

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, Texas 78596-5104

2016

ANNUAL PRODUCTIVITY REPORT

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**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member:

I am proud to state that this edition of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's (LRGVDC) Annual Productivity Report marks forty-nine (49) years of progressive accomplishments for our region. As you know, the primary purpose of the LRGVDC continues to be a forum for the membership to coordinate and implement regional activities through a Regional Strategic Plan Process. Our membership within Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties shares a unique "Community of Interest" and the region has been fortunate in the excellent leadership provided by our Rio Grande Valley elected officials.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the time and effort invested by the Membership, Board of Directors, Advisory Committee Members and the LRGVDC staff. We could never achieve our objectives without this high degree of commitment and cooperation.

As the LRGVDC embarks on its fiftieth (50th) year of progress, I look forward to working with each of you and I want to thank you again individually and collectively for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,



Mayor Tony Martinez
LRGVDC President

CHAPTER 1

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

COUNTIES

Cameron County
Hidalgo County
Willacy County

CITIES

Alamo
Alton
Bayview
Brownsville
Combes
Donna
Edcouch
Edinburg
Elsa
Granjeno
Harlingen
Hidalgo
Indian Lake

La Feria
La Joya
La Villa
Laguna Vista
Los Fresnos
Los Indios
Lyford
McAllen
Mercedes
Mission
Palm Valley
Palmhurst
Palmview
Penitas

Pharr
Port Isabel
Primera
Progreso
Progreso Lakes
Raymondville
Rio Hondo
San Benito
San Juan
San Perlita
Santa Rosa
South Padre Island
Weslaco

PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Donna I.S.D.
Harlingen C.I.S.D.
McAllen I.S.D.
Mercedes I.S.D.
Monte Alto I.S.D.
PSJA I.S.D.
Rio Hondo I.S.D.
San Benito C.I.S.D.
South Texas College
Texas State Technical College
Valley View I.S.D.
Weslaco I.S.D.

SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS

Agua Special Utility Group
Brownsville Economic Development Council
Brownsville Navigation District
Brownsville Public Utility Board (PUB)
Cameron County Drainage Dist. #1
Cameron County Drainage Dist. #5
Cameron County Irrigation Dist. #2
Delta Lake Irrigation District
East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation
Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco
El Jardin Water Supply Corporation
Harlingen Irrigation District CC #1
Harlingen Waterworks Systems
Hidalgo & Cameron Counties Irrigation District #9
Hidalgo County Irrigation District #6
Hidalgo County MUD #1
Hidalgo County Water Control #18
Laguna Madre Water District
McAllen Economic Development Corporation
McAllen Public Utilities Board
Military Highway Water Supply
North Alamo Water Supply
Olmito Water Supply
Port Isabel/San Benito Navigation District
Port Mansfield Public Utilities
Port of Harlingen Authority
Sharyland Water Supply Corporation
United Irrigation District
Valley MUD #2
Workforce Solutions Cameron

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mayor Rick Cavazos
Los Indios, Texas

Mr. Eleazar “Yogi” Garcia, Jr.
Raymondville, Texas

Mr. Brian Godinez
McAllen, Texas

Mr. Leo Munoz
Weslaco, Texas

Ms. Diana Serna
Mercedes, Texas

Ms. Ann Cass
San Juan, Texas

Hon. Norma G. Garcia
Donna, Texas

Com. Pete Garcia
San Juan, Texas

Mr. Eddy Gonzalez
Edcouch, Texas

Vacant

Note: The vacancy is due to a resignation.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Arturo Ramirez
San Juan, Texas

CHAPTER 2

STAFF

LRGVDC STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Ron Garza	Executive Director
Debby Morales	Executive Secretary
Anna M. Hernandez	Director of Human Resources
Aime Garcia	Technician III – HR
Amy Lee Atkinson	Technician III – HR
Victor Morales	Director of Procurement
Carolina Leal	Purchaser II
Rebecca Mariscal	Purchaser I

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Jose L. Gonzalez	Director
Richard Flores	Assistant Director
Elida V. Carranza	Technician IV
Mary L. Rojas	Administrative Assistant
Mary Villarreal	Planner I
Yolanda Cuellar	Receptionist

Case Management:

Marilu Fuentes	Program Administrator
Dora C. Moreno	Case Manager – Harlingen Office
Jaime Garza	Case Manager/Case Reviewer
Kathrine Martinez	Case Manager – Harlingen Office
Monica A. Rocha	Case Manager – Harlingen Office
Viviana Moreno	Case Manager
Israel S. Yañez	Technician III
Rosie Recio	Technician III – Care Coordination
Aleida Tirado	Technician III – Access & Assistance

Healthy at Home Care Transition Program

Adalinda Gaytan	Technician IV – Health Coach (Hospital Navigator)
Yadira Flores	Technician IV – Care Transition Intervention Coach
Rosemary Valdez	Technician IV – Care Transition Intervention Coach

Care Coordination Program

Alma (Terri) Lozano	Technician IV – Care Giver Case Manager
Amenda Garcia	Technician III – Care Coordination

ADRC (IR & A)

Rolando Florez Technician IV – ADRC (IR & A)

Elder Rights:

Debra Lachico	Program Administrator
Amalia Segovia	Technician IV - (Ombudsman)
Anna M. Trevino	Technician IV- (Ombudsman) -Harlingen Office
Anna De Leon	Technician IV - (Public Benefits) Harlingen Office
Albina Castro	Technician IV (Public Benefits)
Veronica (Ronnie) Alegria	Technician IV (Public Benefits)
Noemi Rodriguez	Technician III (Caregiver Info. Services)

RIO-Net- Aging and Disability Resource Center

Bettina Escalon	Technician IV – ADRC Client Services
Miguel Garcia	Technician IV – ADRC Housing Navigator

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Terrie G. Salinas	Director
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FINANCE

Crystal Balboa	Director
Olga Arias-Hernandez	Accountant III
Joanna Saenz	Accountant II & Financial Analyst II
Celeste A. Nepomuceno	Accountant II
Anabel Saldana	Accountant I
Alma Guerrero	Financial Analyst I
Diana De Anda	Accounting Technician II
Adalia Gonzalez	Accounting Technician I
Diana Alvarado	Accounting Technician II
Prescila Navarro	Accounting Technician I
Eduardo Alvarado	Technician III

HIDALGO COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Andrew Canon	Director
Linda De la Fuente	Assistant Director
Gloria Banda-Gonzalez	Administrative Assistant
Luis M. Diaz	GIS Specialist & Transportation Planner I
Miguel Arispe	GIS Specialist

Fernando Cantu	GIS Specialist
Jon Ray Bocanegra	Transportation Planner I
Braulio Garza	Transportation Planner I
Berenice Gonzalez	Transportation Planner I

HOMELAND SECURITY

Manuel Cruz	Director
Maria Juanita (Jayni) Saenz	Planner I
Dennis Moreno	Planner I

REGIONAL PLANNING & SERVICES

Maricela (Marcie) Oviedo	Director
Ludivina (Ludy) Saenz	Assistant Director
Valerie Ramos	Program Administrator
Brenda Salinas	Technician III
Priscilla Delgado	Planner I
Monica Cantu	Technician II

9-1-1

Sergio Castro	Director
Jose A. Garcia, Jr.	Planner II
Magdalena (Maggie) Garza	Planner II
Raul Madero	Planner II
Juan E. Chapa	Planner II
Hector N. Chapa	Planner I
Dorina Moya	Planner I
Jessica M. Reyna	Planner I
Oscar L. Garza	Planner I
Eusebio (Juan) Torres, Jr.	Technician IV
Jennifer Ochoa	Technician III
Mary N. Strough	Technician III
Rosemary Contreras	Technician III
Brendaly Cuellar	Technician III
Jose Luis Hernandez	Technician III
Leonel A. Valdez	Technician III
Selenna Isabel Vallejo	Technician III
Ray Watson	Technician III
Cynthia Sanchez	Technician III
Jaqueline Castillo	Technician III

REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

Ron Garza

Coordinator / Director

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Glenda Garcia
Nancy Rincones

Assistant Director
Technician II

VALLEY METRO

Thomas Logan	Director
Maribel Contreras	Assistant Director
Mayra Rodriguez	Mobility Manager
Minerva Gonzales-Flores	Program Administrator/Operations
Gabriel Zuniga	Program Administrator of Planning & Mobility
Guillermo Zapata	Program Administrator of Maintenance
Inocencio Perez	Technician II Maintenance
Dora Cruz	Technician IV
Yolanda Hernandez	Technician III
Angie De La Cerda	Technician II – Dispatcher/Scheduler
Leo Ordonez	Technician II – Dispatcher/Scheduler
Doris Elia Mendoza	Technician II – Dispatcher/Scheduler
Jessica Sandoval	Technician II – Dispatcher/Scheduler
Leticia Gazca	Technician II – Dispatcher/Scheduler
Jorge L. Ortega-Castillo	Mechanic II
Santiago Velasquez	Mechanic I
Jorge Esparza	Mechanic I
Romeo Aldape	Mechanic I
Rodolfo Alejandro	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
James Benson	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Martin A. Caceras	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Guillermo Carrillo	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Fernando Castillo	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Xavier Claudio	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Juan Davila	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Jose De La Garza	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Rafael Diaz	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Jesus Segura	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Paul Dulcet	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Jose Galvan	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Ceferino Garcia	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Roberto Guzman	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Juan Hernandez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Andres Martinez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)

Felipe Miranda	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Everado Morales	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Gilbert Morales	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Juan M. Parga	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Mario Perez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Andres Ramirez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Armando Robledo	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Fernando Rodriguez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Alfred Rogers	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Daniel Saldaña	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Dan Sanchez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Julio Sanchez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Sean DeLoatch	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Pedro Olivera	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Andres Rodriguez	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Rodolfo Rosales	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)
Rumaldo Avalos	Technician II - Driver (Transit Services)

VALLEY METRO RAINBOW LINES OFFICE STAFF – ZAPATA COUNTY

Andres Benavides	Technician I - Driver
Maria Dolores Cantu	Technician I - Driver
Eleazar Diaz	Technician I - Driver
Romeo Garcia	Technician I - Driver
Maribel Ricano	Technician I - Driver
Javier Rico	Technician I - Driver
Rosaisela Zamora	Technician I - Driver

CHAPTER 3

LRGVDC FACTS

LRGVDC FACTS

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is the Regional Council of Governments for the three southernmost counties in Texas (Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy) having an area of 3,643 square miles and a population of 1,286,363 according to the 2015 U.S. Census population estimates from the Texas State Data Center.

The LRGVDC is designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the local water quality planning entity. Also, it is designated by the State of Texas as the Area Agency on Aging, and the local body to develop the comprehensive plans and programs for Criminal Justice, Health Concerns, Water Supply, Transportation, Solid Waste, and 9-1-1 Emergency Communications.

Membership in the LRGVDC consists of the governing bodies of each of the three counties, forty (40) municipalities, twelve (12) educational institutions, thirty (31) special purpose districts, one (1) grassroots representative and ten (10) members-at-large, five of whom are selected by the Membership and five who are elected by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is named annually in accordance with the Bylaws and serves as the policy-making body of the organization. The budget for 2016 was \$33,324,922.

This 2016 Annual Report will serve as the Report on the State of the Region for those Federal and State agencies that fund the LRGVDC. It also provides this organization the opportunity to review the accomplishments of 2016 and develop plans for the future. The programs and activities conducted by the LRGVDC relate to and affect all citizens of the Valley, and a detailed explanation of all LRGVDC programs is reported in this publication.

Historically, the LRGVDC has maintained a balanced budget, complied with all grant conditions, and collected and expended funds in a manner consistent with sound management principles, as reflected by our independent audits.

The LRGVDC is an organization established for (and capable of) solving regional problems on a local basis, and to provide for planned and orderly growth in the future.

CHAPTER 4

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To develop a comprehensive network of public/private service delivery systems to promote healthy communities.

Goal: To identify and enhance a network of public/private service delivery systems to promote healthy communities.

The LRGVDC – Area Agency on Aging is designated as one of twenty-eight (28) Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in the State of Texas under the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended. The LRGVDC is also one of twenty-two (22) Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) in the State. It is the representative agency of the Texas Department on Aging and Disability Services for the Lower Rio Grande Valley and functions as the coordinating and planning agency for services to persons who are 60 years of age or older. The overall objective of the Area Agency on Aging is to improve the quality of life for older persons through the development and expansion of a comprehensive and coordinated social service delivery system at the regional level. The Area Agency on Aging is legally eligible to conduct direct services, as any other Council Program. The Area Agency on Aging has continually provided direct services through case management and long-term care projects. The majority of project funds however are subcontracted to social services agencies in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

LRGVDC Goal: Provide planning, coordination and pooling of service and fiscal resources for the purpose of strengthening and/or expanding services to the region's elderly and vulnerable population.

Objectives:

1)	Implement the approved Area plan to address the needs of the older population and assess the resources addressing those needs;
2)	Solicit input from service recipients, agency representatives, community leaders and the general public on the Area Plan and the needs of the elderly of minority, low income and rural status;
3)	Review and comment on policies and actions at the Federal, State or local levels which may have an impact on older persons and their caregivers;
4)	Administer funds from the Texas Department on Aging and Disability Services, Corporation for National Services and other funding sources to assure coordination, accountability and a comprehensive delivery system of services;

5)	Serve as the principle advocate agency and focal point in determining regional services, disseminating pertinent program information and coordinating outreach efforts for the elderly;
6)	Ensure that the older persons of minority, low-income and rural communities are aware of the services available in the community;
7)	Promote program visibility in the community by building partnerships with other agencies/organizations and carrying out public functions;
8)	Administer the ADRC for the Lower Rio Grande Valley to expand access to services for the elderly and persons with disabilities to long-term care services and support;
9)	Administer the Community-based Care Transition Program (CCTP) in partnership with ten (10) local hospitals as approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services;
10)	Implement evidence-based programs to improve the health and well-being of identified individuals.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	The Area Plan/Update is to be approved by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services State Office;	Yes, approved by DADS
2)	Two (2) public forums are to be conducted during the fiscal year;	Yes
3)	TAC and CFR reports will be reviewed on a quarterly basis during the fiscal year;	Yes, sub-recipients
4)a.1.	Procure six (6) contracts for nutrition and support services during the fiscal year;	Yes, seven in all
4).	Procure thirty (30) agreements under the Direct Purchased Services procurement method.	Yes, had over 50 contractors
5)	Distribute once a year pertinent program information to twenty-five (25) local stakeholders will be monitored and recorded during the fiscal year;	Yes, distributed information to over 100 stakeholders
6)	Distribute once a year program literature/ information to one hundred (100) elderly of minority, low-income and rural status monitored and recorded during the fiscal year;	Yes, information distributed to over 100 seniors through different media sources
7)	Participate in four (4) community activities and events for outreach and education during the fiscal year;	Yes, participated in over 50 community events
8)	Participate quarterly in ADRC partnership meetings;	Yes, participated in Quarterly ADRC partner meetings

9)	Serve 500 clients under the CCTP on an annual basis;	Yes, served over 750 clients
10)	Maintain nine (9) Memorandums of Understanding with local hospitals to serve 500 clients under the CCTP on an annual basis; and,	Yes, maintained 10 MOUs
11)	Implement an evidence-based program in collaboration with a local hospital.	Yes, with Harlingen Medical Center

LRGVDC Goal: Maintain and improve current service delivery system aimed at allowing maximum independence for elderly individuals to remain in the least restrictive environment with dignity and self-respect.

Objectives:

1)	Monitor service contracts and vendor agreements with public/private entities and/or agencies to assure quality services to elderly individuals during the fiscal year.
----	--

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Monitor nutrition and support services contracts on a quarterly basis to ensure services are provided in the three county area as contracted; and	Yes
2)	Conduct an annual customer satisfaction survey for services provided under the Direct Purchased Service agreements.	Yes

LRGVDC Goal: Provide basic needed resources and services to older and vulnerable persons when they cannot provide for themselves and safeguard their dignity.

Objectives:

1)	Collaborate with other entities or agencies to maximize resources that can be utilized on behalf of older and vulnerable persons who cannot care for themselves; and
2)	Provide locally-based system of access and assistance to ensure that individuals have access to services and assistance; and
3)	Maintain the RIO-Net as the Aging and Disability Resource Center for the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Participate with other state and local agencies in five (5) work groups, area-wide projects, non-financial agreements and joint conferences; and	Yes
2)	Maintain four (4) programs that provide access to services and safeguard the rights of the elderly	Yes

CHAPTER 5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic and Business Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan

Goal: Foster and Support Small Business and Entrepreneurial Initiatives for Domestic and International Markets.

Goal: Increase Domestic and International Trade

Goal: Provide a Business Hurricane and Information Training Program for Disaster Recovery

Goal: Create and Develop an Educational and Training Forum for the Regional Small Cities Coalition.

The LRGVDC is an Economic Development District (EDD) designated and authorized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). It is an entity that functions as a part of the Council of Governments.

Its purpose is to generate jobs, help retain existing jobs and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas. The Economic Development District provides grants for infrastructure development, local capacity building, and business development. It finances long-term investments to help diversify local economies and foster job creation. These projects help distressed communities alleviate conditions of severe and persistent unemployment and underemployment.

LRGVDC Goal: Build local capacity to achieve and sustain economic growth for economically distressed communities.

Objective:

1)	Support economic development organizations and job training programs in order to create jobs and attract private enterprise to economically distressed communities
----	--

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Maintain and update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan as needed.	Yes
2)	Provide technical assistance to local governments and economic development organizations with their federal assistance applications, and maintain capacity by providing grant administrative services to EDA applicants if requested	Yes

LRGVDC Goal: Increase Domestic and International Trade.

Objective:

1)	Encourage the continued expansion of domestic and international trade
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Continue and provide technical assistance to businesses for international trade, and provide technical assistance on regional infrastructure development projects on an as requested basis.	Yes

Small Businesses are the largest job creation sector for the nation; therefore, the EDD will continue to support and promote local business development; long-term investments, and entrepreneurship. The Economic Development District will also continue to participate in local capacity building by providing technical assistance and support services to small businesses.

LRGVDC Goal: Foster and support small business and entrepreneurial initiatives for domestic and international markets.

Objectives:

1)	Identify all types of small business needs and opportunities.
----	---

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Support the development of small business by participating in one business conference/summit a year.	Yes

2)	Continue to support regional job creation and job training efforts by attending meetings with local, state, and federal business development organizations.	Yes
3)	Continue to promote and market educational programs that benefit small businesses such as “Money Wise”, a financial literacy program.	Yes

The LRGVDC was the recipient of two “Disaster Recovery Assistance” grants from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). One was used to develop a “Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities (Regional EAP). The overall goal of the Regional EAP was to provide a framework for governmental entities within the Lower Rio Grande Valley to work together to plan and manage their current and future public works infrastructure and storm water related systems. This collaboration and regional planning would lead to the creation of a regional GIS central database to store important data for future planning and development.

LRGVDC Goal: Support long-term recovery efforts by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and productivity through infrastructure development, capacity building, and business development in order to attract private capital investments and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

Objectives:

1)	Assist in developing a framework for governmental entities to plan, manage and restore critical infrastructure and facilities in the aftermath of a major storm in order to expedite recovery efforts and help restore the region’s economic base.
----	--

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Assist in the creation and development of an LRGVDC Centralized Data Base for the region using Geographic Information system (GIS).	Yes

The second grant was used to promote economic recovery in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Dolly and Alex. The scope of work included the development and implementation of marketing strategies for the purpose of image restoration, targeted marketing, communications, public relations support business retention and capacity development to support long-term economic recovery.

LRGVDC Goal: To develop long-term economic recovery by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and productivity through infrastructure development, capacity building and business development.

Objectives:

1)	Provide Training on Emergency Action Plans and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) to Valley Businesses, organizations, and the general public.
----	---

Objectives:

1)	Provide Technical Assistance and Information on Available Resources for Disaster Recovery.
----	--

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Continue to conduct COOP Training and Emergency Action Plans if requested to businesses and participants in order to facilitate their economic recovery after a natural disaster.	No, emergency management is now managed by Homeland Security Department
2)	Provide information, training and financial resources to help communities in their economic recovery	Yes

LRGVDC Goal: Create and develop a regional forum to enhance and improve the economic development of the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC).

Objectives:

1)	Provide information, training, resources, and funding to assist in the economic growth of small rural communities.
----	--

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Increase membership within the three (3) counties,	Yes
2)	Help strengthen the economic development foundation for small rural cities by providing vital information, resources, and funding opportunities through monthly meetings,	Yes
3)	Encourage self-sufficiency and the creation of innovative programs to help grow their economies, identify and focus on each community's unique strength	Yes
4)	Create a comprehensive and supportive network for the RSCC	Yes

CHAPTER 6

REGIONAL PLANNING

AND SERVICES

REGIONAL PLANNING AND SERVICES

Community Development

Community and Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAP)

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Provide Available, Decent and Adequate Housing for Valley Residents.

Goal: Assist Rural and Urban Communities to Incorporate Information Technology as a Tool for their Economic Development

In accordance with Senate Bill 41, 72nd Legislature, Second Called Session, the Texas Department of Commerce's authority to administer the State of Texas' allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds was transferred to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs effective September 1, 1991. Currently the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers CDBG funds. The Governor's Office selected Councils of Government (COG) to provide assistance and support in three (3) general areas as follows: 1) Support the TCDP Regional Review Committee (RRC; 2) Provide TCDP Technical Assistance to the non-entitlement cities in the region; and 3) Provide non-entitlement cities general assistance on community and economic development.

The Governor's Office also appoints the Regional Review Committee (RRC) membership that has primary responsibility of developing selection criteria for all applications within the region. The RRC is given the option of utilizing COG staff to assist with project review responsibilities and, as has been the case in previous years, it is anticipated that the RRC will designate the LRGVDC as its official staff support organization.

LRGVDC Goal: Assist rural and urban communities to incorporate information technology as a tool for their economic development.

Objective:

1)	Assist in drafting and/or adopting by-laws and procedures for the RRC for the preparation of the current and upcoming TCDP Program years.
2)	Assist in determining the local needs and provide a copy of the regional priority list
3)	Provide verification and clarification of information contained in the TCDP applications, as requested by the RRC and/or the TCDP

4)	Prepare information packets for eligible jurisdictions and the RRC members providing any information requested by the State; and,
5)	Prepare documents related to application scoring by the RRC

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Conduct one (1) meeting and review fifteen (15) applications to provide assistance and technical support to the RRC and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) staff	Yes

Disaster Recovery/Housing

Housing Program

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Provide available, decent and adequate housing for Valley residents.

Goal: Assure adequate and affordable housing opportunities for families in the Valley.

Goal: Provide adequate and affordable housing for the Elderly and individuals with “special needs”.

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) was designated as the entity responsible to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the grant administration of the CDBG Disaster Recovery funding on behalf of the State of Texas. In this capacity, GLO will be responsible for execution of the CDBG grant award, development of Action Plan amendments, completion of quarterly reports, the associated letter of credit, and the end of the award report. GLO will also oversee the distribution of CDBG funds for all non-housing activities. GLO was designated as the agency responsible for housing activities and will continue to administer disaster recovery funding for those activities. Regional Councils of Governments (COG) in the areas most impacted by the disasters have developed Methods of Distribution (MOD) for housing and non-housing funds not termed as categorical competitive activities or set asides (affordable rental housing, innovating housing approaches, and title clearance an legal assistance).

The LRGVDC has submitted and received approval of an application to administer \$122,034,387 from the GLO for housing program funds allocated to the LRGVDC Region. The LRGVDC has adopted a regional approach to disaster recovery housing programs in an effort to address issues present in the various fair housing documents reviewed. The regional approach will help ensure housing needs are addressed throughout the area, achieve economies of scale, ensure program consistency, and build organizational capacity. Various documents related to fair housing were provided to staff and the consulting firm to develop housing programs in a manner that those issues would be addressed in conjunction with housing recovery associated with Hurricane Dolly.

Housing activities to be undertaken will vary depending upon completion of the “needs assessment”. The primary objective is to ensure that each eligible family is placed in a habitable quality home that conforms with standard specifications including local and state building codes, housing quality standards (HQS), energy efficiency and necessary elevations to meet flood zone requirements. Disaster Recovery Program will directly improve housing infrastructure while at the same time revising local economy by creating jobs for contractors and general laborers. The program will also

bring forth a positive, long-term change for all communities within the region.

Goal: Provide available, decent and adequate housing for Valley residents.

Goal: Assure adequate and affordable housing opportunities for families in the Valley.

Goal: Provide adequate and affordable housing for the Elderly and individuals with “special needs”.

Objectives:

1)	Perform the successful implementation of Housing Disaster Recovery Funds available to the LRGVDC Region.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Comply with GLO deadlines and bench marks for utilization of Disaster Funds available.	Yes

Water Quality Management Planning

<p>Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference</p> <p>Goal: Conserve and protect the regions natural resources while planning for orderly growth (air, water, land, wildlife & minerals).</p> <p>Goal: Improve Water Quality</p> <p>Goal: To Improve Flood Control/Damage</p>
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The LRGVDC was designated by the Governor of Texas in 1975 to serve as the Area Wide Wastewater Management Planning Agency in accordance with Section 208 of Public Law 92-500. The LRGVDC has completed extensive water quality management planning and data compilations involving elected and administrative officials of communities within Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. The LRGVDC Board of Directors, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the previous Regional Water quality Management Plan, revised and updated every 5 years. The Regional Plan identified water quality issues, formulated alternatives, recommended cost effective solutions and provided current monitoring of conditions. This work plan serves as a basis to accomplish necessary regional water quality planning data for construction funding, and aiding the management, coordination and enhancement of natural resources in the Rio Grande Valley.

- Objective I: Project Administration – Effectively administer the functions necessary to coordinate and monitor all work performed under this contract including technical and financial supervision, preparation of status reports and maintenance of project files.
- Objective II – Water Quality Management Plan Coordination with State Loan Projects – Review and assist State Revolving Fund loan (SRG) project applications and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the resolution of conflicts between proposed project data and the approved LRGVDC Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), and assist the TCEQ in WQMP updates.
- Objective III – Public Outreach – LRGVDC will develop an information and communication process that informs the public. The process will be used to enhance partnerships with stakeholders and foster a public understanding of land use activities and their impacts on water quality

LRGVDC Goal: Increase and Conserve the supply of Raw Water for Agriculture and Industrial use and to increase Supply of Treated Water for Domestic Use and Eliminate Water and Environmental Pollution Problems.

Goal: Improve Water Quality

Goal: To Improve Flood Control/Drainage

Objectives:

1)	Provide information on the different Water Quality Programs and distribute information.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	LRGVDC will disseminate information on Water Quality Programs to the public by attending public meetings, presentations to educational institutions and providing updates to TCEQ for inclusion on the TCEQ website and the LRGVDC's website.	Yes

Regional Water Resource Planning

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Increase and Conserve the Supply of Raw Water for Agriculture and Industrial use and to Increase the Supply of Treated Water for Domestic use and Eliminate Water and Environmental Pollution Problems.

The LRGVDC is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. The Region's main economic thrust depends on agriculture, retail, service, manufacturing industries, tourism and commercial fishing. All of these economic sectors depend on a reliable water supply resource.

The LRGVDC has been designated as the political subdivision to assist the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) which is the designated group to develop the Eight County Regional Water Plan as required by Senate Bill 1. The Region is composed of Maverick, Webb, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. This plan has been successfully completed and the LRGVDC will be continuing to coordinate RGRWPG's future water supply planning activities.

LRGVDC Goal: Restore and Protect the Region's Natural Resources while Planning for Orderly Growth and increase and conserve Raw Water Supply for Agriculture, Industrial and Municipal uses.

Objectives:

1)	Quantify water needs to respond to visions for future growth in both municipal, industrial, and agriculture sectors;
2)	Identify technical and environmental issues associated with plans to meet these goals;
3)	Assess environmental needs relating to each solutions; and combine the component plans into alternatives that meet the plan objectives; and
4)	Meet all requirements of S.B. 1 and S.B. 2 Legislation and amendments to ensure that the Study is in compliance to all State requirements.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Provide for at least two (2) RGRWPG Meetings; and fulfill Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requirements regarding water plan updates.	Yes

Regional Solid Waste Management Planning

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Improve the System of Waste Reduction, Recycling & Disposal: Sewage, Solid Waste, Brush and Hazardous Material.

Goal: Conserve and protect the regions natural resources while planning for orderly growth (air, water, land, wildlife & minerals).

Disposal of Solid Waste is a growing concern throughout the nation and to local governments. The United States generates more than 230 million tons of waste a year. This deluge of solid waste is growing steadily and sufficient methods to manage it safely and effectively must be maintained. More than one third of the nation's landfills will be full within the next few years and many cities are unable to find enough acceptable sites to address the situation. This concern indicates the need for solid waste management on a regional basis.

As directed in the Texas Health & Safety Code, one-half of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fee revenue collected by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is dedicated to grants to support regional programs and local projects consistent with the regional solid waste management plan. Under FY 2014/2015 program and LRGVDC will use the grant funds for the following purposes:

- Work on Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Updates;
- Maintain the Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Inventory;
- Conduct several regional coordination programs; including maintaining a solid waste advisory committee and reviewing MSW permit applications for conforming with the approved regional plan;
- Conduct additional regional programs and administration of funding to local government projects that directly support implementation of the goals and objectives, and recommendations in the approved regional solid waste management plans; and
- Administration of grant-funded activities, fiscal oversight of pass-through grants and reporting to TCEQ.

Regional Solid Waste Plan Amendment Including Closed Landfill Inventory

The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Vol. I and Vol. II, has been developed and approved by TCEQ. The LRGVDC will conduct and complete activities for the distribution of Vol. I and Vol. II of the plan and amendments, including the Closed

Landfill Inventory.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the System of Waste Reduction, Recycling and Disposal: Sewage, Solid Waste, Brush and Hazardous Material.

Goal: Enhance the Region’s Natural Resources while Planning for Orderly Growth.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives:

1)	Conduct and complete activities for distribution of the Plan and closed Landfill Inventory.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Distribute the plan and inventory to all appropriate entities	Yes

Coordination Activities

A. Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Maintain Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The SWAC met at least quarterly to discuss solid waste management activities in the region, solid waste management issues important to the region, new laws and regulations, opportunities for grants and other funding issues of concern.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Objectives:

1)	Establish and maintain the Solid Waste Advisory Committee
2)	Prepare and maintain minutes or other summary information;
3)	Provide TCEQ with a revised list of the committee membership and notify TCEQ of all committee meetings;
4)	Establish written bylaws; and
5)	Provide TCEQ any changes to the committee and include justification for level of private industry representation on the committee.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Conduct Solid Waste Advisory Committee quarterly meetings as required.	Yes

B. Technical Assistance, Outreach, Education & Training and Regional Information Resource Center

Serve as central point of contact for solid waste management outreach, education, and training programs, to include serving as a regional contact for notices and information to the public, as requested by the TCEQ. In addition, maintain a regional collection of solid waste information and reference materials and provide the public access to those materials. Provide technical assistance regarding solid waste management plan, solid waste rules and regulations and any other issues.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Objectives:

1)	Update the collection of information and materials as necessary and a regular inventory of materials shall be maintained;
2)	Provide public access to the information and materials during regular working hours; and
3)	Document visitation and usage of the resource center.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Maintain a resource center of collection of regional solid waste information and reference materials.	Yes

C. MSW Facility Permit Application Review & Pre-application Review Process

Assist TCEQ with the review of permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities with input from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, for conformance with the adopted regional solid waste management plan for the Region. A preliminary evaluation of the conformance of the proposed facility must be provided along with the regional plan. This includes a forum for the applicant to discuss the proposed facility with local governments and residents, and may be the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

LRGVDC Goal: Restore and protect the Region’s natural resources while planning for orderly growth.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives:

1)	Assist TCEQ with the review of permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Review any permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities submitted to the LRGVDC.	Yes

Implementation Projects Funding Plan and Public Meetings

Prior to funding local implementation projects the LRGVDC must maintain a state approved regional solid waste-funding plan.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the entire system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objective:

1)	Identify specific projects, project categories, and regional funding priorities for the region.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Prepare a proposed Implementation Project Funding Plan prior to the public meetings;	Yes
2)	Conduct at least one (1) meeting in the region to discuss the funding plan; and	Yes
3)	Submit the funding plan for approval by the LRGVDC Board of Directors & TCEQ.	Yes

Implementation of Project Selection Process

Implement projects to achieve goals and objectives set forth in the state municipal solid waste management strategic plan and the regional solid waste management plan.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives:

1)	Select projects for funding on a competitive basis;
2)	Conduct a Request for Applications (RFA) process to announce the availability of funding and to solicit applications;
3)	Conduct an application process for all competitive and non-competitive applications;
4)	Conduct an initial screening of all applications to identify projects that meet the minimum screening criteria for project selection;
5)	The Solid Waste Advisory Committee shall review and rank all applications and project proposals;
6)	Submit information on projects selected for funding to the TCEQ;
7)	Establish a list of additional projects from the applications submitted, to be funded if and when additional funding becomes available; and
8)	Ensure that all projects meet private industry notification process.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Review and rank regional solid waste implementation projects for funding.	Yes

Sub-Grant Award and Administration and Program Reporting

The LRGVDC shall establish and administer the sub-grants selected for funding and provide progress and results on all projects funded.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the system of waste reduction, recycling and disposal: sewage, solid waste, brush and hazardous material.

Goal: Reduce Waste Generation/Disposal and Develop Responsible Waste Disposal Practices.

Objectives:

1)	Enter into legal agreements with each sub-grant recipient to award funding and set the standards and requirements that must be adhered to by the sub-grant recipient;
2)	Administer and manage each sub-grant in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations;
3)	Establish and administer a financial management program to make reimbursements to sub-grant recipients.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Complete progress, financial and final result reports on all projects funded in 2015/2016.	Yes

Data Research and Development

Economic and Demographic Data

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Increase Domestic and International Tourism.

Data gathering and analysis are integral factors in all planning efforts. They are the basis in designing effective programs. Before solutions to local and regional problems can be addressed, there must be an accurate understanding of social, economic and physical conditions. Therefore, it becomes of utmost importance to maintain an accurate assessment of population and economic characteristics, as well as an updated analysis of trends, projections and patterns. There exists a continuous need for this type of data, and this information is utilized to support in-house programmatic planning endeavors.

LRGVDC Goal: To Mobilize Education and Training Resources into a Seamless System.

Objectives:

1)	Collect, analyze and distribute data to support regional planning activities, as well as to assist local governments and agencies;
2)	Coordinate activities with federal, state and local agencies, such as the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Texas Data Center Management Program, and other government agencies, to obtain current statistical information;

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	The LRGVDC shall continue to identify and utilize various sources of data and develop systematical methods which best apply to the needs and demands of the public and private sectors, providing technical assistance to at least fifteen (15) individuals/entities.	Yes

CHAPTER 7

REGIONAL 9-1-1

Regional 9-1-1

Emergency Communications (9-1-1)

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Enhance and Sustain a Cost-effective Technological 9-1-1 System.

In 1987, the 70th Legislature of the State of Texas passed House Bill 9-1-1 which allows for the planning, financing and implementation of Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Service in communities throughout the State of Texas. It required counties with a population of 120,000 or more to have 9-1-1 emergency service by September 1, 1995. A city or county with a population of less than 120,000 can also participate by resolution of its governing body. House Bill 9-1-1 required each of the 24 Regional Planning Councils to develop a plan for providing 9-1-1 service throughout their geographic territory. The plan includes: levels of 9-1-1 service, equipment and operational standards, cost of services, administration, budget and funding allocations, and more. The LRGVDC Regional 9-1-1 Plan was developed in 1989 and staff is currently implementing and maintaining an update of that plan.

Regional 9-1-1 Plan

Through coordination with the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), telephone companies, local governments, and public safety entities, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties received 9-1-1 services in September 1992. Hidalgo and Willacy counties fully implemented Phase II 9-1-1 system during the fall of 2008, while providing continued training of Call Takers at Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and upgrading current equipment.

LRGVDC Goal: Enhance and sustain a cost-effective 9-1-1 system.

Objectives:

1)	Comply with all state law requirements under House Bill 9-1-1 and Article 1432f of State Statutes in maintaining a Regional Plan;
2)	Provide quicker access to emergency care and public safety facilities, personnel and equipment for law enforcement, fire protection and emergency medical services in the Lower Rio Grande Valley;
3)	Coordinate with cities, counties, public utilities, service providers, state and federal agencies and the public in maintaining a revised regional plan;
4)	Provide technical assistance to the cities and counties on the 9-1-1 regional plan;
5)	Maintain and update the state 9-1-1 database management system for the region;

6)	Address and provide addresses for rural areas outside cities in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties;
7)	Provide Training to PSAP call takers as new equipment is installed;
8)	Order and distribute 9-1-1 public education materials in our region; and
9)	Implement new "Next Gen 911" (NG911) systems in concert with CSEC budget allowances.

	Performance Measure	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Maintain and uphold our Regional 9-1-1 Plan.	Yes

State 9-1-1 Database

The LRGVDC 9-1-1 Department constantly works on maintaining and updating the State 9-1-1 Database throughout the year. This process involves updating street centerlines, subdivision annexations, Automatic Location Identifier (ALI) records, and most importantly proper 9-1-1 call routing. In conjunction with our mapping department, updates to Emergency Service Number (ESN) boundaries are made to properly and efficiently route these 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate PSAP. Maintaining the State 9-1-1 Database is critical for urban or rural addressing in our region. For this reason, an up-to-date database and mapping system equates to a more efficient our 9-1-1 system.

Rural Addressing

The LRGVDC provides rural addressing for Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Rural addressing maintenance involves identifying rural structures, assigning an address and assistance in naming or renaming roads. This is accomplished with the cooperation of city and county governments and the U.S. Postal Service. Rural addressing enables rural residents to have the full benefits of the 9-1-1 services, and is an ongoing project of the 9-1-1 Program. The LRGVDC may assist cities address their Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) areas using city addressing ranges, which are different than the county addressing ranges. Power 911/Power Map is a program that has been implemented to bring Map ALI to Hidalgo and Willacy County. This program shows the wireline TN (telephone number) with address on 9-1-1 Call Taker Equipment or the location where the call is coming from by GPS or network triangulation for wireless callers.

Public Safety Answering Point Training

Training is provided to our call takers in order to provide quality service to our residents in an emergency situation. PSAP personnel are routinely trained on: how to properly answer a 9-1-1 call, how to deal with people with disabilities (sight, motion, and hearing impairments), new equipment or software updates for call taking, and any

new technologies that impact 9-1-1 such as Wireless Phase II or Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). The LRGVDC Police Academy assists in providing TCLEOSE certified communication courses for all 9-1-1 call takers in Hidalgo and Willacy County.

State 9-1-1 ESINet

LRGVDC has agreed to work with CSEC on development of the state ESInet and NG911 systems by testing new 9-1-1 voice call routing and databases using computer networks instead of the older analog telephone networks. The state plan is to qualify a group of "early adopters" including an initial group of 80 PSAPs. The goal is to convert most of the PSAPs to NG911 systems when state connections become available.

An IP-enabled network infrastructure will be used to interconnect regional ESInets and other public safety-grade emergency services networks serving the regions within and beyond Texas. As such, it must be engineered and managed to provision the bandwidth necessary to carry the volume of traffic for all PSAPs in Texas, currently numbering five hundred seventy-three (573). PSAPs will be connected directly to the ESInet, or indirectly via regional ESInets.

State 9-1-1 EGDMS

The EGDMS project (Enterprise Geodatabase Management System) was devised to have a state wide GIS in which all data was standardized. This will allow for better call routing functions and also help develop a completely redundant network in case of a catastrophic emergency. The EGDMS project will help streamline the transition from a regular Telephone Number Database to a more comprehensive, spatially accurate GIS.

The state-level EGDMS must provide for near real time updates of the geospatial information via enterprise GIS web services. In order to achieve mapping interoperability and enable a unified geospatial data management system for all participating entities, it is envisioned that the state-level EDGMS would evolve to serve as the authoritative GIS in the state. Maintaining coalesced boundaries and address points; provisioning geospatial information to the relevant Texas NG9-1-1 System components; and providing access to map views for PSAP backup purposes when needed.

CHAPTER 8

VALLEY METRO

VALLEY METRO

Public Transit Services

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: To Provide an Effective and Efficient Regional Transit System

Goal: Increase Public Participation in Public Transportation.

Goal: Improve Safety & Security Practices

Goal: Continue the Development of Regional Transit Infrastructure

As the designated recipient for both State and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding, Valley Metro operates transit service in the McAllen urbanized area (most of Hidalgo county), Harlingen urbanized area (covering Harlingen, San Benito, and neighboring cities), and the non-urbanized areas of Hidalgo, Cameron, or Willacy Counties. Since June 2015 Valley Metro also provides service to Starr and Zapata Counties. In addition, Valley Metro is the lead agency for regional public transportation planning and coordinates the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) composed of transit, workforce, health and human services, and nonprofit organizations.

Service in the McAllen urbanized area reaches Mercedes, Weslaco, Donna, Alamo, San Juan, Pharr, Mission, Edcouch, Elsa, La Villa, La Joya, Peñitas, Alton, Palmview, and Edinburg through fourteen (14) bus routes. The routes assist low-income people, the disabled, veterans, students, the elderly, and others to reach medical appointments, schools, training sites, shopping locations, and employment-related services. The routes connect with Valley Metro's rural routes and routes operated by McAllen Metro at the McAllen Central Station. Service in the Harlingen urbanized area reaches Harlingen, San Benito, La Feria, Combes, Primera, and Santa Rosa through five (5) bus routes. These routes connect at the Valley Transit Company bus station in downtown Harlingen and to the transit system in Brownsville through the La Plaza terminal. Service in rural areas is provided through seven (7) flexible routes in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, and a demand-response service in Willacy County.

Maintaining an effective transit system is vital to the region's economic development by transporting workers to jobs at a low cost and empowering the general public by providing mobility throughout the region. Furthermore, increased efficiency allows the transit system to save resources and allocate them to high-need areas.

LRGVDC Goal: To Provide an Effective and Efficient Regional Transit System

Objectives:

1)	Maintain or increase transit ridership
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Increase one-way passenger trips by at least 5% over the previous year on both rural and urban systems for the span of January 2016 to January 2017.	Yes, there was a 12% increase for the reporting period.

Community involvement is essential to public transportation services as it can dramatically impact a person's and/or a community's quality of life. Projects being proposed to policy makers are of higher quality if they have undergone a thorough public involvement process.

LRGVDC Goal: Increase public participation in public transportation.

Objectives:

1)	Increase stakeholder involvement in project planning, design and implementation.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Attend at least fifteen (15) public outreach activities for stakeholders throughout the service area;	Yes
2)	Hold at least one open house in conjunction with the Hidalgo County MPO to discuss the annual program of projects;	Yes
3)	Continue to coordinate the RTAP and attend the local MPO meetings.	Yes

Client comfort and satisfaction begins with nurturing a safe and reliable bus system by all transit staff. By concentrating on prevention of accidents/incidents, the transit providers strive to ensure every customer has a great experience when being transported. Staff must be updated on the industry's top safety practices and must encourage passengers to practice safety at all times.

LRGVDC Goal: Improve safety and security practices.

Objectives:

1)	Educate riders and staff about all applicable safety policies and general safety precautions. Conduct security review of surveillance footage from service fleet.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Provide at least one safety & security training to transit staff;	Yes
2)	Produce safety/security awareness literature for riders;	Yes
3)	Reduce accidents and incidents by at least 5% from previous year.	Yes
4)	Conduct bi-weekly random surveillance audits from service fleet from a minimum of at least 1 vehicle.	No, in an effort to ensure safety and security would be adhered to by staff, the department was restructured to meet and/or exceed this performance measure

The Rio Grande Valley is a rapidly growing area that requires added capital investments in transit infrastructure and modes. Terminals, bus stops, mixed-use facilities and the like allow the community more opportunities to ride public transportation and are a vital resource in community enhancement projects.

LRGVDC Goal: Continue the development of regional transit infrastructure.

Objectives:

1)	Provide facilities that allow passengers increased access to the bus.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Continue with construction of a transit facility in Edinburg;	Yes
2)	Continue towards completion of construction of transit access in Pharr and San Juan (ADA sidewalks);	Yes
3)	Identify additional facility needs and funding;	Yes
4)	Continue process of obtaining rolling stock to replace older vehicles.	Yes

CHAPTER 9

HOMELAND SECURITY

HOMELAND SECURITY

Homeland Security

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

- Goal:** Enhance Homeland Security in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Goal:** Provide the Resources to Maintain a Comprehensive Local Emergency Management Program and Assist in Enhancing Local Emergency Management Plans.
- Goal:** Provide resources and assistance to counties and cities to establish and maintain a statewide interoperable radio communications system that is accessible by local, regional, state, and federal responding agencies when needed.
- Goal:** Enhance and promote citizen volunteer programs under the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) within the region.

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, much has been accomplished to improve prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation capabilities and coordination processes in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Councils of Government (COG's) are provided homeland security grant funds to perform homeland security planning and emergency preparedness related activities within their regions. As a result, the approach that the LRGVDC has taken in addressing emergency planning across all jurisdiction functional disciplines, has improved the effectiveness of emergency response providers.

In 2002, the 107th Congress of the United States of America passed H. R. 5005, otherwise known as the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which established the Department of Homeland Security. As a result of the passage of the Homeland Security Act, all of the states are actively participating in the President's initiative in securing the United States and its borders against terrorism and all hazards, whether man-made, technological or natural.

Although few in numbers, maximum efforts have taken place to protect the homeland within the LRGVDC region; the LRGVDC along with the region's first responder community continues striving to support and provide the finest possible assistance to the population within the region. Due to Homeland Security Funding Programs, this region is better off today than ever before. When combined with the approximately \$35 million allocated to the region for homeland security since 2002, these programs as well as funds have provided the region increased capacity to respond with overwhelming capability to potential threats that face our communities and the citizens.

Enhance Homeland Security in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

As required under Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) enables responders and authorities from different jurisdictions and disciplines to better work together within a consistent framework for incident management. The National Response Plan (NRP) is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan, which relies on the principles of the NIMS, to coordinate and integrate incident management activities and emergency support functions across Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments, private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, HSPD-8 requires the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate with other Federal, State, tribal and local governments to develop the National Preparedness Goal. The Goal establishes readiness priorities, targets, and metrics, enabling the Nation to easily recognize capabilities that need improvement and sustain capabilities to manage major events using the protocols established in NIMS. Coupled with the NIMS and NRP, the Goal defines what needs to be done to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from an incident, how it needs to be done, and how well it needs to be done.

LRGVDC Goal: Enhance Homeland Security in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Objectives:

1)	Provide assistance to local governments with limited staff resources to develop their own disaster catastrophic plans.
2)	Train local governments in completing Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), State Preparedness Report (SPR), and Homeland Security Strategic Plan – Implementation on a yearly bases, as required by the State Administrative Agency (SAA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
3)	To provide assistance in the development of protection/prevention plans for critical infrastructure and key assets as required.
4)	To provide emphasis in system usage with all interoperability communication, protocols, and hurricane regional training and/or exercises.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Conduct at least one (1) planning workshops with the Homeland Security Advisory Committee to update the LRGVDC Homeland Security Strategic Plan – Implementation Plan's three (3) goals that are linked to performance measure and implementation tasks.	Yes
2)	Assist and participate in one (1) regional communications	Yes

	exercise and request participation from 100% of the jurisdictions that have utilized homeland security funding.	
3)	Assist in identifying critical infrastructure by conducting one (1) regional state preparedness report workshop.	Yes
4)	Enhance the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) by conducting, at a minimum, one (1) workshop.	Yes
5)	Identify and define needs to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from an incident, man-made or natural, by disseminating state and federal preparedness guidelines to all 43 jurisdictions.	Yes

Provide the resources to maintain a comprehensive local emergency management program and assist in enhancing local emergency management plans.

Through a current and up-to-date Emergency Management Plan local governments have addressed the issues of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The plan cites the legal authority for conducting emergency operations, describes the hazards that the community faces, explains the general concept of emergency operations and assigns responsibility for emergency planning and operations. Developing and maintaining the plan is a crucial and vital task, and the LRGVDC will assist with preparing and/or updating the jurisdictions' respective emergency plan. If there is sufficient staff at the smaller jurisdictions, meetings will be conducted between the larger neighboring jurisdictions or their county entity in securing an inter-jurisdictional or joint ordinance that will cover the smaller jurisdiction in the Emergency Management Plan.

LRGVDC Goal: Provide the resources to maintain a comprehensive local emergency management program and assist in enhancing local emergency management plans.

Objectives:

1)	Encouraging inter-jurisdictional emergency management programs to incorporate smaller cities that have limited resources and cannot reasonably maintain their own plans, ultimately enhancing collaboration.
2)	Provide assistance to those counties and cities that have emergency management plans which are outdated or do not meet state standards in terms of upgrading and revision.
3)	Train cities and counties with limited staff and resources to develop their own plans, preferably as part of an inter-jurisdictional program.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	It is estimated that 34 of 40 eligible jurisdictions identified this year, technical assistance will be made available to 5	Yes

	that will become ineligible over the course of the year due to the imposition of new deadlines and standards set by the State and Federal Government or updates.	
2)	Provide legal documents and state guidelines establishing an emergency management program and plans through commission court orders, city ordinances and joint resolutions to the 4 remaining ineligible cities.	Yes
3)	An estimated thirty-four (34) planning documents (annexes) will be submitted for state approval. Continue to assist the forty (40) current eligible jurisdictions over the course of the year in maintaining eligibility status and assist newly eligible jurisdictions with standards to maintain eligibility status.	Yes
4)	Distribute state guidelines and eligibility requirements to forty-three (43) jurisdictions on the basic, intermediate, and advanced level of emergency preparedness.	Yes
5)	Continue to facilitate the new implementation requirements of NIMS to forty (40) current eligible jurisdictions within the region.	Yes
6)	Assist in coordinating two (2) Incident Command System (ICS) Course for first responders in order to meet the NIMS standards and NIMS certification of local jurisdictions' first responders as well as senior level management and elected officials.	Yes

Provide resources and assistance to counties and cities to establish and maintain a statewide interoperable radio communications system that is accessible by local, regional, state, and federal responding agencies when needed.

National and regional level public safety information systems provide unique and invaluable capabilities to the homeland security communities within the region. Local jurisdictions must fully leverage state and federal information sources and channels and remain engaged in all state level technology initiatives so that information continues to flow within the region in a way that optimally supports investigative and intelligence activities in Texas.

The LRGVDC must also assist in building new capabilities to address information technology gaps. Current and future systems must be designed to optimize a vast amount of data collection by many local, state and federal public safety agencies within the region, as well as other data relevant to the homeland security community. The LRGVDC's past and current ongoing efforts have increased the number of jurisdictions who will be able to participate under homeland security programs, thus increasing the region's communication capabilities.

LRGVDC Goals: Provide resources and assistance to counties and cities to establish

and maintain a statewide interoperable radio communications system that is accessible by local, state, and federal responding agencies when needed.

Objectives:

1)	Identify the vulnerabilities and/or deficiencies within the LRGVDC region;
2)	Provide sources of funding to agencies to meet identified needs and deficiencies.
3)	Facilitate the collection of data and equipment on regional communication systems and information on the jurisdictions in the region;
4)	Assist local officials and emergency responders in identifying training needs.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Collaborate with existing Homeland Security Advisory Committee, other Steering Committees, and three (3) counties to identify the best avenue to continue to enhance a statewide interoperable communications system.	Yes
2)	Encourage the forty-three (43) jurisdictions to participate as a region and develop projects that will improve the LRGVDC region and coincide with the LRGVDC Regional Interoperability Communications Plan (RICP) and State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) which addresses Interoperable communications standards and procedures;	Yes
3)	Disseminate information to the forty-three (43) jurisdictions on homeland security grant programs, state and federal requirements, and deadlines which will continue to enhance the regions RICP on a yearly basis to identify and close any gaps.	Yes
4)	Conduct one (1) focus group session and update the state of the regions' capabilities.	Yes

Promote and increase information on the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) within the region

The LRGVDC has created a committee to provide citizens in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy and Starr counties with guidance and opportunities to volunteer through the Citizen Corps Program. Participants can learn all about public safety, emergency preparedness, crime prevention, and health issues. Volunteer opportunities include:

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations, Volunteers in Police Service

(VIPS) works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs, The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program helps medical public health and other volunteers offer their expertise during local emergencies and other times of community need. MRC volunteers could be active or retired health professionals or any citizens interested in health issues, an expanded Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training, and Fire Corps supports fire departments by encouraging citizen advocates to serve in non-emergency roles. Fire Corps actively involves citizens in public education; training volunteer efforts focused on fire prevention safety. The Citizen Corps is dedicated to creating stronger, safer, and better prepared communities through volunteerism.

LRGVDC Goal: Promote and increase information on the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) within the region.

Objectives:

1)	Identify preparedness vulnerabilities and deficiencies in the LRGVDC region.
2)	Establish a Community-Wide Network of Neighborhood Groups to assist in local incidents and training.
3)	Assist agencies in the coordination preparedness training with local volunteer agencies and organizations.
4)	Identify sources of funding and other related sources to meet identified needs.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Provide resources to one (1) Citizen Corps Council.	Yes
2)	Provide guidance to two (2) community groups in Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training.	Yes
3)	Provide assistance to the Regional Citizen Corps Council, Harlingen Citizen Corps Council/CERT, and Rio Grande Valley CERT in establishing future volunteers for the need of the region throughout the year.	Yes
4)	Through the Homeland Security Advisory Committee, encourage forty-three (43) jurisdictions to participate in making their communities safer, stronger and better prepared in order to prevent and respond to all crimes and disasters by engaging with their communities and providing them with preparedness material.	Yes
5)	Assist in the coordination of one (1) community outreach meeting	Yes
6)	Collaborate with faith based agencies and local community organizations, and two (2) organizations of higher	Yes

	education within the region.	
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Criminal Justice Planning

<p>Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference</p> <p>Goal: Increase Technology for Public Safety</p> <p>Goal: Reduce Violent Crime.</p>
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Passage by the Sixty-Seventh Legislative Session of Senate Bill 127 marked the establishment of the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Office of the Governor. The Bill charged the Criminal Justice Division with administering state funds and limited amounts of federal funds to local and state criminal justice agencies through Regional Councils of Government (COG's), such as the LRGVDC. The Criminal Justice Division provides funds for crime reduction programs that are locally planned, designed and coordinated through the local governments.

Regional planning activities include an effort to coordinate and consolidate the activities of criminal justice agencies within the three-county region and to maximize available funds and resources. This process involves identifying the local crime problem, system resources, goals and objectives and projecting program and funding needs.

Technical assistance is made available through CJD and the COG in order to facilitate the funding application process developed by local governments on behalf of the criminal justice agency. This assistance is provided in order to assure that projects developed are consistent with the needs identified and to not duplicate services or programs. Funds for the activities of the LRGVDC's Regional Criminal Justice Coordination Program are obtained from the Criminal Justice Division of the State of Texas.

Increase Technology for Public Safety

The Governor's CJD directive is for the Council of Governments to promote the use of resources available in our region for coordination of services provided by law enforcement agencies, family violence centers, and civic groups for increased safety and protection for victims. Communities want and need to feel safe in their respective environments. Therefore public safety should include increasing the number of police officers on patrol with better response times, providing alternatives for expelled students and gang activities, providing advanced technology and upgrade to law enforcement equipment, and decreasing drug distribution and contraband trafficking. There is a compelling need for technological equipment for the regions' law

enforcement agencies.

Goal: Increase Technology for Public Safety.

Objective:

1)	Continue to upgrade technology for law enforcement agencies.
2)	Enhance automation of imaging, fingerprinting, and mug shot systems.
3)	Provide standard law enforcement equipment as well as computer software and hardware to law enforcement agencies.
4)	Interlink separate local law enforcement computer systems.
5)	Upgrade courtroom programs and equipment for prosecution.
6)	Law Enforcement continues providing accurate and efficient data collection, data compilation, and data sharing.
7)	To provide for locally relevant, ongoing evaluation of programs to improve program implementation.
8)	Continue to explore the capabilities of security and surveillance equipment for city, county, schools, and youth centers.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Ensure that networking amongst the agencies remains in existence through the facilitation and notification to all federal, state and local agencies of our grant workshop planning process held in all three counties. Estimated attendance of 60 participants is expected for the workshops.	Yes
2)	Provide technical assistance as needed to as many as twenty-six (26) eligible entities in the development of their grant applications with direction on where to seek statistical data.	Yes
3)	Provide guidance to fifty-seven (57) public safety agencies in identifying the standard and up-to-date computer hardware and software for law enforcement offices, radio communications equipment, and mobile data terminals for patrol units.	Yes

Reduce Violent Crime

The Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) directive is for the Council of Governments to focus on the enhancement of the Rio Grande Valley's capabilities by the creation and support of programs to prevent crime, provide service and treatment options, enforce laws, train staff and volunteers, and the restoration of crime victims to full physical, emotional and mental health.

Many victims do not report crime for fear of retaliation by their abuser. In addition to fear, victims face many barriers when trying to escape their abusive environments. Barriers such as language, lack of transportation, knowledge, education, housing, and financial stability prevent many from reporting the abuse.

It is imperative that the community continues to support programs that provide services to victims and their children, and must do so through the access of funding dollars earmarked for our region. It is also important that support is provided to programs that provide education to the community on issues of family violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and the effects of violence on children.

Goal: Reduce Violent Crime.

Objectives:

1)	Establish and enhance the Rio Grande Valley's capacity in ensuring funding notification and availability is widely disseminated to prevent crimes, provide service and treatment options, enforce laws, train staff and volunteers, and restore crime victims to fullest physical, emotional and mental health.
2)	To provide safety and protection to victims of family violence, sexual assault and other crimes against persons through establishing and/or enhancing our current networking system. This will enable eligible grantees within the three county regions to have an opportunity to obtain criminal Justice Funds for personnel and programs that will assist with crime prevention, crime awareness, drug prevention, drug treatment programs, juvenile delinquency deterrence, and equipment for city and county programs, law enforcement school districts, and non-profit organizations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Assist as many as 26 entities which include local governments, non-profit agencies and school districts in the development, coordination and operation of 26 projects within the three-county region funded through the Criminal Justice Division of the State of Texas.	Yes
2)	Analyze the three (3) county criminal justice environments and establish goals, priorities, and standards for criminal justice, juvenile justice, victim restoration and crime stoppers programs that increase public safety and reduce crime.	Yes
3)	Conduct three (3) strategic planning and grant application workshops within the LRGVDC area of responsibility (Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy).	Yes
4)	Increase the number of facilities (i.e. facilities	Yes

	used for providing victim assistance and other criminal justice related services) with operational, functioning security systems within the three counties.	
5)	Provide outreach material such as pamphlets on crime prevention and deterrence to ten (10) jurisdictions.	Yes

CHAPTER 10

REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

Regional Police Academy

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Deliver updated training on techniques, procedures, laws and any other areas organic to law enforcement and corrections.

Goal: Provide professional development opportunities for law enforcement personnel to maintain their state licenses and complete courses designed to fulfill the requirements for the different levels of peace officer licenses (basic, intermediate, advance, master).

Within the region, emphasis is placed on upgrading and increasing the availability of training for law enforcement officers. The State of Texas, through the Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), requires a minimum of 643 hours of training for participants in the Basic Peace Officer Course.

In addition to this basic training, TCOLE requires each peace officer to receive a minimum of 40 hours of professional development within each 24 month training unit and a total of 80 hours of professional development within each 48-month training cycle. As part of this ongoing training, each officer must receive training in topics specified by the state legislature each biennium. Officers must also receive specialized training in areas unique to their duty assignments and their individual license level (basic, intermediate, advance or master). For many officers, the level of certification can mean higher pay, promotion, and transfer.

Attrition in law enforcement, the ever changing criminal sophistication, and demands of stakeholders necessitates a program of continuing education from the Basic Peace Officer Course to specialized advanced training. In addition, changes in state and federal statutes, court decisions, development of new procedures and techniques, and the development of advanced technology require that continuously updated training is provided. Improved training and education enhances the law enforcement officer's capabilities to perform the more complicated and intricate nuances required and demanded by modern society and allow officers to specialize in certain areas (e.g. investigations, homicide, juvenile justice, family violence, traffic, etc.).

This law enforcement training is provided through the LRGVDC's Regional Police Academy and Training Center. The Academy is monitored by TCOLE and the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor to ensure that training needs and standards comply with state requirements and meet the needs of the agencies serviced by the Academy. Funds for the operation of the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center are obtained from the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor, tuition and other fees.

LRGVDC Goal: Continue to operate the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and

Training Center.

Objectives:

1)	Act as the coordinator for activities and resources utilizing the Academy.
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Performance Measures		Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Conduct an annual survey of law enforcement agencies to determine topical priorities for regional law enforcement training; and	Yes
2)	Notify all agencies, within our service area, of training available through the Academy.	Yes

Objective:

1)	Act as a liaison between the LRGVDC and local law enforcement agencies and attend meetings relevant to the operation of the Academy and Training Center.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Staff attendance at a minimum of one (1) training course which will offer updated or new courses;	Yes
2)	Attend LRGVDC Board of Directors meetings;	Yes
3)	Conduct Academy Advisory Board meetings in accordance with the bylaws of the Advisory Board; and	Yes
4)	Attend annual TCOLE coordinator conference.	Yes

Objective:

1)	Ensure continuation of Academy activities through preparation of application for continual funding of the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Complete and submit funding grant application for the Academy Program.	Yes

LRGVDC Goal: Ensure the availability of education and training for law enforcement

officers within our service area.

Objective:

1)	Train cadets in the Basic Peace Officer Course, consisting of at least the minimum required hours (refer to TCOLE Rules), to become licensed peace officers.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Conduct at least two (2) Basic Peace Officer Courses annually.	Yes

Objectives:

1)	Offer in-service courses to improve officers' functional abilities in law enforcement and community relations.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Conduct a minimum of forty (40) in-service trainings utilizing Academy staff instructors and adjunct instructors throughout the region.	Yes

LRGVDC Goal: Improve the education and training level of peace officers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Objective:

1)	Improve the quality of training offered by the Academy.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Each staff instructor will develop one new course annually; and	Yes
2)	Each academy instructor will be evaluated at least once annually by another staff instructor and at least once annually by the Academy Coordinator/Director.	Yes

LRGVDC Goal: Encourage local law enforcement agencies to provide all law enforcement officers with opportunities to further professional growth and development.

Objective:

1)	Develop a system for electronic notification to agencies of Academy scheduled and available training.
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	Performance Measures	Accomplished Yes/No
1)	Maintain mailing listing for all agencies in the service region and also post training opportunities on the Regional Police Academy and Training Center's website and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, etc.	Yes

Regional Training Center

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Reference

Goal: Deliver updated training on techniques, procedures, laws and any other areas organic to law enforcement and corrections.

Goal: Provide professional development opportunities for law enforcement personnel to maintain their state peace officer licenses and complete courses designed to fulfill the requirements for the different levels of peace officer licenses (basic, intermediate, advanced and master).

The LRGVDC frequently sponsors and/or co-sponsors workshops and training sessions of interest to member governments. Such topics may include, but are not limited to new legislation, grant information and referrals, health and social services, citizen participation, application preparation, litter abatement, transit driver safety, etc. These workshops and/or training sessions are held in conjunction with other federal, state and local governments where applicable and appropriate.

LRGVDC Goal: To integrate education and training resources into a seamless system.

Objectives:

1)	Coordinate and keep in contact with federal, state and local governments regarding possible workshops and/or training sessions;
2)	Inform appropriate individuals of any workshops and/or training sessions;
3)	Prepare and distribute any necessary material and/or information;
4)	Search for and obtain appropriate meeting sites;
5)	Assist in obtaining all necessary equipment and materials for the workshop and/or training session;
6)	Assist in obtaining guest speakers; and
7)	Compile and maintain an updated mailing list of interested individuals, organizations and governments.

Performance Measures		Accomplished Yes/No
1)	The LRGVDC will continue to coordinate with state and federal agencies to conduct and/or co-sponsor at least one (1) workshop and/or session thereby allowing the Region to have better equipped and trained law enforcement officers.	Yes