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Dear AACOG members and residents of the Alamo Region:

Our 50th year as your Council of Governments has been a memorable one. However, none of our success could have occurred without the incredible support and commitment from our membership, partners, stakeholders, staff, and our Board of Directors. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our mission; which continues to help us build a strong foundation and have positive impact on the Alamo Region.

As the Region continues to experience substantive changes, our team has worked to further nurture, and in some cases redevelop, working relationships with funding agencies and strategic partners to better serve our constituency.

This was also the year that our region, particularly Bexar County, lost its attainment designation for clean air; however, our rural counties were successful in keeping their designation. With this change in Bexar County, our team is committed to continue working with all partners, stakeholders, and regulatory agencies to ensure we meet the new standards and reverse the designation.

During this year, AACOG, staff, local leadership, and member organizations received special recognition.

- The State of Texas continues to recognize our Law Enforcement Academy as one of the top programs in the State. The most recent class continued the tradition for successful first-time pass rates on the state exam by passing with a score of 100%.
- AACOG received the 2018 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for three of our program areas [IDD, Law Enforcement Academy, and Military & Veterans] recognizing their work and positive impact on their consumers.
- Alamo Colleges’ Central Texas Technology Center received the 2018 Star of the Southwest Award from the Southwest Region Economic Development Association for its substantive quantitative and qualitative results in delivering services to its constituency in the New Braunfels / Seguin area.
- Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff received the Tom Bradley Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils for his leadership excellence in advocating regional concepts and approaches.
- Our Executive Director, Diane Rath, was presented the Texas Association of Regional Councils’ (TARC) 2018 Al J. Notzon / Judge Jake Brisbin Jr. Regional Unity Award in recognition of her dedication to regionalism.

Our strategic partnership with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of community partnerships. In a first for the Alamo Region, AACOG led the effort to analyze the feasibility of partnerships for our member governments with JBSA. In particular, working to ensure the military value of the bases and training ranges in our communities are protected and enhanced. In May, Brigadier General Heather Pringle executed an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) delegation memorandum from Secretary of the Air Force – Installations, Environment and Energy that enhances JBSA’s mission effectiveness and creates efficiencies or economies of scale, including the reduction of cost. Through AACOG’s leadership and guidance, the Agency worked with JBSA, the City of San Antonio, and other community partners to develop the initial framework for the execution of an Intergovernmental Support Agreement enabling JBSA to secure operational support services from the City of San Antonio to provide street paving. The team is working diligently to identify other long-term opportunities in this space and are optimistic many opportunities exist.

These are but a few of the many successes we have achieved. As we begin a new year, it is our vision to continue looking at the future, improve on an already successful delivery of services, and create stronger partnerships and alliances among the region. With your help, we are confident we will continue to be successful. Thank you.

Chris Schuchart  
County Judge Chris Schuchart  
Medina County  
AACOG Board Chairman

James C. Hasslocher  
Board Member, University Health  
AACOG Board Vice Chairman
Celebrating 50 years of uniting the region
2018 Management Team

Diane Rath
Executive Director

John Clamp
Chief Financial Officer/
Senior Director

Stella Garcia
Senior Director of Operations

Clifford Herberg
General Counsel/
Senior Director

Tim Treviño
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships & Communications

Marcela Medina
Public Safety Director

Claudia Mora
Regional Services Director

Sean Scott
Regional Transportation Director

Blanca Tapia
Controller

Jacob Ulczynski
IDD Services Director

Gloria Vasquez
Area Agencies on Aging Director
Board of Directors

Chris Schuchart, Chair
County Judge, Medina County, Representing Medina County

James C. Hasslocher, Vice Chair
Board Member, University Health System, Representing Hospital/Health Districts

Luana Buckner
Board Chair, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Representing Special Districts

Tommy Calvert
Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 4, Representing Bexar County

Cris Eugster
Chief Operating Officer, CPS Energy, Representing Public Utilities

Suzanne De Leon
Mayor, Balcones Heights, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)

Richard A. Evans
County Judge, Bandera County, Representing Bandera County

Leah Garcia
Councilwoman, City of New Braunfels, Representing Urbanized-City of New Braunfels

Robert W. Gregory
Mayor, City of La Vernia, Representing Area Cities (Group B)

Robert L. Hurley
County Judge, Atascosa County, Representing Atascosa County

Richard L. Jackson
County Judge, Wilson County, Representing Wilson County

Andy Keller
Mayor, City of La Coste, Representing Area Cities (Group A)

Sherman Krause
County Judge, Comal County, Representing Comal County

Walter R. Long, Jr.
County Judge, Karnes County, Representing Karnes County

Arnulfo Luna
County Judge, Frio County, Representing Frio County

Darrel L. Lux
County Judge, Kendall County, Representing Kendall County

Jose Menendez
Senator, State of Texas, District 26, Representing Urban and Rural Areas

Andrew Murr
Representative, State of Texas, District 53, Representing Urban and Rural Areas

Manny Pelaez
Councilman, City of San Antonio, District 8, Representing City of San Antonio

Clayton Perry
Councilman, City of San Antonio, District 10, Representing City of San Antonio

Tom Pollard
County Judge, Kerr County, Representing Kerr County

Katie N. Reed
Board President, Northside ISD, Representing School Districts

Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez
Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 1, Representing Bexar County

Ana Sandoval
Councilwoman, City of San Antonio, District 7, Representing City of San Antonio

Tom Schoolcraft
Mayor, City of Helotes, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)

Mike Schultz
Mayor, City of Boerne, Representing Area Cities (Group C)

Mark Stroeher
County Judge, Gillespie County, Representing Gillespie County

James E. Teal
County Judge, McMullen County, Representing McMullen County

John Williams
Mayor, City of Universal City, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)

Kevin A. Wolff
Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 3, Representing Bexar County

Jim O. Wolverton
Commissioner, Guadalupe County, Precinct 3, Representing Guadalupe County

Kyle Biederman
Representative, State of Texas, District 73, Ex-Officio Member

Ryan Guillen
Representative, State of Texas, District 31, Ex-Officio Member

Felipe “Fil” Jimenez
Joint Base San Antonio, Ex-Officio Member

John Kuempel
Representative, State of Texas, District 44, Ex-Officio Member

Judith Zaffirini
Senator, State of Texas, District 21, Ex-Officio Member
The AAAs were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans 60 years and older in every local community. By providing a range of options that allow older adults to choose the home, community-based services and living arrangements that suit them best, AAAs make it possible for older adults to “age in place” in their homes and communities.

Programs and services provided by the Alamo and Bexar Area Agencies on Aging include case management; family caregiver support and respite; support for grandparents raising grandchildren; legal assistance; home delivered and congregate meals; health and wellness coaching, including Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management programs; A Matter of Balance program; Stress Busting for Caregivers (Dementia) Program; Ombudsman Services; and home modifications for safety and independent living.

**Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**

The ASC provides a wealth of unbiased information to individuals seeking long-term care and support. Moreover, the ASC helps seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and caregivers navigate the network of accessible options to ensure they receive the best service and support for their situation. During fiscal year 2018, ASC provided 41,587 referrals to 26,379 callers. 3,029 of those callers were veterans, spouses, or dependents of veterans.

**Older Americans Month**

Every May, the Administration on Aging, as part of the Administration for Community Living, leads our nation’s observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2018 theme, *Engage at Every Age*, emphasized that you are never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. In honor of AACOG’s 50th Anniversary, the Area Agencies on Aging challenged AACOG Staff to participate in the OAM Selfie Challenge and post pictures of how they “Engage at Every Age” with someone 60+ years old. A Selfie Station was also set up at various senior events throughout the month.
**TXServes**

AACOG functions as the organizing provider for the TXServes program, a branch of America-Serves. Services are coordinated through a network of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working together to serve veterans and their families.

This program, the first network in the state of Texas, launched in June 2017, with just over 40 providers. Today, 90 providers and 275 active users have administered over 2,300 service requests to more than 1,700 veterans and their family members. MSgt (Retired) Bobby Ehrig of the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans & Families stated “TXServes San Antonio has provided an outstanding way for Military City, USA to better collaborate and connect the 100+ resources available to help more veterans and families access services quicker. It is definitely a force multiplier for our community.”

The partnership with the VA South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHC) has resulted in a strong partnership between local and federal services, and more than 70% successful service outcomes. The strong referral contribution from STVHC produced an influx of supplementary referrals, as several other providers, seeing the efficiency to make (and receive) referrals, adopted the initiative. This region became one of the top provider-adoption communities of the AmericaServes network.

**Veteran’s Directed Home and Community Based Services (VDHCBS)**

As an alternative to living in a long-term care facility, VDHCBS empowers veterans to choose and manage services and support in their own homes. VDHCBS serves veterans within 100 miles of San Antonio. To date, VDHCBS has served over 60 veterans throughout the region.

**Benefits Counseling**

Every year, AACOG Benefits Counseling program, also known as the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), provides thousands of Medicare beneficiaries with information, counseling, and enrollment assistance. Through this free one-on-one counseling, benefits staff assisted over 600 Medicare beneficiaries in 2018.

The program also provides education, counseling and advocacy to Medicare beneficiaries of any age.

Some of the topics covered, include:
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Public Benefits
- Entitlements
- Legal Rights
- Supplemental Security Income
- Senior Fraud
- Advance Directives
- Long-Term Care
- Non-Covered Health
- Other Insurance
- Veterans Issues
- Social Security
- Fraud/Scams
- Medicare and Medicaid Appeals/Hearings
- Legal Assistance
- Consumer Issues
The Alamo Regional Transit (ART) provides public transportation to and from rural communities outside of San Antonio and Bexar County. With a mission to provide safe, reliable, professional and courteous transport at the lowest cost to residents, ART is the preferred method of transportation for more than 110,344 residents throughout the region, who have traveled over 1.2 million miles in 2018.

Residents use ART for a range of needs, including medical appointments, school (vocational and college), work, adult daycare, shopping, salon appointments, and visiting movie theatres and libraries. In celebration of AACOG’s 50 years of service, ART is giving away 50 free rides each month to its riders.

Through its growth, ART has been able to develop several programs:

- ‘Connect Seguin’ is the only “fixed route” in the 12 rural county service area. This route loops through several designated stops in the City of Seguin. Funded by AACOG and the City of Seguin, the Connect Seguin route provided low-cost fares for 13,781 residents in 2018.
- In the cities of Fredericksburg, Kerrville, New Braunfels and Boerne, ART provides transportation for students that live within a two mile radius of their schools.
- In partnership with VIA Metropolitan Transit, ART provides public transportation to cities in the Urbanized Area (UZA), including the cities of Cibolo, New Braunfels, Schertz, Marion, and parts of Guadalupe County.

This year, ART began a capital improvement program to update its current fleet and introduce new technology to improve service and efficiency. In 2018, ART replaced older model vehicles by adding 16 new transit buses to its fleet. ART also implemented new software that provides scheduling efficiencies, and in turn, faster service for customers.

**Alamo Call-A-Ride 4 Vets Transportation Program**

In 2018, Call-A-Ride 4 Vets (CARV) provided over 5,600 rides to veterans, family members and surviving spouses. These rides helped veterans and their families attend medical appointments, counseling, senior centers, job interviews and community colleges. According the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, by ensuring clients attended counseling and support sessions on a regular basis, this program prevented at least 12 possible suicides. The success of this program resulted in a renewal of Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) funding for 2018-2019.
Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD)

Since 2006, AACOG has functioned as a part of a statewide network of 39 Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Authorities who serve as the single point of access and “front door” to publically-funded services and supports for persons with IDD in Bexar County.

50 years of IDD Services

Fifty years ago, intellectual disability was a neglected issue, receiving minimal state or federal funding. Few scientists were researching its causes, and even fewer doctors and educators were trained to support people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The majority of children and adults with intellectual disabilities were cared for in overcrowded, understaffed institutions that isolated them from their families and communities.

It was not until 1966, with what would become the Center for Healthcare Services, that community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities first became available in Bexar County.

By 1997, Texas had 4 waiver programs targeted specifically to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In May 2003, the Texas legislature passed multiple bills with significant impact on the organization, structure, and financing of community-based centers, which culminated in the transfer of the Local IDD Authority from the Center for Healthcare Service to AACOG in 2006.

1963
- Community based services are first authorized by Congress

1974
- People with IDD housed in institutions in Texas reaches all time high

1981
- Texas creates its first Medicaid waiver program

1999
- United States Supreme Court establishes that individuals with IDD have the right to live in the community rather than institutions

2002
- State operated community services are transferred to local control

2006
- AACOG becomes Local IDD Authority
Service Coordination

Service Coordinators/Case Managers help people access medical, social, educational, and other services that will assist them to achieve an acceptable quality of life. Service Coordination is provided to individuals enrolling in, participating in, or transitioning from:

- Nursing Facilities (NF),
- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IID),
- State Supported Living Centers (SSLC),
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS), Texas Home Living (TxHmL),
- General Revenue (GR), and
- Community First Choice (CFC)

Inter-agency Cooperation initiatives

This year, AACOG partnered with Autism Lifeline Links (ALL), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2016 through an initiative funded by the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation. Autism Lifeline Links is a coalition of agencies and organizations working together to provide quality services, resources and care for individuals, families, caregivers, educators and others in the autism community. AACOG and other Autism Lifeline Links partners provide services in Bexar County and surrounding areas, specifically in the areas of: care coordination, diagnostic services, behavioral support and therapy services, education and support groups, financial assistance for medical expenses and basic needs, respite care, registration with long-term support programs, and much more.
Crisis Services initiatives

In a continued effort to address the significant need for behavioral crisis resolution services, we continue to enhance our IDD crisis respite program, which provides therapeutic respite in-home (72 hours) or out-of-home (up to 14 calendar days) to stabilize the situation. This year, AACOG partnered with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) to develop, implement, and maintain the regional trauma and emergency healthcare system for Trauma Service Area -P (TSA-P). This helps law enforcement effectively coordinate navigation of emergency detention patients. Patients who are placed into emergency detention for their acute psychiatric needs, and are medically stable, are navigated to the appropriate psychiatric facility versus area emergency departments. This system change decompresses local emergency departments where psychiatric patients are often boarded, for hours, awaiting a more appropriate facility.

Vocational/Employment initiatives

AACOG, in partnership with the Academy at Morgan’s Wonderland, was awarded a grant from Texas Workforce Commission for a targeted job readiness and skills training program. This pilot project, titled Skills Pipeline Investment in Regional Innovation & Training (SPIRIT) Project – Job Readiness for Individuals with IDD, develops employment opportunities for individuals with IDD who may have been previously excluded from the workforce. It also provides these individuals with the assistance and training necessary to access and retain those opportunities. The program is designed as an educational environment that enables each student to reach his or her potential, and to contribute their gifts and talents as active participants in society.
AACOG’s Natural Resources department studies data and sustainable ground-level ozone pollution strategies to improve air quality in the Alamo region.

In efforts to make the ozone standard more protective of overall human health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the acceptable concentration for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb) in 2015. The new ozone standard has posed a particular challenge to the Alamo area due to its rapid growth in population and foreign transport of ozone precursors into the region. On September 24, 2018, Bexar County was designated to be in nonattainment of the 2015 ozone standard. This designation will have impact on transportation projects and economic development. To overcome this concern, AACOG is working with local government and business to adopt best-practices that will continue to lower air pollution in the Alamo region.

**Key Projects Completed**

Two control strategies assessments were conducted in 2018: one was for the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), which covered on-road controls. The other was for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which covered controls for all other emission sources. These assessments analyzed numerous controls that could be implemented across the region to reduce emissions of ozone precursors.

Photochemical modeling is used to predict future ozone levels based on anticipated reductions in ozone precursors. Two photochemical modeling projects were completed in 2018: one for AAMPO and one for TCEQ. Both reports projected future ozone levels given changes in emissions in the AACOG Region. Additionally, the photochemical model estimated the potential contribution to local ozone levels from different geographic regions and emission sources.
Stakeholder Support

The work AACOG performs is only made possible by the support of the local stakeholders. Through industry stakeholder funds, Natural Resources staff has completed an Industrial Equipment Emission Inventory and is currently developing a Truck Idling Emissions Inventory. Using joint City of San Antonio and Bexar County funds, the team is also working to complete a Construction Equipment Emission Inventory, another Control Strategies Assessment and a Photochemical Modeling project. Furthermore, CPS Energy continues to fund the operation and maintenance of AACOG’s seven ozone monitors located throughout the region.

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
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<td>CPS Energy</td>
<td>Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</td>
<td>Active maintenance of six AACOG-owned air quality monitors for the collection of air quality data, and the addition of one new monitor at Government Canyon State Natural Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of San Antonio and Bexar County</td>
<td>Photochemical modeling, emissions inventory, local control strategy</td>
<td>$250,000 to continue technical air quality planning activities through September 2019</td>
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<td>South Texas Energy and Economic Roundtable (STEER); Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association (TACA); Capitol Aggregates; Martin Marietta; Cemex; and Alamo Cement</td>
<td>Emissions inventories</td>
<td>$57,500 to continue air quality planning activities through 2018</td>
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The Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition (AACCC) supports local activities to decrease the use of petroleum in transportation by providing technical assistance to fleets, pursuing funding opportunities, hosting educational events, as well as other services that expand the use of alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies.

In 2018, the AACCC performed a number of consultations with fleet managers and public outreach events. AACCC also presented information on the progress of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust funding to local governments and public and private fleets. The San Antonio area will see $61 million for repowering or replacing outdated vehicles.

In September, the AACCC hosted the fourth annual Drive Electric Day - San Antonio at the Pearl Brewery’s Farmers Market. With more than a dozen electric vehicles (EV) on display and available for test drives, the event attracted over 500 attendees.

Commute Solutions Program

Commute Solutions strives to help reduce traffic congestion, and thus ozone emissions, through transportation alternatives. It promotes and facilitates carpooling, mass transit, biking, walking, compressed workweeks and telecommuting; and it features a carpool matching and emergency ride home service.

At this year’s 13th annual Walk & Roll commuter challenge, one of Commute Solutions’ more popular programs, 14 area companies competed for the highest percentage of employees using transportation alternatives. The 2018 winners include Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; Southwest Research Institute; and Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson. The 827 participating individuals recorded an estimated 25,456 trips taken by alternative means that month, which reduced vehicle miles traveled by 362,250 miles.
ACADEMY

The Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy (AARLEA) has been training future Texas Peace Officers, Correction Officers, and Emergency Telecommunications personnel in the AACOG Region for over 40 years. The Academy also provides dozens of specialized inservice (continuing education) courses for law enforcement personnel. In a single year, the Academy will provide training for more than 14,000 individuals with over 182,000 contact hours.

AARLEA is the recipient of the 2018 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award. The academy was recognized for the creative approach to law enforcement training, especially the IDD law enforcement and training to JBSA Security Forces. In 2018, the AARLEA also became the first regional training provider to launch an online training platform.

The AARLEA online training platform launched in January with 533 users. By the end of 2018 we expect over 7,000 online users, servicing 127 of the 254 counties in Texas. The goal of the online training is to provide innovative training techniques for in-service peace officers through a unique platform that will optimize the reporting of training hours and production training certificates.

The Academy continued to partner with a local non-profit, through a grant with the US State Department, to host three week-long trainings for police administrators from Mexico. The Police Professionalization Exchange Program educates participants on the US / Texas Police Structure, the Use of Force Law, basic crime scene investigation techniques, and incorporates reality-based training scenarios.

“I thoroughly enjoyed this class and I feel I learned quite a bit more than I thought I would.”
- In-service student from Intermediate Spanish Class #2109.

“What a terrific class! Thank you.”
- In-service student from Recognition & Response to the IDD Community.

Great Class. Very energetic presentation.
Highly informative and very motivating for the students.
- In-service student from Police Use of Force Training.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

The program provides information for law enforcement and non-profit agencies seeking funding from the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division. In 2018, staff completed over 1,800 hours of technical assistance and provided grant-management assistance to more than 90 successfully funded projects. This year, the Criminal Justice Planning Program also sponsored a Grant Management workshop through Grant Writing USA®, to train 70 individuals throughout the AACOG Region.

HOMELAND

The Homeland Security Program supports the region’s first responders, local jurisdictions, and local agencies by ensuring regional cooperation to maximize preparedness initiatives regarding terrorism related activities. By identifying threats and security weaknesses, this program helps incorporate these aspects into regional planning initiatives to ensure they are included in the annual multipurpose planning documents. In addition, the program assists in administering federal and state homeland security grants for participating jurisdictions. This year, the program worked closely with the State of Texas Public Safety Communications Division and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications to overhaul our Regional Interoperable Communications Plan. This document will better serve the region and State when requesting communications upgrades and funding for homeland security preparedness.

Leading into 2019, the Homeland Security Program is working with regional partners to further prepare the Alamo region in Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA). This preparedness program is a nationwide initiative that assesses recent types of terror attacks.
REGIONAL 911

The 9-1-1 Program maintains and monitors essential dispatch equipment and software at each of the 9-1-1 emergency call centers for seven rural counties in the Alamo region, (Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, and Wilson counties), servicing 52,109 landlines for 222,712 residents. This program provides Regional Strategic Planning and goal-setting for a prospective “Next Generation 9-1-1” system. The system is an emergency call-delivery and response method that will use information and latest technology for faster service in our communities. Some of these technologies include text to 9-1-1, short message service (SMS), pictures and video streaming. Funding provided by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is used to purchase equipment for the seven-county public safety answering points (PSAP’s), ensuring that rural county 9-1-1 facilities are equipped to handle calls and provide response services to their residents.

In 2018, the Program administered a successful Text Control Center (TCC) SMS testing and training of PSAP personnel on SMS call-handling. AACOG presented documentation to CSEC to implement Text-to-9-1-1 in the entire region and stands ready for final approval and rollout of public education materials for TXT2911.
Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)

A Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is a cooperative planning effort conducted as a joint venture between an active military installation, surrounding jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and other affected stakeholders to address compatibility around military installations. Funded by a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), the goal of the JLUS is to reduce potential conflicts between military installations and surrounding areas while accommodating new growth and economic development, sustaining economic vitality, protecting public health and safety, and protecting the operational missions of JBSA. JLUS programs have three core objectives:

- **Understanding** - Increase communication between the military, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders to promote an understanding of the strong economic and physical relationship between JBSA and its neighbors.

- **Collaboration** - Promote collaborative planning between the military, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders in order to ensure a consistent approach in addressing compatibility issues.

- **Actions** - Develop and implement strategies for reducing the impacts of existing and future incompatible activities on the community and military operations.

JLUS recommendations may involve revisions to the communities’ comprehensive plans and traditional land use and development controls, such as zoning, subdivision regulations, building codes, and so forth. Additional actions may include land exchanges, transfer of development rights, and real estate disclosure.

The JLUS team’s initiative to promote awareness of light pollution and simple solutions to preserve our dark night skies was recognized by McDonald Observatory and UT Austin for their work on Dark Skies. Both organizations asked for permission to use the Dark Skies Story map to teach communities as part of their ongoing Dark Skies Initiative.
As the designated Economic Development District (EDD) for the region, the Regional Services program works to address issues related to economic and community development, workforce development, business recruitment and retention, entrepreneurship, small business support, and strategic planning in our local economies. Regional Services also provides technical assistance, resource development and information pertaining to accessible grants for our region.

The program hosts a series of workshops every year specializing in grant writing, planning, zoning and newly-elected officials training. This year, a number of government agencies provided sponsorships for seminars hosted by the Regional Services team, such as the Texas Department of Agriculture’s fourth Texas Community Development Block Grant Program 2018 Implementation Training Workshop.

Every year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides federal Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). AACOG, in partnership with TDA, provides administrative and technical support to entities in the region. This year, the AACOG Regional Review Committee (RRC) adopted the AACOG Regional Review Committee Guidebook 2019-2020 for the TxCDBG Program. This guidebook outlines the application scoring guidelines for project funding under the program.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, AACOG received Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds for disaster recovery services. Within the AACOG region, three (3) counties were designated as impacted areas – Comal, Guadalupe and Karnes Counties. Along with EDA, TDA and the Texas General Land Office, Regional Services staff conducts ongoing research and outreach efforts to assist these communities gain access to available resources for infrastructure and housing repair, and other disaster recovery services.

Preparation for the 2020 census is underway, and AACOG is working with representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau to coordinate outreach efforts in the rural communities.
In 1968, communities were already voicing regional solid waste concerns. The Health, Education, and Welfare survey of landfills resulted in AACOG’s decision to assume responsibility for the collection and transportation of waste, identifying methods of waste disposal, and the development of a preliminary waste study and cost analysis of alternate methods of disposal. The AACOG’s Regional Development Division, in partnership with the League of Women Voters, St. Mary’s University Research Center, and an independent consultant, produced the 1976 study, Solid Waste Patterns in South Texas. This study reviewed the existing solid waste management situation, and suggested possible alternatives and strategies for resolving the underlying issues.

In 1980, AACOG initiated a comprehensive solid waste fact-finding study through an interagency agreement with the Texas Department of Health (TDH), which identified the existence of 133 unauthorized trash dumping locations in Bexar County alone. In 1981, AACOG created a Solid Waste Advisory Taskforce, which began earnestly studying the solid waste needs of the region. Beginning in 1983, AACOG staff and the Taskforce started developing a study design for a Regional Municipal Solid Waste Plan.

The first AACOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan was completed in 1987 and was adopted by TDH as part of the State’s solid waste rules. Because only 2 regional plans were ever completed and sent to the State, in 1991, the Legislature provided the COGs with necessary funds to complete individual, regional waste plans. The Solid Waste Advisory Taskforce became the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). In 1993, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) adopted the 1993 update to the 1987 plan into the State’s rules. The current plan, Solid Waste Management in the AACOG Region, was adopted in by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in 2005.
Through the development of each of the plans, the focus has now changed from burying waste, to diverting waste - now called “resources” - for other uses. Such resources can be converted into feedstock for developing new products or even energy. The Solid Waste Program eventually became the Resource Recovery Program, and the SWAC became the Resource Recovery Committee.

The program maintains the Closed Landfill Inventory within the region, which is used by realtors, environmental scientists, developers, planners, and residents seeking information on past uses of land parcels; and it reviews applications and registrations to TCEQ for solid waste facilities within the region. Most notably however, with funds from TCEQ, this program aids local governments to expand their waste diversion programs. Since 1996, AACOG has distributed $10,347,943.35 to local governments for the purchase of recycling equipment; special collections of Household Hazardous Waste, electronics, and tires; and education on proper recycling and the prevention of illegal dumping.

In 2018, six local governments received funds for their projects. The City of Kerrville purchased recycling containers for the parks, pavilions, the new sports complex, and for the trail heads along the Guadalupe River. The City of Converse requested a chipper truck to expand their efforts of processing brush to useful mulch for its residents and public spaces. Kerr County’s recently initiated recycling program received funds for a trailer that will travel to the remote areas of the county, to provide recycling opportunities for those residents. The City of New Braunfels requested a vertical baler, allowing their recycling center to accept and bale recyclable material too big for the curbside carts and film bags. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) received funds to promote SARA’s HHW collections in Wilson and Karnes County. The funds spent on advertising, which resulted in increased participation at their collections, included colored newspaper ads, posted flyers, and direct mail. The City of San Antonio developed 30-second public service announcements to remind the community of how to properly use their brown, green, and blue carts, and how they can help the City reach its 60% recycling goal by 2025. Although the City’s commercials were directed towards city residents, their educational efforts reach the greater San Antonio population.

To help celebrate the 50th year of AACOG service, the Resource Recovery Program challenged AACOG staff to recycle 50 pairs of prescription and nonprescription eyewear, which would be donated to the Westside Lions Club for their national eyewear collection and redistribution program. The two-week challenge raised 213 pairs of eyeglasses and several packs of contact lenses.
The AACOG Weatherization Program provides assistance with energy conservation measures that reduce energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes and accessibility modifications to low-income households within the AACOG Region. Professionally trained weatherization crews use computerized energy assessments and advanced diagnostic equipment, such as blower doors, manometers, and infrared cameras, to create a comprehensive analysis of the home and determine the most cost-effective measures to repair health and safety concerns. The program is funded through grants from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Veterans Commission, Department of Energy and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Low-income households carry a larger burden for energy costs, typically spending 16.3% of their total annual income, versus 3.5% for other households (2014 Oak Ridge National Laboratory study). In order to pay their monthly energy bills, families oftentimes have to reduce spending on healthcare, medicine, groceries, and childcare.

Weatherization helps alleviate this burden through cost-effective shell improvements such as insulation; air sealing; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems; lighting; and energy-efficient appliances. Overall health and safety is also enhanced through the removal of energy-related hazards. Once the installation is completed, these weatherization efficiencies save residents both energy and money, and eventually increase annual household income.

From January to October 2018, the AACOG Weatherization Program expended $1,170,885 and assisted 192 beneficiaries with energy conservation renovations and 4 accessibility modifications.

The Amy Young Barrier Removal Program provides a one-time home modification (of up to $20,000) for persons with disabilities. This project typically improves accessibility throughout the home and eliminates hazardous conditions. Program beneficiaries can be either tenants or homeowners, but must have a disability and have a household income that does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Family Income.

The Texas Veterans Commission, through funds from Housing for Texas Heroes, also assists Texas veterans and their families with home modifications and improvements to ensure quality of life.
AACOG Membership & Strategic Partnerships

COUNTIES
• Atascosa County
• Bandera County
• Bexar County
• Comal County
• Frio County
• Gillespie County
• Guadalupe County
• Karnes County
• Kendall County
• Kerr County
• McMullen County
• Medina County
• Wilson County

CITIES
• Alamo Heights
• Balcones Heights
• Bandera
• Boerne
• Bulverde
• Castle Hills
• Castroville
• Charlotte
• China Grove
• Cibolo
• Comfort
• Converse
• Devine
• Dilley
• Elmendorf
• Fair Oaks Ranch
• Falls City
• Floresville
• Fredericksburg
• Grey Forest
• Helotes
• Hill Country Village
• Hollywood Park
• Honda
• Ingram
• Jourdanton
• Karnes City
• Kenedy
• Kerrville
• Kirby
• La Coste
• La Vernia
• Leon Valley
• Live Oak
• Lylte
• Marion
• Natalia
• New Berlin
• New Braunfels
• Olmos Park
• Pearsall
• Pleasanton
• Poteet
• Poth
• Runge
• San Antonio
• Schertz
• Seguin
• Selma
• Shavano Park
• Somerset
• Stockdale
• Terrell Hills
• Universal City
• Von Ormy

PUBLIC UTILITIES
• CPS Energy
• San Antonio Water System

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
• Boerne ISD
• Fort Sam Houston ISD
• North East ISD
• Northside ISD
• Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD
• Southwest ISD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
• AEM-USA
• Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area Inc.
• Build San Antonio Green
• CRIT-USA
• Goodwill Industries
• Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
• McKamie Krueger LLP
• San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
• San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
• San Antonio Mobility Coalition
• Solar San Antonio
• University Health System

SPECIAL DISTRICTS
• Alamo Colleges
• Bexar County ESD #6
• Brooks
• Edwards Aquifer Authority
• Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
• Kerrville Economic Development Corporation
• San Antonio River Authority
• VIA Metropolitan Transit

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
• Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council
• CI: Now
• Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University
• International City/County Management Association
• Joint Base San Antonio
• Military and Veteran Community Collaborative
• National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
• National Association of Development Organizations
• National Association of Regional Councils
• San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families
• San Antonio Food Bank
• South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable
• Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association
• Texas Association of Regional Councils
• Texas Council of Community Centers
• Texas Municipal League
• University of Texas San Antonio
• Workforce Solutions Alamo
## Alamo Area Council of Governments 2018-2019 Annual Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Administrative Indirect</th>
<th>Local</th>
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<th>2018 Budget**</th>
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<table>
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<td><strong>48,169,215</strong></td>
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* 2019 Budget as presented during the October 2018 BOD meeting.
** This represents the 2018 Modified Budget.
*** The Administrative budget excludes program cost recoveries.
This publication was financed in part through funding from the State of Texas: Office of the Governor – Texas Military Preparedness Commission; Criminal Justice Division; Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications; Texas Department of Agriculture; Texas Department of Emergency Management; Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Texas Department of Public Safety; Texas Department of Transportation; Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Texas Veterans Commission; Texas Workforce Commission; Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; Bexar County; City of San Antonio; Logisticare; Syracuse University - Institute for Veterans and Military Families; U.S. Department of Defense – Office of Economic Adjustment; U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration; U.S. Department of Energy; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Administration on Aging; U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - South Texas Veterans Health Care System; University Health System; and VIA Metropolitan Transit.