

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday
May 25, 2023
10:00 AM**

***Heart of Texas
Council of Governments
Offices
1514 South New Road
Waco, Texas***



Judge Jay Elliott
President

Mayor Geary Smith
Vice-President

Judge Richard Duncan
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas **Council of Governments**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MCLENNAN**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments will meet on Thursday, the 25th Day of May 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas at which time the following subjects will be considered.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
- II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- III. Introduction of Guests
- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:
 - A. 1. Approval of the April 27, 2023 meeting minutes
 - B. New Business
 - 1. FY2022 Audit Report, Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and HOTCOG's comments
 - 2. Computer/Information Technology and Communication Services
 - 3. Authorization to contract with Huffman Communications in Corsicana, Texas for replacement of microwave links in Limestone County using the Statewide Radio Infrastructure Grant awarded to HOTCOG
 - 4. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District Title VI update
 - 5. Presentation on HUD Section 3 and Fair Housing goals of the CDBG Program
 - C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff
 - 1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial and Personnel Reports

PAGE

1

5

7

8

13

15

16

PAGE

21

2. Health & Human Services
 - a. Department Activities Report
 - b. HOT Rural Transit District Report

31

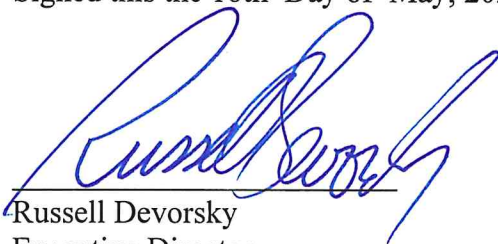
3. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report
4. Executive Director's Report

V. Other Reports

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

Signed this the 18th Day of May, 2023.



Russell Devorsky
Executive Director



Judge Jay Elliott
President

Judge Richard Duncan
Secretary/Treasurer

Mayor Geary Smith
Vice-President

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas
Council of Governments

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee, in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, met in regular session, on Thursday, the 27th Day of April 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas at which time the following subjects will be considered.

Members Present

Judge Jay Elliott, *President*
Mayor Geary Smith, *Vice-President*
Judge Linda Grant
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Mayor Andy Smith
Co. Treasurer Jeannie Keeney
Commissioner Nita Wuebker
Commissioner Jim Smith
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Councilmember Jim Holmes

Falls County
City of Mexia
Freestone County
Bosque County
City of Hillsboro
Freestone County
Falls County
McLennan County
City of Robinson
City of Waco

Members Absent

Judge Richard Duncan, *Secretary-Treas.*
Judge Justin Lewis
Judge Scott Felton
Councilmember Andrea Barefield
Councilmember Alice Rodriguez
Mr. Calvin Rueter
Mayor Ray Bickerstaff

Limestone County
Hill County
McLennan County
City of Waco
City of Waco
Special Districts
City of Valley Mills

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
John C. Minnix
Dorothy Jackson
Rep Pledger
Harold Ferguson
Wayne Stovall
Lana Gudgel

Executive Director
DED of Administration
Regional/Economic Dev Manager
Transportation Manager
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Homeland Security Manager
Criminal Justice Coordinator

I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum

Proof of posting of the April 27, 2023 Executive Committee meeting was provided.

II. Introduction of Guests – Guests and staff were introduced.

III. Consideration of and/or action on the following:

A. Approval of the March 23, 2023 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Councilmember Jim Holmes to approve the March 23, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

B. New Business

1. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Rankings and Recommendations for FY 2024 Funding

Mrs. Lana Gudgel stated the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee met April 6, 2023 to evaluate and score the applications submitted for funding under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Violent Crimes Against Women (VAWA), Truancy Prevention (TP), State Fund 421 (SF421), and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office. Recommendations for funding were made based on the Reasonable Budget Expectations (RBE) provided by CJD.

The Committee's rankings and recommendations for funding were provided in the packet for the executive committee's review and are attached to the minutes.

A motion was made by Waco Councilmember Jim Holmes and seconded by Freestone County Treasurer Jeannie Keeney to approve and accept the rankings and recommendations for funding as allowed in the ranking order as shown in the attachment. Motion passed.

2. Recognition of Mart High School Teen CERT Program

Mr. Wayne Stovall noted that one of the longest running Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) programs within the region is the Mart High School (MHS) Teen CERT program. The goal of the program is to adequately train students to respond in times of disaster. Students are trained in accordance with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians skills - beyond the required CERT training. MHS Teen CERT organizes and leads required campus drills and puts on a year-long "See Something, Say Something"

campaign. Spirit days, costume contests, prizes, and assemblies throughout the year involve local police and officials. By creating a positive working relationship with law enforcement, students see the best of those in uniform and learn to stay informed and speak up about safety issues.

Mr. Stovall noted this year the Mart High School Team was chosen as the 2023 Region 6 Community Preparedness Working Group Youth Award, as the best program in our 5-state region comprised of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

The Executive Committee presented Mart High School students with a plaque in recognition of their achievements and Ms. Buffy Waldy was recognized for her outstanding leadership of the Mart High School Teen CERT program.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Reports

Mr. John Minnix presented the Financial, Personnel and Investment reports to the committee. Mr. Minnix noted that it is anticipated that the HOTCOG FY2022 Audit should be completed by our audit firm, Pattillo, Brown & Hill by the next meeting and presented for review and approval.

2. Health & Human Services

a. Department Activities Report – Mr. Russell Devorsky presented a summary of the Health and Human services program activities report.

b. HOT Rural Transit District Report – Mr. Rep Pledger noted in his report that TXDOT has released \$929,424 in funds to be used to purchase 5 new replacement buses and staff has begun the process for purchasing.

3. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Jackson presented information on activities of the Economic and Community Development program. Mrs. Jackson noted the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has released its 2023 public works and economic adjustment assistant application submission and program requirements. It was noted that EDA intends to advance general economic development projects as well as pursue projects that relate to equity, workforce development and climate change resiliency. Mrs. Jackson noted that under the Community Development program, staff are continuing to work with City of Lacy-Lakeview as well as City of Whitney, City of Mexia, City of Clifton and Hill County on a grant through the General Land Office who have allocated up to \$100 million in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds for the Resilient Communities program.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Russell Devorsky discussed HB 2827 and noted the Bill would have an impact on the HOTCOG region. The Bill would basically undo most of the permitting and testing standards that were agreed upon 10 years ago relative to the management of dairy operations pollution of the North Bosque River. Mr. Devorsky stated that Dairies now currently are on individual permits and it has worked to keep the Bosque River clean. The move to go to a general permit would abolish the individual permits with one permit for the entire watershed. One permit for the entire watershed would have a negative effect on our Central Texas Water Supply. Councilmember Jim Holmes agreed and noted that HB2827 not only affects the City of Waco but the surrounding communities that depend on the Bosque River for a reliable water source.

Staff continue to attend Chamber of Commerce meetings in the region. New staff members were introduced: Amy Rossow, Manager of 2-1-1 Call Center and John Vorderkunz, Contract Quality Assurance Specialist.

V. Other Reports – FY2023 Law Enforcement Training Attendees by Agency

VI. Public Comment – None

VII. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Jay Elliott, President
County Judge, Falls County

Richard Duncan, Secretary-Treasurer
County Judge, Limestone County

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 25, 2023

SUBJECT: FY 2022 Audit Report, Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and HOTCOG's comments

INFORMATION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments Fiscal Year 2022 Audit Report and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance received from Pattillo, Brown and Hill will be presented for your information and review. As a part of the audit process, HOTCOG is required to respond to audit findings and/or recommendations, if any, as noted in the Audit and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance. It should be noted that HOTCOG did not have any findings or questioned costs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee accept the FY2022 Audit Report and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and authorize the Executive Director to forward copies of said reports to the appropriate Federal and State agencies.

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1. **Audit Report Findings and Questioned Costs (page 46)**

None.

2. **The Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance, Audit Findings or Issues**

None.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Computer/Information Technology and Communication Services

INFORMATION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments recently went through the request for proposal process (RFP) for Computer/IT and Communication services. Two (2) proposals were received and evaluated by Russell Devorsky, John Minnix and Michelle Vasquez. (Prices are on an annual basis.)

*Extraco Technologies - Waco, Texas	\$47,356
Strattmont Group – Bryan, Texas	\$65,964 plus \$6,397 for initial assessment and setup

*currently provides the service

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee after reviewing the above information, select Extraco Technologies to provide Computer/IT and Communication services for HOTCOG for a three (3) year contract with the option to renew for two (2) one (1) year terms upon written consent of HOTCOG. The contract will begin June 1, 2023.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS'
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

May 25th, 2023

SUBJECT:

Authorizing approval using the Statewide Radio Infrastructure Grant awarded to HOTCOG to contract with Huffman Communications in Corsicana, Texas for replacement of microwave links in Limestone County.

INFORMATION:

HOTCOG staff advertised in the Waco Tribune Herald and requested quotes from local vendors for the replacement of seven microwave links in Limestone County. These links are used for the Law Enforcement and Fire Radio Communications within the county. Similar projects have replaced other county microwave links in other counties in the past. Huffman Communications in Corsicana, Texas was the only vender to submit an acceptable quote.

ACTION:

HOTCOG Staff recommends that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee approve the attached quote and authorization the Executive Director to issue a Purchase Order in the amount not to exceed \$177,309 for the replacement of seven microwave links in Limestone County.

HOTCOG/Limestone County Microwave Project

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) is accepting bids to replace 14 existing MDS LEDR Series Microwave Radios used for law enforcement and fire communications at seven locations in Limestone County.

Preferred replacement with 4RF Aprisa microwave radios or equivalent for licensed point to point system.

- Qty 10 - APXE-N900-200-Z3-24-FCRL 4RF XE, 1+0, 928-960 MHz, 200kHz, ND RN, 24 VDC, FCC, RearN
- Qty 4 - APXE-N900-100-Z3-24-FCRN 4RF XE, 1+0, 928-960 MHz, 100kHz, ND RN, 24 VDC, FCC, RearN
- Qty 16 - APXI-Q4EM 4RF XI, Quad, 4 Wire E&M Interface Card
- Qty 16 - APXI-QETH 4RF XI, Quad, Ethernet Interface Card. Includes 2 spares for dispatch link.
- Qty 6 - Audio Board, Custom Fabrication to Interface With Analog Voting Receivers

Scope of Work: Replace existing 14 MDS LEDR Microwave radios at the following links with new microwave radios and confirm operation..

- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Mexia Tower/Shelter , 200kHz
- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Techuacana Tower/Shelter, 200 kHz
- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Kosse Tower/Shelter, 200kHz
- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Mart Tower/Shelter, 100kHz
- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Watt Tower/Shelter, 100kHz
- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Farrar-XTO Tower/Shelter, 200kHz
- Main Tower in Groesbeck to Limestone County Sheriff Office, 200kHz

VHF Channels Voted: LCSO1, LCSO2, LC EWN, and LC VFD.

List travel/labor including microwave radio configuration and burn-in, installation and integration with repeaters.

List any freight or shipping.

Vendor should be able to provide initial equipment, installation, and the possibility of future maintenance and support.

Contact information:

Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG)

ATTN: Harold Ferguson

Email: Harold.Ferguson@hot.cog.tx.us

Phone: 254-855-9868

1514 S. New Road

Waco, Texas 76711

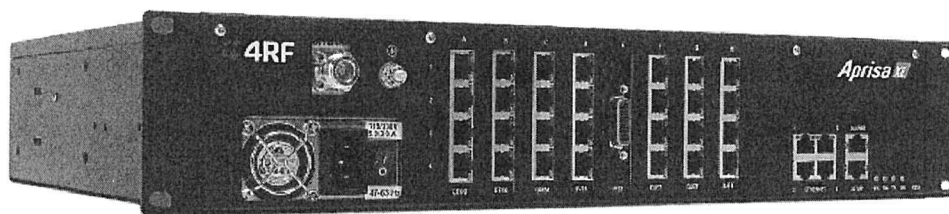
Submission to above address by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Example of the existing microwave radio.

LEDR Series Digital Microwave Radios



Example of preferred replacement radio.



Aprisa XE

HOTCOG/Limestone Microwave Radio Project

Bid Form

Equipment

Description	QTY	Individual Cost	Total Cost
APXE-N900-200-Z3-24FCRN 4RF XE, 1+0, 928-960 MHz, 200 kHz, ND RN, 24 VDC, FCC, RearN	10	\$7,312.00	\$73,120.00
APXE-N900-100-Z3-24FCRN 4RF XE, 1+0, 928-960 MHz, 100 kHz, ND RN, 24 VDC, FCC, RearN	4	\$7,312.00	\$29,248.00
APXI-Q4EM 4RF XI, Quad, 4 wire E&M Interface Card	16	\$1,168.00	\$18,688.00
APXI-QETH 4RF XI, Quad, Ethernet Interface Card	16	\$1,665.00	\$26,640.00
ANALOG AUDIO BOARD - Custom Fabrication	6	\$250.00	\$1,500.00

Freight/Shipping

Description	Qty	Individual Cost	Total Cost
Inbound Air Freight From New Zealand	1	\$4,363.00	\$4,363.00

Labor/Travel

Description	Qty	Individual Cost	Total Cost
Labor to Configure New Links, Collapsed System Testing and Burn-In and Field Replacement	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

Other

Description	Qty	Individual Cost	Total Cost
ONLY IF REQUIRED - Realign Antennas, Per Path	7	\$250.00	\$5,250.00
Additional Adder If Watt Tower Needs Aligning. This site requires a crane or man lift to access antenna	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00

Steve Huffman

Digitally signed by Steve Huffman
DN: C=US, E=steve@huffcom.com,
O="Huffman Communications Sales,
Inc.", CN=Steve Huffman
Date: 2023.04.18 11:48:10-05'00'

04/18/2023

\$168,559.00 This excludes
"Other" Section. See Note Below

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Project Total Cost

\$177,309.00 If Alignment of All Paths Are
Required, Worst Case. This includes All
Items Listed in "Other" Section

ACTION MEMORANDUM
HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Heart of Texas Rural Transit District Title VI update

INFORMATION:

RTD staff is required to update its Title VI program every 3 years

ACTION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments Transportation RTD staff has reviewed its current Title VI program and made the proper updates. HOTRTD staff is requesting the approval of the Title VI program by the HOTCOG Executive Board.



125 EAST 11TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | 512.463.8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

May 16, 2023

Rep Pledger
Transportation Manager
Heart of Texas Council of Governments
1514 S. New Road
Waco, TX 76711

Regarding: Approval of Title VI Plan

Dear Mr. Pledger,

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Public Transportation Division (PTN) has reviewed Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) Title VI Plan. The Title VI Plan has been approved by TxDOT PTN with an approval period of May 16, 2023 – May 16, 2026.

Next steps to comply with Title VI Circular 40702.1B are the following:

- HOTCOG Title VI plan will need Board approval
 - Once the plan has been approved, HOTCOG will need to upload the plan in IGX (eGrants) with either the board meeting minutes or a board resolution.
- Website Posting
 - Once the plan has been approved, HOTCOG will need to ensure the following items are uploaded to their website.
 - Public Notice of Title VI (English/Spanish)
 - Complaint Procedures (English/Spanish)
 - Complaint Forms (English/Spanish)

Once these remaining steps are completed, notify Alisha Alvarez, Public Transportation Coordinator for HOTCOG. Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to Alisha as well.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Vicki Aldrighetti-Mata

5C970621D50F464

Vicki Aldrighetti-Mata
TxDOT PTN Compliance

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

May 25, 2023

SUBJECT:

Presentation on HUD Section 3 and Fair Housing goals of the CDBG Program

INFORMATION:

Texas Department of Agriculture, in response to HUD's requirement of facilitating general employment opportunity information for Section 3 Workers, is requiring that all grant recipients that receive TxCDBG funding to provide information about the program in an open meeting of the organization. HOTCOG receives grant funding from the TxCDBG program as technical assistance to the Region. Dorthy Jackson will be conducting a power point presentation to the Executive Committee with this information.

Administrative Services Department

Financial / Personnel Reports

Executive Committee Meeting

May 25, 2023

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Balance Sheet
April 30, 2023**

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 21,567
Investments	614,348
Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies	861,000
Membership Dues Receivables	33,429
Aging Match Receivables	247
Other Receivables	-
Pre-Paid Items	19,227
	<u>1,549,818</u>

Fixed Assets

Building	2,810,000
Land	690,000
Furniture & Equipment	2,504,018
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(3,331,114)</u>
	2,672,904

Total Assets

\$ 4,222,722

Liabilities

Current

Accounts Payable	153,439
Due to HOTEDD	492,758
Accrued Vacation	158,732
Deferred Revenue	102,987
	<u>907,916</u>

Long-term Liabilities

Notes Payable	353,568
	<u>353,568</u>

Total Liabilities

\$ 1,261,484

Fund Equity

Investments in Fixed Assets, net of related debt	2,319,336
Nonspendable-prepaid items	19,227
Restricted for Emergency Notification System	618
Restricted for Federal & State programs	87,956
Unassigned	534,101
	<u>534,101</u>

Total Fund Equity

\$ 2,961,238

Total Liabilities & Fund Equity

\$ 4,222,722

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
& Changes in Fund Balance
For Seven Months Ended April 30, 2023

Revenues	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	12 Month Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Grants administered from State/Federal	\$ 3,393,696	\$ 4,701,005	\$ (1,307,309)	\$ 8,058,865	\$ 4,665,169
Rent-WF Bldg	245,999	227,500	18,399	390,000	144,101
Local Funds/Mgt. Fees	69,588	80,227	(10,639)	137,532	67,944
Membership Dues	61,792	33,250	28,542	57,000	(4,792)
Inkind Match/Program Income	31,883	371,765	(339,882)	637,312	605,429
Interest Income	14,723	875	13,848	1,500	(13,223)
Miscellaneous Income	26,612	1,750	24,862	3,000	(23,612)
Total Revenues	\$ 3,844,193	\$ 5,416,372	\$ (1,572,179)	\$ 9,285,209	\$ 5,441,016
Expenditures					
Salaries	552,615	618,392	65,777	1,060,101	507,486
Fringe Benefits	243,326	272,217	28,891	466,658	223,332
Travel	16,018	20,130	4,112	34,509	18,491
Equipment	193,372	258,829	65,457	443,707	250,335
Supplies	10,742	22,409	11,667	38,416	27,674
Other Expenses	222,977	199,228	(23,749)	341,534	118,557
Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs	1,868,040	2,969,213	1,101,173	5,090,080	3,222,040
Indirect Costs	447,832	466,295	18,463	799,363	351,531
Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg	95,209	35,000	(60,209)	60,000	(35,209)
Debt Service-WF Bldg	134,592	134,592	(0)	230,729	96,137
Inkind Match/Program Income	41,480	371,765	330,285	637,312	595,832
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,826,203	\$ 5,368,072	\$ 1,541,869	\$ 9,202,409	\$ 5,376,206
Changes in Fund Balance					
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	17,990			82,800	
Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEDD	5,051			(57,950)	
Net Change in Fund Balances	23,041			24,850	
Fund Balances as of October 1, 2022	618,861				
Fund Balances as of April 30, 2023	\$ 641,902				

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition
As of April 30, 2023

	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Short Term Investments</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>
Beginning Balance 4/1/23	\$ 210,836	\$ 595,937	\$ 806,773
Transactions			
Cash In	359,829	2,440	362,269
Cash (Out)	<u>(533,127)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(533,127)</u>
Net Income (Outlay)	(173,298)	2,440	(170,858)
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>(15,971)</u>	<u>15,971</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Total Transactions	<u>(189,269)</u>	<u>18,411</u>	<u>(170,858)</u>
Ending Balance 4/30/23	<u><u>\$ 21,567</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 614,348</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 635,915</u></u>

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY
AS OF May 19, 2023**

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS 30

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED 30

As of May 19, 2023, HOTCOG had no vacancies as referenced by the number of positions authorized and filled. The following is a departmental breakout of the above figures:

PEOPLE EMPLOYED

<u>Department</u>	<u>Positions Authorized</u>	<u>Regular Fulltime</u>	<u>Temporary Fulltime</u>	<u>Regular & Temporary Part-Time</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Executive/ Admin. Services	6	6	0	0	0
Regional Services	7	6	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	17	17	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	30	29	0	1	0

Health and Human Services Division

Monthly Program Activity

Executive Committee Meeting May 25, 2023

Health and Human Services Division

The following is a summary of the activities for the programs in the Health and Human Services Division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ACTIVITY

Donnis Cowan – Director

The Health and Human Services Division (HHS) is one of two divisions of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. The HHS division is made up of four different and distinct program areas 1) Area Agency on Aging; 2) Aging and Disability Resource Center; 3) Heart 2-1-1; and 4) Rural Transit District which primarily serves and works with individuals and family members who need assistance through either information or services. Below are the four program descriptions and activities.

1. Heart of Texas Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Jan Enders – Special Programs and Outreach Manager
Ursula Johnson – Managing Local Ombudsman
John Vorderkunz - Contract Quality Assurance Specialist
Destiny Zavala – Senior Care Coordinator
Rose Contreras – Senior Benefits Counseling
Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

- 1 of 28 Area Agency on Aging contractors designated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan.
- Provides access to needed social services, effective screening and assessment of individual needs, and advocacy for older persons (age 60 and older), their family members or other caregivers.
- Directly administers services including benefits counseling, care coordination, caregiver support coordination, and long-term care ombudsman services.
- Contracts with service providers throughout the region to provide nutrition (congregate and home-delivered meals), homemaker care, respite care, personal assistance, minor home repairs, health education classes and caregiver counseling to caregivers and their loved ones.
- All programs are operated in accordance with all policies and procedures.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND PROGRAM ACTIVITY

John Vorderkunz, Contract Quality Assurance Specialist

- Contract Quality Assurance negotiating and managing contracts; reporting; reimbursement; accounting; auditing; monitoring; procuring services funded with federal and state funds and providing quality assurance to ensure compliance with contracts. Validation of complete and accurate data in the HHS statewide system for quarterly and annual reports.

Jan Enders – Special Programs Manager - Outreach

- Outreach is intended to identify vulnerable, hard-to-reach individuals. The AAA conducts outreach to people who may be eligible for Aging Services, especially older individuals, residing in rural areas, with the greatest economic or social needs.

Outreach - Individuals Reached							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations - Medicare	6				200	105	311
Medicare Fraud	6				200	164	370
Resource Guides	466	200	620	400	200	1420	3306
Grand Total	478	200	620	400	600	1689	3987

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Area Agency on Aging would like to speak to your communities regarding our programs. To schedule an event in your county please call 254-292-1855.

BENEFITS ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

Jan Enders – Special Programs Manager

Rose Contreras - Senior Benefits Counselor

- The Benefits Counseling program primarily provides financial-related assistance and Medicare/Medicaid-related services to clients through Legal Assistance (one-on-one) and Legal Awareness (groups) events. We continue to see a growing need for Benefits Counseling for the senior population and added emphasis has been placed on expanding the services of this program.

Area Agency on Aging Services - Benefits Assistance							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Benefits Counseling - Medicare, Extra Help, Health Ins, & Social Security - Hours	4.67		4.28	24.70		78.47	112.12

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS

Destiny Zavala – Senior Care Coordinator

Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

- The Care Coordination and Caregiver Support Coordination programs empower senior citizens age 60 and older and their family caregivers to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity by identifying needs and arranging social services required for living independently. These programs include Case Management; In-Home Care – Homemaker – Personal Assistance – Caregiver

Respite; REACH-TX; Rolling Walkers; Grab bars; Minor Residential Repair; and Wheelchair ramps.

Area Agency on Aging Services							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Care Coordination Connecting Individuals to Services - Hours	0.32	7.87	4.48	1.27	9.85	91.61	115.40
Caregiver Support Connecting Caregivers to Services - Hours				1.01	25.28	35.89	62.18
Health Education Classes - Falls Prevention, Stress Relief for Caregivers, and REACH-TX coping skills for caregivers caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other dementias. # of sessions				18	2	4	24
Callers for Assistance	2	1	3	1	7	71	85
Health Maintenance - assistive devices wheelchairs, walkers, etc. - Individuals						1	1
Homemaker in-home care - Hours						12.00	12.00
Personal Assistance - hands on in-home care. Hours	2.50		9.00	1.00	65.50	17.00	95.00
Residential Repair grab bars, minor home repair - # of clients				2		10	12
Respite care - in-home care to caregivers loved ones - Hours				9.00		99.50	108.50
Grand Total	4.82	8.87	16.48	33.28	109.63	342.00	515.08

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Area Agency on Aging would like to speak to your community regarding our programs. Please let us know how to best reach your community or have someone contact us at 254-292-1855.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS – Congregate (CM) & Home Delivered Meals (HDM)

- The nutrition program is our single largest program and impacts the greatest number of individuals in the greatest geographical coverage in our service area. We have four nutrition subrecipients that serve the nutritional needs of the elderly in the six-county service area.

Area Agency on Aging Nutrition							
Meals Funding Source	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Congregate Meals	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM
Area Agency on Aging	150	37	251	228	250	920	1836
Other Local Donations County & Cities	10	1	571	50	208	95	934
Home Delivered Meals	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM
Area Agency on Aging	1204	1100	1145	1800	1140	6214	12603
Other Local Donations County & Cities	64	165	224	298	260	5942	6655
Grand Total	1428	1302	2191	2078	1858	13171	22028

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Ursula Johnson – Managing Local Ombudsman

Lynda Mitchell – Part-Time Staff Ombudsman

- Through direct advocacy the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program utilizes 4 volunteers, and 2 staff to achieve the best possible quality of life for approximately 4,500 residents in 35 nursing homes and 21 assisted living facilities in our service area.
- Provided ongoing support and training for currently certified volunteers;
- Participate in monthly HHS webinars.
- Participate in weekly activity meetings with Patty Ducayet, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and her staff.
- Serve as a resource to inquirers about moving to facilities in our region.

Ombudsman Program							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Long Term Care Facility Visits			1	1	6	25	33
Assisted Living Facility Visits						2	2
Complaints	3	1		5	1	18	28
State Surveys			1				1
Education & Consultations	3	2	2	5	3	13	28
Resident Council Meetings						1	1
Grand Total	6	3	4	11	10	59	93

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Ombudsman Program is seeking volunteers in each county to provide weekly visits to nursing and assisted living facilities. Please have potential volunteers call 254-292-1851.

2. Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Eric Hobbs – Housing Navigator

Debbie Jones – Resource Navigator

- The ADRC model is a “way of doing business” that is intended to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of individuals looking for long term services and support.
- Provides information and assistance to individuals (including those with multiple, complex needs) about local programs and resources as they relate to aging or living with a disability, to older individuals, individuals of any age with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans, and families with children with special needs, all without regard to income levels.
- Primary purpose is to provide information to help individuals live within their community if possible.
- Operating broad-based coalition consisting of Area Agency on Aging, local Health and Human Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services, Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Heart of Texas 2-1-1, and Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center.
- HOTCOG serves as the Lead Agency/Fiscal Agent and has responsibility as contract administrator.
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan.
- 1 of 28 designated ADRCs by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

All calls to the Heart of Texas ADRC and Area Agency on Aging terminate into phone line 254-292-1855. This includes local calls as well as any calls originating in our six-county service area placed on the statewide toll-free line for ADRC's.

ADRC Call Activity - April							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL C	Grand Total
AAA Referrals	2	1	3	1	5	60	72
Housing						3	3
In Home Care	5	2	2	1	3	46	59
Medicare / medicaid/ SNAP	1	1	1	1	1	15	20
Medical Equipment	1			1	1	5	8
Minor Home Repair	1					5	6
Nursing Home						7	7
Rent Payment Assist						1	1
Transportation			3				3
Utilities Payment Assist			1			2	3
Other Community Resources	1	1	3	4	5	43	57
Grand Total	11	5	13	8	15	187	239

3. Heart of Texas Area Information Center (AIC) – (HT 2-1-1)

Karen Pettit – Retired Call Center Manager effective May 31, 2023
Amy Rossow – Replacement Call Center Manager, position filled April 3, 2023
Belinda Arocha – Information & Referral Specialist
Joanna Whitehouse – Information & Referral Specialist
Marcy Whiddon – Information & Referral/Community Database Specialist

The 2-1-1 program is a “free” social service help line answered by trained specialists who assess caller’s social service needs and connect them to the people and services that can best assist them. 2-1-1 provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or any other criteria.

HOT 2-1-1 (HT) continues to take traditional calls for local social service needs including food pantries, utility bills, rent, childcare, and medication assistance, etc. for the state of Texas including the six-county service area. In addition, we take disaster related calls when such an event occurs.

- For the month of April 4,734 calls were taken by HOT 2-1-1 staff compared to 3,468 calls in the same month for the FY22.
- The increase of 1,266 calls represents a 37.5% increase in calls from FY22 to FY23.

Houston-Galveston 2-1-1 and routed afterhours AICs answered and provided information to HOT “after hour and weekend callers”:

- For the month of April 263 calls were taken by Houston-Galveston and after hours state-wide staff compared to 215 in the same month for the previous year.
- The increase of 48 calls is equal to an increase of 22.3%.

Projection of Annual calls:

The month of April 2023 had a significant increase. Due to a system-wide failure at the state level we abruptly had to switch from the Finesse Cisco Platform over to Genesys Cloud Platform in order to receive calls. The Genesys Cloud Platform has a shorter recovery time in-between calls for our Call Specialists which has resulted in more calls being taken each day by each Call Specialist. Although we are taking more calls overall, we are taking fewer calls from the Heart of Texas Region because of the inability of the present system to categorize incoming calls according to the county. TIRN is working on returning to the previous platform as soon as possible; however, they have not given us a date.

49,809 Actual for previous full year
50,856 Estimate for current year
1,047 Increase 2.10%

HOT 2-1-1 Number of Interactions and Yearly Projection									
Heart of Texas 2-1-1 staff only					GC + Routed afterhours 2-1-1				
	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23		FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	
October	2,917	4,549	3,386	3,703		260	165	191	
November	2,988	2,949	3,130	3,319		270	161	161	
December	2,264	4,373	3,032	4,553		225	120	139	
January	3,713	4,784	3,908	3,917		284	203	195	
February	2,648	4,400	3,384	3,252		382	177	191	
March	4,384	5,021	3,719	3,698		275	208	192	
April	5,835	3,336	3,468	4,734		207	215	263	
May	3,828	2,977	3,857	0		226	239	0	
June	4,573	3,779	5,191	0		217	243	0	
July	4,673	3,552	5,117	0		198	269	0	
August	4,904	4,444	4,923	0		265	206	0	
September	3,606	4,079	4,271	0		221	217	0	
Total	46,333	48,243	47,386	27,176		3,030	2,423	1,332	
		1,910	(857)	(20,210)	FY 23 Yrly Projection		(607)	(1,091)	FY 23 Yrly Projection
% Inc.		4.1%	-1.8%	-42.6%	49,385		-20.0%	-45.0%	1,471

Texas 2-1-1 Call Detail for Heart of Texas Region Only							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Total Calls	60	135	99	177	129	1614	2214
Breakdown of calls - due to multiple referrals, the numbers that follow will not match Grand Total							
Information Calls	5	16	17	20	14	215	287
Advocacy Calls				1		1	2
Transfers to Option 2 (YourTXBenes)	28	84	46	117	68	854	1197
Referral Calls	25	34	33	35	42	458	627
Call Specialists transfer live calls to YourTexas Benefits Line							
CHIP - Children's Health Insurance		2			1	3	6
Food Stamps (SNAP)	21	58	28	81	52	614	854
Medicaid	7	25	23	38	19	266	378
Medicare Savings Program		2	2	2		14	20
TANF temp asst needy families provides cash payments to help families with children under 18 pay for food, clothing, housing, and other essentials.				1	2	13	16
Not specified	2	4	0	7	2	33	48
Calls by Referrals							
Utility Payment Assistance	7	11	28	7	13	163	229
Rent Payment Assistance	3	3	5	1	7	163	182
Area Agency on Aging	1	5	5	2	2	26	41
Food Pantries	2	1	1	7	5	55	71
Housing Authorities		3	3		7	34	47
Homeless Shelter		1		1	1	23	26
Food Stamps/SNAP Applications	1	4	3	5	5	44	62

4. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

Ronald E. "Rep" Pledger - Manager
Frances Ramirez – Transportation Specialist
Misty Hendon – Transportation Admin

General Information:

Staff has received and is currently preparing the four new Blue buses for service.

Funding

Unused FY22 State Rural funding has been rolled over and combined with FY23 State Rural funding and is being used as matching funds for federal dollars.

Trainings/Meetings

May 21/May 25 - CTAA conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July - TBD TXDOT provider semi-annual meeting

Regional Transportation Coordination Council - (RTCC)

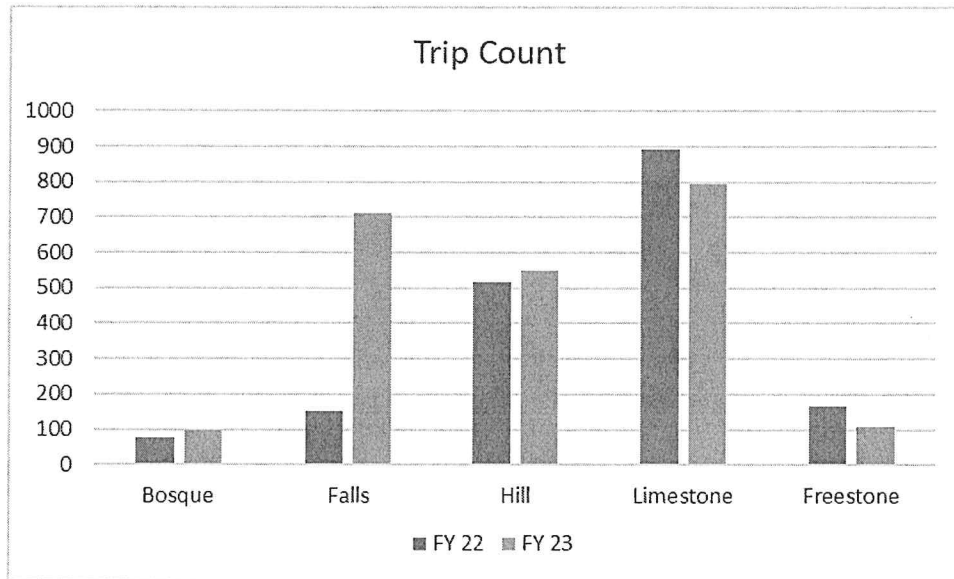
The next meeting will be in June. An update will be provided during the Executive Committee meeting on May 25, 2023.

Rural Transit District – (Operations)

Staff continue their outreach to clients to increase ridership.

Trip activities for April 2023 are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way Trips		
Transportation Provider	FY 2022	FY 2023
Bosque County	78	100
Falls County	151	714
Hill County	517	549
Limestone County	893	797
Freestone County	168	110
Total - All 5 Counties	1807	2270



Trip Type by County						
Trip Type	Limestone	Falls	Hill	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Work	181	290	183	16	7	677
Dialysis	206	83	231	50	39	609
Medical	138	30	83	7	10	268
Mhmr	83	93	28	2	26	232
Education		175				175
Shopping	62	16	22	20	10	130
Foster Grandparents	65					65
Personal	25	10		6	4	45
Veteran	18	6				24
Recreation	11			9	4	24
Parole	8	11	2			21
Grand Total	797	714	549	110	100	2270

Thank you for reviewing the Health and Human Services monthly activities.

Donnis Cowan
 Director of Health and Human Services
a division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT

MAY 2023

9-1-1

HOTCOG 9-1-1 IP Network (Next-Generation 9-1-1)

Members of the TriCOG 9-1-1 Alliance (BVCOG, CTCOG and HOTCOG) continue to collaborate with network consultants and equipment vendors to maintain a robust network. The TriCOG Alliance renewed its partnership with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) for NextGen Core Services (NGCS) Consulting and Cybersecurity Support. MCP follows a scope of work that was provided to the TriCOG identifying five tasks to assist the TriCOG in technical issues to include Project/Task Management, Geospatial Call Routing, Text Over ESInet and Cybersecurity Support. Members of the TriCOG participate in regularly scheduled conference calls to discuss NGCS projects and planning for the future of the regional networks.

On November 29, 2022, the final Originating Service Provider (OSP) in the HOTCOG Region migrated their 9-1-1 traffic from legacy selective routers that are slowly being decommissioned. Since December 15th, there has been no 9-1-1 traffic on those legacy circuits, meaning all HOTCOG Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are routing 9-1-1 traffic via the VESTA router. Disconnect orders for the legacy circuits provided through AT&T were submitted on May 15, 2023. Other service provider disconnect orders will be submitted as well. Project planning calls with Motorola Solutions Connectivity, Inc. continue to be held weekly, and discussions include ongoing project deliverables and discussions for upcoming activities.

During the week of April 10th, HOTCOG staff worked with Motorola team members and PSAP personnel to onboard and test Text-to-9-1-1 via the ESInet. Text traffic will no longer be delivered via legacy circuits as it had been since initial deployment. The Hillsboro Police Department was the first in the state to receive a 9-1-1 text via the ESInet. All PSAPs in the HOTCOG Region were onboarded, tested, and now have this functionality available.

Enterprise Geospatial Database Management System (EGDMS)

In NG9-1-1 systems, an EGDMS (GIS map data) replaces the traditional Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) for location-based 9-1-1 call routing and location validation. An EGDMS is crucial for the transition to NG9-1-1 because it provides a means to create and maintain data critical to NG9-1-1 success. Staff participated in the Customer Focus Group (CFG) for this project. The CFG was responsible for assisting with development of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control plan, participating in GIS Data Management collaboration meetings, and assisting in GIS data management workflow development. 9-1-1 staff exceeded the 99% data match rate as recommended by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) with a match rate of 99.99% with no critical errors remaining. HOTCOG has completed the transition to an EGDMS, and staff is a participant in a focus group for continued implementation across the state.

Text-to-9-1-1

Text-to-9-1-1 is available in the HOTCOG Region as an alternate means of communicating with 9-1-1 for people with a hearing and/or speech disability, or when speaking aloud would put the individual in danger. Text-to-9-1-1 also provides a silent alternative in cases such as child abduction, active shooter, or domestic abuse.

Public Education

There were 4,577 public education items distributed to the Region for public education and public outreach/health expo events.

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- CSEC Touchpoint conference call, HOTCOG – May 2nd
- TriCOG SB8 RFP conference call, HOTCOG – May 2nd
- TriCOG SB8 RFP conference call, HOTCOG – May 9th
- Freestone County Dispatch building discussion, Waco (Sterling Architects) – May 15th
- CSEC/TARC 9-1-1 Strategic Planning Committee conference call, HOTCOG – May 15th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 15th
- MVP NGCS call flow discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 17th
- TriCOG Strategic Planning 2B discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 17th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 22nd
- TriCOG SB8 RFP conference call, HOTCOG – May 25th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 30th

Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness

Grant/COG Projects

- Staff attended the monthly Homeland Security conference calls with the Office of the Governor (OOG).
- Staff received bids for the Limestone County communications project, funded through the State Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant, and found only 1 bidder which could meet the specifications set out in the bid request.
- Staff is working with Freestone County to obtain new dispatch consoles and equipment for their new Dispatch Center. Funds for this project were allocated through the State Radio Infrastructure (SERI) Grant.

Technical Assistance

EPAC Meeting was held, topics of discussion were the AT&T First Net Push to Talk for first responders. Also upcoming Incident Command, CERT and Communications Leader Training is being scheduled for later in the year.

Staff met with officials from Falls County to discuss HOTCOG Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Programs.

Criminal Justice

Planning Grant

CJ Planner, Lana Gudgel, continues to work with the new Heart of Texas Regional SART and the McLennan County SART and has completed the mandated protocols and bylaws for both teams.

CJ Planner has completed the Freestone County Community Plans and has updated the Heart of Texas Regional Strategic plan.

BMAP

In FY 2022, HOTCOG was awarded the Homeland Security BAMP grant. Criminal Justice Planner Lana Gudgel and Manager Wayne Stovall have registered to attend the updated Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing Train the Trainer in Socorro, NM in July 2023.

CJ Planner, Lana Gudgel and Program Manager, Wayne Stovall attended a roundtable discussion in Falls County and presented the BMAP (Bomb Materials Awareness Program) to approximately 50 attendees.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

The new cycle for FY 2023 began on October 1, 2022. Since the start of the new cycle, 142 officers and telecommunicators have attended Law Enforcement Training Classes for a total of 3038 contact hours. CJ Planner taught the Basic Instructor Course at the Bosque County Sheriff's Office in April, five officers/deputies successfully completed the course. The end of the TCOLE training cycle is August 31, 2023. In preparation for the end of the cycle, Criminal Justice Planner Lana Gudgel has scheduled CIT 1850 in June 2023 at MCC, De Escalation in June at Groesbeck Civic Center, Basic Civil Process in October at MCC. The registration training software for the Law Enforcement training program has registered 438 officers since October 2021. The training program has collected \$6279.00 in out-of-region fees to date.

One hundred (142) students attended HOTCOG training, totaling 3038 contact training hours since October 2022.

Economic & Community Development Department Staff Report

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

HOTEDD currently administers two revolving loan funds: One through USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and one through TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture).

The USDA fund is to support our local businesses so that they can grow, create jobs, and diversify our regional economy. Specifically, the HOTEDD RBEG RLF Program seeks to assist qualified small and emerging businesses in the rural Heart of Texas including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and rural McLennan Counties. Any private business that will employ 50 or fewer new employees and has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues located in the rural (as defined by USDA) Heart of Texas region including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and rural McLennan Counties (McLennan County communities that are not contiguous to the City of Waco). On a case by case basis, the Loan Committee may waive this requirement and provide loan funds to a business located outside the region if the committee determines doing so will have a positive economic impact on the community to be assisted with RLF funds. The project will create or retain one full-time job per each \$10,000.00 in loan funding. At least 51 percent of the interest in the business (applicant) must be owned by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence certifiable by HOTEDD and USDA. HOTEDD RLF's financial assistance is necessary to the viability of the project: There must be evidence presented by the applicant that demonstrates that the projects financial requirements cannot be met from owner resources or a commercial financial institution.

Texas CDBG funds provided under the TCF SMRF program are required to comply with the national objective of principally benefiting persons of low and moderate income. The objective of the program is to expand economic opportunities that create or retain jobs, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The SMRF program provides resources for an eligible applicant to support qualified small and microenterprise business(es) (a for-profit entity) to create or retain jobs for Texans. The CDBG regulations provide the following definitions: **Microenterprise Definition**, A "microenterprise" is a commercial enterprise that has five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. "Persons developing microenterprises" means persons who have expressed interests in and who are, or after an initial screening process are expected to be, actively working toward developing businesses, each of which is expected to be a microenterprise at the time it is formed. 24 CFR §570.201(o)(3): **Small Enterprise Definition** is an enterprise" or "small business" is a commercial enterprise that has 25 or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. Falls County is the only county under the SMRF fund. The funding period through TDA and regulations is over but once TDA closes out the contract with Falls County then HOTEDD can lend the revolving funds back into Falls County without the stricter requirements of TDA. At this time Falls County has not received closeout information.

HOTEDD is currently seeking applicants for approximately \$246,291 in USDA revolved funds.

SMRF has \$48,275

Currently loans are out to:

Net1 is keeping up with new agreed payment amount at this time.

KNV Investments is current.

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

EDA prefers to use HOTCOG as the grant administrator of all projects within the HOTCOG region. EDA helps fund the Economic planning division of HOTCOG. All EDA funding projects must support

the HOTCOG regions CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies). Dorthy Jackson administers all of the grants at this time. This includes help with applications and once grant has been award then all financial reports and special conditions are fielded through Dorthy Jackson and then submitted to EDA.

EDA is seeking new public works grants. Please contact Dorthy Jackson if you have a need that we can fit into the national objective of the EDA.

EDA is working on a rolling bases for the funds they receive. Even if funds are not available now they say to still submit applications and they will award eligible projects when they receive more funds. Make sure to contact me prior to sending in application!

Current EDA funding opportunities:

Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Application Submission and Program Requirements

Application deadline

There are no application submission deadlines. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new PWEAA NOFO, cancellation of this PWEAA NOFO, or all available funds have been expended. EDA intends to review applications expeditiously upon receipt of the complete application.

EDA intends to review applications expeditiously upon receipt of the complete application. There are no application submission deadlines. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new PWEAA NOFO, cancellation of this PWEAA NOFO, or all available funds have been expended.

This NOFO sets out EDA's application submission and review procedures for two of EDA's core economic development programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3121 et seq.) (PWEDA): (1) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities (Public Works) and (2) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA).

EDA supports bottom-up strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency. EDA encourages its grantees throughout the country to develop initiatives that present new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

Through this NOFO EDA intends to advance general economic development in accordance with EDA's investment priorities, but also to pursue projects that, where practicable, incorporate specific priorities related to equity, workforce development, and climate change resiliency so that investments can benefit everyone for decades to come.

EDA Investment Priorities

Each project funded under this NOFO must be consistent with at least one of EDA's Investment Priorities:

1. Equity
2. Recovery & Resilience
3. Workforce Development
4. Manufacturing
5. Technology-Based Economic Development
6. Environmentally-Sustainable Development
7. Exports & Foreign Direct Investment

Public Works

Through the primarily construction-oriented Public Works program, EDA provides catalytic investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance bottom-up economic development goals to promote regional prosperity. The Public Works program provides resources to meet the construction and/or infrastructure design needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive. Examples of projects that have been funded previously include, but are not limited to:

- acquisition and development of land and improvements for use in public works or other types of development facilities;
- design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of public works, public service, or related development facilities, including related machinery and equipment;
- water and sewer system improvements;
- creation or expansion of industrial parks;
- creation or expansion of business incubator and accelerator facilities;
- expansion of port and harbor facilities;
- construction or expansion of facilities for workforce development;
- redevelopment of brownfield sites;
- expansion, construction, or improvements of technology-based facilities and research and development commercialization centers, including the procurement of necessary equipment;
- construction, expansion, or improvement of wet labs, including the procurement of necessary equipment;
- construction of multi-tenant manufacturing facilities;
- expansion or improvement of research, business and science parks; and
- expansion or enhancement of public facilities with higher quality fiber optic cables and telecommunications infrastructure and broadband infrastructure deployment.

Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)

Through the EAA program, EDA provides investments that support a wide range of construction and non-construction activities in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. Supported activities include construction and non-construction such as sectoral partnerships for workforce training, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). EDA utilizes EAA investments to provide resources that help communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocations to plan and implement specific solutions to leverage their existing regional economic advantages to support economic development and job creation. Like Public Works investments, EAA investments are designed to help communities catalyze public-private partnerships to foster collaboration, attract investment, create jobs, and foster economic resiliency and prosperity. Examples of projects that have been funded previously include, but are not limited to:

- construction or upgrading of public infrastructure;
- design and implementation of sectoral partnerships (see section 3.a.);
- activities necessary to strengthen cluster acceleration and expansion;
- capitalization or recapitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs);
- development and implementation of long-term disaster recovery and resiliency plans;
- enhancement of infrastructure to make it more resilient to natural disasters;
- implementation of military base realignments and closures (BRAC) responses;
- development or expansion of commercialization and proof of concept centers;
- procurement of equipment for workforce training programs;

- market or industry research and analysis for larger hard or soft economic projects;
- creation or expansion of foreign direct investment, trade, or export initiatives;
- economic development projects that enhance density in the vicinity of other economic development;
- “strategy grants” to develop, update, or refine a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as described in EDA’s regulations at 13 C.F.R. § 307.3; and
- development of projects that provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of key economic development actors in the region to promote the region’s locally owned strategies.

Current EDA projects Administrated by HOTCOG/HOTEDD:

TSTC Project through the Cares Act funding: The EDA investment is for the renovation of building space within the 30,877 sq ft Technical Studies Center (TSC) building and 41,223 sq ft Electronics Center (EEC) building. Major components for both buildings include:

- Conduct abatement,
- Conduct demolition,
- Installation of electrical, plumbing and IT infrastructure,
- Renovate interior lab and classroom space,
- Equipment purchase of technology equipment to support on-line lecture distribution

The investment is for \$3,500,000 from EDA and original budget for total project was for \$6,083,594.

Dorothy Jackson has been administering this project and on April 28th, 2023 TSTC did bid opening. Two companies made bid. Company that TSTC picked isn’t the lowest bidder. Justification for that choice is the bid quote on electrical from the lowest bidder was not feasible. They undercut bid so much so that it was unclear if they could actually do the work. TSTC and Engineering was concerned how much the company would lose in that bid. They quoted the electrical at \$1.4 million less than the other company alone. The TSTC engineer estimated cost for electrical (project has heavy electrical component) was 2 million. Because the lowest bidder quoted \$700,000, TSTC did not have confidence in the vendor being able to complete the work or understand the scope of the work correctly. Dorothy Jackson is waiting on EDA to approve the vendor choice.

The total cost now for the project is \$9,053,000 which is \$2,969,406 over the original budget. TSTC is making up that difference and found out early on that this would happen due to code compliance.

Fairfield project: The EDA investment is for roadway improvements of approximately 3,750 feet of the existing Old Mexia-Fairfield Road (County Road 946). The roadway reconstruction includes upgrading from a variable width (18-20 feet) asphalt concrete paved roadway to a formalized 24-foot-wide concrete paved roadway with stabilized subgrade and base and includes a culvert replacement. Other components include sitework, traffic control (permanent and temporary), curbing and inlets, driveway approach, erosion control measures and a minor utility relocation.

EDA investment is \$950,000 with total project estimated cost at 1,577,410.

Dorothy Jackson is administering this grant and there has been delays. First delay was City attorney was hospitalized and that caused some issues with the site certificate work. Now there are delays because some of the roadway was never actually conveyed as public property (in the ditches) and two property owners (out of town people) who have said they will sign over the prescribed sections are hard for the EDC Director to get in physical contact with to get documents completed. The time frame is closing and a concern for EDA.

Training

Russell Devorsky and Dorothy Jackson attended the South West Regional Economic Development Administration (SWREDA) conference from May 2nd to May 5th in New Orleans. At the SWREDA conference staff learned about the new application and report submission format through the EDGE program. Federal updates was provided with the NADO work on getting EDA reauthorized. EDA was last reauthorized in 2004 (19 years ago), their authorization lapsed in 2008. Now they are continued with resolutions that are not as stable for the organization as being authorized. The Farm Bill that is going on now is looking at EDA reauthorization but they are not holding their breath that it will happen. Important that you let your legislature know how import EDA is to your communities. Its important to note that EDA is the only federal agency with economic development as its sole mission.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Staff is forwarding information to the community that comes down from Federal partners on upcoming grants.

Texas State offices are still working remotely.

Dorothy Jackson is continuing to work with the cities below and has added the City of Lacy Lakeview. Falen Bohannon is helping with this planning grant to learn the process and to help with work load of these planning grants.

The overview of the GLO grant will be continued in these reports for reference of the Executive Committee Board and HOTEDD Board members.

Dorothy Jackson has been working with the City of Whitney, City of Mexia, Hill County, and City of Clifton on grant through the Texas General Land Office (GLO) who have allocated up to \$100 million in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for the Resilient Communities Program (RCP). RCP funds the development, adoption, and implementation of resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans, and land use plans. Additionally, RCP funds an array of public service activities related to resilience. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000 per applicant. HOTCOG will be the grant administrator for the City of Whitney on this grant. The City of Whitney will be eligible for funds up to \$100,000 due to population. Please see Dorothy Jackson if there is an interest in your community to apply for this grant.

Dorothy Jackson and Falen Bohannon provided training to the Teague EDC Board March 7. The Board President asked if we could come back after the May elections to do some training for new board members and City council.

TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture)

Dorothy Jackson is sending out notifications of TDA announcements as they come in.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Community and economic development technical assistance was provided to:

- City of Whitney
- Fairfield EDC

- TSTC
- City of Mexia
- Hill County
- City of Lacy Lakeview
- City of Marlin
- City of Meridian
- Teague EDC
- City of Clifton

Solid Waste

The SWAC determined that FY22 would be COG Managed Projects and FY 23 would be for Implementation Project. Implementation projects have officially been opened. Each entity has returned their signed Interlocal Agreements. All entities are now able to start their projects. The City of Waco and the City of Riesel have already finished their projects and are waiting on reimbursements. Falls County will be conducting their project this month and all other projects are going to be done in June. All projects are to be conducted no later than the last day of June. All projects are expected to be completed and on time.

Air Quality

Staff remains in communication with consulting firm and works directly with them on a variety of issues and questions. Staff makes sure that all correspondence is documented, all invoices have PO's and Reqs attached, and are paid on time. Ramboll selected initial set of high-resolution satellite data imagery scenes of different resolutions for Lake Waco based on cost, day of the week, month, and temperature criteria to determine which products will be useful to estimate the number of pleasure crafts on specific days. Ramboll requested a change to the statement of work to reschedule the LAI field study to April-May 2023 due to drought conditions in the Waco area.