

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B Weslaco, TX 78596

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 12:00 noon

Audio access is available by calling [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122), Access Code: 671-517-485

Presiding: Mayor Norma Sepulveda, President

Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes for
(March 27, 2024).....President

Item #3: Public Comment

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

1. Presentation and **ACTION** to Accept Quarterly Investment Report.....Crystal Balboa
Director Finance
2. Presentation and Possible ACTION on Texas Gas Service Case.....Marie Michels
Rates and Regulatory Compliance Manager
3. Executive Director Report
 - A. Introduction of New Staff Members
 - B. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

**A. Community & Economic Development.....Melisa Gonzalez
Assistant Director**

Program Status Reports

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

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services (Sub-recipients) for the fiscal year from 10/1/ 2024 – 09/30/2025.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal year from 10/1/ 2024 – 09/30/2025.

Program Status Reports

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

**C. Public Safety.....Manuel Cruz
Executive Director**

**Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Action Items.....Cesar Merla
Assistant Director**

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee’s (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Rankings and Resolution.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee’s (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund SF Program Rankings and Resolution.

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee’s (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) Program Rankings and Resolution.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee’s (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grand Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution.
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee’s (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Violence Against Women Formula Grant (WF) Program Rankings and Resolution.
6. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution for FY 2024-25 Non-Profit Security Grant Funding.

Program Status Reports

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program

**Police Academy Program Action Items..... Javier Solis
Assistant Director**

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the County of Hidalgo, Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office, to report 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.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Rio Grande City, Texas, by and through the Rio Grande City Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

Program Status Reports

- Regional Police Academy Status Report

**Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District..... Dennis Moreno
Assistant Director**

Program Status Reports

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

**D. Transportation.....Tom Logan
Director**

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Amendment to Operations Policies & Procedures for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

**Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report Luis Diaz
Interim Executive Director**

Item #7 New or Unfinished Business

Item #8 Adjourn

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
12:00 noon**

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

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2

MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2024

MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, March 27, 2024

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

- DRAFT

Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was attained. They moved on to Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission
Commissioner Ernie Garcia, Willacy County
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Commissioner Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes
Commissioner Edward Gonzalez, City of Raymondville
Mayor Ricardo Rick Guerra City of San Benito
Mr. Ron Garza, UT Rio Grande Valley
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy Co Nav. Dist.
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Jim Darling, Member at Large
Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Mayor J.R Garza, City of Alamo
Commissioner Betty Rodriguez, City of La Villa
Mayor Mike Carter, City of Laguna Vista
Mayor Jaime Gonzalez, City of Los Indios
Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas, City of San Juan
Ms. Cledia Hernandez, TSTC
Mr. Eleazar Garcia Jr, Member-at Large

Without questions from the board, Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item #2.

Item #2: Meeting Minutes

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2024. **Commissioner Ernie Garcia motioned to approve the February 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Norie Gonzalez seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.**

Item #3: Public Comment: No Public Comment, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Item #4.

Item #4: Administration

- A. Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Presentation by Heather Smith. Ms. Smith started by telling a story of how she became a foster parent and helped without knowing the situation. Ms. Smith gave good information to the board and then emailed information for the community after the meeting over to Mr. Cruz. Ms. Smith then explained and provided details about Blue Sunday. She mentioned that this year was Blue Sunday's 30th year celebrating Child Abuse Prevention. Ms. Smith explained that Blue Sunday is a non-profit organization that tends to raise awareness of child abuse among faith communities that also desire to meet the needs of each abused child in the Rio Grande Valley. She mentions that Blue Sunday also offers possible solutions to ending child abuse through prayer, and addiction treatment programs, while also addressing issues like the cycle of abuse and poverty. If you know of any spiritual leaders in your community, that would be interested in learning about becoming a blue-ribbon church, Janet Magee, or I will offer you free resources. I am an active member at Faith Christian Church in Harlingen, and I'm proudly at Blue Ribbon Church. In conclusion, she mentioned, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share with you today the information, and I hope it has opened your eyes. Child abuse is an unusual topic, nobody likes to talk about it. I believe that the RGV is full of good people doing great things for the vulnerable. I encourage you to join us in promoting April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Use the Governor's Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation in your communities. Connect with people, and hear their stories, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.
- B. Consideration **RATIFICATION** of executive Committee **ACTION** on the following Item.
 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritized Lists for FY2024-25 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications. **Troy Allen motioned to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritized Lists for FY 2024-25 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications. Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.**
- C. Presentation on AEP Rate Case by Mr. Thomas Brocato, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend. Mr. Brocato is assisting with the Texas Gas Service rate increase that is currently ongoing. He started by letting the board know that he just wanted to give them a little bit of an overview of the filing, and then tell you a little bit about what we've been doing on the AEP Rate Case. As you probably saw on February 29th, AEP followed their first comprehensive base for 8K, since 2019. They're seeking to increase electric rates by 163.5 million dollars, that's about a 10.3% increase and they're seeking to increase their return on equity, which is a major issue, in this case, from 9.4% to 10.6%. If the increase is adopted, it will result in a 14.77% increase in residential customers as a group. Some perspective, on the impact, it would be about a \$4.00 and 89% increase per month. So, if you use one 1000 KWH, your bill is going to go up 4.89 regardless of who you choose as a retail electric provider because this is what's referred to as a non-bypass wall chart. No matter who you choose as a rep, you're going to pay a piece if this is approved. Now, they also have a tax refund and another charge that's already been on your bill for quite some time, that will be expiring soon. If you net all of that out, the 1000 KWH customers will see about a \$2.11 increase. We understand that you have an important relationship with AEP. We know that you must maintain a good, healthy, professional relationship with them, and in that respect, we make sure that we act accordingly. I'm happy to

answer any questions that you all have. I'm happy to also come back later in the case and give you an update, as well. Mr. Cruz then had a question for Thomas, his question to him was I noticed some of the cities were not incorporated cities, so who would be doing the filing or urged to read for those? Thomas then responded with, so for very small cities that are unincorporated, usually under 4000 in population, they are not legally required to act. They can still participate in the case and whatever mechanism the city has, for approving such actions, they can do so. If they still operate by adopting ordinances and resolutions, they can do that as well. Now to intervene to participate in the coalition, to have their expenses reimbursed, they can. But those aren't regulatory authorities with original jurisdiction. They don't have to act.

No comments or questions Mayor Sepulveda then moved on to Executive Director Report.

- D. **Executive Director Report:** Mr. Cruz started by first and foremost introducing all new staff and all promotions. He then moved on to an email he had just received before the meeting from USIBWC about a meeting scheduled on April 2nd in Mercedes and he wanted to let the board know in case anyone wanted to attend. He did let the board know that Ms. Giner would be in attendance and would provide information on meeting minutes negotiation between the US and Mexico. Mr. Cruz went on to let everyone know that we continue to experience the drought severe water issue and Mexico isn't delivering the committed share. Mr. Cruz explained that it would be discussed by Commissioner Giner as a main point of discussion. Mr. Cruz then mentioned that to this day they are still receiving resolutions, he let the board know that Mr. Sonny Hinjosa made a trip to DC on the 18th of this month to visit with the state department and see what they can do to assist with Mexico so they can deliver the debt. Lastly, Mr. Cruz then wanted to update everyone on Valley Metro Regional Headquarters. He mentioned that they are new owners of this land as of November last year, which is 27.56 acres. All they are waiting for now is to see what funding they secure, he mentioned that Tom Logan is working on trying to identify funds and working with other agencies such as EDA, TxDot, and FTA in trying to do identify funds to build. We're also working with the Economic Development District or centers around the area to see what they can offer as far as any private commercial contributions or partnerships.

No further comments or concerns. Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item #5.

Item #5 Department reports

A. Community & Economic Development

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Solid Waste Applications Ranking & Scoring for Funding Year 2024-2025. Mrs. Melisa Gonzales stated that on March 5, 2024, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met to score, and rank submitted applications for funding year 2024-2025. She stated that they had received 11 applications. However, 1 of those applications was not administratively complete, therefore only 10 applications were scored and ranked. Melisa mentioned that they have 4 cities that have ranked the top highest and they were as follows City of Mission, City of Alton, Cameron County, and then City of Palm View. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Application Ranking and Scoring for the funding Year 2024-2025. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.***

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Nominee for the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nominations for Special Purpose District for Irrigation Category. Melisa explained that the RWRAC met and selected Mr. Troy Allen to fill this position. Requesting board approval to approve Mr. Troy to fill the position that Mr. Joe Hinojosa vacated back in December. ***Mayor Norie Garza made a motion to approve the Nominee for the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nominations for the Special Purpose District***

for Irrigation Category. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion a carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution 2024-01 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting the Awareness of Fair Housing. Melisa mentioned to the board that once this resolution was signed, she would be emailing it out to all Housing Authorities in the area. As well as the cities and asking everybody to promote fair housing requirements for the region. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting the Awareness of Fair Housing. Mayor Norie Garza seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.**

Lastly, Melisa mentioned to the Board that they will have a kickoff meeting for the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee which she noted that they were calling the RGVEDAC Meeting on Tuesday, April 30th, 2024 @ 10:00 am. Melisa stated that it would take place in the Ken Jones Board Room. She will be sending out flyers and would like all Economic Development people to be aware that it's coming and wants everyone to join, and this time it will be in person. Melisa mentioned that she wants everyone to be on board for the first time and will be discussing, approving, and creating the bylaws to bring back to the board for approval.

B. Health and Human Services Action Item:

Margarita Lopez was recognized and stated that an annual window for contract amendments with our sub-recipients as well as our vendor contractors is essential for ensuring compliance with our contract obligations considering this and presenting the following action items as outlined by the respective contractors. She stated that she had the following Action item for the board's approval.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Vendor request to amend contract rates from Sunglo Home Health Services and D'Oro Home Health Services. She stated that Home Health Services is requesting to amend the contract rate for respite services from \$8.50 to \$13.24. She explained that a rate error was submitted in the initial application although when they honored the initial rate, they are now requesting an amendment to match the market cost. D'Oro Home Health Services is requesting to amend the contract from \$14.00 to \$14.75. The request is also due to Market Cost. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve the vendor request to amend contract rates from Sunglo Home Health Services and D'Oro Home Health Services. Commissioner Ernie Garcia seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.**

Program Status Reports

The detailed program status reports are available for review in the meeting packet.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Sepulveda moved on to C Public Safety.

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Program Status Reports

Cesar started by giving the board a quick highlight on the Resolution for funding as Mr. Cruz had mentioned at the start of the meeting. Cesar mentioned that the number submitted was \$988,700.95 for the region, and that it was for Homeland Security projects. He explained that they are currently pending the Governor Public Safety Office QA & QC on that. Also stated that they should be getting an announcement by the end of April or early May and mentioned that once it was out the Board would be the first to know. Lastly, Cesar mentioned their 1st Annual Ready RGV regional conference.

This will include 7 exhibitors. 3 keynote speakers. Cesar also thanked Mayor Sepulveda for being the honored guest. We look forward to seeing everyone out there.

Police Academy Program Status Report

Javier Solis started by letting the Board know that he is happy to say that this morning the 223rd Mission Police Academy graduated. That academy had 21 cadets. 6 were hired that morning and were sworn in at the ceremony. 3 were hired at the Palm View Police Department. 2 by the Starr County Sheriff's Office and 1 hired by the Elsa Police Department. Mr. Solis also thanked Mayor Garza from Mission for her attendance this morning at the Graduation. Javier also mentioned to the board that last month the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement conducted an audit of all training records. Mr. Solis was happy to announce that they passed the audit with no critical issues to report. Mr. Solis stated that the 224th Weslaco Basic Peace Officer Academy has completed Texas Penal Code training. Mr. Solis also mentioned that on April 5th they will commence their 225th Harlingen Basic Peace Officer Course Academy. Mr. Solis stated that they are anticipating about 15 cadets to be enrolled in that academy. Mr. Solis expressed that in March they provided the ALERT active shooting training to 85 officers, he then thanked Tom Logan for collaborating with the academy and coordinating their first-ever Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Police K9 Training Course. All in attendance were as follows Mission Police Department, PSJA ISD Police Department, Hidalgo County Precincts 1 & 4, and lastly Hidalgo County ISD. Mr. Solis mentioned that they are finalizing Interlocal Agreements as well with the City Alton Police Department, The City of La Joya Police Department, and the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 office. All agreements will expand the number of training sites and courses offered to all law enforcement officers in the region. Lastly, the LRGV Academy is in negotiations with the Rio Grande City Police Department to establish an Interlocal Agreement for TCOLE Reporting Services for Law Enforcement Agencies in the Starr County area. We hope to bring them on board as the TCOLE reporting site so that they can serve as a HUB to provide training to the Region and in Starr County.

No further Comments or concerns they then moved on to Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District with Joe Garcia.

Program Status Reports

GIS, 911 IT & Community Engagement:

Mr. Joe Garcia started with the GIS Department, he stated that the team has begun the creation of a dashboard that will make their ticketing system easier to search and display statistics to our ticket takers. Mr. Garcia then moved on to the Status reports for their IT department. He mentioned that the IT team held 6 Power 911/Map flex training courses for 64 regional telecommunicators. They will also be teaching Disaster Planning to PSAPs at the All-Hazards conference at the McAllen Convention Center. Mr. Garcia then moved on to the Public Education Team, He stated that they attended several events and are now getting ready for one of the most important events of the year, which is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week which starts on April 14th – 20th. He explains that that week they took the time to recognize our telecommunicators for all their hard work and efforts. Our team will travel to all our PSAPs and distribute appreciation care packages to all the Telecommunicators in the RGV9-1-1 service area.

With No Further Comments or concerns, President Sepulveda then moved to Item D Valley Metro

E. Transportation Action Item:

Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the purchase of Fare Collection Equipment and associated parts from GENFARE, LLC provider of the Valley Metro fare collection system. Mr. Logan stated that

this is their Vendor that provides their equipment and parts, and staff recommends approval, he also mentioned that the funding will come from a TxDOT Grant at 100%. He explained that these are parts that are required for their day-to-day maintenance. There are also spare parts to have in storage as we conduct preventive maintenance around equipment. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve the purchase of Fare collection equipment and associated parts from Genfare, LLC provider of the Valley Metro fare collection System. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.**

Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan then moved on to the Ridership report where he mentioned to the board that as of right now, they are at 465,000 year to date. He stated that there has been an increase of over 118,000 from the previous year.

With no further comments or concerns, they then moved on to RGVMPPO.

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Reports

The RGVMPPO could not make it to the meeting so therefore there was no status report on that department.

Item #7 New & Unfinished Business

Mr. Cruz wanted to remind everyone that the South Texas All Hazards Conference was taking place at the McAllen Convention Center and stated that it was on its 10th year. Mr. Cruz let everyone know if they had time to stop by and show support and mentioned that it was the second biggest conference in the State of Texas next to the Texas Division of Emergency Management Conference. Lastly, Mr. Cruz reminded the board about the Ready RGV Conference that is taking place at South Padre Island in May.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda made a motion to adjourn at 12:57 PM

Mayor Norma Sepulveda

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

ITEM #4.1

ADMINISTRATION

Quarterly Investment Report

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #4: Administration

- 1. Presentation and **ACTION** to Accept Quarterly Investment Report.....Crystal Balboa
Director Finance

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Quarterly Investment Report

January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

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

Recorded Interest Income for the quarter \$129,244.47

	Beginning 01/01/24	Ending 03/31/24
Investments in TexPool Prime:		
Water Plan	\$67,687.53	\$68,622.28
9-1-1	2,688,197.13	2,725,321.07
TCEQ	154,520.06	187,103.22
Transit	101,424.18	313,014.62
TWDB	210,333.66	131,175.02
GLO-Closing Cost	106,415.32	107,884.93
Kari's Law	66,946.13	67,870.65
Tire Project	24,590.70	24,930.30
Tourism	301,165.46	305,324.56
RGV Explorer	60,817.58	61,657.46
Total	\$ 3,782,097.75	\$3,992,904.11

TexPool Prime Rate as of March 31, 2024 – 5.4984%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Quarterly Investment Report

January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

	Beginning 01/01/24	Ending 03/31/24
Investments in TexPool:		
FIF – TWDB – Escrow Account	\$5,860,077.19	\$5,636,317.86
FIF – TWDB	150,347.04	27,519.79
Total	\$6,010,424.23	\$5,663,837.65

TexPool Rate as of March 31, 2024 – 5.3350%

Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

ITEM #4.2

ADMINISTRATION

Texas Gas Service Case

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #4: Administration

- 2. Presentation and Possible **ACTION** on the
Texas Gas Service CaseMarie Michels
Rates and Regulatory Compliance Manager

ITEM #4.3

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director Report

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

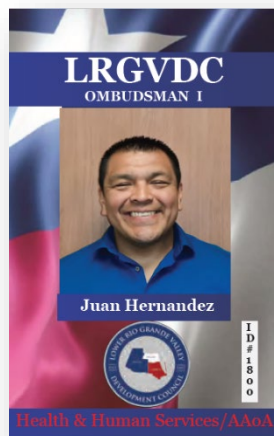
Item #4: Administration

- 3. A Introduction of New Staff MembersManuel Cruz
Executive Director

New Hire Date: April 8, 2024

Daisy D. Fuentes: Ombudsman I /Health & Human Services - AAoA

Juan M. Hernandez: Ombudsman I / Health & Human Services – AAoA

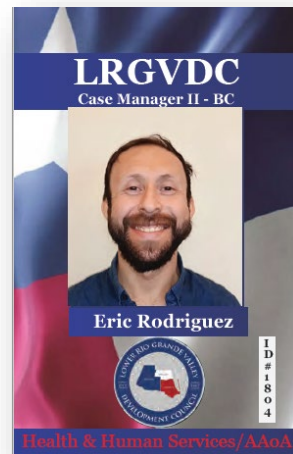
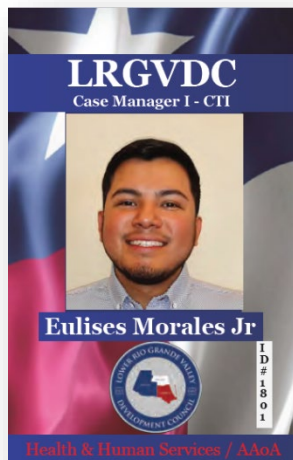


New Hire Date: April 15, 2024

Stephanie Serna: HR Specialist III/Administration – Human Resource

Eulises Morales Jr: Case Manager I – CTI/Health & Human Services – AAoA

Eric Rodriguez: Case Manager II – BC/ Health & Human Services - AAoA



Non-Competitive Promotion: April 15, 2024

Liza Alfaro: Executive Secretary / Administration

Melany Rodriguez: Planner II – RGV MPO



ITEM #5.A

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Updating CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) - In 2022, the LRGVDC Board of Directors approved the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) to bring together all those involved in economic development to bring about a regional approach.

The LRGVDC Community and Economic Development Department has cordially invited EDOs, Chambers, CVBs, and other Economic Development Institutes the RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) Kick-off Meeting on April 30, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room.

At this meeting we will establish the EDAC Advisory Committee Membership, as well as jump start the development of the EDAC bylaws and introduction of the LRGVDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). The objective for this advisory committee will be to engage in activities for the purpose of generating opportunities that will result in economic expansion & diversification of the region, by bringing together economic development stakeholders of the region in order to provide opportunities for the amplification of knowledge, the sharing of experience, the development of professional relationships, and collaboration. Along with activities to improve workforce education and training for the purpose of strengthening the economic competitiveness of the region. This committee will strengthen the CEDS for the region, as well as assist in the input and development of that regional plan. We look forward to the feedback!



The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Board of Directors have approved the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) to be a platform for local economic development organizations and stakeholders to come together to share best practices and receive training.

If you are interested in joining or becoming a member, you are cordially invited to it's kick-off meeting scheduled for:

DATE: Tuesday, April 30th, 2024

TIME: 10:00 am—11:30 am

LOCATION: Ken Jones Board Room
301 W. Railroad, Bldg. B
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Eligible organizations

Economic Development Organizations
Businesses
Partnerships
Cooperatives
Government entities
Educational entities

For more information, contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas at melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org or Valerie Ramos at vramos@lrgvdc.org or via phone at (956) 682-3481.



EDA has published Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). Public Infrastructure & Economic Adjustment Assistance key elements:

- EDA's standard project Application
- Funds planning, construction, and land acquisition
- Cost share can be 80% grant / 20% non-federal match
- Cost share can vary depending on (1) the 24-month unemployment rate and (2) per capita income
- Examples of projects funded:
 - Industrial Park infrastructure (water, sewer, utilities, roadway)
 - Entrepreneurial programs (business incubators/RLF)
 - Quality of life project (nature center)

There are no application submission deadlines and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Visit the following links for more information on this funding opportunity, [Public Works](#), [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#).

Staff are available to provide technical assistance, project development, and grant administration on EDA proposals and projects. For any assistance or information on EDA in general, contact the Community & Economic Development Department. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to disseminate information accordingly. Staff also continues to coordinate efforts with other governmental entities on their economic development related activities to maximize benefits of all projects and objectives for the region and avoid any duplication of efforts and resources.

For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

- Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

A virtual RSCC Meeting was held on April 23, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) presented at this meeting and spoke about TWDB funding opportunities. If you would like to receive the meeting presentation, contact C&ED staff, Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org.

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

Staff continue to carry out specified technical assistance activities to TxCDBG eligible localities within our operating region, to ensure program compliance. Staff continue to disseminate program information to keep TxCDBG eligible communities informed of information, promote Fair Housing, provide support to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and host any grant kick off meetings to award communities.

Current & Upcoming Activities:

- April 10th, 2024, Mr. Ben Medina, Unified Scoring Committee member for our region, attended the USC meeting in San Antonio.

- On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM staff will host a hybrid public meeting to discuss & establish the Regional Project Priorities for the CDBG program. Meeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Calander of Events. For any questions regarding this meeting, contact Valerie Ramos, vramos@lrgvdc.org.
- September 2024, Regional Kick-off Meeting (for CDBG awarded communities)

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

Staff attend City of Mission Spring Rally Event on April 12, 2024, where staff promoted April as Fair Housing Month. Fair Housing Brochures and promo items were distributed amongst the community.



- Solid Waste Management Program:

The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be in person on June 18, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room Bldg. B 301 W. Railroad Weslaco, Texas 78596.

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

- Water Quality Program

Staff facilitated the South Texas Coastal Consortium 1st Annual Conference held in Kingsville on April 4th and 5th. Co-facilitator was Environmental Director for the Coastal Bend Council of Government. Conference was geared towards the water priorities for the RGV and Coastal Bend regions. Panelist included: State Senator Morgan Lamantia, District 27, TCEQ Commissioner Bobby Janeka, TWDB Jesse Milonovich, USACE Major Eugene Roberts, Deputy District Commander, EDA Robert Piche, Austin Regional Economic Development Representative, GLO Jet Hays, Deputy Director of Integration and USDA Ernest Haner, Area Specialist. Second panel consisted of Coastal County elected officials: Judge Rudy Madrid, Kleberg County; Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County; Refugio County Representative; Judge Charles Burns, Kenedy County; Brooks County EMC and Commissioner Ernie Garcia, Willacy County.



Staff attended the quarterly IBWC citizen Forum Committee Meeting on April 2, 2024, held at the IBWC Field Office in Mercedes Texas.

Staff continue to educate the public on water quality issues with monthly themed Facebook posts. Give a thumbs up or leave a comment! Outreach efforts for this program include staff attending in-person events, and or in partnership of the AAA department. This allows for great C&ED program promotion opportunities for the community. Informational reading material and promotional items on water quality are distributed at these events.

April Messages: EARTH MONTH



Staff worked with Valley Metro to create and wrap our local buses with the inspiration of promoting to the public on keeping our water systems clean of trash. The target for this promotion will be in all three counties on six bus routes. Also included are interior placards on twenty buses.

Remember to be Water Wise, Don't Clog or Contaminate our Water Systems, and Only Rain Down the Storm Drains.



Staff continues to regularly communicate with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as well as other entities involved in water quality initiatives to strengthen partnerships and generate further activities related to water quality and to highlight the importance of it to the region.

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

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

Staff are working with Hidalgo & Cameron Counties, TWDB and RATES for consideration to amend the agreement between the LRGVDC and RATES for the Flood Infrastructure Funds (FIF), TWDB Project No. 40038. RATES

will undertake Task 2.2 (Drainage Characterization) and Task 2.3 (Project Assessments) of the TWDB Project No. 40038. The FIF project requires the development, processing, and contracting for characterizing drainage pathways, identifying flood control projects, and assessing the feasibility of those projects; and procures qualified engineering firms and staff to conduct engineering and drainage projects regularly. The project will also call for a no-cost time extension. A special RWRAC meeting will be held for the committee's approval prior to bringing this item to the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

26th Annual Storm Water Management & Planning Conference will be held at South Padre Island, Hilton Garden Inn, May 19-24, 2024. Register Now! <https://lrgv-stormwater-task-force.square.site/>

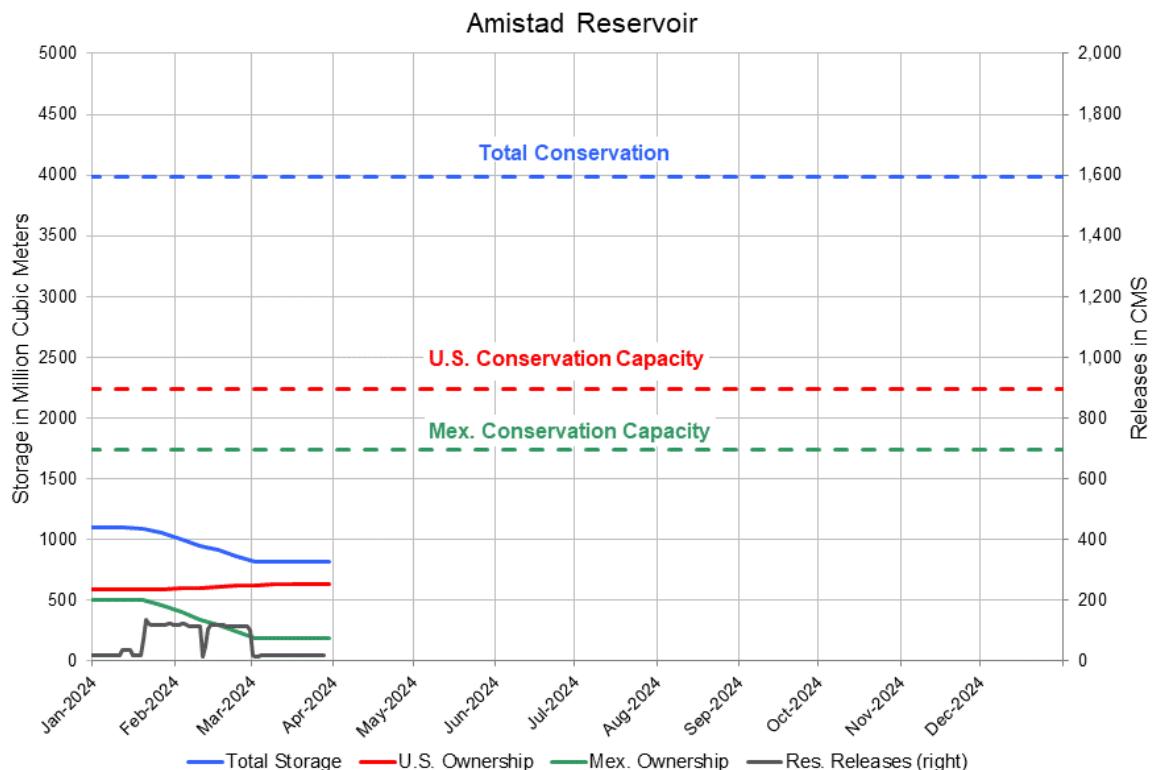
Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

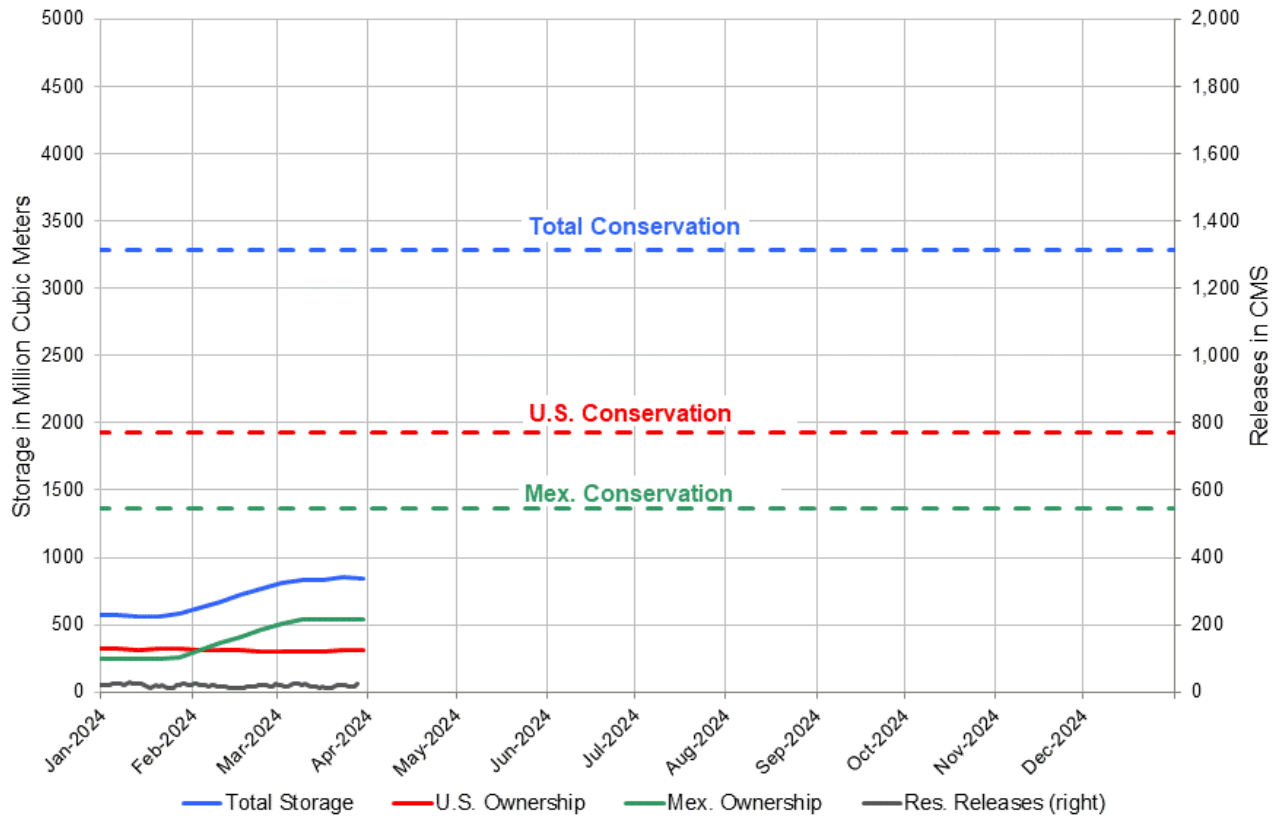
The Region M Group is scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 9:30 am. The meeting information can be found on the Region M website. Meeting is held hybrid at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room and via GotoMeeting.

For more information on Region M, please visit website: <http://riograndewaterplan.org>

- Reservoir Levels as of April 11, 2024.



Falcon Reservoir



ITEM #5.B

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

(AAA)

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item Margarita Lopez, Director

1. **Consideration** and **ACTION** to Approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services (Sub-recipients) for the fiscal year from 10/1/ 2024 – 09/30/2025.

The Citizens Advisory Council recommends approval of the Sub-recipients RFP timeline. This action refers to services provided through our sub-recipients and funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act as amended, and State General Revenue Funds (SGR).

*Refer to attached timeline.



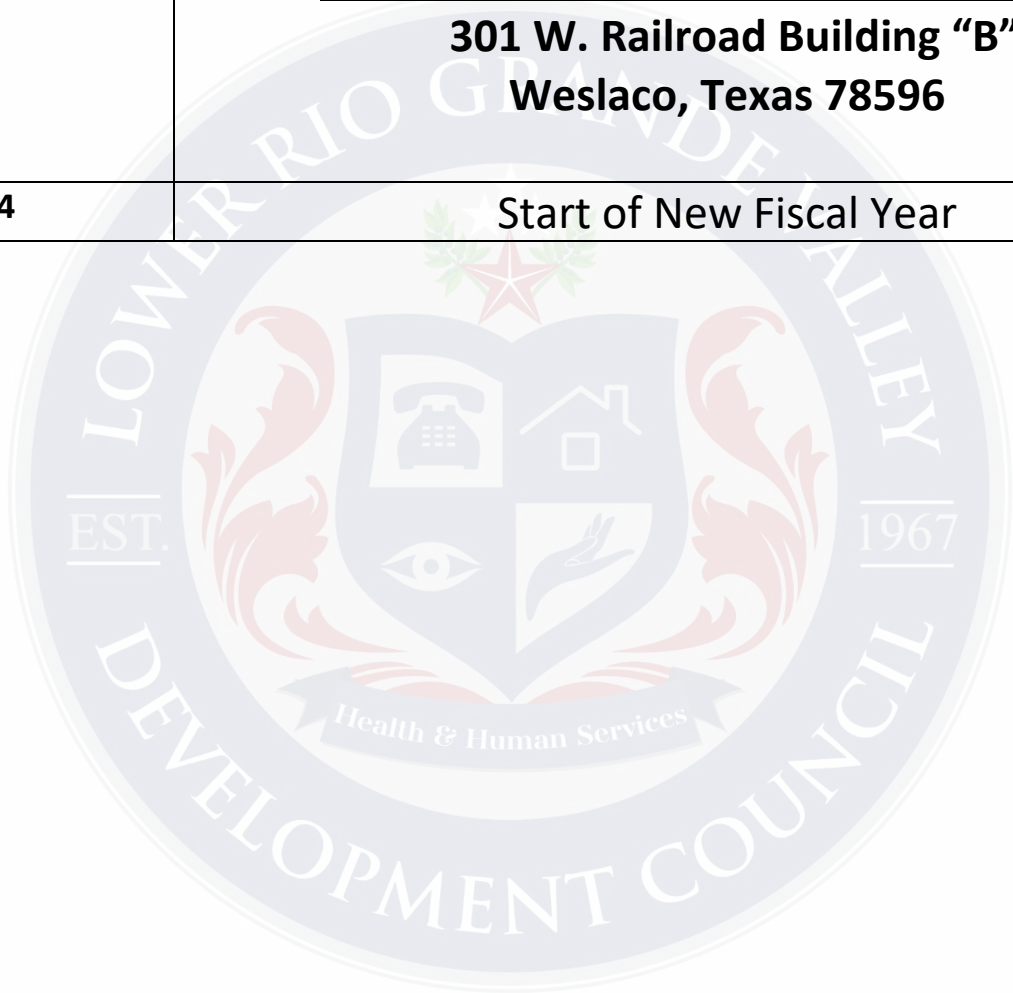
Request For Proposal

-Older Americans Act Services-

Timeline FY 2024-2025

<p>May 5, 2024</p>	<p>The RFP application and solicitation timeline will become available on the LRGVDC website for download.</p>
<p>May 5, 2024 May 12, 2024</p>	<p>Media Notification Via Newspaper: Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor</p>
<p>June 14, 2023</p> <p>June 21, 2024</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mandatory Application Conference</u> <u>for All Interested Parties*</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Failure to attend this conference will disqualify your Agency's application for the New Fiscal Year-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 – 1:30 P.M. 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. 3:00 – 3:30 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">301 W. Railroad Building "B" Weslaco, Texas 78596</p>

July 17, 2024	The LRGVDC will review the submitted applications
August 13, 2024	Qualifying applications will be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging's Citizens Advisory Council for review and approval.
August 28, 2024	Approved applications will be submitted to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board for review and approval
September 12, 2024	<u>Contract Signing for All Approved Parties</u> 301 W. Railroad Building "B" Weslaco, Texas 78596
October 1, 2024	Start of New Fiscal Year



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item Margarita Lopez, Director

2. **Consideration** and **ACTION** to Approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal year from 10/1/ 2024 – 09/30/2025.

The Citizens Advisory Council recommends approval of the Contractor Solicitation timeline. These services will be funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act as amended and State General Revenue Funds (SGR).

*Refer to attached timeline.



Contractor Solicitation Timeline

FY 2024-2025

<p>May 5, 2024</p>	<p>The contractor application and solicitation timeline will become available on the LRGVDC website for download.</p>
<p>May 5, 2024 May 12, 2024</p>	<p>Media Notification Via Newspaper: Valley Morning Star, Brownsville Herald, The Monitor</p>
<p>June 13, 2023 June 20, 2024</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mandatory Application Conference</u> <u>for All Interested Parties*</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Failure to attend this conference will disqualify your Agency’s application for the New Fiscal Year-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 – 1:30 P.M. 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. 3:00 – 3:30 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">301 W. Railroad Building “B” Weslaco, Texas 78596</p>

<p>July 12, 2024</p>	<p>Sealed applications, can be mailed or hand-delivered by 5pm to the LRGVDC-AAA office: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council 301 W. Railroad St. Building “D”, Weslaco, Texas 78596 ATTN: Procurement Department</p>
<p>July 15, 2024</p>	<p>The agency will review the submitted applications</p>
<p>August 13, 2024</p>	<p>Qualifying applications will be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging’s Citizens Advisory Council for review and approval.</p>
<p>August 28, 2024</p>	<p>Approved applications will be submitted to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board for review and approval</p>
<p>September 12, 2024</p> <p>September 13, 2024</p>	<p><u>Mandatory Billing Training and Contract Signing for All Approved Parties</u></p> <p>-Failure to attend this conference will disqualify your Agency for the New Fiscal Year- Contracts will be signed on these days. The signing authority must attend.</p> <p>1:00 – 1:30 P.M. 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. 3:00 – 3:30 P.M.</p> <p>301 W. Railroad Building “B” Weslaco, Texas 78596</p>
<p>October 1, 2024</p>	<p>Start of New Fiscal Year</p>

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

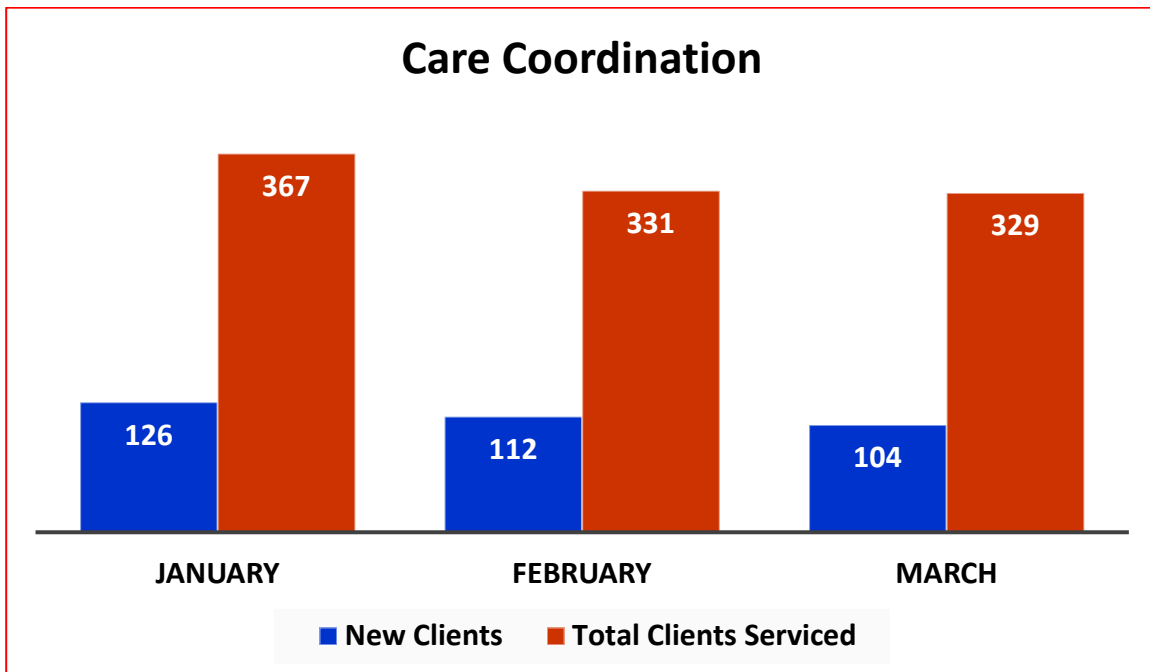
Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

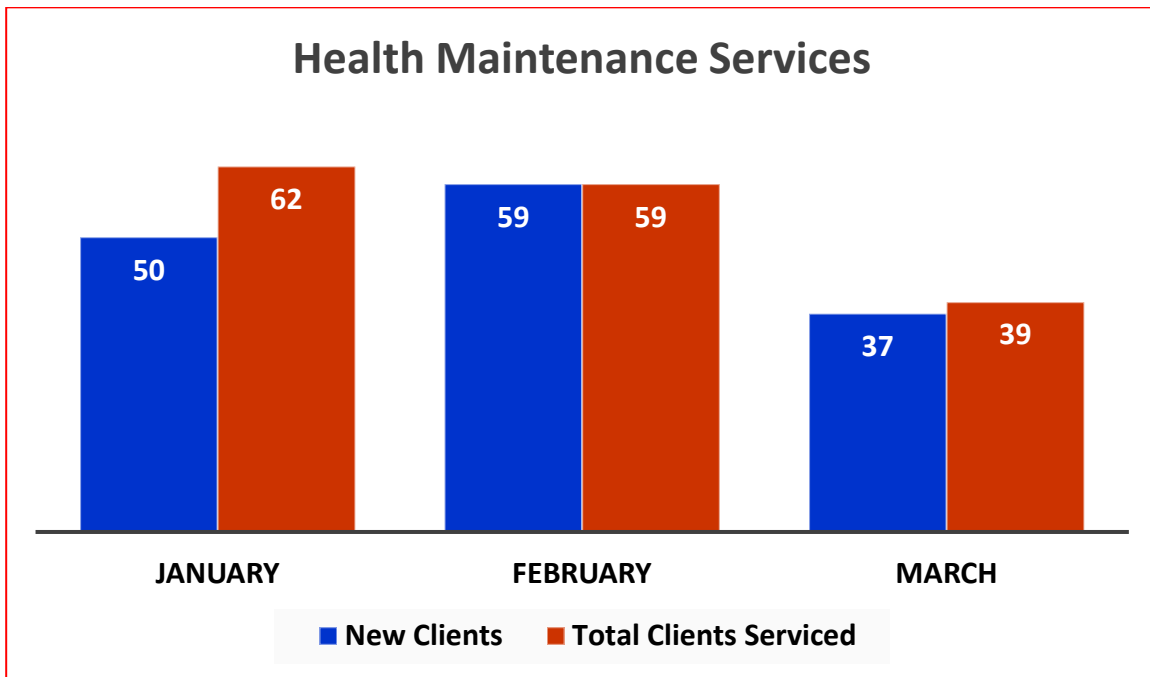
Area Agency on Aging Status Report

This document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's 2nd quarter report for FY 2024, encompassing data from January 2024 to March 2024.

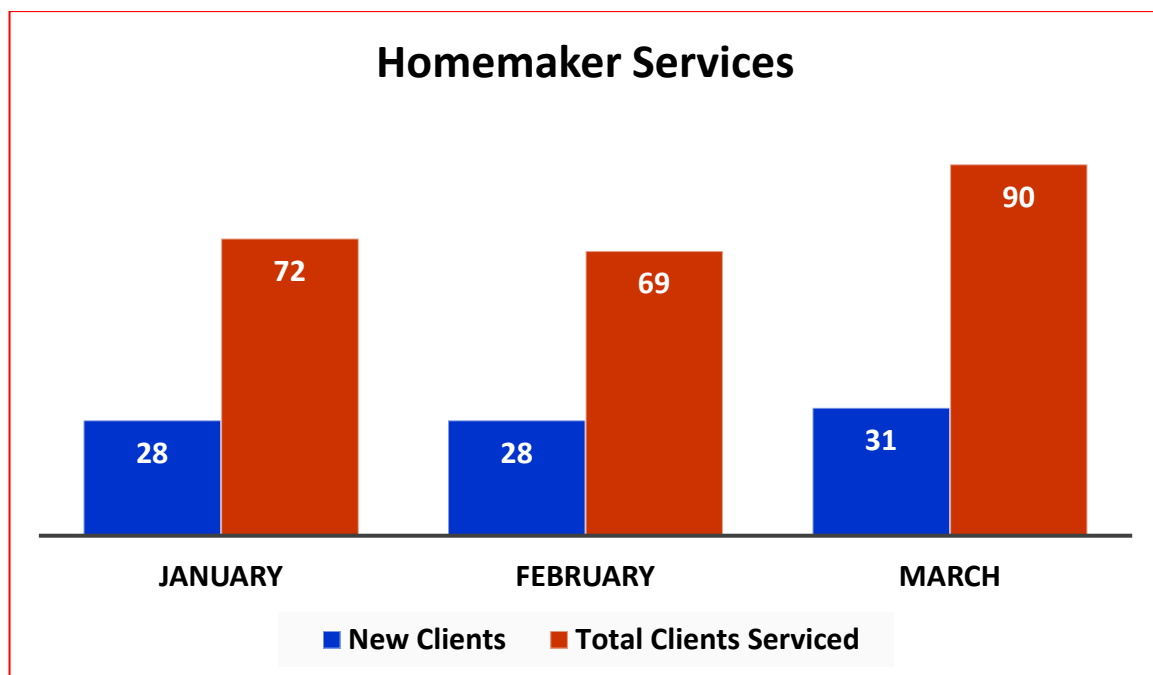
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Program**
 - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 342 new clients.
 - A total of 1,027 individuals were provided with case management assistance.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**
 - A total of 146 new clients were assisted in the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment.
 - A total of 160 individuals were assisted by health maintenance services.

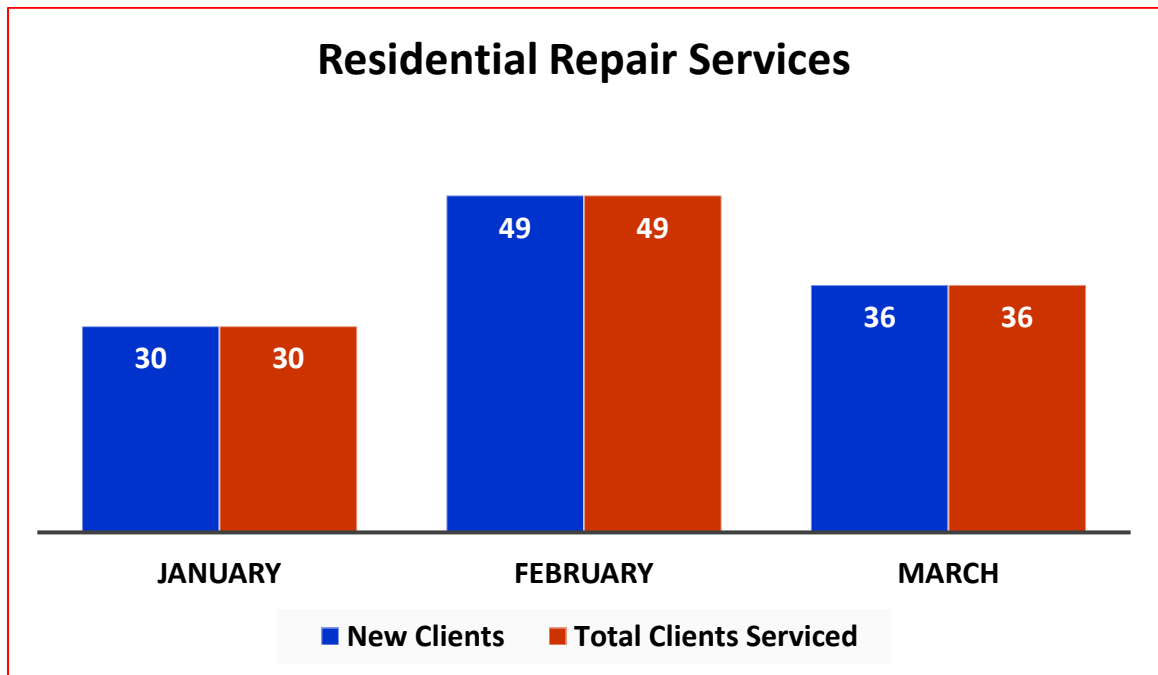


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Homemaker Services**
 - A total of 87 new clients were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
 - In the second quarter, 231 individuals received homemaker service.



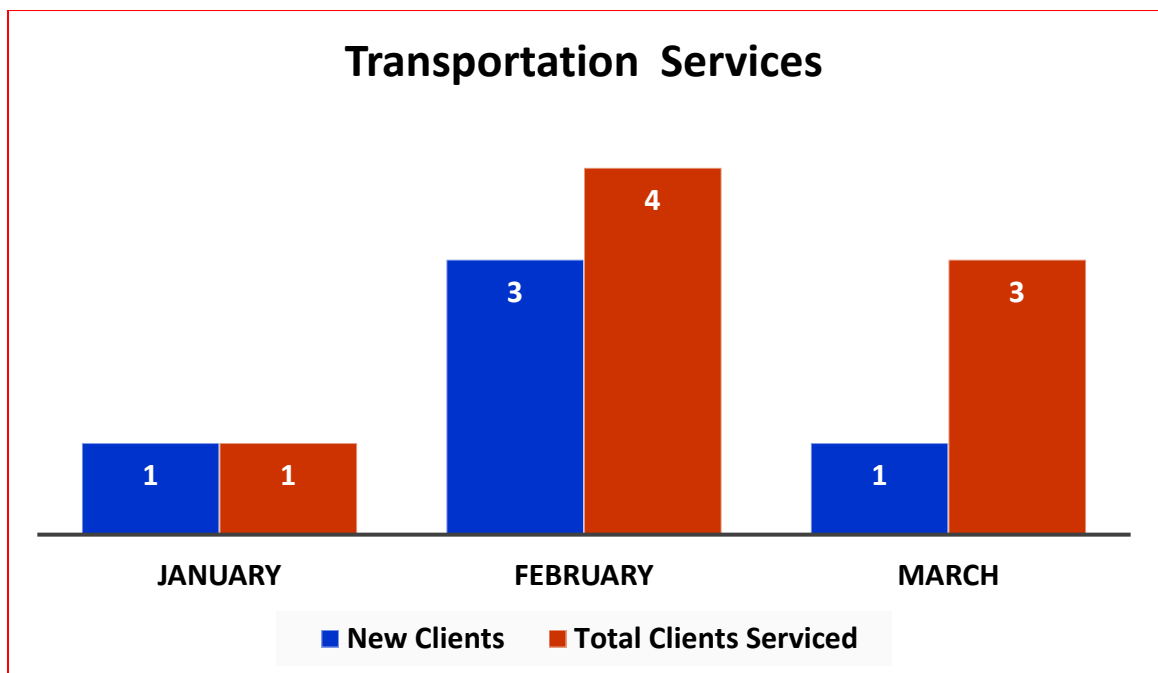
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Residential Repair Services**

- A total of 115 individuals were provided with assistance with home modifications, such as grab bars, ramps, and removing tubs and installing walk-in showers to reduce the risk of falls and improve access and mobility.



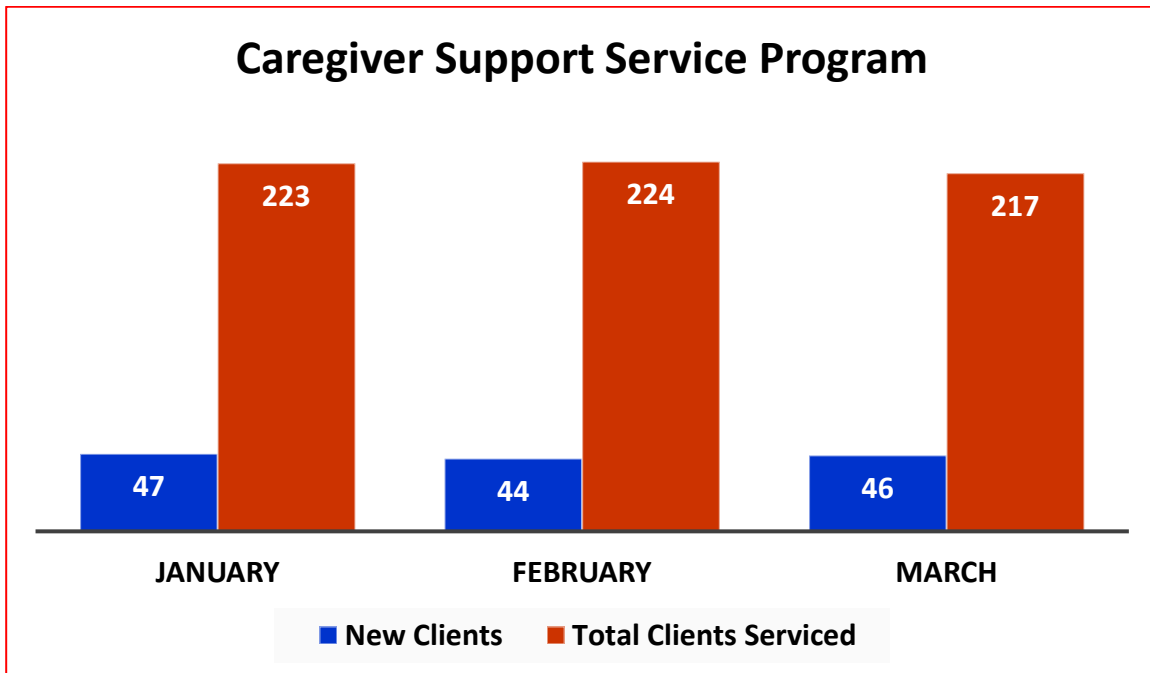
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Transportation Services**

- A total of 5 new clients were provided transportation services to medical related appointments.
- In the second quarter, 8 individuals received transportation services.



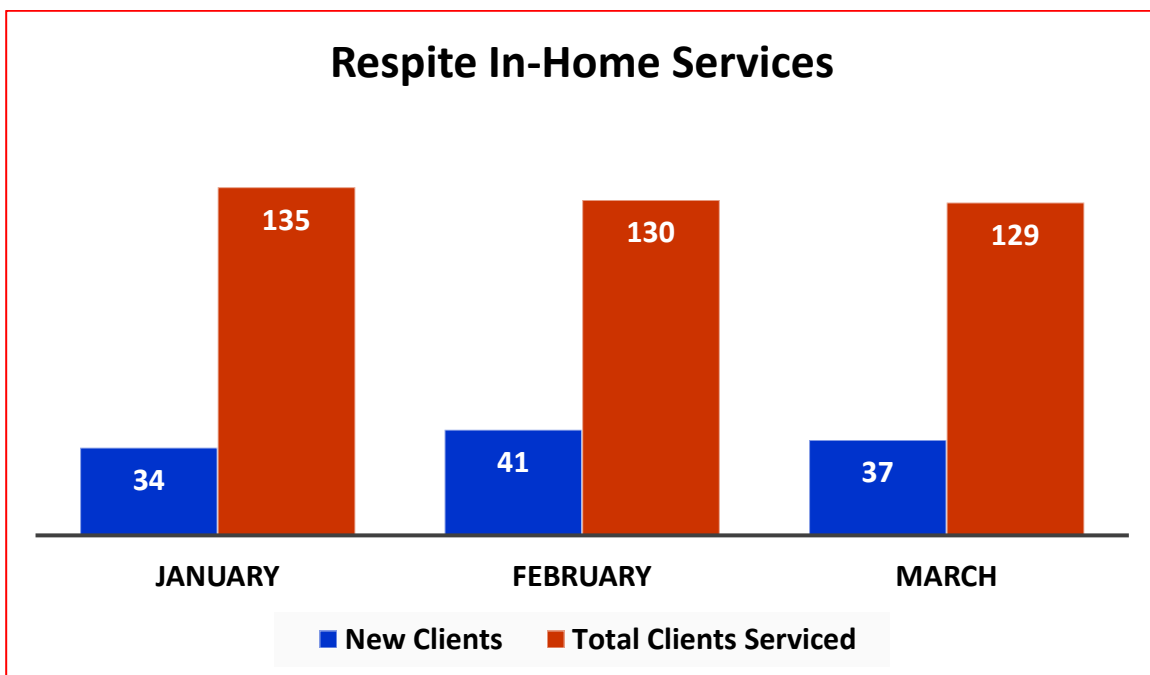
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services Program**

- The Caregiver Support Services Program serviced a total of 137 new clients.
- A total of 664 individuals were provided with assistance.

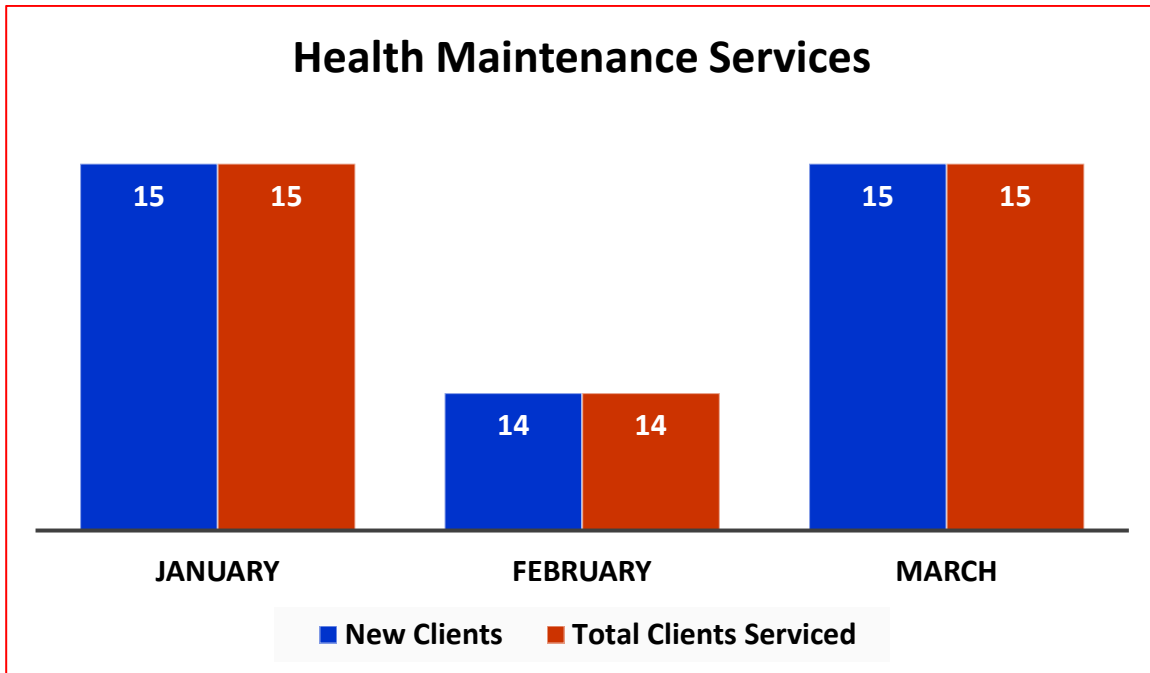


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Respite In-Home Services**

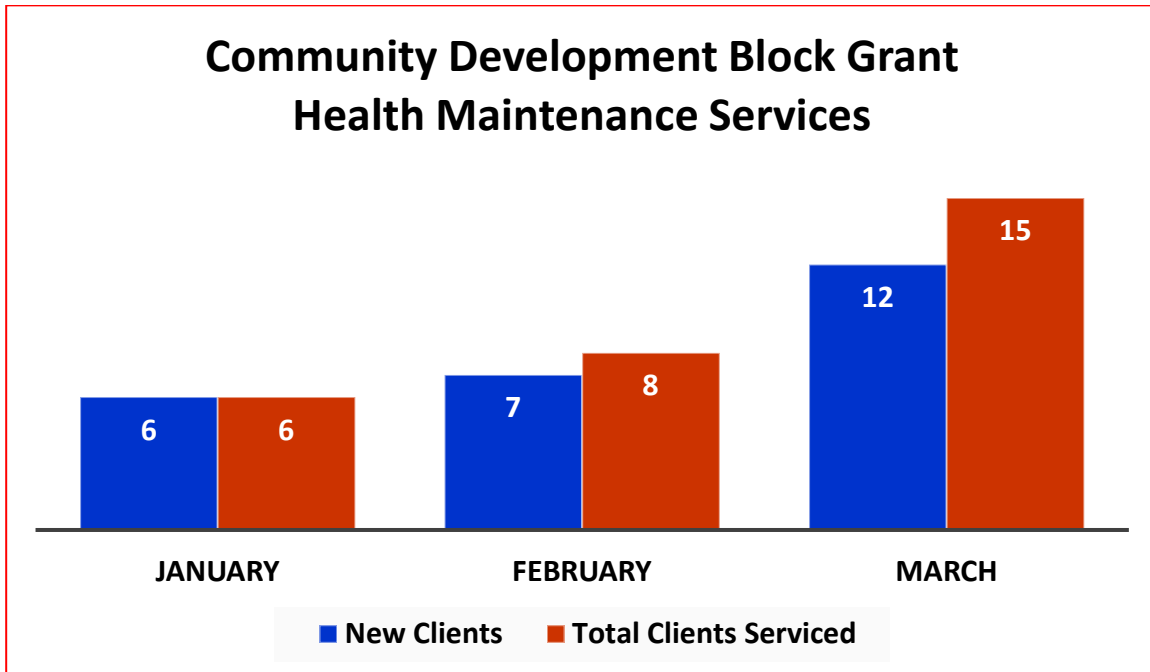
- A total of 112 new clients were provided with respite in-home services, such as light housekeeping, personal care, feeding, grooming, and transferring from bed to chair.
- A total of 394 individuals were provided with respite in-home services.



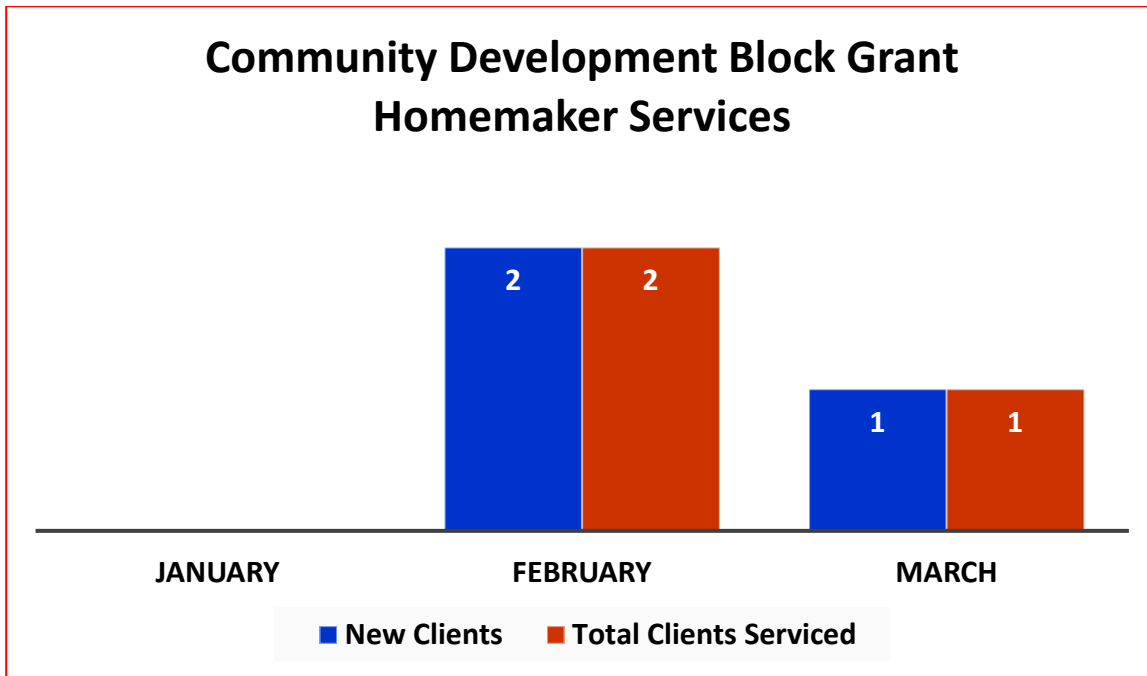
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**
 - A total of 44 clients were assisted through the Caregiver Support Program for the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment to support the care recipient. This one-time service is typically allocated for a single encounter.
 - A total of 44 new clients were served, representing the final count of individuals assisted through this one-time service, typically allocated for a single encounter.



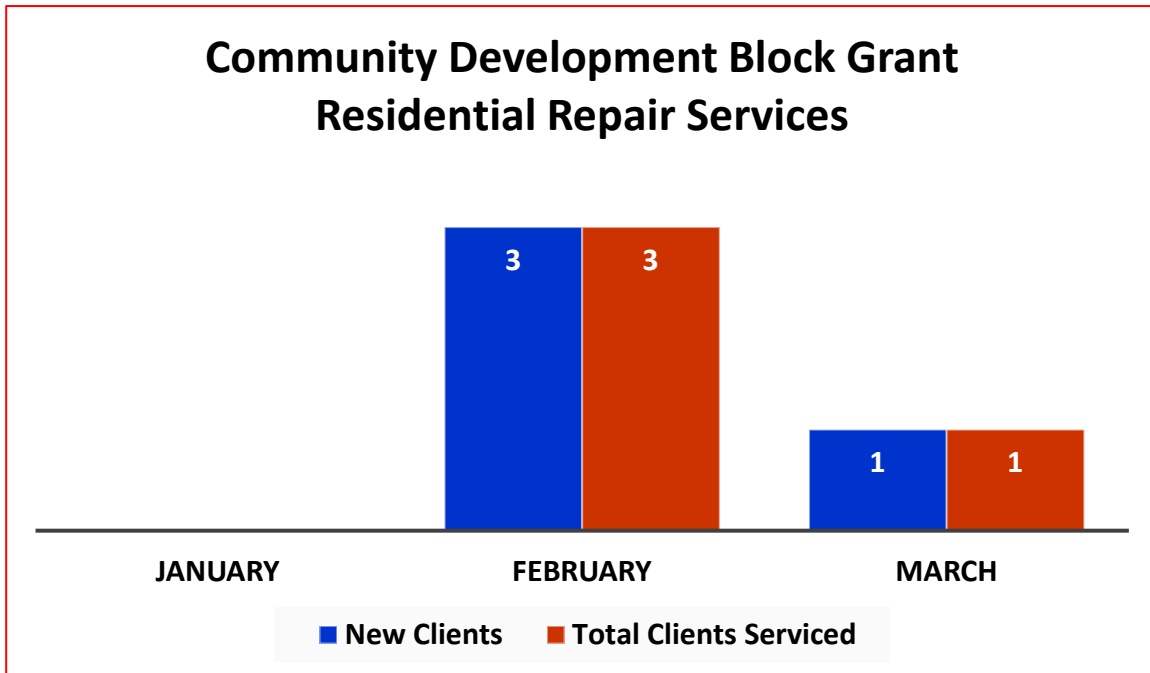
- **Direct Consumer Report - Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services**
 - A total of 25 clients were assisted through the Community Development Block Grant for the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment to support the care recipient. This one-time service is typically allocated for a single encounter.
 - A total of 29 new clients were served, representing the final count of individuals assisted through this one-time service, typically allocated for a single encounter.



- **Direct Consumer Report - Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services**
 - A total of 3 new clients were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
 - In the second quarter, 3 individuals received homemaker service.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Residential Repair Services**
 - A total of 4 individuals were provided with assistance with home modifications, such as grab bars, ramps, and removing tubs and installing walk-in showers to reduce the risk of falls and improve access and mobility.

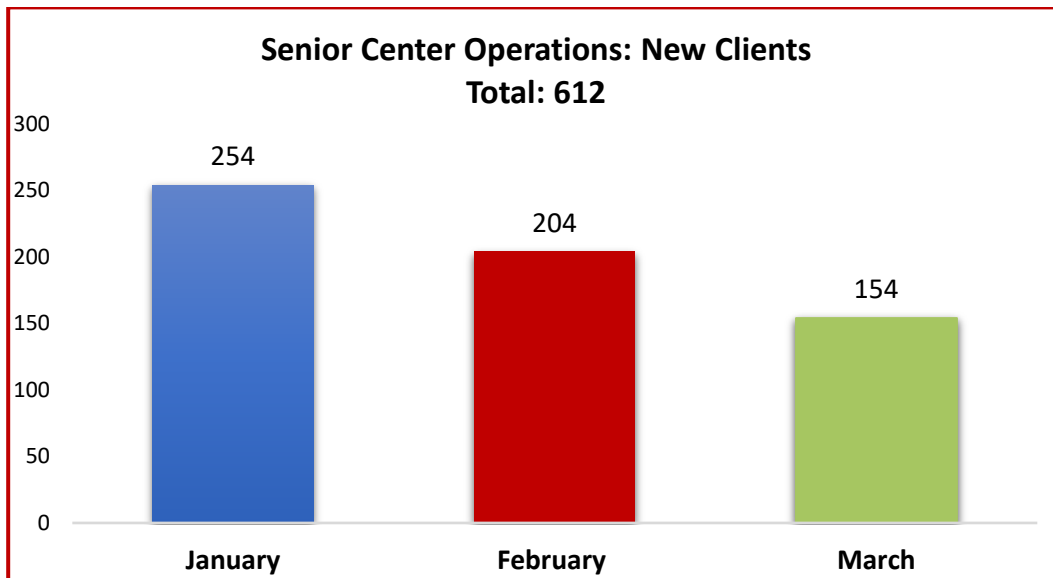
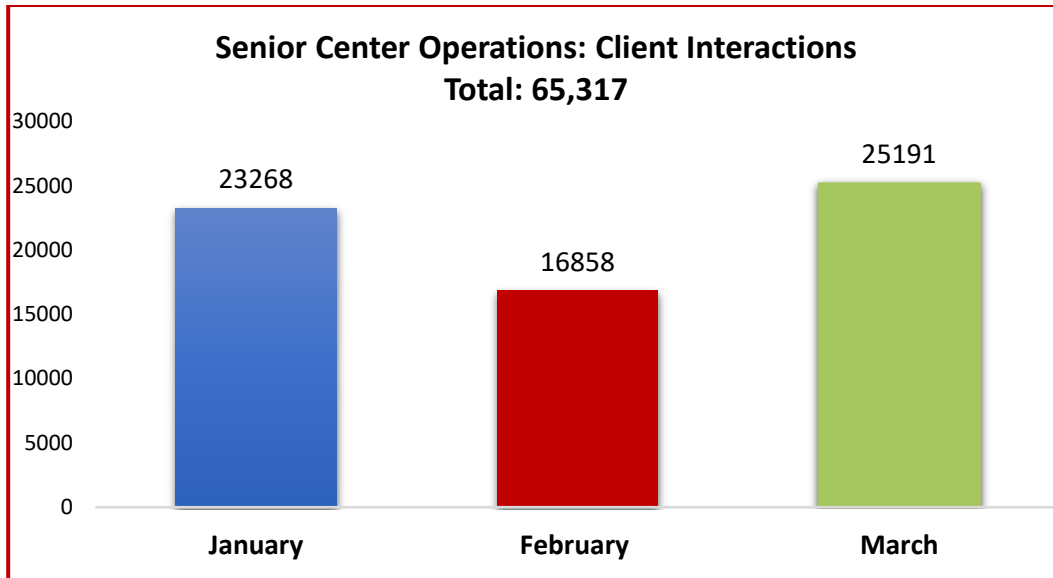


- **Direct Consumer Services – Interest List**

As of March 30, 2024, over 1,561 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging.

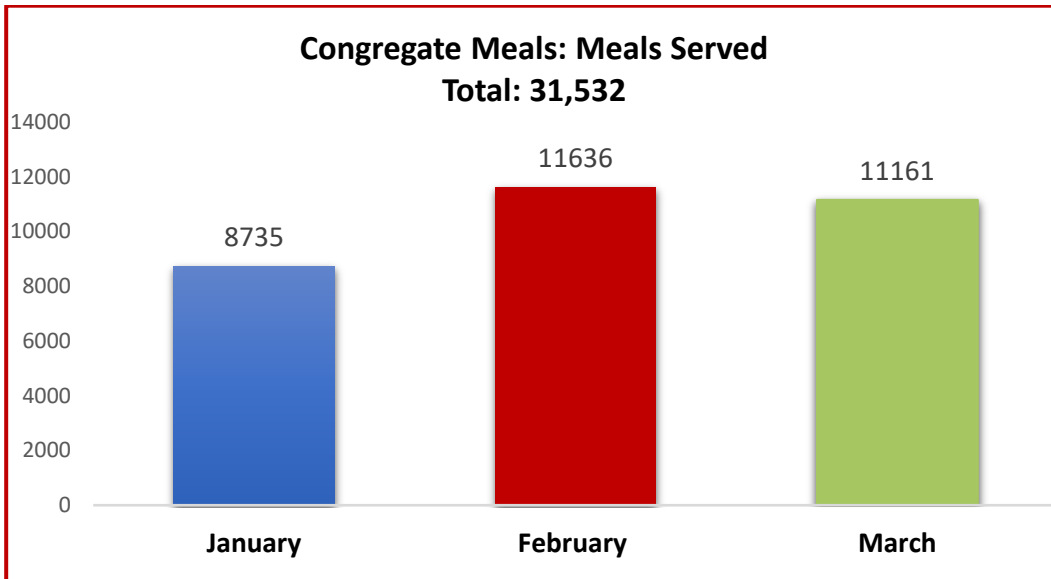
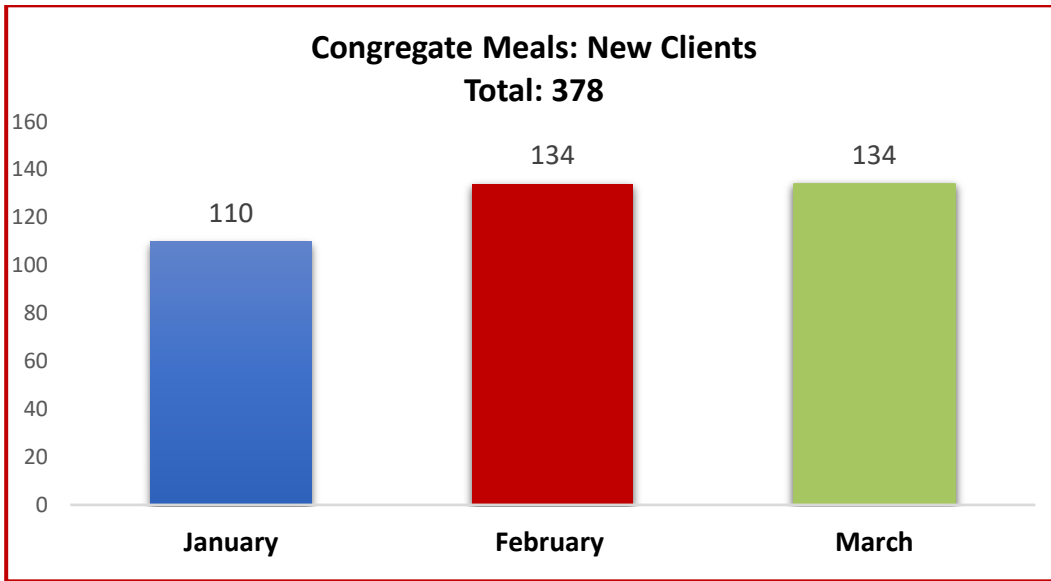
- **Senior Center Operations Report**

- Program successfully enrolled 612 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 65,317 activities with their clients.

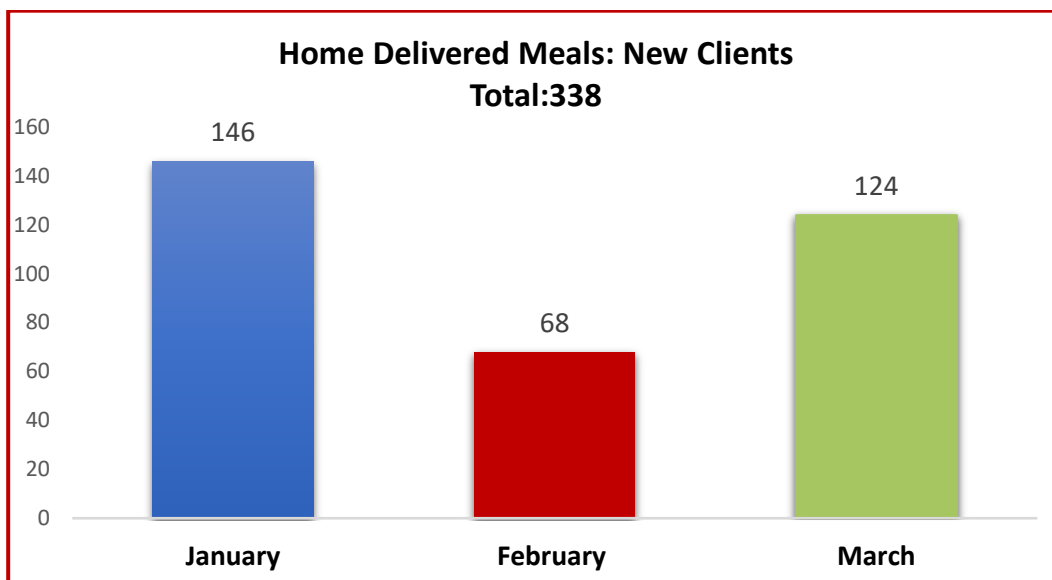
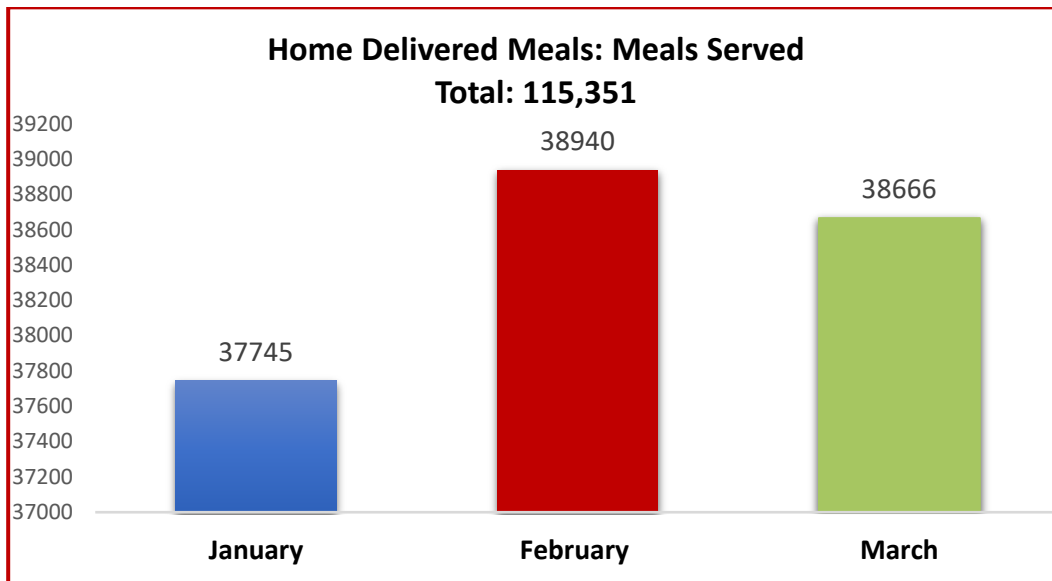


- **Nutrition Program Report – Congregate Meals**

- Program successfully enrolled 378 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Program successfully administered 31,532 Congregate meals.

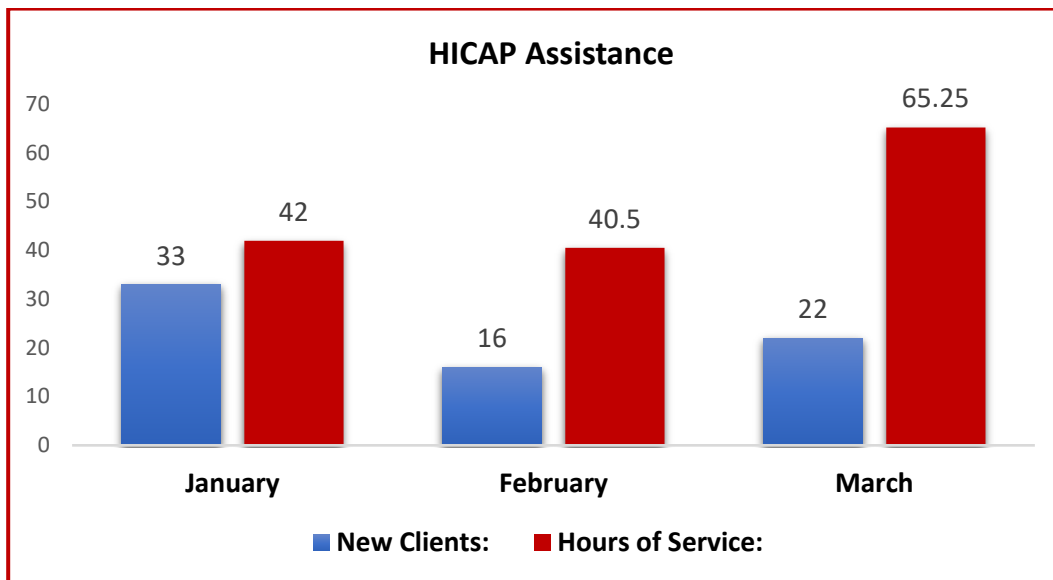
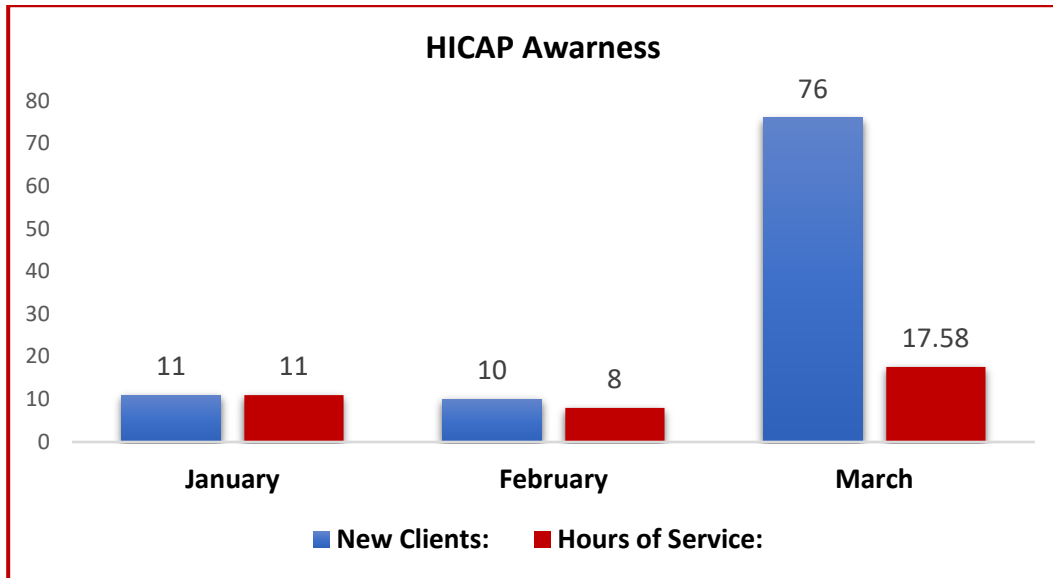


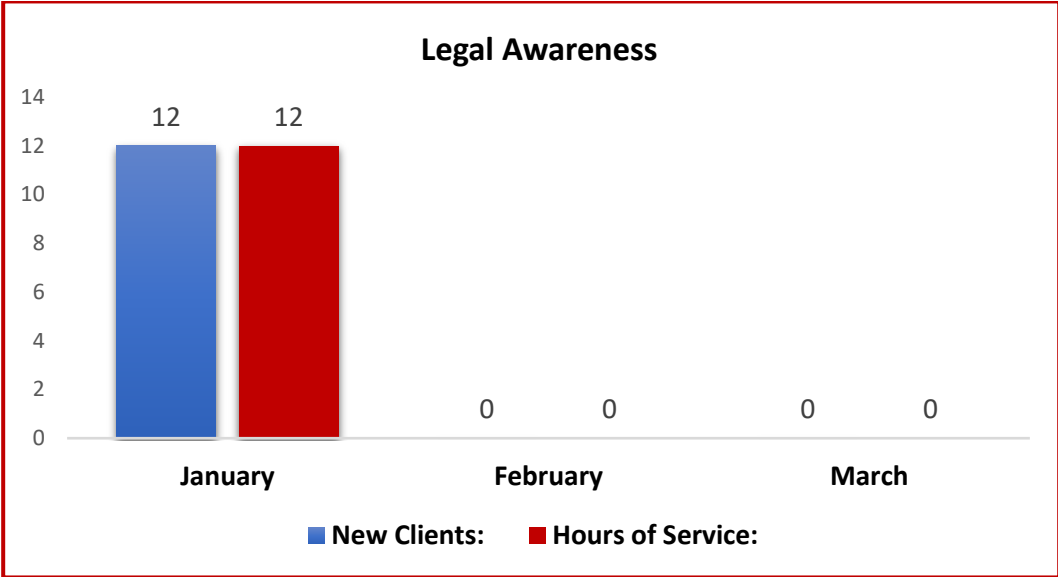
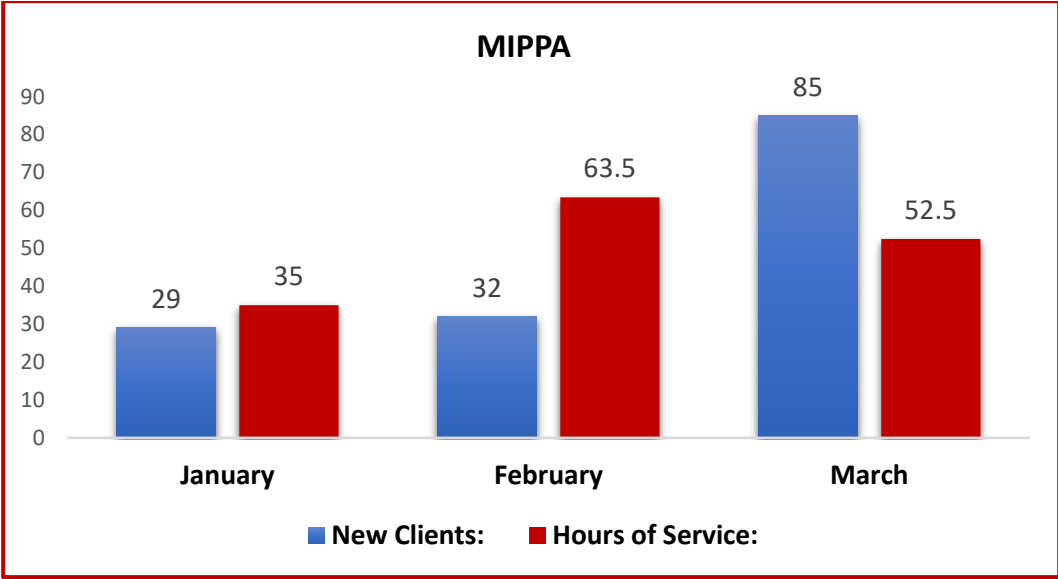
- **Nutrition Program Report – Home Delivered Meals**
 - Successfully enrolled 338 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program.
 - Successfully served 115,351 Home Delivered meals.

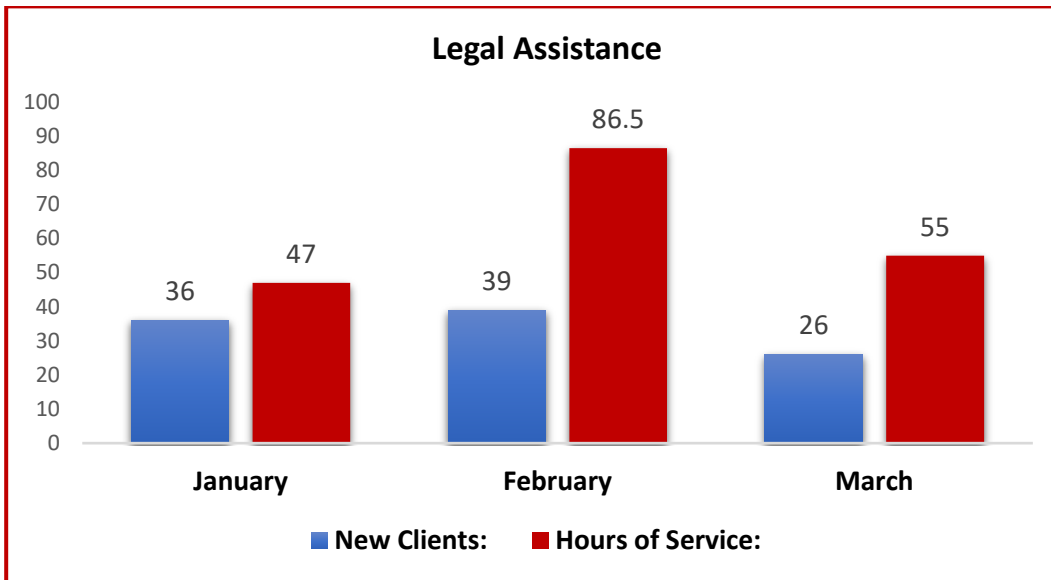


- **Special Services Report – Benefit Counselors Program**

- Achieved the enrollment of 427 new clients and established 607.17 contacts.



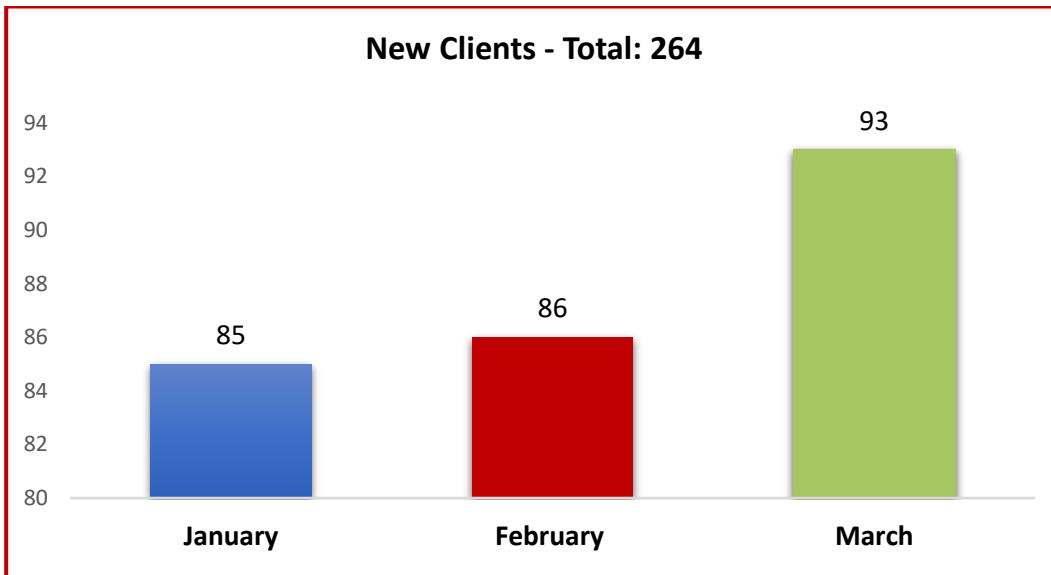


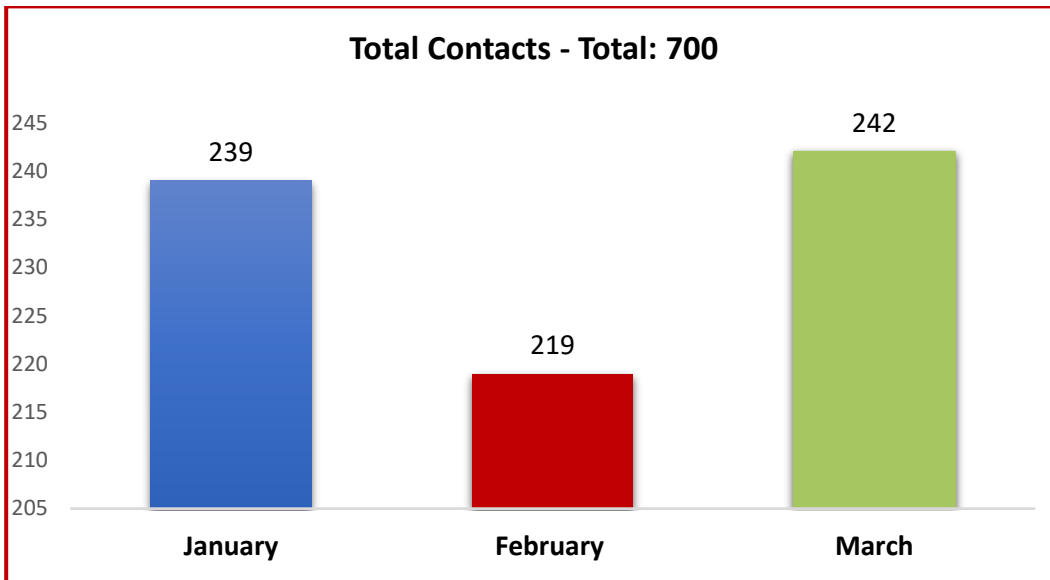


* Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)
 * Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)

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

- During the 2nd quarter, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 264 new clients.
- They made 700 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

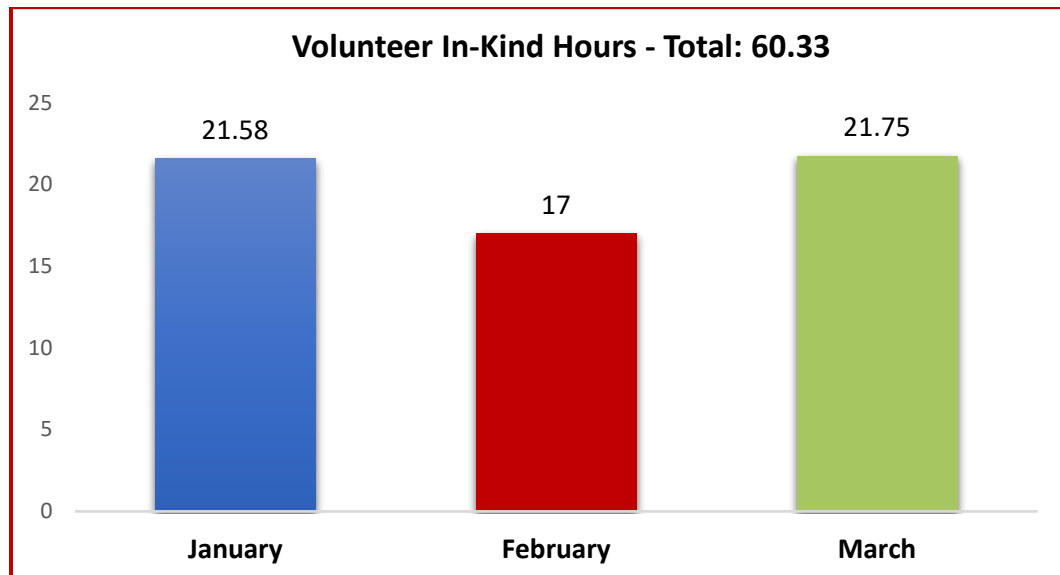


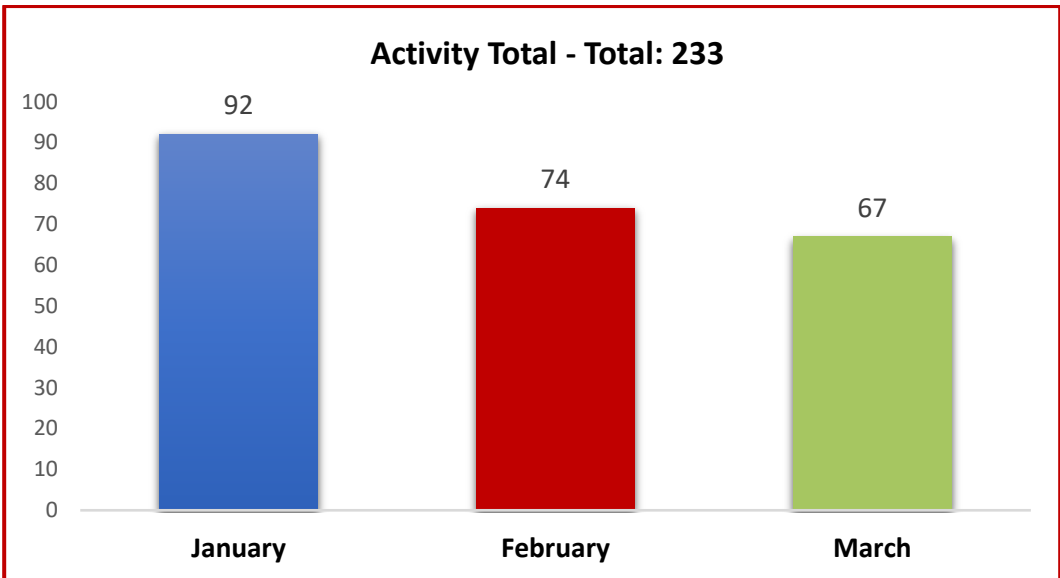
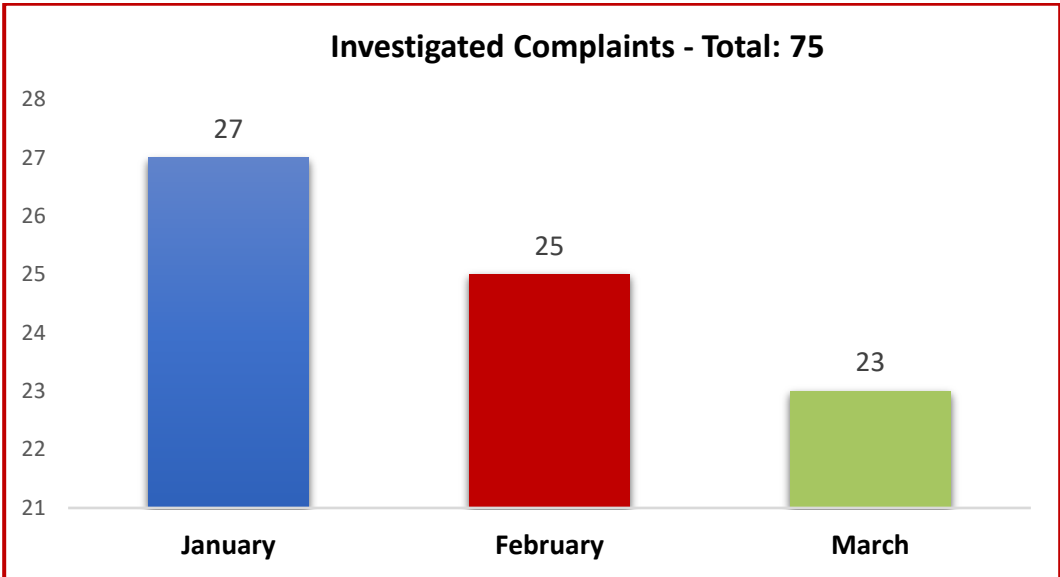
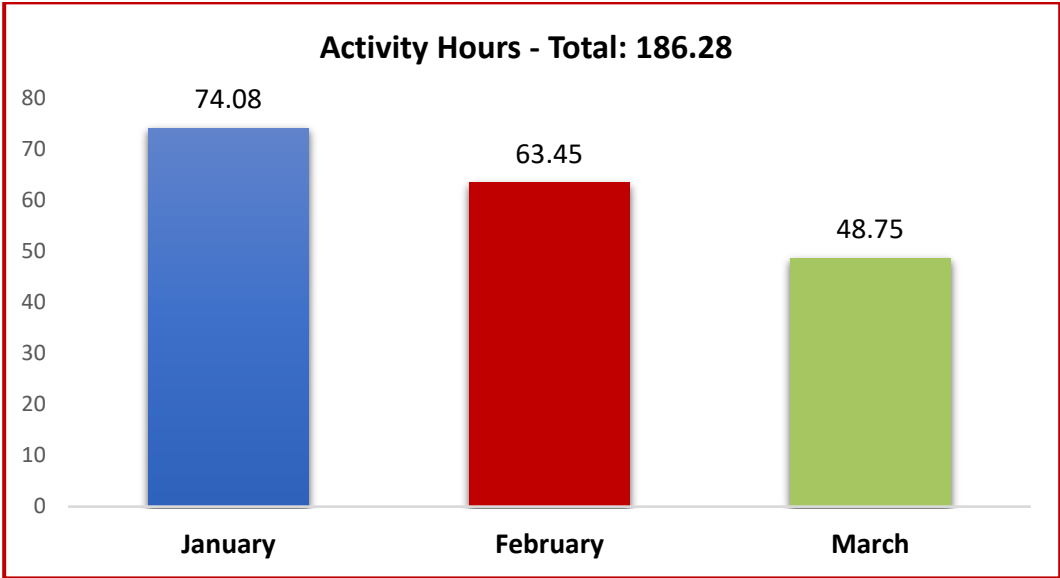


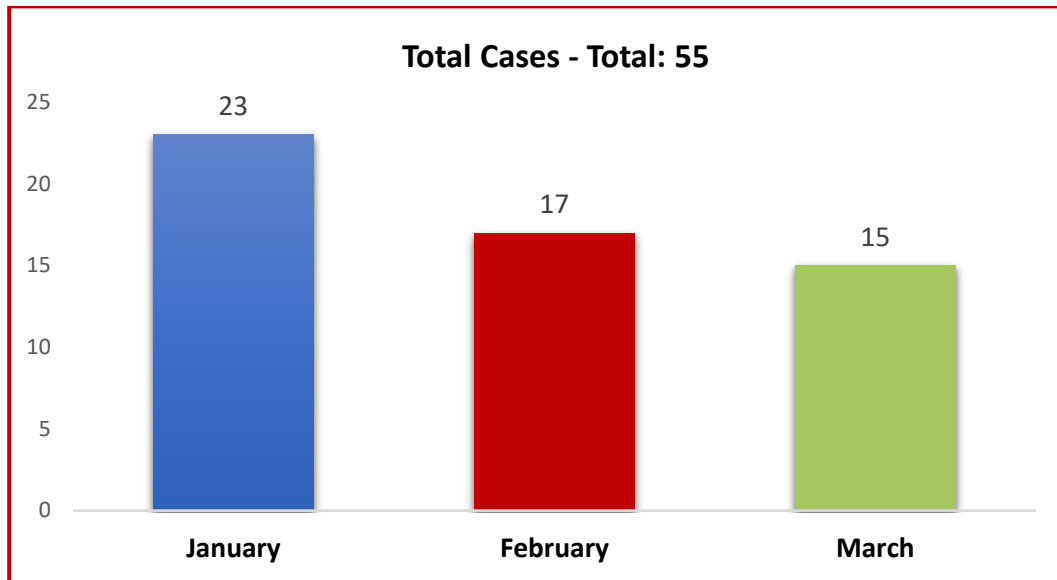
*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, and Mission Regional Medical Center

- **Special Services Report – Ombudsman Program**

- The Ombudsman handled 75 complaints, successfully resolving 55 cases.
- They dedicated 186.28 activity hours and recorded 233 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 60.33 in-kind hours. Currently training 3 volunteers.

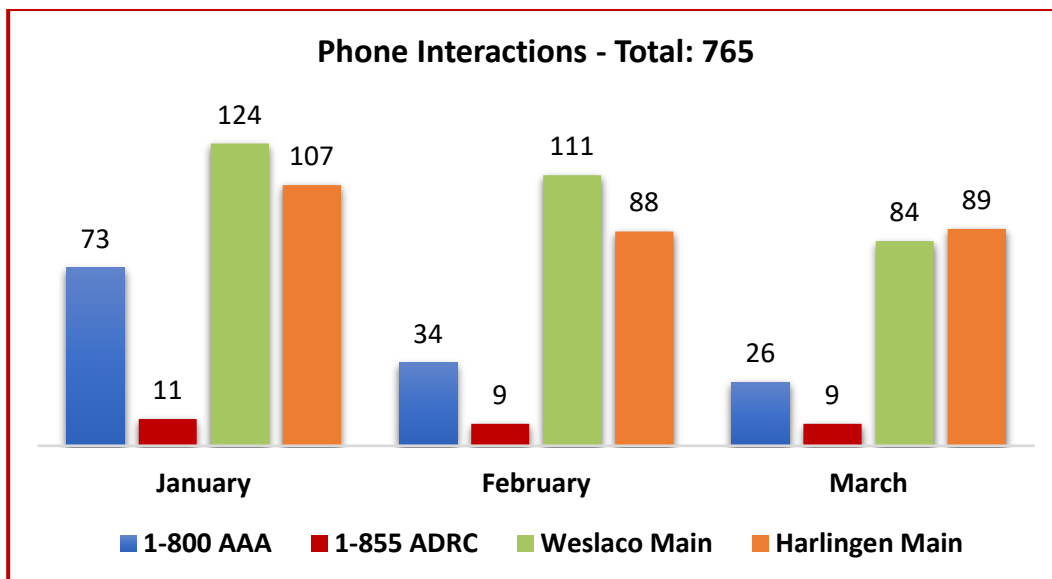


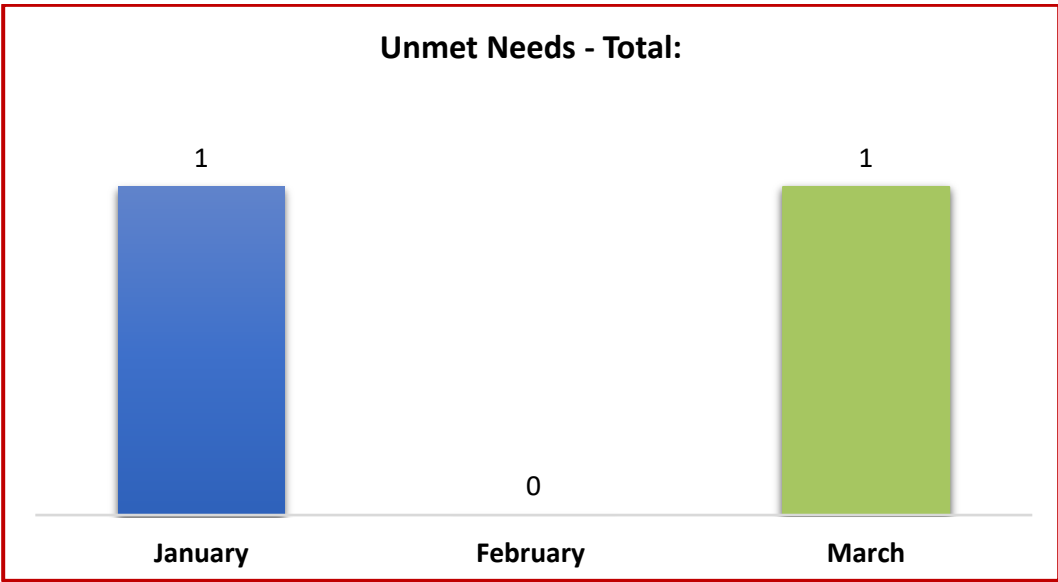
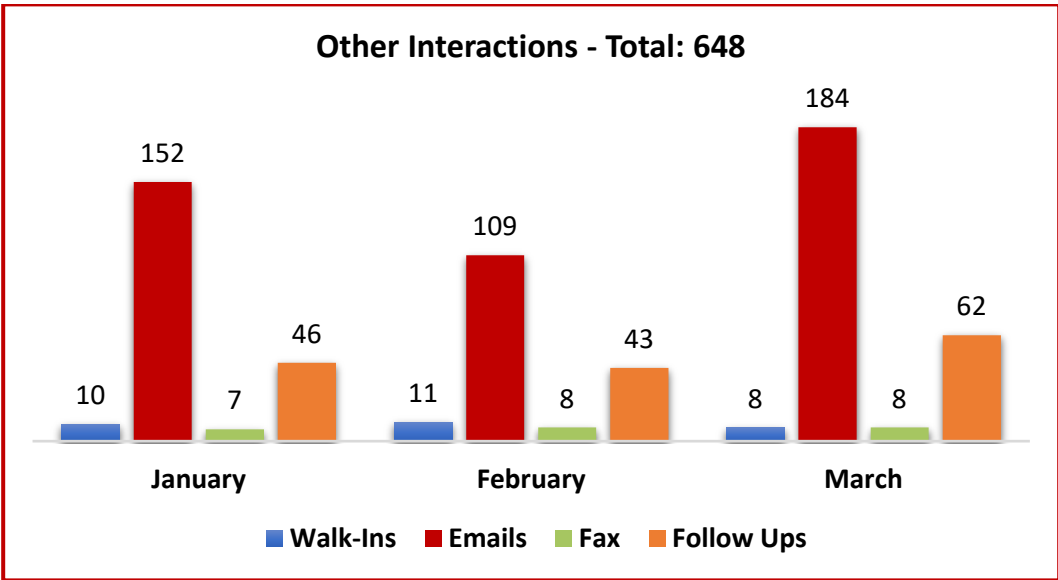




- **ADRC Report – Information Referral and Assistance**

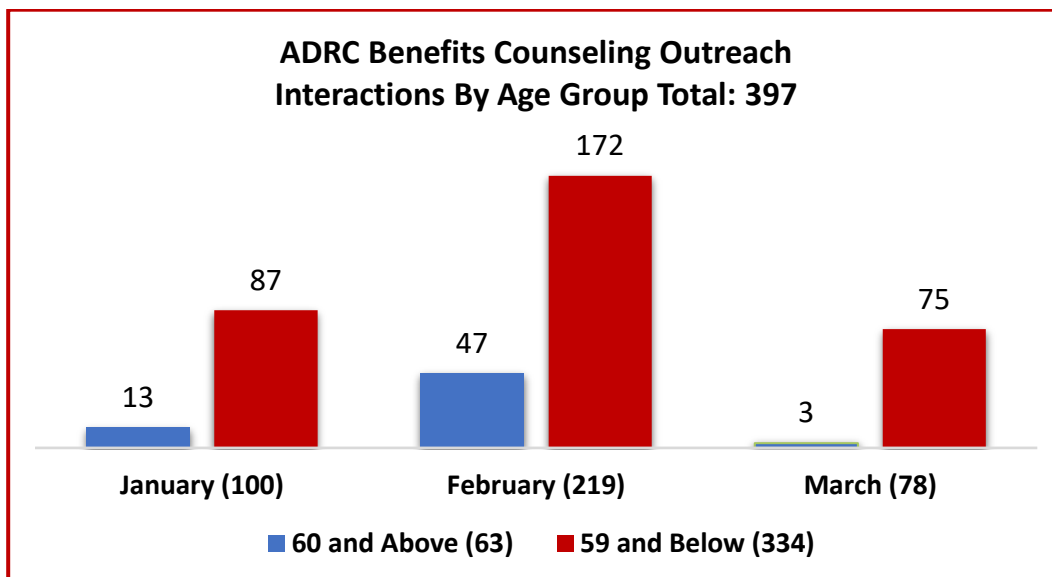
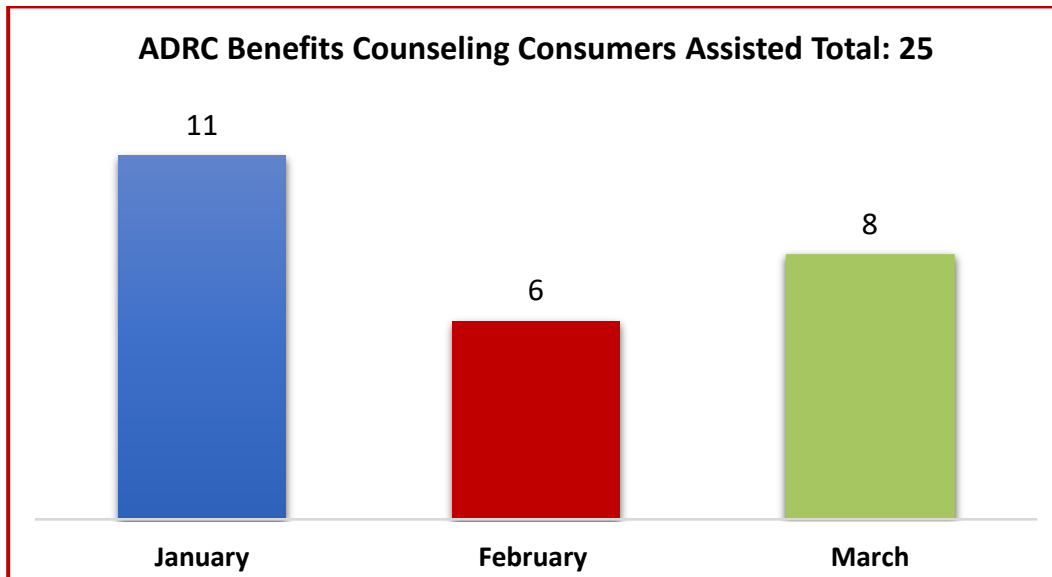
- The intake team had a total of 1,413 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- The IR&A identified a total of 2 individuals with unmet services as a result of passing away.

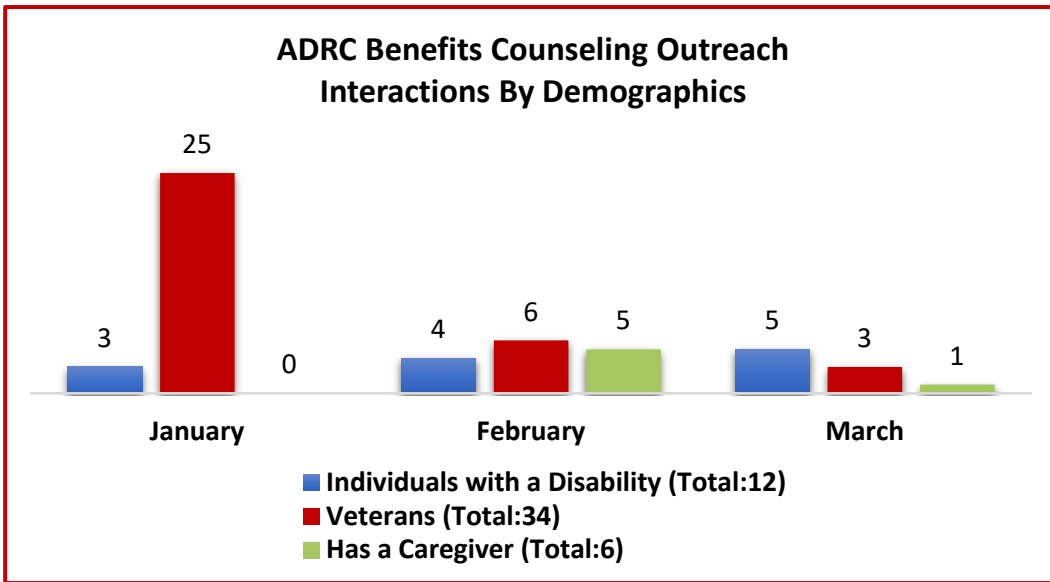




- **ADRC Report – Benefits Counseling**

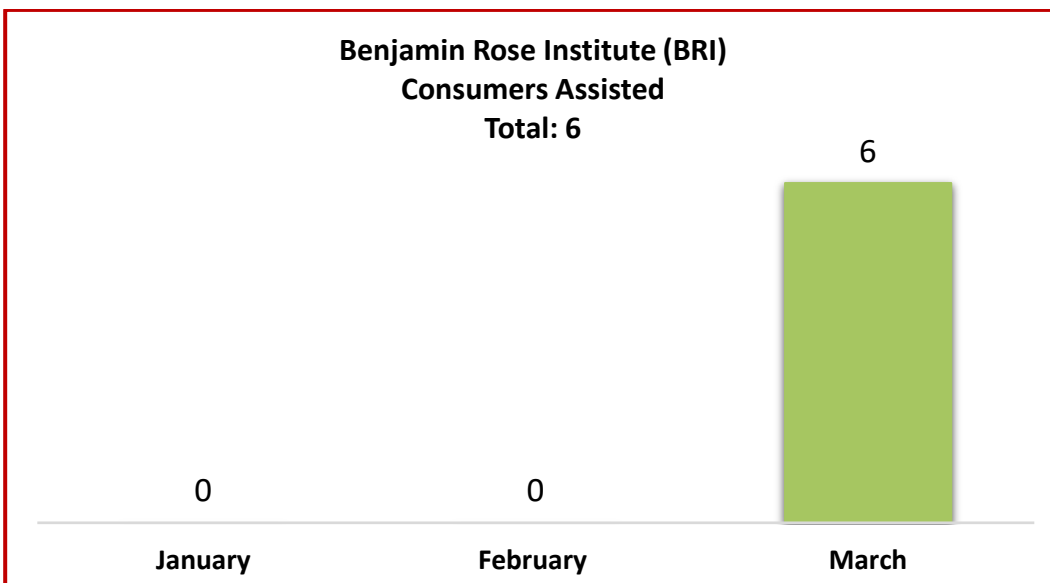
- Assisted 25 consumers by providing assistance with MIPPA, HICAP, and Legal Assistance cases.
- Engaged with 397 individuals during outreach activities, 63 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 334 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Outreach activities included 12 individuals with a disability, 34 Veterans, and 6 individuals with a Caregiver.

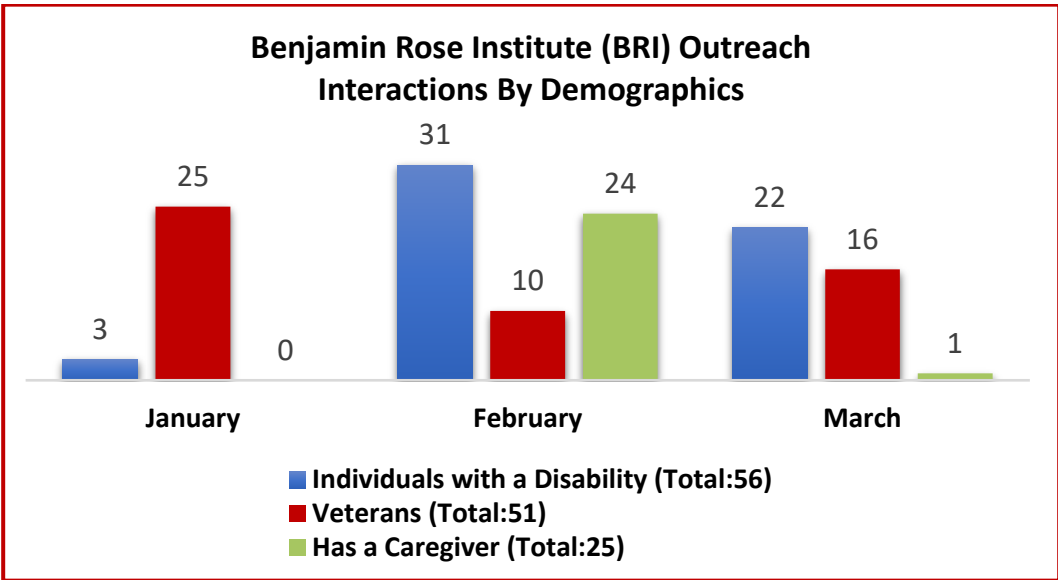
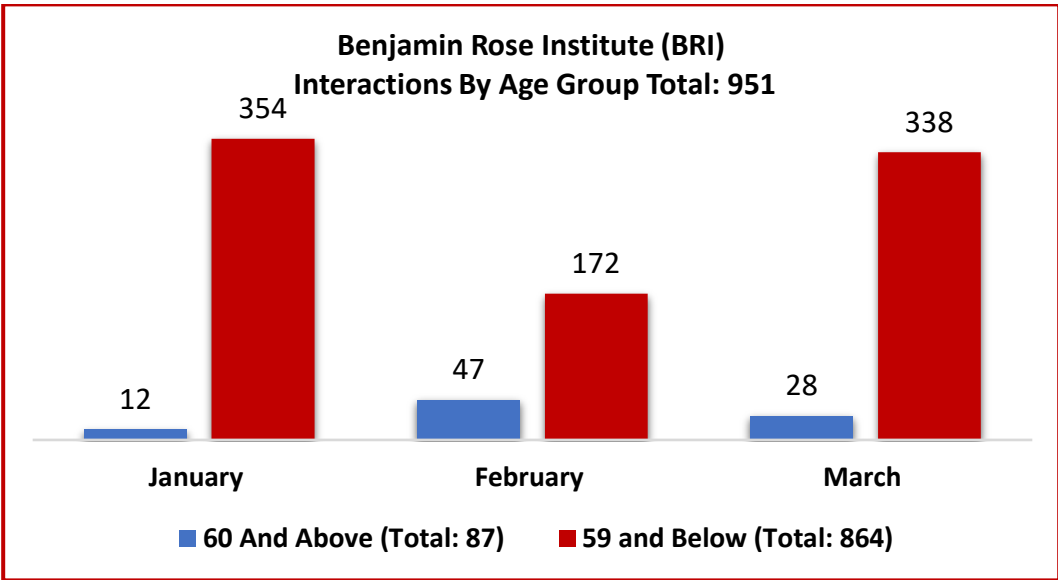




- **ADRC Report – Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultant**

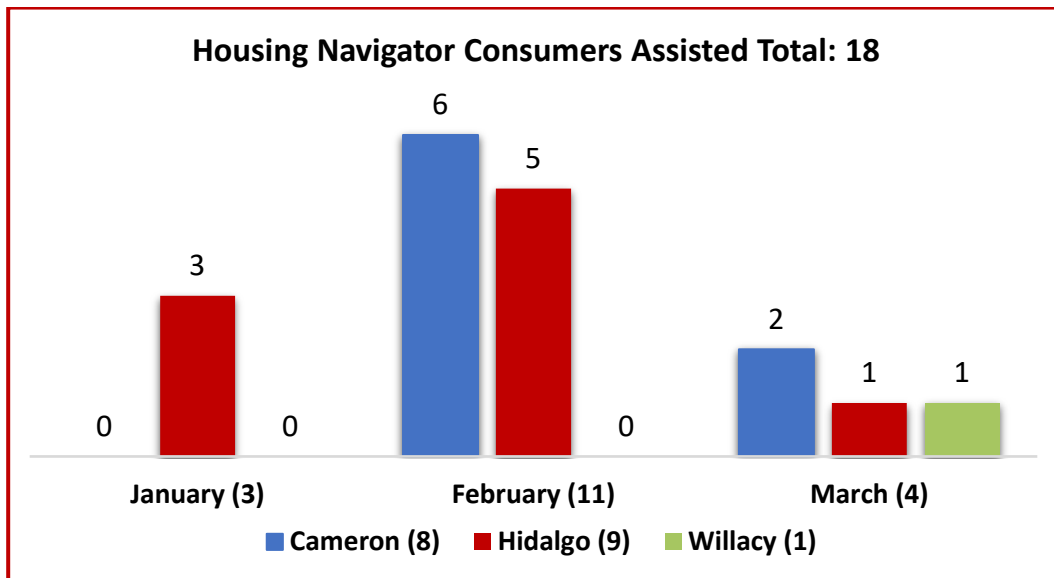
- During the 2nd quarter, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 6 new clients. Staff were undergoing training during the months of January and February. Staff began direct services mid-March.
- Interacted with 951 individuals, 87 were 60 years of age and above, 864 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 56 individuals with a disability, 51 Veterans, and 25 individuals with a Caregiver.





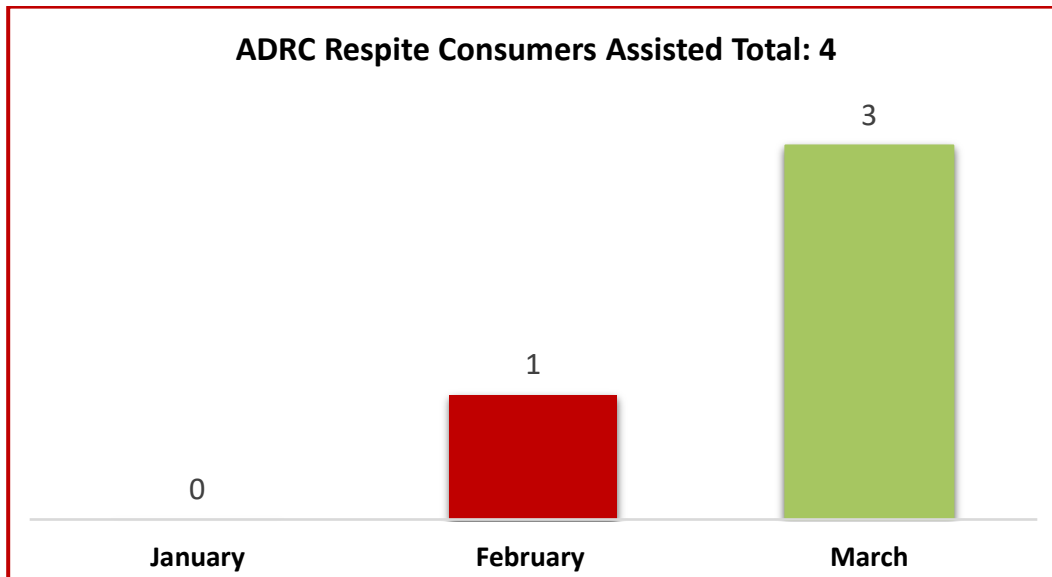
- **ADRC Report – Housing Navigator**

- Provided support to 18 consumers with housing inquiries by offering personalized resources, demonstrating the agency's expertise, and offering valuable support to community members encountering challenges regarding housing.
- Interacted with a total of 492 individuals, comprising of 70 individuals aged 60 years and above, and 422 individuals aged 59 years and below.
- Engaged with 81 individuals with a disability, 65 veterans, and 25 individuals with a caregiver.



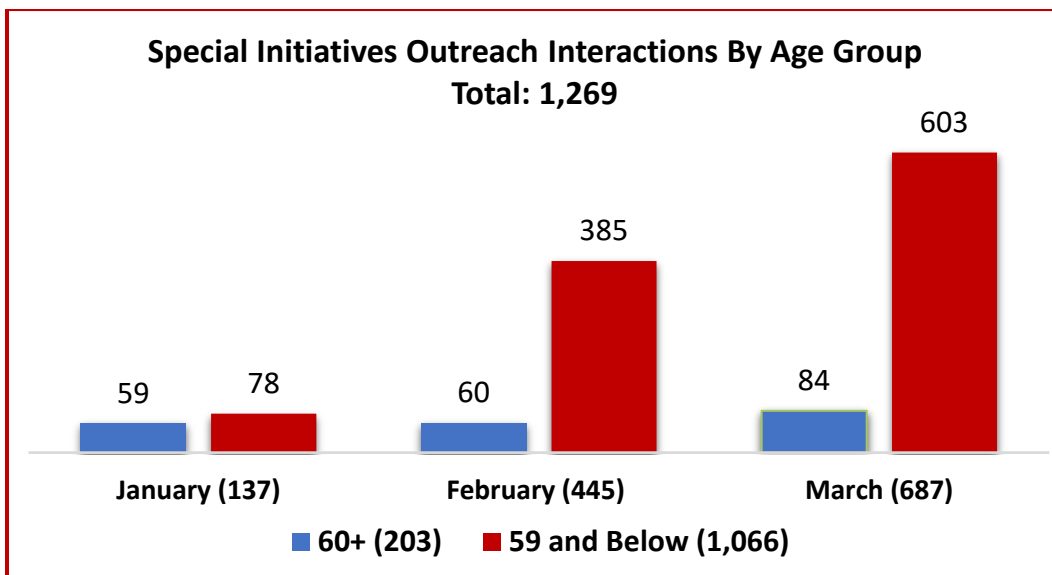
- **ADRC Report – Respite Services**

- Assisted 4 consumers seeking respite assistance.

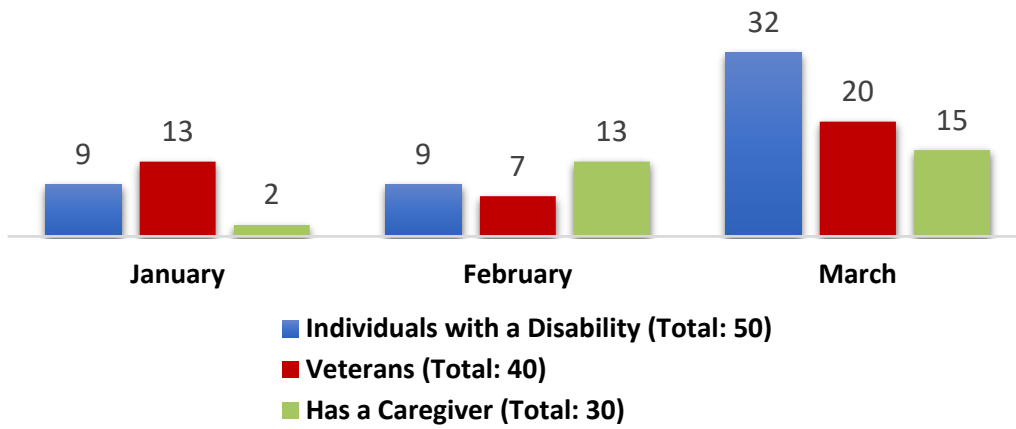


- **ADRC Report – Special Initiatives**

- Engaged with 1,269 individuals, 203 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 1,066 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 50 individuals with a disability, 40 Veterans, and 30 individuals with a Caregiver.



Special Initiatives Outreach Interactions By Demographics



The AAA and ADRC's 2nd quarter highlights encompassed the Aging and Disability Resource Center Caregiver Support Informational Clinic attended by 25 individuals, and the LIIFE (Leadership, Inclusion and Independence, Family Support, Empowerment) Conference at the LRGVDC in Weslaco. This event was attended by over 70 individuals.

- **January 2024**

- ***January 23, 2024, Aging and Disability Vaccine Access health Fair:***
- Staff participated in the Aging & Disability Vaccine Access Health Fair, which offered vital services to those 55+ and with chronic conditions. Vaccinations, screenings, and insurance info, promoting wellness and accessibility for the aging and disabled community were offered during this event.



- **February 2024**

- ***February 21, 2024, Veteran Caregiver Support and Resource Clinic***

- The Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center hosted the Veteran Caregiver Support and Resources Clinic. This event focused on the well-being of veteran caregivers! Your presence and participation made our gathering truly special as we delved into essential topics, including identifying stress in the workplace and on the home front.



- ***February 22, 2024, Buenas Con Su Salud***

- Staff attended Richard's Pharmacy in Donna for their Buenas Con Su Salud event, showcasing community engagement and health awareness. The event served as a vital platform for disseminating crucial information about the services offered by the Area Agency on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Attendees enjoyed an interactive game of lotería, complemented by delightful snacks, refreshing beverages, and lively dancing, fostering camaraderie and inclusivity.



- **February 23, 2024, Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Ready Expo**
- Staff participated in the 2024 Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Ready Expo; a comprehensive event aimed at informing residents about hurricane preparedness. As an integral part of the expo, the Area Agency on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center provided essential resources and information tailored for individuals with disabilities, those with Alzheimer's, and the aging community. These efforts were crucial in ensuring that all residents, regardless of their circumstances, were equipped with the necessary precautions and strategies to navigate hurricanes safely and effectively.



- **February 28, 2024, WellMed Health Fair**
- The Area Agency on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center were invited to participate at the WellMed Health Fair. Staff engaged with the community and disseminated program information that included services available to the community.



- **March 2024**

- ***March 8th, International Women's Day Health Fair***

- Our amazing team had an incredible time at the International Women's Day Health Fair held at ARISE Las Milpas! We were honored to be part of such an inspiring event, celebrating the achievements and resilience of women everywhere. Our team engaged with attendees, shared our mission, and promoted the Area Agency on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center programs to the community. It was truly a day filled with empowerment, and meaningful connections.



- **March 19th, ADRC LIIFE Conference**
- The LRGVDC, Area Agency on Aging, and ADRC host the 2024 LIIFE Conference. This event cultivates an environment that promotes Leadership, Inclusion/Independence, Family Support, and Empowerment for individuals with disabilities and their support system. Attendees of the LIIFE Conference had opportunities to network and participate in interactive sessions.



- **March 26th**, 7th Aging Healthy in the RGV Summit "Fiesta de Salud"
- Our incredible team attended the 7th Aging Healthy in the RGV Summit "Fiesta de Salud" today! This event was a fantastic opportunity for our Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Team to promote our services for the aging community to help enhance the well-being of our community's seniors.



- **March 27th and 28th, 2024, South Texas All Hazards Conference**
- Our dedicated team recently participated in the South Texas All Hazards Conference. This event gathered leaders, healthcare clinicians, preparedness professionals, and first responders, the conference offered invaluable networking, resource sharing to support the community.



- **April 6, 2024 - Keep Mission Beautiful**

- *The client was referred by the City of Mission due to being a hospital discharge who was not able to use the existing ramp due to the sharp turn under the porch. The existing ramp was also rotting and was a safety concern for all users. The client had a medical emergency and had to be removed from the house with a comforter due to the stretcher not being able to go up the ramp. With the efforts of the Area Agency on Aging and the city of Mission, we were able to provide services and improve the client's well-being.*







ITEM #5.C

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action ItemCesar Merla, Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory

Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Rankings and Resolution.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 4, 2024, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the JAG grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



CJAC Recommendations for DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2024-2025

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Grant #	Name	Project Title	Req. Org. Amount	Req. Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	86.18	5056401	Harlingen, City of	Communication Center Technology Upgrades	\$42,276.26	\$42,276.26	\$42,276.26	Fully fund.
2	85.88	3853006	Raymondville, City of	Drug Enforcement Investigator	\$69,974.00	\$69,974.00	\$69,974.00	Fully fund.
3	85.47	5174001	Sullivan City, City of	Criminal Justice Program	\$26,125.00	\$23,750.00	\$23,750.00	Fully fund.
4	84.00	5143001	Alamo, City of	CJ Grant for Security Cams 2024-25	\$42,154.50	\$42,154.50	\$42,154.50	Fully fund.
5	83.53 / 85.73	4772202	Raymondville, City of	Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Investigator	\$68,897.00	\$68,897.00	\$68,897.00	Fully fund.
6	83.53 / 84.4	5125401	Rio Hondo, City of	Police Vehicle	\$62,000.00	\$62,000.00	\$62,000.00	Fully fund.
7	82.71	5009701	Alton, City of	Community Oriented Police Officer Project	\$41,600.00	\$55,590.64	\$55,590.64	Fully fund.
8	82.59	3596507	Hidalgo County	Domestic Violence Unit	\$93,568.48	\$93,568.48	\$93,568.48	Fully fund.
9	82.35	5145001	La Villa, City of	Criminal Justice Program	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	Fully fund.
10	81.76	5036701	Cameron County	Pre Trial Surveillance and Supervision	\$400,759.00	\$400,759.00	\$121,357.03	Partially fund at 121,357.03
11	81.71	4978601	Willacy County	Records Management Software	\$24,674.00	\$24,674.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
12	80.53	5144501	Raymondville ISD	Vehicle Replacement	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
13	80.35	5067601	Weslaco, City of	Weslaco Special Crimes Investigator	\$70,667.32	\$70,667.32	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
14	80.06	5054201	Willacy County	Equipment Project	\$158,687.60	\$170,587.60	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
15	79.76	5063101	Penitas, City of	Surveillance Trailers	\$122,000.00	\$122,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
16	79.24	4083704	Cameron County	Direct File Case System	\$285,000.00	\$285,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
17	78.65	5033201	Donna ISD	Criminal Justice Grant Program - Body Worn Cameras	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
18	78.29	4997401	Palmhurst, City of	Traffic Safety for Safer Roads and Communities	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
19	77.35	5089001	Donna, City of	In-Car System for Patrol Division	\$111,111.10	\$111,111.10	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
20	77.06	5032901	Texas State Technical College	Initiative, Communication Radios, Surveillance and Body Worn Cameras	\$96,154.18	\$81,394.18	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
21	76.00	4998901	Brownsville, City of	FY 2025 Radio Upgrade	\$330,995.20	\$330,995.20	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
22	75.82	4992001	Mission, City of	Mission Specialized Training and Narcotics Analyzer Equipment	\$136,967.64	\$136,967.64	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
23	75.47	5003301	San Juan, City of	Ticket Writers	\$46,453.00	\$46,453.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
24	72.12	5057301	Cameron County	E-Citations	\$707,000.00	\$707,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
25	70.71	4725402	Edinburg, City of	Criminal Justice Grant Project	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
26	69.29	5080001	Los Fresnos CISD	Criminal Justice Grant	\$625,708.00	\$625,708.00	\$ -	<i>If additional funding become available fund following projects at 50%</i>
				Total:	\$3,897,772.28	\$3,909,527.92		

Total Applications	26
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Recommendations	\$ 634,567.91	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$ -	634,567.91



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen President
 Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza 1st Vice President
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 Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large Secretary
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Ellie Torres
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Ramiro Garza
 Mayor, Edinburg

Betty Rodriguez
 Commissioner, La Villa

Mike Carter
 Mayor, Laguna Vista

Jaime Gonzalez
 Mayor, Los Indios

Javier Villalobos
 Mayor, McAllen

Oscar D. Montoya
 Mayor, Mercedes

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez
 Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales
 Commissioner, Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra
 Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas
 Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales
 UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez
 South Texas College

Cledia Hernandez
 Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen
 Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills
 Willacy County Navigation District

Eleazar Garcia, Jr.
 Member-at-Large

Ann Williams Cass
 Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez
 Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Resolution: *DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for FY 2024-2025*

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2024-2025 for the DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

WHEREAS, these applications serve Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Count agencies and therefore their populations.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office guidelines, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors have reviewed and prioritized each application received.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant applications as follows:

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2024-2025 for the DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Section 2: The attached list by applicant and title has received favorable review under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee requirements and strong recommendation for funding.

Section 3: The LRGVDC Board of Directors is authorized to submit the priority list to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and approved this 24th day of April 2024.

Signed by:

The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory

Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund SF Program Rankings and Resolution.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 4, 2024, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the SF grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



CJAC Recommendations for State Criminal Justice Plan (SF) FY2024-2025

<u>CJAC Ranking #</u>	<u>CJAC Score #</u>	<u>Grant #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Req. Org. Amount</u>	<u>Req. Amount</u>	<u>CJAC Recommendations</u>	<u>CJAC Comments</u>
1	87.42	3878806	Cameron County	Community-Based Treatment Services	\$62,635.86	\$62,635.86	\$62,635.86	Fully fund
2	83.13	5049601	La Joya ISD	La Joya ISD First Offender Truancy Program	\$111,931.97	\$111,931.97	\$111,931.97	Fully fund
				Total:	\$174,567.83	\$174,567.83		

Total Applications	2
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Recommendations	\$ 174,567.83	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$ -	\$ 174,567.83



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen President
 Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza 1st Vice President
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Ramiro Garza
 Mayor, Edinburg

Betty Rodriguez
 Commissioner, La Villa

Mike Carter
 Mayor, Laguna Vista

Jaime Gonzalez
 Mayor, Los Indios

Javier Villalobos
 Mayor, McAllen

Oscar D. Montoya
 Mayor, Mercedes

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez
 Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales
 Commissioner, Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra
 Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas
 Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales
 UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez
 South Texas College

Cledia Hernandez
 Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen
 Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills
 Willacy County Navigation District

Eleazar Garcia, Jr.
 Member-at-Large

Ann Williams Cass
 Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez
 Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Resolution: State Criminal Justice Plan (SF) for FY 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2024-2025 for the State Criminal Justice Plan (SF)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the State Criminal Justice Plan (SF)

WHEREAS, these applications serve Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Count agencies and therefore their populations.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office guidelines, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors have reviewed and prioritized each application received.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant applications as follows:

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2024-2025 for the State Criminal Justice Plan (SF)

Section 2: The attached list by applicant and title has received favorable review under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee requirements and strong recommendation for funding.

Section 3: The LRGVDC Board of Directors is authorized to submit the priority list to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and approved this 24th day of April 2024.
 Signed by:

The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) Program Rankings and Resolution.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 4, 2024, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the TP grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



CJAC Recommendations for Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) FY2024-2025

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Grant #	Name	Project Title	Req. Org. Amount	Req. Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	86.26	4003405	Weslaco, City of	Weslaco First Offender Program	\$123,979.13	\$123,979.13	\$123,979.13	Fully fund
2	85.78	5147601	Raymondville ISD	Raymondville ISD Truancy Prevention	\$51,500.00	\$51,500.00	\$ 38,217.26	Partially fund at 38,217.26 If additional funds become available fully fund.
3	81.04	5138201	La Villa, City of	Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Program	\$32,678.36	\$32,678.36	\$ -	If additional funds become available fully fund.
				Total:	\$208,157.49	\$208,157.49		

Total Applications	3
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Recommendations	\$ 162,196.39	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$ -	\$ 162,196.39



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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Ann Williams Cass
 Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez
 Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Resolution: Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) for FY 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2024-2025 for the Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP)

WHEREAS, these applications serve Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Count agencies and therefore their populations.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office guidelines, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors have reviewed and prioritized each application received.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant applications as follows:

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2024-2025 for the Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP)

Section 2: The attached list by applicant and title has received favorable review under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee requirements and strong recommendation for funding.

Section 3: The LRGVDC Board of Directors is authorized to submit the priority list to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and approved this 24th day of April 2024.

Signed by:

The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory

Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Victim of Crime Act
Formula Grant Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On
April 4, 2024, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to
review the rankings and amounts for the VA grant application. The committee
recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally
approved amounts.



CJAC Recommendations for Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA) FY2024-2025

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Grant #	Name	Project Title	Req. Org. Amount	Req. Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	89.75	2106415	Willacy County	DA Victims Assistance Unit	\$174,724.00	\$174,724.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
2	87.69	3056907	Penitas, City of	Penitas Crime Victims Liaison	\$35,312.00	\$35,312.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
3	87.19	3372608	Raymondville, City of	Victims of Crime Program	\$50,214.00	\$50,214.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
4	86.06	3814606	Weslaco, City of	Weslaco Crime Victim Coordinator	\$96,985.57	\$96,985.57	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
5	85.50	1674120	Cameron County	Victim Assistance Program (VOCA)	\$591,677.60	\$591,677.60	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
6	85.31	3801606	Donna, City of	Crime Victims Liaison	\$48,028.00	\$47,546.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
7	84.94	2555210	Harlingen, City of	Crime Victim Liaison	\$57,395.66	\$57,395.66	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
8	84.88	4429503	Edinburg, City of	City of Edinburg General Victim Assistance Grant - Crime Victim Liaison	\$33,955.00	\$33,955.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
9	84.69 / 85.57	4499303	Willacy County	Crime Victim Liaison	\$43,412.00	\$44,587.35	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
10	84.69 / 85.5	2924307	Hidalgo County	Hidalgo County DA's Office-Victim Assistance Program	\$1,179,480.25	\$1,179,480.25	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
11	84.69 / 84.86	3057407	Sullivan City, City of	Sullivan City Crime Victims Liaison	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
12	84.25	2430513	Pharr, City of	Human Trafficking Liaison	\$46,500.00	\$46,500.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
13	82.06	4196604	Alton, City of	Crime Victims Liaison Program	\$45,475.00	\$45,475.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
14	81.69	1377824	Women Together Foundation	Crime Victims Advocacy Project	\$531,114.00	\$531,114.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
15	81.19	2987308	Pharr, City of	Crime Victims Liaison Project	\$93,000.00	\$92,790.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
16	81.13	4218504	Hidalgo County	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program	\$58,285.25	\$58,285.25	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
17		2873508	RGV-Families & Friends of Murdered Children	Living in the Face of Trauma (Lift) Survivors of Homicide Project	\$136,504.80	\$133,594.80	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
18	80.63	3388007	Children's Bereavement Center of the RGV	Beyond Violence Rio Grande Valley	\$90,502.00	\$90,502.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
19	80.56	1363024	Family Crisis Center	Victim Assistance Program	\$155,064.00	\$155,064.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
20	78.63	1365124	Friendship of Women	Victims' Advocacy & Intervention	\$461,736.00	\$461,736.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
21	76.50	4766302	La Joya ISD	Crime Victim Advocacy and Support Program	\$116,630.31	\$116,630.31	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
22	74.88	4231504	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	South Texas Advocacy Project	\$180,499.00	\$180,499.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
23	72.31	4432203	Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone Corp	Victim Services Unit	\$173,718.64	\$173,718.64	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
24	71.88	4971001	Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners	Forensic Center of Excellence: Providing Victim Services in the Rio Grande Valley	\$166,280.00	\$166,280.00	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.
25	70.19	4966201	Brownsville, City of	General Victim Assistance Grant FY2025	\$158,220.96	\$158,220.96	If funding becomes available fully fund.	If funding becomes available fully fund.
				Total:	\$4,769,714.04	\$4,767,287.39		

Total Applications	25
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Recommendations	Fund projects 1-24 as ranked. Fully fund as funding becomes available, fund projects there after.	Projected Amount
Remaining		\$ 4,609,066.33



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen President
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza 1st Vice President
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County 2nd Vice President
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large Secretary
Mayor John Cowen, Jr., Brownsville Treasurer

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Willacy County Navigation District

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Member-at-Large

Ann Williams Cass
Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez
Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Resolution: Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant (VA) Grant for FY 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2024-2025 for the Victims of Crime Act Formula (VA) Grant

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of Victims of Crime Act Formula Grants.

WHEREAS, these applications serve Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Count agencies and therefore their populations.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office guidelines, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors have reviewed and prioritized each application received.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant applications as follows:

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2024-2025 for the Victims of Crime Act Formula (VA) Grant

Section 2: The attached list by applicant and title has received favorable review under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee requirements and strong recommendation for funding.

Section 3: The LRGVDC Board of Directors is authorized to submit the priority list to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and approved this 24th day of April 2024.

Signed by:

The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Violence Against Women Formula Grant (WF) Program Rankings and Resolution.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 4, 2024, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the WF grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



CJAC Recommendation for Violence Against Women Formula Grants (WF) FY 2024-2025

<u>CJAC Ranking #</u>	<u>CJAC Score #</u>	<u>Grant #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Requested Org. Amount</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>CJAC Recommendations</u>	<u>CJAC Comments</u>
1	83.72	4507603	Weslaco, City of	Weslaco Violence Against Women Justice and Training	\$21,487.67	\$21,487.67	\$ 21,487.67	Fully Fund
2	83.33	4735402	Edinburg, City of	Violence Against Women Justice and Training Grant Project	\$17,500.00	\$17,312.40	\$ 17,312.40	Fully Fund
3	82.94	2106516	Willacy County	DA Domestic Violence Unit	\$72,870.00	\$72,870.00	\$ 72,870.00	Fully Fund
4	82.11	1844919	Cameron County	Domestic Violence Unit - (VAWA)	\$259,349.44	\$259,349.44	\$ 202,582.98	Partially Fund at 202,582.98, if funding becomes available fully fund
5	81.67	4723302	Alton, City of	Sex Crimes Investigator Project	\$44,785.00	\$44,785.00	\$ -	If funding becomes available fully fund
6	81.56	2931310	Hidalgo County	Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor	\$75,564.98	\$75,564.98	\$ -	If funding becomes available fully fund
				Total:	\$491,557.09	\$491,369.49		

Total Applications	6
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Recommendations	\$ 314,253.05	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$ -	\$ 314,253.05



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 Member-at-Large

Ann Williams Cass
 Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez
 Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Resolution: Violence Against Women Formula (WF) Grant FY 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2024-2025 for the Violence Against Women Formula (WF) Grant

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of Violence Against Women Formula (WF) Grants.

WHEREAS, these applications serve Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Count agencies and therefore their populations.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office guidelines, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors have reviewed and prioritized each application received.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant applications as follows:

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2024-2025 for the Violence Against Women Formula (WF) Grant

Section 2: The attached list by applicant and title has received favorable review under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee requirements and strong recommendation for funding.

Section 3: The LRGVDC Board of Directors is authorized to submit the priority list to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division.

Passed and approved this 24th day of April 2024.

Signed by:

The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

6. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution for FY 2024-25 Non-Profit Security Grant Funding.

As part of the Public Safety Office's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) and Criminal Justice Division (CJD) grant guidelines, applicants must include a resolution that contains authorization by its governing body for the submission of applications.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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 Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Resolution: Non-Profit Security Grant for FY 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the Non-Profit Security Grant project to be operated for 09/01/2024 – 8/31/2025.

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

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

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

Passed and approved this 24th day of April 2024.

Signed by:

The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety Cesar Merla, Assistant Program Director

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Special Prioritization meeting April 4th at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff assisted stakeholders with grant prioritization and data collection through the week of April 1st -4th, 2024.

Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting on April 4th 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff hosted an TEAMS meeting for LRGVDC Ready RGV Presenter Synchronization Meeting on April 11, 2024.
- Staff hosted the Round Table Discussion on Critical Infrastructure by Sam Houston State University-Institute for Homeland Security on April 12, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff attended the Texas General Land Office's Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant Workshop on April 16, 2024, in South Padre Island, TX.
- Staff attended the webinar for Homeland Security Grant Program Webinar Series for Cybersecurity on April 17, 2024.
- Staff attended the webinar for TARC e-Learning: Funding Water Infrastructure for Local Communities on April 17th, 2024.
- Staff attended the Homeland Security Grant Program Webinar Series for Soft Targets and Crowded Places on April 18, 2024.
- Staff attended the Hidalgo County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on April 18, 2024. 2024.



Staff Presenting on Grant 101 Basics at the South Texas All Hazards Conference



Staff hosting the CJAC Special Meeting for the 2024-2025 Grant Cycle



Save the Date

LRGVDC

PRESENTS

1ST ANNUAL LRGVDC

READY RGV REGIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 9-10, 2024

Margaritaville South Padre Island

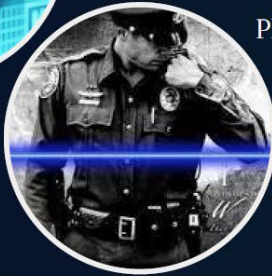
310 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597

For more information email us at hls@lrgvdc.org

Disasters Don't Plan Ahead.
YOU CAN.



Emergency preparedness starts with you.
Be Ready!
Plan, Prepare, Stay Informed



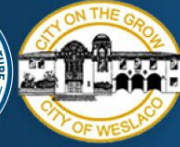
Keynote Speakers



Tony Peña - TDEM
Dr. Emilie Prot - DSHS
Ernesto Ballesteros - CISA / DHS



Thank You!
Partners



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Police Academy Program Action Item Javier Solis, Asst. Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the County of Hidalgo, Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office, to report 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.

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

&

HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE

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 COUNTY OF **HIDALGO** TEXAS, (“COUNTY”), By and Through **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** (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 academy, incorporating the expertise of some of the finest training officials in the region; and

WHEREAS LRGVDC and **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** have agreed to cooperate with each other for the performance of governmental functions and provide training, in-service police training for the **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** 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 HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE has a need for training and TCOLE REPORTING, when the HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE provides other entities training, which will be utilized in the service of crime prevention and for law enforcement purposes, such as training; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC and HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE are in close proximity and have a common law enforcement and crime prevention initiative and close working relations; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC and HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE have heretofore entered into this Agreement providing for TCOLE REPORTING of HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE 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 HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE **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 HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE 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 HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE farther 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 at NO COST to the students.
 - 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-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.
- N. that TCOLE REPORTING shall be solely used for the law enforcement purpose of reporting training.
- O. **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** 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, **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** shall be solely responsible for any injuries or damages to persons arising out of the acts or omissions of its employees and shall maintain liability insurance coverage for any such loss. Proof of the same shall be provided to Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy prior to any TCOLE REPORTING.

II. Findings

2.1 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.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

3.1 LRGVDC will:

- A. Schedule and coordinate when **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE**, facilities or equipment are utilized in the training activity.

- B. Utilize Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy instructional staff, facilities, equipment and support staff, as appropriate and available and with advanced notice, when **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** instructors, facilities or equipment are not utilized in the training activity.
- C. 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.
- D. Provide supervision of all instructors while conducting training functions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.
- E. Advertise upcoming classes facilitated by **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** on the live online LRGV Academy Police Training Calendar via the LRGV Academy website.
- F. The LRGV Academy Training Coordinator will:

- (1) ensure compliance with commission rules and guidelines for any class facilitated by **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** under the terms of this agreement.

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

- (A) reports of training

- within 30 days of completion for any class facilitated **by HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** 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 **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** for any class facilitated under the terms of this agreement.

3.2 HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE will:

- A. Provide the LRGV Academy, at no cost, two seats for any class facilitated by the **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** if so, requested by LRGV Academy.
- B. Provide whenever possible and 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 Basic Peace Officer Course or in service training at no cost to the LRGV Academy.
- C. Provide whenever possible and with advanced notice certified **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** firearms instructors approved by both **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy to provide instruction at a firing range designated by Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy whenever the need arises.
- D. 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 in 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.

- E. Provide the LRGV Academy 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 as a result of students participating in the class.

IV. Binding Effect; Benefiting Parties

4.1 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.

4.2 This Agreement inures 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.

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

5.1 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.

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

5.1.2 The relationship of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** shall, with respect to that part of any service or function undertaken because of or pursuant to this Agreement, be that of independent contractors.

5.1.3 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.

5.2 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 **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 The LRGVDC agrees to hold the **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** and the **COUNTY of _HIDALGO**, Texas, harmless from any and 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.

5.4.1 The **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** agrees to hold the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council harmless from any and all claims arising out of acts or omissions of **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** during any Basic Peace Officer Academy or police in-service training classes or activities.

5.4.2 This section does not apply to, nor has any effect in, 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.

VI. Notices

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

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

Hidalgo County

County Judge Richard Cortez
100 East Cano Street 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

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

VII. Severability

7.1 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.

7.2 Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy may immediately suspend operation of contract with **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** for noncompliance with the terms of the contract or any TCOLE rule or law. Operation of the contract may be suspended for a period of time, including a period pending outcome of an investigation or until remedial compliance with applicable standards has been met. The suspension is considered effective when **HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE** is notified in writing.

VII. Entire Agreement

7.1 This Agreement is the entire agreement between the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** 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 a ten-day written notice. The LRGVDC may also terminate this contract if:

- (a) the HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE 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) HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE training staff has not met the needs of the communities or agencies it serves.
- (c) HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE 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) HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE training staff has failed to conduct training within a calendar year without a waiver from the Training Coordinator;
or
- (e) If applicable, HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE training staff 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

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

By: _____
Richard Cortez Hidalgo County Judge

Date: _____

HIDALGO COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 4 OFFICE

By: _____
Constable Atanacio "J.R." GAITAN

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM
HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Name

Toribio "Terry" Palacios

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo Jr.

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 ____.

Constable Atanacio “J.R.” Gaitan
Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4

Honorable Richard Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge

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 waived 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. Persons 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 # 1	TCOLE Dept. or Provider # 511481	Course #	Today's Date	Total Hours	Beg. Date	Ending Date	Provider Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Academy <input type="checkbox"/> - Contract Provider <input type="checkbox"/> - 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.	Print Name
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 #
---	-----------	------	---------

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, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Police Academy Program Action Item Javier Solis, Asst. Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Rio Grande City, Texas, by and through the Rio Grande City Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

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

&

RIO GRANDE CITY 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 **Rio Grande City**, TEXAS, (“CITY”), By and Through **Rio Grande City 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 academy, incorporating the expertise of some of the finest training officials in the region; and

WHEREAS LRGVDC and **Rio Grande City Police Department** have agreed to cooperate with each other for the performance of governmental functions and provide training, in-service police training for the **Rio Grande City 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 **Rio Grande City Police Department** has a need for training and TCOLE REPORTING, when the **Rio Grande City Police Department** provides other entities training, which

will be utilized in the service of crime prevention and for law enforcement purposes, such as training; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC and **Rio Grande City Police Department** are in close proximity and have a common law enforcement and crime prevention initiative and close working relations; and

WHEREAS the LRGVDC and **Rio Grande City Police Department** have heretofore entered into this Agreement providing for TCOLE REPORTING of **Rio Grande City 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 **Rio Grande City 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 **Rio Grande City 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 **Rio Grande City Police Department** farther 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 at NO COST to the students.
 - 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-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.
- N. that TCOLE REPORTING shall be solely used for the law enforcement purpose of reporting training.
- O. **Rio Grande City 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, **Rio Grande City Police Department** shall be solely responsible for any injuries or damages to persons arising out of the acts or omissions of its employees and shall maintain liability insurance coverage for any such loss. Proof of the same shall be provided to Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy prior to any TCOLE REPORTING.

II. Findings

2.1 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.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

3.1 LRGVDC will:

- A. Schedule and coordinate when **Rio Grande City Police Department**, facilities or equipment are utilized in the training activity.

- B. Utilize Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy instructional staff, facilities, equipment, and support staff, as appropriate and available and with advanced notice, when **Rio Grande City Police Department** instructors, facilities or equipment are not utilized in the training activity.
- C. 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.
- D. Provide supervision of all instructors while conducting training functions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.
- E. Advertise upcoming classes facilitated by **Rio Grande City Police Department** on the live online LRGV Academy Police Training Calendar via the LRGV Academy website.
- F. The LRGV Academy Training Coordinator will:
 - (1) ensure compliance with commission rules and guidelines for any class facilitated by **Rio Grande City 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 of training
 - within 30 days of completion for any class facilitated by **Rio Grande City 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 **Rio Grande City Police Department** for any class facilitated under the terms of this agreement.

3.2 **Rio Grande City Police Department** will:

- A. Provide the LRGV Academy, at no cost, two seats for any class facilitated by the **Rio Grande City Police Department** if so, requested by LRGV Academy.
- B. Provide whenever possible and 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 Basic Peace Officer Course or in service training at no cost to the LRGV Academy.
- C. Provide whenever possible and with advanced notice certified **Rio Grande City Police Department** firearms instructors approved by both **Rio Grande City Police Department** and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy to provide instruction at a firing range designated by Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy whenever the need arises.
- D. 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 in 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.

- E. Provide the LRGV Academy 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 as a result of students participating in the class.

IV. Binding Effect; Benefiting Parties

4.1 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.

4.2 This Agreement inures 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.

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

5.1 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.

5.1.1 The services provided for herein are governmental functions, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **City of Rio Grande City, Texas** shall be engaged in the conduct of a governmental function while providing and/or performing any service pursuant to this Agreement.

5.1.2 The relationship of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **City of Rio Grande City, 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.

5.1.3 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.

5.2 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 Rio Grande City, 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.

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5.4 The LRGVDC agrees to hold the **Rio Grande City Police Department** and the **City of Rio Grande City, Texas**, harmless from any and 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.

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

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

Rio Grande City
City Manager Noe Castillo
402 East Main Street
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582

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

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7.1 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.

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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.

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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 **Rio Grande City 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) **Rio Grande City Police Department** training staff has not met the needs of the communities or agencies it serves.
- (c) **Rio Grande City 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) **Rio Grande City Police Department** training staff has failed to conduct training within a calendar year without a waiver from the Training Coordinator; or
- (e) If applicable, **Rio Grande City Police Department** training staff 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 Rio Grande City

By: _____
Mayor Joel Villareal

Date: _____

City of Rio Grande City

By: _____
Rio Grande City Manager Noe Castillo

Date: _____

Rio Grande City Police Department

By: _____
Chief of Police Noe Castillo

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM
City of Rio Grande, Texas

Name

Rio Grande City Attorney John Pope

ATTEST:

Rio Grande City Secretary Angela Solis

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 Police Noe Castillo
Rio Grande City Police Department

Noe Castillo
Rio Grande City Manager

Joel Villareal
Rio Grande City Mayor

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 waived 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. Persons 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 # 1	TCOLE Dept. or Provider # 511481	Course #	Today's Date	Total Hours	Beg. Date	Ending Date	Provider Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Academy <input type="checkbox"/> - Contract Provider <input type="checkbox"/> - 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.	Print Name
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 #

If provider type "Other," chief administrator signs.

EXHIBIT

"C"

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, April 24, 2024

Department Reports

Public Safety Javier Solis Jr Assistant Director

Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

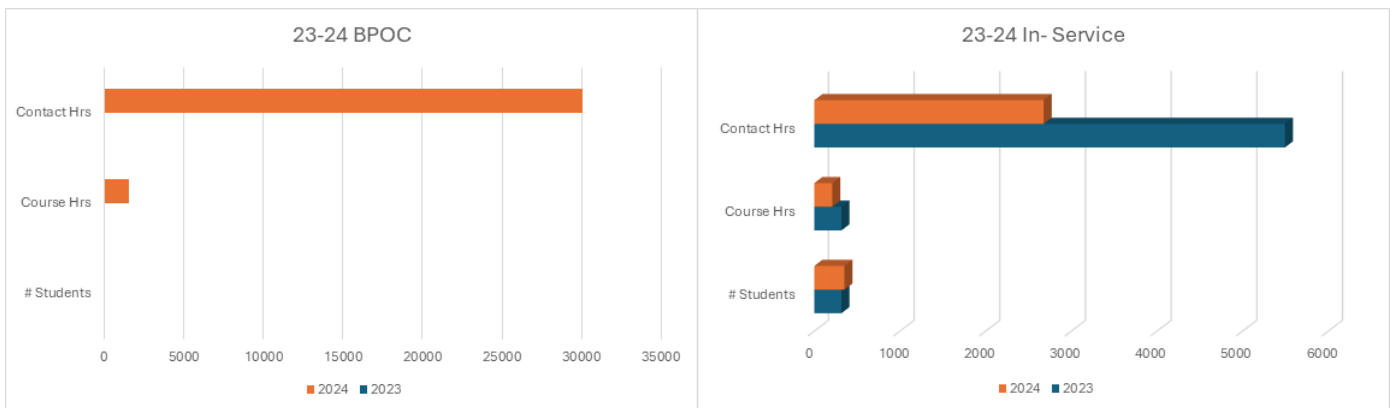
- The Harlingen LRGV 225th BPOC Academy commenced on April 8th, 2024. A total of 12 cadets are currently enrolled in the class.

2024 First Quarter Training Report

	<i>Basic Peace Officer Course</i>	<i>In-Service Training</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Students	59	351	410
Course Hours	1,569	208	1,777
Contact Hours	30,069	2,676	32,745

2023 First Quarter Training Report

	<i>Basic Peace Officer Course</i>	<i>In-Service Training</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Students	0	316	316
Course Hours	0	316	316
Contact Hours	0	5,492	5,492



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

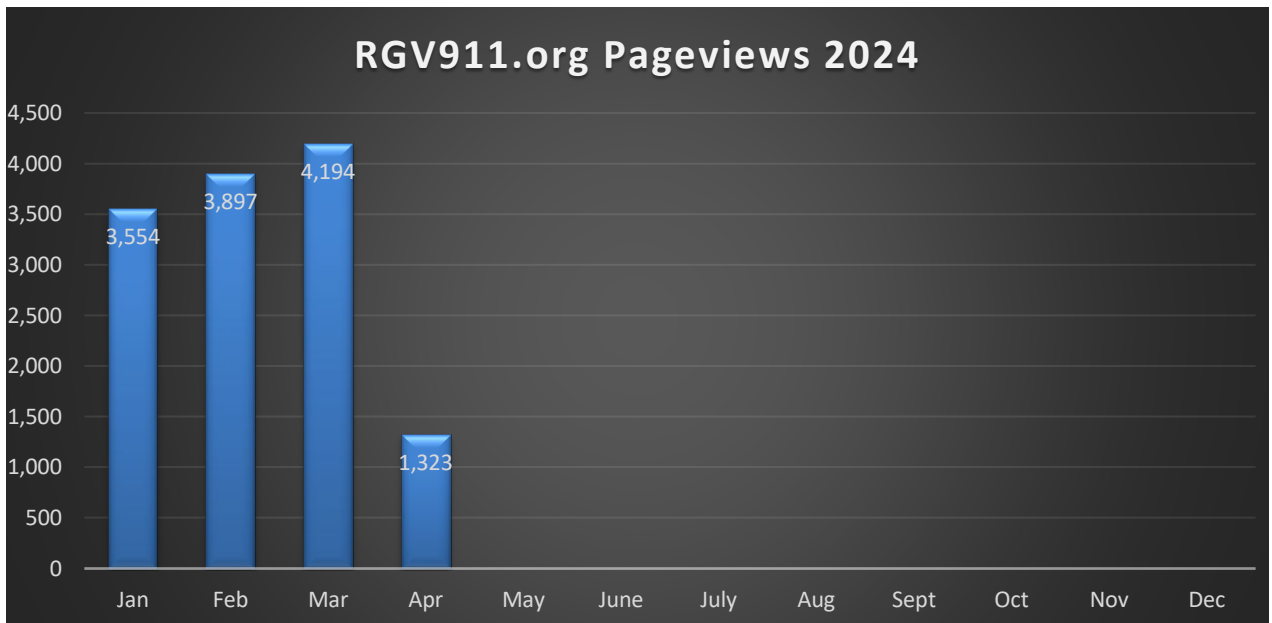
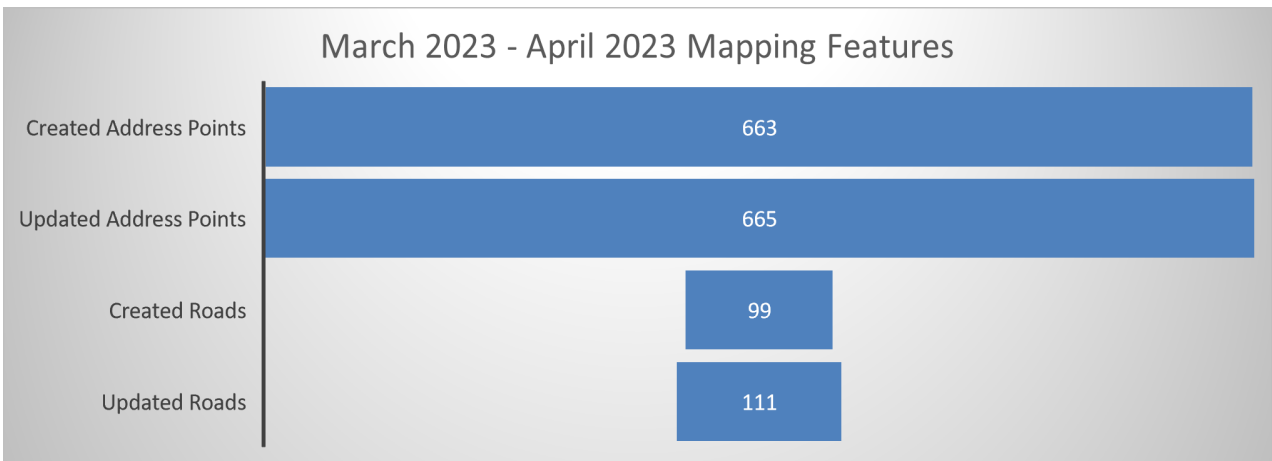
Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

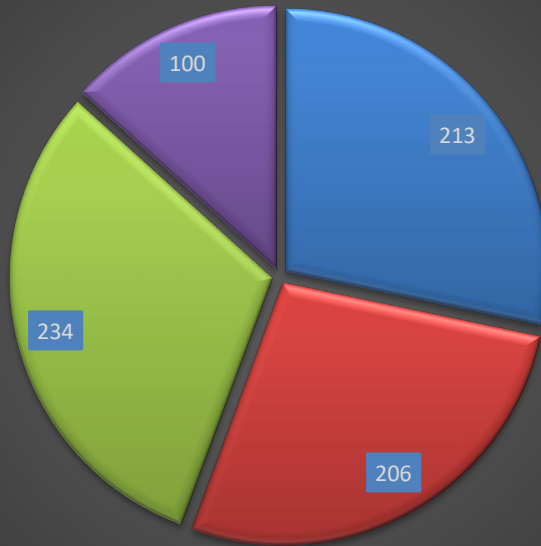
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at www.rgv911.org. The GIS team has uploaded several informational maps that other public entities and the public can readily download. This data has streamlined our general information request process. Following our GeoSpatial Strategic plan, we have completed our Rubicon Dashboard project. This ArcGIS Dashboard will allow us to quickly query our ticket data and provide statistics. Finally, team members took the following trainings: Story Maps with ArcGIS, and Arcade Program Language.

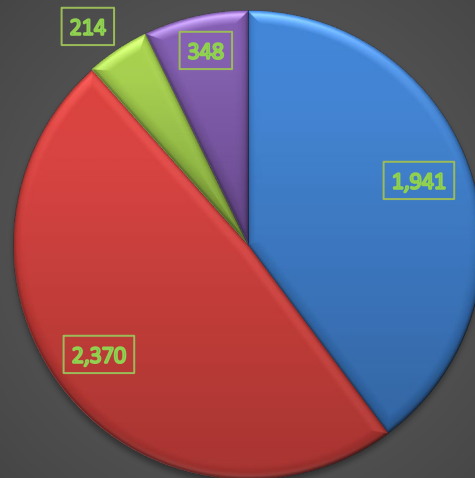


Address Tickets from January to April 2024



Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

2024 Total Production : GIS



Created Address Points Updated Address Points Created Roads Updated Roads

- 9-1-1 | Information Technology Division

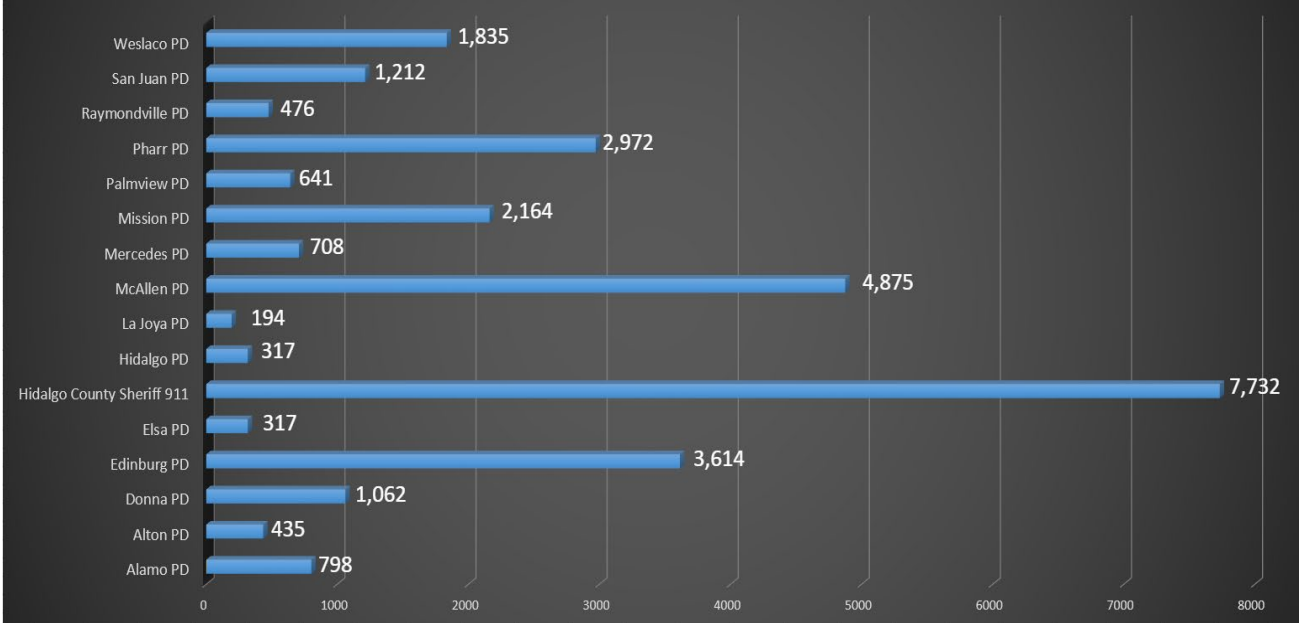
The 9-1-1 | Information Technology team has completed our 2nd quarter audit cycle at all 17 PSAPs, going through the various 9-1-1 equipment checking for any issues, basic upkeep, inventory assessments, and keeping up with the PSAP staff and any concerns they may need taken care of to keep operations in optimal running order.

The month of March saw the completion of six (6) Power 911/Map flex half-day training sessions, with roughly seventy attendees present. Our training sessions were held to keep PSAP staff up to date on the latest software enhancements, dispatcher functionality, and best practices providing an educational, fun, and engaging classroom experience.

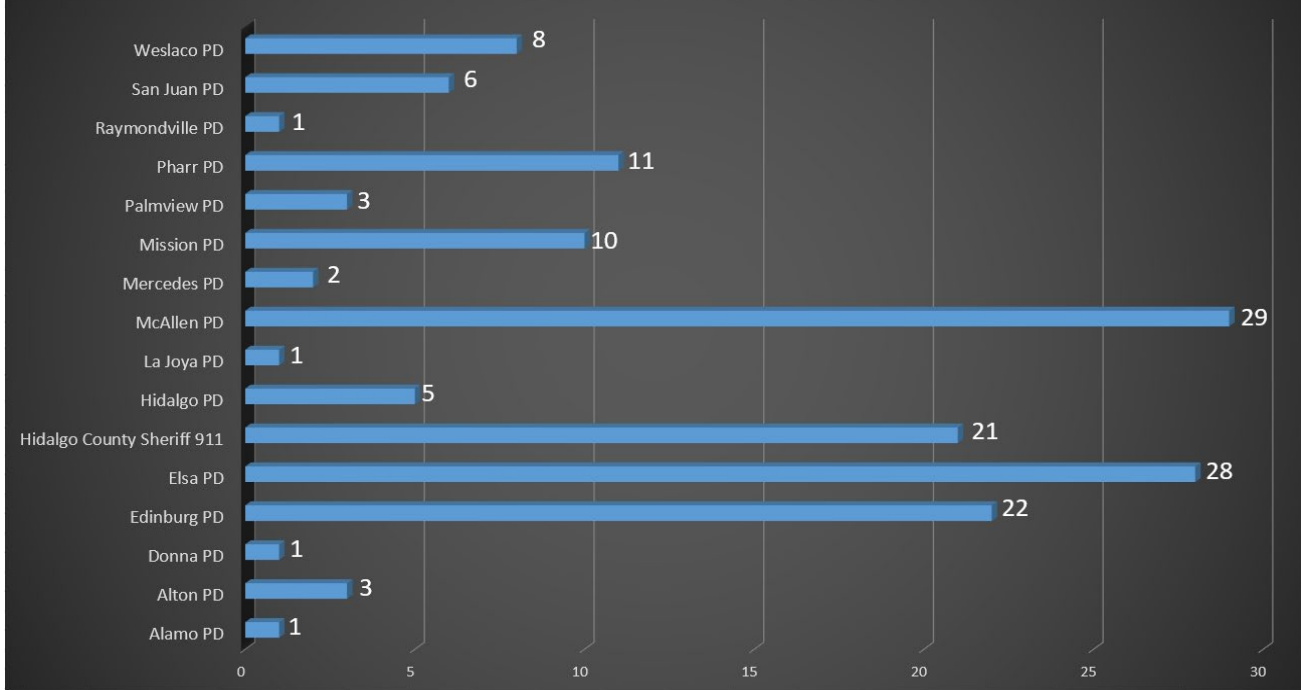
The 2024 All-Hazards Conference was a success as we invited PSAP leadership to join us in a session hosted by PSAP Operations/Information Technology Supervisor II, Ron D. Hall, and Network Specialist III, Eduardo Gil speaking on the topic of “Disaster Planning for the PSAP, An Overview”, which covered various disaster scenarios, planning, implementation, recovery and the initial creation of guidelines for establishing Standard Operation Procedures and Exercises/Drills that PSAP’s can utilize to minimize any number of scenarios that could disrupt operations.

Our continuing goal is to ensure our 9-1-1 call delivery systems are in optimal working order to maintain 99.9% operational efficiency to serve our public safety partners and the community.

Call Summary March 2024



Text to 9-1-1 March 2024



- Community Engagement Division

March was a whirlwind of events and dedicated efforts toward educating citizens about 911 protocols. Our primary objective remains to keep the public informed about crucial 911 information to ensure swift access to emergency assistance. Through various initiatives and outreach programs, we aim to empower individuals with the knowledge necessary to navigate emergencies effectively and expedite the response process.

Power 911 Training Program Training, March 5th through 7th, 2024.

RGV 911 successfully hosted a Power 911 Training program aimed at enhancing the skills of our 911 Telecommunicators. The outcome exceeded expectations with an impressive turnout of 75 enthusiastic attendees. The training served a dual purpose, providing essential guidance for new dispatchers while offering a valuable refresher course for our seasoned veterans. The commitment of our team to continuous improvement and professional development was evident throughout the event, reinforcing our dedication to maintaining high standards in emergency communication services.

City of Mission Staycation Event, March 14, 2024. The Community Engagement department participated in the City of Mission Staycation event, aimed at families who stay home during Spring Break. RGV911 contributed by distributing 911 activity books, educating children on when and how to call 911, as well as what to say during emergencies. The event emphasized the importance of knowing when to call or text 911, highlighting that texting can be a crucial alternative when calling is not possible. By educating families on emergency procedures, the initiative aimed to enhance safety awareness within the community.

2024 ADRC LIIFE Conference, March 19, 2024. The LIIFE Conference provides an invaluable platform for learning, networking, and engaging in interactive sessions, and we are deeply appreciative of the opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful event. Thank you for your commitment to advancing the well-being and empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

Willacy County Sheriff's Office 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, March 23, 2024. It was a super fun event where we got to interact with all the children. One of the highlights was issuing out 911 coloring books, educating them on how to text 911 in case of emergencies. Seeing the smiles on their faces as they hunted for eggs and learned valuable safety information was a joy.

2024 South Texas All Hazard Conference (STAHC), March 27 through 28, 2024. This event was nothing short of outstanding for the RGV9-1-1 Team. Engaging in educational sessions and networking opportunities, they found themselves immersed in a dynamic environment. The conference provided a platform for sharing resources, exchanging scholarly insights, and fostering collaboration among various organizations. As leaders, decision-makers,

healthcare clinicians, and first responders converged, the atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to preparedness. For the RGV9-1-1 Team, it was a fulfilling experience highlighting the importance of ongoing education and collective effort in enhancing emergency response capabilities.

Power 911 Training Program Training



Pictured above are 911 Telecommunicators from McAllen, Pharr, San Juan, Edinburg, Weslaco, and Alton. The total of attendees was 75

City of Mission Staycation Event



Pictured above Dennis Moreno and Maribel distributing our Teach Me 9-1-1 coloring book

2024 LIIFE Conference



Pictured above Maribel Alonzo, Ron Hall, and Juan Vazquez

Willacy County Sheriff's Office 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Pictured above Maribel Alonzo and Diana Castillo

2024 South Texas All Hazard Conference (STAHC)



Pictured above are the divisions within LRGVDC uniting efforts to deliver crucial information to the public for disaster preparedness.



Pictured above RGV911 personnel are seen providing information to STAHC attendees.

**National Public Safety
Telecommunicators Week
April 14-20, 2024**



City of McAllen



City of Alamo



City of Pharr



City of San Juan



City of Mercedes



City of Weslaco



Weslaco and Mercedes Telecommunicators

ITEM #5.D

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status ReportTom Logan, Director of Regional Transportation

2.Consideration and ACTION to Approve Amendment to Operations Policies & Procedures for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Staff requests Board approval on amendment to Operations Policies & Procedures: Pay Differential (incentive) for Drivers on High-Intensity Route Assignments.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy amendment is to introduce an incentive pay scheme for drivers who are assigned to high-intensity route assignments. This amendment aims to recognize the increased workload, demands, and potential risks associated with such assignments and provide appropriate compensation to incentivize and reward drivers for their dedication and performance.



Amendment to Operations Policies & Procedures:

Pay Differential (incentive) for Drivers on High-Intensity Route Assignments
Effective Date: 10/2022

Purpose: The purpose of this policy amendment is to introduce an incentive pay scheme for drivers who are assigned to high-intensity route assignments. This amendment aims to recognize the increased workload, demands, and potential risks associated with such assignments and provide appropriate compensation to incentivize and reward drivers for their dedication and performance.

Policy Amendment:

1. Definitions:

- a. High-Intensity Route Assignments: Refers to specific driving routes or assignments characterized by high demand, increased workload, tight schedules, frequent stops, challenging terrain, adverse weather conditions, or other factors leading to heightened operational challenges and stress for drivers.
- b. Driver: Any individual employed by LRGVDC- Valley Metro or contracted to provide driving services for the agency.

2. Incentive Pay Structure:

- a. Drivers assigned to high-intensity route assignments shall be eligible for incentive pay, in addition to their regular compensation, as outlined in this policy.
- b. The incentive pay shall be calculated based on predetermined criteria, including but not limited to:
 - i. Frequency and duration of high-intensity route assignments.
 - ii. Complexity and demands of the assigned routes.
 - iii. Performance metrics such as on-time delivery, safety records, and customer satisfaction.
- c. The exact incentive pay rates and criteria shall be determined and periodically reviewed by management to ensure fairness and alignment with company objectives.
- d. Contingent upon evaluation of routes as defined in 1.a and approved by Management as outlined in Section 2 above, the designated High-intensity routes numbers will be conveyed to drivers, LRGVDC Human resources, Finance department, and related funding agencies for record keeping.

3. Eligibility:

- a. Eligibility for incentive pay shall be contingent upon meeting performance standards and fulfilling the requirements of high-intensity route assignments.
- b. Drivers must adhere to company policies, safety regulations, and operational procedures while performing high-intensity route assignments to qualify for incentive pay.

4. Payment and Administration:

- a. Incentive pay shall be disbursed according to the company's regular payroll schedule.
- b. Designated personnel shall be responsible for administering the incentive pay program, including tracking eligibility and calculating payments accurately.
- c. Any disputes or concerns regarding incentive pay eligibility or calculation shall be addressed through the company's established grievance resolution procedures.

5. Communication and Training:

- a. The agency shall provide clear communication to all drivers regarding the introduction and details of the incentive pay program for high-intensity route assignments.
- b. Training sessions or materials may be provided to familiarize drivers with the criteria, expectations, and benefits of participating in the incentive pay program.

6. Compliance:

- a. All drivers and relevant personnel are expected to comply with this policy amendment and adhere to its provisions.
- b. Non-compliance or violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, in accordance with company policies and procedures.

7. Review and Revision:

- a. This policy amendment shall be subject to periodic review and revision as necessary to ensure its effectiveness, fairness, and alignment with the company's goals and industry standards.
- b. Feedback from drivers and stakeholders shall be considered in the review process to continuously improve the incentive pay program.

8. Funding:

- a. Pay Differential (incentive) for Drivers on High-Intensity Route Assignments will only be provided if and while funding is available.
- b. Notice will be given of no High-Intensity pay if funding is no longer available.

This policy amendment shall be effective as of the date specified above and shall be communicated to all relevant parties within the organization.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report Tom Logan, Director of Regional Transit

- Ridership Report

Valley Metro provides regional transportation service of both **Rural** and **Urban** transit systems in the five-county region of the Rio Grande Valley. The **Urban System** is provided in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties and includes UTRGV Ridership. Services run Monday – Saturday from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. The **Rural System** operates in the rural areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties. Services run Monday – Sunday from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Breakdown of Ridership per system:

RIDERSHIP COUNT SEPT 2023 - APRIL 2024								
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM								
Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	28,553	29,294	24,112	22,484	24,809	27,549	27,358	184,159
UTRGV	65,221	70,258	56,528	20,318	33,307	57,734	40,047	343,413
STC	472	549	396	155	186	388	258	2,404
TSTC	136	118	74	73	25	25	28	479
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	530,455
								-21%
RURAL AND URBAN COUNT								
AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
Rural	5,685	5,808	4,942	4,776	4,687	5,243	5,976	37,117
Urban	88,697	94,411	76,168	38,254	53,640	80,453	61,715	493,338
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	530,455
								-23%
								-21%
RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY								
COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	83,623	89,123	71,808	33,639	48,994	75,451	56,295	458,933
Cameron County	8,377	8,494	7,151	7,680	7,504	8,190	9,340	56,736
Willacy County	233	249	225	242	270	274	284	1,777
Starr County	1,957	2,181	1,772	1,297	1,367	1,663	1,600	11,837
Zapata County	192	172	154	172	192	118	172	1,172
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	530,455
								-25%
								14%
								4%
								-4%
								46%
								-21%

Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:

- RTAP Sub-committee held a virtual meeting on March 26, 2024, and discussed updates that were provided by the partnering agencies regarding the needs and gaps of the 5-Year Transit Plan.
- Next in-person RTAP meeting will be held April 25, 2024 at Valley Metro.

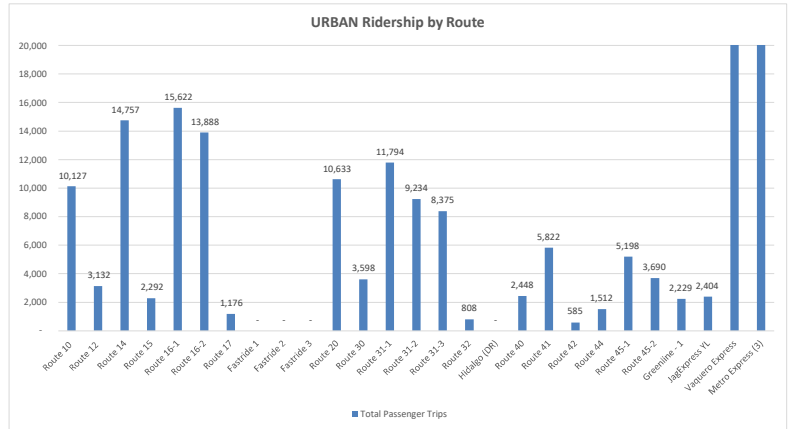
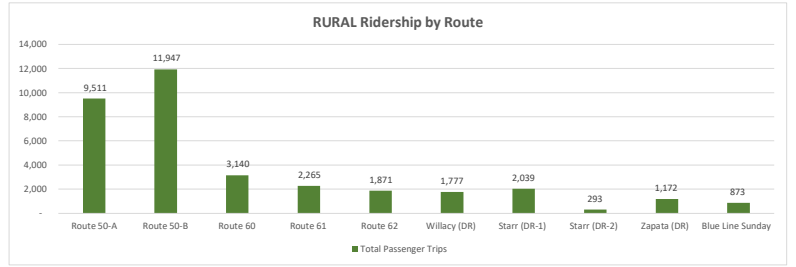
- The meeting covered a range of topics related to transit services such as:
 - Development of a transit guide and sharing transit data on websites.
 - Coordination and updates of transit agencies and identifying funding sources for non-profit vehicles.
 - Travel training programs, and transit service expansion and improvement.
 - The need to update information, add office hours, and clarify details before finalizing the transit guide.
 - Integration of services with Google Maps, the status of printed materials and online information, and the implementation of live tracking systems on buses.
 - Provision of detailed transit information and the distribution of brochures at transit stops and other locations, including workforce solutions offices, high-traffic locations such as Walmart and HEB, Island Visitor Center and hotels, as well as the Brownsville Airport.

- The subcommittee discussed various initiatives, including regional trip planning, partnership development with transportation companies, and service frequency improvements. They also discussed ongoing efforts to evaluate transit service delivery in specific regions and introduced the idea of a regional travel training program and a one-stop mobility information call center.

- The team discussed travel training programs and improving access to public transit information, with a focus on senior centers. The conversation included insights from various transit agencies about their current efforts and future plans for these initiatives. Additionally, there were discussions about funding requests for a mobility manager to oversee travel training and other transit initiatives, as well as collaborations with social service organizations to subsidize transit purchases. Finally, the team discussed plans to update a five-year continuation plan and share progress reports, with the next meeting scheduled for May 28th, in person.

**RIDERSHIP COUNT
YEAR TO DATE FY 2024 (March)**

	Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
RURAL	Route 50-A	9,511	2% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
	Route 50-B	11,947	2% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
	Route 60	3,140	1% Roma, Rio Grande City	
	Route 61	2,265	0% Rio Grande City	
	Route 62	1,871	0% Rio Grande City	
	Willacy (DR)	1,777	0% Willacy County	
	Starr (DR-1)	2,039	0% Starr County	
	Starr (DR-2)	293	0% Starr County	
	Zapata (DR)	1,172	0% Zapata County	
	Blue Line Sunday	873	0% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
	URBAN	Route 10	10,127	2% Edinburg
Route 12		3,132	1% Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg	
Route 14		14,757	3% Edinburg	
Route 15		2,292	0% Edinburg	
Route 16-1		15,622	3% Courthouse Circulator	
Route 16-2		13,888	3% Courthouse Circulator	
Route 17		1,176	0% Edinburg T-line	
Fastride 1		-	0% Edinburg	
Fastride 2		-	0% Hidalgo County	
Fastride 3		-	0% Cameron County	
Route 20		10,633	2% Mission	
Route 30		3,598	1% Pharr, San Juan	
Route 31-1		11,794	2% Cameron-Hidalgo County	
Route 31-2		9,234	2% Hidalgo-Cameron County	
Route 31-3		8,375	2% Cameron-Hidalgo County	
Route 32		808	0% Donna	
Hidalgo (DR)		-	0% City of Hidalgo	
Route 40		2,448	0% Harlingen	
Route 41		5,822	1% Harlingen	
Route 42		585	0% San Benito	
Route 44		1,512	0% Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa	
Route 45-1		5,198	1% Cameron County	
Route 45-2		3,690	1% Cameron County	
Greenline - 1	2,229	0% Rio Grande City		
JagExpress YL	2,404	0% Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen		
Vaquero Express	343,413	65% Edinburg		
Metro Express (3)	22,830	4% Rio Grande Valley		
TOTAL	530,455	100%	**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized	

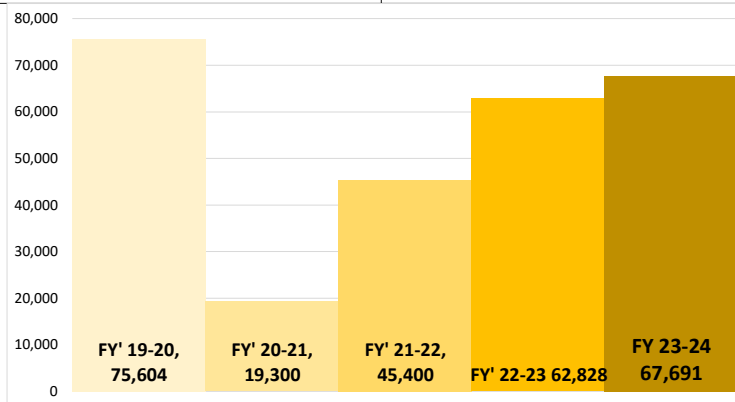


Active Routes	Rural	Urban	Total
Flex Routes	6	17	23
Demand Response	6	0	6
Fixed-Metro Express	0	3	3
	12	20	32

YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT			
Year to Date - March 2024	Year to date March 2023	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
530,455	410,510	119,945	29%

* Rural service - service in rural low -population areas outside of urbanized areas

* Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas



Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	Difference	%Change
FY' 2019-2020	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY' 2020-2021	17,149	19,332	16,190	16,072	16,620	14,611	19,300	18,169	18,080	19,842	19,774	31,381	226,520	-608,386	-73%
FY' 2021-2022	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	35,091	24,384	430,484	203,964	90%
FY' 2022-2023	69,699	71,269	58,154	33,800	47,975	66,785	62,828	63,687	36,978	34,870	33,997	50,988	631,030	200,546	47%
FY 2023-2024	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	0	0	0	0	0	530,455	99,971	23%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	24,683	28,950	22,956	9,230	10,352	18,911	4,863	-63,687	-36,978	-34,870	-33,997	-60,988	-100,575	-100,575	0
Percent Change	35%	41%	39%	27%	22%	28%	8%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-16%	-50%	-51%

FY 2024 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Edinburg	9,360	9,877	7,806	4,851	7,509	8,569	6,952	0	0	0	0	0	54,924
UTRGV Edinburg	65,221	70,258	56,528	20,318	33,307	57,734	40,047	0	0	0	0	0	343,413
Pharr	657	640	679	832	873	1,352	1,488	0	0	0	0	0	6,521
Mission	826	801	636	737	903	971	1,082	0	0	0	0	0	5,956
McAllen	4,750	4,517	3,745	4,318	3,935	3,804	3,863	0	0	0	0	0	28,932
San Carlos	20	21	25	17	24	27	27	0	0	0	0	0	161
Elsa	108	144	92	53	48	57	44	0	0	0	0	0	546
Edcouch	36	53	47	22	25	28	18	0	0	0	0	0	229
La Villa	33	45	26	35	55	71	40	0	0	0	0	0	305
San Juan	477	434	287	347	277	374	438	0	0	0	0	0	2,634
Alamo	303	339	256	312	290	326	322	0	0	0	0	0	2,148
Donna	441	461	446	604	507	573	534	0	0	0	0	0	3,566
Weslaco	983	1,116	910	733	783	1,104	965	0	0	0	0	0	6,594
Mercedes	406	415	323	456	453	460	472	0	0	0	0	0	2,985
La Feria	232	234	207	238	220	169	181	0	0	0	0	0	1,481
Harlingen	2,286	2,258	1,876	1,983	2,164	2,290	2,435	0	0	0	0	0	15,292
San Benito	140	234	165	211	227	222	253	0	0	0	0	0	1,452
Brownsville	3,775	3,765	3,221	3,386	3,286	3,678	4,312	0	0	0	0	0	25,423
Santa Rosa	80	68	60	55	57	61	49	0	0	0	0	0	430
Los Fresnos	272	308	174	192	154	211	221	0	0	0	0	0	1,532
Laguna Vista	166	258	177	209	139	135	180	0	0	0	0	0	1,264
Laguna Heights	160	193	154	154	144	180	165	0	0	0	0	0	1,150
Port Isabel	1,266	1,176	1,117	1,233	1,101	1,232	1,521	0	0	0	0	0	8,646
Rio Grande City	1,532	1,735	1,441	1,030	1,104	1,373	1,290	0	0	0	0	0	9,505
Willacy County	233	249	225	242	270	274	284	0	0	0	0	0	1,777
Starr County	425	446	331	267	263	290	310	0	0	0	0	0	2,332
Zapata County	192	172	154	172	192	118	172	0	0	0	0	0	1,172
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	0	0	0	0	0	530,455

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	28,553	29,294	24,112	22,484	24,809	27,549	27,358	0	0	0	0	0	184,159
UTRGV	65,221	70,258	56,528	20,318	33,307	57,734	40,047	0	0	0	0	0	343,413
STC	472	549	396	155	186	388	258	0	0	0	0	0	2,404
TSTC	136	118	74	73	25	25	28	0	0	0	0	0	479
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	0	0	0	0	0	530,455

RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Rural	5,685	5,808	4,942	4,776	4,687	5,243	5,976	0	0	0	0	0	37,117
Urban	88,697	94,411	76,168	38,254	53,640	80,453	61,715	0	0	0	0	0	493,338
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	0	0	0	0	0	530,455

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	83,623	89,123	71,808	33,639	48,994	75,451	56,295	0	0	0	0	0	458,933
Cameron County	8,377	8,494	7,151	7,680	7,504	8,190	9,340	0	0	0	0	0	56,736
Willacy County	233	249	225	242	270	274	284	0	0	0	0	0	1,777
Starr County	1,957	2,181	1,772	1,297	1,367	1,663	1,600	0	0	0	0	0	11,837
Zapata County	192	172	154	172	192	118	172	0	0	0	0	0	1,172
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	0	0	0	0	0	530,455

RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

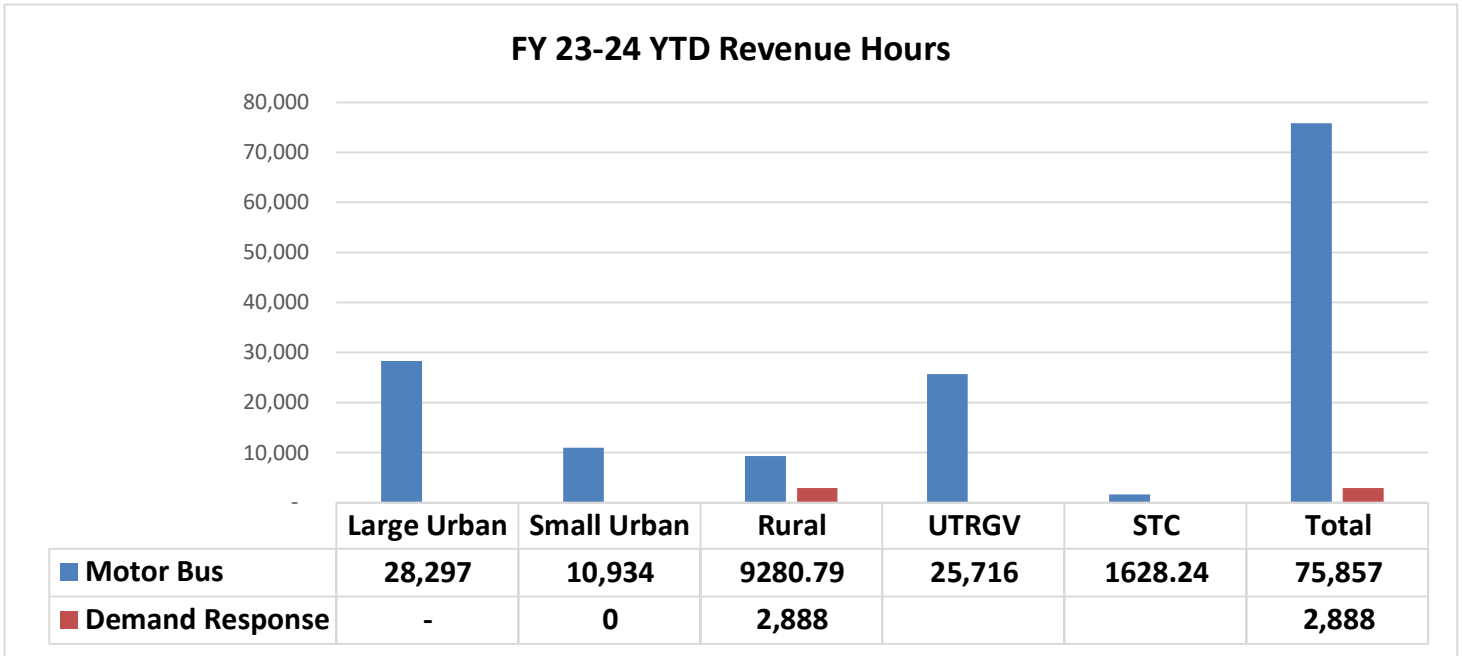
PRECINCT	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Precinct 1	4,528	4,878	4,225	4,950	4,609	5,116	5,037	0	0	0	0	0	33,343
Precinct 2	7,751	7,937	6,720	7,651	7,258	8,106	8,338	0	0	0	0	0	53,761
Precinct 3	1,651	1,647	1,219	1,482	1,482	1,550	1,602	0	0	0	0	0	10,633
Precinct 4	80,488	86,349	69,581	31,407	46,670	72,805	53,675	0	0	0	0	0	440,975
Harlingen MPO Area	3,144	3,209	2,631	2,962	3,133	3,214	3,413	0	0	0	0	0	21,706

Year to Date 2023-2024

Distribution of Revenue Hours

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	28,297	10,934	9280.79	25,716	1628.24	75,857
Demand Response	-	0	2,888			2,888

FY 23-24 YTD Revenue Hours

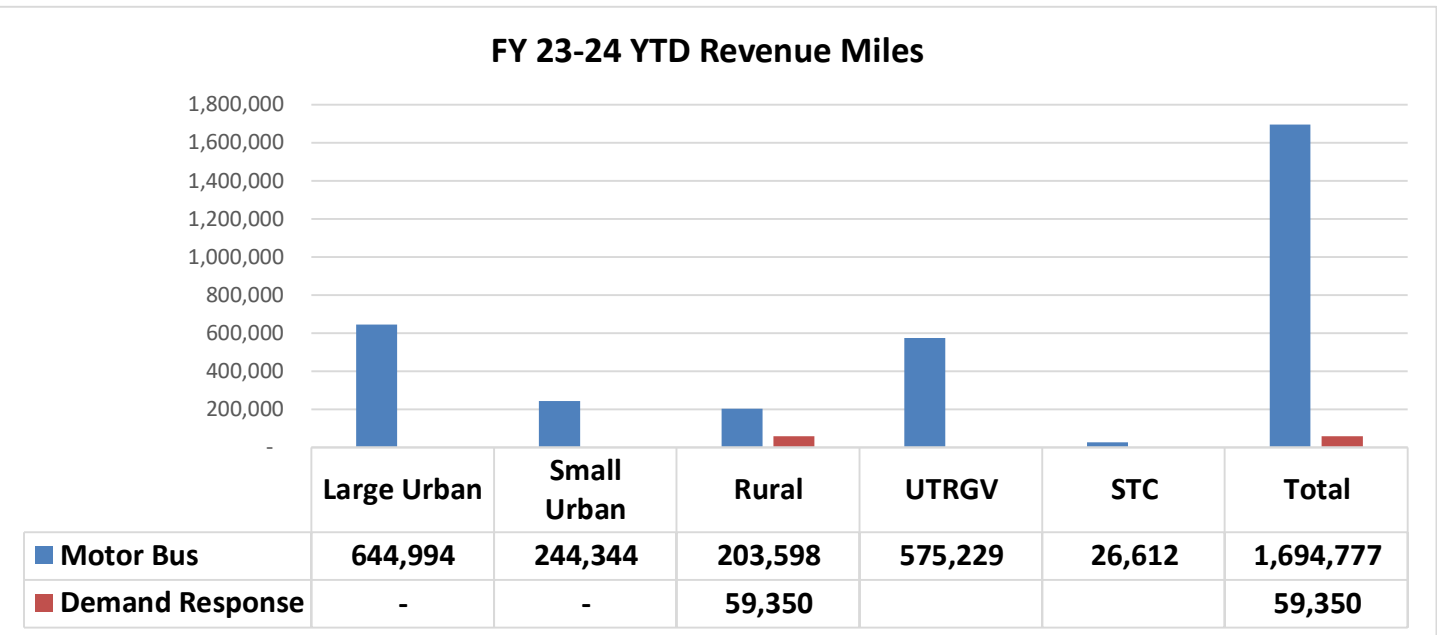


Year to Date 2023-2024

Distribution of Revenue Miles

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	644,994	244,344	203,598	575,229	26,612	1,694,777
Demand Response	-	-	59,350			59,350

FY 23-24 YTD Revenue Miles





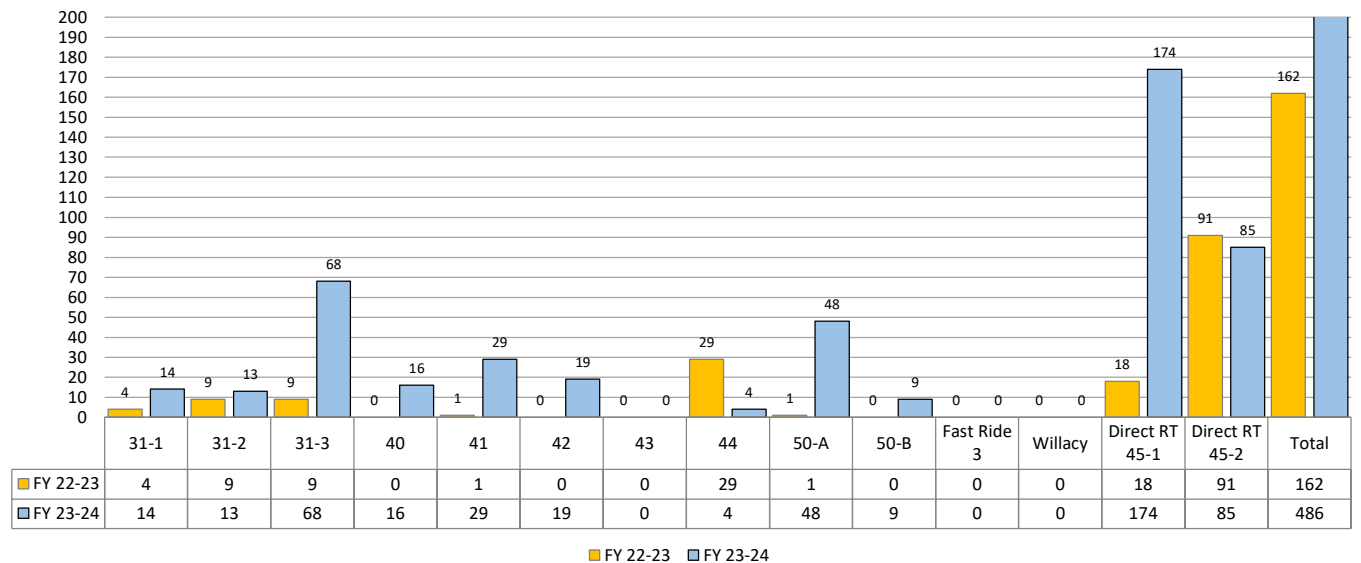
FY 2023-2024 Valley Metro

TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	31-3	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	0	0	7	2	6	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	83	28	137
October	1	0	2	3	5	8	0	0	5	3	0	0	62	29	119
November	0	7	19	1	9	5	0	1	9	1	0	0	7	15	74
December	6	4	13	0	4	5	0	0	9	3	0	0	21	8	73
January	0	0	18	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	25
February	4	2	7	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	2	25
March	3	0	2	10	0	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	29
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	13	68	16	29	19	0	4	48	9	0	0	174	85	486
FY 2023-2024	4	9	9	0	1	0	0	29	1	0	0	0	18	91	162
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	9	16	28	19	0	-25	47	9	0	0	156	-6	324

	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	111	91	148	22	29	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	407
Indirect Routes	25	27	27	52	44	22	22	28	0	0	0	0	0	247
Monthly Total	136	118	175	74	73	25	25	28	0	0	0	0	0	654

2023 - 2024 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count





VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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



Types of Systems Provided

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

Serving the RGV's Five-County Region:

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata

Proudly serving:

- General public
- Elderly, over 60
- Persons with Disabilities
- Veterans
- People with Medicare/Medicaid
- Students, Faculty, and Staff from schools and institutions of higher learning



VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

Valley Metro Fares:

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

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

VM Transit Website



Route Maps with locations



ValleyMetro Weslaco

Ride Systems



Track our buses in real time



VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322