



Alamo Area Council of Governments 2020 Regional Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The Regional Strategic Plan represents the Criminal Justice vision and priorities for the Alamo Area. This strategic plan and all regional priorities have been established by the community stakeholders of the 13-county area, which encompasses Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties. The entire estimated population of 2,667,198¹ is served by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), also known as the Alamo Area or State Planning Region 18.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to identify and prioritize criminal justice needs and gaps in services in the areas of Criminal Justice System Improvements, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, Direct Victim Services, and Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment. The Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division (CJD) has determined the COGS will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a strategic plan prioritizing the criminal justice needs in the region.

This regional strategic plan is in accordance with §2.G in the current Interagency Cooperation Contract between CJD and AACOG:

Mission: The mission of the AACOG – Public Safety Division Planning Department is to enhance the quality of life of all residents of the Alamo Region in partnership with elected and appointed officials, funders, community partners and beneficiaries.

Planning Process

The AACOG Public Safety Planning Department's Regional Strategic Plan was developed through the collaborative efforts of our region's County Judges, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee members, regional law enforcement jurisdictions, current and past CJD applicants, and concerned citizens. With the support and input of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and past participants of the Regional Strategic planning process, Planning Staff created and implemented a Regional Needs Assessment Survey to distribute throughout the region to determine available services and gaps in resources. The link to the survey was shared with CJAC members, attendees to the mandatory grant workshop, all regional law enforcement jurisdictions, as well as past applicants and concerned citizens. All Community Stakeholders were encouraged to pass the link on to any additional service providers impacted by the criminal justice system. Participants were able to indicate within the survey if they wanted to be part of the prioritization process, of whom were notified of meetings, as well all CJAC members and alternates. Members met and finalized the priorities. CJAC Members approved all priorities provided on this summary and the complete 2020 Regional Strategic Plan.

¹ US Census Data, 2020



Criminal Justice Regional Strategic Planning Priorities

Juvenile Issues

- Priority 1: Mental Health
- Priority 2: Family Stability
- Priority 3: Truancy
- Priority 4: Improving School Climate
- Priority 5: Adult life-skills

Law Enforcement

- Priority 1: Personnel
- Priority 2: Equipment
- Priority 3: Training
- Priority 4: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention

- Priority 1: Access to screening and referral to psychiatric and substance abuse services and therapy
- Priority 2: Access to & Funding to Treatment & Prevention Programs for Substance Abuse & Mental Health
- Priority 3: Access to & Funding for Technology Based Services

Victim Issues

- Priority 1: Comprehensive Victim Support Services
- Priority 2: Victim Advocacy
- Priority 3: Accessible and Affordable
- Priority 4: Restoration Services
- Priority 5: Professional Development and Training