



ALAMO REGION

Texas Strong

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear AACOG Members and Residents of the Alamo Area:

It is with great pleasure that I report to you the state of affairs for the Alamo Area Council of Governments. As Chairman, the opportunity to embed myself in the fabric of this agency has deepened my admiration for the 350 employees, the multitude of services, and the remarkable leadership AACOG offers our region. This role has proven to be an enlightening experience, but one I will appreciate for a lifetime.

Our Aging Services team continued their mission to ensure our older adults are cared for, especially as we slowly transition back into doing business in-person. Many of our older residents have dealt with isolation for far too long, and the opportunity to shake their hand and hold their shoulder is one none of us are taking for granted. Most notably, our Texas Tall Tales public service announcement commercials were recognized time and again, for their creativity and ability to connect with our residents. In total, the videos received eleven awards from local, state and national associations including the American Advertising Federation, Health & Human Services, and the National Association of Development Organizations. This year we also launched two more videos, promoting vaccines and the ability for AACOG to assist with scheduling and administering these to homebound clients.

The Alamo Regional Transit program, or ART as most of us know it, also kept busy working to refine scheduling and coordination of its demand-response transportation for our rural residents. The Ecolane Mobility app is what our residents need to learn and adopt – providing for our customers more effective transportation solutions. ART was also recognized by the National Association for Development Organizations this year. The program was given the Excellence in Regional Transportation award for their work with Joint Base San Antonio's Soldier Recovery Unit. This project was another successful result of the Blanket Intergovernmental Support Agreement with JBSA.

The Intellectual & Developmental Disability Services program, Bexar County's Local Authority for the IDD population, continued delivering outstanding service in Bexar County. Despite struggling to recruit and retain employees, largely attributed to strict job requirements and limited pay delegated by the State – the team of 125 professionals continued to serve this vulnerable population. The popular Apprenticeship Program graduated a cohort of students specializing in IT and web development, and received local media coverage for their original approaches. They also won the National Association of Development Organizations Photo Contest – the photo was the above-mentioned class at their graduation, with Texas-sized smiles, cap and gowns, and a whole lot of confetti.



LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN JAMES TEAL



Department of the
Air Force Community
Partnership Program, Air
Force Association (AFA).

Our veterans and weatherization programs cannot be left unmentioned, and also maintained steady growth this year between their multiple services. The Texas Veterans Network is now fully operational in the Corpus Christi and Laredo areas, and our staff in those communities have helped grow the network's provider-base and overall veterans reached. We have over 200 organizations working to meet the needs of our vets, and we're not slowing down anytime soon. The Homes 4 TX Heroes and Rides 4 TX Heroes programs continued to serve our veterans with badly needed programs.

On the Government Services side of the house, the various programs were combined into one department – I believe this is an excellent adjustment to the structure of the organization, and the move is already bearing fruit. The Economic Development District and Regional Development team is meeting with member governments as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dollars begin to trickle down. Broadband and the 'Digital Divide' is a hot topic for all our communities, and it will be a priority as these federal agencies announce funding opportunities. Member governments can contact the program if they need support with grant research, writing, or even administration of the grants they're seeking. This is truly a great service for the membership, and one I hope our local leaders use.

The Public Safety division is one I've grown to know very closely, as we work together to minimize threat and damage caused by smugglers coming up from our southern border. Illegal crossings have reached another record year, and it's a burden not only on our residents but on our law enforcement professionals. On that same note, I had the pleasure of attending this year's Basic Peace Officer Course graduations. I had the opportunity to see over 90 cadets sworn in as Texas Peace Officers, and I rest a little easier at night knowing our communities are being patrolled by some outstanding law enforcement professionals. I especially want to mention the incredible effort our team put forth in response to the heartbreaking incident in Uvalde, TX on May 24th.

Through Operation Coyote Overwatch, we provided valuable resources including supplies, personnel, and guidance that helped organize over 500 first responders and 139 agencies charged with sustaining public safety services to the Uvalde community.

The Natural Resources team was in high demand this year, as Bexar County unfortunately saw a re-designation in their classification of air quality nonattainment by the Environmental Protection Agency. The transition from Marginal to Moderate nonattainment will inevitably come with an economic cost to the county, but our Air Quality program will remain at the forefront of both monitoring air quality precursors, and promoting pollution reduction measures. The program's Clean Cities Coalition, an initiative funded by the Department of Energy supporting alternative fuels and electric vehicles, granted the local coalition a re-designation. We are excited the coalition will continue to receive funding for the next four years.

Our partnership with Joint Base San Antonio continues to be a national model. This September, AACOG was invited to attend the Air Force Association (AFA) Air, Space, and Cyber Conference in Washington, DC to be recognized for the work with our historic Blanket Intergovernmental Support Agreement. Diane and JBSA Brigadier General Russell Driggers accepted a letter in recognition of the Department of the Air Force Community Partnership Program, signed by Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall, highlighting strides in partnership, innovation, and success.

With that, I can proudly and confidently tell you that the state of AACOG is stronger than ever, and will continue to strengthen into 2023. I look forward to seeing them in action as I work with my constituents. It has been my absolute honor to represent this organization; I thank you all, and I hope I have made this agency as proud as it's made me.

Yours in service,

James E. Teal
County Judge,
McMullen County
AACOG Chair

Management Team



Diane Rath
Executive Director



Rick Bluntzer
Senior Director of Operations



Jenise Diaz
Chief Financial Officer



Clifford Herberg
General Counsel



Jacob Ulczynski
Senior Director, IDD Services
and Agency Coordination



Julio Elizondo
Director of Accounting



Deedra Johnson
Director of Human Resources



Miguel Segura
Director of Public Affairs
and Regional Development



Sean Scott
Director of Transportation



Blanca Tapia
Comptroller



Will McKnight
Director of Aging and
Military Affairs



Jhoan Torres
Budget Officer

Board of Directors



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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McMullen County, County Judge
Representing McMullen County

Clayton Perry • Vice Chairman
District 10, Councilman, City of San Antonio
Representing City of San Antonio

Board of Directors

Marialyn Barnard • Commissioner
Bexar County Precinct 3, Representing Bexar County

James Blakey • Councilman
City of New Braunfels, Representing Urbanized-City
of New Braunfels

Luana Buckner • Chair
EAA Board of Directors, Representing Special Districts

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

Rebeca Clay-Flores • Commissioner
Bexar County Precinct 1, Representing Bexar County

Victor Contreras • Mayor
City of Marion, Representing Area Cities, Group B

Mary Dennis • Mayor
City of Live Oak, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)

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

Judy Eychner • Mayor
City of Kerrville, Representing Area Cities – Group C

Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia • Councilwoman
City of San Antonio, District 4 City of San Antonio,
Representing City of San Antonio

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

Wade Hedtke • County Judge
Karnes County, Representing Karnes County

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

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

Rob Kelly • County Judge
Kerr County, Representing Kerr County

Sherman Krause • County Judge
Comal County, Representing Comal County

Kyle Kutscher • County Judge
Guadalupe County, Representing Guadalupe County

Suzanne de Leon • Mayor
City of Balcones Heights, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)

Lisa Lewis • Chief Administrative Officer
CPS Energy, Representing Public Utilities

Arnulfo Luna • County Judge
Frio County, Representing Frio County

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

José Menéndez • Senator
Texas Senate, District 26, Representing Urban and Rural Areas

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

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

Darrin Schroeder • Mayor
City of Castroville, Representing Area Cities, Group A

Chris Schuchart • County Judge
Medina County, Representing Medina County

Mark Stroeher • County Judge
Gillespie County, Representing Gillespie County

Sylvester Vasquez Jr. • President
Southwest ISD, Representing School Districts

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

Kyle Biedermann • Representative
State of Texas, District 73 State of Texas,
Representing Ex Officio Member

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

Brian Hoffman • Vice Director
502d Air Base Wing, Representing Ex Officio Member JBSA

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

Judith Zaffirini • Senator
State of Texas, District 21 State of Texas,
Representing Ex Officio Member

Diane D. Rath • Executive Director
Alamo Area Council of Governments



AGING SERVICES

Making it possible for older adults to 'age in place' in their homes and communities, by providing a range of services overseen by the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) and the Alamo and Bexar Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) | ALAMO SERVICE CONNECTION

Aging and Disability Resource Centers are highly visible and trusted resources where individuals of any age, income, or disability can call to learn about a full range of long-term services. The Alamo Service Connection is AACOG's specific ADRC that serves older adults, people with disabilities, veterans – to include veterans' families – residing in the AACOG service area.



The ASC handled 39,899 calls in 2022

5,543 calls in the Alamo area
(AACOG's twelve rural counties)
resulting in **1,454** referrals to the
Alamo Area Agency on Aging

34,356 calls in Bexar County
resulting in **6,725** referrals to the
Bexar Area Agency on Aging

31,720 additional referrals were
made to other AACOG programs
and community partners.



BENEFITS COUNSELING

Also known as the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, Benefits Counseling provides Medicare beneficiaries with information, counseling, and enrollment assistance. The program also provides education, and advocacy to Medicare beneficiaries of any age. Through free one-on-one counseling, the team assisted over 2,700 Medicare Beneficiaries in 2022.

The benefits counseling team also attended over 130 community outreach events, both virtually and in person. Additionally, benefits counselors were able to provide regular one-on-one counseling and assistance at food distribution centers as well as assisted living establishments.

BENEFITS ENROLLMENT CENTER (BEC)

The Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC), one of only four in the State of Texas, allows AACOG benefits counselors to assist Medicare beneficiaries with the actual completion of their applications. The BEC team consults with older adults and individuals with disabilities, and helps them apply for: Medicare Part D, Extra Help or Low Income Subsidy, Medicare Saving Program, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The BEC worked with over 1,000 applicants and redeterminations throughout 2022.



**2,700+ Medicare
beneficiaries
assisted in 2022**



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CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES

The National Family Caregiver Support Program offers support and training to unpaid family caregivers. Through a collaboration with Upward Care and ConnectAbility, the program participated in the production of an instructional video series. These videos are available for free and offer family caregivers resources and training to safely and properly care for their loved ones. This online tool is critical for family caregivers and their loved ones, as caregivers typically spend the majority – if not all – of their days with their loved ones.



AACOG's COVID-19 Outreach Program awarded "Best of Show" at the 2022 American Advertising Awards.

COVID-19 OUTREACH PROGRAM

Through a partnership with the Texas National Guard and Lela Pharmacy, almost 1,000 vaccines were administered to residents in the Alamo Area. Residents also received one-on-one education at in-person events, and for homebound residents AACOG was able to coordinate vaccine administrators to visit individuals in their home. The program coordinated and hosted over 60 vaccine pop-up clinics throughout the 13-county service area..



Clients Educated on AACOG Services

Bexar: 1,448

Alamo: 200

Total: 1,648



Vaccines Administered

Bexar: 708

Alamo: 286

Total: 994

Vaccine Outreach Topics

- COVID-19 Education
- Available Vaccination Sites
- Types of Vaccines Available
- Homebound Assistance
- Expired Drug Disposal

HEALTH & WELLNESS

With the continued concern and caution around the Covid-19 pandemic, AACOG Evidence-Based Intervention classes are offered both in-person and virtually. Classes focus on enhancing independence, increasing mobility, encouraging socialization, health, and overall quality of life for older adults. Over 400 participants joined our classes and learned about fall prevention, nutrition, and enhanced mobility. Additionally, through a grant from the Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) to address opioid misuse, a community partnership with San Antonio Drug and Alcohol Awareness (SACADA) was formed and SACADA's drug deactivation kits were made available to older adults across the Alamo Area. More than 10,000 home drug deactivation kits have been distributed in the past three years.

Over 400 participants joined our classes and learned about fall prevention, nutrition, and enhanced mobility.



HOUSING BOND

The AAA Housing Bond assists older adults find and maintain housing in order to ensure their health, safety, security, and independence. The Aging Services program assists individuals relocate to more affordable housing, relocate from long-term care back into the community, and assists with repairs or modifications to ease accessibility throughout the home. The program was also able to serve 12 individuals with over \$17,300 in income support and assistance.



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MASONIC WIDOWS

Through a unique partnership with The Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas, widows of Texas Master Masons living within the 13-county service area are provided support services to assist with maintaining independence and improving quality of life. In 2022, the program assisted 35 widows with various needs, to include residential repairs, provider services, incontinence supplies, and transportation. The partnership was able to assist with \$80,000 over a two-year period. The Masonic Widow Program will not continue into 2023.



\$80,000

**in assistance over a
two-year period.**

NUTRITION

Across the region, nutrition providers who traditionally organized congregate meal sites continued to deliver services with the newly-adopted social distancing guidelines and sanitary protocols. The shift into home-delivered meals limited the amount of meals served in any given day or month, and continued to limit us through the beginning of the year. The majority of our rural nutrition providers were ultimately able to transition to congregate meal sites at 20% capacity. Inside Bexar County, the largest congregate meal provider slowly resumed on-site meals while they continued to provide curbside pick-up. Other Bexar County congregate meal providers gradually opened throughout the year and remained on a steady path to pre-pandemic operations and meals served.



Bexar Nutrition

Total Units — 860,381

\$4,628,202

Alamo Nutrition

Total Units — 309,903

\$1,939,069

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman program focuses on developing new and current Ombudsman to ensure long-term care residents receive the quality of care they deserve. The recruitment and retention of volunteers remains paramount for the continued success of the program.

The program visited 1,400 nursing homes and 1,550 assisted living communities in 2022 to ensure residents have direct access to their LTC Ombudsman, and to educate them on Resident Rights and resolve any concerns residents may have.



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SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

The Senior Companion program works to serve socially isolated veterans and older adults by pairing them with a Senior Corps volunteer, all are 55 years of age or older, and provide general companionship. The companion also assists with small tasks such as checking the mail, providing snacks, light housekeeping, running errands, and even accompaniment to doctor appointments. The companion may also provide respite services to a family caregiver that may need personal time, helping to avoid burnout.



25,209 Volunteer Hours Were Completed in 2022



ALAMO REGIONAL TRANSIT

providing safe, reliable, professional, and courteous public transportation to residents in the Alamo Area

DEMAND RESPONSE

The Alamo Regional Transit (ART) program provides “curb-to-curb” transportation Monday thru Friday, from 7:00am to 6:00pm., and although a 24-hour advance reservation is recommended, the program now offers same-day service, based on availability. With a fixed fare structure, ART’s demand response service offers an affordable option for individuals who may need to travel to work, school, medical appointments, or leisure activities. In 2022, 138,245 trips were scheduled and completed.



ART conducted a total of
138,245
trips in 2022.

The Ecolane mobile app offers users an opportunity to schedule, edit, and check the status of their ride from their smartphone or computer. This platform, similar to popular rideshare services, enhances the user experience and helps reduce wait times, travel times, and scheduling inefficiencies. The app launched in 2021, and has 6,700 user profiles.

**The app launched in 2021,
and has 6,700 user profiles.**

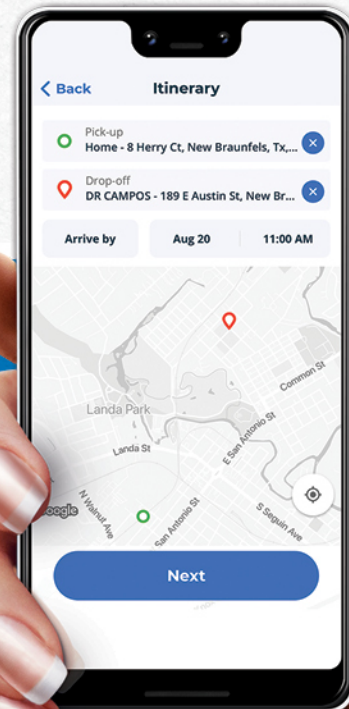


CONNECT SEGUIN

The Connect Seguin fixed route offers regular stops on a designated loop that visits major destinations across the city, to include the public library, the Texas Workforce Commission office, the local H-E-B, and multiple apartment complexes. In 2022, over 18,400 riders were transported to their destinations. ART is working with the cities of New Braunfels and Seguin to grow this route, to include regular trips on Highway 46, ultimately bridging the gap between the two cities. The new extension, coined ‘Connect 46’, will soon prove the need for ongoing service and innovation in public transportation.

ATASCOSA COWBOY CONNECT

Atascosa Cowboy Connect is a fixed route operating in conjunction with Atascosa County and the Cities of Poteet, Jourdanton, and Pleasanton. This multi-jurisdictional transit system provides solutions for residents who commute to the different cities within their own county. In 2022, close to 9,000 trips were taken on the cowboy-branded buses. Fixed routes like this help reduce traffic and air pollution, while boosting regional economies and quality of life.



+18,400
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transported to their
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**In 2022, close to
9,000 trips were
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SCHOOL KIDS PROGRAM

ART's School Kids program offers rides to school children whose home is not serviced by the school district's bus system. This typically impacts students in after-school care, or those who live within two miles of their school. In 2022, 168 schoolchildren took over 8,200 trips to get to-and-from school in our rural communities.

**In 2022, 168
schoolchildren
took over 8,201
trips to get to-
and-from school...**



VETERANS TRANSPORTATION

Through a partnership with the Texas Veterans Network and the Rides 4 Texas Heroes program, ART prioritizes transportation for veterans, their dependent family members, and surviving spouses. In 2022, 8,370 veterans and family members were transported to work, medical appointments, and for other essential needs.



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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Developing awareness and adoption of environmentally conscious best-practices, recycling, illegal dumping enforcement, solid waste studies, and waste collection

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The program successfully updated the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan by creating 5, 10, 15, and 20 year priorities for the Alamo Area. The new plan, implemented January 2022, establishes the foundation for environmental conservation focus areas over the next two decades.



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CLOSED LANDFILL INVENTORY

AACOG maintains the Closed Landfill Inventory for the 13-county service area. These inventories are used by developers, realtors, engineers, environmental scientists, planners, and residents seeking information on past uses of land parcels. In 2022, 195 requests came to the program regarding different landfills and potential development around them.

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GRANT ADMINISTRATION

2022 was the first year of the new biennium for the Alamo Area. Through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), \$175,000 was made available for waste management related projects. Four (4) communities were awarded funds to implement a total of five (5) projects. The projects will make an impact on over 1.5M residents across the region.

City of Grey Forest	City of Shavano Park	Kendall County	City of San Antonio, Office of Historic Preservation	City of San Antonio, Office of Historic Preservation
\$51,776.00	\$25,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$78,000.00	\$5,224.00



INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Serving as the single point of access to publicly-funded services for individuals with an intellectual disability, developmental disability, autism spectrum disorder, related condition in Bexar County

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

Anybody on the State Intellectual & Developmental Disability (IDD) Interest List receives eligibility determination—an assessment to determine if a person has an intellectual disability or is a member of the Health and Human Services Commission priority population for IDD—before becoming eligible to receive services. The assessment uses standardized tests to determine a person's IQ and Adaptive Behavior Level, and typically includes an interview with the individual and their legally authorized representative, or others who are actively involved with the individual. Currently, there are over 10,000 individuals on the IDD Medicaid waiver Interest Lists in Bexar County.



+\$308,777

distributed to families impacted by COVID-19, to help with basic living needs and maintain housing.



SERVICE COORDINATION

Service coordinators, also known as case managers, help people access medical, social, educational, and other appropriate services to achieve an acceptable quality of life and community participation. Service coordinators also assist with explaining the array of community living options for individuals with IDD and their families.

Over 117,000 service coordination/case management services delivered in 2022.

DIRECT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

IDD Services provides direct service and support to eligible individuals residing in nursing facilities or enrolled in community-based services. Direct services are also intended to help individuals achieve an acceptable quality of life and increase community participation. Direct Services provided in 2022 reached \$2.3 Million, and included attendant & habilitation services, day habilitation, respite, employment services, and specialized therapies.

CRISIS SERVICES

One of the greatest obstacles individuals with IDD and their supportive family members face is access to adequate behavioral crisis respite support and training opportunities. The IDD crisis services program may provide up to 72 hours of in-home crisis respite or up to 14 days of out-of-home crisis respite to provide therapeutic support and stabilize the situation. Therapeutic support is a flexible array of services, and includes behavioral support to holistically address the stressors resulting in challenging behaviors. The IDD Services program provided 500 training activities in crisis prevention and intervention, and assisted in more than 580 crisis interventions.



TRANSITION SUPPORT TEAM

The goal of the the Transition Support Team is successful inclusion in the community by providing medical, psychiatric, and behavioral services targeting at-risk factors that lead to institutionalization. The program provides support to local intellectual and developmental disability authorities, Home and Community-based Services providers, and Texas Home Living providers serving people at risk of admission or readmission into an institutional setting. Support is provided in the AACOG, Camino Real, Gulf Bend, and Hill Country regions. In 2022, the program coordinated 123 educational events, 59 technical assistance activities, and 38 case reviews.

In 2022, the TST program coordinated 123 educational events, 59 technical assistance activities, and 38 case reviews.

SUPPORT & EMPOWERMENT

The Support & Empowerment program aims to educate older adults with IDD and their caregivers in health and wellness. In-person and virtual classes are offered to individuals across the state. The goal is to educate individuals and their caregivers about aging with IDD. Through instruction in various topics that include health, finance, spirituality, caregiver care, nutrition, and physical fitness. Individuals are empowered to identify gaps in the community support system and create a plan for how to become a healthier, and more efficient, self-manager and caregiver.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Employment Services program provides pre-vocational and vocational support services to people seeking to obtain or maintain employment, including the support of internships and apprenticeships in the community. To date, the program has assisted over 137 individuals with IDD find employment in a number of different industries.



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Apprenticeship Program, 2022 NADO Photo Contest Winner

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

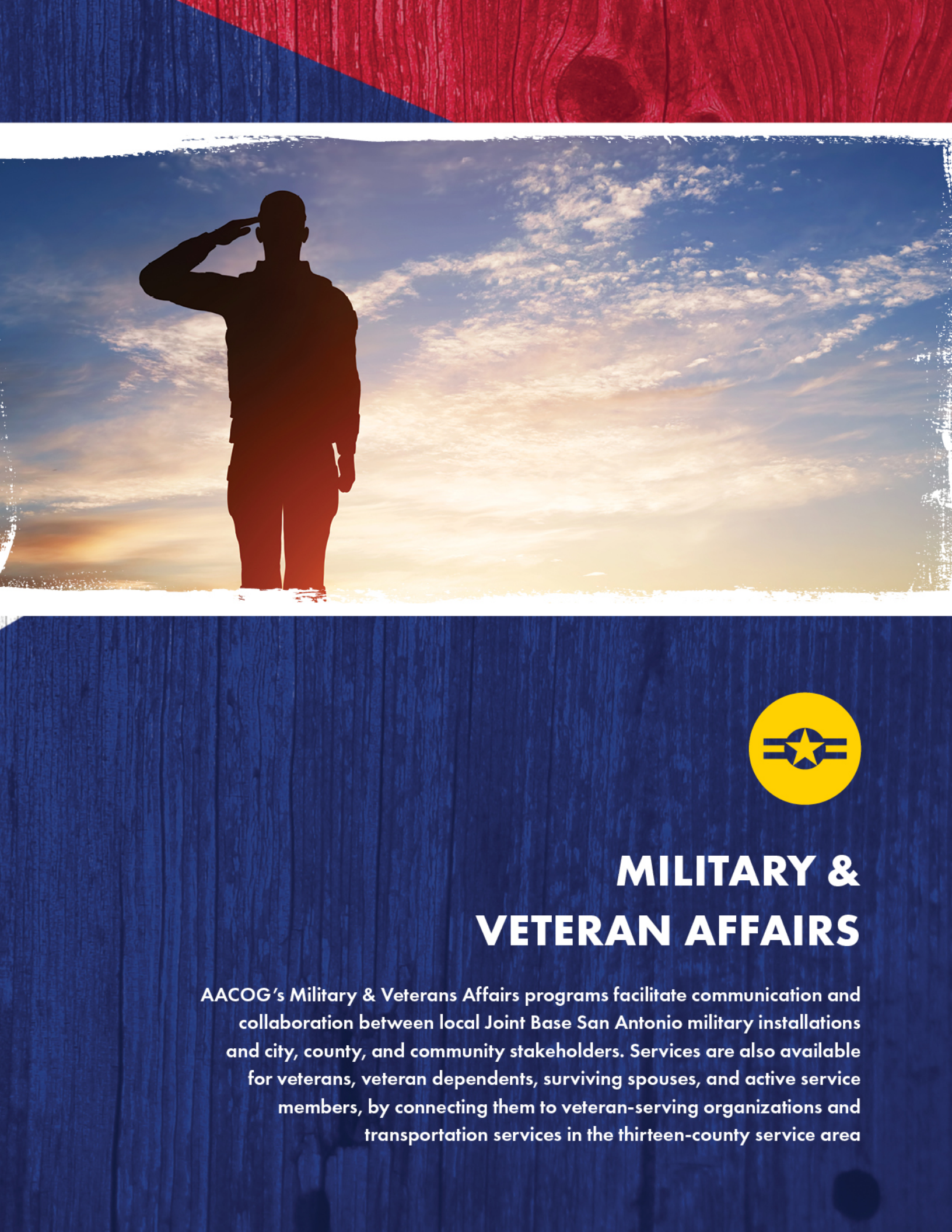
IDD Services works diligently toward increasing the level of interagency coordination to support the IDD population. The program has continued to actively participate in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative, an effort of Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services to develop, implement, and maintain the regional trauma and emergency healthcare system for Trauma Service Area – P.

IDD Services continues to partner with the local health information exchange, HASA, and receives daily alerts when people currently being served in our programs have presented at a local hospital. This near real-time information source allows for timelier follow up and discharge planning for urgent and emergent healthcare needs.

The program also partnered with Morgan's Wonderland on development of the Multi Assistance Center (MAC). The MAC is an innovative co-located, one-stop-shop model that provides all the medical and non-medical services needed for individuals with special needs, and opened October of 2022.

In coordination with Bexar County, IDD Services has developed programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities who have encounters with the criminal justice system. IDD Services receives daily alerts when a person suspected of having an intellectual disability is booked in an adult detention center. This collaboration with the state and county allows IDD Services to support the person and jail staff while developing a plan to divert the person to the community, when possible.

The program also partnered with Morgan's Wonderland on development of the Multi Assistance Center (MAC). The MAC is an innovative co-located, one-stop-shop model that provides all the medical and non-medical services needed for individuals with special needs, and opened October of 2022.



MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS

AACOG's Military & Veterans Affairs programs facilitate communication and collaboration between local Joint Base San Antonio military installations and city, county, and community stakeholders. Services are also available for veterans, veteran dependents, surviving spouses, and active service members, by connecting them to veteran-serving organizations and transportation services in the thirteen-county service area

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO POWER SUB-STATION HARDENING PROJECT

Completed in 2022, this \$5M grant from the Governor's Office focused on improving the security and resiliency of the power grid supplying Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). CPS Energy matched the grant with a \$4M investment of their own, to enhance the physical security of all major power substations supplying JBSA.

This project also called for the removal of overhead power lines in a 'clear zone' near JBSA-Randolph. This consisted of burying the overhead CPS Energy and telecom cables and removing above-ground infrastructure poles. JBSA electrical service resiliency saw significant improvements: it is now protected from physical acts of terrorism and accidents, mission disruptions caused by weather events, existing airfield waivers, and clear zone obstructions is drastically reduced.



CPS Energy matched with a \$4M investment of their own to enhance the physical security of all major power substations supplying JBSA.

\$225,000

Amount the Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA) program received as a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to advance implementation strategies identified by JBSA RCUP and Kelly Field Comprehensive Plan.

REGIONAL COMPATIBLE USE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA) program received a \$225,000 grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to advance implementation strategies identified by both the 2020 JBSA Regional Compatible Use Plan and 2020 Kelly Field Comprehensive Plan. AACOG continues to coordinate with its regional partners, city and county governments, JBSA, the State of Texas, and Port San Antonio to facilitate meetings, inform local elected officials, and conduct community outreach. Through this grant, the MVA program implemented strategies and tools to fill gaps in zoning protections, and developed tools to enable more efficient and effective compatible development coordination between Joint Base San Antonio's four military installations, Martindale Army Airfield, four counties, and 28 municipalities. This effort included outreach around dark sky compliance and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) adaptation, both of which are imperative to sustain JBSA military missions and their economic impact.

SENTINEL LANDSCAPE

The Military & Veterans Affairs program, in partnership with the Hill Country Alliance, created a consortium of 45 organizations supporting a Sentinel Landscape proposal designed to protect the training mission at JBSA-Camp Bullis. The project was designated as the Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape (CBSL) by the Federal Coordinating Committee (DOD, DOI, & USDA) on February 14, 2022. The Hill Country Alliance now leads the consortium. AACOG is committed to supporting this effort by acting as Chair of the Government Relations committee, and coordination of the RCUP Implementation Committee activities with CBSL to ensure seamless coordination, outreach, and messaging.



TEXAS VETERANS NETWORK (TVN)

Through a three-year grant from the Texas Workforce Commission, the Alamo Area Development Corporation, AACOG's 501(c)(3), was able to expand the Texas Veteran Network to the Laredo and Coastal Bend regions. Thanks to this expansion, these 27 Central and South Texas counties are now serviced by over 200 veteran serving organizational partners that can cater to over 70 different needs-areas veterans may have. The TVN San Antonio office remains the centralized coordination center where calls from military service members, veterans, and their dependents are answered, processed, and provided with a warm introduction to the provider that can assist them. TVN also works with AACOG's Alamo Regional Transit program to provide transportation throughout the 13-county service area through the Rides 4 Texas Heroes program. This service helps veterans and their family members get to medical appointments, senior centers, job interviews, education, grocery shopping, and other essential transportation needs.



Texas Veterans Network

Over 3,300+ veterans served in 2022

VETERAN DIRECTED CARE SERVICES (VDC)

As an alternative to living in a long-term care facility, the Veteran Directed Care Services program in partnership with the Veterans Administration (VA), empowers veterans to choose and manage services and supports from the comfort of their own home. The VDC program serves VA referred veterans within a 120-mile radius of the City of San Antonio, with plans to expand to additional counties in the upcoming year. In 2022, the program continued to experience growth and now provides critical case management and coordination services to over 530 veterans.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Educating stakeholders on ways to improve air quality the AACOG region by conducting technical analysis and outreach programs, and by bringing together stakeholders from all interests to develop air pollution reduction plans

ALAMO AREA CLEAN CITIES COALITION

The Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition encourages American energy independence, environmental sustainability, and economic development by promoting the regional adoption of alternative fuels in the transportation sector. Supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Alamo Clean Cities works regionally to advance affordable domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. Coalition efforts pivoted in 2022, now providing outreach about provisions in the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that incentivize alternative fuel vehicle adoption and fueling infrastructure development.

In February, the Coalition held a South Texas Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Webinar for local governments and utilities across South Texas, and later worked with TxDOT to develop its plan for the use of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula grant program funding. This year, the Coalition worked with CPS Energy to hold the first-ever showcase for medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles in an expanded SA Drive Electric celebration. The Coalition is preparing to award over \$320,000 to assist fleets within Bexar County with heavy duty electric vehicle replacement.

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TCEQ RIDER 7

In 2022, AACOG continued monitoring ozone, meteorology, and nitrogen oxides (NOX) during ozone season at Bulverde Elementary, City of Garden Ridge, and New Braunfels Airport. An Auto-GC, which measures volatile organic compounds (VOC), was placed in the City of Garden Ridge August 2022. With the start-up of this relocated Auto-GC, Garden Ridge is now the second air quality monitor in the Alamo Area that measures ozone and both of its precursors: NOX and VOC. This makes it extremely valuable in helping us understand the behavior of ozone.

A Truck Idling Emission Inventory is being developed to estimate emissions from heavy-duty vehicle idling at rest areas, truck stops, and other places where long-term truck idling occurs within Comal, Guadalupe, and Wilson Counties. This will improve emissions estimates to predict future ozone levels and is beneficial to developing pollution control measures in those three counties.



AIR QUALITY

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposed rule in April to reclassify Bexar County to moderate nonattainment, having been classified marginal since its initial nonattainment designation in 2018. This new classification will result in added costs to Bexar County residents, businesses, and industries, with the intent to reduce ozone levels to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established to protect human health and public welfare. AACOG has been working closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to prepare Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, City of San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, and their key staff to prepare for certain additional regulations associated with moderate nonattainment.

Bexar County residents who own a gasoline vehicle 1996 or newer will have to undergo an emissions inspection at the time of annual inspections, resulting in an added cost of up to \$18.50. Failure to pass these inspections will require vehicle owners to repair or replace them. Large business operations that choose to expand within or relocate to Bexar County may have to offset the expected emissions increase by a greater amount than under marginal nonattainment. Bexar County will be required to reduce its VOC emissions 15% by 2023, requiring a broad, collaborative effort across a variety of sectors. AACOG worked to make local business interests aware of these requirements through a series of meetings during the latter half of 2022.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

Since 2019, AACOG has administered a regional Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. PACE is a private, low-cost, long-term financing tool for commercial, industrial, and large multi-family property owners to fund eligible energy efficiency and water conservation retrofit projects.

In 2022, the AACOG Regional PACE program expanded to 14 jurisdictions and closed on three new projects: one at the historic Travis Building in Downtown San Antonio, and the other two in Castroville. These events generated great publicity from local media, which helped expand our educational reach.

Over 100,000 people reached through education, outreach and events. 3 counties and 14 cities have adopted this program throughout the Alamo Area



PUBLIC SAFETY

Offering support, assistance, and training for first responders through the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy; Criminal Justice Planning; 9-1-1; and Homeland Security programs

ALAMO AREA REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

The Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy (AARLEA) trains individuals for peace officer and corrections officer licensure in the State of Texas. In addition to the Basic Peace Officers Course, AARLEA provides continuing education courses for all eligible Texas peace officers. This year, AARLEA increased cadet sponsorships by 50%, making it easier for law enforcement agencies to hire and for individuals in need of financial assistance to attend the academy.

AARLEA also offers over 3,100 online classes with topics ranging from legislative updates to de-escalation techniques. In 2022, a total of 94 cadets graduated from the AARLEA. Additionally, professionals across 130 Texas counties completed 75,843 hours of our in-person and online training.



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

The Criminal Justice program conducts grant workshops; provides information about local, state, and federal funding opportunities; assists funders, grants reviews, and offers technical assistance to area law enforcement agencies. Projects funded this year will help support a number of different efforts including victim services, the improvement of justice system response to violence against women, juvenile justice, truancy prevention, and improving overall regional criminal justice programs.

This year, the program provided a no-cost training in Program Sustainability to area agencies. This training was designed around available funding through the Office of the Governor, training participants how to write a strong sustainability statement. 130 law enforcement professionals attended Criminal Justice Planning courses in 2022.

The Criminal Justice program assisted the Office of the Governor in reviewing grant applications and awarded an estimated \$13,321,581 to jurisdictions across the Alamo Area.



Criminal Justice Grant Program • \$861,678.63



Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant Program • \$1,834,971.21



Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program • \$408,263.84



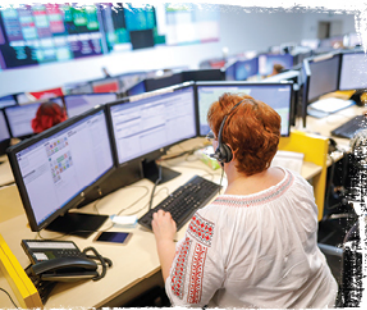
General Victim Assistance Grant Program • \$10,216,668.12

HOMELAND SECURITY

The Homeland Security (HLS) program provides technical emergency preparedness planning – specifically when relating to terrorist activities – and administers federal and state Homeland Security grants to law enforcement agencies in the Alamo Area. Additionally, HLS works with local jurisdictions to identify regional gaps in security and creates risk analyses of terrorist threats and other potential hazards. HLS, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Greater Austin-Travis County Regional Radio System, received funding for Phase 2 of the Regional Communications Infrastructure Enhancement Project. This project leverages existing tower equipment, coverage areas, and partnerships to expand interoperable communications capabilities in the AACOG region.

HLS also received funding for a Domestic Violence Extremism Project through the Office of the Governor – Homeland Security Grants Division. This project ranked number one in the State, and will fund a Southwest Texas Fusion Intelligence Officer to focus on combating local terroristic threats in rural counties within the Alamo Area.

These two projects brought over \$1.1 Million in additional funding to the region. The program also assisted with providing badly needed resources, personnel, and direct assistance to Operation Coyote Overwatch in Uvalde, Texas, in response to the mass casualty incident that occurred on May 24, 2022.

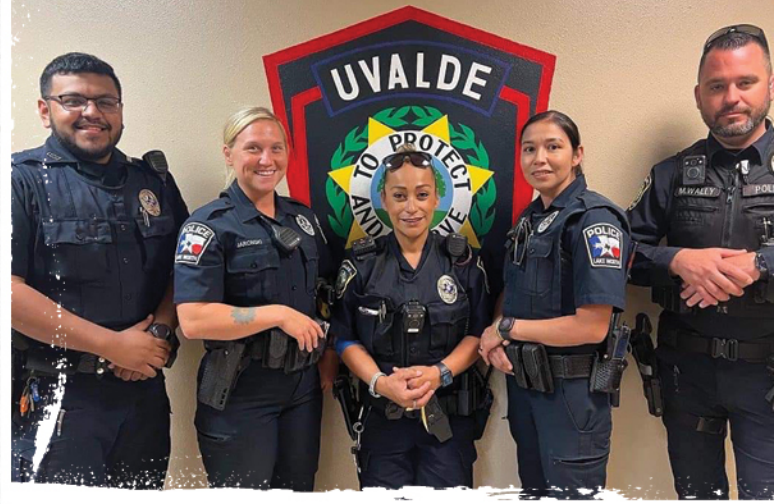


9-1-1

The 9-1-1 program maintains 9-1-1 databases and monitors essential dispatch equipment and software at each of the emergency call centers inside Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, McMullen and Wilson counties. The program works to provide a regionalized 9-1-1 database and Public Safety Answering Point, and ensures that all 9-1-1 calls are routed, answered, and located

on Geographic Information System maps for proper handling of the emergency at hand. In 2022, the program worked to ensure all schools and districts within the 9-1-1 program service area were in compliance with Kari's Law, which was enacted in 2015. Kari's Law requires schools and businesses with multiple phones to have a Multi-Line Telephone System, providing outbound dialing and direct access to 9-1-1 without the user having to first dial an initial number, digit, or prefix. The team traveled throughout the region to conduct evaluations and test calls that resulted in recommendations for phone system upgrades.

This year, the 9-1-1 Program participated in after-action analyses and reports to support Public Safety services, following the mass casualty incident in Uvalde, Texas. The program reimbursed member governments for Tele-Communicator assistance, and support to relieve the Uvalde 911 operators provided by AACOG counties.



HLS assisted with providing resources, personnel, and direct assistance to Operation Coyote Overwatch in Uvalde, Texas, in response to the mass casualty incident that occurred on May 24, 2022.

168,000+

**amount of calls 9-1-1
Network processed**

333

**amount of text
messages 9-1-1
Network processed**



REGIONAL SERVICES

Assisting member governments create stronger economies, stronger communities, and informed public officials through annual training, grant assistance, and economic and community development planning

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Designated by the U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA) as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the region, the Regional Development program focuses on developing professionals, elected officials, and economies within the Alamo Area. The program's regular series of workshops has become a staple across the region, and something municipal governments look forward to year after year.

- **Planning & Zoning:** A workshop on fundamentals of zoning, zoning issues, master plans, group homes, cell towers and signs.
- **Economic Development:** Presentations from state and federal agencies on their programs and services, and panel discussions from region representatives.
- **Newly Elected Officials:** A workshop on basics of municipal finance, ethical issues, and Public Information and Open Meetings training.
- **Brownfields Workshop:** Presentations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on identifying Brownfields projects.

EDA CARES

2022 was the second year of the EDA CARES administrative grant for the AACOG Economic Development District. In conjunction with community leaders, the Regional Services program completed strategic economic development plans for Atascosa, Frio and Karnes counties. The program was also able to invest a portion of the funds into the development of a new AACOG website, offering users additional features and resources, and an overall improved user experience.



The Regional Services program made strides to prepare for funding opportunities resulting from the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). The program is working with member governments to establish Inter-Local Agreements (ILA), to support with grant writing, grant administration, and fiscal management services for opportunities that may arise in 2023.



+150
number of people
who attended
workshops in 2022

The program is
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arise in 2023.



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

Assisting low-income families reduce energy costs by weatherizing their homes to become more energy efficient, and modifying homes to become more accessible for individuals with disabilities

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

The Weatherization Assistance program distributes their funding through two separate grant programs – the Low Income Home Energy Program (LIHEAP) and the Department of Energy (DOE). Both grants provide low-income households the opportunity to receive energy-efficiency modifications in order to decrease their monthly utilities costs. Ultimately, this provides low-income families increased disposable income and an enhanced quality of life. The weatherization assistance program spent \$1,504,021 in LIHEAP funding to weatherize 142 homes in 2022. The Department of Energy grant invested \$398,380 to weatherize 36 homes.



\$1,504,021

**in LIHEAP funding to weatherize
142 homes in 2022.**



**The Department of
Energy grant invested
\$398,380 to weatherize
36 homes.**

HOMES FOR TEXAS HEROES

In addition to veterans, this program is available to surviving spouses and eligible children. The \$300,000 budget assisted 17 worthy veterans and their families in 2022. This program allows for home modifications including minor repairs, weatherization, and accessibility needs.

\$300,000

**budget to assist 17 veterans
and their families**





2022-2023 BUDGETS

ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2022 AND 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET

	Program	Admin. Indirect	General Fund	Titan Complex	2023 Budget	2022 Budget**
Revenues						
Federal	\$25,360,271		667,488		44,211,749	\$29,293,414
State	11,844,566				11,844,566	12,451,787
Local / Other / Medicaid	28,845,071		75,000		10,736,448	27,857,953
Delegate Agency Match	3,297,071				3,297,071	3,466,884
Program Income / Interest	684,000		208,000		892,000	728,006
Member Dues	293,650		360,000		653,650	638,853
Real Estate Revenues				1,523,808	1,523,808	1,492,272
Total Revenues	70,324,996		1,310,488	1,523,808	73,159,292	75,929,169
Expenditures						
Alamo Area Agency on Aging	6,268,391				6,268,391	6,416,189
Alamo Regional Transit	8,334,122				8,334,122	9,552,301
Bexar Area Agency on Aging	12,249,810				12,249,810	14,250,293
Environmental Conservation	376,342				376,342	382,780
IDD Services	16,561,151				16,561,151	16,162,195
Military & Veterans Affairs	18,183,990				18,183,990	19,224,013
Natural Resources	1,023,932				1,023,932	712,132
Public Safety	5,061,095				5,061,095	3,713,397
Regional Services	119,719				119,719	307,084
Weatherization	2,115,459				2,115,459	2,330,791
General Fund & Unrestricted			1,135,841		1,135,841	819,604
Admin Budgets		5,272,112			5,272,112	4,820,774
Real Estate Expenditures				2,310,600	2,310,600	2,063,176
Total Expenditures and Indirect	\$70,294,011	5,272,112	1,135,841	2,310,600	79,012,564	\$80,754,729

* 2023 Budget as presented during the October 2022 BOD meeting.

** This represents the 2022 Modified Budget.

*** The Administrative budget excludes program cost recoveries.