

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

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

WEDNESDAY, April 29, 2026, at 12:00 P.M

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

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

Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes March 25, 2026.....President

Item #3: Public Comment

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

1. **Ratification** of Executive Committee **ACTION** on approving Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritized Lists for FY 2026-2027 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Application.
2. Presentation and **ACTION** to Accept Quarterly Investment Report.....Crystal Balboa
Finance Director
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Set Date & Format for 2026 Nominating Committee Meeting.

B. Executive Director Reports

- 1. Introduction of New Staff Members
- 2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Program Status Reports

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

B. Health & Human ServicesMargarita Lopez
Director

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the Fiscal year from 10/1/2026-9/30/2027.
- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the timeline for the request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services for the fiscal year from 10/1/2026-09/30/2027.
- 3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the preliminary Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Area Agency on Aging Area Plan FY 2027-2029 (Draft).

Program Status Reports

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

C. Public Safety

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Edward Bryne memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally approved amounts.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund (SF) Fund Program Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally approved amounts.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Truancy Prevention and Intervention Juvenile Justice & Youth Diversion (TP) Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally approved amounts.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grand Program (VA) resolution, Rankings and Conditionally approved amounts.
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) Resolution, Rankings, and Conditionally approved amounts.

Program Status Reports

- Committee Meetings: Criminal Justice, Homeland Security and Regional Response Group
- Local Emergency Safety & Planning Meeting within Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.
- Communication with Regional Preparedness with State Counterparts.

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

Program Status Reports

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

C. 2. Police Academy Program.....Javier Solis
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Amendments to the LRGV Academy Adjunct Instructor Subcontractor Agreements for Special Instructional Services.

Program Status Reports

- Officers Certified
- Courses Taught
- Contact Hours

D. Transportation

Valley Metro.....Sandra Carrizales
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Resolution VM #2026-08 Authorizing the LRGVDC Executive Director to execute a resolution appointing Dr. Sandra Carrizales, Interim Director for Valley Metro to the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the updated Section 5310 Program Management plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in compliance to FTA's Drug and Alcohol Compliance Auditing Program.

Program Status Reports

- Ridership Report

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

Program Status Reports

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business

Item #7: Adjourn

**Next Meeting
May 27, 2026**

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

PUBLICINPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2

MEETING

MINUTES

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

12:00PM Wednesday March 25, 2026

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:03 p.m. quorum was attained.

Present: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Commissioner Ernie Garcia, Willacy County
Commissioner Nurieth Galonsky, City of Brownsville
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco
Commissioner, Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Mayor Sylvia Castillo, City of Sullivan City
Mayor Pro-Tem Ruben Saldana , City of Mercedes
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Rosa Perez, City of La Villa
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

Item #2 Consideration and ACTION to approve meeting Minutes February 25, 2026. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #3: Public Comment – No public Comment

Item #4: Administration

B. Executive Director Report – Mr. Cruz started off with stating that he did have one item and was time sensitive. I previously provided a letter of support, but I would like to offer additional context regarding this matter for the benefit of the audience and members present.

As you may already be aware, the EDA Regional Director this is a critical position within our region, Texas and four other states. Mr. Jorge Ayala, who many of you know, is scheduled to retire in April. Earlier this month, while attending the National Association of Development Organizations conference in Washington, D.C., he informed us of his upcoming retirement, which is effective in late April. During that time, he also shared limited updates regarding the current administration's plans for his position. As of that date, there were no confirmed plans to hire a replacement or backfill the role.

Given the importance of this position, several Councils of Government—both from Texas and across the five regions within the Economic Development Districts—took a proactive approach by reaching out to their federal representatives to express concern. I also contacted some of our federal representative offices to ensure they are aware of the situation. As you know, we serve as the Economic Development District for this Council of Governments, and this role is vital not only for our region but for the entire state, as well as the other states. Funding is allocated across these regions, and we are responsible for providing technical assistance to our local governments. The Economic Development Administration regional office in Austin then reviews these applications, establishes priorities, and selects projects for funding.

At this time, there is uncertainty regarding the future structure of the region, potentially including the possibility of consolidation from the six EDA regions in the U.S. to three. Regardless of the outcome, it is essential that our region remains a high priority and that a regional director is retained. Given that our region represents one of the strongest economies in the nation, it is critical that we continue to have appropriate representation and support at the regional level.

To that end, I have presented a draft letter for your consideration today. One option would be for the Board President to sign the letter, with copies provided to all Board members, and submit it to our federal representatives. Another option would be for individual cities and counties to take similar action. However, a unified approach would send a much stronger message. As Board members, you play a key role in representing our region, and it is important that you are informed and engaged on this issue. I would like to open the floor for discussion on how we would like to proceed, but I strongly encourage that we take action to ensure the continued presence of a regional director within this Economic Development Administration Regional District to support sustained economic growth for our region and the state as a whole.

So, the Action item today is Consideration and ACTION to Advocacy effort Regarding Economic Development Administration (EDA) Austin Regional Director Vacancy with a Letter of Support. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Action to Advocacy effort regarding Economic Development Administration (EDA) Austin Regional Directors Vacancy with letter of support. Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mr. Cruz also states that we did reach out to some of our federal representatives, as well as Senator Ted Cruz, Congresswoman Monica De la Cruz, and Congressman Vicent Gonzalez. Mr. Pep Cabeza de Vaca also stated that we can also reach out to Ana Flores and make sure they are aware of this as well. Mr. Cruz then mentions that again, the letter provided today has already been drafted, and the selected option can be addressed to each of the respective representatives. Ms. Gonzales with URTGV also states that the letter is appropriate, as it does not advocate for any specific outcome. For those of us familiar with Jorge Ayala, we recognize that he has been extremely helpful, particularly in securing and supporting numerous grants and related efforts. Mr. Ernesto Cavazos with Willacy County Navigation District asks, Where do we currently stand with Vicente and Ted Cruz, and how would you characterize our relationships within our district? Specifically, are these relationships favorable with all of our representatives? I understand there are six districts—where do we stand across them? Mayor Norie Gonzales then answers, I can only speak from my perspective, but I believe that, as a Council of Governments, we maintain strong relationships overall. From the City of Mission’s standpoint, we consistently engage with the Senators’ offices, and we have established solid communication and working relationships with those currently in place. While changes may occur, I can say that, at this time, our relationships are positive.

Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca states that from the perspective of the City of McAllen and the portion of Hidalgo County that I represent alongside Commissioner Fuentes, communication with our representatives’ offices is very strong. While Senators are not always present locally, our Representatives are accessible and highly responsive to the needs and concerns we raise. Overall, we have solid representation—Vicente, Monica De La Cruz, and Cornyn have all been very effective. Additionally, Congressman Cuellar now has a local point of contact here in Hidalgo County, which further helps address regional matters efficiently.

Ms. Veronica Gonzales mentions that on behalf of UTRGV, given our presence across the entire Valley—and extending as far as Laredo—we work closely with our federal representatives throughout the region. Over the years, we have built strong relationships with Congressman Henry Cuellar, Congresswoman De La Cruz, Congressman Gonzales, and Senator Cornyn’s office.

We maintain regular communication with key staff, including Ana Flores and Josh Rojas, in Senator Cruz’s office. In fact, Josh recently assisted in preserving funding that had been at risk for the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center. Overall, our relationships are strong, with consistent engagement and open lines of communication. Recently, during South Texas Days in Washington, D.C., many regional stakeholders met directly with federal representatives to advocate for our area and ensure that our needs are clearly communicated. Based on these efforts, I am confident that they are listening and responsive to our region.

Mr. Cruz then stated, I don’t want to prolong the discussion, but it’s important to keep in mind that the EDA program is one of the programs currently under consideration by the administration for potential elimination, despite being reauthorized in 2024 with increased funding. At this point, we do not know what actions will ultimately be taken. While it’s possible that a replacement may be considered, Mr. Ayala has indicated that there are no current plans in place. With his retirement approaching in April, time is of the essence. If we remain ideal, we risk missing out on significant opportunities and benefits for our region.

2. Introduction of New Staff. Mr. Cruz introduced all new staff which were all in packet provided to board. Mr. Cruz then stated as you may recall, approximately six months ago we approved a resolution to enter into an agreement with AARP. Due to the temporary pause in federal funding, AARP’s programs were impacted; however, they have recently resumed their initiative focused on bringing retirees back into the workforce.

As a result of our existing agreement, we are pleased to welcome our first participant—with the hope of many more to come. Ms. Ginger Acuna has joined our team in a clerical role within Administration. She is a retiree returning to the workforce through the AARP program. We anticipate additional opportunities to place participants across various departments in the near future.

3. Updates on regional News, Funding Opportunities, training and Legislation. At the same conference I attended in Washington, D.C. earlier this month, there was a strong push to establish RTPOs—Regional Transportation Planning Organizations. In fact, just yesterday, our Chair of the TARC Transportation Committee met with TxDOT to discuss this opportunity. It appears likely that funding will be made available to Council of Governments to begin implementing this initiative within the coming year.

As you know, we currently have the RGVMPPO, which serves our urbanized areas; however, there is no entity dedicated to planning for rural portions of our counties. The RTPO concept is intended to fill that gap by identifying priorities in rural areas and positioning them to compete for funding. While the funding associated with RTPOs is not on the same scale as MPO funding, it is focused on planning—helping rural communities identify and prioritize critical projects so they can pursue funding through sources such as FTA, TxDOT, or others. This concept is not entirely new to this Board. Prior to my tenure, I understand that in 2008 a resolution was passed in support of creating an RTPO. I want to bring this back to your attention so that you are aware and prepared as this initiative moves forward.

There is also strong national support for this effort. It is backed by the Local and Transportation Coalitions, which includes organizations such as the National Association of Development Organizations, the National Association of Regional Councils, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I also shared a flyer with you regarding the BASIC Act, which is tied to this initiative.

Lastly, as a small token of appreciation, the LRGVDC recently sponsored and hosted a luncheon for the City of Weslaco staff who assisted with our tree planting event. For those who were not here last month, you may have noticed that the LRGVDC campus is looking greener. The trees and native plants along the front and parking areas are establishing well—better than expected. This effort was made possible in large part thanks to Javier Dominguez, who led the grant through the H-E-B Trees for Texas program. With \$5,000 in funding, we were able to plant a variety of native trees and plants. We are hopeful that, over the next few years, these improvements will continue to enhance and make our campus a bit more green.

Item #5 Department Reports

Community & Economic Development – Ms. Melisa Gonzales Rosas started off with. First, back in September, if you all recall, we approved a tire ordinance for our region. However, since counties do not have the authority to pass ordinances, this would instead need to be in the form of a resolution. Therefore, the first action item is the following.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Tire Resolution for counties to adopt. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Tire Resolution for Counties to adopt. Ms. Veronica Gonzales seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

My 2nd action item relates to our solid waste project rankings. As you can see on the screen, four entities were selected to receive solid waste funding. The City of Mission was selected for source reduction and recycling, with the project expected to begin in May—tentatively May 1st. The City of Weslaco will follow. For the second cycle, which is scheduled to begin in September, the selected awardees are the City of Alton and the City of Mercedes. You can also review the scoring for each project displayed on the screen.

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Solid Waste Applications Ranking & Scoring for Funding year 2026-2027. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Applications Ranking & Scoring for funding year 2026-2027. Commissioner Joey Lopez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

My 3rd action item is to request approval of a new member for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). We currently have a vacancy, and Ms. Susan Torres, with Mother Earth Recycling, has submitted an application to fill that position. She is in the process of developing a recycling facility, although a final location has not yet been determined. She does operate a nonprofit organization, Mother Earth Recycling, and is working with several Economic Development Corporations in the region to identify a suitable site. In the meantime, she is interested in serving as a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

3. Consideration and ACTION to approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member. **Commissioner Joey Lopez made a motion to approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member. Ruben Saldana seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

My 4th action item is to request approval of two stakeholders and one member for STC4. Informally, we referred to this as the “meeting of the Juans,” given the names involved. The two stakeholders recommended for approval are Juan Mendive from the Laredo MPO and Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Executive Director of the South Texas Development Council. Additionally, Mr. Juan Galvan from Valiant Energy is recommended for approval as our first member.

4. Consideration and ACTION to approve the following South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Advisory Committee Stakeholders and Membership. **Commissioner Joey Lopez made a motion to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Advisory Committee Stakeholders and Membership. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

The final action item is to consider approval of a resolution proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month.

5. Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution 2026-07 Proclaiming April as National fair Housing Month. **Troy Allen made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-07 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month. Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports - We will be hosting a Texas Water Development Board application workshop, which will be held virtually. Queta Caballero with the Texas Water Development Board will walk participants through the application step by step, as many applicants tend to miss small details that can prevent their applications from advancing. The workshop is scheduled for April 7th at 10:00 a.m., and the virtual link is available on our website. If you're interested, please share this information with your planners, grant writers, or anyone involved in preparing TWDB applications.

Additionally, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) currently has two open Requests for Proposals for grant funding. One is for Supplemental Disaster Funding, and the other is for Public Works infrastructure. If you are working on a project related to these opportunities and would like a letter of support, please reach out to us. We are happy to assist, as a letter of support can help strengthen your application.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the City of Palmview. They were the first city in our region to adopt the regional tire ordinance that this Board approved on September 25th. Palmview placed the item on their November 3rd agenda, and it was approved that same day. I will be visiting Palmview on April 7th to present a small token of appreciation in recognition of this achievement. The City of Mission followed shortly after as the second city to adopt the ordinance. Currently, we have two cities in Hidalgo County that have taken this step—Palmview being the first, and Mission the second. I want to thank both cities for their leadership and encourage others to follow suit.

Health and Human Services – Ms. Margarita Lopez started off with today, I will be covering one action item, one survey, and two brief announcements. I'll begin with the action item. Consideration and possible action to approve vendor requests to amend contract rates for Texas Visiting Nurse Service, LTD and Healthcare Unlimited, Inc.

Texas Visiting Nurse Service, LTD, is requesting an increase in rates for both respite and homemaker services from \$14.00 per hour to \$15.25 per hour. Healthcare Unlimited Inc. is requesting an increase in rates for both respite and homemaker services from \$15.00 per hour to \$17.64 per hour.

Discussion - Commissioner Joey Lopez asked Ms. Lopez when the last increase was, Ms. Lopez then answered with it happening once a year. Ms. Lopez then explained the process is outlined in their application, which includes a clause stating that vendors may request an increase, amendment, or change only once per year. Per the established timeline, requests are submitted in February, presented in March, and, if approved, take effect in April. These vendors did not request an increase last year. When they submitted their applications in July 2025, they were awarded contracts at their current rates. As such, they are eligible to request an increase once annually following their initial application. Commissioner Joey Lopez then stated, It appears that the increases differ significantly, one is \$2.64 and the other is \$1.25, meaning one request reflects a substantially higher adjustment than the other. Did we receive any explanation or justification for the difference in the requested increases?

Ms. Lopez then responds, yes, we did receive justification in their letters. One vendor, Texas Visiting Nurse Services, explained that they receive additional funding through HHS for these provider services. They noted that in 2025 there were increased requests due to mandated wage increases for employees. In their case, they are currently paying below the required average wage—about \$12 per hour versus the mandated \$13 per hour. The requested increase is intended to bring them into compliance with HHS requirements and also allow for basic administrative costs.

The other vendor provided a similar rationale related to wage requirements and operating costs. There is also a broader market strategy difference between providers. Some maintain lower hourly rates in order to be selected more frequently by participants, since clients are given a list of providers and available hours but not the providers' rates. This allows lower-cost providers to be chosen more often, giving them greater exposure and the opportunity to build long-term client relationships. Since our program is temporarily bridging clients while they await long-term Medicare or Medicaid services—providers sometimes use this as a way to establish a pipeline of future permanent clients. Other providers take a different approach and prioritize higher reimbursement rates upfront rather than focusing on volume or long-term client development.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve vendor request to amend contract rates from Texas Visiting Nurse Service, LTD & Health Care Unlimited, Inc. ***Commissioner Joey Lopez made a motion to approve vendor request to amend contract rates from Texas Visiting Nurse Service, LTD & Health Care Unlimited, Inc. Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports – Ms. Margarita started by as part of the packet, we have included a survey that was distributed both in hard copy and via QR code. If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete it, I would ask for just a couple of minutes of your time to do so. This survey will provide important input for our Area Plan. We are currently in the process of developing it, which includes roundtable discussions, county visits, and listening sessions throughout the region. Your feedback is very important and will be incorporated into the draft Area Plan, which you will receive at your next meeting in April. The survey has been condensed to less than a full page to make it quick and easy to complete. The last announcement is that our LIIFE Conference is scheduled for this Friday. As always, we are fully registered and expect to be at capacity.

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

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and County of Hidalgo to finalize the transfer of grant-funded Emergency Communications (HAM Radio) equipment for the Emergency Communications Headquarters Project. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and County of Hidalgo to finalize the transfer of grant-funded Emergency Communications (HAM Radio) equipment for the Emergency Communications Headquarters project. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports – Mr. Merla started off with, Our Homeland Security Division is hosting an All-Hazards Preparedness Workshop for senior officials on April 9th. This one-day workshop will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., offers TCOLE credit through TEEX, and still has several available slots.

Additionally, our Criminal Justice Division is partnering with Behavioral Health Solutions South Texas to offer a two-day Naloxone (Narcan) training course on Wednesday, April 22nd, and Thursday, April 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The point of contact for this training is Ms. Perez with Behavioral Health Solutions.

C.1.B. Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District – On the 9-1-1 side, we have some exciting news. As of late February, our Mobile Multi-Agency Communication Center is officially up and running. The images before you reflect the unit that has already been deployed by Mr. Cruz on multiple occasions. Most recently, yesterday morning at approximately 5:30 a.m., the unit was transported and escorted to the All-Hazards Conference, where it is currently operating as a live demonstration. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for today at 3:15 p.m. at the conference.

There are many more impressive developments to come, but we are proud to share that the unit is now fully operational and already making an impact.

C.2 LRGV Police Academy Program – No Action Items at this time

Program Status Reports - Mr. Javier Solis started off with Our 231st Weslaco Academy is currently in its final week of training. Last week, cadets participated in a live active shooter exercise. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my co-directors and colleagues for your continued support, particularly for providing staff to assist in these scenarios. Your involvement contributed greatly to the success of the exercise, and the cadets gained valuable insight and practical experience. The cadets are scheduled to take their TCOLE examination on April 7th, with graduation set for April 13th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Knapp Medical Center Conference Center.

Our City of Mission Academy, Class 232, has successfully completed training on the Texas Traffic Code and is currently undergoing Standardized Field Sobriety Testing instruction to better identify impaired drivers. We will be conducting a wet lab as part of this training and are seeking volunteers. If anyone is interested, please feel free to contact us—we would be happy to accommodate you.

Looking ahead, our LRGV Academy Class 233 is scheduled to begin next Thursday, April 2nd, with orientation. The original start date was adjusted due to Good Friday. We have completed background checks on over 40 applicants and are pleased to report that we will begin the academy with 30 cadets. This will be a part-time, 10-month program held here at the COG, with evening sessions at the Ken Jones facility from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Additionally, we are preparing to launch our 234th Police Academy in Rio Grande City. The background process for that class will begin in April. By early May, we anticipate running three concurrent academies across the Rio Grande Valley. I am also preparing an action item for the next board meeting regarding the development of an interlocal agreement with law enforcement agencies in Cameron County. We have identified a need for expanded in-service training in that area and are actively working with our partners to address it. We hope to present this item for your consideration at the next meeting.

For this month's report, we conducted three in-service courses, training a total of 26 officers. We delivered 48 hours of instruction, resulting in 376 contact hours. For the first quarter, we trained 332 officers, provided 418 instructional hours, and accumulated a total of 5,094 contact hours. As you can see, we remain very active and engaged at the Academy.

Mr. Cruz also shared the following announcement, before transitioning to Transportation, I would like to provide an update under Public Safety within Homeland Security. As previously mentioned, the FY 2026 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) applications have been submitted, and we are currently awaiting their release from the State.

Due to the strict submission deadlines established by the State, we will not be able to align the review and approval process with our regular board meeting schedule. As a result, we will need to convene the Executive Committee—Mayor and the four committee members—to review and approve the applications, which will then be ratified at the subsequent regular board meeting.

We anticipate receiving the regional batch of applications from the State around April 1st or 2nd. From that point, we will have a two-week window to complete the review, approval, and submission process. This is being shared as an FYI for the Executive Committee and for general awareness among all board members.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Next item on Agenda.

Valley Metro Transportation

Program Status Reports - Ms. Sandra Carrizales started with, I don't have anything quite as exciting as 9-1-1 to report, but we see an 18% increase in ridership. So, if anyone decides to take Mr. Solis's advice and head out, we can certainly provide a ride home—as long as you are in suitable condition.

I do not have any action items this month, but I do have a few updates. Our team continues to meet with RTAP every other month to coordinate regionally and to support the development of our five-year Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

Two key tasks have been completed. The first is the stakeholder engagement plan, which outlines how KFH (Knapp, Fravel & Hosen) will conduct outreach through surveys, focus groups, and interviews. The second is the communication plan, which details how updates will be shared through regular check-ins, progress reviews using our project tracking system, and ongoing updates to the RTAP group.

Lastly, our planning team has been very active with community outreach this past month. They have participated in several events across the Valley, including PSJA activities, the Laguna Madre Vet Fest, and the STC Disaster Ready Expo. While we do not have any action items this month, we anticipate returning next month with a full slate of items.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Next item on Agenda.

Rio Grande Valley MPO

Claudia Salinas, Project Manager for the Rio Grande Valley MPO, introduced two interlocal agreements with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute for board consideration, accompanied by Transportation Manager Rudy Zamora. Both items are part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), a federally required plan that outlines key transportation planning activities across five major task areas.

The UPWP was approved by the Policy Board on July 21, 2025, and received federal approval on September 17, 2025. The first action item, Subtask 5.1, is an International Border Crossing System-Wide Analysis in the amount of \$559,281. This study will examine passenger and freight movement across all international crossings, evaluate system performance, test various scenarios, and assess regional economic impacts.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount of \$559,281.00 to perform special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified planning work Program as Subtask 5.1: International Border Crossing System-Wide Analysis. The second action item, Subtask 5.4, is a Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study in the amount of \$328,327. This study will assess the feasibility of establishing a regional transit authority, including evaluating transit mode options and opportunities for regional integration. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve an Interlocal agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount of \$559,281.00 to perform special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified planning work Program as Subtask 5.1: International Border Crossing System-Wide Analysis. The second action item, Subtask 5.4, is a Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study in the amount of \$328,327. This study will assess the feasibility of establishing a regional transit authority, including evaluating transit mode options and opportunities for regional integration. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mr. Cruz then stated that, before the board takes action, he would like to provide some clarification for transparency purposes. He explained that while these items fall under the MPO, which has its own governing board, they are being presented here because, historically, the MPO has not undertaken projects of this scale. As the COG serves as the fiscal agent for the MPO and is responsible for vendor payments, these items are brought before this board for review and approval. He further recommended that any formal action taken today be contingent upon review and approval by the RGV MPO Policy Board. While the UPWP has already been approved with the associated funding amounts, the specific vendor—in this case, TTI—was not included in that approval process. To avoid delays, the items are being presented now, with the understanding that final approval will follow MPO Policy Board consideration. Mr. Cruz noted that the RGV MPO Policy Board is scheduled to meet on April 15, 2026, at the Ken Jones Conference Room. Jim darling then asked what was it that they were approving, Mr. Cruz then stated that they will be approving the Interlocal Agreement between RGV MPO & LRGVDC and TTI the Fiscal agent.

This item stems from a finding during the 2022–2023 FTA audit, where it was noted that this board had not formally approved MPO projects. As the fiscal agent for the MPO, it is important that we acknowledge and approve these projects accordingly. This does not change the existing approval process, as the projects are still reviewed through the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Board. Rather, this step is intended to ensure transparency and to obtain this board's concurrence to move forward. Additionally, only the LRGVDC has the authority to sign off on interlocal agreements as per the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 791.

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Interlocal agreement with Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount \$328,327.00 to perform a special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning work Program as Subtask 5.4: Regional transit Authority Feasibility study. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve Interlocal agreement with Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount \$328,327.00 to perform a special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning work Program as Subtask 5.4: Regional transit Authority Feasibility study. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Rudy Zamora, Transportation Manager with the RGV MPO. I'd like to provide some clarification following Mr. Cruz's comments.

The Transportation Policy Board has already approved the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is a federally required document that includes planning studies such as these. With that approval in place, we are now seeking approval from the LRGVDC specifically for the interlocal agreement, which is the contract component. As Mr. Cruz mentioned, this board's role is to approve the agreement itself. If, for any reason, the board chooses not to approve the interlocal agreement, we would report that outcome back to the Policy Board. At that point, it would be up to the Policy Board to determine how to proceed.

That said, the Policy Board has already approved the funding through the UPWP. While a denial at this level could present some challenges in executing the contract or agreement, this situation has not occurred before. If it does, we will address it accordingly.

Mr. Cruz further noted that, given the nature of TTI as a governmental entity, it is entirely permissible to enter into this type of interlocal agreement. He added that the same process would apply to institutions such as UTRGV or STC.

Mr. Rudy Zamora added that, for clarification, once the interlocal agreement is executed, it must be returned to the Policy Board for final approval, including confirmation of the specific funding amounts.

Felipe Lopez from Procurement also clarified that, under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, agreements of this nature must be executed through the COG or another local governmental entity, which is why this board's approval is required. Mr. Zamora concluded by noting that, much like any agreement requiring leadership authorization, board approval is necessary to proceed—reinforcing the role and purpose of this board in the process.

Item #6 New & Unfinished Business – None at this time

Item #7 Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm

President Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

Liza Alfrao, Recording Secretary

ITEM #3

PUBLIC

COMMENT

ITEM #4.A.1

ADMINISTRATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #4: Administration

Program Action

1. **RATIFICATION** of Executive Committee **ACTION** on approving Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritized Lists for FY 2026-27 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Application.

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on April 14 and 15, 2026, and recommends approval of the attached prioritization lists for FY 2026-2027 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Regular Projects and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) Projects, in accordance with the FY 2026 Interlocal Agreement between the LRGVDC Public Safety Division and the Office of the Governor. Homeland Security prioritizations are due 14 calendar days from the date they were batched out from the Public Safety Office. All applications were batched to all stakeholders on April 6, 2026, and are to be turned into the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (OOG-PSO) once the local governing body approves the prioritization lists, no later than April 20, 2026.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resolution 2026-09

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors Executive Committee convened on April 16, 2026 to review the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Regular and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) prioritization list that was submitted for ratification for the LRGVDC Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors Executive Committee received the recommended prioritization list containing a total of \$1,198,273.82 (Regular: \$419,395.84 and LETPA: \$778,887.98) in funding for regional projects

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors Executive Committee submitted approved through written correspondence of the prioritization list with no changes made.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors Executive Committee approved the LRGVDC Homeland Security Advisory Committee prioritization list as submitted.

Passed and approved by executive committee on the 16th day of April 2026.

Ratified this 29th day of April 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Garza, LRGVDC President

Homeland Security Grant Program FY 2026-2027 SHSP-LETPA Projects

Rank	Score	Project Title	Requested Amount	Conditionally Approved Amt.	Peer Review Notes
3	76.42	5942901L Cameron County ST-CP Command and Surveill	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
5	73.92	5887801L City of Weslaco FY2026 Weslaco SHSP LETPA Project	\$ 85,061.49	\$ 85,061.49	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
7	72.00	5904101L City of San Juan SHSP LETPA	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
9	71.67	5893601L City of Harlingen Mobile Command Trailer	\$ 98,913.00	\$ 98,913.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
16	66.17	5910401L City of Brownsville Drone Project	\$ 128,790.00	\$ 128,790.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
17	65.00	5920801L Sullivan City SHSP LETPA	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 10,900.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
18	64.33	5922201L City of Harlingen SWAT Drone	\$ 73,745.80	\$ 73,745.80	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
22	62.83	5899201L City of Mission PD Counter-Threat Detection	\$ 112,738.00	\$ 112,738.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
23	62.38	5906901L Town of Rancho Viejo Tactical Response Equipment	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 45,500.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
30	57.33	5919701L City of Harlingen Downtown Cameras	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	Fully fund, and move remaining amount to SHSP Regular with 10% increment adjustments
		Total	\$ 758,648.29	\$ 758,648.29	
<p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Conditionally approved amounts and equipment is subject to available funding from the Governor's Public Safety Office. The Governor's Public Safety Office retains final determination on funding allocations for all projects.</p>			Total Available for Project		\$ 778,887.98
			Remaining Balance for Prioritization		\$ (20,239.69)

ITEM #4.A.2

ADMINISTRATION

**QUARTERLY
INVESTMENT
REPORT**

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026

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

Investments in TexPool Prime:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
Water Plan	85,237.34	-	(13,325.52)	771.19	72,683.01
RGV 911 District	9,322,323.01	-	-	88,280.93	9,410,603.94
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	269,341.13	155,799.00	(213,097.03)	3,033.83	215,076.93
Transit	1,264,250.68	-	(1,218,673.29)	11,402.61	56,980.00
Texas Water Development Board	109,920.86	-	(25,448.58)	950.92	85,423.20
GLO - Closing Costs	156,267.29	7,072.99	-	1,499.65	164,839.93
Kari's Law	73,883.88	-	(10,040.68)	672.54	64,515.74
Tire Project	26,734.69	-	-	253.17	26,987.86
Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan - Local	309,876.23	-	(9,337.33)	2,909.25	303,448.15
AAA - Local	18,960.80	-	-	179.56	19,140.36
RGV Explorer	47,124.39	-	(683.24)	444.42	46,885.57
TOTAL	11,683,920.30	162,871.99	(1,490,605.67)	110,398.07	10,466,584.69

TexPool Prime Rate as of March 31, 2026 - 3.8043%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026

Investments in TexPool:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
FIF - TWDB - Escrow Account	4,480,481.95	-	(28,092.12)	40,724.20	4,493,114.03
FIF - TWDB	282,815.50	28,092.12	(68,722.27)	2,483.82	244,669.17
TOTAL	4,763,297.45	28,092.12	(96,814.39)	43,208.02	4,737,783.20
GRAND TOTAL	16,447,217.75	190,964.11	(1,587,420.06)	153,606.09	15,204,367.89

TexPool Rate as of March 31, 2026 - 3.6836%

Crystal Balboa
 Director of Finance

ITEM #4. B

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE

REPORT

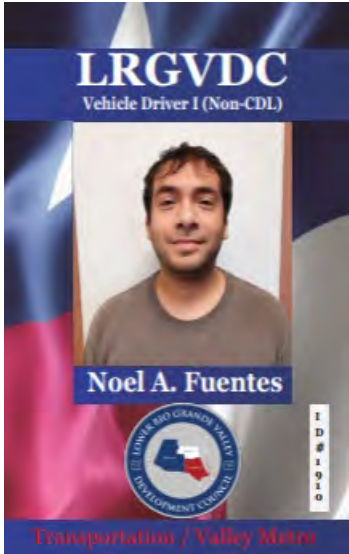
ADMINISTRATION

NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS

New Hires

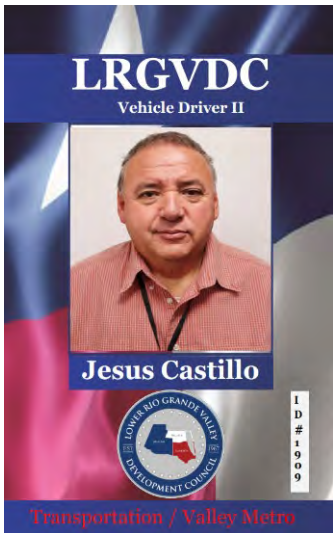
New Hire Date: March 30, 2026,

Noel Fuentes
Vehicle Driver Non-CDL
Transportation- Valley Metro



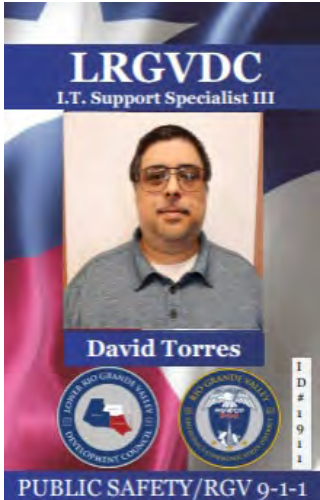
New Hire Date: April 13, 2026

Jesus Castillo
Vehicle Driver II
Transportation – Valley Metro



New Hire Date: March 30, 2026

David Torres
I.T Support Specialist III
Public Safety / RGV 9-1-1



NADO Emerging Leaders Program



ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- ***Economic Development Administration***

Staff attended the Southwest Region Economic Development Association (SWREDA) Conference from April 14th–17th. The conference offered a wide range of sessions focused on regional development, the federal policy landscape, and key programs relevant to Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) and their stakeholders. Participation in SWREDA provided staff with valuable insights into emerging federal priorities, funding opportunities, and best practices in economic development. Attendance also enhanced regional collaboration by allowing staff to network with peer organizations, exchange strategies, and gain practical knowledge that can be applied to current and future initiatives. These benefits strengthen the LRGVDC's ability as the representing Economic Development District (EDD) to lead coordinated, resilient, and forward-looking economic development efforts across the region.



The Community & Economic Development (C&ED) Director delivered presentations on the Economic Recovery & Resiliency (ERR) Plan and the 2025–2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan. These presentations were provided on March 26th at the South Texas All Hazards Conference and on April 28th at RGV Startup. Both plans offer an in-depth overview of the LRGVDC's role in fostering regional economic growth. The presentations emphasized the significance of the LRGVDC's designation as an EDD and how this status strengthens the region's capacity to secure federal resources, support strategic planning, and advance initiatives that enhance economic resilience and competitiveness across the Valley. These comprehensive plans serve as coordinated roadmaps for addressing shared challenges, prioritizing regional investments, and ensuring that economic development efforts across the Valley remain aligned, resilient, and responsive to evolving community needs.



The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (1) Special EDO. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to vramos@lrgvdc.org.

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

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

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

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

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

The C&ED Department remains firmly committed to strengthening and supporting small communities by providing the resources, technical assistance, and strategic guidance needed to foster economic growth, enhance local capacity, and improve the overall quality of life for residents.

The next virtual RSCC meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM. All RSCC meeting information and GoToMeeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, or reach out to Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org.

- **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

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

For the month of April, C&ED continue to promote fair housing by disseminating the Fair Housing Brochure, which emphasizes fairness, inclusion, and the importance of safe, respectful, and discrimination free housing for all individuals. In addition, C&ED distributed the Board approved Fair Housing Resolution to all regional housing authorities as a further demonstration of our ongoing commitment to advancing fair housing principles.

CDBG Week 52nd Birthday Celebration – Pharr (April 9, 2026)

Location: The Hub at Downtown Park, 200 S. Cage Blvd, Pharr, TX 78577

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the CDBG Week 52nd Birthday Celebration hosted by the City of Pharr Grants Management & Community Development Department. Outreach staff set up a resource table to engage with attendees and distribute fair housing brochures and educational materials. The event featured family-friendly activities, music, and community engagement, providing an opportunity to connect with residents and highlighting the impact of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs in supporting local communities.





If any city or county is planning to host Fair Housing event(s), please contact Crystal Valdez at cvaldez@lrgvdc.org. The Community & Economic Development staff would like to participate in and support any outreach efforts related to Fair Housing.

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

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

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

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

- **Air Quality Program**

Staff are working closely with the contractor ALL4 to finalize the Scope of Work (SOW), which is scheduled for submission to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) by April 27th for review and approval. Upon approval of the SOW, staff will proceed with the development of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which must also be submitted to TCEQ for approval before the project can formally advance.

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

An STC4 meeting was held on April 8th. The C&ED Director reported that the coalition is working to complete a full draft of the application by late April or early May, though final submission depends on progress of the five-year strategic plan. Using the Ozarks' application as a reference, the team aims to share a polished draft with stakeholders and NREL by mid-May, pending results from the regional survey, which has been refined to 32 questions and will be distributed soon with a two-week response window. Members were encouraged to circulate the survey widely across

all 18 counties to support the SWOT analysis and strategic plan, with several volunteers assisting in outreach. NREL has assigned Kaylyn Bopp as the point of contact to support application review, formatting, and compliance, while remaining application components—most notably the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Market Snapshot—are being developed. A draft application and organizational chart will be shared this week, and Clean Cities-aligned logo concepts are currently in progress for group review.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The four applicants selected for the 2026–2027 Solid Waste Grant Program will remain on hold until TCEQ issues formal project approvals. Once approval is granted, the first two projects are scheduled to begin on May 1, 2026, with the remaining projects commencing on September 1, 2026. Project activities may officially begin once all contracts have been fully executed.

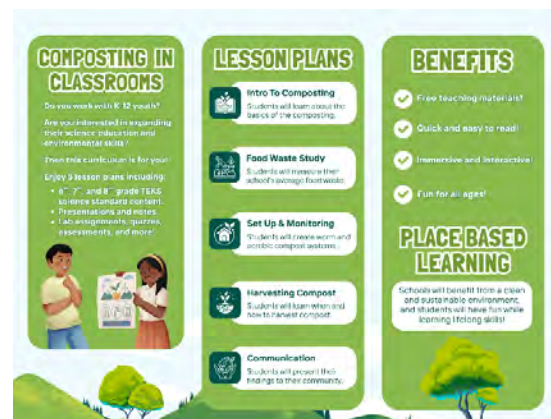
Should you have questions regarding the Solid Waste grant funding opportunity, please contact C&ED staff, Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org; or via phone (956)682-3481 ext. 123.

Under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, the CED Department recently met with Region One Education Service Center and Texas State University to explore the development of a *Texas Edition* teacher’s curriculum book on composting. This resource would build upon the existing composting curriculum and provide valuable, state-specific guidance for educators. Once a draft of the curriculum book is completed, it will be submitted to TCEQ for review and approval. Following approval, Region One has agreed to assist with printing and distribution.

The participating teachers have confirmed receipt of the red wiggler worms, which were delivered directly to their campuses as part of our hands-on educational initiative to promote sustainable waste management practices.

Additionally, our team looks forward to coordinating site visits at several participating schools. These visits will allow us to observe the composting projects in progress, provide support as needed, and highlight the positive impact this initiative is generating within our communities.

Staff created a brochure to promote the Food Composting Curriculum designed in collaboration with LRGVDC, TCEQ, Region 1, and Texas State Institute for Government Innovation.



On April 21st, the C&ED Director attended the City of Palmview's Commission Meeting to present a Certificate of Recognition, honoring the city for being the first in the region to adopt the Tire Ordinance. This presentation acknowledged Palmview's leadership and proactive commitment to advancing environmental and public health efforts in the region. Their early adoption of the ordinance sets a positive example for neighboring communities and supports broader regional initiatives aimed at improving quality of life and promoting responsible environmental practices.

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 continued supporting water quality outreach and public education through participation in community and regional events during April 2026. Outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of pollution prevention, litter reduction, recycling practices, and environmental stewardship, while engaging with residents and distributing educational materials related to water quality protection throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Outreach Events Attended – April 2026

- **Main Floodwater Channel Expansion Project – Monte Alto (April 2, 2026)**

Location: 5818 Brancy St, Monte Alto, TX

The C&ED Program Specialist I – Water Quality, attended the Hidalgo County Urban County Program which hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the local main floodwater channel expansion as part of new infrastructure that strengthens flood protection for Hidalgo County communities.



- **Rio Grande Valley Funding Forum and Workshop - Building Partnerships for Water Planning – Brownsville (April 9, 2026)**

Location: 1100 E Madison St, Brownsville, TX 78520.

C&ED staff attended a forum hosted by the Texas Water Foundation where we heard from regional water groups, local government agencies, politicians, and stakeholders about policy trends, water planning, and funding opportunities.



Spring Plant Sale – San Benito (April 11, 2026)

Location: 1390 W. Expressway 83, San Benito, TX 78586.

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator supported and promoted the Spring Plant Sale hosted at the Education Garden in San Benito. This free community event provided residents with access to a variety of native, pollinator-friendly, and herb plants, while also offering educational opportunities through vendor booths and a plant clinic. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own bags and engage with local experts to learn more about sustainable gardening practices. The event helped promote environmental awareness, community engagement, and healthy, green living across the region.



- **Texas Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup – Coastal Texas (April 18, 2026)**

Location: Multiple locations statewide, including South Texas coastal areas

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the Texas General Land Office's 2026 Adopt-A-Beach Spring Coastal Cleanup, helping protect Texas shorelines and promote environmental stewardship. Staff removed litter and debris to support cleaner waters and healthier habitats. The event united volunteers from across the region and highlighted the importance of community involvement in reducing pollution and preserving marine ecosystems.



- **Food Summit – Edinburg (April 22-23, 2026)**

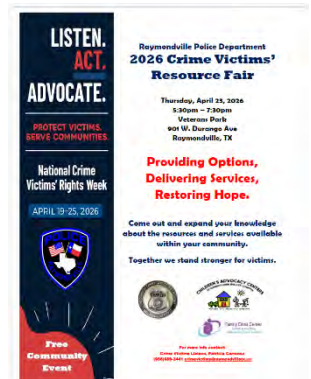
Location: 1900 W. Schunior St, Edinburg, TX

The C&ED Program Specialist I – Water Quality, attended a farmer and rancher conference hosted by the Institute For Ecology, Scholarship, & Health to connect with a wide range of food system stakeholders from across South Texas. The conference included workshops, forums, and tabling from farmers, researchers, nonprofits, government agencies, policy specialists, and universities.

- **2026 Crime Victims’ Resource Fair – Raymondville (April 23, 2026)**

Location: 1900 W. Schunior St, Edinburg, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the 2026 Crime Victims’ Resource Fair hosted by the Raymondville Police Department in recognition of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. This community event brought together local organizations and service providers to share resources, raise awareness, and support victims of crime. The fair focused on connecting residents with available services, promoting advocacy, and strengthening community partnerships, while also incorporating outreach on Kari’s Law, which requires direct access to 9-1-1 dialing and on-site notification systems in multi-line telephone systems to improve emergency response and public safety.



- **Pinwheels in the Park – Harlingen (April 24, 2026)**

Location: Lon C. Hill Park, 1217 Fair Park Blvd, Harlingen, TX 78550

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the Pinwheels in the Park event in Harlingen, supporting community engagement and public awareness efforts. Outreach staff will set up a resource table to provide information and engage with attendees on key initiatives, including solid waste management and water quality. The free community event brought together families and local organizations, offering activities such as games, crafts, food, resource booths, and live entertainment. This event provided an opportunity to connect residents with valuable information, promote environmental responsibility, and raise awareness on public safety and community resources.



- Trash Bash Citywide Cleanup – Mission (April 25, 2026)**
Location : Lions Park, 1308 E. Kika De La Garza Loop, Mission, TX
 The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the Trash Bash Citywide Cleanup hosted by the City of Mission, supporting community-wide efforts to promote environmental stewardship and cleaner neighborhoods. During the event, outreach staff will set up a resource table to assist volunteers by distributing cleanup tools, backpacks, and sunglasses, helping ensure participants were prepared and supported throughout the cleanup activities. The event brought together volunteers of all ages to remove litter, improve public spaces, and raise awareness about pollution prevention and community responsibility, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.



Outreach Planning and Coordination Activities

In addition to event participation, staff dedicated time during April to outreach coordination and preparation activities, including communicating with regional partners and local jurisdictions, confirming participation in upcoming events, preparing and organizing educational materials, and maintaining outreach supplies. These activities support continued public education efforts related to water quality protection, litter prevention, recycling awareness, and environmental stewardship throughout the LRGV. These initiatives strengthen partnerships and generate further activities related to water quality and highlight its importance to the region. In addition, staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from TCEQ.

Additionally, monthly themed Facebook posts are created to engage our online community, encouraging users to give a thumbs up or leave a comment. These posts are designed to raise awareness about water quality topics and provide valuable information to the public. CED Facebook: [Community & Economic Development | Facebook](#), LRGVDC Facebook: [Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | Weslaco TX | Facebook](#)



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

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

The C&ED Department, in partnership with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), hosted a fully virtual TWDB Application Workshop on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The workshop provided participants with an overview of the TWDB application process and highlighted available funding opportunities for water-related projects. By bringing in the region's TWDB representative to lead the session, the workshop gave local entities valuable insight into the structure of TWDB applications, required documentation, scoring criteria, and key considerations for submitting competitive proposals. This direct guidance helped enhance understanding of the application process and better prepare regional stakeholders for pursuing upcoming funding opportunities.

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

🔗 TWDB Funding Opportunities:

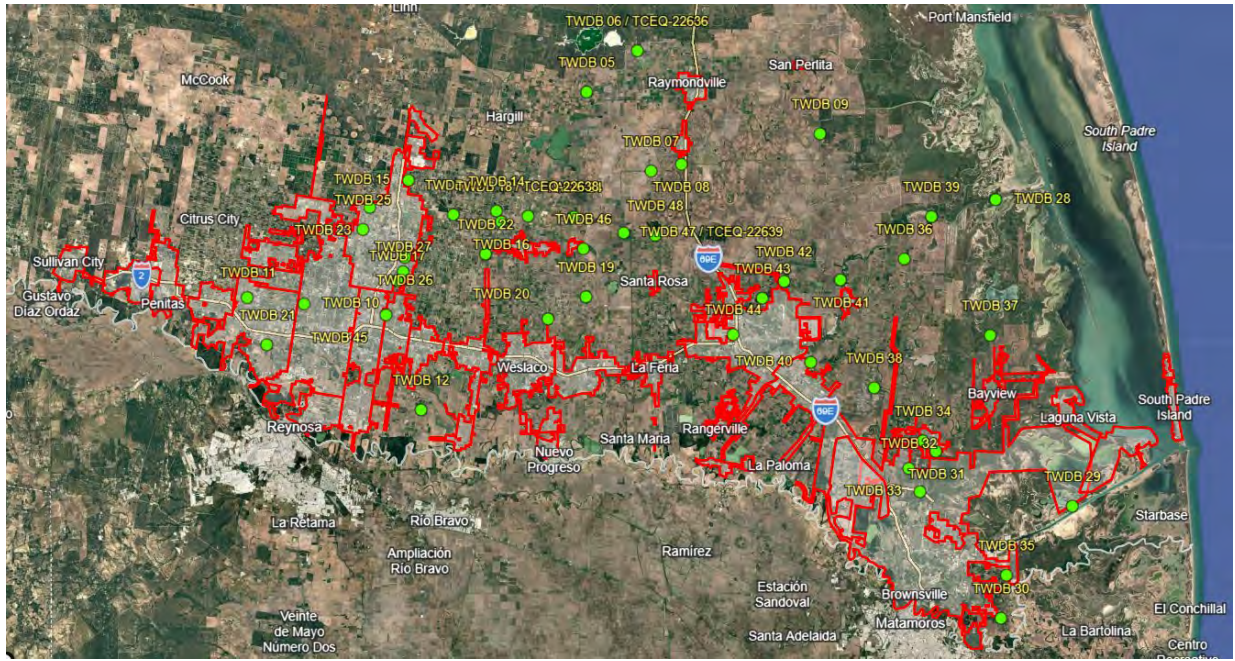
- State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)
- Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Texas Water Development Fund (DFund)
- **Texas Water Fund (TWF)**



A RWRAC meeting was held on Wednesday, April 8th, which featured presentations from Samantha Colunga, Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator, and Michael Elizalde from the City of Mission, who provided an update on their GLO-funded La Cuchilla Drainage Project. These presentations offered valuable insight into ongoing watershed management efforts and major regional drainage improvements.

Flood Infrastructure Fund – Real Time Hydrologic System Stations

The C&ED Program Specialist I – Water Quality, has been in regular contact with RATES consultants, Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 representatives, Texas Water Development Board, and Halff Associates to verify the completion of Task 2 items in the FIF project. She has contacted the RATES field team to schedule outings to the RTHS stations to learn more about their operation and maintenance. Additionally, she is creating a map that shows where RTHS stations lie within county, city, and district limits.



Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

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

The Region M Planning Group met on April 1, 2026, to approve prior minutes, recognize member contributions, and take action on membership appointments and renewals. The group reviewed financial updates, groundwater planning reports, and liaison updates from neighboring water planning regions. State and federal agencies, including TWDB, IBWC, and the TCEQ Watermaster, provided status reports, followed by discussion on reservoir conditions and scheduling the next meeting.

The Planning Group recognized Sonny Hinojosa, Glenn Jarvis, who served 27 years and Donald K. McGhee who served 24 years as committed Region M members. In grateful appreciation for their unwavering dedication and outstanding to the Region M Planning Group. Their commitment, leadership, and stewardship have shaped the future of our region's water resources and will leave a lasting impact on our region and its future.



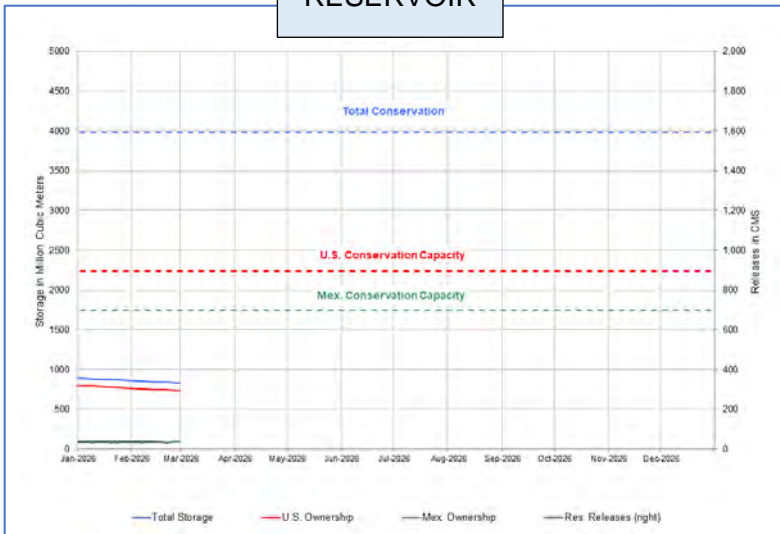


The next Region M meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2026, at 9:30 AM. Meeting details can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar webpage and the Region M website, <http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

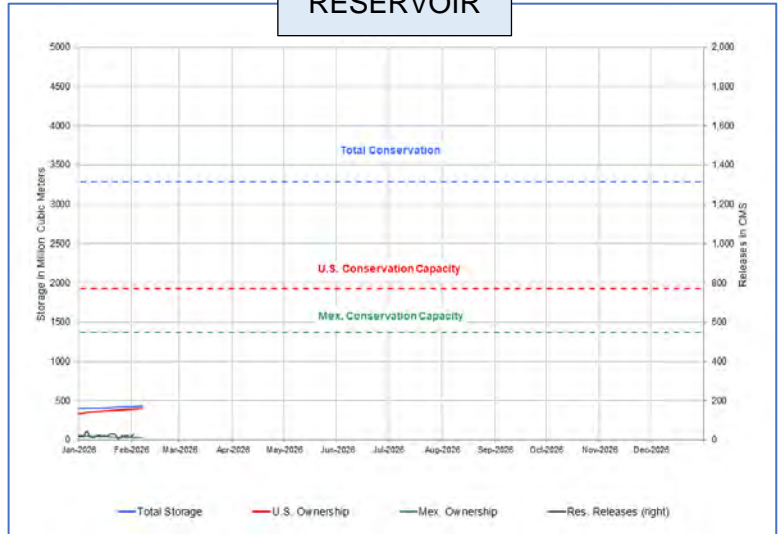
For any other additional information, you may contact Mrs. Melisa-Gonzales Rosas at (956)682-3481 ext.163 or melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org;

- Reservoir Levels as of March 12, 2026 (www.IBWC.gov).

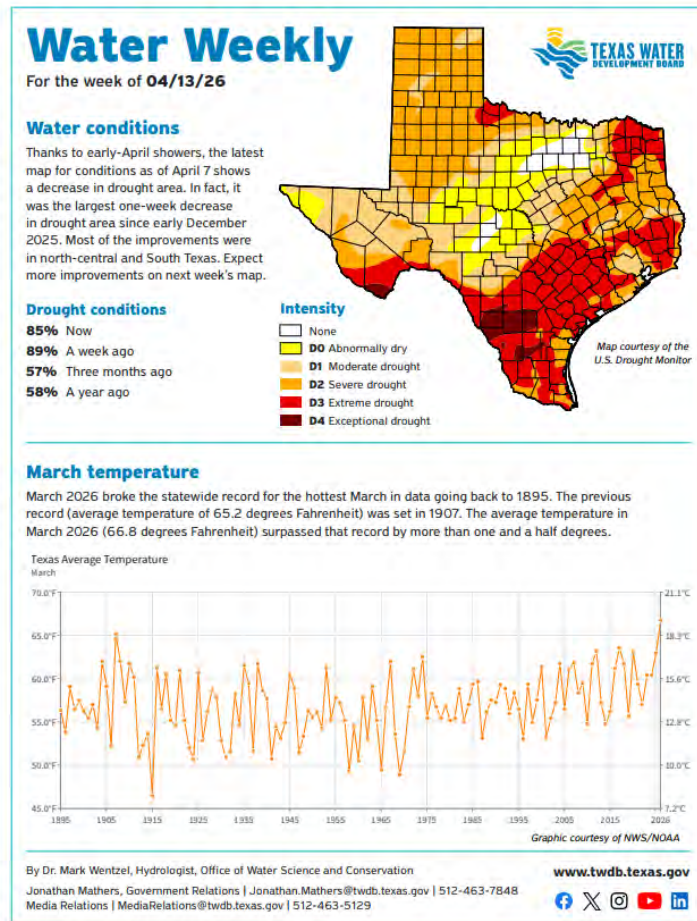
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- Texas Water Development Board – Water Weekly (April 13, 2026)



ITEM # 5. B.

**HEALTH &
HUMAN
SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action Item.....Margarita Lopez
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal year from 10/1/ 2026 – 09/30/2027.

These services will be funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act as amended and State General Revenue Funds (SGR). Vendor Contractors are procured through direct service agreements to support client needs. These include home health agencies, pharmacies, transportation providers, and building contractors. Services provided encompass homemaker care, respite, medical transportation, medication assistance, medical supplies and equipment, and home modifications.

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

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

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Area Agency on Aging

“ Request for Proposal (RFP) for Older Americans Act funded services”

Solicitation Timeline FY2027

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

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action Item Margarita Lopez
Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the timeline for the request for proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services for the fiscal year from 10/1/ 2026 – 09/30/2027.

This action refers to services provided through our subrecipients and funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act as amended, and State General Revenue Funds (SGR). Subrecipients provide direct operational services, including senior center operations, transportation, congregate and home-delivered meals, and caregiver education, training, and information services. Each subrecipient contributes required matching funds and program income (e.g., dues), helping maximize service reach across the region.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action Item Margarita Lopez
Director

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the preliminary Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Area Agency on Aging Area Plan FY 2027-2029 (Draft).

Through a comprehensive community assessment process conducted across all three counties, the LRGVDC-AAA actively engaged a broad range of stakeholders, including older adults, caregivers, the Advisory Council, community partners, and service providers, through surveys, listening sessions, and roundtable discussions. This inclusive approach ensured that all voices were represented. As a result, the following services were consistently identified as top regional priorities: Benefit Counseling, Transportation Services, Minor Home Repairs for Accessibility, Caregiver Support and Education, and Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs. These findings reflect the most critical needs across the region and will guide service planning and resource allocation within the Area Plan. The preliminary plan includes authorization for revisions based on public comments, with the final plan to be presented for board approval on May 27, 2026.

Attachments included:

- (1) Direct Purchase of Services and RFP Timeline FY 2027
- (2) Service Definitions
- (3) Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council AAA Area Plan FY 2027–2029 (Draft).

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

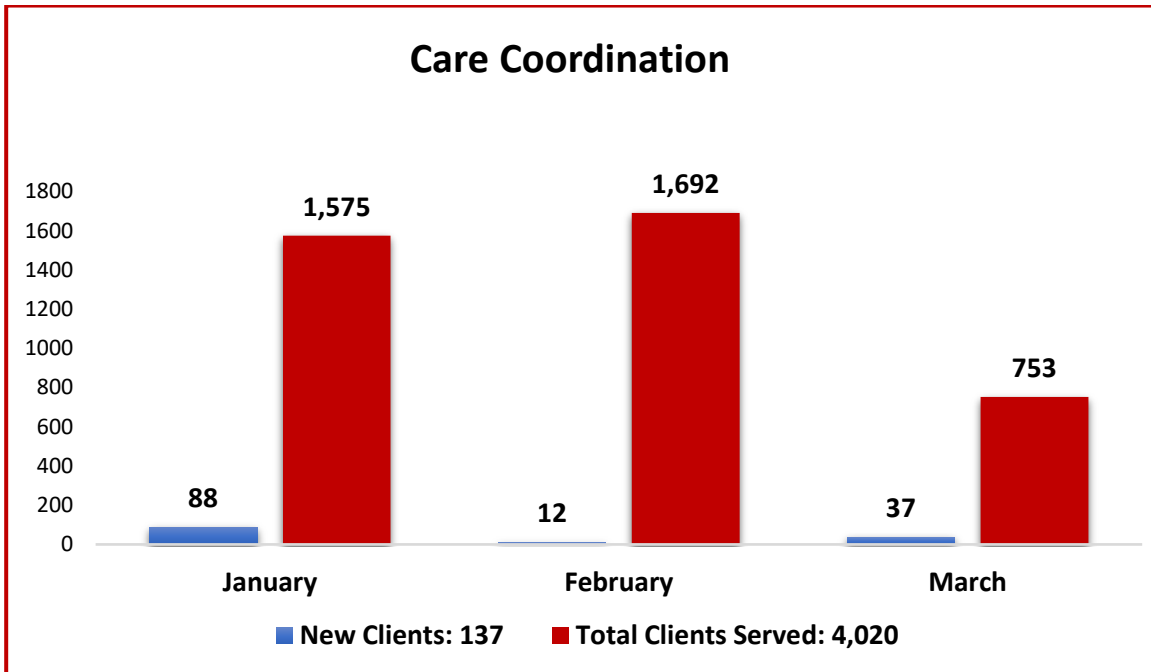
Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

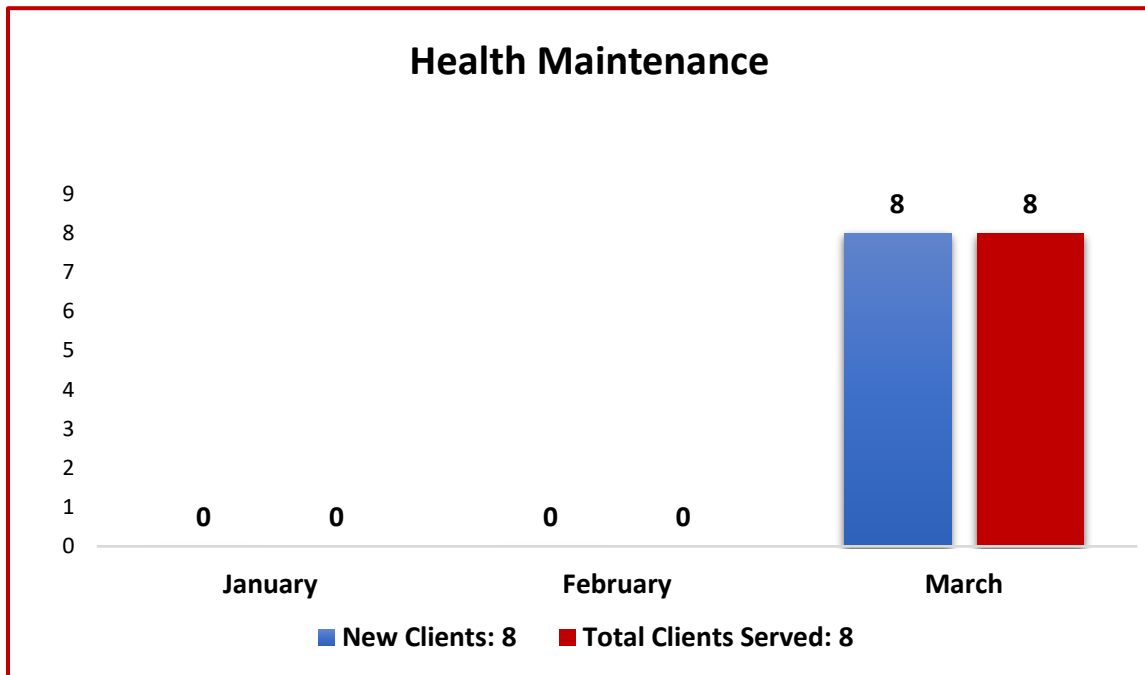
Area Agency on Aging Status Report

This document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's 2nd quarter report for FY 2026, encompassing data from January 2026 to March 2026.

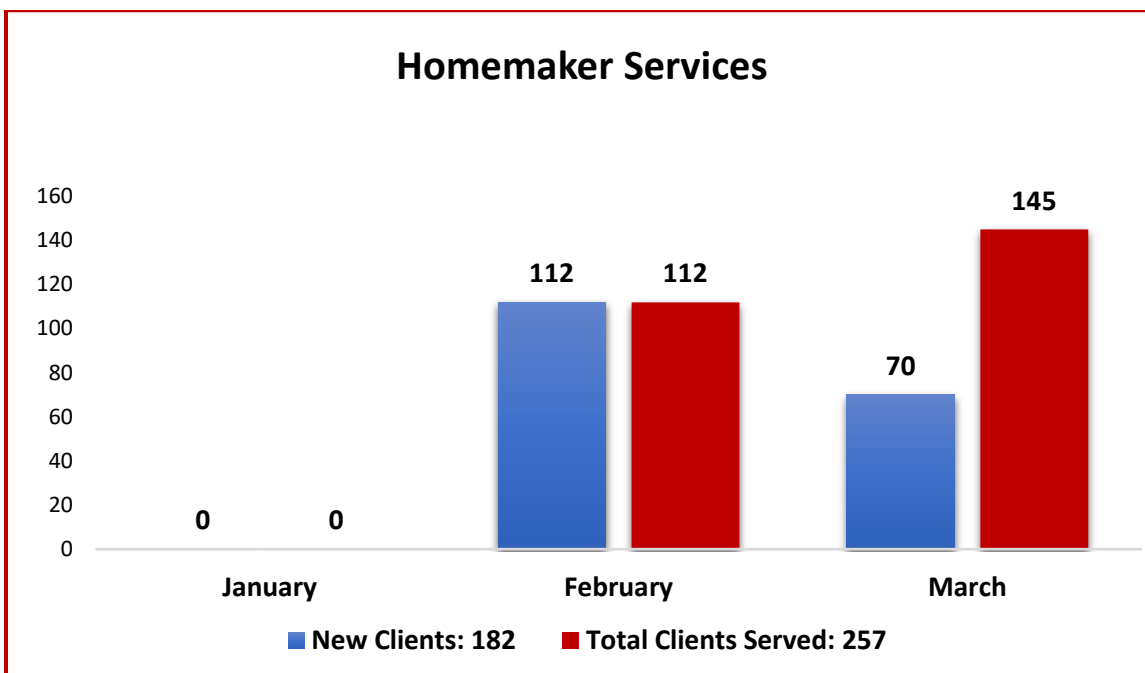
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Program**
 - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 137 new clients.
 - A total of 4,020 individuals were provided with case management assistance.



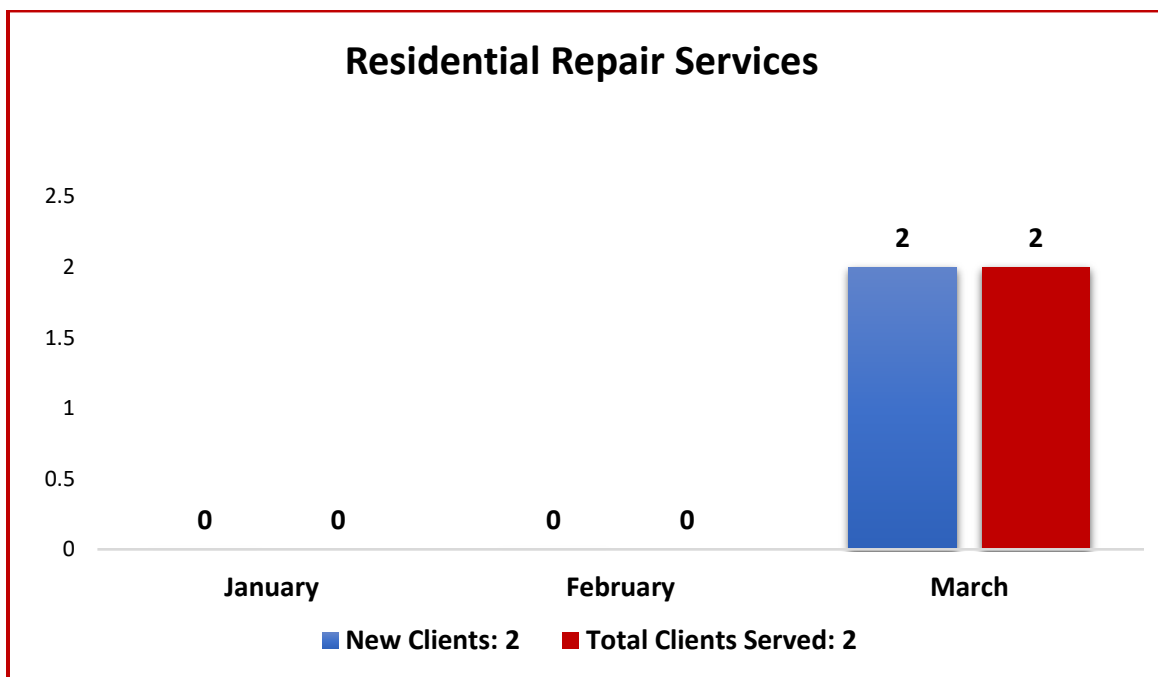
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**
 - A total of 8 new clients were assisted in the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment.
 - A total of 8 individuals were assisted by health maintenance services.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Homemaker Services**
 - A total of 182 new clients were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
 - In the second quarter, 257 individuals received homemaker service.

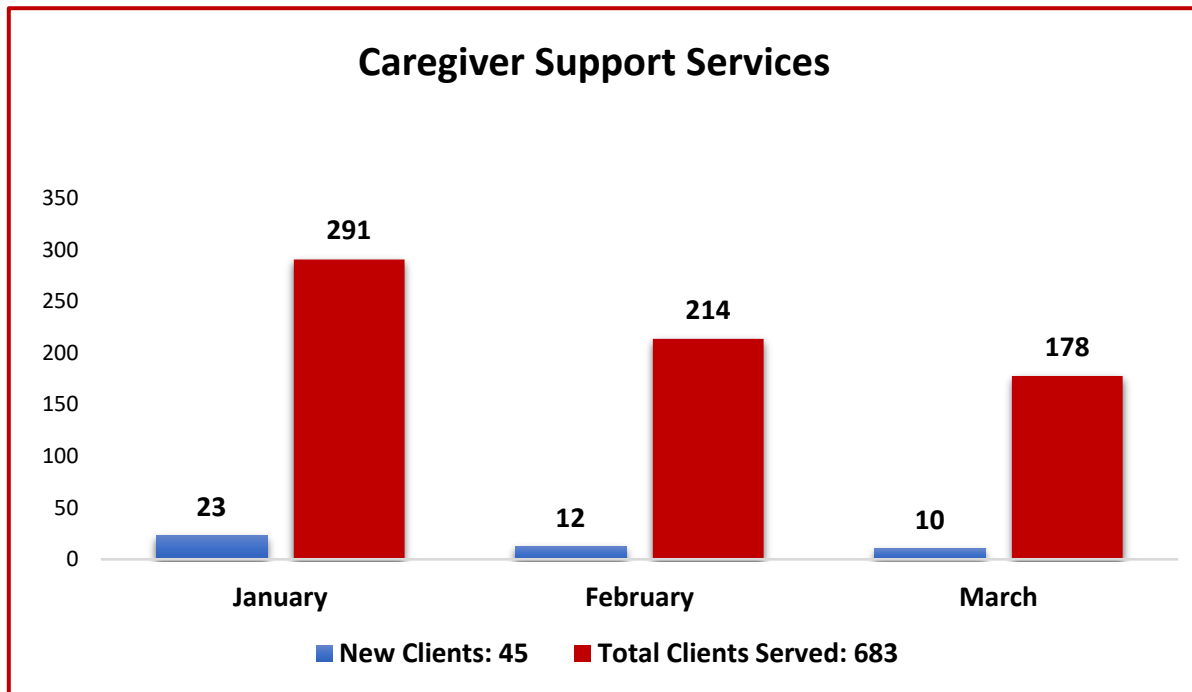


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Residential Repair Services**
 - A total of 2 individuals were provided with assistance with home modifications, such as grab bars, ramps, and removing tubs and installing walk-in showers to reduce the risk of falls and improve access and mobility.

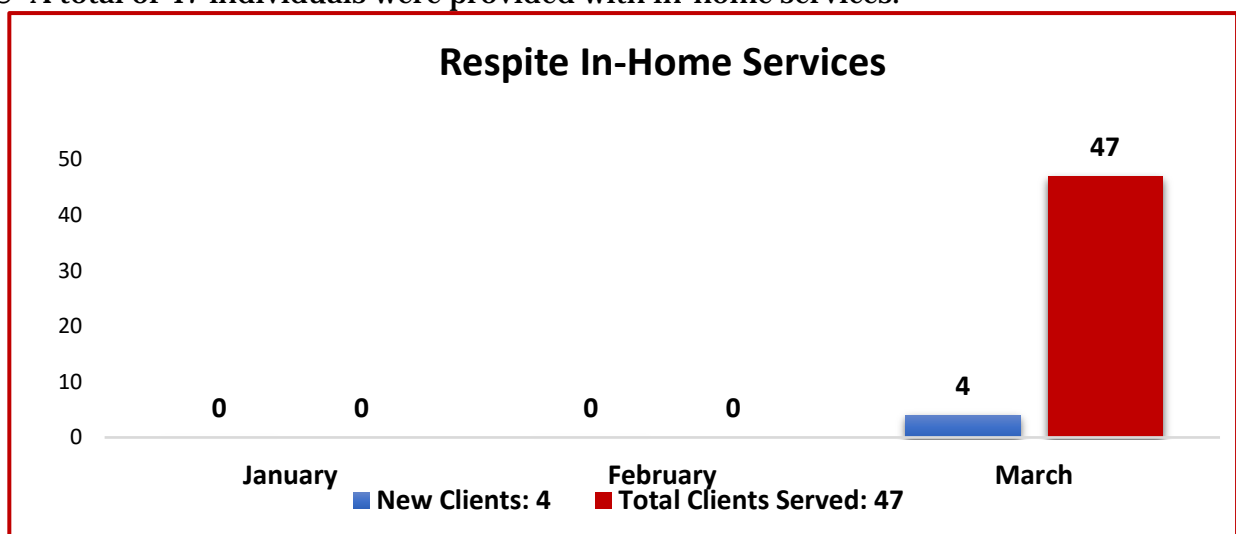


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Transportation Services**
 - No transportation services were delivered during this reporting period, as the service line was not active at the time. Services have since resumed, and data will be included in the next reporting cycle.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services Program**
 - The Caregiver Support Services Program serviced a total of 45 new clients.
 - A total of 683 individuals were provided with assistance.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Respite In-Home Services**
 - A total of 4 new clients were provided with respite in-home services, such as light housekeeping, personal care, feeding, grooming, and transferring from bed to chair.
 - A total of 47 individuals were provided with in-home services.



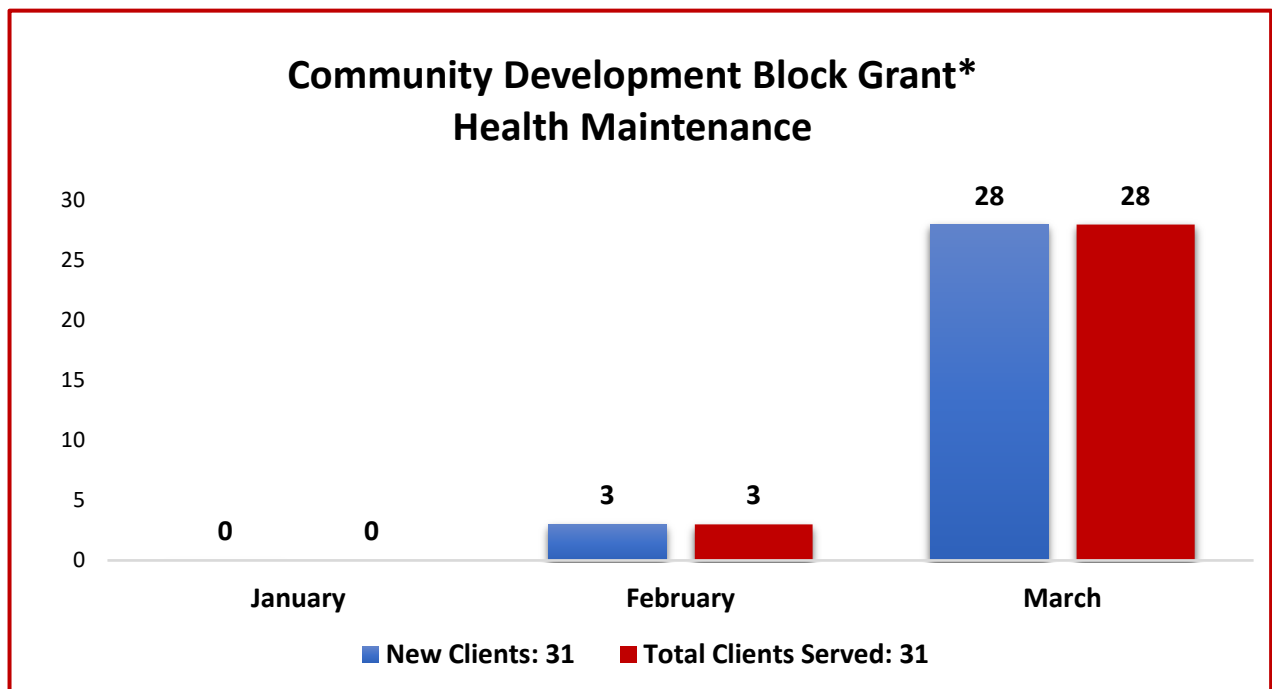
***Respite In-Home Services were not active in January and February, resulting in zero clients served during those months.**

- **Direct Consumer Services Report- Health Maintenance Services III-E through the Caregiver Support Program**

- No health maintenance services were delivered during this reporting period, as the service line was not active at the time. Services have since resumed, and data will be included in the next reporting cycle.

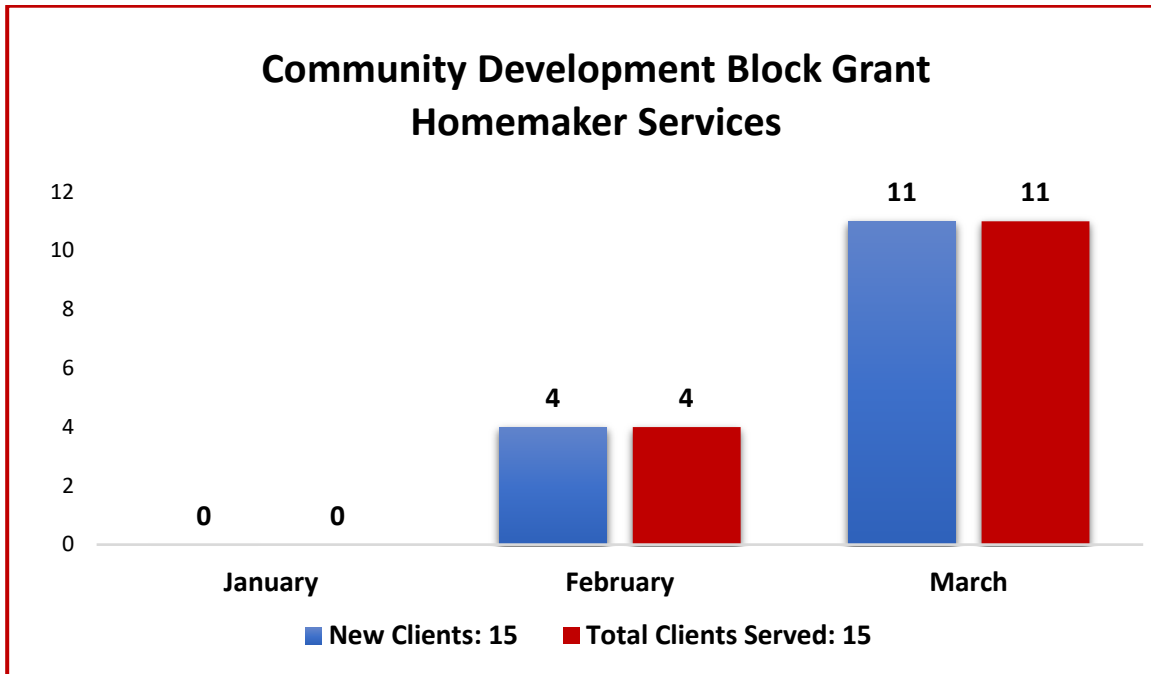
- **Direct Consumer Services Report - Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services**

- A total of 31 clients were assisted through the Community Development Block Grant for the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment to support the care recipient. This one-time service is typically allocated for a single encounter.
- A total of 31 new clients were served, representing the final number of individuals assisted through this one-time service, typically allocated for a single encounter.



*CDBG Health Maintenance Services were not active in January, resulting in zero clients being served during that month.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report - Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services**
 - A total of 15 new clients were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
 - In the second quarter, 15 individuals received homemaker service.



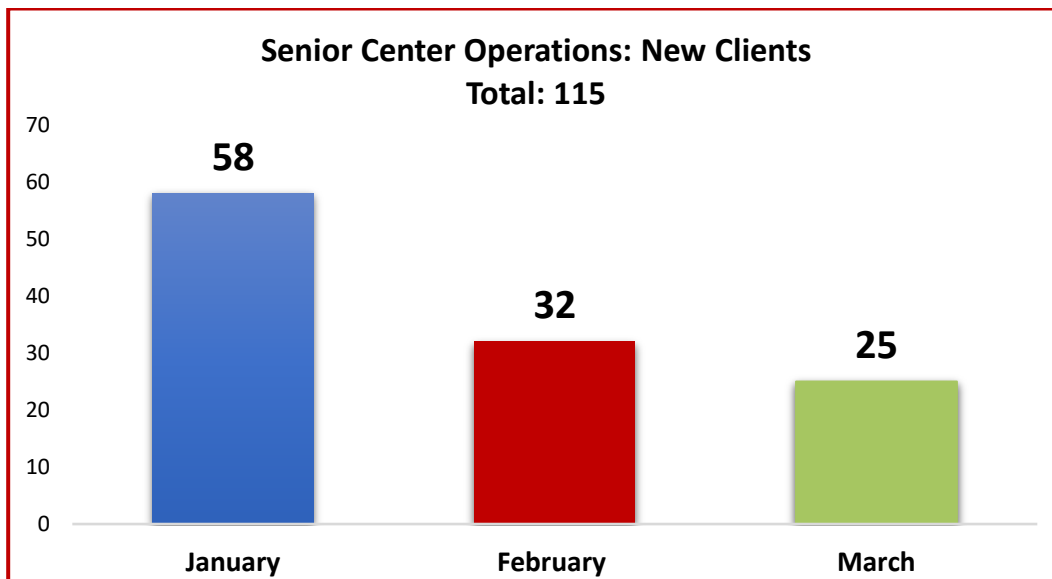
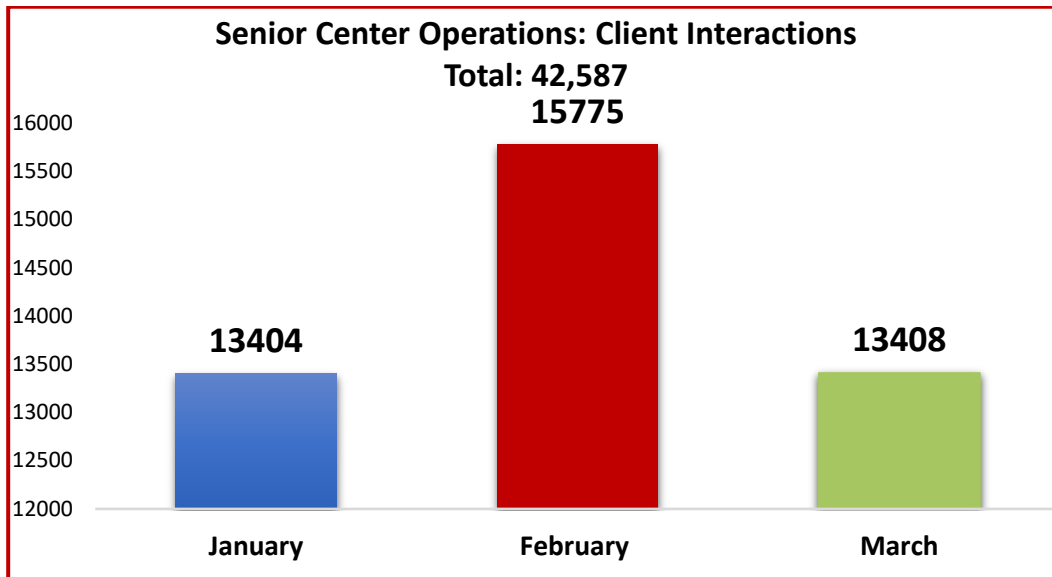
*CDBG Health Maintenance Services were not active in January, resulting in zero clients being served during that month.

- **Direct Consumer Services – Interest List**
 - As of April 8, 2026, 578 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging.

Direct Consumer Services Interest List	
Care Coordination Services	555
Caregiver Support Services	23
Grand Total	578

- **Senior Center Operations Report**

- Program successfully enrolled 115 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 42,587 activities with their clients.



- **Palm Plaza Support Group (Mission Housing Authority)**

- A small support group is housed at Palm Plaza Senior Housing Authority, where participants come together to support one another in a safe and welcoming environment. The group encouraged open conversation, allowing individuals to share what was on their minds and discuss personal challenges. Through peer support and active listening, participants created a space of trust, connection, and mutual understanding



- **Palm Plaza Cooking Group (Mission Housing Authority)**

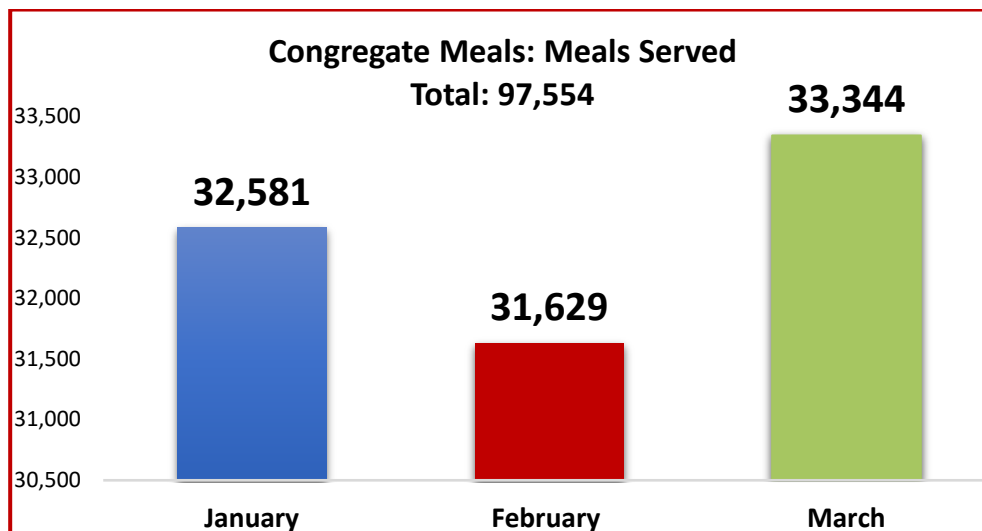
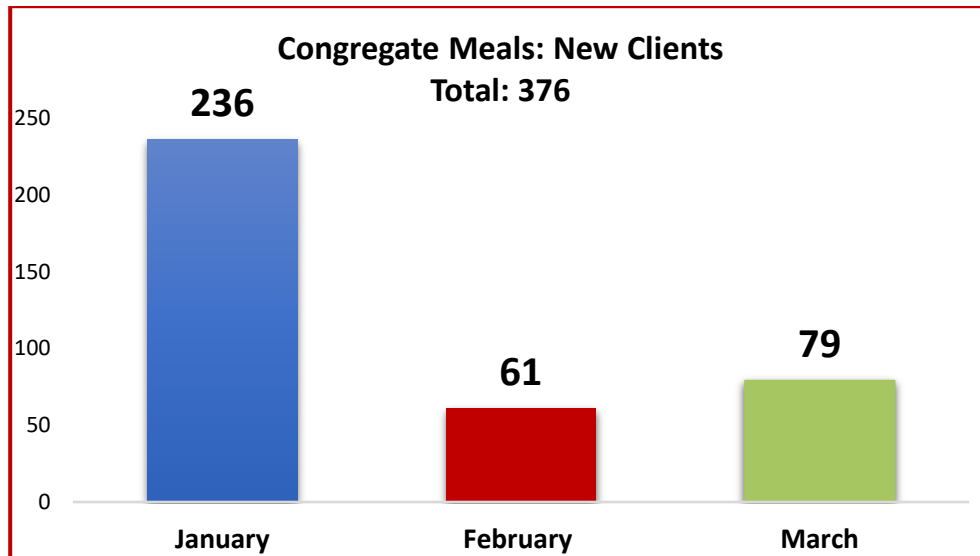
- Cooking classes are held at Palm Plaza Senior Housing Authority, providing participants with an opportunity to learn simple, nutritious recipes in a supportive group setting. The sessions encourage hands on participation, sharing of cooking tips, and social interaction among residents. Participants enjoy preparing meals together while building confidence in the kitchen and promoting healthier eating habits.





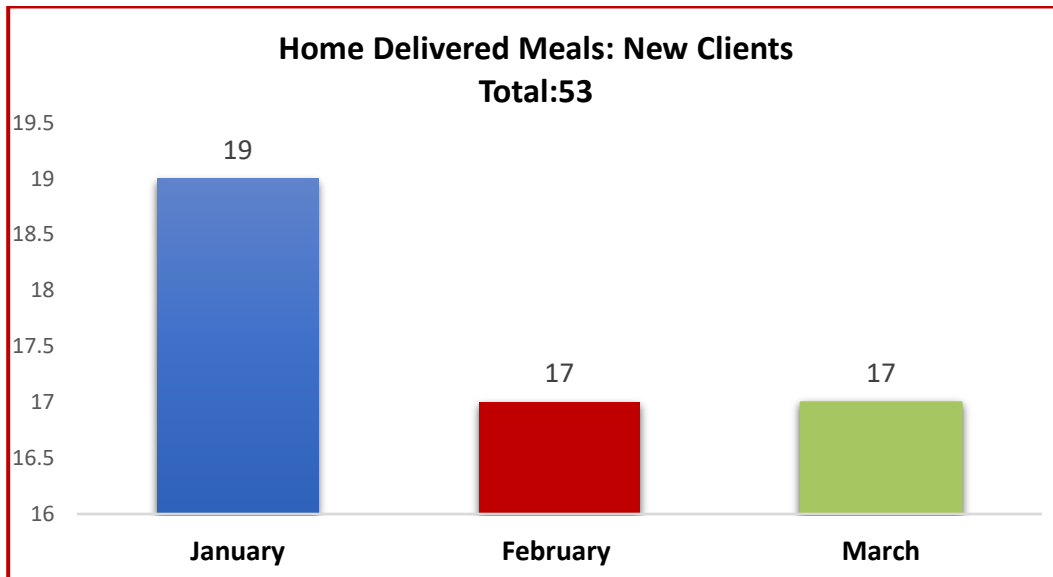
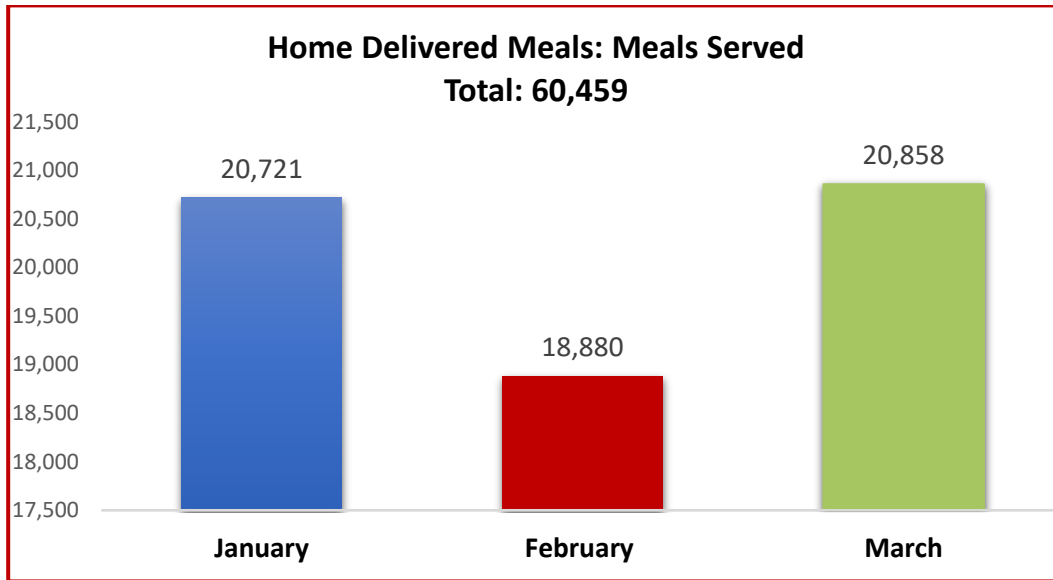
- **Nutrition Program Report – Congregate Meals**

- Program successfully enrolled 376 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Program successfully administered 97,554 Congregate meals.

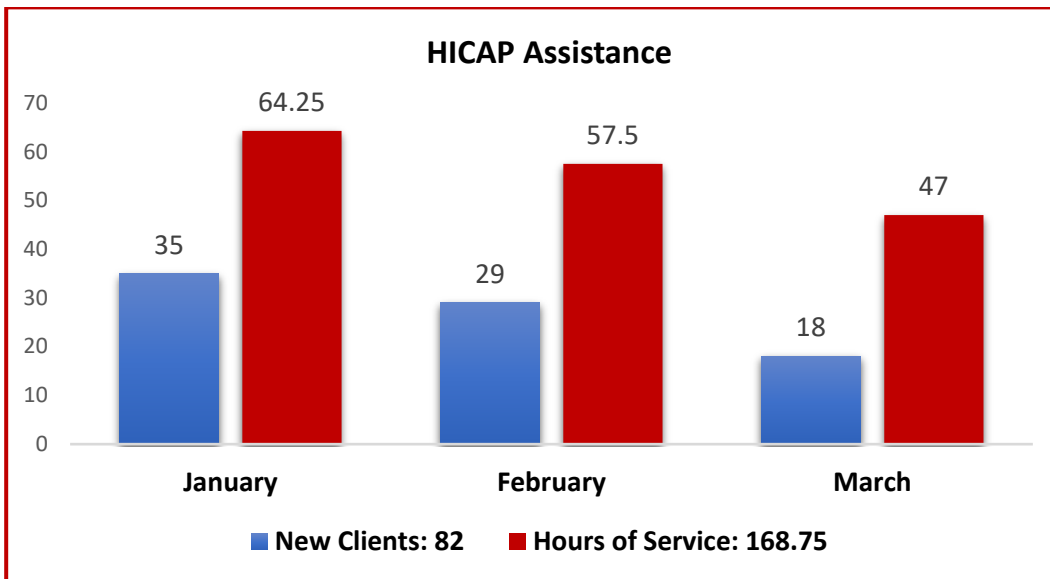
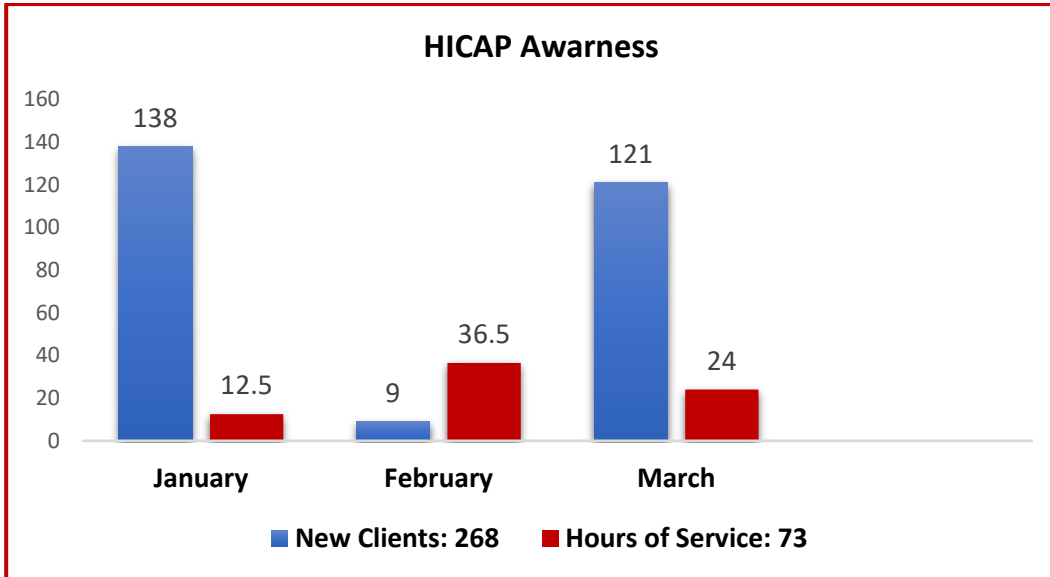


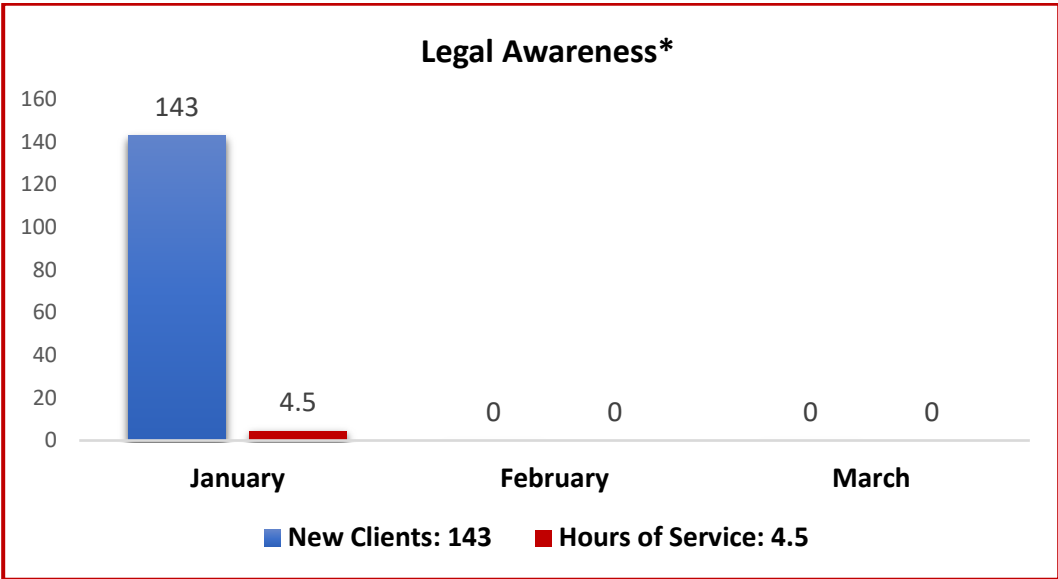
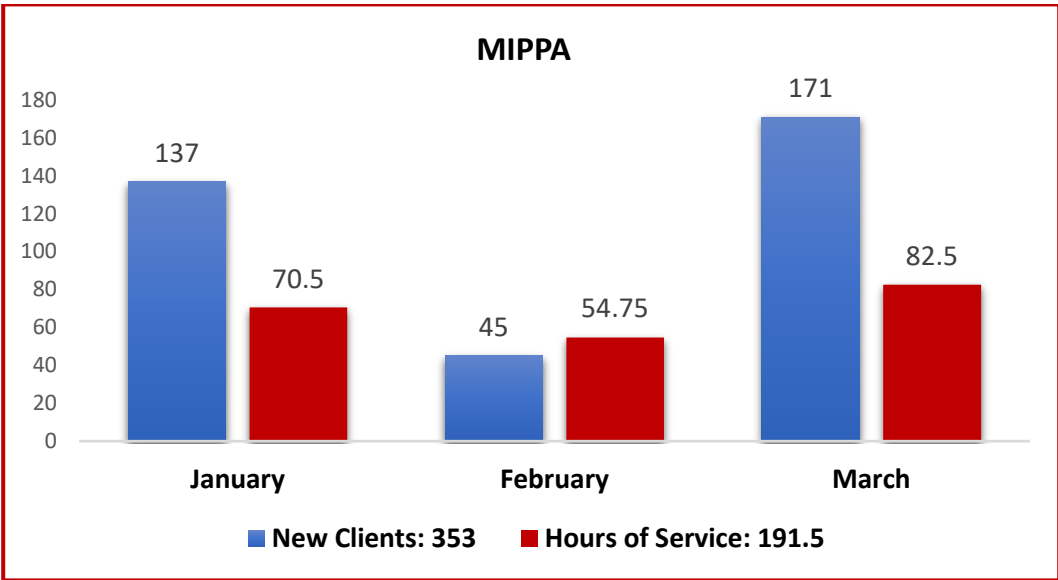
- **Nutrition Program Report – Home Delivered Meals**

- Successfully enrolled 53 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program.
- Successfully served 60,459 Home Delivered meals.

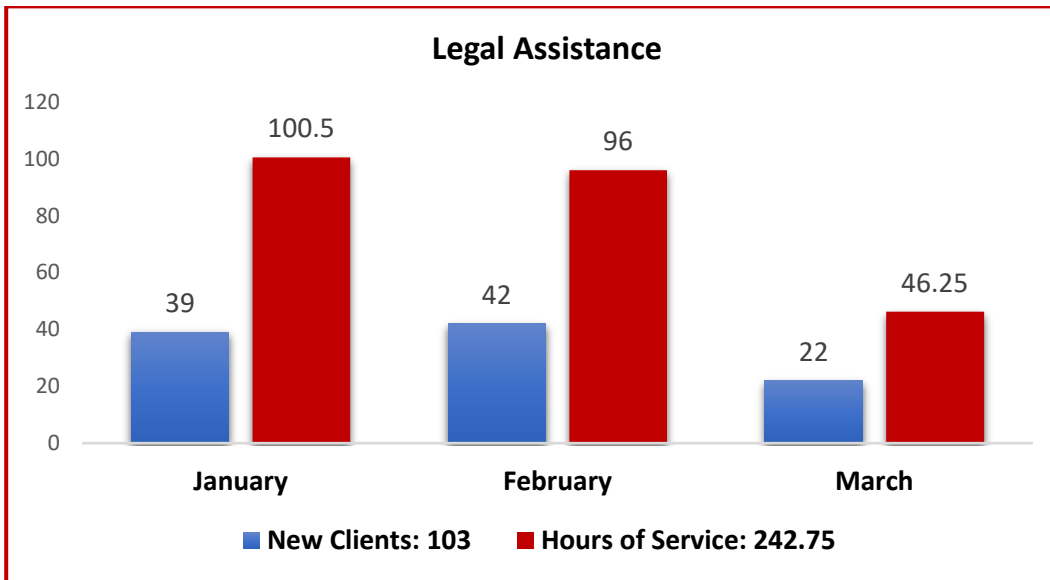


- **Special Services Report – Benefit Counselors Program**
 - Achieved the enrollment of 949 new clients
 - Established 696.75 contacts through outreach activities and one-on-one assistance.





*Legal Awareness services were not provided in January and February, as staff prioritized higher-demand HICAP and MIPPA services.

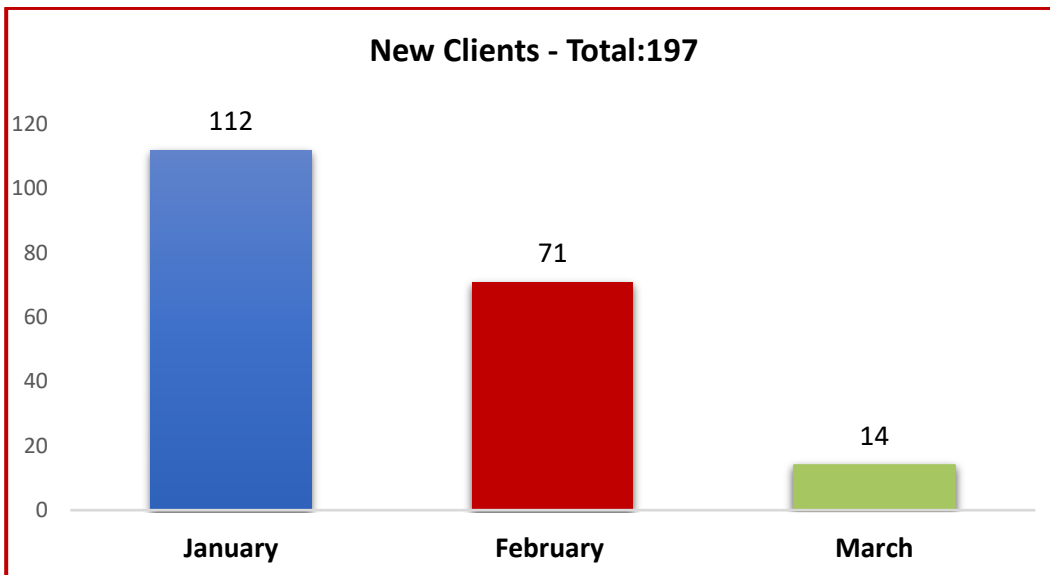


* Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

* Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)

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

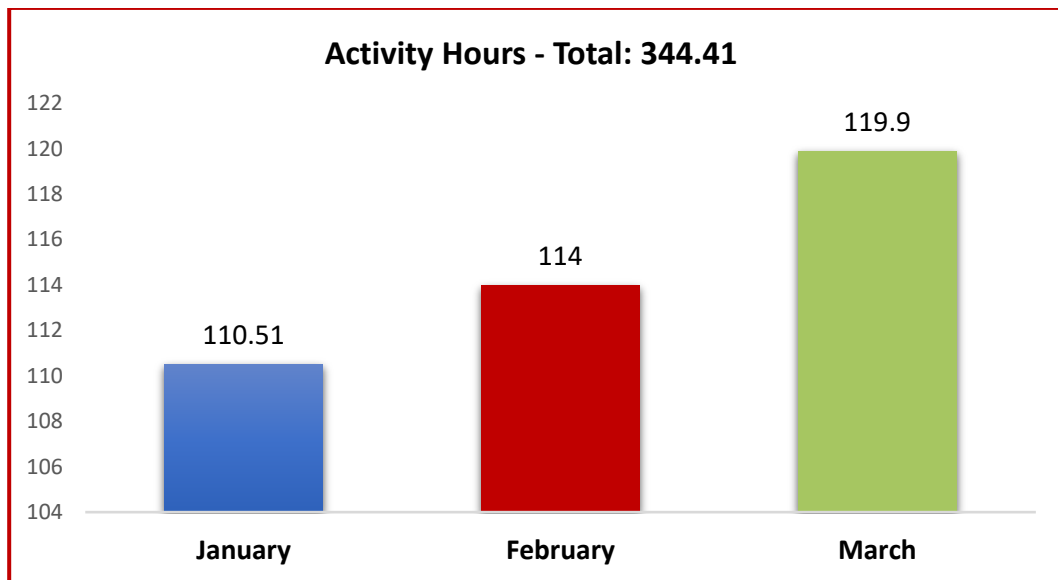
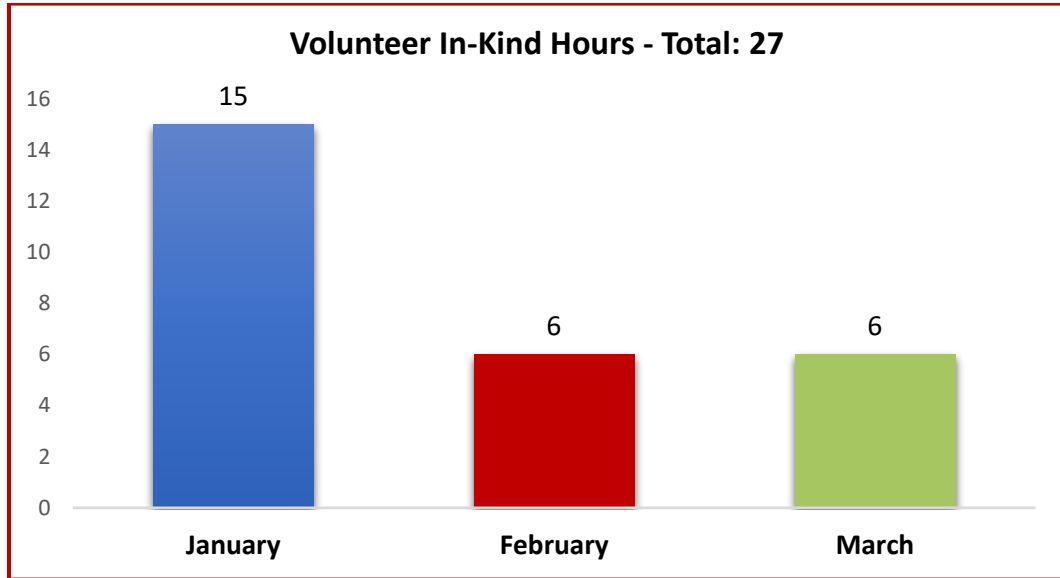
- During the 2nd quarter, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 197 new clients.



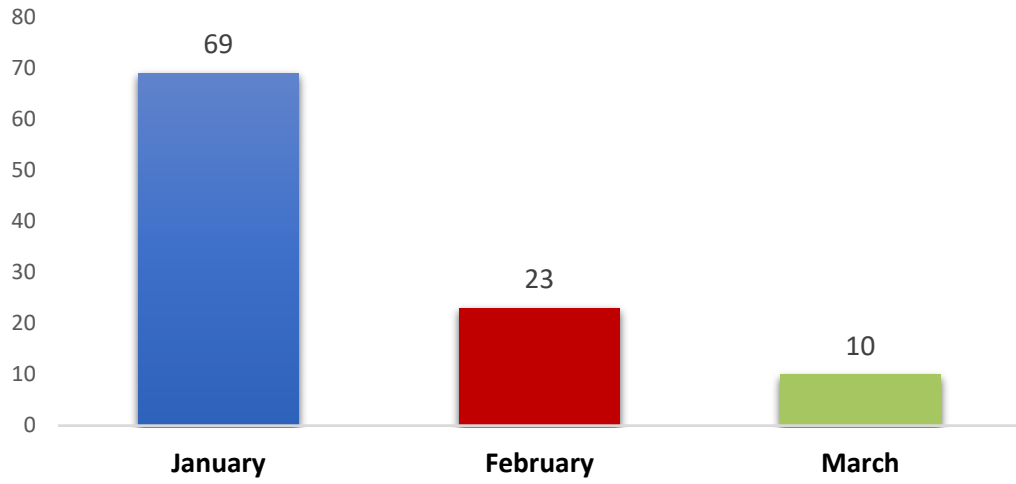
*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, and Mission Regional Medical Center

- **Special Services Report – Ombudsman Program**

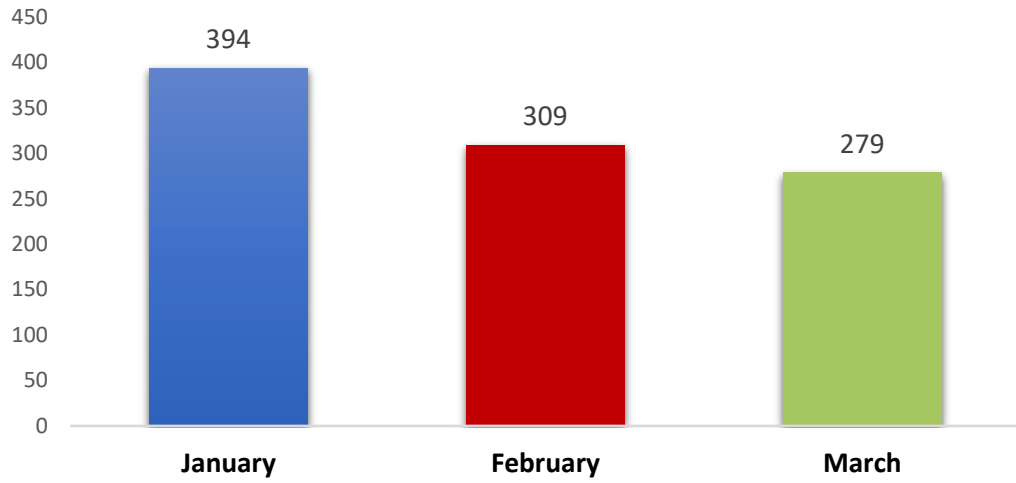
- The Ombudsman handled 102 complaints.
- They dedicated 344.41 activity hours and recorded 982 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 27 in-kind hours. Currently training 1 volunteer.



Investigated Complaints - Total: 102

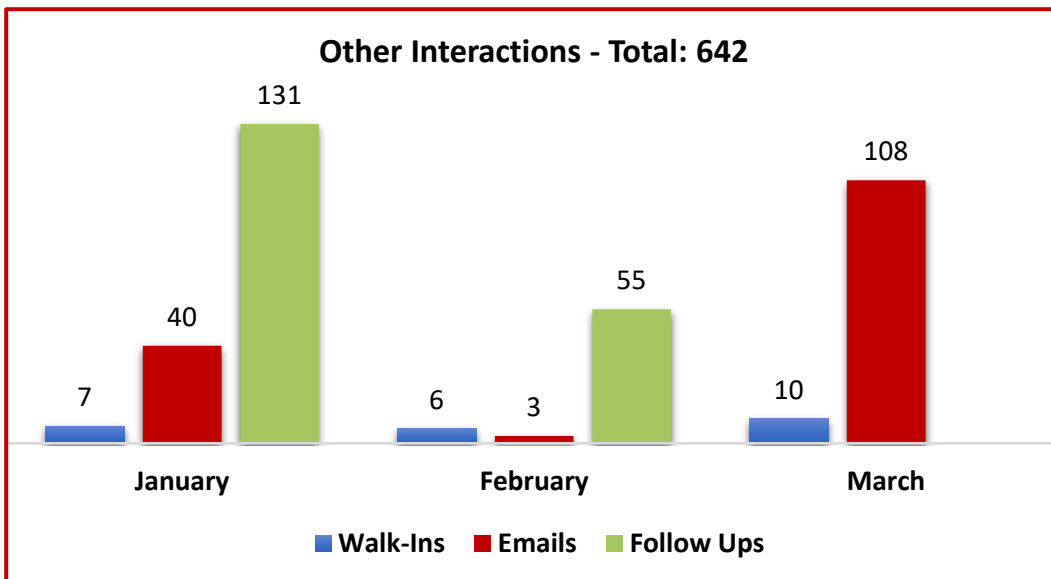
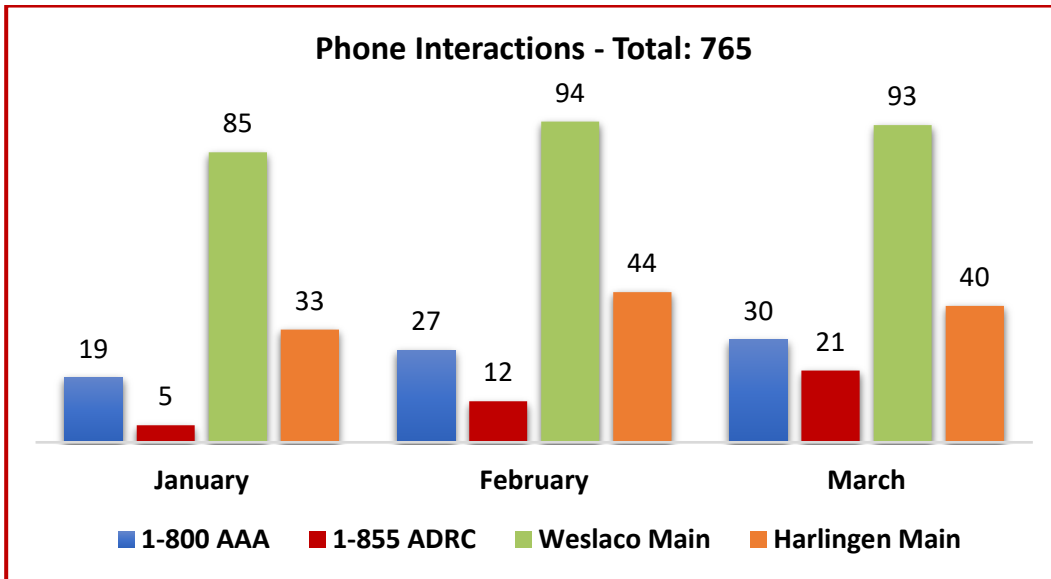


Activity Total - Total: 982



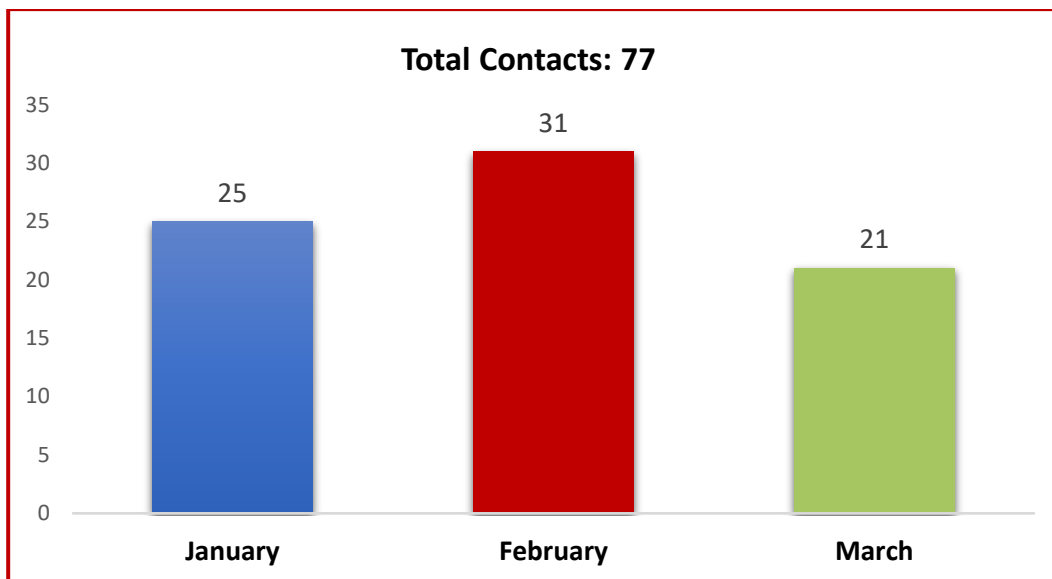
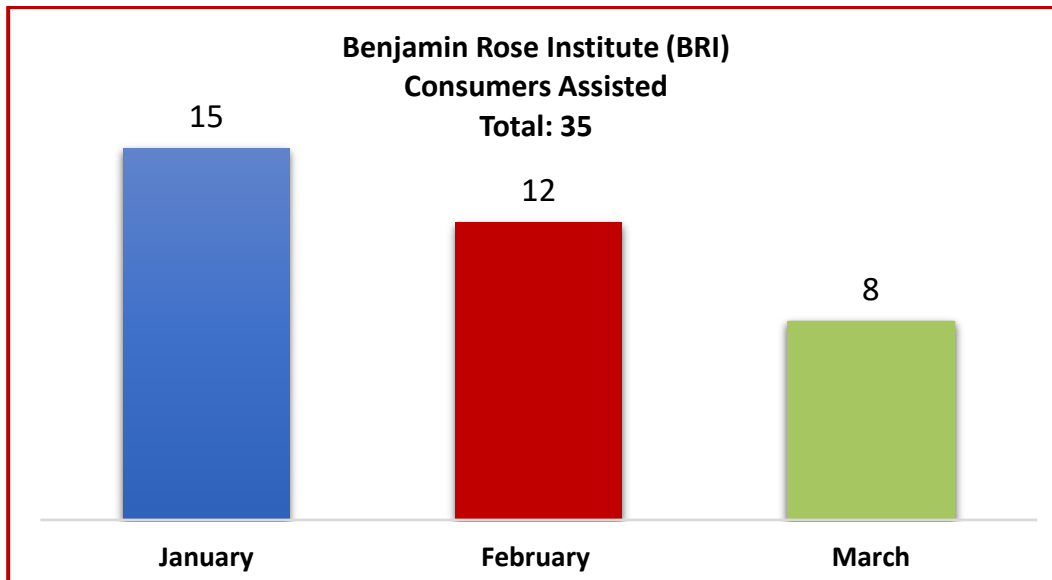
- **ADRC Report – Information Referral and Assistance**

- The intake team had a total of 1,407 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- Interacted with 1,525 individuals, 1,144 were 60 years of age and above, 39 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 1,099 individuals with a disability and 47 Veterans.



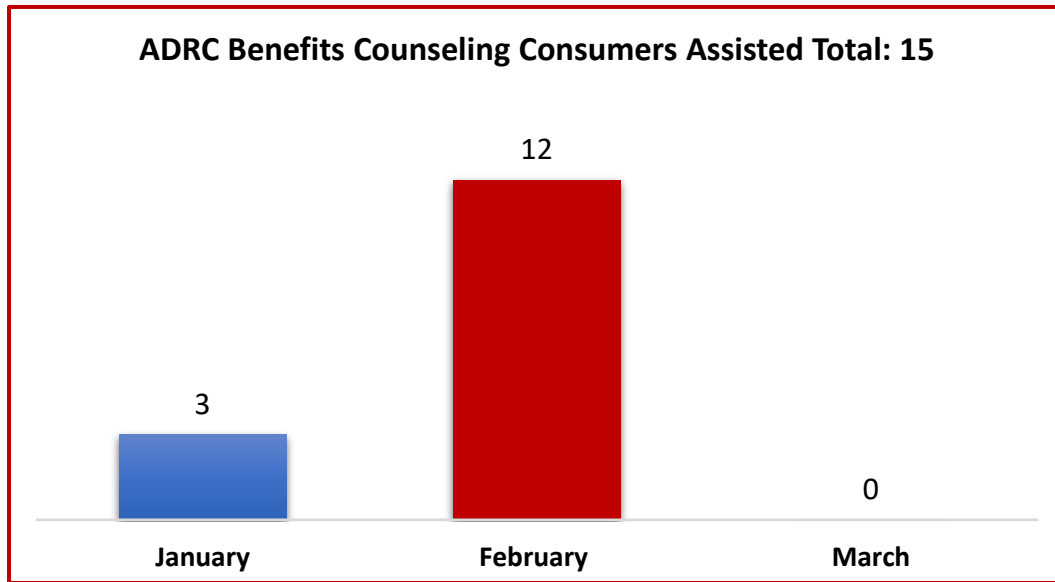
- **ADRC Report – Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultant**

- During the 2nd quarter, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 35 new clients and
- The Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully established 77 contacts.



- **ADRC Report – Benefits Counseling***

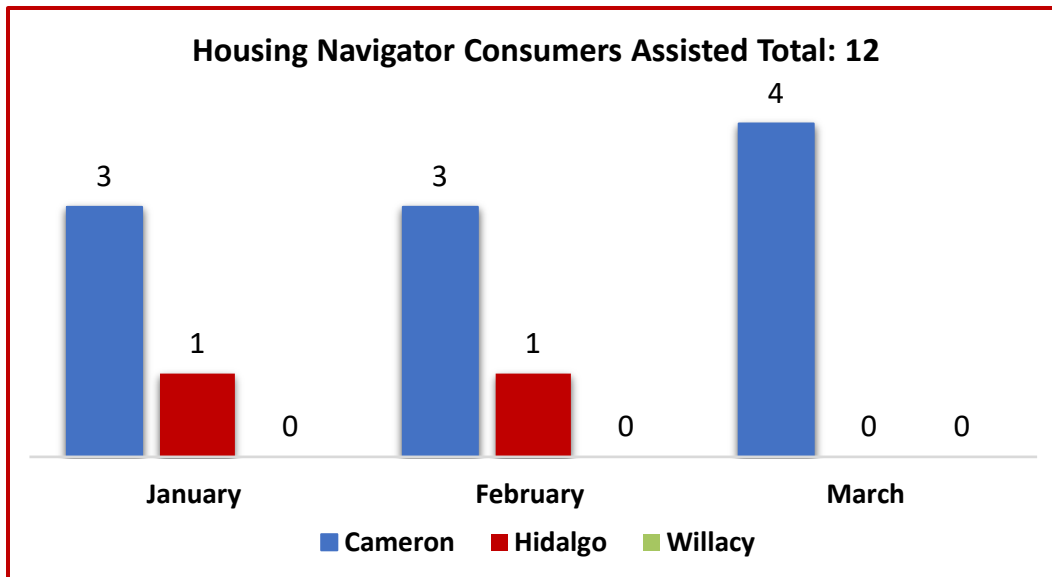
- Assisted 15 consumers by providing assistance with MIPPA cases.



*March data was not available at the time the report was generated and will be included in the next reporting cycle.

- **ADRC Report – Housing Navigator**

- Provided support to 12 consumers with housing inquiries by offering personalized resources, demonstrating the agency's expertise, and offering valuable support to community members encountering challenges regarding housing.



- **ADRC Report – Respite Services**

- ADRC Respite Services Disclaimer: During the January freeze, ADRC respite funds were utilized to support a special emergency preparedness initiative. Caregivers were provided with emergency kits that included heaters, blankets, flashlights, and thermal bags to ensure the safety and well-being of care recipients.

ITEM # 5. C.

**PUBLIC
SAFETY**

ITEM # 5. C.1.

**EMERGENCY
SERVICES
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE &
HOMELAND
SECURITY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item..... Cesar Merla
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally Approved Amounts.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 13, 2026, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the JAG grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Public Safety Division-Criminal Justice**

Resolution 2026-10

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$665,947.26 funding a total of 24 projects.

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

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

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

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2026-2027 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

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

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

Passed and approved this 29th day of April 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Garza, LRGVDC President

CJAC Recommendations for DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2026-2027

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Project Title	Req. Org. Amount	Req. Adjusted Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	91.10	5707001 Lower Rio Grande Valley Develop Council Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance	\$193,559.20	\$193,472.56	\$193,472.56	Fully Fund
2	88.55	4772204 City of Raymondville Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Investigator	\$68,144.00	\$68,144.00	\$68,144.00	Fully Fund
3	87.65	3596509 Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Unit	\$109,347.08	\$109,347.08	\$109,347.08	Fully Fund
4	87.10	5366102 City of Harlingen HPD Patrol Unit Radio Project	\$90,777.20	\$90,777.20	\$90,777.20	Fully Fund
5	86.05	5810901 City of San Juan Criminal Justice Program	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	Fully Fund
6	85.65	5714101 Cameron County Pre-Trial Surveillance and Supervision	\$235,786.20	\$235,786.20	\$132,206.42	Partially Fund
7	85.45	3853008 City of Raymondville Drug Enforcement Investigator	\$68,096.00	\$68,091.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
8	84.95	5738701 City of Alamo Police Department Reliable and Secure Portable Radio Communications Enhancement	\$145,680.00	\$145,680.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
8	84.95	5707601 City of Raymondville Violent Crime Investigator	\$68,144.00	\$68,143.90	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
10	84.85	5778501 City of Brownsville Criminal Justice Grant Program FY27	\$324,250.00	\$324,250.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
11	84.55	5798001 City of Sullivan City JAG	\$29,016.00	\$29,016.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
12	84.30	5786001 City of Progreso Police Department Border Zone Reliable Anti-Interference Portable Radio Communication	\$79,200.00	\$79,200.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
13	83.40	5842301 Hidalgo County HCSO-JAG FY27	\$186,000.00	\$186,000.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
14	83.35	5357002 City of Edinburg Criminal Justice Grant Project	\$143,000.00	\$143,000.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
15	83.30	4003002 City of Weslaco FY27 Criminal Justice Program	\$74,844.04	\$74,844.04	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
16	83.20	5730001 City of Pharr Metal Detector Enhancement Project	\$38,460.00	\$38,460.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
17	82.80	5786601 Cameron County Animal Cruelty and Abuse Investigator DA Project	\$110,813.93	\$110,087.97	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
18	82.70	5707501 City of Mission Mission Police Department CJ Project	\$223,493.30	\$222,622.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
19	82.65	5705701 Willacy County Sherrif's Office Equipment Project	\$133,416.96	\$133,416.96	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
20	82.35	5800301 Donna ISD SafeGate Stadium Weapon Detection and Law Enforcement Response Initiative	\$78,875.00	\$78,875.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
21	82.20	5713801 City of La Villa Patrol Unit	\$55,041.75	\$55,041.75	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
22	81.95	5831701 City of Donna Computer Upgrade Program	\$191,693.13	\$191,693.13	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
23	79.55	5800501 City of Palmview JAG	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
24	79.40	5763001 City of Hidalgo Virtual Training	\$115,000.00	\$118,400.00	\$0.00	If additional funding becomes available, fully fund
		Total:	\$2,861,637.79	\$2,863,348.79		

Conditionally approved amounts and equipment is subject to available funding from the Governor's Public Safety Office. The Governor's Public Safety Office retains final determination on funding allocations for all projects.

Total Applications: 24

Recommendations	\$665,947.26	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$0.00	\$ 665,947.26

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item.....Cesar Merla
Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund (SF) Fund Program Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally Approved Amounts.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 13, 2026, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the SF grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Public Safety Division-Criminal Justice

Resolution 2026-11

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Criminal Justice Planning 421 (SF)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the Criminal Justice Planning 421 (SF) in the amount of \$190,269.54 funding a total of 3 projects.

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

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

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

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2026-2027 for the Criminal Justice Planning 421 (SF)

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

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

Passed and approved this 29th day of April 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Garza, LRGVDC President

CJAC Recommendation Criminal Justice Planning 421 (SF) FY 2026-2027

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Project Title	Requested Org. Amount	Req. Adjusted Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	89.33	5792001 Cameron County Truancy and Family Engagement Program	\$86,784.22	\$86,784.22	\$86,784.22	Fully Fund
2	88.83	3878808 Cameron County Community Based Treatment Services	\$68,395.12	\$68,395.12	\$68,395.12	Fully Fund
3	85.08	5331202 Cameron County 484th District Court Specialized Treatment Services	\$92,880.00	\$92,863.80	\$35,090.20	Partially Fund at posted amount
		Total:	\$248,059.34	\$248,043.14		

Conditionally approved amounts and equipment is subject to available funding from the Governor's Public Safety Office. The Governor's Public Safety Office retains final determination on funding allocations for all projects.

Total Applications: 3

Recommendations	\$190,269.54	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$0.00	\$190,269.54

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

**Program Action Item.....Cesar Merla
Director**

3. Consideration and **ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Truancy Prevention and Intervention Juvenile Justice & Youth Diversion (TP) Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally Approved Amounts.**

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 13, 2026, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the TP grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Public Safety Division-Criminal Justice

Resolution 2026-12

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) the amount of \$181,673.23 funding a total of 3 projects.

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

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

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

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2026-2027 for the Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP)

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

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

Passed and approved this 29th day of April 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Garza, LRGVDC President

CJAC Recommendations for Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) FY2026-2027

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Project Title	Req. Org. Amount	Req. Adjusted Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	86.16	4003407 City of Weslaco Weslaco First Offender Program	\$154,088.21	\$154,088.21	\$139,088.21	Fund as recommended
2	85.12	5714001 City of La Villa Juvenile Officer Grant	\$42,830.42	\$42,830.42	\$42,585.02	Fund as recommended
3	77.56	5759001 City of Missoin Mission Police Youth Diversion Program	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	Should additional funds become available, fully fund
		Total:	\$396,918.63	\$396,918.63		

Conditionally approved amounts and equipment is subject to available funding from the Governor's Public Safety Office. The Governor's Public Safety Office retains final determination on funding allocations for all projects.

Total Application: 3

Recommendations	\$181,673.23	
Remaining	\$0.00	\$181,673.23

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item.....Cesar Merla
Director

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grand Program (VA)Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally Approved Amounts.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 13, 2026, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the VA grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Public Safety Division-Criminal Justice**

Resolution 2026-13

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors have recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA) the amount of \$4,693,948.27 funding a total of 28 projects.

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

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

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

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2026-2027 for the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA)

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

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

Passed and approved this 29th day of April 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Garza, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item.....Cesar Merla
Director

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally approved amounts.

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 13, 2026, the CJAC convened at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the rankings and amounts for the WF grant application. The committee recommends approval of the attached resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.



**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Public Safety Division-Criminal Justice**

Resolution 2026-14

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office of the State of Texas received a budget allocation for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Violence Against Women Formula Grant (WF)

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the LRGVDC Board of Directors has recommended the list of priorities for available funds in the category of the Violence Against Women Formula Grant (WF) the amount of \$453,110.89 funding a total of 7 projects.

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

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

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

Section 1: The list of priorities is adopted as the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council FY 2026-2027 for the Violence Against Women Formula Grant (WF)

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

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

Passed and approved this 29th day of April 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Garza, LRGVDC President

CJAC Recommendation for Violence Against Women Formula Grants (WF) FY 2026-2027

CJAC Ranking #	CJAC Score #	Project Title	Requested Org. Amount	Req. Adjusted Amount	CJAC Recommendations	CJAC Comments
1	90.60	2106518 Willacy County DA Domestic Violence Unit	\$76,440.00	\$76,440.00	\$76,440.00	Fully Fund
2	90.10	1844921 Cameron County Domestic Violence Unit	\$210,368.26	\$210,368.26	\$210,368.26	Fully Fund
3	89.75	2931312 Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor	\$108,095.96	\$108,095.96	\$108,095.96	Fully Fund
4	89.10	4723304 City of Alton Sex Crimes Investigator Project	\$40,493.68	\$40,493.68	\$40,493.68	Fully Fund
5	87.25	4735404 City of Edinburg Violence Against Women Justice and Training Grant Project	\$19,248.40	\$19,248.40	\$17,712.99	Partially Fund as recommended
6	85.15	5344902 City of San Juan Crime Victims Liaison	\$33,945.60	\$33,945.60	\$0.00	If additional Funding becomes available, fully fund
7	84.70	4507605 City of Weslaco Violence Against Women Justice and Training, FY2027	\$18,586.78	\$18,586.78	\$0.00	If additional Funding becomes available, fully fund
		Total:	\$507,178.68	\$507,178.68		

Conditionally approved amounts and equipment is subject to available funding from the Governor's Public Safety Office. The Governor's Public Safety Office retains final determination on funding allocations for all projects.

Total Applications: 7

Recommendations	\$453,110.89	Projected Amount
Remaining	\$0.00	\$453,110.89

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

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

**C. Public Safety..... Cesar Merla
Director**

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Prioritization (CJAC) Meeting on April 13, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff participated on a webinar for the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) eLearning “Criminal Justice Planners’ Association Listening Session” on April 15, 2026.
- Staff attended on Rio Grande Valley Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force meeting on April 16, 2026, at the STEC EMS in Harlingen, TX.

Homeland Security Program

- Staff members participated in the webinar on April 2, 2026, Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable.
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on April 9, 2026, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Prioritization Meeting (HSAC) on April 14, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX
- On April 16, one staff member attended the Hidalgo County Local Emergency LEPC meeting in McAllen Fire Department, McAllen, TX
- On April 17, 2026 One staff member participated in a Texas Critical Infrastructure Protection call
- Staff hosted Naloxone Training by Behavioral Health Solutions on April 22&23, 2026 in the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted RGV- ETAB Alliance meeting on April 30, 2026, at theLRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, in Weslaco, TX.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

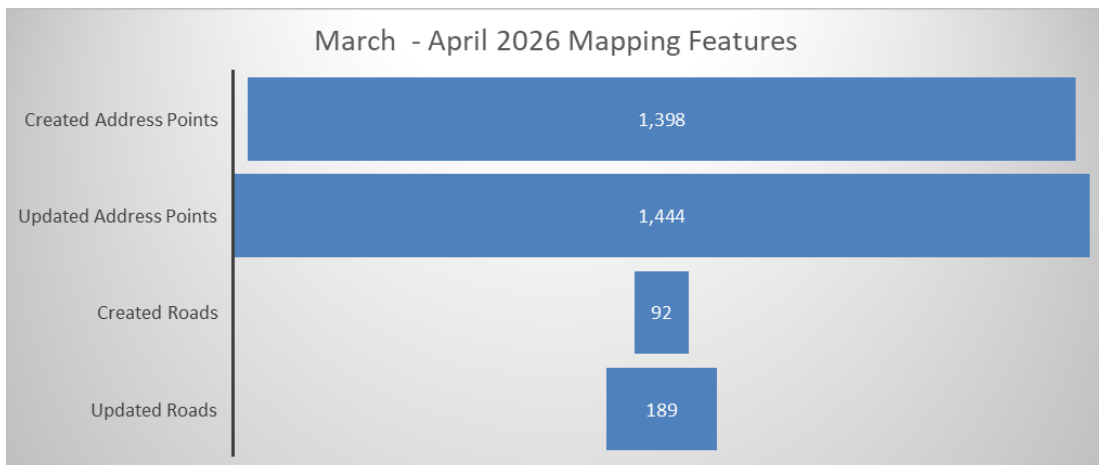
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

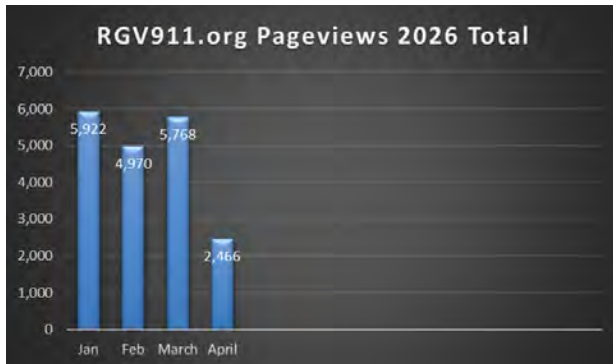
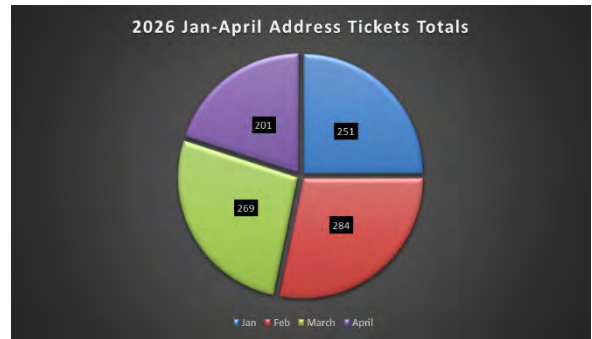
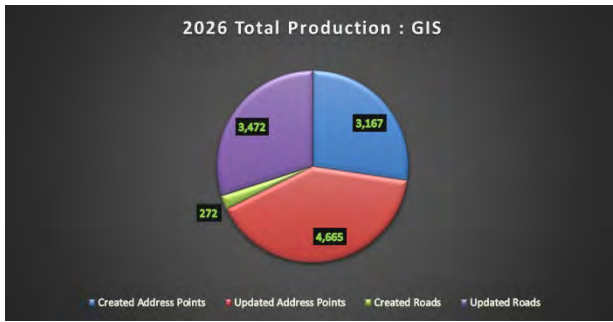
- GIS Division

The GIS Division continues to show growth and innovation. The indoor 3D mapping initiative, following the first proof of concept, we met with Region One Director Jesus Aguayo, who is helping coordinate an effort with Lyford ISD to begin mapping schools within that district. This marks a new and forward-thinking step for 9-1-1, and we hope to lead the way, eventually mapping all schools in our region to better support telecommunicators during live 9-1-1 calls.

The Intrado SCC Mapping Project, approved by the District's Board of Managers on January 21, 2026, is currently underway. GIS staff have been collaborating closely with the vendor and collaborating with IT staff through biweekly conference calls, with the fifth meeting now completed. The Division has made considerable progress in streamlining the integration of regional GIS data into the new mapping solution that will be used by PSAPs. This includes coordinating data standards, aligning schemas, and developing automated data-sharing workflows to ensure prompt, correct, and consistent GIS data delivery. This work will strengthen next-generation call handling and dispatch operations throughout the region.

At the 2nd Quarter Board of Managers meeting, the Board approved the one-year renewal of the district's 3D aerial imagery contract with Nearmap. This project will support the continued use of high-resolution aerial imagery to enhance GIS operations and regional public safety mapping efforts.





- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The district recently received its new Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) and worked through assessing all systems and features to ensure full operational readiness. Staff also prepared to display the unit at the South Texas All Hazards Conference on March 25 and 26, where it was formally unveiled and displayed.

In addition, the team supported the City of Weslaco Police and Fire Departments through the deployment of the new Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) during the Onion Festival on March 28, 2026. The Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) was configured with 9-1-1 call-handling capabilities for Weslaco PD, allowing a telecommunicator stationed inside the unit to receive live calls and aid with operational needs during the event.

At the same time, staff worked to bring in an added network provider for the PSAP network. This added another layer of redundancy to the infrastructure and strengthened the resilience of the 9-1-1 network, helping ensure the system continue to run at a better level during outages or service interruptions.

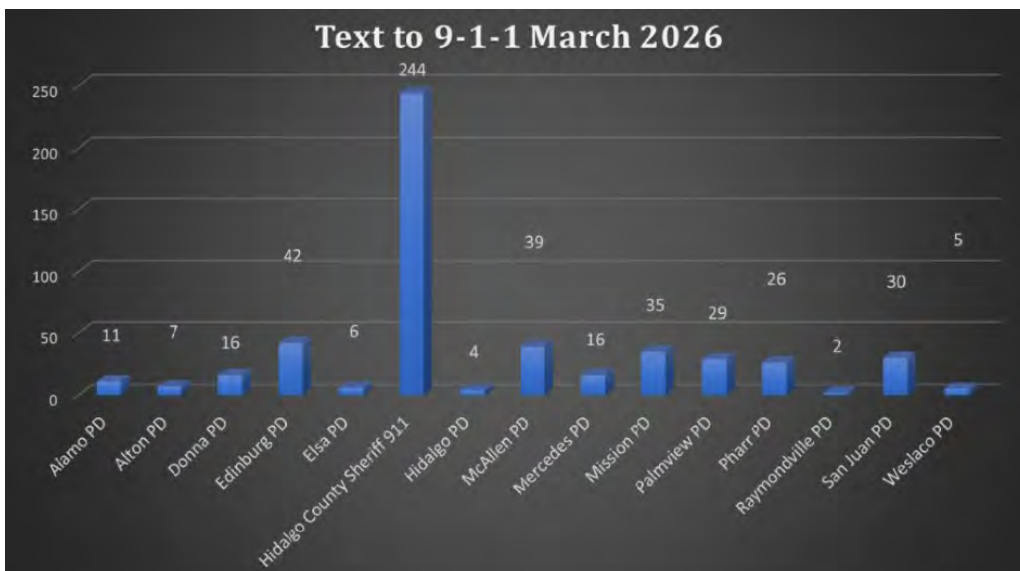
As part of these ongoing resiliency efforts, staff also obtained transfer switches and camlock cables for the two mobile generators. These were appointed for deployment to PSAPs with existing generators to help ensure those sites could instantly connect to backup power when needed.

In addition, two staff members attended Fortinet Firewall Administrator training in April and May. This training expanded the team's ability in managing and supporting firewalls for both RGV9-1-1 and LRGVDC, helping ensure that new systems and network additions were configured securely and efficiently.

IT personnel also conducted Semi-Annual Preventative Maintenance at all PSAPs, which included evaluating every aspect of 9-1-1 functions, transfers, and capabilities, along with hardware maintenance and network testing to support best performance.

The IT Department also continued supporting the implementation of the Intrado SCC Mapping Project, which remained on schedule with an estimated development and implementation timeline of six to eight weeks. IT staff actively took part in biweekly conference calls with the vendor alongside GIS staff, and five meetings had been completed to date. In addition to supporting system integration, IT staff made the necessary firewall (security system) adjustments at host sites to ensure system traffic was properly configured and secured. Once the project was completed, staff planned to provide the Board with a demonstration of the system and its capabilities.

The district remained committed to supporting 99.999% operational reliability by ensuring seamless integration between its 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping infrastructure. These efforts helped continue the delivery of dependable emergency communication services to public safety partners and the communities served.



- Community Engagement Division

March and April were a busy and productive month filled with a variety of events, conferences, and presentations. Our team stayed actively engaged with the community, sharing valuable information and strengthening connections. We also took part in valuable conferences that allowed us to learn, grow, and collaborate with others in the field. In addition, we dedicated time to preparing and organizing for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. All of these efforts helped set the stage for a meaningful and successful celebration ahead.

Remember the Cause Committee virtual Meeting, March 23, 2026. We collaborated with fellow public educators to plan and create coordinated safety awareness campaigns. The discussion focused on developing shared messaging and outreach efforts for upcoming public awareness initiatives.

2026 South Texas All Hazards Conference (STAHC), City of McAllen, March 25 & 26, 2026. The team showed the Multi-Agency Command Unit, shared lifesaving 9-1-1 information with attendees, and hosted educational giveaways and raffles. Our Public Educator, Jaquelin Duenez, also presented alongside Dr. Matthew Atterberry from VAIL.

Taking Steps to College: Willacy County School Districts, City of Raymondville, March 26, 2026. It was an amazing opportunity to connect with students, families, and community members, sharing valuable resources and highlighting pathways for college and future careers.

2026 LIIFE Conference, City of Weslaco, March 27, 2026. The RGVECD911 Public Education team attended the LIIFE Conference, where the Public Education team and the Emergency Services Director presented on technology that helps keep caregivers connected. The session highlighted tools and resources that support communication and safety for individuals receiving care.

27th Annual San Carlos Kite Festival, City of Edinburg, March 28, 2026. Our team engaged with the community members about the proper use of 9-1-1 services and discussed the importance of correct addressing and location information to support GIS. They also emphasized how this information helps first responders find emergencies more efficiently, particularly in rural areas.

City of Weslaco Onion Fest, March 28, 2026. The RGV911 team proudly deployed the MACC for the very first time, successfully bringing together multi-agency technology to enhance community safety. This milestone displayed the team's commitment to innovation and collaboration. It also strengthened efforts to improve emergency response and support the community.

2026 Texas Public Safety Conference, City of Denton, TX. March 29 – April 1st, 2026. The RGV911 Public Education team traveled to Denton to attend the Texas Public Safety Conference. Participation in this conference allowed the team to stay informed on current public safety practices and emerging initiatives in order to better serve community stakeholders.

Edcouch-Elsa ISD Incident Command Deployment, March 30, 2026. A major milestone this quarter was the successful deployment and real-world use of the Multi-Agency Communications Center (MACC). The unit was utilized during a critical incident to support on-site communications and coordination between responding agencies. During this deployment, staff worked closely with Elsa PD, Emergency Management, Texas DPS, multiple local police and fire departments, and the school district. The MACC allowed for improved coordination by bringing multiple agencies together in one unit.

Lyford ISD Easter Family Event, March 31, 2026. The RGV911 team had an amazing time taking part in the Easter Family Event hosted by Lyford ISD. The event had a great turnout, giving parents and kids the opportunity to gain experience with important 911 safety tips. Attendees learned how to text-to-911 and what to expect when making a 911 call.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (April 13–17, 2026) in both Hidalgo and Willacy Counties

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

Special Highlights:

RGV911 is proud to celebrate our incredible 9-1-1 dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week with appreciation and recognition. Throughout the week, our team is visiting PSAPs across the region to personally thank our telecommunicators and deliver personal gifts as a token of our gratitude. We highlight the dedication, professionalism, and compassion our dispatchers show every single day as they serve as the true first responders. Each visit is filled with encouragement, appreciation, and moments to remind them how valued they are by the communities they serve. We are also using this time to educate the public on the critical role dispatchers play in emergency response. RGV911 is honored to stand behind our #HeadsetHeroes and celebrate the lifesaving work they do every day.

Community Engagement Ongoing Project Updates:

- 2026 9-1-1 Education State-Wide Campaign with 911 Public Educators of Texas

Community Engagement Future Programs and Events:

- 2026 Crime Victims' Rights Awareness Event with Mission Police Department on April 22, 2026,

- 2026 Crime Victims' Resource Fair with Raymondville Police Department on April 23, 2026
- ARISE Adelante Día del Niño 2026 – Celebrate Children's Day with ARISE Adelante on April 25, 2026

Donations:

RGV911 donated educational materials to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Mercedes Independent School District, Weslaco Independent School District, and the City of Alton Fire Department to support their ongoing public education efforts on important 9-1-1 safety tips.

**2026 South Texas All Hazards Conference (STAHC),
City of McAllen, March 25 & 26, 2026**



**Taking Steps to College: Willacy County School Districts,
City of Raymondville, March 26, 2026**



**LIIFE 2026 Conference
City of Weslaco, March 27, 2026**



**27th Annual San Carlos Kite Festival
City of Edinburg, March 28, 2026**



City of Weslaco Onion Fest, March 28, 2026.



**2026 Texas Public Safety Conference,
City of Denton, TX. March 29 – April 1st, 2026**



**Edcouch-Elsa ISD Incident Command Deployment,
March 30, 2026**



Lyford ISD Easter Family Event, March 31, 2026





Pharr Communications

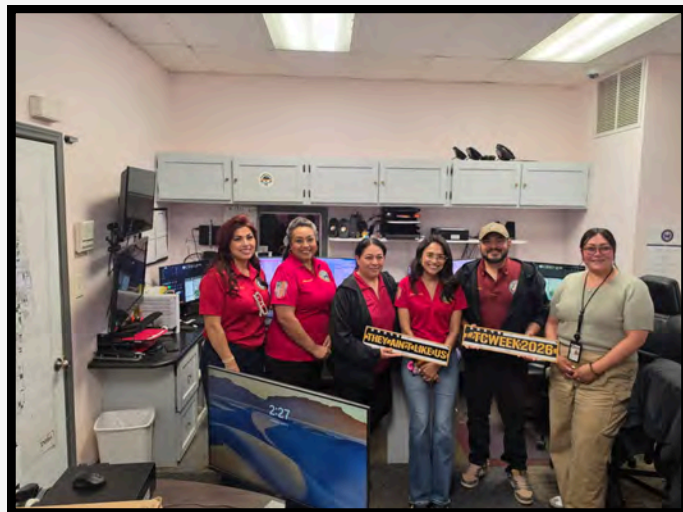


Alamo Police Department



San Juan Police Department





Donna Police Department



Hidalgo Police Department



McAllen Police Department





Palmview Police Department



Mission Police Department



Weslaco Police Department
Mercedes Police Department





Elsa Police Department



Hidalgo Co. Sheriff's Office



Edinburg Police Department





Alton Police Department



Raymondville Police
Department



ITEM # 5.C.2

**PUBLIC
SAFETY**

**LOWER RIO
GRANDE
VALLEY
ACADEMY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety- Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

Program Action ItemJavier Solis
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amendments to the LRGV Academy Adjunct Instructor Subcontractor Agreements for Special Instructional Services.

Background

The LRGV Academy is updating contracts for individuals who provide professional instructional services to the LRGV Academy. Instructors will be required to consent to a more stringent background investigation to ensure proper vetting of past disciplinary incidents.

New verbiage in the contracts provides the LRGV Academy protection from conflicts of interest arising between the subcontractors and their current agency employers. The new contract also provides guidance on the new LRGV Academy Cadet Manual, instructor dress code, deadline policies for the preparation of documentation paperwork, and includes a new subsection which broadens the scope of contract termination by the LRGVDC.

**CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
BETWEEN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

&

SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

I. Introduction

This contract for professional services (the “Contract”) is between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), through its Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy, hereinafter referred to as “LRGVDC Academy” and

_____, hereinafter referred to as “SUBCONTRACTOR”. Services rendered through this contract may include basic licensing courses and/or In-Service Training. Both parties entering into this contract agree to serve as role models and guides for developing and delivering quality training to law enforcement representatives and licensees in their roles as officers. Both parties are committed to providing oversight and assuring regulatory compliance with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) directly related to the operations and management of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy training programs. As representatives of the LRGVDC Academy, both parties will adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards in the instruction and management of the training programs, training records, and training contract.

The SUB-CONTRACTOR understands they are not an employee of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council or of the LRGVDC Academy and shall not present himself/herself as such. The SUB-CONTRACTOR is not entitled to any benefits bestowed upon employees of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.

Furthermore, this contract is only between the SUBCONTRACTOR named above and is in no way or form connected to a SUBCONTRACTOR’S employer outside of the LRGVDC. SUBCONTRACTORS who are employed with other agencies must abide by their agency’s policies regarding outside employment. The LRGVDC is not responsible for any conflicts arising between a SUBCONTRACTOR and his or her agency as a result of this contract.

2. Responsibilities/Duties:

2.1 The LRGVDC Academy will:

- LRGVDC Academy agrees to compensate the SUB-CONTRACTOR on an hourly basis for contracted Training Instructor services. When Instructors are tasked with updating curriculum, their service hours will be dependent on the number of hours required or assigned to that specific course. Example: If a course is for four hours, an instructor can only invoice for a maximum of four hours.

Payment for services shall be:

- Hourly rate does not exceed **\$35.00** per hour of instruction for basic instruction (courses which do not require a secondary instructor certification) and consulting/administrative support duties such as updating curriculum, reference, and background checks, and investigations.
- Hourly rate does not exceed **\$40.00** per hour of instruction for specialty instruction (courses which require secondary instructor certification). List of applicable courses is noted on Appendix II. Charge Listing.
- Hourly rate not to exceed **\$45.00** per hour of consulting/administrative support duties when developing curriculum with a TCOLE advanced instructor proficiency certification.
- Payment is established by the LRGVDC Academy in accordance with LRGVDC payment policies. The LRGVDC shall not withhold any deductions from subcontractor payment since all subcontractors are independent contractors and not employees of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.
- LRGVDC Staff will review invoices and backup documentation, process invoices submitted by the SUBCONTRACTOR and remit payment. Payment is contingent upon the completion of all training documentation to include files, reports, and instructor materials, and upon availability of funds. If possible, such payment from LRGVDC Academy will be made within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the subcontractor's invoice. All payments for services by the SUB-CONTRACTOR shall be made payable to:

Name
Address
Phone Number

LRGVDC Academy will hold instructors accountable for compliance. LRGVDC Academy will conduct an on-site observation at any time as determined by the LRGVDC Training Coordinator/Director. The following criteria will be monitored:

- Instructor Resume (Does it accompany course being monitored?)

- Course Objectives (Have course objectives been identified?)
- Course Lesson Plans (Are lesson plans included in packet and up to date?)
- Course Abstract (Downloadable from TCOLE website)
- Power Point Handouts (Have handouts available and administered to class?)
- Test/Key to be administered (Does test cover all subject matter reviewed?)
- Student Evaluations (Are they distributed after every Course)
- LRGVDC Academy will periodically review student evaluations of instructors to ensure BPOC objectives are being effectively reviewed and taught, and to measure the quality of service provided by the subcontractor.

2.2 The SUBCONTRACTOR will:

- **Consent to a complete and thorough background check to include a review of past and current employer personnel files.**
- The SUBCONTRACTOR agrees to provide Training Instruction (TCOLE Instructor Proficiency) services as prescribed and approved by the LRGVDC Academy and Training Coordinator/Director.
- SUBCONTRACTOR will refer to and abide by the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Cadet Manual.**
- **SUBCONTRACTOR will abide by the dress code established by the Director of the LRGVDC Academy while in the performance of their duties.**
- SUBCONTRACTOR agrees to adhere to the LRGVDC Academy Training Schedule/Calendar.
- SUBCONTRACTOR will, consistent with TCOLE Standards, submit all paperwork related to training to LRGVDC Academy Staff within **(10) ten days** of the end date of their contracted course to include:
 - Training Checklist
 - Grade sheet (BPOC only)
 - Roster(s)
 - Resume to include an as of date
 - Bio-sketch to include an as of date
 - Lesson Plan
 - Power point/Handouts
 - TCOLE Abstract, if applicable
 - Graded exams
 - Student evaluations
 - Blank exam, answer key, and scantron.

SUB-CONTRACTOR will adhere to copyright standards and regulations.

The SUB-CONTRACTOR will initiate and submit an invoice detailing date, BPOC Academy Number, course number, course description, the actual number of hours taught, and services provided to the LRGVDC Finance Department to: jsolis@lrgvdc.org

In the event of an unscheduled absence by the SUB-CONTRACTOR, LRGVDC Academy may cancel or suspend this contract, and the SUB-CONTRACTOR shall be compensated for all services provided or materials delivered prior to the cancellation date or shall repay any advanced payment for services not yet rendered.

All licenses, legal certifications, or inspections required for the services, facilities, equipment, or materials, and all applicable state and federal laws and local ordinances and LRGVDC Academy rules must be complied with by the SUB-CONTRACTOR. Specifically, the SUB-CONTRACTOR agrees to become familiar with and comply with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy BPOC Rules, Policies, and Procedures. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be treated as a default under the contract.

The SUBCONTRACTOR on an annual basis shall provide an updated LRGVDC Academy form which includes the Sub-contractor's résumé, bio-sketch, relevant certificates in compliance with TCOLE.

The SUBCONTRACTOR agrees to provide LRGVDC Academy with completed and up to date copy of the lesson plan and other documents as required by TCOLE for each course being delivered to the LRGVDC Academy and its customers/students during the term of this contract.

The SUBCONTRACTOR agrees to maintain compliance with all TCOLE Rules and, namely, Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Part 7, Chapter 215, section 215.10 (Course Instructor Requirements). Failure to comply with this requirement shall be treated as a termination under the contract.

III. Term, Termination, & Severability

3.1 This Contract shall be for an initial term of two (2) years unless otherwise terminated and will not automatically renew. A new contract must be initiated. All services billed must be rendered within the two (2) year period. This Contract commences on **the date signed**.

3.2 Either party may terminate this contract in whole whenever such termination is found to be in the best interest of the LRGVDC Academy. Termination shall be affected by the conveyance of a written notification thereof to the other party at least thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of the termination.

3.3 The LRGV Academy can terminate this contract in full and without notice at any time if it is determined that doing so is in the best interest of the LRGVDC.

IV. Assignability

The Sub-Contractor shall not assign any interest in this Contract, and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation), without the prior written consent of the LRGVDC thereto: Provided, however, that claims for money due or to become due to the Subcontractor from the LRGVDC under this Contract may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institutions without such approval. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the LRGVDC.

V. Compliance Requirements

All licenses, legal certifications, or inspections required for the services, facilities, equipment, or materials, and all applicable state and federal laws and local ordinances must be complied with by the Subcontractor. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be treated as a default.

VI. Copyrights

Where Subcontractor activities under this agreement, supported by this program produce original books, manuals, films, computer programs (including executable computer programs and supporting data in any form), or other material that can be copyrighted, the LRGVDC may copyright as such. The Subcontractor grants the LRGVDC Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to edit, copy, reproduce, and/or distribute materials created in support of this contract to all other individuals and entities.

VII. Interest of Subcontractor

The Subcontractor covenants that he/she presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required to be performed under this Contract. The Subcontractor further covenants that in the performance of this Contract no person having any such interest shall be employed.

VIII. Liability Hold Harmless

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council shall not be liable for any defaults, omission, or negligence of the Subcontractor. Subcontractor shall agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the LRGVDC from liability and claim for damages because of bodily injury, death, property damage, sickness, disease or less and expense arising from subcontractor's performance under this agreement while providing BPOC

instruction. The subcontractor is acting in capacity of an independent subcontractor with respect to this agreement with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council hereby agrees to execute this contract with subcontractor to render technical and professional services described herein, and the subcontractor hereby agrees to the performance of services and to the conditions described herein.

SIGNATURES

Subcontractor's Name and Signature

DATE

Javier Solis Director LRGV Academy

DATE

Manuel "Manny" Cruz LRGVDC Executive Director

DATE

ITEM #5. D.1

**TRANSPORTATION
VALLEY METRO**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board Of Directors Meeting

Wednesday April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports.....Dr. Sandra Carrizales
Director

D. Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution # VM 2026-08. Authorizing the LRGVDC Executive Director to execute a resolution appointing Dr. Sandra Carrizales, Interim Director for Valley Metro to the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board.

Staff is seeking the Board's approval to formally designate Valley Metro's representative to the RGVMPPO Policy Board to ensure compliance with attendance and voting requirements. Due to recent leadership transition within Valley Metro, formal designation documentation has not yet been finalized. While Valley Metro staff have continued to attend meetings, the absence of official documentation has resulted in the agency being recorded as absent for voting purposes.

RESOLUTION: 2026-08

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING

RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

WHEREAS, in accordance with the RGV-MPO Bylaws and Operating Procedures, the Director of Valley Metro serves as the designated official member of the RGV-MPO Policy Board; and

WHEREAS, the RGV-MPO Bylaws and Operating Procedures further stipulate that one (1) representative from Valley Metro may be appointed to serve as an alternate member of the RGV-MPO Board of Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Valley Metro appoints Sandra Carrizales to serve as the primary alternate member of the RGV-MPO Policy Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Nancy Sanchez is appointed as the secondary alternate member of the RGV-MPO Policy Board; and that the following individuals are appointed as designated proxies, with all appropriate privileges assigned, including Rene Garza and Javier Dominguez.

A copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to the RGV-MPO Office to provide evidence of these appointments.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 29th day of April, 2026.

AGENCY: LRGVDC

Manuel Cruz, Executive Director

Lower Rio Grande Valley Dev. Council

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Executive Assistant LRGVDC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Attorney.

RGV Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee

Name of City/County/ Entity: Valley Metro
Name of Designee: Sandra Carrizales
Name of Alternate: Nancy Sanchez
List 3 Proxies: Rene Garza
Javier Dominguez

In accordance with House Bill (HB) 1883 and Section 1, Chapter 472, Section 472.031 of the Transportation Code,

(a) A policy board of a metropolitan planning organization designated or re-designated under 23 U.S.C. Section 134 may provide in its bylaw for appointment of voting proxies by its members.

Section 472.032 of the transportation code, further clarifies that:

(a) A proxy appointment under section (a):

- 1) Acts on behalf of and under the supervision of the policy board member who appointed
- 2) Must be appointed in writing; and
- 3) Is authorized to vote for the policy board member who appointed the proxy to the extent the member has given the proxy the member's voting power.

(b) A legislative member of a policy board may not be counted absent at a meeting of the policy board during a legislative session.

(c) A legislative member of a policy board may only appoint a proxy under Subsection (a) who is:

- 1) The legislative member's employee or staff member;
- 2) A person related by consanguinity, as determined under subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code, who is not required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code;
- 3) Another legislative member of the policy board; or
- 4) A locally elected official.



Authorization Signature

02/19/2026

Date

**RGV METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD
ETHICAL STANDARDS AFFIDAVIT**

I, Sandra Carrizales, a voting Member of the RGV Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board representing, City of Valley Metro, hereby swear and affirm that I will uphold the following ethical standards required by voting members of MPO Policy Boards as identified in Texas Senate Bill 585. These standards state that voting members of the MPO Policy Board are prohibited from engaging in the following: 1.) Accepting or soliciting any gift, favor or service that might reasonably tend to influence the voting member in the discharge of official duties or that the voting member knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the voting member's official conduct; 2.) Accepting employment or engaging in a business or professional activity that the voting member might reasonably expect would require or induce the voting member to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the official position; 3.) Accepting employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair the voting member's judgment in the performance of the voting member's official duties; 4.) Making personal investments that could reasonably be expected to create a substantial conflict between the voting member's private interest and the public interest; 5.) Intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the voting member's official powers or performing the voting member's official duties in favor of another.

I further swear and affirm that in order to prevent a potential conflict of interest, that I will abstain from voting on or engaging in the discussion of any matter of business before the RGV MPO Policy Board that will have a special economic effect on either a business or real property of which I have a substantial interest that is distinguishable from the effect on the public.

I understand that a substantial interest is defined as either 1.) I own 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or either 10 percent or more, or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or 2.) I have received funds from the business entity exceeding 10 percent of my gross income for the previous year; or 3.) I have a substantial interest in real property defined as an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more; or 4.) I have a family member related to me in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity with a substantial interest in a business entity or real property as defined above.

I agree to notify the RGV MPO Director in writing of any conflict of interest as defined above prior to any vote or discussion of any matter of business which has created the conflict of interest.

I understand that any violation of these standards or requirements may subject me to removal from the RGV MPO Policy Board and possible prosecution by the Cameron County or Hidalgo County District Attorney.

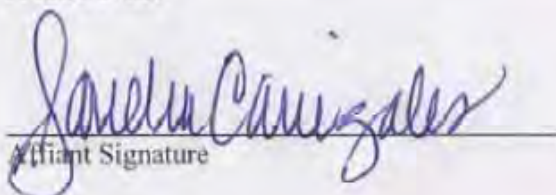
I further understand that SB 585 requires me to notify the Cameron County or Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office and RGV MPO Policy Board in a timely manner should I have personal knowledge of any violations of these same standards by other voting members of the RGV MPO Policy Board or of the RGV MPO Staff.

I also understand that failure to report violations of these standards by other voting members of the RGV MPO Policy Board or of the RGV MPO staff subjects me to possible removal from the RGV MPO Policy Board and possible prosecution by the Cameron County or Hidalgo County District Attorney.

I hereby swear and affirm that I have read the entire affidavit and that I understand and agree to its contents.

SANDRA CARRIZALES

Printed Name



Affiant Signature

Director of Regional Transit, Valley Met

Position

Valley Metro

Representing

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 2nd day of April, 2026.

Notary Public, State of Texas

Notary's Printed Name: Dora Cruz

My Commission Expires: 4/15/2029

(Seal)



SANDRA CARRIZALES

Printed Name

Sandra Carrizales

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports.....Dr. Sandra Carrizales
Director

D. Program Action Item

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Updates to the Section 5310 Program Management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro

Valley Metro is seeking the Board’s approval of updates to the Section 5310 –Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Program Management Plan for LRGVDC–Valley Metro.

The Program Management Plan was previously presented to the Board in January; however, additional corrections and clarifications were identified following review with FTA and RGVMPPO. These updates have now been incorporated into the plan.

Purpose of Action:

To approve the revised sections of the Program Management Plan to ensure full alignment with current Federal and State requirements and to provide clarity ahead of the upcoming Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Section 5310.

Summary of Updates (Redlined in Attached Plan):

Corrected MPO name throughout the document (updated to RGVMPPO)
Clarified RGVMPPO’s role in the Call for Projects and project selection process, with final approval by the LRGVDC Board. Added contingency language allowing LRGVDC to administer the Call for Projects if RGVMPPO is unable to do so Included a Transfer of Funds section to reflect funding flexibility between UZAs Added National Transit Database (NTD) reporting requirements for subrecipients.

The full Program Management Plan includes redlines/tracked changes for Board review and transparency.

Guidance:

FTA Section 5310 Circular (C9070.1H), TxDOT Section 5310 program requirements, and Federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200).



5310 APPLICATION - 2026

PART 1 – FUNDING REQUEST

Applicant Data

Legal Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Project Description

Title: _____

Brief Description: _____

Project Type: _____ Traditional _____ Other

Service days/hours (if applicable): _____

Estimated Cost Per One-Way Trip (if applicable): _____

Estimated Daily Riders Per Weekday/Weekend (if applicable): _____



PART II – PROJECT NARRATIVE

The project narrative should provide a simple, easy-to-follow description of the project and support. The applicant should use the scoring criteria as a guide and should answer the questions below.

Planning and Coordination

1. Describe the project and how the project will be coordinated with public and/or private transportation and social service agencies serving low-income populations and individuals with disabilities.
2. Describe efforts to market the project and ways to promote public awareness of the program. Letters of support should be obtained from key stakeholders and attached to the grant application.

Demonstration of Need

1. Describe the unmet transportation need that the proposed project seeks to address and the relevant planning effort that documents the need. Does it cover an area targeted by the LRGV Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan? Describe how the project will alleviate the transportation need. Estimate the number of people served and/or the number of service units that will be provided. Describe the specific community this project will serve and provide pertinent demographic data and/or maps.
2. Project application should demonstrate that the proposed project is the most appropriate match of service delivery to the need. Identify performance measures to track the effectiveness of the service in meeting the identified goals. For capital-related projects, project sponsor is responsible to establish milestones and report on the status of project delivery.

Benefits

1. What are the project's goals and objectives?

Service / Sustainability

1. Describe key personnel assigned to this project and your agency's ability to manage the project.
2. Provide an operational plan for delivering service. Include route or service area map, if applicable, or provide an implementation plan for completing a capital project including key milestones and estimated completion date.
3. Explain how this project relates to other services or facilities provided by your agency or firm and demonstrate how it can be achieved within your technical capacity.
4. Describe a plan for monitoring and evaluating the service and steps to be taken if original goals are not achieved.



Budget

1. Project sponsor should provide a complete budget indicating project revenues and expenditures in the format provided in Part III and describe efforts to ensure its cost effectiveness.

Innovation

1. Describe any proposed use of innovative approaches that will be employed for this project. Discuss what is innovative about the approach and how it could be applied to other services in the region.



PART III – PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET

Project Funding

Local matching funds will be required for all application submittals. For projects requiring operating funds the required match is 50%+ from non-federal transportation funds. For capital projects the required match is 20%+ from non-federal transportation funds.

Total Annual Project Budget	\$ _____	
Capital Federal Share	\$ _____	_____ %
Capital Local Match	\$ _____	_____ %
Operating Federal Share	\$ _____	_____ %
Operating Local Match	\$ _____	_____ %

Local Matching Fund Source: _____

Note: The applicant is required to demonstrate a commitment to providing local match funds. This can be in the form of a letter and/or a copy of an existing grant agreement or supporting documentation where funds will be drawn from.

Will there be a commitment of funds beyond the grant period? Yes No

Describe: _____

FY 2026 CALL FOR PROJECTS

5310 PROGRAM GUIDE

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

The 5310 Program (49 U.S.C. 5310) provides formula funding to states and designated recipients to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. The program aims to improve mobility for older adults and people with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. This program supports transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities in all areas.

Funds are apportioned based on each state's share of the population and, in large urban areas, a designated recipient is chosen by the governor. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is the Designated Recipient responsible for managing the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Program within the McAllen Urbanized Area (MUA). Direct Recipients, like the LRGVDC, have flexibility in how they select Subrecipient projects for funding, but their decision process must be clearly noted in a program management plan. The LRGVDC's 5310 Program Management Plan (5310 PMP) describes the process for administering, managing, programming, selection, and overseeing the implementation of the projects.

The MUA has \$2,345,823.90 in federal funding available from FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026. Additionally, the LRGVDC, as the Designated Recipient, has set aside 10% of the program funds for program administration. The available amount above already reflects the subtraction of the program administration funds.

Per the 5310 PMP, which this process is derived from and dependent upon, the selection process for Subrecipient projects is competitive. Applicants interested in becoming Subrecipients should complete and submit this 5310 Funding Application, which is made available under the RGVMPPO's FY 2026 Call for Projects.

More information about the 5310 Program may be found in [FTA Circular 9070.1H](#) and in the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Fact Sheet](#).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants (potential Subrecipients) can include:

- State or local government authorities
- Private non-profit organizations
- And/or *operators of public transportation

*Operators of public transportation are entities that provide regular continuing shared-ride surface transportation services that are open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low-income. Operators of public transportation are eligible as subrecipients for nontraditional Section 5310 projects.

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

To be eligible for funding, proposed **projects must be located in or either have an origin or a destination within the MUA**. In addition, all **projects must be derived from the *LRGVDC's Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan**. (Adopted Dec. 2021; recommendations in Ch. 5; vision, mission, goals & objectives in Ch. 7; implementation priorities in Ch. 8). Eligible projects include both “traditional” capital investment projects and “nontraditional” investment projects beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services. **5310 funds are eligible to support up to 80% of the cost of Traditional (Capital) projects and up to 50% of Nontraditional (Operating) costs**. The source of local match must be identified in this application process.

- “Traditional” Section 5310 projects are capital projects as defined in 49 U.S.C. 5302(3). At least 55% of program funds must be used on capital projects to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable. More than 55% of the apportionment can be used for these types of projects. Examples include:
 - Buses and vans.
 - Wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices.
 - Transit-related information technology systems, including scheduling/ routing/ one-call systems.
 - Mobility management programs.
 - Acquisition of transportation services under a contract, lease, or other arrangement.
- “Nontraditional” Section 5310 projects are capital and/or operating projects that go beyond the scope of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services or public transportation alternatives designed to assist older adults and people with disabilities. A maximum of 45% of program funds may be used for projects described above or for projects that exceed the requirements of the ADA, improve access to fixed route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary transit, or alternatives to public transportation to assist seniors and individuals with disabilities. Examples include:
 - Travel training.
 - Volunteer driver programs.
 - Construction of an accessible path to a bus stop, including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other accessible features.
 - Improvements to signage, or way-finding technology.
 - Incremental cost of providing same day service or door-to-door service.
 - Purchase of vehicles to support new accessible taxi, rides sharing and/or vanpooling programs.
 - Mobility management.

*Plan recommendations can be found in Chapter 5. Vision, mission, goals and objectives can be found in Chapter 7. Implementation priorities can be found in Chapter 8. To view the entire LRGVDC Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan visit

<https://www.lrgvdc.org/downloads/transportation/LRGVDC%20Coordination%20Plan%202022.pdf>.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

If your organization has a project that it would like considered for funding, please complete the following application and **submit via email to info@rgvmppo.org** no later than **5:00 PM on Friday, May 29, 2026**. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.

Applicants are encouraged to use this checklist to ensure that all applicable parts of this application/attachments are completed and submitted:

- PART A: Application
 - 3 parts, 4 pages (at the end of this document)
- PART B: Required Attachments (include in email submittal)
 - Map of proposed service and service area
 - Documentation of eligibility
 - Letter(s) of support for proposed project
 - Additional documentation to support project selection

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submitted applications will be evaluated and scored based on the established scoring criteria by RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee Subcommittee. Funding award recommendations will be presented to the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and LRGVDC Board of Directors for the official award of 5310 Program funds. Applicants will be notified of their project's award status and, if selected, must attend a Subrecipient Orientation with LRGVDC Staff. Further coordination will be required.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

DATE	ACTIVITY
April 29, 2026	FY 2026 5310 Program Call officially opens with LRGVDC Board of Directors Approval.
May 29, 2026	5 PM deadline to submit project application/proposals.
June 2026	RGVMPO TAC subcommittee will then evaluate, score, and rank submitted projects for consideration by the LRGVDC Board, with awards anticipated in June.
August 30, 2026	5310 Program projects to be programmed ahead of the August 2026 obligation deadline.

The information in this application is Public Record. Applicants should not include information that may be regarded as confidential. If selected, Applicants will be required to submit appropriate background Certifications and Assurances, and other documentation necessary to meet FTA requirements. **The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) oversees the 5310 Program and will coordinate with Project Sponsors to ensure that all requirements are met.**

FY 2026 Call for Projects

5310 SCORING CRITERIA

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

PROJECT EVALUATION

When evaluating applications, it is required that the following statements are true:

- The Applicant is an eligible entity.
- The project proposed is supported by the Regional Coordination Plan.
- Eligible matching funds are identified and available.
- Proposed service or program serves the target population(s).
- The proposed project provides benefits to the urbanized area.

Project Applications will receive a score according to the following criteria:

- 25 PTS: Project Planning & Coordination
- 25 PTS: Service/Sustainability
- 25 PTS: Benefits
- 15 PTS: Demonstration of Need
- 10 PTS: Budget
- BONUS: Added information/Innovation (5 PTS MAX)

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

PLANNING & COORDINATION (25 PTS)

Proposed projects will be evaluated based on their ability to coordinate with other public transportation, community transportation, and/or social service resources. Project Sponsors should clearly identify project stakeholders and explain how they will keep stakeholders involved and informed throughout the project. Project Sponsors should also describe how they will promote public awareness of the project. Submit letters of support from key stakeholders and/or customers.

SERVICE/SUSTAINABILITY (25 PTS)

Applicants must provide a well-defined Service Operations Plan and/or Capital Procurement Plan. A proposed project timeline with implementation steps described should also be provided. The implementation plan should identify key personnel assigned to this project, and their qualifications. Project Sponsors should be able to demonstrate their institutional capability to carry out the service delivery aspect(s) of the project as described. Additionally, they should be able to meet Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certification and Assurances as required.

BENEFITS (25 PTS)

Applications should clearly state the overall project goals and objectives and demonstrate how the project is consistent with objectives of the 5310 Program. The application should identify the number of persons expected to be served, and the number of trips (or other units of service) expected to be provided. A Plan should be provided for on-going monitoring and evaluation of the service, and steps to be taken if original goals are not achieved. Project Sponsors should describe their steps to measure the effectiveness of and magnitude of the impact on target markets.

DEMONSTRATION OF NEED (15 PTS)

Proposed projects should directly address priority transportation needs identified through the locally developed LRGVDC Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP). Project Sponsors must identify clear, measurable outcome-based performance measures to track effectiveness of the service in meeting the identified goal(s). Demonstrate that the proposed project is the most appropriate match of service delivery to the need, and that the approach is cost effective.

BUDGET (10 PTS)

Applicants must submit a well-defined project budget that clearly identifies anticipated project expenditures and revenues. A letter of commitment for matching funds must be included. Proposals should address long-term efforts and identify potential funding sources for sustaining the service beyond the grant period.

BONUS (5 PTS MAX)

Projects may receive up to five (5) bonus points for innovative service concepts or facilities that have the potential for improving access/mobility for target populations. Additional information/documentation to be provided to support any bonus points.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports.....Sandra Carrizales
Director

D. Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in compliance to FTA's Drug and Alcohol Compliance Auditing Program.

The LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy is designed to promote a safe, healthy, and productive environment for all employees and the public we serve. This policy not only reflects our commitment to safety and responsibility but also ensures compliance with federal regulations set forth by the Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration. By maintaining a drug- and alcohol-free workplace, we help prevent accidents, support employee well-being, and uphold the integrity and trust placed in our transit services by the communities we serve.

Updates have been made to portions of the following sections:
This action item includes the implementation of an updated Drug and Alcohol Policy developed utilizing the Federal Transit Administration's Drug & Alcohol Policy Builder to ensure compliance with all applicable U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) regulations, including 49 CFR Part 40 and 49 CFR Part 655.

Valley Metro Activities

Planning Outreach Report

Planning staff participated in several community focused events in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, which included:

- **PSJA Transition Fair**
- **Laguna Madre Vet Fest**, and
- **STC Disaster Ready Expo**.

These events provided valuable opportunities to share transit information, engage directly with residents, and strengthen partnerships with local organizations. Outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of regional services, gathering feedback, and supporting community needs across diverse audiences.

Planning Outreach Report

Key Topics:

- San Carlos Community Health Fair
- UTRGV Edinburg Luau
- RTAP Committee Meeting
- South Texas All Hazards Conference
- TSTC Willacy Co. Family Night
- LIIFE Conference
- STC Community Resource Fair



MARCH 2026



South Tx All Hazards

- Valley Metro representatives engaged in discussions on coordinated incident response, resilience planning, and best practices for supporting communities during emergencies. By taking part in this collaborative conference, Valley Metro reaffirmed its commitment to safety, regional partnership, and ensuring reliable transit service during both routine operations and critical incidents.



TSTC Willacy Co. Family Night

- Valley Metro attended the TSTC Willacy County Family Night Fair on March 26, our team was on-site to share information about our transit services, routes, and community programs. This event provided a great opportunity for families to learn more about local transportation options, ask questions, and engage with staff in a welcoming, community-focused environment.

Willacy County Family Night
 Explore Your Future!

Taking
Steps
To
College

TSTC
 Texas State
 Technical College

You're Invited to Participate!

We invite students, families, and community members to attend **Taking Steps To College**, a community college fair designed to connect Willacy County residents with hands-on career pathways, college programs, and resources to help plan for the future.

Date: Thursday-March 26, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
Location: Willacy County Family Night Building
 8004 E. 17th
 Raymondville, TX 78580

What We're Asking From Community Partners

- Host a table or booth
- Share resources that support college and career readiness equipment, or visuals (as available)
- Engage with students and families about how your organization supports their future goals
- Bring brochures, giveaways, or interactive materials (if available)

Be Part of the Experience!
 You may register by clicking on link or using the QR Code
LINK

SCAN HERE



STC Resource Fair

- Valley Metro attended the STC Resource Fair on March 31 to connect directly with students, staff, and community members about the transportation services available throughout the region. Participating in this event allowed us to share route information, promote transit accessibility, and answer questions about mobility options that support education and workforce opportunities.



The poster is for the STC Community Resource Fair, organized by Counseling and Student Accessibility Services at South Texas College. It features a blue background with a white circular graphic at the top containing the text 'Need help and don't know where to go? Find the RESOURCES you've been looking for!'. Below this, there are three yellow boxes providing details for each campus: Pecan Campus (Tuesday, March 24, 2020, Building H136, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm), Starr County Campus (Thursday, March 26, 2020, Building H1, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm), and Mid-Valley Campus (Tuesday, March 24, 2020, Building F Lobby, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm). A central image shows a woman and a man looking at a tablet. Contact information for each campus is listed at the bottom right.

Counseling and Student Accessibility Services
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE
Community Resource Fair
Need help and don't know where to go? Find the RESOURCES you've been looking for!

STC PECAN CAMPUS
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020
Building H136
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
1001 W. Main St., Abilene, Texas 79601

STC STARR COUNTY CAMPUS
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
Building H1, 902
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
14770010, Sta. Amador, TX 79601

STC MID-VALLEY CAMPUS
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020
Building F Lobby
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
1001 W. Main St., Abilene, TX 79601

For more information, please contact:
Pecan Campus 956-872-2664
Starr County Campus 956-488-5853
Mid-Valley Campus 956-447-1213 or 8878



LARGE URBAN RIDERSHIP REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 - YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP

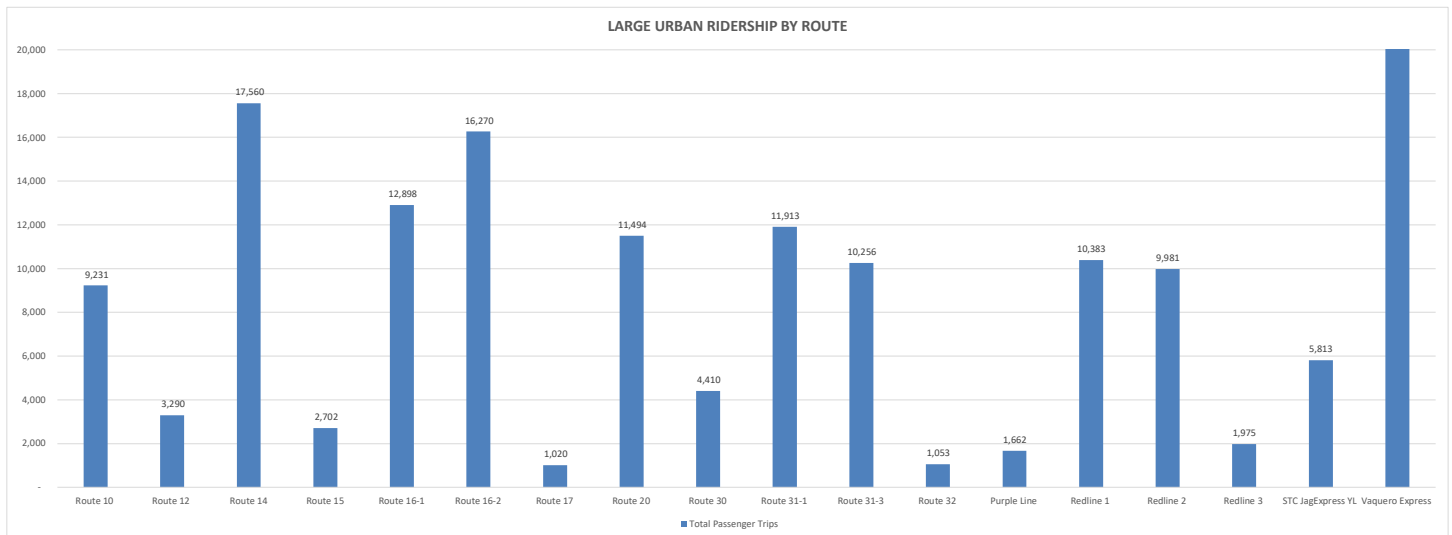
	Route	Total Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
LARGE URBAN ROUTES	Route 10	9,231	2%	Edinburg
	Route 12	3,290	1%	La Villa, Elsa, Edinburg
	Route 14	17,560	3%	Edinburg
	Route 15	2,702	0%	Edinburg
	Route 16-1	12,898	2%	Courthouse Circulator
	Route 16-2	16,270	3%	Courthouse Circulator
	Route 17	1,020	0%	Edinburg T-line
	Route 20	11,494	2%	Mission
	Route 30	4,410	1%	Pharr, San Juan
	Route 31-1	11,913	2%	Hidalgo-Cameron
	Route 31-3	10,256	2%	Hidalgo-Cameron
	Route 32	1,053	0%	Donna
	Purple Line	1,662	0%	Weslaco, Pharr
	EXPRESS	Redline 1	10,383	2%
Redline 2		9,981	2%	Rio Grande Valley
Redline 3		1,975	0%	Rio Grande Valley
STC JagExpress YL		5,813	1%	Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen
Vaquero Express		447,891	77%	Edinburg
TOTAL		579,802	100%	***Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized



	Total
Flex Routes	13
Metro Express	3
STC Jag Express	1
Vaquero Express	1
Total Large Urban	18

"Connecting the Valley One Ride at a Time"

Large Urban - service between or within large urbanized area



Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total
FY 2025-2026	113,088	118,078	84,474	51,936	48,529	87,128	76,569	0	0	0	0	0	579,802

FY 2026 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Edinburg	9,908	10,060	7,175	6,632	7,346	7,858	8,123	0	0	0	0	0	57,102
UTRGV Edinburg	91,047	95,833	66,817	34,938	31,810	69,177	58,269	0	0	0	0	0	447,891
Pharr	977	1,304	867	1,426	1,143	1,274	1,348	0	0	0	0	0	8,339
Mission	1,042	862	693	873	945	1,077	643	0	0	0	0	0	6,135
McAllen	4,317	4,000	3,695	3,355	2,893	2,824	2,577	0	0	0	0	0	23,661
STC McAllen	1,335	1,299	989	431	330	782	647	0	0	0	0	0	5,813
San Carlos	36	23	19	19	25	26	41	0	0	0	0	0	189
La Blanca	8	15	2	7	20	11	15	0	0	0	0	0	78
Elsa	101	113	80	62	72	113	69	0	0	0	0	0	610
Edcouch	21	18	20	12	19	12	52	0	0	0	0	0	154
La Villa	39	42	61	26	33	43	96	0	0	0	0	0	340
San Juan	275	254	268	258	284	236	405	0	0	0	0	0	1,980
Alamo	223	243	214	214	215	220	279	0	0	0	0	0	1,608
Donna	497	480	413	400	395	450	425	0	0	0	0	0	3,060
Weslaco	781	834	612	551	602	640	760	0	0	0	0	0	4,780
Mercedes	268	371	393	400	309	398	410	0	0	0	0	0	2,549
La Feria	116	153	131	131	117	168	182	0	0	0	0	0	998
Brownsville	1,492	1,599	1,525	1,628	1,444	1,209	1,527	0	0	0	0	0	10,424
Harlingen	605	575	500	573	527	610	701	0	0	0	0	0	4,091
Total	113,088	118,078	84,474	51,936	48,529	87,128	76,569	0	0	0	0	0	579,802

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	20,706	20,946	16,668	16,567	16,389	17,169	17,653	0	0	0	0	0	126,098
UTRGV	91,047	95,833	66,817	34,938	31,810	69,177	58,269	0	0	0	0	0	447,891
STC	1,335	1,299	989	431	330	782	647	0	0	0	0	0	5,813
Total	113,088	118,078	84,474	51,936	48,529	87,128	76,569	0	0	0	0	0	579,802

LARGE URBAN RIDERSHIP COUNT

AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Urban	113,088	118,078	84,474	51,936	48,529	87,128	76,569	0	0	0	0	0	579,802
Total	113,088	118,078	84,474	51,936	48,529	87,128	76,569	0	0	0	0	0	579,802

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	110,875	115,751	82,318	49,604	46,441	85,141	74,159	0	0	0	0	0	564,289
Cameron County	2,213	2,327	2,156	2,332	2,088	1,987	2,410	0	0	0	0	0	15,513
Total	113,088	118,078	84,474	51,936	48,529	87,128	76,569	0	0	0	0	0	579,802

RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

PRECINCT	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Precinct 1	4,016	4,215	3,606	3,660	3,510	3,544	3,961	0	0	0	0	0	26,512
Precinct 2	7,750	7,784	6,474	6,750	6,254	6,206	6,086	0	0	0	0	0	47,304
Precinct 3	2,138	1,931	1,694	1,636	1,535	1,430	1,130	0	0	0	0	0	11,494
Precinct 4	106,781	111,490	78,784	46,586	43,928	82,064	71,170	0	0	0	0	0	540,803
Harlingen MPO Area	989	1,099	1,024	1,104	953	1,176	1,293	0	0	0	0	0	7,638

FY 2025 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Pharr	50	58	50	57	53	55	191	0	0	0	0	0	514
McAllen	367	378	327	367	341	357	111	0	0	0	0	0	2,248
San Juan	38	21	15	45	30	45	141	0	0	0	0	0	335
Alamo	52	62	44	61	59	59	86	0	0	0	0	0	423
Donna	64	67	36	40	39	54	73	0	0	0	0	0	373
Weslaco	110	100	70	109	75	101	102	0	0	0	0	0	667
Mercedes	77	71	46	60	66	73	91	0	0	0	0	0	484
La Feria	156	112	113	90	120	108	134	0	0	0	0	0	833
Harlingen	2,248	2,340	1,743	2,097	1,812	1,675	1,815	0	0	0	0	0	13,730
San Benito	379	468	336	350	399	396	469	0	0	0	0	0	2,797
Brownsville	2,686	2,717	2,133	2,058	1,742	1,753	1,936	0	0	0	0	0	15,025
Santa Rosa	155	88	77	79	74	39	51	0	0	0	0	0	563
Primera	32	10	7	21	31	32	35	0	0	0	0	0	168
Los Fresnos	233	330	252	239	240	251	316	0	0	0	0	0	1,861
Laguna Vista	216	258	149	170	253	272	376	0	0	0	0	0	1,694
Laguna Heights	192	197	160	208	141	226	394	0	0	0	0	0	1,518
Port Isabel	1,133	1,175	907	910	725	875	478	0	0	0	0	0	6,203
Rio Grande City	2,076	2,236	1,820	1,371	1,144	1,722	1,547	0	0	0	0	0	11,916
Willacy County	379	390	366	338	450	456	400	0	0	0	0	0	2,779
Starr County	426	469	367	357	288	258	345	0	0	0	0	0	2,510
Zapata County	241	250	180	214	277	227	313	0	0	0	0	0	1,702
Total	11,310	11,797	9,198	9,241	8,359	9,034	9,404	0	0	0	0	0	68,343

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

SMALL URBAN and RURAL RIDERSHIP

Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	11,115	11,581	9,067	9,179	8,286	8,933	9,327	0	0	0	0	0	67,488
TSTC	195	216	131	62	73	101	77	0	0	0	0	0	855
Total	11,310	11,797	9,198	9,241	8,359	9,034	9,404	0	0	0	0	0	68,343

RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Rural	6,415	6,632	5,365	4,906	4,395	5,183	5,122	0	0	0	0	0	38,018
Urban	4,895	5,165	3,833	4,335	3,964	3,851	4,282	0	0	0	0	0	30,325
Total	11,310	11,797	9,198	9,241	8,359	9,034	9,404	0	0	0	0	0	68,343

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	758	757	588	739	663	744	795	0	0	0	0	0	5,044
Cameron County	7,430	7,695	5,877	6,222	5,537	5,627	6,004	0	0	0	0	0	44,392
Willacy County	379	390	366	338	450	456	400	0	0	0	0	0	2,779
Starr County	2,502	2,705	2,187	1,728	1,432	1,980	1,892	0	0	0	0	0	14,426
Zapata County	241	250	180	214	277	227	313	0	0	0	0	0	1,702
Total	11,310	11,797	9,198	9,241	8,359	9,034	9,404	0	0	0	0	0	68,343

RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

PRECINCT	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Precinct 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Precinct 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Precinct 3													0
Precinct 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlingen MPO Area	3,047	3,089	2,322	2,697	2,502	2,323	2,595	0	0	0	0	0	18,575

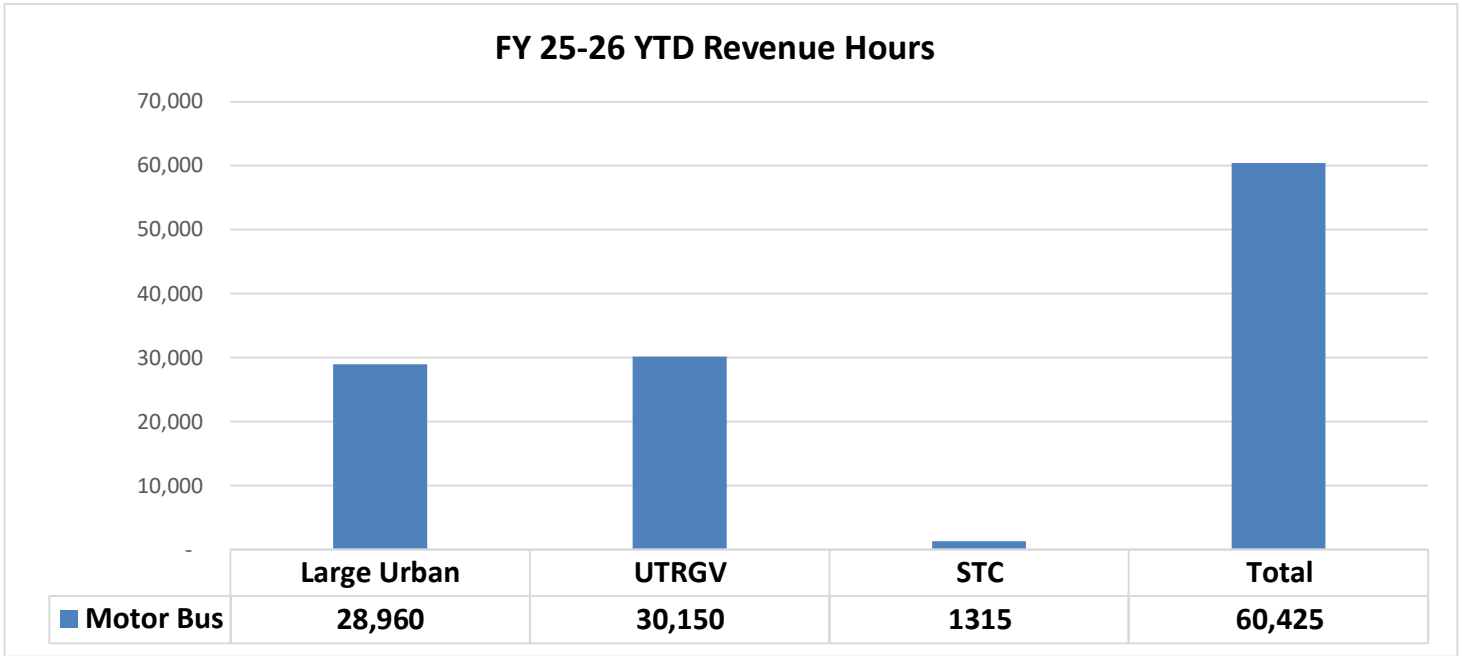
Year to Date 2025-2026

LARGE URBAN

Distribution of Revenue Hours

	Large Urban	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	28,960	30,150	1315	60,425

FY 25-26 YTD Revenue Hours



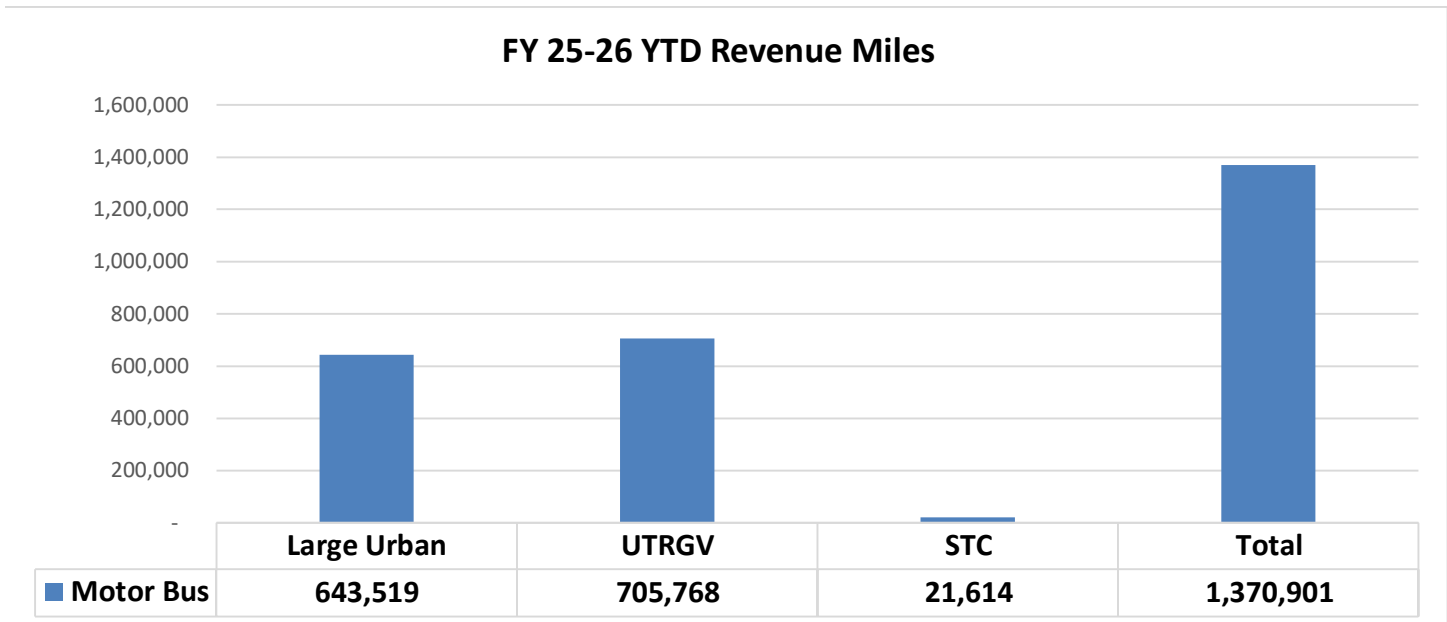
Year to Date 2025-2026

LARGE URBAN

Distribution of Revenue Miles

	Large Urban	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	643,519	705,768	21,614	1,370,901

FY 25-26 YTD Revenue Miles

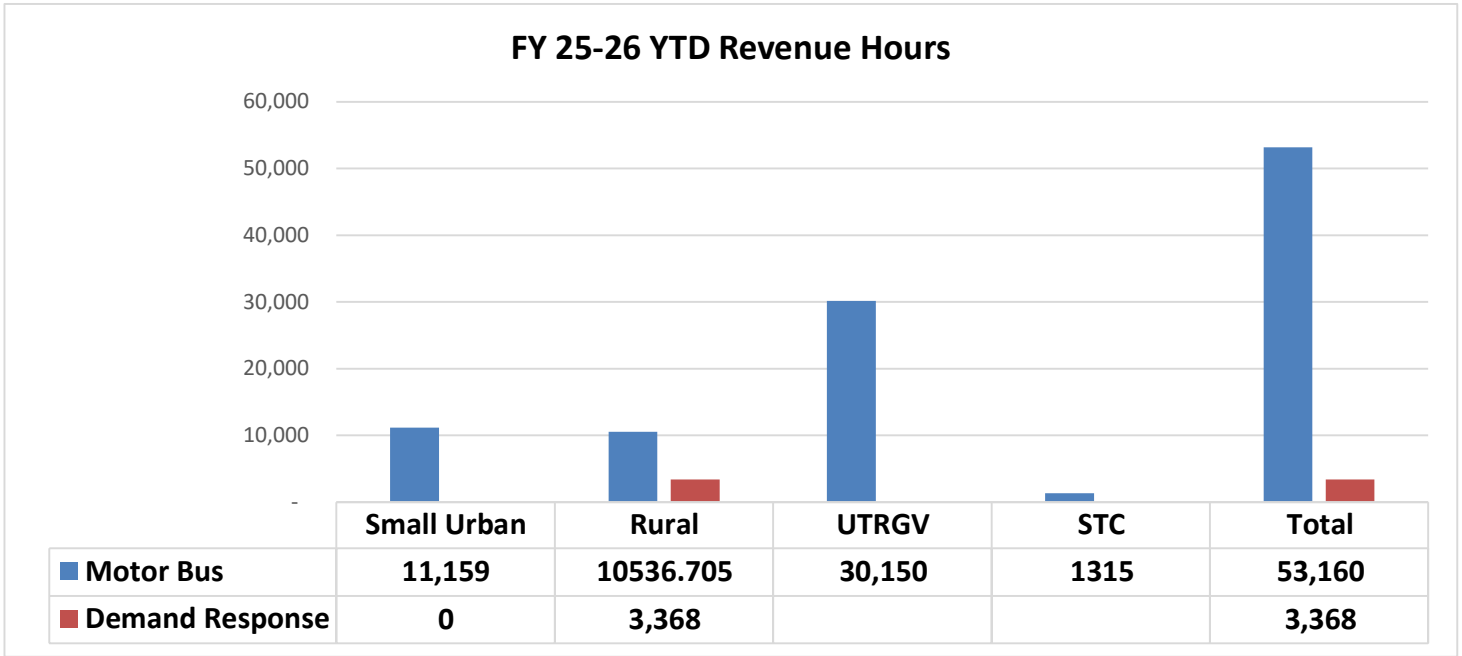


Year to Date 2025-2026

Distribution of Revenue Hours

	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	11,159	10536.705	30,150	1315	53,160
Demand Response	0	3,368			3,368

FY 25-26 YTD Revenue Hours

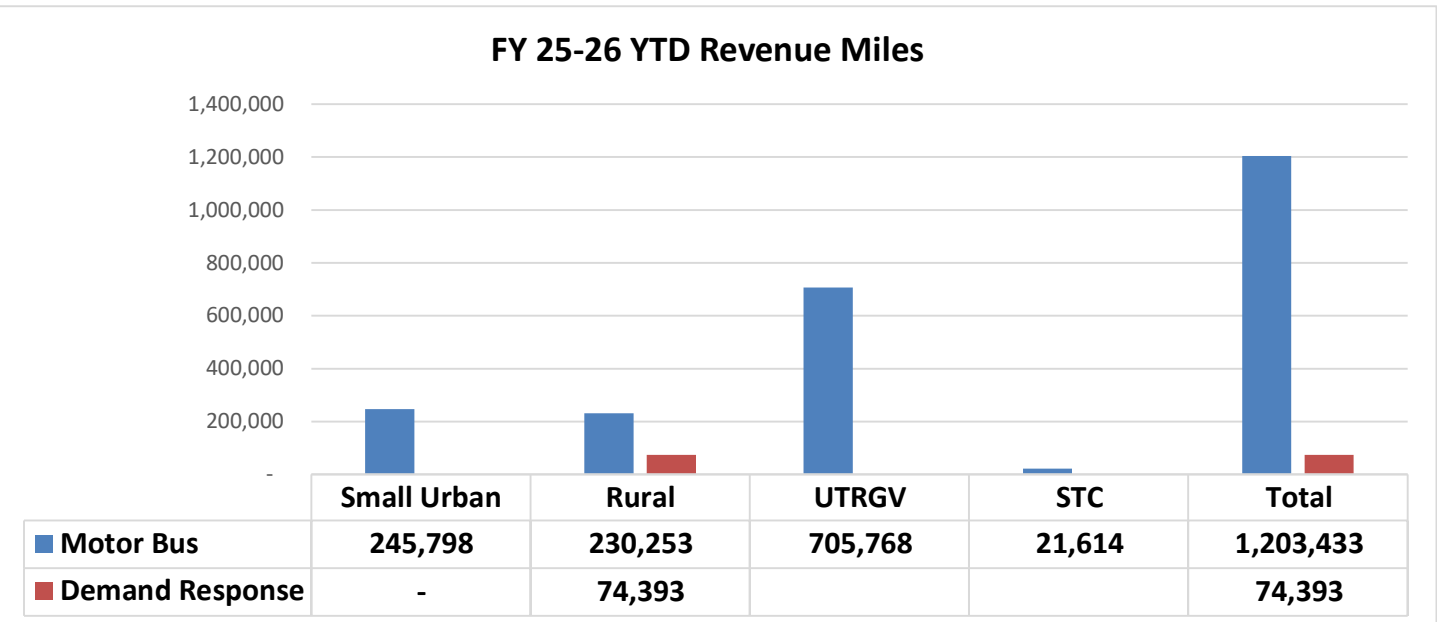


Year to Date 2025-2026

Distribution of Revenue Miles

	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	245,798	230,253	705,768	21,614	1,203,433
Demand Response	-	74,393			74,393

FY 25-26 YTD Revenue Miles



Valley Metro - South Texas College

Large Urban - Routes

SEPTEMBER 2025 - AUGUST 2026 REPORTING PERIOD

RIDERSHIP RECAP													
Routes	12	31-1	31-3	YL 1	YL 2	Purple Line	10	14	15	20	30	32	Total
September	96	29	28	1335	0	254	28	0	0	25	3	0	1798
October	88	16	33	1299	0	305	38	1	1	21	5	0	1807
November	59	22	16	989	0	202	42	0	1	24	7	0	1362
December	24	19	21	431	0	48	15	0	0	23	5	0	586
January	36	19	14	330	0	83	15	0	0	16	3	0	516
February	75	7	27	686	96	226	22	0	0	29	2	0	1170
March	45	1	16	536	111	263	16	0	0	16	4	0	1008
April	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
June	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
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	423	113	155	5606	207	1,381	176	1	2	154	29	0	8247

College - University - Public Transportation Use				
Routes	STC	UTRGV	Public	Total
Route 12 Edcouch/Elsa-Edinburg	423	990	2867	3290
Route 31-1 Business 83	113	61	11800	11913
Route 31-3 Business 83	155	221	10101	10256
Yellow Line	5813	0	0	5813
Purple Line	1381	119	281	1662
Route 10 Edinburg - McAllen	176	1,898	7,157	9,231
Route 14 UTRC	1	16,847	712	17,560
Route 15 Edinburg	2	400	1,898	2,300
Route 20 Missi	154	1,500	9,840	11,494
Route 30 Pharr San Juan - Edinburg	29	400	3,981	4,410
Route 32 Donna International Bridge	0	0	0	0
Total	8,247	22,436	48,637	77,929



Small Urban & Rural - Indirect Routes

SEPTEMBER 2025 - AUGUST 2026 REPORTING PERIOD

RIDERSHIP RECAP

Routes	31-2	GL-1	60	61	62	DR-1	40	41	42	44	45-1	45-2	DR-2	Zapata	Total
September	13	447	762	85	52	0	0	2	0	0	40	9	0	26	1436
October	7	408	852	83	53	0	2	5	0	0	13	2	0	14	1439
November	5	283	640	67	51	1	0	1	1	0	12	5	0	4	1070
December	5	152	303	34	24	1	0	0	0	0	9	6	0	10	544
January	9	174	222	22	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	444
February	15	388	532	118	95	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1152
March	5	231	429	85	98	0	1	5	0	0	4	5	0	0	863
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	86	86
Total	59	2083	3740	494	388	2	4	13	1	1	79	27	0	143	7034

College - University - Public Transportation Use				
Routes	STC	UTRGV	Public	Total
Route 31-2 Business 83	59	25	6466	6525
Green Line	2083	42	315	2398
Route 60 Greenline Roma	3740	44	1029	4769
Route 61 RGC West	494	9	1295	1789
Route 62 RGC East	388	3	2572	2960
DR-1 RGC	2	0	2501	2503
DR-2 RGC	2	0	5	7
Zapata	143	2	971	1114
Route 40 Harlingen Medical	4	40	4,517	4,561
Route 41 Harlingen Retail	13	37	4,431	4,481
Route 42 San Benito Harlingen	1	10	1,663	1,674
Route 44 La Feria/Santa Rosa/Primera	1	10	1,947	1,958
Route 45-1 Cameron Career Connection	79	294	4,465	4,838
Route 45-2 Cameron Career Connection	27	484	5,634	6,145
Total	7,036	1,000	37,811	45,722





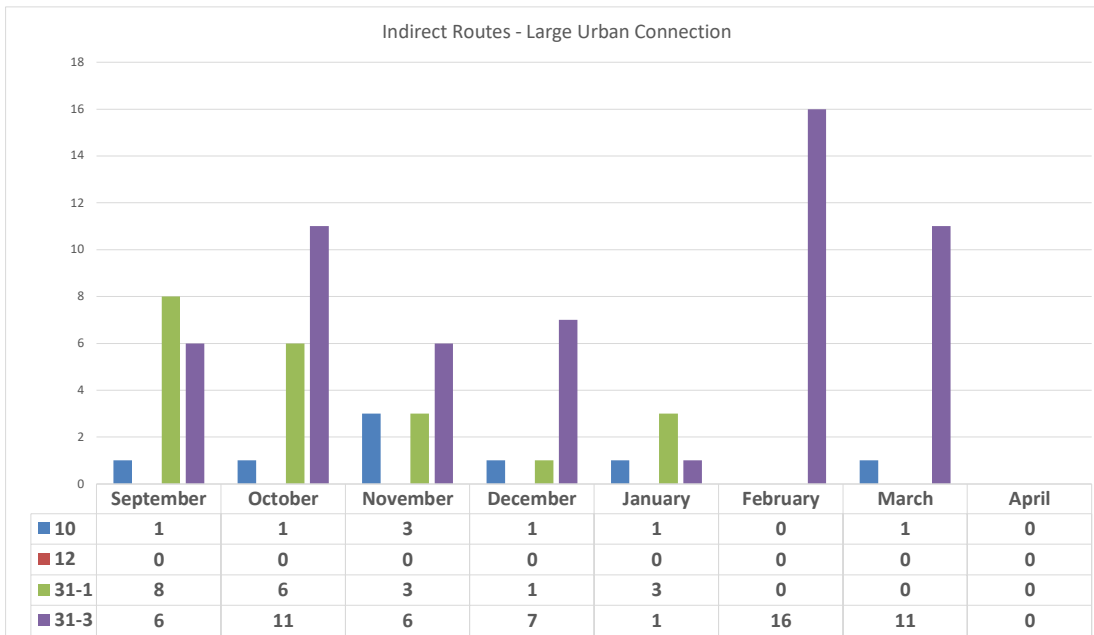
TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT



FY 2025-2026 Valley Metro

LARGE URBAN CONNECTION

Indirect Routes					
Month	10	12	31-1	31-3	Total
September	1	0	8	6	15
October	1	0	6	11	18
November	3	0	3	6	12
December	1	0	1	7	9
January	1	0	3	1	5
February	0	0	0	16	16
March	1	0	0	11	12
April	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	0	21	58	87





TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

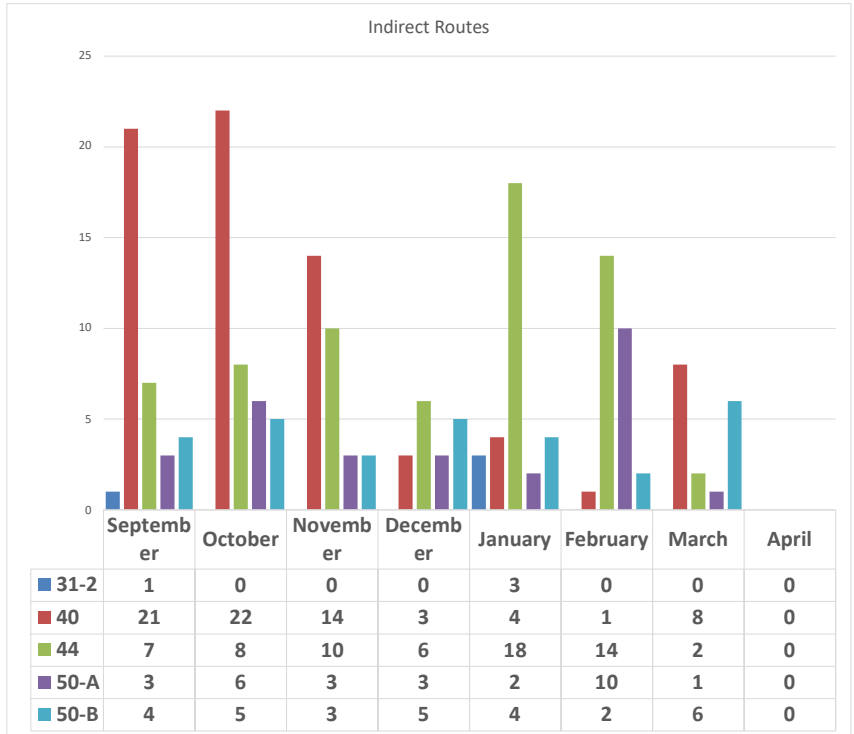


FY 2025-2026 Valley Metro

Indirect Routes 199 Direct Routes 656 Y-T-D Ridership 855

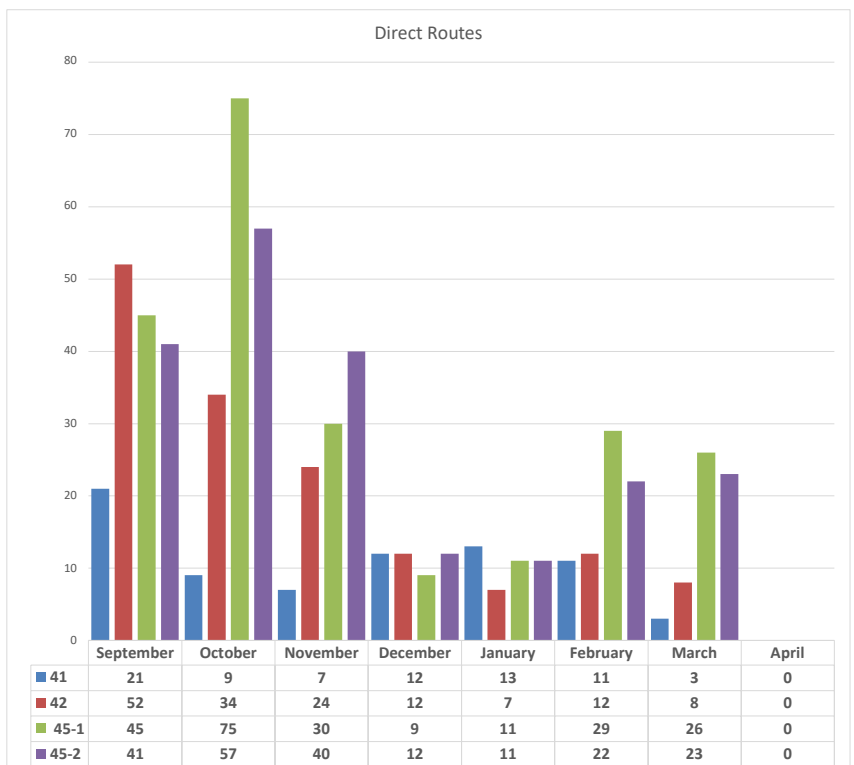
Indirect Routes

Month	31-2	40	44	50-A	50-B	Total
September	1	21	7	3	4	36
October	0	22	8	6	5	41
November	0	14	10	3	3	30
December	0	3	6	3	5	17
January	3	4	18	2	4	31
February	0	1	14	10	2	27
March	0	8	2	1	6	17
April	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	73	65	28	29	199



Direct Routes

Month	41	42	45-1	45-2	Total
September	21	52	45	41	159
October	9	34	75	57	175
November	7	24	30	40	101
December	12	12	9	12	45
January	13	7	11	11	42
February	11	12	29	22	74
March	3	8	26	23	60
April	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
Total	76	149	225	206	656



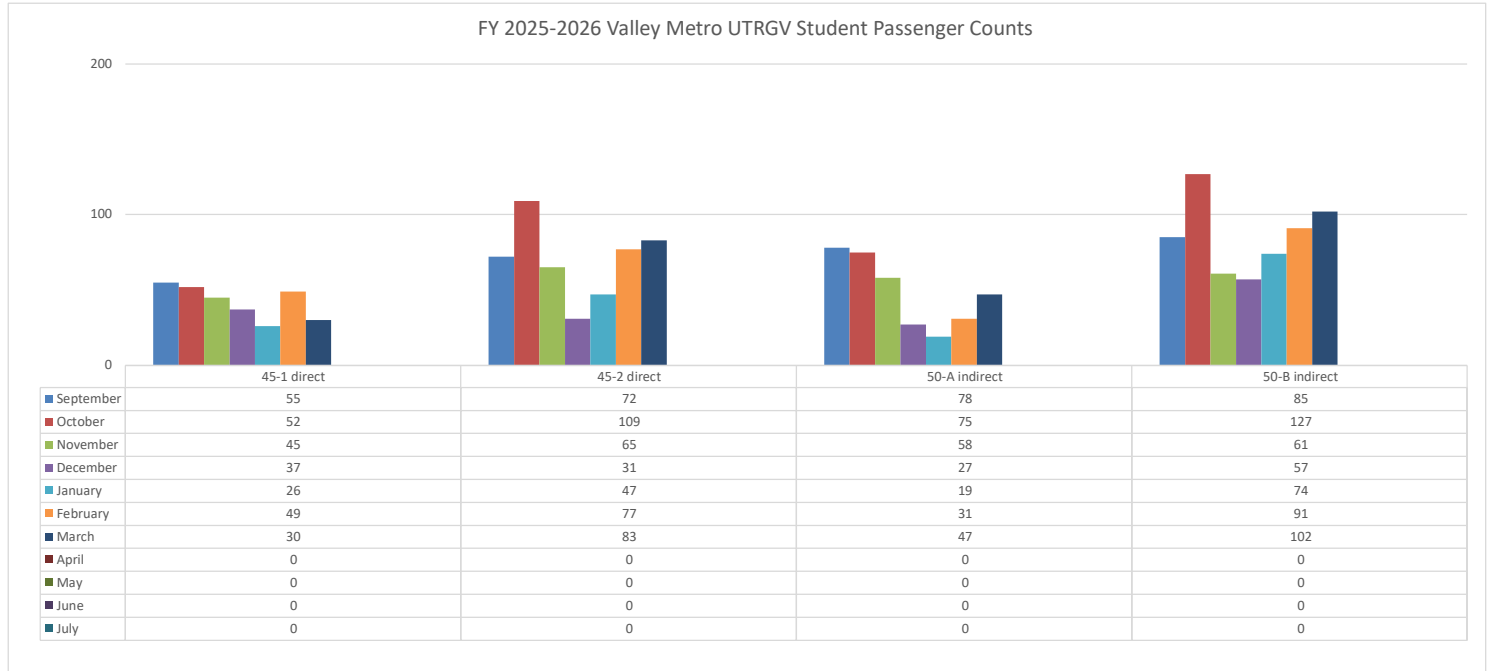


FY 2025-2026 Valley Metro - UTRGV Student Passenger Counts

Routes	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Totals
45-1 direct	55	52	45	37	26	49	30	0	0	0	0	0	294
45-2 direct	72	109	65	31	47	77	83	0	0	0	0	0	484
50-A indirect	78	75	58	27	19	31	47	0	0	0	0	0	335
50-B indirect	85	127	61	57	74	91	102	0	0	0	0	0	597
Vaquero Express	91,047	95,833	66,817	34,938	31,810	69,177	58,269	0	0	0	0	0	447,891
FY 2025-2026	91,337	96,196	67,046	35,090	31,976	69,425	58,531	0	0	0	0	0	449,601
FY 2024-2025	74,211	82,676	59,239	19,279	27,301	64,321	44,391	59,006	3,651	1,074			435,149
Change Over Previous FY	17,126	13,520	7,807	15,811	4,675	5,104	14,140	-59,006	-3,651	-1,074	0	0	14,452

Routes	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Totals
Direct Routes	127	161	110	68	73	126	113	0	0	0	0	0	778
Indirect Routes	163	202	119	84	93	122	149	0	0	0	0	0	932
Total VM Count	290	363	229	152	166	248	262	0	0	0	0	0	1,710
Vaquero Express	91,047	95,833	66,817	34,938	31,810	69,177	58,269	0	0	0	0	0	447,891

Combined Total	91,337	96,196	67,046	35,090	31,976	69,425	58,531	0	0	0	0	0	449,601
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ITEM #5.D.2

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