

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday
September 25, 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 25th Day of September 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. Approval of the August 28, 2025 meeting minutes
 - B. Executive Session
 1. In accordance with Chapter 551.074, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee will convene into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, and the evaluation and compensation of the Executive Director.
 2. Return to Open Session to consider decisions and/or take action relating to personnel matters, and the evaluation and compensation of the Executive Director.
 - C. New Business
 1. Ethics Training for Executive Committee 2025

D. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

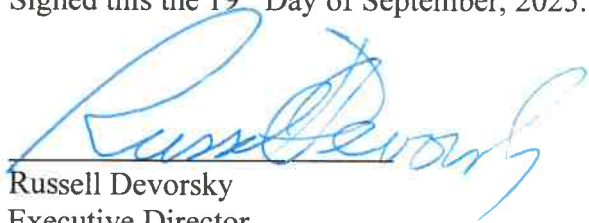
1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial and Personnel Report
2. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report
3. Health & Human Services
 - a. Department Activities Report
4. Executive Director's Report

V. Other Reports
Law Enforcement Training Attendees by Agency

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

Signed this the 19th Day of September, 2025.



Russell Devorsky
Executive Director



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Councilman 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 28th Day of August, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Waco Hilton Hotel, Grande Executive Boardroom, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, Texas, at which time the following subjects were considered.

Members Present

Judge Richard Duncan, *President*
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers, *Vice-President*
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham, *Sec.-Treas.*
Mayor Jim Holmes
Mayor Geary Smith
Judge Jay Elliott
Commissioner Nita Wuebker
Commissioner Jim Smith
Mayor Janice Sanders
Commissioner Terry Townley

Limestone County
City of Robinson
Bosque County
City of Waco
City of Mexia
Falls County
Falls County
McLennan County
City of Whitney
Bosque County

Members Absent

Judge Linda Grant
Judge Shane Brassell
Judge Scott Felton
Councilmember Andrea Barefield
Mr. Calvin Rueter

Freestone County
Hill County
McLennan County
City of Waco
Special Districts

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
Michelle Vasquez
John Vorderkunz
Mary McDow
Dorothy Jackson
Falen Bohannon
Kristine Hill
Wayne Stovall

Executive Director
Director of Finance and Administration
Director of Health & Human Services
HR Manager
Regional Economic Development Manager
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
911 Coordinator
Homeland Security/CJ Manager

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 28, 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 August 28, 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 May 22, 2025 meeting minutes
Approval of the June 20, 2025 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith to approve the May 22, 2025 and the June 20, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.
 - B. Executive Session
 1. In accordance with Chapter 551.074, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee will convene into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The Executive Committee convened into Executive Session at 10:03 a.m.
 2. Return to Open Session to consider decisions and/or take action relating to personnel matters.

The Executive Committee returned to open session at 10:23 a.m. on August 28, 2025. No action was taken.
 - C. New Business
 1. Approval of HOTCOG 2025-2026 Budget

Mr. Devorsky presented the HOTCOG FY2025-2026 Budget to the committee for review and approval. Mr. Devorsky noted that HOTCOG has not received all of the “official” funding” level notices from state and federal agencies. The estimated revenues are based on a combination of official funding notices and estimated planning figures. Currently, a \$15,445 General Fund Net Surplus is being projected for the year. The proposed budget contains a 2.0% cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase for all employees.

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the HOTCOG FY2025-2026 Budget and recommend that the budget be approved and adopted at the Semi-Annual Business Meeting, August 28, 2025. Motion passed.

2. Approval of FY2026-2027 Solid Waste Grant Application and Resolution

Mrs. Falen Bohannon stated the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met and determined that all funding allocations for the FY 2026/2027 biennium will be used for HOTCOG regional COG Managed Projects. The SWAC would like to consider funding COG Managed Project for the duration of the FY26/ FY27 Biennium.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Jim Holmes to approve the recommendation of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) to approve the SWAC grant application and adopt the presented Resolution to authorize submittal of the application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for FY 26/27. Motion passed.

3. Mrs. Bohannon stated the SWAC met on July 24, 2025 and recommends the following new members to serve on the SWAC.

- T.K. Presley, nominated by Judge Duncan
- Judge Cindy Vanlandingham and Tiffany Gentry, nominated by Judge Vanlandingham
- Lloyd Lane, nominated by Judge Grant
- Jeff Watkins – nominated by Judge Elliott

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Rogers to approve the recommendation of new members to the SWAC with membership beginning September 2025. Motion passed.

4. Approval of 9-1-1 Service Agreements with AT&T – Equipment and Maintenance Cost expenditures totaling \$367,661

Mrs. Kristine Hill stated staff is requesting authorization to approve expenditures of \$115,661 for the pre-payment of two years of maintenance costs of the 9-1-1 call-handling equipment at the six regional Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). It is vital the 9-1-1 equipment be maintained 24 x 7 from appropriate vendors and pre-payment out of FY 2025 funds is the only way to assure service can be continued. Authorization to approve expenditures of \$67,000 for 9-1-1 routers and support is also included in this request as well as expenditures of \$185,000 for power supply equipment at the 6 PSAPs. The power supply equipment is designed to provide a constant power source capable of operating independently for a designated period of time should public or emergency electrical power sources fail. The current equipment has exceeded its standard life cycle per Commission requirements.

Please note these purchases are procured through HGAC cooperative purchasing agreement #EC07-23.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Jim Holmes to approve the authorization for the Executive Director to sign service agreements with AT&T for equipment and maintenance cost expenditures totaling \$367,661. Motion passed.

5. Health and Human Services Advisory Council appointment

Mr. John Vorderkunz stated that Doris Lemley has been recommended for appointment to the Health and Human Services Advisory Council to represent Limestone County as a voting member.

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Rogers to approve the appointment of Doris Lemley to be a representative on the HOTCOG-HHS Advisory Council for a 3-year term from August 2025 through August 2028. Motion passed.

6. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District Drug & Alcohol Policy Update

Mr. Rep Pledger stated on February 18, 2025, HOTCOG drug and alcohol program went through a TXDOT Drug and Alcohol compliance review performed by RLS & Associates, Inc. RLS noted one finding in HOTCOG's transportation drug and alcohol policy during the one-day audit. The one finding, policy update, was reviewed by RTD staff with the help of KFH Group and corrected as instructed by RLS. Mr. Pledger noted that transportation staff have made the proper corrections and updates to the current Drug and Alcohol Policy and the correction has been approved by Libby Rubio of RLS & associates.

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Mayor Jim Holmes to approve the current Drug and Alcohol Policy as amended and recommended by RLS & Associates. Motion passed.

D. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Reports

Mr. Devorsky presented the Financial, Personnel and Investment reports to the committee.

2. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Jackson presented the Economic and Community Development Division report and highlighted the activities.

3. Health and Human Services
 - a. Department Activities ReportMr. 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 and the Heart of Texas 2-1-1 Information and Referral.
4. Executive Director's Report – Mr. Devorsky noted the HOTCOG Semi-Annual meeting is at noon in the Three Rivers Ballroom at the Hilton. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Andrew Friedrichs, Executive Director of the Commission on State Emergency Communications.

V. Other Reports – None.

VI. Public Comment – None.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Honorable Richard Duncan, President
County Judge, Limestone County

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

Administrative Services Department

Financial / Personnel Reports

Executive Committee Meeting

September 25, 2025

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Balance Sheet
August 31, 2025**

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 70,735
Investments	1,036,009
Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies	1,026,352
Membership Dues Receivables	6,400
Aging Match Receivables	471
Other Receivables	1,174
Pre-Paid Items	-
	<u>2,141,141</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

\$ 5,052,855

Liabilities

Current

Accounts Payable	100,336
Due to HOTEDD	1,042,563
Accrued Vacation	142,459
Deferred Revenue	<u>120,737</u>
	1,406,095

Long-term Liabilities

Notes Payable	<u>-</u>
	-

Total Liabilities

\$ 1,406,095

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	95,734
Unassigned	<u>638,694</u>

Total Fund Equity

\$ 3,646,760

Total Liabilities & Fund Equity

\$ 5,052,855

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
& Changes in Fund Balance
For Eleven Months Ended August 31, 2025

Revenues	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	12 Month Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Grants administered from State/Federal	\$ 6,458,797	\$ 7,831,593	\$ (1,372,796)	\$ 8,543,556	\$ 2,084,759
Rent-WF Bldg	443,974	\$ 443,975	(1)	484,336	40,362
Local Funds/Mgt. Fees	249,185	\$ 151,550	97,635	165,327	(83,858)
Memberships Dues	61,902	\$ 56,863	5,039	62,032	130
Inkind Match/Program Income	72,961	\$ 454,392	(381,431)	495,700	422,739
Interest Income	3,648	\$ 13,750	(10,102)	15,000	11,352
Miscellaneous Income	41,936	\$ 5,500	36,436	6,000	(35,936)
Total Revenues	\$ 7,332,403	\$ 8,957,622	\$ (1,625,219)	\$ 9,771,951	\$ 2,439,548
Expenditures					
Salaries	1,018,690	1,064,113	45,423	1,160,850	142,160
Fringe Benefits	516,700	556,764	40,064	607,379	90,679
Travel	43,702	58,419	14,717	63,730	20,028
Equipment	1,114,577	1,064,948	(49,629)	1,161,761	47,184
Supplies	24,338	21,954	(2,384)	23,950	(388)
Other Expenses	107,757	287,435	179,678	313,565	205,808
Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs	3,012,566	3,873,866	861,300	4,226,036	1,213,470
Indirect Costs	1,017,094	1,153,168	136,074	1,258,001	240,907
Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg	72,932	78,833	5,901	86,000	13,068
Debt Service-WF Bldg	38,861	52,874	14,013	57,681	18,820
Inkind Match/Program Income	-	454,392	454,392	495,700	495,700
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,967,217	\$ 8,666,765	\$ 1,699,548	\$ 9,454,653	\$ 2,487,436
Changes in Fund Balance					
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	365,186			317,298	
Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEDD	(291,997)			(290,817)	
Net Change in Fund Balances	73,189			26,481	
Fund Balances as of October 1, 2024	663,031				
Fund Balances as of August 31, 2025	\$ 736,220				

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition
As of August 31, 2025

	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Short Term Investments</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>
Beginning Balance 8/1/25	\$ 270,739	\$ 974,650	\$ 1,245,389
Transactions			
Cash In	627,900	3,686	631,586
Cash (Out)	<u>(770,231)</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(770,231)</u>
Net Income (Outlay)	(142,331)	3,686	(138,645)
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>(57,673)</u>	<u>57,673</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Total Transactions	<u>(200,004)</u>	<u>61,359</u>	<u>(138,645)</u>
Ending Balance 8/31/25	<u><u>\$ 70,735</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,036,009</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,106,744</u></u>

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY
AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2025**

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS 32

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED 32

As of September 19, 2025, 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	7	6	0	1	0
Regional Services	8	7	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	17	17	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	32	30	0	2	0

REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT

September 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 tasks to assist the TriCOG with technical issues to include Project/Task Management and support. 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. are 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.

Public Education

There were 5,540 public education items distributed to the Region for public education and public outreach/health expo events.

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) call, HOTCOG – September 5th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – September 8th
- TriCOG Project Roadmap planning session, CTCOG - September 9th
- TARC 9-1-1 Association meeting, Austin – September 10th
- CSEC SB8 Grant Management webinar, HOTCOG – September 17th
- CSEC Open Office Hours conference call, HOTCOG – September 17th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – September 22nd
- Vendor project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – September 23rd
- TriCOG project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – September 24th

Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness

Grant/COG Projects

Staff is continuing working on communications and tower projects for bi-annual State Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program in Limestone, Hill and Bosque Counties. Limestone's LTE Gateway Project has been completed and is operational. Hill County's Penelope Tower Project is 80% complete and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Bosque County's Repeaters and Towers are approximately 60% complete with negotiations for a new tower in Walnut Springs in progress.

Technical Assistance

HOTCOG staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils Fall Training in Austin. The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting was held. Staff attended the Statewide Communications Infrastructure Project Meeting at the DPS Headquarters.

Criminal Justice

Planning Grant

Lana continues updating the 2025 Strategic plans for the region.

Lana attended the biannual TARC conference in Austin.

HB 33 passed in the most recent legislative session has mandated the COG to create a mental health resources plan. The plan will be developed in consultation with state and local entities including law enforcement, emergency services, and the Texas School Safety Center. The plan must include measures to ensure that communication systems are adequate for use during emergencies. The plan must also include training protocols for employees responding to emergencies and include standardized response protocol terminology to facilitate communication between all parties. The already established Crisis Intervention Team will begin working on the plan in the next scheduled meeting in October.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

Lana began working on the FY 2026 training schedule. Currently there are two Intermediate crime scene classes, one de-escalation class, one TCIC Full Access and one Basic Instructor class scheduled. Lana is working on scheduling the Crisis Intervention Training and Communications Training Officer classes.

BMMAP

Lana contracted with New Mexico Tech to bring the Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition and Response training to Waco in 2026.

9 students attended HOTCOG training, totaling 360 contact training hours since September, 2025.

Economic & Community Development Department Staff Report:

September 2025

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: **\$64,172.00**

Current Loans:

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

.S. Economic Development:

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.

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

Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program

(Excluding McLennan County Communities)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced the **FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program**, providing **\$1.45 billion** in recovery funding. This program is designed to help communities affected by federally declared disasters in **2023 and 2024** not only rebuild but also strengthen long-term resilience and economic outcomes.

Funding Pathways

1. Readiness Path

- **Purpose:** Build capacity for future projects (non-construction).
- **Eligible Activities:** Recovery strategies, disaster coordinators, capacity-building, pre-development planning.
- **Grant Range:** \$250,000 – \$500,000

2. Implementation Path

- **Purpose:** Support immediate recovery and growth through both construction and non-construction projects.
- **Eligible Activities:** Infrastructure, business recovery, community revitalization.
- **Grant Range:**
 - Construction: \$2 million – \$20 million
 - Non-construction: \$100,000 – \$5 million

3. Industry Transformation Path

- **Purpose:** Coalition-led projects to reshape regional economies through industry development.
- **Eligible Activities:** Multi-project portfolios, workforce and infrastructure aligned with industry growth.
- **Grant Range:** \$20 million – \$50 million

Eligible Applicants

- State, local, and Tribal governments
- Economic Development Districts (HOTEDD)
- Higher education institutions
- Economic development organizations
- Public and private non-profits (in partnership with local governments)
- Public-private partnerships for infrastructure

Location Requirements

Projects must:

- Be located in, primarily serve, or benefit areas with **major disaster declarations in 2023 or 2024**.
- Eligible counties/communities in HOTCOG (excluding McLennan) should confirm their status via FEMA's disaster declarations database:
<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations>.

Matching Fund Requirements

- **Standard:** EDA funds up to **80% of project costs**.
- **Exceptions:**
 - Up to 100% for Tribal applicants or severely distressed areas.
 - Coalition projects may distribute match requirements across components.

Application Process

- **Readiness & Implementation Grants:** Accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted or the NOFO is closed.
- **Industry Transformation Grants:** Due **March 3, 2026, by 5:00 PM (ET)**.
- **Submission Portal:** [EDA EDGE Portal](#)
- **Additional Information:** [EDA Disaster Recovery Programs](#)

Recommendations for HOTCOG Region Counties (Excluding McLennan)

1. **Review FEMA Disaster Declaration Eligibility** to confirm county/community qualification.

2. **Assess Project Readiness** – determine if counties/communities are best suited for Readiness, Implementation, or Industry Transformation pathways.
3. **Engage Local Stakeholders** – involve businesses, higher education, and nonprofits to align projects with regional economic needs.
4. **Consider Coalition Applications** – maximize funding potential under Industry Transformation by building multi-county or regional proposals.
5. **Leverage HOTEDD Role** – coordinate county applications under the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Conclusion

This funding opportunity represents a significant chance for HOTCOG counties and communities (outside McLennan) to access federal resources that not only address disaster recovery but also foster **long-term resilience, economic transformation, and regional growth**.

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>.

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. **EDA has approved the 2025-2030 CEDS.**

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>.

Staff helping with possible EDA Disaster grants.

- City of Hubbard
- City of Clifton
- City of Marlin
- City of Hillsboro
- Hill College

Community Development

New Broadband Program: Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP). This program is funded by the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) and will be administered by TARC. This is a three-year initiative to strengthen broadband and digital opportunity planning across all participating COG regions. The program will help COGs dedicate staff, engage stakeholders, and develop Regional Digital Opportunity Plans that align with statewide goals. TARC will coordinate the effort, BDO will provide funding and guidance and COGs will lead local engagement.

Tentative Timeline:

- Fall 2025: Program design & workgroup meetings
- Early 2026: Launch of COG planning activities
- 2026-2027: Regional Digital Opportunity Plans developed and/or implemented

Staff will have to apply for this funding. If awarded, there is an expectation of at least \$100,000 per year for three years. Once staff gets clear directions on how the program will work, they will reach out to community stakeholders such as the Executive Board for plan implementation.

GLO Grants:

- Purpose: Development, adoption, and implementation of resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, and land use plans.
- Current Progress:
 - **City of Mexia:** MRB group has been selected to develop the plan.

TDA Notifications:

- Staff was notified that the new fiscal year 2025-2026 funding will be \$12,476 for technical assistance work.

Training:

Staff attended TARC meeting September 10-12, 2025.

Technical Assistance

City of Mexia City of Clifton City of Marlin City of Hubbard	City of Meridian City of Hillsboro Hill College Brazos Valley Council of Governments
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Solid Waste

Ongoing Activities:

- All COG Managed Projects have been completed for Fy 24 and 25
- In September 2025, the Executive Committee approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations for 5 new members.
- The Advisory Committee met and has determined the COG Managed projects will be conducted in FY 26 and 27.

Air Quality

Ongoing Activities:

- Subtask 3.1 Soil NOx Emission Inventory Improvements
- On June 18, we submitted our final report on soil NOx emission inventory improvements for the HOTCOG area.
- Subtask 3.2 Ambient monitoring for NOx and True NO2 near Waco
- On June 4, we submitted our final report on monitoring NOx and True NO2 adjacent to TCEQ's CAMS 1037 Waco monitoring site.

Health and Human Services Division
August 2025 Program Activity
for
Executive Committee Meeting on September 25, 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	981	926	1025	962	971	14959	19824

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
32	114	194	134	173	889

SOCIAL MEDIA DATA				
POSTS	IMPRESSIONS	AVG IMP PER POST	MOST IMPRESSIVE POST (highest imp count)	
38	457	12	20	

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, August 2025							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations - Medicare		-	-	-		524	524
Medicare Fraud SMP						7468	524
Resource Guides	850	850	850	670	850	6420	10490
Grand Total	850	850	850	670	850	14412	11538

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 /May - July 2025							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Benefits Counseling - Medicare, Extra Help, Health Ins, & Social Security - Hours					5.61	97.46	103.07

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							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Care Coordination - Connecting Individuals to Services - Hours		4.59				27.60	32.19
Callers for Assistance				1		13	14
A Matter Of Balance: Evidence Based Intervention. Participants.						15	15
Grand Total	0.00	4.59	0.00	1.00	0.00	55.60	61.19

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							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Caregiver Support Coordination Connecting Caregivers to Services - Hours			0.67	1.34	1.34	13.97	17.32
Respite care - in-home care to caregivers loved ones - Hours							0.00
Grand Total	0.00	0.00	0.67	1.34	1.34	13.97	17.32

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	318	209	859	245	372	2192	4195
Home Delivered Meals	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM
Area Agency on Aging	1050	806	1437	1356	1168	4878	10695
Grand Total	1505	1258	3266	2093	2029	12944	23095

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

- 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	3	3	2	7	6	25	46
Assisted Living Facility Visits					1	8	9
Complaints				1		8	9
State Surveys			1			1	2
Education & Consultations							0
Resident Council Meetings	1				1	1	3
Resident Discharge Appeals						1	1
Grand Total	4	3	3	8	8	44	70

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	5	12	7	9	11	21	65
Presentations / Housing / LCA	9	16	11	18	15	28	97
Housing Authority	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
							0
							0
							0
Grand Total	14	28	18	27	26	51	164

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 - Aug 2025							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL C	Grand Total
AAA Referrals				1		11	12
Housing						3	3
In Home Care	3	1	7	2	4	67	84
Medicare / medicaid/ SNAP	3	1	1	2	3	27	37
Medical Equipment		2				4	6
Minor Home Repair		1		2		23	26
Nursing Home	1			1	1	5	8
Rent Payment Assist						2	2
Transportation				1	1	1	3
Utilities Payment Assist						4	4
Other Community Resources	4	3	3	9	2	66	87
Grand Total	11	8	11	18	11	213	272

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

Amy Rossow – Contact Center Manager

Marcy Whiddon – Resource Manager/Emergency Management Coordinator/I&R

Contact

Joanna Whitehouse – Information & Referral Contact Specialist

Belinda Arocha – Information & Referral Contact Specialist

Donnis Cowan – Contract Specialist – Financial Analyst

John Vorderkunz – Director of Health & Human Services

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 Heart of Texas 2-1-1 was recently awarded a 5-year Re-Accreditation by Inform USA.** 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.

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		
471		815			1286		
Texas 2-1-1 Statewide Call Detail							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Total In Region
Total Calls	31	59	50	95	77	974	1286
Referral Calls	20	32	29	61	48	625	815
Top Needs Per County							
Electricity Payment Assistance	5	16	17	28	18	432	516
Rent Payment Assistance	0	2	1	5	1	164	173
Food Pantries	2	1	1	5	1	182	192
Area Agency on Aging	0	0	0	2	0	12	14
Housing Authorities	3	0	3	1	1	9	17
Homeless Shelter	0	1	0	2	0	30	33
Unmet Needs	3	5	4	10	3	75	100
Crisis Intervention Calls	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advocacy Calls	0	1	0	0	1	3	5
Information Calls	2	2	3	12	3	62	84
Transferred Calls	8	24	16	25	26	272	371
First Time Callers	4	7	4	16	13	148	192
Callers Over 60 and Older	12	12	12	26	22	351	435

Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

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

General Information:

Funding

Staff have been notified that it will be receiving \$907,688.00 in federal funds and \$411,523 in rural state funds for FY2026. The federal funds increased by \$70,000 and our state funds increased by \$8,000.00.

Trainings, Meetings, and Outreach
Regional Transportation Coordination Council - (RTCC)

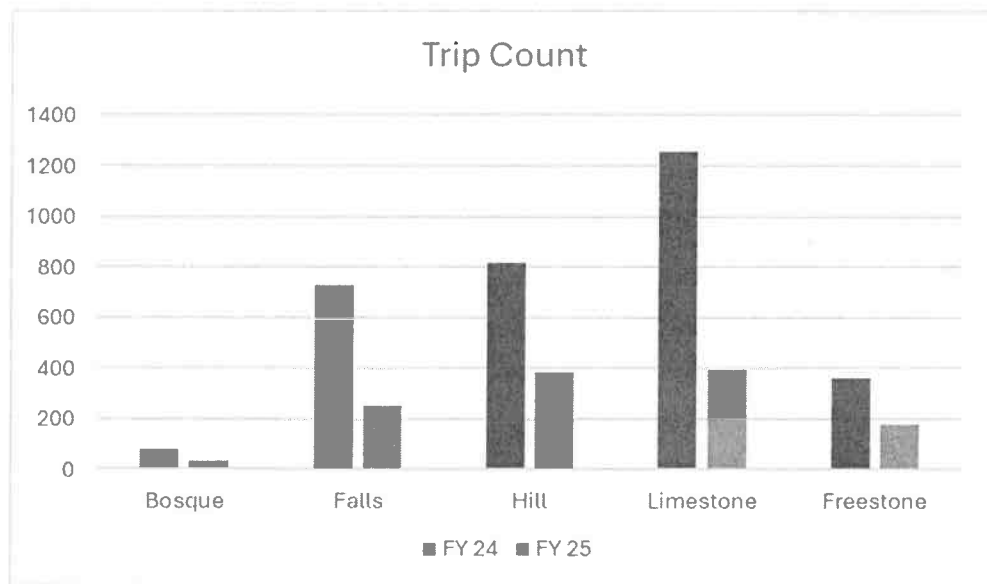
The next meeting will be on October 23, 2025, immediately following HOTCOG's Executive Board Meeting.

Rural Transit District – (Operations)

Staff continue their outreach to clients to increase ridership.

Trip activities for August 2025 are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way Trips		
Transportation Provider	FY 2024	FY 2025
Bosque County	82	35
Falls County	731	255
Hill County	815	387
Limestone County	1257	397
Freestone County	361	178
Total - All 5 Counties	3246	1252



Trip Type by County						
Trip Type	Limestone	Hill	Falls	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Dialysis	112	252	26	57	13	460
Work	90	109	131	18		348
Mhmr	110	16	94	48	22	290
Recreation	24			31		55
Foster Grandparents						
Medical	36	6				42
Shopping				20		20
Veteran	19					19
Personal		4		4		8
Parole	6					6
Education			4			4
Grand Total	397	387	255	178	35	1252

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

1/18/2024

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[illegible]