

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, October 25, 2023, 12:00 noon

Audio access is available by calling +1 (408) 650-3123, Access Code: 843-295-821

Presiding: Mayor David Suarez, President.

Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve Meeting Minutes (September 27, 2023)-----President

Item #3: Public Comment

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

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Adopt Annual investment Policy and Accept Quarterly Investment report.....Crystal Balboa
Finance Director
- B. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the LRGVDC to Request Proposals from Financial Institutions for a Line of Credit and Executive Director to Execute Competitive Proposal for Future Acquisition of Real Property, Construction Projects, and Administration Operations.....Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

C. Executive Director Report

1. Staff Recognition for Years of Service
2. Introduction of New Staff Members
3. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Resolution for the FY 2024/2025 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program application. The LRGVDC shall submit the signed resolution with the LRGVDC COG application.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member.

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 ServiceMargarita Lopez
Director**

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council Rules of Function
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the New Officers to the Citizens Advisory Council

Program Status Reports

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

- Special Initiatives Report
- Information Referral & Assistance

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

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Action ItemsCesar Merla
Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation of Appointment of Parliamentarian Odee Leal, EMC from Brownsville, Texas.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation on approval of the current Homeland Security Advisory Committee Members for FY 2024.

Program Status Reports

- Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Status Report

Regional Police Academy Program Action Items.....Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to the BPOC Rules Handbook
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Extension Services for LRGV Academy Site.

Program Status Reports

- Regional Police Academy Status Reports.....Manuel Cruz
Executive Director
- Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District
Status Report.....Dennis Moreno
Assistant Director
 - GIS Division
 - Community Engagement Division
 - 9-1-1 | Information Technology

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

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report
- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity
- Public Outreach Events

Item #6: New or Unfinished Business

Item #7 Adjourn

REMINDER
NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
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 be signed up to do so prior to the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to address issues or topics under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC. For issues or topics that are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, LRGVDC members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action or discussion shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chair as these items are considered, and the same 3-minute time limitation applies.”

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, September 27, 2023

HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA 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: President Mayor David Suarez

- DRAFT -

President Mayor David Suarez called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

Present:

Mayor David Suarez, City of Weslaco
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City Of Mission
Commissioner Ernesto “Ernie” Garcia, Willacy County
Mr. Jim Darling
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Commissioner J.R Garza, City of Alamo
Councilman Johnny Garcia, City of Edinburg
Omar Quintanilla, City of McAllen
Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales UT- Rio Grande Valley
Ms. Jennifer Olten, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Ms. Ann William Cass
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Commissioner Betty Rodriguez, City of La Villa
Mayor Mike Carter, City of Laguna Vista
Mayor Jaime Gonzalez, City of Los Indio’s
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes
Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez, City of Pharr
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy County Nav. Dist.
Mr. Eleazar Garcia Jr

President David Suarez then moved to item # 2. Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (August 30, 2023). Commissioner David Garza inquired if the attendance of members was reflected in the minutes. Mr. Cruz responded that an external attendance record is kept on file, however, future attendance will be reflected in future meeting minutes. **Commissioner David A. Garza motioned to approve the presented minutes from August 30, 2023. Ms. Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously upon a vote.**

Mayor David Suarez next moved to Item # 3 Public Comment, there being none, he moved to item # 4.

Item 4. Administration

A. Consideration and Action to approve Award of Landscaping Services Contract

Presented by Mr. Armando Perez, Assistant Director, this contract will be for one (1) year with the option of four 1-year renewals for lawn and landscape services to South Texas Landscapes Irrigation & Pest Control, LLC. The lawn and landscape services will be for all LRGVDC locations, including those in Weslaco, Harlingen, and Edinburg. The vendor was selected through the solicitation process. This was the only vendor to submit a proposal, however, they also met the requirements and staff requests approval for these services. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Landscaping Contract as presented. The Mayor Norie Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

B. Executive Reports

Mr. Cruz introduced the new staff members that have come onboard: Ms. Daniella Gonzalez joined AAA. Carlos Lopez, Juaquin Garcia, and Jose R. Pena joined the Transportation/Valley Metro Team. Mr. Cruz then concluded his report and handed it over so the other directors had the opportunity to present their action items and reports for their programs.

Without questions from the board, Mayor David Suarez moved to Item # 5. Department Reports.

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Officers.

Mrs. Melisa Gonzalez stated that as per the RWRAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following officers elected by the RWRAC. Officers shall begin term upon RWRAC approval. Officers may only be selected from current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not a membership composition category representative). Only individuals elected may carry out the functions of the office. At the September 13, 2023, RWRAC meeting, the committee recommended the following members as Officer. Vice Chairman: Commissioner Ernie Garcia, Willacy County and the Chairman position will be taken back to the RWRAC for further review and nominations at a later date. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Regional Water Resource as Presented. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Mrs. Melissa Gonzalez announced to the board that they will be hosting public meetings for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) on October 24, in Hidalgo County in the Ken Jones Board Room. October 25, at the Cameron County Annex Building and October 26 at the Willacy County Raymondville EDC Facility. Starting at 10:00am, they will send out flyers in the first week of October.

Without questions from the board Mayor David Suarez moved to Item B., Health and Human Services

B. Health and Human Services

Program Status Reports

Ms. Margarita Lopez with Health and Human Services did not have any action items but did take the time to thank the board for all their support and all the recommendations that they had considered for the department. In the past year and a half, they have approved 20 action Items. She mentioned that they just submitted the Area Plan for states review and approval and currently await responses. She also went on to mention that while analyzing that data they learned that during the past 3-4 years up to where the pandemic ended Health and Human Services helped or assisted over 5000 people. In a year and a half, they have already helped 7371, which says that their outreach activities and their services are going further than we have seen in the past 5 years all with the support and consideration from this board.

Ms. Lopez also thanked the Mission Housing Authority, City of Rio Hondo, City of La Joya, City of Primera, and City of Los Fresno's for their support and for being a sub-recipient and for helping the aging population. She expressed that their vendor contractors are up to 103, and the board made it happen with their considerations and approvals. She also mentioned an update on the Community Development Block Grants. They were awarded \$20,000 from Harlingen and were able to provide much needed assistance to 66 Clients within the Harlingen area. They also assisted 33 with \$8,000 with what they received from Edinburg. We received Another \$8,000 from McAllen and was able to help other clients within Pharr and Mission area. AAA exhausted every single one of the dollars received and did not leave anything on the table and accomplished deliverables before the time. Ms. Lopez also stated that they have gone through several audits and have not had and/or noted any discrepancies of these community development block grants.

Finally, the ADRC program in the last year and a half brought onboard a Housing Navigator, one Special Initiative, and two Customer Service Representative. With that said, today the ADRC is fully staffed. We have a case manager to provide respite services where assistance is needed. We have another case manager that provides benefit counseling services to anyone 59 and below. Our housing navigator has extended his relationships and collaborations with housing authorities and anyone that works with affordable housing. Health and Human Services staff are also working hard with hospitals and rehab centers to ensure that they don't have homeless or adults here in the valley. She also goes to mention that they have hosted one conference, one Veteran's fair and working hard on the next Veteran's Fair that will take place in November. Ms. Lopez then closed with no action item needed but thanks the board once again.

Mr. Jim Darling asked Ms. Lopez if there were any request for AC units and fans this summer. She then explained the in-take process that goes through the Information Referral Assistance (IR&A) team for everyone or anyone that calls for services. They do ask if they have any additional needs. Additionally, when they conducted their clinics and outreach activities they always asked if there are any additional needs they can assist with. They did not receive any assistance with air conditioning or fans. She did mention that most of the people they came across were asking for more safety items, such as flashlights and consumables and the clinics accommodated to those needs. They are working with bigger companies with larger amounts of dollars to contribute when they become sponsors to see how much they can get next year.

Mayor David Suarez mentions that yes, with this heat wave he knew some people that were asking for cooling stations due to not having AC. Ms. Lopez stated that no requests were received for fans and AC. She did go on to let them know that years ago they did provide AC and Fans but does not know why it stopped and will investigate it for next upcoming year. She stated that they did give out 60-65 Heaters during last year's Vet Fest. They will work on AC and Fans for next year.

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security

1. Consideration and Action to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation of Appointment of New Committee Member Mark Perez, Chief of Police, City of Alton, Texas.

Mr. Cesar Merla stated that Mark Perez, a US Army Veteran, proudly serves as the Chief of Police for the City of Alton, Texas. His impressive credentials include a Texas Master Peace Officer license, Mental Health Peace Officer certification, and recognition as a TCOLE Firearms and Proficiency Instructor. Additionally, he has earned a Public Manager certification from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Chief Perez recently completed his certification from the prestigious Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas and has also successfully graduated from the FBI-LEEDA and Trilogy Courses. His extensive experience, unwavering leadership, and profound knowledge of law enforcement makes him an asset to the Criminal Justice Advisory Council. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory committee recommendation of appointment of new committee Member Mark Perez, Chief of Police, City of Alton. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to approve the Criminal Justice advisory Committee recommendation on appointment of New Committee Member, Rosa Hernandez, Nurse Manager Doctor's Hospital Renaissance. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee recommendation on appointment of New Committee Member, Rosa Hernandez, Nurse Manager Doctor's Hospital Renaissance. John Cowen Seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Report

Criminal Justice Program

Mr. Cesar Merla then went on to report all status reports for Homeland Security and Criminal Justice. Staff attended the Texas Association Regional of Councils (TARC) Bi-Annual Staff Training on Criminal Justice from September 6-8, 2023, in Austin, TX. Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) on September 13, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.

Homeland Security Program

Staff attended the Cradle point Mobile Networking Summit on September 12, 2023, at the McAllen Central Fire Station Board Room.

Staff attended the 1st Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar in September 14, 2023, at the McAllen Convention Center.

Staff hosted the HAZMAT Workshop on September 20, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room. Staff hosted the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Session 2: Border Violence and Pandemic on September 28, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.

Finally, Mr. Cesar Merla announced that his department will be having the first Annual Ready RGV that will take place on May 9-10th in South Padre Island, Texas. The goal is to also provide continuing education credits for law enforcement, first responders, firefighters, educators, and those in the Mental health field. More information of this event is to follow and the first planning meeting will take place October 19, 2023.

With no questions from the board Mayor David Suarez moved on to the Regional Police Academy.

Regional Police Academy

3. Consideration and Action to approve revisions to LRGV Academy Instructor Contract for Professional Services.

Mr. Cruz reported that in June 2023, the Regional Police Academy Advisory Committee convened to review and revise the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Instructor Contract. This is necessary to provide updates related to compliance and accurately delineating the responsibilities and duties of each party and ensure the successful services are rendered to benefit the education of cadets and peace officers in the region. These updates include rate adjustments to be competitive with market value within the discipline. The changes made are highlighted in yellow. A copy of the previous contract is attached for comparison purposes.

Mr. Cruz then mentioned that he did provide a copy of the new version and old one so that the board can see all the changes that had been made. He stated that the first two pages were the recommendations that were made by the advisory committee. On the third page he mentioned that they provided information that was required and normally used with all documents. On page 4, updated the term, termination, and severability. He advised the board that the contracts do not automatically renew every year. Mr. Cruz mentioned that the Police Academy operates on a biennium, two-year cycle grant so contracts must end at the end of the performance period. He stated that the other items that were added (as shown on the BOD packet that were not listed. He let the board know that they do contract with subject matter experts, law enforcement professionals to come in and conduct training for Police Academy Cadets. They only use instructors for specialized training courses or to fill in. He explained that if they were to have an in-house instructor, they would not have all the qualifications needed to take on the 720-hour Police Academy to include practical exercises. The EVOC – Emergency Vehicle Operation Course or driving course, was used as an example as a specialized course and can't be presented by a basic instructor. Mr. Jim Darling then asked if the instructors are with another entity and Mr. Cruz answers yes, they are or retired. Mr. Darling asked how they vetted and if there is a process to make sure that they qualify, or, background check is done. Mr. Cruz explained that the program requires certain information that must be submitted to staff before, and it is verified by staff on the TCOLE database to make sure it is accurate and the most current information. Commissioner David Garza asked to elaborate in double duty and asked if this means that they are in night class and have a job as well. Mr. Cruz then explains that they address as much as possible and rely on them to make sure they're not on duty. He mentioned that they do have day classes as well, however, the police departments of Mission and Edinburg, as an example, are not contracted or paid for instruction. The resources are shared between the COG and Police Dept. and since they have a training division their officers/instructors fill this gap on their time.

Commissioner Ernesto Garcia from Willacy County and former peace officer introduces himself and states that some of the questions that were being asked about double dipping had allot to do with agency the officers work for. Everything is run through TCOLE; they would need to provide a CV curriculum. He also states that every class would have to be provided through TCOLE. Once submitting the form will have the instructor's name, the course, and the curriculum. All must be approved if not they will get kicked out. Just because police officers are on call 24/7, and if called upon they must leave and respond to any emergency. Mr. Cruz then states, that is correct, if there is an incident that happens that requires an all-hands-on deck then they will postpone classes until they can return. Mr. Jim Darling states that he would to thing that most all larger departments have their own training centers and certification centers, do we? Mr. Cruz stated that that might be the case, however, the missing component would be the TCOLE Academy License or Training Provider Certification required. Mr. Cruz states that there are a total of 5 academies and that this is the only regional academy available to all three counties, they do rely on Mission and Edinburg and also have TSTC as a site. Mr. Cruz states that within any given year we have about 35-40 folks contracted to teach, but not all are utilized. Mayor David Suarez called for a motion; ***Commissioner Ernesto Garcia made a motion to approve revisions to the LRGV Academy Instructor Contract for Professional Service, Mr. Jim Darling Seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

On Thursday, September 9, 2023, 16 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy and Project Management Specialist Monic Galvan actively participated in the Weslaco Firefighters Association L3207's 911 Memorial 5K. As of Wednesday, September 13, 2023, the 26 cadets from the 221st Edinburg Days, the academy have completed Chapter 41 firearms training. On Friday, September 15, 2023, the LRGV Academy, in collaboration with the Mission Police Department, conducted an orientation session for the 223rd Basic Peace Officer Course with 22 cadets. As of Wednesday, September 27, 2023, the 26 graduates from the 221st Edinburg Day Academy are scheduled to graduate, and the ceremony will take place at the Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance. The LRGV Academy is not currently offering entrance exams, as both academies scheduled for September and November have already reached the maximum number of applicants.

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District

Program Status Report

No action items were presented but Mr. Dennis Moreno did go on and mention the highlights in the GIS Division. They are working on the emergency response map that is currently being utilized by the local 911 agencies, EMS and along with the local firefighters in Hidalgo and Willacy County. He went on to explain the Geographic Information System plan. They have submitted a based routing that's an LBR Request through Version Wireless in early September it will for cell phone to turn on GPS services and reduce the need to transfer Ural 911 calls. It will help in the rural areas from getting caught up in towers. He mentioned that they have begun testing here in the Rio Grande Valley and turning up the location-based routing LBR to allow the first responders to respond more accurately. Especially when in a moving vehicle, they will accurately locate for the emergency. He states that this is something that they are pushing on throughout the year and will go on to the next year. This will be something that will help improve emergency services throughout Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

In addition to that also hosted the First Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar. It was more of a dispatcher and TC driven event. We did open the event to all public safety. Glad to say that they had people attending from Starr, Falfurrias, Cameron, Willacy, and Hidalgo. He states that they wanted this to be more for our TC. Mr. Moreno mentions that they had about 96 telecommunications from the Rio Grande Valley register, 326 people attended the event. He stated that they were fortunate to provide awards the Telecommunicators for their years of service and commitment. We had 5 yrs., 10 yrs., 20 yrs., and 40 yrs of service. Mr. Moreno mentioned that they had a master of ceremonies and explains the photos provided. Mr. Trey Cerna from KRGV was there and was the MC. Mr. Cruz and Sheriff Guerra were the ones providing awards to the telecommunicators. This was opened to all police departments to submit their recognition for their TC. We had TC of the year, JJ Marquez from City of Edinburg. In addition, we also were able to Honor Ms. Marissa Figueroa from City of Alton she was recognized for Supervisor of the year as well. Mr. Moreno explains that this is just something that they do to recognize all the hard work that the telecommunicators do 365 days a year.

Mr. Moreno stated that they brought in some wellness speakers. Mr. Atkins keynote speaker and Author of the Leveled-up life book and Mr. Raul Rivas presenting Trauma Behind the Badge, shares with the Board that he was one of the first responders for the Pulse Nightclub. Mr. Rivas recognized through the event and the incident as well that nobody went back to the telecommunicators to check their mental state from all the violence they were exposed to during these calls. Just because they are behind the phone and not seeing it directly as our first responders but pointed out that everyone is involved, even those just outside were impacted by those incidents.

In addition, Mr. Moreno states that they flew a State Flag at the State Capitol. The telecommunicators of the Year will now be known and named in honor of Sandra Coronado and explains that she was killed by a drunk driver on December 9, 2018, in the morning while on her way to work her shift as a TC at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's office. So, with that said the TC of the Year will now be known as the Sandra Coronado award.

Mr. Cruz thanked the City of McAllen, McAllen Fire Department and the Police Department for their assistance

and contributions in providing the venue for the event. He states that he was very appreciative of that and mentioned that it was quite an event. Mr. Cruz explains that when Mayor Darling was president, they ventured into separating from the state 911 program to becoming a district. Stated that telecommunicators are the Lifeline for all police departments, firefighters, and the community. It is time we took that initiative to recognize them and all the hard work that they do.

Transportation Valley Metro

Consideration and Action to Approve procurement of Transportation vehicles for Valley Metro.

Staff requests Board approval to purchase Transportation vehicles. Vehicles will be incorporated into the Valley Metro Fleet expansion. Purchase of these vehicles will be made with 100% TxDOT and FTA Funding with Transportation Development Credits. ***Mr. Jim Darling made motion to approve procurement of Transportation vehicles for Valley Metro, Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously upon a vote.***

Program Status Report

Mr. Tom Logan started off with mentioning that they are closing out the Fiscal Year 2023 with 631,000 riders, which would be a 47% increase from the previous year. He mentioned that the previous year they had 430,000. We are heading in the right direction; pre pandemic they were over 800,000 but considering that they introduced fares this past year, they are doing well.

Rio Grande Valley MPO

Program Status Report

Mr. Canon stated that there wasn't a lot to talk about just that, last month they had been doing their rounds visiting local governments. \$142 billion, 9,000 projects have been impactful to the area. Mr. Canon stated that before the merger they went from about \$500 Million in funding for the area to 3.5 billion dollars as the RGV MPO. A lot of projects are moving forward. A couple of projects didn't get picked up the way we wished they had E Loop was overlooked in Cameron County. He stated that they are still working with Federal Highways on functional classification. He states that he knows that this is an important project for them and the region. He then mentions that they have funding for Nolana, for the development of the I 69 connector and 69C. That project will be in the next year and a half. They will continue the inter-state facility all the way to the county line. He stated that most of 77 is cleared and ready to go, we are working on 3 portions and trying to get fully funded to make the connectivity all the way to Kennedy County. Mr. Canon stated that they are working on revision for the four-year plan that will be brought to the board next month and next month also Bike Ped Advisory Committee went through a process with all the local governments on the TASA funding of \$9 million. He states that they will come back in October to get approved on projects that were selected.

Item #6 New and Unfinished business

There being no further business to come before the Board, ***Mayor David Suarez made a motion to adjourn at 12:57pm.***

Mayor David Suarez, President

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

ITEM #4. A.

ADMINISTRATION

INVESTMENT

POLICY REPORT



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor David Suarez, WeslacoPresident
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen1st Vice President
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza 2nd Vice President
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County Secretary
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large Treasurer
Mayor John Cowen, Jr., Brownsville Immediate Past President

BOARD MEMBERS

David A. Garza
Commissioner, Cameron County

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Hidalgo County

J.R. Garza
Commissioner, Alamo

Johnny Garcia
Councilman, 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

MEMORANDUM

TO: LRGVDC BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: Crystal Balboa, Director of Finance

SUBJ: LRGVDC Investment Policy

DATE: October 25, 2023

It is time again for LRGVDC's Annual consideration of our Investment Policy. Staff is recommending re-adoption of our current policy.

Thank you for consideration of this item and please contact me or Manuel Cruz should there be any questions.

The LRGVDC Investment Policy is available in its entirety for review on the lrgvdc.org meetings web page at: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/meetings.html>.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Quarterly Investment Report

July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

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 \$137,409.23

	Beginning 07/01/23	Ending 09/30/23
Investments in TexPool Prime:		
Water Plan	\$65,826.14	\$66,741.33
9-1-1	2,606,465.50	4,146,131.82
TCEQ	98,193.82	99,559.03
Transit	98,635.02	100,006.36
TWDB	36,845.19	37,357.47
GLO-Closing Cost	103,488.95	104,927.78
Kari's Law	65,105.11	66,010.29
Tire Project	23,914.47	24,246.96
Tourism	292,883.45	296,955.47
RGV Explorer	59,145.11	59,967.42
Total	\$ 3,450,502.76	\$5,001,903.93

TexPool Prime Rate as of September 30, 2023 – 5.5872%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Quarterly Investment Report

July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

	Beginning 07/01/23	Ending 09/30/23
Investments in TexPool:		
FIF – TWDB – Escrow Account	\$6,483,529.62	\$6,142,813.83
FIF – TWDB	102,560.71	127,910.75
Total	\$6,586,090.33	\$6,270,724.58

TexPool Rate as of September 30, 2023 – 5.3547%

Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

INVESTMENT POLICY

I. Scope

This investment policy applies to any advance funds received by the LRGVDC for future expenditures. These funds are accounted for in the LRGVDC's Annual Financial Report.

II. Objectives

The LRGVDC shall manage and invest its cash with four objectives listed in order of priority: Safety, Liquidity, Yield, and Public Trust. The safety of the principal invested always remains the primary objective. All investments shall be designed and managed in a manner responsive to the public trust and consistent with State and Local law.

Safety – The Primary objective of the LRGVDC's investment activity is the preservation of capital. Each investment transaction shall be conducted in a manner to avoid capital losses.

Liquidity – The LRGVDC's investment portfolio shall be structured such that the LRGVDC is able to meet all obligations in a timely manner. This shall be achieved by matching investment maturities with forecasted cash flow requirements.

Yield – The yield will be the current yield available on certificates of deposit.

Public Trust – All participants in the LRGVDC's investment process shall seek to act responsible as custodians of the public trust. Investment officials shall avoid any transaction which might impair public confidence in the LRGVDC.

III. Responsibility and Control

Investment Committee – An Investment Committee, consisting of the Executive Director and Director Finance shall meet quarterly to determine operational strategies and to monitor results.

Delegation of Authority and Training – Authority to manage the LRGVDC's investment program is derived from a resolution of the Board of Directors. The Director of Finance is designated as investment officer of the LRGVDC and is responsible for investment decisions and activities. The Director of Finance shall establish written procedures for the operations of the investment program, consistent with this investment policy. The investment officer shall attend at least one training session relating to the officer's responsibility under the Act every two years and receive 10 hours of training.

Internal Controls – The Director of Finance is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the entity are protected from loss, theft or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control

should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

Accordingly, the Director of Finance shall establish a process for annual independent review by an independent auditor to assure compliance with policies and procedures. The internal controls shall address the following points:

- a. Control of collusion.
- b. Separation of transaction authority from accounting and record keeping.
- c. Custodial safekeeping.
- d. Clear delegation of authority to subordinate staff members.

Prudence – The standard of prudence to be applied by the investment officer shall be the “prudent investor” rule, which states: “Investments shall be made with judgement and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.” In determining whether an investment officer has exercised prudence with respect to an investment decision, the determination shall be made taking into consideration:

- a. The investment of all funds, or funds under the LRGVDC’s control, over which the officer had responsibility rather than a consideration as to the prudence of a single investment.
- b. Whether the investment decision was consistent with the written investment policy of the LRGVDC.

The investment officer, acting in accordance with written procedures and exercising due diligence, shall not be held personally responsible.

Ethics and conflict of Interest – The LRGVDC staff involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to make impartial investment decisions.

IV. Reporting

The Director of Finance shall submit a signed quarterly investment report to the LRGVDC Board of Directors. Additionally, within 30 days of the end of the year, the Director of Finance shall submit an annual report showing the certificate of deposits purchased by banks and total interest earned to date.

V. Investment Portfolio

The only investments available to the LRGVDC will be:

- a. Investments in TexPool and TexPool Prime
- b. Certificate of Deposits purchased from the local banks in the three-county area – Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties.

VI. Safekeeping and Custody

- A. Investments in TexPool and TexPool Prime: The LRGVDC has executed a Participation Agreement adopting TexPool’s Investment Policy. (Attachment A&B)
- B. Certificate of Deposits purchased from the local banks in the three-county area:

Insurance or Collateral – All deposits and investments of the LRGVDC funds shall be secured by pledged collateral. In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be 102% of market value of principal and accrued interest on the deposits or investments less an amount insured by the FDIC or FSLIC. Evidence of the pledged collateral shall be maintained by the Director of Finance. Collateral shall be reviewed monthly to assure that the market value of the pledged securities is adequate.

Safekeeping Agreement – Collateral pledged to secure deposits of the LRGVDC shall be held by a safekeeping institution in accordance with a Safekeeping Agreement which clearly defines the procedural steps for gaining access to the collateral should the LRGVDC determine that the LRGVDC’s funds are in jeopardy. The safekeeping institution, or Trustee, shall be an institution not affiliated with the firm pledging the collateral. The safekeeping agreement shall include the signatures of authorized representatives of the LRGVDC, the firm pledging the collateral, and the Trustee, if applicable.

Collateral Defined – The LRGVDC shall accept only the following securities as collateral:

- a. FDIC and FSLIC insurance coverage.
- b. A bond, certificate of indebtedness, of Treasury Note of the United States, or other evidence of indebtedness of the United States that is guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

VII. Investment Policy Adoption

The LRGVDC investment policy shall be adopted by resolution of the Board of Directors. The policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the Investment Committee and any modifications will be recommended for approval to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall review these investment policies not less than annually.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the LRGVDC this 25th day of October 2023.

LRGVDC Board President

ITEM #4. B.

ADMINISTRATION

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

October 25, 2023

Item #4: Administration

- B.** Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the LRGVDC to Request Proposals from Financial Institutions for a Line of Credit and Executive Director to Execute Competitive Proposal for Future Acquisition of Real Property, Construction Projects, and Administration Operations.

As the LRGVDC continues to grow its footprint and critical infrastructure within the region, it must be able to sustain its operations within all its areas of operations in the administrative or programmatic functions. Securing a line of credit would greatly benefit the LRGVDC for this purpose and it comes with many key advantages worth considering.

Historically, state, and federal agencies seasonal downturns and delayed reimbursements have led to cash flow issues, which in turn impede LRGVDC day-to-day business operations.

A line of credit provides the LRGVDC with a flexible solution to cover short-term cash-flow gaps whenever we are faced with unexpected challenges and hardships. Operations won't have to be paused, invoices to vendors are paid, and the lights continue to stay on.

This opportunity would also build business credit and as the LRGVDC's credit score improves, we would potentially access more funding opportunities and better financing terms, other alternatives that would benefit the LRGVDC, and this would be an effective way to build a relationship with lenders.

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board
of Directors Meeting

October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Resolution for the FY 2024/2025 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program application. The LRGVDC shall submit the signed resolution with the LRGVDC COG application.

This grant contract is between the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COGs) to provide funding under the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FILE AND EXECUTE AN APPLICATION AND A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR THE FY 2024/2025 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, this resolution will authorize the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Executive Director to file and execute an application and grant contract with the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR FY 2024/2025 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas acting by and through the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY administers the Solid Waste Management Program; and

WHEREAS, the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY informed the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council that these funds are available to conduct the FY 2024/2025 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM;

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors that:

- A. The Executive Director be authorized to file and execute an application and grant contract for FY 2024/2025 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM.
- B. The Executive Director be authorized to take such actions necessary to implement the aforementioned contract.
- C. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council will comply with the provisions of the financial assistance program and the requirements of the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.
- D. Grant funds will be used only for the purposes for which they are provided.
- E. The solid waste program will be in compliance with and supports the State Solid Waste Strategic Plan, the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, and any superseding plans, statutes, or regulations applicable to the geographical area covered by the program.

Adopted by the LRGVDC at a meeting held on the 25th day of October 2023

Honorable David Suarez, President
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board
of Directors Meeting

October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member.

As per the SWAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members, as elected by the SWAC. Members shall begin term upon SWAC action item approval. Members may only be selected from the current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not membership composition category representative).

At the October 03, 2023, SWAC meeting, the committee recommended the following member:

- Environmental Vacancy: Allen Williams, Region One Education Service Center

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board
of Directors Meeting

October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Staff are working on the completion and submission of the FY2024 EDA Partnership Planning Grant. The Partnership Planning Grant is awarded to Council of Governments who are also known as an Economic Development District (EDD). The planning investment is to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which expresses and highlights the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions.

Updating CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) - Staff are working on updating the CEDS and will be conducting public meetings to review & give input on the identified economic development strategies. Staff will be reaching out and utilizing the C&ED advisory committees: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC), Regional Waste Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC), including stakeholders and community members. Stay tuned for meeting dates to be scheduled beginning of 2024.

EDA has published a new Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). The Public Works program provides resources to meet the construction and/or infrastructure design needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive. Supported activities under EDA's EAA program include construction and non-construction such as construction or upgrading of public infrastructure, sectoral partnerships for workforce training, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). 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](#).

EDA has published a FY23 EDA Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is providing support to those communities impacted by natural disasters in 2021 and 2022. The awards made under this NOFO are designed to address economic challenges in those areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster has been issued. Funding will help communities devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies

through a variety of construction and non-construction projects. [EDA Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for Regions Impacted by Natural Disasters | U.S. Economic Development Administration.](#)

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 RSCC Hybrid Meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024, in the LRGVDC Small board room 301 W. Railroad Weslaco, TX at 9:30 AM. A GoToMeeting link will be provided at a later date.

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

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

The LRGVDC received the CEDAF contract with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Staff shall carry out specified technical assistance activities in the Contractor's state planning region. Staff will also be responsible for disseminating program information to keep TxCDBG eligible communities informed of information, promote Fair Housing, provide support to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and host a grant kick off meeting of TDA funding opportunities.

The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the Texas Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). This fund is available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used. Visit our Community Development webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html> to view the Lower Rio Grande Valley regional project priorities.

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.

- Solid Waste Management Program

Staff are currently working on the submission of the TCEQ Grant Application for

the FY 2024/2025 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program and will open Request for Applications in January 2024. Keep watch for the release of application and workshop dates. The next SWAC meeting will be announced when scheduled.

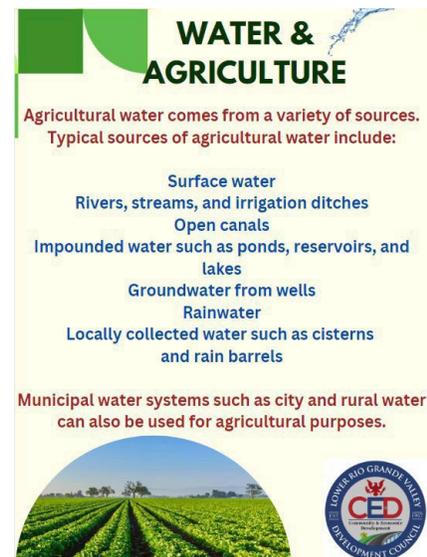
SWAC Vacancies: (1) Educational Vacancy; (1) Small City Vacancy; if anyone is interested, please contact Brenda Salinas at bsalinas@lrgvdc.org or Melisa Gonzales-Rosas at melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org

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 continues to educate the public on water quality issues with the “Junk Mail Impacts” and “Water and Agriculture” for the month of October. You can find educational social media postings on the LRGVDC Facebook page. 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.

October messages:



Staff also 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)

A Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

The FIF Technical Sub-Committee held a meeting on October 5, 2023, and presented a detailed presentation of the Flood Infrastructure Fund project progress. The FIF directly supports LRGV-FIF Cat 1 modeling efforts and provides the foundation upon which local drainage improvement projects with regional impacts can be developed and provides water quality monitoring stations that are placed in targeted locations. Updates on these water projects occur on a regular basis, and progress on data collection and other aspects of this project is good. If interested in finding out more about the FIF project, you may contact staff.

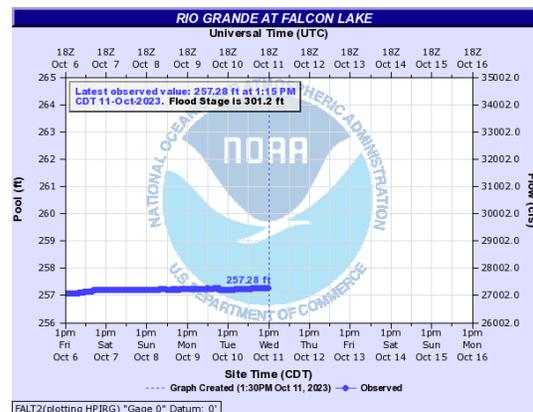
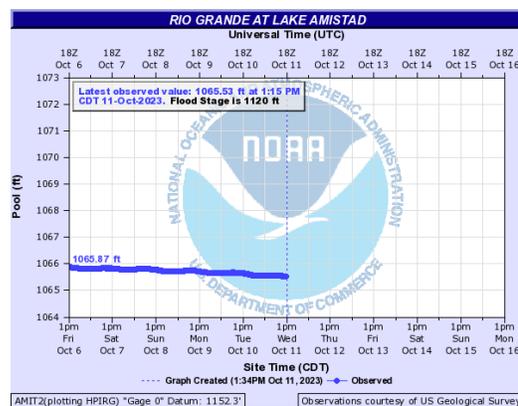
Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The Region M Group meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2023, at 9:30 am. The agenda will be posted no later than October 25th, 2023.

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

- Reservoir Levels as of October 11th, 2023



ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Items

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council Rules of Function

The Citizens Advisory Council members recommend the approval of amendments to the Rules of Function. The document was revised to meet the goals and objectives set forth by the Area Agency on Aging Policies & Procedures relating to its citizens advisory committee, the Older Americans Act (OAA), and the Area Plan.

**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
RULES OF FUNCTION**

Article I

AUTHORIZATION

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) Area Agency on Aging (AAA), consistent with 45 CFR Part 1321 of the federal regulations under the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended, shall appoint an Advisory Council on Aging for the Lower Rio Grande Valley which consists of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties.

Article II

NAME

The Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory on Aging shall be known as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Area Agency on Aging, Advisory Council. For functional purposes, it may be referred to as the "The Citizens Advisory Council."

Article III

PURPOSE

The Citizens Advisory Council's mission encompasses a commitment to assist not only the elderly, but also individuals with disabilities, veterans, their families, and caregivers. The core objective of the Council is to facilitate the creation of a comprehensive and seamlessly integrated service framework that offers a diverse array of social services to seniors requiring support. This includes a particular focus on enabling those who are capable of self-care, aided by suitable assistance services, to uphold their utmost independence and dignity within their homes. A special emphasis is placed on addressing the requirements of economically and socially vulnerable seniors, ensuring they receive the utmost attention and care.

Article IV

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1.

As integral members of the community, the Citizens Advisory Council strives to foster stronger unity among the elderly residents within our locality. Their mission extends to cultivating a proactive interest in overseeing and enhancing the administration and accessibility of services dedicated to the older individuals of the Lower Rio Grande Region. Moreover, the council is entrusted with the responsibility of advocating for the welfare of the elderly population, while concurrently extending support to the AAA staff. It is of utmost importance that the council's interactions with the agency remain free from personal gain or any punitive motives, focusing instead on collaborative and constructive efforts.

SECTION 2.

The duties and responsibilities of the Citizens Advisory Council will be, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Providing guidance to the Area Agency staff concerning all aspects pertaining to the formulation and execution of the adopted Area Plan.
- B. Capturing the distinctive requirements of each community within the region and referring to the composition by categories of the Area Plan.
- C. Aiding the Area Agency staff in the identification of existing and prospective resources available within the region.
- D. Evaluating suggestions put forth by the Proposal Review Committee (Ad-Hoc Committee) and submitting recommendations to the LRGVDC Board of Directors for final endorsement of all funding requests.
- E. Assessing and making suggestions on program proposals and consequential actions that impact the well-being of older individuals
- F. Carefully reviewing evaluations conducted by the Area Agency on Aging concerning the provision of services, with the intention of enhancing these programs.
- G. The Citizens Advisory Council members will utilize their expertise to support the goals and objectives of the Area Agency on Aging.
- H. The Citizens Advisory Council aims to provide valuable advice and recommendations to the Area Agency on Aging staff on matters related to program and service design, development, and oversight.

Article V

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.

The membership of the Citizens Advisory Council will comprise representatives from program participants, elected officials, and the general public, with a specific focus on including individuals facing significant economic or social challenges in this region. The composition of the Council must align with the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, which mandates that over 50% of its members must be older persons. Furthermore, the Council shall ensure representation from various sectors, including clients of title III services, older individuals, those residing in rural areas, minority older individuals eligible for or participating in OAA programs, local elected officials, members of the general public, veterans' healthcare providers, service providers, family caregivers of minority or rural-dwelling older individuals, representatives from the business community, advocates for older individuals, healthcare provider organizations, leaders from the private and voluntary sectors, and representatives from organizations offering supportive services.

SECTION 2.

Candidates considered for membership in the Citizens Advisory Council should undergo a thoughtful selection process, ensuring their genuine dedication and concern for the well-being of the elderly. A requisite for potential members is their readiness and willingness to commit ample personal time towards participating in scheduled council meetings and engaging in designated responsibilities. Additionally, each prospective member is expected to designate an alternate possessing full voting privileges, who can step in when the primary member is unavailable to serve.

SECTION 3.

The Citizens Advisory Council is established with a membership of seventeen (17) individuals. Appointments will be based on the elderly population distribution within each county. The representation breakdown by county will be as follows: 50% from Hidalgo County, 40% from Cameron County, and 10% from Willacy County.

In accordance with 45 CFR Part 1321.61, the composition of the Citizens Advisory Council will exceed 50% representation of individuals aged 60 or older, encompassing those with the most pressing economic or social needs, older minority individuals, and participants under this part.

The remaining Council members will include representatives from the older persons' community, local elected officials, and the general public. Consequently, the Council's membership shall be structured as follows:

51% (9 members) - Individuals aged 60 and above as detailed

49% (8 members) - Other representatives as specified

The distribution across counties will be as follows:

50% - Hidalgo County: 9 total members - 60+ = 4, Other = 5

40% - Cameron County: 6 total members - 60+ = 4, Other = 2

10% - Willacy County: 2 total members - 60+ = 1, Other = 1

In total:

17 members

60+ representation: 9 members

Other representation: 8 members

This structure ensures a balance of at least 2 representatives per county or at minimum, 1 older person and 1 other member per county.

SECTION 4.

The procedure for appointing members to the Citizens Advisory Council will unfold in the subsequent manner:

A. The Citizen Advisory Council members and alternates will be chosen from the applications submitted to the council by individuals who express an interest in the AAA office.

B. The Citizens Advisory Council will evaluate the nominated candidates and present their suggestions to the LRGVDC Board of Directors, who will then make the appointments. All appointments, including the alternates, will span a duration of three (3) years, commencing from October 1st of each year and concluding one (1) day prior to the third anniversary date. Incumbent Advisory Council members may be reappointed.

Deliberations concerning any potential vacancies will occur in June, and recommendations will be formulated in August to ensure a complete assembly of members by October 1st annually. The Citizens Advisory Council, during their regular August meeting, propose a slate of officers. The Area Agency on Aging staff will seek endorsement for a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, which will subsequently be submitted to the LRGVDC Board of Directors for approval.

Article VI

OFFICERS

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will serve a term one (1) year, or until their successors are designated. Those holding these roles may be re-elected. If the Chairperson vacates the position for any reason, the Vice-Chairperson will assume the role of Chairperson, and a new Vice-Chairperson will be chosen through the customary selection process by the Citizens Advisory Council. The Vice-Chairperson may be re-elected by the majority present.

The Vice-Chairperson will assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson when the latter is absent. In the event both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent, the remaining members will vote for a temporary Chairperson (Chairperson Pro-Tem), who will preside solely over that meeting and only as long as both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent.

The Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and other members of the council are expected to be present for at least 75% of AAA Citizens Advisory Council meetings. Failure to meet this attendance requirement will result in the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson being deemed to have resigned unless the absences are considered justifiably excusable.

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson has the option to resign at any time by submitting written notice to the Director of the Area Agency on Aging. The resignation will take effect upon receipt or at the time specified in the notice, if later.

Article VII

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The chairperson, in consultation with the Advisory Council, will have the authority to establish Ad-Hoc Committees as necessary and define their objectives and operations. Membership in Ad-Hoc Committees is reserved for Advisory Council Members.

Article VIII

SECTION 1.

The Citizens Advisory Council will convene regular meetings, scheduled monthly on the second Tuesday of each month, excluding July and November. Advanced notification of these meetings will be sent via email to all Advisory Council members, detailing the meeting's time and location. Alternatively, members who prefer receiving information through regular mail may also opt for this method.

The proposed commencement time for these meetings is 2:00 p.m., with a preferred conclusion by 3:00 p.m.

SECTION 2.

Special meetings of the Citizens Advisory Council can be convened either at the chairperson's discretion or upon the submission of a petition endorsed by at least one fourth of the Citizen Advisory Council no later than 10 days prior to the Advisory Council meeting. This petition must outline the intent of the special meeting in written form and must be submitted to the Director of the Area Agency on Aging. Upon receipt of the petition, the special meeting shall take place within a span of ten (10) days at the discretion of the Area Agency on Aging Director unless requests interferes with State mandated duties of the agency.

A council member may submit a request to the Chairperson and Area Agency on Aging Director to place an item on the agenda no later than seven (7) business days before the scheduled meeting.

For such special meetings, a notice period of no less than ten (10) days is mandated. This timeframe allows the Area Agency staff sufficient time to communicate with each member via e-mail, mail, or telephone.

SECTION 3.

For a quorum to be established, one-third (1/3) of the total membership must be present. The approval of any action by the Citizens Advisory Council necessitates a majority vote among the attending members. In the event that a meeting lacks a quorum, any business conducted becomes official only upon the subsequent approval of the minutes at the subsequent official meeting.

SECTION 4.

Any member or officer of the Citizens Advisory Council who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular or called meetings of the Citizens Advisory Council shall automatically forfeit their appointment unless the chairperson deems the absences to be reasonable and excusable.

In the case of a vacancy, the vacant position will be filled in accordance with Article V, Section 4 of the Rules of Function.

Article IX

COMPENSATION

Members of The Citizens Advisory Council do not receive any monetary compensation for their dedicated time and efforts. Reimbursement for authorized travel expenses incurred by members will be in accordance with the established travel policy of the LRGVDC policy and procedures.

Individuals whose travel expenses are covered by their own organizations will not be eligible for reimbursement from the LRGVDC.

Article X

AMENDMENTS

Any revisions to these Rules of Function must be approved by the majority of the members present from the Citizens Advisory Council and subsequently submitted in written form to the Area Agency on Aging for their assessment. After a thorough review, pertinent recommendations will then be forwarded to the LRGVDC Board of Directors for their final approval.

Disclosure: Commencing October 1, 2023, The Citizen Advisory Council meetings will transition to in-person gatherings. However, recognizing the evolving circumstances, members requiring a virtual participation option should formally submit their request and secure approval from the Advisory Council prior to the designated meeting. In order to facilitate such requests, a valid and substantiated justification must accompany the submission, ensuring that the need for virtual participation is reasonable and justifiable.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Items

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the New Officers to the Citizens Advisory Council

The Citizens Advisory Council members that were present at the October 10, 2023 meeting elected new officers: Ms. Connie Garza as Chairperson and Ms. Kendra Stein as Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Garza has been a member of the council since February 2018 representing Hidalgo County and Ms. Stein since September 2021 representing Cameron County. Both officers bring to the table leadership, experience and commitment serving the community. The newly elected officers will serve a one-year term.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

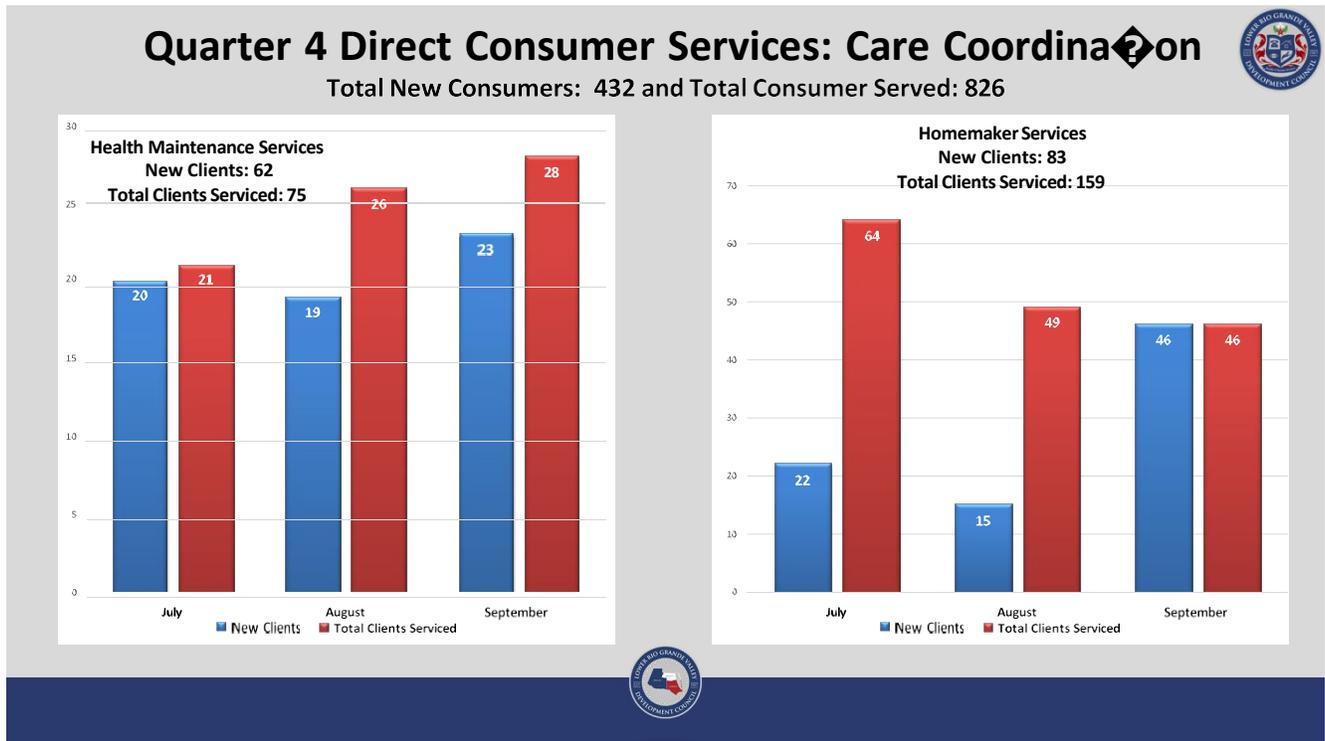
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

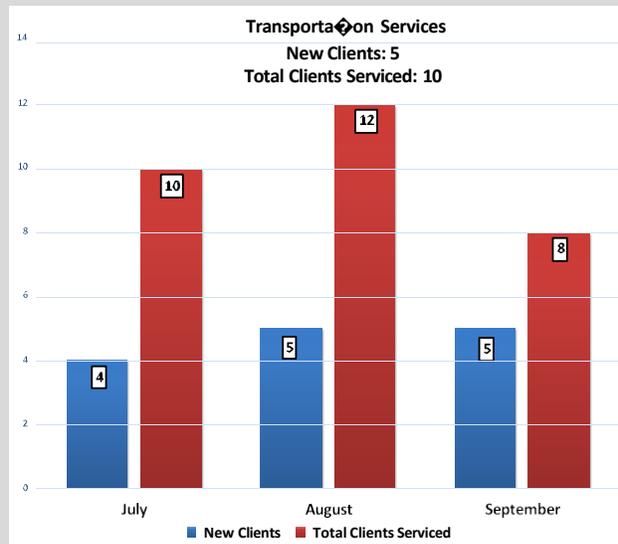
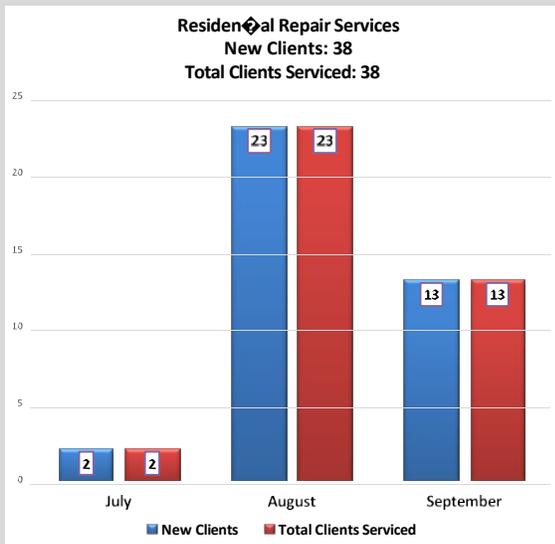
B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

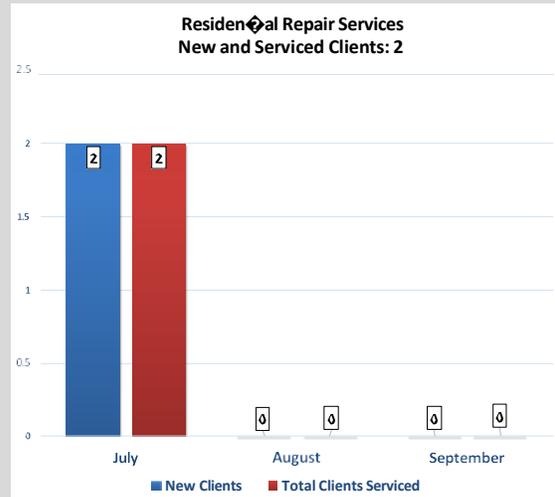
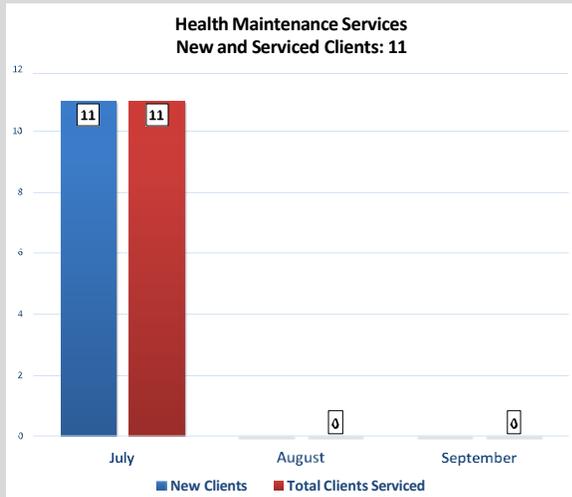
• **Direct Consumer Services Report – Quarter 4 2023**



Quarter 4 Direct Consumer Services: Care Coordination Cont.

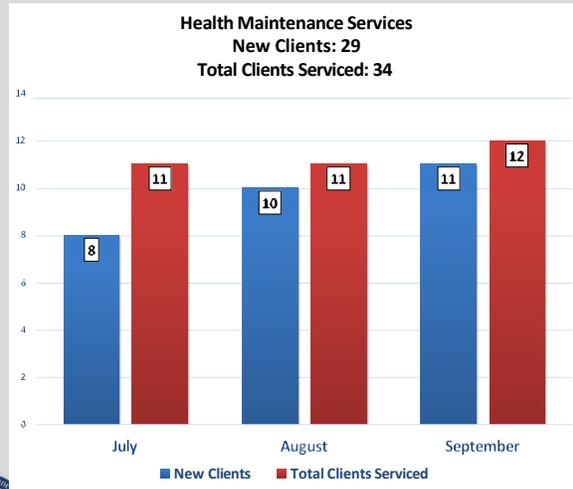
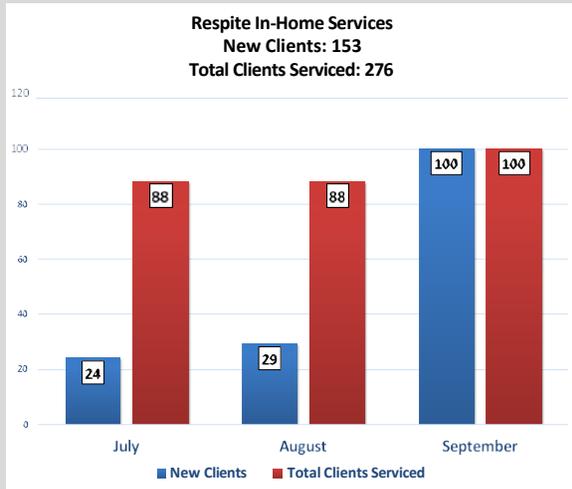


Community Development Block Grant Program (CBDG)



Quarter 4 Direct Consumer Services: Caregiver Support Services

Total New Consumers: 273 and Total Consumer Served: 564



Interest List for Direct Consumer Services

1,243

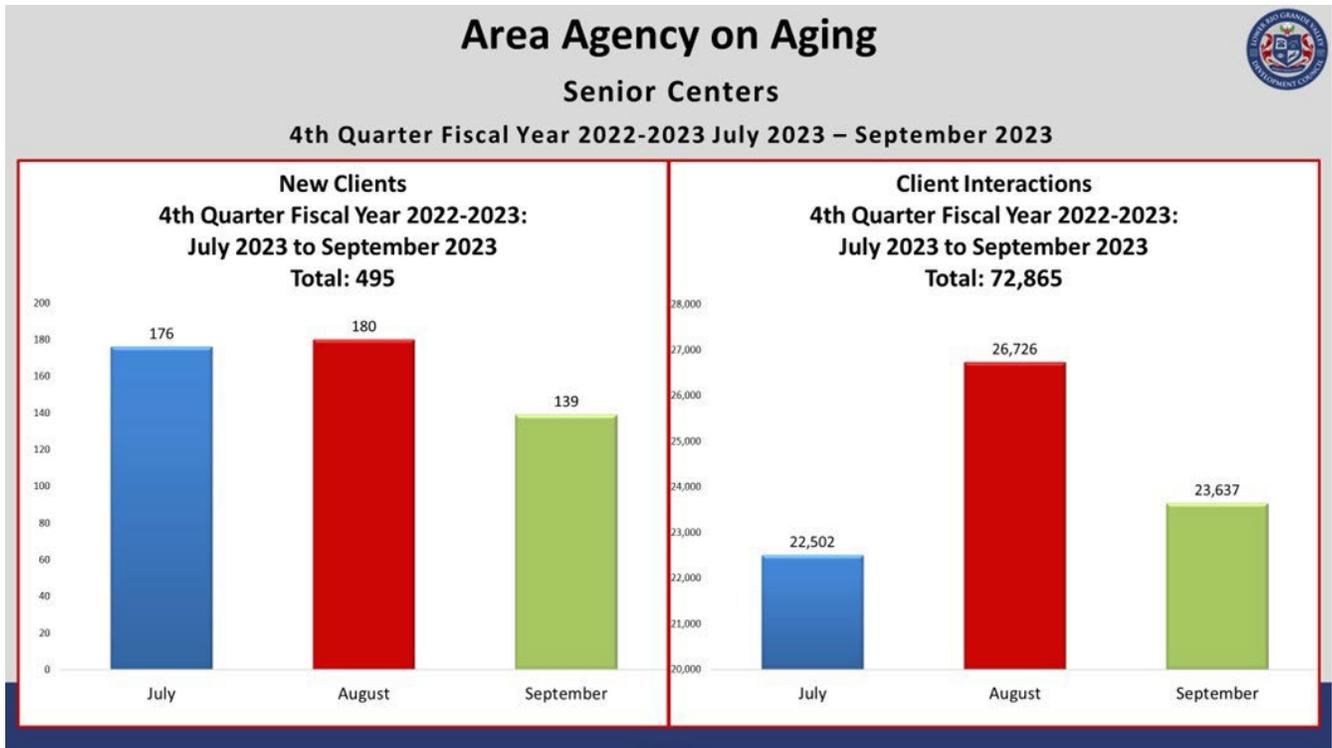


Care Coordination Services	
Health Maintenance Services Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	293
Homemaker Services Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	369
Residential Repair Services Assistance with minor home modifications such as ramps, grab bars, removal of tubs, and ADA commodes.	310
Transportation Services Assistance with transportation services to medical appointments, rehabilitation appointments, and Dialysis appointments.	31
TOTAL	1,003

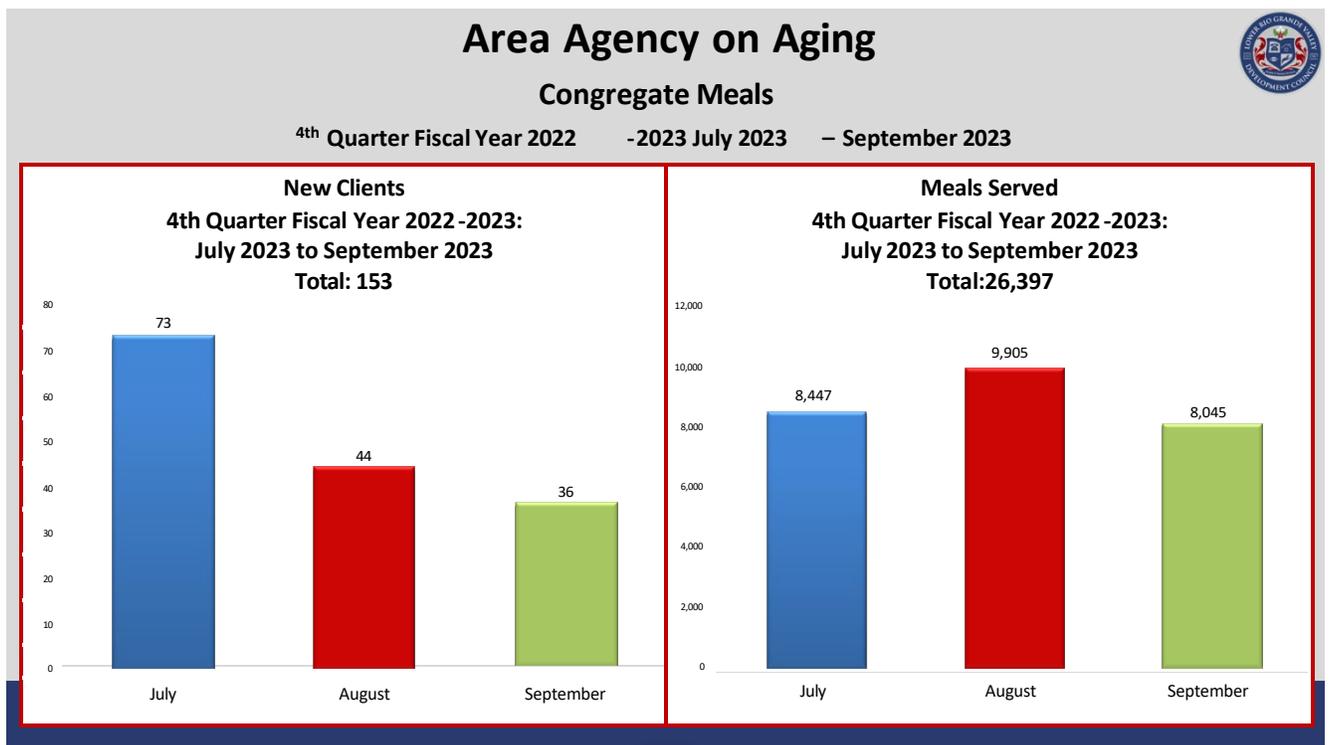
CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES	
Respite In-Home Services Assistance includes light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, bathing, grooming, and dressing.	240



• **Senior Center Operations Report – Quarter 4 2023**



• **Nutrition Program Report – Quarter 4 2023**



Area Agency on Aging

Home Delivered Meals

4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023 July 2023 – September 2023

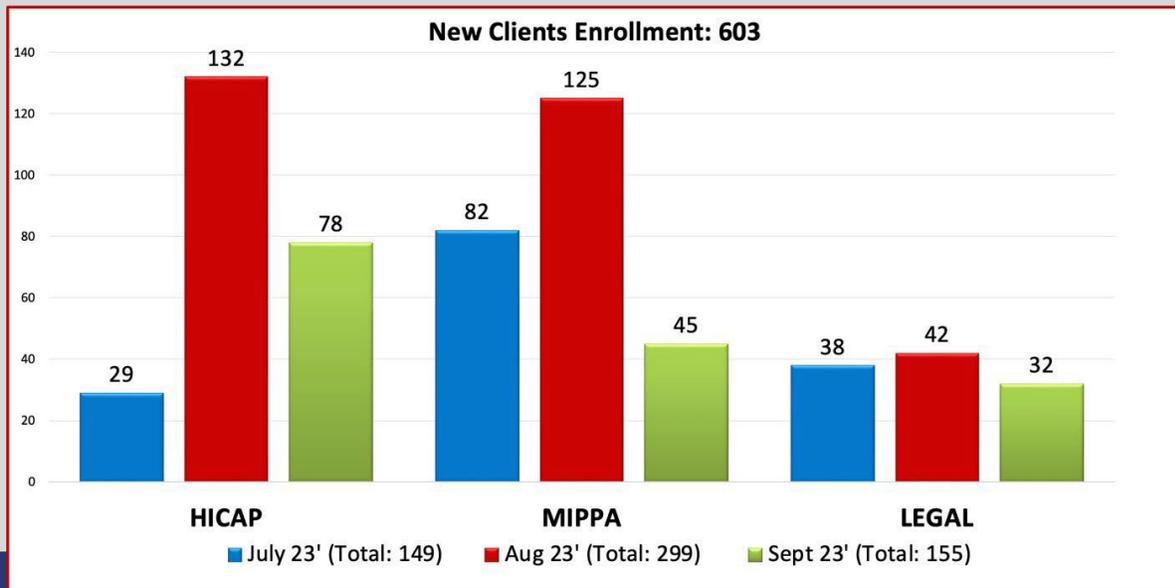


Special Services Report

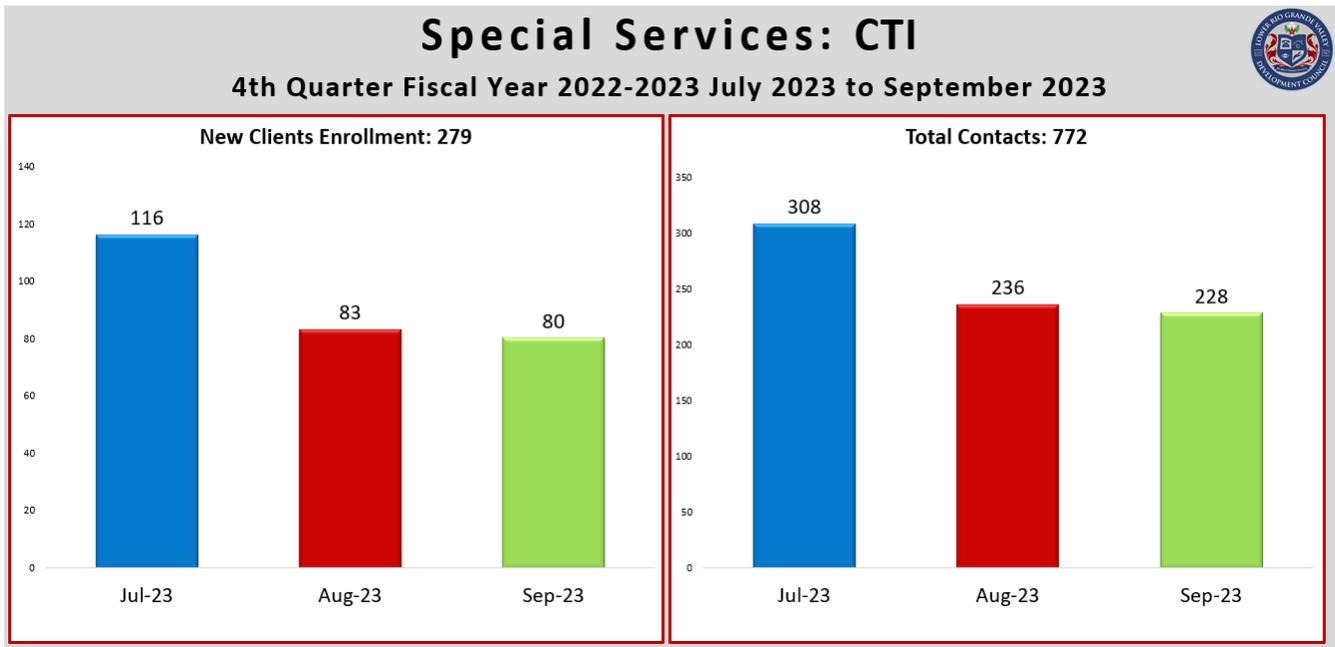
- **Benefit Counselors Program – 4th Quarter FY: 23**

Special Services: Benefits Counselors

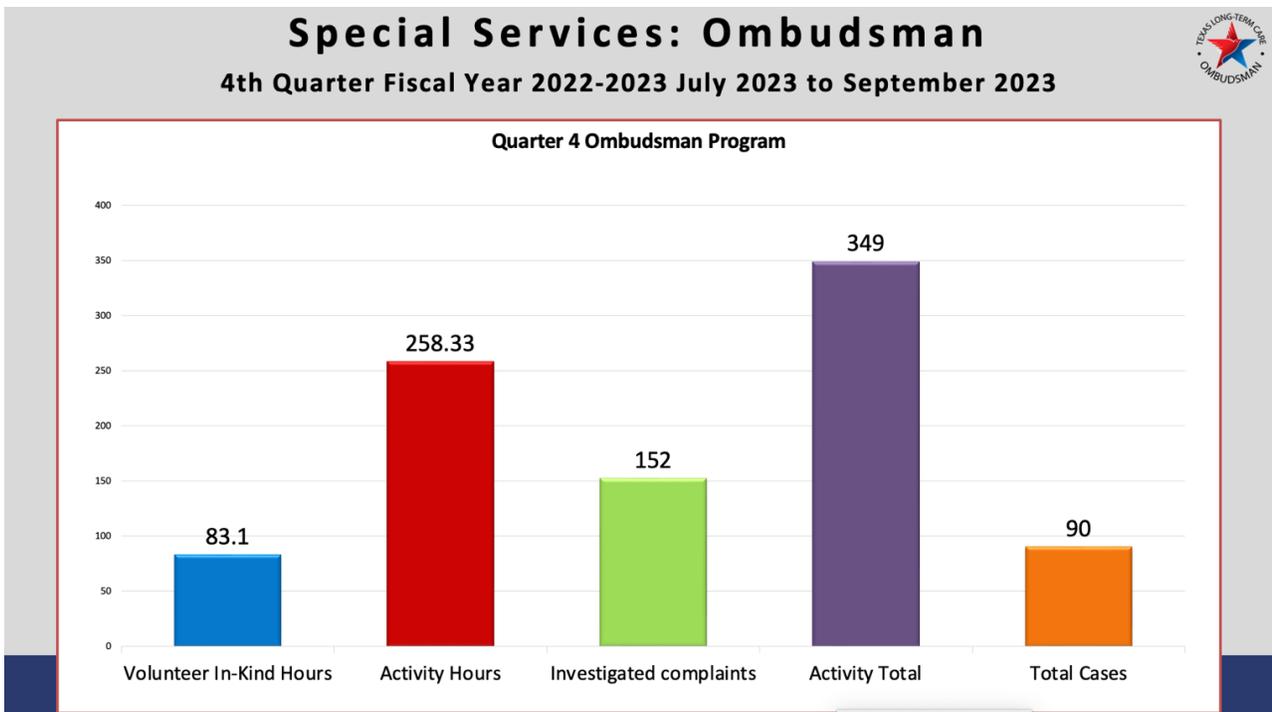
4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023 July 2023 to September 2023



- **Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23**

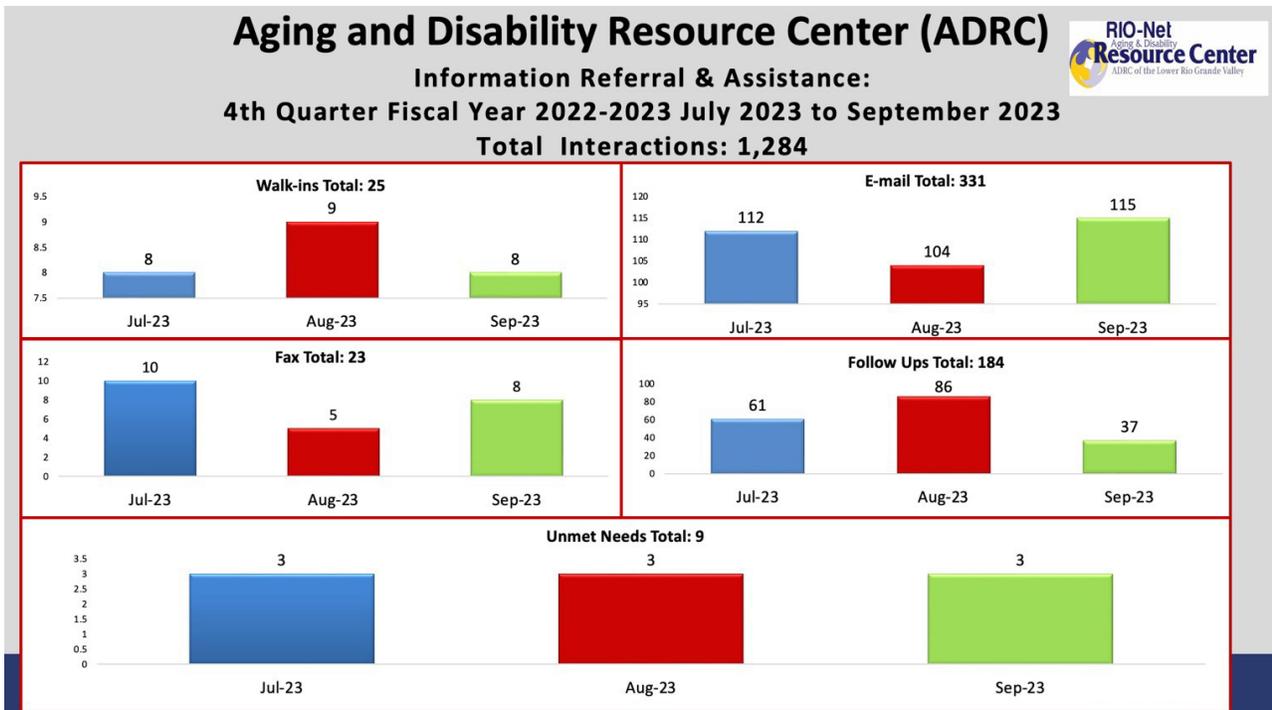
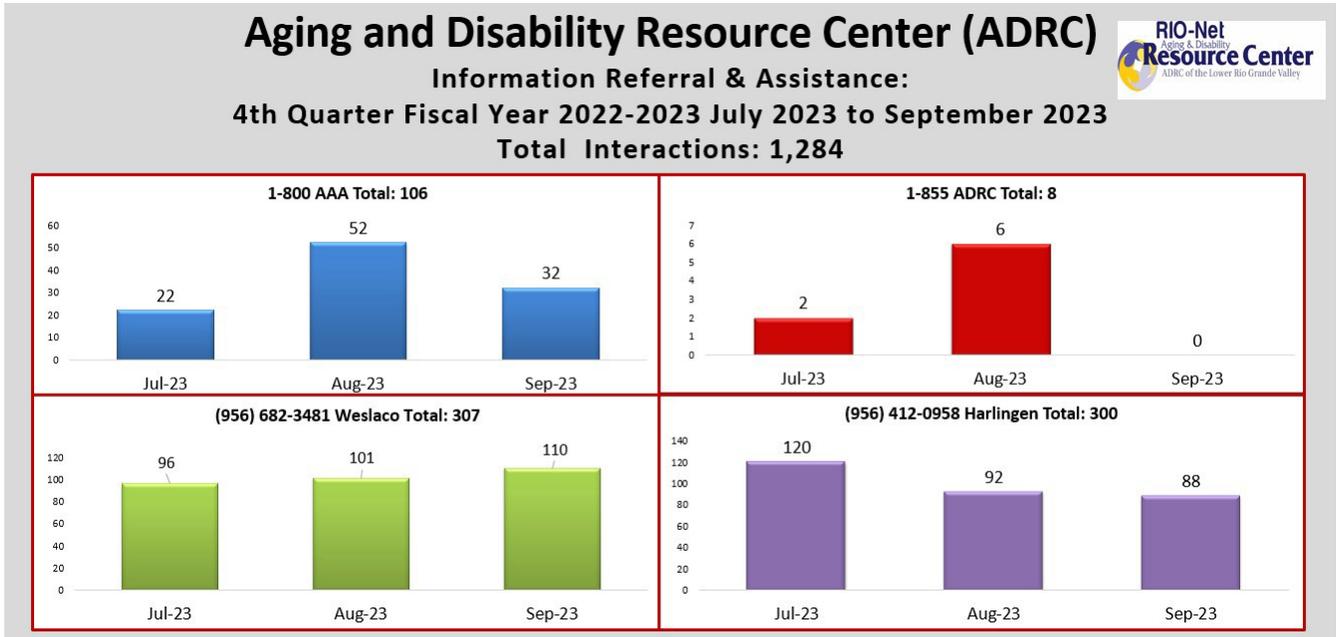


- **Ombudsman Program Report - 4th Quarter FY: 23**



Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

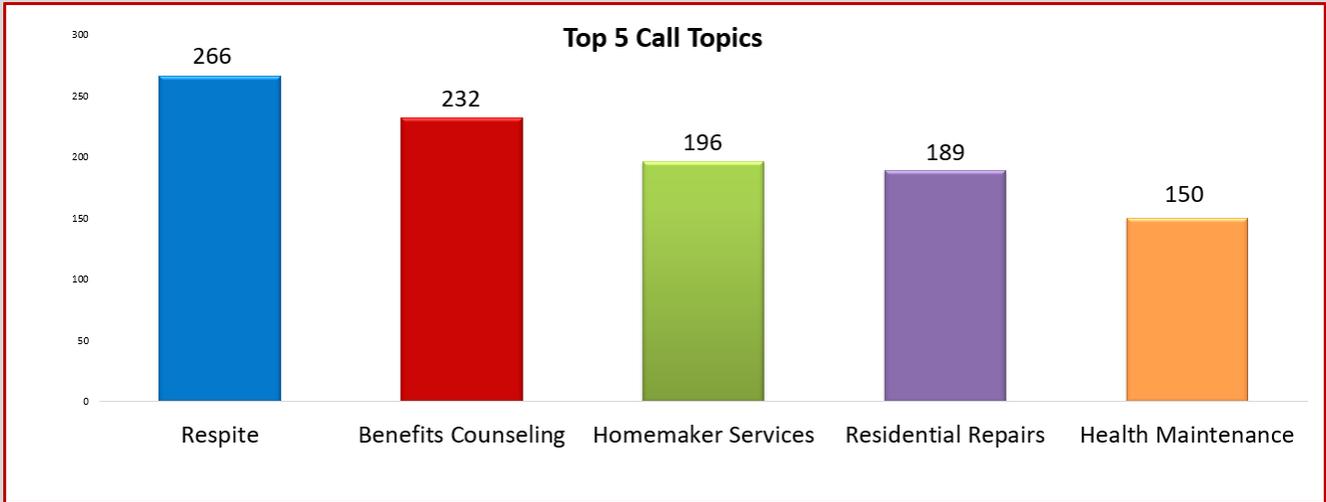
- Information Referral & Assistance Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23



Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Information Referral & Assistance:

4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023 July 2023 to September 2023



- ADRC Benefits Counseling Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23**

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Benefits Counseling:
4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023 July 2023 to September 2023

Month	Count
Jul-23	0
Aug-23	9
Sep-23	3

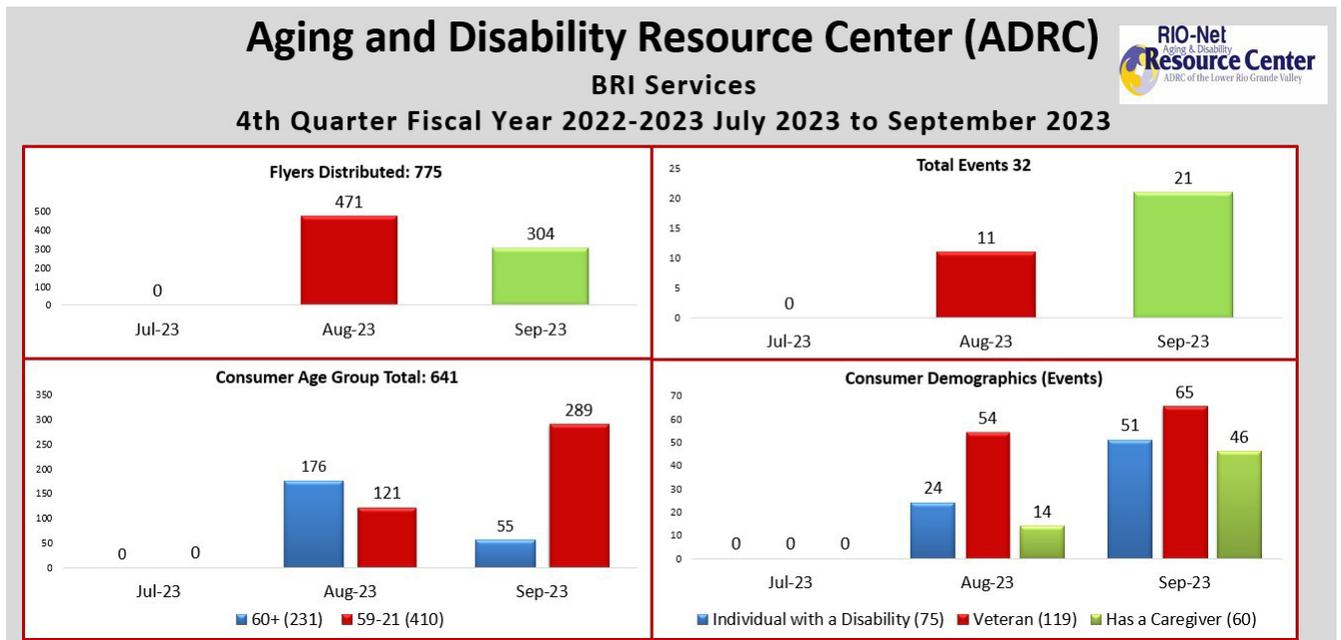
Month	Count
Jul-23	0
Aug-23	18
Sep-23	3

Month	60+ (169 Total)	59-21 (282 Total)
Jul-23	0	0
Aug-23	144	186
Sep-23	25	96

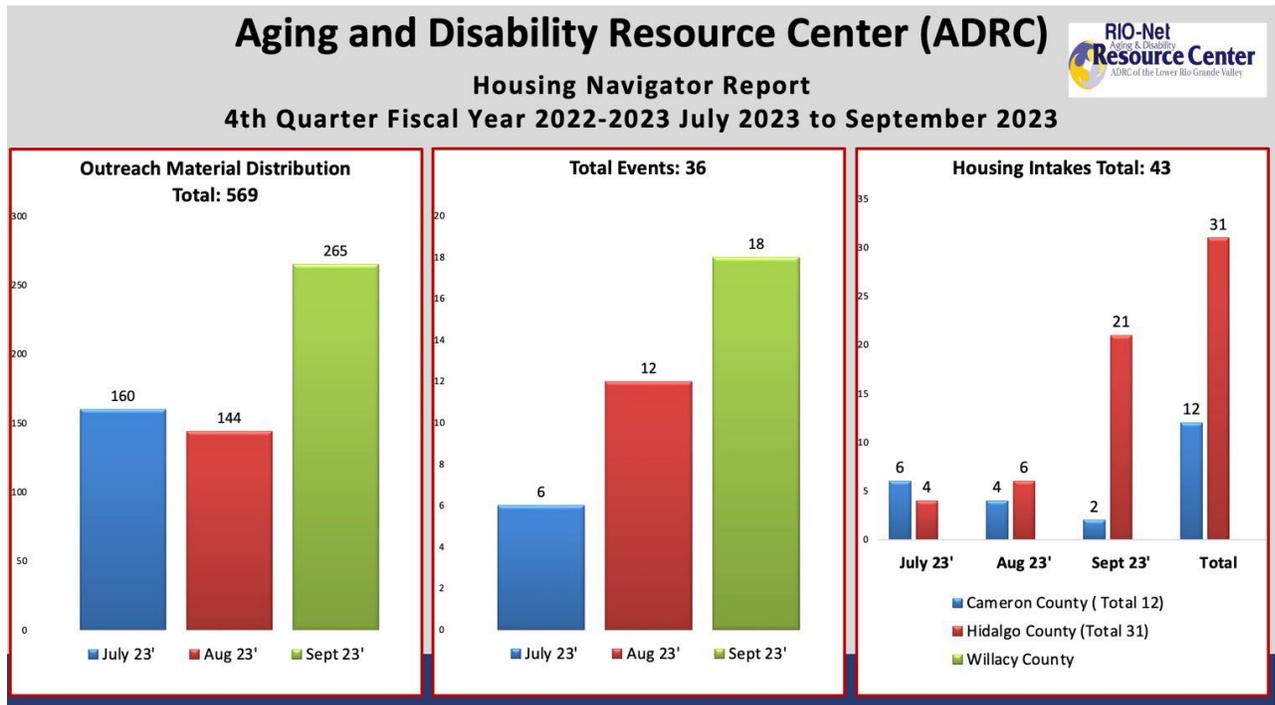
Month	Individual with a Disability (57)	Veteran (64)	Has a Caregiver (29)
Jul-23	0	0	0
Aug-23	29	37	12
Sep-23	28	27	17

BC STAFF HIRED AT THE END OF JULY

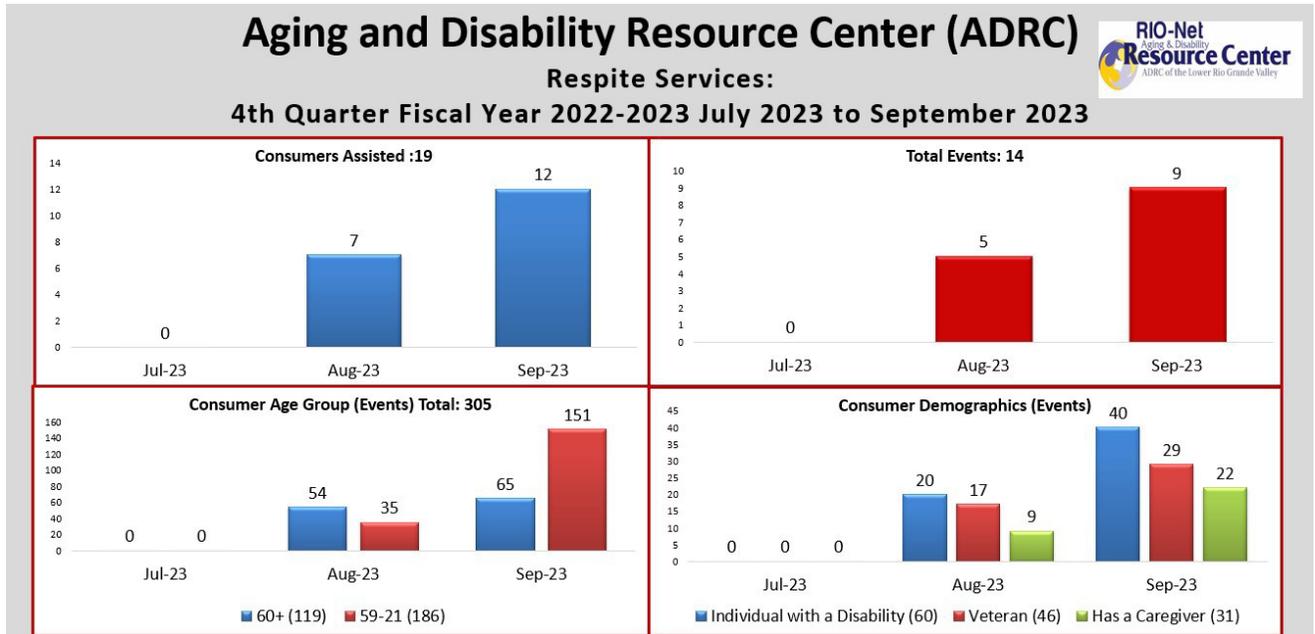
- ADRC BRI Care Consultant Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23



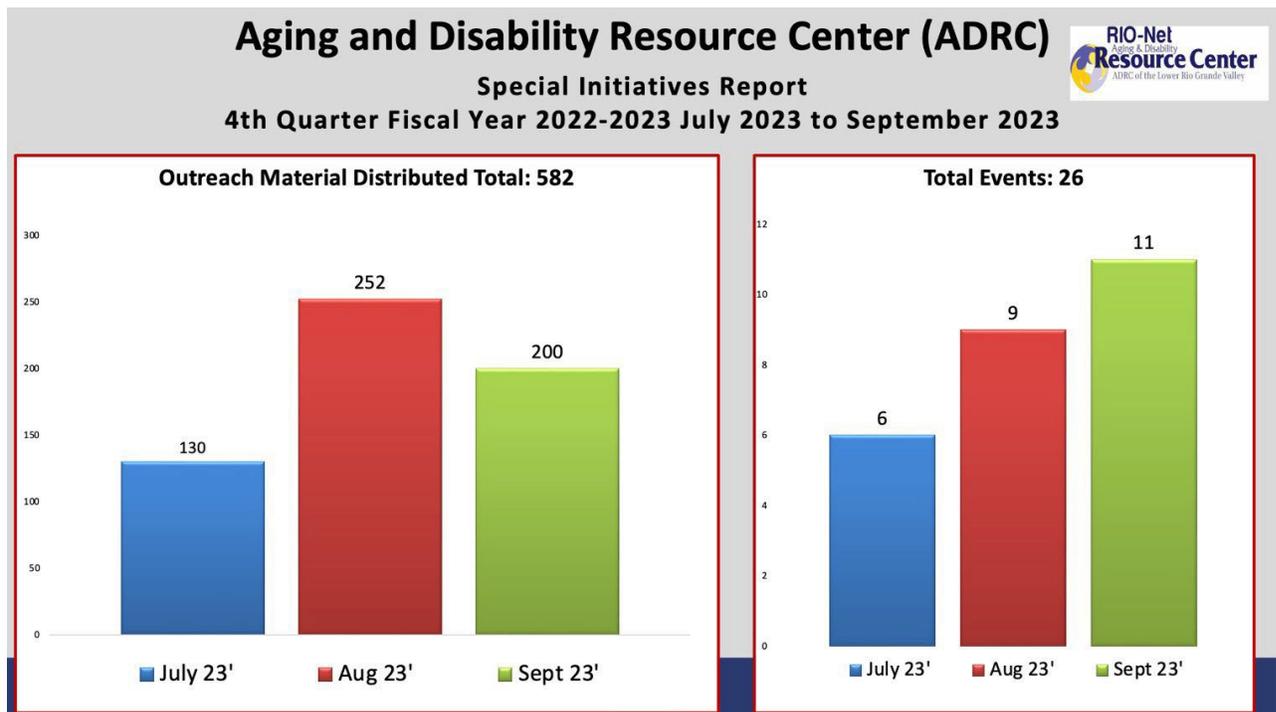
- Housing Navigator Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23



- **ADRC Respite Services Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23**



- **Special Initiatives Report – 4th Quarter FY: 23**

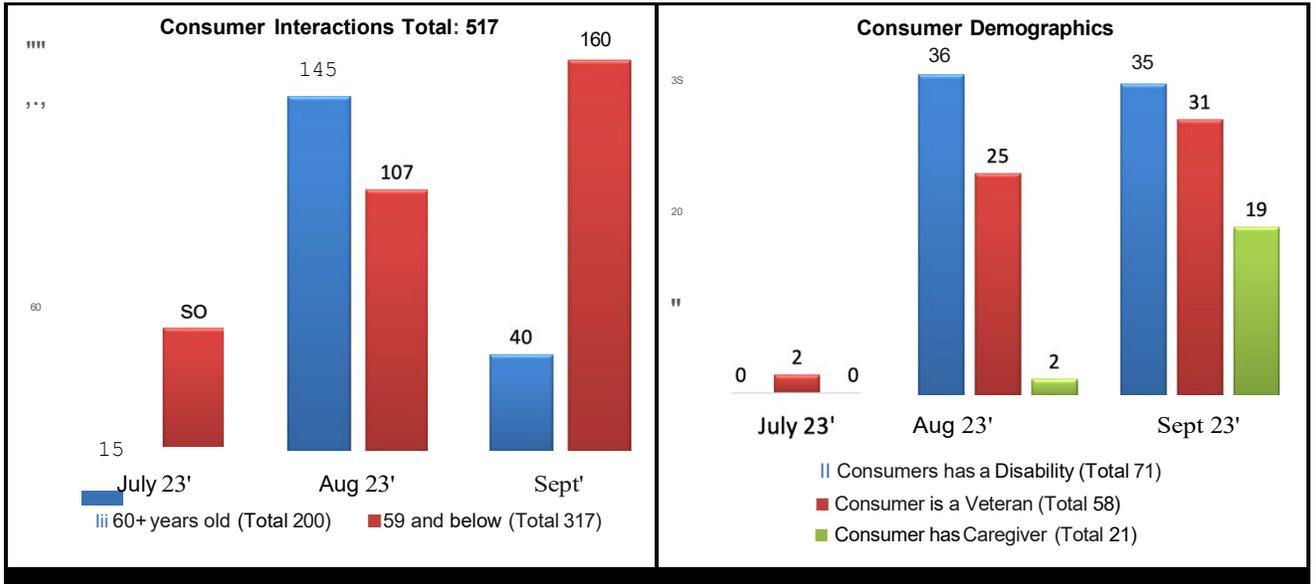


Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)



Special Initiatives Report

4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023 July 2023 to September 2023





JOIN US FOR THE LRGVDC

2N^o ANNUAL VET FEST,



THURSDAY* NOVEMBER 16, 2023

HONORING VETERANS, CURRENT SERVICE MEMBERS, & FAMILIES

**BROWNSVILLE EVENT CENTER
1 EVENT CENTER, PAREDES LINE RD,
BROWNSVILLE, TX**

TIME: 3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL 956-682-3481



RESOURCE FAIR* FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS
• LIVE MUSIC • CAR SHOW* FOOD



PRESENTED BY THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING, ADRC,
BROWNSVILLE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
AND CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ITEM #5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation of Appointment of Parliamentarian Odee Leal, Emergency Management Coordinator from Brownsville, Texas.

The HSAC convened on October 5, 2023, to consider the appointment of Ms. Odee Leal, the City of Brownsville Emergency Management Coordinator as Parliamentarian for the committee. This recommendation requires Board Approval.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation on the current Homeland Security Advisory Committee Members for FY 2024.

The HSAC convened on October 5, 2023, to discuss and approve the current membership roster along with all current and elected members for 2024. This recommendation requires Board Approval.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COG-21)
Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC)
FY 2024

Chair

Tom Hushen, EMC
Cameron County

Vice Chair

Jeff Johnston, Assistant City Manager/EMC
City of McAllen

Parliamentarian

Odee Leal, EM Administrator/EMC
City of Brownsville

Michael Kester, Police Chief/Assistant EMC
City of Harlingen

Hector Gonzalez, Police Chief
City of Los Fresnos

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

Omar Garza, Fire Chief/EMC
City of Edinburg

Ricardo Saldana, EMC
Hidalgo County

Jesus Ortega, Lieutenant/EMC
City of Hidalgo

Adrian L. Garcia, Fire Chief/EMC
City of Mission

Dr. Johnathan Flores, City Manager
City of Pharr

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

Uvaldo Zamora, Police Chief
City of Raymondville

Frank Torres, EMC
Willacy County

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff attended the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Vaqueros Stand Up Against Domestic Violence on October 4, 2023, in Edinburg, TX.
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) on October 11, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.

Homeland Security Program

- Staff attended the City of Weslaco Fire Department Ribbon Cutting on the new Firehouse on September 27, 2023, in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended webinar Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) e-Learning: Grant Ethics on October 4, 2023.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) meeting on October 5, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.
- Staff attended webinar for School Safety Audits: Assessing and Enhancing Your Campus Security on October 11, 2023.
- Staff attended virtual the Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD) Regional Conference call on October 12, 2023.
- Staff attended the Willacy County National Night Out 2023 in the cities of Sebastian, San Perlita and Lasara, TX. On October 17-19, 2023
- Staff attended the Cameron County Sheriff Office Trick or Treat Festival at Bass Pro Shop in Harlingen, TX on October 26, 2023.
- Staff hosted RGV Emergency Training Alliance Board Meeting on October 26, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.

VAQUEROS STAND UP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



CITY OF WESLACO NEW FIREHOUSE RIBBON CUTTING



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to the BPOC Rules Handbook.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Basic Peace Officer Course Handbook (BPOC) is provided to all cadets entering the Academy. This document provides the rules, policies, and procedures providing the overall qualifications, grading procedures, entrance requirements, etc. This document is a TCOLE compliance requirement. The revisions in this document are highlighted in yellow and gray to showcase new or revised language.

LRGVDC Staff recommend approval.

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve revisions to Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Extension Services for LRGV Academy Site(s)

The Interlocal Agreement for extension services for Academy site(s) was last updated in FY 2019. This ILA is an agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the local law enforcement agency as an Academy Site. As a result, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy requests approval for the revisions in this ILA to address the number of cadets per class, compliance requirements through TCOLE, determine minimum and maximum enrollment class size, and other details. The changes are noted in yellow and to the right side of the document.

LRGVDC Staff recommends approval.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

LRGV Academy Status Reports

- On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, a total of 25 graduates from the 221st Edinburg Day Academy came together to commemorate their graduation. The ceremony took place at the Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance.
- As of Tuesday, October 17, 2023, the LRGV Academy staff established a schedule for entrance exams to be conducted on recurring Tuesdays from October through December. These exams are designed to assess and evaluate potential applicants for the 2024 academy sessions.
- As of Monday, October 20, 2023, the 22 cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy have successfully completed the mandatory 50 hours of training in Chapter 8 of the Penal Code.
- From Monday, October 9 through October 20, 2023, the 17 cadets of the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy demonstrated outstanding performance in completing intensive defensive tactics training related to Chapter 31 Arrest and Control.

Pictured below are the 25 graduates of the
221st Edinburg Day Academy



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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. We have created an Emergency Response map that will aid our local 9-1-1 call responding Fire Departments and EMS agencies to respond using 9-1-1 address data. We will do the same for local Police departments that do not host a PSAP in the RGV9-1-1 region. In August team members Jacob and Monica took a Managing Geospatial Data class to learn intermediate level ArcGIS data management.

In early September we submitted and Location Based Routing (LBR) request to Verizon Wireless. This new technology will begin the process of switching from traditional Cell phone tower routing to LBR routing. LBR routing is achieved by activating a service that will force the cellphone to turn on GPS services and automatically send location data with the call. It is a vital service as it will make it so the 9-1-1 system knows exactly what PSAP to send the call to instead of first sending the call to the PSAP that is assigned to the tower. It significantly reduces the need for transfer of 9-1-1 calls. As of today, Verizon is the only major carrier to start making the switch. AT&T will make the switch across the board next year, and T-Mobile has not yet defined a timeframe.

On October GIS team members Jacob and Joe worked with Weslaco Fire Captain Richard Stubbs to create a fire district map for their new Fire Station. A map can be found online in our HUB at www.rgv911.org. On October 19th – 20th Team members Monica and Jacob attended an ESRI training called Deploying and Maintaining a Multiuser Geodatabase training.

In August the GIS team met with our ESRI account team to plan for next year's GIS activities starting on September 2023 ending August 2024. Below is our GeoSpatial Strategic plan.

- Community Engagement Division

This report is an all-encompassing summary of the community engagement endeavors undertaken in September 2023. It provides an intricate depiction of our interactions and projects designed to foster connections with the local community during this specific timeframe.

- Award Special Delivery for 911 Telecommunicators. September 22, 2023, being a 9-1-1 telecommunicator is a selfless and demanding role that often requires individuals to sacrifice precious moments with loved ones. These dedicated professionals frequently miss birthdays, holidays, and special events, where they could be celebrated for their invaluable work in emergency response. Their commitment to public safety often means putting the needs of others before their own, making their contributions all the more commendable and deserving of recognition. On this, we made unique visits to McAllen PD and Hidalgo PD to personally deliver awards to the dedicated 9-1-1 telecommunicators who couldn't attend the wellness seminar due to their essential work commitments. These gestures of appreciation highlight our gratitude for their unwavering service and the sacrifices they make to ensure the safety of our communities.
- Mission Police Department Block Party, September 22, 2023, We were delighted to sponsor the Mission Police Department by providing coloring books and crayons for a community block party. It was a great event, and we were thrilled to contribute to the enjoyment of local children. Supporting such community initiatives brings us immense joy and reinforces our commitment to promote constructive connections within our local community.
- H.E.E.L.S (Helping Empower Entrepreneurial Ladies to Succeed) September 26, 2023, The RGV9-1-1 Community Engagement Department participated in the HEELS luncheon hosted by the Raymondville Chamber of Commerce. This event celebrated women's leadership and their significant roles in various fields. It provided an excellent networking platform and highlighted women leaders' contributions to the community.
- Weslaco Police Department National Night Out September 30, 2023. It was a fantastic experience, and we genuinely appreciated the opportunity to participate. The turnout was incredible, and we were thrilled to engage in meaningful conversations and share valuable insights about 9-1-1 services with the community. The positive response and enthusiasm from the attendees were heartwarming, reaffirming the importance of such outreach efforts. We look forward to future collaborations and the chance to continue educating and connecting with our community.

- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

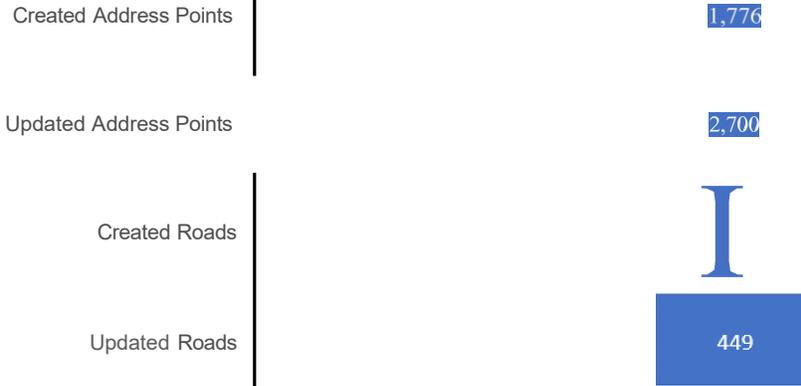
The 9-1-1 | Information Technology team is now entirely into Phase 2 of our UPS upgrade project; electrical assessments were completed, and new electrical infrastructure has been installed to allow us future growth if we add additional equipment in our PSAP backrooms. We are working with our vendors to complete this project by early to mid-November.

As of last week, we have started our fourth quarter audits at each of the 17 PSAPs, going through the various 9-1-1 equipment tests. Our generator maintenance vendor, Loftin, just completed their quarterly inspections, and we will follow up and check their work during these audits.

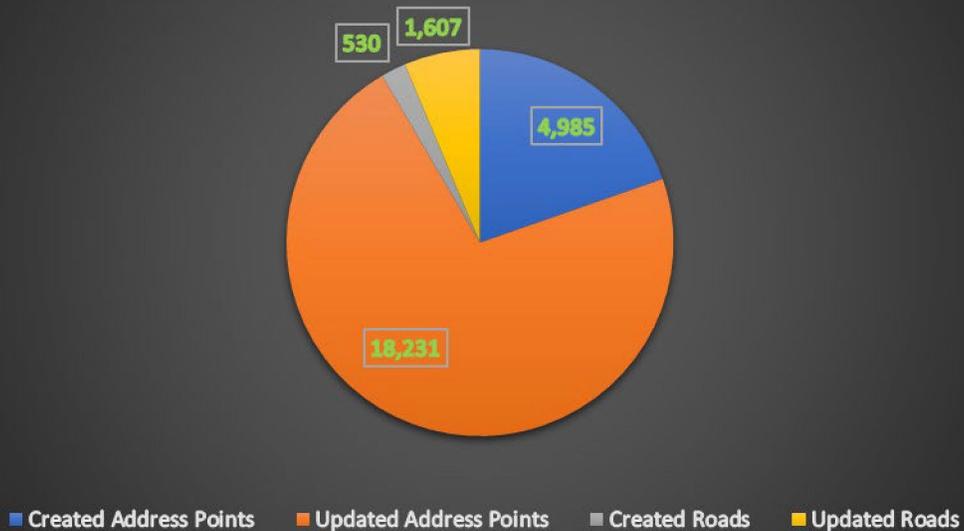
We also plan to address our quarterly group meeting agenda with all the PSAP supervisors. We plan to start the meetings in January 2024 and continue throughout the year to help address any concerns and update them on projects that directly affect them.

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.

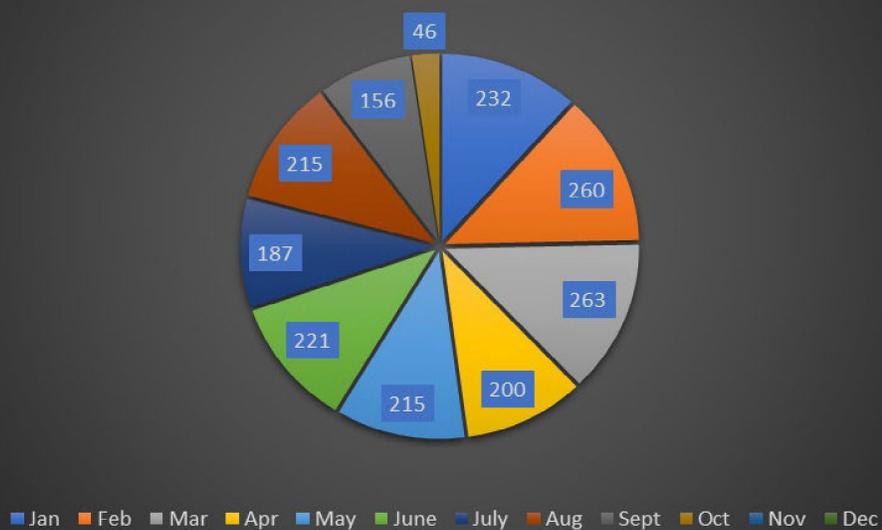
August - September 2023 Mapping Features



2023 Total Production : GIS



Address Tickets from January to September 2023



Award Special Delivery for 911 Telecommunicators



Veronica Garcia, McAllen PD



Jose Garcia, McAllen PD



Diana Gonzalez, Hidalgo PD

H.E.E.L.S (Helping Empower Entrepreneurial Ladies to Succeed)



Pictured above Key-note speakers Liza M. Garza, Marie Garcia, Carla Mancha, and Giselle Mascarenhas.

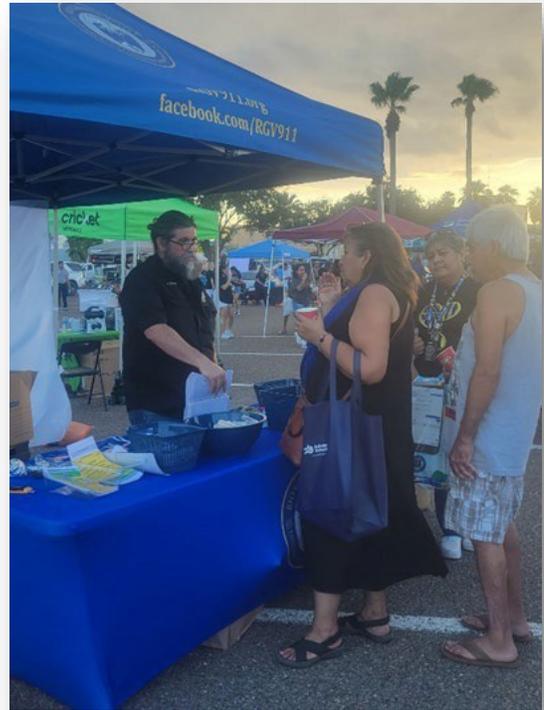


Pictured above all the attendees to the H.E.E.L.S. Conference.

Weslaco Police Department National Night Out



Pictured above staff Joe Garcia, Mayor David Suarez, and Staff Maribel Alonzo.



Pictured above staff Joe Garcia talking to the community.

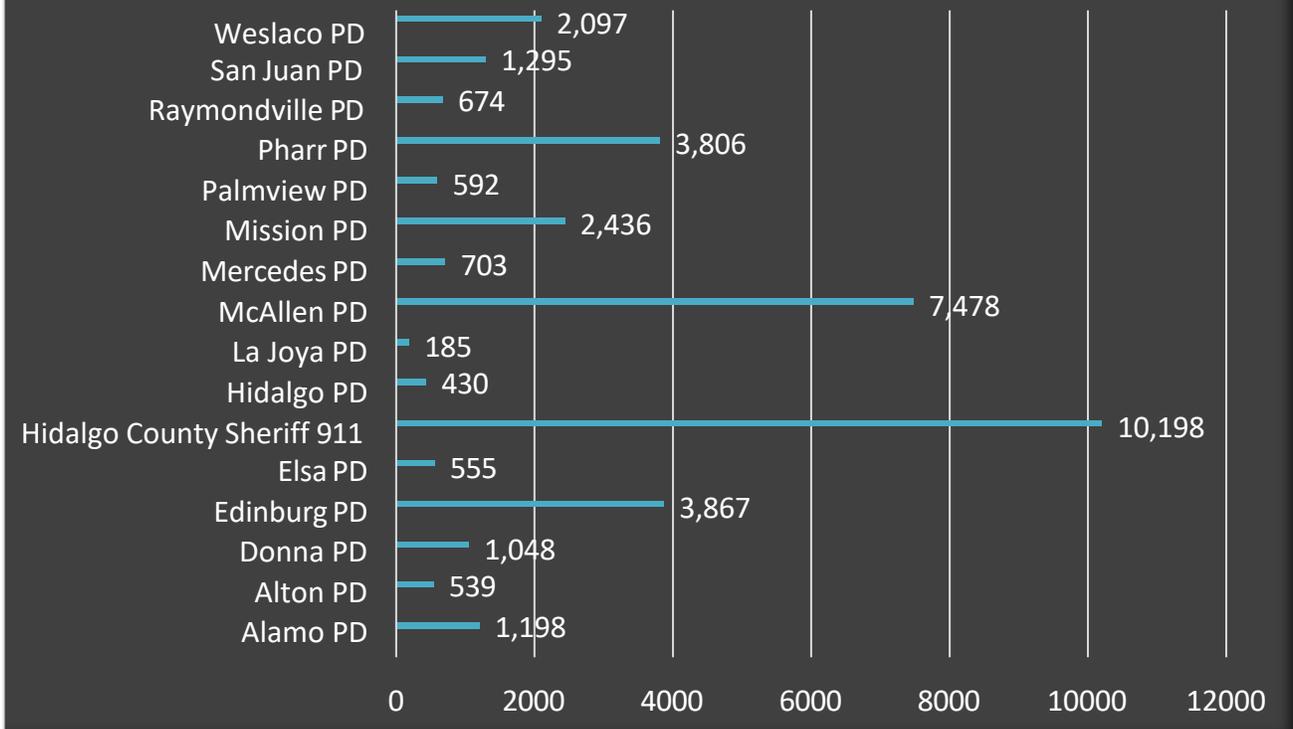


Pictured above happy children enjoying their items.

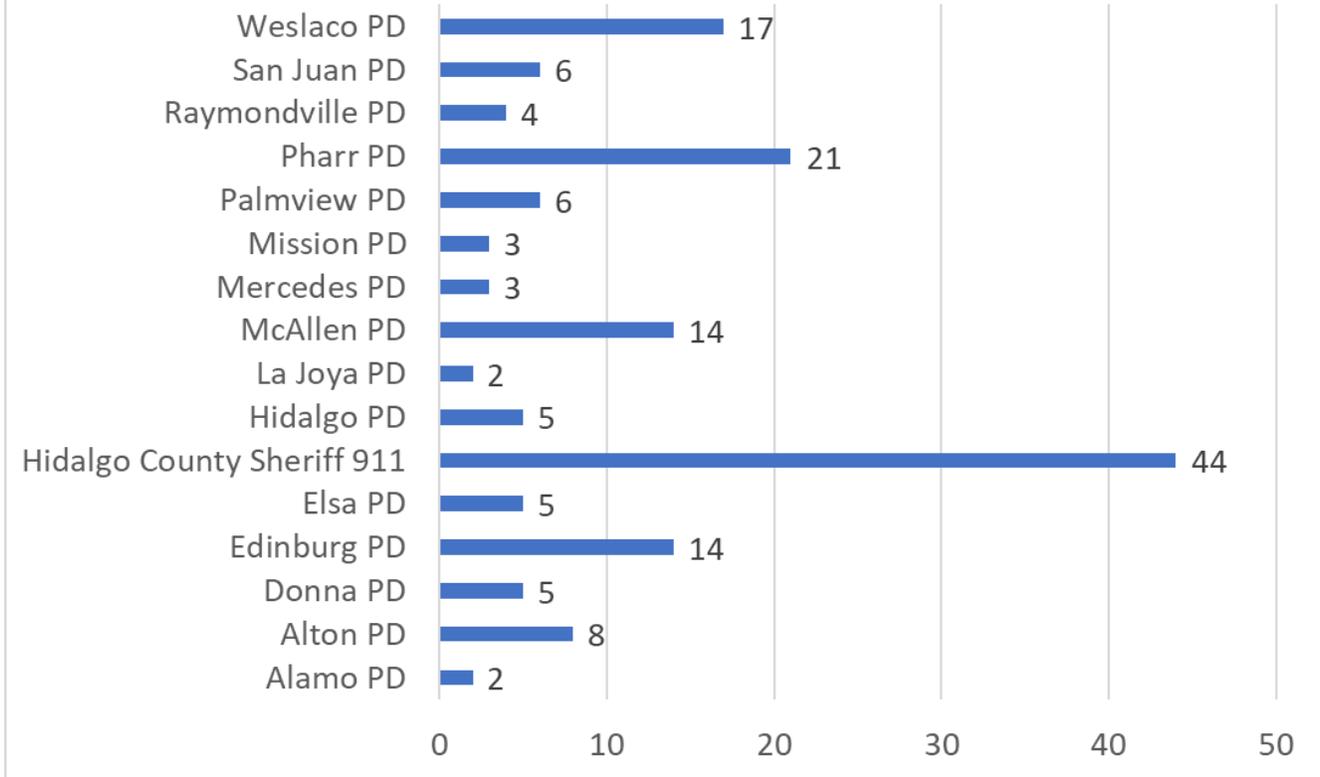


Pictured above Chuck E. Cheese happy with his RGV9-1-1 Police Office Coloring Book.

Call Summary October 2023



Text to 9-1-1 October 2023



ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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 BY SYSTEM		RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY		RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS	
Agency	Sept	COUNTY	Sept	PRECINCT	Sept
VALLEY METRO	28,553	Hidalgo County	83,623	Precinct 1	4,528
UTRGV	65,221	Cameron County	8,377	Precinct 2	7,751
STC	472	Willacy County	233	Precinct 3	1,651
TSTC	136	Starr County	1,957	Precinct 4	80,488
		Zapata County	192	Harlingen MPO Area	3,144
Total	94,382	Total	94,382		

Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:

- RTAP Sub-committee held a workshop September 26, 2023. A review of the Short/Mid/Long Term goals of 5-Year Transit Plan was discussed in detail and members provided input and suggestions on how to accomplish those needs. LRGVDC Valley Metro was awarded a TXDOT grant in the amount of \$40,000 to continue assessing and meeting the needs and gaps of the 5-year Transit Plan. The sub-committee meets bi-monthly.
- Valley Metro’s Planning Department staff continues to hold public involvement events. The events highlight the modes of travel available to the public within their perspective city and region. We are currently working on realigning routes to incorporate the new San Juan Terminal.



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.



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

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.



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

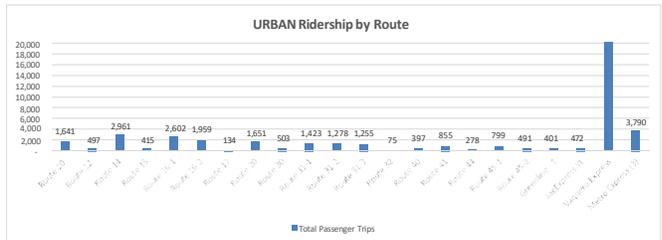
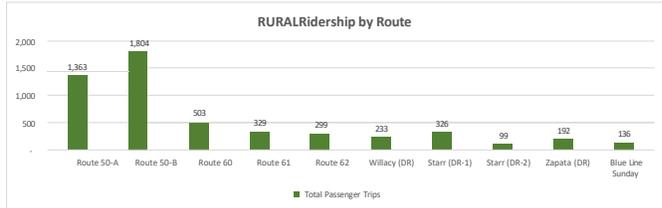


VMRegional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

VALLEY METRO SEPTEMBER 2023 RIDERSHIP COUNT

FY 23-24

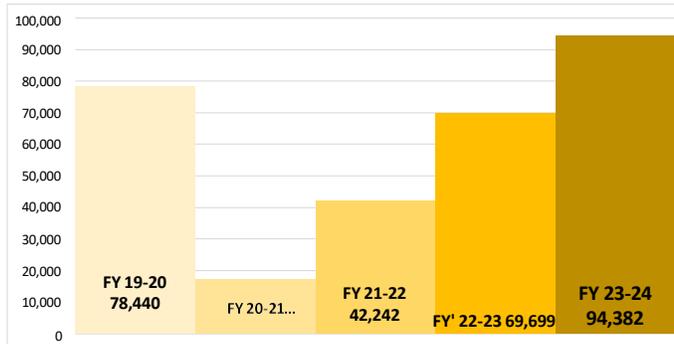
Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
Route 50-A	1,363	1%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
Route 50-B	1,804	2%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
Route 60	503	1%	Roma, Rio Grande City
Route 61	329	0%	Rio Grande City
Route 62	299	0%	Rio Grande City
Willacy (DR)	233	0%	Willacy County
Starr (DR-1)	326	0%	Starr County
Starr (DR-2)	99	0%	Starr County
Zapata (DR)	192	0%	Zapata County
Blue Line Sunday	136	0%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
Route 10	1,641	2%	Edinburg
Route 12	497	1%	Eddcouch, Elsa, Edinburg
Route 14	2,961	3%	Edinburg
Route 15	415	0%	Edinburg
Route 16-1	2,602	3%	Courthouse Circulator
Route 16-2	1,959	2%	Courthouse Circulator
Route 17	134	0%	Edinburg T-line
Route 20	1,651	2%	Mission
Route 30	503	1%	Pharr, San Juan
Route 31-1	1,423	2%	Cameron-Hidalgo County
Route 31-2	1,278	1%	Hidalgo-Cameron County
Route 31-3	1,255	1%	Cameron-Hidalgo County
Route 32	75	0%	Donna
Route 40	397	0%	Harlingen
Route 41	855	1%	Harlingen
Route 44	278	0%	Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa
Route 45-1	799	1%	Cameron County
Route 45-2	491	1%	Cameron County
Greenline - 1	401	0%	Rio Grande City
JagExpress YL	472	1%	Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen
Vaquero Express	65,221	69%	Edinburg
Metro Express (3)	3,790	4%	Rio Grande Valley
TOTAL	94,382	100%	**Total Ridership Count subject to change when final aud



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

YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT			
Year to Date - September 2023	Prior Year September 2022	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
94,382	69,699	24,683	35%

* Rural service - service in rural low -population areas outside of urbanized areas * Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas



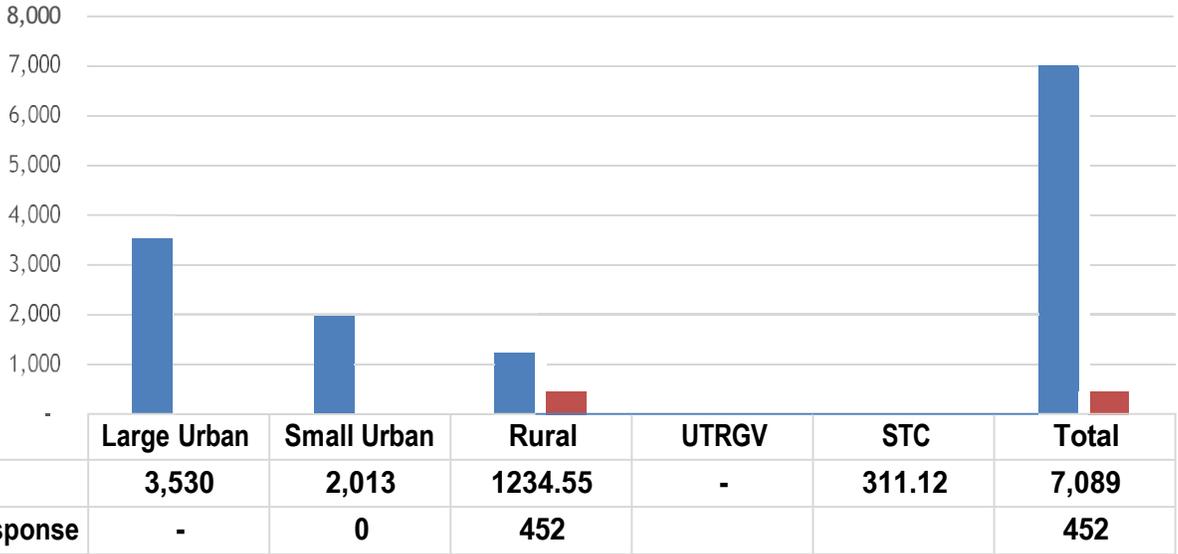
Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	Difference	%Change
FY' 19-20	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY' 20-21	17,149	19,332	16,190	16,072	16,620	14,611	19,300	18,169	18,080	19,842	19,774	31,381	226,520	-608,386	-73%
FY' 21-22	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' 22-23	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 23-24	94,382	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94,382	-336,102	-78%
Monthly Change from	24,683	-71,269	-58,154	-33,800	-47,975	-66,785	-62,828	-63,687	-36,978	-34,870	-33,997	-50,988	-536,648	-536,648	-1
% Change	35%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-85%	-268%	-266%

Year to Date 2023-2024

Distribution of Revenue Hours

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	3,530	2,013	1234.55	-	311.12	7,089
Demand Response	-	0	452			452

FY 23-24 YTD Revenue Hours

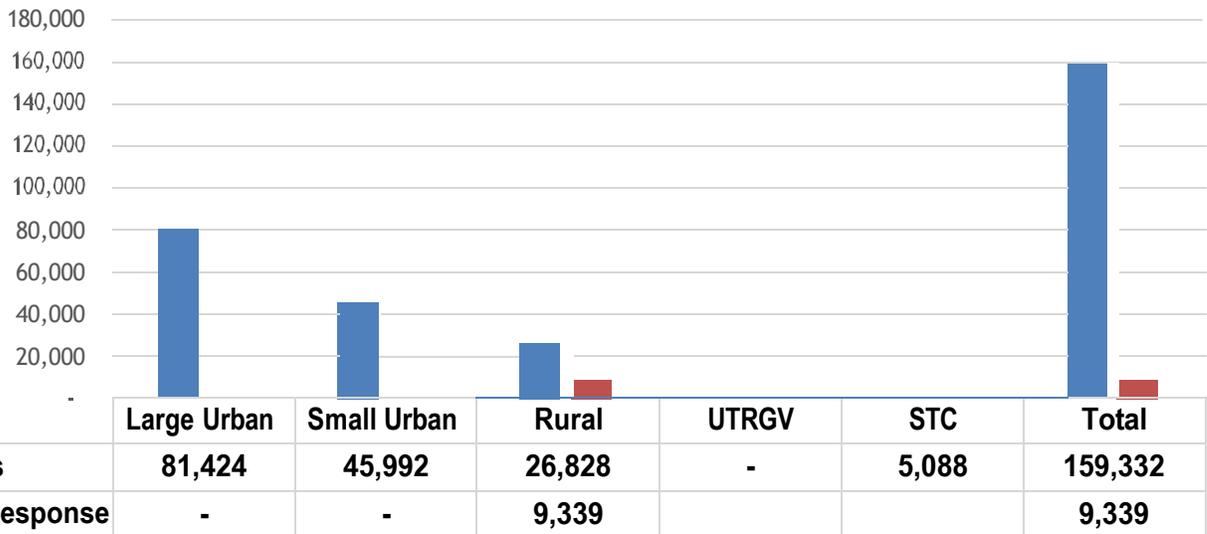


Year to Date 2023-2024

Distribution of Revenue Miles

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	81,424	45,992	26,828	-	5,088	159,332
Demand Response	-	-	9,339			9,339

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	7	2	6	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	83	28	137
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	2	5	0	0	-28	6	2	0	0	65	-63	-25

	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111
Indirect Routes	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Monthly Total	136	0	136											

2023 - 2024 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count

