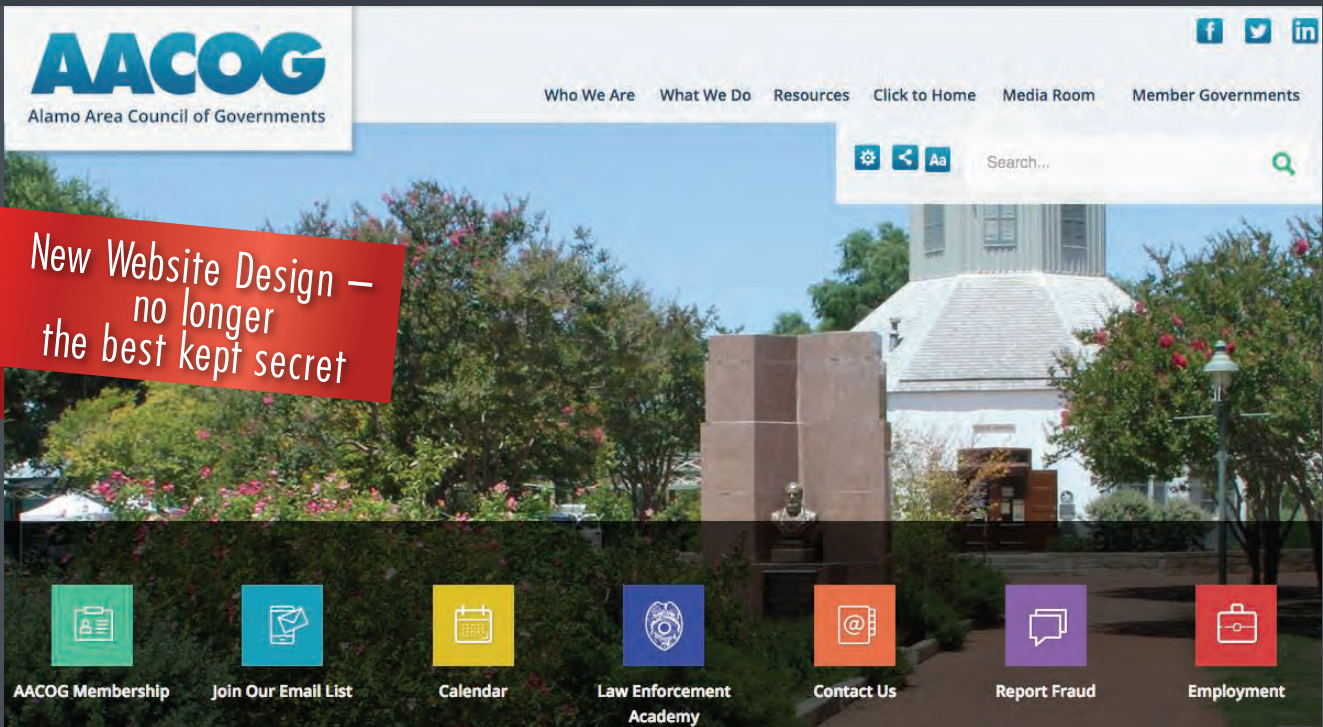




# Turning the Page



*New Website Design –  
no longer  
the best kept secret*

# Table of Contents

	Page
Letter from AACOG Board Chairman & Vice Chairman	3
2016 Management Team	4
2016 Board of Directors	5
Alamo Local Authority	6-7
Alamo Regional Transit	8-9
Area Agencies on Aging	9-11
Alamo Area Agency on Aging	9-10
Bexar Area Agency on Aging	10-11
Natural Resources	12-14
Air Quality	12-13
Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition	13
Commute Solutions	13-14
Public Safety	15-16
Regional Law Enforcement Academy	15
Criminal Justice Planning	16
Homeland Security	16
Regional 9-1-1	16
Regional Services	17-18
Resource Recovery	19
Weatherization Assistance Program	20-21
Member Governments & Strategic Partners	22
2016-2017 Budgets	23





Dear AACOG members and residents of the Alamo Region:

We want to take this opportunity to thank our membership, partners, staff, and the Board of Directors for making 2016 a year of strong leadership and strategic partnerships, increased transparency and media exposure, and enhanced policy and technology.

One key partnership AACOG developed is with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) and San Antonio Water System (SAWS). Our Collaboration led to the development and submittal of a Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program funding application to bring adequate infrastructure and water supplies to Camp Bullis, Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, Lackland Training Annex (Medina Annex), and Security Hill. The estimated total cost for all five projects was over \$11 million, and over \$5 million in Impact Fees generated.

In 2016, the Agency received special recognition from several state and national agencies, including:

- An Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for our Supporting San Antonio's Military Project,
- An Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from NADO for our work with the Alamo Regional Rural Planning Organization, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation, and
- An Aging Innovations Award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging for our Call-a-Ride for Vets Program.
- Joyce Reid, Willie Mae Clay, and Jim Jonson, Alamo and Bexar Area Agency on Aging volunteers, received Vision Awards from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

The agency also hosted several statewide and national events in San Antonio in 2016, including the inaugural Governor's Business Forum for Women, held in September in conjunction with the Office of the Governor; the Aging in Texas Conference, held in June by the Texas Area Agencies on Aging, and the National Association of Development Organizations conference, held in October.

With the development of the External Affairs and Communications Department, the agency also refreshed our website design, and increased its media exposure significantly, including features on the Academy, our Ombudsman and Caregiver Programs, and much more. We look forward to continuing to transform AACOG from the "best kept secret" to a premier agency serving all the residents of the Alamo Region.

These are but a few of the many successes we have achieved. As we begin 2017, it is our vision to continue looking at the future, improve on an already successful delivery of services, and create stronger partnerships and alliances among the region. We are confident we will continue to be successful as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2018. Thank you for all you do.

*John Williams*  
Mayor John Williams  
AACOG Board Chair  
City of Universal City Mayor

*Chris Schuchart*  
Judge Chris Schuchart  
AACOG Board Vice Chair  
Medina County Judge



Small Business Awardees at Governor's Business Forum for Women

# 2016 Management Team



**Diane Rath**  
Executive Director



**John Clamp**  
Chief Financial Officer/  
Senior Director



**Clifford Herberg**  
General Counsel/  
Senior Director



**Susan Lodge**  
Senior Director of  
Alamo Local Authority  
& Agency Coordination



**Tim Treviño**  
Senior Director of Operations  
and Strategic Partnerships



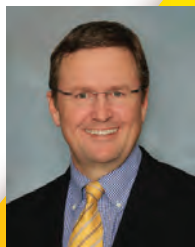
**James Devine**  
Regional Transportation  
Director



**Annie Erickson**  
Area Agencies on Aging  
Director



**Marcela Medina**  
Public Safety  
Director



**Scott Storment**  
Natural Resources  
Director



**Blanca Tapia**  
Controller



**Gloria Vasquez**  
Regional Services  
Director

# Board Of Directors



<b>John Williams, Chairman</b>	Mayor, City of Universal City, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)
<b>Chris Schuchart, Vice Chairman</b>	County Judge, Medina County, Representing Medina County
<b>Luana Buckner</b>	Board Chair, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Representing Special Districts
<b>Tommy Calvert</b>	Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 4, Representing Bexar County
<b>Cris Eugster</b>	Chief Operating Officer, CPS Energy, Representing Public Utilities
<b>Richard A. Evans</b>	County Judge, Bandera County, Representing Bandera County
<b>Chris Fails</b>	Mayor, City of Hollywood Park, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)
<b>Mike Gallagher</b>	Councilman, City of San Antonio, District 10, Representing City of San Antonio
<b>George Green</b>	Councilman, City of New Braunfels, District 1, Representing Urbanized-City of New Braunfels
<b>Robert W. Gregory</b>	Mayor, City of La Vernia, Representing Area Cities (Group B)
<b>James C. Hasslocher</b>	Board Member, University Health System, Representing Hospital/Health Districts
<b>Robert L. Hurley</b>	County Judge, Atascosa County, Representing Atascosa County
<b>Richard L. Jackson</b>	County Judge, Wilson County, Representing Wilson County
<b>Andy Keller</b>	Mayor, City of La Coste, Representing Area Cities - Group A
<b>Sherman Krause</b>	County Judge, Comal County, Representing Comal County
<b>Walter R. Long, Jr.</b>	County Judge, Karnes County, Representing Karnes County
<b>Arnulfo Luna</b>	County Judge, Frio County, Representing Frio County
<b>Darrel L. Lux</b>	County Judge, Kendall County, Representing Kendall County
<b>Doug Miller</b>	Representative, State of Texas, District 73, Representing Urban and Rural Areas
<b>Ron Nirenberg</b>	Councilman, City of San Antonio, District 8, Representing City of San Antonio
<b>Tom Pollard</b>	County Judge, Kerr County, Representing Kerr County
<b>Katie N. Reed</b>	Board President, Northside ISD, Representing School Districts
<b>Louis Rowe</b>	Board Member, San Antonio Water System, Representing City of San Antonio
<b>Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez</b>	Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 1, Representing Bexar County
<b>Tom Schoolcraft</b>	Mayor, City of Helotes, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)
<b>Mike Schultz</b>	Mayor, City of Boerne, Representing Area Cities-Group C
<b>Mark Stroeher</b>	County Judge, Gillespie County, Representing Gillespie County
<b>James E. Teal</b>	County Judge, McMullen County, Representing McMullen County
<b>Carlos I. Uresti</b>	Senator, State of Texas, District 19, Representing Urban and Rural Areas
<b>Kevin A. Wolff</b>	Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 3, Representing Bexar County
<b>Jim O. Wolverton</b>	Commissioner, Guadalupe County, Precinct 3, Representing Guadalupe County
<b>Ryan Guillen</b>	Representative, State of Texas, District 31, Ex-Officio Member
<b>John Kuempel</b>	Representative, State of Texas, District 44, Ex-Officio Member
<b>Colonel Mark A. Lee</b>	Vice-Commander, 502nd Air Base Wing, Deputy Commander, Joint Base San Antonio, Ex-Officio Member
<b>Judith Zaffirini</b>	Senator, State of Texas, District 21, Ex-Officio Member

# Alamo Local Authority

Since 2006, AACOG has served as the Local Intellectual and Development Disability Authority (LIDDA) in Bexar County; responsible for planning, policy and resource development, and oversight of Intellectual and Development Disability (IDD) services. The Alamo Local Authority (ALA) serves as the single point of access and “front door” to publicly funded services and supports for persons with IDD, whether the program is provided by a public or private entity.

## Service Coordination

Service coordination helps people access medical, social, educational, and other appropriate services and supports that will help them achieve an acceptable quality of life and community participation. Service coordination is provided by a LIDDA staff person who is typically referred to as a service coordinator. In 2016 the ALA helped 3,669 individuals with IDD and their family caregivers navigate the maze of available options, to ensure they are receiving the services and supports that best fit their needs. This service is further tailored by the program that the individual participates in and the individual’s place of residence. Service Coordination is provided to individuals enrolling in, participating in, or transitioning from:

- Nursing Facilities (NF)
- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IID)
- State Supported Living Centers (SSLC)
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS)
- Texas Home Living (TxHmL)
- General Revenue (GR); and
- Community First Choice (CFC)

## Services and Supports

ALA also provides access to community safety net services. ALA manages state funded General Revenue and Medicaid reimbursements to deliver an array of services, including:

- Behavioral Supports
- Community Support
- Consumer Benefits
- Day Habilitation
- Eligibility Determination
- Employment Assistance
- Respite
- Specialized Therapies
- Supported Employment; and
- Nursing



### **Preadmission Screening and Resident Review**

Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) is a federal requirement to help ensure that individuals are not inappropriately placed in nursing homes for long term care. PASRR requires that all applicants to a Medicaid-certified nursing facility 1) be evaluated for serious mental illness (SMI) and/or intellectual disability (ID); 2) be offered the most appropriate setting for their needs (in the community, a nursing facility, or acute care settings); and 3) receive the services they need in those settings. PASRR protects the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive care in community-based settings, if that is their preference. PASRR also reinforces person-centered planning by ensuring that an individual's psychological, psychiatric, and functional needs are considered along with personal goals and preferences in planning long term care.

### **IDD Crisis Services**

One of the greatest obstacles individuals with IDD and their supportive family members face is access to adequate behavioral crisis respite support services and training opportunities. There are currently very limited specialized behavioral crisis respite services available to provide appropriate crisis resolution services to individuals with IDD. In order to address this significant need the ALA has collaborated with many community partners to develop an IDD crisis respite program which may be provided in-home (72 hours) or out-of-home (up to 14 calendar days) to provide therapeutic support to stabilize the situation. Therapeutic support is a flexible array of services, including behavioral support provided to individuals with IDD who require varying therapeutic and habilitative levels of intervention to holistically address the stressors that result in challenging behaviors.

### **2017 Goals**

In 2017, the Alamo Local Authority will work with the community and stakeholders to prepare the 2017 Area Plan. They will increase the community's knowledge of and access to IDD programs by increasing the number of outreach event opportunities through community partnerships. The ALA will also continue to develop and strengthen IDD Crisis Services and Transition Services for individuals moving from an institutional setting to the community.



### **Employment First**

Judy has been working at Applebee's and the Unicorn Workshop for 19 years. At Applebee's she is a cleaner and at the workshop she puts together nuts and bolts. Judy says that the reason she has stayed at her jobs for so long is due to her being motivated to succeed in life and wanting to set a good example for others. She states that her favorite part about Applebee's is getting to clean the restaurant and make it look nice before customers arrive. At the workshop, she enjoys spending time with her coworkers and friends. Judy is grateful for her Supported Employment Assistance and says that she likes having her job coach check in on her and make sure she is doing her work correctly.

# Alamo Regional Transit



Texas Lutheran University students ride Connect Seguin

Alamo Regional Transit (ART) is a service that provides public transportation originating in rural areas outside of San Antonio and Bexar County. ART is a critical component and important service of AACOG with a mission to provide safe, reliable, professional and courteous transportation at the lowest cost to residents in the Alamo Region service area. ART is a progressive transportation agency, known to be the professional, safe and reliable choice of transportation for more than 89,037 residents throughout our service area in 2016.

Our customers typically use our service for medical appointments, work, grade school, college, vocational schools, adult daycare, and personal needs such as shopping, seeing the movies, visiting the library, and going to salon appointments, just to name a few. Our public transportation area originates from and covers the following 12 rural counties (Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina and Wilson), covering 12,585 square miles.

ART operates the only fixed route in the 12 rural counties in the City of Seguin. It is an hourly loop that runs around town to several designated stops. The “Connect Seguin” route is funded by the City of Seguin and Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) which allows low cost fares. In 2016, Connect Seguin served 10,723 residents in the City of Seguin.

ART also serves as the lead agency for the Alamo Regional Rural Planning Organization (ARRPO), which consists of elected officials and district representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), who identify road and highway needs throughout their areas and work to prioritize and seek funding for these needs. AACOG and TxDOT received an Excellence in Regional Transportation from the National Association of Development Organizations for our work in the development of ARRPO.



Youth Transportation to School

ART also provides transportation for school kids that live within the two mile radius of their schools in the cities of Fredericksburg, Kerrville, New Braunfels and Boerne. ART also continues to partner with VIA Metropolitan Transit to provide public transportation to the cities in the Urbanized Area (UZA), including the cities of Cibolo, New Braunfels, Schertz, Marion, and parts of Guadalupe County.



**Testimonial from one of our faithful clients:**

ART has transported Mrs. Rhonda D. for more than four years, to medical appointments, shopping, library, military installations and many other trips. She called and asked if there was anything she could do to assist ART. This is what she thinks of ART: "Good morning, I want to express my gratitude to the ART staff. A staff who cares for others with so much kindness and thoughtfulness. They brighten the day in so many ways with always a heartfelt greeting and an "ear to ear" smile. I want them to know how warmly they are thought of and how much they are appreciated for all they do by taking the time and going beyond the realm of their duties. Greeting everyone with such a wonderful smile whether the voice on the phone or entering the bus. Asking, "How are you doing today?" and genuinely caring about your day. Please if you can let them know their thoughtfulness and quality service has not gone unnoticed and how much they are overwhelmingly appreciated for all they do. Gratitude for giving all you give and doing all you do!"

## Area Agencies on Aging

The Alamo and Bexar Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are part of a nationwide network coordinating supportive services for the elderly with funding provided by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and its subsequent amendments. The agencies plan and contract services for senior citizens throughout the AACOG region. With the Area Agency on Aging acting as an advocate, awareness of the needs of the elderly increases through services that assist the elderly and their families with options that promote independence, well-being and dignity. Programs and services provided by the AAAs include case management; family caregiver support and respite; support for grandparents raising grandchildren; legal assistance; mobility programs; home delivered and congregate meals; health and wellness coaching, including Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management programs; a falls prevention program; Ombudsman Services; and home modifications for safety and independent living.



*Just Ask  
llámenos*

**Alamo Service Connection  
(an Aging and Disability Resource Center)**

The Alamo Service Connection (ASC) is the gateway to the public's access to services and is part of the "no wrong door" network of social service agencies in the

AACOG region. It is one of the 22 statewide Health and Human Services Commission designated Aging and Disability Resource

Centers (ADRC) and provides a wealth of unbiased information to individuals seeking long term care and supports in the community. Moreover, the ASC helps seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and caregivers to

navigate the maze of available options to ensure they are receiving the services and support that best fit their situation. During fiscal year 2016 the Alamo Service Connection provided 41,382 referrals to 18,645 callers, of which 3,193 were veterans or their dependents.

**Care Coordination and Caregiver Support Program**

The Care Coordination program provides case management services to persons who are 60 years of age and older, caregivers caring for a loved one who is 60 years of age or older, and persons 55 and over who are raising their grandchildren/kinship who are 18 and under. Services provided include residential repair (installation of grab bars, handrails, and appliances) and health maintenance (including providing incontinence supplies, and eyeglasses), and in-home services (homemaker and personal assistance). These services allowed 1,140 unduplicated senior clients to remain in the community and age in place with dignity, security, and enhanced quality of life in 2016.

# Area Agencies on Aging

## Care Coordination and Caregiver Support Program (continued)

The Care Coordination program also provided case management services to 10 veterans through the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services program in 2016. These veterans live in the community and receive assistance through the Veterans Administration to manage their care with a provider of their choice.



*Dianne Teran, Caregiver Support Specialist, meets with Tyrone Butcher & granddaughters, prepping for News 4 interview about the Back to School Voucher Program*

The Bexar AAA Caregiver Support program provided back-to-school voucher assistance to 383 grandchildren as part of the "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren event." The program also collaborated with the San Antonio Food Bank, which allowed the use of its facility. In addition, The Village at Incarnate Word donated all of the backpacks to the children to start the school year. AACOG staff collected and donated school supplies and backpacks to allow 38 grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the Alamo Aging Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program to start their school year.

Ms. Ceja is the caregiver for her three grandchildren, Vincent 5, Max 8 and Randi, 15. Her grandchildren received assistance through the back-to-school program this year, which provided a \$90 Fallas Paredes store voucher to each child. The voucher enabled them to purchase school supplies and school clothing.

Ms. Ceja was in need of a refrigerator. Without the funds to purchase a new refrigerator, she was walking almost daily to the nearby grocery store to purchase groceries. The Bexar Aging Access & Assistance program was able to assist her in purchasing a new refrigerator.

She is also the caregiver for her 86 year-old mother, who has dementia. All of them live in the same home where Ms. Ceja has raised some of her other grandchildren as well. Currently two other grandchildren over 18 years of age also live in the home. The final member of the family is her mother's dog, "Carlitos" who is an added bundle of energy to the household.

With tears in her eyes, she said, "I will be forever grateful to the Bexar Area Agency on Aging for the services they provided to me and my family."



*Ms. Ceja, her mother, and her three grandchildren*

### **Ombudsman Program**

Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are advocates for residents of licensed nursing homes and assisted living communities. They work to resolve problems of individual residents and to bring about changes at the local, state and national levels to improve residents' care and quality of life. In 2016, the Alamo and Bexar Ombudsman Programs made 1,785 visits to nursing homes and 1,381 visits to assisted living communities in the region.

### **Alamo Call-A-Ride 4 Vets Transportation Program**

Thanks to funding from the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Fund for Veterans' Assistance, AACOG enrolled 3,103 veterans, surviving spouses, and family members, and provided more than 5,600 rides to medical appointments, senior centers, job interviews, and community colleges throughout the 13-county AACOG region. Long-term access to community mobility resources was also provided.

According to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, the AACOG program prevented at least 12 possible suicides through ensuring clients were able to attend counseling and support sessions. The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging recognized AACOG for its innovative service with a National Achievement Award in 2016, and its past success resulted in a renewal of TVC funding for 2016-2017.



*Ombudsman Renee Hernandez (left) visits with nursing home resident.*

### **Health and Wellness**

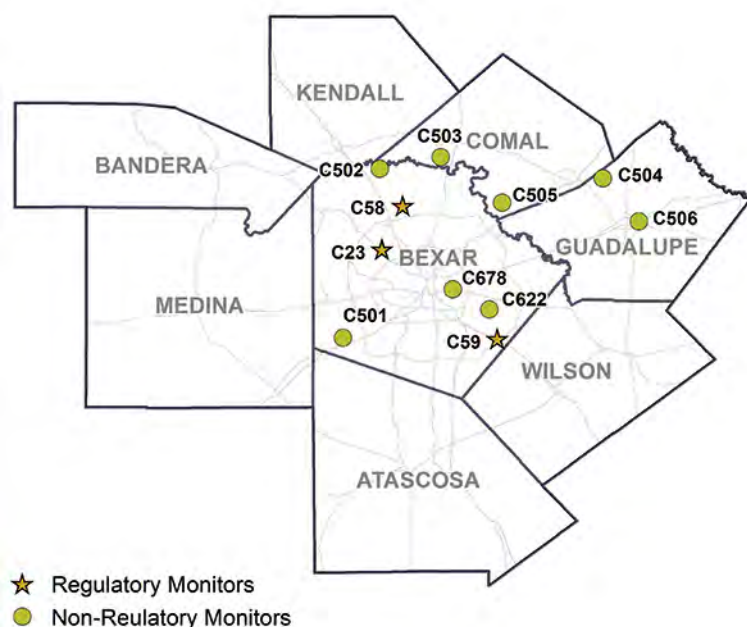
AACOG ensures seniors have access to evidenced-based courses that prevent falls and promote healthy living, such as the Chronic Disease Self-Management, and has expanded courses to fourteen new locations in 2016. The award of the Falls Reduction Empowerment and Education Grant has supported over 280 seniors with free access to the A Matter of Balance course that helps seniors prevent and protect themselves from falls and fall hazards.

### **Age Well, Live Well**

The "Age Well, Live Well" Coalition collaborated to host community wellness events for seniors, such as "Come Blossom with Us - Social Wellness" at the San Antonio Area Food Bank, and the City of San Antonio Síclovía event "Play in the Street". The Coalition, which includes over 40 community agencies, promotes opportunities for all individuals to be active and healthy throughout their lives.

# Natural Resources

AACOG's Natural Resources department focuses on issues related to improving air quality by reducing ground-level ozone pollution. It promotes ozone reduction strategies and coordinates plans to improve the air we breathe, thereby helping to maintain healthy communities and a robust quality of life in the region.



A primary goal of the air quality program is to determine how ozone in the lower atmosphere responds to influencing factors, such as meteorological conditions.

The Air Quality program encompasses a variety of projects that help us to better understand the quality of our air and what may be most effectively done to improve it. These projects include characterizing the meteorological factors that influence local ozone pollution, identifying appropriate measures for ozone reduction, apprising local leaders of state and federal regulatory actions that target air pollution, and distributing educational messages that keep the community informed of pollution-related issues. AACOG operates a network of six ozone monitors in the region that provide insight on the behavior of ground-level ozone. Other program activities include identifying and quantifying the sources of chemicals generated in the AACOG area that form ozone and conducting modeling to determine the impact of control strategies on ozone levels.

In 2015, to make its ozone standard more protective of human health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the acceptable concentration for ground-level ozone in the air. The new ozone standard poses a particular challenge to the area due to our rapidly growing population. AACOG is working with local government and business leaders to meet this challenge by adopting strategies that will help lower air pollution in the Alamo region—and beyond.

In April 2016, the first joint air quality meeting between AACOG's Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Executive Committee and CAPCOG's Clean Air Coalition was held. Elected officials from the two regions represented by the committees approved a joint resolution requesting EPA consider specific actions during the 2015 ozone



Central Texas Clean Air Coalition Chair, Travis County Judge Sara Eckhardt, and Air Improvement Resources Committee Chair, City of San Antonio Councilman Ron Nirenberg, co-lead a joint meeting held in San Marcos

standard designation and implementation process that would provide nonattainment regions with more flexibility in meeting the new ozone standard. Staff from both regions discussed potential control strategy coordination, legislative initiatives, and outreach activities. The committees agreed to continue holding joint meetings in order to identify opportunities for collaboration on a larger regional scale.

### **Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition**

One of the air quality programs housed in the Natural Resources department is the Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition (AACCC), whose mission is to advance national economic, environmental, and energy security by developing public and private partnerships to displace petroleum use. AACCC is the South Texas resource for education, technical assistance, access to grant funds and other services that help reduce petroleum use in transportation. With the number of natural gas stations increasing in the last few years, the coalition has focused its efforts on educating school and private fleet managers about the benefits of natural gas, as well as propane, LNG, and other alternative fuels that are becoming more widely available. The coalition also focused on increasing funding, and is waiting to hear the results of multiple federal grants. The most recent data shows that the coalition helped its partners avoid consumption of nearly 4.1 million gallons of gasoline, and reduce harmful emissions by 23,000 tons during 2016.

In September, the Coalition hosted the 2016 National Drive Electric Day Event in San Antonio. The event, held in conjunction with the Pearl Farmers Market, drew a larger and more engaged audience compared to previous years. The attendees were given a chance to look at the electric vehicles (EVs), take a test drive, and talk to EV owners about their experience. In addition, each attendee received an 'Electric Vehicle 101' packet with the pertinent information prior to purchasing or leasing an electric vehicle.

### **Commute Solutions Program**

The Commute Solutions program focuses improving air quality by reducing traffic congestion. It educates the public about the connection between air quality and transportation, encourages new transportation habits, offers viable alternatives to driving as a single occupant in a vehicle, and recognizes employers that are committed to helping to improve our air.

Those who commute to work or school may help reduce traffic and save fuel costs through AACOG's rideshare program at NuRide.com, and employers can help make their workplace commuter-friendly by considering Commute Solutions employer options. Schools can help reduce traffic congestion and harmful pollution around their campuses by adopting one or more of Commute Solutions school programs.



# Natural Resources

AACOG's Commute Solutions program hosted the 11th Annual Walk & Roll Challenge in May 2016.

Participating organizations and their employees competed to win prizes for recording trips taken by alternative methods such as biking, walking, busing, or carpooling, or saved by telecommuting or working a compressed schedule.



Representatives of organizations that participated in the 2016 Walk & Roll Challenge pose for a photo after being honored at the June meeting of AACOG's Board of Directors.

A total of nineteen employers and 2,484 individuals recorded more than 94 thousand trips during this year's challenge, reducing 1.2 million vehicle miles travelled and keeping more than 3.5 tons of ozone precursors from the air. Winning organizations included USAA, The City of San Antonio, SAWS, and the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

## Anti-Idling Ordinance in the City of San Antonio

During 2016, AACOG's air quality programs supported the implementation of three local governments' anti-idling ordinances: City of Leon Valley, Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. The anti-idling policies

limit heavy-duty vehicles (>14,000 tons gross vehicle weight) from idling for more than five minutes. Exemptions exist for certain applications, such as emergency vehicles, vehicles that must be run in order to perform work, and those required to idle per manufacturer's operational guidelines. AACOG's Air Quality program is assisting with the educational component of this effort, to ensure that business owners and drivers of such vehicles understand the ordinances and their underlying purpose. The Air Quality program is also planning a public education campaign to encourage the reduction of idling in personal vehicles as a compliment to the new anti-idling ordinances for heavy-duty trucks.



AIR Executive Committee Chair and City of San Antonio Councilman Ron Nirenberg, and AACOG Clean Cities Coordinator Nic Jones, at anti-idling press conference in San Antonio.

# Public Safety

## Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy

The Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy trains future Texas Peace Officers, Correction Officers, and Emergency Telecommunications personnel for the AACOG Region in a state-of-the-art facility with training simulators and equipment worth \$1.2 million. In 2016 the Public Safety Department began to customize training using these high tech simulators for the San Antonio Airport Police. By the end of 2016, the simulator will be fully upgraded to expand the capability of customizing training scenarios for the military and law enforcement in active shooter response and hostage negotiations. Additionally, the Academy provides state mandated and specialized training for current Texas Peace Officers, Correction Officers, Emergency Telecommunications personnel, Federal and Military law enforcement personnel from 100+ agencies in the AACOG Region. For the second year in a row, the Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy was the only academy in the State of Texas to provide Texas School Marshal licensing training.

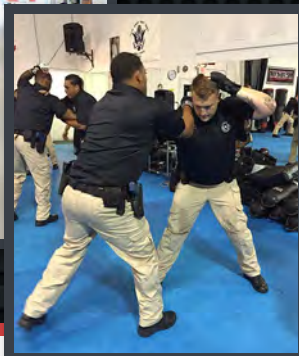
The Academy also provides in-service training for public safety personnel. Using the latest reality based training technologies, the Academy is providing in depth use of force training and de-escalation techniques and continues to enhance officer safety and survival training. This helps our area partners and their personnel to meet their obligations for attending state mandated continuing education classes. In 2017, the Academy will continue to expand classes and expand host training sites to ensure that training is available throughout the region.



*"This was the best use of force class I have attended by far." –  
In-service student from  
Use of Force Refresher Class #2095.*

*"The way the class was conducted was great. The exercises which implemented the use of the baton helped me understand the amount of exertion the body takes on." –*

*Cadet from Class 2016A  
in reference to ASP Baton Training.*



*"Instructor has tons of great knowledge and kept the class exciting. I will recommend this class to other officers." –*

*In-service student from  
Family Violence Photography Class.*



# Public Safety

## **Criminal Justice Planning**

The Criminal Justice Planning Program conducts grant workshops, provides information about funding opportunities, and offers technical assistance in the grant process, including performing technical reviews for law enforcement and non-profit agencies seeking funding from the Office of the Governor–Criminal Justice Division. In 2016, the Criminal Justice Planning staff completed over 1,500 hours of technical assistance and provided grant management assistance to more than 80 funded projects. The projects funded provide victim assistance, violence and juvenile delinquency prevention, law enforcement equipment and other programs that meet a need in the community. In November 2016, the Criminal Justice Planning Program sponsored a grant workshop through Grant Writing USA® to train individuals throughout the AACOG Region. The Criminal Justice Planning staff will provide three additional grant workshops specific to funding through the Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division. In 2017, the Planning Program will continue to reach out to community stakeholders and service providers to develop a new Strategic Plan to define regional needs and priorities, as well as plan for the sustainability of services in the community.

## **Homeland Security**

The Homeland Security Program provides jurisdictions with technical assistance in planning for emergency preparedness by identifying threats and security weaknesses and helping develop local emergency management plans to meet those identified needs. In addition, it encourages efficiency by assisting jurisdictions in administering federal and state programs that benefit from regional cooperation and to eliminate duplication of services. Furthermore, it provides guidance, coordination, development and implementation of programs pertaining to First Responders, Homeland Security or Emergency Preparedness. Some of the programs include the Regional Homeland Security Strategic Plan, the Alamo Area Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Plan, Interoperability Communications, and Mutual Aid. These programs are dedicated to supporting the AACOG Region's first responders through maximum preparedness and answering citizens' calls for emergency services.

## **Regional 9-1-1**

The AACOG 9-1-1 Program maintains and monitors essential dispatch equipment and software at each of the 9-1-1 emergency call centers for seven rural counties within the Alamo Region. These counties include Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, and Wilson Counties. The AACOG emergency 9-1-1 call center system serves 74,746 landlines and represents 210,187 residents. Additionally, this program provides Regional Strategic Planning and goals, working towards a "Next Generation 9-1-1" system. This system is an emergency call delivery and response system that will be able to use information and the latest technologies for better service to our communities. Some of these technologies include text to 9-1-1, short message service (SMS), pictures, and video streaming. Funding for the 9-1-1 Program is provided through state collected funds from telecommunications taxes, fees, and surcharges distributed to AACOG through the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC). These funds are used to purchase equipment and supplies for the seven county public safety answering points (PSAP's), ensuring that rural communities and their counties 9-1-1 facilities are equipped to handle 9-1-1 calls and provide response services. In addition to this impact, the program is working towards providing improvements in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) throughout the region.

In 2016, the 9-1-1 Program initiated the Text-to-9-1-1 capability using an existing CSEC Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESInet), which required updated software throughout the AACOG Region. In 2017, the 9-1-1 Program will complete this project and fully implement Text-to-9-1-1 in the region.



# Regional Services

Because of AACOG's commitment to serve the residents of the 13 county area, Regional Services' purpose is to support a stronger economy, assist in the development of viable communities, and provide training opportunities to better prepare elected officials.

In coordinated efforts with counties and municipalities, Regional Services staff works to address issues related to economic development, community development, strategic planning, grant information, resource development, and technical assistance.

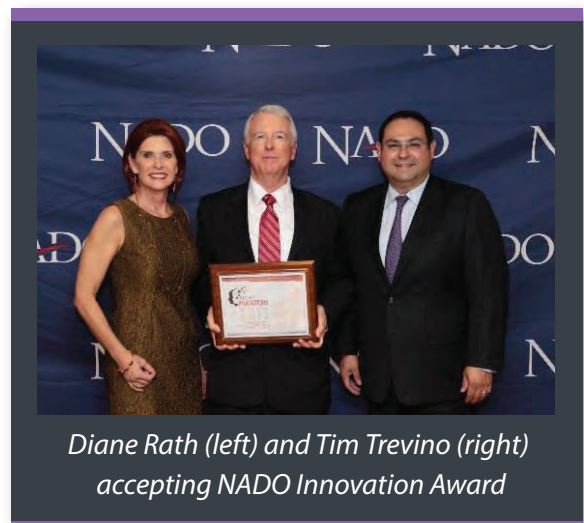
Annually, Regional Services hosts a series of workshops. Grant writing, Newly Elected Officials, Planning & Zoning, regional data and economic updates are among the topics that are presented. Professionals in the specific areas assist in the presentations and provide the most current, updated information.

Regional Services is also responsible for administering the scoring of the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) applications and provide staff support to the Regional Review committee (RRC), which provides guidance in developing the TxCDBG AACOG Guidebook.

Biennially (2017), the Community Development Fund will provide competitive funding for public facilities, water/wastewater infrastructure, streets and drainage improvements. In 2015, nine communities in the Alamo Region were awarded TxCDBG funds totaling \$2,475,000 for water and wastewater improvements. In 2016, the City of Floresville and the City of Natalia each secured \$39,705 Planning and Capacity grants for a total of \$79,410 in the region.

In September 2016, in collaboration with local partners and the Office of the Governor, Regional Services organized the inaugural Governor's Business Forum for Women. Strengthening opportunities for women entrepreneurs and helping Texas achieve the #1 state designation for women-owned businesses was the primary goal.

In October 2016, AACOG received an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Supporting San Antonio's Military project. Upon completion, the project will provide a stable water source for Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), which serves one-third of the military members stationed in Texas. As the grant lead, AACOG will receive funds, purchase, and donate materials to JBSA. Regional Services is a regional resource that can provide data related to population, demographics, business development, growth and retention.



*Diane Rath (left) and Tim Trevino (right) accepting NADO Innovation Award*

# Regional Services

## Central Texas Technology Center

In January 2016, the City of New Braunfels was awarded \$1.25 million from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the expansion of the Central Texas Technology Center (CTTC). These funds joined \$5 million already committed to the project and paved the way for the expansion project.

The expansion provides for enhanced workforce training in science and technology in support of the region's goal of expanding its manufacturing and industrial base. The CTTC developed from a partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), City of New Braunfels, New Braunfels Industrial Development Corporation (4B Board), Alamo Colleges, City of Seguin, and five area school districts.



The Central Texas Technology Center opened its new 30,000 square foot facility with a ribbon cutting on Friday, September 9, 2016.

The Center provides vital development for both communities as well as Comal and

Guadalupe Counties. Enrollment capacity has been exceeded and the expansion effectively doubles the Center's current size in order to accommodate additional students. Beginning its 13th year as an Alamo Colleges workforce training facility, the fall 2016 semester will begin with a record number of students.

New Braunfels has successfully applied for, and been awarded, two EDA grants totaling \$2.5 million to build and expand this successful training facility.



# Resource Recovery

Communities and businesses in the AACOG region are concerned about the environment, the availability of natural resources and the impact to future generations. AACOG's Resource Recovery program mission is to prevent usable materials from ending up in local landfills. It is imperative that we reinforce a standard of "reduce, recycle, reuse and repurpose". As the state-designated planning agency for solid waste management issues in the region, Resource Recovery provides information on accomplishing this transformation with grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The program provides technical assistance to local governments on solid waste issues as well as continuing education opportunities for local governments and solid waste professionals. Program staff also reviews applications for solid waste facility permits and solid waste grants.

The Resource Recovery Program used funding from TCEQ for 16 projects which will be delivered in the biennium. Bandera County is expanding their County-wide drop-off recycling program. Medina County is initiating a county-wide electronics and tire drop-off collection program. Seeking to expand the diversions of organic waste, the City of San Antonio is using the funds to spread the word on their "green waste" curbside collection with presentation on green waste in schools and at neighborhood meetings. Four local governments are holding Household Hazardous Waste Collections. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the City of San Antonio will use funds for education directed towards stopping illegal dumping of waste along the San Antonio River Corridor and in the city.

In order to maximize limited funding, the Resource Recovery Program partners with other entities throughout the region. Every year the Resource Recovery Program prints and distributes flyers announcing the MedDrop events held by the San Antonio Water System. The program co-sponsors one class for local enforcement officers in the AACOG region with SARA and the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Resource Recovery provides the handbook for their class. Copies of the handbook are also sent to local governments that did not send an attendee to the class.



*Enthusiastic children respond to what can and cannot be recycled in the blue cans.*

Other activities for 2016 included providing recycling information to schools, attending environmental events such as Earth Day, Fresh Air Friday, and Earthwise Living and other outreach events held in the AACOG Region.

An important activity of the program is the maintenance of the Closed Landfill Inventory for the Alamo Region. The information is used by planning and engineering companies who seek to develop vacant sites in the region.

# Weatherization Assistance Program

AACOG's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) operates with funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

WAP assists low income families at 150% or below poverty level to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The goal of the program is to reduce the energy cost burden of low income households through energy efficiency, and the risk of health and safety problems arising from unsafe heating and cooling practices.

## Some of the improvements provided at the houses might include:

- Health and Safety items as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and replacement of inefficient gas stove;
- Air infiltration at windows and doors;
- Duct sealing;
- Attic insulation;
- LED Lights
- Wall insulation;
- Smart thermostat;
- Refrigerator replacement;
- Solar screens;
- Floor insulation;
- Minor repairs related to the materials install, up to \$500;
- Cooling or heating replacement.





Some people resort to unsafe methods to keep their homes warm or cool, such as the use of stoves, improperly vented portable heaters, barbecue grills, or overloading electrical circuits. These methods are not only fire hazards, but also create the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Households receiving weatherization services benefit from reduced utility costs, improving affordability of their residence, and from safety and health improvements, reducing the incidents of fires and illness.



*Weatherization Inspector Daniel Espinoza speaks about energy conservation measures at AACOG Weatherization Day.*

During 2016, we assisted a shelter with central system replacement. This allowed the shelter to focus on the basic needs of the residents.

In 2017, Weatherization Department's will increase outreach efforts at multifamily projects with low-income tenants, and increase the rate of referrals from utility companies.



*Cisneros Family speaks to reporter about their experience with the weatherization program*

# AACOG Membership & Strategic Partnerships

## COUNTIES

- Atascosa County
- Bandera County
- Bexar County
- Comal County
- Frio County
- Gillespie County
- Guadalupe County
- Karnes County
- Kendall County
- Kerr County
- McMullen County
- Medina County
- Wilson County

## CITIES

- Alamo Heights
- Balcones Heights
- Bandera
- Boerne
- Bulverde
- Castle Hills
- Castroville
- Charlotte
- China Grove
- Christine
- Cibolo
- Converse
- Devine
- Dilley
- Elmendorf
- Fair Oaks Ranch
- Falls City
- Floresville
- Fredericksburg
- Grey Forest
- Helotes
- Hill Country Village
- Hollywood Park
- Hondo
- Ingram
- Jourdanton

- Karnes City
- Kenedy
- Kerrville
- Kirby
- La Coste
- La Vernia
- Leon Valley
- Live Oak
- Lytle
- Marion
- Natalia
- New Berlin
- New Braunfels
- Olmos Park
- Pearsall
- Pleasanton
- Poteet
- Poth
- Runge
- San Antonio
- Schertz
- Seguin
- Selma
- Shavano Park
- Somerset
- Stockdale
- Terrell Hills
- Universal City
- Von Ormy
- Windcrest

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

- CPS Energy
- San Antonio Water System

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Boerne ISD
- North East ISD
- Northside ISD
- Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD
- Southwest ISD

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Build San Antonio Green
- CRIT USA
- Free Trade Alliance
- Goodwill Industries
- Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
- LeFleur Transportation
- McKamie Krueger LLP
- Mission Verde Alliance
- San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- Solar San Antonio • University Health System

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Alamo Colleges
- Bexar County ESD #5
- Bexar County ESD #6
- Bexar County ESD #7
- Brooks Development Authority
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
- Kerrville Economic Development Corporation
- San Antonio River Authority
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council
- CI: Now
- Eagle Ford Consortium
- Joint Base San Antonio
- International City/County Management Association
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- National Association of Regional Councils
- National Association of Development Organizations
- San Antonio Coalition for Veterans
- San Antonio Food Bank
- South Central Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Consortium
- South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable
- Texas Association of Regional Councils
- Texas Municipal League
- University of Texas San Antonio
- Workforce Solutions Alamo

# Alamo Area Council of Governments 2016-2017 Annual Budget

Revenues	Program	Administrative Indirect	Local	2017 Budget	2016 Budget *
Federal	\$15,302,901			15,302,901	\$17,012,006
State	13,339,431			13,339,431	12,224,334
Local & Medicaid MR	6,980,408			6,980,408	7,738,576
Membership Dues			335,000	335,000	239,811
Delegate Agency Match	6,625,454			6,625,454	6,625,325
Program Income	619,418			619,418	1,164,843
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>42,867,613</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>335,000</b>	<b>43,202,613</b>	<b>45,004,895</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Alamo Aging	4,080,546	153,183		4,233,729	4,239,000
Bexar Aging	12,012,926	659,404		12,672,330	12,200,000
Alamo Local Authority	10,763,062	1,549,583		12,312,645	13,218,000
Alamo Regional Transit**	4,998,247	435,889		5,434,136	5,338,000
Natural Resources	1,039,505	143,541		1,183,046	1,165,000
Public Safety	2,747,962	269,537		3,017,499	2,700,000
Regional Services	2,390,685	12,280		2,402,965	70,000
Resource Recovery	548,174	51,003		599,177	498,000
Weatherization	1,910,953	123,580		2,034,533	2,109,000
Local & Match			254,000	254,000	
Indirect	2,519,000			2,519,000	3,558,000
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Indirect</b>	<b>\$43,011,060</b>	<b>3,398,000</b>	<b>254,000</b>	<b>46,663,060</b>	<b>\$45,095,000</b>

\* 2016 Budget as presented during the October 2016 BOD meeting.

\*\* ART program is utilizing 143k of prior year fund balance

*The Administrative budget excludes program cost recoveries.*

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