Lopez and Mr. Tom Logan, who will be providing important information regarding the current impacts we're seeing under the current administration. These impacts are not limited to services but also extend significantly to funding.

Mr. Lopez has prepared a presentation, copies of which are on your desks—and after the presentation, you'll see that we're already exploring some potential strategies moving forward. As we progress into the year,

particularly around May or June, if we don't see any meaningful changes, we will begin implementing those strategies more aggressively.

In the meantime, we'll continue to work closely with our national and state associations to better understand the situation and advocate for necessary adjustments. Ms. Lopez and Mr. Logan will play a key role in leading these efforts and ensuring the administration receives the data and context needed to reconsider current or proposed funding decisions. Many of the affected programs are critical—not only to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council—but to the entire state of Texas and communities nationwide.

For context, regional planning commissions like ours operate across the United States. When a program is reduced or eliminated, the impact is far-reaching, with even greater consequences for our local population here in the Valley.

No questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item #5 Department Reports.

Item #5: A. Community & Economic Development: Melisa Gonzalez had no Action items on the agenda for her department.

Status Reports: Mrs. Gonzales shared a few announcements. First, I want to thank everyone who participated in our *Road to Recycling* event held last week. The event is still ongoing, and we are continuing to collect tires. While I don't yet have final numbers, that's a good sign—it means more tires are still being collected! So far, 30 entities have participated, and I hope to share complete data on the total number of tires collected and recycled by our next meeting. Our goal remains to divert as many tires as possible from the landfill.

A few important announcements:

- **Region M Meeting**: Scheduled for **May 7 at 9:30 a.m.** This will be a hybrid meeting.
- **Region M Public Q&A**: Scheduled for **May 22 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Ken Jones location, also with hybrid access. This session will cover updates to the Region M Plan. Please attend or log in if you can.

Lastly, I'm excited to share that Mr. Dominguez and I presented our *Clean Cities Coalition Apprenticeship* at the SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) Conference last week. We joined forces with the four current Clean Cities coalitions of Texas and were proud to be included in their efforts. While we may face some challenges in achieving full designation due to upcoming changes, the Department of Energy has encouraged us to keep moving forward—and that's exactly what we're doing.

I'll be including photos from the conference in next month's presentation. It was a great opportunity to connect with other coalitions and witness the impactful work being done to improve air quality across the state.

No further questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to B. Health and Human Services.

B. Health & Human Services: Margarita Lopez had 2 Action Items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and Action to approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the Fiscal year from 10/01/2025-09/30/2026. These services will be funded under the title III of the older Americans Act as amended and State general Revenue funds (SGR). *Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal Year from 10/01/2025-9/30/2026. These services will be funded under the Title III of the older Americans Act as amended and State General Revenue Funds (SGR), Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.* 

2. Consideration and Action to approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services for the Fiscal year from 10/01/2025-09/30/2026. This action refers to services provided through our subrecipients and funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act Amended, and State General Revenue Funds (SGR). Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the timeline for Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services for the Fiscal Year from 10/01/2025-9/30/2026. This action refers to services provided through our Subrecipients and funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act Amended, and State General Revenue Funds (SGR) Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Status Reports: Ms. Margarita Lopez mentioned that if there were any questions her report was attached to the packet provided. Ms. Lopez then moved on to **State-Level Funding Overview and Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Summary** 

We are currently operating under two key sections for today's discussion. I'll begin with an overview of the ongoing state-level funding situation and its impact on our planning and service delivery for Fiscal Year 2025 at LRGVDC.

Members, you have a printed version of this overview on your desks. The slides on the screen reflect the same content, with your packets containing additional details for further review.

#### Funding Timeline & Background

At the state level, the Office of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) informed us that they could not fully match the approved budget for FY2025. Additionally, they were unable to fund the match for FY2023 and FY2024 carryover dollars. Initially, we were directed to plan using only **80% of our approved 100% budget** for FY2025.

In September, during the TARC meeting and subsequent discussions, this 80% funding directive was confirmed. However, in October/November, there was a temporary indication that the full 100% might still be awarded. Due to this uncertainty, we moved forward cautiously allocating only up to the 80% level and prioritizing services that did **not** require contracted vendors in order to avoid budget overages.

On **April 25th**, AAA confirmed that the **final allocation for FY2025 is 80%**, with the possibility of awarding the remaining 20% **only if** the state receives additional funding. We have not received that award as of today.

#### **Budget Adjustments and Operational Strategy**

Upon receiving the initial 80% directive, we immediately revised our internal budget, ensuring that:

- Only 80% of funds were allocated and used.
- Salaries were protected to maintain staffing through the fiscal year.
- Contracted services were limited to avoid overspending.

This cautious planning approach ensured that we preserved our workforce in case additional funds (either the remaining 20% or carryover dollars) became available.

#### **Carryover Funds for FY2024**

We have received confirmation that we **will receive 75%** of the FY2024 carryover funds. These are **restricted for service delivery only**, they cannot be used for administrative costs. Additionally, the carryover applies **only to select services**, so not all programs will be reinstated.

Despite these limitations, we are confident that we can fully utilize the carryover funds and maintain salaries **through September 30, 2025**.

While other AAA agencies have already had to reduce staff hours or issue layoffs, our proactive planning has allowed us to avoid such measures. We will continue to manage funds cautiously and responsibly, prioritizing service continuity and fiscal sustainability. Mayor Norma Sepulveda then asked, Margarita, will you know the exact amount of potential additional funding before the end of Fiscal Year 2025 (September 30, 2025)? Ms. Lopez then answered, For Fiscal Year 2025, we are currently allocated 80% of the budget. We expect to receive notification about the remaining 20% before the end of the fiscal year.

For FY2025, only 80% of the budget is currently allocated. While there is a possibility of receiving the remaining 20%, we are not planning on it. Despite this, we have maintained wait lists, continued client intakes, and made referrals. However, services involving contractors—such as residential repairs or modifications—have been paused due to funding uncertainty.

To prepare for the potential release of additional funds, several special initiative projects are in place and ready for execution should resources be available.

#### **Board Advocacy**

Mayor Norma Sepulveda asked what support the board could provide to advocate for the release of the remaining 20%. Ms. Lopez responded that staying informed and using any available platform to highlight the urgency of these funds would be valuable. She committed to sharing impact data to support advocacy efforts.

#### **Contractual Concerns**

Jim Darling raised concerns about executing contracts through September 30, 2026, without assurance of future funding. Ms. Lopez explained that:

- The contracts in question are tied to the **federal** budget, not the state-level funding currently under discussion.
- Federal contracts must still be submitted to remain in compliance with current obligations.
- Contracts are explicitly marked as contingent on federal funding availability.
- Even if the federal budget is not yet finalized, contracts must be in place by October to avoid service disruption.

#### Financial Oversight

Mr. Manuel Cruz emphasized the proactive steps being taken to monitor expenditures and ensure up-todate reimbursement requests from contractors. This ensures that if funding were suddenly halted, there would be no outstanding contractor debts.

Ms. Lopez confirmed the current outstanding payments include:

- **\$61,004.77** pending from vendor contractors (awaiting billing submission).
- **\$1,570,116** pending with sub-recipients, for which funding is already secured.

She also reiterated that services were paused to prevent overspending and protect the budget, in line with responsible fiscal management at the state level.

As we shift to the federal landscape, we're closely monitoring the proposed **FY2026 federal budget** and its **potential impact** on the **Area Agency on Aging (AAA)** and **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)** services.

#### 1. Broader Community Impact

- The proposed budget changes will not only affect AAA and ADRC directly but will also significantly impact **services for older adults** across the region—**regardless of provider**.
- Tracking **funding sources** is essential to understanding where these services may be redirected.

# 2. Funding Overview and Historical Spending

- A summary of funding sources (Title III-B, III-C, III-D, III-E, NSIP, etc.) is provided in your packet, mapping each service to its respective source.
- Historical spending:
  - **2020**: \$6.2 million (including CARES Act funds)
  - **2021**: Over \$8 million
  - **2022**: Over \$8 million
  - **2023**: \$7 million (decline due to loss of COVID relief funds)
  - **2024**: Nearly \$9 million
  - **2025 (to date)**: Over \$4 million
- Service demand remains strong, further justifying the need for sustained funding.

# 3. Proposed Federal Realignments

- Major service **realignments** are proposed under **CMS**, **ACF**, **and ASPE**.
- If AAA/ADRC are no longer managing these services, these agencies may take over.
- The concern is: **new managing entities may not have the infrastructure or knowledge** to deliver services effectively, nor will individuals know where to go for help.
- AAA/ADRC remain ready to support **regardless of who receives the funding**, to ensure continuity of care for older adults.

# 4. Services at Risk or Eliminated (If Budget Is Approved as Proposed)

**At Risk** = Funds will shift to other entities; continued delivery is uncertain.

- At Risk:
  - **Case Management** (Title III-B/E)
  - Caregiver Support (BRI team)
  - Information & Referral (IRNA team)

- **Senior Centers** (Title III-B)
- Eliminated:
  - **Benefit Counseling** (HICAP, MEPA)
  - Hospital Discharge Support (CTI team) Title III-D
  - **Ombudsman Program** (Title VII)
  - All ADRC Services, including:
    - Housing Navigator
    - Promoting Independence
    - Local Contact Agency Services
    - Disability-focused MEPA
    - Respite Services for individuals under 60
- Continuing Services (under new management):
  - **Nutrition Programs**:
    - Congregate Meals (Title III-C1)
    - Home-delivered Meals (Title III-C2)
    - Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)
  - These may be transferred to agencies such as Head Start or others.

#### 5. Advocacy and Accountability

- **Board members** were encouraged to **remain informed** and, where possible, **advocate** for continued funding through legislative or agency channels.
- AAA will continue to **track and report service impact and spending** to support advocacy efforts.

## 6. Transition and Outlook

- If the proposed budget passes as-is, **AAA and ADRC services will end** after FY2025.
- Contracts will be fulfilled through **September 30, 2025**.
- AAA is prepared for a **clean, responsible closure** but remains hopeful that services may resume if future funding is restored.

**Commissioner Ellie Torres** commented that while Margarita's actions are limited due to pending decisions at the federal level, it is crucial for congressional members to be informed. She asked whether the document outlining the potential service cuts has been shared with Congress, emphasizing that it clearly shows which programs—and therefore which constituents—will be impacted if funding under specific titles is not approved. **Ms. Lopez** stated that while the impact summary was specifically formatted for the board, the underlying data has already been shared with national partners such as **USAging**, the **Silver-Haired** 

**Legislature**, and through participation in federal-level surveys and questionnaires. She will also ensure this new format is shared going forward.

**Mr. Cruz** added that discussions have already occurred with congressional staff and that information from US Aging—indicating potential elimination of most AAA services in the proposed FY2026 budget—has been forwarded. He emphasized that as more awareness is raised, there is still potential for change. The team is working with **national and state associations** (US Aging, TARC, NADO) to advocate on behalf of local services.

In the coming months, staff will provide the board with **draft letters or resolutions** for formal approval and collective submission to elected representatives. This will strengthen the advocacy effort.

**Mayor Sepulveda** suggested a **joint letter of support** signed by all member cities and stakeholders to demonstrate a united front and amplify the message. She also highlighted the importance of including **personal stories** of impacted individuals and families to help Congress better understand the human impact of the proposed cuts.

**Commissioner Torres** agreed, adding that sharing the **number of people impacted** across programs could provide a more compelling case.

**Ms. Lopez** encouraged cities to keep the older population in mind as they prepare their **upcoming budgets**, noting that AAA maintains data by city and can provide localized statistics upon request. She also noted the importance of staying informed and prepared to collaborate with **new service providers**, such as Head Start, should federal funds be reassigned.

**Mayor Sepulveda** reiterated the urgency of receiving impact data as early as possible to inform city budget planning and potential support efforts.

**Mr. Paul Hernandez** asked whether current service recipients have been notified. Ms. Lopez confirmed that transparency has been maintained with both clients and staff. Individuals undergoing intake are being informed of service delays and funding risks. Staff were also briefed during a recent internal meeting on the contingency plan, emphasizing continued operations through September 30, 2025, and a commitment to a clean and orderly transition should funding end. Mayor Sepulveda states she believes that everyone should take part and spread the word so everyone is aware of what is going on.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Public Safety.

C. Public Safety: Criminal Justice & Homeland Security. Mr. Cesar Merla was recognized and mentioned that he had 5 action items on the agenda.

Due to not having time Mr. Merla went through all action items for approval at the same time. They are as follows:

C1.Consideration and Action and Approval Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program Rankings and Resolution. **Ron Mills approved the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's** (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program Rankings and Resolution. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

C2. Consideration and Action to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Juvenile Programs (SF) Fund Program Rankings and Resolution. **Ron Mills made a** *motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Juvenile Programs (SF) Fund Program Rankings and Resolution, Paul Hernandez seconded the motion upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.* 

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 30, 2025

C3. Consideration and Action to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Truancy prevention Grant Program (TP) program Rankings and resolutions. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Truancy prevention Grant Program (TP) program Rankings and resolutions; Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously**.

C4. Consideration and Action to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grand Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution. *Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grand Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.* 

C5. Consideration and Action to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) program Rankings and Resolution. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2025-2026 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) Program Rankings and Resolution. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.** 

Status Reports: Mr. Cesar Merla started with two key updates from his department:

• Narcan Training – May 23, 2025

A Narcan training session will be held on Thursday, May 23rd from 9:00–9:30 a.m. at the Ken Jones **Executive Board Building**, in partnership with **Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas**. The event is open to both in-person and virtual attendees. A QR code for registration is available, and all interested participants are encouraged to attend.

• Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) Training – August 12–14, 2025 For the first time in the history of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, an Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) training will be hosted locally. The event will take place August 12–14, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the NAP Medical Conference Center in Weslaco, Texas.

- The training is **free of charge** and open to **emergency managers**, **law enforcement**, **fire departments**, **and school district personnel**.
- A minimum of 60 participants is required, and broader attendance is encouraged to maximize impact.
- Mr. Merla urged board members to spread the word among relevant agencies to ensure strong participation.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to LRGV Police Academy.

C.2 LRGV Police Academy: Mr. Javier Solis had an Action Item on the Agenda.

1. Consideration and Action to approve the Utilization of LRGV Academy GPI funds in the amount of \$23,139.27 for the purchase of new electronic tasers. *Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Utilization of LRGV Academy GPI funds in the amount of \$23,139.27 for the purchase of* 

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 30, 2025

# new electronic tasers. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and Action to approve an Interlocal between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the City of Weslaco, Texas for the implementation of a police academy site to be hosted by and through the Weslaco Police Department, and for the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz, sign and finalize the agreement. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve an Interlocal between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the City of Weslaco, Texas for the implementation of a police academy site to be hosted by and through the Weslaco Police Department, and for the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz, sign and finalize the agreement. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.** 

Status Reports: Mr. Javier Solis wanted to mention a quick update on the Academy. A total of **51 in-service courses** were conducted during the month, training **537 officers**. Instructors delivered **274 hours** of instruction, resulting in a cumulative total of **3,800 contact hours**.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.

Mr. Cruz stated that they would skip the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District due to having no more time. Status Reports were sent out to all board members for their review.

No questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda proceeded to Item D Valley Metro.

D. Transportation Valley Metro: Mr. Tom states that today he will have 3 action items on the agenda.

D.1. Consideration and Action on approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Departments Drug & Alcohol-Free Workshop Policy in compliance to FTA's Drug and Alcohol Compliance Auditing Program. *Jim Darling made a motion to approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Departments Drug & Alcohol-Free Workshop Policy in compliance to FTA's Drug and Alcohol Compliance Auditing Program Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.* 

D.2. Consideration and Action to approve Contractual Services for the LRGVDC Valley Metro Edinburg Transit Terminal Office Building 1<sup>st</sup> floor finish-out Phase III. *Mayor Alma Salinas made a motion to approve Contractual Services for the LRGVDC Valley Metro Edinburg Transit Terminal Office Building 1<sup>st</sup> floor finish-out Phase III. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.* 

D.3. Consideration and Action to approve contractual services for the LRGVDC Valley Metro new Harlingen Terminal location Building "A" (office building) HVAC replacement from Terra Cooling – 3110 W. Spur 54Harlingen, Tx 78552. Mayor Alma Salinas made a motion to approve contractual services for the LRGVDC Valley Metro new Harlingen Terminal location Building "A" (office building) HVAC replacement from Terra Cooling – 3110 W. Spur 54Harlingen, Tx 78552. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Status Reports: Mr. Tom Logan starts off; A brief update was provided regarding a recent communication from **Region 6 of the FTA** containing a letter from **U.S. DOT Secretary Sean Duffy**. The letter outlines legal requirements for DOT grant recipients and emphasizes compliance with **federal laws**, particularly regarding:

• **Non-discrimination and Equal Protection**: Agencies must follow U.S. constitutional and federal laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, and religion in federally funded programs.

- **Employment & Contracting**: Hiring and promotions must be **merit-based**, avoiding any raceor sex-based preferences.
- **Immigration Enforcement**: Agencies must **cooperate with ICE** and other federal agencies. Preventing access to facilities or vehicles may lead to **legal penalties**.
- **Consequences of Non-Compliance**: Failure to follow federal law may result in **audits**, **loss of funding**, **or other legal actions**.

Transit employees, especially drivers, have been instructed to **cooperate with federal officers**, including allowing them access to buses and facilities. Employees are also expected to **notify a supervisor**, **dispatch**, **or management immediately** if such interactions occur.

There are **growing concerns among staff** regarding how to handle these situations, including route diversions and rider interactions. Questions are being collected and addressed on a case-by-case basis. Management is actively monitoring the issue in coordination with national transit industry trends.

**Potential Impact on Ridership**: Early indicators show **possible declines in ridership** due to community concerns about immigration enforcement visibility on public transit.

The **ridership report is included in the meeting packet**, and this topic will be explored further in the upcoming **Policy Committee meeting**.

No further Questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved to Rio Grande Valley MPO.

RGVMPO was not able to attend the meeting. No status reports for them currently.

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business: A reminder was issued that the **Nominating Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7th at 8:30 a.m.** Members are encouraged to log on and mentioned no quorum required and act on pending items.

At the **next board meeting**, the **new slate of officers** will be presented. It was noted that **Mayor Garza** will be stepping down, and under the current circumstances, a new officer will be appointed. Additionally, appointments to various committees and groups will be reviewed—some members may continue in their roles, or new appointments may be made.

With no further questions or concerns, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Item #7.

Item #7: Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda made a motion to adjourn at 1:08 PM

President, Norma Sepulveda

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

# ITEM #3 PUBLIC COMMENT

# ITEM #4. A ADMINISTRATION NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

#### LRGVDC Nominating Committee Meeting Wednesday May 7, 2025

Discuss Recommendations for Annual Board Appointments...... Chair

- A. Recommend Five (5) Citizen Members-at-Large to the LRGVDC General Membership to be Elected by the General Membership at its Annual Election Meeting Scheduled for May 28, 2025
  - \* Excerpt from Bylaws, page 4, Article VI, <u>REPRESENTATION</u>, Section 2.

Citizen members-at-large shall be citizens of the region selected to represent special interest groups, economic and ethnic interests of the region, and the poor and underprivileged people. Five (5) members-at-large shall be elected by the General Membership at its Annual Election meeting; five (5) members-at-large shall be elected by the Board at its first meeting following the Annual Election meeting. Individuals shall be elected to serve a term of one (1) year.

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Helen Ramirez	Brownsville	Cameron
Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hida go
Sergio Contrerras	Mission	Hidalgo
Eleazar Garcia Jr	Raymondville	Willacy
Roy Rodriguez	McAllen	Hidalgo

#### Those now serving for the 2024/2025 term are:

#### Nominees for the 2025/2026 term:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Helen Ramirez	Brownsville	Cameron
Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hidalgo
Sergio Contrerras	Mission	Hidalgo
Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy
Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron

ACTION ITEM

# LRGVDC Nominating Committee Meeting Wednesday May 7, 2025

Discuss Recommendations for Annual Board Appointments...... Chair

C. Recommend Three (3) Members-at-Large from the Ten (10) Members-at-Large (as nominated under items A and B) to serve on the Board of Directors

Individuals shall serve a one (1) year term and be elected by the Board of Directors at their May 28, 2025, meeting.

# Those now serving for the 2024/2025 term are:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY	
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo	
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo	
Mr. TonyChavez	Lyford	Willacy	

#### Nominees for the 2025/2026 term:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Mr.Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

ACTION ITEM

# ITEM #4.B ADMINISTRATION

# Lower Rio Grande Development Council Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday May 28, 2025

#### **Executive Committee - Transportation Action Item**

I. Consideration and **ACTION** for the LRGVDC Executive Committee to **Approve** the purchase of automotive parts for the overhaul of vehicles under TXDOT Section 5339 - Rural Bus and Bus Facilities Program approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

A formal procurement has been conducted for this requisition resulting in the recommendation to award vendor Payne Auto Group (Payne Weslaco Ford) based on the evaluations. Valley Metro is seeking Executive Committees approval to proceed with award and purchase order followed by **ratification** on the next Board Meeting scheduled for May 28, 2025. Due to the uncertainty of market and future stock conditions, requesting to have the Executive Committee approval by the 16<sup>th</sup> of May to be able to lock the bidder's price and stock. Changes to pricing would nullify evaluation factors from the procurement process, further delaying the purchase of these parts as well as increased costs. This State approved Grant is essential for the operations of the transit agency, encompassing any forthcoming expenses related to the awarded State "TXDOT" funding listed below, as long as funding remains available and necessary for overhaul, maintenance, and operational needs. The overhaul project will adhere to LRGVDC procurement guidelines.

#### **State Grant:**

 Source
 Grant#
 Award Balance

 TXDOT
 I 5339-R-2024-LRGVDC-00029 I
 \$158,857

#### Funding will go toward the overhaul of the following 11 units to be rebuilt:

- 2102
- 2111
- 2112
- 2113
- 2114
- 2115
- 2116
- 2117
- 2127
- 2129
- 2201

The LRGVDC Valley Metro has identified a need to overhaul vehicles and to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of its transit services. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance service quality, meet increasing demand, and maintain compliance with safety and environmental standards. Funding for these activities is available through state approved grants.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Bid Tabulation Sheet

It is hereby certifed that the tabulation presented below accurately and completely reflects the information provided in the proposal forms submitted by each bidder. All data included has been transcribed directly from the original bid documents without alteration.

Project Name: LRGVDC Valley Metro Rural Fleet Overhaul			
Project Ref: 2025-02	Project #:		
Project Close Date: 04/16/2025	Project Bid Opening: 04/17/2025		

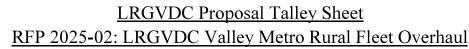
No.	Bidder	Proposed Amount
1	Payne Group Weslaco	\$134,608.68 (no core charges added)
2	Bill Bunton	\$142,592.29 (no core charges added)
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

The tabulation of bids provided herein is for informational and evaluation purposes only and does not constitute a notice of intent to award, a determination of responsiveness or responsibility, or a guarantee of contract award to any bidder. The inclusion of a vendor's bid in this tabulation does not imply acceptance or approval by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). All bids remain subject to further review, analysis, and formal approval in accordance with applicable procurement regulations, including but not limited to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Texas Department of Transportationt (TxDOT) guidelines and the LRGVDC's internal procurement policies and procedures.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities or minor irregularities, and make an award in the best interest of the agency.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Cou	PLO CIMAND	
Sign:	04/24/2025	
Asst. Director of Business Operations		A OPMENT COV





Project Evaluation Members



Evaluator Name

#	Proposet	Tom	ogan Jame	campbell Enil	ue sierra Hect	Marinet Patie	la Tones Fein	etopet	. /	. /	. 10	tals
1	Payne Group Weslaco	75	-	70	90	80	96				411	
2	<b>Bill Bunton</b>	77	-	82	60	72	93				384	
3												
4												
5												

Recommended vendor derived from highest score from the tally above.

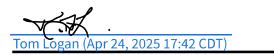
Payne Group Weslaco

Recommended Proposer

The scoring values presented in this tally are, to the best of the Procurement Department's ability, accurate and faithfully transcribed directly from the individual evaluations submitted by the members of the Project Evaluation Committee. The recommendation of the vendor is based solely on the cumulative highest score as determined through the established evaluation criteria.

It is important to note that this recommendation does not constitute an award decision. Rather, it marks the conclusion of the evaluation period. The final scoring results and vendor recommendation will be formally submitted to the Board of Directors for review and final approval.

04/24/2025



Apr 24, 2025

Valley Metro Signature \*

Date

Procurement Signature\*

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Executive Committee**

		YES	NO	Notes
Nonna Sepulveda	President	Approved by Email 5/13/25		Emailed on 5/13/25
Norie Gonzalez	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Approved by email 5/14/2025		Emailed on 5/13/25
Judge Aurelio Guerra Willacy County OFF: 689-3393 Melissa/Cassie CP 345-8020	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Approved by email 5/13/25		Emailed on 5/13/25
Mayor John Cowen	Secretary	Approved by Email 5/13/25		Emailed on 5/13/25
Mayor Ramiro Garza	Treasurer			Emailed on 5/13/2025

This action is certified by:

In Manuel Cruz

LRGVDC Executive Director

5/14/2025

Date

# ITEM #4.C ADMINISTRATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Director's Meeting Wednesday May 28, 2025

Administartion...... Manuel Cruz

**Executive Director** 

Item C:

1.Consideration and ACTION to Approve Agreement between AARP Foundation Senior Community Service Employment Program and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, allowing the LRGVDC to become a Host Agency for the program.

This agreement is for fiscal year 2024 - 2025 with annual renewal every July 1<sup>st</sup>. AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping vulnerable older adults build economic opportunity and social connectedness. The LRGVDC can assist by providing training and guidance with our various programs and daily responsibilities. This partnership will have lasting mutual benefit to help our senior population return to the workforce while giving the council staff support.



HOST AGENCY AGREEMENT

Host Agency: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

<i>Phone:</i> (956) 682-3481 <i>Fax:</i> <i>FEIN:</i> 74-1586916	Address: 30I W. Railroad Street Weslaco, TX 78596				
The above-named agency/organization, an equal employment o from the AARP Foundation Senior Community Service Empl					
This agency is:	Enrollee Supervisors are:				
A Non-Profit Organization. (Tax exempt under the Internal Revenue code 50l(c	(c)(3)) Compensated with federal funds.				

✓ A Public Organization.

Not compensated with federal funds.

The purpose of this agreement is for the host agency al)d AARP Foundation to enter into a joint engagement in the SCSEP, under which a participant receives training in a community service assignment while actively pursuing unsubsidized employment. The host agency agrees to provide meaningful training and work experience to the pa1ticipant(s) in exchange for federally subsidized community service hours by AARP Foundation.

To ensure our host agency partners understand their important role in the daily lives of SCSEP participants and their responsibilities in supporting each participant's goals to enhance or learn new skills and to obtain unsubsidized employment, we ask that each host agency supervisor clearly understand and support the following agency and participant requirements in this agreement:

I) The host agency agrees to support SCSEP objectives and will consider hiring participant(s) in permanent employment positions(s), if a vacancy arises.

2) The host agency acknowledges that AARP Foundation may reassign participant(s) at any time in accordance with SCSEP rules, regulations, and policies. AARP Foundation acknowledges that participation as a host agency is voluntary and agrees to honor any host agency request in writing to reassign participants for any lawful reason. <u>AARP Foundation may require documentation of the request, or the basis therefore.</u>

3) It is understood that the purpose of the SCSEP is for a participant to provide community service while they actively pursue training and unsubsidized employment off of the program. When a participant enrolls and/or gets a job off the program they may lose their public benefits. These benefits may include, but are not limited to: Public Housing, Food Stamps, SSI/SSD, and Medicaid.

4) It is understood that participants may miss some hours at the host agency assignment in order to pursue training opportunities or unsubsidized employment goals outside of the host agency. Participants may be required by AARP Foundation SCSEP to complete required programmatic activities and tasks which may include:

- · Accept referrals and interviews for employment outside the program.
- Conduct an ongoing search for unsubsidized employment as specified in the Individual Employment Plan ("IEP");
- Accept transfers to other host agency assignments as necessary to further the participants' training and work experience.
- Register and maintain registration with the State Employment Service and/or One Stop Center.
- Attend job search training, job clubs, participant 11)meetings, etc., when offered by the AARP Foundation office, and engage in continuing unsubsidized job search activities.

5) It is understood that the SCSEP is short-term work-training to prepare participants for unsubsidized employment off of the program. Participation in SCSEP is not entitlement, nor is it designed to provide income maintenance. SCSEP participants are in training status, preparing for unsubsidized employment.

6) When practical, the Host Agency agrees to provide additional training support to their participants by allowing participants to utilize the Agency's computers and internet access for designated job search training and to complete online job search activities.

7) It is understood that training with the host agency is a short-term opportunity. Participation in the SCSEP is NOT a job, and participants are NOT employees of either the AARP Foundation or the host agency where they are temporarily assigned under federal law.

8) It is understood that AARP Foundation SCSEP does not 9onduct background checks or drug screening on participants. Host agencies may conduct background checks and drug screenings in their sole and exclusive discretion and in accordance with applicable law and assume the risks of doing so. AARP Foundation is not financially or otherwise responsible for any costs, expenses or claims associated with background checks or drug screenings.

9) The host agency agrees to have or obtain reliable technology services that would enable it to receive and send participant Time & Attendance Reports to and from the AARP Foundation office. Reliable technology services are those that can produce readable documents-not overly dark, overly light, blurred, or otherwise unreadable by an objectively reasonable standard. Because electronic transmittal of Time and Attendance Reports are required by regulation as the method of documenting participant stipend payments for trained hours, AARP Foundation must place participants at an alternative assignment if a host agency cannot comply with this requirement. The host agency agrees to verify, sign and return accurately completed timesheets to AARP Foundation SCSEP for processing. Timesheets must be signed by the individual percipient and by a responsible supervisory official having first-hand knowledge of the hours worked by the participant.

10) The host agency agrees to provide supervision, training, and a safe work environment for each assigned participant, at its sole discretion. The host agency also agrees to the provisions outlined in the *Participant and Host Agency Handbook* as a condition of participation in the SCSEP, including AARP Foundation SCSEP's policies prohibiting discrimination, workplace violence, and harassment. Host agencies agree and acknowledge that, while on-site at the Host Agency, participants are under the direct control and supervision of the Host Agency and that the Host Agency is responsible for permitting participants to conduct any tasks that qualify for payment under the program. AARP Foundation will not assign job-training tasks to any participant pursuant to this Agreement.

11) The host agency agrees to respond to the host agency customer satisfaction survey that is issued by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) if randomly selected and acknowledges that completion of the survey influences continued DOL funding of the SCSEP grant. This survey is generally sent out in January, but timing is at the discretion of DOL.

12) Pursuant to SCSEP regulations, AARP Foundation, as a program administrator, is responsible for providing workers' compensation insurance for all participants, in accordance with state and federal law. The host agency is responsible for maintaining a safe working environment for participants during their normal course of duties; and to ensure that proper equipment, procedures, and safe practices are used in compliance with state and federal law. The Host Agency recognizes that if a safety violation involving a SCSEP participant occurs on the premises, AARP Foundation expects Host Agency to follow safety notification laws as it would for its own employees and to immediately notify AARP Foundation of any incident. AARP Foundation has the right to coordinate onsite safety inspections with the host agency to ensure that work procedures, equipment and practices are used to protect the safety of participants. If the host agency fails to adhere to reasonable safe working practices, AARP Foundation has the right to terminate the agreement for cause and for the protection of the participants.

The host agency must always keep the following key safety issues in mind:

- No lifting over 20 pounds
- No step stools or ladders
- Participants may not drive unless the assignment expressly includes driving, is approved in advance by AARP Foundation, and
- is carried out in accordance with Section 12 and Section 13 below.
- Participants must always be supervised

13) No participant is authorized to drive as part of his or her  $\phi$ ssignment without the advance written approval of AARP Foundation.

(a) Only in exceptional situations can a participant transport other passenger and only then with the approval of the national AARP Foundation SCSEP director. If a participant has been approved to engage in duties that include driving a vehicle owned or operated by the host agency, the host agency shall maintain appropriate automobile liability covering participant(s) while engaged in the performance of those duties. Applicable statutes will govern the limits of liability for Federal, state, and local government host agencies. A copy of the host agency's certification of insurance and participant's current driver's license and a motor vehicle record (MVR) check is required prior to the driving assignment beginning. Participants will be reimbursed for the cost of the MVR by AARP Foundation SCSEP.

(b) If the participant drives his or her own vehicle as part of **o**s or her assignment beyond commuting, the Host Agency must ensure that participant maintains automobile liability insurance appr9priate to cover performance of their assignments.

(c) The host agency shall also reimburse the participant for mileage if the participant drives his or her own vehicle in the performance of the host agency assignment.

(d) A copy of the host agency's certification of insurance, the participant's certification of insurance, the participant's current driver's license, and a MVR is required prior to the driving assignment beginning. Participants will be reimbursed for the cost of the MVR by AARP Foundation SCSEP.

15) It is understood that the AARP Foundation SCSEP is federally funded and is required to maintain documentation (timesheets) to substantiate the expenditure of federal funds for wages.

(a) It is also understood and agreed that AARP Foundation SCSEP shall pay a wage stipend to participants assigned to the host agency only within the limits communicated to host agency at the onset of participant placement; federal regulation prohibits payment beyond those grant-prescribed limits. The host agency shall not permit or instruct participant(s) to perform work beyond such limits or require participant to perform unpaid or volunteer work as part of participant's assignment, except as described in subsection (b) below.

(b) If the host agency permits participant(s) to perform work exceeding authorized hours, or to return to community service training assignments without prior authorization from **AARP** Foundation representative or past the participant's termination date, host agency shall compensate participant(s) for such time and comply with applicable law governing employment requirements.

16) It is understood that, by law, the host agency must not use participants as substitutes for permanent employees. Federal regulations prohibit such a "maintenance of effort." Participants are additions to, not substitutes for, regular agency staff. A community service assignment for a participant under Title V of the Older Americans Act is permissible only if the assignment does not:

a) Reduce the number of employment opportunities or vacancies that would otherwise be available to individuals who are not SCSEP participants.

b) Displace currently employed workers (including part "al displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of on-overtime work, wages, or employment benefits).

c) Impair existing contracts or result in the substitution of Federal funds for other funds in connection with work that would otherwise be performed; and

d) Assign or continue to assign an SCSEP participant to perform the same work or substantially the same work as that performed by any other individual who is on layoff.

17) The host agency will be listed on the *Time Attendance Report* in AARP Foundation records accessible by the U.S. Department of Labor. If there are changes to a participant's supervisor, the AARP Foundation SCSEP office must be notified so that the information can be updated in SCSEP databases.

18) It is understood that all participant(s) records are subject to the Privacy Act, *SU*.S.C. § 552a and neither party shall release records without written release signed by participant(s) or otherwise in accordance with law.

19) The host agency shall maintain all records, including original or copies of participant(s) timesheets relating to this agreement for a period of four years. The host agency shall retain original participant(s) time sheets if faxed to AARP Foundation for payment. AARP Foundation or the U.S. Department of Labor, through any authorized representative, shall have access to and the right to examine all records related to this agreement.

20) It is understood that either party may terminate this agreement at any time for any reason upon notification to the other party.

21) ) It is understood that any amendment, modification, or addendum to this agreement including changes or modifications to training assignments, must be made by mutual consent of the parties, in writing, signed and dated by both parties, prior to assignment of participant(s) to host agency or any changes being performed.

22) No part of this agreement requires payment offers by pity to the other.

Please provide your current email address in the space below:

5/19/2025

Jose Luis Gonzalez, Project Director / Da

Manuel Cruz, Main Contact

Date

SAFET Y IS NO ACCIDENT

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Effective for PY23 ONLY (7/23) - Earlier Versions are no Page 3 of 3

# ITEM #4.D ADMINISTRATION

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Item #4 Administartion......Manuel Cruz Executive Director

D. Consideration and **ACTION** to Review, Discuss, and Approve to Accept the Request from Mr. Jim Darling, General Manager/President of the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) to Transfer the RGRWA Upon Meeting Compliance Standards to the LRGVDC as its Fiscal Agent and Execute Any Applicable Management Agreement.

**<u>History</u>**: The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority was created by the Texas Legislature in 2003 as a conservation and reclamation district "to serve a public use and benefit" by bringing together regional water interests to accomplish projects and services within Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, and Webb counties (excluding the City of Laredo).

The Authority was specifically created to supplement, not replace, the services, regulatory powers, and authority of irrigation districts, water development supply corporations, counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions within its borders.

At the time, the RGRWA operated in accordance with established operating guidelines, including <u>by-laws</u>. The Board was composed of fifteen (15) members of which nine (9) members were appointed by the Governor with the advice of and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the Act as passed, with the remaining six (6) members of the Board being appointed from the six counties in the Authority or Commissioners Courts. To our knowledge, the status of the RGRWA governance does not exist due to the Governor and Commissioner Courts not appointing it dully representatives to serve.

The RGRWA originally resided at the LRGVDC from 2003 to on or about 2012.

It is our understanding that the RGRWA Board decided on or about 2012/13 to transfer its operations to the RGV Partnership. The reason is Unknown to current LRGVDC administration.

Mr. Jim Darling has asked that this item be placed on the May 2025 LRGVDC Board agenda for review and consideration as presented.



May 25, 2025 RGV Partnership 322 S. Missouri Weslaco, Tx 78596

Re: RGRWA Management Agreement

This letter is the formal notice of the termination of the management agreement between the RGRWA and the RGV Partnership effective June 1, 2025. Please transfer all documents and other official records of the RGRWA in your possession to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) located at 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco Texas 78596. The transfer will include the transfer of the RGRWA account (80 0367141) with Frost Bank to LGRVDC (80 0367141).

I appreciate the Partnerships service to the RGRWA over the past several years and the cooperation in this transfer to the LRGVDC.

W

Jim Darling, General Manager ~ RGRWA

Cc: Manny Cruz, CEO

## ITEM #4. E ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE

REPORT



#### LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL Office of the Executive Director 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas 78596

Executive Directors Report

May 28, 2025

This report contains updates, regional news, funding opportunities, training and legislative updates that your local gov't may be interested in. This information is courtesy of the Texas Association and Regional Councils, State funding agencies and LRGVDC Programs. Hyperlinks to external sources may be found throughout the report for additional and complete details.

The 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session opened on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> and is set to close on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. With a few days left progress on bills has been slow.

Below for your situational awareness are a few bills that may align with Texas COG programs. In addition, we have compiled a list of set bills related to Debt and Annexation with their status and that you may follow.

#### Community & Economic Development

- <u>HB 2545</u>
  - Establishes the Rural Workforce Training Grant Program. The bill was Passed.
- <u>HB 5246</u>

Restructures the Texas Space Commission, expands its role in civil and commercial aerospace development, and moves the spaceport trust fund duties to general revenue by September 1, 2025.

#### **Emergency Communications**

• <u>HB 3420</u>

Relates to mental health policies and services for peace officers, firefighters, and telecommunicators. The bill was passed by the House and mandates that each employer develop a detailed mental health leave policy that allows personnel experiencing trauma to take leave without loss of salary.

#### **Environmental Quality**

<u>SB 480</u>

Allows local governments to enter interlocal contracts for water research and planning. The bill was passed by the House.

#### Health & Human Services

• <u>HB 3376</u>

Relating to training on dementia and Alzheimer's disease for certain guardians.

#### Political Subdivision Impact

<u>SB 427</u>

Allows certain political subdivisions to remain eligible for state loans or grants even if they miss financial reporting deadlines.

• <u>SB 1173</u>

Increases the competitive procurement threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The bill was passed by the House.

• <u>HB 1522</u>

Increase for notice requirements for meetings under the Open Meetings Act.

• <u>HB 4219</u>

Clarifies procedures for responding to public information requests.

#### **Public Safety**

• <u>HB 33</u>

Updates emergency response protocols for active shooter events.

• <u>HB 3824</u>

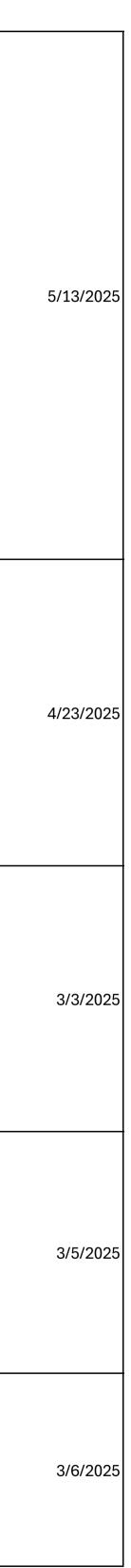
Sets fire safety and emergency operations standards for Battery Energy Storage facilities or BESS. The bill includes fire safety standards, emergency operations plan requirements and training with enforcement and rulemaking by the commissioner of insurance.

Please refer to the attached spreadsheets for bills related to Debt and Annexation.

				House Bills Referring to Debt						
Bill Number	Caption	Author	Party	Bill Digest	Link	Date Filed		Categories	Latest Status	Date
HB 19	Relating to the issuance and repayment of debt by local governments, including the adoption of an ad valorem tax rate and the use of ad valorem tax revenue for the repayment of debt.	Meyer, Morgan	R	HB 19 modifies the process for local governments in Texas to issue and repay debt using ad valorem tax revenue. It requires public notices regarding tax rate adoption to meet specific size and format requirements in newspapers. The bill mandates that elections for issuing bonds or increasing ad valorem tax rates must be held on the November uniform election date. Additionally, it limits the annual debt service obligations of local governments to no more than 20% of their average property tax collections over the preceding three fiscal years.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB19	3/14/2025	N/A	TaxationSchool District	Left Pending In Committee	
HB 250	Relating to the calculation of certain ad valorem tax rates of a taxing unit and the manner in which a proposed ad valorem tax rate that exceeds the voter- approval tax rate is approved; making conforming changes.	Harrison, Brian	R	HB 250 amends various sections of the Texas Tax Code, Education Code, and Water Code related to ad valorem tax rate calculations for taxing units, including voter-approval tax rates and the process for approving rates that exceed certain thresholds. Specifically, HB 250 standardizes the calculation of voter-approval and no-new-revenue tax rates, revising formulas to account for current debt and sales tax adjustments and making adjustments for special taxing units. It also repeals several existing provisions that allowed specific exemptions or additional calculations in determining tax rates for school districts and certain other entities. This bill will take effect on January 1, 2026.	BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB25 0	11/10/0004	N/A	TaxationGeneral	Referred to Committee	
HB 281	Relating to the review, funding, and continuation of degree and certificate programs at public institutions of higher education based on certain performance standards.	Tepper, Carl		HB 281 amends the Texas Education Code to establish performance-based standards for reviewing, funding, and continuing degree and certificate programs at public institutions of higher education. Specifically, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) must review programs every five years to assess whether they meet criteria based on median student loan debt as a	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB28 1		N/A	Education—Higher Education Standards	Referred to Committee	

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HB 467	Relating to the procedure for the dissolution of the Cedar Creek Hospital District and the disposition of district money.	Bell, Keith	HB 467 establishes a process for the dissolution of the Cedar Creek Hospital District, contingent upon specific conditions: the district must cease providing or paying for medical or hospital care, al board of directors' positions must be vacant, the district must have no outstanding debt, and its only remaining asset must be monetary funds. If these conditions are met, the county judges of Kaufman, Van Zandt, and Henderson Counties may jointly order an election to decide on the district's dissolution. If a majority of voters approve dissolution, the district will be dissolved, and its remaining funds will be equally distributed to Kaufman, Van Zandt, and Henderson Counties. These funds will be used to establish the Andrew Gibbs Memorial Nursing Scholarship, administered by an oversight committee. Scholarship eligibility requires recipients to reside within the district's boundaries at the time of their admission to a Texas nursing program. The act takes effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote in both legislative houses or on September 1, 2025, otherwise.	I y <u>http://capitol.texas.gov/</u> <u>BillLookup/History.aspx?</u> <u>LegSess=89R&amp;Bill=HB46</u> <u>7</u>	11/12/2024	N/A	Special Districts & AuthoritiesHospital	Sent to Governor for Signature
HB 538	Relating to student access to certain academic records; authorizing a fee.	Bernal, Diego	HB 538 amends Section 51.9715 of the Texas Education Code, requiring postsecondary educational institutions to release transcripts or certificates of completion under specified conditions, even if students have unpaid financial obligations. If a student has not attended the institution for at least five years and demonstrates good faith efforts to resolve their debt, the institution must issue the requested records directly to the employer or educational institution for which they are required. Institutions are permitted to charge a reasonable and consistent fee for these records.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB53 8	11/12/2024	N/A	EducationHigherGeneral	House passed vote
HB 567	Relating to school district grace period policies and the provision of meals to public school students with insufficient balances on prepaid meal cards or in meal accounts.	Bernal, Diego	HB 567 requires public school districts to adopt policies ensuring that students with insufficient balances on prepaid meal accounts can continue to receive regular meals for at least one week. Districts must attempt to notify parents privately about low balances, provide payment plans, and offer assistance in applying for free or reduced- price meals. The bill prohibits punitive actions like withholding diplomas or stigmatizing students for meal debt.	BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB56 <u>7</u>	11/12/2024	N/A	EducationSchool Districts	Referred to Committee
HB 774	Relating to municipal and county ad valorem tax relief.	Harrison, Brian	HB 774 mandates the use of surplus municipal and county revenue for ad valorem tax relief. It introduces a formula that accounts for population growth and inflation rates to calculate revenue limits, requiring surplus funds to be applied as tax reductions. It also sets annual tax rate caps linked to economic indicators, with specific provisions for debt obligations. The law takes effect January 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB77 <u>4</u>	11/12/2024	N/A	TaxationProperty-Tax Rate	Referred to Committee
HB 880	Relating to the reporting of certain information regarding medically necessary debt on a consumer report.	Lalani, Suleman	HB 880 amends the Business & Commerce Code to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from including "medically necessary debt" on consumer reports. It defines such debt as arising from essential health care services, including preventive care, and applies only to reports furnished after the law's effective date of September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB88 0	11/12/2024	N/A	Consumer Protection	Referred to Committee



Relating to the award of library construction grants by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.	Longoria, Oscar	HB 1480 adds construction grants to the categories of state library grants administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. These grants aim to support the establishment of new public libraries or the improvement of existing ones. However, the bill prohibits the use of state grants for site acquisition or paying off existing debts.	S       http://capitol.texas.gov/         BillLookup/History.aspx?       12/02/2024         LegSess=89R&Bill=HB14       80	N/A	Libraries & Librarians		Left Pending In Committee	3/27/2025
Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to issue debt to purchase or lease tangible personal property.	Schofield, Mike	<ul> <li>HB 1514 limits the authority of political subdivisions to issue public securities for purchasing or leasing tangible personal property. It stipulates that the maturity date of the issued security cannot exceed the property's expected useful life as calculated under federal depreciation standards.</li> </ul>	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB15 14	N/A	City GovernmentFinance		Committee Report Sent to Calendars	5/13/2025
Relating to the dissolution of certain special districts.	Vasut, Cody	HB 2010 amends the Water Code to expand the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to dissolve inactive special districts. The bill allows TCEQ to dissolve a district that has been inactive for at least five but less than ten consecutive years and has no outstanding bonded debt, and mandates the dissolution of districts inactive for ten or more consecutive years. It also requires TCEQ to initiate dissolution proceedings for all qualifying districts within 180 days of the bill's effective date.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB20 101/22/2025	N/A	Special Districts & AuthoritiesWater & Utilit	y	Left Pending In Committee	3/26/2025
Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to use hotel occupancy tax revenue for certain venue projects.	Lopez, Janie	HB 2370 expands the ability of certain municipalities to use hotel occupancy tax revenue to finance venue projects, specifically convention centers constructed before January 1, 2023. It applies to municipalities with a population between 70,000 and 180,000 that are located in a county bordering Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. The tax authority expires once the debt for the convention center is repaid or on January 1, 2054, whichever comes first.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB23 70	N/A	TaxationHotel, Motel Occupancy		Passed in House / In Senate Committee	5/21/2025
Relating to the reporting of certain information regarding medically necessary debt on a consumer report.	Talarico, James	HB 2478 prohibits consumer reporting agencies from including medically necessary debt in consumer credit reports. The bill amends the Business & Commerce Code to ensure that debts incurred for medically necessary services—such as diagnosing, treating, or preventing illness—cannot be used to negatively impact a consumer's credit report. This restriction applies regardless of when the medical debt was incurred. The law takes effect September 1, 2025, and applies only to consumer reports furnished on or after that date.	<u>LegSess=89R&amp;BIII=HB24</u> <u>78</u>	N/A	Consumer Protection		Referred to Committee	3/17/2025
Relating to student access to certain academic records held by a public institution of higher education or career school or college; authorizing fees.	Bucy, John	HB 2490 prohibits public universities, career schools, and colleges from withholding a student's transcript or diploma due to unpaid debts below \$500 or debts outstanding for more than five years. If a student owes \$500 or more, the institution may require them to enter a repayment plan, but the transcript must be released once the student initiates payments. The bill also allows institutions to charge a reasonable fee for the release of transcripts or diplomas, limited to the actual cost of materials and processing.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB24 90	N/A	EducationHigherGeneral		Referred to Committee	3/17/2025

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lendars	5/13/2025	
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	Relating to school district grace period policies and the provision of meals to public school students with insufficient balances on prepaid meal cards or in meal accounts.	Davis, Aicha	HB 2526 requires public school districts to adopt policies ensuring that students with insufficient balances on prepaid meal accounts can continue to receive regular meals for at least one week. Districts must attempt to notify parents privately about low balances, provide payment plans, and offer assistance in applying for free or reduced- price meals. The bill prohibits punitive actions like withholding diplomas or stigmatizing students for meal debt.	BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB25 26		N/A	EducationSchool Districts		Referred to Committee
HB 2574	Relating to the vote required to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds by a political subdivision.	Harrison, Brian	HB 2574 increases the threshold for voter approval of general obligation bonds issued by political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, school districts, and other local government entities. Under current law, a simple majority (more than 50%) of voters must approve these bonds in an election. This bill raises the requirement to a supermajority of at least 60% voter approval before a political subdivision can issue general obligation bonds. The bill applies only to bonds authorized on or after its effective date of September 1, 2025. This measure aims to ensure greater taxpayer control over government borrowing and debt issuance.	er http://capitol.texas.gov/Bill Lookup/History.aspx?LegSe ss=89R&Bill=HB2574	2/7/2025	N/A	Bonds		Referred to Committee
	Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain legal paraprofessionals; requiring an occupational license; imposing fees.		HB 2624 establishes a licensing and regulatory framework for legal paraprofessionals in Texas. The bill allows qualified individuals to obtain a legal paraprofessional license in specific legal specialties, including family law, estate planning and probate law, consumer debt law, administrative law, and civil law. Licensed paraprofessionals would be allowed to provide limited legal services, such as advising clients on filling out legal forms, communicating with courts, and representing clients in specific uncontested legal matters. Applicants must meet educational or experience requirements, pass an examination, and undergo a probationary period under attorney supervision. Th Texas Supreme Court is responsible for setting licensing rules, while the State Bar of Texas will oversee disciplinary actions.	e <u>http://capitol.texas.gov/</u> <u>BillLookup/History.aspx?</u> <u>LegSess=89R&amp;Bill=HB26</u> <u>24</u>		N/A	Occupational RegulationOther Trades & Pro	ofessions	Referred to Committee
	Relating to a proposition to approve the issuance of bonds or other debt by a school district.	Toth, Steve	HB 2672 requires that elections for school district bond propositions or other debt issuances be held only on the November uniform election date in ever numbered years. The bill overrides any conflicting laws that might allow such elections to be scheduled on other dates. This change is intended to ensure that decisions on school district borrowing occur during elections with historically higher voter participation. The bill applies only to elections ordered on or after its effective date of September 1, 2025.	n- http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx?	2/11/2025	N/A	ElectionsSchool District		Referred to Committee

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HB 2707	Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain legal paraprofessionals; requiring an occupational license; imposing fees.		HB 2707 establishes a licensing system for legal paraprofessionals in Texas. The bill creates specialty licenses for legal paraprofessionals in areas such as family law, estate planning, consumer debt, administrative law, civil law, and criminal law. Licensed paraprofessionals would be allowed to provide limited legal representation without attorney supervision in specific types of cases, including uncontested family law matters, probate filings, and minor criminal offenses. The bill requires the Texas Supreme Court to adopt rules for licensing, qualifications, and discipline, and it mandates a one-year probationary period under attorney supervision for newly licensed paraprofessionals.	e <u>http://capitol.texas.gov/</u> <u>BillLookup/History.aspx?</u> <u>LegSess=89R&amp;Bill=HB27</u> <u>07</u>	2/12/2025	N/A	Occupational RegulationOther Trades & Profess	ions	Referred to Committee	
HB 2782	Relating to instructional facilities funding for certain open-enrollment charter schools.	Dutton, Harold	HB 2782 increases state funding for open- enrollment charter schools to match the average debt service tax rate imposed by public school districts. This guarantees charters receive the sam per-student funding for instructional facility costs as traditional public schools.	02	2/13/2025	N/A	EducationPrimary & SecondaryCharter School	S	Referred to Committee	
HB 2868	Relating to the consideration of the proportion of long-term debt and equity capitalization in establishing the rates of certain electric utilities.	Metcalf, Will	HB 2868 amends the Utilities Code to regulate how the Public Utility Commission (PUC) considers an electric utility's debt and equity capitalization where establishing electricity rates. It applies only to electric utilities operating solely within the ERCOT power grid. The bill presumes a utility's return on invested capital is reasonable if calculated using the utility's actual proportion of long-term debt and equity capitalization as reported in its most recent quarterly financial statement. However, if the PUC determines the ratio is unreasonable, it must instead use the national average for electric utility operating companies to calculate an adjusted return on investment.	h http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB28 68	2/14/2025	N/A	UtilitiesElectric		Passed in House / In Senate Committee	
HB 2926	Relating to the text of ballot propositions on the issuance of debt obligations.	Tepper, Carl	HB 2926 requires ballot propositions concerning the issuance of debt obligations to include the statement: "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE." The bill aims to ensure transparency for voters regarding tax implications of proposed debt. The requirement applies to elections ordered on or after September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB29 26	2/18/2025	N/A	ElectionsGeneral		Referred to Committee	
HB 3002	Relating to requiring debt collectors to provide certain disclosures to consumers.	Simmons, Lauren	HB 3002 mandates that debt collectors provide written disclosures to consumers regarding their rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA). The disclosures must outline the consumer's rights to request validation of debt, cease communication, and negotiate settlement agreements. The bill also requires debt collectors who communicate electronically to include a link t the Texas Attorney General's website with additional information about debt collection rights	BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB30 02	2/19/2025	N/A	FinancialGeneral		Left Pending In Committee	
HB 3169	Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to receive certain tax revenue derived from a hotel and convention center project and to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project.	Bumgarner, Ben	HB 3169 allows certain municipalities to receive and pledge tax revenue derived from hotel and convention center projects for debt repayment and development costs. The bill expands eligibility for this financing mechanism to additional municipalities based on population size and geographic criteria, enabling more cities to fund large-scale tourism and economic development projects.	H <u>http://capitol.texas.gov/</u> <u>BillLookup/History.aspx?</u> <u>LegSess=89R&amp;Bill=HB31</u> <u>69</u>	2/21/2025	N/A	TaxationHotel, Motel Occupancy		Passed in House / In Senate Committee	

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Relating to powers of regional transportation authorities.	Shaheen, Matt	HB 3187 modifies the powers of regional transportation authorities, allowing municipalities within a subregional transportation authority to use up to 25% of sales and use tax revenue for general mobility projects, including sidewalks, bike trails, road maintenance, and traffic control improvements. The bill also caps the percentage of tax revenue that can be pledged to secure bonds at 75%, limiting how much can be used for transit-related debt obligations.	BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB31 <u>87</u>	2/21/2025	N/A	TransportationMass Transit	Committee Report Sent to Calendars	5/12/2025
Relating to an election to approve the issuance of bonds or other debt.	Lowe, David	HB 3262 establishes a supermajority requirement for voter approval of bond issuances and other debt obligations by political subdivisions. The bill stipulates that at least two-thirds of voters must approve a bond proposition for it to take effect. Additionally, it standardizes ballot language for bond elections, requiring clear disclosure of the financial impact, including projected interest payments and estimated tax increases. The bill aims to enhance fiscal transparency and ensure broader voter consensus on public debt.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB32 <u>62</u>	0,05,0005	N/A	ElectionsGeneral	Referred to Committee	3/20/2025
Relating to the use or purchase or other acquisition of property under the Public Property Finance Act.	Hunter, Todd	HB 3462 amends the Texas Local Government Code to expand the authority of governmental agencies to enter into contracts for the use, purchase, or acquisition of real property under the Public Property Finance Act. Previously, these provisions applied only to school districts, but the bill broadens the scope to include all governmental entities. It requires a 60-day public notice before approving such contracts and allows voters to petition for a referendum if at least five percent of registered voters in the jurisdiction request one. The bill also increases the maximum contract term from 25 years to 35 years and clarifies that obligations under these contracts are not considered payment of indebtedness under the Texas Tax Code if they are paid through previously approved maintenance taxes or other non-ad valorem tax sources. Additionally, lease-purchase contracts must be reviewed by the Texas Attorney General for validity. The bill applies only to contracts entered into on or after September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB34 <u>62</u>	2/27/2025	N/A	Property InterestsReal Property	Passed in House / In Senate Committee	5/12/2025
Relating to the issuance of certain anticipation notes and certificates of obligation	Smithee, John	HB 3688 limits the issuance of anticipation notes and certificates of obligation, restricting local governments from using these financial instruments if a similar bond proposition was rejected by voters within the past five years. The bill aims to enhance fiscal responsibility and ensure voter-approved debt issuance processes.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB36 <u>88</u>	2/4/2025	N/A	FinancialGeneral	Referred to Committee	3/25/2025
Relating to charity care provided by certain health care facilities.	Oliverson, Tom	HB 3708 mandates that hospitals screen all patients for eligibility in financial assistance programs before pursuing debt collection. It requires billing statements to include financial aid notices and establishes penalties for noncompliance, including potential loss of tax exemptions.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB37 <u>08</u>	2/4/2025	N/A	Human ServicesMedical Assistance	Committee Report Sent to Calendars	5/9/2025

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Relating to the regulation of state banks.	Lambert, Stan	HB 3804 revises the regulatory framework for state banks in Texas. It modifies the definition of a "deposit" in the Finance Code to clarify what constitutes a deposit liability for financial institutions. The bill also updates exemptions from acquisition approval requirements for certain bank transactions, including those involving controlling persons and transactions occurring by will, intestate succession, or operation of law. Additionally, it expands the restrictions placed on banks under supervision by the Banking Commissioner, prohibiting asset transactions, lending, incurring debt, leadership changes, or any other actions that could threaten the bank's stability without prior approval. These changes are aimed at strengthening oversight and maintaining the financial soundness of state banks.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB38 04	2/5/2025	N/A	FinancialBanks	Passed in House - Out of Committee in Se 5/15/2
Relating to prohibited activities of a state trust company under supervision.	Lambert, Stan	HB 3806 strengthens regulatory oversight of state trust companies under supervision. It expands the list of restricted activities for a trust company during a period of supervision, prohibiting asset transactions, debt incurrence, changes to executive leadership, and other actions deemed to threaten the financial stability of the institution. The bill ensures that supervised trust companies cannot engage in activities that could further endanger their financial position without prior approval from the Banking Commissioner.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB38 06	2/5/2025	N/A	FinancialGeneral	Passed in House - Out of Committee in Se 5/15/2
Relating to the vote required to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds by a political subdivision.	Curry, Pat	HB 3835 increases the threshold for voter approval of general obligation bonds issued by political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, school districts, and other local government entities. Under current law, a simple majority (more than 50%) of voters must approve these bonds in an election. This bill raises the requirement to a supermajority of at least 60% voter approval before a political subdivision can issue general obligation bonds. The bill applies only to bonds authorized on or after its effective date of September 1, 2025. This measure aims to ensure greater taxpayer control over government borrowing and debt issuance.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB38 35	2/5/2025	N/A	Bonds	Referred to Committee 3/26/2
Relating to restrictions on the levy and use of certain ad valorem taxes and the issuance of certain bonds supported by ad valorem taxes.	Troxclair, Ellen	HB 3879 imposes new restrictions on property tax levies and bond financing. It prohibits local governments from materially deviating from the stated purpose of an approved tax increase, including significant cost increases, scope reductions, or financing changes. Property owners may seek an injunction to stop tax collection if a taxing entity fails to comply. Additionally, ad valorem tax revenue cannot be transferred to local government corporations to repay bond debt.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB38 79	3/5/2025	N/A	TaxationProperty-Tax Rate	Committee Report Sent to Calendars 5/10/2
Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to receive certain tax revenue derived from a hotel and convention center project and to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project.	Cole, Sheryl	HB 3954 expands the eligibility of municipalities to receive tax revenue from hotel and convention center projects and to pledge tax revenue for debt obligations related to these projects. It updates Section 351.152 of the Tax Code to include additional municipalities that meet specific population and geographic criteria, allowing them to participate in the revenue-sharing program for tourism-related economic development.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB39 54	2/6/2025	N/A	TaxationHotel, Motel Occupancy	Passed in House / In Senate Committee 5/21/2

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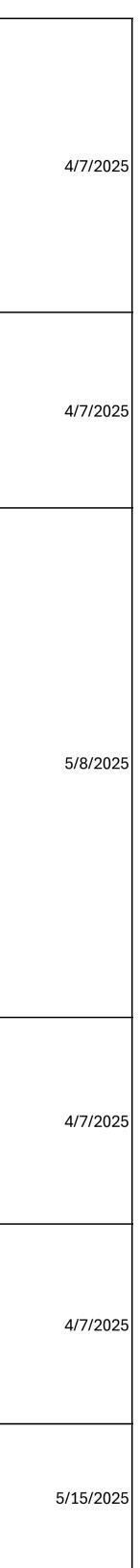
Relating to creation of a school district by detachment of territory from an existing school district.	Lowe, David	HB 4156 modifies the process for creating a new school district by detaching territory from an existing district. It transfers authority over the detachment process from county commissioners courts to the State Board of Education (SBOE), increases the percentage of registered voters required to petition for detachment from 10% to 20%, and shifts decision-making on property, debt allocation, and trustee appointments to the SBOE.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB41 56	N/A	EducationSchool Districts		Referred to Committee	3/31/2025
Relating to the collection of consumer debt incurred by certain individuals as a result of identity theft.	Meyer, Morgan	HB 4238 strengthens consumer protections for identity theft victims by prohibiting creditors and debt collectors from attempting to collect debts if the victim provides evidence that the debt was incurred due to identity theft. The bill requires debt collectors to cease collection efforts, notify reporting agencies, and prohibit the resale of disputed debts. Creditors may still enforce security interests (e.g., repossessing secured property) but cannot collect deficiency balances from identity theft victims.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB42 38	N/A	CrimesAgainst PersonsGeneral		Passed in House & Senate / Amendments	5/20/2025
Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to issue a public security if the debt-to- asset ratio of the political subdivision exceeds a certain percentage.	Shaheen, Matt	HB 4295 aims to limit the authority of political subdivisions to issue public securities if their debt- to-asset ratio reaches or exceeds 20%. The bill amends Chapter 1253 of the Government Code, expanding the chapter's scope beyond general obligation bonds to include all public securities issued by political subdivisions.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB42 95	N/A	Political Subdivisions		Referred to Committee	4/1/2025
Relating to transfer of the ownership rights of the Woodlawn Water Supply Corporation to the Angelina and Neches River Authority.	Ashby, Trent	HB 4646 transfers ownership rights of the Woodlawn Water Supply Corporation to the Angelina and Neches River Authority. It allows the authority to acquire all assets, debts, and contractual obligations of the corporation, including its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity. Once the transfer is completed, the corporation's board of directors must begin dissolution proceedings within 30 days.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB46 46	N/A	Special Districts & AuthoritiesWater & Utility		Out of Committee - Laid to table subject to	5/10/2025
Relating to the repeal of ad valorem taxes and certain state and local taxes, the enactment of a uniform state sales tax, and related school and local government finance reform; increasing the rate of a tax.	Kerwin, Helen	HB 4648 prohibits ad valorem (property) taxes in Texas and replaces them with a statewide uniform sales tax. It bans all property taxes at the state and local level beginning January 1, 2026, except for school district debt service taxes, which are phased out by 2033. It increases the state sales tax to 15% and expands its application to all services. The bill creates a state-run funding model for schools and local governments, replacing local tax revenue with state appropriations. It also eliminates local sales taxes and repeals various tax provisions in the Education Code and Tax Code.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB46 48	N/A	TaxationProperty-Tax Rate		Referred to Committee	4/3/2025
Relating to the creation of the Fiscal risk Management Commission	Hopper, Andy	HB 4857 establishes the Fiscal Risk Management Commission, composed of the comptroller, legislative leaders, and four public members. The commission will analyze federal fiscal policies that could impact Texas, including the risks of federal debt default, economic terrorism, and the potential collapse of the U.S. dollar. The commission must develop a biennial risk management plan and submit reports to the governor and legislature, including contingency plans for Texas to assume certain federal responsibilities if necessary.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB48 57	N/A	State Agencies, Boards & CommissionsNewly Pi	roposed	Referred to Committee	4/3/2025

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Relating to voter information provided by political subdivisions before an election to authorize the issuance of bonds.	Schatzline, Nate	HB 4965 enhances voter transparency by requiring political subdivisions to provide more detailed financial information before elections to authorize bond issuances. It mandates the disclosure of the current and estimated future tax rates, the percentage increase in rates if bonds are issued, and detailed debt obligations of the political subdivision.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB49 <u>65</u>	3/13/2025	N/A	ElectionsGeneral	Referred to Committee	4/3/2025
Relating to the collection or execution of certain judgments; authorizing fees.	Hayes, Richard	HB 5009 revises the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code to streamline the collection and execution of certain court judgments. It mandates that courts appoint a receiver for unsatisfied justice court judgments older than six months unless the debtor contests the appointment. It also authorizes justice courts to charge a \$25 fee for motions related to enforcement and allows child support judgments to be enforced through all available means. Additionally, the bill clarifies the process for issuing writs of execution and prevents judgments from becoming dormant if a receiver is appointed.	BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB50 09	3/13/2025	N/A	CourtsJustice	Committee Report Sent to Calendars	5/10/2025
Relating to creation of a school district by detachment of territory from an existing school district.	Geren, Charlie	HB 5089 modifies the process for creating a new school district by detaching territory from an existing district. It transfers authority over the detachment process from county commissioners courts to the State Board of Education (SBOE), increases the percentage of registered voters required to petition for detachment from 10% to 20%, and shifts decision-making on property, debt allocation, and trustee appointments to the SBOE.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB50 89		N/A	EducationSchool Districts	Placed on General State Calendar	5/15/2025
Relating to the use of certain tolls and charges imposed by certain counties; authorizing an administrative penalty.	DeAyala, Mano	HB 5177 restricts the use of toll revenue in counties with populations of four million or more. It limits toll revenue use to toll road maintenance, debt service, and administration. Surplus toll revenue must be distributed, with 30% going to municipalities for emergency services and 70% to county road projects. The bill also imposes penalties for misusing toll revenue, including administrative fines and restrictions on property tax rate increases.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB51 77	2/14/2025	N/A	County GovernmentRoads	Left Pending In Committee	4/24/2025
Relating to a refund of motor vehicle sales taxes paid on certain bad debt.	Longoria, Oscar	HB 5250 aims to create a tax refund mechanism for bad debt related to motor vehicle sales. The bill introduces Section 152.049 to the Texas Tax Code, allowing sellers and lenders to claim a refund for sales taxes paid on motor vehicle sales when the associated debt is deemed uncollectible and charged off for federal tax purposes. The bill outlines eligibility criteria for refunds, procedures for claiming them, and conditions under which refunded taxes must be repaid if the debt is later recovered.		2/14/2025	N/A	TaxationSales	Referred to Committee	4/7/2025
Relating to notice provided by a health care provider before initiating debt collection against a patient.	arris Davila, Carolin	HB 5289 requires health care providers to give written notice to patients at least 60 days before initiating debt collection for unpaid medical bills. The intent is to give patients adequate time to address their financial obligations before being sent to collections. The requirement applies only to debt collection actions initiated on or after the bill's effective date.		3/14/2025	N/A	Health Care Providers	Referred to Committee	4/7/2025

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HB 5303	Relating to the vote required by the governing body of a taxing unit to adopt an ad valorem tax rate that exceeds the voter- approval tax rate or authorize the issuance of tax bonds.	Troxclair, Ellen	HB 5303 raises the voting threshold for local governments to approve certain tax rate increases and general obligation bond issuances. A supermajority (60%) of the governing body must vote to approve new general obligation bonds. For municipalities or districts seeking to adopt a tax rate exceeding the voter-approval tax rate after voters previously rejected a tax increase, the bill requires an 80% approval vote by the governing body. The bill aims to curb excessive taxation and debt accumulation.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HB53 03	3/14/2025	N/A	TaxationProperty-Tax Rate	Referred to Committee
HB 5334	Relating to the notice required before the issuance of certain debt obligations by political subdivisions.	Harrison, Brian	HB 5334 enhances transparency in local government debt issuance by requiring political subdivisions to provide detailed voter information before issuing new debt obligations. The voter information must include the estimated tax impact debt repayment schedule, and a breakdown of current outstanding debts.	LegSess=89R&Bill=HB53	3/14/2025	N/A	TaxationGeneral	Referred to Committee
HB 5377	Relating to the filing of a fraudulent financing statement in relation to certain secured transactions; authorizing the imposition of a fee.	Lambert, Stan	HB 5377 proposes amendments to Section 9.518 of the Texas Business & Commerce Code to address fraudulent financing statements in secure transactions. The bill increases financial penalties for knowingly filing false or groundless financing statements, raising the potential damages to \$10,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater. also allows injured parties to seek court-ordered relief, including the removal of fraudulent filings. The bill provides mechanisms for debtors to challenge fraudulent financing statements through affidavits and outlines the responsibilities of the Secretary of State's office in processing such claims. Additionally, it establishes a process for terminating fraudulent filings and allows secured parties to challenge terminations through expedite court proceedings. The legislation also mandates filing fee for processing affidavits and limits liability for filing office employees acting in accordance with the law.	ed http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx3 LegSess=89R&Bill=HB53 77	3/14/2025	N/A	Business & CommerceGeneral	Out of Committee - Reported Favorably as
HB 5433	Relating to limitations on the information reported by consumer reporting agencies.	Plesa, Mihaela	HB 5433 amends the limitations on information that consumer reporting agencies can include in consumer reports. It restricts agencies from reporting certain arrest, charge, or indictment records that did not result in a conviction or deferred adjudication community supervision, alongside other limitations related to medical deb and time-based reporting exclusions.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx2 LegSess=89R&Bill=HB54 33	3/14/2025	N/A	Business & CommerceGeneral	Referred to Committee
	Relating to the regulation of earned income access providers and earned income access transactions; requiring an occupational license; authorizing fees; providing an administrative penalty; creating a criminal offense.	Oliverson, Tom	HB 5462 establishes a regulatory framework for earned income access providers, requiring them to obtain licenses, set fee limits, and follow transparency requirements. It prohibits misleading advertising, debt collection, and credit reporting related to these transactions. The bill also include criminal penalties for violations.	g <u>BillLookup/History.aspx3</u> <u>LegSess=89R&amp;Bill=HB54</u> <u>62</u>		N/A	LaborWages	Referred to Committee
HB 5489	Relating to a temporary moratorium on the imposition of an impact fee.	Dyson, Paul	HB 5489 imposes a temporary moratorium on the imposition of impact fees by political subdivisions from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2029. However, impact fees pledged before September 2025, for debt payments remain enforceable.	BillLookup/History.aspx2 LegSess=89R&Bill=HB54	3/14/2025	N/A	Political Subdivisions	Placed on General State Calendar



HJR 76	Proposing a constitutional amendment appropriating certain surplus revenue for school district bond debt.	Dorazio, Mark	HJR 76 proposes a constitutional amendment to allocate certain surplus revenues for the purpose of reducing school district bond debt. Specifically, it appropriates half of the general revenue surplus and half of the Economic Stabilization Fund's balance as of September 1, 2025, to the Texas Education Agency. The funds would be distributed to school districts proportionally based on student enrollment, prioritizing debt service on bonds with the highest interest rates. School districts receiving funds would face a 10-year restriction on issuing new bonds supported by ad valorem taxes.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HJR7 <u>6</u>			State FinancesAppropriations	Referred to Committee	
HJR 106	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the appraised value of the residence homesteads of certain peace officers.	Louderback, A.J.	HJR 106 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation for all or part of the appraised value of the residence homesteads of certain peace officers. The resolution allows local governing bodies to adopt this exemption as either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the appraised value. It includes provisions to safeguard the collection of taxes pledged for debt obligations prior to the exemption. The resolution directs the legislature to define "eligible peace officer" and establish additional eligibility criteria. If approved by voters, the amendment would take effect on January 1, 2026, and apply to tax years starting on or after that date.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HJR1 06	12/20/2024	<u>HB 1688</u>	TaxationProperty-Exemptions	Referred to Committee	
HJR 145	Proposing a constitutional amendment exempting tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation.	Metcalf, Will	HJR 145 proposes a constitutional amendment to exempt all tangible personal property in Texas from ad valorem taxation, with a provision for continuing to levy and collect taxes pledged for outstanding debts until the debt is discharged.		2/20/2025	<u>HB 3064</u>	TaxationProperty-Exemptions	Referred to Committee	
HJR 171	Proposing a constitutional amendment exempting tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation.	Money, Brent	HJR 171 proposes a constitutional amendment to exempt all tangible personal property in Texas from ad valorem taxation, with a provision for continuing to levy and collect taxes pledged for outstanding debts until the debt is discharged.	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HJR1 71	3/6/2025	<u>HB 4360</u>	TaxationProperty-Exemptions	Referred to Committee	
HJR 210	Proposing a constitutional amendment related to the funding and support of public free schools.	Virdell, Wes	<ul> <li>HJR 210 proposes a constitutional amendment restructuring school finance by shifting the responsibility for ad valorem tax collection from independent school districts to the Texas Comptroller's office. It also imposes limits on school district debt, ensures equal per-student funding, and allows for Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) for families choosing alternative educational options.</li> </ul>	http://capitol.texas.gov/ BillLookup/History.aspx? LegSess=89R&Bill=HJR2 10	3/14/2025		EducationPrimary & SecondaryFinance	Referred to Committee	

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	Caption Relating to the authority of certain counties and municipalities to regulate certain subdivisions in a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.	Author Vasut, Cody	Party	<b>Bill Digest</b> HB 282 amends Chapter 242 of the Texas Local Government Code, granting certain counties the authority to unilaterally amend agreements with municipalities regarding subdivision regulations in their extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJs) under specified conditions. Specifically, this authority applies only to counties with populations over 370,000 that contain more than six municipalities, each with populations under 2,000. The bill permits counties to transfer exclusive jurisdiction for regulating subdivision platting for parcels larger than 10 acres, intended for residential use with smaller lot sizes, and that are not covered by existing annexation agreements or interlocal agreements. HB 282 also allows for arbitration of agreement amendments every 10 years under certain conditions, promoting a structured resolution process for counties and municipalities on regulatory jurisdiction. The Act will take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority in both legislative chambers; otherwise, it will take effect on September 1, 2025.	Link http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil I=HB282	11/12/2024	N/A	Categories	Refe	erred to Committee	Date Last Updated 2/27/2025
	Relating to consent requirements for municipal annexation of an area on request of the landowners.	Cortez, Philip	R	HB 377 amends Section 43.0672 of the Texas Local Government Code to strengthen consent requirements for municipal annexation at the request of landowners. The bill specifies that municipal annexation must include a written agreement with the landowners regarding service provisions not earlier than 90 days before the annexation date. It prohibits agreements that waive the requirement for such negotiations and agreements. These changes apply only to annexations not finalized before September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil l=HB377	11/12/2024	N/A	City GovernmentLand Use & Zoning	Refe	erred to Committee	2/28/2025
	Relating to the provision of municipal services to land annexed by a municipality for full purposes.	Hayes, Richard	R	HB 950 mandates municipalities to provide full municipal services, such as police, fire protection, and utilities, to annexed land within four years of annexation or by September 1, 2029, for land annexed before this law's effective date. If a municipality fails to comply, affected landowners may seek disannexation. The law takes effect immediately with sufficient legislative support or on September 1, 2025.	<u>http://capitol.texas.go</u> <u>v/BillLookup/History.a</u> <u>spx?LegSess=89R&amp;Bil</u> <u>l=HB950</u>	11/12/2024	N/A	City GovernmentGeneral	In C	ommittee - Reported Favorably as sub	4/28/2025
HB 1890	Relating to the improvement of certain school campuses based on the construction or rehabilitation of certain low income housing developments in the attendance zone of those campuses.	Dorazio, Mark	R	HB 1890 requires municipalities in counties with populations over 1.5 million, where more than 75% of the population resides in a single municipality, to address the impact of certain low-income housing developments on local schools. When such developments are constructed or rehabilitated on annexed land, the municipality must request impact studies from school districts whose campuses fall within the development's attendance zones. These studies will identify necessary capital improvements for the campuses to accommodate an increased student population. Based on the study findings, the municipality is obligated to fund the identified improvements and complete them according to a timeline agreed upon with the school district. The act applies to developments in progress on or after September 1, 2025.		1/16/2025	N/A	EducationPrimary & SecondaryFinance	Refe	erred to Committee	3/14/2025
	Relating to the release of certain areas from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.	Cook, David	R	HB 1901 outlines conditions under which areas may be released from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) through petition or election. It specifies geographic and demographic restrictions, including proximity to military bases and urban boundaries, and applies only to areas petitioned or elected for release on or after September 1, 2025.	<u>http://capitol.texas.go</u> v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil l=HB1901	1/16/2025	N/A	City GovernmentAnnexation	Refe	erred to Committee	3/14/2025

Relating to the release of certain areas from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.	Turner, Chris	D	HB 2024 proposes amendments to the Local Government Code regarding the release of areas from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) through petition or election. The bill modifies the applicability criteria by exempting areas located near military bases, those in rapidly growing counties, industrial districts, and areas with existing strategic partnership agreements. It also introduces new criteria to prevent the release of areas if doing so would result in a non-contiguous ETJ or if the municipality has invested at least \$1 million in developing the area. These changes apply only to petitions filed or elections requested after the bill's effective date of September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.g ov/BillLookup/Histor y.aspx?LegSess=89R &Bill=HB2024	1/22/2025	N/A	City GovernmentAnnexation	Referred to Committee	3/14/2025
Relating to the authority of a municipality to remove territory from an emergency services district.	Cortez, Philip	D	HB 2345 modifies the authority of municipalities to remove territory from emergency services districts (ESDs). It sets a deadline of September 1, 2025, after which municipalities will no longer have the authority to remove territory from an ESD and assume sole responsibility for emergency services in those areas. The bill also amends various sections of the Special District Local Laws Code and Water Code to align with this expiration date and repeals an existing provision related to ESD disannexation.	http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil l=HB2345	2/3/2025	N/A	Special Districts & AuthoritiesMiscellaneous	Referred to Committee	3/14/2025
Relating to disannexation of certain areas of a municipality for failure to provide services.	Craddick, Tom	R	HB 2494 strengthens the process for residents of an annexed area to petition for disannexation if a municipality fails to provide promised services. The bill amends the Local Government Code to allow a majority of qualified voters in an area to initiate disannexation proceedings if the municipality does not provide services within the timeframe specified in the annexation service plan or agreement. It expands eligibility for disannexation petitions to areas annexed under multiple subchapters of the annexation code, including those annexed without proper compliance with statutory procedures. If a municipality fails to disannex the area within 60 days after receiving a valid petition, any petitioner may file suit in district court, which must expedite the case. If the court finds that the municipality failed to meet its service obligations or did not act in good faith, it must issue an order disannexing the area and awarding attorney's fees to the petitioners. The bill also revises public notification requirements for disannexation petitions, mandating that they be posted in three public places for 10 days and published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 15 days before signature collection begins.	<u>http://capitol.texas.go</u> v/BillLookup/History.a <u>spx?LegSess=89R&amp;Bil</u> <u>l=HB2494</u>	2/5/2025	N/A	City GovernmentAnnexation	Out of Committee - Laid on table subject to	5/14/2025
Relating to the notification provided by a municipality to a retail public utility of the municipality's intent to provide water or sewer service in an incorporated or annexed area.	Dorazio, Mark	R	HB 2505 modifies the notification requirements for municipalities that intend to provide water or sewer service in newly incorporated or annexed areas. The bill amends the Water Code to require that if a municipality and a retail public utility do not reach an agreement within 180 days, the municipality must file an application with the Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC) before providing service. Additionally, when submitting an application for single certification to serve the area, the municipality must send a copy of the application to the affected retail public utility via certified mail, hand delivery, or email on the same day. The bill applies only to proceedings initiated on or after September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil l=HB2505	2/5/2025	N/A	UtilitiesWater & Sewer	Referred to Committee	3/17/2025
Relating to release of an area from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.	Geren, Charlie	R	extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The bill expands eligibility	<u>http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&amp;Bil l=HB2512</u>	2/5/2025	N/A	City GovernmentAnnexation	Out of House Committee - In Senate Comr	5/22/2025

Relating to territory in an emergency services district that is annexed by a municipality.	Bell Jr., Cecil	R	HB 3897 modifies the process for disannexing emergency services district (ESD) territory when a municipality annexes the land. The bill requires municipalities to demonstrate their ability to provide equal or better emergency services before an ESD board can approve disannexation. If the board does not respond within 30 days of receiving notice from the municipality, the disannexation is automatically approved.	http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil l=HB3897	3/6/2025	N/A	Special Districts & AuthoritiesMiscellaneous	Placed on General Calendar	5/15/2025
Relating to municipal authority to annex certain areas by petition.	Richardson, Keresa	R	HB 3978 amends the Local Government Code to limit municipal annexation of areas with populations under 200 people. A city may annex such an area only if more than 50% of registered voters sign a petition approving annexation, and if the voters do not own 50% of the land, then more than 50% of landowners must also sign the petition. Additionally, municipalities may only annex one such area per calendar year.	<u>http://capitol.texas.go</u> <u>v/BillLookup/History.a</u> <u>spx?LegSess=89R&amp;Bil</u> <u>l=HB3978</u>	3/6/2025	N/A	City GovernmentAnnexation	Referred to Committee	3/27/2025
Relating to the penalties imposed on municipalities for violating state law and the state constitution.	LaHood, Marc	R	HB 4283 establishes penalties for municipalities that enact laws violating state law or the Texas Constitution. It authorizes the Texas Attorney General to investigate city ordinances and issue a compliance order requiring repeal of the unlawful measure. If the municipality does not comply within 30 days, it faces a \$3,000 per day fine and may have state funds withheld by the Texas Comptroller. Additionally, the municipality would be prohibited from issuing bonds or annexing land until the violation is resolved.	http://capitol.texas.go v/BillLookup/History.a spx?LegSess=89R&Bil l=HB4283	3/10/2025	N/A	Civil Remedies & Liabilities	Out of Committee - Committee Report Ser	5/6/2025
Relating to the authority of a special district to exercise certain powers and duties following municipal disannexation of certain areas.	Dean, Jay	R	HB 4373 modifies Section 43.1463 of the Local Government Code to allow a limited district, created by converting a special district under a strategic partnership agreement, to retain all powers and duties granted to the original special district after a municipality disannexes the area. This applies even if the previous agreement between the municipality and district had limitations.		3/11/2025	N/A	Special Districts & AuthoritiesWater & Utility	Passed in House - Laid on table subject to	5/10/2025
Relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages in areas annexed by certain municipalities.	Smithee, John	R	HB 4449 changes local alcohol sales laws by allowing newly annexed areas in certain municipalities to assume the same wet or dry status as the rest of the municipality. It applies specifically to municipalities in counties containing portions of U.S. Highways 60 and 87 with populations over 12,000.	<u>http://capitol.texas.go</u> <u>v/BillLookup/History.a</u> <u>spx?LegSess=89R&amp;Bil</u> <u>l=HB4449</u>	3/11/2025	N/A	Alcoholic Beverage Regulation	Out of House Committee - In Senate Comr	5/19/2025
Relating to municipal annexation of an area adjacent to contiguous or connecting railroad rights-of-way.	Hickland, Hillary	R	HB 4689 permits municipalities to annex areas adjacent to contiguous or connecting railroad rights-of-way when annexing nearby regions under certain legal frameworks. It simplifies the legal process for considering such areas contiguous for municipal boundary purposes and exempts these annexations from specific geographic restrictions.	spx?LegSess=89R&Bil I=HB4689	3/12/2025	N/A	City GovernmentAnnexation	Passed in House - Laid on table subject to	5/13/2025
Relating to the authority of a municipality to adopt, increase or decrease the rate of, or repeal an additional sales and use tax for property tax relief by ordinance or resolution of the governing body of the municipality.	Shaheen, Matt	R	HB 5252 amends multiple sections of the Local Government Code and Tax Code to modify the authority of municipalities in adopting, increasing, decreasing, or repealing additional sales and use taxes for property tax relief. The bill allows municipal governing bodies to change sales tax rates by ordinance or resolution without requiring a public election. It also updates procedures related to annexation and tax ballot propositions.	<u>http://capitol.texas.go</u> <u>v/BillLookup/History.a</u> <u>spx?LegSess=89R&amp;Bil</u> <u>I=HB5252</u>	3/14/2025	N/A	TaxationSales	Referred to Committee	4/7/2025

				House Bills referring to both Debt & Annexati	on that recent movement				
Debt									
	Relating to the procedure for the dissolution of the Cedar Creek Hospital District and the disposition of district money.	Bell, Keith	R	HB 467 establishes a process for the dissolution of the Cedar Creek Hospital District, contingent upon specific conditions: the district must cease providing or paying for medical or hospital care, all board of directors' positions must be vacant, the district must have no outstanding debt, and its only remaining asset must be monetary funds. If these conditions are met, the county judges of Kaufman, Van Zandt, and Henderson Counties may jointly order an election to decide on the district's dissolution. If a majority of voters approve dissolution, the district will be dissolved, and its remaining funds will be equally distributed to Kaufman, Van Zandt, and Henderson Counties. These funds will be used to establish the Andrew Gibbs Memorial Nursing Scholarship, administered by an oversight committee. Scholarship eligibility requires recipients to reside within the district's boundaries at the time of their admission to a Texas nursing program. The act takes effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote in both legislative houses or on September 1, 2025, otherwise.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB467	11/12/2024	Special Districts & Authorities Hospital	Sent to Governor for Signature	5/13/202
	Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to use hotel occupancy tax revenue for certain venue projects.	Lopez, Janie		HB 2370 expands the ability of certain municipalities to use hotel occupancy tax revenue to finance venue projects, specifically convention centers constructed before January 1, 2023. It applies to municipalities with a population between 70,000 and 180,000 that are located in a county bordering Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. The tax authority expires once the debt for the convention	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB2370	2/3/2025	TaxationHotel, Motel Occupancy		
HB 2370	Relating to the consideration of the proportion of long-term debt and equity capitalization in establishing the rates of certain electric utilities.	Metcalf, Will	R	center is repaid or on January 1, 2054, whichever comes first. HB 2868 amends the Utilities Code to regulate how the Public Utility Commission (PUC) considers an electric utility's debt and equity capitalization when establishing electricity rates. It applies only to electric utilities operating solely within the ERCOT power grid. The bill presumes a utility's return on invested capital is reasonable if calculated using the utility's actual proportion of long- term debt and equity capitalization as reported in its most recent quarterly financial statement. However, if the PUC determines the ratio is unreasonable, it must instead use the national average for electric utility operating companies to calculate an adjusted return on investment.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB2868	2/14/2025	UtilitiesElectric	Passed in House / In Senate Committee	5/21/2025
	Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to receive certain tax revenue derived from a hotel and convention center project and to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project.	Bumgarner, Ben		HB 3169 allows certain municipalities to receive and pledge tax revenue derived from hotel and convention center projects for debt repayment and development costs. The bill expands eligibility for this financing mechanism to additional municipalities based on population size and geographic criteria, enabling more cities to fund large-scale tourism and economic development projects.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB3169	2/21/2025	TaxationHotel, Motel Occupancy	Passed in House / In Senate Committee	5/21/2025
HB 3462	Relating to the use or purchase or other acquisition of property under the Public Property Finance Act.	Hunter, Todd	R	HB 3462 amends the Texas Local Government Code to expand the authority of governmental agencies to enter into contracts for the use, purchase, or acquisition of real property under the Public Property Finance Act. Previously, these provisions applied only to school districts, but the bill broadens the scope to include all governmental entities. It requires a 60-day public notice before approving such contracts and allows voters to petition for a referendum if at least five percent of registered voters in the jurisdiction request one. The bill also increases the maximum contract term from 25 years to 35 years and clarifies that obligations under these contracts are not considered payment of indebtedness under the Texas Tax Code if they are paid through previously approved maintenance taxes or other non-ad valorem tax sources. Additionally, lease-purchase contracts must be reviewed by the Texas Attorney General for validity. The bill applies only to contracts entered into on or after September 1, 2025.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi llLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB3462	2/27/2025	Property InterestsReal Property	Passed in House / In Senate Committee	5/12/202
HB 3462	Relating to the regulation of state banks.	Lambert, Stan		HB 3804 revises the regulatory framework for state banks in Texas. It modifies the definition of a "deposit" in the Finance Code to clarify what constitutes a deposit liability for financial institutions. The bill also updates exemptions from acquisition approval requirements for certain bank transactions, including those involving controlling persons and transactions occurring by will, intestate succession, or operation of law. Additionally, it expands the restrictions placed on banks under supervision by the Banking Commissioner, prohibiting asset transactions, lending, incurring debt, leadership changes, or any other actions that could threaten the bank's stability without prior approval. These changes are aimed at strengthening oversight and maintaining the financial soundness of state banks.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB3804		FinancialBanks	Passed in House - Out of Committee in Senate	5/12/202
	Relating to prohibited activities of a state trust company under supervision.	Lambert, Stan		HB 3806 strengthens regulatory oversight of state trust companies under supervision. It expands the list of restricted activities for a trust company during a period of supervision, prohibiting asset transactions, debt incurrence, changes to executive leadership, and other actions deemed to threaten the financial stability of the institution. The bill ensures that supervised trust companies cannot engage in activities that could further endanger their financial position without prior approval from the Banking Commissioner.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB3806	3/5/2025	FinancialGeneral	Passed in House - Out of Committee in Senate	5/15/202

HB 3954	Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to receive certain tax revenue derived from a hotel and convention center project and to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project.		D	HB 3954 expands the eligibility of municipalities to receive tax revenue from hotel and convention center projects and to pledge tax revenue for debt obligations related to these projects. It updates Section 351.152 of the Tax Code to include additional municipalities that meet specific population and geographic criteria, allowing them to participate in the revenue-sharing program for tourism-related economic development.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi llLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB3954		TaxationHotel, Motel Occupancy	Passed in House / In Senate Committee	5/21/2025
	Relating to the collection of consumer debt incurred by certain individuals as a result of identity theft.	Meyer, Morgan	R	HB 4238 strengthens consumer protections for identity theft victims by prohibiting creditors and debt collectors from attempting to collect debts if the victim provides evidence that the debt was incurred due to identity theft. The bill requires debt collectors to cease collection efforts, notify reporting agencies, and prohibit the resale of disputed debts. Creditors may still enforce security interests (e.g., repossessing secured property) but cannot collect deficiency balances from identity theft victims.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi llLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB4238	3/10/2025	CrimesAgainst PersonsGeneral	Passed in House & Senate / Amendments Analysis Distributed	5/20/2025
	Relating to creation of a school district by detachment of territory from an existing school district.	Geren, Charlie	R	HB 5089 modifies the process for creating a new school district by detaching territory from an existing district. It transfers authority over the detachment process from county commissioners courts to the State Board of Education (SBOE), increases the percentage of registered voters required to petition for detachment from 10% to 20%, and shifts decision-making on property, debt allocation, and trustee appointments to the SBOE.	<u>http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi</u> <u>llLookup/History.aspx?Leg</u> <u>Sess=89R&amp;Bill=HB5089</u>		EducationSchool Districts	Placed on General State Calendar	5/15/2025
	Relating to a temporary moratorium on the imposition of an impact fee.	Dyson, Paul	R	HB 5489 imposes a temporary moratorium on the imposition of impact fees by political subdivisions from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2029. However, impact fees pledged before September 1, 2025, for debt payments remain enforceable.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi llLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB5489		Political Subdivisions	Placed on General State Calendar	5/15/2025

Annexation									
HB 2494	Relating to disannexation of certain areas of a municipality for failure to provide services.		R	HB 2494 strengthens the process for residents of an annexed area to petition for disannexation if a municipality fails to provide promised services. The bill amends the Local Government Code to allow a majority of qualified voters in an area to initiate disannexation proceedings if the municipality does not provide services within the timeframe specified in the annexation service plan or agreement. It expands eligibility for disannexation petitions to areas annexed under multiple subchapters of the annexation code, including those annexed without proper compliance with statutory procedures. If a municipality fails to disannex the area within 60 days after receiving a valid petition, any petitioner may file suit in district court, which must expedite the case. If the court finds that the municipality failed to meet its service obligations or did not act in good faith, it must issue an order disannexing the area and awarding attorney's fees to the petitioners. The bill also revises public notification requirements for disannexation petitions, mandating that they be posted in three public places for 10 days and published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 15 days before signature collection begins.	http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi llLookup/History.aspx?Leg Sess=89R&Bill=HB2494	2/5/2025	City GovernmentAnnexation	Out of Committee - Laid on table subject to call	5/14/202
HB 2512	Relating to release of an area from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.	Geren, Charlie	R	HB 2512 provides a process for residents and property owners to petition for removal from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The bill expands eligibility for ETJ removal to areas within 15 miles of a military base, areas designated as industrial districts, and areas covered by development agreements with municipalities. It also allows ETJ removal for areas within a city's certificate of convenience and necessity for water service.	<u>http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi</u> <u>IILookup/History.aspx?Leg</u> <u>Sess=89R&amp;Bill=HB2512</u>		City GovernmentAnnexation	Out of House Committee - In Senate Committee - Scheduled for public hearing on 05/22/25	5/22/2025
HB 3897	Relating to territory in an emergency services district that is annexed by a municipality.	Bell Jr., Cecil	R	HB 3897 modifies the process for disannexing emergency services district (ESD) territory when a municipality annexes the land. The bill requires municipalities to demonstrate their ability to provide equal or better emergency services before an ESD board can approve disannexation. If the board does not respond within 30 days of receiving notice from the municipality, the disannexation is automatically approved.	<u>http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi</u> <u>IILookup/History.aspx?Leg</u> <u>Sess=89R&amp;Bill=HB3897</u>	3/6/2025	Special Districts & Authorities Miscellaneous	Placed on General Calendar	5/15/2025
HB 4449	Relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages in areas annexed by certain municipalities.	Smithee, John	R	HB 4449 changes local alcohol sales laws by allowing newly annexed areas in certain municipalities to assume the same wet or dry status as the rest of the municipality. It applies specifically to municipalities in counties containing portions of U.S. Highways 60 and 87 with populations over 12,000.	<u>http://capitol.texas.gov/Bi</u> <u>IlLookup/History.aspx?Leg</u> <u>Sess=89R&amp;Bill=HB4449</u>	3/11/2025	Alcoholic Beverage Regulation	Passed the House Committee - Referred to Senate Committee	5/19/2028

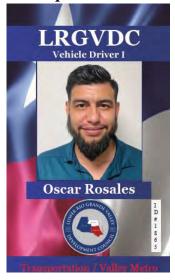
Legend	
Debt	
Annex	
Republican	
Democrat	
Sent to Governor	
Passed in initial	
committee and	
most have passed	
on House floor	
Hasn't been	
brought up for a	
vote on the house	
floor	
Hasn't moved	
since referred or	
left pending in	
committee	

## ADMINISTRATION MAY NEW HIRES

### **New Hires**

Hire Date : May 12, 2025,

Oscar Rosales Vehicle Driver I Transportation – Valley Metro



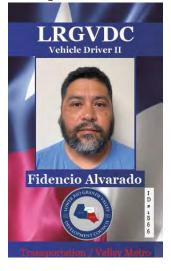
Hire Date May 12, 2025,

Juan Ruiz Vehicle Driver II Transportation – Valley Metro



Hire Date May 12, 2025

Fidencio Alvarado Vehicle Driver II Transportation- Valley Metro



Hire Date May 12, 2025

Crystal Valdez CSR II- Outreach C&ED

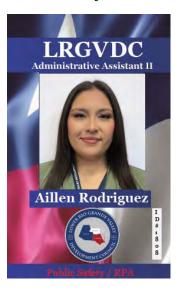


### **Promotions & Transfers**

Hire Date May 12, 2025

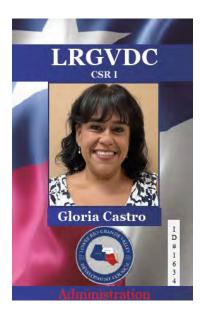
#### **Promotion :**

Aillen Rodriguez Administrative Assistant II Public Safety



Lateral Transfer May 12, 2025

Gloria Castro CSR I Administration



## ITEM #5. A. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

#### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Status Reports

#### • Economic Development Administration

The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (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 <u>vramos@lrgvdc.org</u>.

The next EDAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 10, 2025, at 10:00 AM, via hybrid.

Staff are currently administering the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation's EDA award project, which involves the development of approximately 5.3 acres designated for a detention pond. This project will include the construction of roughly 1,130 square yards of parking lot area and approximately 320 linear feet of drainage piping. Additionally, a foot-hike and bike trail extending around 2,900 linear feet will be integrated around the pond. It is anticipated that this project will generate approximately 300 jobs and retain around 115 positions, with an estimated private investment of \$4 million. This project commenced with construction on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

Staff continue to engage with city officials to explore potential EDA projects, providing valuable insights that will assist in the preparation of applications for submission. Additionally, we have shared useful resources and tips to facilitate their registration in the new EDA EDGE portal for those interested in applying for EDA funding. Staff will continue to work with these municipalities to develop a plan to guide them in their city's needs. Through our partnerships with Texas A&M Prairie View and UTSA Institute for Economic Development, we have discussed these projects with them, and they too will be assisting us develop plans of actions for these communities.

Staff are available to offer technical assistance, project development, and grant administration for EDA proposals and projects. For any inquiries or information on EDA, please contact the Community & Economic Development Department. We also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to share information as needed. Additionally, our team coordinates with other governmental entities on economic development activities to maximize the benefits of all projects and objectives in the region and to avoid any duplication of efforts and resources. For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <u>https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/</u>.

LRGVDC appreciates the ongoing commitment to closing the digital divide and fostering economic opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley! The efforts play a crucial role in helping connect communities and providing access to essential resources. We're excited about collaborating to implement the successful launch of the RGV Broadband Plan and make a real difference together in the lives of those we serve. Let's get started! Visit the LRGVDC Economic Development webpage, <u>https://www.lrgvdc.org/business.html</u> for RGV Broadband Coalition Resources (RGV Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan, Promotional Toolkit, & RGV Broadband Coalition).

#### • <u>Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)</u>

This summer the CED department will be planning an in person Annual RSCC meeting. The topics of interest for our small cities include water, transportation, and other vital resources that will benefit our cities. To allow enough time for planning, a save-the-date announcement will be sent out next month. This meeting will be held on July 22, 2025, in the Ken Jones Board Room at 9:00 AM. More details to come soon.

Staff continue to disseminate vital information to small cities via email. If you have questions, you may contact Brenda Salinas <u>bsalinas@lrgvdc.org</u>

#### • <u>Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund</u>

Staff are actively engaged in executing the designated technical assistance activities for TxCDBG-eligible localities within our operational region, ensuring adherence to program compliance. We are committed to continuously disseminating pertinent program information to keep these communities well-informed. Additionally, we promote Fair Housing initiatives, support the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and facilitate grant kick-off meetings for communities that have been awarded funding.

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

#### • Solid Waste Management Program

Staff members continue to actively engage with tire participants and tire vendors to thoroughly collect all pertinent data from the tire event conducted in April. This collaborative initiative entails reaching out to participants, inventory information, and other essential metrics that will yield valuable insights. We highly appreciate the cooperation of all stakeholders involved, as their contributions are vital for improving future initiatives. As we work to compile the results regarding the tires collected and recycled, we anticipate sharing these accomplishments with the community. Further information will be forthcoming.

#### Cameron County Solid Waste Project - 25-21-01

Cameron County utilized a \$30,000 Solid Waste Grant to acquire a forklift specifically for tire collection efforts. County staff reported that the forklift is rotated weekly among precincts, enhancing the efficiency of tire collection. The program has been highly successful, with staff expressing appreciation for the support it has provided. Additionally, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) advised Cameron County that, in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) contract results must continue to be submitted for one year following the conclusion of the grant.





The Tire Study conducted for our region emphasized the importance of developing a regional tire ordinance to support cities and counties in addressing tire-related challenges. In response, staff has distributed a draft of the ordinance to the Tire

Subcommittee and the SWAC Committee for final review and feedback. It is important to note that the ordinance is not intended for enforcement by LRGVDC but rather serves as a valuable tool to assist each community in managing tire-related concerns effectively. Once the details are finalized, the ordinance will be submitted to the LRGVDC Board for approval.



SCRAP

Staff are currently working on the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program with Region One Service Center to create a curriculum for middle school students that provides teachers with a comprehensive curriculum that covers the principles of composting, its environmental benefits, and the importance of sustainable waste management. Due to a Region One curriculum development issue, LRGVDC staff had a virtual meeting with Texas State Institute regarding the development of a food composting curriculum for middle school students. Region One staff member was on virtual and is working collectively with the LRGVDC to get a workable curriculum for our partnering school's educators and students.

We anticipate completing the curriculum by the end of July. This timeline allows staff to incorporate valuable feedback and makes any necessary adjustments to deliver a comprehensive educational framework that will benefit all participants. The schools participating in are Mission, Raymondville, Los Fresnos, Mercedes ISD, and Rio Hondo. The objective is to fully implement the curriculum by September 2025.

The next Virtual Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be on June 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM via GoToMeeting platform.

Staff continue to provide technical assistance, outreach, and monitoring for all Solid Waste Projects. Information about the Solid Waste program is available at <a href="http://www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html">www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html</a>.

#### • Air Quality Program

The Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality project has officially commenced and is currently in progress. The following next steps are being undertaken as part of the project: 1) Developing stationary source PM2.5 and PM2.5 precursor emission inventories for Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, 2) Analyzing available ambient air monitoring data in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties for current and historical PM2.5, 3) Developing a stationary source PM2.5 air dispersion modeling inventory for Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, 4) Preparing and submitting draft and final reports summarizing the work generated from the study.

Project progress to date: The consultant, ALL4 reviewed TCEQ's New Source Review (NSR) database, the State of Texas Air Reporting System (STARS), U.S. EPA's Clean Air Markets Program Database (CAMPD), and the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) to identify all permitted facilities within Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. Additionally, they have received the Air Permits Allowable Database (APAD) data and have begun to review/supplement this data with information retrieved from TCEQ's Central File Room Online (CFRO). For permits and sources that were not included in APAD, and APAD sources without emissions rates or stack parameters, a review of electronic files in the CFRO is being conducted to fill in data gaps to have a complete model-ready emissions inventory. In addition, ALL4 acquired comprehensive meteorological data to facilitate thorough review and analysis within the framework of the modeling protocol. ALL4 downloaded 5 years of pre-processed meteorological data (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2021) from TCEQ for the McAllen International Airport meteorological station. As part of the data analysis, ALL4 is reviewing the data for completeness and conducting quality assurance before using the data in modeling iterations.

Staff will maintain ongoing oversight of this project, actively collaborating with the consulting firm, ALL4 LLC. This partnership will ensure that all project requirements are consistently met as stipulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and will continue to regularly communicate monthly with representatives from TCEQ regarding this project.

#### • South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)

The next STC4 meeting will be on June 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM via GoToMeeting platform.

LRGVDC staff had a virtual call with NRAL, company partners, to Clean Cities Coalition, regarding the possibility of small funding for staff to help us reach full-fledged Coalition status. Application period should start in June 2025 and LRGVDC staff will work with NRAL to get application completed and submitted.

#### • Water Quality Program

Staff remain dedicated to facilitating meetings with water investors to support innovative water projects aimed at addressing the region's drought needs. We continue to conduct several introductory meetings to engage local stakeholders, including water board members, drainage and irrigation districts, and water producers, to explore potential projects and provide necessary outreach. We are also attending workshops such as 15th Annual Rio Grande Valley Emergency Management Partners Hurricane Workshop to engage and network with attendees.

Staff continue to actively educate the public on water quality issues through a variety of outreach initiatives. 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: <u>Community & Economic Development | Facebook</u>, LRGVDC Facebook: <u>Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | Weslaco TX | Facebook</u>





Beyond social media, our outreach efforts extend to in-person events. The department has welcomed a new Customer Service Rep, who will take charge of community engagement. This role will significantly enhance our education and outreach efforts, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) program and strengthen our connection with the community. At these events, we share valuable information and promote awareness about water quality through reading materials and promotional items, along with all other department functions.

Staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (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 the importance of it to the region. Visit our Water Resource webpage at: <u>https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html</u>

#### • <u>Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)</u>

The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <u>https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html</u>

#### • <u>Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)</u>

A hybrid public hearing was held on May 22, 2025, at 2:00 pm, at the Ken Jones Board Room and via GoToMeeting, for the RGRWPG approved and adopted Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) for the Rio Grande 2026 Regional Water Plan.

**The RGRWPG is accepting comments on the IPP at the Public Hearing or in writing until July 22, 2025**. The RGRWPG will consider all submitted comments and documentation of submitted comments. The RGRWPG's responses will be provided to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The public can submit written comments to: Jim Darling, Chairman Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group, 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596 or Email : Outreach\_RegionM@BlackandVeatch.onmicrosoft.com

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

For any Region M meeting information, please visit website: <u>http://riograndewaterplan.org or https://www.lrgvdc.org/</u>

• Reservoir Levels as of May 15, 2025 (www.IBWC.gov)

See charts below.

#### RESERVOIR Amistad Reservoir 5000 2,000 4500 1,800 **Total Conservation** 4000 1.600 3500 3000 Colpic Meters 2000 2000 1500 1,400 1,200 W2 W2 U2 Keleases 800,1 **U.S. Conservation Capacity** Mex. Conservation Capacity

Feb-2025 Mar-2025 Apr-2025 May-2025 Jun-2025 Jul-2025 Aug-2025 Sep-2025 Oct-2025 Nov-2025 Dec-2025

-Mex. Ownership

-U.S. Ownership

AMISTAD

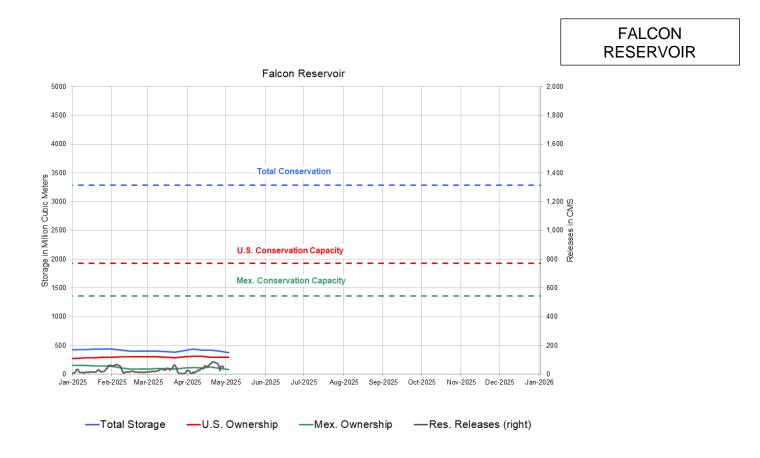
1000

500

0

Jan-2025

—Total Storage



600

400

200

0

Jan-2026

-Res. Releases (right)

# ITEM # 5. B. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

#### Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item...... Margarita Lopez, Director

1. Consideration and **Action** to approve the Letter of Support on behalf of the LRGVDC Board of Directors for congressional offices addressing the proposed FY 2026 federal budget impacts to Older Americans Act programs.

This action item stems from a request made by the LRGVDC Board of Directors during last month's board meeting. The Board requested a formal Letter of Support to be sent to congressional offices to advocate against the proposed FY 2026 federal budget cuts impacting Older Americans Act programs, Medicaid HCBS, and Adult Protective Services.

Date:

#### To: The Honorable Members of Congress

#### United States Senate and House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Subject: Unified Support to Protect and Strengthen Old Americans Act (OAA), Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and Adult Protective Services (APS) Amid FY2026 Federal Restructuring

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)—which administers the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties in Texas—we write to express our strong concerns regarding proposed changes to the Fiscal Year 2026 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget that would negatively impact services to the elderly and most vulnerable population.

The LRGVDC AAA is one of 28 Area Agency on Aging programs designated in Texas and serves as a critical link in the statewide Aging Network under the OAA. The proposed restructuring, if enacted, would dismantle core elements of the aging and disability service infrastructure that has supported our elderly and region since it was enacted by Congress in 1967.

Specifically, the draft budget would negatively impact services as follows:

Fragment the OAA by moving programs away from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), undermining the integrity and coordination of the Aging Network. Eliminate essential programs such as:

- Title III-D: Health Promotion & Disease Prevention.
- Title VII: Elder Rights and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA): Medicare benefits counseling.
- ADRC funding: Critical for respite, housing navigation, and Medicare benefits counseling.
- Cut nearly \$900 billion from Medicaid, jeopardizing Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) that enables aging in place and eliminate funding for Adult Protective Services (APS), leaving vulnerable older adults unprotected.

This would hinder our ability to conduct outreach and deliver services, as we employ staff that's strategically placed to cover our entire region. We maintain a vital presence in medical facilities, including hospitals and clinics, throughout the region.

#### In FY 2023–2024, the LRGVDC delivered services to 11,165 older adults and caregivers:

#### Cameron County: 4,532 - Hidalgo County: 6,155 - Willacy County: 395 - Other: 83

We also routinely assist residents from outside our tri-county region who contact our offices in Weslaco and Harlingen.

The elimination of these programs would directly harm our most vulnerable residents, threatening their ability to age safely at home and placing additional pressure on institutional care systems. The potential impacts also extend to our workforce and economy, threatening staffing and outreach capacity across the region.

We have seen firsthand the vital role of these services. The Ombudsman Program has prevented unsafe discharges, protected residents from abuse and exploitation, and ensured that medically fragile adults retain access to care and dignity. These are not theoretical risks—they are daily realities that our team works to resolve. We respectfully request and highly urge Congress to:

- Keep all OAA programs unified under ACL, as per original statutory intent.
- Reject the elimination of Titles III-D and VII, SHIP, MIPPA, and ADRC funding.
- Protect and increase Medicaid HCBS allocations.
- Preserve and expand APS.
- Provide necessary increases to Titles III-B, III-E, and Title VI to meet rising local needs.

We have enclosed supporting documents that include regional data, personal testimonials, and national advocacy briefs to further illustrate the urgent need for congressional support. These documents reflect the lived experiences of older adults and caregivers in our region, and the indispensable nature of the services your decisions uphold.

In advance, we thank you for your service and your commitment to your constituents. I hope you will support and urge your colleagues to support and FY2026 funding bill that includes protection or increases funding for critical OAA and other aging programs. The LRGVDC Board of Directors stands ready to collaborate in defense of aging services that reflect our community's values and needs.

Sincerely,

Name

President, LRGVDC Board of Directors



#### Exhibit A: Executive Summary – FY2026 Impact on AAA & ADRC Programs

Executive Summary - FY2026 Proposed Impact on AAA and ADRC Programs

This summary outlines the anticipated effects of the FY2026 federal budget proposals:

- ✓ Proposed restructuring under CMS, ACF, and ASPE threatens AAA and ADRC alignment.
- ✓ Title III B and E may lose associated state matching funds.
- ✓ Title III D: Health Promotion programs may be fully eliminated.
- ✓ Title VII: Elder Rights and Ombudsman support may be significantly cut.
- ✓ MIPPA and SHIP: Proposed for full elimination.
- ✓ ADRC elimination threatens housing navigation, respite, and options counseling.
- ✓ Senior Centers and meal programs may face disruption.



### LRGVDC - Health and Human Services Current Impact to HHS Services Report



# Summary: FY2026 Proposed Impact on Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

This summary provides an overview of the anticipated impacts of the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget proposals on AAA and ADRC programs, teams, and funding structures.

# **Key Impacts:**

- Major federal restructuring under Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) realignment.
- Title III B Supportive Services and Title III E Caregiver Support are at risk; loss could eliminate associated SGR state matching funds.
- Health Promotion (Title III D) programs are proposed for full elimination.
- Elder Rights (Title VII) funding faces significant cuts, weakening Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention efforts.
- HICAP and MIPPA programs are slated for full elimination, resulting in a loss of Medicare benefits counseling services.
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) will be eliminated, impacting navigation, housing assistance, and respite services.
- Nutrition services (Title III C-1 and C-2) and NSIP funding are expected to continue but could face administrative disruptions.
- Senior Centers reliant on Title III B may also face operational challenges if Title III B funding shifts under CMS realignment.

# **Critical Observations:**

- Loss of Title III E jeopardizes both caregiving support services and matching SGR funding.
- ADRC elimination dismantles a core access point for public information, referrals, and care navigation.
- The risk extends not only to services but to departmental staffing and operational sustainability if federal realignment is finalized.

While these changes are still proposals pending Congressional approval, the risks to Area Agency on Aging and ADRC services are significant. Continued advocacy and strategic planning will be essential to mitigate impacts, protect essential services, and realign operations as needed.



# Programs and Services Overview: LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Below is an overview of key programs and services under the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging and related elder and health support initiatives:

- Title III B
  - Supportive Services for older adults, including transportation, legal assistance, and in-home services.
- Title III C-1
  - Congregate Meals Program, providing nutritious meals in group settings such as senior centers.
- Title III C-2
  - Home-Delivered Meals Program, delivering meals directly to homebound older adults.
- Title III D
  - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention services, including exercise programs, health screenings, and chronic disease management.

# • Title III E

- National Family Caregiver Support Program, providing services and supports for family caregivers of older adults.
- NSIP (Nutrition Services Incentive Program)
  - Provides additional funding to enhance nutrition services such as meal programs for seniors.
- Title VII Elder Abuse Prevention (EAP)
  - Programs designed to prevent, detect, and respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

## • Title VII - Ombudsman Program (OM)

• Advocates for residents of nursing homes, board and care homes, and assisted living facilities to resolve complaints and ensure quality of care.

# • SGR (State General Revenue)

- o State funding support for supplemental aging services and programs.
- HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program)
  - Provides free and unbiased Medicare counseling and advocacy to beneficiaries.
- Ombudsman ALF (Assisted Living Facilities)
  - Specialized ombudsman advocacy services tailored to assisted living facility residents.
- MIPPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act)
  - o Programs that help low-income Medicare beneficiaries access benefits and preventive services.



# Funding Sources and Services Overview: LRGVDC Aging and Disability Resource Center

The LRGVDC Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) receives funding from various sources to support critical programs and services. Below is a list of primary funding sources for ADRC activities:

# • SGR (State General Revenue)

- Provides state funds to support general operations and services of the Aging and Disability Resource Center.
- Housing Navigator
  - Funding to assist older adults and individuals with disabilities in finding stable and appropriate housing options.

# • Promoting Independence

• Supports initiatives that help individuals live independently in the community, avoiding institutionalization.

# • Local Contact Agency (LCA)

- Funds activities that help nursing facility residents who wish to return to community living, by providing counseling and transition assistance.
- MIPPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act)
  - Provides outreach and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries to access benefits and preventive services.

# • Respite

• Funds support short-term relief services for caregivers of older adults and individuals with disabilities



# Departments and Matching Funding Sources LRGVDC Health and Human Services

# Area Agency on Aging and Aging Disability Resource Center

This chart provides a quick-reference overview of LRGVDC Health and Human Services departments, teams, and the funding sources that support each program and service.

Department/Team	Funding Sources
Case Management Team	<ul> <li>Title III B: Care Coordination <ul> <li>(Health Maintenance, Home Maker, Residential Repair, Transportation, DME)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Title III E: Caregiver Support <ul> <li>(Respite, Health Maintenance,)</li> </ul> </li> <li>SGR: Matches Title III E Programs</li> </ul>
Benefit Counseling Team	<ul> <li>HICAP: Health Insurance Counseling</li> <li>MIPPA: Medicare Benefits Assistance</li> <li>Title III B: Partial Administrative Support</li> </ul>
CTI Team	<ul> <li>Title III D: Primary Support</li> <li>Title III B: Supplemental Support</li> </ul>
BRI Team	- Title III E: Caregiver Support Services
IR&A Team	- Title III B: Information, Referral, and Assistance Activities
Ombudsman Team	<ul> <li>Title VII EAP: Elder Abuse Prevention</li> <li>Title VII OM: Ombudsman Program</li> <li>Ombudsman ALF: Volunteer Ombudsman Support</li> </ul>

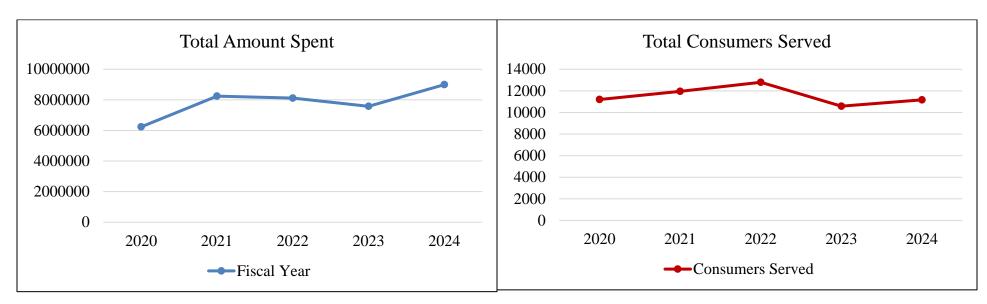


	- Title III B: Supplemental Support
Nutrition Program Team	<ul> <li>Title III C-1: Congregate Meals</li> <li>Title III C-2: Home-Delivered Meals</li> <li>NSIP: Nutrition Incentive Support</li> </ul>
Senior Centers	- Title III B: Senior Center Operations
ADRC Services	<ul> <li>SGR</li> <li>Housing Navigator</li> <li>Promoting Independence</li> <li>Local Contact Agency</li> <li>MIPPA: Medicare Assistance</li> <li>Respite Services</li> </ul>



# Health and Human Services Program Impact in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

This chart provides an overview of funds spent and individuals served by year, including supplemental services provided.



Fiscal Year:	Amount Spent:	Consumers Served:	Supplemental Funding Received:
2020	\$6,234,827	11,200	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
2021	\$8,242,734	11,957	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
2021	\$0,242,734	11,957	COVID Funding
2022	\$8,115,648	12,795	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding
2022	\$6,115,046	12,795	American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding
2023	\$7,580,038	10,581	American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding
2024	\$8,995,169	11,165	American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding
2025	\$4,619,254	6,966	



# Impact Overview: FY2026 Proposal – AAA and ADRC

This handout reflects the impacts to AAA and ADRC services under the proposed FY2026 restructuring, including the loss of State General Revenue (SGR) and administrative functions tied to eliminated programs.

Department/Team	Program/Service	Impact Status	Notes
Case Management Team	Title III B - Supportive Services	🛕 At Risk	Due to the dismantle of ACL, At risk depending on CMS restructuring, SGR match could be lost if eliminated.
Case Management Team	Title III E - Caregiver Support	🛕 At Risk	Due to the dismantle of ACL, Disruptions expected due to CMS redistribution, SGR dependent on this program.
Case Management Team	SGR - State General Revenue	🛕 At Risk	State matching funds depend on continuation of Title III E programs.
Benefit Counseling Team	HICAP - Health Insurance Counseling	X Eliminated	Counseling and advocacy services eliminated under SHIP cut.
Benefit Counseling Team	MIPPA - Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act	X Eliminated	Funding for Medicare outreach eliminated.
Benefit Counseling Team	Title III B - Partial Admin Support	X Eliminated	Admin support eliminated with loss of core counseling services.
CTI Team	Title III D - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	X Eliminated	Program eliminated; minimal preventive health services transferred to CMS.
CTI Team	Title III B - Supplemental Support	🗙 Eliminated	Supplemental support eliminated with loss of CTI Services.
BRI Team	Title III E - Caregiver Support	🛕 At Risk	Disruptions expected due to ACL redistribution, BRI dependent on this program.
IR&A Team	Title III B - Information, Referral & Assistance	🛕 At Risk	Services vulnerable if ADRC supports and Title III B adjustments occur.
Ombudsman Team	Title VII - Elder Abuse Prevention (EAP)	X Eliminated	Severe funding cuts anticipated; program weakened.
Ombudsman Team	Title VII - Ombudsman Program (OM)	X Eliminated	Reduced funding, advocacy efforts will weaken.



Ombudsman Team	Ombudsman ALF - Assisted Living Facilities	🗙 Eliminated	Volunteer support impacted by broader funding cuts.
Ombudsman Team	Title III B - Supplemental Support	🗙 Eliminated	Depends on the fate of Title III B funding continuity.
Nutrition Program Team	Title III C-1 - Congregate Meals	Continues	Nutrition services continue but administrative realignment possible under CMS/ACF/ASPE coordination.
Nutrition Program Team	Title III C-2 - Home-Delivered Meals	Continues	Meal delivery services continue possible under CMS/ACF/ASPE coordination.
Nutrition Program Team	NSIP - Nutrition Services Incentive Program	Continues	Incentive funds for nutrition services remain active possible under CMS/ACF/ASPE coordination.
Senior Centers	Title III B - Senior Center Operations	🔥 At Risk	Dependent on Title III B funding stability under CMS.
ADRC Services	SGR (for ADRC activities)	X Eliminated	SGR tied to ADRC eliminated activities; funding lost if ADRCs close.
ADRC Services	Housing Navigator	🗙 Eliminated	Eliminated with Aging and Disability Resource Centers.
ADRC Services	Promoting Independence	🗙 Eliminated	Eliminated with ADRC closure.
ADRC Services	Local Contact Agency	🗙 Eliminated	Eliminated under ADRC closure.
ADRC Services	MIPPA (under ADRC)	🗙 Eliminated	Eliminated with ADRC services.
ADRC Services	Respite Services (under ADRC)	🗙 Eliminated	Lost with ADRC program elimination.

Continues (under CMS or reorganization) A At Risk (disruptions likely) Eliminated (service/program terminated) \*\*Subject to final Congressional decisions anticipated by late 2025.\*\*



# Area Agency on Aging Consumers Served by County and Fiscal Year (FY)

County	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021-2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
Cameron	4,032	4,774	5,194	4,353	4,532	3,288
Hidalgo	6,347	6,770	7,183	5,796	6,155	3,830
Willacy	385	350	312	320	395	176
Total:	10,764	11,894	12,689	10,469	11,082	7,294
*Other	436	63	106	112	83	As of 5/19/2025
Grand Total	11,200	11,957	12,795	10,581	11,165	6,966
1000						As of 4/30/25

\*Other (includes assistance to individuals under 60 and services provided to cities outside our service counties)



## Exhibit B: Ombudsman Program Case Testimonials

- **Ombudsman Program Case Testimonials**
- Case 1: Prevented unsafe discharge for resident without benefits
- Case 2: Preserved care continuity for blind resident and son
- Case 3: Supported resident's request to return home
- Case 4: Resolved dialysis transport delays
- Case 5: Addressed verbal abuse by CNA and ensured reporting
- Case 6: Intervened in financial exploitation and coordinated APS response

\*These cases reflect the day-to-day impact and necessity of the Ombudsman Program for vulnerable seniors in institutional settings.



# **Ombudsman Program Case Testimonials**

### Case 1

**Intake Summary**: During the facility visit, I met with a resident, to introduce myself and provide information pertaining to the Ombudsman Program. The resident states that he has been issued with a 30-day discharge notice due to lack of non-payment as his insurance only covered a certain number of days. The resident states that he does not have applied income and that his brother is assisting him with getting the benefits that he needs. The resident stated that he would like to speak to his brother first before deciding to move forward with an appeal. Consent was provided to speak to his brother regarding this matter. Consent was also provided to speak to the administrator.

**Journal Entry** 1.) Prior to leaving the facility, I met with the administrator to address these concerns. Per the administrator, the resident is being discharged due to lack of non-payment as a result of not having medical benefits. Per the administrator, the facility will be taking him to the Social Security Administration to apply for Supplemental Security Income. Per the administrator, the resident does not have any form of social support as his family wants nothing to do with him and they have stopped answering calls. I will monitor this issue during the next facility visit.

**Journal Entry** 2.) I met with the resident to follow up on his pending discharge. Per the resident, the facility has taken him to the SSA Office to apply for medical coverage which is pending approval.

**Journal Entry** 3.) I was present during the appeal hearing with the Managing Local Ombudsman, Resident, and his brother. During the hearing, the administrator and business office manager attended via telephone call from a different office while I was in the conference room with the above-mentioned individuals. The administrator and business office manager presented their evidence packet and discussed discharging the resident due to lack of non-payment. In addition, the business office manager discussed her efforts in assisting the resident with applying for Social Security Income and how the resident is pending to be approved or denied.

I then presented my evidence packet and provided testimony regarding the facility wanting to discharge the resident unsafely as the resident does not have a payor source nor an adequate discharge location as the resident's significant other is 100% owner of the residence that the facility wants to discharge the resident to. The resident's significant other has voiced being unable to take care of the resident due to being medically ill herself. I explained to the hearing officer that there was no effort on part of the facility to attempt to relocate the resident safely to another facility, applying for low-income housing etc. I presented the Texas Administrative Code, Rule 554.502. I pointed out that as of now per the evidence packet, it is documented that the resident is MCD pending.

The resident's brother, then provided information on receiving a phone call from the Social Security Administration that the resident has already been approved to receive Social Security Income, in addition to also having the current status through his email to receive Social Security Income which he will be providing to the business office manager.

In conclusion, the hearing officer stated that he will have a decision made by 10/27/24.

**Journal Entry** 4.) I received an email from the hearing officer who stated that based on my evidence packet as an advocate, the resident is to remain at the facility where he will be safe and assisted with his medical/physical needs.



## Case 2

The facility informed the Ombudsman that they were discharging a resident due to a significant unpaid balance. She (resident) had been placed there as part of an APS case because of unsafe living conditions. The resident, who is blind and wheelchair-bound, was accompanied by her son, who has Down syndrome. The unpaid balance resulted from her Medicaid application being denied, and the only way she could qualify for coverage was by canceling her life insurance policies.

That same day, her friend—who is also her responsible party (RP)—contacted the Ombudsman to report that the facility was pressuring the resident to cancel her life insurance. The RP did not want to proceed with the cancellation. The Ombudsman informed her that without Medicaid coverage, the resident would not be able to remain at the facility and currently had no alternative housing. Initially, the RP said the resident could stay at her home but later changed her mind, stating she would not be able to accommodate her.

The following day, the Ombudsman spoke directly with the resident and informed her that she (resident) did not have a safe place to go for herself and her son. Given her blindness and daily care needs, the Ombudsman discussed the possibility of canceling her life insurance so that she could remain in the facility with her son. While her son had been approved for Medicaid and could stay, her own status remained unresolved. The Ombudsman also explained that if she were to leave, the facility would report the situation to APS, as it would not be considered a safe discharge. Additionally, the Ombudsman assured her that if she chose to leave, there was no guarantee that her son would be placed in the same facility with her.

She (resident) expressed that being with her son was her highest priority and emphasized how much he meant to her. After considering her options, she(resident) made the decision to stay at the facility and proceed with canceling her life insurance so that she and her son could remain together.

### Case 3

Ombudsman visited with resident who contacted her and asked her to visit him because he wanted to go home with his wife and the facility did not want to discharge him.

Ombudsman visited resident in the memory care unit and talked to him in his room. The resident was able to tell the ombudsman his wife's name and the reason why he was at the facility. He gave me consent to talk to the facility staff about his request and to contact his wife to let her know about the day he is going to be discharged.

I talked to DON (Director of Nursing) about resident, and he told me that he didn't see any issue with the discharge and told me that the resident is ready to go home but the SW (social worker) and administrator did not agree with him.

I then talked to the new administrator and explained to him the request the resident made about going home and explained to him the residents' right to live in a less restrictive place.

The administrator told me that they will talk to the doctor about the discharge paperwork. DON told me that there will not be any issue since the resident is very independent and only needs remaining to take his medication but since he is going home with the wife there is no issue.



DON tell me that the resident will be going home today or tomorrow morning.

Then I went back to talk to the resident and explain to him that he was going home today or tomorrow morning. He (the resident) thanked me and asked me to call his wife to let her know. I called the resident's wife and let her know about his discharge, she was very happy too.

Resident thanked the ombudsman for following up with him and that to the ombudsman the resident was able to go home.

### Case 4

During Ombudsman's monthly facility visit, the Ombudsman met with a resident to provide information pertaining to the Ombudsman Program. Per the resident, his dialysis starts at 5:30am and the ambulance comes for him at 6:00am. The resident added that due to his late arrivals to these appointments, the doctor has decreased the amount of time that the treatment is given and mentioned that his health is decreasing as an effect. The resident granted me verbal consent to address the issue with staff. Prior to leaving the facility, the ombudsman spoke to the administrator of the nursing facility to inform him that it is the facility's responsibility to provide reliable transportation. The following month, the Ombudsman met with the resident to follow up on his previous transportation concern. Per the resident, he was satisfied with the assistance provided and mentioned that, thanks to the Ombudsman, the nursing facility has improved, and he is now getting to his appointments on time. Per the resident, his treatment is now more effective.

### Case 5

Mid-April the Ombudsman received a call from a certified nursing assistant (CNA) stating that she had witnessed verbal abuse from a CNA to a nursing facility resident. Per the CNA, when she attempted to report her findings, the nursing facility fired her instead. The Ombudsman provided the individual with information pertaining to the Ombudsman Program and thanked her for reaching out. Upon learning this information, the Ombudsman visited the affected resident that same day. Per the resident, there is a CNA that calls her names such as "gorda" (fat) that makes her feel bad about herself. Additionally, the resident mentioned that this CNA is very inappropriate and unprofessional with her. After learning that the resident has yet to voice this concern with staff, the Ombudsman gathered verbal consent to speak with staff so that they can act on this issue. After speaking with the resident, the Ombudsman met with the nursing facility's administrator and director of nursing to inform them of the concerning verbal abuse and to remind them that, under the Texas Administrative Code, it is within the facility's due diligence to self-report any allegations or abuse, neglect, and exploitation to the appropriate sources no later than 24 hours after the allegation. 30 minutes after this conversation, the Ombudsman received an email with the confirmation intake number stating that the nursing facility had self-reported to the Long-Term Care Regulation. The following month, the Ombudsman met with the resident to follow up on the verbal abuse case. Per the resident, thanks to the ombudsman received for her.



### Case 6

On February 27, the Ombudsman attended a resident council meeting where she was approached by a distressed resident begging that she did not want to go back to the community because her sister had previously abandoned her and is now afraid that she will do so again. Per the resident, her sister is the one in charge of her money and is refusing to pay the nursing facility for her stay. The resident provided the Ombudsman with verbal consent to speak with staff to resolve the issue. Upon speaking with the social worker and the administrator, I learned that the resident's sister does not cooperate with the nursing facility and has yet to provide them with the resident's Medicaid information. The ombudsman reminded them that, under the Texas Administrative Code, it is within the facility's due diligence to self-report any allegations or suspicion of abuse, neglect, and exploitation to the appropriate sources no later than 24 hours after the allegation. On March 3rd, the Ombudsman followed up with the social worker to check if the nursing facility had already self-reported this case to the Adult Protective Services. Per the Social Worker, the nursing facility had yet to self-report. Upon learning this information, the Ombudsman conducted a facility visit where meeting and assisting the resident was the goal. While providing guidance and support to the resident while she attempted to self-report her case to Adult Protective Services, the Ombudsman learned that the resident APS was unable to open a case because the resident failed to remember important information such as her social security and key information for her case. After this call, the Ombudsman informed the resident about her right to report to the nursing facility to the Long-Term Care Regulation. Upon gathering verbal consent to report the nursing facility, the Ombudsman acted and opened a case for financial exploitation. The following month, the Ombudsman met with the resident to follow up on the case. Per the resident, thanks to the ombudsman's assistance, the Long-Term Care Regulations visited the nursing facility, and the nursing facility self-reported this case to the Adult Protective Services. Additionally, the resident mentioned that, thanks to the Ombudsman's assistance, her issue with her sister not cooperating with the nursing facility was fixed and she no longer has to worry about getting a discharge letter for non-payment because the nursing facility is now the direct payee.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Report

The following document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's report for April 2025.

## • Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination April 2025

- The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 186 new clients.
- A total of 770 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
<b>Care Coordination Services</b>	186	768
Health Maintenance Services Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	0	0
Homemaker Services Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	0	2
<b>Transportation Services</b> Assistance with transportation services to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.	0	0
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	0	0

# • Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support April 2025

- The Caregiver Support Program provided a total of 57 new clients.
- A total of 350 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
<b>Caregiver Support Services</b>	41	240
<b>Respite In-Home Services</b> Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.	5	99
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	11	11

## Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant April 2025

- The CDBG Program serviced a total of 17 new clients.
- A total of 30 individuals were assisted with health maintenance services under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
<b>Community Development Block Grant</b> <b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	11	16
<b>Community Development Block Grant</b> <b>Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	6	14
<b>Community Development Block Grant</b> <b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	0	0

## • Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List April 2025

• As of May 2025, 1,517 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging. The increased demand is attributed to ongoing outreach and collaborative efforts across the Rio Grande Valley.

Direct Consumer Services Interest List			
Care Coordination Services 1,333			
Caregiver Support Services	184		
Grand Total 1,517			

# • Nutrition Program Report: April 2025

- The program successfully enrolled 32new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program and delivered 26,931 meals.
- Successfully enrolled 74 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Successfully served 23,149 Congregate meals.

Home Delivered Meals	Total New Clients	Total Meals Served
Amigos Del Valle	32	26,931
Congregate Meals	Total New Clients	Total Meals Served
Amigos Del Valle	8	14,427
Bright Nutrition	66	8,722
Total	74	23,149

# • Senior Center Operations Report – April 2025

- Program successfully enrolled 41 new clients.
  Senior Centers conducted 20,223 activities with their clients.

	Senior Center Operations		
Site	New Clients	Activities	
La Joya	0	2,214	
Los Fresnos	5	1,476	
Primera	0	780	
Rio Hondo	0	375	
Mission Housing Authority	1	561	
WellMed Charitable Foundation	35	14,817	
Total(s)	41	20,223	

# **Special Services Report**

# • Benefit Counselors Program – April 2025

• Achieved the enrollment of 114 new clients and established 227.5 contacts.

Benefit Counselors	Total New Clients	<b>Total Contacts</b>
HICAP Awareness	20	21.5
HICAP Assistance	19	51
MIPPA	42	81.75
Legal Awareness	0	0
Legal Assistance	33	73.25

\*HICAP: Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program \*MIPPA: Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act

## • Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – April 2025

- During April, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 65 new clients.
- $\circ~$  They made 282 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

CTI Coaches	Total New Clients	Total Clients Served
April 2025	65	282

\*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, and Mission Regional Medical Center

# • Ombudsman Program Report – April 2025

- The Ombudsman handled 36 complaints.
- They dedicated 126.85 activity hours and recorded 431 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 9 in-kind hours.

Ombudsman				
				Total Investigated Complaints
April 2025	9	126.85	431	36

## **Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

# • Information Referral & Assistance Report – April 2025

- The intake team had a total of 463 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- Engaged with 319 individuals, 314 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 5 individuals were 59 years of age and below, 318 are individuals with a disability and 15 are veterans.

IR&A Interactions			
1-800 AAA	8	Walk-ins	2
1-855 ADRC	3	E-mails	108
(956) 682-3481	138	Fax	2
(956) 412-0958	58	Follow ups	144
Total Interactions	463		

Consumer Age Group		
Consumers 60+ 314		
Consumer 59 and below	5	
Total Consumers	319	

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>		
Consumers with a Disability 318		
Veterans	15	

Top Call Topics	
Health Maintenance	81
Homemaker Services	81
Benefits Counseling	58
Respite Services	49
Residential Repairs	44

# • Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – April 2025

• During May, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 14 new caregivers and made 17 total contacts.

Caregivers Assisted		
Total New Clients     14		
Total Contacts	17	

# • ADRC Benefits Counseling Report – April 2025

- Engaged with a total of 80 individuals at community events, meetings, and coalitions.
- During outreach efforts, staff interacted with 4 Veterans.

Outreach Consumer Interactions		
Consumer Interactions	80	

<b>Outreach Consumer Interactions – Demographics</b>		
Consumers with a Disability 0		
Veterans 4		
Consumer is a Caregiver	0	

# • ADRC Housing Navigator Report – April 2025

- Assisted 7 consumers with housing inquiries.
- Actively participated in 2 events, meetings, and coalitions engaging with 34 individuals,
- During outreach activities interacted with 1 individual with a disability, 1 Veteran, and 2 individuals with a Caregiver.

Housing Intakes Total	
Total Consumers Assisted	7

Outreach Consumer Interactions	
Consumer Interactions	34

<b>Outreach Consumer Interactions – Demographics</b>				
Consumers with a Disability 1				
Veterans	1			
Consumer is a Caregiver	2			

# • ADRC Respite Services Report – April 2025

• During outreach activities I interacted with 31 individuals, 1 individual with a disability and 2 Veterans.

<b>Outreach Respite Consumer Interactions</b>		
Consumer Interactions	31	

Outreach Respite Consumer Interactions – Demographics				
Consumers with a Disability	1			
Veterans	2			
Consumer is a Caregiver	0			

# **ITEM # 5. C.**

PUBLIC SAFETY

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

## Wednesday, May 28, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety	Cesar Merla
·	Assistant Director

### Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on May 14, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended a webinar on May 15, 2025, in the Safety Summer Planning Building Stronger K-12 Emergency Plans.
- Staff hosted the Naloxone Training by Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas on May 23, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX, or hybrid setting.
- Staff will be participating on May 30, 2025, in the LRGVDC Police Academy conducted Active Shooter Training to prepare and respond and counter potential threats.

### Homeland Security Program

- Staff attended the webinar Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable on May 1, 2025
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on May 1, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff participated in the Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) Preparedness call on May 14, 2025, to increase knowledge on the Governor's Public Safety Office grant cycle information and safety.
- Staff attended the webinar on May 14, 2025, by Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) E-Learning: "The Intersection of Technology and Cognitive Health in Aging."
- Staff attended webinar on May 14, 2025, for the RGV Long Term Disaster Recovery Committee meeting to support recovery efforts from the March 26,2025.
- Staff hosted the RGV-ETAB Board meeting on May 15, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.

- Staff participated on the TEAMS virtual call on May 19, 2025, for the Biweekly Community Preparedness Council.
- Staff participated on May 21, 2025, on the National Weather Service (NWS) 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rio Grande Valley Emergency Management Partners' Hurricane Workshop at Knapp Medical Conference Center in Weslaco, Texas.
- Staff hosted the Rio Grande Regional Response Group meeting on May 21, 2025, at the LRGVDC Small Board room or in hybrid setting.
- Staff in collaboration with the City of Brownsville Office of Emergency Management hosted a Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Special Meeting on May 22, 2025, to review the grant application process in preparation for the next grant cycle. This meeting was held in Brownsville TX in person only.
- Staff will attend the webinar on May 29, 2025, by Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) E-Learning: "Protecting the Nest-Fighting Deed Fraud Against Older Americans."

# De-Escalation Training for Law Enforcement



Register: www.lemitonline.org/dtc

301 W. RAILROAD ST WESLACO, TEXAS 78596 BUILDING B

GRANDE

LOWER

DELEIOPMENT

# AVAILABLE AT NO COST

# June 26. 2025, 8AM - 5PM



# 8 HRS OF T, COLE 1849 CR EDIT

Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT), in partnership with the U.S. DOJ COPS Office and Blue Shield Tactical Systems, is pleased to offer eligible agencies a 1-day (8 hour) de-escalation training course.











# Save the Date and Register: August 12-14, 2025 8am-5pm Location: Knapp Medical Conference Center 1401 E 8th St, Weslaco, TX 78596

**Cost: FREE** 



ASIMA dvanced ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT MANAGEMENT



Register here https://forms.office.com/g/3aATULgLYu

# STOP THE KILLING. STOP THE DYING.®



This course provides **responders with the experience and confidence to manage an Active Shooter Event**, no matter their rank or assignment.

Active Shooter Incident Management Advanced is a 3-day comprehensive course using the ASIM Checklist integrated response process with eleven hands-on scenario exercises (using the multi-responder NIMSPro<sup>™</sup> 3D Simulation System). The course is appropriate for all ranks of law enforcement, fire, EMS, and dispatch. The course provides hands-on incident management experience for street responders and leaders alike. Participants are trained to integrate and manage a multi-discipline response to a full range of Active Shooter and hostile event threats, including Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA). The goal is simple — decrease the time to neutralize the threat and get injured to a hospital.

Participants learn and practice the following positions, functions, and scenarios:

### Training / ASIM Advanced

ASIM Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management with Complex Incidents (24 Hr)

**11** Full-scale Exercises

### 60

Participants 30 Law Enforcement 20 Fire / EMS 5 Dispatch 2 PIO 2 EM 1 Helicopter Pilot

3 Days / 5 Instructors

Exercise Tool <u>NIMSPro™</u>

- ASIM Checklist
   process
- First arriving LEO
- Contact Team
- Tactical Group Supervisor
- Staging Manager
- Casualty Collection
   Point
- Medical Branch

- Triage Group Supervisor
- Rescue Task Force (RTF)
- Transport Group
   Supervisor
- Ambulance Exchange
   Point
- Casualty (injured)
   Evacuation
- Law Enforcement
   Branch
- Intelligence/Investigative
   Section

- Victim Management and Reunification
- Incident Commander
- Communication
   Center Integration
- Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA) including multi-site and multiple attacker teams
- Active Shooter Event with IEDs
- Active Shooter Event with hostage/barricade

<u>ASIM Hosting</u> Requirements

Facility requirements and logistics for hosting ASIM Advanced inperson deliveries



### Active Shooter Incident Management Checklist A Validated Active

Shooter Checklist



## Safety Priority

Consider life safety of everyone when evaluating a tacitcal action



Register here https://forms.office.com/g/3aATULgLYu

We offer the best in Active Shooter Incident Management courses

conduct live training with up to 60 students utilizing NIMSPro<sup>™</sup> for hands-on scenarios. **NIMSPro<sup>™</sup>** is our professional grade 3D multi-responder simulation system that places everyone in the middle of the action! Dispatchers utilize a fully integrated CAD system to direct responders who work to neutralize threats, triage casualties, implement warm zone EMS care, treat and transport patients, establish perimeters, move and manage victims, and much more — all within to-scale photo realistic 3D environments of selected real world locations!

ASIMAdvanced Instructors utilize a no-fault, no-embarrassment coaching style to

® Stop the Killing, Stop the Dying is a registered trademark of Texas State University and is used with permission.



# SAVE THE DATE HOSTED AT THE MARGARITAVILLE HOTEL AT SOUTH PADRE ISLAND HOMELAND SECURITY STRONGER COMMUNITIES, ONF CHAPR ENFORCEMENT FIRE & EM PI 7 0 TIME RGV SERVICES CONFERENCE 26 S EPTEMBER 24 2025 DISASTER PREPARDNESS MEDICAL HAZMAT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS Since 1991 **\*TCOLE CREDIT PROVIDED BY THE LRGV ACADEMY** SCAN ME SCAN FOR \*BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOURS PROVIDED BY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS HOTEL REGISTRATION FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL: LISTO.RGV@LRGVDC.ORG

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# A BIG THANKYOU TO OUR EXHIBITORSAND VENDORS!















2025 2ND ANNUAL LRGVDC LISTO RGV CONFERENCE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025 AT SOUTH PADRE ISLAND MARGARITAVILLE





September 24-26, 2025

### Early Bird Registration: March 3-April 18, 2025

Payment is due no later than

August 30, 2025.

Please make checks payable to: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Attn:Finance Dept/Accounts Payable Listo RGV

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco TX 78596 501(c)(3)

For all payment questions, please contact: listo.rgv@lrgvdc.org

> Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, TX 78596

> (956) 682-3481 exts 411, 195, 177, 157 listo.rgv@lrgvdc.org

Special Accommodations available upon request. Please email listo.rgv@lrgvdc.org on accommodations needed

# LRGVDC Listo RGV Individual

# **Registration Sign Up**

MARGARITA VILLE BEACH RESORT SOUTH PADRE ISLAND 310 PADRE BLVD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX 78597

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Contact Person:		
Office Phone:	Cell Ph	one:
Contact Email:		

<u>\*TCOLE hours provided during conference hours, please have PID</u> information available during the conference

\*Mental health CEUs provided during conference hours, please have license number or registered email available during the conference

For registration total, please include the number of passes need:

\_\_\_\$75 – Early Bird Registration Pass

\_\_\_\$100 – Standard Registration Pass

Example: 2 Early Bird Passes x \$75 = \$150 Example: 3 Standard Passes x \$100 = \$300

One form per individual/group. Please send completed form to listo.rgv@lrgvdc.org

If paying for a group, please send this form along with a memo with first and last name of all attendees to listo.rgv@lrgvdc.org for confirmation.

Please Invoice

Check included in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Book you stay today at the Margaritaville Hotel and Resort at South Padre Island !

Click <u>Here</u> to book your stay! Or Scan the QR Code with your mobile device !



TRATIOPMENT COULD	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council LISTO (Ready) RGV Conference 2025 Payment Authorization Form					
	One form	Please comp n per individual/gro listo.rgv@			to	
		a group, please se l last name of all a				
Credit Card - Payme	ent Informa	ation				
Payment Type:  Mas	terCard Cash	□VISA		Discover	$\Box$ AMEX	
Cardholder Name (as	shown on c	ard):				
Card Number:			(	CVV		
Expiration Date (mm	/yy):	210 G	RAN	200		
Cardholder ZIP Code	(from credi	it card billing add	lress):	S. L.		
Cardholder Email Ad	dress:		-	NE		
Payment Amount:			lard Registr			
I additional 3% charge. Cardholder Initial:		acknowle	edge that a	ll credit card t	ransactions will incur an	
I, Council, Inc. to charg information will be sa For any questions or con information.	e my credit aved to file ncerns kindl	t card above for a for future transa y reach out to us y	agreed upo actions on via email at	on purchases. my account. listo.rgv@lrgv	I understand that my vdc.org for more	
Attendee/Group Name Point of Contact Email: Authorizing Person's Si				Date		



## G-288 LOCAL VOLUNTEER & DONATIONS MANAGEMENT

Wednesday June 4, 2025 8:30am-4:30pm

Thursday June 5 8am-12:30pm

Instructor: Leslie Sanchez Seaton Site Coordinator: Cesar Merla

Location: LRGVDC Executive Board Room at 301 W. Railroad St, Bldg B Weslaco, Texas 78596

# **Course** Description

The course is designed to strengthen the abilities of local jurisdictions to successfully prepare for and handle volunteer and donations management issues that may arise. The course content and activities may also serve as a template, thereby enhancing uniformity in addressing areas of donated unsolicited goods, unaffiliated volunteers, and undesignated cash. This training also provides information regarding the state's volunteer and donations management responsibilities, which are designed to help build relationships between government and nongovernmental organizations.

Learning Objectives

-Develop an effective public education and information structure to support the successful management of unaffiliated volunteers, unsolicited goods, and undesignated cash donations in disasters.

Identify how to effectively manage the surge of unsolicited goods.

-Gather information from organizations, agencies, volunteers, media, and others for donations intelligence purposes.

-Facilitate the matching of unaffiliated volunteers with appropriate organizations or agencies during program implementation.

-List the planning considerations for cash donations. Incorporate technology needed to successfully manage information on unaffiliated volunteers and unsolicited goods.

-Relate volunteer and donations management program responsibilities to the planning components of the annex.

-Identify key organizations and individuals who have a role in managing unaffiliated volunteers, unsolicited goods, and undesignated cash donations in disasters.

-Identify specific agencies and organizations and how they collaborate to form a Volunteer and Donations Coordination Team (VDCT).



 956-272-8443 or 956-405-2924
 leslie.sanchezseaton@tdem.texas.gov or cmerla@lrgvdc.org



# G-489 MANAGEMETN OF SPONTANEOUS VOLUNTEERS IN DISASTERS

Friday June 6, 2025 8am-4pm

Instructor: Leslie Sanchez Seaton Site Coordinator: Cesar Merla

Location: LRGVDC Executive Board Room at 301 W. Railroad St, Bldg B Weslaco, Texas 78596

# **Course** Description

This course introduces the skills and planning considerations required to manage large numbers of people who are not affiliated with an experienced relief organization, but who want to help in disasters. These helpers or spontaneous volunteers are generally well motivated and sincerely want to help, but if their efforts and resources are not coordinated effectively, they could be counterproductive, wasteful, and often place a strain on the disaster area.

Learning Objectives

- Identify issues and challenges in the management of spontaneous volunteers.
- Identify the elements of a spontaneous Volunteer Management Plan.
- Identify best practices for the management of spontaneous volunteers in disasters.
- Develop and implement a spontaneous Volunteer Management Plan.
- Explain the role of the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) and virtual VRC in the transition from response to recovery.

All course participants should be familiar with their own state and local government Emergency Operations Plan Annex, if one exists, on the use of spontaneous volunteers and volunteers affiliated with relief organizations.





# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday May 28, 2025

**Public Safety** 

## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas to accept the transfer of sixteen level 4 ballistic vests from the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.

The Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office no longer has a need to use ballistic vests. The vests have been designated as surplus equipment by Hidalgo County. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy currently does not have Level 4 ballistic vests in inventory.

If approved, the vests will be utilized for the implementation of active shooter and realitybased scenario training by Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy instructors and cadets.

### COUNTY OF HIDALGO

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 AND LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

§ § §

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made on and entered into, effective as of the <u>13th</u> day of <u>May 2025</u>, by and between COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS, by and through its HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLES PRECINCT 4, hereinafter referred to as ("County" or "Donor"), and the LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, hereinafter referred to as ("LRGVDC", "Organization" or "Donee"), collectively referred to as ("Parties"). The purpose of this MOU is for Donor to transfer surplus property as outlined in the attached Exhibit "A" to the Donee in accordance with Tex. Local Gov't. Code §263.152(a) (4).

#### WITNESSETH:

**WHEREAS,** the LRGVDC is a regional council of government and political subdivisions of the State of Texas and the County of Hidalgo;

**WHEREAS**, the County is a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS** the PARTIES listed above have a common goal to promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public and are desirous of entering into this MOU to collaborate for the public purposes indicated herein.

**WHEREAS** County is the owner/operator of the vest equipment outlined in the attached Exhibit "A", which are no longer needed by the County for any purpose;

**WHEREAS**, the County, through its Commissioners Court, hereby declares that the equipment outlined in the attached Exhibit "A" are surplus property in accordance with Tex. Local Gov't. Code §263.151(2);

**WHEREAS**, The County, through its Commissioners Court, hereby determines that the donation of said surplus County property identified in Exhibit "A" to Donee complies with the requirements of Tex. Local Gov't. Code §263.152(a) (4); and

**WHEREAS**, Donee will accept the donation of the bulletproof vest equipment identified in Exhibit "A."

MOU – Hidalgo Co. & LRGVDC (Donation of Bulletproof Vest Equipment) Page **1** of **7**  **NOW THEREFORE,** Donor and Donee in consideration of the mutual covenants expressed hereinafter, agree as follows:

- Surplus Property. In accordance with Tex. Local Gov't. Code §263.151(2), the County hereby declares that the items identified in the attached Exhibit "A" is surplus property, wherein the property (A) is not salvage property or items routinely discarded as waste;
   (B) is not currently needed by its owner; (C) is not required for the owner's foreseeable needs; and (D) possesses some usefulness for the purpose for which it was intended.
- 2. **Donation**. In accordance with Tex. Local Gov't. Code §263.152(a)(4), the County hereby finds that the transfer of the surplus items as identified in the attached Exhibit "A" to Donee complies with the requirements therein; wherein the donation is being made to a civic organization located in the County, undertaking to sell the property under §263.152(a)(1) would likely result in no bids or a bid price that is less than the county's expenses required for the bid process; the donation serves a public purpose, and the organization will provide the county with adequate consideration, such as relieving the county of transportation or disposal expenses related to the property.
- 3. **County Conveyance**. For value received, County conveys the surplus items identified in Exhibit "A" to Donee.
- 4. **Consideration**. In consideration for the donation of the surplus items as identified in Exhibit "A" to Donee by the County, Donee hereby agrees that the County shall have no financial or other responsibility for any relocation and transportation expenses related to the surplus items as identified in Exhibit "A", and Donee shall be responsible for the relocation and transportation of the same within forty-five (45) calendar days of the effective date of this MOU.
- 5. Donee hereby accepts the donation of the surplus items identified in Exhibit "A." By the acceptance of this Donation, Donee is taking the Property "as is" and "with all faults", and without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied, written or oral, it being the intention of Donor and Donee to expressly negate and exclude all representations and warranties, including, but not limited to (i) the physical condition of the property or any element thereof, including, without limitation, warranties related to suitability for habitation, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose; (ii) the nature or quality of construction, structural design and engineering; (iii) the quality of the labor and materials; (iv) all warranties created by any affirmation of fact or promise or by any description of the property; and (v) all other warranties and representations whatsoever,

except the warranty of title expressly set forth herein. Donee shall pay all insurance and taxes, and assessments, if any, on the property.

6. Donee understands and acknowledges that entering into this Agreement does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Donee's organization, its financial stability, or the quality of its programs.

#### 7. Miscellaneous Terms

- A. Nature of Relationship. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be deemed or constructed to create the relationship of principal and agent or that of partnership or joint venture or any association between the County and Donee, and any intention to create a joint venture or partnership relationship between the Parties hereto is hereby expressly disclaimed. Donee shall not represent that it or any of its agents or employees are agents or employees of the County.
- **B. Term.** This MOU becomes effective as of the effective date indicated above and remains in effect until Donee removes the surplus items from County property. Donee is to remove surplus property from County property during the time period indicated above and should advise County in writing if an extension is required. County is not obligated to provide said extension.
- **C. Termination.** Either party may terminate this MOU prior to execution of Donee's obligations without cause by giving written notice to the other party, which is effective upon receipt of the other party.
- **D.** Conflict of Applicable Law. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to require the commission of any act contrary to law; and when any conflict between this MOU and any present or future law, ordinance, or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail. In such event, the affected provision or provisions of this MOU shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements, and only during the time such conflict exits.
- **E. Governing Law**. This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Hidalgo County. The parties hereby consent to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.
- F. Indemnification. To the extent authorized by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, Donee shall indemnify and hold harmless Hidalgo County, its

elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against Hidalgo County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with acts or omissions by Donee, its agents or employees, under this Agreement.

- **G.** No Waiver. No waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provision of the MOU shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
- **H. Entire Agreement.** This MOU contains the entire contract between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any other representation or agreement in connection with this MOU, not specifically set forth herein. This MOU may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing, executed by Donee and County, and not otherwise.
- I. Notice. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this MOU, all notices, demands, requests or communication required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing, and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been heretofore specified by written notice and delivered in accordance herewith:

#### If to Donee:

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Attention: Manuel "Manny" Cruz, Executive Director 301 West Railroad Building A. Weslaco, Texas 78596

#### If to County:

Hidalgo County Attention: County Judge 100 E. Cano, Second Floor Edinburg, TX 78539

Each notice, demand, request or communication delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee, or if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

J. Provisions. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall

for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

- **K.** Successors. This MOU shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
- L. Assignment. This MOU shall not be assignable.
- **M. Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this MOU are solely for convenience reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
- **N. Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this MOU shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.
- **O. Performance of Governmental Functions.** The County is entering into this MOU for the purpose of providing the services and functions outlined in this document and, if applicable, will pay for such services and any associated costs to execute this MOU out of current revenues available to the paying party as herein provided.
- **P. Liabilities.** This MOU is not intended to extend the liability of the County beyond that provided by law.
- **Q. Immunities.** Nothing in this MOU is intended to and County does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses County enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to County as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against County.
- **R.** Additional Documents. The Parties agree that they will use reasonable, good faith efforts to execute any other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this MOU.
- **S.** Non-Discrimination. The MOU and all related activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against any person on a basis prohibited by applicable law or County policy, including without limitation race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.
- **T.** Commitment of Current Revenues Only (If Applicable). In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet

the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this MOU upon ninety (90) days written notice to Organization. County agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this MOU. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this MOU at the expiration of each budget period of County. *Agreements for the acquisition, including lease of real or personal property under Tex. Loc. Govt. Code* §271.903: In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioner's Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this MOU, County may terminate this MOU upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company, County agrees, however, to use a best efforts attempt to obtain and appropriate funds for payment of the MOU. The parties intend this provision, if applicable, to be a continuing right to terminate this at the expiration of each budget period of County in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code §271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1996).

- U. Required Contract Provision for Contracts Subject to Federal Award (if applicable): Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.327, if applicable, the provisions of Appendix II 2 CFR 200, as well as any contract clauses required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are incorporated by reference into this agreement for all purposes should it be subject to Federal award.
- **V. Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this MOU by Donee and County have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this MOU constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of Donee and County in accordance with its terms.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

**EXECUTED** as of the day and year first written above.

#### APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON May 13, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM No. 99275	EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

#### LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

By:	Date:
Manuel "Manny" Cruz, Executive Director	
HIDALGO COUNTY: County Judge	
By:	Date:
Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge	
HIDALGO COUNTY: Constable Precinct 4	
By:	Date:
Atanacio Gaitan, Hidalgo County Constable Pct. 4	
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	ATTEST:
Office of the Criminal District Attorney, Toribio "Terry" Palacios	

Michelle Lopez, Assistant District Attorney

Arturo Guajardo Jr., County Clerk

# **EXHIBIT A**

#### **SURPLUS PROPERTY**

#### **Description of Items:**

١. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate 11. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate III. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate IV. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate V. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate VI. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate VII. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate VIII. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate IX. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate Х. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate XI. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate XII. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate XIII. XIV. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate XV. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate XVI. Active Shooter Zeta 6H LEVEL 4-Vest Plate SERIAL # 00194960/00194957 SERIAL # 00194962/00194959 SERIAL # 00194922/00194919 SERIAL # 00194971/00194930 SERIAL # 00194929/00194921 SERIAL # 00194920/00194928 SERIAL # 00194936/00194883 SERIAL # 00194935/00194934 SERIAL # 00194886/00194887 SERIAL # 00194884/00194885 SERIAL # 00194926/00194927 SERIAL # 00194924/00194925 SERIAL # 00194978/00194923 SERIAL # 00194976/00194977 SERIAL # 00194972/00194963 SERIAL # 00194964/00194961  AI-99258 A. Requesting acceptance and approval of Change Order No. 2 from Rene Guerra & Son Hauling, LLC for the "[ARPA-22-124-047] - Hidalgo Precinct 4 Tex-Mex Rd Stormwater" project, for a total project amount increase of \$1,344.00, as recommended by Project Engineer, Melden & Hunt, Inc.;
 B. Requesting approval of the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the "[ARPA-22-124-047] -Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Tex-Mex Rd Stormwater" project (C-23-0374-01-23), as recommended by Project Engineer, Melden & Hunt, Inc.;

C. Requesting acceptance and approval of the Certificate of Construction Completion from Rene Guerra & Son Hauling, LLC, for "[ARPA-22-124-047] - Hidalgo Precinct 4 Tex-Mex Rd Stormwater", with the final payment amount of \$20,978.20, as recommended by Project Engineer, Melden & Hunt, Inc.

- 4. AI-99364 Requesting acceptance and approval of Change Order No. 1 from Saenz Brothers Construction, for the "J-01 Stormwater Management Project" (C-24-0337-10-29) to reflect the additional materials and increase the contract price by \$6,880.00, with an additional 60 calendar days beyond the original contract completion date, as recommended by the Engineering firm TEDSI Infrastructure Group.
- 5. AI-99345 Requesting approval to rescind action taken on Agenda Item 96892, approved by Commissioners' Court on 10/01/2024, due to change in procurement.



#### **Executive Office:**

1. AI-99366 Requesting approval to enter into a twelve (12) month License Agreement for Live Stream Services Subscription through HC's membership with OMNIA Partners (NCPA Contract No. 01-115) from Granicus, LLC, in the total amount of \$70,270.20.

#### 2. AI-99263 New Courthouse:

Requesting approval of the following invoices with authority for County Treasurer to issue check after review and auditing procedures are completed by County Auditor:

Vendor Name	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Amount	Period	PO#
Consor Engineers, LLC	2/11/25	D210905TX.02-4	\$20,189.96	1/1/24-1/31/25	853655
Consor Engineers, LLC	4/15/25	D210905TX.02-5	\$ 1,123.12	2/1/25-3/31/25	853655

3. AI-99282 Requesting acceptance and approval of the following invoices with authority for the County Treasurer to issue payment after review and auditing procedures are completed by the County Auditor:

Vendor Name	Tasks	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Amount	PO #
L&G Consulting Engineers, Inc.	RGV-MPO Policy & TAC Committee Meetings	03/31/2025	11330036	\$12,599.76	891351
L&G Consulting Engineers, Inc.	RGV-MPO Policy & TAC Committee Meetings	04/30/2025	11330066	\$12,599.76	891351

#### Constables:

1. AI-99275 Constable Precinct 4

Requesting approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between HC Constable Precinct No. 4 and Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) to donate "surplus" bulletproof vest equipment as listed on Exhibit "A", with authority for HC Constable Precinct No. 4 and County Judge to sign all required documentation.





J.

I.

AI-99275		Purchasing Department	25. N. 0.
CC CONSENT MTG	AGENDA SPECIAL	Cons	stables
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	05/13/2025		
Submitted For:	Ignacio Amezcua, PURCHASING DEPT.	Submitted By: Pedro Cuadros	
<u>Department:</u>	PURCHASING DEPT.		

#### **Information**

#### **CAPTION**

**Constable Precinct 4** 

Requesting approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between HC Constable Precinct No. 4 and Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) to donate "surplus" bulletproof vest equipment as listed on Exhibit "A", with authority for HC Constable Precinct No. 4 and County Judge to sign all required documentation.

#### BACKGROUND

Project No. 25-0252

#### **Fiscal Impact**

CALENDAR YEAR: 2025

**FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?:** 

<u>ACCT. #:</u> MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?:

#### **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

No Fiscal Impact

#### **Attachments**

Legal Approval Donation Request MOU Exhibit A

#### **Form Review**

Inbox Purchasing / Internal Budget & Management Final Approval Form Started By: Pedro Cuadros **Reviewed By** Ignacio Amezcua Veronica Ortiz Date 05/08/2025 05:22 PM 05/09/2025 08:05 AM

Started On: 04/30/2025 05:35 PM



#### BOARD MEMBERS

Adrian Gonzalez Mayor, Weslaco

David A. Garza Commissioner, Cameron County

Ellie Torres Commissioner, Hidalgo County

J.R. Garza Mayor, Alamo

David Moreno Mayor, Donna

Alma Salinas Mayor, Sullivan City

George Guadiana Mayor, San Perlita

Javier Villalobos Mayor, McAllen

Alejandro Flores Mayor, Los Fresnos

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales Commissioner, Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez South Texas College

Luke Lucio Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills Willacy County Navigation District

Jim Darling Member-at -Large

Tony Chavez Member-at-Large

Ann Williams Cass Memher-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Manuel "Manny" Cruz

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

ľ	Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen	President
	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Gaiza Mission	
	Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County	
	Mayor John Cowen, Jr, Brownsville	
	Mayor Ramiro Garza, Edinburg	Treasurer

Honorable Constable Atanacio "J.R." Gaitan Constable of Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Edinburg, Texas April 14, 2025

Greetings Constable Gaitan,

I am writing this letter to request the transfer of your department's surplus Level III heavy vests. I understand you no longer have a need for them as they have expired their shelf life and will be set for destruction.

These vests can still be utilized in their current condition by our police academy cadets at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council for the implementation of physical fitness and scenario-based training.

Our academy is willing to fill out whatever paperwork is necessary for the transfer of these vests. Please let me know what steps we need to take to facilitate the transfer.

Respectfully,

Javier Solis Jr. Assistant Director of Public Safety Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Myth. Houtoo anerous

#### HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

#### PURCHASING DEPARTMENT - FIXED ASSETS DIVISION DEPRECIATION FORM

Asset		Hist	Acq	Acq.	Last	Life	Years of	Residual	Depreciable	Yearly	Current	Current	Book
Number	Description	Cost	Date	Year	Year Depr	Expectancy	Usage	Value 10%	Value	Depreciation	Depreciation	Value	Value
	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST		_				1					(After Depr)	(w/ Residual)
	PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$-	\$ 37.90
74959	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74000	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74961	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74962	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74964	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74965	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74966	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74967	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74968	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74969	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74970	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74971	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$-	\$ 37.90
74070	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90
74973	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	\$ 379.00	04/24/2018	2018	2024	5	6	\$ 37.90	\$ 341.10	\$ 68.22	\$ 341.10	\$ -	\$ 37.90

Hidalgo County

**CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4** 

\$ 1,516.00

\$ 151.60 **\$ 1,364.40** 

Exhibit A

\$ 1,364.40 \$ - \$ 151.60

Omar Salinas

RAUL RAMOS

5/8/2025

Prepared By:

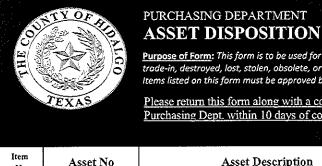
Requested By:

Date:

Historical Cost - Residual Value = \$

1,364.40

Note:



#### ASSET DISPOSITION FORM

Purpose of Form: This form is to be used for asset disposition only. (E.g., trade-in, destroyed, lost, stolen, obsolete, or are damaged beyond repair.) Items listed on this form must be approved by County Commissioners first.

Please return this form along with a copy of the approved minutes to the Purchasing Dept. within 10 days of commissioners court approval date.

DATE OF REQUEST: DEPT. NAME: Constable Precinct 4 LOCATION NO .: 294

#### Disposition Type:

□ Trade-in □ Landfill □ Destruction

□ Auction X Other Donation

Item No	Asset No	Asset Description	Serial / VIN No	PO No	Acq Date	Original Cost	FMV	AI No	CC Date	Fund
				eksegeset j		网络拉拉拉斯拉拉				
1	74958	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194960/00194957	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
2	74959	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194962/00194959	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
3	74960	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194922/00194919	775297	04/24/2018	379.00			:	1284
4	74961	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194971/00194930	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
5	74962	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194929/00194921	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
6	74963	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194920/00194928	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
7	74964	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194936/00194883	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
8	74965	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194935/00194934	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
9	74966	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194886/00194887	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
10	74967	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194884/00194885	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
11	74968	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194926/00194927	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
12	74969	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194924/00194925	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
13	74970	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194978/00194923	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
14	74971	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194976/00194977	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
15	74972	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194972/00194963	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284
16	74973	ACTIVE SHOOTER ZETA 6H LEV 4-VEST PLATE	00194964/00194961	775297	04/24/2018	379.00				1284

Elected Official/Dept. Head Signature

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

#### Wednesday May 28, 2025

**Public Safety** 

#### LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

Program Action Items ......Javier Solis Asst. Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas to accept the transfer of two 2016 Dodge Ram Police Vehicles from the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.

The Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office no longer has a need to use the police vehicles. The vehicles have been designated as surplus equipment by Hidalgo County. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy has a need for police vehicles for the implementation of police driving training.

If approved, the vehicles will be utilized for the emergency vehicle operations course and for scenario-based training.

#### INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLES PRECINCT 4 AND THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

THIS Agreement is made on and entered into, effective as of the **27 day of May, 2025**, by and between the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** by and through its **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLES PRECINCT 4**, hereinafter referred to as ("County"), and **THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY** hereinafter referred to as ("LRGVDC-RPA"), collectively referred to as ("Parties"), pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act ("Act"), Chapter 791, et seq., Texas Government Code and Texas Local Government Code Chapter 263.

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC-RPA is a municipality defined as a "Political Subdivision" under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS,** the County is defined as a "Local Government" under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS,** the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, provides authorization for a local government to contract with one or more local governments to perform governmental functions and services under the terms of the Act;

WHEREAS, County may dispose of surplus property by donating it to a civic or charitable organization located in the county, pursuant to Tex. Loe. Gov't Code§ 263.152(4)(B), if it serves a public purpose;

**WHEREAS,** the surplus items identified in the attached Exhibit "A" is no longer needed by County for any purpose;

WHEREAS, County will transfer the surplus equipment identified in the attached Exhibit "A" to LRGVDC-RPA to serve a joint public purpose of maintaining the City and County's, shared, current and future infrastructure and maintain the health and safety of its constituents;

WHEREAS, the surplus equipment will be utilized by LRGVDC-RPA to properly train cadets with the equipment that is utilized in Law Enforcement agencies, and upon graduating their services will benefit the health and safety of the constituents and citizens of Hidalgo County; and

Interlocal Agreement: Hidalgo County-Constables PCT 4 & amp; Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Regional-Policy Academy C-25-0295-05-27 **NOW THEREFORE,** for good and sufficient consideration, PARTIES hereby agree as follows:

- I. County hereby declares that the items identified in the attached Exhibit "A" is surplus property.
- 2. County hereby finds that the transfer of the surplus items as identified in the attached Exhibit "A" to LRGVDC-RPA serves a public purpose.
- 3. County hereby transfers the surplus items identified in the attached Exhibit "A" to LRGVDC-RPA
- 4. LRGVDC-RPA hereby accepts the transfer of the surplus items identified in the attached Exhibit "A."
- 5. LRGVDC-RPA accepts the transferred Equipment in "as-is" condition and acknowledges that County makes no warranty in any manner as to the working condition for any purpose.
- 6. In consideration for the transfer of the equipment identified in the attached Exhibit "A", LRGVDC-RPA agrees that County shall have no further financial responsibility for any relocation, transportation, repair, maintenance or upkeep expenses related to the equipment being transferred.
- 7. LRGVDC-RPA will be responsible for obtaining any title transfer and/or insurance on the equipment being transferred.
- 8. This Agreement is not intended to extend the liability of the Parties beyond that provided by law. Neither County nor LRGVDC-RPA waive, nor shall be deemed to have hereby waived, any immunity or defense that would otherwise be available to it against claims arising from third parties.
- 9. This Agreement represents the entire agreement between County and LRGVDC-RPA and this Agreement supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral between the Parties. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by the governing bodies of both County and LRGVDC-RPA or those authorized to sign on behalf of those governing bodies.
- I 0. The validity of this Agreement and of any of its terms or provisions, as well as the rights and duties of the Parties, shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
- 11. In the event that any portion of this Agreement shall be found to be contrary to law, it is the intent of the Parties that the remaining portions of this Agreement shall remain valid and in full force and effect to the extent possible.
- 12. The undersigned officer or agent is the properly authorized official who has the necessary authority to execute this Agreement, and each party hereby certifies to the other that any necessary resolutions extending said authority have been duly passed and are now in full force and effect.

#### (Signature Page to Follow)

Interlocal Agreement: Hidalgo County-Constables PCT 4 & amp; Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Regional-Policy Academy C-25-0295-05-27

#### EXECUTED IN DUPLICATE COPIES, EACH OF WHICH SHALL HAVE THE FULL FORCE AND EFFECT OF AN ORIGINAL, TO BE EFFECTIVE AS STATED HEREIN, BUT MINISTERIALLY SIGNED ON THE DATES INDICATED BELOW.

#### APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER'S COURT ON MAY 27, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM No. XXXXX EXECUTIVE OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

By:		Date: 05/16/25
Javier Solis Jr., Assistant Director		
HIDALGO COUNTY: County Judge		
By:	_	Date:
Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge		
HIDALGO COUNTY: Constable Precinct 4		
By:		Date:
Atanacio "J.R." Gaitan, Constable Pct. 4		
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	ATTEST:	
Office of the Criminal District Attorney, Toribio ''Terry'' Palacios		

ADA, Assistant District Attorney

Arturo Guajardo Jr., County Clerk

Interlocal Agreement: Hidalgo County-Constables PCT 4 & amp; Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Regional-Policy Academy C-25-0295-05-27

#### EXHIBIT "A"

#### SURPLUS PROPERTY

#### **Description of Items:**

i.	2014 Dodge Ram 1500	Vin No. 1C6RR7XT1ES408144
ii.	2016 Dodge Ram 1500	Vin No. 1C6RR7XTXGS137202

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

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

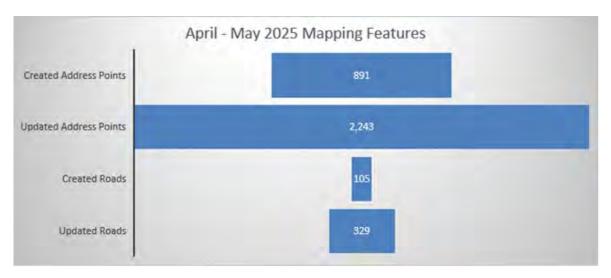
#### Item #5: Department Reports

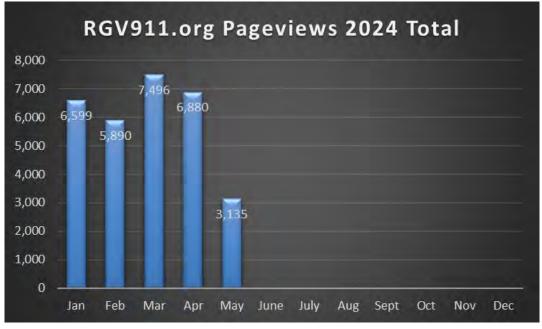
C. Public Safety

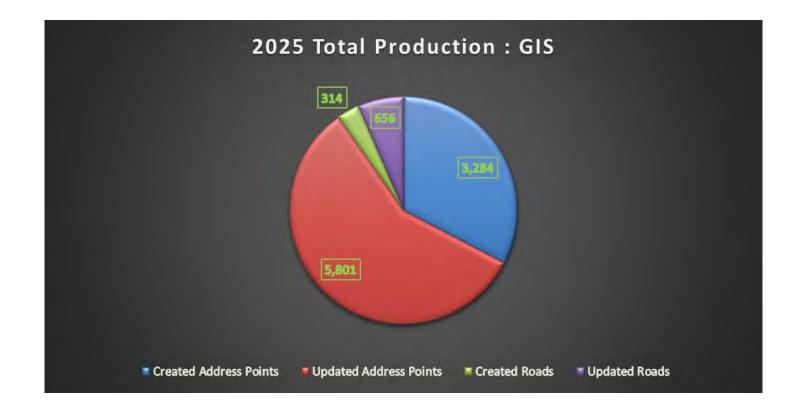
**Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report** 

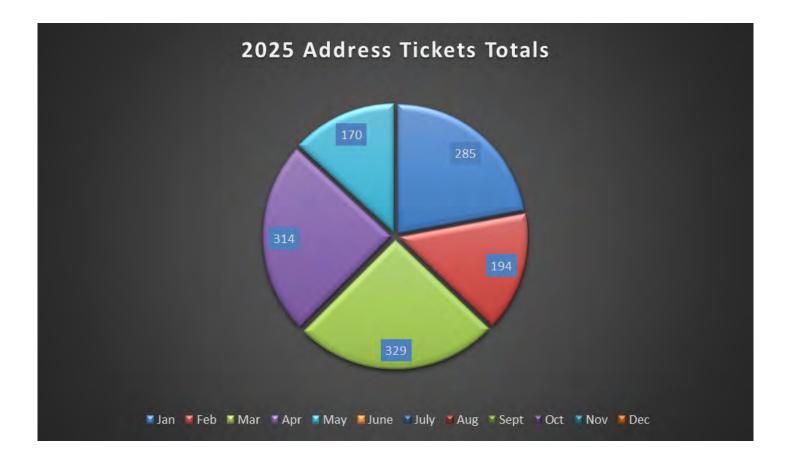
• GIS Division

The GIS Data Hub has transitioned to **www.rgv911.org**, providing improved access to downloadable maps and streamlined data request handling. The GIS team along with Upgrade to ArcGIS Enterprise 11.3.1 is scheduled for project completion by May 30th. The GIS team has begun planning stages for the year 2026 team working plan.







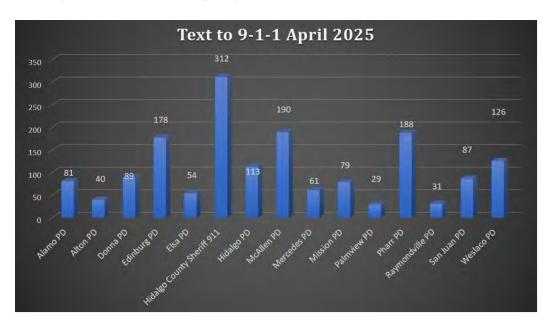


• 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The Information Technology Division will conduct in-house MapFlex and Power911 training, providing hands-on experience to telecommunicators. This training offers both new and current dispatchers an opportunity to familiarize themselves with Power911's call-handling system and GIS mapping technologies.

Additionally, the team is currently conducting training and showcasing improvements to 9-1-1 systems with video and translation integration. Giving the opportunity for 9-1-1 call takers to have more than 100 languages available with on-demand translation to and from 9-1-1 centers, along with Video capabilities, 9-1-1 centers can share Multimedia (pictures, video, live-video) with first responders to better assess a situation and/or provide more concise directions to lower response time.

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

April is one of the busiest and most rewarding months for the Public Education Team. Throughout the month, the team remains highly active, developing new 911 educational materials, attending key conferences, and participating in a variety of community engagement events. April also marks the celebration of our 911 telecommunicators, during which we visit all 15 PSAPs to deliver appreciation gifts and recognize the critical work they perform every day. Despite the demanding schedule, the team embraces every opportunity, driven by the knowledge that their efforts are making a meaningful impact in the community and helping to promote life-saving information.

**2025 Texas Public Safety Conference, April 2nd** – **5th, 2025.** The Texas Public Safety Conference (TXPSC) is the premier annual event for 9-1-1 and public safety professionals across Texas. Hosted by the Texas chapters of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the conference serves as a dynamic platform for sharing knowledge and advancing emergency communications. The 2025 conference, scheduled for April 2–5 at the McAllen Convention Center, features over 70 educational sessions, more than 40 keynote speakers, and an interactive exhibit hall showcasing advanced public safety technology.

**2025** National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 13 – 19, 2025. For Telecommunicator Week (TC Week), RGV911 proudly celebrated the hardworking 911 telecommunicators who serve Hidalgo and Willacy counties. Throughout the week, RGV911 organized special daily giveaways to show appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of the dispatchers. We visited 15 local communication centers to personally thank the teams, we delivered gifts, and highlighted their efforts on social media to raise community awareness about the critical role telecommunicators play in public safety. The week was filled with gratitude, celebration, and a strong sense of unity, honoring the voices behind the headsets who are always ready to answer the call.

**Día Del Niño Celebration, April 26, 2025.** RGV911 proudly participated in the Día Del Niño Celebration, joining the community in honoring and celebrating the children. Our team set up an interactive booth where we taught kids the importance of knowing their address and when to call 911. Through fun games, coloring activities, and hands-on demonstrations, children learned how to stay calm during emergencies and how to effectively communicate with a 911 telecommunicator. We also handed out educational materials, safety-themed goodies, and spoke with parents and community members about the critical role 911 plays in emergencies. It was a wonderful day filled with learning, laughter, and building trust with the families we serve.

# **2025 Texas Public Safety Conference**















#### **Alamo Police Department**

### **TC Week**





Hidalgo Co. Sheriff's Office

#### **Pharr Public Safety Communications**



#### Edinburg Police Department



San Juan Police Department





#### Weslaco & Mercedes Police Department



Weslaco & Mercedes Police Department



#### **Elsa Police Department**





Raymondville Police Department



**Palmview Police Department** 



#### **Alton Police Department**



**Mission Police Department** 

#### **Hidalgo Police Department**





**McAllen Police Department** 



#### **Donna Police Department**



# Dia Del Nino Celebration



Fun event educating the children and the community on 911 emergencies.







Parade and door prizes for everyone.

# ITEM #5. D. TRANSPORTATION

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

#### Item #5: Department Reports

#### D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report
----------------------------

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy. Revisions have been made in accordance with the Executive Order to align with current federal definition and requirements.

Valley Metro is seeking the Board's approval for proposed updates to the **Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy**. This policy reinforces our commitment to delivering high-quality service, improving operational efficiency, and fostering an inclusive workplace culture that values and promotes diversity across our workforce.

Key updates include:

- The policy now recognizes "sex" as defined biologically (male and female) in alignment with federal definitions under the new order. Accordingly, references to "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" in official policies and procedures have been revised to reflect this change.
  - Page 3Statement of PolicyPage 4EEO Officer designeePage 11Management/Supervisor/Professional Responsibilities

These changes are intended to strengthen accountability and ensure alignment with best practices in equal employment opportunity standards.

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

#### Item #5: Department Reports

#### D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report......Tom Logan, Director of Regional Transit

• Ridership Report

Total Ridership from September 2024 to April 2025: 632,366

Breakdown of Ridership per system:

#### **Ridership breakdown:**

Rural areas: 42,937 riders Small Urban areas: 37,299 riders Large Urban areas: 552,130

•

#### Small Urban and Rural Ridership (Sept 2024 - April 2025):

Total ridership: **80,236** 

Valley Metro (Small Urban): 79,303 riders TSTC: 933 riders

#### Large Urban Ridership (Sept 2024 - April 2025):

• Total ridership: **552,130** 

UTRGV: 407,085 riders Valley Metro: 140,803 riders STC: 4,242 riders

#### Key Insight:

- The large urban ridership significantly outpaces small urban and rural ridership, primarily driven by the high volume from UTRGV.
- Both categories see an increase in April, indicating a seasonal or operational peak.

# **Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:**

#### **RTAP Sub-Committee Meeting Summary**

Date: April 22, 2025

#### **Meeting Overview**

• The Sub-Committee discussed ongoing collaboration between transit agencies.

• Key topics included project review timelines, infrastructure development, and public outreach strategies to support service improvements.

#### **RTAP Meeting and TIP Review**

• Eva Garcia provided a preview of the upcoming Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP) meeting, scheduled for April 8, 2025.

• She emphasized the need for agencies to review their projects in advance of the May Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revision cycle.

• The goal is to ensure alignment with regional transit priorities.

#### **Ongoing Studies**

• Microtransit Initiatives:

– These studies are helping to implement recommendations from the 2030 Transit Development Plan.

– Focus areas include better schedule coordination and service enhancements.

#### **Transit Infrastructure and Accessibility**

• Claudia Olmedo shared updates on current infrastructure projects:

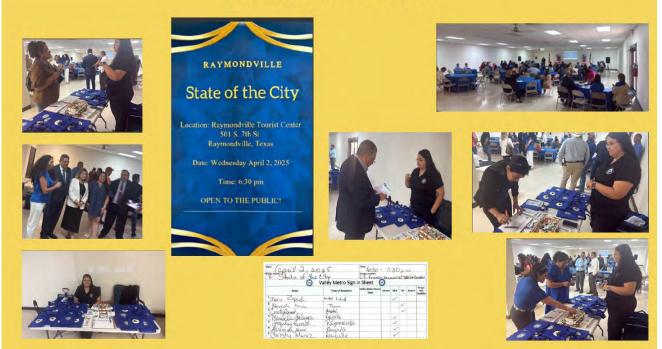
- Improvements underway at the new transit terminal in Harlingen.

- Continued progress on the Zapata express route.

• A particular focus was placed on improving access for seniors and ensuring facilities meet evolving transit needs.

# Valley Metro Public Involvement Events

#### April 2, 2025, Raymondville State of the City

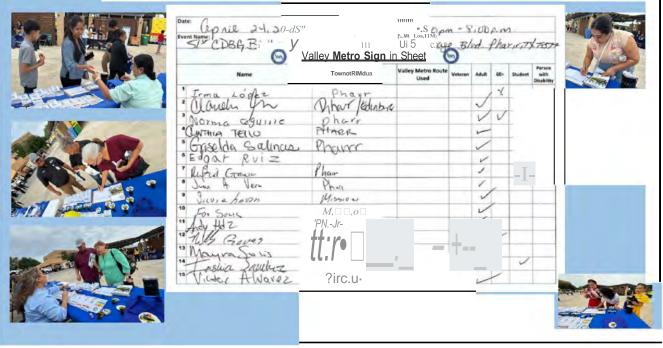








#### April 24, 2025, CDBG SI'st Birthday Celebration



# Valley Metro Helpful QR Codes

**Follow Valley Metro** 



Route maps with locations

Ride Systems



Track our buses is real time!



ValleyMetro Weslaco





**VM Regional Call Center** 

#### 1-800-574-8322

# CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

https://lrgvdc-prod.gfcp.io/efare





#### VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Valley Metro's mission is to provide safe and reliable transportation options that connect our community to opportunity, support economic vitality, and enhance quality of life throughout the Rio Grande Valley.



#### Types of Systems **Provided**

- 21 Fixed Routes
  - Providing service in the counties of Hidalgo. Cameron, and Rio Grande City. (with advanced notice, most routes may deviate up to 1/2 mile of the main route)
- 3 RGV Metro Express (limited stops) Connecting Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Port Isabel
- 5 Demand Response Serving Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties
- ▶ 5 Microtransit-Fast Ride Serving Cameron and Hidalgo County, City of EdinbLug, Mission to Sullivan City, and San Benito lo Brownsville on Military Road.
- **B-Cycle** Available in McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville.

#### Serving the RGV's **Five-County Region:**

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata



#### VALLEY METRO TRANSIT **TERMINAL LOCATIONS**

- Edinburg 617 West University
- Weslaco 510 S. Pleasantview •••
- Harlingen 1216 Fair Park Blvd. ٠
- Rio Grande City 407 E. Mirasoles







# learning

**Proudly serving:** 

Persons with Disabilities

People with Medicare/

Students, Faculty, and

Staff from schools and institutions of higher

General public Elderly, over 60

Veterans

Medicaid

#### Valley Metro Fares:

- Regular Fare \$2.00
- Discounted fares \$1.00 for the following:
  - ► Students and faculty,
  - Persons with disability
  - ► Elderly over 60 Veterans
  - Medicare recipients
- 20-Ride Pass \$20.00
- (\$10.00 with discount)
- Transfers \$1.00
- Other fares vary by seivice

Passes may be purchased on the bus routes or at LRGVDC 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, TX



#### Route Maps with locations

Website

ValleyMetro Weslaco

Track our buses In real time

#### VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

# **ITEM #5. D.**

RGVMPO

# **FYI...**

#### The **RGVMPO**

The RGVMPO is the planning entity that makes decisions about your experience with transportation in the RGV. We organize the federal funding we receive to improve and maintain highways, transit operations, major corridors, and active transportation facilities in Hidalgo, Cameron, and parts of Starr counties.

#### The MTP

We produce the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which outlines the next 25 years of transportation projects. This document is how we keep track of funding, project details, and how we can enhance the transportation in the region.

#### The TIP

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the first four years of the MTP and must be updated with the Texas Department of Transportation every two years. Revisions to the TIP, such as funding reallocation or changes to a project's limits, require public notice. In this brochure, you'll find the most up to date information on certain highway and transit projects that have received such revisions.

# **Contact Us!**

**RGVMPO** is always looking for public input. Visit our website to explore more of what we do for the RGV!



info@rgvmpo.org

www.rgvmpo.org

617 W University Dr, Edinburg, TX 78539

Scan this to fill out our Public Involvement Survey!





Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

# **May 2025 STIP Revision Cycle Updates**

Learn more about the revisions made in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program that directly influence your transportation!

#### **Highway**

#### Projects Coming Soon:

- State Loop 195 in Starr County is fully funded with segments beginning construction in FYs 26 &27.
- Taylor Road (from Mile 2 North to W Business 83) in Mission is cleared for construction to widen the roadway from two to four lanes in FY 25.
- East Loop, from I-69E to SH 4, is proposed as a major corridor in Cameron County and the project's early phases are being developed in the FY 2025-28 TIP.

On the current FY 2025-2028 TIP, the RGVMPO has programmed over

\$ **1.5 BILLION** in federal, state, and local funding.





#### **Other Updates**

#### Safe Streets 4 All

Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) is our Comprehensive Safety Plan to reduce serious injuries and fatalities related to transportation in our region. The Transportation Policy Board adopted the SS4A plan on April 30, 2025!

# Lougsha Planherer

#### **Re-Certification**

In 2024, the RGVMPO underwent a Federal Review to ensure the organization was executing its responsibilities within federal compliance. The FHWA and FTA found that the RGVMPO substantially meets the requirements set by 23 CFR 450 (highway) and 49 CFR Part 673 (transit).

#### Transit

Metro McAllen is adding projects to the ST/Pf

Metro McAllen is adding three projects to the TIP for operating assistance, preventative maintenance, and planning for future transit projects. The total project cost is \$5,150,000 in 5307 funds.

> On the current FY 2025-2028 Transit TIP, the RGVMPO has programmed over

#### **\$ 100 MILLION**

in federal and state funding.

Seethe full\* financial <u>summary</u> here!



The Transit TIP Financial Summary can be found



