

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Notice is hereby provided that the LRGVDC Board of Directors will hold a Regular IN-PERSON Meeting
on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024, at 12:00 P.M**
at 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas and provide the public with the ability to view the meeting via
internet live-streaming at: [LRGVDC COG - YouTube](#)

Presiding: Mayor Norma Sepulveda, President

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Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes for
(September 25, 2024) President

Item #3: Public Comment

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

A. Presentation from Texas Census Institute..... Angela Broyles
Texas Census Institute
Executive Director

B. Presentation on Active Transportation and Active Tourism Plan..... Halff Associates
Ylda Capriccioso

C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Adopt Annual Investment Policy and Accept Quarterly Investment Report..... Crystal Balboa
Finance Director

D. Consideration and **ACTION** to Appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)President

E. Executive Director Report

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
Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) Membership.

Program Status Reports

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

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

Criminal Justice & Homeland SecurityCesar Merla
Assistant Director

Program Status Reports

Police Academy ProgramJavier Solis
Assistant Director

Regional Police Academy Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to utilize LRGV Academy generated program income funds for the purchase of an ALERRT Level 1 Active Shooter Training Kit in the amount of \$46,375.13
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Amendments to the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Extension Services and LRGV Academy Site between the Lower Rio Grande Development Council and the City of Mission Texas.

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Dennis Moreno
Assistant Director

Program Status Reports

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

D. **Transportation Valley Metro** Tom Logan
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Acquisition of Vehicles under a State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Hardware Acquisition for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report Luis Diaz
Interim Executive Director

Item #7 New or Unfinished Business

Item #8 Adjourn

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, December 11, 2024,

12:00 pm Noon

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

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:14 pm no quorum was attained.

Present: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Alma Salinas, Sullivan City
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Commissioner Tom Goodman, City of San Benito
Veronica Gonzalez, UTRGV Edinburg
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots

Absent :

Mayor Norma Sepulveda City of Harlingen
Judge Aurelio Guerra Willacy County
Mayor Adrian Gonzalez City of Weslaco
Mayor JR Garza, City of Alamo
Mayor George Guadiana, City of San Perlita
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos
Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy Co. Navigation Dist.
Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large
Mr. Tony Chavez, Member at Large

There was no quorum attained for now, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza continued with the agenda.

Without no questions from the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #3

Item #3: Public Comment: No Public Comment, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #4.

Item #4: Administration

4A. Presentation for Age Friendly RGV Initiative; Update and Future Directions with Dr. Sudi. A Professor at UTRGV School of Social Work, has been leading the Age Friendly RGV Initiative after receiving a community engagement grant. This initiative, inspired by the World Health Organization and AARP, aims to assess and promote age-friendly environments in the RGV region, which has unique cultural identities and needs.

Key points:

Dr. Sudi started his presentation stating that a study was designed to evaluate age-friendliness, collecting 350 surveys from local cities. A roundtable of share results was postponed to March due to scheduling conflicts. Five cities—Edinburg, McAllen, Harlingen, Mission, and Pharr—have issued age-friendly proclamations, with Hidalgo County also adopting the proclamation. Efforts are ongoing to encourage other cities and counties, including Cameron and Willacy, to adopt similar proclamations. Students from his class are involved in raising awareness about age-friendliness and conducting assessments to identify areas for improvement. His initiative is to reschedule proclamations and has received multiple proclamations from cities. Virtual meetings have been organized to educate city representatives about the initiative and share the best practices. A partnership with AARP is in development, aiming for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to secure AARP volunteers for the initiative. The MOU will include a job description for volunteer roles. The goal is to conduct at least one focus group on age-friendliness in each precinct of the cities that have issued proclamations, gathering solid data to inform city planning. Plans are being made to develop training modules for individuals interested in age-friendliness, offering micro-credits and training to community volunteers. A resource center at UTRGV will be established to assist cities and support capacity-building efforts for age-friendly initiatives in the region. The initiative seeks to engage communities, assess their status, and guide future actions to enhance age-friendliness.

4B. Executive Director Report. Mr. Cruz began by introducing all the new hires and promotions. Then Mr. Cruz then moved on to The Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) held its bi-annual training and board meeting last week in Austin, attended by staff and Commissioner David Garza. Acknowledgment and thanks were given to Commissioner Garza for his service on board. Commissioner Garza will not continue in this role, and the board will need to elect a new representative for future TARC meetings. Commissioner Garza announced his decision to step down from the Council of Governments (COG) at the end of the year due to personal time constraints. He expressed his enjoyment in serving at the state level but emphasized the need to focus on local priorities. Commissioner Garza highlighted the value of new ideas and collaboration at COG conferences and commended the staff for their active participation. He hopes to allow another commissioner the opportunity to take his place. Mr. Cruz then moved on to CDBG 50th Anniversary, Congratulations were extended to CDBG on their 50th anniversary. Attendees included Commissioner Sid Miller from the Texas Agriculture Department and Leslie Bradley from HUD's Southwest region. Regional councils will continue assisting non-entitlement communities in accessing CDBG funding.

Broadband Development, The Broadband Development Office (BDO) provided updates on ongoing projects and requested assistance from COGs to secure tier licenses (A, B, C, D, E). They emphasized the need for Tier D and E licenses, with only 22 local governments having secured them, as this will impact future grant processes. Tier Licenses, to apply for upcoming broadband funding (BEAT), municipalities must secure tier licenses. Details will be emailed for dissemination from relevant departments. Texas Broadband Development Office, Monthly virtual roundtable meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on October 3rd from 10 to 11 AM, providing updates on broadband funding.

Mr. Cruz then moved on to the Texas Water Development Board, Updates were given to water planning groups, including Region M and flood planning in region 15, chaired by Commissioner Garza. Flood plans for all regions and the state plan were approved on August 15.

Next was the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), There has been a decline in grant applications, prompting TDA to enhance technical assistance for small municipalities. Two new grant opportunities are available, closing on December 9th: 2025-2026 Community Development Fund, Max award of \$750,000 for water, wastewater, and drainage improvements. 2025 Colonial Fund Construction, Max award of \$1 million for water, wastewater, and housing rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income households. A revamped two-phase application process aims to simplify grant applications.

Lastly Mr. Cruz mentioned the Texas General Land Office (GLO), Six amendments for public comment were released, including a new disaster recovery reallocation program for de-obligated funds. Two key projects are available for funding reallocation: Hurricane Ike and Dolly, approximately \$20 million remains available for reallocation, with awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$20 million. 2018 and 2019 South Texas Floods, about \$14 to \$20 million is available for reallocation under this program. Other amendments pertain to projects not directly impacting our region.

No further discussion or comments. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #2. After Quorum was attained.

2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2024. ***Mayor David Moreno made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2024. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

No further questions or discussion Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #5.

Item #5 Department reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Ms. Melisa Gonzales had no action items on the agenda.

Program Status Reports

Data Collection for Economic Development Strategies, a QR code card was distributed for collecting input on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies. Attendees are asked to complete a nine-question survey ranking five strategies per question in order of importance. QR codes are provided for easy access. Feedback is crucial for ensuring a robust regional update. Ms. Melisa Gonzales wanted to congratulate the City of Mission, for being nominated for the 2022-2023 TARC Regional Solid Waste Grantee Program. City of Mission will be featured in the state publication, highlighting its outstanding standalone facility. A quote may be requested from the mayor for inclusion in the publication. Upcoming CDBG Meeting on October 1st A meeting with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program will be held on October 1st, starting at 9 AM. non-entitlement cities are encouraged to attend the stakeholder meeting to provide input for the 2025-2029 consolidated plan.

Following this, there will be an award ceremony for the 2024 Community Development Awardees, including Los Indios, San Perlita, La Feria, Cameron County, Hidalgo County, and the City of Rio Grande City, which is being hosted this year. Melisa expressed to the board to please make plans to attend and participate in these important events.

No further questions Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Health and Human Services.

B. Health and Human Services

Ms. Lopez had no action items on the agenda, so she proceeded with her status reports.

Program Status Reports

Ms. Lopez started off with an important announcement, Ms. Lopez mentioned that open enrollment season for Medicare is from October 15 to December 7, crucial for the aging and disabled communities. Next, Health Fair, A kickoff health fair will be held in Los Fresnos on October 1, 2024. Benefit Counselors Business cards are provided for all those needing help with Medicare and related services. Last year, we assisted around 200 individuals. Fraud Prevention, it's important to take time with clients to help them avoid fraud and make informed decisions regarding their health plans. Housing Initiative, In August, we partnered with the Mission Housing Authority to secure housing for over 20 individuals facing rent issues, supported by a housing bond grant. Lastly, Ms. Lopez expresses her gratitude to Mayor Norie from the City of Mission for enabling these initiatives.

No further questions or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Public Safety.

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Program Action Items.

Mr. Cesar Merla started off with the 5 Action Items he had on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on application score sheets for FY2025-2026 Grant Cycle. ***Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on application score sheets for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. Troy Allen seconded the motion upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on current membership roster for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. ***Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory committee's (CJAC) recommendation on current membership roster for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
3. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic plan for 2025-2030. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic plan for 2025-2030. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Current Membership Roster for the FY 2025-2026. **Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve Homeland Security Advisory committee's current membership roster for FY 2025-2026. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration and ACTION to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Application Score Sheet for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. **Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Application score sheet for FY 2025-2026. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Cesar started off with 3 important training sessions coming up. Support That Saves, Hosted with the Mercedes Police Department, October 21-23. Focused on mental health for police officers, open to all officers and eligible for TCOLE credit. Registration is still open. Naloxone (Narcan) Training, scheduled for October 25 with sessions at 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, and 2 PM. Participants will complete a one-hour course and receive a Narcan kit. Previous sessions attracted attendees from Webb County. De-escalation Training for Law Enforcement, One-day training on November 21, from 8 AM to 5 PM, offering eight hours of TCOLE credit. In partnership with LEMIT and COPS, this training is open to all law enforcement personnel.

No further Questions or Comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Police Academy.

LRGVDC Police Academy

Mr. Javier Solis with the Police Academy had 1 Action item on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve an Interlocal Agreement as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with County of Hidalgo, Texas by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 2 office, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and with the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with County of Hidalgo Texas, by & through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 2 office, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and with the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. Ms. Veronica Gonzales seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Report

Mr. Solis started his status report by letting the board know that the LRGV Academy Graduation was on September 20. The LRGV Academy celebrated its 225th Basic Peace Officer Academy graduation in Harlingen, with ten cadets now eligible for licensing. Notably, this academy achieved a 100% pass rate on the Texas State Licensing exam. 224th Weslaco Police Academy, currently in its final training month, preparing 15 cadets for state licensing and future placements in local police departments. 226th Mission Police Academy, Completed crisis intervention and de-escalation training, along with scenario-based training for mental health issues.

225th Edinburg LRGV Academy, finished phase one training covering ethics, professional policing, and Texas penal codes, now entering traffic code training. Training Statistics, Since January 1, 48 police officers have been deployed locally. The state set a target of 54 in-service courses; 102 have been conducted this

year. The training goal was 444 officers, and 1,433 have been trained to date. Current contact hours stand at 135,152, compared to the target of 168,686. Senate Bill 1852, Requires all Texas peace officers to receive 16 hours of active shooter training within two years. So far, 341 officers have been trained in the region. Acknowledgments, Gratitude expressed to various city and county partners for their collaboration in training efforts.

No further comments or questions Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to the Rio Grande Emergency Communication District.

Program Status Reports

Mr. Dennis Moreno started by letting the Board know that there were no Action Items and then proceeded with the GIS Division, 911 and Information Technology, and community Engagement reports that were all in the packet provided to everyone for review. Mr. Dennis Moreno then mentioned the Wellness Seminar; the second Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar featured Doug Monda, Chris Gallin, and the Nueva Luz Foundation, who shared mental health resources and personal experiences. Attendance increased to approximately 425 participants, and plans are in place for a third annual seminar next year. Team Effort, Acknowledgment of the team's collaboration in supporting dispatchers and enhancing wellness through the seminar. Mr. Cruz then Mentioned the Awards Presented, Awards were given to five veteran telecommunicators and the Supervisor of the Year. The Sandra Coronado Award, named after a dispatcher, killed in 2018, was also presented to recipients from the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Dennis Moreno mentions the Open Call for Nominations, All PSAPs are encouraged to submit nominations for recognition of their staff's contributions to their communities. Further efforts will be made to honor deserving individuals.

No Further Comments or concerns, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved to Item D

D. Transportation Valley Metro Action Item

Mr. Tom Logan was recognized and had 1 action item on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Acquisition of Vehicles under a State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve Acquisition of Vehicles under State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Mayor Alma Salinas seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan then moved on to the Status Reports. System Report, for fiscal year 2024, we transported \$631,000. In the state fiscal year 2024, transportation increased to \$797,000, marking a \$166,000 increase (approximately 21%). There is significant demand for more services, and efforts are underway to meet this demand, as overall numbers continue to rise. Ann Cass had a question for Mr. Logan regarding the potential use of school buses for rural transportation during the day when they are not in use. This topic was discussed unofficially and was also brought up at the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force. Has this been considered in your department? Tom Logan then responded Last week, a meeting was held with Edcouch ISD and UTRGV, where the topic of using school buses for transportation was discussed. There is a need to transport students from the Delta area to the Edinburg campus. The ISD is researching the limitations of using their fleet for this service, and the insights gained may be applicable across the RGV region.

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Reports

Luis Diaz started off with a quick report, Public Involvement Update, we are currently engaging the public for our 25-year and four-year plans, including the MTP and TIP for all listed projects. Public involvement began on September 9 and will continue through October 9 Upcoming Events, we held an event at the Metro McAllen Transit Station on September 17. Another session is scheduled for tomorrow in the Ken Jones Small Boardroom from 2 to 4 PM. Future events are planned for the Brownsville area at the La Plaza Transit Station, with details to be posted on our website. They will be having Public Involvement. More information will be posted in our website on the event section of our homepage. We're hosting a public involvement event this Friday for our Safe Streets for All initiatives. Join us at the Harlingen Market at Wild August from 6 to 9 p.m. Additionally, on Saturday, we'll be in Brownsville from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Brownsville Farmers Market for our SS4A initiative. I wanted to share these upcoming events and public engagements we're organizing for the MPO.

Item #7 New & Unfinished Business

There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adjourn at 1:02 PM

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

ITEM #3

PUBLIC

COMMENT

ITEM#4.C.
ADMINISTRATION
INVESTMENT
POLICY REPORT



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, HarlingenPresident
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza Mission1st Vice President
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County2nd Vice President
Mayor John Cowen, Jr, BrownsvilleSecretary
Mavor Ramiro Garza, EdinburgTreasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Adrian Gonzalez
Mayor, Weslaco

David A. Garza
Commissioner, Cameron County

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Hidalgo County

J.R. Garza
Mayor, Alamo

David Moreno
Mayor, Donna

Alma Salinas
Mayor, Sullivan City

George Guadiana
Mayor, San Perlita

Javier Villalobos
Mayor, McAllen

Alejandro Flores
Mayor, Los Fresnos

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez
Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales
Commissioner, Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra
Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas
Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales
UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez
South Texas College

Luke Lucio
Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen
Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills
Willacy County Navigation District

Jim Darling
Member-at-Large

Tony Chavez
Member-at-Large

Ann Williams Cass
Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez
Grassroots Organizations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Manuel "Manny" Cruz

MEMORANDUM

TO: LRGVDC BOARD MEMBERS

FROM: Crystal Balboa, Director of Finance

SUBJ: LRGVDC Investment Policy

DATE: October 30, 2024

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

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

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

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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	69,561.28	12,137.02	-	1,059.31	82,757.61
RGV 911 District	5,724,947.11	2,211,000.00	-	97,563.50	8,033,510.61
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	189,663.51	-	(76,236.72)	1,906.21	115,333.00
Transit	442,580.71	500,000.00	-	7,290.99	949,871.70
Texas Water Development Board	305,092.22	-	(171,611.71)	2,595.62	136,076.13
GLO - Closing Costs	109,361.22	245,854.79	-	3,702.41	358,918.42
Kari's Law	68,799.37	141.72	-	941.15	69,882.24
Tire Project	25,271.45	-	(330.37)	342.27	25,283.35
Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan - Local	309,502.56	-	(16,991.61)	4,075.52	296,586.47
RGV Explorer	62,501.18	-	(18,403.81)	688.52	44,785.89
TOTAL	7,307,280.61	2,969,133.53	(283,574.22)	120,165.50	10,113,005.42

TexPool Prime Rate as of September 30, 2024 - 5.0496%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Investments in TexPool:	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Ending Balance
FIF - TWDB - Escrow Account	5,209,396.29	-	(302,334.70)	67,440.78	4,974,502.37
FIF - TWDB	203,723.70	302,334.70	(285,538.33)	3,033.80	223,553.87
TOTAL	5,413,119.99	302,334.70	(587,873.03)	70,474.58	5,198,056.24
GRAND TOTAL	12,720,400.60	3,271,468.23	(871,447.25)	190,640.08	15,311,061.66

TexPool Rate as of September 30, 2024 - 4.9843%

Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

INVESTMENT POLICY

I. Scope

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

II. Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

III. Responsibility and Control

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

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

Internal Controls – The Director of Finance is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the entity are protected from loss, theft or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

IV. Reporting

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

V. Investment Portfolio

The only investments available to the LRGVDC will be:

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

VI. Safekeeping and Custody

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

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

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

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

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

VII. Investment Policy Adoption

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

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the LRGVDC this 30th day of October 2024.

LRGVDC Board President

ITEM# 4. D

ADMINISTRATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors

Meeting October 30, 2024

Item #4: Administration

D. Consideration and **ACTION** to Appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils TARC.....President

The current designated Board member, or his or her designate, of each member council shall represent that council in all membership business. Each member council shall have one vote on all matters which may come before the membership. The designated Board member of a council may designate any representative of the council he or she represents, including staff persons, to vote on behalf of such council on all matters which may come before the membership provided that such designation is received in writing by the Association prior to the call to order of the business session at which such designation is to be in effect. Such designation may be changed from time to time.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

1210 San Antonio Street, Suite 201 • Austin, TX 78701 • 512-478-4715 • FAX 512-275-9910 • www.txregionalcouncil.org

2025 Board Member Designation Form

EXCERPTS FROM TARC BYLAWS

Article IV – Membership

Section 3. The current designated Board member, or his or her designate, of each member council shall represent that council in all membership business. Each member council shall have one vote on all matters which may come before the membership. The designated Board member of a council may designate any representative of the council he or she represents, including staff persons, to vote on behalf of such council on all matters which may come before the membership provided that such designation is received in writing by the Association prior to the call to order of the business session at which such designation is to be in effect. Such designation may be changed from time to time.

Article IX - Voting

Section 2. Voting by alternate shall be permitted when health, business or personal necessity makes it impossible for a member of the Board of Directors to attend a meeting. The alternate must be designated by the absent Director in written form delivered to the Association prior to the beginning of the meeting. The alternate may be any official or employee of the organization represented by the Director. A member of the Board of Directors may not serve as alternate for another member and an alternate may represent only one absent Director at any meeting. An alternate may exercise the privilege of making or seconding motions and voting on any matter to come before the Board of Directors. The alternate shall be counted in determining a quorum for the Board of Directors.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

1210 San Antonio Street, Suite 201

Austin, Texas 78701



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2025 Board Member Designation Form

Regional Council

Date

TARC Board Designee:

Name:

Title:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

_____ is the designated representative from our regional

(Full name)

council to the Texas Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors meetings. In their absence,

alternates are designated as follows:

First Alternate: _____

then to

Second Alternate: _____

and then to

Third Alternate: _____

Signature of Regional Council President or Chair

(Please sign or type name and check the box below if submitting electronically on page 2)

By checking this box, I indicate that I am authorized to sign this form and that this indication will serve as an electronic signature for the document.

ITEM#4.E.

ADMINISTRATION

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

Lower Rio Grande Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday October 30, 2024

Item #4 Administration

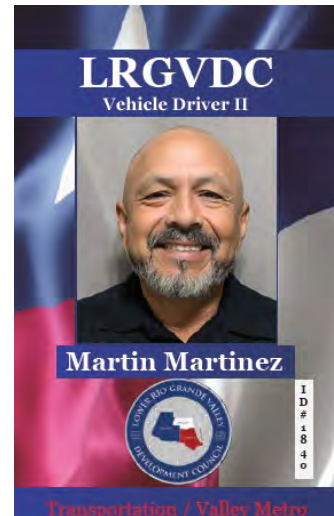
3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

New Hire Date: September 16, 2024

Haoji He: GIS Specialist I - Transportation RGVMPPO

Cristela Mendoza: Case Manager I – ADRC/LCA Health & Human Resources – AAA

Martin Martinez: Vehicle Driver II Transportation – Valley Metro



New Hire Date: September 30,2024

Claudia M. Reyes: Case Manager I – Health & Human Resources- AAA



Lower Rio Grande Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday October 30, 2024

Item #4 Administration

3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

New Hire Date: October 14, 2024

Siomara Martinez: CSR II - Health & Human Resources – AAA

Shana K. Bricker: GIS Specialist I - Transportation - RGVMP



Promotions: September 20, 2024

Mariesol Vega: Administrative Assistant V - Health & Human
Resources – AAA





LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Office of the Executive Director
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Executive Directors Report

LRGVDC Board of Directors Meeting

October 30, 2024

This report contains updates, regional news, funding opportunities trainings and legislative updates that your local gov't may be interested in. This information is courtesy of the Texas Association and Regional Councils (TARC), State funding agencies and LRGVDC Programs. Hyperlinks to external sources may be found throughout the report for additional and complete details.

Texas General Land Office (GLO) Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) Call for Projects.

On September 3, 2024, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) posted amendments to six state action plans. Each of the amendments includes the new Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP), which allows the GLO to utilize de-obligated and unutilized funds within each action plan. The comment periods for all amendments have closed. The GLO will respond to comments submitted and send the action plans to HUD for approval. On October 21st the GLO held a virtual presentation on the DRRP Call for Project that included Environmental Review Guidance.

The Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) is designed to utilize de-obligated and unutilized Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to provide the opportunity for communities with outstanding unmet need to access remaining. The funds are allocated through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and therefore must adhere to federally mandated deadlines and policies.

The call for projects was released Oct. 21 and will close Nov. 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time). Only projects submitted by this time will be eligible for scoring and potential funding. **Eligible entities can submit projects here - [DRRP Call for Projects](#).**

DRRP Schedule:

Call for Projects Due Date: Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 5PM

Invitation to Apply: Monday, February 3, 2025

Application Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 5PM

The GLO held a webinar on Oct. 22, 2024, to provide information relating to the call for projects process and scoring criteria. You can [watch the webinar video here](#). Have questions? Please submit to cdr@recovery.texas.gov with the subject "DRRP Question".

ATTACHMENTS:

DRRP Overview

DRRP Webinar Presentation

The Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) will utilize remaining program funds from ***six action plans***:

Disaster	Budget	Minimum Allocation	Maximum Allocation
Hurricanes Ike and Dolly 2008	\$20,500,000	\$500,000	\$20,000,000
2015 Floods and Storms	\$4,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
2016 Floods and Storms	\$5,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
Hurricane Harvey \$5.6B 2017	\$84,500,000	\$500,000	\$20,000,000
2018 South Texas Floods	\$6,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
2019 Disasters	\$14,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000

Eligible Activities will be limited to:

- Flood and drainage improvements.
- Water and wastewater improvements.
- Street improvements.
- Rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of affordable multifamily projects; and
- Permanently affixed emergency communication equipment.

Eligible Counties:

County	Hurr. Ike & Dolly	2015 Floods	2016 Floods	Hurricane Harvey	2018 South TX Floods	2019 Disasters
Cameron	MID	State MID			State MID	HUD MID
Hidalgo	MID	HUD MID	State MID		HUD MID	HUD MID
Willacy	MID	State MID				State MID

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Challenge Process Webinar

October 30 | 1:00 PM | [Click here to Register](#)

The Broadband Development Office (BDO) is pleased to announce the BEAD Challenge Process will be open **Dec. 3-17, 2024**. The challenge process is vital to ensuring the state accurately represents location-level funding eligibility for the BEAD Program.

Nonprofit and community organizations, local and tribal government entities, and internet service providers (ISPs) will be eligible to file challenges. Residents will also be encouraged to participate in the challenge process by submitting required documentation for their units of local government (e.g., councils of government) and nonprofit entities.

To ensure challengers are prepared, the BDO will host several webinars leading up to the Texas Availability Challenge Process, with the first scheduled for Oct. 30, 2024. These webinars will cover the process and inputs needed to successfully file a challenge.

Eligible challengers are encouraged to acquire their Tier D or Tier E license from CostQuest now. These licenses will be needed to file a challenge. Please visit [BroadbandUSA](#) for more information.

Legislative Objectives

Attached you will find the priority items for the upcoming 89th Legislative Session as approved by the TARC Board of Directors. These objectives generally support any effort to encourage state agencies and partners to collaborate with regional councils to improve the health, safety and welfare of regions and enhance their communities' capacity.

End of report.



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP)

COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

The Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) will utilize remaining program funds from *six action plans*:

Disaster	Budget	Minimum Allocation	Maximum Allocation
Hurricanes Ike and Dolly 2008	\$20,500,000	\$500,000	\$20,000,000
2015 Floods and Storms	\$4,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
2016 Floods and Storms	\$5,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
Hurricane Harvey \$5.6B 2017	\$84,500,000	\$500,000	\$20,000,000
2018 South Texas Floods	\$6,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
2019 Disasters	\$14,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000

The GLO will hold a call for projects from **October 21 to November 21, 2024, by 5:00 p.m., with each entity permitted to submit a maximum of three eligible projects across all grants. Only projects submitted by the deadline will be eligible for scoring and funding consideration.**

Eligible entities are:

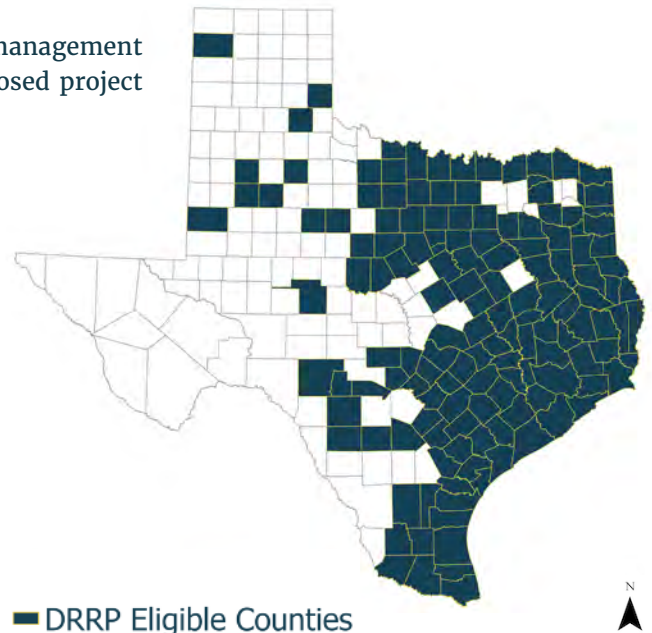
- Units of local government (cities and counties);
- Indian Tribes; and
- Public Housing Authorities.

Project eligibility evaluation criteria will include the financial management of the applying entity and the feasibility of completing the proposed project within the two-year time frame.

Eligible Activities will be limited to:

- Flood and drainage improvements;
- Water and wastewater improvements;
- Street improvements;
- Rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of affordable multifamily projects; and
- Permanently affixed emergency communication equipment.

For additional information, please visit the **CDR GIS HUB** <https://gis-glo-cdr.hub.arcgis.com> or use the QR code.





TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Community Development & Revitalization

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Questions

- ❑ Please submit questions throughout the webinar to the zoom chat box
- ❑ All questions submitted to the chat during the webinar will be answered at the end of the presentation
- ❑ For technical difficulties with Zoom, please call: (512) 475-5133



Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) Agenda

- ❑ DRRP Overview
- ❑ Other Federal Requirements
- ❑ DRRP by Action Plans
- ❑ DRRP Schedule
- ❑ Call for Projects: Submission Process
- ❑ Questions

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Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



Overview of the DRRP

- ❑ The DRRP is designed to support the reallocation of de-obligated and unutilized funds.
- ❑ This allows for communities with outstanding unmet need to access remaining CDBG-DR funds.



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DRRP

- ❑ The DRRP funds
 - Are not new grant funds
 - Are tied to each respective action plan
- ❑ The DRRP follows the rules and regulations required in each respective action plan
- ❑ These DRRP funds are not inclusive of the CDBG Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grant programs or projects
- ❑ The DRRP funds cannot be combined with forward looking mitigation projects due to the requirement of demonstrating a tie-back to the disaster for which the applicant is applying

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DRRP Eligibility

- ❑ **Eligible Grants**
 - Hurricanes Ike and Dolly (2008)
 - 2015 Floods and Storms (2015)
 - 2016 Floods and Storms (2016)
 - Hurricane Harvey \$5.6B (2017)
 - 2018 South Texas Floods (2018)
 - 2019 Disasters (2019)
- ❑ **Eligible Entities**
 - Units of local government
 - Cities
 - Counties
 - Indian tribes
 - Public housing authorities

DRRP Eligibility Continued

❑ Eligible Activities

- Flood and drainage improvements
- Water and wastewater improvements
- Street improvements
- Permanently affixed emergency communications equipment
- Rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of affordable multifamily projects

❑ Ineligible Activities

- Any activities not identified

❑ National Objectives:

- Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI)
- Urgent Need

DRRP Project Selection

- ❑ Each entity is permitted to submit a maximum of three (3) eligible projects
- ❑ The GLO will select which eligible funding source will be utilized to fund the project
- ❑ The GLO will rank the projects based on the published selection criteria
- ❑ Project ranking and grant conditions will aid in the project selection process
- ❑ Approved project submissions will be prioritized during the contracting process based on the expiration date of the grant being utilized



DRRP Project Eligibility Criteria

- ❑ The GLO will evaluate the:
 - Management capacity of the submitting entity; and
 - Feasibility for the project to be completed within the two-year time frame or less
- ❑ Each project must include:
 - One activity;
 - One service area; and
 - Address one national objective
- ❑ Address unmet needs from applicable disaster and tie back to the disaster event
- ❑ Meet the LMI or Urgent Need National Objective

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DRRP Selection Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points
HUD MID**	10 Points Possible
Project is in a HUD MID area	10 Points
Project is in a State MID area	0 Points
LMI National Objective	20 Points Possible
Project meets the LMI national objective	20 Points
Project does not meet the LMI national objective	0 Points
Number of CDBG-DR Eligible Presidential Declarations from 2008 to 2019	20 Points Possible
10-12	20 Points
7-9	15 Points
4-6	10 Points
1-3	5 Points
Leverage	5 Points Possible
Entity has pledged to provide Non-CDBG Leverage (a minimum value of 10% of CDBG-DR funds requested)	5 Points
Entity has not pledged to provide Non-CDBG Leverage (a minimum value of 10% of CDBG-DR funds requested)	0 Points

Criteria	Maximum Points
SoVI	15 Points Possible
High	15 Points
Medium High	12 Points
Medium	9 Points
Medium Low	6 Points
Low	3 Points
Composite Disaster Index	20 Points Possible
Top 10%	20 Points
Top 25%	15 Points
Top 75%	10 Points
Bottom 25%	5 Points
Bottom 10%	0 Points
Is the Applicant a Public Housing Authority?	10 Points Possible
Applicant is a Public Housing Authority	10 Points
Applicant is not a Public Housing Authority	0 Points
Tie-Breaker: Higher Poverty Rate	
*More details on scoring criteria will be available in the submission guidelines	
**Ike/Dolly projects will automatically receive points for this category	

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Procurement

- ❑ Eligible applicants must comply with applicable program requirements, such as proper procurement of all services (grant administration, environmental, engineering services, construction, etc.)
- ❑ Eligible entities must adhere to the procurement process in compliance with federal requirements defined in 2 CFR 200
- ❑ Resources to ensure compliance by local purchasing agents:
 - o 2 CFR 200.318 through 200.327 (Federal procurement standards)
 - o Appendix II to Part 200 (specific, required contract provisions for non-federal entity contracts under federal awards)
- ❑ **Reminder:** Review and update your local procurement policies and procedures to comply with 2 CFR 200

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Procurement Continued

- ❑ Best Practices:
 - o Identify roles and responsibilities for all parties involved
 - o Follow written local procurement policies and procedures in compliance with 2CFR200
 - o Confer with local purchasing agent or legal counsel
 - o Ensure fair and open competition
 - o Solicit responses from an adequate number of qualified sources, document direct outreach
 - o Procurement resulting in one response is viewed as non-competitive procurement and may result in additional action, see 2CFR200.320(c)
 - o Contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements

*For additional information regarding the procurement review process, including best practices and GLO and HUD resources, refer to the one-pager located at this link:
<https://recovery.texas.gov/DRRP/>

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Environmental Review

❑ HUD Part 58 Environmental Process

- o The level of review will be determined in the application phase
- o The DRRP environmental reviews should be completed in less than six months
- o Environmental reviews should start prior to the 30% design plan

❑ Recent Rule Changes

- o HUD updated floodplain management regulations at 24 CFR 55
 - Identifying the Federal Flood Risk Managements Standard (FFRMS) rather than only relying on FEMA floods maps
- o NEPA Procedures
 - Required completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) level of review within one year and a page limit for the main body of the EA of 75 pages
- o HUD Departmental policy that address radon in the environmental review process (most specifically for housing projects)

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Environmental Review Continued

❑ Best Practices to consider for meeting the program-specific benchmarks:

- o Prepare environmental constraints analysis to identify regulatory hurdles (ex., permits or special studies) and establish consultation timelines
 - Can be completed before project application submission (not required for HUD review)
- o HUD funds can supplement a previously cleared Stafford Act-funded project (i.e., FEMA or HUD-DR/MIT) to expedite the review. Examples include the following:
 - Adopt an approved FEMA environmental review
 - Add funds to a previously funded HUD project with no change in scope
 - Scope changes and new funds to a previously approved HUD review could possibly be cleared by re-evaluating the original environmental review

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Environmental Review Continued

☐ Best Practices Continued:

- o HUD assistance in a floodway, a limit of moderate wave action, a coastal high-hazard area, or a Coastal Barrier Resource System is limited
 - Extra due diligence will be required to verify if the project is permissible and whether any potential mitigation requirements can be implemented within the project time frame
- o HUD has strict limitations for activities involving critical actions, specifically in certain flood zones. Examples of critical actions include a fire station, water treatment plant, etc.
- o Avoid choice-limiting actions
 - Do not acquire property or start construction until AUGF is issued

*For additional information regarding the environmental review process, including best practices, refer to the one-pager located at this link: <https://recovery.texas.gov/DRRP/>

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Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)

AFFH reviews must be conducted as a part of project selection

☐ Includes assessments of:

- o A proposed project's area demography
- o Socioeconomic characteristics
- o Housing configuration and needs
- o Protected classes and vulnerable populations demographics
- o Educational, transportation, and health care opportunities
- o Environmental hazards or concerns
- o All other factors material to the AFFH determination

☐ Submissions should show projects are likely to

- o Lessen area racial, ethnic, protected classes and low-income concentrations, and/or
- o Promote affordable housing in low-poverty, diverse and protected classes and vulnerable population areas, and nonminority areas in response to natural hazard-related impacts

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Documenting Beneficiaries

- ❑ Must demonstrate a National Objective for the applicable eligible activities, including:
 1. Benefitting low-and moderate-income (LMI) persons
 - LMA- area benefit
 - LMH- housing
 2. Urgent Need (UN) addresses an urgent need
- ❑ LMA (low and moderate area benefit):
 - o When service area is primarily residential
 - o At least 51% LMI (LMISD or survey data)



Documenting Beneficiaries Continued

- ❑ Area Benefit
 - o Where beneficiaries live within service area
- ❑ Service Area
 - o Geographic area that will benefit from the eligible project
- ❑ Methods to document beneficiaries:
 1. Use of Census LMISD
 2. Use of Surveys
- ❑ Important:
 - o Identify if surveys will be needed
 - o Plan to conduct surveys early



Documenting Beneficiaries Continued

□ Best Practices

- o Consider project location and determine service area early during project development
- o Determine whether the identified service area aligns with a Census geographic area to plan for the level of effort required to accurately document beneficiaries
- o Use GLO mapping tools to investigate proposed service area and project alignment
- o Design clear and legible maps to define service area, project location, and Census geographic area
- o Include a narrative to support the service area selected and corresponding beneficiaries
- o Use survey method for projects that have a small benefit area or do not align with Census geographic areas represented in the LMISD
- o If using the survey method, survey 100% of households for project benefitting less than 200 households and use a random survey for more than 200 households
- o Ensure forms are complete and legible and inform the community early to maximize participation

*For additional information regarding the environmental review process, including best practices and GLO Beneficiaries resources, refer to the one-pager located at this link:
<https://recovery.texas.gov/DRRP/>

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Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



Hurricanes Ike and Dolly

□ Texas Hurricane Dolly (DR-1780-TX)

- o Incident Period: July 22, 2008 – August 1, 2008

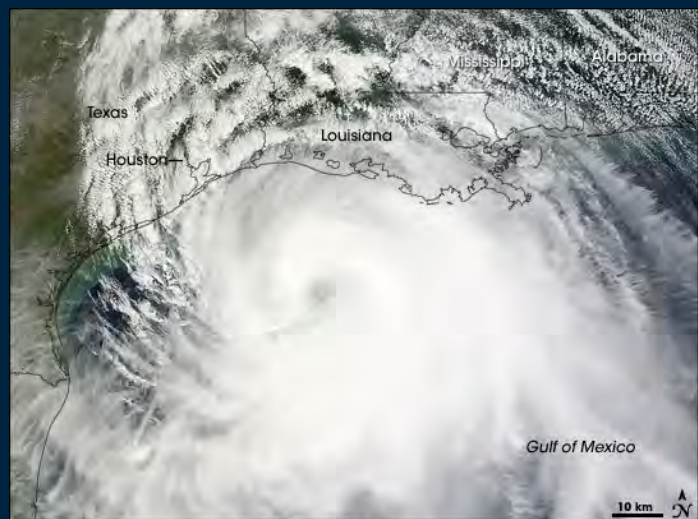
□ Texas Hurricane Ike (DR-1791-TX)

- o Incident Period: September 7, 2008 – October 2, 2008

□ Allocation Amount: \$20,500,000

□ Award Amount:

- o Maximum Award: \$20,000,000
- o Minimum Award: \$500,000



Source: National Weather Service

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Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



2015 Floods and Storms

- ❑ Texas Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding (DR-4223-TX)
 - o Incident Period: May 4, 2015 – June 22, 2015
- ❑ Texas Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding (DR-4245-TX)
 - o Incident Period: October 22, 2015 – October 31, 2015
- ❑ Allocation Amount: \$4,000,000
- ❑ Award Amount:
 - o Maximum Award: \$2,000,000
 - o Minimum Award: \$500,000



Source: Texas Civil Air Patrol

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Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



2016 Floods and Storms

- ❑ Texas Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding (DR-4266-TX)
 - o Incident Period: March 7, 2016 – March 29, 2016
- ❑ Texas Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4269-TX)
 - o Incident Period: April 17, 2016 – April 30, 2016
- ❑ Texas Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4272-TX)
 - o Incident Period: May 22, 2016 – June 24, 2016
- ❑ Allocation Amount: \$5,500,000
- ❑ Award Amount:
 - o Maximum Award: \$2,000,000
 - o Minimum Award: \$500,000



Source: Photo from Deweyville ISD Facebook page

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Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



Hurricane Harvey \$5.6 Billion

- ❑ Texas Hurricane Harvey (DR-4332-TX)
 - o Incident Period: August 23, 2017 – September 15, 2017
- ❑ Allocation Amount: \$84,500,000
- ❑ Award Amount:
 - o Maximum Award: \$20,000,000
 - o Minimum Award: \$500,000



Source: HOU district twitter feed

Texas General Land Office | CDR
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



2018 South Texas Floods

- ❑ Texas Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4377-TX)
 - o Incident Period: June 19, 2018 – July 13, 2018
- ❑ Allocation Amount: \$6,000,000
- ❑ Award Amount:
 - o Maximum Award: \$2,000,000
 - o Minimum Award: \$500,000



Source: National Weather Service

Texas General Land Office | CDR
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



2019 Disasters

- ❑ Texas Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4454-TX)
 - o Incident Period: June 24, 2019– June 25, 2019
- ❑ Texas Tropical Storm Imelda (DR-4466-TX)
 - o Incident Period: September 17, 2019– September 23, 2019
- ❑ Allocation Amount: \$14,500,000
- ❑ Award Amount:
 - o Maximum Award: \$2,000,000
 - o Minimum Award: \$500,000



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



DRRP Budget Table

Disaster	Budget	Minimum Award	Maximum Award
Hurricanes Ike and Dolly 2008	\$20,500,000	\$500,000	\$20,000,000
2015 Floods and Storms	\$4,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
2016 Floods and Storms	\$5,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
Hurricane Harvey \$5.6B 2017	\$84,500,000	\$500,000	\$20,000,000
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Texas General Land Office | CDR
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



DRRP Schedule

- ❑ Call for Projects Due Date: Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5 PM
- ❑ Invitation to Apply: Monday, February 3, 2025
- ❑ Application Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5 PM

Texas General Land Office | CDR
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



Call for Projects: Submission Process

1. Go to <https://tx-glo-cdr.hub.arcgis.com/>
2. Sign up and verify account
3. Once logged into account, click the "Follow" button. When that button changes to "Unfollow", refresh the page and you should see the Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program card.



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Call for Projects: Submission Process

4. Click on the DRRP "Call for Projects Submission" button



Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program

Learn more about the Disaster Recovery and Reallocation Program (DRRP), respond to the call for projects submission, and access data and other resources related to the DRRP.

[Call for Projects Submission](#)

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Call for Projects Submission: Process

The following page provides the following content:

- ☐ DRRP Call for Projects Submission Guide
- ☐ Frequently Asked Questions
- ☐ DRRP Viewer User Guide
- ☐ DRRP Viewer Layer List

For technical assistance, please contact: cdr.gis@recovery.texas.gov

Call for Projects Submission

The Call for Projects Submission Guide contains step-by-step instructions to guide submitters through the DRRP Call for Projects Submission process. Submitters **MUST USE the SAME COMPUTER and the SAME BROWSER** (e.g. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox) to complete the call for project submissions.

[DRRP Call for Projects Submission Guide](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Documentation

[DRRP Viewer User Guide](#)

[DRRP Viewer Layer List](#)



DRRP Viewer

A resource to view DRRP data and information geospatially

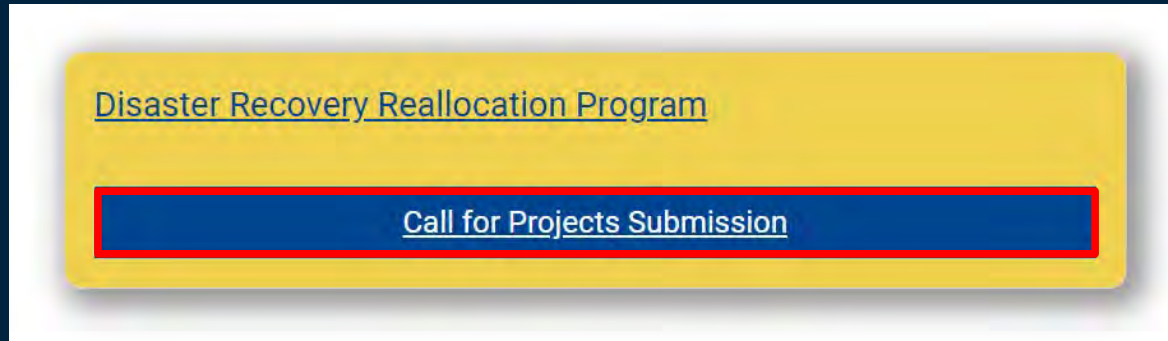
[Explore](#)

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Call for Projects: Submission Process

5. Click on “Call for Projects Submission” to complete the DRRP project(s) submission



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Call for Projects: Submission Process

Page 1:

☐ Instructions Page:

- o The DRRP Project(s) submission saves as you go but you **MUST**
 - Use the same computer
 - Use the same browser (e.g. Chrome, Internet Explorer)
- o Fill out all required information in each section

Page 2:

☐ Jurisdiction Information Section:

- o Jurisdiction name, type, and P.O. Box/physical address
- o Confirm an audit for the most recently completed fiscal year has been completed

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Call for Projects: Submission Process

Page 3:

- ❑ Contacts (as applicable):
 - Primary point of contact
 - Authorized Representative
 - Staff Member
 - Chief Elected Official
 - Grant Administrator

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Call for Projects: Submission Process

Page 4:

- ❑ Selection Criteria by Disaster Grant:
 - Select the number of projects you are submitting (3 maximum)
 - Select the location for the project(s) (county, city, tribal land)
 - Type in the name of location or zoom in on map and click on the area

*Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) select either city or county depending on the area affiliation

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Call for Projects: Submission Process

Page 5:

☐ Project Details:

- o Project type
- o Estimated number of months for contract completion
- o CDBG-DR request amount
- o Project leverage amount
- o National Objective
- o Select how the project will meet the national objective

***Note:** If submitting multiple projects, scroll to the top of the page and click on 2 and/or 3 to complete this section for each project

☐ Project Scores:

- o A score will be shown for each eligible grant
- o Select which disaster(s) you are eligible for

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Call for Projects: Submission Process

Page 6:

☐ Acknowledgements:

- o Demonstrate a tie-back to disaster
- o Undergo an Environmental Review Process
- o Subject to an AFFH review
- o Will be subject to a Construction End Date
- o Will comply with all deadlines enumerated by the GLO

☐ Click Submit

*An email will be sent acknowledging receipt of submission

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DRRP Call for Projects Submission deadline:
Thursday, November 21, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

Contact GLOCDR by phone or email

1-844 -893 -8937

cdr@recovery.texas.gov

recovery.texas.gov



Texas General Land Office



@glotx



@txglo

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89th Legislative Session Objectives

These objectives generally support any effort to encourage state agencies and partners to collaborate with regional councils to improve the health, safety and welfare of regions and enhance their communities' capacity.

Community and Economic Development

1. Support efforts to establish rural economic development programs utilizing regional councils as entities eligible to apply for and administer funds.
2. Support efforts to establish broadband programs utilizing regional councils as entities eligible to plan, apply for and administer funds.

Environmental Quality

1. Support maintaining the full appropriation of tipping fees and other available funding resources to regional councils for local and regional waste reduction programs, as provided by statute.
2. Support efforts to utilize resources for regional programs related to tire clean-up and illegal dumping.
3. Support efforts to utilize regional councils for air quality-related planning and programs.
4. Support efforts to utilize regional councils for water-related planning and programs.

Emergency Communication

1. Support efforts to allow regional councils the flexibility to use appropriations to meet local and regional needs as determined by the regional council board of directors.
2. Support the full appropriation and disbursement of the total dedicated revenue generated under and in compliance with Chapter 771 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
3. Support efforts to enhance appropriation levels and funding options to meet program needs authorized under Chapter 771 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Health and Human Services

1. Support the use of the State Planning Regions as designated by the Governor, pursuant to Chapter 391, Local Government Code, for more efficient regional decentralizations of public health and state health and human services programs.
2. Support legislation and appropriations to continue strengthening the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program through the 28 Area Agencies on Aging.
3. Support local and regional efforts to address unmet mental health needs.
4. Support legislation and appropriations to enhance Home Delivered Meals and other senior nutrition programs.

Public Safety Committee

1. Support efforts to enhance the recognition of the need for state funding investment and involvement in regional interoperability.
2. Support efforts by the state to regionalize disaster recovery support functions including but not limited to natural disasters & public health response and recovery.
3. Support efforts to create and provide a mechanism for funding cybersecurity training awareness and hardening for local governments through existing regional structures.
4. Support the establishment of a dedicated funding stream to support regional law enforcement academies and trainings and expanded funding for regional roles in criminal justice planning and supports.
5. Support adequate continued funding for the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division through the full appropriation of Fund 421.

Transportation

1. Support the use of regional councils of governments to unify and coordinate urban and rural transportation planning.
2. Support state and federal initiatives to provide funding for regional councils of governments to actively provide transportation planning and coordination as Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs).
3. Support the implementation of multi-modal transportation initiatives that result in increased transportation options for all Texans, all counties, and economic stimulus for the state.
4. Support the collaboration between Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Mobility Authorities (RMAs) to seek federal funding to address regional multi-modal transportation needs.
5. Support efforts to fund regional programs to provide rural transit to unserved and underserved counties.

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

October 30, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) membership.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) solicited for nominations for EDAC committee members to serve. Each nomination form was reviewed and selected based upon their qualifications, experience, and interest.

At the September 26, 2024, EDAC meeting, the committee approved the following nominations:

Membership Category	Entity
Texas Workforce Development	Workforce Solutions – Hidalgo County
Texas Workforce Development	Workforce Solutions – Cameron County
Member-at-Large	COSTEP

These approved nominations will make these membership categories full.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

October 30, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Updating LRGVDC 2025-2030 CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) – Through the developed Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC), they will strengthen the CEDS for the region, as well as assist in the input and development of that regional plan.

A CEDS survey has been sent out to our stakeholders, EDC, Chambers, CVBS, Special EDOs, Workforce Solutions, and other economic development entities, to finalize our strategies and goals. If you have not filled out the survey yet, no worries, use the QR Code to get the CEDS survey link. **DEADLINE FOR DATA COLLECTION IS OCTOBER 31, 2024.**



LRGVDC CED'S Survey QR Code



The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (2) Special EDO, and (1) Institute of Higher Learning. 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.

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Meetings are held hybrid at the LRGVDC Small Board Room and via GoToMeeting.

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

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

- Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

A virtual RSCC Meeting was held on October 08, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Ms. Lisa Mutchler from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) discussed the importance of strategic planning for small communities. These were the key points discussed:

- Realistic Process: Strategic planning provides a realistic framework with a clear mission and achievable goals, outlined in action plans.
- SMART Goals: Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART).
- Economic Development: Strategic planning is crucial for economic development. It helps determine the viability of funding efforts and includes a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote the community.
- Community Involvement: Everyone in the community, including council members, staff, and citizens, should act as ambassadors to support and promote the strategic plan.
- Prioritization and Momentum: Facilitating a strategic plan requires careful prioritization to maintain momentum, as the process can take longer than expected.
- Flexibility and Adaptation: Plans must be flexible to adapt to changes, such as legislative shifts or economic fluctuations, ensuring businesses have the necessary tools to thrive.

Ms. Mutchler enlightened that by following these principles, small communities can effectively plan for their future and ensure sustainable development.

Ms. Melisa Gonzalez-Rosas has been actively presenting at various city council meetings to explain the role of the Community and Economic Development Department within the community. This month she presented at the Sullivan City council meeting. Ms. Gonzales-Rosas distributed departmental brochures to the city for wider community dissemination. Staff has also visited all the cities valley wide to distribute these brochures.



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

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

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

On October 1, 2024, staff co-hosted with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) a stakeholder feedback session to accept public comment for consideration during development of the 2025 One Year Action Plan (OYAP) and 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. The OYAP identifies the intended use of funds received by the TxCDBG program for Program Year 2025. The Consolidated plan illustrates the state's strategies in addressing the priority needs and specific goals and objectives that the state aims to accomplish throughout the 2025-2029 Plan. In addition, TDA staff provided a summary of TxCDBG program updates and upcoming funding opportunities.



Additionally, during this meeting, TDA organized an introductory Regional Kick-off Meeting for communities in the LRGV Region that received CDBG awards.

Congratulations to the following cities for their successful grant application!



ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024, THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HELD A TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2024 GRANT AWARDS CEREMONY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING AWARDEES !



- LOS INDIOS
- SAN PERLITA
- LA FERIA
- CAMERON COUNTY
- HIDALGO COUNTY
- RIO GRANDE CITY

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

- **Solid Waste Management Program:**

LRGVDC staff went to the City of Alton on October 8, 2024, to conduct a site on the Solid Waste grant project # 24-21-02

City of Alton:

The City of Alton used the Solid Waste Grant \$30,000 to acquire six 30-yard roll-off containers. Since the project's launch, the city has been servicing these containers weekly, collecting tires, white goods, construction debris, recycling materials, and other waste. Mr. Mauro Sandoval the Public Works Director mentioned to us that this program has been highly effective, benefiting both the Alton community and the surrounding areas.



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has approved the C&ED department to explore becoming a Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) affiliate. KTB offers several benefits for communities focused on environmental improvement:

- **Resources:** Access to tools for litter prevention, waste management, recycling, and beautification.
- **Education:** Programs and materials to educate residents on environmental stewardship.
- **Grants:** Eligibility for funding opportunities to support local projects.

- **Networking:** Connections with other communities and volunteers for collaboration.
- **Recognition:** Annual awards that boost community pride and visibility.
- **Volunteer Support:** Assistance in mobilizing volunteers for community cleanups and projects.

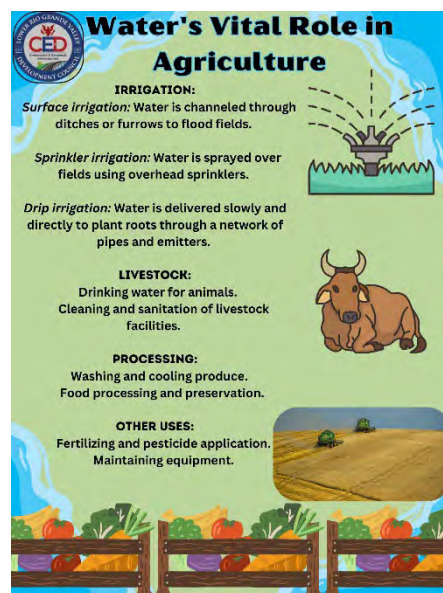
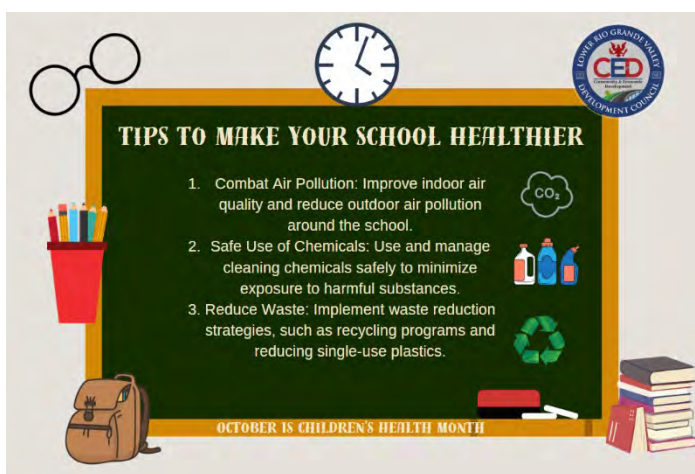
These benefits help affiliates foster cleaner, more beautiful, and sustainable communities.

The next Virtual Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be on December 03, 2024, at 2:00 PM via GoToMeeting platform.

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 continue to educate the public on water quality issues with monthly themed Facebook posts. Give a thumbs up or leave a comment! Other outreach efforts for this program include staff attending in-person events, and or in partnership with other LRGVDC departments, and outside organizations. This allows for great C&ED program promotion opportunities for the community. Informational reading material and promotional items on water quality are distributed at these events. In addition, staff has gone out to hand deliver brochures (that include our water resources information) & water quality promo items to our local entities to introduce our department and inform our local entities of our water resource website and let them know that staff is available to aid or answer questions regarding water quality, water projects, or anything water related, if they are unable to find it on our Water Resource Website.



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

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

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

On October 10, 2024, staff participated in a USIBWC Floodway Tour. The tour included visits to the Retamal Dam, Anzaldúa's Dam, and various natural floodways and retaining walls. During the tour, staff observed the extensive maintenance and facilitation efforts required by the IBWC, as well as the natural beauty of floodways and boundaries formed by nature throughout the Rio Grande Valley (RGV). Staff explored the dams, control rooms, and generators, gaining insight into the operations and challenges faced by the IBWC and their collaboration with their Mexican counterparts. This tour highlighted the critical and meticulous work involved in managing the RGV's floodways.



The FIF Regional Coordinator continue to assist with installations and monitoring RTHS sites for Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron counties. Site visits will continue, and during reinvents visiting will be high priority to see these stations in action taking in and producing data.

Staff continue to work with Hidalgo & Cameron Counties for the Flood infrastructure Funds (FIF), TWDB Project No. 40038. The counties will undertake Task 2.2 (Drainage Characterization) and Task 2.3 (Project Assessments) of the TWDB Project No. 40038. The FIF project requires the development, processing, and contracting for characterizing drainage pathways, identifying flood control projects, and assessing the feasibility of those projects; and procures qualified engineering firms and staff to conduct engineering and drainage projects regularly. The project has been approved by TWDB for a no-cost time extension until August 31, 2027.

RWRAC meeting was held on September 11th, the meeting was very informative and provided several water issue and project updates. The following information was presented and shared with the committee: Regional Flood Planning Group #15, GLO Resilient Communities Program & Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, FIF 2nd Cycle, TWDB Funding Opportunities, Region 15 FIF State Plan, and update on the LRGVDC FIF Project. The next RWRAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

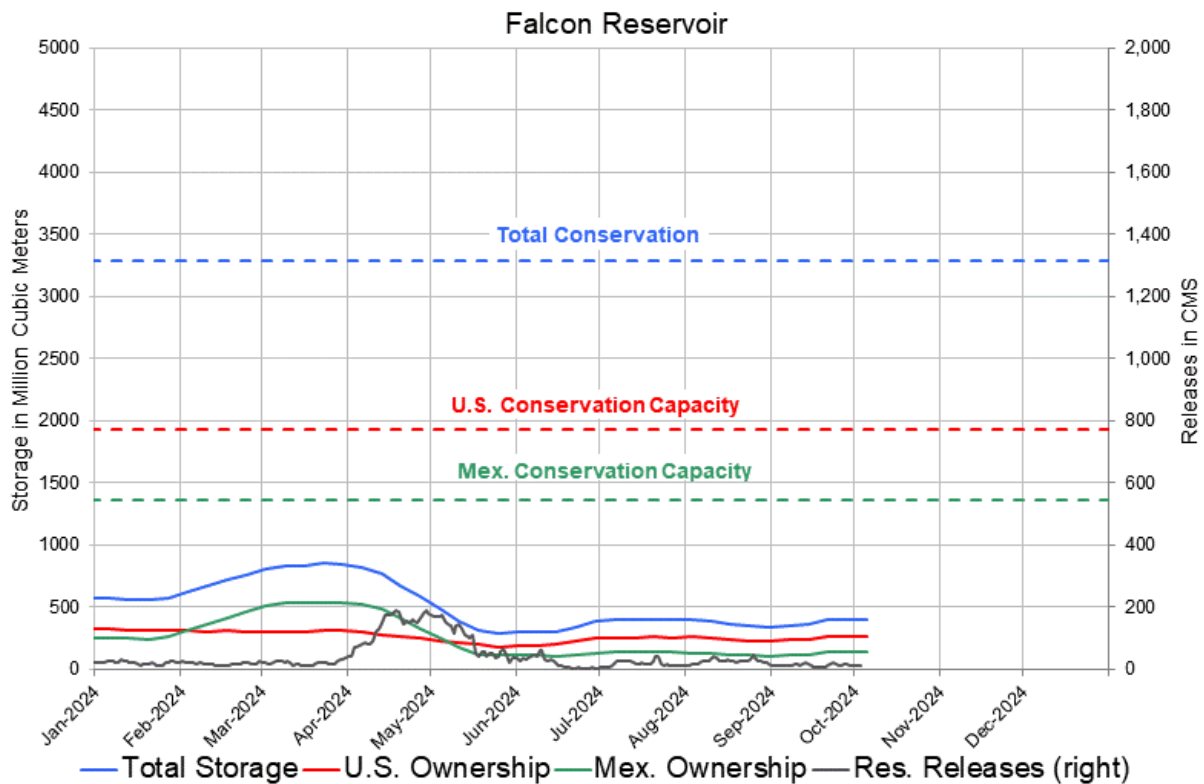
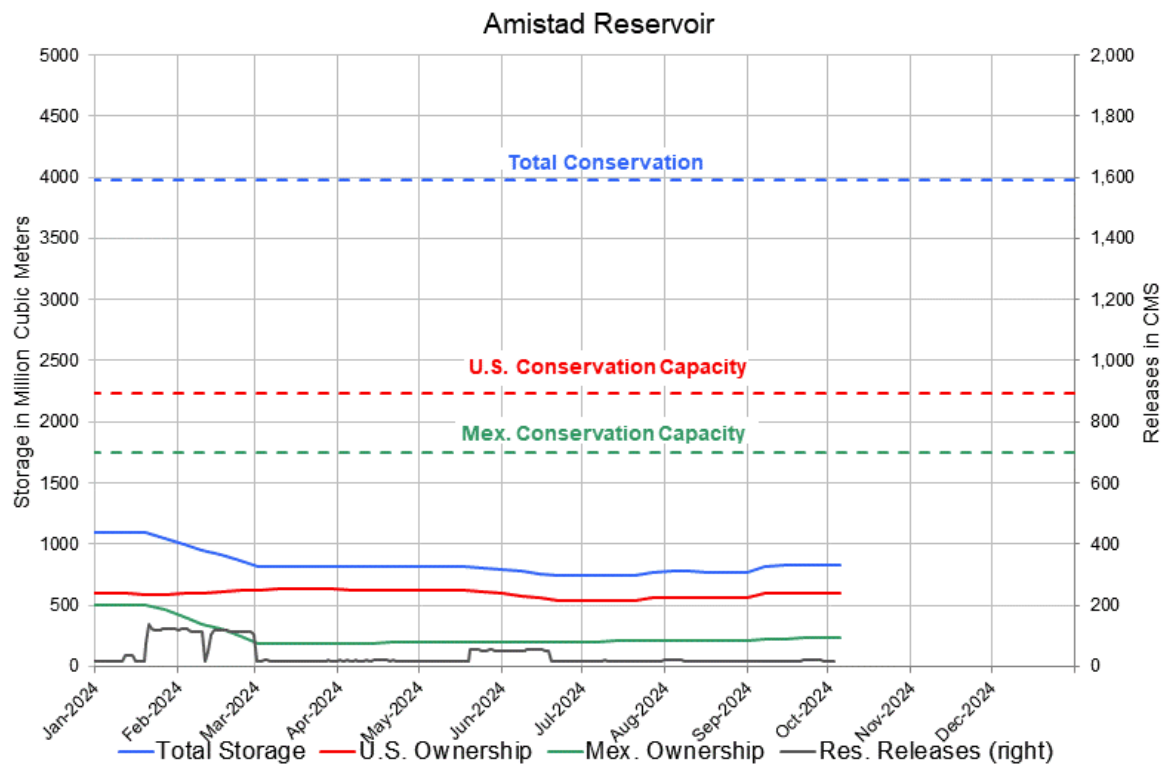
Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The next Region M Group meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2024, at 9:30 am. Meetings are held hybrid at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room and via GoToMeeting.

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

- Reservoir Levels as of October 14, 2024 (taken from IBWC: [Home - IBWC](#))



ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

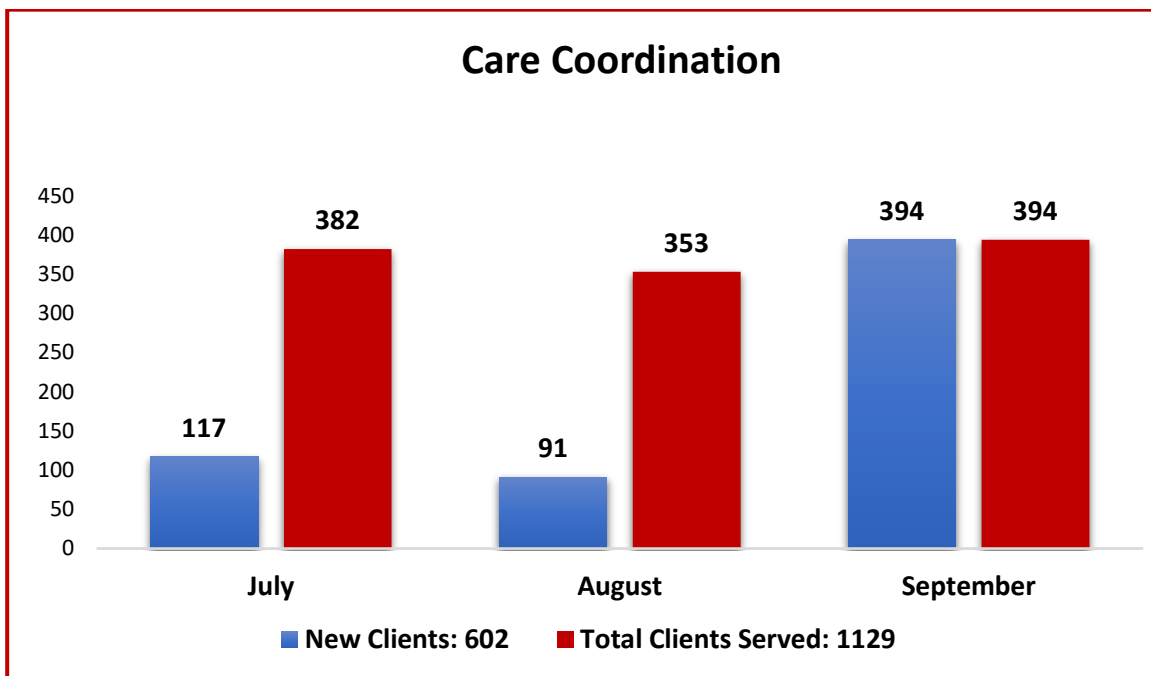
Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

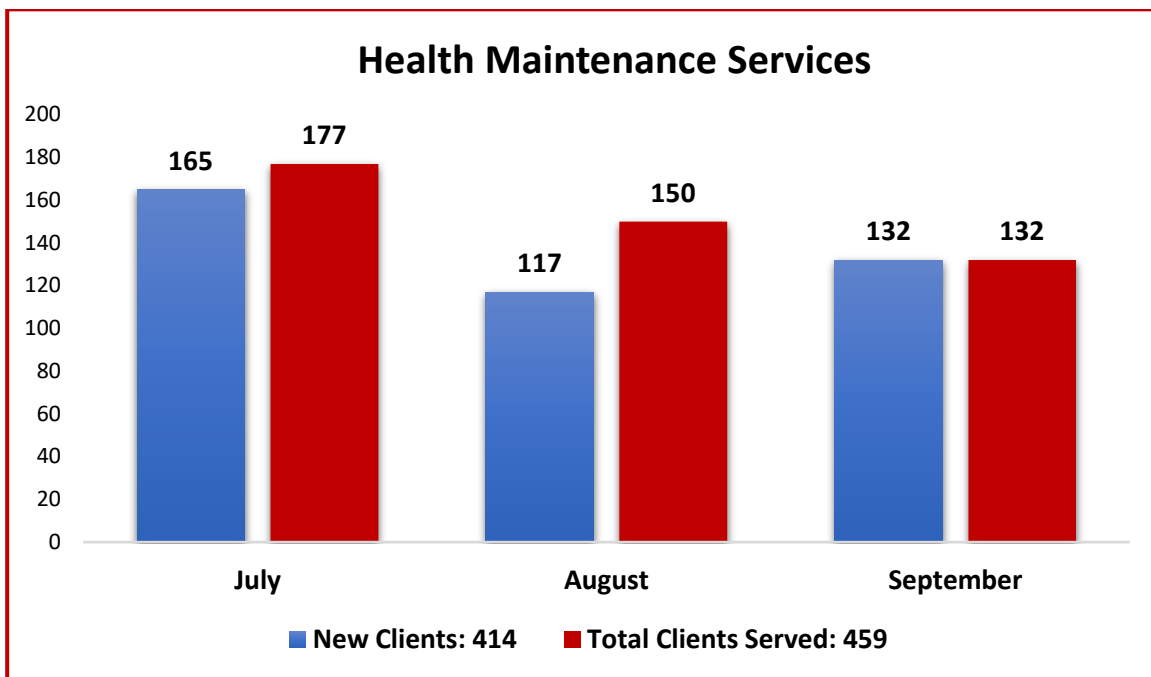
Area Agency on Aging Status Report

This document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's 4th quarter report for FY 2024, encompassing data from July 2024 to September 2024.

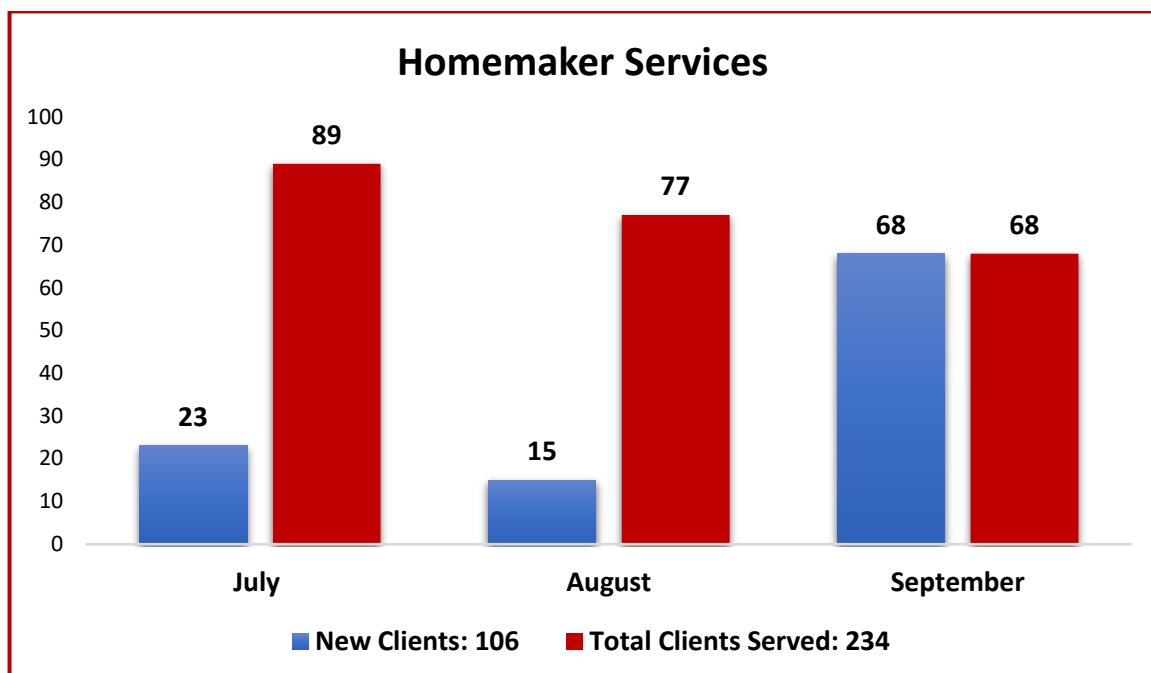
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Program**
 - o The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 602 new clients.
 - o A total of 1,129 individuals were provided with case management assistance.



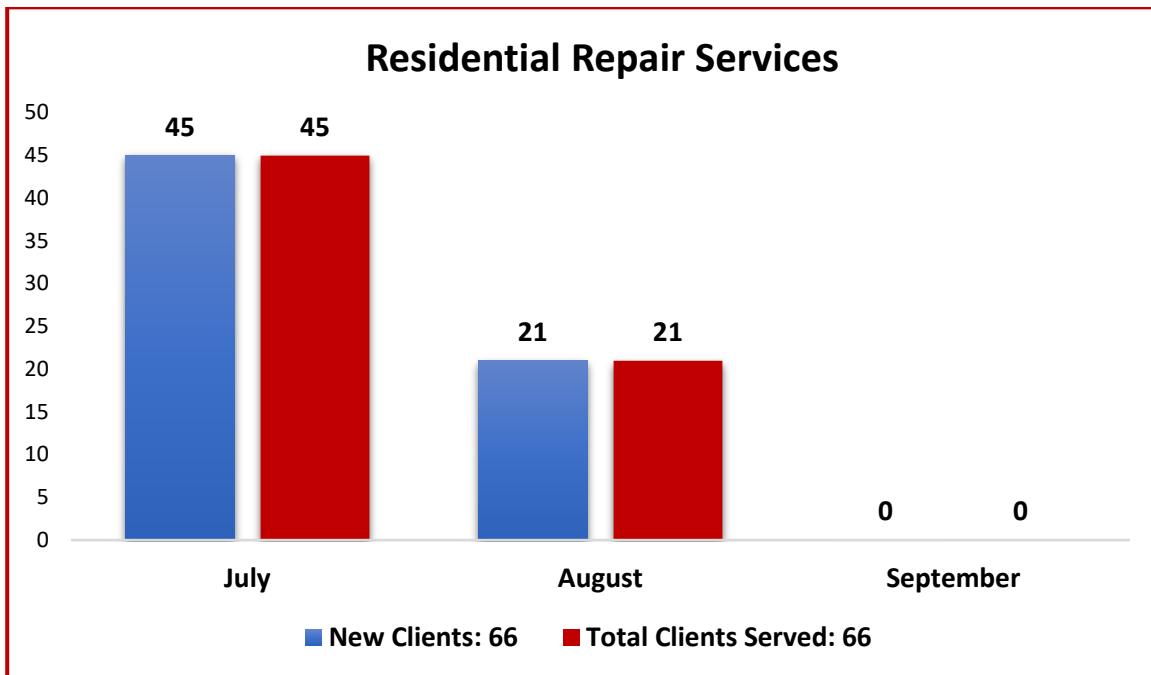
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**
 - o A total of 414 new clients were assisted in the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment.
 - o A total of 459 individuals were assisted by health maintenance services.



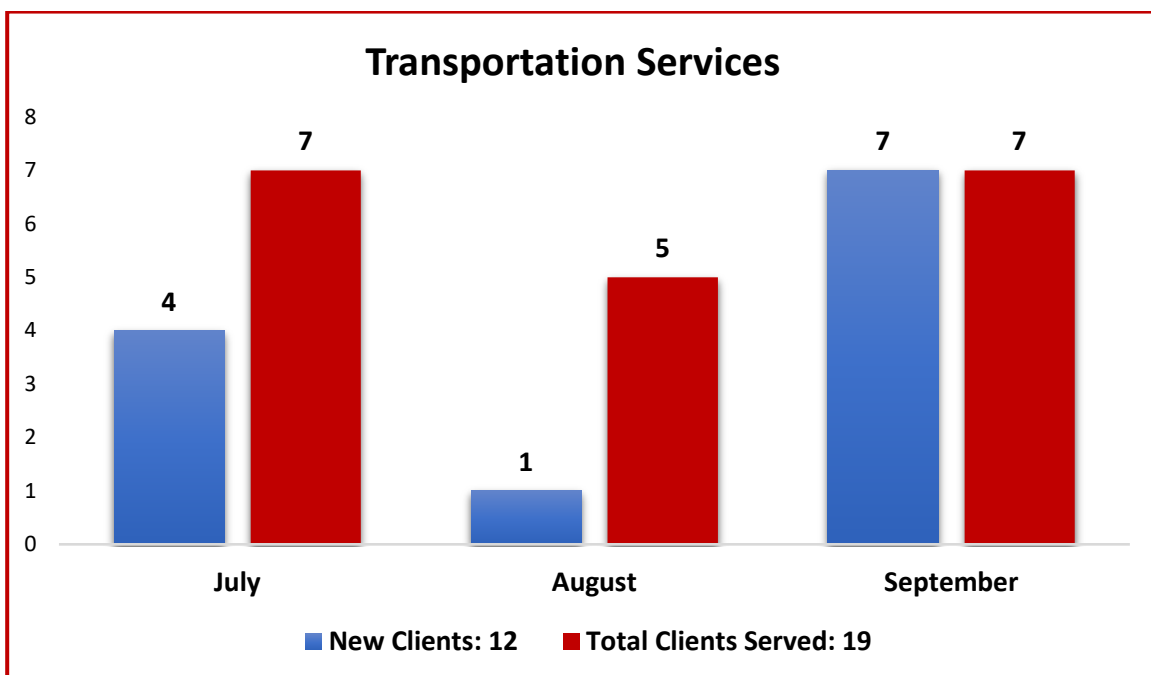
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Homemaker Services**
 - o A total of 106 new clients were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
 - o In the fourth quarter, 234 individuals received homemaker service.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Residential Repair Services**
 - A total of 66 individuals were provided with assistance with home modifications, such as grab bars, ramps, and removing tubs and installing walk-in showers to reduce the risk of falls and improve access and mobility.

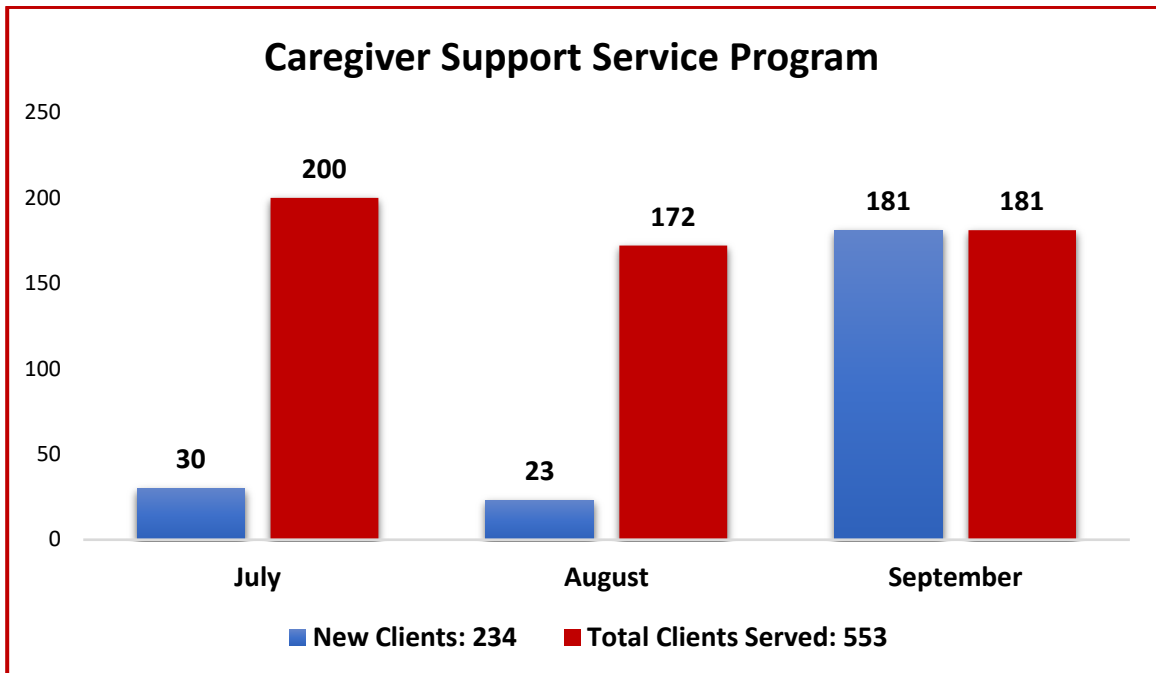


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Transportation Services**
 - A total of 12 new clients were provided with transportation services to medical related appointments.
 - In the fourth quarter, 19 individuals received transportation services.



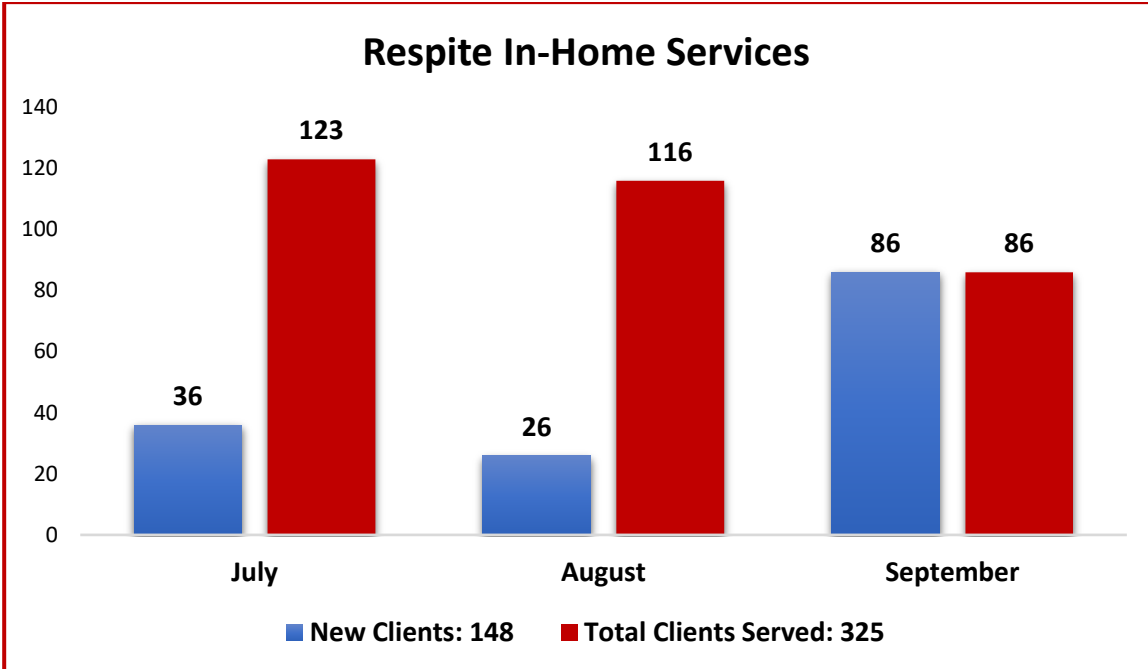
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services Program**

- o The Caregiver Support Services Program serviced a total of 234 new clients.
- o A total of 553 individuals were provided with assistance.



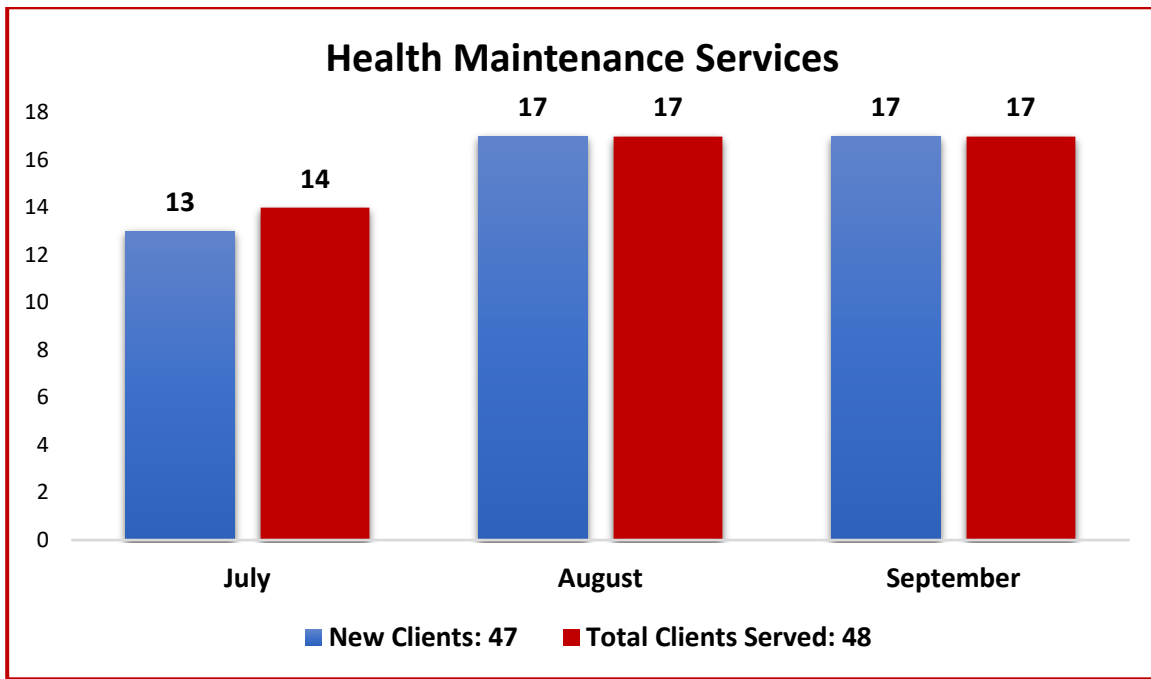
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Respite In-Home Services**

- o A total of 148 new clients were provided with respite in-home services, such as light housekeeping, personal care, feeding, grooming, and transferring from bed to chair.
- o A total of 325 individuals were provided with respite in-home services.

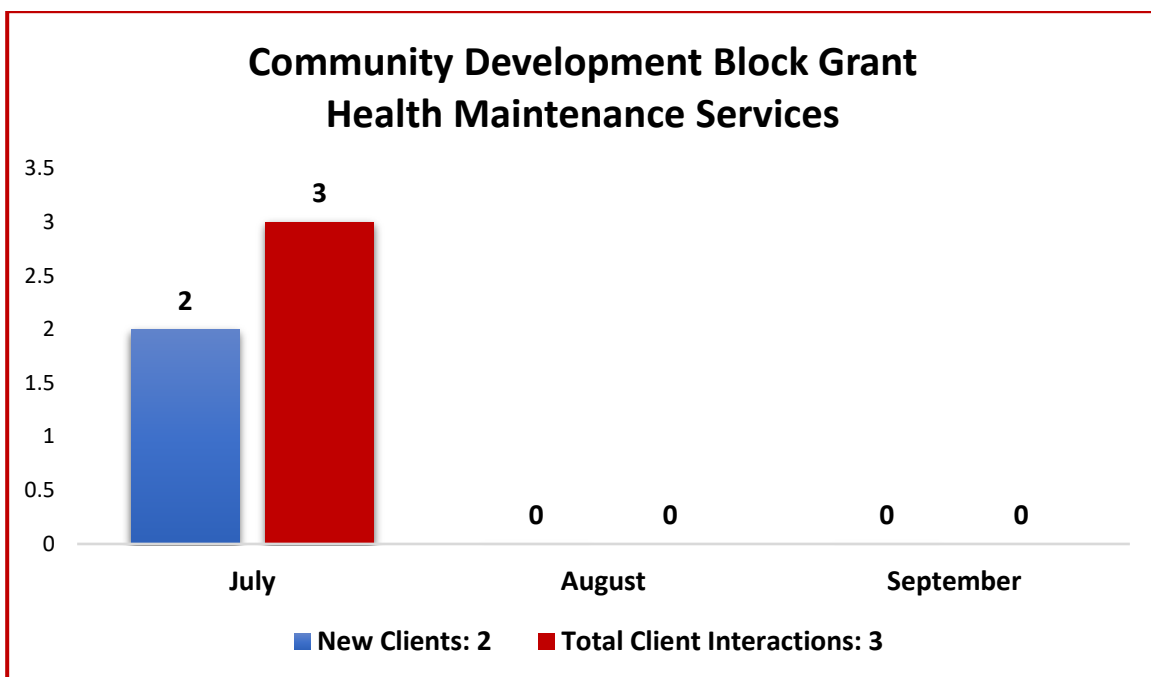


- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**

- A total of 48 clients were assisted through the Caregiver Support Program for the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment to support the care recipient. This one-time service is typically allocated for a single encounter.
- A total of 47 new clients were served, representing the final count of individuals assisted through this one-time service, typically allocated for a single encounter.

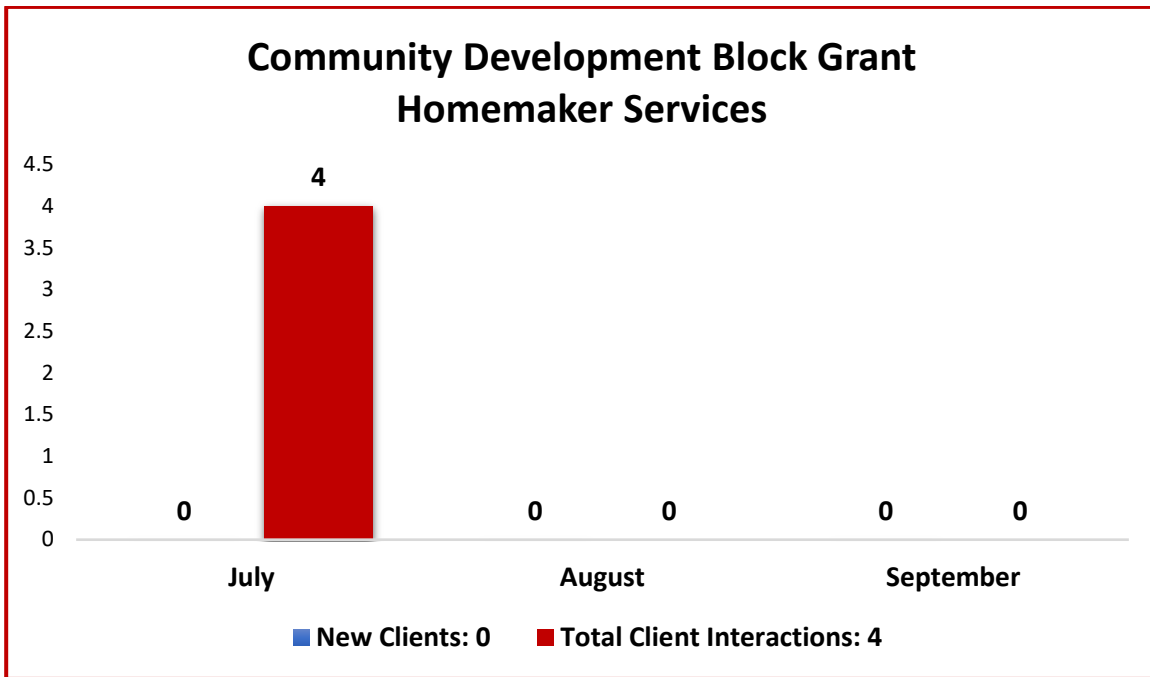


- **Direct Consumer Report - Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services**
 - o A total of 3 clients were assisted through the Community Development Block Grant for the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment to support the care recipient. This one-time service is typically allocated for a single encounter.
 - o A total of 2 new clients were served, representing the final count of individuals assisted through this one-time service, typically allocated for a single encounter.
 - o All funds expended in the month of July



- **Direct Consumer Report - Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services**

- o In the fourth quarter, 4 individuals were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
- o All funds expended in the month of July.

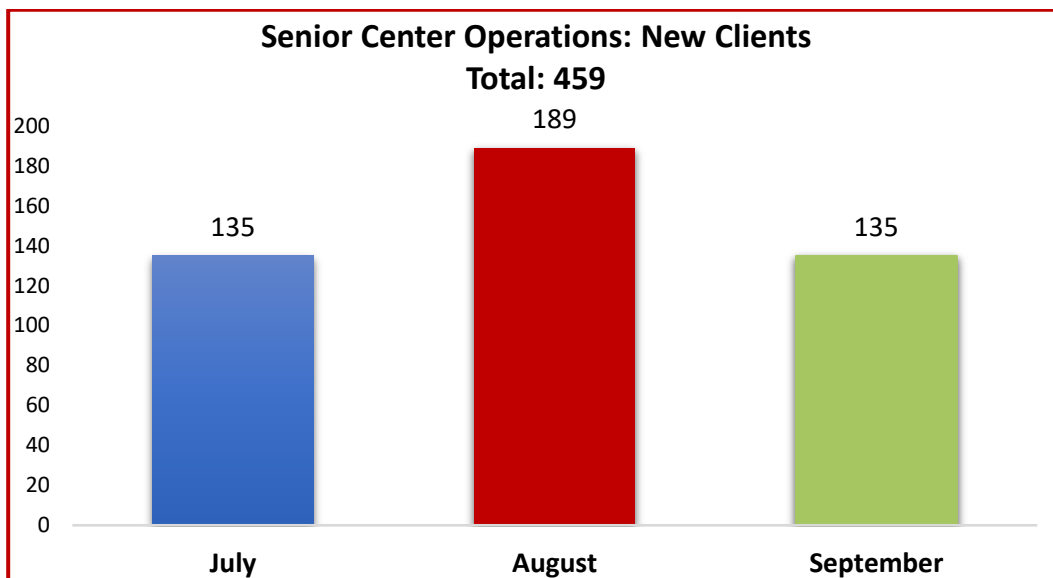
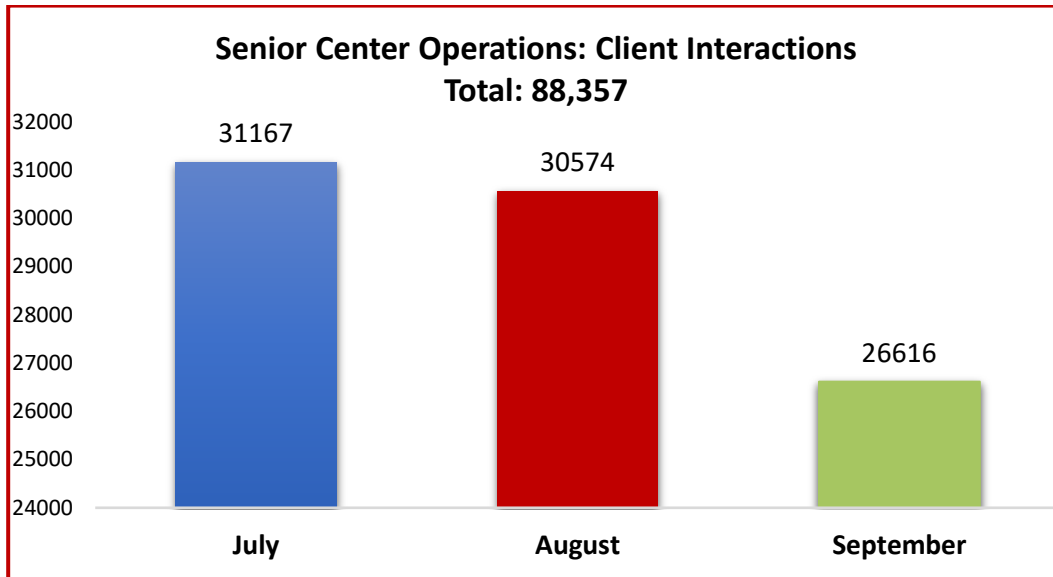


- **Direct Consumer Services – Interest List**

As of September 30,2024, 1,806 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging.

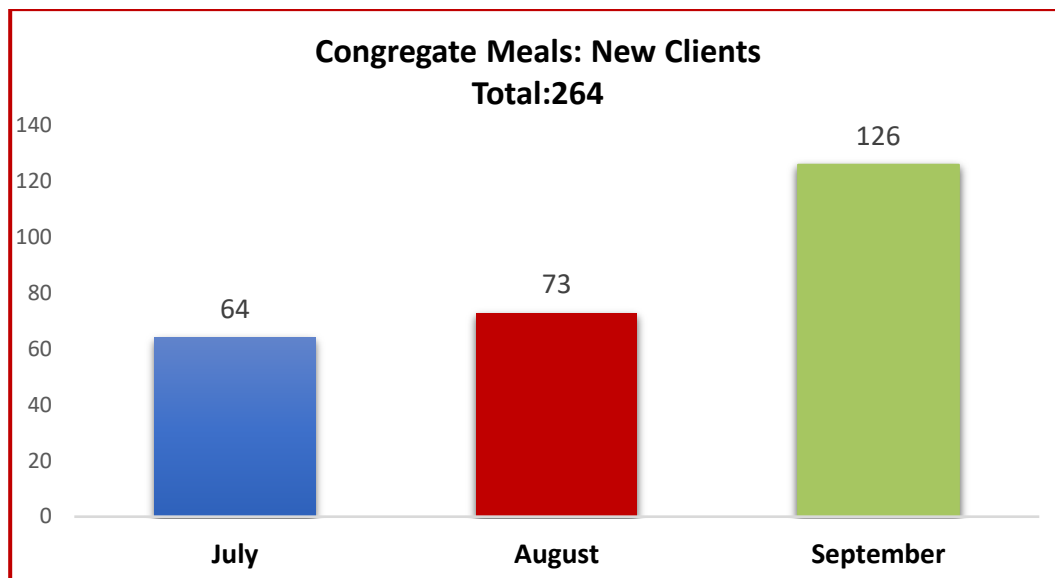
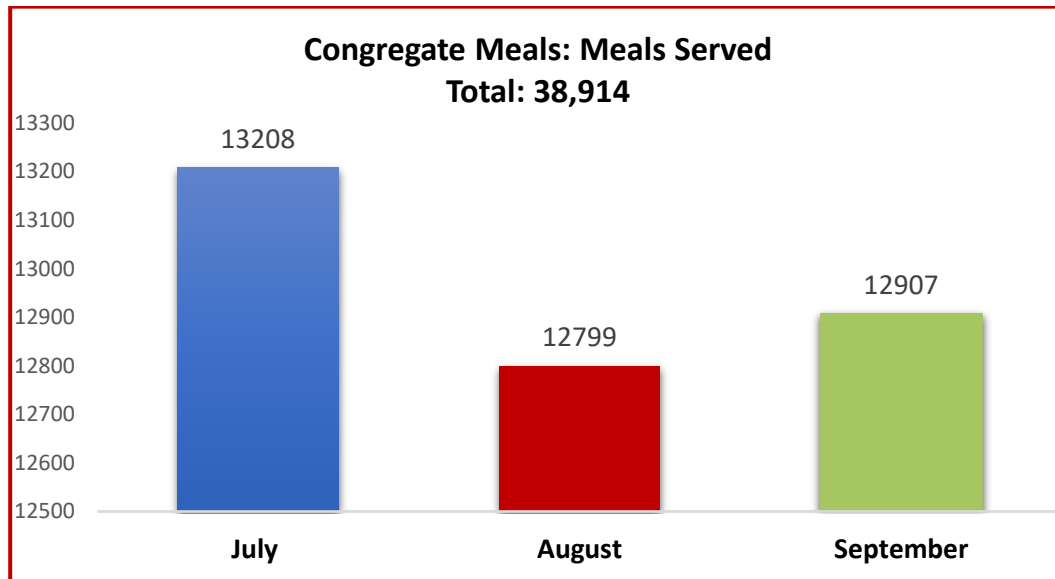
- **Senior Center Operations Report**

- o Program successfully enrolled 459 new clients.
- o Senior Centers conducted 88,357 activities with their clients.



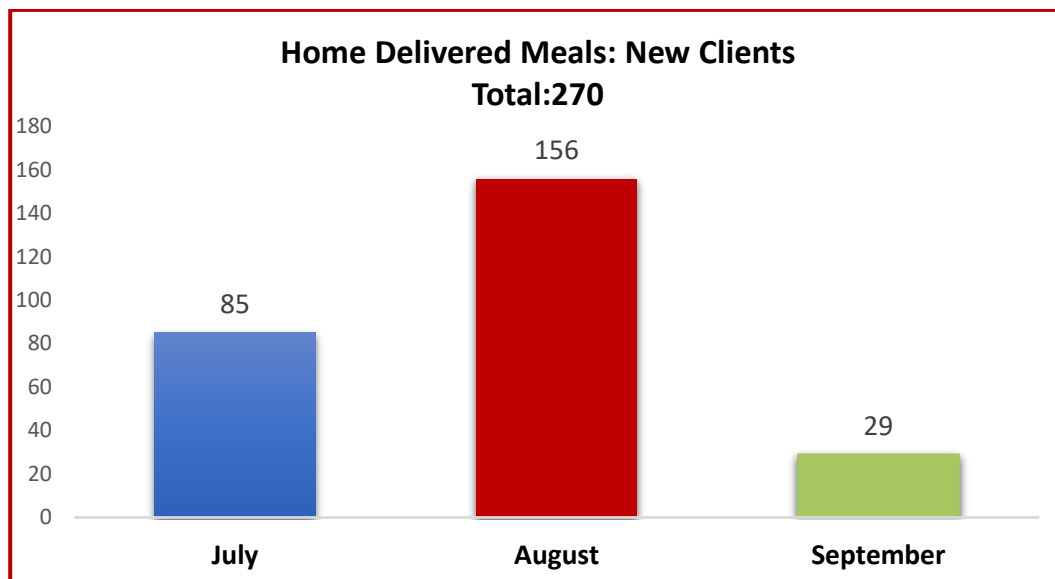
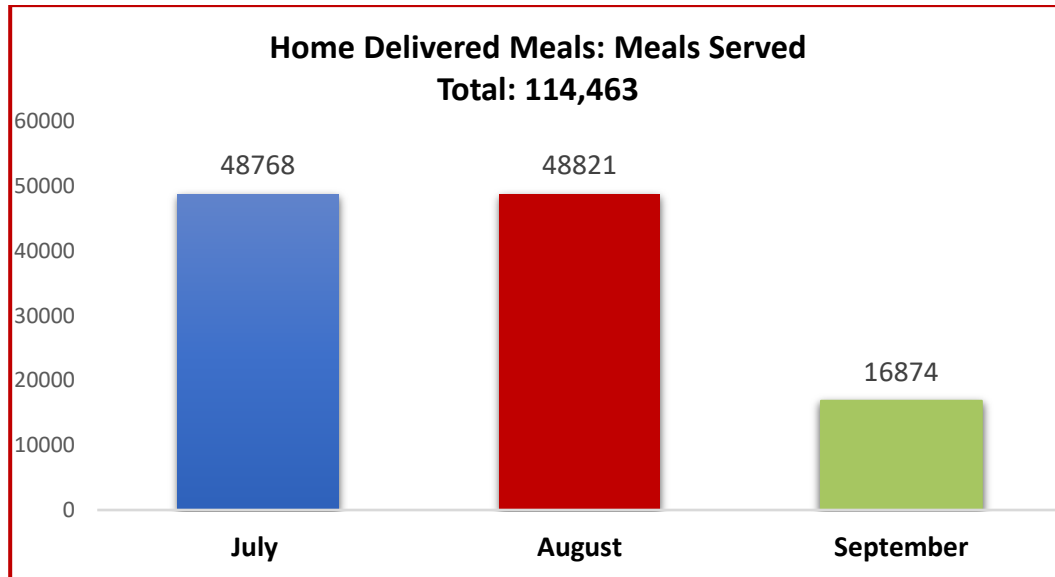
- **Nutrition Program Report – Congregate Meals**

- o Program successfully enrolled 264 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- o Program successfully administered 38,914 Congregate meals.



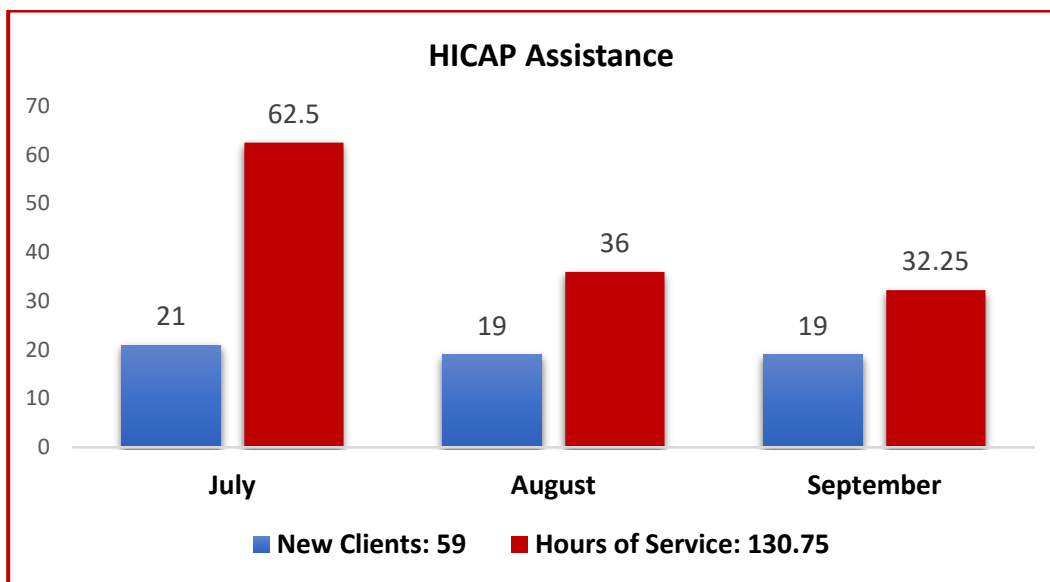
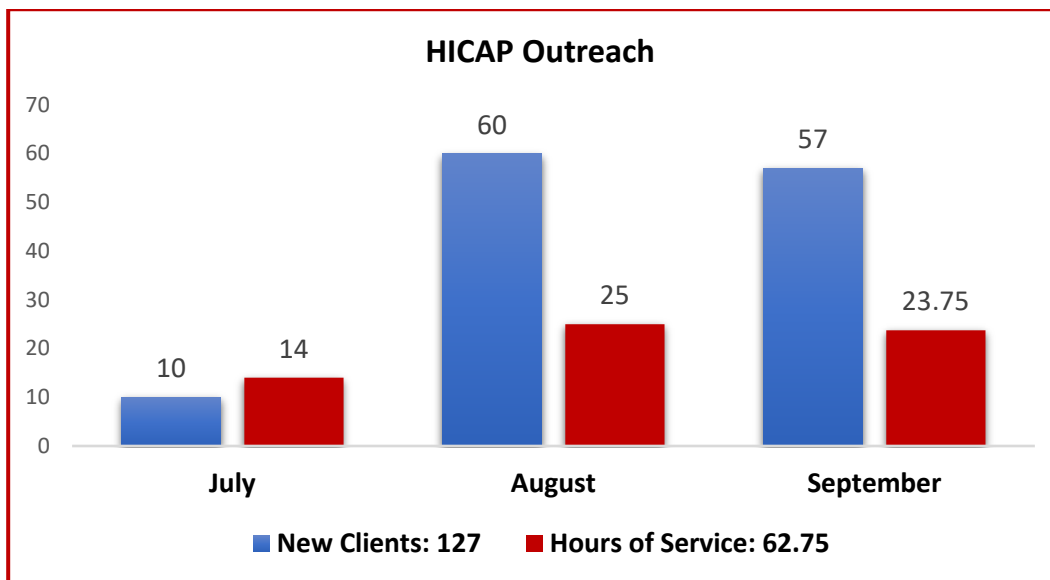
- **Nutrition Program Report – Home Delivered Meals**

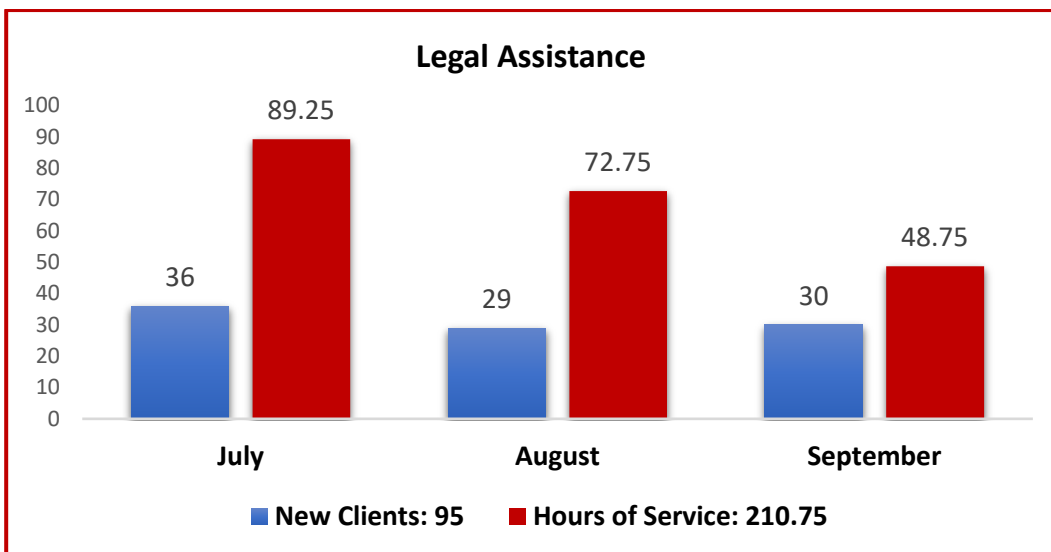
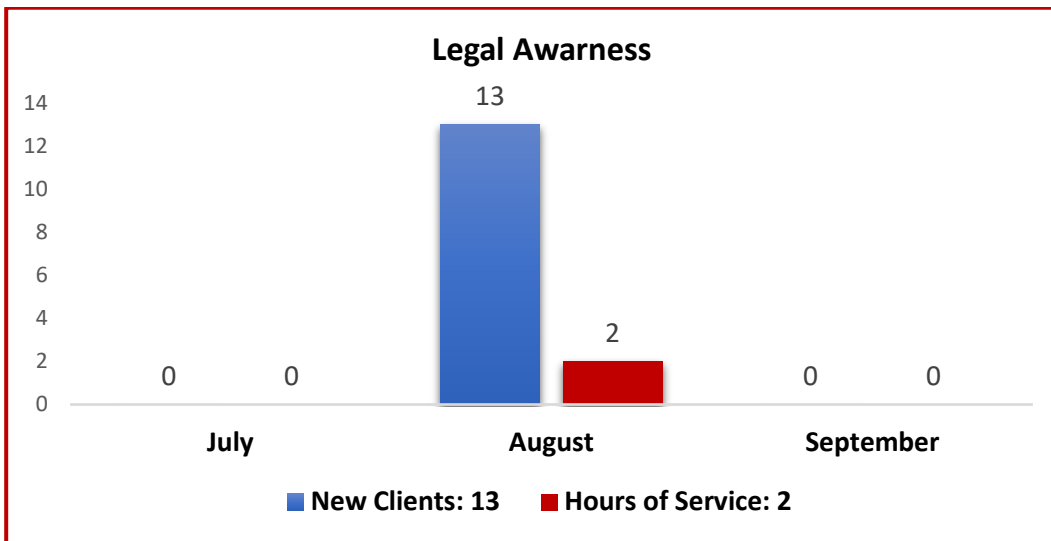
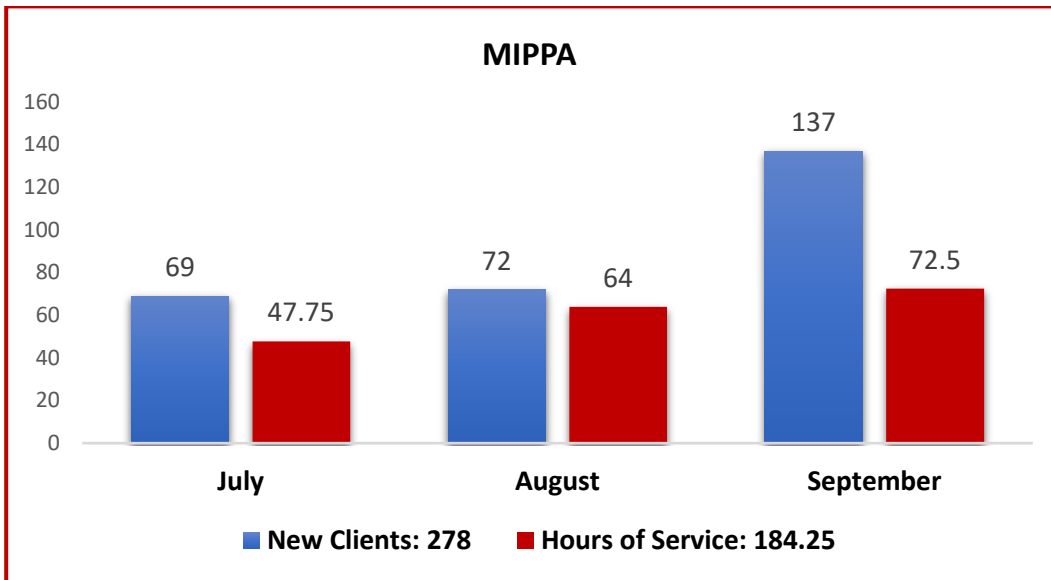
- o Successfully enrolled 270 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program.
- o Successfully served 114,463 Home Delivered meals.



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

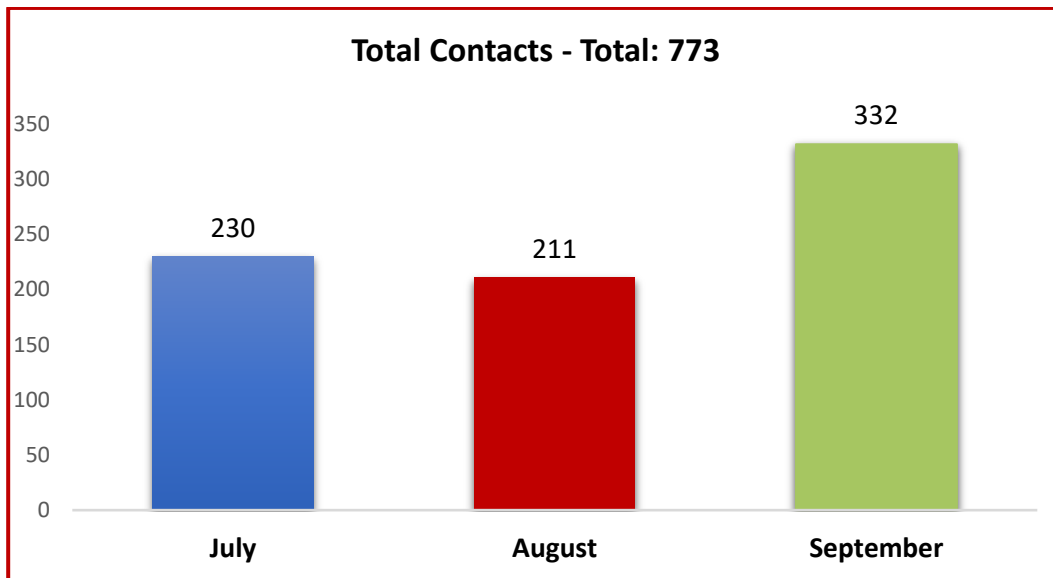
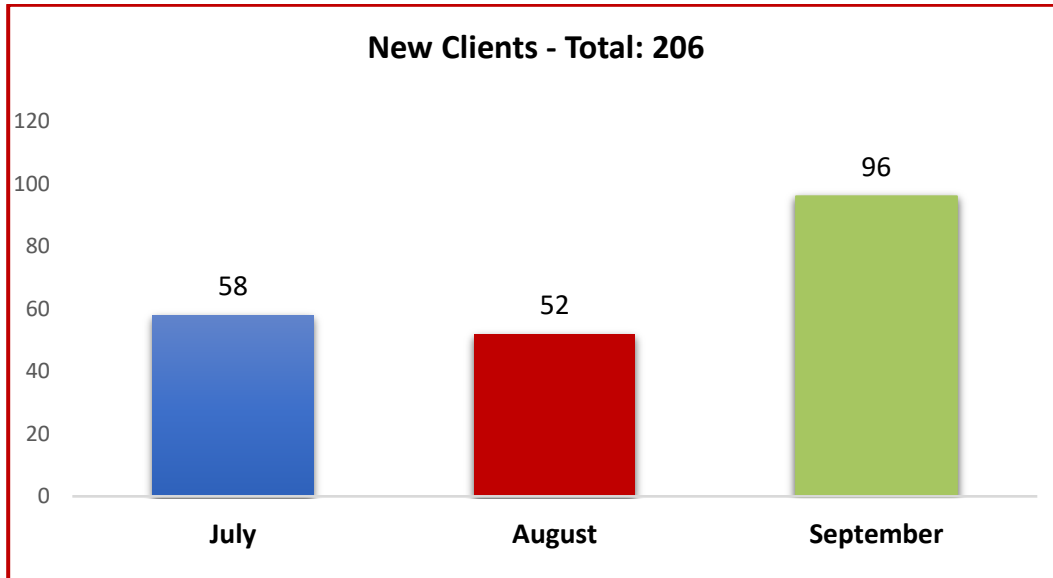
- Achieved the enrollment of 572 new clients and established 590.5 contacts.





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

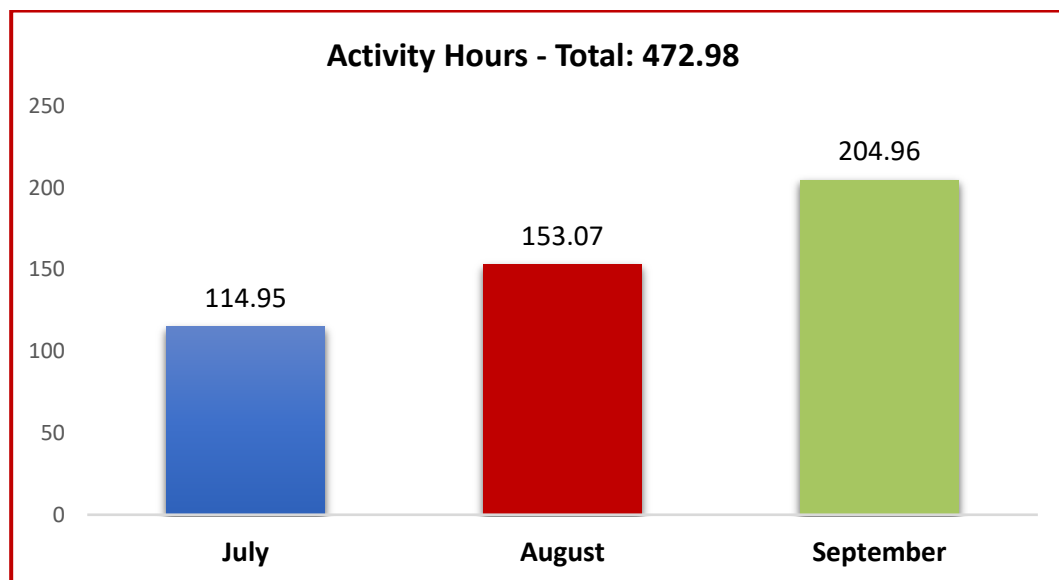
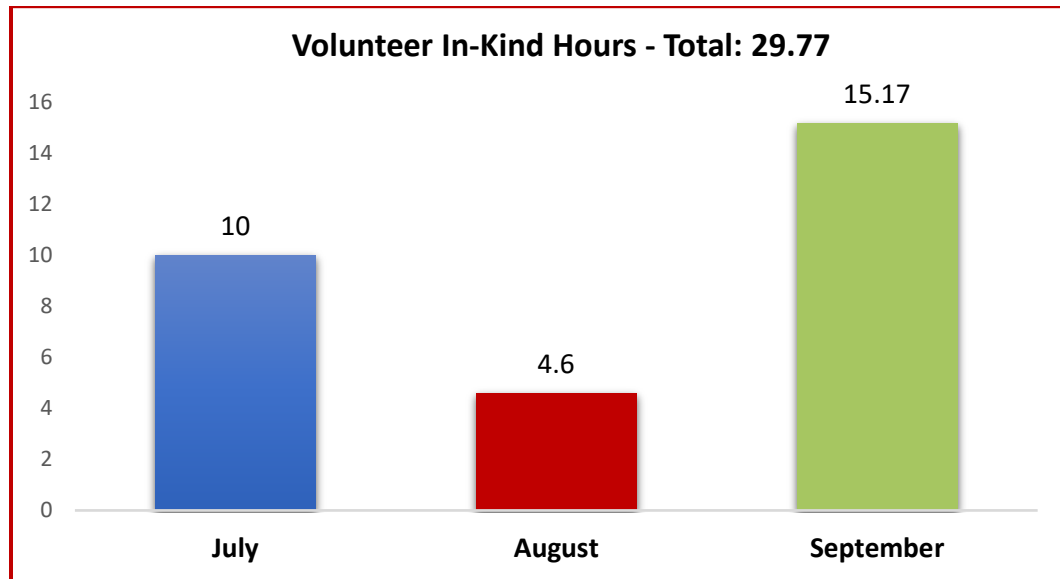
- **Special Services Report – Care Transition Intervention (CTI)**
 - During the 4th quarter, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 206 new clients.
 - They made 773 contacts across a total of six hospitals within the tri-county area.

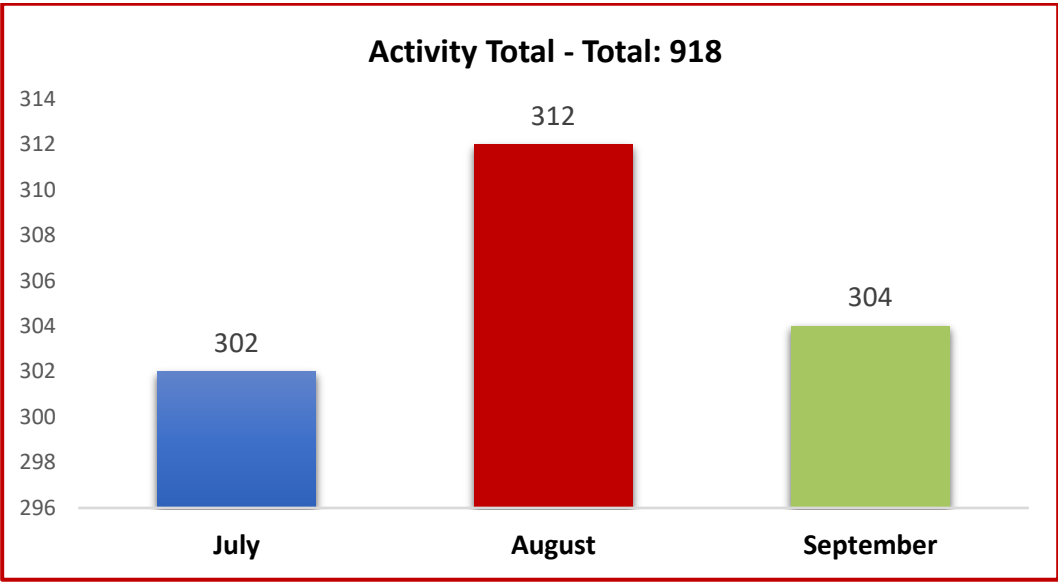
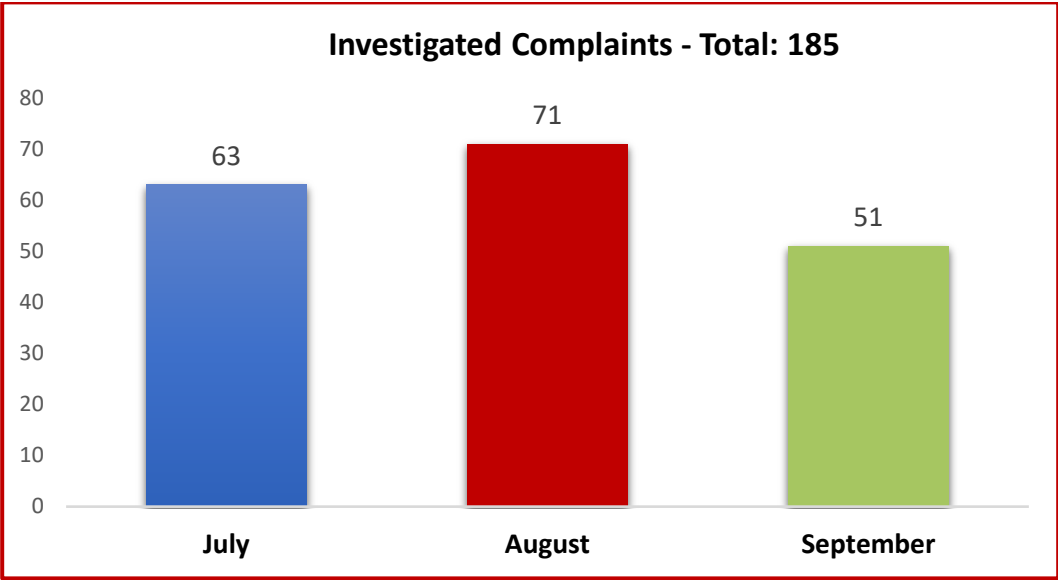


*6 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, Mission Regional Medical Center, and Edinburg Regional Medical Center

- **Special Services Report – Ombudsman Program**

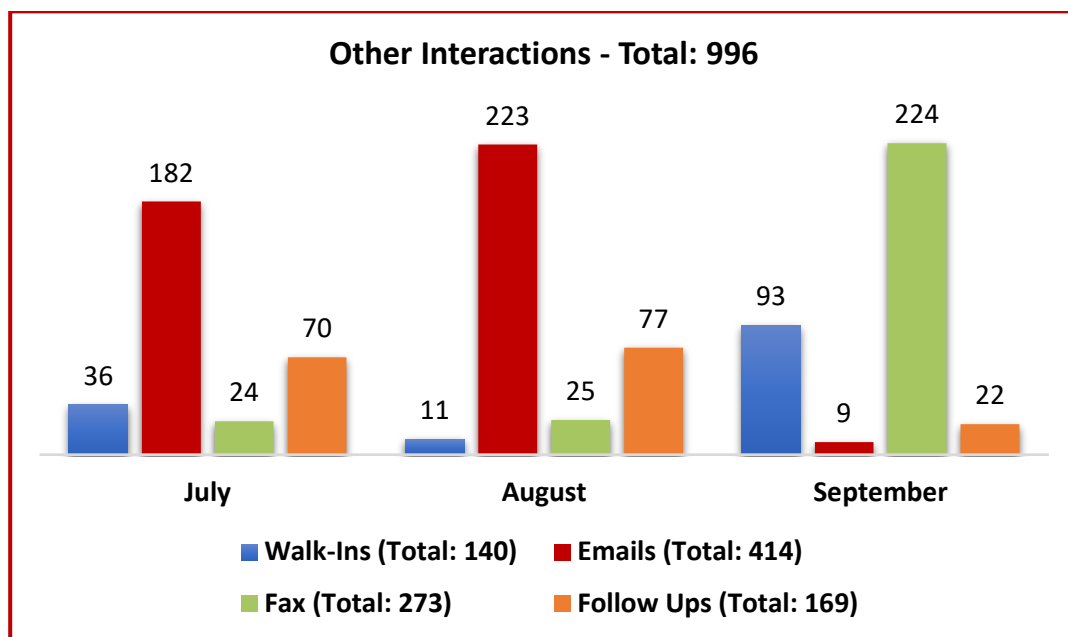
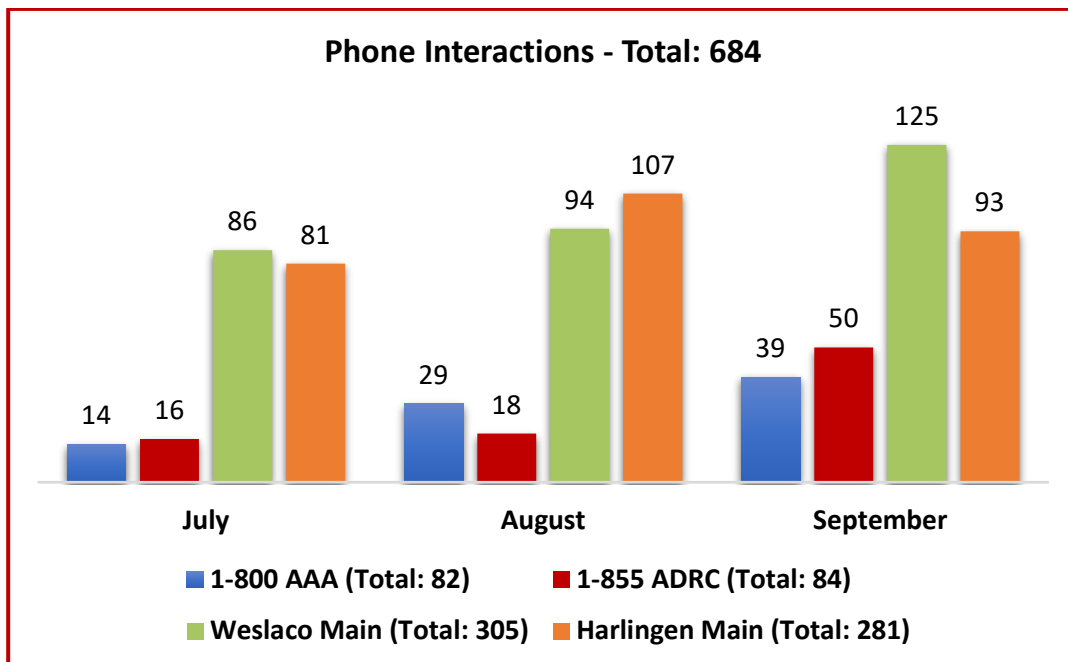
- o The Ombudsman handled 185 complaints.
- o They dedicated 472.98 activity hours and recorded 918 activity totals.
- o The volunteers collectively contributed 29.77 in-kind hours. Currently training 4 volunteers.

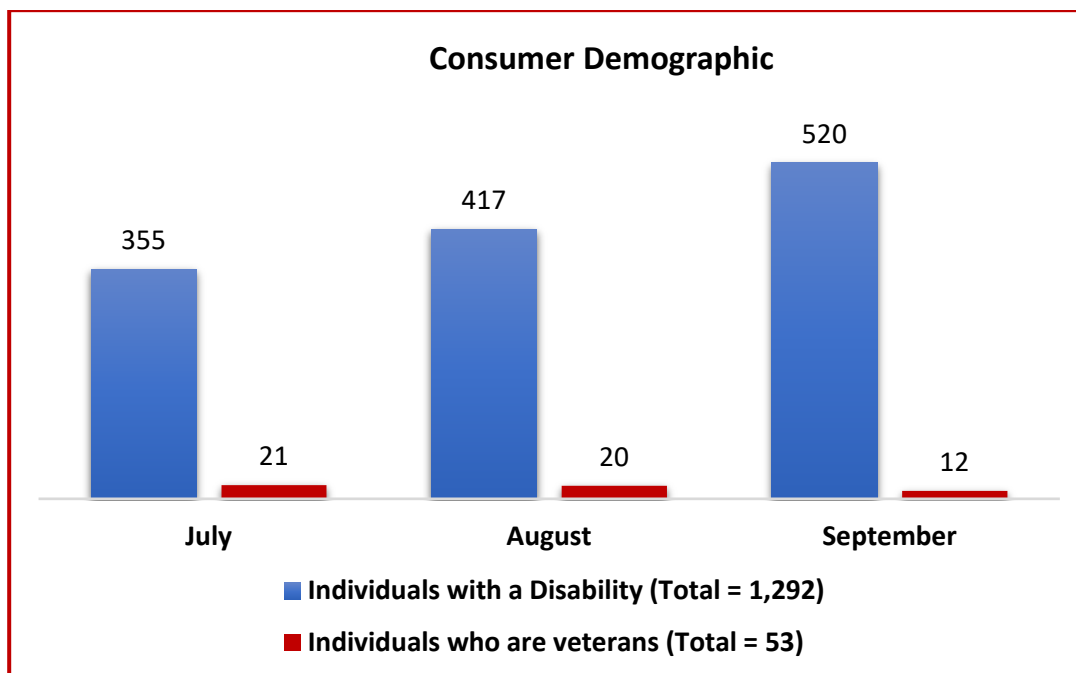
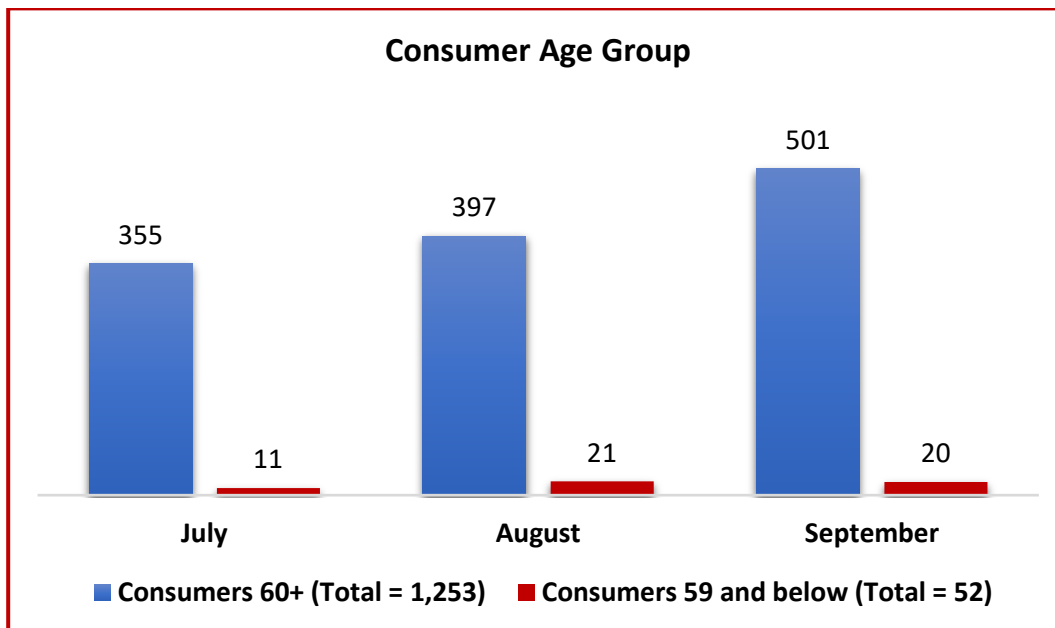




o Information Referral and Assistance

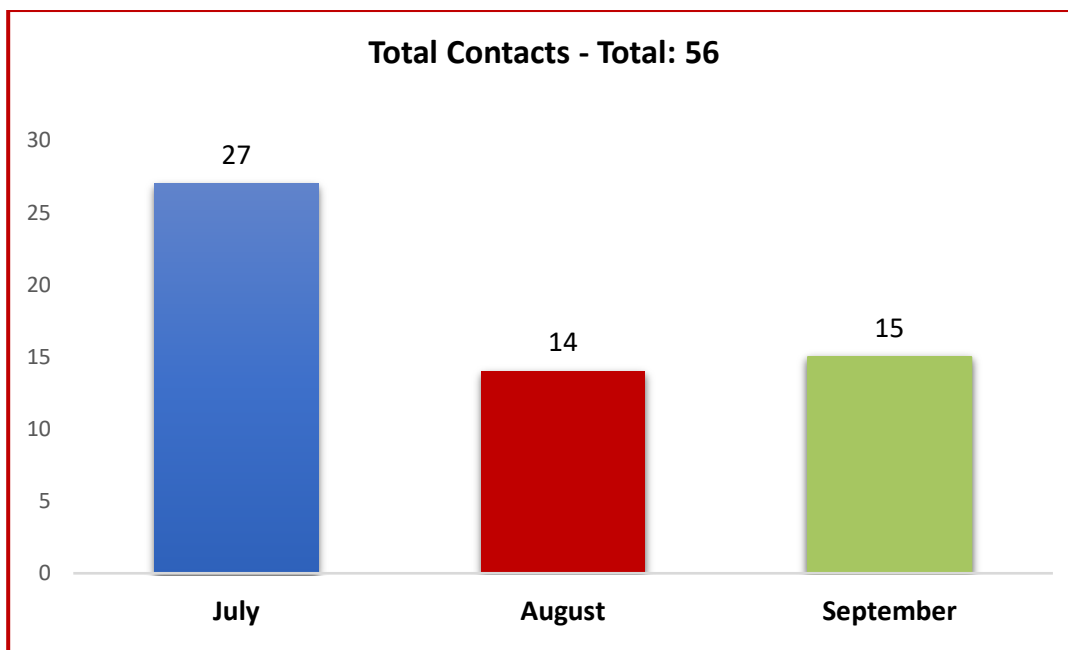
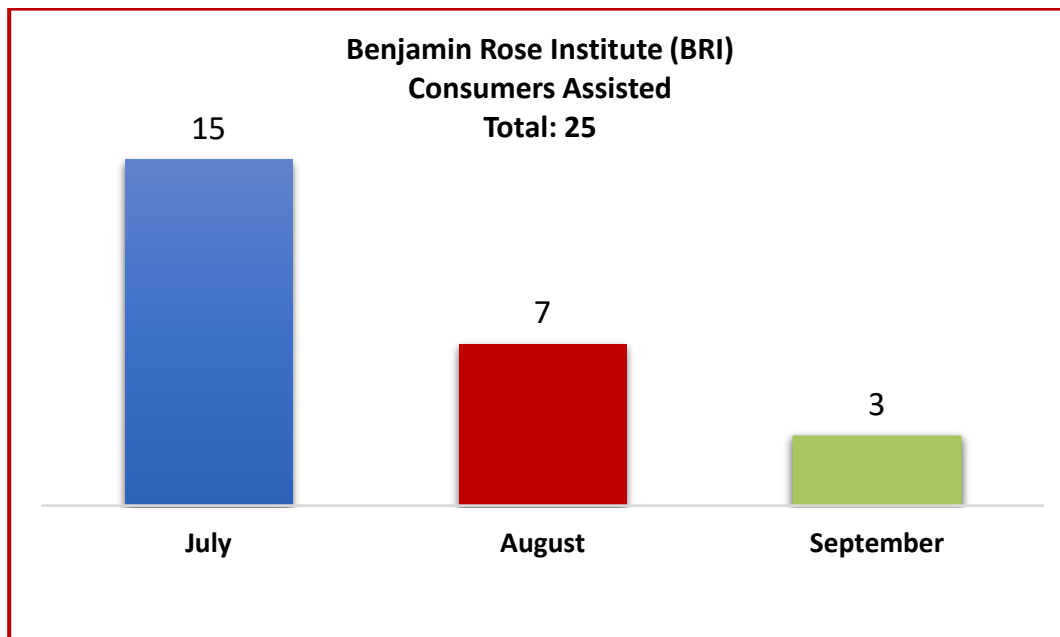
- o The intake team had a total of 1,680 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.



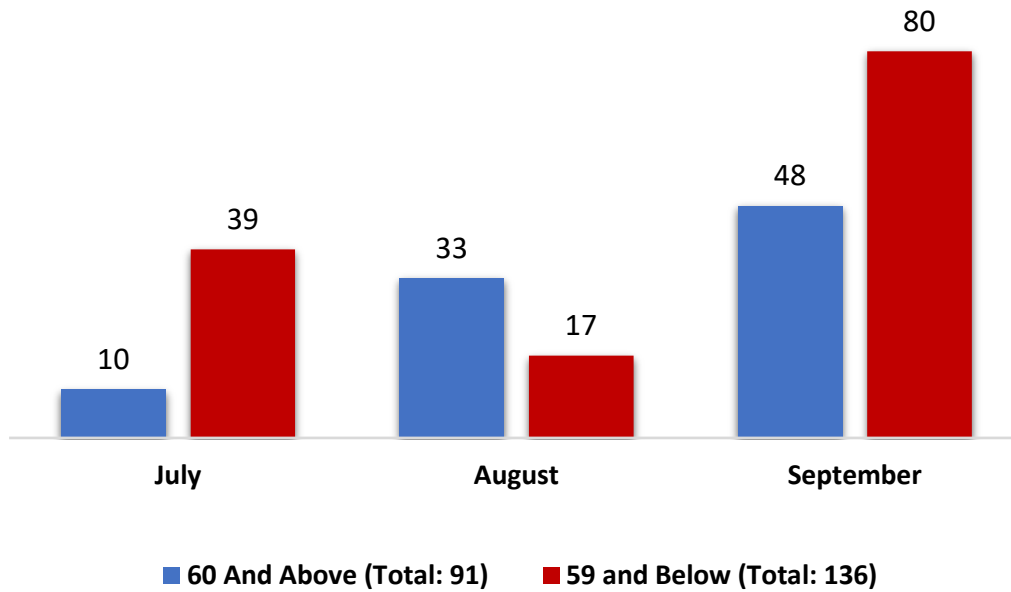


o **Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultant Report**

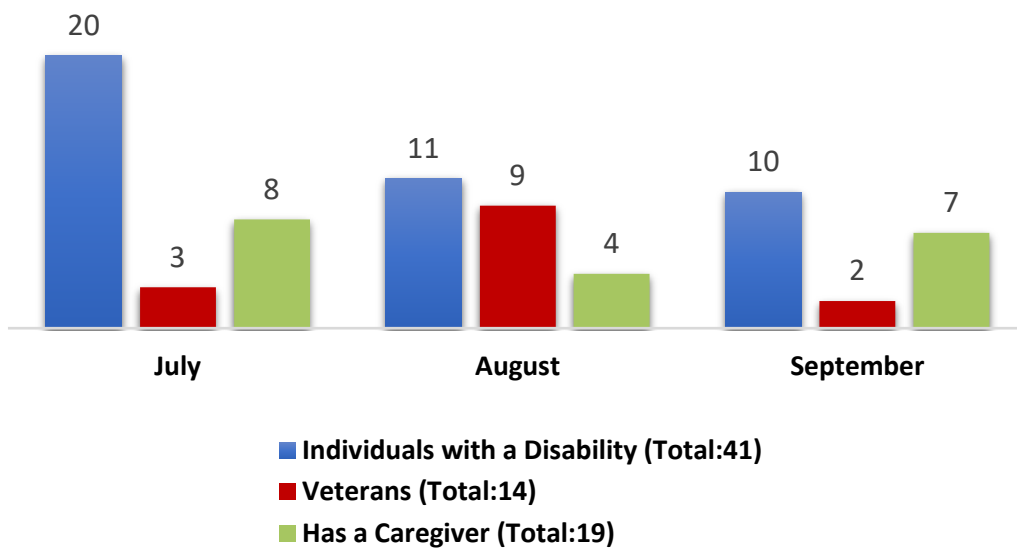
- o The Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 25 new clients and 56 contacts across the tri-county area.



Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI)
Interactions By Age Group Total: 227

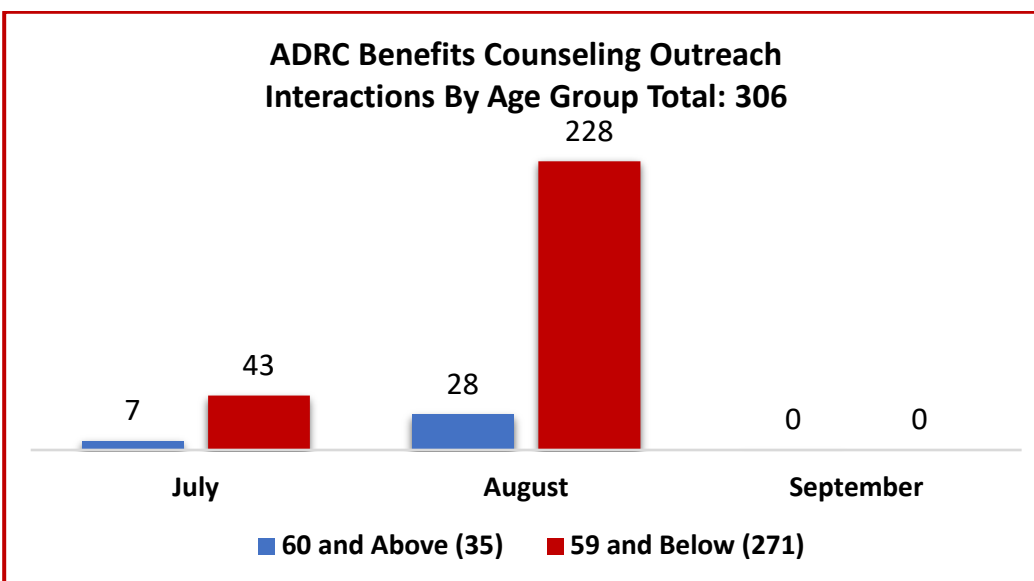
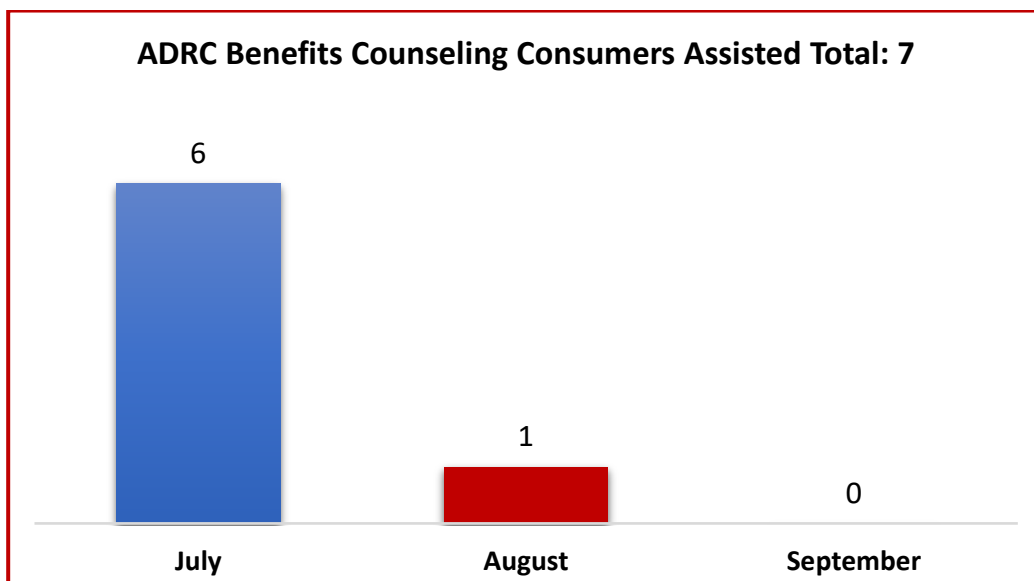


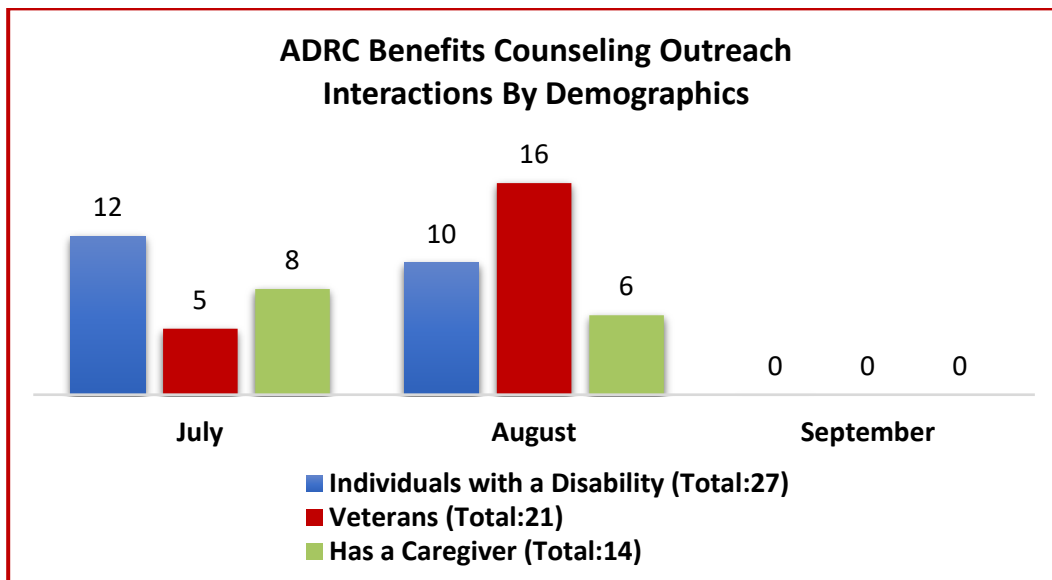
Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Outreach
Interactions By Demographics



o **ADRC Report – Benefits Counseling**

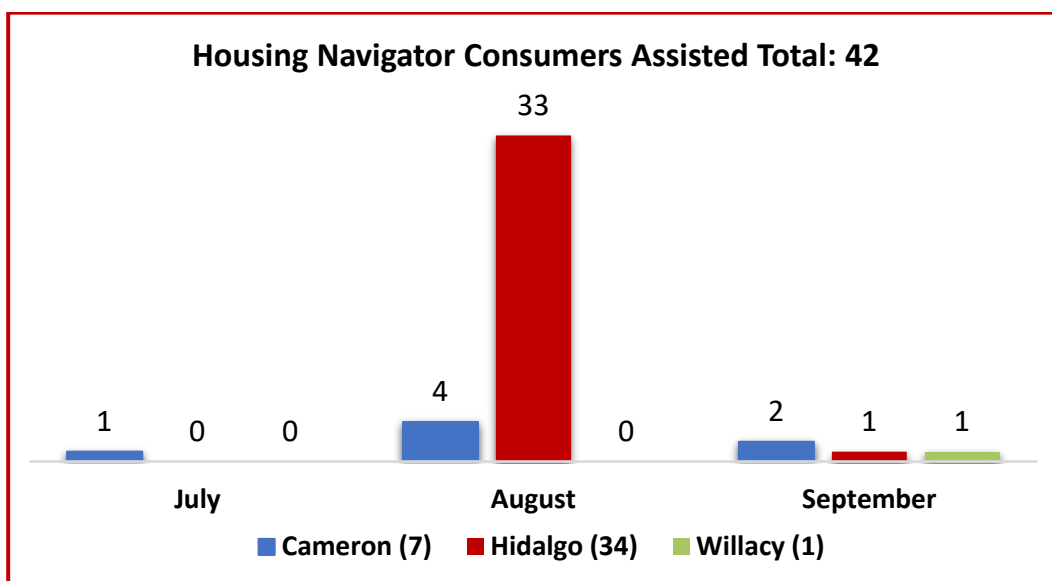
- o Assisted 7 consumers by providing assistance with MIPPA, HICAP, and Legal Assistance cases.
- o Engaged with 306 individuals during outreach activities, 35 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 271 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- o Outreach activities included 27 individuals with a disability, 21 Veterans, and 14 individuals with a Caregiver.



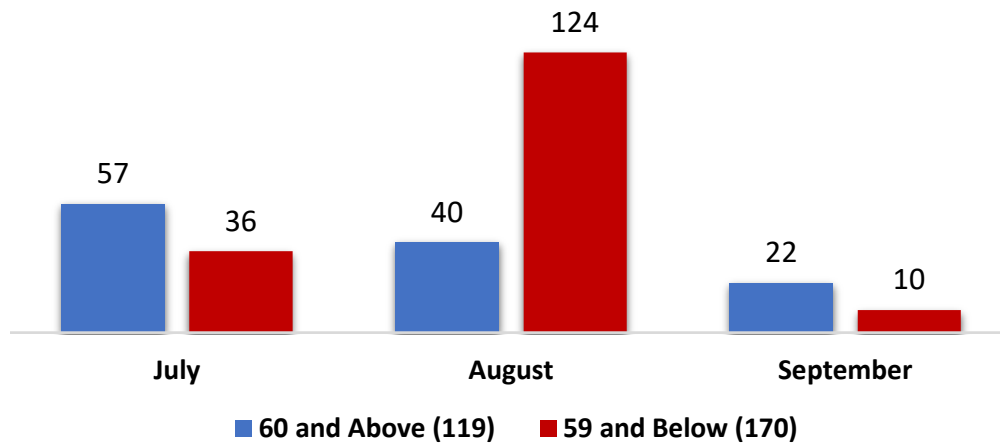


o **ADRC Report – Housing Navigator**

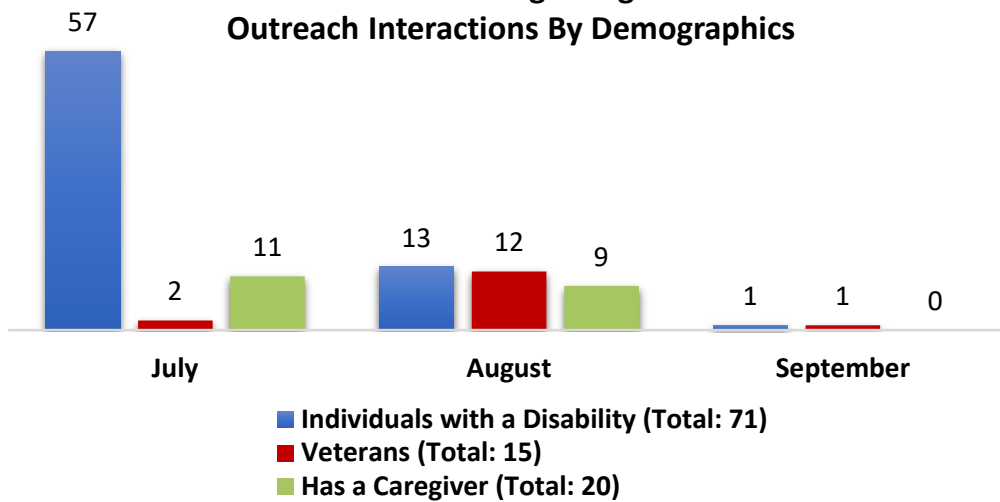
- o Provided support to 42 consumers with housing inquiries by offering personalized resources, demonstrating the agency's expertise, and offering valuable support to community members encountering challenges regarding housing.
- o Interacted with a total of 289 individuals, comprising of 119 individuals aged 60 years and above, and 170 individuals aged 59 years and below.
- o Engaged with 71 individuals with a disability, 15 veterans, and 20 individuals with a caregiver.



**ADRC Housing Navigator Outreach
Interactions By Age Group Total: 289**

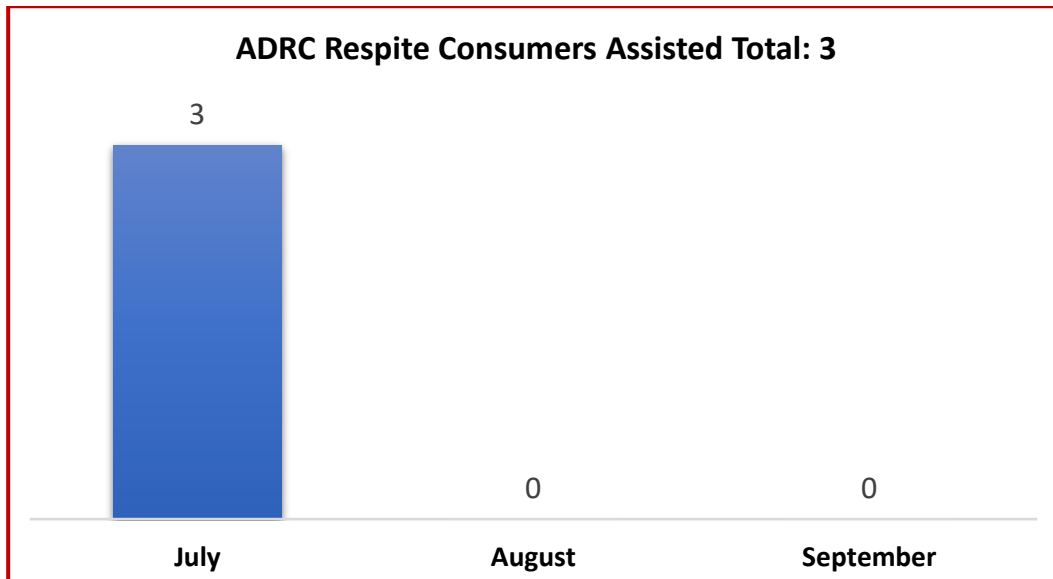


**ADRC Housing Navigator
Outreach Interactions By Demographics**



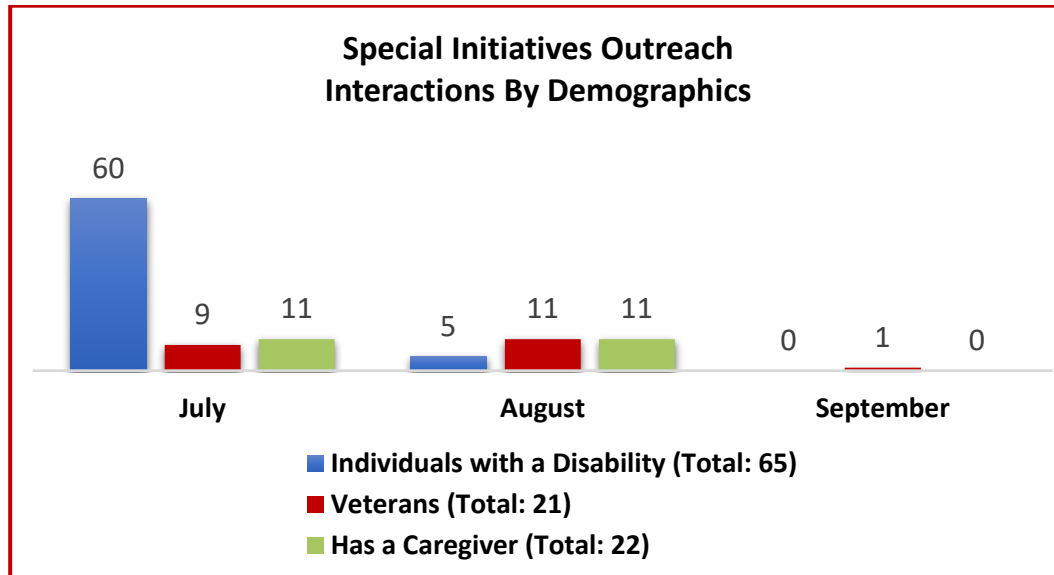
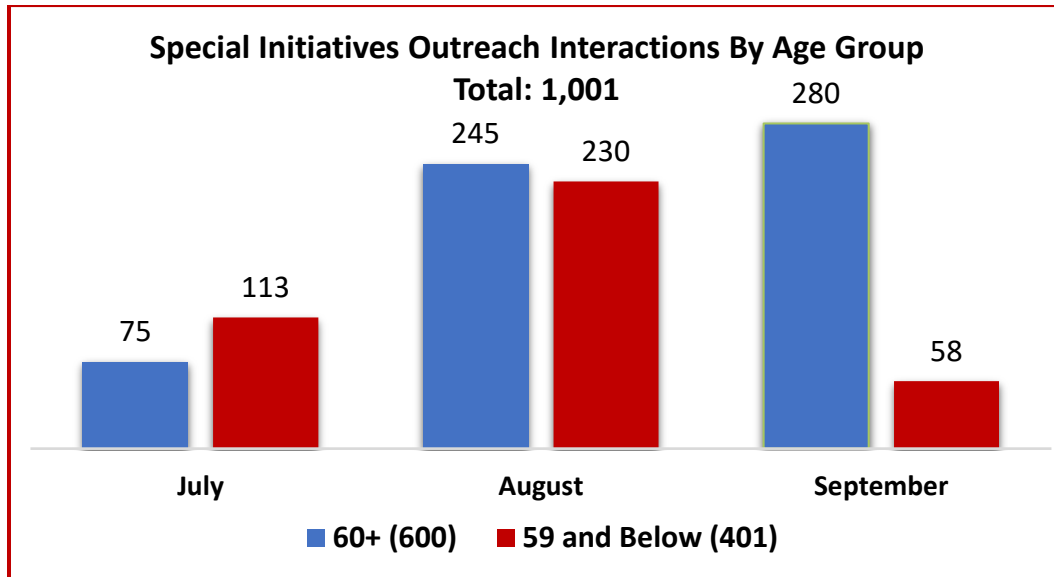
- o **ADRC Report – Respite Services**

- o Assisted 3 consumers seeking respite assistance.



o **ADRC Report – Special Initiatives**

- o Engaged with 1,001 individuals, 600 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 401 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- o Interacted with 65 individuals with a disability, 21 Veterans, and 22 individuals with a Caregiver.



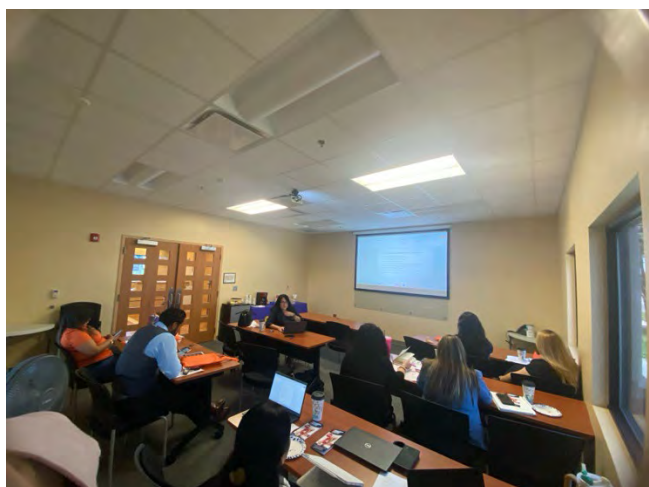
July 07, 2024: Annual 34th Celebration of the Americans for Disability

Staff participated in the Annual 34th Celebration of the Americans for Disability, an event honoring the progress and continued efforts toward accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities. The event brought together community members, advocacy groups, and service providers to celebrate achievements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Staff provided information on housing, Medicare enrollment assistance, and other agency programs aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Their participation helped raise awareness of available resources.



July 31, 2024: Veteran Financial and Health Benefits Informational Clinic

At the Veteran Financial and Health Benefits Informational Clinic, staff joined forces with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to connect veterans with crucial information about financial support and healthcare services. The clinic offered a space where veterans could learn about benefits like housing assistance, healthcare options, and financial planning tailored to their needs. Staff provided guidance on navigating complex systems like VA benefits, Medicare, and local support programs, empowering veterans to take control of their well-being and future. The event underscored a commitment to supporting those who've served, ensuring they receive the care and resources they deserve.



August 13, 2024: Willacy County Health and Wellness Fair

Staff participated in the Senior Health and Wellness Fair in Willacy County, an event aimed at promoting the health and well-being of older adults. Attendees had the opportunity to receive health screenings, nutritional advice, and information on wellness programs. Staff provided guidance on services such as caregiver support, Medicare enrollment assistance, and housing support for seniors. Their involvement helped connect the senior community with vital resources to maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life, while also building strong partnerships with local health providers and wellness advocates.



August 15, 2024: NNO Christmas in August

Staff participated in the National Night Out, Christmas in August, a unique community event combining the spirit of Christmas with the objectives of National Night Out. The event brought together law enforcement, local service providers, and families to promote neighborhood safety and offer a festive atmosphere with holiday-themed activities. Staff provided information on essential services such as Medicare enrollment assistance, caregiver support, and Elders Rights, while connecting with families and local authorities to strengthen community ties. The event allowed residents to enjoy holiday fun while learning about valuable resources available to support their well-being and security year-round.



August 21, 2024: Veteran Financial and Health Benefits Informational Clinic

The staff hosted a Veteran Financial and Health Benefits Informational Clinic in partnership with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid at the Harlingen office. This event aimed to equip veterans with essential information regarding financial assistance, healthcare benefits, and legal support. By collaborating with legal experts, staff ensured that veterans were well-informed about available services, empowering them to take proactive steps toward achieving financial stability and improving their overall quality of life.



LRGVDC



3RD ANNUAL VETERANS



FESTIVAL

BRAVERY UNITES US, FREEDOM INSPIRES US

NOV 20, 2024 | 4 PM - 8 PM

**LA PALMA ADULT DAY CARE CENTER
1215 S INTERSTATE 69C, EDINBURG, TX
(FORMERLY 1215 S. EXPY 281)**



JOIN US FOR:

- ★ RESOURCES
- ★ HEALTH SCREENINGS
- ★ MUSIC & GIVEAWAYS
- ★ FOOD & DRINKS*

*(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY. LET'S STAND TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED, AND CELEBRATE THE FREEDOM THEY FOUGHT TO PROTECT!

SPECIAL EVENT: BBQ PIT RAFFLE!

VETERANS ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL CAN ENTER IN A SPECIAL BBQ PIT RAFFLE.

DISCLAIMER: MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF SERVICE & MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR
EVENT SPONSOR!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 956-682-3481

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



M. RIVAS

ITEM # 5.C

**PUBLIC
SAFETY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

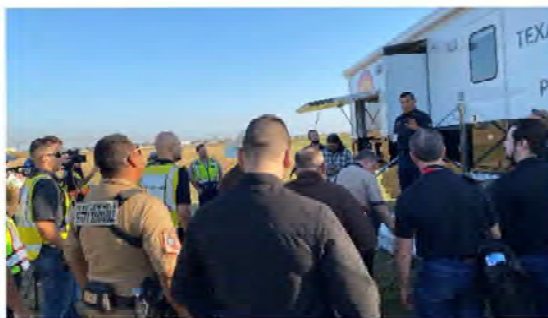
C. Public Safety Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted on October 4, 2024, a virtual coordination call with Cyber professionals for a Cybersecurity Workshop Coordination Meeting in the Summer 2025.
- Staff hosted the on October 9, 2024, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff participated on October 11, 2024, in the RGV Veterans Coalition at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff participated in a virtual meeting on October 15, 2024, in the Texas Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (TX-ISAO) to enhance cyber security effort for the region.
- Staff participated on October 17, 2024, in the Accelerator 2024 Conference at the Embassy Suites in McAllen, TX.
- Staff participated on October 18, 2024, State Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP) Working Group Meeting at the McAllen Public Library, McAllen, TX.
- Staff hosted in collaboration with the Mercedes Police Department a training on October 21-23, 2024, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) “Support that Saves” in LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, TX.

Homeland Security Program

- Staff attended on October 2, 2024, Trauma Regional Advisory Council (TRAC-V) Disaster Preparedness Committee meeting at Harlingen Convention Center in Harlingen, TX
- Staff hosted on October 4, 2024, a virtual coordination call with Cyber professionals for a Cybersecurity Workshop Coordination Meeting in the Summer 2025.
- Staff hosted on October 7, 2024, a Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) workshop at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff participated on October 10, 2024, in a regional tour of the International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC) in the Hidalgo County Area.
- Staff participated on October 10, 2024, in the conference call with Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) monthly preparedness call with the Office of Governor's Public Safety Office.
- Staff participated on October 16, 2024, in the Sharyland Water Supply, Mission Fire Department and Hidalgo County Emergency Management full scale exercise scenario.
- Staff participated in a webinar on October 16, 2024, for TARC eLearning "THIRA/SPR/IP Peer-to-Peer Planning Process."
- Staff participated on October 18, 2024 at the State Multimodal Transit Planning working group to inquire on critical planning efforts for roadway infrastructure. Also, on October 18, 2024 staff attended the IBWC and TCEQ presentation for Rio San Juan Water Project.
- Staff participated on October 22-23, 2024, Texas Critical Infrastructure Liaison Officer course at Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, TX.
- Staff hosted on October 23, 2024, Rio Grande Regional Response Group (RGRRG) quarterly meeting at the LRGVDC, Small Boardroom, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted on October 24, 2024, the RGV ETAB Fire Academy meeting at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco. TX
- Staff participated on October 25, 2024, hosted by the Cameron County Emergency Management for the October Emergency Preparedness Meeting in Los Fresnos Fire Department, Los Fresnos, TX.



De-Escalation Training for Law Enforcement



Register:
www.lemitonline.org/dtc

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WESLACO, TEXAS 78596
BUILDING B

**AVAILABLE AT NO
COST**

NOVEMBER 21, 2024, 8AM - 5PM

HELD IN THE KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

8 HRS OF TCOLE 1849 CREDIT

Law Enforcement Management
Institute of Texas (LEMIT), in
partnership with the U.S. DOJ COPS
Office and Blue Shield Tactical
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de-escalation training course.



COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice



**DE-ESCALATION
TRAINING CENTER**



Learn how to save lives.

NALOXONE TRAINING: Learn how to save lives. Friday November 1, 2024



NALOXONE TRAINING

Overdose Education & Prevention

Why Attend?

Nationally and locally, overdose death rates have been on the rise and Texas is responding by distributing education and Naloxone to all regions in Texas.

Training includes:

- Opioid trends leading to overdose
- Recognize & Respond to an opioid overdose
- How to Administer Naloxone
- Provide Free Naloxone (after training)

For more information contact:
Vanessa Ramos
(956) 787-7111, ext. 126
vramos@bhsst.org

**NALOXONE KITS
AVAILABLE**



**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
SOLUTIONS**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday October 30th, 2024

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

Program Action Items Javier Solis Asst. Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to utilize LRGV Academy generated program income funds for the purchase of an ALERRT Level 1 Active Shooter Training Kit in the amount of \$46,375.13

Senate Bill 1852 now requires every Texas Peace Officer to receive 16 hours of ALERRT Active Shooter Training every two years. Police cadets enrolled in the Basic Peace Officer Course must also complete 16 hours of ALERRT Level 1 Active Shooter Training prior to seeking initial licensing from the State of Texas.

The LRGV Academy conducts up to 4 Basic Peace Officer Academies a year and trains hundreds of certified officers in active shooter response. Purchasing an ALERRT Level 1 training kit will alleviate the logistical hurdles associated with providing this mandated training to our regional law enforcement officers.

KDL Solutions LLC is the sole source vendor, and the only company endorsed by Texas State University and the ALERRT Program to sell the ALERRT Level 1 Active Shooter Kit.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday October 30th, 2024

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

Program Action Items Javier Solis Asst. Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amendments to the Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Extension Services and LRGV Academy Site between the Lower Rio Grande Development Council and the City of Mission, Texas.

The Mission Police Department has identified a need to increase recruitment for a growing police force. The Mission Police Department has requested an increase in the number of tuition free slots per academy hosted by their agency. The Mission Police Department currently receives four (4) tuition free slots and four (4) slots at the half rate of normal tuition cost.

Currently the Mission Police Department has a maximum enrollment of twenty-four (24) cadets per academy.

Through open negotiations between the LRGV Academy and the Mission Police Department the following mutual agreement was determined:

- The Mission Police Department shall be granted one (1) additional tuition free slot and (1) additional slot at half the normal tuition rate.
- This brings the total number of tuition free slots to (5) and five (5) slots at half the normal tuition rate.
- The Mission Police Department has also agreed to extend the maximum enrollment number of cadets from twenty-four (24) to thirty (30) for every basic peace officer course taught by the Mission Police Department.

224TH LRGV ACADEMY GRADUATION





New Police Officers added to the Region	15
Total In-Service Courses Taught	15
Total Officers Trained	360
Total Contact Hours	14,092
Total Officers Trained in ALERRT Active Shooter Response	341

LRGV ACADEMY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

YEAR TO DATE

New Police Officers added to the Region	63
Total In-Service Courses Taught	117
Total Officers Trained	1,793
Total Contact Hours	66,185
Total Officers Trained in ALERRT Active Shooter Response	341

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

The GIS Data Hub has made significant advancements, transitioning to www.rgv911.org as its main platform, which has improved public and governmental access to downloadable informational maps and streamlined data requests. The completion of the **Rubicon Dashboard** now allows for efficient querying of ticket data, while the successful migration of old address tickets into the new system ensures continuity and access to historical data. The GIS team has prioritized training, completing key courses in **Managing Geospatial Data in ArcGIS** and **Configuring a Basic Enterprise Deployment**, as well as gaining insights from the **ESRI User Conference**. These efforts have already resulted in improved operational efficiency, as seen in the **Hub site's page views**, which rose from 5,000 in August to 9,000 in September. Additionally, the GIS team has completed its **Annual Work Plan** for 2024–2025, outlining goals to further improve the department's effectiveness (A Summary Of the GIS team Annual Working Plan is attached). Overall, these developments contribute to enhanced data accessibility, streamlined operations, and ongoing service improvements.

The GIS Team Annual Work Plan for the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District (RGV 911) outlines a strategy for improving the district's Geographic Information System (GIS) for emergency communications from September 2024 to August 2025. Key contents include the current state of GIS, goals for 2024-2025, and a detailed list of technical upgrades and initiatives.

Key Objectives:

- **GIS Enhancements:** Improve map services to support 911 operations, streamline workflows, and increase collaboration among regional stakeholders.
- **Technology Upgrades:** Upgrade to ArcGIS Enterprise 11.3, deploy new applications, and enhance Web GIS and field workflows. Implement systems for efficient data sharing and spatial awareness.
- **Process Improvements:** Simplify paper-based workflows through digital tools, encourage data-driven decisions, and improve system performance and collaboration.
- **Workforce Development:** Provide staff training to maximize the use of GIS tools, promote innovation, and expand staff capabilities.

Main Activities:

- Upgrades and Installations: Upgrade ArcGIS Enterprise and Workflow Manager to version 11.3, configure ArcGIS Image Server, Monitor, and development environments.
- System Enhancements: Implement Single Address Requests Workflow Manager, configure CAD/AVL dashboards, and convert Web App Builder applications.
- Community Solutions: Deploy Fire Hydrant and Road Closure solutions to improve emergency responses and public communication.
- Learning Initiatives: Provide continuous workforce development through training on GIS systems, focusing on data management, geodatabase versioning, and web applications.

Priorities:

- Upgrade to ArcGIS Enterprise 11.3.
- Install and configure critical systems such as ArcGIS Monitor and the ArcGIS Image Server.
- Develop a Community Engagements Dashboard to support internal reporting on community events.

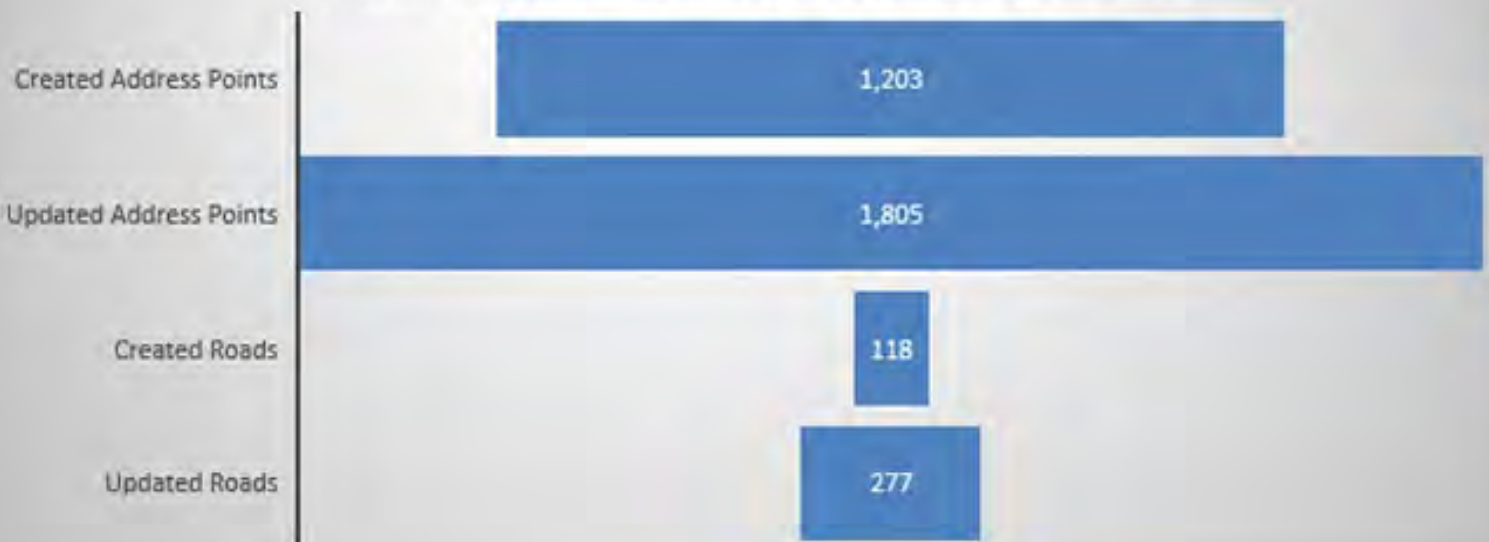
This technical work plan emphasizes improving the operational efficiency of 911 services through the integration of advanced GIS technology and staff training.

Address Tickets from January to October 2024



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

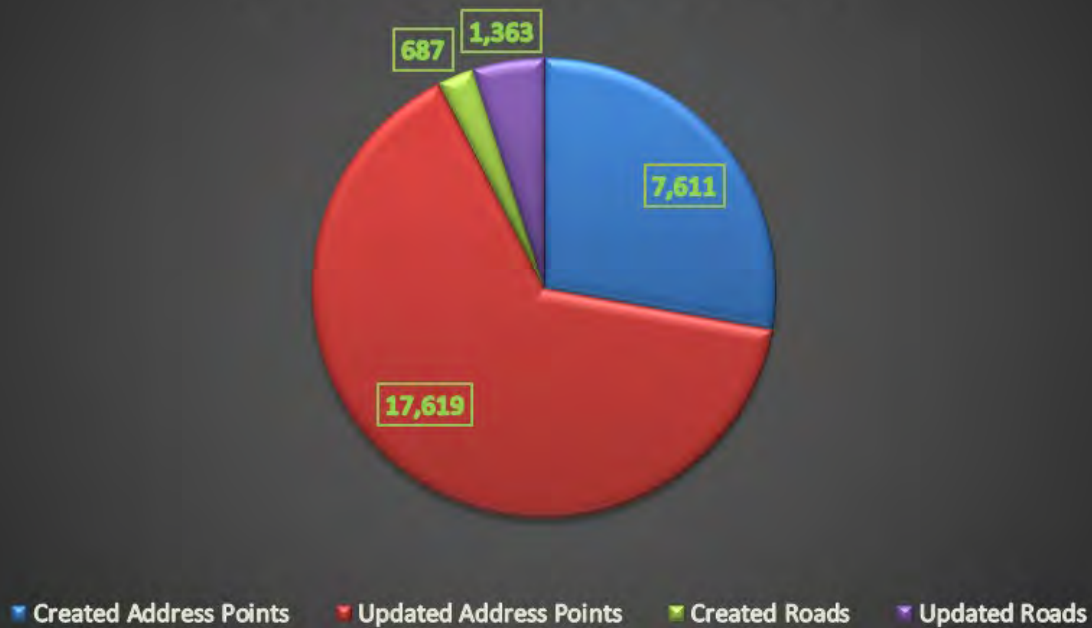
September 2024 - October 2024 Mapping Features



RGV911.org Pageviews 2024



2024 Total Production : GIS



- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

IT Audits and Generator Maintenance: The IT team has conducted 27 audits this year, with 9 scheduled for the 4th quarter. These audits are specifically targeted toward our 9-1-1 system to ensure its integrity, security, and operational efficiency. They help ensure that all aspects of the 9-1-1 system, from call handling to data management, adhere to the highest standards. This continuous monitoring and evaluation help maintain the reliability of our emergency services infrastructure.

In coordination with Clifford Power, the IT team completed 28 generator maintenance services for the year. Regular generator inspections are crucial to ensure that backup power systems function optimally during unplanned outages. Mitigation planning and testing of backup systems are ongoing, regardless of weather conditions.

Power 911/MapFlex Training: Through the Power 911/MapFlex training, we successfully trained over 50 telecommunicators. This training is critical because it equips both new and seasoned staff with updated knowledge on call delivery features, GIS mapping enhancements, and best practices in emergency response. As the front line of emergency services, telecommunicators must be proficient in the latest tools to ensure precise call routing and accurate location data.

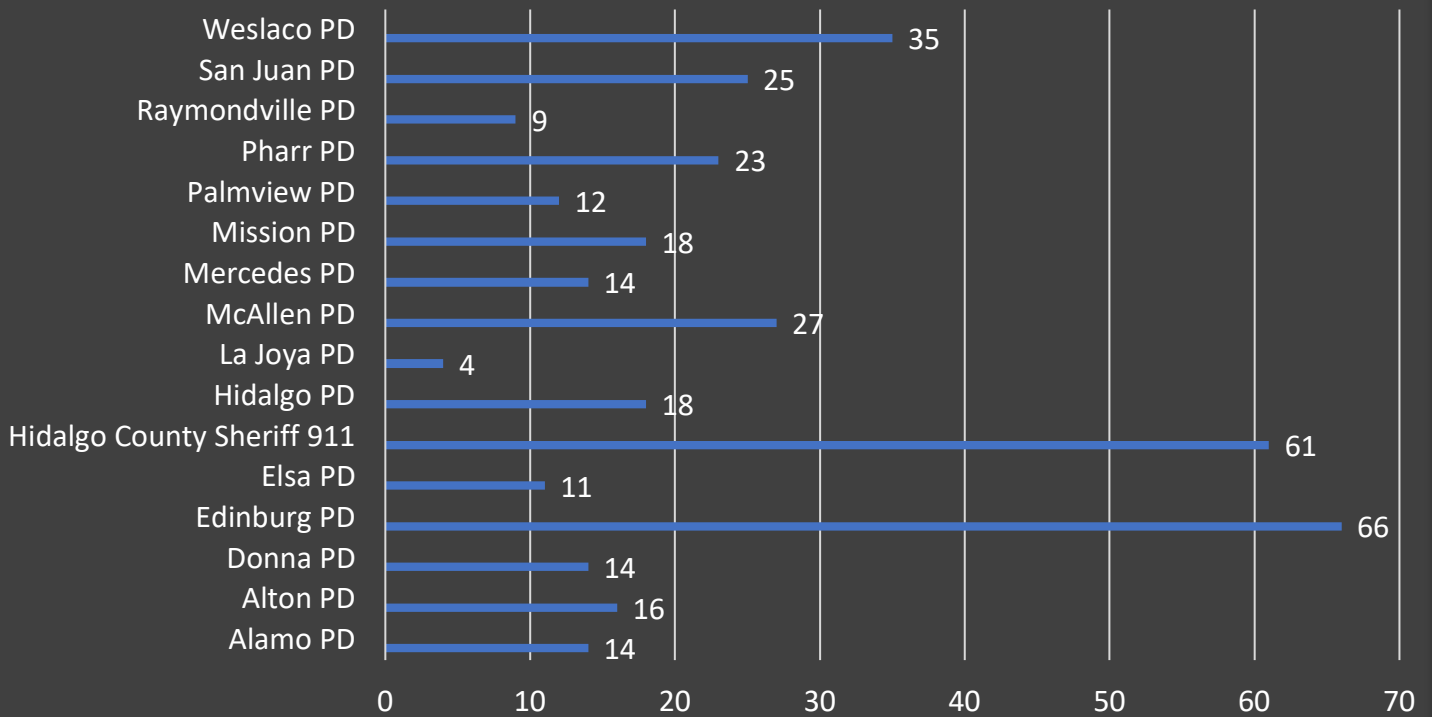
Router Project and Network Redundancy: The router project, which upgraded the equipment for all 17 PSAPs, was completed successfully. As part of our 5-year maintenance cycle, the implementation of redundant routers ensures that, in the event of a system failure, service remains uninterrupted. This proactive upgrade significantly boosts system performance, allowing faster data processing and minimizing potential downtime. By replacing outdated equipment, we have fortified the reliability of our 9-1-1 call routing, enhancing overall network security and stability.

Cybersecurity Initiatives: Penetration testing has begun as part of our cybersecurity initiatives. This process is vital because it allows us to assess our systems' vulnerability to potential cyberattacks, both internally and externally. By simulating attacks through ethical hacking practices, we can identify weaknesses and make necessary improvements to our infrastructure and security protocols. This ensures that our network, which supports critical emergency services, remains robust against evolving cyber threats.

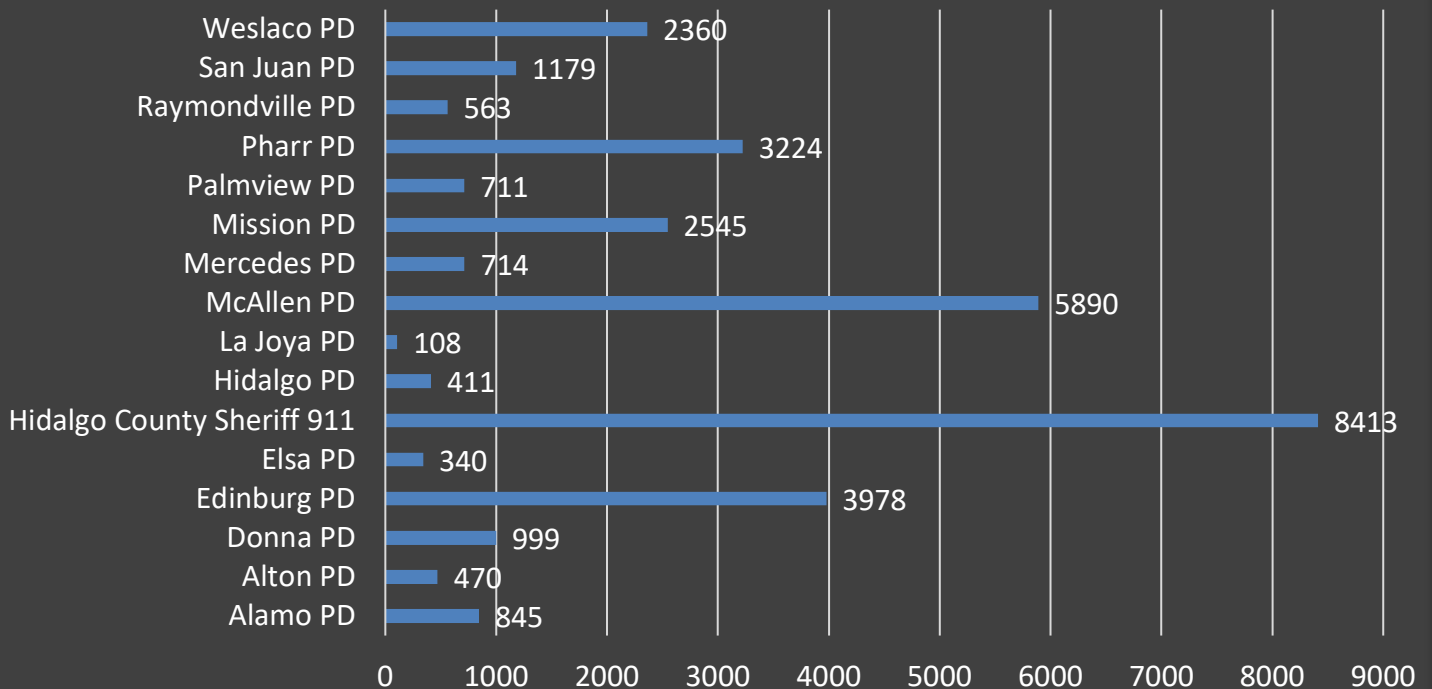
Ongoing Goals: Our ongoing mission is to ensure that our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping technologies work seamlessly together to maintain 99.9% operational efficiency. This level of efficiency is critical to serving our public safety partners and the community effectively, guaranteeing the timely and accurate delivery of emergency services.

By continuing to focus on both the technological and operational aspects of our services, we are committed to enhancing the quality and reliability of our emergency response systems for the communities we serve.

Text to 9-1-1 September 2024



Call Summary September 2024



- Community Engagement

September was filled with exciting events and activities for our team, all centered around our mission to educate the public about the importance of 9-1-1. We celebrated RGV911's 3rd anniversary, marking this milestone with a renewed focus on our goals. A significant highlight was our emphasis on the Public Safety Wellness Seminar, which underscored our commitment to supporting the mental health and well-being of public safety personnel. Each event provided a unique opportunity to connect with the community and advance our mission. We're proud of the progress we've made through these initiatives and the positive impact they've created. Our team's dedication continues to propel us forward, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead.

- **RGV911 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar in the city of McAllen. September 19, 2024.** The RGV9-1-1 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar was a highly successful event that brought together public safety professionals from across the region. Attendees were treated to a range of informative sessions focused on physical, mental, and emotional wellness. Experts in the field shared valuable insights and strategies for managing the unique stresses faced by first responders. The event provided a collaborative environment where participants could network and learn from one another. The interactive workshops and engaging keynote speakers made it both educational and inspiring. Overall, the seminar was a significant step forward in promoting wellness within the public safety community.

- **Help Empower Entrepreneurial Women to Succeed (H.E.E.L.S). September 25, 2024, in the city of Raymondville.** The Raymondville Chamber of Commerce. This event provided a great opportunity to connect with other inspiring women who are passionate about empowering one another. By engaging in meaningful conversations, the team was able to share important information about emergency services while also learning from the experiences of fellow entrepreneurs. Networking at events like H.E.E.L.S strengthens community ties and supports the environment for women in business. The RGV9-1-1 team is proud to be part of initiatives that promote leadership and collaboration among women.

- **DEAFWORLD 2024. September 27, 2024, in the city of McAllen.** This event is dedicated to promoting deaf culture and raising awareness about the needs of the deaf community. The event covered a wide range of topics, including sign language, deaf education, and career resources for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. RGV911 had the opportunity to engage with attendees and discuss the valuable Text to 911 service, which provides an essential communication tool for emergencies. By participating, we strengthened our understanding of the deaf community's unique needs and shared important information on how to access emergency services through texting. The experience helped us promote stronger connections and continue improving public safety resources for all.

Future Events:
La Joya PD NNO
Safe Haven Trunk or Treat

October 29
October 31

La Joya
Raymondville

Community Engagement:

September was filled with exciting events and activities for our team, all centered around our mission to educate the public about the importance of 9-1-1. We celebrated RGV911's 3rd anniversary, marking this milestone with a renewed focus on our goals. A significant highlight was our emphasis on the Public Safety Wellness Seminar, which underscored our commitment to supporting the mental health and well-being of public safety personnel. Each event provided a unique opportunity to connect with the community and advance our mission. We're proud of the progress we've made through these initiatives and the positive impact they've created. Our team's dedication continues to propel us forward, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead.

- **RGV911 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar in the city of McAllen. September 19, 2024.** The RGV9-1-1 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar was a highly successful event that brought together public safety professionals from across the region. Attendees were treated to a range of informative sessions focused on physical, mental, and emotional wellness. Experts in the field shared valuable insights and strategies for managing the unique stresses faced by first responders. The event provided a collaborative environment where participants could network and learn from one another. The interactive workshops and engaging keynote speakers made it both educational and inspiring. Overall, the seminar was a significant step forward in promoting wellness within the public safety community.
- **Help Empower Entrepreneurial Women to Succeed (H.E.E.L.S). September 25, 2024, in the city of Raymondville.** The Raymondville Chamber of Commerce. This event provided a great opportunity to connect with other inspiring women who are passionate about empowering one another. By engaging in meaningful conversations, the team was able to share important information about emergency services while also learning from the experiences of fellow entrepreneurs. Networking at events like H.E.E.L.S strengthens community ties and supports the environment for women in business. The RGV9-1-1 team is proud to be part of initiatives that promote leadership and collaboration among women.
- **DEAFWORLD 2024. September 27, 2024, in the city of McAllen.** This event is dedicated to promoting deaf culture and raising awareness about the needs of the deaf community. The event covered a wide range of topics, including sign language, deaf education, and career resources for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. RGV911 had the opportunity to engage with attendees and discuss the valuable Text to 911 service, which provides an essential

communication tool for emergencies. By participating, we strengthened our understanding of the deaf community's unique needs and shared important information on how to access emergency services through texting. The experience helped us promote stronger connections and continue improving public safety resources for all.

RGV9-1-1 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar



The RGV911 Public Safety Wellness Seminar focused on promoting mental health and well-being for all public safety personnel. It provided valuable resources and support through expert-led sessions, helping to foster a healthier and more resilient workforce.

Help Empower Entrepreneurial Women to Succeed (H.E.E.L.S)



The RGV9-1-1 team is proud to be part of initiatives that promote leadership and collaboration among women.

DEAFWORLD 2024



RGV911 had the opportunity to engage with attendees and discuss the valuable Text to 911 service.

ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting
October 30, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Action Item #1

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Acquisition of Vehicles under State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Staff is seeking the Board's approval for the Acquisition of Vehicles, Farebox Collection equipment and any other associated expenses under State approved Grant essential for the operations of the transit agency, encompassing any forthcoming expenses related to the awarded State "TXDOT" funding listed below, as long as funding remains available and necessary for acquisition, maintenance, and operational needs. The acquisition will adhere to LRGVDC procurement guidelines.

State Grant:

Source	Grant #	Award Balance
1. TXDOT	5310-2024-LRGVDC-00139	\$260,000
2. FTA	TX-2023-067	\$247,598

Funding will go toward the acquisition of the following:

- One (1) ADA equipped <30' vehicle with color scheme, camera system, bike rack, two-way radio, bus wrapping, destination signs and related expenses.
- Acquisition of Fare Collection Equipment
- One (1) ADA equipped <30' vehicle with color scheme, camera system, bike rack, two-way radio, bus wrapping, destination signs, and related expenses.

The LRGVDC Valley Metro has identified a need to acquire vehicles and to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of its transit services. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance service quality, meet increasing demand, and maintain compliance with safety and environmental standards. Funding for these activities is available through state approved grants.

Benefits and Impact:

- Expected improvements in service reliability, safety, and operational efficiency.
- Increased service capacity and reliability
- Long-term cost savings from overhauls compared to new vehicle purchases.
- Extends the life of existing assets with familiar operations
- Access to modern technology and improved environmental compliance
- Environmentally friendly and customizable to current needs

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting, October 30, 2024

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status ReportTom Logan, Director of Regional Transportation

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Hardware Acquisition for LRGVDC Valley

- Metro.
- Staff is seeking the Board's approval for the acquisition of Hardware essential for the operations of the transit agency, encompassing any forthcoming equipment related to the awarded Federal Transit Administration "FTA" funding listed below, as long as funding or Hardware/equipment remains available and necessary for operational and maintenance needs.
- **HARDWARE GRANTS:**

Source	Grant #	Award Balance
FTA	TX-2024-122	\$401,012

Purpose:

The hardware is vital for supporting transportation operations, ensuring smooth and efficient functioning of systems and services crucial for the transit agency's activities. This encompasses various equipment and technologies essential for maintaining, managing, and optimizing transportation services, infrastructure, and safety measures. The acquisition will adhere to LRGVDC procurement guidelines.

Examples of essential Hardware:

- **Communication Systems:** Radios, intercoms, and communication devices facilitate real-time communication between operators, staff, and passengers.
- **Navigation and Tracking Systems:** GPS devices and tracking systems help monitor vehicle locations, optimize routes, and provide real-time updates to passengers.
- **Ticketing and Fare Collection Machines:** Ticket vending machines, fare gates, and card readers are hardware used to collect fares and manage passenger access to transit services.
- **Safety and Security Surveillance Systems:** Cameras and monitoring equipment enhance security and safety by monitoring activities in stations, vehicles, and other transit areas.
- **Signage and Display Boards:** Digital displays, LED signs, and information boards provide passengers with updates, schedules, and other relevant information.
- **Computers:** Computers are indispensable hardware in transportation operations, playing various roles in managing, controlling, and optimizing different aspects of transit systems.
- **Other:** related Hardware equipment.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report Tom Logan, Director of Regional Transit

- Ridership Report

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

Breakdown of Ridership per system:

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM	
Agency	Sept
VALLEY METRO	28,419
UTRGV	70,277
STC	685
TSTC	113
Total	99,494

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY	
COUNTY	Sept
Hidalgo County	88,195
Cameron County	8,757
Willacy County	134
Starr County	2,250
Zapata County	158
Total	99,494

RURAL AND URBAN COUNT	
AREA	Sept
Rural	5,837
Urban	93,657
Total	99,494

• **Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:**

RTAP Sub-Committee held a virtual meeting on September 24, 2024, and discussed the following:

- Focus on synchronized future service changes and updates on prior recommendations. Key topics included scheduling future meetings, confirming the date for the upcoming RTAP meeting of October 24, 2024 and discussing the format of a potential workshop.
- The team addressed the need for enhanced public awareness regarding transportation agencies, setting the stage for a collaborative discussion on outreach strategies.
- Brownsville Metro provided an update on the fare increase implementation, sharing insights from public feedback and the potential introduction of a demand response or micro-transit route to improve performance and reduce costs.
- The need for an updated one-page transit guide was highlighted, with Brownsville Metro expressing gratitude for the opportunity to finalize it.
- Metro McAllen contributed by discussing promotional materials for the transfer hub and the ongoing efforts to enhance transit accessibility through outreach initiatives, including partnerships with community centers and libraries to promote awareness.
- The meeting further explored the progress of a real-time GTFS feed in collaboration with Google, with McAllen indicating that they are nearing completion and aiming for a launch by the end of November.
- Valley Metro shared updates on service improvements, including extended hours and additional transportation options, while also discussing the success of the Driver Academy in training new drivers.
- The conversation concluded with a focus on route connectivity and expansion, particularly regarding UTRGV routes and the need for continuous enhancements to the transit system, alongside a discussion on incorporating transit images into congestion management documents to support federal requirements.

Valley Metro “GET THE VOTE OUT” Initiative

Ride Free with Voter Registration Card



A yellow Valley Metro bus with "RIDE FREE" on its side is shown against a background of a blue field with white stars. To the left of the bus are two QR codes labeled "EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS" and "ELECTION DAY LOCATIONS". In the center, a woman holds a red, white, and blue balloon that says "YOUR VOTE COUNTS". Three people are standing in front of the bus, holding signs that say "Ride Free" and "VOTE".

Valley Metro Your Ride to Vote

**Free rides with your Voter
Registration Card**

During Early voting
October 21, 2024 - November 1, 2024
and Election Day - November 5, 2024



A yellow Valley Metro bus with "RIDE FREE" on its side is shown against a background of a blue field with white stars. To the left of the bus are two QR codes labeled "EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS" and "ELECTION DAY LOCATIONS". In the center, a woman holds a red, white, and blue balloon that says "YOUR VOTE COUNTS". Three people are standing in front of the bus, holding signs that say "VIAJE GRATIS" and "VOTE".

Valley Metro tu transporte para votar

**Viajes gratuitos con tu tarjeta
de registro de votantes**

Durante la votación anticipada
21 de octubre de 2024 hasta
el 1 de noviembre de 2024
Y 5 de noviembre de 2024

Valley Metro Mobile App and Smart Cards went into effect on September 16

"VALLEY METRO RGV" APP



☀️ ¡Mantente Conectado con Valley Metro! ☀️

¡Tu próximo viaje en autobús acaba de hacerse mucho más fácil!

- ✓ Compra de Pases Conveniente
- ✓ Eficiencia en Tiempo y Costo
- ✓ Acceso Instantáneo a los Boletos

🚀 ¡Disponible ahora en Google Play y la Apple Store!

Descárgala hoy y viaja de manera más inteligente. 🚗🚌

👉 [Google Play Store](#)

👉 [Apple Store](#)

☀️ Stay Connected with Valley Metro! ☀️ Your next bus ride just got a lot easier!

- ✓ Conveniently Purchase Passes
- ✓ Time & Cost Efficiency
- ✓ Instant Access to Tickets

🚀 Available on Google Play and the Apple Store NOW!

Download today and travel smarter. 🚗🚌

👉 Google Play Store

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.genfare.mobile2.weslaco>

👉 Apple Store

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/valley-metro-rgv/id6473686426>



Download
our new app!



CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

<https://lrgvdc-prod.gfcp.io/efare>





GREENLINE - ROMA ROUTE 60

Updates:

- New Stop
- New Times
- Better Alignment
- Schedule to meet your needs

New Route 60 Schedule

RGC Bus Station	STC Starr Campus	Escobares Bus. 83	Roma Transit Station	Escobares Bus. 83	STC Starr Campus	RGC Bus Station
1	2	3	4	3	2	1
6:40 AM		7:05 AM	7:20 AM	7:35 AM	7:50 AM	8:15 AM
8:15 AM	8:40 AM	8:55 AM	9:10 AM	9:25 AM	9:40 AM	10:05 AM
10:05 AM	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:55 AM
12:55 PM	1:20 PM	1:35 PM	1:50 PM	2:05 PM	2:20 PM	2:45 PM
2:45 PM	3:10 PM	3:25 PM	3:40 PM	3:55 PM	4:10 PM	4:35 PM
4:35 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	6:25 PM

Valley Metro 1-800-574-8322

**EFFECTIVE
OCTOBER 21**

NEW



Roma

309 Grant St. Roma, Texas 78584

**ROMA
TRANSIT
STATION**



VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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



Types of Systems Provided

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

Serving the RGV's Five-County Region:

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata



Proudly serving:

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

Valley Metro Fares:

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

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

VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

VM Transit Website



Route Maps with locations



ValleyMetro Weslaco

Ride Systems



Track our buses in real time



VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

ITEM #5. E.

TRANSPORTATION

RGVMPO

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Item #5. D: Department Reports

B. Transportation

RGV Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Status Report

The RGVMPO will open the FY 2025-2027 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects on November 1, 2024. A total of \$9,288,425 in federal funding will be available to award to locally sponsored bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects in communities across the RGVMPO's Metropolitan Area Boundary. The RGVMPO will provide a summary of the funding opportunity's specific purposes and eligibility and funding requirements.