
Alamo Area Council of Governments

presented to

AGA San Antonio Chapter

presented by

Julio Elizondo
Chief Financial Officer

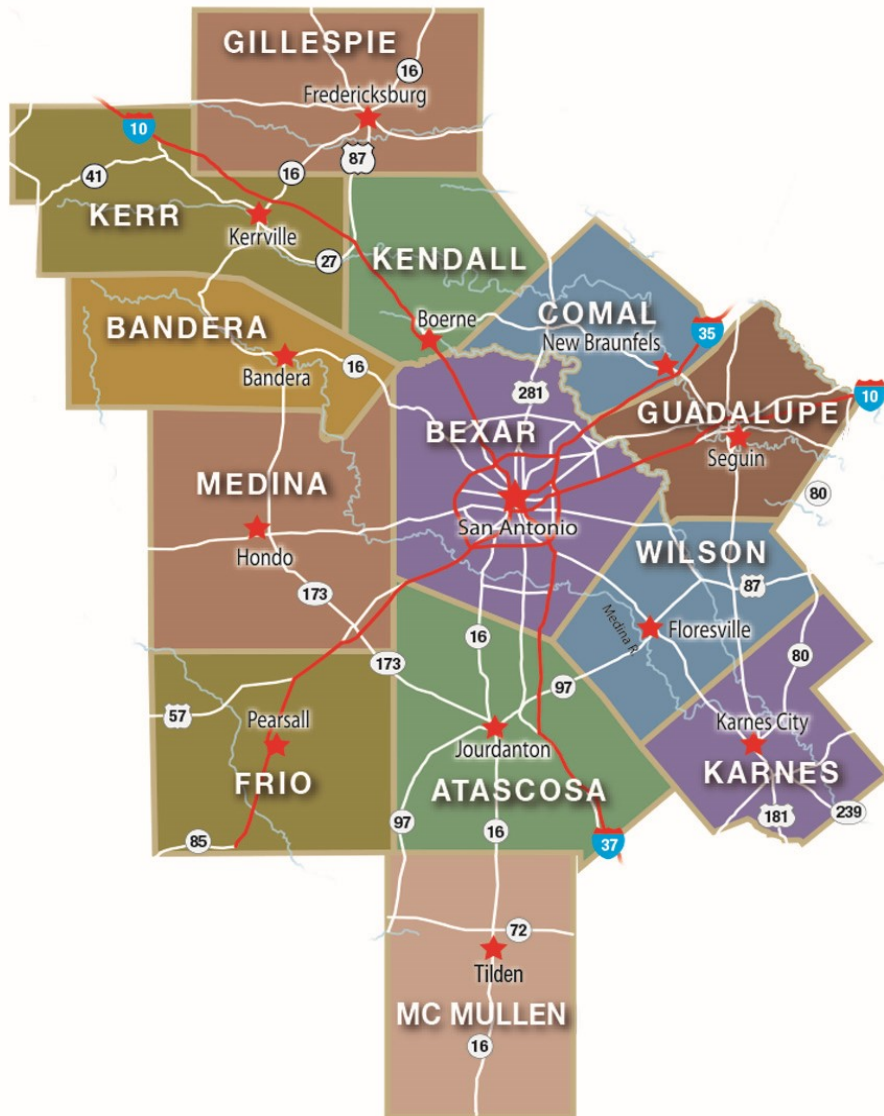


What is AACOG?

- Organized in 1968 as a regional planning commission under Chapter 391, Local Government Code.
- AACOG is a political subdivision of the State, which can plan, assist local governments, and deliver public services, but does not possess statutory authority to tax or regulate.
- State law requires the governing body of AACOG be comprised primarily of local government officials.



AACOG Region



AACOG serves the Alamo Area State Planning Region 18, which is comprised of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina and Wilson counties.

- The AACOG 13 county region covers 12,585 square miles.
- The AACOG 13 county region population is approximately 2.5 million.



How is AACOG funded?

- AACOG receives funding from the state, and federal governments, and some non-profit foundations.
- AACOG also relies on membership dues.
 - These funds then become “seed” funds often used to multiply available resources by matching federal and state contract funds.
- In some cases, programs have a pass through oversight responsibility to the funding agency. A few programs have revenue-generating activities.
- AACOG’s 2024 Budget: Budget totals **\$91 million**
- 2024 AACOG Staff: **350 FTEs**



Program Summary

- Alamo Area Agency on Aging (AAAA)
- Bexar Area Agency on Aging (BAAA)
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services (IDDS)
- Alamo Regional Transportation (ART)
- Military & Veterans Affairs
- Weatherization
- Natural Resources
- Public Safety
- Regional Services
- Environmental Conservation

Alamo & Bexar Area Agencies on Aging

- Plan and administers programs designed to improve the quality of life for area seniors (60 years and over),
 - Individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers.
- The AAAs operate the **Alamo Service Connection**, an extensive information & referral system for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families – call **(866) 231-4922** or visit www.askasc.org for more information.
 - Medical, Social Security, Housing, emergency household expenses
- The AAAs provide ombudsman services for residents of long-term care facilities throughout the region. Call **(210) 362-5236** for information on becoming a volunteer
 - Patient rights and dignity



Alamo & Bexar Area Agencies on Aging

- **Nutrition Services**
 - Home delivered meals & Congregate Meals
- **Care Giver Support**
 - Respite care
 - Stress relief
 - Classes to help manage
- **Ombudsman Services**
 - Advocacy for residents in nursing homes & assisted living facilities
- **Benefits Counseling**
 - State certified professionals
 - Provide guidance to select best medical insurance plans and benefits

Intellectual & Development Disabilities

AACOG is one of 39 LIDDA's (Local IDD Authority) located throughout Texas. The Alamo LIDDA at AACOG serves individuals in Bexar County, and is the “front door” for individuals that have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Related Conditions.

AACOG IDDS determines eligibility for services, enrolls individuals for those services, assists in the development and implementation of a person-centered service plan and then ensures that individuals continue to get the quality services that they need in an effective, efficient and appropriate fashion.

AACOG serves over 4,000 individuals with IDD needs each year.



IDD - What is it?

Individuals served by AACOG may have Intellectual Disabilities (ID), defined as impairments of general mental abilities that impact adaptive functioning in conceptual, social and practical areas. IQ may determine mild (55-70), moderate (35-54), severe (20-34) or profound (below 20) ID;

Developmental Disabilities (DD), a diverse group of severe chronic conditions that are due to mental and/or physical impairments and include Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); **and/or**

Related Conditions, including Epilepsy, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Fragile X Chromosome and many others.

IDD - Services

- Determination of an Intellectual Disability (Psychological Evaluation and Testing)
- Clients Rights & Consumer Benefits
- Maintains State “Interest” List - for Medicaid Waiver services – Currently 12+ Years wait for services
- Helps individuals in the State Supported Living Center to find options
- Special Employment Project with Morgan’s Wonderland
- Program enrollment for waiver services and other residential programs
- Service Coordination – helps to develop plan and monitors for quality
- Identifies residential options for youth w/IDD in foster care
- Ensure those with IDD in Nursing Facilities get services and options
- Crisis Services to help those in need

IDD - Accessing Services

Individuals can begin the eligibility process by calling the AACOG IDD Services at **(210) 832-5020** for an Intake appointment.

* The Eligibility Process consists of 3 steps:

1. Intake Appointment
2. Financial Review
3. Determination of an Intellectual Disability (DID) Assessment

Alamo Regional Transportation

- Provides public transit for 12 rural counties (84 vehicles)
 - Contact ART at **(866) 889-7433** or www.aacog.com/art.
- Senior Citizens (Medical, shopping, flexible (CARS))
- Charter Service
- School kids (GAP School District/School – 2M Radius)
- Own a facility in Kerrville
- Medicaid Services – Rides for medical services (contracted)
- Medicare/other insurance programs
- RouteMatch – Logistics Software

Military & Veterans Affairs

- **Veteran's Directed Home Community Based Services (VDHCBS)**
 - Case management/Assessments for veteran's
 - Manage individual cases; set up spending plans for veteran's
- **Alamo Veterans Network**
 - Connects veterans with crucial resources and assistance to enhance their quality of life
- **Rides 4 Texas Veterans**
 - Provides transportation solutions to veterans ensuring they have access to essential services and opportunities

Weatherization

- **Weatherization**– provides assistance to help low-income residents overcome the high cost of energy through the installation of energy conservation measures and additional housing services. Call or visit at **(800) 749-2010** or www.aacog.com/wap.
- Advanced Energy Audit
- Windows, Insulation for attic, walls, floors
- HVAC, gas water heaters
- Weather stripping and caulking
- Homes and Apartments

Natural Resources

- **Natural Resources** – enhances our collective understanding of local air quality through its technical activities including ambient air quality data collection, emission inventory upgrades, and predictive photochemical modeling.

Public Safety

- **Public Safety** – assists localities with securing state funding & implementing public safety.
 - **Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy:** Basic, intermediate, advanced and master certification courses for new and experienced police and corrections officers as well as telecommunications personnel working for law enforcement agencies throughout Texas. Contact **(210) 362-5291**.
 - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – Provide free training to law enforcement on domestic, dating, stalking, and human trafficking
 - **Criminal Justice:** Facilitation of planning, implementation and assessment of regional criminal justice initiatives by coordinating funding from the Texas Governor's Office.
 - Regional Strategic Plan – Identify Gaps: Elder Abuse, child abuse, mental health, human trafficking, drug abuse
 - Program funding for the above

<https://www.ksat.com/news/cadets-in-simulator-confront-future-threats>



Public Safety

- **Homeland Security:** Regional coordination of planning and disbursement of federal Homeland Security grant funding and conducting emergency management training for first responders.
 - Develop annual Threat and Hazard Risk Assessment
 - Large Venue
 - Bomb Threats
 - Active shooter
 - Plan and Coordinate interoperability (Communications)
- **Regional 9-1-1:** Administration of the 9-1-1 program for eight counties, including testing and certifications, emergency dispatch call processing and mapped Automation Location Identification.
 - Ensure an Emergency response is efficient
 - Cell or Land Line
 - Pinpoint location
 - Adequate Cell Tower location
 - Address clean up for land lines

Regional Services

- **Regional Services** – Designated as an Economic Development District by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, AACOG assists economic development initiatives such as:
 - Downtown development programs
 - Economic forecasting
 - Coordination of business development strategies
 - Applications for state/federal grants & loans
 - Military base support; provides regional leadership and training.



Environmental Conservation

- **Environmental Conservation** – responsible for maintaining and implementing the AACOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and the Closed Landfill inventory, as well as helping the State of Texas reach its waste diversion goals.
 - Air Quality – program is funded through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in which funds are passed through to local governments for the purposes of establishing recycling and composting programs, holding collections for hazardous waste, and educating the public on proper management of resources and waste.

Supported Entities

Area Judges

- The rural Area Judges serve as the Chief Elected Officials for the eleven rural counties of the Alamo Workforce Development Area; in that capacity, they select the Board members for Workforce Solutions-Alamo region. The Area Judges also serve as the Policy Board for Alamo Regional Transit.

Alamo Area Development Corporation (AADC)

- AADC is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that was established in 1995 to enhance services in the AACOG region. Although a separate entity, AADC is a component unit of AACOG.

Alamo Area Housing Finance Corporations (AAHFC)

- AAHFC is a public non-profit corporation, organized and incorporated under the Texas Housing Finance Corporations Act, under Chapter 394, Texas Local Government Code. The HFC provides safe and sanitary housing for residents of the sponsoring local government units at prices they can afford.

AACOG Executive Staff

- Executive Director – Clifford C. Herberg, Jr.
- Chief Financial Officer – Julio C. Elizondo
- Deputy Executive Director (COO) – Jacob Ulczynski
- Deputy Executive Director (CAO) – Deedra Johnson

- Jhoan Torres – Controller (210)362-5205





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