

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday
May 22, 2025
10:30 AM**

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



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Vice President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
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 22nd Day of May 2025, at 10:30 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 March 20, 2025 meeting minutes
 - B. New Business
 1. Hill County Communications Project
 2. Health & Human Services Advisory Council Appointment
 - C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff
 1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Report
 2. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report
 3. Health & Human Services
 - a. Department Activities Report

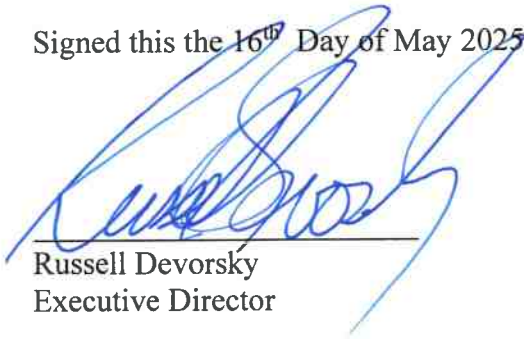
4. Executive Director's Report

VI. Other Reports – Law Enforcement Training Attendees Report

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment

Signed this the 16th Day of May 2025.



Russell Devorsky
Executive Director



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Vice-President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Secretary/Treasurer

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 20th Day of March 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, at which time the following subjects will be considered.

Members Present

Judge Richard Duncan, *President*
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers, *Vice-President*
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham, *Sec. Treas.*
Judge Jay Elliott
Judge Scott Felton
Judge Linda Grant
Treasurer Mandy Chavers
Mr. Calvin Rueter
Commissioner Jim Smith
Mayor Janice Sanders
Commissioner Nita Wuebker

Limestone County
City of Robinson
Bosque County
Falls County
McLennan County
Freestone County
Freestone County
Special Districts
McLennan County
City of Whitney
Falls County

Members Absent

Judge Justin Lewis
Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield
Mayor Geary Smith
Councilmember Alice Rodriguez
Mayor Jim Holmes
Commissioner Terry Townley

Hill County
City of Waco
City of Mexia
City of Waco
City of Waco
Bosque County

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
John C. Minnix
Michelle Vasquez
Mary McDow
Dorothy Jackson
Rep Pledger
John Vorderkunz
Kristine Hill
Sarah Wines
Ursula Johnson

Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director
Director of Finance-Administration
HR Manager
Regional Economic Development Manager
Transportation Manager
Health & Human Services Director
911 Coordinator
911 GIS/Coordinator
Local Ombudsman Manager

Guests:

Ethan Surdy

Rep. Pat Curry's Office

I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 20, 2025.

II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Proof of posting of the March 20, 2025 Executive Committee meeting was provided by Mary McDow.

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

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

A. Approval of the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Scott Felton to approve the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

B. New Business

1. TexPool Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives

Ms. Michelle Vasquez stated the resolution presented is to amend the authorized representatives who can authorize and transmit funds for investment in TexPool. As Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Vasquez will have primary responsibility for performing transactions and receiving confirmations and monthly statements under the Participation Agreement.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Linda Grant to adopt the attached Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives as presented. Motion passed.

2. Authorization of Purchase of Communications Equipment from Nalcom Wireless Communication

Mr. Harold Ferguson stated that HOTCOG has received funding from the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant to purchase Tait radio repeaters/voters, corresponding radio equipment, and installation as upgrades for the current outdated Tait technology. This equipment will improve the radio infrastructure for Bosque County first responder services. Currently, Nalcom Wireless Communications is the only approved Tait radio vendor for the HOTCOG region and have priced a majority cost of the quote at HGAC procurement contact

pricing.

A motion was made by Judge Cindy Vanlandingham and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the purchase and installation of radio communication equipment in the amount of \$252,318.61 using the SERI grant for Bosque County. Motion passed.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial and Personnel Report

Ms. Vasquez presented the financial and personnel report to the committee.

2. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Jackson presented an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document to the committee. Mrs. Jackson noted that as a designated Economic Development District, the Heart of Texas Economic Development District (HOTEDD) is responsible for preparing and adopting a CEDS document at least every five years and approved and adopted by HOTEDD Board of Directors. The CEDS is designed to provide baseline information on demographics and economic data, economic development strategies and implementation plans, and identify potential projects within the region.

3. Health & Human Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mr. John Vorderkunz presented the summary of activities for the programs of the Health and Human Services division including the Area Agency on Aging, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, the Heart of Texas 2-1-1 and the Rural Transit District. Mr. Vorderkunz noted the new Resource Guides are being reviewed and will be printed and ready for distribution in the next few weeks.

Mr. Rep Pledger gave an update on the activities of the Heart of Texas Rural Transportation program.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Devorsky noted that the Commission on State Emergency Communications has conducted its review of the FY2024 9-1-1 program activities for HOTCOG and the compliance review identified the Heart of Texas as being Low Risk. Mr. Devorsky recognized staff members Kristine Hill and Sarah Wines for their hard work to provide quality 9-1-1 services in the rural counties.

Mr. Devorsky discussed the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman program and the importance of the legislators to support and advocate for increased funding annually. These funds will go to the 28 Area Agencies on Aging that house a local ombudsman office. The funds will pay for additional travel, training, and related

staff expenses. The funds will support a local ombudsman's ability to protect residents in the communities they serve. Currently, Texas has a ratio of one ombudsman to 2,511 residents and the recommendation is a ratio of one ombudsman to 2,000 residents.

VI. Other Reports – Law Enforcement Training Attendees Report – For Review.

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned.

Honorable Richard Duncan, President
County Judge, Limestone County

Honorable Cindy Vanlandingham, Sec-Treas
County Judge, Bosque County

ACTION MEMORANDUM

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

May 22, 2025

SUBJECT:

Communications Project for Hill County

INFORMATION:

HOTCOG has received a State Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) Grant to purchase communication repeaters and communications tower for Hill County in the amount of \$526,583.05. This grant and this amount was approved at the December 2024 Executive Committee. HOTCOG has received a DIR quote for 3 repeaters, antenna, battery backup, labor and FCC licensing in the amount of \$248,352.11. Dailey and Wells is the preferred vendor for the Hill County communications system.

ACTION:

It is requested that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee hereby approve the expenditure of this project in the amount of \$248,352.11 from Dailey & Wells Communications utilizing the above mentioned State Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) Grant issued to HOTCOG.

Bill To:

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Ship To:

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Quotation

Quote Number: 2024-3874

Terms: Net 30 Days

Quote Date: 11/22/2024

Valid Until: 05/01/2025

Print Date: 04/17/2025

Quote Title: Penelope - 3 Channel P25T Phase 2 Site for Hill County

Sales Person:

Michael Lee Lockwood

michael.lockwood@dwcomm.com

+1 (281) 713-0405

Line	Qty.	Part Number	Description	List Price	Unit Price	Ext. Price
1	1		RF Infrastructure 3 MASTRV P25 Repeaters, P25 Phase 2 Capability (4 Talkpaths), Network Switches, Network Routers, Site Software Licenses, Equipment Rack	\$ 204,394.04	\$ 152,006.75	\$ 152,006.75
2	1		Antenna Infrastructure Transmit & Receive Antennas, Coax Cabling, Grounding, RF Connectors, Transmit Combiner, Receive Multicoupler, Tower Top Amplifier System, Equipment Rack	\$ 34,242.85	\$ 32,092.86	\$ 32,092.86
3	1		UPS Battery Backup System	\$ 15,158.25	\$ 12,752.50	\$ 12,752.50
4	1		Labor RF Coverage Analysis, FCC Licensing, Antenna System Design, Network Engineering, Antenna System Installation, RF System Installation	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 51,500.00

Shipping Is Pre-Paid and Added to Invoice UNLESS OTHERWISE QUOTED

Quotation Totals

Currency: US Dollar

Subtotal: \$ 248,352.11

Total: \$ 248,352.11



Sales Person Signature

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 22, 2025

SUBJECT:

Approval of new member of the HOTCOG-HHS Advisory Council to represent Limestone County as a voting member.

INFORMATION:

Orma Williams has been recommended as a candidate to join the HOTCOG-HHS AC as a voting member to represent Limestone County. A short bio that Orma provided is shared here:

My name is Orma Williams. I have lived in Texas all of my life, with Groesbeck being my home most of those years. I am widowed with 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

Most of my career has been with governmental agencies: local, county, state, state affiliated, and federal. Most of my career years were with HOT Behavioral Network (formerly known as HOTMHMR).

Since my retirement, I have been spending much of my time at the Limestone County Senior Center: organizing games for seniors and encouraging new attendees; sending birthday and Christmas cards to Meals on Wheels folks; sending Christmas cards to all nursing home residents in Limestone County. I feel it's important to let these folks know that they are loved and not forgotten.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Orma Williams to the HHS-AC. Mrs. Williams is already an active member of our region's Aging Network, and will be a valuable member of this Council.

ACTION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Board considers the appointment of Orma Williams to be a representative on the HOTCOG-HHS Advisory Council for a 3-year term from June 2025 through June 2028.

Administrative Services Department

**Financial / Personnel Reports
Investment Report**

Executive Committee Meeting

May 22, 2025

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Balance Sheet
April 30, 2025**

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 129,274
Investments	886,763
Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies	938,828
Membership Dues Receivables	14,234
Aging Match Receivables	471
Other Receivables	1,174
Pre-Paid Items	-
	<u>1,970,744</u>

Fixed Assets

Building	2,867,509
Land	690,000
Furniture & Equipment	3,567,828
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,213,623)</u>
	2,911,714

Total Assets

\$ 4,882,458

Liabilities

Current

Accounts Payable	64,896
Due to HOTEDD	906,149
Accrued Vacation	142,459
Deferred Revenue	<u>146,148</u>
	1,259,652

Long-term Liabilities

Notes Payable	<u>-</u>
	-

Total Liabilities

\$ 1,259,652

Fund Equity

Investments in Fixed Assets, net of related debt	2,911,714
Nonspendable-prepaid items	-
Restricted for Emergency Notification System	618
Restricted for Federal & State programs	121,015
Unassigned	<u>589,459</u>

Total Fund Equity

\$ 3,622,806

Total Liabilities & Fund Equity

\$ 4,882,458

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
& Changes in Fund Balance
For Seven Months Ended April 30, 2025

Revenues	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	12 Month Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Grants administered from State/Federal	\$ 4,119,872	\$ 4,983,741	\$ (863,869)	\$ 8,543,556	\$ 4,423,684
Rent-WF Bldg	282,529	\$ 282,529	(0)	484,336	201,807
Local Funds/Mgt. Fees	101,592	\$ 96,441	5,151	165,327	63,735
Membership Dues	61,917	\$ 36,185	25,732	62,032	115
InKind Match/Program Income	31,705	\$ 289,158	(257,453)	495,700	463,995
Interest Income	3,843	\$ 8,750	(4,907)	15,000	11,157
Miscellaneous Income	38,813	\$ 3,500	35,313	6,000	(32,813)
Total Revenues	\$ 4,640,271	\$ 5,700,305	\$ (1,060,034)	\$ 9,771,951	\$ 5,131,680
Expenditures					
Salaries	656,106	677,163	21,057	1,160,850	504,744
Fringe Benefits	334,489	354,304	19,815	607,379	272,890
Travel	30,250	37,176	6,926	63,730	33,480
Equipment	676,456	677,694	1,238	1,161,761	485,305
Supplies	16,287	13,971	(2,316)	23,950	7,663
Other Expenses	43,826	182,913	139,087	313,565	269,739
Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs	1,923,713	2,465,188	541,475	4,226,036	2,302,323
Indirect Costs	652,952	733,834	80,882	1,258,001	605,049
Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg	31,952	50,167	18,215	86,000	54,048
Debt Service-WF Bldg	38,861	33,647	(5,214)	57,681	18,820
InKind Match/Program Income	-	289,158	289,158	495,700	495,700
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,404,892	\$ 5,515,214	\$ 1,110,322	\$ 9,454,653	\$ 5,049,761
Changes in Fund Balance					
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	235,379			317,298	
Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEDD	(186,144)			(290,817)	
Net Change in Fund Balances	49,235			26,481	
Fund Balances as of October 1, 2024	663,031				
Fund Balances as of April 30, 2025	\$ 712,266				

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition
As of April 30, 2025

	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Short Term Investments</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>
Beginning Balance 4/1/25	\$ 130,571	\$ 954,442	\$ 1,085,013
Transactions			
Cash In	488,475	3,258	491,733
Cash (Out)	<u>(560,709)</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(560,709)</u>
Net Income (Outlay)	(72,234)	3,258	(68,976)
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>70,937</u>	<u>(70,937)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Total Transactions	<u>(1,297)</u>	<u>(67,679)</u>	<u>(68,976)</u>
Ending Balance 4/30/25	<u><u>\$ 129,274</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 886,763</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,016,037</u></u>

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY
AS OF May 22, 2025**

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS 32

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED 32

As of May 22, 2025, HOTCOG had one vacancy 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	7	5	0	1	1
Regional Services	8	7	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	17	17	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	32	29	0	2	1

Vacancy:
Accountant

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Investment Report

For the Quarter Ending March 31, 2025

As per HOTCOG's Investment Policy, funds that are not immediately required to pay obligations are invested in TexPool. HOTCOG does not have any other investments as of the ending date of this report.


Summary of General and Special Revenue Funds

Beginning Market/Book Value @ 01/01/25	\$ 910,777
Net Transfers In (Out)	34,031
Interest Earned	10,234
Ending Market/Book Value @ 03/31/25	\$ 954,442

Notes:

1. The money market account does not have a maturity date.
2. Following are the annualized average rates of return:
 - January 2025 4.3919%
 - February 2025 4.3555%
 - March 2025 4.3345%
3. Market value of pledged securities as of 03/31/25: \$ 1,213,009

As HOTCOG's designated Investment Officer, I, Michelle M Vasquez, certify as to the best of my knowledge that the investment portfolio is in compliance with the investment strategy as expressed in HOTCOG's Investment Policy and that this Investment Report was prepared by said Investment Officer.


Michelle M Vasquez
Director of Finance & Administration

5/7/25
Date

REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT

April-May 2025

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 maintains its partnership with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) for NextGen Core Services (NGCS) Consulting and Cybersecurity Support. MCP follows a scope of work identifying three tasks to assist the TriCOG in technical issues to include Project/Task Management for GIS Readiness and Geospatial Call Routing, Procurement support for a Request for Proposal for call handling equipment and the development of a Cyber Security Plan. Members of the TriCOG participate in regularly scheduled conference calls to discuss ongoing NGCS projects and planning for the future of the regional networks. In addition, project planning calls with Motorola Solutions Connectivity, Inc. continue to be held weekly, and discussions include ongoing project deliverables and discussions for upcoming activities.

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 the 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 participants on 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.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW)

Every year during the second full week of April, telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. This year during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 13-19th, HOTCOG staff presented beach towels and solar chargers to the regions Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) staff to recognize and thank them for their dedication in protecting and serving our communities. The items were imprinted with the message, “9-1-1, You Make a Difference.”

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- Vendor project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – April 8th
- TriCOG project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – April 9th
- TriCOG program mentoring, HOTCOG – April 10th
- Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) call, HOTCOG – April 11th
- NPSTW deliveries and PSAP monitoring, HOTCOG – April 14-15th
- CSEC Strategic Planning assistance conference call, HOTCOG – April 16th

- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – April 21st
- CSEC Strategic Planning assistance conference call, HOTCOG – April 23rd
- Ethics and Workplace Safety training, HOTCOG – April 29th
- CSEC Strategic Planning assistance conference call, HOTCOG – April 30th
- Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) call, HOTCOG – May 2nd
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 5th
- TriCOG project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 7th
- CSEC Strategic Planning assistance conference call, HOTCOG – May 7th
- CSEC Strategic Planning/ERS review conference call, HOTCOG – May 8th
- CSEC Strategic Planning assistance conference call, HOTCOG – May 14th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 19th
- Vendor project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – May 20th
- Freestone 9-1-1 Dispatch move, Fairfield – May 21st
- TARC Strategic Planning spend down conference call, HOTCOG – May 21st

Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness

Grant/COG Projects

- Staff is working on communications tower projects for bi-annual State Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program in Hill and Bosque Counties.
- Staff is procuring (2) new Backup Generators for the Falls County Communications Tower sites in Lott and Reagan. One of these generators has failed and the other which is near the same age is being replaced as a precautionary measure at a cost of approximately \$35,000. Also both the Dispatch Radio Consoles at the Falls County Sheriff's Office went down and were needing replaced. The Consoles were replaced along with Battery Backup Systems and a new Computer Aided Dispatch Program at a cost of Approximately \$46,000. Staff was able to fund both these projects through left over funds from the 2023-2024 SERI Communications Grant.

Technical Assistance

- HOTCOG staff attended the Office of the Governor- Public Safety Office Conference Call.
- The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting was held.
- Staff developed and coordinated a Regional Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise for local first Responders to assess the region's capabilities and needs in the event of an actual event. Much was learned and more exercises are going to be planned in the future.

Criminal Justice

Planning Grant

Lana continues updating the 2025 Strategic plans for the region.

SART - the Heart of Texas Sexual Assault Response Team subcommittee formations have begun the subcommittees Lana met with Marlin Police Department regarding the SART member appointment for Falls County SART.

State Crisis Intervention Grant Program – HOTCOG was awarded \$20,898.61 for the development of a Heart of Texas Regional Crisis Intervention Team. The second team meeting was rescheduled to May 28th due to a power outage. Lana scheduled the first training for the CIT for July 28-Aug 1, 2025.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

Lana continued working on the training schedule for FY 2025. Lana was able to add two new mandated ALERRT I classes to the schedule in May and July in Falls County.

BMMAP

Lana has been in contact with several agencies regarding BMAP in FY 2025 training for the BMAP program is set to begin in May. Lana contracted with New Mexico Tech to bring the Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition and Response training to Waco in August. This training is free for all first responders.

311 students attended HOTCOG training, totaling 7684 contact training hours since November 2023.

Economic & Community Development Department

Revolving Loan Fund

USDA Fund:

- Purpose: Support local businesses for growth, job creation, and regional economic diversification.
- Target: Small and emerging businesses in rural areas of Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and rural McLennan Counties.
- Criteria:
 - Private businesses employing 50 or fewer new employees.
 - Projected gross revenues of less than \$1 million.
 - Preference for businesses in specified rural counties, though exceptions may be made for businesses outside the region with a positive economic impact.
 - Job creation or retention requirement: One full-time job per \$10,000 in loan funding.

- Ownership: 51% interest in the business must be by U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.
- Financial necessity: Evidence required that project needs cannot be met by owner resources or commercial financial institutions.
- Available Funds: \$247,691.00

TDA Fund (SMRF):

- Purpose: Expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.
- Target: Small and microenterprise businesses in Falls County.
- Criteria:
 - Microenterprises: Commercial enterprises with five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise.
 - Small Enterprises: Commercial enterprises with 25 or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise.
- Available Funds: \$61,901.00

Current Loans:

- **Net1:** Received Summary Judgement on Loan.
- **KNV Investments:** Current.

U.S. Economic Development News:

Federal Budget Update: Impacts on Regional Economic Development Programs

*Recent developments in the federal discretionary budget have introduced significant proposed changes that could impact key economic development initiatives in our region. These changes are part of the President's budget proposal and are subject to Congressional review and potential revision. Notably, two programs central to our economic development efforts—the **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** and **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**—are facing substantial cuts and restructuring.*

Reauthorization of the EDA

*On January 4, 2025, the U.S. Congress reauthorized the Economic Development Administration for the first time in two decades through the **Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (S. 4367)**. The bipartisan legislation strengthens EDA's foundational programs and supports the agency's long-standing mission under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. This reauthorization enhances the EDA's ability to support regional economic initiatives and is a positive development for Economic Development Districts nationwide.*

Proposed Budget Cuts and Justifications

Despite the reauthorization, the federal budget proposal recommends **significant funding rescissions and the potential elimination of the EDA**, “citing concerns about program misuse and ideological agendas. The proposal characterizes EDA activities as political earmarks or vehicles for equity and climate-related efforts, referencing examples outside our region such as the National Comedy Center hologram project and Portland’s Pride Plaza.”

Locally, the EDA has supported impactful and well-vetted projects, including:

- Industrial park upgrades in the **City of Mexia**
- Road enhancements to the **Sherwin Williams facility in Bellmead**
- Infrastructure improvements at the **City of Fairfield industrial park**
- Workforce development expansions at **Texas State Technical College (TSTC)**

These projects have demonstrated strong alignment with regional economic goals and provide tangible returns on investment for our communities.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Impacts

The proposed budget also targets the **elimination of the Community Services Block Grant and CDBG funding**, directly affecting vital grant programs that benefit rural and underserved communities. This includes grants administered by the **Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)** and **Hazard Mitigation funds** managed through other federal and state agencies.

Of particular concern, the TDA’s **biennium grant cycles**—which typically fund **4 to 6 communities with \$500,000 grants each**—would be entirely eliminated. These grants support critical infrastructure improvements, public facility upgrades, and essential community development initiatives. Additionally, the proposed cuts jeopardize matching funds and leverage opportunities for hazard mitigation and resilience projects coordinated with FEMA and related agencies.

The elimination of these funds would significantly reduce the capacity of local governments to respond to economic, environmental, and public health challenges.

Given the potential ramifications of these proposals, local leaders are strongly encouraged to **contact their Congressional representatives** to advocate for the continuation of EDA and CDBG funding. These programs have a long-standing history of delivering results and enabling small and rural communities to thrive through targeted economic and infrastructure investments.

***The entire proposed budget will be provided at the meeting.**

EDA’s Reauthorization

The reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) strengthens its role in economic development, job creation, disaster recovery, and infrastructure investment. The following are the key benefits of this legislative update:

1. Strengthening Tools to Support EDA's Role in Job Creation and Workforce Development

- **Industry-Led Workforce Training Partnerships** – Codifies EDA's role in fostering workforce training initiatives that invest in innovative workforce development approaches, ensuring job opportunities for American workers.
- **Alignment with Department of Commerce Priorities** – Enhances EDA's ability to support critical economic priorities, including:
 - **Supply Chain and Manufacturing** – Incorporates elements of *The ONSHORE Act* to facilitate site development for industries with national security implications.
 - **Broadband Expansion** – Modernizes EDA's capacity to implement broadband infrastructure projects through provisions of the *E-BRIDGE Act*.

2. Modernizing EDA's Authorities for Critical Grants and Resource Delivery

- **Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience** – Establishes a dedicated office within EDA to coordinate federal support for regional disaster recovery efforts. This office will leverage EDA's existing network of Economic Development Districts (EDDs), University Centers, and other key stakeholders.
- **Enhanced Grantmaking Eligibility Criteria** – Expands and updates eligibility considerations, allowing for the use of additional statistical factors to support grant allocation and economic development strategies.

3. Improving EDA Operational Efficiency and Transparency

- **Pre-Development Assistance for Distressed Communities** – Codifies a formal definition of "pre-development," enabling EDA to provide assistance to economically distressed areas in preparing for large-scale infrastructure investments.
- **Permanent Disaster Hiring Authority** – Ensures EDA can quickly mobilize and respond to future disasters by permanently authorizing its disaster hiring capabilities.
- **Strengthened Regional Collaboration** – Formalizes the relationship between EDA and Regional Commissions to improve the coordination and effectiveness of regional economic development programs.

Legislative Context

EDA's reauthorization is a critical component of the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024*, which passed with bipartisan support in Congress. This legislative update enhances EDA's ability to foster economic resilience, infrastructure modernization, and workforce development nationwide.

This reauthorization strengthens EDA's role in driving economic growth and ensuring that communities—particularly those facing economic distress or disaster impacts—have the necessary tools and resources for long-term prosperity.

Key Economic Development Investments Supported by EDA

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) continues to play a crucial role in fostering economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure development. The following priority investment areas illustrate EDA's commitment to supporting communities through strategic economic initiatives:

Infrastructure and Facility Development

- **Technology-Based Facilities** – Supporting innovation and research hubs to drive economic advancement.
- **Multi-Tenant Manufacturing Facilities** – Enabling flexible manufacturing spaces that enhance industrial productivity.
- **Business and Industrial Parks** – Facilitating the development of business clusters and regional economic hubs.
- **Telecommunication and Development Facilities** – Expanding broadband and communication infrastructure to strengthen connectivity.
- **Water and Sewer System Improvements** – Enhancing critical infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth.

Business and Workforce Development

- **Business Incubator Facilities** – Providing early-stage businesses with essential resources and support.
- **Port and Harbor Expansions** – Strengthening trade and logistics infrastructure to enhance regional commerce.
- **Skill-Training Facilities** – Investing in workforce training programs to meet evolving industry demands.
- **Brownfield Redevelopment** – Restoring and repurposing underutilized or contaminated sites for economic use.

These investments reflect EDA's focus on fostering resilient, innovation-driven, and inclusive economic development across regions. By strategically aligning resources with community needs, EDA continues to enhance economic opportunities and regional competitiveness.

New Priorities:

EDA's investment priorities provide an overarching framework to ensure its grant investment portfolio – ranging from planning to infrastructure construction -- contributes to local efforts to build, improve, or better leverage economic assets that allow businesses to succeed and regional economies to prosper and become more resilient. Competitive grant applications will be responsive to the evaluation criteria listed under each individual funding announcement, including at least one of the below investment priorities.

1. **Critical Infrastructure:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.
2. **Workforce:** Economic Development planning or implementation projects that –
 - a. Support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or
 - b. Otherwise promote labor force participation.
3. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that –
 - a. Support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;
 - b. Promote business development and lending; or
 - c. Foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.
4. **Economic Recovery Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.
5. **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

U.S. Economic Development Administration Grants

FY 2023 PWEAA Application Submission and Program Requirements:

The FY 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines the process for applying to two core EDA programs under the Public Works and Economic Development Act: the Public Works program and the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program. This NOFO replaces the FY 2020 version and includes updated application requirements.

Key Points:

- **Funding Availability:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until a new NOFO is issued, the current NOFO is canceled, or all available funds are allocated. A recent update adds \$5M specifically for indigenous communities and incorporates regulatory changes (2 CFR 200 updates) for new FY25 awards.
- **Program Focus:** EDA emphasizes strategies that leverage regional strengths to foster economic growth, support equity, address workforce needs, and improve climate change resilience.
- **Review Process:** The EDA reviews applications promptly upon receiving complete submissions.

- **Resource Link:** Detailed program and application information is available at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/346815>.

The HOTCOG/HOTEDD boards may consider these opportunities to support regional economic development initiatives aligned with EDA's priorities.

EDA Funding Priorities: waiting on those changes to be published.

EDA Planning Grant:

- **Awarded:** Three-year planning grant (2024-2026) at \$210,000 (\$70,000 per year).
- **Purpose:** Fund Economic planning division, support HOTCOG regions CEDS.
- **Administrator:** Dorthy Jackson.
- **Role:** Assists with applications, financial reports, and special conditions submissions.
- **Staff** has completed the 2025-2030 CEDS with added emphasis on resiliency component compared to the previous CEDS. HOTEDD will vote on it this next meeting and then it will be submitted to EDA.

Public Works Grant:

- **2024 Allocation:** Funds expend but apply now for the 2025 allocation starting in October.
- **Requirements:** Submit Forms ED 900B for reporting business activities from the grant.
- **Application Process:** Through EDGE Portal (<https://sfgrants.eda.gov>) and instructions on <https://www.grants.gov>.

New inquires staff helping with possible EDA grant.

- City of West
- City of Hillsboro
- City of Meridian
- Hill College

EDA Project Highlights:

- **TSTC Project:**
 - **Investment:** \$3,500,000 from EDA.
 - **Purpose:** Renovation of Technical Studies Center and Electronics Center buildings.
 - **Progress:** Construction started, ongoing employee interviews. This project is getting close to completion.
- **Fairfield Project:**
 - **Investment:** \$950,000 from EDA.
 - **Purpose:** Roadway improvements on Old Mexia-Fairfield Road.

- Progress: Contract approved; construction started on May 13, 2024.
Closeout documents sent to EDA.

Community Development

Hosting Training Event:

The Regional Services & Economic Development Department is organizing a Brownfields Technical Assistance Training in collaboration with the Kansas State University - Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) team. This training is intended to provide valuable information and resources to community members regarding brownfields redevelopment, funding opportunities, and regulatory considerations.

Details:

- Date: June 10, 2025
- Location: HOTCOG training room
- Target Audience: Local government officials, economic development professionals, community planners, and other stakeholders interested in brownfields redevelopment.

Planned Speakers & Topics:

We are coordinating with various state and regional agencies to ensure a comprehensive training program. Tentative speakers include:

- Kansas State University
- Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) & Railroad Commission:
- Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Fair Housing Training (CDBG Focus)
- Legislative Updates: If the primary speaker is unavailable, Matthew Wright has agreed to assist with providing relevant legislative updates.

GLO Grants:

- Purpose: Development, adoption, and implementation of resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, and land use plans.
- Current Progress:
 - **City of Mexia:** Staff working on RFP and requirements from GLO. Concern is how the program will move forward with changes in the Federal Government allocations.

TDA Notifications:

- Current Funding: \$12,253 for technical assistance work.

Training:

- SWREDA May 6-9

Technical Assistance

Recipients:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairfield EDC• TSTC• City of Mexia• City of Whitney• City of Marlin• Office of the Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Teague
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SOLID WASTE

FY24 and FY25 Projects:

- Managed by COG, funded for three counties each fiscal year.
- Next Code Enforcement Training will be in FY 25
- City of Meridian conducted their event on September 21st.
- Precinct 1-4 of McLennan County conducted successful events all in March.
- Whitney held an event for the County in May
- City of Teague plans on conducting their event on May 17th.

AIR QUALITY

Ongoing Activities:

- Subtask 3.1 Soil NOx Emission Inventory Improvements.
Submitted the draft report to TCEQ for review on February 14, 2025.
- Subtask 3.2 Ambient Monitoring near Tyler in 2024 and 2025
We continued developing our report on 2024 ambient monitoring for NOx, NO2 and NOy adjacent to TCEQ's CAMS 82 Tyler monitoring site.

Health and Human Services Division
March & April 2025 Program Activity
for
Executive Committee Meeting
May 22, 2025

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

John Vorderkunz – 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.

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY COUNTY

Health & Human Services Division - Total Individuals Served by County							
Programs	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
211, AAA, ADRC & RTD	178	113	220	175	317	1695	2698

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

Jan Enders – Special Programs and Outreach Manager
Ursula Johnson - Managing Local Ombudsman
Donnis Cowan - 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 under all policies and procedures.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND PROGRAM ACTIVITY

PUBLIC INFORMATION – MEDIA ACTIVITIES

John Vorderkunz

HOTCOG WEBSITE VIEWS (Grand Total includes views of the HHS main page)					
211	ADRC	AGING	RESOURCE GUIDE	TRANSPORTATION	Grand Total
30	358	724	344	630	2328

SOCIAL MEDIA DATA				
POSTS	IMPRESSIONS	AVG IMP PER POST	MOST IMPRESSIVE POST	
47	960	20	40	

SPECIAL PROJECTS/OUTREACH

Jan Enders - Manager

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, March and April 2025							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations - Medicare		-	-	-	145	727	872
Medicare Fraud SMP					145	727	872
Resource Guides							0
Grand Total		0	0	0	290	1454	1744

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 /February 2025								
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Other	Grand Total
Benefits Counseling - Medicare, Extra Help, Health Ins, & Social Security - Hours	33.37	14.23	13.21	4.16	10.21	77.19	169.18	321.55

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS

Destiny Zavala – Senior Care Coordinator

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 - Care Coordination							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Care Coordination Connecting Individuals to Services - Hours	1.03	17.07		8.06	3.92	140.44	170.52
Callers for Assistance	3	1	4	7	1	42	58
Grand Total	4.03	18.07	4.00	15.06	4.92	182.44	228.52

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS

Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

The 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.

REACH-TX (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health) assists caregivers manage their health and well-being. REACH-TX is for family and friend caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia. With the assistance of a trained and certified Dementia Care Specialist and Caregiver's Notebook this program is known to decrease the caregiver's depression; decrease the caregiver's burden, improve the level of social support, and improve the capability to take care of the caregiver's health and well-being.

Area Agency on Aging Services - Caregiver Support							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Caregiver Support Coordination Connecting Caregivers to Services - Hrs	5.03	10.58	2.68	34.26	5.63	74.98	133.16
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 classes	1			1		3	5
Grand Total	6.03	10.58	2.68	35.26	5.63	77.98	138.16

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	636	546	1802	569	796	4359	8708
Home Delivered Meals	HDM		HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM
Area Agency on Aging	2222	1677	2957	2810	2601	11505	23772
Grand Total	2858	2223	4759	3379	3397	15864	32480

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Ombudsman Program would like your assistance in locating volunteers to visit long-term and assisted living facilities in your community. Please have individuals call Lynda Mitchell at 254-313-7089.

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Ursula Johnson – Managing Local Ombudsman

Lynda Mitchell – Part-Time Ombudsman

- Through direct advocacy the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program utilizes volunteers and 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 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 regarding changing facilities or moving to facilities in our region.

Ombudsman Program							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Long Term Care Facility Visits	7	2	4	5	8	20	46
Assisted Living Facility Visits	2	1		1		1	5
Complaints					1	8	9
State Surveys		1			1	1	3
Education & Consultations	1					1	2
Resident Council Meetings			1	1		2	4
Resident Discharge Appeal/s							0
Grand Total	10	4	5	7	10	33	69

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.
- The primary purpose is to provide information to help individuals live within their community if possible.
- Operating a broad-based coalition consisting of the 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 Behavioral Health Center.
- HOTCOG serves as the Lead Agency/Fiscal Agent and has the responsibility as contract administrator.
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan.
- 1 of 25 designated ADRCs by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

ADRC Outreach Activities

Outreach is intended to identify vulnerable, hard-to-reach individuals. The ADRC conducts outreach to people who may be eligible for Aging and Disability Services.

Outreach - Individuals Reached							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Round Table Talk	2	3	2	4	4	6	21
Presentations / Housing / LCA	2	4	2	2	2	2	14
Housing Authority	0	4	1	2	3	14	24
							0
							0
							0
Grand Total	4	11	5	8	9	22	59

ADRC Call Activity

Connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities with long-term care and support services. Callers were assisted with Community Resources. (cont'd.)

ADRC Call Activity March+April 2025							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL C	Grand Total
AAA Referrals							0
Housing						2	2
In Home Care	3	1	2	11	2	126	145
Medicare / medicaid/ SNAP	1	1	6	1	3	41	53
Medical Equipment				1		8	9
Minor Home Repair	1	2	1	8	1	7	20
Nursing Home			2			3	5
Rent Payment Assist						2	2
Transportation				2	2	13	17
Utilities Payment Assist						2	2
Other Community Resources			2	5	1	63	71
Grand Total	5	4	13	28	9	267	326

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

Amy Rossow – Contact Center Manager

Marcy Whiddon – Resource Manager/Emrg. Management Coordinator/I&R Contact

Joanna Whitehouse – Information & Referral Contact Specialist

Belinda Arocha – Information & Referral Contact Specialist

Dave Gray – Community Outreach Coordinator

The 2-1-1 program is a nationwide “free” social service phone helpline answered by highly trained contact specialists who listen to caller’s needs and provide resources and information to assist in meeting their needs. The contact specialists attempt to identify at least 3 resources for each identified need. It is the caller’s responsibility to reach out to each agency and provide any additional information requested for consideration for assistance through their program. We always encourage all callers to call us again should they need more resources or identify another need.

From time to time a caller will request assistance with something that unfortunately there is not a resource providing assistance, this becomes an *unmet need*. An example of an *unmet need* would be a request for assistance paying their rent, unfortunately unless you are a disabled Veteran or live in one specific zip code, 76705, there is not an agency that is assisting with rent in our HOTCOG region. Another example of an *unmet need* would be a request for assistance with paying an electric bill. There are several agencies that may be able to assist the caller with paying an electric bill if they meet eligibility criteria AND they have an approved electricity provider such as TXU, Direct Energy or Reliant. Unfortunately, if the caller does not have one of the approved providers there will not be any assistance available, and we will record this as an *unmet need*.

2-1-1 provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or other criteria. 2-1-1 is available 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. 2-1-1 does not provide any funding, only resources to callers for non-profit, social service agencies who have voluntarily become part of our database designed to assist our callers. HTCG 2-1-1 continues to take traditional calls for local social service needs, including food pantries, utility bills, rent, childcare, medication assistance, mental health, and everything from A to Z for the state of Texas, including our six-county service area. In addition, we provide assistance for disaster-related calls when such an event occurs and provide close monitoring and reporting of any resources available for those impacted by the disaster. Disaster support is provided across the state of Texas.

Our goal is to assist with as many resources as the caller needs. We also make sure to ask callers who ultimately need to be transferred to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for state benefit assistance if there is anything else we can assist them with before transferring them, and quite often they will ask for assistance in one or more areas.

Please help spread the word that 2-1-1 phone assistance is available 24/7 to everyone! All ages, all races, all socioeconomic backgrounds. We have resources from A-Z, and we are here to help. The website www.211texas.org is also available 24/7.

When you don’t know who to call, CALL 2-1-1.

2-1-1 FY25 March and April PROGRAM ACTIVITY

HTCG (Heart of Texas Council of Governments) 2-1-1 Calls							
HTCG 2-1-1 Transferred to HHSC (Health Human Services Comm)		HTCG 2-1-1 Callers Recv'd Resources			HTCG 2-1-1 Total Callers Assisted		
1934		1633			3567		
Texas 2-1-1 Statewide Call Detail							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Total In Region
Total Calls	82	125	112	193	126	2011	2649
Referral Calls	51	75	60	110	83	1247	1626
Top Needs Per County							
Electricity Payment Assistance	18	32	34	40	18	722	864
Rent Payment Assistance	6	8	4	8	9	197	232
Food Pantries	6	1	7	29	8	347	398
Area Agency on Aging	6	7	6	8	7	43	77
Housing Authorities	3	1	3	3	1	44	55
Homeless Shelter	1	1	3	1	0	38	44
Unmet Needs	5	8	5	10	9	137	174
Crisis Intervention Calls	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Advocacy Calls	0	0	0	1	1	12	14
Information Calls	5	10	14	15	5	67	116
Transferred Calls	23	39	36	65	35	1068	1266
First Time Callers	10	21	12	19	8	304	374
Callers Over 60 and Older	38	42	52	67	43	560	802

4. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

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

General Information:

HOTRTD Staff has restructured some of our services to reduce and make up for the lack of state funds used as matching funds to our federal dollars.

Funding

Staff is waiting to hear what its FY2026 funds will be from TXDOT.

Training, Meetings, and Outreach

07/09/2025 – TXDOT semi-annual operators meeting.

Regional Transportation Coordination Council - (RTCC)

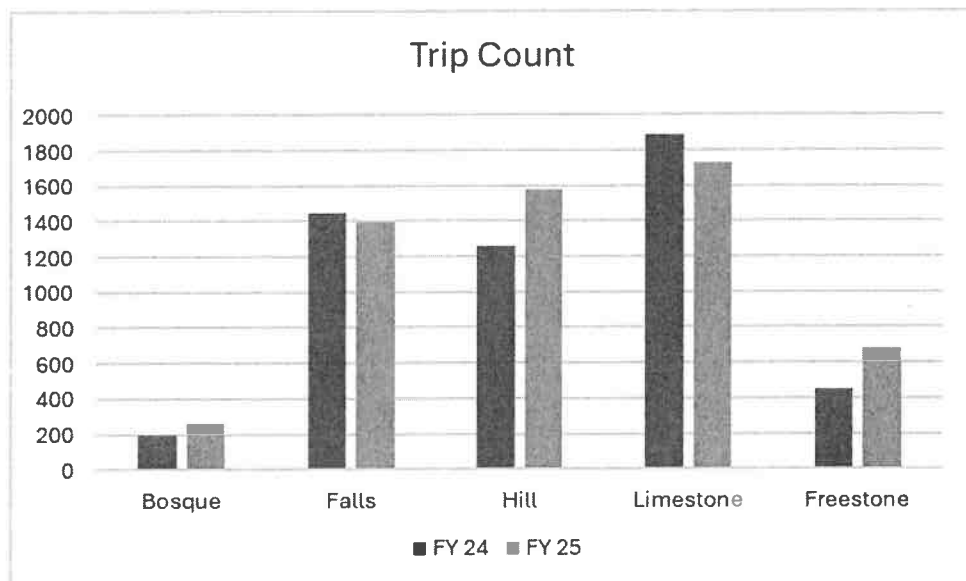
The next meeting will be on June 12, 2025.

Rural Transit District – (Operations)

Staff continue their outreach to clients to increase ridership.

Trip activities for March and April 2025 are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way Trips		
Transportation Provider	FY 2024	FY 2025
Bosque County	193	264
Falls County	1450	1395
Hill County	1258	1580
Limestone County	1890	1732
Freestone County	449	682
Total - All 5 Counties	5240	5653



Trip Type by County						
Trip Type	Limestone	Hill	Falls	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Dialysis	490	609	133	252	24	1508
Work	400	518	354	128	77	1477
Education		61	527		85	673
Medical	219	215	95	64	33	626
Mhmr	148	28	213	95	9	493
Personal	159	97	38	16	18	328
Shopping	120	48	29	51	10	258
Recreation	50			71		121
Foster Grandparents	80					80
Veteran	37	2	2	5		46
Parole	29	2	4		8	43
Grand Total	1732	1580	1395	682	264	5653

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



John Vorderkunz
 Director of Health and Human Services
a division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Course	Date	Agency	Attendees	Total
Basic Instructor	11/6-10/2023			
		TDJC	1	
		Bosque County Sheriff's Office	4	
		Meridian PD	1	
	240			6
Basic Instructor	11/13/17			
		Waco PD	4	
		DPD	1	
		Lorena PD	1	
	240			6
Crisis Intervention Training	11/13-17/2023	McLennan CO Const. Pct 2	2	
		Fairfield PD	2	
		Killeen PD	1	
		Travis CO Const.	1	
		Limestone Co SO	1	
		Private	3	
		Waco PD	2	
				12
De Escalation	1/18/24	Woodway	6	
		Travis CO Const.	1	
		Private	3	
		Waco PD	1	
	88			11
NCIC/TCIC	2/6-8/2024			
		Hill County Sheriff's Office	10	
		Horseshoe Bay	1	
		Attorney General Office	1	
		Somervell Co SO	1	
		Bosque Co SO	6	
		Hubbard PD	1	
		Leander PD	1	
		Lacy Lakeview PD	1	
		Erath County SO	1	
		Corsicana PD	1	

			Hillsboro PD	1	
			McLennan CO SO	3	
			Kosse PD	1	
			Stephenville	1	
			DPS	1	
			Caldwell PD	1	
			Washington County SO	4	
	864				36
Intermeideate Crime Scene		3/11-15/2024			
			Hill Co SO	2	
			Waco PD	5	
			McLennan Co SO	1	
			Private	2	
			Bellmead PD	1	
			Franklin PD	1	
			Temple PD	1	
			Travis Co Const.	1	
			Crawford PD	1	
	600				15
Basic Instructor		3/4-8/2024			
			McLennan County SO	2	
			Woodway PSD	3	
			Bellmead PD	1	
			Temple PD	1	
			Lacy Lakeview PD	1	
	320				8
Mental Health Peace Officer		4/15-19/2024			
			Woodway Public Safety	7	
			Robinson PD	3	
			Hamilton County	1	
	440				11
Intermeideate Child Abuse		5/6-8/2024	Cancel		

Resilient Response Policing Trauma	5/7/24	McLennan Community College PD	2	
		Teague PD	1	
		DPS	1	
		Lacy Lakeview PD	1	
		Tom Green Co SO	1	
		Private	1	
56				
Advanced Report Writing	5/21/24	Fairfield PD	4	
		Freestone County SO	4	
		Hill County	1	
80		Temple PD	1	10
Intermediate Crime Scene	6/3-7/2024	Lorena PD	1	
		Woodway DPS	3	
		Killeen ISD	4	
		Waco PD	2	
		Bosque County SO	1	
		Hill Co SO	1	
		Copper Canyon PD	1	
		Temple Fire Rescue	3	
		Cottle CO SO	1	
		Bruceville Eddy PD	1	
		Clifton PD	1	
760				19
Basic Instructor Course	6/10-14/2024	McLennan Co SO	4	
		Marlin PD	1	
		Waco PD	1	
		Office of Inspector General	3	
360				9
LGBTQ+	6/17/24	McLennan Community College	3	
		Hill Co SO	1	
		Waco PD	3	
		Waco ISD	1	
		Fairfield ISD	1	
72				9

Resilient Response Policing Trauma	6/18/24	McLennan Community College	3	
		Waco PD	3	
		Hill Co SO	1	
		Fairfield ISD	1	
		Waco ISD	1	
72				
Basic Instructor (Fairfield)	7/8-12/2024	Fairfield PD	2	
		Killeen ISD	2	
		McLennan Co SO	1	
		Falls Co SO	1	6
240				
Special Investigative Topics	7/15-17/2024	Waco ISD	1	
		Waco PD	1	
		McLennan Co SO	1	
		DPS	1	
		Hillsboro PD	1	
		Pas CRDMAC	1	
144				6
Basic Instructor	7/22-26/24	HOTCOG	1	
		Coryell County	1	
		Fairfield ISD	1	
		Baylor PD	1	
200		TPWD	1	5
Bosque County SO CPR	7/19/24			
		Bosque CO SO	12	
48				12
De Escalation	8/8/24	DPS	2	
		Freestone Co SO	1	
		Hill Co Juvenile Probation	2	
		Baylor PD	1	
		Waco PD	1	
		Private	1	
		McLennan CO SO	1	
		Robertson CO	1	

80	8/5-6/24			
Law Enforcement Grant Writing 101		McLennan CO SO	1	10
		Bosque Co EMC	1	
		McGregor PD	1	
		Meridian PD	1	
		TSTC PD	1	
		McLennan CO District Court	2	
		Mexia PD	1	
		Liberty Hill PD	1	
		Waco PD	1	
		HOTCOG	2	
144				12
Advanced Instructor Course	8/12-16/24	McLennan CO SO	1	
		Waco PD	3	
		McLennan Community College	1	
		Temple PD	1	
440		DPS	1	6
CPR Freestone County SO		Freestone CO	5	
				5
Understanding and Planning for School Bombing	9/16/24	Bellmead PD	2	
		Baylor PD	1	
		Connally ISD PD	2	
		McLennan Co SO	4	
		McLennan Community College	2	
		McLennan Co Const Pct 1	1	
		Hewitt PD	1	
		West ISD PD	1	
		TPWD	1	
64		Fairfield PD	1	16
Surviving Bombing Incidents for Educators	9/16/24			
		Connally ISD PD	1	
		McLennan CO SO	4	

		McLennan Community College	1	
		Hewitt PD	1	
		Waco PD	1	
		TPWD	1	
		Fairfield ISD PD	1	
		Bellmead PD	1	
		West ISD PD	1	
	28	Connally ISD PD	2	14
Intermediate Child Abuse				
	9/23-25/24	Baylor PD	3	
		Waco Fire	1	
		McLennan Co SO	2	
		Waco PD	4	
		Hillsboro PD	1	
	312	Hewitt PD	2	13
Advanced Instructor				
	9/30-10/4/24			
		Lacy Lakeview PD	2	
		Office Of Inspector General	1	
		Grand Prairie PD	1	
	200	DPS	1	
				5
TCIC/ NCIC				
	10/22-24/24			
		Mexia PD	1	
		Waco ISD PD	1	
		Temple PD	1	
		Walnut Springs ISD	1	
		McLennan County SO	1	
		Falls County SO	1	
		Robinson PD	1	
		Milam CO	2	
		McGreggor PD	1	
		Corsicana PD	1	
		Limestone County	2	
	336	Baylor PD	1	14

