

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

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

WEDNESDAY, August 26, 2026, at 12:00 P.M

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

Internet Live streaming at: [LRGVDC COG](#)

Presiding: Judge Aurelio Guerra, President

Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes June 24, 2026President

Item #3: Public Comment

Item #4: Administration Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

- 1. Presentation and Consider **ACTION** Regarding the 2025 Annual Audit.....Melisa Gonzalez, CPA
- 2. Presentation and **ACTION** to Accept Quarterly Investment ReportCrystal Balboa
Finance Director

B. Executive Director Reports

- 1. Introduction of New Staff Members
- 2. Staff Recognition for Years of Service
- 3. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation
- 3.A. Why Data Centers and Why Now.

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration
- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund
- Air Quality
- South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)
- Solid Waste Management Program
- Water Quality Program
- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee
- Rio Grand Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)
- Reservoir Levels

B. Health & Human Services..... Margarita Lopez
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List for Fiscal year 2026-2027.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the list of Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act – Title III for Fiscal year 2026-2027.

Program Status Reports

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

C. Public Safety

C. 1.A. Emergency Services, Criminal Justice & Homeland SecurityCesar Merla
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the CJAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the CJAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the HSAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the HSAC policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028.

Program Status Reports

- Local Emergency Safety& Planning Meeting within Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.
- Communication with Regional Preparedness with State Counterparts.

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

Program Status Reports

- GIS Division
- 9-1-1Information Technology
- CommunityEngagement Division

C. 2. PoliceAcademy ProgramJavier Solis
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of South Padre Island, by and through the South Padre Island Police Department, for purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

Program Status Reports

- Officers Certified
- Courses Taught
- Contact Hours

D. Transportation

Valley Metro.....Dr. Sandra Carrizales
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the updated Valley Metro Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).

Program Status Reports

- Ridership Report

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program Ranked Project.

Program Status Reports

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business

Item #7: Adjourn

**Next Meeting
September 30, 2026**

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

PUBLICINPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2

**MEETING
MINUTES**

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

12:00PM Wednesday June 24, 2026

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

PRESIDING: Judge Aurelio Guerra

Judge Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:10 p.m. quorum was attained.

Present: Judge Aurelio Guerra

Commissioner Nurieth Galonsky, City of Brownsville
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Pro-Tem Rene Pena, City of Sullivan City
Councilwoman Aarin Hartwell City of South Padre Island
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Pete Galvan, City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Mayor Pablo Morales, City of Lyford
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large

Judge Aurelio Guerra moved on to Item#2

Item #2 Consideration and ACTION to approve meeting Minutes May 27, 2026. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the May 27, 2026, meeting minutes. Mayor Sylvia Castillo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #3: Public Comment – Judge Aurelio Guerra shared a few brief remarks, expressing how pleased he was to see everyone in attendance. He also emphasized the importance of continuing to keep the organization strong and moving forward.

Item #4: Administration

4.A.1 – Presentation Recycling Right in the RGV, Partnerships, Sustainability and Education. Mr. Cruz introduced Rose Timmer with Healthy Communities. Representatives from Redfish Recycling presented an overview of their residential curbside recycling program, which expanded to the City of Brownsville in January 2026 after beginning with commercial recycling operations in 2013. The program utilizes a single-stream recycling system, allowing residents to place recyclable materials in one container for biweekly collection. All materials are processed at Redfish's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Brownsville, where they are sorted and prepared for reuse. The presenters reported that the program currently serves approximately 48,000 households, processes an average of 720 tons of recyclable materials each month, and has achieved a participation rate of approximately 70%, significantly exceeding the national average. They also noted a contamination rate of approximately 19%, which is addressed through ongoing resident education and outreach.

Redfish highlighted the affordability of the program, with an estimated cost of approximately \$0.87 per household per month, and emphasized its environmental benefits, including reducing landfill waste and promoting sustainability. The company also provides bilingual customer service, educational programs, and community outreach, and expressed its readiness to partner with additional Rio Grande Valley municipalities interested in implementing similar curbside recycling services.

4.A.2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the annual renewal of the Microsoft 365 licensing suite utilized by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). The Microsoft 365 environment provides the Council's enterprise email exchange services and productivity applications necessary to support daily operations across all LRGVDC programs and departments. The total cost of the renewal is \$29,930.76. The software will be purchased through SoftwareOne, utilizing The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Contract No. 210101. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the annual renewal of the Microsoft 365 licensing suite utilized by the Lower Rio Grande Development council (LRGVDC). The Microsoft 365 environment provides the Council's enterprise email exchange services and productivity applications necessary to support daily operations. Mayor Sylvia Castillo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4.A.3 Consideration and ACTION to approve the Procurement of services to repair the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system serving the Ken Jones Executive Board Room (KJBR). The item presented was for repairs to the Board Room audiovisual system. The total cost of the repairs is \$36,558.30, utilizing Buy Board Cooperative Contract No. 720-23. Staff recommended approval, noting that the Board Room is used daily by LRGVDC staff, Board members, and numerous partner agencies. Due to the system's age and frequent use, replacement of the equipment is necessary to ensure continued reliable operation. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the procurement of Services to repair the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system serving Ken Jones Board Room (KJBR). Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4.A.4 Consideration and ACTION to approve a three-year Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement. Staff presented a preventative maintenance agreement for the generators and backup systems at the LRGVDC main office, the Valley Metro facility in Harlingen, and the Pleasantview office in Weslaco. The maintenance was recommended as part of hurricane season preparedness to ensure all emergency backup systems remain operational. The total cost of the service agreement is \$46,871 and will be procured through Buy Board Cooperative Contract No. 757-24. ***Pepe Cabeza de Vaca made a motion to approve three-year Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement. Staff presented a preventative maintenance agreement for the generators and backup systems at the LRGVDC main office, the Valley Metro facility in Harlingen, and the Pleasantview office in Weslaco. The maintenance was recommended as part of hurricane season preparedness to ensure all emergency backup systems remain operational. The total cost of the service agreement is \$46,871 and will be procured through Buy Board Cooperative Contract No. 757-24. Andres Chavez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4.A.5 Consideration and ACTION to approve the LRGVDC to participate in the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program and Authorize for the LRGVDC Executive Director to Execute Annual Agreement. Staff presented the renewal of the agreement with the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). It was noted that the program was temporarily paused due to funding issues last year but has since resumed. Staff requested authorization to execute the agreement, which provides opportunities for eligible retirees and older adults to re-enter the workforce through temporary community service assignments. LRGVDC currently participates in the program and has one participant assigned, with an additional participant expected to join soon. ***Ernesto Cavazos made a motion to approve LRGVDC to participate in the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program and Authorize for the LRGVDC Executive Director to Execute Annual Agreement. Staff presented the renewal of the agreement with the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Troy Allen seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

B. Executive Director Reports Mr. Cruz welcomed new staff and announced recent personnel updates. Graciela Torres was recognized for her promotion to Payroll Specialist I with Valley Metro after successfully completing the internal application process.

Mr. Cruz also recognized Carolina Rios in advance of her retirement. Although employee service awards are typically presented during the August Board meeting, Ms. Rios was honored at this meeting because she will retire before then. Ms. Rios has served the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council for nearly 18 years, beginning her employment in 2008, and has been an integral member of the Procurement Department, helping ensure compliance with state and federal procurement requirements. In recognition of her dedicated service, she was presented with her 15-Year Service Award. The Board expressed its appreciation for her years of service and wished her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Updates on regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training and Legislation – Mr. Cruz provided an update on the Rio Grande Valley Water Management Plan Advisory Committee, noting that LRGVDC was invited by the three county judges to participate in the regional planning effort. The committee recently held its inaugural meeting to begin developing a comprehensive water management plan funded by Nada Bank and facilitated by Halff Associates. The plan will focus on evaluating future water demands, population growth, drought risks, water supply gaps, existing and proposed water projects, and opportunities for regional collaboration.

It was noted that the new planning effort will complement the existing Region M Regional Water Plan by providing a more detailed assessment of local and regional water needs while supporting long-term planning and future funding opportunities through the Texas Water Development Board. Board members and regional leaders emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, recognizing the Valley's continued growth, increasing water demands, and the need to ensure sustainable water resources for future development.

During discussion, Ms. Aarin Hartwell inquired about the process for adding new municipal water projects to the Region M Regional Water Plan. The Executive Director explained that projects are incorporated through coordination with the consultant responsible for updating the plan during its five-year revision cycle. If a project is proposed after the plan has been adopted, additional costs may be incurred to amend the plan. He noted that project submissions require supporting documentation, including engineering studies, environmental information, and other technical data, before they can be evaluated for inclusion and future funding eligibility.

Board members emphasized the importance of a coordinated regional approach to water planning, particularly in light of increasing development, including data centers and other large-scale projects that may impact regional water supplies. Staff noted that the advisory committee's purpose is to identify and prioritize regional water projects while exploring additional funding opportunities beyond the Texas Water Development Board. It was also discussed that long-term implementation and oversight of the plan will be critical to ensuring the planning effort results in meaningful projects rather than becoming a report that is not acted upon.

No further questions or comments President then moved on to Item # 5 on agenda.

Item #5 Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development – Melisa Gonzales-Rosas had one action item on agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Texas Community Development Block Grant 2027 Regional Project Priorities. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve Texas Community Development Block Grant 2027 Regional Project Priorities. Mayor Pete Galvan seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports - Several announcements were shared with the board. Ms. Melisa Gonzales reminded the Board that the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Disaster Recovery funding opportunities remain open on a rolling basis until available funds are exhausted. Local governments were encouraged to apply for eligible projects and to coordinate with LRGVDC to obtain letters of regional support to strengthen their applications.

Ms. Gonzales also announced that the Regional Small Cities Coalition Workshop will be held on **August 4** at the Ken Jones Board Room, with presentations focused on water resources and community development. Efforts are also underway to host the USDA National Director for a regional meeting with local communities later in August.

Additional updates included the adoption of the regional tire resolution by Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties, completing countywide support for the initiative. Ms. Gonzales also recognized the City of Alton as the first municipality to formally adopt the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and encouraged other cities to adopt LRGVDC's regional plans to support coordinated planning and future funding opportunities. She concluded by thanking Redfish Recycling for its presentation and expressed appreciation for the organization's continued partnership in promoting environmental sustainability throughout the region.

No further questions or comments President then moved on to item B. Health & Human Services.

B. Health & Human Services – Margarita Lopez had no action items on the agenda.

Program Status Reports – Ms. Margarita Lopez provided an update on the status of the Older Americans Act (OAA), noting that despite ongoing advocacy efforts since 2024, the Act has not yet been reauthorized and remains in committee. Services continue to be funded through annual appropriations; however, the lack of long-term authorization creates uncertainty and operational challenges. She expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support, which has allowed the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to maintain services despite staffing reductions and funding concerns.

Ms. Lopez highlighted key service accomplishments for May 2026, including the provision of approximately 53,000 meals to older adults, with more than 20,500 home-delivered meals and 32,651 meals served through congregate meal sites. Benefit Counseling staff assisted 140 clients, including many first-time participants, while the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) responded to 307 requests for information and assistance. Senior centers reported 13,680 participant activities during the month.

Additionally, AAA enrolled 97 new care coordination clients and reported that 595 individuals remain on service interest lists awaiting assistance. Ms. Lopez noted that these figures demonstrate both the continued demand for services and the importance of maintaining support for older adults throughout the region. Ms. Lopez reported that the Area Agency on Aging recently received a shipment of fans and portable power banks to distribute to residents in need throughout Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties as part of its ongoing community assistance efforts. Ms. Lopez also reminded the Board that the Older Americans Act has not yet been reauthorized and encouraged continued advocacy to support the program and the services it provides to older adults.

C. Public Safety Mr. Cesar Merlas started off with action items on Agenda.

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

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Master Mutual Aid Agreement template to develop Regional Mutual Agreements for all cities and counties within the jurisdictions of Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Texas has a statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement, but we can create more specific regional agreements to better fit our needs. This template will be used to develop mutual aid agreements for all cities and counties in our three-county region and will be distributed in July and August. These agreements help ensure reimbursement eligibility when federal disaster funds are available and clearly outline roles and expectations during emergencies. Our region already works closely together during emergencies, and these agreements will formalize that cooperation. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve Master Mutual Aid Agreement template to develop Regional Mutual Agreements for all cities and counties within the jurisdictions of Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mr. Cruz stated; I would also like to mention that a Mutual Aid Agreement is already in place. The purpose of this update is to move forward with revisions that reflect the changes that have been made over the years. The current agreement was adopted in 2004 following the events of September 11, 2001. In response to those events, cities and counties across the state came together to develop, approve, and implement a mutual aid framework to strengthen emergency response efforts.

In the coming months, you will see Mr. Merla presenting this updated agreement before your City Commissions and County Commissioners' Courts for approval. Once adopted, this new agreement will supersede the existing 2004 agreement. As mentioned earlier, it is very important that each jurisdiction approves the updated agreement because it establishes the framework for mutual aid response among first responders during emergencies, disasters, and other incidents. It also helps ensure that jurisdictions have the authority and documentation needed to coordinate assistance and pursue reimbursement when eligible. Following today's meeting, Mr. Merla and our staff will prepare individualized agreements for each jurisdiction.

These will be distributed by both certified mail and email. We will then coordinate with each city and county to have the agreement placed on the agenda for consideration. This will be an ongoing process throughout the months of July and August.

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Regional Fire Academy Coordinator Contract Renewal for June 8, 2026 – October 31, 2026. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve the Regional Academy Coordinator Contract renewal for June 8, 2026- October 31, 2026. Luke Lucio seconded the motion.; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.*** The Training Coordinator provides regional continuing education and training for current and experienced firefighter personnel to ensure compliance with the standards established by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. To maintain grant compliance and continue funding for this position, Board approval is required.

A Board member asked whether this item was a renewal. Mr. Cruz confirmed that it is a renewal and explained that the funding is provided through the Homeland Security Grant Program, which supports FEMA-related initiatives. Mr. Cruz noted that this program is similar to the Regional Police Academy in that the grant funds the Training Coordinator position. He explained that the Fire Academy has been in existence for many years. While it was previously funded through another agency, the Academy has been supported through the LRGVDC's Homeland Security Grant application for the past several years, allowing the organization to secure funding and continue the coordinator position.

He further explained that the Fire Academy operates much like the Regional Police Academy. Firefighter cadets receive instruction from fire departments throughout the region, including departments such as Edinburg and Brownsville. This collaborative approach allows participating departments to train and recruit future firefighters while strengthening the regional workforce. Mr. Cruz added that the program has been highly rated at the state level because it directly supports regional emergency preparedness and response capabilities. He emphasized that communities continue to face shortages of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMS personnel. Through programs such as the Fire Academy, the LRGVDC is helping to ensure a steady pipeline of well-trained public safety professionals to meet the region's emergency response needs.

RGV 911 Status Reports - Additionally, the 9-1-1 Division report is included in your meeting packet. The division continues to support all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. Staff also continues its public education efforts throughout the region and processes addressing requests for residents in rural jurisdictions.

Mr. Cruz noted that if Board members have any questions regarding the report or the division's activities, they are welcome to contact him, the Public Safety staff, or the Public Education team.

Lastly, although it is not included in today's presentation, Board members were encouraged to pick up the conference flyer available at the meeting. The 2026 RGV Public Safety and Emergency Communications Conference will be held October 14–16, 2026, at the South Padre Island Convention Center. The conference will bring together professionals from fire services, law enforcement, EMS, emergency communications, behavioral health, medical services, and other public safety disciplines. All Board members and interested participants are invited to attend.

C.2 LRGV Police Academy Program Status Reports - Ms. Sarah Casares reported that Mr. Solis was attending training and that she would be providing the department's update in his absence. While there were no action items for consideration, she shared several highlights from the Regional Police Academy.

Ms. Casares reported that the 232nd Basic Peace Officer Academy, hosted by the Mission Police Department, is scheduled to take the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) licensing examination on July 7. The cadets recently completed firearms training, marking the completion of the academy curriculum, and will spend the remaining weeks reviewing and preparing for the state licensing exam. She also provided an update on the 233rd Basic Peace Officer Academy, the Weslaco Part-Time Academy. The cadets recently completed coursework covering sexual assault investigations, family violence, racial profiling, civil process, and health and safety codes. The class is currently preparing for its midterm examination and remains on schedule to graduate in December.

Ms. Casares reported that the 234th Basic Peace Officer Academy, the full-time academy hosted in Rio Grande City, recently completed instruction on the Texas Penal Code. The cadets have now begun coursework on the Code of Criminal Procedure, including arrest, search, and seizure, and will soon transition into crime scene investigation training. Looking ahead, Ms. Casares announced that recruitment is underway for the 235th Basic Peace Officer Academy, which will also be a full-time academy hosted by the Mission Police Department. Background investigations are currently being conducted, and applicant interviews are scheduled to begin the following week. Due to a high level of interest, the Academy also scheduled an additional entrance examination on Saturday, June 27, to accommodate applicants requesting a weekend testing opportunity. Registration information has been posted on the Regional Police Academy's Facebook page. Ms. Casares also reported that the Academy is partnering with the Child Advocacy Center of Cameron and Willacy Counties to provide TCOLE continuing education credit for law enforcement officers attending the Third Annual "Where the Healing Begins" Conference. Approximately 24 officers are participating in the conference, which focuses on child abuse prevention, victim services, and child advocacy.

Finally, Ms. Casares presented the department's in-service training report. Between the May 27 and June 24 Board meetings, the Academy provided one in-service training course, with 13 officers completing a total of 16 course hours, representing 208 cumulative contact hours.

D. Transportation Valley Metro -

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve updated LRGVDC – Valley Metro Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy. Ms. Sandra Carrizales explained that this revision is based on the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) most recent review, which was conducted the previous week. As part of the review, the agency was required to update its public participation requirements. The public participation requirements were previously contained in two separate policies. The proposed revision consolidates those requirements into a single document for improved clarity and consistency. Staff emphasized that the revision does not establish a new policy; rather, it incorporates the existing public participation requirements directly into the Title VI Policy. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve updated LRGVDC- Valley Metro Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy, Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Valley Metro and the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging for Office Space at Harlingen Transportation Terminal. Ms. Sandra Carrizales reported that the agreement provides approximately 3,000 square feet of space, including 1,200 square feet of office space, 90 square feet of storage space, and approximately 1,750 square feet of shared common area. ***Ernesto Cavazos made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Valley Metro and the LRGVDC Area Agency and Aging for Office Space at the Harlingen Transportation Terminal. Mayor Sylvia Castill seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

The agreement has a three-year term with a fixed monthly lease payment of \$4,466.58. Staff noted that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has reviewed and approved the agreement for the incidental use of the facility. The Interlocal Agreement (ILA) is included in the Board packet for members' review.

Transportation Valley Metro Program Status Reports - We had approximately 551,000 passengers last year, and this year, we have seen a 43% increase, bringing our ridership to approximately 790,000 passengers. That is a significant improvement from the previous year. We also have an update from KFH, our consultant for the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan. The project has now moved into the public comment, public engagement, and data collection phase. Surveys are currently available, and you may have seen them on our Facebook page as well as the Valley Metro page. The surveys are available in both English and Spanish. Stakeholder outreach is also underway to help identify regional transit needs and opportunities to improve service coordination. Our Regional Transit Advisory Panel, or RTAP, also met this past month. We are continuing efforts to improve regional connectivity among our transit providers and are developing a regional transit guide that will encompass all transit providers throughout the Rio Grande Valley. Finally, our Planning and Mobility team has remained active in the community. This past month, we conducted several travel training sessions and participated in outreach events to educate residents about the transportation services available to them.

RGVMPO - Claudia Salinas started off with a Power Point Presentation that went along with her Action Item. I will provide a brief overview of the Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study included in the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Unified Planning Work Program, an effort focused on improving regional mobility and supporting future transportation investments.

The Unified Planning Work Program, or UPWP, is a federally required two-year document that outlines the MPO's transportation planning activities and identifies the associated funding sources. It covers key areas such as administration, data collection, short- and long-range planning, and special studies, including the one highlighted today. The Fiscal Year 2026–2027 UPWP was adopted on July 21, 2025, and federally approved on September 17, 2025, ensuring compliance with federal requirements and eligibility for funding support.

Subtask 5.4 is the Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study, which will evaluate the potential establishment of a Regional Transit Authority, or RTA, to improve mobility and coordination across the region. This effort aligns with House Bill 2423, which provides a framework for creating regional transit authorities in border areas, including governance and funding options. The study will assess existing transit services, identify service gaps, and evaluate access to essential destinations. It will also examine governance structures, funding opportunities, and planning tools consistent with the provisions of HB 2423, while incorporating input from stakeholders and the public to help guide the study's recommendations.

In closing, this study represents the first step in determining whether a Regional Transit Authority is feasible and would be beneficial for our region. It does not commit the region to implementation, but rather provides the information needed to support informed decision-making and determine the best path forward.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), as the performing party, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning organization (RGVMPO), as the receiving parties, in the amount of \$328,327.00 to conduct the regional transit Authority feasibility Study (Subtask 5.4) as identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. ***Commissioner Nurith Galonsky made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), as the performing party, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning organization (RGVMPO), as the receiving parties, in the amount of \$328,327.00 to conduct the regional transit Authority feasibility Study (Subtask 5.4) as identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. Mayor Norie seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Commissioner Nurith asked whether the item needed to be formally approved by the Board of Directors since it had already been approved the previous month by the MPO Policy Board.

Claudia explained that the item was approved by the Transportation Policy Board during its meeting the previous week. She stated that they were presenting it to the Board of Directors because, after approval by the MPO, they were instructed to bring the item before the Board so that everyone would be informed and understand the purpose and scope of the study. Ms. Nurith clarified whether the item was being presented simply for acknowledgement. Mr. Cruz explained that the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council serves as the fiscal agent for the RGVMP. Therefore, while the MPO oversees the project, any contracts that are initiated and any related expenses must be presented to the Board of Directors for visibility and to ensure compliance with the Council's responsibilities as the fiscal agent. He explained that the Board's role is not necessarily to deny or reconsider the MPO's project, but rather to ensure that the appropriate documentation is on record. As the fiscal agent, LRGVDC is responsible for processing and paying invoices associated with the contract. Without the contract being properly presented and documented before the Board, LRGVDC would not be able to process payments.

Mr. Cruz noted that a similar process is followed with the RGV 911 District, for which LRGVDC also serves as the fiscal agent. Any contracts entered into by the district must likewise be brought before the LRGVDC Board of Directors for review and approval.

Ms. Galonsky then asked whether the appropriate procedure would be to make a motion to acknowledge the item or whether it should simply be treated as an informational presentation. Mr. Cruz confirmed that the appropriate action would be to move forward with acknowledging the item.

Willacy County Judge Aurelio Guerra stated that, he understands that Willacy County isn't part of MPO but wanted to look into bylaws. Claudia then stated, The MPO boundaries consist of Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties. The feasibility study will focus on these three counties, as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement being presented to the Board today for approval.

Regarding the language included in House Bill 2423, the legislation references border counties and allows for consideration of counties that border the initial study area, such as Willacy County. However, those additional counties will not be included in the current Interlocal Agreement or in the feasibility study at this time.

The Regional Transit Authority itself could potentially include additional counties in the future, depending on the provisions of House Bill 2423. Any questions regarding the interpretation of that language can be addressed with legal counsel.

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business – Mr. Cruz mentioned a quick reminder that there was no meeting in July and that next meeting would be on August 26, 2026.

Item #7 Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM.

President Judge Aurelio Guerra

ATTEST :

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

ITEM #3

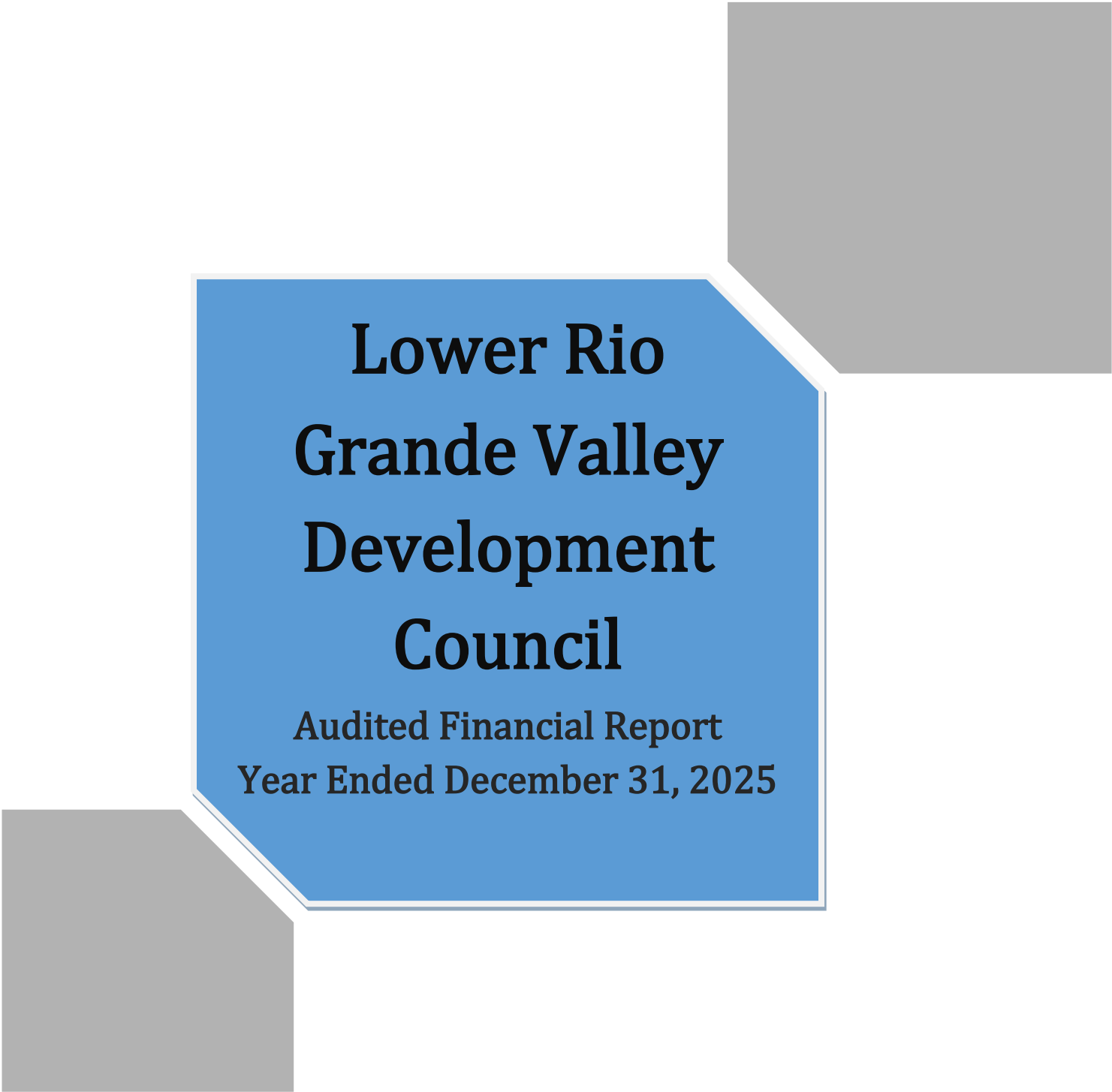
**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

ITEM #4.

ADMINISTRATION

ITEM #4.1.

**ADMINISTRATION
2025 ANNUAL
AUDIT**



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

**Audited Financial Report
Year Ended December 31, 2025**

**Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA & Associates, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants**



Oscar R. Gonzalez CPA & Associates PLLC

Certified Public Accountants

208 W Ferguson, Unit 1, Pharr, TX 78577
(956) 787-9909 fax: (956) 787-3067
info@orgcpa.com

Partners:

Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA
Melissa Gonzalez-Vela, CPA

Associates:

Janet Robles, CPA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Weslaco, Texas

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate blended component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the aggregate blended component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, as of December 31, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balance -
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<u>REVENUES</u>		
<i>Federal Grants:</i>		
Federal Transit Administration	\$ 7,354,819	\$ 7,354,819
Economic Development Administration	55,859	55,859
<i>Total Federal Grants</i>	<u>7,410,678</u>	<u>7,410,678</u>
<i>State Grants:</i>		
Texas Health and Human Services Commission	7,457,937	7,457,937
Commission on State Emergency Communications	2,052,909	2,052,909
Texas Department of Transportation	4,952,113	4,952,113
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	494,999	494,999
Texas Department of Transportation/MPO	1,472,954	1,472,954
Office of the Governor	611,935	611,935
Texas Water Development Board	910,059	910,059
Texas Department of Agriculture	11,709	11,709
General Land Office	601	601
Housing and Urban Development	185,287	185,287
Other	-	-
<i>Total State Grants</i>	<u>18,150,503</u>	<u>18,150,503</u>
<i>Local Revenues</i>		
RGV Emergency Communication District (9-1-1)	3,963,822	3,963,822
Contributions	2,855,557	2,855,557
Membership Dues	239,467	239,467
Other Revenues	480	480
<i>Total Local Revenues</i>	<u>7,059,326</u>	<u>7,059,326</u>
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>\$ 32,620,507</u>	<u>\$ 32,620,507</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Direct Salaries	\$ 6,633,912	\$ 6,633,912
Indirect Salaries	1,075,644	1,075,644
Employee Benefits		
Direct Salaries	3,333,980	3,333,980
Indirect Salaries	540,771	540,771
Indirect Costs Other Than Personnel	517,858	517,858
Consultant and Contracted Services	8,576,897	8,576,897
Travel	175,139	175,139
Consumable Supplies	231,974	231,974
Other Costs	11,407,216	11,407,216
Non-Matching Expenditures	3,372	3,372
Debt Service - Principal	86,434	86,434
Debt Service - Interest	37,310	37,310
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>32,620,507</u>	<u>32,620,507</u>
<u>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</u>	-	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	33,917	33,917
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 33,917</u>	<u>\$ 33,917</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2025

	Primary Government	
	Governmental Activities	Total
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<i>Current Assets:</i>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 16,869,017	\$ 16,869,017
Cash - Restricted	4,480,482	4,480,482
Grant Receivables	7,405,430	7,405,430
Prepaid Expenses	155,149	155,149
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>28,910,078</u>	<u>28,910,078</u>
<i>Noncurrent Assets:</i>		
Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	21,792,813	21,792,813
Other Assets	85,916	85,916
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>21,878,729</u>	<u>21,878,729</u>
Total Assets	<u>50,788,807</u>	<u>50,788,807</u>
 <u>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>		
Aggregated Deferred Outflows	-	-
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts Payable	7,095,433	7,095,433
Payroll Liabilities	-	-
Accrued Wages Payable	279,395	279,395
Other Accrued Expenses	88,471	88,471
Unearned Revenues	21,269,361	21,269,361
Held for Others	60,788	60,788
Current Portion - Leases	59,385	59,385
Current Portion - Long Term Debt	90,405	90,405
Compensated Absences	168,629	168,629
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>29,111,867</u>	<u>29,111,867</u>
<i>Noncurrent Liabilities:</i>		
Long Term Lease Liability	15,560	15,560
Long Term Debt	691,568	691,568
<i>Total Noncurrent Liabilities</i>	<u>707,128</u>	<u>707,128</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>29,818,995</u>	<u>29,818,995</u>
 <u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>		
Aggregated Deferred Inflows	-	-
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 <u>NET POSITION</u>		
Investment in Capital Assets	20,935,895	20,935,895
Unrestricted	33,917	33,917
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 20,969,812</u>	<u>\$ 20,969,812</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual - General Fund (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>Budget Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Budget Basis</u>	<u>Final Variance Budget Basis</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<i>Federal Grants</i>				
Federal Transit Administration	\$ 16,374,179	\$ 16,374,179	\$ 7,354,819	\$(9,019,360)
Economic Development Administration	70,000	70,000	55,859	(14,141)
<i>Total Federal Grants</i>	<u>16,444,179</u>	<u>16,444,179</u>	<u>7,410,678</u>	<u>(9,033,501)</u>
<i>State Grants</i>				
Texas Health and Human Services Commission	8,519,510	8,519,510	7,457,937	(1,061,573)
Commission on State Emergency Communications	2,052,909	2,052,909	2,052,909	-
Texas Department of Transportation	3,135,987	3,135,987	4,952,113	1,816,126
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	518,822	518,822	494,999	(23,823)
Texas Department of Transportation/MPO	1,936,115	1,936,115	1,472,954	(463,161)
Office of the Governor	617,347	617,347	611,935	(5,412)
Texas Water Development Board	1,777,915	1,777,915	910,059	(867,856)
Texas Department of Agriculture	-	-	11,709	11,709
General Land Office	-	-	601	601
Housing One Urban Development	-	-	185,287	185,287
Other State Programs	-	-	-	-
<i>Total State Grants</i>	<u>18,558,605</u>	<u>18,558,605</u>	<u>18,150,503</u>	<u>(408,102)</u>
<i>Local Revenues</i>				
RGV Emergency Communication District (9-1-1)	4,735,002	4,735,002	3,963,822	(771,180)
Contributions	2,553,298	2,553,298	2,855,557	302,259
Membership Dues	256,241	256,241	239,467	(16,774)
Other Revenues	-	-	480	480
Total Local Revenues	<u>7,544,541</u>	<u>7,544,541</u>	<u>7,059,326</u>	<u>(485,215)</u>
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>\$42,547,325</u>	<u>\$ 42,547,325</u>	<u>\$ 32,620,507</u>	<u>\$(9,926,818)</u>

(Continued)

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual - General Fund (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Final
	Original	Final	Budget	Variance
			Basis	Budget Basis
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Direct Salaries	\$ 6,876,154	\$ 6,876,154	\$ 6,633,912	\$ 242,242
Indirect Salaries	1,132,566	1,132,566	1,075,644	56,922
Employee Benefits				
Direct Salaries	3,427,076	3,427,076	3,333,980	93,096
Indirect Salaries	564,051	564,051	540,771	23,280
Indirect Costs Other Than Personnel	681,368	681,368	641,602	39,766
Consultant and Contracted Services	9,414,449	9,414,449	8,576,897	837,552
Travel	238,072	238,072	175,139	62,933
Consumable Supplies	175,385	175,385	231,974	(56,589)
Other Costs	20,038,204	20,038,204	11,407,216	8,630,988
Non-Matching Expenditures	-	-	3,372	(3,372)
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>42,547,325</u>	<u>42,547,325</u>	<u>32,620,507</u>	<u>9,926,818</u>
 <i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	 -	 -	 -	 -
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>33,917</u>	<u>33,917</u>	<u>33,917</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 33,917</u>	<u>\$ 33,917</u>	<u>\$ 33,917</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended December 31, 2025

A. Summary of Auditor's Results

1 Financial Statements

Type of Report Issued: UNMODIFIED

Internal control over financial reporting:

One or more material weaknesses identified? YES X NONE REPORTED

One or more significant deficiencies identified
that are not considered to be material weaknesses YES X NONE REPORTED

Noncompliance material to financial statements notes? YES X NONE REPORTED

2 Federal and State Awards

Internal control over major programs:

One or more material weaknesses identified? YES X NONE REPORTED

One or more significant deficiencies identified
that are not considered to be material weaknesses? YES X NONE REPORTED

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for
major programs:

UNMODIFIED

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported
in accordance with Section 200.516 (B) of Uniform Guidance? YES X NO

Identification of major programs:

CFDA	Name of Federal and State Program or Cluster
93.044, 93.045, 93.053	Aging Cluster
20.205, 20.505	Highway Planning and Construction Cluster
State	Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning
State	Regional Solid Waste Management
State	Section 5307 (State)
State	Training Reimbursements

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between
type A and type B programs:

<u>Federal</u>	<u>State</u>
<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? X YES X YES

B. Financial Statement Findings

None

C. Federal and State Award Findings

None

ITEM #4.2.

ADMINISTRATION

**QUARTERLY
INVESTMENT
REPORT**

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

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

Investments in TexPool Prime:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
Water Plan	72,683.01	-	(6,046.18)	641.90	67,278.73
RGV 911 District	9,410,603.94	1,000,000.00	-	97,080.68	10,507,684.62
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	215,076.93	-	(63,080.26)	1,546.60	153,543.27
Transit	56,980.00	1,000,000.00	(146,049.00)	4,369.20	915,300.20
Texas Water Development Board	85,423.20	-	(85,423.20)	-	-
GLO - Closing Costs	164,839.93	-	-	1,562.93	166,402.86
Kari's Law	64,515.74	-	(2,456.30)	592.48	62,651.92
Tire Project	26,987.86	-	-	255.88	27,243.74
Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan - Local	303,448.15	-	(186,971.31)	1,828.21	118,305.05
AAA - Local	19,140.36	-	-	181.46	19,321.82
EDA - Administration	-	85,423.20	-	809.89	86,233.09
RGV Explorer	46,885.57	-	-	444.53	47,330.10
TOTAL	10,466,584.69	2,085,423.20	(490,026.25)	109,313.76	12,171,295.40

TexPool Prime Rate as of June 30, 2026 - 3.8146%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Investments in TexPool:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
FIF - TWDB - Escrow Account	4,493,114.03	-	(171,222.13)	40,067.52	4,361,959.42
FIF - TWDB	244,669.17	171,222.13	(117,418.96)	2,654.28	301,126.62
TOTAL	4,737,783.20	171,222.13	(288,641.09)	42,721.80	4,663,086.04
GRAND TOTAL	15,204,367.89	2,256,645.33	(778,667.34)	152,035.56	16,834,381.44

TexPool Rate as of June 30, 2026 - 3.6673%

Crystal Balboa
 Director of Finance

ITEM #4.B

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE

REPORT

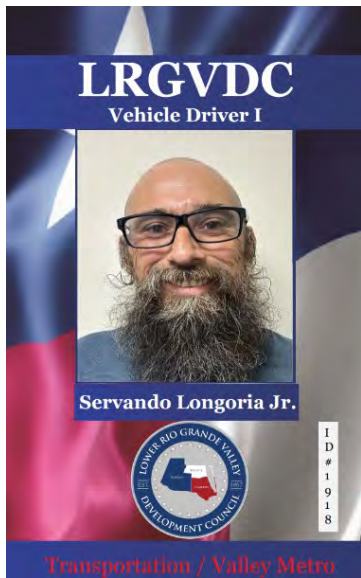
ADMINISTRATION

**NEW HIRES &
PROMOTIONS**

NEW HIRES

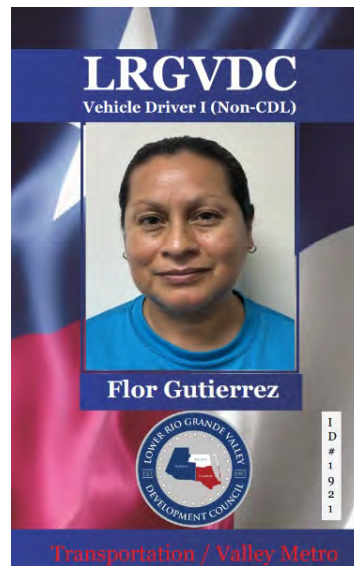
New Hire Start Date: July 6, 2026

Servando Longoria
Vehicle Driver I (Non-CDL)
Valley Metro Transportation



New Hire Start Date: July 6, 2026,

Flor Gutiérrez
Vehicle Driver I(Non-CDL)
Valley Metro Transportation



New Hire Start Date: July 6, 2026

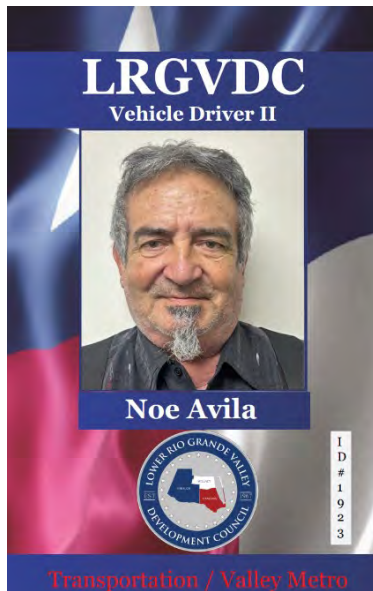
Maria Zapata
Accounting Tech II
Area Agency on Aging



New Hires

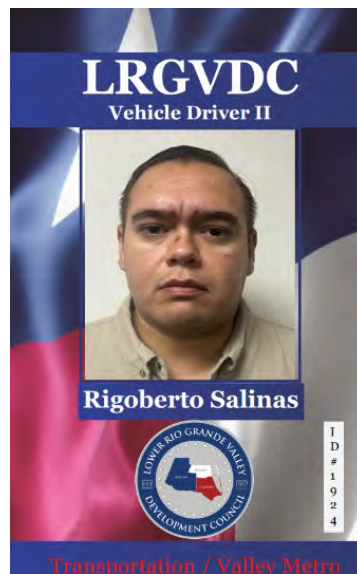
New Hire Date: July 6, 2026,

Noe Avila
Vehicle Driver II
Valley Metro Transportation



New Hire Date: July 6, 2026

Rigoberto Salinas
Vehicle Driver II
Valley Metro Transportation



New Hire Start Date: July 6, 2026,

Christopher Leal
Motor Vehicle Technician II
Valley Metro Transportation



New Hire Start Date: July 6, 2026

Aime Garcia
Administrative Assistant II
Valley Metro Transportation



New Hires/Promotions

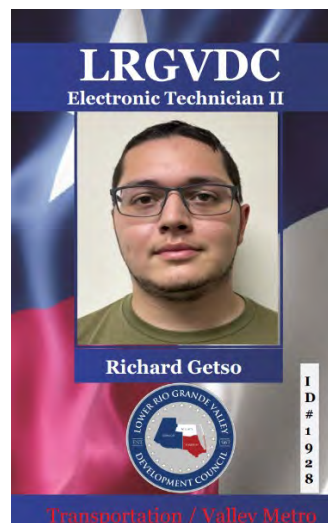
New Hire Start Date: July 6, 2026,

Jeissa Melendez
Program Supervisor III
Area Agency on Aging



New Hire Start Date: July 20, 2026

Richard Getso
Electronic Tech II
Transportation Valley Metro



Promotion Date: July 20, 2027,

Gloria Castro
Purchaser II
Administration



NEW HIRES/PROMOTIONS

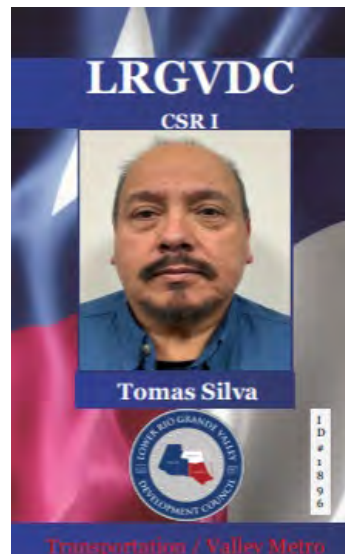
New Hire Start Date: August 10, 2026

Leobardo Guajardo
Planner I
RGVMPO



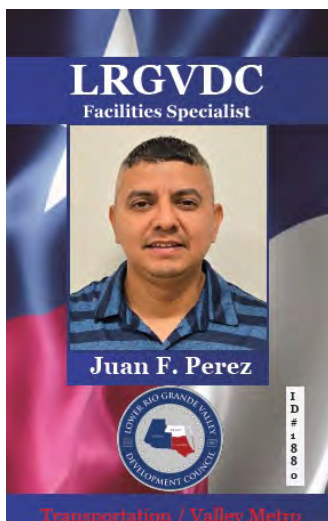
New Promotion Start Date: August 17, 2026

Tomas Silva
Customer Service Representative I
Transportation/ Valley Metro



New Promotion Start Date: August 17, 2026

Juan F Perez
Facilities Specialist
Transportation/Valley Metro



New Hire Start Date: August 17, 2026

Diana Ramirez
CSR I- Mobility
Transportation/Valley Metro



2. Staff Recognition for Years of Service.

Presentation for FY 2024; 2025; & 2026

List is in alphabetical order by last name and Award Year:

5 year:

Maribel Alonzo – RGV 9-1-1
Monica Estrada – RGV 9-1-1
Rene Garza – Valley Metro
Melissa Gonzalez – Valley Metro
Conrad Hernandez – Finance
Daniel Hernandez – Valley Metro
Zulma Martinez – Area Agency on Aging
Claudia Olmedo – Valley Metro
Robert Salinas – Valley Metro
Yesenia Vallejo – Finance
Rodolfo Zamora – RGV MPO

10 Year:

James Benson – Valley Metro
Rosemary Contreras – RGV 9-1-1
Yolanda De Leon – Finance
Rolando Florez – Area Agency on Aging
Ceferino Garcia – Valley Metro
Romeo Garcia – Valley Metro
Leticia Gazca – Valley Metro
Rodolfo Rosales – Valley Metro
Jesus Segura – Valley Metro
Sellenne Vallejo – RGV 9-1-1

15 year:

Dora Cruz – Valley Metro
Joe Garcia – RGV 9-1-1
Celeste Nepomuceno – Finance
Monica Rocha – Area Agency on Aging
Dora Rodriguez – Area Agency on Aging

20 year:

Adalia M. Gonzalez – Finance
Vivianna Moreno – Area Agency on Aging

25 year:

Jaime Garza – Area Agency on Aging

30 Year:

Crystal Balboa – Finance

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- **Economic Development Administration**

On August 13th, staff attended the USDA South Texas Federal Forum, hosted by the USDA Rural Development Texas Team to strengthen collaboration among federal partners, local governments, and community organizations serving rural Texas. The event featured presentations and opportunities for one-on-one engagement with resource providers. The insights shared will support future planning efforts and help advance ongoing initiatives throughout the region.

The EDAC meeting was held on August 19, 2026. During the meeting, members took action to fill the final vacant seat, completing the EDAC's full membership. A presentation from the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) was provided on their experience with the EDA Revolving Loan program, outlining the processes involved in securing EDA revolving loans, the systems used to administer and manage the program, and key lessons learned throughout its implementation. In addition, the C&ED Director spoke on the Rio Grande Valley Broadband and Digital Plan (RGVBDO) Focus Areas and Objectives. The conversation centered on Objective 5, which focuses on strengthening the integration of the Rio Grande Valley Broadband Digital Opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) across regional initiatives. Additional emphasis was placed on aligning ongoing economic development efforts with the broader strategic framework, improving coordination among partners, and ensuring that plan elements are actively incorporated into upcoming projects and planning activities.

The C&ED Director continues to emphasize the importance of utilizing the region's approved planning documents, including the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) and the Economic Recovery & Resiliency (ERR) Plan. These stakeholder-driven plans outline regional priorities and guide project development, community needs assessments, and alignment with broader regional goals. Consistent use of these resources strengthens the region's ability to secure federal funding, support strategic planning, and advance initiatives that promote long-term economic resilience and competitiveness.

C&ED continues to issue letters of support, and staff continue to work closely with city officials, EDCs, EDOs, and other economic development partners to identify and develop potential projects. These collaborative efforts strengthen applications and help secure letters of support that align with our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Total # of Letter of Support (LOS) as of August 13, 2026:	# of LOS Issued as of June 13 th - August 13 th , 2026:
16	7

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

Disaster Supplemental Funding: This funding is available exclusively to communities affected by natural disasters that received a FEMA Disaster Declaration in 2023 or 2024. For more information about this opportunity, please visit the website linked below.

<https://www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/disaster-recovery/supplemental/2025>

- **Texas Regional Broadband Program**

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) and the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) established the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP) to enhance COG capacity for regional broadband planning and digital opportunity initiatives. As part of this effort, the LRGVDC received supplemental funding to assist the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in developing broadband and digital opportunity plans for Jim Hogg, Webb, and Zapata Counties, with Starr County already covered under the existing Rio Grande Valley Broadband and Digital Opportunity Plan .

On July 23, 2026, staff attended the STDC Board of Directors meeting to introduce the project and outline LRGVDC's role in supporting the development of STDC's BDO plan. Staff emphasized the need for STDC to serve as a co-leader in coordinating outreach and establishing connections with stakeholders across the three counties. The presentation also highlighted that the TRBP aims to strengthen regional collaboration and long-term partnerships that position communities to pursue funding opportunities, expand broadband access, and address ongoing digital connectivity challenges.

We are currently in the process of hiring a Broadband Specialist to support this project. The previous specialist resigned, and applications are now being accepted to fill the position. Interviews are anticipated to be held on August 25, 2026.

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

The RSCC workshop that was held on August 4, 2026, at 8:30 AM at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council in the Ken Jones Board Room was a great Success! This workshop served as the Annual Small Cities Workshop, providing an opportunity for our communities to receive comprehensive updates and guidance. The presenters included briefings on regional water resource planning, along with key initiatives related to community development and economic development.

Mrs. Melisa Gonzales-Rosas, Director of C&ED shared valuable insights into several regional plans developed by the LRGVDC, both internally and in collaboration with consulting firms through various grant funded programs. During her presentation, Mrs. Gonzales emphasized the importance of why regional planning matters and why utilizing these regional plans is important. Mrs. Gonzales-Rosas explained that using planning resources play a key role in strengthening our communities by empowering local leaders to make informed decisions and advance meaningful initiatives.

Ms. Rina Castillo from Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) highlighted the services offered through its Cooperative Extension Program, specifically the Community and Economic Development (CED) Unit. Ms. Castillo outlined PVAMU's history as a historic institution and member of the Texas A&M University System. She explained that the Cooperative Extension Program provides research-based support across Texas, focusing on underserved communities.

Ms. Castillo mentioned that the CED Unit's mission is to strengthen communities through education, technical assistance, and outreach in areas such as entrepreneurship, workforce development, financial capability, homeownership, digital literacy, leadership, and community planning. In her presentation she summarized core services including small business consulting and training, youth entrepreneurship programs, USDA home loan and repair programs, and workforce development workshops covering resumes, interviewing, professionalism, and time management.

Mr. Roel Gomez from USDA presented on the USDA Rural Development programs that support rural communities through essential infrastructure and housing assistance, emphasizing both Water & Environmental Programs (WEP) and Single-family Housing options. Mr. Gomez described how WEP provides technical assistance, grants, direct loans, and guaranteed loans to help rural public bodies, nonprofits, and Tribes develop or improve water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste systems, with eligibility based on rural population limits and specific income thresholds that determine grant levels and interest rates. He also highlighted specialized programs, including assistance for Tribal lands and Colonias, emergency water grants, and planning and technical assistance initiatives designed to help low-income or historically underserved communities address health risks and non-optimal soil conditions. Mr. Gomez also mentioned the Single Family Housing Programs such as Section 502 direct and guaranteed loans, which offer up to 100% financing—with no down payment—for low, very-low, and moderate-income families purchasing owner-occupied homes, as well as Section 504 loans and grants that help very low-income homeowners, especially seniors with complete essential health and safety repairs like roofing, septic systems, electrical work, or accessibility modifications.

Attendees expressed positive feedback, appreciating the clarity, depth, and practical value of the presenters. It was a very productive workshop that supported collaboration and strengthened capacity across our small city partners. Staff continue to support our small communities through consistent guidance, resource sharing, and hands on technical assistance tailored to each community's needs. With regular communication, and reliable follow-through, staff ensure that the cities have the tools and information necessary to advance their priorities and strengthen local initiatives.





2026 REGIONAL COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP

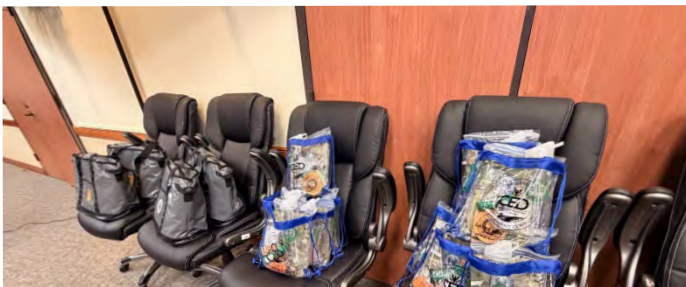
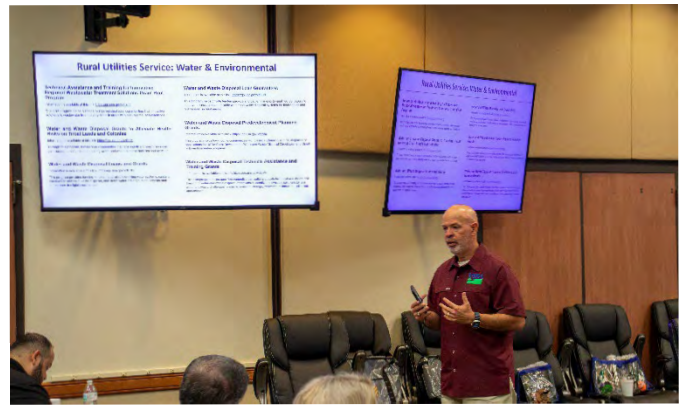
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
August 4, 2026



8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:05 am	Welcome Melisa Gonzales-Rosas
9:05 – 9:25 am	Prairie View A&M University Extension Community & Economic Development Rina Castillo
9:25 – 9:45 am	Lower Laguna Madre Hydrodynamic Circulation Study K.J. Ayres-Guerra
9:45 – 10:05 am	Arroyo Colorado Partnership - Watershed Planning Update Samantha Colunga
10:05 – 10:25 am	Safe Water at Home: What Every Homeowner Should Know to Protect Wells & Septic Systems in Emergencies Leena Mitra
10:25 – 10:45 am	PFAS in Our Waters: Why It Matters for Community Health Dr. Frauke Seemann
10:45 – 10:50 am	RAFFLE
10:50 – 11:05 am	BREAK
11:05 – 11:25 am	North and Central Watershed Protection Plan & Brownsville Ship Channel Watershed Monitoring Project Linda Navarro, Ivan Santos, and Rebeca Santos
11:25 – 11:45 am	Building Resilient LRGV Communities: Empowering Local Communities with CHARM Amanda Cain
11:45 – 12:05 pm	LUNCH
12:05 – 12:25 pm	Strengthening Resilient Communities in South Texas Katya Wowk, Senior Social Scientist, The Water Institute
12:25 – 12:45 pm	USDA Cristina Lopez and Roel Gomez
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Closing Remarks, Community Announcements, Final Raffle Melisa Gonzales-Rosas

This workshop is partially funded through a Clean Water Act Section 604(b) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, administered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.





***A big thank you to the
RGV 9-1-1 Emergency
Communication District for
generously donating raffle
items and presenter gifts.
Your support is greatly
appreciated and contributed
to the success of our event!***

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Texas PACE Authority and Texas Roadhouse for generously providing lunch and refreshments.



For any questions regarding RSCC, reach out to Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org.

- **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

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

Staff continues to disseminate information related to the Community Development Fund Regional Scoring Priorities, ensuring TxCDBG-eligible communities receive updates shared through the CDBG listserv. This month, three emails were sent to non-entitlement communities, including notices for TxCDBG meetings, workshops, hearings, and similar activities. Staff encourages local participation and maintains documentation of all communications.

**Texas Department of Agriculture Funding Opportunities:
Community Development Fund (2027-2028)**

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

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

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

- **Air Quality Program**

The Scope of Work (SOW) for FY 2026–2027 funding was submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) by the required deadline. TCEQ subsequently returned the document with follow-up questions and comments. Staff, in coordination with the consultant, addressed all requested revisions to ensure the SOW aligned with program requirements and compliance standards. Following TCEQ's final approval of the SOW, the project team developed the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which received approval from TCEQ on July 29th. With this approval, technical work for the project may now begin.

To support site selection for the installation of two new air monitoring systems, communication has been initiated with the Delta Lake Irrigation District and the City of San Benito. On July 7th, staff and the project consultant, ALL4, conducted site visits and met with designated personnel to provide an overview of the planned work and equipment. These visits also offered an opportunity for the consultant to address any questions or concerns raised by either entity regarding the project.

Staff are currently working on finalizing a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between LRGVDC and each participating entity to clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of all parties. It is anticipated that equipment installation will begin before the end of August.

Staff participated in the July monthly project call with TCEQ, during which they received detailed updates on ongoing activities, progress milestones, budget updates and reporting. The team used the session to ask clarifying questions, gather essential information, and maintain alignment with project objectives and timelines. No call was held in August, as TCEQ indicated that the LRGVDC Rider 7 project continues to progress smoothly. With no major pending deliverables or outstanding items pending, the next meeting is scheduled for September 4th.

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

STC4 has submitted the draft application to National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for review and feedback. Once NREL's comments are received, they will be incorporated into the document before presenting the revised application to the

STC4 committee for its final review and approval. Following committee approval, the completed application will be submitted to DOE for consideration.

Additionally, staff are in the process of finalizing the collection of stakeholder bios, which will be included in the final application to ensure it reflects the full range of expertise and participation across the STC4 region.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The 2026-2027 Solid Waste Contracts for the 2027 projects have been sent out to the City of Alton and the City of Mercedes.

The City of Alton proposes to enhance a previous program and develop a permanent drive and drop of collection site that provides residents with a convenient supervised location located 8100 N. Moorefield RD, Alton, TX 78573 to dispose of approved materials and help reduce illegal dumping. The city will hire a contractor (RC8 LLC) for \$30,000.00 to build a permanent structure for roll-offs for continuous collection. The site will be designed for safe traffic flow and quick unloading. The facility will utilize six roll-off containers designated for material and waste (eg. tires, brush/yard, waste metals, bulky items, construction debris and other approved categories). The City of Alton will provide a \$55,000 cash match that will cover eligible costs not paid by the grant, including site preparation and minor construction, signage/stripping and traffic control features, vendor hauling, processing and disposal fees.

The City of Mercedes will be purchasing surveillance cameras (10) 3,499.00 ea. to be deployed at illegal dumping hotspots within the city. The outdoor remote cameras will be used to deter illegal tire dumping, improve enforcement and improve environmental protection. Vehicle search and motion search will allow enhanced detection of individuals engaging in illegal dumping. License plate of interest alerts and indexing will allow tracking of vehicles that are likely to dump again for prosecution. While the City is requesting the program maximum of \$30,000, the City of Mercedes will contribute the remaining \$21,316.50 from local funds (cash match) to fully implement the project as proposed.

Once we receive them and are signed by our Executive Director the projects will begin on September 1, 2026.

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

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Program

Under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, the CED Department has partnered with Texas State University to develop a Teacher's Edition of the composting curriculum. Once finalized, Region One Education Service

Center will professionally print the curriculum, and the completed materials will be shared with Region One for distribution to participating educators.

This new Teacher's Edition is designed to support educators in guiding students through the full composting and cultivation cycle. By engaging directly in hands-on learning activities that demonstrate how food scraps can be diverted from landfills and transformed into a valuable resource, students continue to build curiosity, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of environmental stewardship. We look forward to seeing how teachers integrate this enhanced curriculum into their classrooms to deepen students' understanding of sustainable practices. The Curriculum can be found on the www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html.

- **Water Quality Program**

Outreach Planning and Coordination Activities

Throughout July and August 2026, staff continued outreach efforts by coordinating with regional partners, schools, municipalities, nonprofits, and local jurisdictions to prepare educational materials, and confirm event participation. Staff attended 14 events during this period, supporting ongoing community education on water quality protection, flood safety, pollution prevention, litter reduction, proper recycling practices, and overall environmental stewardship. Staff also maintained regular coordination, including quarterly calls, with the TCEQ Project Manager to further regional environmental and water quality initiatives under the Water Quality grant. In addition, staff submitted the Water Quality FY25 Final Report documenting all completed work and deliverables for the FY25 contract, along with the fourth quarterly reports for both FY25 and FY26.

14 Outreach Events Attended – July & August 2026

Cody's Birthday Bash – City of Pharr | June 25, 2026

Coordinated and prepared for community outreach opportunities associated with the City of Pharr's Cody's Birthday Bash. Outreach planning focused on engaging families and community members and identifying opportunities to distribute Water Quality educational materials and promote awareness of water protection and pollution prevention.



4th of July Family Fest – Sullivan City | July 2, 2026

Coordinated Water Quality outreach participation for Sullivan City's Fourth of July Family Fest. Planning activities included event communication, preparation of outreach materials, and organizing educational resources for community engagement related to water quality and environmental stewardship.



Cameron Park Resource Fair – Cameron Park, Brownsville | July 31, 2026

Coordinated and prepared for Water Quality Program outreach at the Cameron Park Resource Fair, held in Cameron Park in Brownsville. Outreach preparation included organizing educational materials and resources to engage community members and provide information on water quality protection, pollution prevention, and environmentally responsible practices.



Back-to-School Bash – City of Granjeno | July 31, 2026

Coordinated with event organizers regarding participation in the City of Granjeno Back-to-School Bash. Prepared Water Quality educational materials and outreach resources to engage students, parents, and families and promote community awareness of practices that help protect local water resources.



National Night Out – City of Pharr | August 4, 2026

Coordinated Water Quality outreach participation for the City of Pharr National Night Out. Prepared educational materials and community resources for distribution and planned outreach activities designed to increase awareness of water quality, pollution prevention, and environmental responsibility.



National Night Out – Sullivan City | August 5, 2026

Coordinated with Sullivan City regarding National Night Out outreach participation. Prepared Water Quality educational information and outreach materials to support community engagement and promote practices that help protect local waterways.



National Night Out – City of San Juan | August 6, 2026

Conducted planning and coordination for Water Quality outreach participation at the City of San Juan National Night Out. Activities included communication with event representatives, preparation of educational materials, and organization of outreach resources for families attending the event.



Texas Parents Day / Back-to-School Event – Harlingen | August 7, 2026

Coordinated outreach efforts for the Texas Parents Day community event in Harlingen. Prepared Water Quality educational resources to complement the event's community information services and provide families with information on protecting water quality and preventing pollution.



Sparky's Back to School Bash - Edinburg | August 11, 2026

Coordinated outreach for the Back-to-School Bash event in Edinburg, providing Water Quality and Solid Waste educational materials along with school supplies, other promotional items, and reading resources to help families learn about pollution prevention and responsible waste management.



National Night Out – Palmview | August 13, 2026

Coordinating Water Quality outreach participation for Palmview's National Night Out. Planning includes preparing educational materials and resources for community engagement and providing information on water quality and pollution prevention.



Back-to-School Event – Santa Rosa ISD | August 14, 2026

Coordinated and prepared for Water Quality Program outreach at the Santa Rosa ISD Back-to-School Event. Planning activities included preparing educational materials and outreach resources to engage students and families and promote awareness of water quality protection, pollution prevention, and environmental stewardship.

Willacy County Back-to-School Event – Lyford | August 14, 2026

Coordinating outreach participation for the Willacy County Back-to-School Event in Lyford. Preparing Water Quality educational materials and resources to reach students and families while expanding outreach within Willacy County.

Back-to-School Bash – Palm View Branch Library, McAllen | August 15, 2026

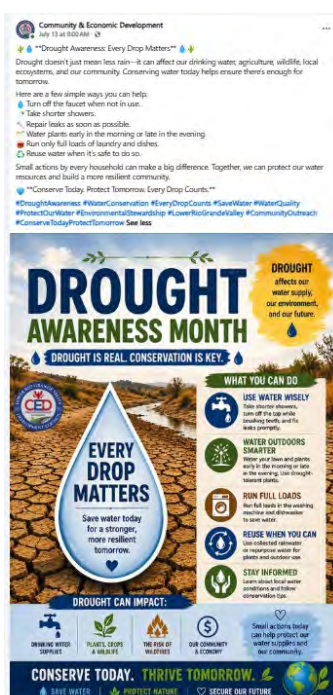
Coordinating Water Quality outreach participation for the Back-to-School Bash at the Palm View Branch Library. Planning includes preparing educational resources for students and families and promoting practical actions residents can take to protect water quality.

National Night Out – City of Alamo | August 19, 2026

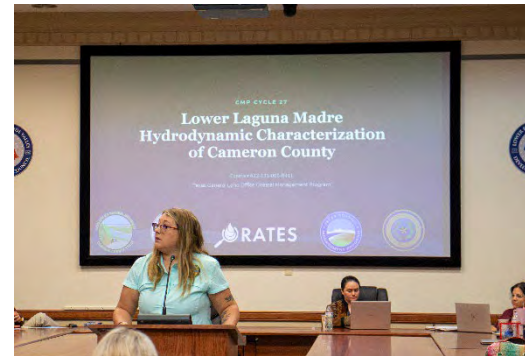
Coordinating participation in the City of Alamo National Night Out. Preparing Water Quality outreach materials and educational resources to engage residents and provide information regarding pollution prevention, environmental stewardship, and protection of local water resources.



[Community & Economic Development | Facebook](#), LRGVDC Facebook: [Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | Weslaco TX | Facebook](#)



Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Meeting



On August 4th, the LRGVDC hosted a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Meeting during the Regional Communities Workshop. This is a TCEQ deliverable as part of the Program Specialist I - Water Quality position, where they shall coordinate, facilitate, and host a meeting or conference to discuss WPPs in the region, and facilitate exchange of information among entities with WPPs.

The meeting included several presentations from water science experts such as the “Laguna Madre Hydrodynamic Circulation Study” by K.J. Ayres-Guerra, “Arroyo Colorado Partnership - Watershed Planning Update” by Samantha Colunga, “Safe Water at Home: What Every Homeowner Should Know to Protect Wells & Septic Systems in Emergencies” by Leena Mitra, “North and Central Watershed Protection Plan & Brownsville Ship Channel Watershed Monitoring Project” by Linda Navarro, Ivan Santos, and Rebeca Santos, and “PFAS in Our Waters: Why It Matters for Community Health” by Dr. Frauke Seemann.

These updates provide the community, leaders, and stakeholders with important information about the current state of our local watersheds and what measures are being taken to protect them. They also share recent scientific findings on water quality and how it impacts the health of residents.

Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership

The LRGVDC will begin testing local water soon for the Texas Stream Team which trained our Program Specialist I - Water Quality and Community Outreach Representative as community scientists. The goal is to reactivate inactive sites, fill

monitoring gaps in state coverage, and increase water quality data for the watersheds in the region. Several sites have been identified within the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and will be confirmed once water testing kits are purchased through the water quality grant. There are plans to host another community scientist training day in the Rio Grande Valley this fall, potentially on a weekend to accommodate a wider range of attendees.

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

The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 2:00 PM, hybrid. RWRAC meeting link can be found on the LRGVDC website.

Staff continue to distribute water information to regional stakeholders to keep them informed about upcoming funding opportunities, water conservation efforts, and available water resources. This ongoing outreach ensures that communities remain aware of key program updates and potential avenues for securing financial support for local projects.

TWDB Funding Opportunities

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

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Mrs. Melisa Gonzales-Rosas, or Ms. Enriqueta Caballero, TWDB Outreach Specialist and Program Administrator, at enriqueta.caballero@twdb.texas.gov or by phone at 512-435-9071.

Visit, <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>, for water resource information. For any RWRAC questions, please contact Sydney Ribera, sribera@lrgvdc.org

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

The Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M) is seeking nominations to fill a vacancy on their voting membership. Nominations will be accepted for one (1) vacancy in each of the following categories: (1) Agriculture, and (1) Water Districts.

Deadline for receipt of nominations: September 25, 2026

Submission Instructions: Nomination forms must be submitted in written form, either by email or mail to:

RGRWPG (Region M) c/o LRGVDC

Attn: Valerie Ramos, Program Manager

301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596

Email: vramos@lrgvdc.org

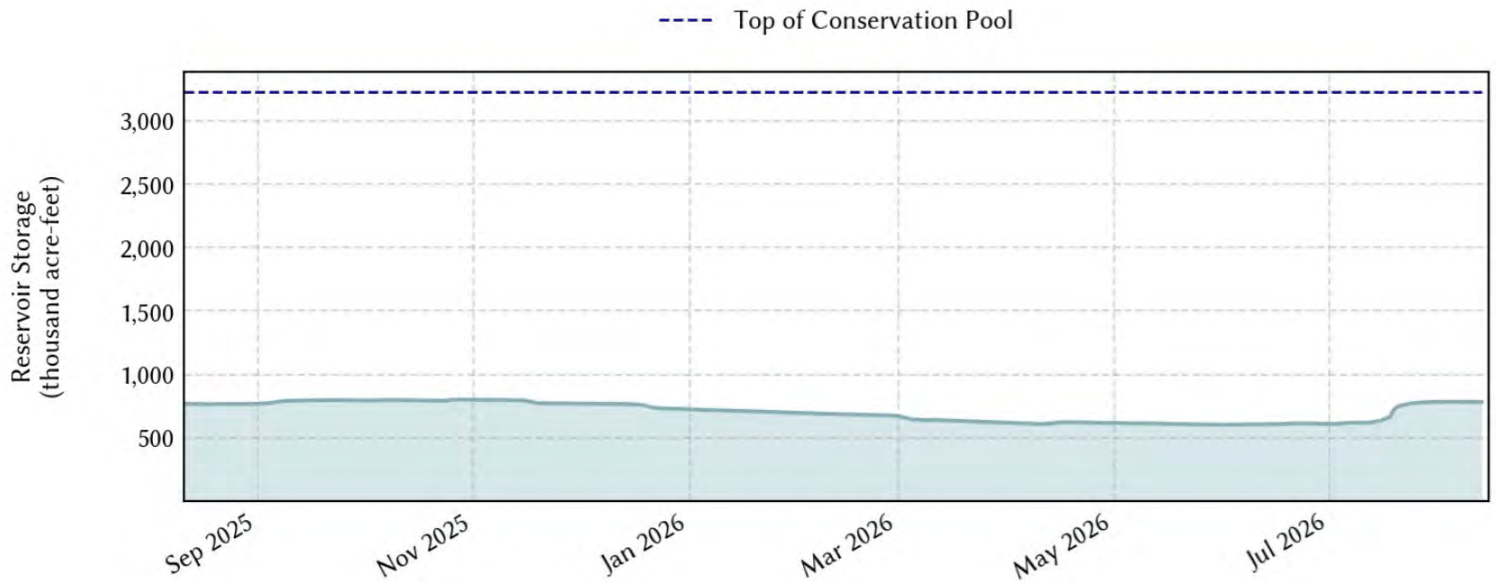
The nomination form can be found at: <http://riograndewaterplan.org/>

For details regarding eligibility criteria, membership conditions, or questions about the objectives of the RGRWPG, please contact Valerie Ramos.

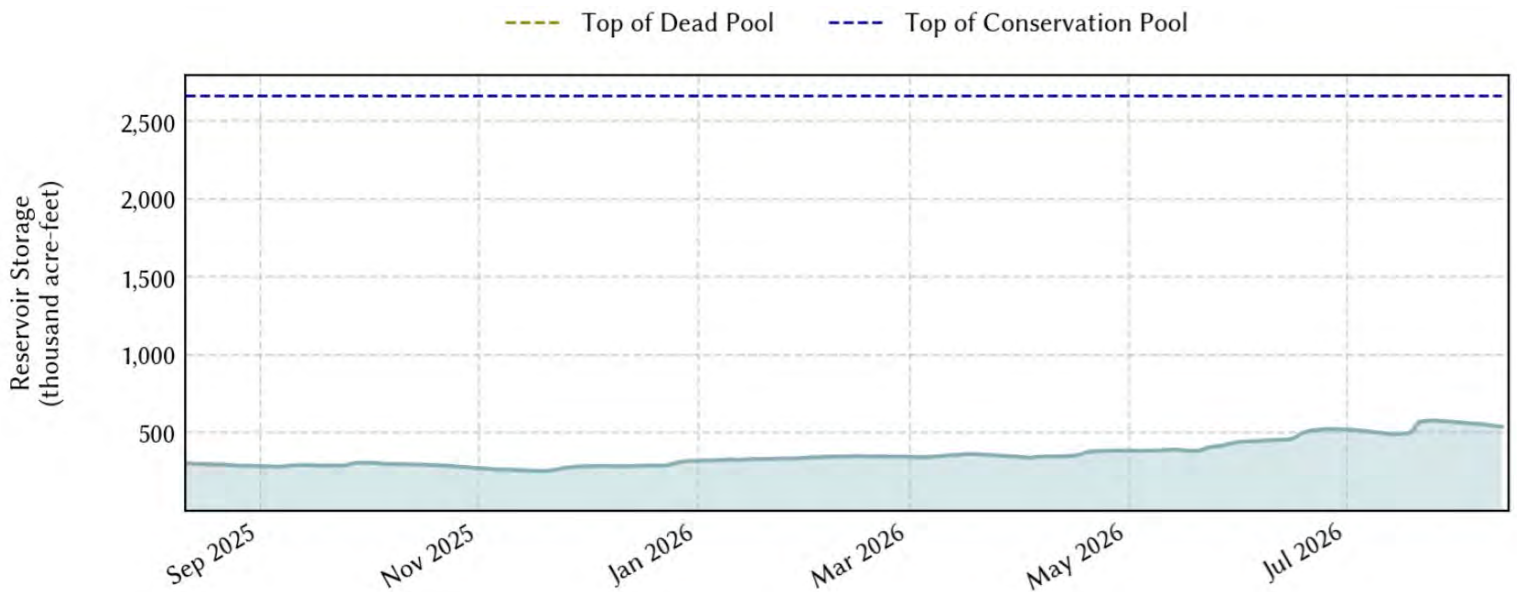
For any other additional information, you may contact Mrs. Melisa-Gonzales Rosas at (956)682-3481 ext.163 or melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org;

- **Reservoir Levels as of August 13, 2026 (www.IBWC.gov)**

AMISTAD RESEVOIR



FALCON RESEVOIR



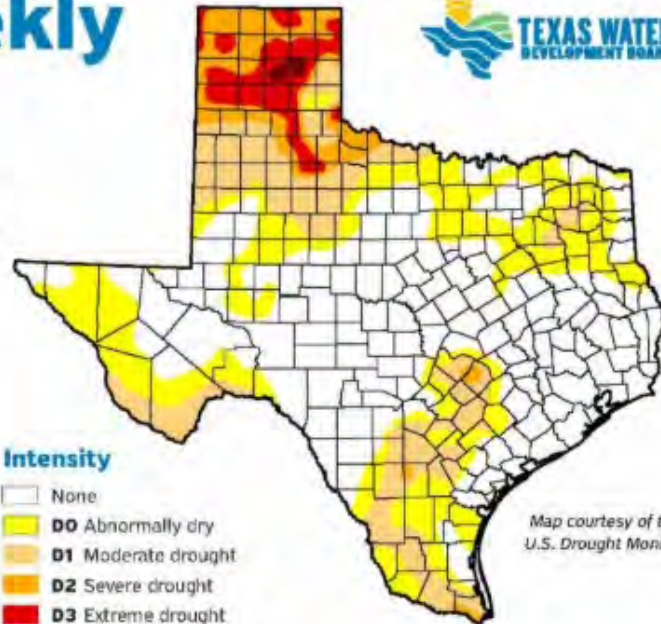
Water Weekly

For the week of **08/10/26**



Water conditions

In the last week, degradations outpaced improvements across the state, leading to the second consecutive week that drought has expanded. After a five-week absence, exceptional drought (the most severe category) has returned to the state in parts of Carson and Gray counties in the Panhandle.



Map courtesy of the
U.S. Drought Monitor

Drought conditions

25% now
23% a week ago
69% three months ago
19% a year ago

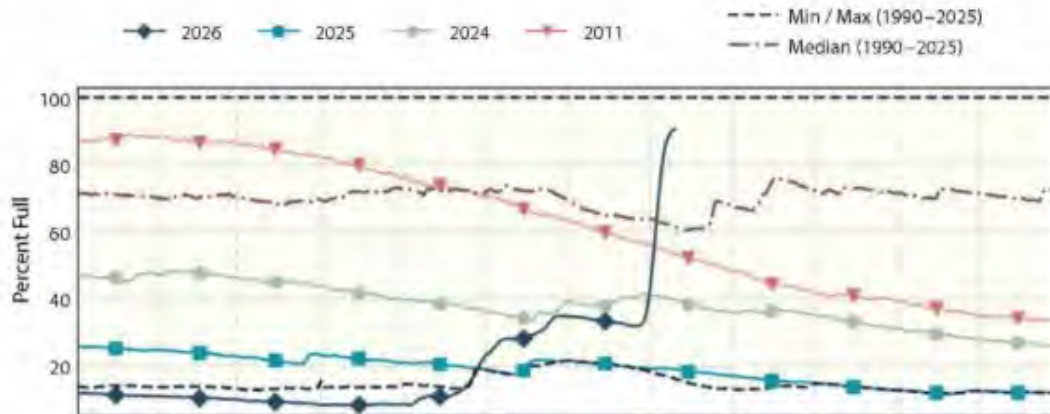
Intensity

- None
- D0** Abnormally dry
- D1** Moderate drought
- D2** Severe drought
- D3** Extreme drought
- D4** Exceptional drought

Lake Corpus Christi storage

TWDB chart

In mid-July, flooding on the Nueces River impacted communities in Uvalde County. In the last week, those same floodwaters made their way to Lake Corpus Christi, boosting lake volume from less than a third of capacity on July 29 to more than 90 percent of capacity on August 9.



ITEM # 5. B.

HEALTH

&

HUMAN SERVICES

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action ItemMargarita Lopez
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) requests Board approval to utilize this list of vetted contractors to deliver essential services — including medical transportation, homemaker assistance, respite care, residential modifications, medication assistance, medical supplies, and durable medical equipment — to eligible seniors across Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County, ensuring continuity of services with no gap in FY 2026-2027 coverage. Contractor details and services are outlined in Exhibit 1.1.

This item reflects the Direct Purchase of Services contractors list for FY 2026–2027, including 77 vendors reviewed and evaluated under the established procurement process. Board approval authorizes staff to proceed with these contractors for the upcoming fiscal year, pending funding availability.

Exhibit 1.1

Vendor Approval Summary

The following list is submitted for approval and includes 77 vendors recommended to provide services under the identified service lines. Vendor applications were reviewed and evaluated on July 13, 2026, in accordance with the established procurement process.

Please note that some vendors have been recommended to provide services in multiple service lines. Therefore, a vendor's name may appear more than once throughout the listing. These repeated entries reflect the different service categories for which the vendor is being recommended and do not represent additional vendors.

The attached procurement timeline is provided to demonstrate compliance with the established procurement process. Supporting procurement documentation, including vendor applications, evaluation materials, and related records, is maintained on file and is available upon request.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Area Agency on Aging
Direct Purchase of Services
Contractor Solicitation Timeline FY2027

May 6, 2026	Contractor Solicitation and application will be available on the LRGVDC website
May 6, 2026 May 13, 2026	Public notice will be published in local newspapers to announce the availability of the Request for Applicants
June 18, 2026 June 25, 2026	<u>Mandatory Application Conference for All Interested Parties*</u> 1:00 – 1:30 P.M., 2:00 – 2:30 P.M., 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Location: 301 W. Railroad Ave., Building B Weslaco, Texas 78596 *Failure to attend will disqualify the agency from participation for the new fiscal year
July 10, 2026	Vendor applications must be submitted and time-stamped by 5:00PM by the receptionist at: 301 W. Railroad Ave., Building D Weslaco, Texas 78596
July 13, 2026	Agency staff will review submitted vendor applications
August 11, 2026	Qualifying vendor applications will be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) for review and recommendation
August 26, 2026	Qualifying vendor applications will be submitted to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors for final approval
August 27, 2026	Approved vendors will be notified of the Mandatory Billing Training and Contract Signing Event
September 10, 2026 September 11, 2026	<u>Mandatory Application Conference for All Interested Parties*</u> 1:00 – 1:30 P.M., 2:00 – 2:30 P.M., 3:00 – 3:30 P.M. Location: 301 W. Railroad Ave., Building B Weslaco, Texas 78596 *Failure to attend will disqualify the agency from participation for the new fiscal year
October 1, 2026	Start of New Fiscal Year

Homemaker and Respite Services

Agency	Telephone Number	Address	Service Area	Respite Rate	Homemaker Rate	Services
VIP Providers	361-592-5222	1212 N. 14th St. Kingsville, TX 78363	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.56	\$18.56	Homemaker, Respite
A Healing Touch Home Health	956-447-1803	2900 N. Texas Blvd. Ste 101 Weslaco, TX 78599	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$16.00	\$16.00	Homemaker, Respite
Adorable Primary Home Care	956-338-6655	400 Paredes Line Rd Suite A, Brownsville, TX 78521	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$16.50	\$16.50	Homemaker, Respite
Agua Cristalina Home Care	956-365-3095	109 E Jackson Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
All Generations Health Care	956-928-1001	4709 E Curry Rd. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.60	\$17.60	Homemaker, Respite
All Star Primary Home Care	956-766-7700	2513 E. Griffin Prkwy. Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo, Cameron	\$17.00	\$17.00	Homemaker, Respite
All Texas Health Care	956-425-2273	302 E Tyler Ave, Ste. 2 Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.50	\$17.50	Homemaker, Respite
All-Valley Home Health	956-782-9002	1910 Tesoro St. Pharr TX 78577	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$15.00	\$15.00	Homemaker, Respite
All-Valley Primary Home Care	956-782-9002	1910 Tesoro St. Pharr TX 78577	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$15.00	\$15.00	Homemaker, Respite
Amable Home Care	956-509-5801	615 N. Main St. La Feria, TX 78559	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$16.00	\$16.00	Homemaker, Respite
Amor Eterno Provider Services	956-685-5036	854 E. St. Francis St. Brownsville, TX 78520	Cameron	\$19.00	\$19.00	Homemaker, Respite
Angeles Divinos Home Health Care	956-423-5900	1291 N. Stuart Place Rd. Harlingen, TX 78552	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$19.00	\$19.00	Homemaker, Respite
APC Home Health Service	956-412-0220	1805 Bell St Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.13	\$17.13	Homemaker, Respite
Arise Home Health Care	956-580-1155	215 Catholic War Veterans Blvd. Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo	\$16.85	\$16.85	Homemaker, Respite
Caring Senior Services	210-227-9494	1321 W. Pecan Blvd. Ste. C McAllen, TX 78501	Hidalgo	\$25.00	\$25.00	Homemaker, Respite
Casa Mia Home Care	956-843-0740	2223 Primrose Ave. McAllen, TX 78504	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.50	\$17.50	Homemaker, Respite
D'Oro Home Health Services	956-973-9700	P.O. Box 267, Weslaco, TX 78599	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$15.00	\$15.00	Homemaker, Respite
Dulce Esperanza Home Health Care	956-580-2119	3000 N. Taylor Rd. McAllen, TX 78501	Hidalgo	\$16.39	\$18.47	Homemaker, Respite

Faith Primary Home Care	956-272-1950	813 El Gato Rd. Alamo, TX 78516	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.50	\$17.50	Homemaker, Respite
Globality	956-243-3273	2763 Deer Trail Brownsville, TX 78521	Cameron	\$13.00	\$16.00	Homemaker, Respite
Hands of Angels Home Care	956-423-5900	1291 N. Stuart Place Rd. Harlingen, TX 78552	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$19.00	\$19.00	Homemaker, Respite
Health Care Unlimited	956-994-9911	1100 E. Laurel Ave. McAllen, TX 78501	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$25.00	\$25.00	Homemaker, Respite
Helping Hands Primary Home Care	956-731-0002	2409 E. 21st St. Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$20.00	\$20.00	Homemaker, Respite
High Point Home Health	956-583-8876	1700 W. Griffin Pkwy. Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$20.00	\$20.00	Homemaker, Respite
Hub City Home Health	724-469-1449	1117 N. Stuart Place Rd. Ste. 101 Harlingen, TX 78552	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
Jireh Health Care Services	956-223-1057	537 E. Frontage Rd. Ste. A Alamo, TX 78516	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$13.50	\$13.50	Homemaker, Respite
Los Reyes Home Care	956-584-9200	P.O. Box 144 S. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$13.84	\$13.84	Homemaker, Respite
Med Team	956-504-9000	45 N.E. Loop 410 Ste. 800 San Antonio, TX 78216	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
Nurses That Care Sitter Services	956-682-0800	5411 N. McColl Rd. McAllen, TX 78504	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.13	\$17.13	Homemaker, Respite
PACE Health Care	956-447-8886	P.O. Box 655 Weslaco, TX 78599	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$16.00	\$16.00	Homemaker, Respite
Palm Valley Primary Home Care	956-292-0920	209 E. Canton Rd. Ste. A Edinburg, TX 78539	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.13	\$17.13	Homemaker, Respite
Prestige Home Care Services	956-487-7551	5107 S. Embassy St. Ste. A Rio Grande City, TX 78582	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.00	\$17.00	Homemaker, Respite
Proton Providers at Home	956-230-8383	2325 E. Bowie Ave. Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.50	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
Pure VIP Health Care	956-203-8773	1873 Apollo Ave. Brownsville, TX 78521	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
Reyna Health Care	956-383-0162	121 S. 21st Ave. Edinburg, TX 78539	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.68	\$17.68	Homemaker, Respite
Rios De Vida Primary Home Care	956-551-0293	4002 Patredes Line Rd. Ste. 16 Brownsville, TX	Cameron	\$17.50	\$16.50	Homemaker, Respite
Rock Bridge Home Health Agency	956-287-9991	901 E. RedbudSte. 8B McAllen, TX 78504	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.13	\$17.13	Homemaker, Respite
Santa Fe Primary Home Care Services	956-550-9901	3465 E. Ruben Torres Blvd. Ste. B Brownsville, TX 78526	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite

Santa Rosa Primary Home Care	956-338-9885	6985 Laguna De Palmas Dr. Brownsville, TX 78526	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$19.00	\$19.00	Homemaker, Respite
Stay Healthy Home Care	956-361-4407	1835 S. Sam Houston Blvd. San Benito, Texas 78586	Cameron	\$16.00	\$16.00	Homemaker, Respite
Tesoro De La Fe Home Health	956-442-7092	1247 Lakeside Blvd. Brownsville, TX 78520	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$12.00	\$10.50	Homemaker, Respite
Texas Nurse Care Home Health Agency	956-621-3203	2416 Thors Hammer Ste. D Brownsville, TX 78526	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$17.00	\$17.00	Homemaker, Respite
Texas Visiting Nurses Service	956-412-1401	814 E. Tyler Ave. Harlingen, Texas 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$15.25	\$15.25	Homemaker, Respite
Vicky Roy Home Health Service	956-412-9400	606 Lela St. Ste. B Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$18.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
Vive Home & Health Services	956-525-7555	2404 El Gusto St. Brownsville, TX 78520	Hidalgo, Cameron	\$17.00	\$17.00	Homemaker, Respite
Your Provider Services	956-410-4757	1041 E. Matz Ave. Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$20.00	\$18.00	Homemaker, Respite
Yours Truly Provider Services	956-280-5800	355 W. Elizabeth St. Ste. 121 Brownsville, TX 78520	Cameron	\$19.00	\$19.00	Homemaker, Respite

Health Maintenance Services

Agency	Telephone Number	Address	Service Area	Delivery Availability	Pricing	Services
28th State Construction	956-270-0842	6603 Haddonfield St. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	No	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
A&E Medical Supplies	956-609-9085	44 W. Jefferson St. Ste. 3 Brownsville, TX 78520	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	No	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Apple Pharmacy	956-518-7310	130 A Uptown Ave. Brownsville, TX 78566	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	No	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Autrey Pharmacy 1	956-548-0801	1205 Central Blvd. Brownsville, TX 78520	Cameron	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Brandon's DME Supply	956-432-0153	2716 N. Conway Ave. Mission, TX 78574	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Cantu's Pharmacy	956-383-1239	504 S. Closner Blvd. Edinburg, TX 78539	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Fry's Prescription Pharmacy	956-399-2453	311 N. Sam Houston Blvd. San Benito, TX 78586	Cameron	No	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Mission Plaza Pharmacy	956-581-8833	1611 Heritage Ln. Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo	No	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Pete's Pharmacy	956-343-2424	721 W. Harrison Ste. A Harlingen, TX 78550	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance

Pharmacy Station	956-690-4090	604 S. Expwy 77 Ste. 1 Raymondville Tx. 78580	Cameron, Willacy	No	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Richard's Pharmacy Alton	956-584-7772	3509 E. Main Ave. Ste. 102 Alton, TX 78573	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Richard's Pharmacy Edinburg	956-289-1880	4630 S. Closner Blvd. Edinburg, TX 78539	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Saenz Medical Pharmacy Lonestar	956-687-2500	2121 E. Griffin Pkwy. Ste. 18 Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Saenz Medical Pharmacy Nolana	956-687-2500	801 E. Nolana Ste. 22 McAllen, TX 78504	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Saenz Medical Pharmacy North McAllen	956-928-0911	6900 N. 10th Ste. 6 McAllen, TX 78504	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Saenz Medical Pharmacy Peñitas	956-585-2704	P.O. Box 214 Peñitas, TX 78576	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Saenz Medical Pharmacy Ridge	956-630-2500	1200 E. Ridge Rd. Ste 13 McAllen, TX 78503	Hidalgo	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Salinas Pharmacy San Benito	956-399-5501	500 N. Sam Houston Ste. 1 San Benito, TX 78586	Cameron	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Salinas Pharmacy Harlingen	956-425-1156	1022 S. F St. Harlingen, TX 78550	Cameron	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance
Sentido Health	713-955-2123	27905 Commercial Park Rd. Ste. 240 Tomball, TX 77375	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Yes	Call for Current Pricing	Health Maintenance

Residential Repair Services

Agency	Telephone Number	Address	Service Area	Rates	Rates	Service
28th State Construction	956-270-0842	6603 Haddonfield St. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Residential Repair Services
Absolute Construction	956-648-7680	P.O. Box 4404 Hidalgo, TX 78557	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Adaptive Access Construction	956-240-3650	4205 Loriemark Dr. Palmhurst, TX 78573	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Residential Repair Services
Alex Carpentry & Remodeling	956-205-5587	303 Kiskadee Ln. Mission, TX 78572	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Coachella Contractors	956-648-1677	2710 Larkspur Ln. Pharr, TX 78577	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Residential Repair Services
Elite Access	956-601-9272	2401 S. Hillside Ave. Unit 2 Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
GGG General Construction	956-683-7195	1812 E. Honolulu Ave. Alton, TX 78573	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Residential Repair Services

Globality	956-243-3273	2763 Deer Trail Brownsville, TX 78521	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Jose N Flores Construction	956-533-9075	5301 N. Schuerbach Rd. Mission, TX 78574	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Residential Repair Services
Las Fuentes Construction	956-407-4713	2814 Jake St. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Los Milagros Construction	956-330-7550	801 Bass Blvd. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Vendor Quote Required	Residential Repair Services
Supreme Access	956-627-9955	801 Bass Blvd. Edinburg, TX 78542	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Vendor Quote Required	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy

Transportation Service

Agency	Telephone Number	Address	Service Area	Hidalgo County One Way Trip	Willacy County One Way Trip	Cameron County One Way Trip
Caring Senior Services	210-227-9494	321 W. Pecan Blvd. Ste. C McAllen, TX 78501	Hidalgo	\$25.00	N/A	N/A
Globality	956-243-3273	2763 Deer Trail Brownsville, TX 78521	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	(Ambulatory) \$70.00 (Wheelchair) \$75.00	(Ambulatory) \$75.00 (Wheelchair) \$80.00	(Ambulatory) \$50.00 (Wheelchair) \$55.00
Texas Nurse Care Home Health Agency	956-621-3203	2416 Thors Hammer Ste. D Brownsville, TX 78526	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$35.00
Vive Home & Health Services	956-525-7555	2404 El Gusto St. Brownsville, TX 78520	Cameron	N/A	N/A	\$40.00

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action ItemMargarita Lopez
Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the list of Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act – Title III for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) requests Board approval to utilize this list of vetted Subrecipients to deliver essential services including congregate meals, home-delivered meals, transportation, senior center operations, and caregiver education & training to eligible seniors across Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County, ensuring continuity of services with no gap in FY 2026-2027 coverage. Subrecipient details and services are outlined in Exhibit 2.1.

***Disclaimer:** *Approval of subrecipient list does not assign funding amounts; final awards depend on available state and federal funds.*

This item reflects the subrecipient list for the FY 2026–2027 OAA Title III RFP, including all 10 subrecipients evaluated and ranked under the established scoring process. Board approval authorizes staff to proceed with these subrecipients for the upcoming fiscal year, pending funding availability.

Exhibit 2.1

Subrecipient Approval Summary*

The following list is submitted for approval and includes 10 subrecipients recommended for funding under the FY 2026–2027 Request for Proposals (RFP). Applications were reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the established procurement process and the requirements outlined in the RFP.

Please note that some subrecipients may be recommended for funding under multiple programs, service categories, or funding sources. Therefore, a subrecipient's name may appear more than once throughout the listing. These repeated entries reflect the individual programs or service categories for which the organization is being recommended and do not represent additional subrecipients.

All applications were reviewed and evaluated through a scoring and ranking process conducted by the Reviewing Committee, in accordance with the established procurement process and the requirements outlined in the RFP. Placement on this list reflects that scoring and ranking process, which will serve as the determining factor for funding allocation when and if funding becomes available.

The attached procurement timeline is provided to demonstrate compliance with the established procurement and evaluation process. Supporting procurement documentation, including submitted applications, required attachments, evaluation materials, scoring documentation, and related records, is maintained on file and is available for review upon request.

**Approval of Subrecipient list does not assign funding amounts: final awards depend on available state and federal funds*

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Area Agency on Aging
“REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANTS”
Timeline FY2027

May 6, 2026	Request for Proposal and application will be available on the LRGVDC website
May 6, 2026 May 13, 2026	Media Notification via Newspaper: Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, and The Monitor
June 18, 2026 June 25, 2026	<u>Mandatory Application Conference for All Interested Parties*</u> 9:00A.M – 10:00 A.M., 10:30AM – 11:30 A.M. Location: 301 W. Railroad Ave., Building B Weslaco, Texas 78596 *Failure to attend will disqualify the agency from participation for the new fiscal year
June 26, 2026	Last Day to submit written questions
July 10, 2026	Proposals must be submitted and time-stamped by 5:00PM by the receptionist at: 301 W. Railroad Ave., Building D Weslaco, Texas 78596
July 14, 2026	Proposals will be reviewed
August 11, 2026	Qualifying Proposals will be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) for review and recommendation
August 26, 2026	Qualifying Proposals will be submitted to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors for final approval
August 27, 2026	Approved submitters will be notified in writing regarding the acceptance of their proposal by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.
October 1, 2026	Start of New Fiscal Year

Nutrition Services*

Agency	Service(s)	Service Area
Amigos Del Valle	Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation	Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron Counties
Bright Nutrition	Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation	Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron Counties
Healthy Kids and Teens of South Texas, Inc.	Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals	Hidalgo
Little Club Foundation	Congregate Meals	Hidalgo

*Approval of Subrecipient list does not assign funding amounts: final awards depend on available state and federal funds

Senior Center Services*

Agency	Service	Service Area
La Joya	Senior Center Services	La Joya, Texas
Los Fresnos	Senior Center Services	Los Fresnos, Texas
Mission Housing Authority	Senior Center Services	Mission, Texas
Primera	Senior Center Services	Primera, Texas
Rio Hondo	Senior Center Services	Rio Hondo, Texas
Wellmed Charitable Foundation	Senior Center Services	Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron Counties

*Approval of Subrecipient list does not assign funding amounts: final awards depend on available state and federal funds

Caregiver Services*

Agency	Service	Service Area
Wellmed Charitable Foundation	Caregiver Training, Caregiver Information Services, Caregiver Support Groups, Evidence-Based Intervention	Hidalgo, Willacy, Cameron Counties

*Approval of Subrecipient list does not assign funding amounts: final awards depend on available state and federal funds



LRGVDC Proposal Evaluation Talley Sheet

RFP 2026-03: Area Agency on Aging Older Americans Act Services Under Title III



Evaluation Members

Evaluator Name

#	Proposer	Felipe Lopez	Gloria Castro	Rolando Florez	Abigail Cruz	Manuel Meraz	Karen Rivera	-	-	-	Totals	Rank
1	Mission Housing Authority	90	80	70	70	94	72	-	-	-	476	3
2	City of Lost Fresnos	80	79	70	63	87	65	-	-	-	444	5
3	Amigos Del Valle	97	90	83	83	73	80	-	-	-	506	2
4	City of Primera	82	75	70	63	84	58	-	-	-	432	7/8
5	Healthy Kids & Teens	88	50	45	59	90	59	-	-	-	391	10
6	Little Club Youth Foundation	84	60	72	65	90	51	-	-	-	422	9
7	City of Rio Hondo	80	75	70	63	83	61	-	-	-	432	7/8
8	City of La Joya	82	95	70	63	95	41	-	-	-	446	4
9	Bright Nutrition	90	80	76	67	63	59	-	-	-	435	6
#	WellMed	96	100	91	84	85	96	-	-	-	552	1

The scoring values presented in this tally are accurate and were transcribed directly from the individual evaluations submitted by the members of the Project Evaluation Committee.

The resulting ranking is intended as a decision-making tool to assess the relative merit of each submission, including its anticipated benefit and impact on the community and its alignment with the goals, priorities, and programmatic needs of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The ranking is not intended to identify a single awardee, and the highest-ranked respondent is not necessarily the only respondent that may be recommended for funding.

Subject to the availability of funds, program requirements, and applicable approvals, one or more respondents may be considered for funding. The amount and availability of funding may affect which submissions are recommended and the extent to which each proposed project or service may be funded.

The scoring results and rankings represent the conclusion of the evaluation phase only and do not constitute a final award or commitment of funds. The final rankings and any resulting funding recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Directors for review and final approval.


Procurement Signature

7/20/2026
Date

Felipe Lopez
Asst. Director of Business Operations

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

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 June and July 2026.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination June - July 2026**

- The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 176 new clients.
- A total of 3,263.48 units were provided with case management assistance.

Direct to Consumer Reports	June – New Clients	June – Total Units Delivered	July – New Clients	July – Total Units Delivered
Care Coordination Services	26	852.02	27	806.26
Health Maintenance Services <i>Assistance with costs for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.</i>	42	42	26	33
Homemaker Services <i>Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.</i>	1	934.12	5	516.08
Transportation Services <i>Assistance with transportation to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.</i>	1	16	2	16
Residential Repair Services <i>Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.</i>	12	14	34	34

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support June - July 2026**
 - The Caregiver Support Program served a total of 130 new clients.
 - A total of 12,189.25 units of services were provided.

Direct to Consumer Reports	June – New Clients	June – Total Units Delivered	July – New Clients	July – Total Units Delivered
Caregiver Support Services	16	329.49	27	806.26
Respite In-Home Services <i>Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.</i>	46	6,047	11	4,974.5
Health Maintenance Services <i>Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.</i>	17	18	13	14

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant June- July 2026**
 - The CDBG Program serviced a total of 15 new clients with Health Maintenance Services.
 - A total of 15 units of health maintenance services were provided
 - The CDBG Program serviced a total of 20 new clients with Homemaker Services.
 - A total of 1,127.75 units of Homemaker services were provided

Direct to Consumer Reports	June – New Clients	June – Total Units Delivered	July – New Clients	July – Total Units Delivered
CDBG Health Maintenance Services <i>Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.</i>	1	1	14	14
CDBG	11	398.88	9	728.87

Homemaker Services <i>Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.</i>				
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- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List**

- 1,009 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	
	1,009
Grand Total	1,009

- **Nutrition Program Report: June- July 2026**

- Successfully enrolled 93 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program
- Successfully delivered 46,392 meals.
- Successfully enrolled 101 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Successfully served 69,099 Congregate meals.

Home Delivered Meals	June – New Clients	June – Total Meals Delivered	July – New Clients	July – Total Meals Delivered
Amigos Del Valle	41	22,938	52	23,454
Congregate Meals	June – New Clients	June – Total Meals Served	July – New Clients	July – Total Meals Served
Amigos Del Valle	50	13,238	51	13,131
Bright Nutrition	0	21,260	0	21,470
Total	50	34,498	51	34,601

- **Senior Center Operations Report – June- July 2026**

- Program successfully enrolled 114 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 31,361 activities with their clients.

Senior Center Sites	June – New Clients	June – Total Activities	July – New Clients	July – Total Activities
Los Fresnos	0	2,660	3	2,783
Primera	0	608	1	718
Mission Housing Authority	0	260	0	267
WellMed Charitable Foundation	79	11,418	31	12,647
Total(s)	79	14,946	35	16,415

Special Services Report

- **Benefit Counselors Program – June- July 2026**

- Achieved the enrollment of 369 new clients and established a total of 465 contacts.
- The Benefit Counselor Department now has 5 counselors, expanding the number of individuals we can serve.

Benefits Counseling	June – New Clients	June – Total Served	July – New Clients	July – Total Served
HICAP Outreach	18	18	165	165
HICAP Assistance	27	40	20	27
MIPPA	43	53	18	35
Legal Awareness	18	18	0	0
Legal Assistance	35	48	25	61

***HICAP:** Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

***MIPPA:** Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act

- **Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – June- July 2026**

- The recruitment process remains ongoing. The program continues to review qualified candidates and anticipates conducting interviews throughout the month of August. The program is committed to filling the vacant positions as expeditiously as possible. Upon hiring, new staff will complete the required hospital-based training and credentialing process before fully resuming program activities. The program remains committed to restoring full-service delivery and reporting capacity as efficiently as possible.

- **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – June- July 2026**

- The recruitment process remains ongoing. The program continues to review qualified candidates and anticipates conducting interviews throughout the month of August. The program is committed to filling the vacant positions as expeditiously as possible. Upon hiring, new staff will complete the required hospital-based training and credentialing process before fully resuming program activities. The program remains committed to restoring full-service delivery and reporting capacity as efficiently as possible.

- **Ombudsman Program Report – June- July 2026**

- The Ombudsman handled 70 complaints.
- They dedicated 283.79 activity hours and recorded 606 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 46 in-kind hours.

Ombudsman				
Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints
June	22	131.95	313	39
July	24	151.84	293	31

Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – June- July 2026**

- The intake team had a total of 268 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, faxes, and follow-ups in the month of June and 245 in the month of July.

IR&A Interactions	June	July
1-800 AAA	18	14
1-855 ADRC	15	13
(956) 682-3481	84	53
(956) 412-0958	27	28
Walk-ins	3	6
E-mails	37	46
Fax	2	3
Follow ups	82	82
Total Interactions	268	245
Consumer Age Group	June	July
Consumers 60+	185	162
Consumer 59 and below	2	2
Consumer Demographics	June	July
Consumers with a Disability	181	151
Veterans	5	8
Top Call Topics	June	July
Health Maintenance	28	26
Homemaker	48	41
Residential Repair	14	16
Benefits Counseling	60	45
Respite	145	26

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – June- July 2026**

- Through the Housing Bond Grant, we were able to help 15 elderly tenants pay their outstanding rent and remain in their homes, preventing homelessness.

Housing Bond Recipients	
June	15

***ADRC Housing Navigator Services Closed effective May 31st 2026. In Accordance To HHSC Guidance Under MFP Funding Reduction**

- **ADRC Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report – June- July 2026**

- The CDBG Program serviced a total of 11 new clients with Health Maintenance Services.
- A total of 11 units of health maintenance services were provided
- A total of 202.55 units of Homemaker services were provided

ADRC Direct Consumer Report	June – New Clients	June – Total Units Delivered	July – New Clients	July – Total Units Delivered
CDBG Health Maintenance Services <i>Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.</i>	5	5	6	6
CDBG Homemaker Services <i>Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.</i>	0	76	0	126.55

ITEM # 5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

ITEM # 5. C.1.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE &
HOMELAND SECURITY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Criminal Justice & Homeland Security

Program Action ItemCesar Merla
Director of Emergency Services

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the CJAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028

The CJAC convened on August 12, 2026 at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room to deliberate and review the CJAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028. The CJAC approved the document as it best supports the continued function of the CJAC to the community. In order to maintain continued support and service to the community, this item requires Board Approval.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Criminal Justice Advisory Committee
Policies, Procedures
& Scoring Criteria
FY2027-2028**



**LRGVDC Public Safety - Criminal Justice Program
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596**

Contact Us



www.lrgvdc.org



956-682-3481

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THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS DIVISION AND THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Office of the Governor's (OOG) Criminal Justice Division (CJD) is the entity responsible for administering and awarding a number of grant programs across the State of Texas. The grant funding assists Texas jurisdictions to improve public safety and support victims of crime by filling system gaps and promoting innovative solutions to common challenges. The LRGVDC is one of twenty-four Councils of Government (COG) in the State of Texas and is the liaison between the OOG and local jurisdictions in the three county regions, which includes the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.

POLICIES AUTHORITY

The following policies and procedures will govern the LRGVDC's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) application review and prioritization process for designated funding sources. In addition, these policies and procedures will govern the operation of LRGVDC's Criminal Justice planning as outlined in the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between CJD and the LRGVDC. These policies are reviewed annually to align with local, regional and state guidelines.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CJAC)

The CJAC is a volunteer committee comprised of a multi-disciplinary representation of members from the region as per CJD requirements. Members are appointed by the LRGVDC's Executive Committee. The responsibility of the CJAC is to advise the LRGVDC on matters related to criminal justice.

The discipline areas include:

- citizens or parents
- substance abuse prevention
- education, juvenile justice
- law enforcement
- mental health
- non-profit organizations
- prosecution or courts
- victim services
- municipalities/counties

No single group or discipline may constitute more than one-third (1/3) of the CJAC.

FUNDING SOURCES

The CJAC will review and prioritize the following CJD funding sources:

- General Victim Assistance Direct Services Program
- Violent Crimes Against Women Justice and Training Program
- Criminal Justice Programs
- Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention
- Child Sex Trafficking
- Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Ready Facilities Program

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GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants regardless of funding status must meet ALL the requirements as set forth by the Office of the Governor/Public Safety Office's Criminal Justice Division's Request for Funding Announcement (RFA), no exceptions.

The LRGVDC's Criminal Justice staff and the CJAC shall ensure that the funding recommendations on applications are based on the following factors: the LRGVDC's Criminal Justice Strategic Plan, CJAC Policies, CJD requirements, reasonableness, and cost effectiveness.

MANDATORY GRANT WORKSHOP

All applicants are required to attend one grant workshop sponsored by the LRGVDC's Criminal Justice staff. Representatives can be one of the three grant designated officials, or a knowledgeable employee of the agency that is applying. Applicants who fail to attend a mandatory grant workshop shall be ineligible. Applicants can attend the grant workshop virtually if not physically able to attend.

APPLICATIONS

All applications shall be submitted on CJD's online grant management system, egrants.gov.texas.gov. All submission deadlines are determined by the Office of the Governor/Public Safety Office's Criminal Justice Division.

EQUIPMENT ONLY FUNDING REQUESTS

Applicants requesting funding for equipment only and no programmatic services, will be considered a biennium only applicant.

INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

Duplicate applications submitted for more than one COG administered CJD funding source will be considered under one funding source only. Applicants will be responsible for deciding which funding source they will apply under.

The CJAC reserves the right to deny recommendation for funding on any application, ineligible activity or line item that is not permitted under the funding source. LRGVDC staff will notify the Criminal Justice Division of such decisions.

LRGVDC's CRIMINAL JUSTICE REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

All eligible applications must address one or more of the priorities outlined in the regional strategic plan. The plan is available on the LRGVDC's website, www.lrgvdc.org.

The regional strategic plan describes the following:

- how local communities are engaged in the planning process
- how the data is used to support the plan
- stakeholders participating in the planning process
- gaps in resources for criminal justice needs
- criminal justice priorities identified during the planning process
- how the plan will be used by the CJAC during the prioritization process



PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

CJAC Members will be given a minimum of two-weeks to review and prioritize applications. Members will use a scoring instrument to record and tabulate application scoring. COG staff will tabulate scores and compile a priority list. The scoring instrument is reviewed annually and is updated as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidelines. Once the scores are tabulated, the CJAC will hold a prioritization meeting to review rankings and determine budget allocations.

- **Tie Breaking Procedures**

The highest and lowest score will be removed and recalculated to obtain the new aggregated score and will not affect the overall rankings of all the other applicants.

Depending on ongoing health and safety factors, the prioritization meeting will be hosted in person with a virtual option available as directed by the Chairperson. The Project Director along with the Financial Director and Authorized Official will be notified of the prioritization meeting date and platform, but attendance is not mandatory.

The CJAC reserves the right to recommend an amount less than the requested amount based on the budget cost effectiveness, reasonableness, or previous performance under all funding sources.

COG staff will submit the CJAC's recommended priority lists for all the funding categories to the LRGVDC Board of Directors to review and approve. The LRGVDC Board of Directors reserves the right to endorse or disallow the CJAC's recommendations. Once approved, the COG will submit the approved priority lists of grant projects to CJD. All projects are conditionally approved until CJD makes the final determination.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The COG shall ensure that members of the COG's governing body, the CJAC, and COG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application, other than a grant application submitted by a COG, during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:

- is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
- serves on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded; or
- owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency; or
- receives any funds from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded; or
- receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods, or services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

If a CJAC member has a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application, the member must abstain from voting, commenting, or otherwise influencing the prioritization process from the entire fund source in that category.

If any applicant, CJAC member, COG personnel or other individual has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of PSO/CJD projects, the COG shall ensure that concerns are shared with PSO/CJD as soon as possible.

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NOTIFICATION OF PRIORITIZATION RESULTS

The COG shall notify all applicants of the approved prioritized lists within thirty (30) calendar days of the LRGVDC's Board of Directors' approval.

LOCAL APPEALS PROCESS

Please note that appeals cannot be based on areas of discretion in the CJAC scoring criteria. An applicant may appeal based on the following:

- Mathematical error (i.e. the score on any selection criteria is arrived at incorrectly by COG staff due to human or computer error)

The appeal must be submitted in writing to the LRGVDC Board of Directors Chair within ten (10) business working days from the date of the notification of prioritization results. All appeals must include the specific alleged procedural violation(s).

An applicant must base their appeal upon a verifiable error made during the prioritization of the review process and the applicant must show that the error actually caused the denial of the application (or a portion of the application). The applicant must submit written documentation supporting the appeal.

Appeals made regarding a CJAC decision will be handled by the COG only. If an applicant appeals to CJD, they will be requested to go back to their COG for resolution. The responsibility and decision to consider initially filed appeals lies solely with the LRGVDC Board of Directors. CJD does not accept or provide an appeals process.

The LRGVDC Board of Directors may take one of the following actions:

- Concur with the appeal and make the appropriate adjustments to the applicant's scores.
- Disagree with the appeal and provide the basis for rejecting the appeal to the applicant.

FINAL REVIEW BY CJD

The COG shall submit the priority list of applications to the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division. If revisions on applications are deemed necessary, CJD will notify grantees directly. Grantees will be expected to submit the revisions to CJD. All funding decisions made by the Criminal Justice Division are final. No appeals will be accepted by the Criminal Justice Division regarding their funding decisions.

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Scoring Criteria

CJAC Member:				Date:						
DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program										
	How well does the project address a priority identified in the LRGVDC Criminal Justice Strategic Plan? (Drug Related Crime, Violent Crime, Juv Crime, Crime & Drug Prevention, Technology/Public Safety, Mental Health, Human Trafficking)	How well does the project's approach and activities address the problem?	The application identifies the geographic area targeted.	Impact Statement: A clear, precise state statement detailing the impact the project will have on the problem area.	Project Activities Program Type: This designates the program type that best describes the primary purpose of the project. Activity Description: The describes the activities or services the project provides to include support of goal statement and are consistent with the selection made in the fund specific criteria section.	Collaboration: Applying agency exemplifies coordinated collaborative initiative with other organizations, agencies and/or service providers.	Sustainability Plan: Applying agency has provided a sustainability plan that considers budget, personnel and other factors that would allow their agency to continue services.	Data Management: The organization has a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results.	Budget: Personnel expenditures include fringe; Contractual and professional services includes a cost per service; Travel & training include mileage, lodging rates; Equipment identified individually by unit & cost; Communications and rent identified by rate per month; Identification of sour and amount to match; Indirect rate is < or = to 2%; project costs are reasonable, eligible, and cost effective.	TOTAL PTS
Project Grant Application	1-20 PTS	1-10 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-20 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-15 PTS	1-15 PTS	
										0
										0
										0
										0

CJAC Member:				Date:						
SF-State Criminal Justice Fund										
	How well does the project address a priority identified in the LRGVDC Criminal Justice Strategic Plan? (Drug Related Crime, Violent Crime, Juv Crime, Crime & Drug Prevention, Technology/Public Safety, Mental Health, Human Trafficking)	How well does the project's approach and activities address the problem?	The application identifies the geographic area targeted.	Impact Statement: A clear, precise state statement detailing the impact the project will have on the problem area.	Project Activities Program Type: This designates the program type that best describes the primary purpose of the project. Activity Description: The describes the activities or services the project provides to include support of goal statement and are consistent with the selection made in the fund specific criteria section.	Collaboration: Applying agency exemplifies coordinated collaborative initiative with other organizations, agencies and/or service providers.	Sustainability Plan: Applying agency has provided a sustainability plan that considers budget, personnel and other factors that would allow their agency to continue services.	Data Management: The organization has a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results.	Budget: Personnel expenditures include fringe; Contractual and professional services includes a cost per service; Travel & training include mileage, lodging rates; Equipment identified individually by unit & cost; Communications and rent identified by rate per month; Identification of sour and amount to match; Indirect rate is < or = to 2%; project costs are reasonable, eligible, and cost effective.	TOTAL PTS
Project Grant Application	1-20 PTS	1-10 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-20 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-15 PTS	1-15 PTS	
										0
										0
										0

CJAC Member:				Date:						
TP-Truancy Prevention										
	How well does the project address a priority identified in the LRGVDC Criminal Justice Strategic Plan? (Drug Related Crime, Violent Crime, Juv Crime, Crime & Drug Prevention, Technology/Public Safety, Mental Health, Human Trafficking)	How well does the project's approach and activities address the problem?	The application identifies the geographic area targeted.	Impact Statement: A clear, precise state statement detailing the impact the project will have on the problem area.	Project Activities Program Type: This designates the program type that best describes the primary purpose of the project. Activity Description: The describes the activities or services the project provides to include support of goal statement and are consistent with the selection made in the fund specific criteria section.	Collaboration: Applying agency exemplifies coordinated collaborative initiative with other organizations, agencies and/or service providers.	Sustainability Plan: Applying agency has provided a sustainability plan that considers budget, personnel and other factors that would allow their agency to continue services.	Data Management: The organization has a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results.	Budget: Personnel expenditures include fringe; Contractual and professional services includes a cost per service; Travel & training include mileage, lodging rates; Equipment identified individually by unit & cost; Communications and rent identified by rate per month; Identification of sour and amount to match; Indirect rate is < or = to 2%; project costs are reasonable, eligible, and cost effective.	TOTAL PTS
Project Grant Application	1-20 PTS	1-10 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-20 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-15 PTS	1-15 PTS	
										0
										0
										0

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CJAC Member:				Date:						
VA - Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program										
	How well does the project address a priority identified in the LRGVDC Criminal Justice Strategic Plan? (Drug Related Crime, Violent Crime, Juv Crime, Crime & Drug Prevention, Technology/Public Safety, Mental Health, Human Trafficking)	How well does the project's approach and activities address the problem?	The application identifies the geographic area targeted.	Impact Statement: A clear, precise state statement detailing the impact the project will have on the problem area.	Project Activities Program Type: This designates the program type that best describes the primary purpose of the project. Activity Description: The describes the activities or services the project provides to include support of goal statement and are consistent with the selection made in the fund specific criteria section.	Collaboration: Applying agency exemplifies coordinated collaborative initiative with other organizations, agencies and/or service providers.	Sustainability Plan: Applying agency has provided a sustainability plan that considers budget, personnel and other factors that would allow their agency to continue services.	Data Management: The organization has a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results.	Budget: Personnel expenditures include fringe; Contractual and professional services includes a cost per service; Travel & training include mileage, lodging rates; Equipment identified individually by unit & cost; Communications and rent identified by rate per month; Identification of sour and amount to match; Indirect rate is < or = to 2%; project costs are resonable, eligible, and cost effective.	TOTAL PTS
Project Grant Application	1-20 PTS	1-10 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-20 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-15 PTS	1-15 PTS	
										0
										0
										0

CJAC Member:				Date:						
WF - Violence Against Women Formula Grants										
	How well does the project address a priority identified in the LRGVDC Criminal Justice Strategic Plan? (Drug Related Crime, Violent Crime, Juv Crime, Crime & Drug Prevention, Technology/Public Safety, Mental Health, Human Trafficking)	How well does the project's approach and activities address the problem?	The application identifies the geographic area targeted.	Impact Statement: A clear, precise state statement detailing the impact the project will have on the problem area.	Project Activities Program Type: This designates the program type that best describes the primary purpose of the project. Activity Description: The describes the activities or services the project provides to include support of goal statement and are consistent with the selection made in the fund specific criteria section.	Collaboration: Applying agency exemplifies coordinated collaborative initiative with other organizations, agencies and/or service providers.	Sustainability Plan: Applying agency has provided a sustainability plan that considers budget, personnel and other factors that would allow their agency to continue services.	Data Management: The organization has a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results.	Budget: Personnel expenditures include fringe; Contractual and professional services includes a cost per service; Travel & training include mileage, lodging rates; Equipment identified individually by unit & cost; Communications and rent identified by rate per month; Identification of sour and amount to match; Indirect rate is < or = to 2%; project costs are resonable, eligible, and cost effective.	TOTAL PTS
Project Grant Application	1-20 PTS	1-10 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-20 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-5 PTS	1-15 PTS	1-15 PTS	
										0
										0
										0

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Criminal Justice & Homeland Security

Program Action ItemCesar Merla
Director of Emergency Services

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the CJAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028

The CJAC convened on August 12, 2026 at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room to deliberate and review the CJAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028. The CJAC approved the document as it best supports the continued function of the CJAC to the community. In order to maintain continued support and service to the community, this item requires Board Approval.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Homeland Security Advisory Committee
Policies, Procedures & Scoring Criteria
FY 2027-2028**



**LRGVDC Public Safety - Homeland Security Program
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596**

Contact Us



www.lrgvdc.org



956-682-3481

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LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COG-21

Homeland Security Advisory Committee

By Laws, Policies, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for Grants

FY 2026-2027

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THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS DIVISION AND THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (COG-21)

The Office of the Governor's (OOG) Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) is the entity responsible for administering and awarding a number of grant programs across the State of Texas. The grant funding assists Texas jurisdictions in building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities to further the National Preparedness Goal which is, "*A secure and resilient Nation with capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.*" The OOG has the final decision on any project, including those administered by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) COG-21. The LRGVDC is one of twenty-four Councils of Government in the State of Texas and is the liaison between the OOG and local jurisdictions in the three-county region, which includes the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.

POLICIES AUTHORITY

The following policies and procedures will govern the LRGVDC's Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) application review and prioritization process for designated funding sources. In addition, these policies and procedures will govern the operation of LRGVDC's Homeland Security planning as outlined in the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the OOG's Homeland Security Grants Division and the LRGVDC. These policies are reviewed annually to align with local, regional and state guidelines.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC)

The HSAC was created as a voluntary unincorporated association of the LRGVDC in November 2004. The HSAC is composed of 14 member jurisdictions. The primary responsibility of the HSAC is to assist the LRGVDC in the development, implementation, review, and update of a comprehensive plan to serve the needs of the region in the event of terrorist activities, natural disaster, and man-made disasters; and to evaluate and make recommendations on grant applications submitted by jurisdictions.

The 3-county member representation for HSAC is:

Cameron – 5

Hidalgo – 7

Willacy - 2

FUNDING SOURCES

The HSAC will prioritize the following funding HSGD funding sources:

- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA)
- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The purpose of this funding is to support state, tribal, and local preparedness activities that address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities where a nexus to terrorism exists.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants regardless of funding status must meet **ALL** the necessary requirements as set forth by the OOG's HSGD's Request for Funding Announcement (RFA), no exceptions. As a local requirement, all projects must also include language/verbiage that indicates that a project is scalable (reduce total by 10, 20, 30 or other percentage) in order to allow for greater funding opportunities to other regional projects.

The LRGVDC's Homeland Security staff and the HSAC shall ensure that the funding recommendations on applications are based on the following factors: the LRGVDC's THIRA (Threats and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment) & SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Review), the LRGVDC's Implementation Plan, regional impact, deployability, reasonableness, and cost effectiveness.

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MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

The LRGVDC's Homeland Security staff shall conduct one grant application workshop for the Homeland Security Grants Division funding opportunities. All applicants are required to attend the mandatory grant application workshop. Representatives can be any of the three grant authorized officials (Authorized Official, Financial Officer, or Project Director). For this grant process, a consultant or contracted grant writer cannot be the sole representative for the applying jurisdiction or agency. Either of the authorized officials or a representative that is knowledgeable of the project is also required to attend the privatization meeting and must be ready to provide a three minute presentation to the HSAC, the date is to be determined once grant applications are batched back to the LRGVDC Homeland Security Staff.

ACTIVITY AREAS

Grant project applications must support one of the following activity areas for the LRGVDC COG-21 Region, in no particular order:

Interoperable Emergency Communications
Support of First Responder Capabilities <i>*For grant-related purposes, a Special Response Team must:</i> 1) indicate FEMA Type capability (if applicable) or if SWAT, indicate type according to the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) SWAT Standards 2) have some type of formal cooperation in place. i.e., MOU (Memorandum of Understanding); SOP (Standard Operating Procedures); Bylaws; or written agreement. <i>A copy must be submitted, or on file, with the LRGVDC's Homeland Security program.</i>
Emergency Operations Centers and Technology
Planning and Community Preparedness

NATIONAL PRIORITIES AREAS

The COG will fund a minimum 30% percentage of the total regional allocation to the following areas:

Combating Domestic Violent Extremism	7.5%
Enhancing Cybersecurity	7.5%
Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places	5%
Intelligence and Information Sharing/Cooperation	5%
Addressing Emerging Threats	5%

RISK METHODOLOGY

A percentage of funding for each project serves as a guideline in determining the selection of grant project applications that address the needs of the LRGVDC (COG-21) Region.

ACTIVITY AREAS:	LETPA PERCENTAGE:	SHSP PERCENTAGE:
Interoperable Emergency Communications	15%	15%
Support of First Responder Capabilities	15%	15%
Emergency Operations Centers and Technology	5%	10%
Planning and Community Preparedness	NA	25%

REGIONAL IMPACT AND DEPLOYABILITY

Grant projects must have a *regional* impact to the LRGVDC COG-21 Region. Any projects / equipment funded by HSGP must be deployable. Certain exceptions may apply, for example (but not limited to) fixed assets, radio towers, repeaters, etc. Monetary limit on radios, regardless of manufacture up to \$4000 for portable and \$5000 for mobile and all radios must be LTE Compliant.

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LRGVDC THIRA AND SPR

All applications for projects must be consistent with the capability targets of the current LRGVDC's THIRA (Threats and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment) process, as well as gaps identified in the LRGVDC's SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Report). Please contact COG staff for a copy.

LRGVDC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

All applications for projects must be consistent with goals and objectives of the LRGVDC's Implementation Plan.

The LRGVDC's Implementation Plan supports the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan. It establishes priority actions with specific performance measures to be completed by milestones established in the plan. The plan is a roadmap for homeland security preparedness and identifies the resources required to implement the plan. These documents can be found on the LRGVDC's website, under the Homeland Security program section.

PROCEDURES FOR GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

All applications shall be submitted electronically via the OOG's online grant management system, e-grants: <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/fundopp.aspx>. All submission deadlines are determined by the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division.

INELEGIBLE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications created on e-Grants but not certified by the Authorized Officials will not be considered valid and will be denied by the OOG's HSGD. The OOG's HSGD reserves the right to deny applications that do not meet the guidelines for LETPA or SHSP grants.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC) GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW

The HSAC will review and score project applications for the LRGVDC (COG-21) Region.

PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

HSAC members will review project applications. Members will use a review sheet to record points. The review sheet is reviewed and updated annually to align with local, regional, and state guidelines. A copy of the review sheet can be found on COG's website. Only LRGVDC's Homeland Security staff will tabulate points on review sheets.

Depending on ongoing health and safety factors, the prioritization meeting will be held person only. A virtual option will only be authorized by the Chairperson if needed. The authorized official, financial director, project director, grant wrighter or a representative that is knowledgeable of the project is required to attend the prioritization meeting and must be ready to provide a maximum three minute presentation to the HSAC, the date is to be determined once grant applications are batched back to the LRGVDC Homeland Security Staff.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The COG shall ensure that members of the COG's governing body, the HSAC, and COG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application other than a grant application submitted by a COG, during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:

- a. Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.
- b. Serves on any governing board that oversee the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.
- c. Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency.
- d. Receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

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If an HSAC member has a conflict of interest regarding a grant application, the COG will ensure that the committee member abstains from voting, commenting, or otherwise influencing the prioritization process for that entity's specific project. If any applicant, HSAC member, COG personnel, or other individual, has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of PSO/HSGD projects, the COG shall ensure that the concerns are shared with PSO/HSGD as soon as possible.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION GUIDELINES

The HSAC reserves the right to recommend an amount less than the requested amount based on the budget cost effectiveness, reasonableness, and/or previous grant performance under present/past funding sources.

The COG/HSAC reserves the right to deny recommendations for funding on any application based on but not limited to:

- ineligible activity not permitted under the funding source
- ineligible line item(s) not permitted under the funding source
- project does not align with regional priorities
- eligibility criteria not met by applicant

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

The highest and lowest score will be removed and recalculated to obtain the new aggregated score and will not affect the overall rankings of all the other applicants.

Notice to all applicants: All project grant applications prioritized by the HSAC are **conditionally approved** until the OOG's HSGD gives the final approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONDITIONALLY APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PROJECTS TO LRGVDC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The HSAC's recommended list of prioritized projects will be submitted to the LRGVDC's Board of Directors for review. The LRGVDC's Board of Directors reserves the right to endorse or disallow the HSAC's recommendations. COG staff shall notify all applicants of the approved priorities within (30) calendar days of board's approval.

*The OOG's HSGD, however, will make the final approval on all conditionally approved projects.

FINAL REVIEW BY OOG'S HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS DIVISION

The prioritized list of conditionally approved projects recommended for funding by the LRGVDC (COG-21) will be forwarded to the OOG by COG staff. If there are discrepancies on project grant applications, the OOG's HSGD staff will contact the applicant directly. All funding decisions made by the OOG's HSGD's Executive Director are final.

APPEALS PROCESS

An applicant may appeal the actions of the HSAC based on procedural violation(s). The appeal must be submitted in writing to the LRGVDC's Board of Director's Chair within ten (10) regular business days from the date of the email notification. Please note that appeals cannot be based on areas of discretion in the HSAC's scoring criteria. Appeals made regarding an HSAC decision will be handled by the LRGVDC only.

The OOG's HSGD does not accept or provide an appeals process. If an applicant appeals a decision to the OOG's HSGD, the applicant will be requested to go back to their regional council of government for resolution.

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HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SHSP&LETPA Application Scoring Sheet

Funding Opportunity:		Date:	
Agency/Jurisdiction:			
Project Title:		Regional:	
Presenter:		LETPA:	
Amount Requested:		NPA:	

Regional Priorities (40 points)

Question	Scale	Score
How well does the project address the gaps and capability targets within the LRGVDC region's Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR) and Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Implementation Plan (IP)?	0-10	
Does the project sustain an existing capability?	0-10	
Is this project identified as a regional priority?	Yes = 10 No = 0	
Does the application document a benefit to other agencies/ organizations through written agreements, contracts, or plans?	0-10	

State and Federal Requirements (30 points)

Question	Scale	Score
Does the project provide a clear nexus to terrorism?	0-10	
Does the project confidently address one or more core capabilities identified within its corresponding activity area as determined by the Request For Assistance (RFA)?	0-10	
Is this project a national priority area (NPA)?	Yes = 5 No = 0	
Is this project a law enforcement terrorism prevention activity (LETPA)?	Yes = 5 No = 0	

Application & Project Effectiveness (30 points)

Question	Scale	Score
Is the project, as well as its goals, activities, and milestones reasonable and necessary?	0-10	
Will the project's funding according to its budget line items adequately accomplish the stated goals of the project?	0-10	
Was a representative/presenter from the applicant agency at the scoring meeting and knowledgeable about the project?	0-10	

Project Total: _____

Continued on Back

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**HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SHSP&LETPA Application Scoring Sheet**

Funding Opportunity:		Date:	
Agency/Jurisdiction:			
Project Title:		Regional:	
Presenter:		LETPA:	
Amount Requested:		NPA:	

Vote Exemption Status

Per the Homeland Security Advisory Committee bylaws and the requirements established by the State of Texas Office of the Governor's (OOG) Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD), no committee member from the applicant agency may vote on a project. While a member of the committee may present a project application for funding consideration, no member shall advocate or attempt to influence the committee concerning their jurisdiction's application after their presentation or during the scoring/ranking process.

☐ I am not employed by or directly affiliated with the applicant agency.
☐ I am either employed by or am directly affiliated with the applicant agency and therefore cannot vote or provide comment or discussion on the project.
Comments:

Member Voting Agreement

I, as a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Advisory Committee, hereby agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness, without duress or influence from external parties. I further agree that all comments and scores are my own. I agree that I understand the bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process of this committee and agree to the requirements established by the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grant Division.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

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Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Criminal Justice & Homeland Security

Program Action ItemCesar Merla
Director of Emergency Services

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the HSAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028

The HSAC convened on August 6, 2026 at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room to deliberate and review the proposed updates to the HSAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028. The HSAC approved the document as it best supports the continued function of the HSAC to the community. In order to maintain continued support and service to the community, this item requires Board Approval.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development
Council Homeland Security Advisory
Committee Bylaws & Membership
FY2027-2028**



**LRGVDC Public Safety - Homeland Security Program
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596**

Contact Us



www.lrgvdc.org



956-682-3481



Article I - Name, Purpose, Responsibilities

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) was created as a voluntary, unincorporated association of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) in November of 2004.

The HSAC's primary responsibility is to assist the LRGVDC in the development, implementation, review, and update of comprehensive plans to serve the needs of the region in the event of terrorist activities, natural disasters, and man-made disasters and to evaluate and make recommendations on grant applications submitted by eligible jurisdictions.

Subject to LRGVDC Board of Directors specifying otherwise, the HSAC's specific responsibilities are:

1. The prioritization of funding proposals to determine their consistency with applicable regional plans and furnishing these evaluations to the LRGVDC Board of Directors.
2. To advise LRGVDC's member cities, counties, and special districts, directly or through the LRGVDC Board of Directors, on matters within their jurisdiction pertaining to emergency preparedness, homeland security and other matters.
3. To identify regional gaps, existing capabilities, available resources and to establish goals and priorities.
4. Identify trainings and exercises/workshops.

Article II Membership

The HSAC is composed of 14 member jurisdictions, and shall be appointed members based upon the following criteria:

1. Member Jurisdictions from Cameron County, 5 representative(s) jurisdictions
Member Jurisdictions from Hidalgo County, 7 representative(s) jurisdictions
Member Jurisdictions from Willacy County, 2 representative(s) jurisdictions
2. The 14 member jurisdictions which are presently members of the HSAC (under existing criteria, Article II- Qualifications, Section 3) shall remain as "permanent" members of the HSAC, so long as they remain eligible pursuant to these bylaws.
3. Upon a vacancy, as described hereunder, the jurisdiction within that affected county shall appoint a replacement candidate. Thereafter, the proposed candidate must be confirmed by simple majority of all HSAC members present i.e. the person with the most votes.
4. A representative of the LRGVDC Board of Directors may serve on the advisory committee.
5. A LRGVDC staff member, designated by the LRGVDC Board of Directors, shall act as HSAC Liaison, and shall attend each HSAC meeting.



Term

1. If the member were to become ineligible, the individual may be reappointed once the individual meets all qualifications listed under existing criteria as annotated in Article II- Qualifications, Section 3
2. In the case of a city vacancy, the mayor or city manager must send their recommended member for the appointed seat. If the position is a county vacancy, the county judge or authorized representative must send in their recommendation for that vacancy. Ratification of the replacement to serves as a qualified member is retained only by the LRGVDC Board of Directors.
3. All members will be renewed and approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors on an annual basis beginning on the first Thursday in October of the Federal Fiscal Year.
4. There is no maximum amount of terms that a member can serve on the HSAC.
5. A member may be removed for good cause at any time by the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

Qualifications

1. To be eligible for membership on the HSAC, a jurisdiction must have an up-to-date and approved Emergency Management Plan on file with the State of Texas-Office of Homeland Security. The plan must comply with all the requirements and regulations under the Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPD) 5. This directive authorized the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, Local and Tribal governments to increase interagency cooperation and coordination effectively and efficiently in order to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.
2. Member jurisdictions shall appoint individuals to exercise the member's voting and other privileges on the HSAC. Such individuals shall be employees of the member jurisdiction with experience in any of the categories enumerated in paragraphs 3 (A-G) below. Each member jurisdiction shall appoint a primary representative and three alternates/proxies to represent the jurisdiction on the HSAC. Such designation shall follow their own jurisdiction's local protocol and shall present in writing by an Authorized Official such as but not limited to the county judge or highest elected official, county administrator or designee, city mayor, and submitted to the HSAC by an authorized representative of the member jurisdiction. The designation may be changed from time to time by the member jurisdiction by an amended written designation. No person, other than the person listed as an alternate/proxy shall be eligible to exercise voting and privileges on behalf of the primary member.
3. Member jurisdictions shall designate individuals to represent it on the HSAC who have experience in the categories listed below; provided, however, that member jurisdictions shall, subject to the requirements of paragraph 2 above, have discretion to appoint such individuals as they deem appropriate to represent it on the HSAC.



- A. Emergency Management
- B. Law Enforcement
- C. Fire Service
- D. Emergency Medical Services
- E. Special Needs Community
- F. Public Health
- G. Public Works

Vacancy

A vacancy occurs when:

1. A member jurisdiction becomes ineligible for a period of more than one (1) calendar year; or
2. A member is not reappointed; or
3. A member resigns (resignations shall be in writing to the LRGVDC HSAC liaison and the Advisory Committee Chair); or
4. A member is removed; or
5. A member no longer meets the qualification requirements.

Attendance

1. Attendance records documenting HSAC member absences will be maintained by the LRGVDC-HSAC Liaison and internal staff. If none of the representatives designated by a member is able to attend a scheduled meeting, notification must be provided to the HSAC liaison prior to the meeting.
2. An HSAC Member or the member's alternate/proxy is expected to attend all regular meetings. Failing to attend at least 50% of the HSAC meetings during a calendar year, may be subject to removal from the HSAC. The member will be electronically notified upon the fourth (4th) absence to advise the member of the six (6) absence rule. On the sixth (6) absence, the member will be notified in writing (both email and hardcopy letter) that is signed by the LRGVDC Executive Director of such removal.
3. Members so removed may appeal in writing (both email and hardcopy letter) to the LRGVDC Board of Directors within two (2) weeks of the date of notification. Appeals will be handled in a timely manner as designated by the LRGVDC Board of Directors and the member will be notified in writing (both email and hardcopy letter) of the decision.



Article III – Officers

Election

1. The HSAC shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Parliamentarian from among the primary representatives designated by the member jurisdictions. Election of a Chair, Vice-Chair and Parliamentarian will occur at the time of member elections/renewals on the first Thursday of October of the Federal Fiscal Year. Only the individual elected by the HSAC shall be eligible to carry out the functions of the office to which that person is elected, *i.e.*, alternate/proxy representatives from the same member jurisdiction can not serve in the officer's absence unless duly elected. Thereafter, the purposed candidate must be confirmed by simple majority of the HSAC members *i.e* the majority of the votes.

Term

1. Elected Officers serve 2 year terms beginning on the date of election. Upon HSAC and LRGVDC Board of Directors approval, Officers will serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

Vacancy

1. In the event an Officer is unable to fulfill his or her term, the HSAC shall elect a replacement at a regular or specially called meeting, who will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Duties

1. The Chair presides at the meetings of the HSAC and shall have full voting privileges.
2. The Vice-Chair performs the Chair's duties in the absences of the Chair. In the event both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, the HSAC Parliamentarian will preside over the meeting.
3. The Parliamentarian ensures that the meeting is kept in order and proceeds in a timely manner. The Parliamentarian may serve in place of the Vice-Chair in the vent the designated individual is not present. The Parliamentarian may also serve as the presiding member of the HSAC in the event that both the Chair and Vice-Chair are not present.
4. If the Chair, Vice-Chair and Parliamentarian are not present during the meeting, the HSAC shall select who presides over the meeting.

Other Officers

The HSAC may elect other Officers from time to time to carry out its responsibilities. This may be done by a simple majority vote of the HSAC members at any regularly scheduled meeting where a quorum is present.



Article IV- Meetings

Regular Meetings

1. The HSAC shall meet a minimum of 6 times a year (no meeting in July), to include the prioritization meeting at a time and place specified by the HSAC Liaison. Should there be a conflict in schedules, such as a holiday or an agreed change to the movement of a meeting: the meeting will be rescheduled at a time that is appropriate. Notes: Change all sections that state 6 meetings.
2. Written notice, including an agenda, of each regular shall be prepared by the LRGVDC HSAC liaison and electronically transmitted to each HSAC member at least five (5) business days before the meeting date. However, if the notice is not provided within the time indicated, and a quorum of HSAC members are present, the meeting may proceed and the defect in notice shall not affect the validity of any action taken at such meeting.
3. HSAC may conduct telephone and videoconference calls to conduct meetings. These meetings must be set up to provide live two-way communication during the entire conference call and the identity of each HSAC member must be clearly stated prior to speaking.

Special Meetings

1. The HSAC shall meet specially if called by the LRGVDC Board of directors, the LRGVDC HSAC liaison, the HSAC Chair, or requested in writing by at least one Third, four (4) members of the membership, excluding vacancies, of the HSAC.
2. A request by the membership for a special meeting must be in writing or in electronic format, addressed to the Chair, and must describe the purpose of the meeting. Only that business reasonably related to the purpose or purposes described in the request may be conducted at a special meeting.
3. Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least 72 hours prior to the special meeting.

Quorum and Action

1. A majority of the total voting membership, excluding vacancies, constitutes a quorum for conducting HSAC business.
2. A majority vote of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for action by the HSAC. During a meeting at which a quorum has been established, and then subsequently lost due to members leaving, all remaining business items requiring an HSAC vote or action must be postponed until the next scheduled meeting at which a quorum is established.
3. A HSAC member may not transfer voting rights to the proxy of another jurisdiction.



Open Meetings and Records

1. All regular meetings of the HSAC shall be open to the public. Minutes of the HSAC meetings, documents distributed, and other records are the property of LRGVDC. These materials are available for public view, at the LRGVDC offices, upon receipt of a written request by the interested party.
2. Except where these bylaws require otherwise, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the conduct of HSAC meetings in the event of any dispute regarding the conduct of business.
3. The HSAC Committee may conduct business via conference call and/or electronic transmissions, with any actions taken by the HSAC Committee being placed on the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting for ratification by the board.

Conflict of Interest

1. An HSAC member other than an elected public official, who is a member of the governing body, an officer, or an employee of an applicant for funding and who has a financial interest or business relationship with a vendor or proposed vendor must disclose his or her status before the application is considered by the HSAC and may not participate in discussion of or vote on the application. The member is counted in determining the existence of a quorum.
2. A vote cast in violation of this section is not counted.
3. For purpose of this section a number is deemed to have a financial business interest with a vendor or proposed vendor if the member or member's spouse or a relative of the member or spouse within the degree or consanguinity has an interest with such vendor as defined in Chapter 171 the Local Government Code.
4. Enforcement of the conflict-of-interest policy for the grant review process:
 - i. Members of the COG's governing body, the HSAC and COG staff must abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application submitted during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:
 - a. Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.
 - b. Serves on any board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.
 - c. Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency.
 - d. Receives any funds from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded; or
 - e. Uses or receives a substantial amount of tangible goods, services, or funds from the applicant agency
 - ii. Additional conflict of interest requirement or mitigations may be required, including written disclosures and implementation of confidentiality policies and protocols.



Professional Conduct

HSAC members should maintain objectivity and professionalism when carrying out business of the HSAC. In the event an HSAC member acts in a manner which brings the work of the HSAC into question or controversy, it shall be the responsibility of the LRGVDC Board of Directors to address the incident.

Article V- Committee

Ad Hoc

1. Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the HSAC and shall serve for special purpose to comply with special needs.
2. Membership on ad hoc committees shall be established to achieve the purpose for which the committee was created.
3. The method for calling ad hoc committee meetings shall be the same as that for calling HSAC meetings or at the discretion of the ad hoc committee membership to discharge their responsibility.
4. Chairs of the ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the HSAC.

Article VI Amendments

By LRGVDC Board of Directors

The LRGVDC Board of Directors may amend these bylaws at a regular or special meeting. The written text of the proposed amendment will be considered.

By Homeland Security Advisory Committee

The HSAC may recommended amendments to these bylaws by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of its membership at a regular or special meeting. The written text of a proposed amendment must be included with the notice of the meeting at which the amendment will be considered. A recommendation for amendment adopted by the HSAC is not effective unless approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

Effective Date

An Amendment to the bylaws takes effect when approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors unless the amendment specifies a later effective date. Copies of amended bylaws will be distributed to Committee members by the Committee liaison.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COG-21)
Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC)
FY 2027

Chair
Tom Hushen, EMC
Cameron County

Vice Chair
Jeff Johnston, Assistant City Manager/EMC
City of McAllen

Parliamentarian
Odee Leal, EM Administrator/EMC
City of Brownsville

Alfredo Alvear, Police Chief/Assistant EMC
City of Harlingen

Charlie Banda, Police Chief
City of Los Fresnos

Jim Pigg, Fire Chief/EMC
City of South Padre Island

Omar Garza, Fire Chief/EMC
City of Edinburg

Ricardo Saldana, EMC
Hidalgo County

Jesus Ortega, Lieutenant/EMC
City of Hidalgo

Michael Silva, Fire Chief **City of**
Mission

Dr. Johnathan Flores, City Manager
City of Pharr

Antonio (Tony) Lopez, Fire Chief/EMC
City of Weslaco

Uvaldo Zamora, Police Chief
City of Raymondville

Frank Torres, EMC
Willacy County

Rev. 8/26/2026



Bylaws History

Adopted 12/04

Amendment to Article IV-Meetings 09/05

Amendment to Article II- Qualifications 10/05

Amendment to Article I - Name, Purpose, Responsibilities 10.7.2010

Amendment to Article II – Membership 10.7.2010 (all subcategories were revised)

Amendment to Article III – Officers 10.7.2010

Amendment to Article IV – Meetings 10.7.2010

Amendment to Article IV – Amendments 10.7.2010

Amendment to Article II – Membership 04.04.2013 (Opening paragraph and item 4)

Amendment to Article II - Terms 04.04.2013 (Item 1 and added item 4)

Amendment to Article II – Qualifications 04.04.2013 (Item 2, revised sentence 4)

Amendment to Article II - Membership 04.08.2015 (Item 5 added)

Amendment to Article II – Membership: Term 04.08.2015 (Removed Item 1)

Amendment to Article II – Membership: Qualifications 04.08.2015 (Revised Item 2)

Amendment to Article II – Membership: Attendance 04.08.2015 (Revised Item 3)

Amendment to Article IV – Meetings: Regular 04.08.2015 (Item 3 added)

Amendment to Article IV – Meetings: Conflict of Interest (Added Item 4)

Amendment to Article I, II, IV-03/07/2019

Amendment to Article I, IV-12/28/21

Amendment to Articles I-V – 08/03/2023

Renewed October 29, 2025

Renewed August 4, 2026

DRAFT

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Criminal Justice & Homeland Security

Program Action ItemCesar Merla
Director of Emergency Services

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the HSAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028

The HSAC convened on August 6, 2026 at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room to deliberate and review the proposed updates to the HSAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028. The HSAC approved the document as it best supports the continued function of the HSAC to the community. In order to maintain continued support and service to the community, this item requires Board Approval.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Homeland Security Advisory Committee
Policies, Procedures & Scoring Criteria
FY 2027-2028**



**LRGVDC Public Safety - Homeland Security Program
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596**

Contact Us



www.lrgvdc.org



956-682-3481

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COG-21

Homeland Security Advisory Committee

By Laws, Policies, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for Grants

FY 2026-2027

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THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS DIVISION AND THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (COG-21)

The Office of the Governor's (OOG) Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) is the entity responsible for administering and awarding a number of grant programs across the State of Texas. The grant funding assists Texas jurisdictions in building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities to further the National Preparedness Goal which is, *"A secure and resilient Nation with capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."* The OOG has the final decision on any project, including those administered by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) COG-21. The LRGVDC is one of twenty-four Councils of Government in the State of Texas and is the liaison between the OOG and local jurisdictions in the three-county region, which includes the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.

POLICIES AUTHORITY

The following policies and procedures will govern the LRGVDC's Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) application review and prioritization process for designated funding sources. In addition, these policies and procedures will govern the operation of LRGVDC's Homeland Security planning as outlined in the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the OOG's Homeland Security Grants Division and the LRGVDC. These policies are reviewed annually to align with local, regional and state guidelines.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC)

The HSAC was created as a voluntary unincorporated association of the LRGVDC in November 2004. The HSAC is composed of 14 member jurisdictions. The primary responsibility of the HSAC is to assist the LRGVDC in the development, implementation, review, and update of a comprehensive plan to serve the needs of the region in the event of terrorist activities, natural disaster, and man-made disasters; and to evaluate and make recommendations on grant applications submitted by jurisdictions.

The 3-county member representation for HSAC is:

Cameron – 5

Hidalgo – 7

Willacy - 2

FUNDING SOURCES

The HSAC will prioritize the following funding HSGD funding sources:

- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA)
- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The purpose of this funding is to support state, tribal, and local preparedness activities that address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities where a nexus to terrorism exists.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants regardless of funding status must meet **ALL** the necessary requirements as set forth by the OOG's HSGD's Request for Funding Announcement (RFA), no exceptions. As a local requirement, all projects must also include language/verbiage that indicates that a project is scalable (reduce total by 10, 20, 30 or other percentage) in order to allow for greater funding opportunities to other regional projects.

The LRGVDC's Homeland Security staff and the HSAC shall ensure that the funding recommendations on applications are based on the following factors: the LRGVDC's THIRA (Threats and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment) & SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Review), the LRGVDC's Implementation Plan, regional impact, deployability, reasonableness, and cost effectiveness.



MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

The LRGVDC's Homeland Security staff shall conduct one grant application workshop for the Homeland Security Grants Division funding opportunities. All applicants are required to attend the mandatory grant application workshop. Representatives can be any of the three grant authorized officials (Authorized Official, Financial Officer, or Project Director). For this grant process, a consultant or contracted grant writer cannot be the sole representative for the applying jurisdiction or agency. Either of the authorized officials or a representative that is knowledgeable of the project is also required to attend the privatization meeting and must be ready to provide a three minute presentation to the HSAC, the date is to be determined once grant applications are batched back to the LRGVDC Homeland Security Staff.

ACTIVITY AREAS

Grant project applications must support one of the following activity areas for the LRGVDC COG-21 Region, in no particular order:

Interoperable Emergency Communications
Support of First Responder Capabilities <i>*For grant-related purposes, a Special Response Team must:</i> 1) indicate FEMA Type capability (if applicable) or if SWAT, indicate type according to the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) SWAT Standards 2) have some type of formal cooperation in place. i.e., MOU (Memorandum of Understanding); SOP (Standard Operating Procedures); Bylaws; or written agreement. <i>A copy must be submitted, or on file, with the LRGVDC's Homeland Security program.</i>
Emergency Operations Centers and Technology
Planning and Community Preparedness

NATIONAL PRIORITIES AREAS

The COG will fund a minimum 30% percentage of the total regional allocation to the following areas:

Combating Domestic Violent Extremism	7.5%
Enhancing Cybersecurity	7.5%
Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places	5%
Intelligence and Information Sharing/Cooperation	5%
Addressing Emerging Threats	5%

RISK METHODOLOGY

A percentage of funding for each project serves as a guideline in determining the selection of grant project applications that address the needs of the LRGVDC (COG-21) Region.

ACTIVITY AREAS:	LETPA PERCENTAGE:	SHSP PERCENTAGE:
Interoperable Emergency Communications	15%	15%
Support of First Responder Capabilities	15%	15%
Emergency Operations Centers and Technology	5%	10%
Planning and Community Preparedness	NA	25%

REGIONAL IMPACT AND DEPLOYABILITY

Grant projects must have a *regional* impact to the LRGVDC COG-21 Region. Any projects / equipment funded by HSGP must be deployable. Certain exceptions may apply, for example (but not limited to) fixed assets, radio towers, repeaters, etc. Monetary limit on radios, regardless of manufacture up to \$4000 for portable and \$5000 for mobile and all radios must be LTE Compliant.



LRGVDC THIRA AND SPR

All applications for projects must be consistent with the capability targets of the current LRGVDC's THIRA (Threats and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment) process, as well as gaps identified in the LRGVDC's SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Report). Please contact COG staff for a copy.

LRGVDC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

All applications for projects must be consistent with goals and objectives of the LRGVDC's Implementation Plan.

The LRGVDC's Implementation Plan supports the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan. It establishes priority actions with specific performance measures to be completed by milestones established in the plan. The plan is a roadmap for homeland security preparedness and identifies the resources required to implement the plan. These documents can be found on the LRGVDC's website, under the Homeland Security program section.

PROCEDURES FOR GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

All applications shall be submitted electronically via the OOG's online grant management system, e-grants: <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/fundopp.aspx>. All submission deadlines are determined by the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division.

INELEGIBLE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications created on e-Grants but not certified by the Authorized Officials will not be considered valid and will be denied by the OOG's HSGD. The OOG's HSGD reserves the right to deny applications that do not meet the guidelines for LETPA or SHSP grants.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC) GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW

The HSAC will review and score project applications for the LRGVDC (COG-21) Region.

PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

HSAC members will review project applications. Members will use a review sheet to record points. The review sheet is reviewed and updated annually to align with local, regional, and state guidelines. A copy of the review sheet can be found on COG's website. Only LRGVDC's Homeland Security staff will tabulate points on review sheets.

Depending on ongoing health and safety factors, the prioritization meeting will be held person only. A virtual option will only be authorized by the Chairperson if needed. The authorized official, financial director, project director, grant wrighter or a representative that is knowledgeable of the project is required to attend the prioritization meeting and must be ready to provide a maximum three minute presentation to the HSAC, the date is to be determined once grant applications are batched back to the LRGVDC Homeland Security Staff.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The COG shall ensure that members of the COG's governing body, the HSAC, and COG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application other than a grant application submitted by a COG, during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:

- a. Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.
- b. Serves on any governing board that oversee the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded.
- c. Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency.
- d. Receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.



If an HSAC member has a conflict of interest regarding a grant application, the COG will ensure that the committee member abstains from voting, commenting, or otherwise influencing the prioritization process for that entity's specific project. If any applicant, HSAC member, COG personnel, or other individual, has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of PSO/HSGD projects, the COG shall ensure that the concerns are shared with PSO/HSGD as soon as possible.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION GUIDELINES

The HSAC reserves the right to recommend an amount less than the requested amount based on the budget cost effectiveness, reasonableness, and/or previous grant performance under present/past funding sources.

The COG/HSAC reserves the right to deny recommendations for funding on any application based on but not limited to:

- ineligible activity not permitted under the funding source
- ineligible line item(s) not permitted under the funding source
- project does not align with regional priorities
- eligibility criteria not met by applicant

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

The highest and lowest score will be removed and recalculated to obtain the new aggregated score and will not affect the overall rankings of all the other applicants.

Notice to all applicants: All project grant applications prioritized by the HSAC are **conditionally approved** until the OOG's HSGD gives the final approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONDITIONALLY APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PROJECTS TO LRGVDC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The HSAC's recommended list of prioritized projects will be submitted to the LRGVDC's Board of Directors for review. The LRGVDC's Board of Directors reserves the right to endorse or disallow the HSAC's recommendations. COG staff shall notify all applicants of the approved priorities within (30) calendar days of board's approval.

*The OOG's HSGD, however, will make the final approval on all conditionally approved projects.

FINAL REVIEW BY OOG'S HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS DIVISION

The prioritized list of conditionally approved projects recommended for funding by the LRGVDC (COG-21) will be forwarded to the OOG by COG staff. If there are discrepancies on project grant applications, the OOG's HSGD staff will contact the applicant directly. All funding decisions made by the OOG's HSGD's Executive Director are final.

APPEALS PROCESS

An applicant may appeal the actions of the HSAC based on procedural violation(s). The appeal must be submitted in writing to the LRGVDC's Board of Director's Chair within ten (10) regular business days from the date of the email notification. Please note that appeals cannot be based on areas of discretion in the HSAC's scoring criteria. Appeals made regarding an HSAC decision will be handled by the LRGVDC only.

The OOG's HSGD does not accept or provide an appeals process. If an applicant appeals a decision to the OOG's HSGD, the applicant will be requested to go back to their regional council of government for resolution.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SHSP&LETPA Application Scoring Sheet

Funding Opportunity:		Date:	
Agency/Jurisdiction:			
Project Title:		Regional:	
Presenter:		LETPA:	
Amount Requested:		NPA:	

Regional Priorities (40 points)

Question	Scale	Score
How well does the project address the gaps and capability targets within the LRGVDC region's Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR) and Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Implementation Plan (IP)?	0-10	
Does the project sustain an existing capability?	0-10	
Is this project identified as a regional priority?	Yes = 10 No = 0	
Does the application document a benefit to other agencies/ organizations through written agreements, contracts, or plans?	0-10	

State and Federal Requirements (30 points)

Question	Scale	Score
Does the project provide a clear nexus to terrorism?	0-10	
Does the project confidently address one or more core capabilities identified within its corresponding activity area as determined by the Request For Assistance (RFA)?	0-10	
Is this project a national priority area (NPA)?	Yes = 5 No = 0	
Is this project a law enforcement terrorism prevention activity (LETPA)?	Yes = 5 No = 0	

Application & Project Effectiveness (30 points)

Question	Scale	Score
Is the project, as well as its goals, activities, and milestones reasonable and necessary?	0-10	
Will the project's funding according to its budget line items adequately accomplish the stated goals of the project?	0-10	
Was a representative/presenter from the applicant agency at the scoring meeting and knowledgeable about the project?	0-10	

Project Total: _____

Continued on Back

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHSP&LETPA Application Scoring Sheet

Funding Opportunity:		Date:	
Agency/Jurisdiction:			
Project Title:		Regional:	
Presenter:		LETPA:	
Amount Requested:		NPA:	

Vote Exemption Status

Per the Homeland Security Advisory Committee bylaws and the requirements established by the State of Texas Office of the Governor's (OOG) Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD), no committee member from the applicant agency may vote on a project. While a member of the committee may present a project application for funding consideration, no member shall advocate or attempt to influence the committee concerning their jurisdiction's application after their presentation or during the scoring/ranking process.

☐ I am not employed by or directly affiliated with the applicant agency.
☐ I am either employed by or am directly affiliated with the applicant agency and therefore cannot vote or provide comment or discussion on the project.
Comments:

Member Voting Agreement

I, as a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Advisory Committee, hereby agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness, without duress or influence from external parties. I further agree that all comments and scores are my own. I agree that I understand the bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process of this committee and agree to the requirements established by the Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grant Division.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Continued on Back

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety.....Cesar Merla
Emergency Services Director

Criminal Justice Program

- On July 16, 2026 one staff attended the Quarterly RGV Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Meeting held in Raymondville, Texas
- From July 29-30, 2026 staff participated in the 8th Annual P.A.T.H. (Prevention Awareness Team of Hidalgo County) Conference to support and coordinate with law enforcement and mental health professionals.
- On July 30, 2026 one staff member participated on the Cameron and Willacy County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and collaborated with both the District Attorney's from Cameron and Willacy Counties on how to better support victims of trafficking and abuse. Information was provide on grant applications and funding sources for future initiatives.
- On July 30, 2026 one staff member with the City of Alton Police Department Red Sand Project to commemorate survivors and victims of human trafficking.
- On August 4, 2026 department staff participated in the Cameron and Willacy County Law Enforcement training on sexual assault response in Harlingen, Texas.
- On August 12, 2026 staff hosted the August CJAC Meeting.
- On August 18, one staff member participated in the TEEX MGT 340 Crisis Leadership Course hosted at Valley Metro.

Homeland Security Program

- On July 9, 2026 staff participated in the monthly Texas Public Safety Office Preparedness Call with other council's of government to discuss State Homeland Security Grant updates and other preparedness initiatives.
- On July 14, 2026 staff participated in the Progreso Lakes city meeting to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters.
- On July 15, 2026 one staff member attended the RGV911 Board of Mangers meeting to maintain awareness of emergency communications efforts in Hidalgo and Willacy County.
- On July 20, 2026 staff participated in the Senior- Empowerment Workshop- Emergency Preparedness -Logistics Meeting Virtually.
- On July 20, 2026 staff participated in the City of Pharr city meeting to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters.
- From July 22-23, 2026 staff participated on a Texas Department of Public Safety THIRA, SPR and IP workshop virtually.
- On July 23, 2026 staff participated in the Town of Indian Lake town meeting to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters.
- On July 24, 2026 one staff member participated in the month Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting to maintain situational awareness of local planning efforts and training efforts.
- On July 27, 2026 staff participated in the cities of Lyford and Combes city meetings to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters.
- On July 28, 2026 staff participated in the City of Alton city meeting to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters
- On July 29, 2026 one staff member attended the Hidalgo County Fire Chief's Association to provide information on updates regarding mutual aid agreements and efforts.

- On August 3, 2026 one staff member attend the Sullivan City monthly meeting to provide information on the update to the Regional Mutual Aid Agreement.
- On August 6, 2026 staff hosted the August HSAC Meeting.
- From August 10-13, 2026 one staff member attended the National Homeland Security Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.
- On August 10, 2026 staff participated in the Lyford city meeting to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters.
- On August 11, 2026 one staff participated in the Donna city meetings to discuss the signing of the Regional Mutual Aid document to aid in regionally affected disasters.
- On August 13, 2026 one staff participated in the Raymondville Police Department National Night Out at Veterans Park in Raymondville, TX.
- On August 13, 2026 one staff participated with the UTRGV Emergency Management Football Incident exercise virtually.
- On August 17, 2026 one staff member participated with the quarterly Community Preparedness Council meeting hosted by TARC.
- On August 20, 2026 one staff member participated in the August Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting hosted at the McAllen Fire Department Administration building.
- On August 21, 2026 one staff member participated in the TDEM Region 5 Planning and Standards training meeting in Harlingen, Texas

Staff participating with the RGV Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force



Staff attended the Annual PATH Conference



Staff attended the Cameron and Willacy Training for Sexual Assault Response.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- 9-1-1 | GIS Division

The GIS Division continued strengthening regional emergency response coordination by updating mapping information for Emergency Services Districts (ESDs) 5 and 6 to reflect their service agreement with MedCare EMS. The GIS Division also collaborated with LRGVDC leadership to resolve location and addressing concerns in the Delta Lake area, enhancing the accuracy of geographic information available to PSAP's and emergency responders.

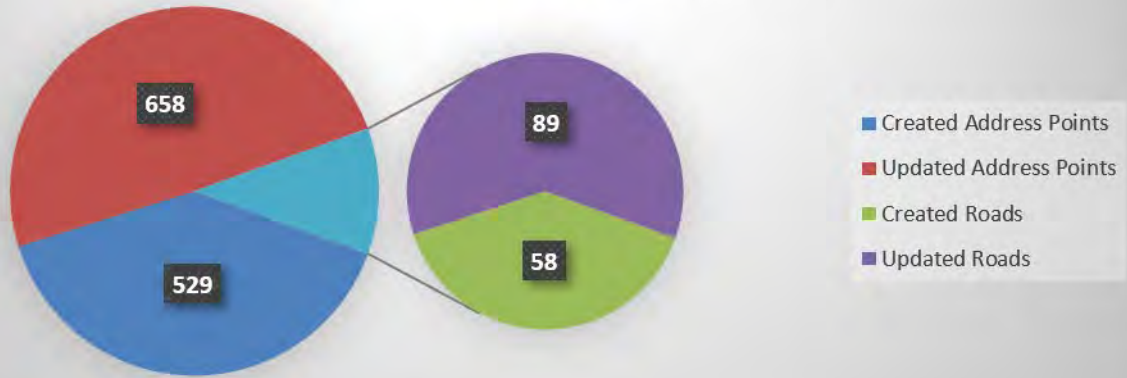
On August 6, GIS Division staff met with Esri for the annual work-planning session. Staff reviewed current operations, evaluated upcoming projects, and identified opportunities to enhance processes and services. The session established strategic priorities and supported the development of a work plan that will guide the Division's GIS initiatives, technology investments, staff development, and public safety support efforts during the upcoming year.

The GIS Division continued its commitment to staff development through participation in two national public safety conferences. Rosemary Contreras, Selenne Vallejo, and Ruby Garza attended the 2026 National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Conference, where they participated in educational sessions addressing Next Generation 9-1-1 technology, GIS integration, cybersecurity, public safety operations, and industry best practices.

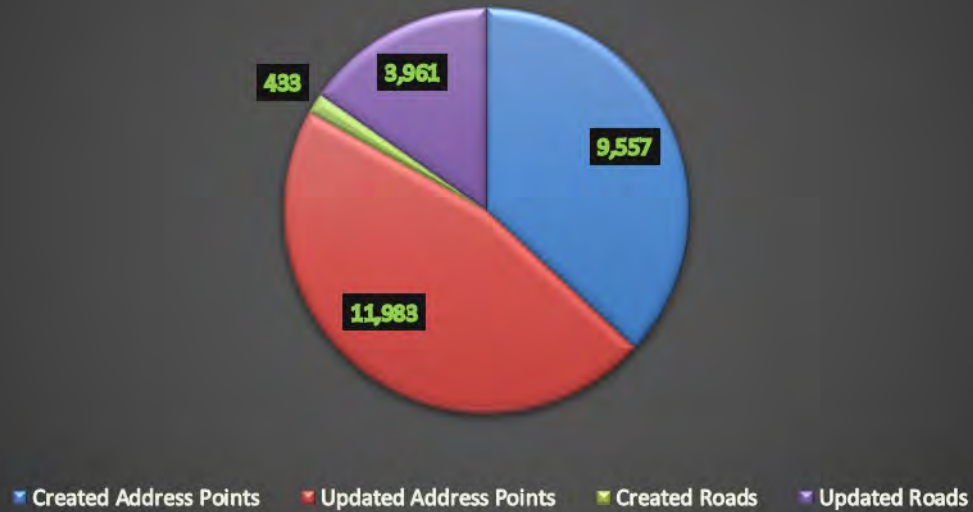
The GIS Division was also represented by Rosemary Contreras and Diana Castillo at the 2026 APCO International Annual Conference & Expo in San Antonio. The conference offered sessions focused on emergency communications, Next Generation 9-1-1, GIS technology, cybersecurity, leadership, and emerging public safety solutions.

Collectively, these conferences provided valuable professional development, opportunities to exchange knowledge with public safety professionals from across the country, and insight into emerging technologies and best practices that may support continued improvements to District operations and services.

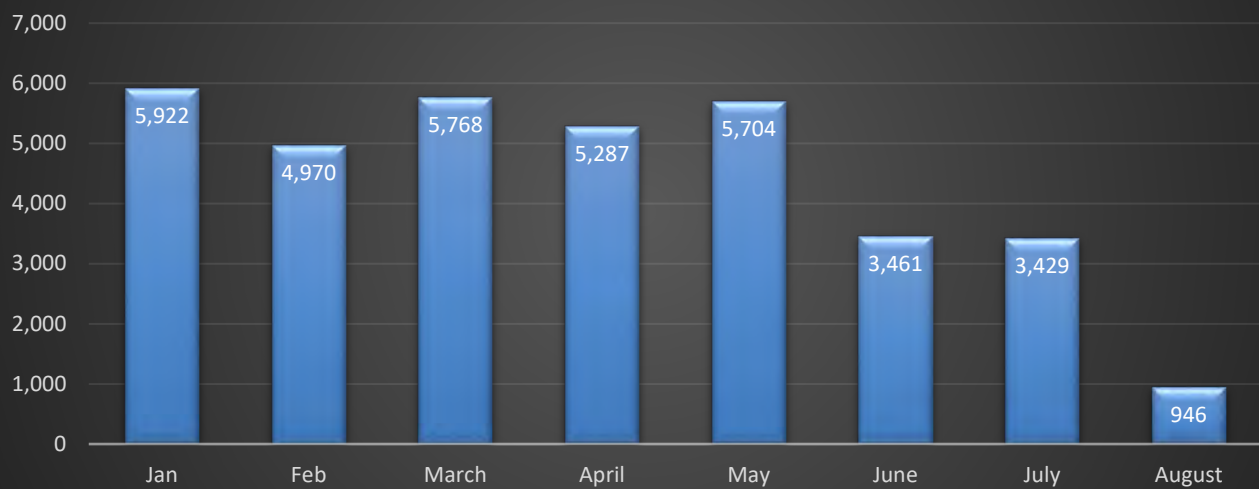
July - August 2026 Mapping Features



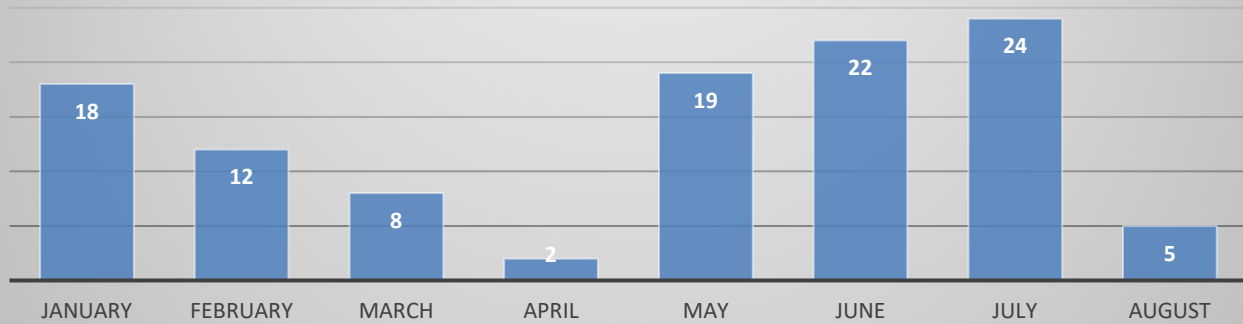
2026 Total Production : GIS



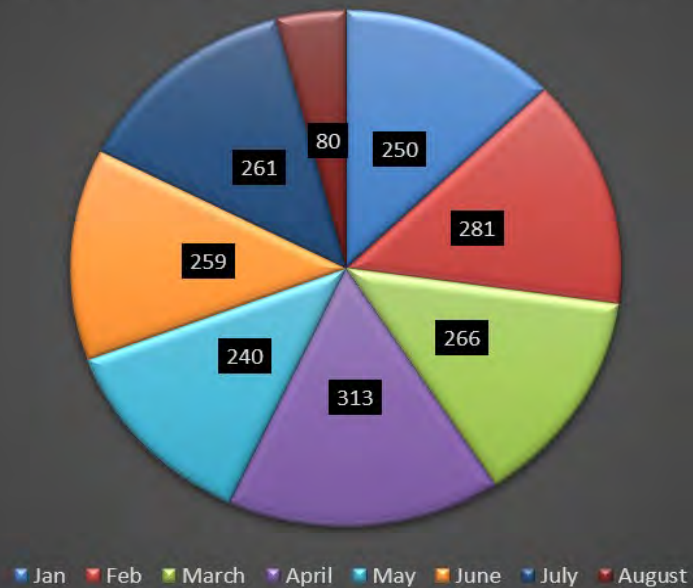
RGV911.org Pageviews 2026 Total



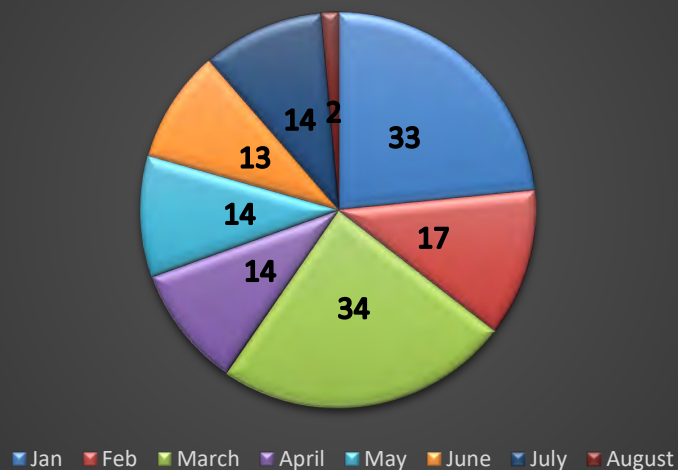
Address Plates Issued 2026



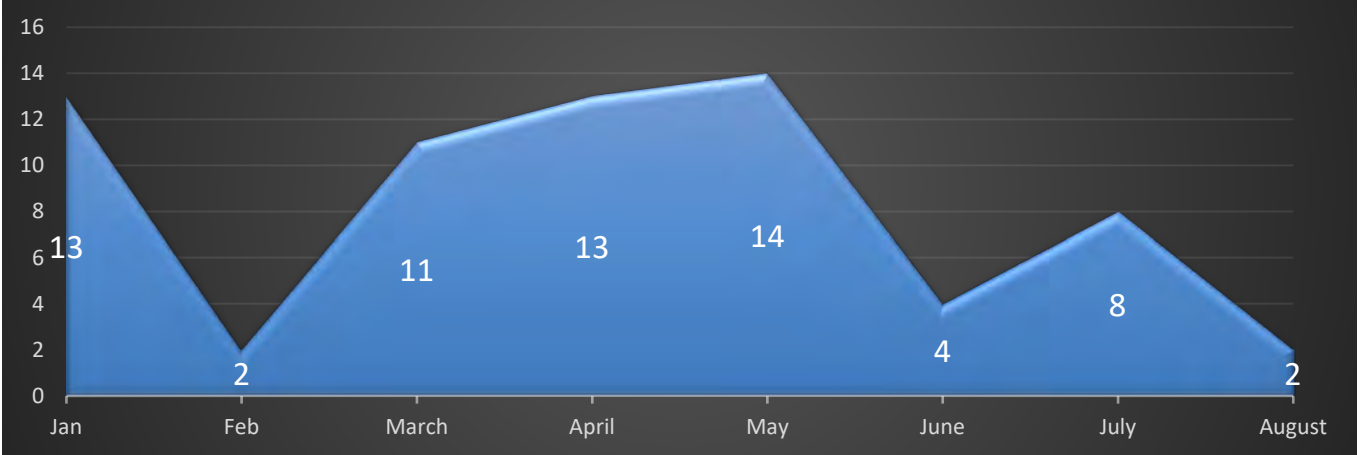
2026 Jan-August Address Tickets Totals



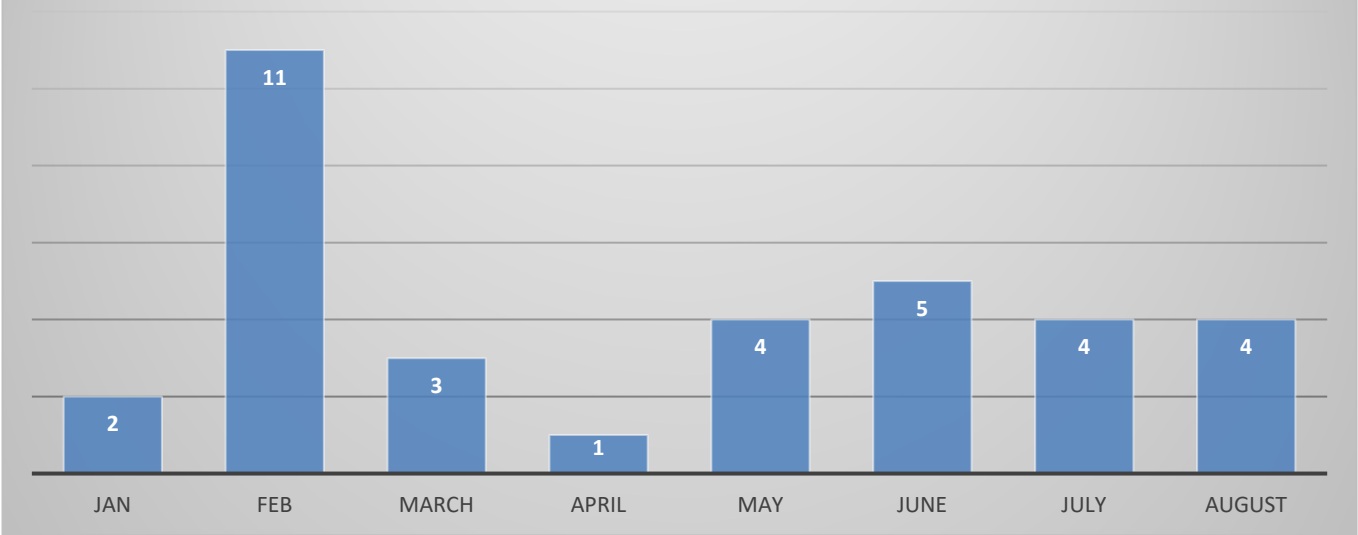
City/Precinct Requests 2026



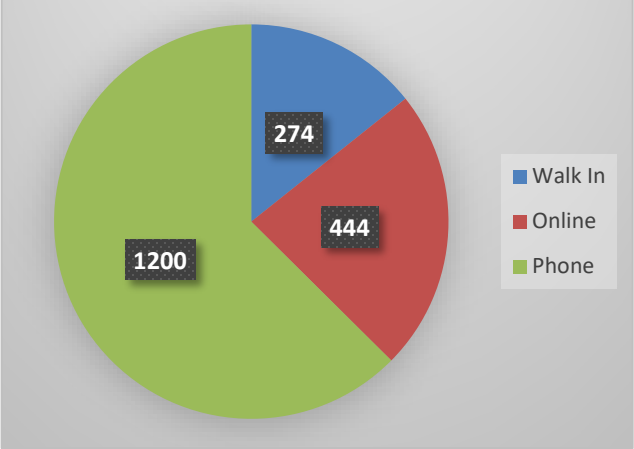
Subdivision Requests 2026



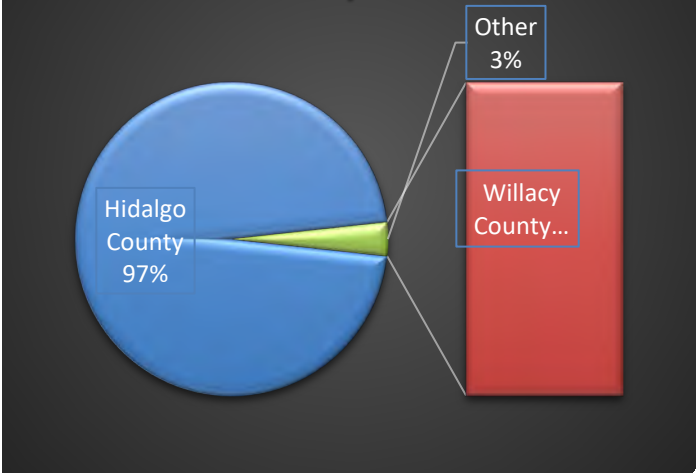
Utilities Requests 2026



Address Requests by Type 2026



Address Requests by County 2026



- 9-1-1 | Information Technology Division

The Information Technology Division continued coordinating the implementation of an additional network provider for the region's 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). AT&T FirstNet representatives completed site visits at all locations and are developing wiring diagrams and technical drawings to identify the most effective building-entry routes and placement of signal-enhancing equipment. This work represents Phase 2 of the four-phase project, which is intended to strengthen signal coverage, connectivity, and network reliability throughout the region.

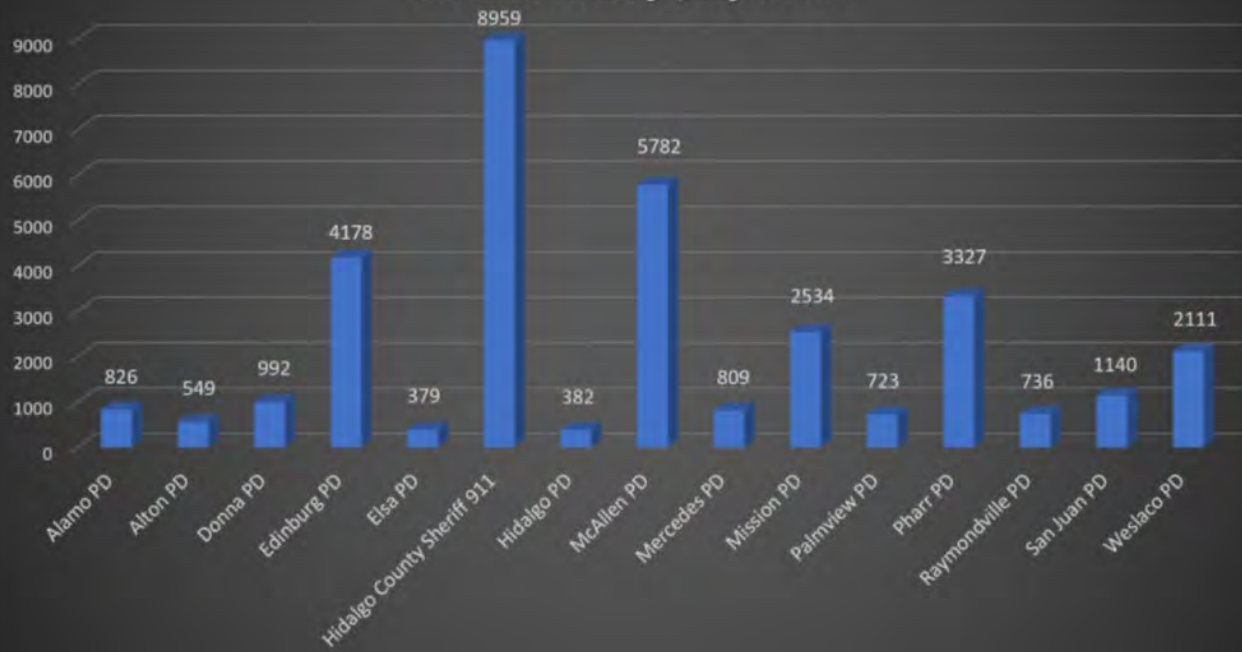
The IT Division staff also continued evaluating Voice-to-Voice Translation services deployed at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office approximately two months ago. The technology provides near-real-time translation between Spanish-speaking callers and English-speaking call takers, supporting clearer communication during emergency calls. Additional testing with all wireless service providers is needed to establish a consistent performance baseline and evaluate the service's overall effectiveness.

At the invitation of APCO International, the Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) was showcased August 3–4 during the 2026 APCO International Annual Conference & Expo in San Antonio. The showcase highlighted the region's mobile emergency communications capabilities to public safety professionals from across the nation. The conference also provided specialized training, technology demonstrations, professional development, and opportunities to exchange the industry's best practices. IT Division staff who attended the event included Assistant Director Dennis Moreno, Supervisor Juan Chapa, and LRGVDC/RGV911 Executive Director Manuel Cruz.

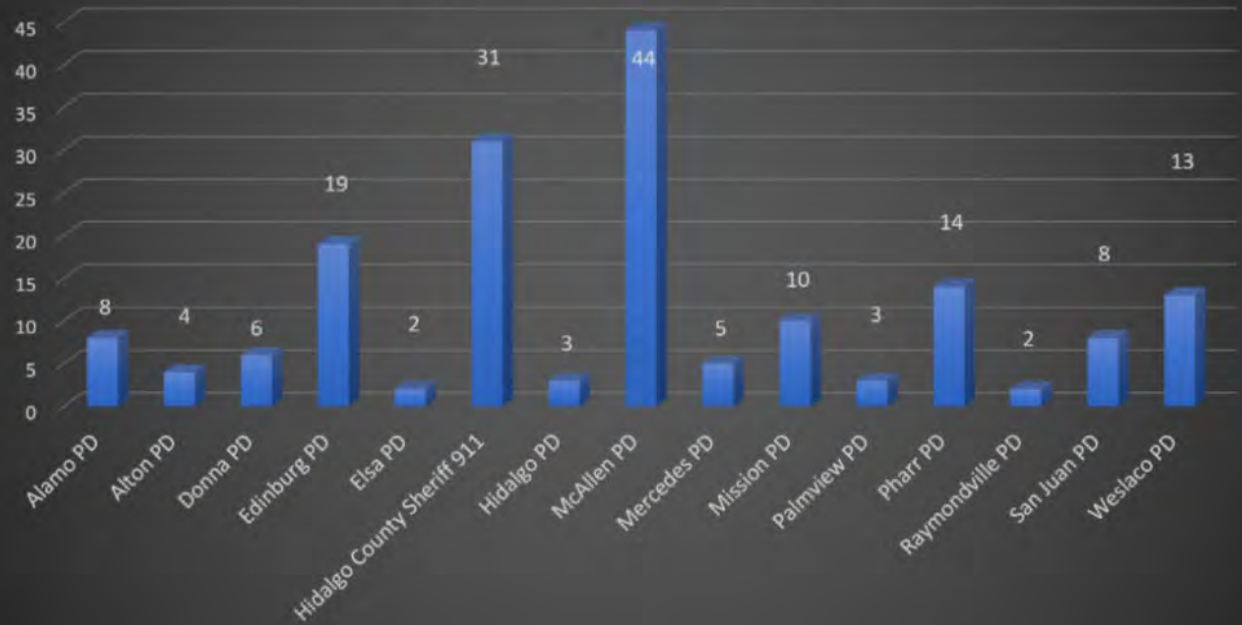
Following the completion of Fortinet training, IT Division staff partnered with a local vendor to install a new firewall to strengthen network security and improve connectivity between LRGVDC offices in Edinburg, Harlingen, and Weslaco. The project was completed on August 7, 2026, with no issues reported. Staff also implemented web content filtering on the firewalls supporting the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office and the McAllen Police Department. These security measures strengthen network protection by monitoring traffic and restricting access to content unrelated to 9-1-1 operations.

To further enhance operational readiness, the IT Division staff completed the previously reported installation of generator transfer switches at the Alton Police Department and Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office. Both systems are now fully operational, enabling mobile generators to provide backup power and sustain PSAP operations during outages. Completion of this project strengthens continuity of operations, enhances emergency preparedness, and reinforces the reliability and resilience of 9-1-1 services throughout the region.

Call Summary July 2026



Text to 9-1-1 July 2026



- 9-1-1 | Community Engagement Division

During June and July, the Community Engagement Division maintained an active schedule focused on public education, community outreach, and emergency preparedness. The RGV911 Public Education Team participated in community events, educational programs, and public safety initiatives throughout the region. These activities promoted the proper use of 9-1-1, increased awareness of emergency preparedness and personal safety, and strengthened collaboration with local agencies, community organizations, and regional partners.

Milo Ponce 5th Annual 4K, City of Edinburg, June 13, 2026. Hosted by Commissioner Ellie Torres-Hidalgo of County Precinct #4, the Public Education Team focused on the importance of addressing and ensuring residents in rural areas have accurate address information to help first responders locate emergencies quickly when every second counts.

Early Father's Day Celebration, City of Donna, June 18, 2026. Hosted by Kids R Us Academy, the Public Education Team had the opportunity to connect with parents and guardians to share information about the services provided by the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District (RGV911). The team provided an overview of 911 services, Text-to-911, addressing and mapping services, public education programs, and other resources available to help keep our communities safe, prepared, and informed.

3rd Annual Where the Healing Begins Conference, City of Harlingen, June 23 & 24, 2026. Hosted by the Children's Advocacy Center of Willacy County, the Public Education Team enjoyed two days of learning, networking, and engaging with attendees. We were proud to share important information about 9-1-1 services, Text-to-911, emergency preparedness, and how our agency serves the communities of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Hurricane Awareness Event, City of Mercedes, July 2, 2026. Hosted by Michelle G. Vega of Advantage Life & Health, the Public Education Team shared important 9-1-1 safety information with the community. The team provided helpful hurricane preparedness tips to encourage residents to stay informed and prepared. These efforts help promote safety and ensure the community knows what to do during an emergency.

Summer Reading Program (SRP), July 8th, 2026, City of McAllen. Hosted by the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library, the Public Education Team enjoyed connecting with the community and sharing the importance of knowing when and how to call 9-1-1. The team had a great discussion with teens about staying safe, making smart choices, and being prepared for emergencies. These conversations helped provide valuable information and encourage the youth to make safe and informed decisions.

Summer Camp, City of Alamo, July 13, 2026. Hosted by Hidalgo County Precinct 2, the Public Education Team taught the children when to text 9-1-1, how to send a text in an emergency, and what information to include when calling isn't possible. Through hands-on activities and interactive learning, they gained knowledge that could one day help save a life.

ADA 36th Anniversary Event, City of Pharr, July 17, 2026. Hosted by VAIL-Valley Association for Independent Living, the Public Education Team engaged with attendees and provided important guidance on 9-1-1 safety, including when and how to properly contact 9-1-1 during an emergency. Participation in the event supported the RGV911 Public Education Division's ongoing commitment to providing accessible public safety education throughout the community.

Summer Youth Police Academy, City of Mission, July 17, 2026. Hosted by the Mission Police Department, the Public Education Team enjoyed connecting with these future law enforcement and public safety professionals to discuss the many rewarding career opportunities available in the public safety field. The team shared how the RGV9-1-1 District serves the residents of Hidalgo County by helping connect those in need with emergency services when every second counts.

2nd Annual Back-to-School Health Fair, City of Mission, July 17, 2026. Hosted by Pct.3 Hidalgo Commissioner Everardo "Ever" Villarreal, the Public Education Team engaged with families by sharing important 9-1-1 safety information and helping students prepare for the upcoming school year through the distribution of school supplies.

Texas 9-1-1 Trainers (TNT) and Texas 9-1-1 Public Educators Quarterly Meeting (PETS), City of San Antonio, July 20 - 21, 2026. Community Engagement Coordinator Maribel Alonzo and Community Outreach Representative Jaquelin Dueñez represented the RGV911 Public Education Team at the Texas 9-1-1 Trainers (TNT) and Texas 9-1-1 Public Educators (PETS) Quarterly Meeting. It was a valuable opportunity to connect and network with public safety professionals, share ideas, and learn from others in the field. The knowledge and resources gained will help strengthen the Public Education Team's efforts and enhance its ability to serve communities throughout the region.

6th Annual RGV Vipers Back-to-School Event at Bert Ogden Arena, City of Edinburg, July 21, 2026. Hosted by Driscoll Health Plan, the Public Education Team had the opportunity to speak with students about the importance of school safety and knowing when and how to call 9-1-1. The team shared valuable 9-1-1 safety information, answered questions to help students feel prepared for emergencies, and distributed school supplies to help them start the school year ready to learn.

Red Sand Project, City of Alton, July 23, 2026. Hosted by the Alton Police Department, the Public Education Team attended this event to raise awareness, educate our community, and share important information. Attendees were informed of the importance of recognizing the signs of abuse, neglect, or vulnerability and how speaking up can make a meaningful difference. Together, we can help protect those who are vulnerable and build a safer, more informed community.

Summer Reading Program (SRP), City of Sullivan, July 23, 2026. Hosted by Sullivan Public Library, the Public Education Team had an amazing time participating in another Summer Reading Program (SRP). The theme of the event was "Meet a Hero," where attendees enjoyed poems, met incredible community heroes, and connected with young readers. The team also shared important 9-1-1 safety tips to help children understand when and how to call 9-1-1.

Weslaco Police Department Bike Rodeo/ Water Wars, City of Weslaco, July 25, 2026. Hosted by the Weslaco Police Department, the Public Education Team connected with children and parents to share important 9-1-1 safety information, including when to call 9-1-1, the importance of knowing your address, and what information to provide to a dispatcher during an emergency.

PATH Conference, City of Edinburg, July 30th, 2026. Community Outreach Representative Jaquelin Duenez represented the Public Education Team as a conference presenter, sharing her expertise and providing valuable insight into the essential role of public awareness and community engagement in advancing public safety.

Edinburg National Night Out, City of Edinburg, August 4, 2026. Hosted by the Edinburg Police Department, the Public Education Team educated the community on the importance of knowing their location and understanding when and how to use 9-1-1. The team shared information about the importance of having a valid 9-1-1 address to help emergency responders quickly locate those in need. Knowing your location and having a proper 9-1-1 address can help save valuable time and ensure help arrives when every second counts.

Sullivan National Night Out, City of Sullivan, August 5th, 2026. Hosted by the Sullivan Police Department, the Public Education Team educated the community on how and when to use Text-to-911 during an emergency. Community members were reminded of the “Call If You Can, Text If You Can’t” message, including the availability of Text-to-911 when making a voice call is not possible or safe. The team was proud to help the community stay informed and prepared by sharing important information about Text-to-911 and how it can help save lives.

San Juan National Night Out, City of San Juan, August 6, 2026. Hosted by the San Juan Police Department, the Public Education Team reminded attendees about the importance of being aware of their surroundings and knowing nearby landmarks when calling 9-1-1. Providing clear location information and identifying landmarks can help 9-1-1 dispatchers quickly determine where help is needed during an emergency.

Donna Police Department and Driscoll Health Plan Back-to-School Bash, City of Donna, August 7, 2026. Hosted by the Donna Police Department, the Public Education Team attended the event and shared important information about the importance of knowing your 9-1-1 address. The team also presented back-to-school safety tips and ways to stay safe during the school year. School supplies were handed out to help students start the new school year prepared and ready to learn.

Nuestra Clínica Del Valle Health & Back-to-School Fair, City of San Juan, August 8th, 2026. Hosted by Nuestra Clínica Del Valle, the Public Education Team helped prepare students for the new school year by providing school supplies and sharing important school safety tips. The team reminded children about staying safe, being aware of their surroundings, and knowing when to call 9-1-1.

Community Engagement Future Programs and Events:

- Raymondville National Night Out, August 13, 2026, in the City of Raymondville, hosted by the Raymondville Police Department.
- Palmview National Night Out, August 13, 2026, in the City of Palmview, hosted by the Palmview Police Department.
- Precinct 2 Back 2 School Event, August 14, 2026, in the City of Alamo, hosted by Precinct 2.
- Region One McKinney-Vento Back to School Bash, August 17, 2026, in the City of Edinburg, hosted by Region One.
- Alamo National Night Out, August 19, 2026, in the City of Alamo, hosted by the Alamo Police Department.
- Sexual Assault & Family Violence for Telecommunication Professionals Training, August 20, 2026, in the City of Harlingen, hosted by the Cameron County Emergency Communication District.
- Willacy Co Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Sebastian Community Center, August 20, 2026, hosted by the Willacy County Judge.
- Growing Strong Mental Health & School Success Fair, August 21st, 2026, in the City of Raymondville, hosted by Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas.

Milo Ponce 5th Annual 4K, June 13, 2026, in the City of Edinburg,
hosted by Commissioner Ellie Torres-Hidalgo County Precinct #4.



Early Father's Day Celebration, June 18, 2026, in the City of Donna,
hosted by Kids R Us Academy.



3rd Annual Where the Healing Begins Conference, June 23 & 24, 2026,
in the City of Harlingen, hosted by the Children's Advocacy Center of Willacy County.



Hurricane Awareness Event, July 2, 2026, in the City of Mercedes,
hosted by Michelle G. Vega Advantage Life & Health.



Summer Reading Program (SRP), July 8th, 2026, in the City of McAllen,
hosted by the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library.



Summer Camp, July 13, 2026, in the City of Alamo, hosted by Precinct 2.



ADA 36th Anniversary Event, July 17, 2026, in the City of Pharr,
hosted by VAIL-Valley Association for Independent Living.



Summer Youth Police Academy, July 17, 2026, in the City of Mission,
hosted by the Mission Police Department.



2nd Annual Back to School Health Fair, July 17, 2026, in the City of Mission,
hosted Pct.3 Hidalgo Commissioner Everardo “Ever” Villarreal.



Texas 9-1-1 Trainers (TNT) and Texas 9-1-1 Public Educators Quarterly Meeting,
July 20 - 21, 2026, in the City of San Antonio.



6th Annual RGV Vipers Back-to-School Event at Bert Ogden Arena,
July 21, 2026, in the City of Edinburg, hosted by Driscoll Health Plan.



Red Sand Project, July 23, 2026, in the City of Alton,
hosted by the Alton Police Department.



Summer Reading Program (SRP) July 23, 2026, in the City of Sullivan,
hosted by Sullivan Public Library.



Weslaco Police Department Bike Rodeo/ Water Wars, July 25, 2026,
in the City of Weslaco, hosted by Weslaco Police Department.



PATH Conference, July 30th, 2026, in the City of Edinburg.



Edinburg National Night Out, August 4, 2026,
hosted by the Edinburg Police Department.



Sullivan National Night Out, August 5th, 2026, in the City of Sullivan,
hosted by Sullivan Police Department.



San Juan National Night Out, August 6, 2026, in the City of San Juan,
hosted by the San Juan Police Department.

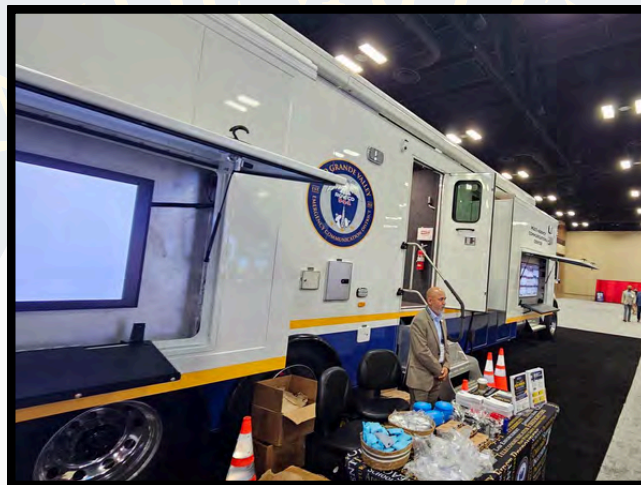


Donna Police Department and Driscoll Health Plan Back to School Bash,
August 7, 2026, in the City of Donna, hosted by Donna Police Department.



Nuestra Clínica Del Valle Health & Back-to-School Fair,
August 8th, 2026, in the City of San Juan, hosted by Nuestra Clínica Del Valle.





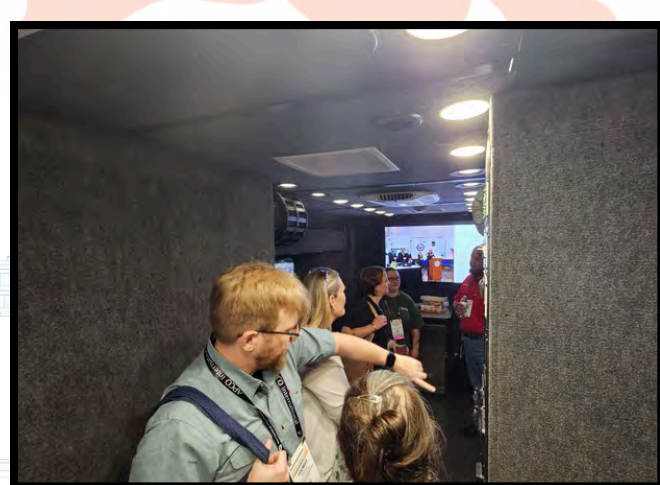
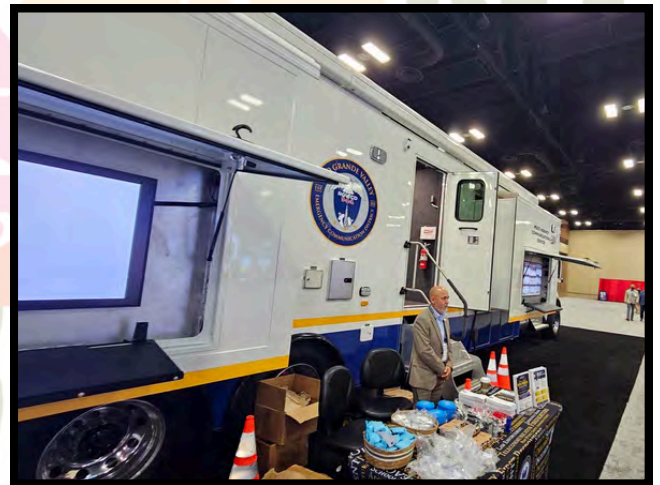
2026 APCO Conference, San Antonio, TX August 1 - August 5

The Multi-Agency Command Center (MACC) was invited to be showcased at the 2026 APCO International Annual Conference and Expo, held August 1–5, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas. The conference brought together public safety communications professionals, technology providers, and industry leaders from across the country. The showcase provided RGV911 staff with an opportunity to demonstrate the MACC's capabilities, highlight its role in supporting regional emergency response and public safety operations, and exchange information and best practices with other agencies and conference attendees.



MACC
*Multi-Agency
 Communication Center*

APCO 2026



MACC
Multi-Agency
Communication Center



RGV PSECC

PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

*"Preventing Burnout
and Continuing the Mission"*



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Bringing together public safety professionals for training, recognition, and resilience. Presented by RGV911 & Homeland Security.

- TCOLE Credit Available**
Provided by LRGV Police Academy
- Behavioral Health CEUs, Social Work & EMS Credits Available**
*Provided by SOUTH TEXAS HEALTH SYSTEM**
- Expert Keynote Speakers**
- Telecommunicator Award Ceremony**



October 14-16, 2026



8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



SPI Convention Center

7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



**VIEW
AGENDA**

ITEM # 5.C.2

PUBLIC

SAFETY

**LOWER RIO
GRANDE VALLEY**

ACADEMY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Item #5 Department Reports

C. Lower Rio Grande Valley Police Academy

Program Action ItemJavier Solis
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of South Padre Island, by and through the South Padre Island Police Department, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

Background

The South Padre Island Police Department has a need to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. South Padre Island has become a hub for hosting several law enforcement conferences and training courses throughout the year. The South Padre Island Police Department is often asked to be the hosting agency for said conferences.

South Padre Island does not have a Law Enforcement Academy and is not a contractual provider with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Entering this interlocal agreement with the LRGV Academy will provide the South Padre Island Police Department the capability to report in-service training for their police officers and for officers from outside agencies attending training hosted by the department.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

&

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT (TCOLE) TRAINING REPORTING

This Interlocal Agreement (the “Agreement”) is entered into by and between the LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (“LRGVDC”), a regional council of government and political subdivision of the State and the **CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND TEXAS**, (“CITY”), By and Through **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** (the “AGENCY”) regarding the purposes of reporting training through TCOLE under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, as the same may be amended from time to time, to be effective as of the date on which the last Party signs this Agreement (the “Effective Date”). The City and the LRGVDC are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties” and are each a “Party”.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, titled Interlocal Cooperation Contracts, authorizes contracts between political subdivisions for the performance of governmental functions and services; and

WHEREAS the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy (the “LRGV Academy”) as a division of the LRGVDC is tasked with representing the Rio Grande Valley and supporting law enforcement agencies with almost 50 years of experience administering training resources and programs for the development of qualified law enforcement officers throughout the region; and

WHEREAS the LRGV Academy utilizes a wide variety of law enforcement instructors to provide a comprehensive, diverse law enforcement training program, incorporating the expertise of some of the finest training officials in the region; and

WHEREAS LRGVDC and **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** have agreed to cooperate with each other for the performance of governmental functions and provide police training for the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** law enforcement officers, other area law enforcement officers, and prospective peace officer candidates; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC, for the purposes of performing functions of law enforcement through its REGIONAL ACADEMY has a Law Enforcement Academy with a TCOLE Agency Number (TCOLE REPORTING); and

WHEREAS the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** has a need for law enforcement training and TCOLE REPORTING, when the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE**

DEPARTMENT provides other entities training, which will be utilized in the service of crime prevention and for law enforcement purposes and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC and **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** are in proximity and have a common law enforcement and crime prevention initiative and close working relations; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC and **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** have heretofore entered into this Agreement providing for TCOLE REPORTING of **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** for law enforcement purposes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, to enhance cooperation amongst local law enforcement agencies, express their mutual commitment to the service of law enforcement purposes and provision of the training programs, the LRGVDC and **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** hereby agree as follows:

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy is a contractual training provider for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to serve as the Regional Law Enforcement Training and Education provider throughout the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy manages operational requirements and training curriculum standards as per a TCOLE contractual agreement. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy maintains the right to review or modify, as needed, training calendars, curriculums, lesson plans and/or adjunct instructors in accordance with TCOLE requirements.

1. **REPORTING:** the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy will report training to TCOLE for the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** related to law enforcement purposes under the following terms and conditions outlined below.
2. **IN CONSIDERATION OF TCOLE REPORTING:** To the extent permitted by state and federal law and regulations, and applicable policies, directives, guidelines and/or rules, the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** further agrees to the following:
 - A. to provide at least a two-week advance notice of any classes to be held by the AGENCY unless otherwise approved by the LRGV Academy Coordinator.
 - B. to provide all training by the Agency to students at no cost.
 - C. to abide by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Rules and Regulations attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "A"**.
 - D. to provide for all classes facilitated by the Agency both a legibly written sign-in roster with PID numbers as well as a typed Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy TCOLE Report of Training Form attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "B"** and will submit a copy of said

forms to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.

- E. to provide a list of clearly defined and spelled out learning objectives to the students prior to the commencement of the class and will submit a copy of said objectives to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes for any class facilitated by the Agency.
- F. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY, a concise, up to date, easy to follow lesson plan to include any tests along with test answer key or a skills assessment evaluation and final score sheet and will submit a copy of said documents to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- G. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY, an updated instructor bio and bio sketch and will submit a copy of said bio-sketch to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- H. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY, a typed Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Score Sheet attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "C"** and will submit a copy of said Score Sheet to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- I. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY every student in every class, a completed Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Course/Instructor Evaluation form attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "D"** and will submit copies of said evaluations to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- J. to provide a mishap and medical emergency plan to the LRGV Academy Coordinator, prior to the commencement of any class or training involving the usage of firearms or having the risk of potential bodily or serious bodily injury and or death to any participant including but not limited to instructors, spectators, auditors, and students. The Agency further agrees to have a medical kit on site which shall include bleed control medical adjuncts whenever such classes or training is facilitated by the Agency.
- K. to promptly notify as soon as practicable to the LRGV Academy Coordinator of any incidents involving any damage to LRGVDC property,

complaints, disputes, injury, or death which may result from any training or class facilitated by the Agency.

- L. to allow the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Coordinator or his/her designee unfettered access to classes and/or record related to classes facilitated by the AGENCY for compliance and auditing purposes.
- M. that the TCOLE Agency Number is assigned, and proprietary to LRGVDC and Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and TCOLE REPORTING is subject to the policies, rules and procedures established by the LRGVDC and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.
- N. that TCOLE REPORTING shall be solely used for the law enforcement purpose of reporting training.
- O. **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** hereby acknowledges and agrees that failure to comply with any of the terms of this agreement, and or any rule or policy incorporated herein by reference, shall result in the termination of this agreement, including further TRAINING and TCOLE REPORTING.
- P. To the extent permitted under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** shall be solely responsible for any injuries or damage to people arising out of the acts or omissions of its employees and shall maintain liability insurance coverage for any such loss. Proof of the same may be requested by Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy prior to any TCOLE REPORTING.

I. Findings

1.1 The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein for all purposes and are found by the Parties to be true and correct. It is further found and determined that the Parties have authorized and approved this Agreement by their respective entities, and that this Agreement will be in full force and effect when executed by all Parties.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

2.1 LRGVDC will:

- A. Provide reporting of applicable training activities to Texas Commission on Law Enforcement upon submission of competent documentation including sign-in rosters, learning objectives, lesson plans, instructor bio-sketch, instructor evaluations, course evaluations, testing instrument,

test key, all applicable handouts provided, and or any documents related to the course at the request of Training Coordinator.

B. Advertise upcoming classes facilitated by **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** on the live online LRGV Academy Police Training Calendar via the LRGV Academy website.

C. The LRGV Academy Training Coordinator will:

(1) ensure compliance with commission rules and guidelines for any class facilitated by **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** under the terms of this agreement.

(2) prepare, maintain, and submit the following reports to TCOLE within the time frame specified:

(A) reports on training

within 30 days of completion for any class facilitated **by SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** under the terms of this agreement.

(B) self-assessment reports as required by the commission.

(C) any other reports or records as requested by the commission.

(3) maintain course training files for a period of 5 years. At a minimum, training files shall contain:

(3.1) complete lesson plan to include tests and answer keys or a skills assessment score sheet documenting proficiency in skills taught throughout the class.

(3.2) clear learning objectives.

(3.3) instructor biography indicating subject matter expertise and teaching experience.

(3.4) approved class roster and original sign-in sheet; and a multi-day sign-in sheet for any classes extending beyond a one-day class. Multi-day sign-in sheets shall include the days when the class was taught and will at very minimum show individual student initials for each day of class attended.

(3.5) course and instructor evaluation for each student in the class.

(3.6) student scoresheet or skills assessment sheet which shall at the very minimum document a pass or fail score.

(3.7) Final TCOLE roster upon submission of training hours.

(4) receive all commission notices on behalf of the training provider and forward each notice to the appointing authority.

- (5) provide the opportunity to transfer lesson plans, learning objectives, media visual training material and all handouts to **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** for any class facilitated under the terms of this agreement.

2.2 SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT will:

- A. Provide the LRGV Academy, at no cost, with two seats for any class facilitated by the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** if so, requested by LRGV Academy.
- B. Provide whenever possible with advanced notice on-hand instructional equipment and facilities as may be requested by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy for use in any LRGV Academy in service training at no cost to the LRGV Academy.
- C. Ensure the instructors teaching any class facilitated by the Agency are qualified under TCOLE regulations to include subject matter expertise and will abide by the following:
 - (1) hold a valid instructor license.
 - (2) certificate; or
 - (3) be designated, in writing, as a subject matter expert on the course by the training coordinator.

The instructor is responsible for:

- (1) ensuring compliance with commission rules and guidelines.
- (2) preparing, maintaining, and submitting reports of training to the LRGV Academy Training Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class, unless otherwise approved by Training Coordinator
- (3) the administration and conduct of each course taught.
- (4) at a minimum, providing a complete lesson plan, clear learning objectives, instructor biography, approved class roster and original sign-in sheet/daily roster, course evaluation, students completed testing instrument, test key, all applicable handouts, make up assignments, and any memos when there is an inconsistency with the documentation provided to the training coordinator for the training file.
- (5) enforcing all attendance and other standards set by the commission or the training advisory board.
- (6) maintaining the discipline and demeanor of each student during class.

(7) distributing or presenting learning objectives to all students at the beginning of each course.

(8) ensuring that all learning objectives are taught; and

(9) ensuring examinations are proctored or supervised to have fair, honest results.

- D. Provide the LRGV Academy with a signed Release of Liability Waiver and Assumption of Liability form, for every student, absolving the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the LRGVDC of liability for any issue arising from students participating in the class.

III. Binding Effect; Benefiting Parties

3.1 This Agreement shall bind and benefit the respective Parties and their legal successors, but shall not otherwise be assigned, in whole or in part, by either Party without first obtaining the written consent of the other Party.

3.2 This Agreement insures to the benefit of and obligates only the Parties. No term or provision of this Agreement shall benefit or obligate any person or entity not a Party to the Agreement. The Parties shall cooperate fully in opposing any attempt by any third person or entity to claim any benefit, protection, release, or other consideration under this Agreement.

IV. Governmental Functions; Liability; No Waiver of Immunity or Defenses

4.1 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, this Agreement is a contract for and with respect to the performance of governmental functions by governmental entities.

4.1.1 The services provided for herein are governmental functions, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS** shall be engaged in the conduct of a governmental function while providing and/or performing any service pursuant to this Agreement.

4.1.2 The relationship of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS** shall, with respect to that part of any service or function undertaken because of or pursuant to this Agreement, be that of independent contractors.

4.1.3 Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or construed by the Parties, or by any third party, as creating the relationship of principal and agent, partners, joint ventures', or any other similar such relationship between the Parties.

4.2 Each Party reserves and does not waive any defense available to it at law or in equity as to any claim or cause of action whatsoever that may arise or result from or in connection with this Agreement. This Agreement shall not be interpreted nor construed to give to any third party the right to any claim or cause of action, and neither the **CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS**

nor the LRGVDC shall be held legally liable for any claim or cause of action arising pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement except as specifically provided herein or by law.

4.3 Neither Party waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of itself, its trustees, council members, officers, employees, and agents because of the execution of this Agreement and the performance of the covenants and agreements contained herein.

4.4 The LRGVDC agrees to hold the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** and the **CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**, Texas, harmless from all claims arising out of acts or omissions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy during any Basic Peace Officer Academy or police in-service training classes and activities.

4.4.1 The **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** agrees to hold the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council harmless from all claims arising out of acts or omissions of **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** during any Basic Peace Officer Academy or police in-service training classes or activities.

4.4.2 This section does not apply to, nor has any effect on Workers Compensation claims filed against either party by that party's personnel, resulting out of acts or omissions during any Basic Peace Officer Academy or police in-service training classes and activities.

V. Notices

5.1 All correspondence and communications concerning this Agreement shall be directed to:

LRGVDC: Manuel Cruz
LRGVDC Executive Director
301 W. Railroad Street
Weslaco, TX 78596

City of SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
Randy Smith
4601 Padre Blvd.
South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Notices required hereunder shall be hand-delivered or sent by prepaid certified mail, return receipt requested.

VI. Severability

6.1 If any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision hereof, but rather this entire Agreement will be construed as if not containing the invalid or unenforceable provision(s), and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed and enforced in accordance therewith. The Parties acknowledge that if any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it is their desire and intention that such provision be reformed and construed in such a manner that it will, to the maximum extent practicable, give effect to the intent of this Agreement and be deemed to be validated and enforceable.

6.2 Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy may immediately suspend operation of contract with **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** for noncompliance with the terms of the contract or any TCOLE rule or law. Operation of the contract may be suspended for a period, including a period pending outcome of an investigation or until remedial compliance with applicable standards has been met. The suspension is considered effective when **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** is notified in writing.

VII. Entire Agreement

7.3 This Agreement is the entire agreement between the **CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS** and the LRGVDC as to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior understanding or written or oral agreement relative to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument duly approved and executed by both Parties in accordance with the formalities of this Agreement.

VIII. Governing Law; Venue

8.1 All Parties agree that this Agreement shall be construed under the laws of the State of Texas, and obligations under the Agreement shall be performed in Hidalgo County, Texas. Should the need for dispute resolution arise, the venue shall be in Hidalgo County, Texas.

IX. Term and Termination

9.1 This Agreement shall be for an initial term of two (2) years and will automatically renew for subsequent one-year terms unless terminated as herein provided and subject to any necessary funding being appropriated by the governing bodies of the Parties.

9.2 Either party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part hereto whenever such termination is found to be in the best interest of either party. Termination shall be in effect by the conveyance of a written notification thereof to the other party at least ninety (90) days in advance of the effective date of the termination.

9.3 Either party may terminate this contract upon ten days' written notice. The LRGVDC may also terminate this contract if:

- A. the **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** training staff intentionally or knowingly submits, or causes the submission of, a falsified document or a false written statement or representation to the LRGVDC.
- B. **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** training staff has not met the needs of the communities or agencies it serves.
- C. **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** training staff fails to comply with any term of a contract or violation of a TCOLE rule or law, including when a provider has been classified as at risk under this chapter for a twelve-month period without complying with commission rules.
- D. **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** training staff has failed to conduct training within a calendar year without a waiver from the Training Coordinator; or
- E. If applicable, **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT** has lost accreditation, including SACS or THECB approval.

X. Current Revenues

10.1 Pursuant to Section 791.001(d)(3), Texas Government Code, each party paying for the performance of governmental functions or services will make those payments from current revenues available to the paying party.

XI. General Terms

11.1 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be simultaneously executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall be considered fully executed as of the date first written above, when all Parties have executed an identical counterpart, notwithstanding that all signatures may not appear on the same counterpart.

11.2 Effective Date. The Effective Date of this Agreement shall be the date last executed by a Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement by their authorized representatives as of the dates noted below.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

LRGVDC

By: _____
LRGVDC Executive Director

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Legal Counsel

CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

By: _____
MAYOR PATRICK MCNULTY

Date: _____

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

By: _____
CHIEF OF CLAUDINE O'CARROLL

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM

ATTEST:

Edmund Cyganiewicz, JD
South Padre Island City Attorney

Angelique Soto
South Padre Island City Secretary

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMENDMENTS

The parties agree that this agreement is given and accepted upon the expressed condition that it cannot, in any manner, be changed, altered, varied, or modified unless such modification, change, or alteration shall be in writing and executed by both parties.

This agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement of both parties and terminated by either party giving not less than thirty (30) days' written notice prior to the proposed effective date of the proposed amendment or termination.

In the event of actions which may include, but not limited to, actions that are illegal, unsafe instructional practices, unethical, or not in the best interest of either party, this agreement can be immediately terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement by their authorized representatives as of the dates noted below.

The effective start date of this agreement is the ____ day of _____ 20 ____.

CHIEF OF CLAUDINE O'CARROLL
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND POLICE
DEPARTMENT

RANDY SMITH
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CITY
MANAGER

PATRICK MCNULTY
MAYOR CITY OF SOUTH
PADRE ISLAND

MANUEL "MANNY" CRUZ
LRGVDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXHIBIT

"A"



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY RULES FOR INSERVICE TRAINING



1. All attendees must be in class on time.
2. Tobacco or Vaping products are not allowed at the Academy.
3. Profane or offensive language is prohibited.
4. Attendees who are on break must not disturb any classes that may still be ongoing.
5. Attendees will maintain a professional demeanor while attending any classes.
 - a. Sleeping in class will not be tolerated.
 - b. Disrespect towards any instructor or guest speaker will not be tolerated.
6. All attendees will abide by the following rules of attire:
 - a. No sleeveless or cut-off shirts.
 - b. All shirts must have a collar.
 - c. No shirts with offensive or vulgar words or markings.
 - d. No shirts with a neckline lower than 3 inches from the neck.
 - e. No shorts of any type.
 - f. No pants or trousers that fall lower than the waistline.
 - g. No spandex or warm-ups.
 - h. No sandals of any kind.
 - i. Attendees may wear their regular work attire, but it must be worn within regulation.
 - j. The instructors may order the attire of the day for classes.
 - k. Some classes will require special attire which will be included in memo form or in the course description.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY RULES FOR INSERVICE TRAINING



Grooming standards shall apply at the LRGV Academy. All male employees must be clean shaven. All female employees must wear their hair and nails in the same way they wear them to their regular work duties in compliance with regulations. Employees who attend classes while on vacation are not exempt from these rules. These rules are waved for those employees who are assigned to special units that require different grooming standards for undercover officers; however, they must wear appropriate attire. All attendees are to follow the LRGV Academy rules when attending classes at other satellite sites sponsored by other law enforcement agencies or civilian organizations. The LRGV Academy Training Coordinator has the discretion to appoint a designee to enforce these rules at any LRGV Academy Satellite Site.

All people attending the LRGV Academy must adhere to these rules. Attendees who violate the rules may be dismissed from the Academy. People from outside agencies who violate the rules may be dismissed from the Academy and the LRGV Academy Coordinator may write a letter to the person's supervisor addressing their dismissal. These rules are meant to create and maintain a professional learning environment for everyone.

EXHIBIT

"B"

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
REPORT OF TRAINING**

Page #	TCOLE Dept. or Provider # 511481	Course #	Today's Date	Total Hours	Beg. Date	Ending Date	Provider Type: ☒ - Academy ☐ - Contract Provider ☐ - Other
Course Title:			Today's Hours	Name of Academy / Department: Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Police Academy Instructor Name & PID:			

	PID#	Last Name, First Name	Class	D.O.B.	Signature
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.					

THESE STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THIS COURSE AND ARE APPROVED FOR CREDIT.

956-682-3481

Acad./Training Coordinator (please type or print) Signature	Date	Phone #
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If provider type "Other," chief administrator signs.

EXHIBIT

"C"



Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Score Sheet



Instructor Name: _____ Course Date: _____
Course Title: _____ Course Hours: _____
Course Number: _____

NAME	PID #	Grade

Instructor Signature: _____

EXHIBIT

"D"



Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Course Evaluation



Instructor's Name:						Date:					
Course Title:											
Instructor Evaluation						High			Low		
1.	Effectiveness of instructor(s) presentation.					5	4	3	2	1	
2.	Instructor(s) ability to answer questions.					5	4	3	2	1	
3.	Coverage of subject matter.					5	4	3	2	1	
4.	Suitability of instructional materials.					5	4	3	2	1	
5.	Overall rating of the instructor(s) effectiveness.					5	4	3	2	1	
Comments:											
Instructor Evaluation						High			Low		
1.	Your knowledge and skill level of the course subject matter before the course.					5	4	3	2	1	
2.	Your knowledge and skill level of the course subject matter after the course.					5	4	3	2	1	
1. What were the course strengths?											
2. What area(s) of the course need improvement?											
3. Were the course facilities adequate?											
4. How would you rate the assistance of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy staff associated with the presentation of this course?											
Please Rate						High			Low		
1.	The overall training session					5	4	3	2	1	
2.	Clarity of training session					5	4	3	2	1	
3.	Relevance of course content to course topic					5	4	3	2	1	
Your Title:											
Agency:											
Telephone:											

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Item #5; Department Reports

Lower Rio Grande Valley Police AcademyJavier Solis
Director

- On July 22, 2026, we celebrated our Mission Academy's 232nd graduating class. 14 Peace Officers successfully completed their training, and we had a 100% pass ratio on the first attempt of the Texas Basic Peace Officer licensing exam. This brings us to 29 peace officers trained for the region as of January 1, 2026. We still have two academies in session with a total current enrollment of 26 cadets. Both classes are set to graduate in December of this year.
- We are nearing the end of the background investigation phase for the next Mission Academy which is set to commence on August 28, 2026. Over the past two months LRGV Academy staff have been administering entrance exams, physical fitness testing, conducting oral in person interviews and have completed 25 background investigations.
- The LRGV Academy is currently working with the La Joya Police and Fire Department, and the La Joya Independent School District Police Department to proctor a two-day full-scale exercise simulating a response to an active threat. This two-day training will also be attended by several west side Hidalgo County agencies. The goal of the training is to identify gaps in communication and multi-agency coordination and to train responders on the principles of I.C.S. and rescue task force concepts.
- The LRGV Academy will be hosting the 2026 RGV Police K-9 Competition and training workshop in the City of Alton, Texas. The event is scheduled from December 3rd to December 5th, 2026. This annual event brings in multiple police canine teams together from around the Rio Grande Valley and across the State of Texas. The competition is free and open to the public.

ITEM #5. D

**TRANSPORTATION
VALLEY METRO**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Valley Metro

Program Action ItemDr. Sandra Carrizales
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the updated Valley Metro Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Staff requests the Boards approval for the updated Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) which outlines Valley Metro's formal safety management policies, procedures, and performance targets required under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations. The plan establishes the agency's Safety Management System framework, defines roles and responsibilities, identifies potential safety risks, and documents the strategies used to mitigate hazards and improve overall system safety. Approval of the updated PTASP ensures Valley Metro remains in compliance with federal requirements and continues to prioritize the safety of passengers, employees, and transit operations.

The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) was updated in its entirety.

PLAN WILL BE SENT OUT AS LINK TO ALL BOARD MEMEBRS.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation.....Dr. Sandra Carrizales
Director

VALLEY METRO July 2026 Ridership Snapshot

System Overview

Agency	Metrics	July 2026	July 2025	YoY % Change
	Routes – Total Passenger Trips	39,574	39,649	-0.19%
McAllen Express	10,12,14,15,16's,17,20,30,31's.32 RL 1, RL2, Orange Line	16,447	17,002	- 3%
Harlingen – San Benito	31.2 40,41,42,44,45's	4,717	4791	-1.5%
LRGVDC Motor Bus	GL1, 50's,60,61,62	4139	4,841	-14.5%
LRGVDC Demand Response	Willacy, Starr, Zapata	759	835	-9%
LRGVDC – Commuter Bus	Willacy Express & Zapata Express	417	192	117%
UTRGV	Vaquero Express	12,962	11,969	8%
South Texas College	Jag Express	133	19	600%

Executive Summary

- July ridership remained stable overall (-0.19), with most core routes showing slight decreases. Significant increases in higher-education and commuter services, particularly STC Jag Express (+600%) and Zapata Express (+328.6%) continue to drive system growth. FY26 ridership is up 37.6% YTD, demonstrating strong demand across student and workforce mobility corridors.

Ridership Trend

Month	FY 26	FY 25	%
September	124,908	76,812	62%
October	130,325	79,338	64%
November	94,014	64,200	46%
December	61,339	41,253	48%
January	57,110	47,768	19%
February	96,640	68,657	40%
March	86,210	63,554	35%
April	99,574	69,170	43%
May	39,288	40,345	-2.62%
June	39,963	38,338	-3.59%
July	39,574	39,649	-0.19%
YTD Ridership	865,945	629,084	37.6%

- Overall YTD: Ridership increased from 629,084 to 865,945, a 37.6% year-over-year increase, demonstrating strong growth with most months showing substantial gains.

Routes with Year – Over - Year Monthly Growth

Route	July Ridership	YOY Change
Route 14 UTRGV - Edinburg	817	14%
Routes 16.1 Courthouse Circular - Edinburg	2171	18%
Purple Line STC – Weslaco - Pharr	47	12%
STC – Jag Express	133	600%
Route 31.2 Bus 83 Harlingen,	1299	41%
Route 42 San Benito - Harlingen	279	120%
Willacy Express - Harlingen – Sebastian- Lyford – Raymondville	220	51%
Zapata Express – Zapata – San Ygnacio - Laredo	197	328.6%

- July shows increase in higher-education and commuter routes reflect targeted service value and growing regional mobility needs.

Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Meeting Activity:

RTAP Committee Meeting Recap

Agenda Item 3: Regional Transportation Advisory (RTAP) Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 26, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Meeting Called to Order By: Dr. Fonseca

1. Call to Order at 10:03 AM
2. Roll Call
 - A Quorum was met.
3. Consideration and Action: Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2026.
 - The March 17, 2026, minutes were unanimously approved by Margarita Lopez and seconded by Flor Leal.
4. Consideration and Action: RTAP Executive Secretary Laurie Gonzalez won with the highest votes and accepted the role for a 2-year term.
5. Updates from KFH Consultant on Current Activities
 - Stakeholder engagement plan completed.
 - Geographic/demographic analysis underway.
 - Review of prior plans in progress.
 - Site visits included ride-along, open houses, senior centers, workforce sites.
 - Community survey launched (English/Spanish).
 - RTAP members to post flyers, distribute paper copies, return completed surveys.
 - Braille copies available

Survey deadline: End of June.

6. April 23, 2026, RTAP Subcommittee Meeting Updates -

Claudia Olmedo

Brownsville Metro

- ☐ ADA alignment; microtransit expansion; Route 30 Uber ridership ↑ to ~500/month; BTX Connect study.

Island Metro

- ☐ Awaiting rural discretionary grant; Tesla charging project; parking study; steady spring break ridership.

South Texas College

- ☐ TripShot GPS; tablet hardware; route analysis; request to include STC Cosmetology Campus.

UTRGV Transportation

- ☐ Ending TransLoc in August; exploring 5310; planning weekend Edinburgh service; coordination with Brownsville.

Metro McAllen

- ☐ Upgrading ETA tech; Swiftly integration; BRT study (6-12 months); shelter program ROW issues.

Valley Metro

- ☐ AVL modernization; Verkada camera pilot; Edcouch shelter reactivated; Route 20 analysis.

Agenda Item 3: Regional Transportation Advisory (RTAP) Committee Meeting Minutes

7. Discussion and Recommendation:

- ❖ Development of a Shared Infographic Showcasing All Transit Agencies, Including Agency – Specific Links/ QR Codes for Posting on Each Website, Regional Transit Guide – Hexagon Flyer
 - Fold-out hexagon with agency logo, contact info, QR code.
 - Digital version with alt-text; Braille embossing available.
 - Draft content due **end of June**; printing planned for August.
- ❖ By the end of June please submit your draft to be included in our July 28, 2026 RTAP Meeting for finalized voting version.
- ❖ Review of Current Membership and Strategies to Address Underrepresentation from Key Stakeholder Groups:
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian (BPAC)
 - Veterans Affairs (VA)
 - Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)
 - Senior Centers.
- Agencies will compile local listings for TNCs, bike/ped facilities, veteran services, senior centers.

8. Transit Provider Updates

Performance Metrics Service Changes Projects Public Engagement

- ☐ Metro McAllen: March 46,316
- ☐ Valley Metro: April 99,519 (+35% YoY); YTD 239,315 (+36% YoY); FTA review June 8-9
- ☐ Island Metro: Feb 47,314; Mar 47,713; April pending
- ☐ STC/UTRGV: No updates

9. Funding opportunities/applications

☐ WorkForce Solutions – Skill Developing Funding

- Skills Development Fund
- Up to \$500K/project; avg. \$2,400/trainee; full-time only; third-party trainers allowed; prevailing wage required.
- Skills for Small Business
- For private businesses <100 employees.
- Up to \$2,000 (new employee) / \$1,000 (incumbent).
- Training must be through public colleges; fast turnaround.
- Resources and QR codes shared for employer handbook and grant programs.

Agenda Item 3: Regional Transportation Advisory (RTAP) Committee Meeting Minutes

- ☐ RGVMPO Section 5310 – Funds mobility for older adults and people with disabilities

- ☐ 5310 Program Rio Grande Valley MPO, TX

Funding - Total: \$2.35 M – Traditional: (55%) \$1.29M & Non- Traditional:(45%) \$1.06

M FY24: \$832K to be obligated by August 2026

- 2026 Timeline

Feb: PMP approved

Apr: Call out

May: Call Closes

Jun: Awards

Aug: Obligate funds

Program Overview

- ☐ Formula funding to improve mobility for older adults & people with disabilities.
- ☐ Funds available for 3 years; supports capital & operating projects.

Eligible Recipients

States, local governments, designated recipients, nonprofits, transit operators.

Eligible Activities

Vehicles, lifts/ramps, IT systems, mobility management, travel training, accessible paths, volunteer driver programs.

Federal Share

- ☐ 80% capital
- ☐ 50% operating
- ☐ 10% admin (100% federal)

STBG Category 7 (STP-MM) FY 2027–2036

Program Overview

Supports metropolitan mobility, congestion relief, preservation, multimodal improvement

Focus Areas

Roadway rehab, safety, transit capital, bike/ped, ITS, planning/design.

Eligible Applicants

Local governments, transit agencies, transportation authorities, MPO-area public entities

Requirements

- ☐ Must be in MPO TIP.
- ☐ Must meet federal/state development rules.

Selection

Competitive scoring based on mobility, safety, readiness, regional impact, cost-effectiveness.

Local Match

Typically 20% non-federal.

Administration

RGVMPO manages project calls, evaluation, programming, compliance.

10. Upcoming RTAP Member Outreach/ Public Involvement Events

11. Open forum New/Old Business

12. Adjournment

LRGVDC Five-Year Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) Update

Board Briefing: Transit Coordination Plan Update

Consultant: KFH Group | **Milestone Report**

Project Status RPTCP Quarterly Review (April – June 2026)

The Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan project is progressing. During the second quarter of 2026, the RPTCP continued to make steady progress in both public outreach and technical planning.

Community outreach:

Community outreach efforts focused on engaging stakeholders and gathering public input across the region. Key activities included:

- Conducting RTAP stakeholder interviews to collect meaningful feedback.
- Finalizing and distributing bilingual rider surveys to improve accessibility.
- Completing regional outreach at transit centers, county offices, meal sites, Workforce Solutions locations, UTRGV, and South Texas College.
- Collecting a total of 176 surveys by the end of June, including 113 rider surveys and 63 community surveys.
- Continuing to gather additional paper surveys from transit providers.

Technical work:

Technical work continued progressing throughout the project, supporting key analytical and planning tasks. Activities included:

- Advancing demographic and geographic analyses to better understand regional characteristics.
- Conducting onboard ride checks across the region's major transit agencies to document service conditions and rider activity.
- Distributing provider surveys to gather detailed operational information from transit agencies.
- Continuing development of the regional transportation provider inventory by KFH Group.
- Drafting technical chapters addressing geographic conditions, demographic trends, and existing transit services.
- Contributing to the development of Technical Memorandum No. 1, keeping the project on schedule for the next phase of the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

Valley Metro Planning Activities

Planning Outreach Report

VAIL 36TH ADA CELEBRATION

- Valley Metro was proud to join VAIL for the 36th ADA Celebration!
 - We connected with riders, community partners and advocate to honor the progress made in accessible transportation. The event highlighted the importance of inclusive transit, and Valley Metro reaffirmed its commitment to supporting mobility, independence, and equal access for all riders.



VAIL 36TH ADA CELEBRATION



Operation Border Health

- Valley Metro proudly participated in Operation border Health from July 21-23, 2026!

- Our team connected with residents, shared transportation resources, and supported community wellness by helping individuals access essential medical screenings, vaccinations, and services. We're grateful to be part of this important regional effort and remain committed to improving mobility and access to healthcare for families across the Valley.



Operation Border Health Snapshots



ITEM #5.D.2

RGVMPO

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board Of Directors Meeting

Wednesday August 26, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. RGVMPO

Program Action Item.....Michael Medina
Executive Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program Ranked Project.

Staff requests the Board's approval of the ranked project selections submitted under the 2026 Section 5310 Call for Projects.

The ranked list reflects the evaluation and scoring of eligible applications submitted for funding under the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Section 5310 Program. Approval will authorize the selected projects to move forward for inclusion in the program of projects and subsequent submission to FTA.

1. \$ 773,758 City of McAllen 35 Ft Bus Acquisition
2. \$ 589,727 City of McAllen ADA Sidewalk Program
3. \$982,339 Valley Metro Mobility Management and ITS Implementation

FY 2026 FTA Section 5310 Program Ranked Projects

McAllen Urbanized Area · LRGVDC as Designated Recipient

Rank	LG / Sponsor	Project Name	Federal Funding Request	Project Type	Federal Funding Award	Award Status
1	McAllen Metro	City of McAllen 35 Ft Bus Acquisition	\$773,758	Capital	\$773,758	✓ Full Award
2	McAllen Metro	City of McAllen ADA Sidewalk Program	\$589,727	Capital	\$589,727	✓ Full Award
3	Valley Metro	Mobility Management and ITS Implementation	\$2,345,824	Capital	\$982,339	▲ Partial Award
Total 5310 Federal Funding Award					\$2,345,824	<i>\$2,345,824 available</i>

Available 5310 Funding Breakdown	
FY24–26 Section 5310 Total Available	\$2,345,824
Traditional / Capital (min 55% · 80% federal)	\$1,290,203
Non-Traditional / Operating (max 45% · 50% federal)	\$1,055,621

✓ *Full Award = request fully funded* ▲ *Partial Award = funded below request*

Proposals were evaluated and ranked based on the established scoring criteria. The top-scoring application will receive all funds requested, followed by the second-ranked project, and so on until all available funds are programmed/awarded.

Section 5310 Program (49 U.S.C. 5310) provides formula funding to states and designated recipients to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate. The program improves mobility by removing barriers and expanding transportation options in all areas.