

# CAPCOG CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the Capital Area Council Of Governments



## Funds Available Through CAPCOG for Hurricane Katrina Social Service Provision

Texas has received \$87.9 million from the federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding to help social service providers who assisted hurricane evacuees; the State's Health and Human Services Commission has engaged several COGs including CAPCOG to assist with the distribution of funds at the regional level.

CAPCOG is preparing to distribute \$2,443,747 to eligible agencies that provided hurricane Katrina relief services in the 10-county area. Agencies that are eligible for funding include non-profits, local government, faith-based agencies, social service agencies, community health centers, rural hospitals and clinics, community mental health centers, and public hospitals that provided care to individuals affected by hurricane Katrina.



The SSBG funds may not be used for activities that are reimbursable by FEMA or the Army Corps of Engineers, or any other federal funding source. Examples of eligible activities include services such as case management, counseling services, or education and training. Priority will be given to applications for services provided to hurricane Katrina evacuees during the time period of August 29, 2005 to September 12, 2006. If funds are available, ap-

plications will be accepted to cover future assistance to hurricane Katrina evacuees up to July 31, 2007. The Request for Proposals will be posted on the CAPCOG website at [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org).

For more information about this social services block grant funding, contact Robin Wiatrek at (512) 916-6014 or [rwiatrek@capcog.org](mailto:rwiatrek@capcog.org) or refer to the CAPCOG website at [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org).

## Awards Ceremony Held At Capitol September 11th

Winners of a 9-1-1 elementary school calendar contest were recently recognized by CAPCOG in an awards ceremony at the Capitol on September 11th. Also recognized were individuals and teams who take 9-1-1 calls across the region. Senator Gonzalo Barrientos addressed those gathered for the ceremony and presented the awards to each recipient.

Elementary schools that participated in the calendar contest were from Austin, Georgetown, Round Rock, Lockhart, Lexington, Oak Hill, and San Marcos; with students from kindergarten to third grade. Each child received their



*Pictured left to right: Linda Ward, Lee County Sheriff's Office; Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Presenter; and Rosanna Wisener, San Marcos Police Department.*

framed artwork, a Red E. Fox medal and a goody bag. Red E. Fox was on hand to present the medals and talk with each student.

The following awards were presented to 9-1-1 Call-takers. Team Award: San Marcos Police Department's Jenny Inman, Freddy Mar-molejo, Jessica Robison, Tonya

Sperry, and Brenda Limon. Honorable Mention Team Award: Round Rock Police Department's Garry Janousek, Paul Ortega, and Kate Wolf.

Emergency Communications Operator of the Year: Rebecca Glover, Luling Police Dept., and Priscilla Smith, Cedar Park Police Dept. Dedicated Service Award: Erica Carpenter, Hays Co. Sheriff's Office; Dennis Dube, Lee Co. Sheriff's Office (not present); Trey Hewtty, Williamson Co. 9-1-1; Jenny Inman, San Marcos Police Dept.; Matthew Kyser, UT Police Dept.; Paul Ortega, Round Rock Police Dept.; Melinda Wessels, Marble Falls Police Dept. Lifetime

*(Continued on page 4) see **AWARDS***

## GeoMap Project Begins Producing Imagery

The first of the draft aerial imagery has started coming in as part of CAPCOG's regional GeoMap Project, a multi-year initiative to produce current geo-spatial base map data for the ten-county area. Imagery will be reviewed between now and December and will be available for download by the end of the year. In addition to the very high resolution imagery available for the University of Texas and the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, CAPCOG will be receiving 24-inch imagery for our ten counties and 6-inch imagery for the urbanized area.

The GeoMap Project, being managed by CAPCOG's Regional Planning and Information



*A sample of the 3-inch pixel resolution imagery for the University of Texas' Disch-Falk Field is featured.*

Services Division, is providing a great opportunity for Central Texas agencies and local governments to develop low cost, accurate, and up-to-date Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data; participants have collectively saved an estimated \$500,000.

## CAPCOG Provides Training for Out of State Officers to Become Texas Certified

A new training requirement for licensed peace officers from outside of Texas, as well as federal law enforcement officers, is now being enacted by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). A new 120-hour Supplemental Peace Officer Course

gerville Police Department beginning Oct. 16, 2006. The class will meet from 6-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and each Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a course graduation set for Nov. 18, 2006.

The RTA is currently taking applications for the new daytime Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) that is scheduled to begin on October 16, 2006. This course will meet at the RTA campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and will graduate in February 2007.

A daytime BPOC that began in May is being held at the Cedar Park Police Department to better serve law enforcement agencies from the northern portion of the region; this class is set to graduate in Sept. 29, 2006. An evening BPOC (Class #43) began in June and will graduate Feb. 23, 2007.



(Course # 1018) must be completed prior to out-of-state officers taking the state peace officer licensing examination. The Regional Training Academy (RTA) will be holding the first Supplemental Peace Officer Course at the Pflu-

## CAPCOG Budget Approved For Fiscal Year 2007

The CAPCOG General Assembly met in August and approved a \$16,878,389 budget for FY 2007 that includes 54.5 full-time employees and \$4.7 million for sub-grants to local entities.

CAPCOG also projects to recommend approval of an additional \$14 million in sub-grants to local entities during the upcoming fiscal year. These additional sub-grants are made directly from state agencies to local entities; however, this brings the total funding for sub-grants to local entities in the CAPCOG region to more than \$20 million for FY 2007.

9-1-1 Service Fees received from the State remain the largest revenue source, making up 51% of total revenues. Other state grants provide an additional 15% of total revenue, with federal grants accounting for 20% of the total. Finally, grant matching by sub-grantees comprises 10% of revenues, with membership dues and contractual revenue accounting for less than 4% of the total.

For additional information, contact Clay Collins, Deputy Executive Director, at 512 916-6006.

## Solid Waste Program Distributes Funds

In 2007 CAPCOG's Solid Waste Program will distribute over \$400,000 to Capital Area communities in support of solid waste reuse, recycling, and clean-up efforts. This year's awardees include Blanco County, Fayette County, Travis County, Flatonia, La Grange, Lockhart, Pflugerville, San Marcos, and Smithville.

Project applications were sought from eligible cities, counties, school districts, and special districts with solid waste responsibilities. In August, the CAPCOG Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) scored and recommended 12 of the 14 grant applications to the CAPCOG Executive Committee for funding. These 12 projects were approved by the CAPCOG Executive Committee.

Funds for these projects are generated by solid waste disposal fees collected by the Texas Commission on (cont'd on page 4) see **FUNDS**

## Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan Finalized

In early 2005, the State of Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) developed the Shelter Hub System to move large numbers of hurricane evacuees from the Texas coast to inland communities (Shelter Hubs). The Austin area was designated as one of these hubs. A planning group, consisting of the City of Austin Office of Emergency Management, Travis County Office of Emergency Management, Williamson County Office of Emergency Management, The Central Texas School Safety Consortium, the American Red Cross of Central Texas, and the surrounding "pass-through" counties within the 10-county area, have prepared a plan to meet the requirements of being a sheltering community. The plan is called the Capital

Area Shelter Hub Plan (CASHP). Williamson and Travis Counties serve as host sheltering counties.



In 2006, GDEM designated the Capital Area as the primary shelter hub for the Matagorda Area and also as overflow shelter for the Houston and Corpus Christi area. The Capital Area Shelter Hub can hold a maximum of 25,000 hurricane evacuees. Of this total, 800 -1,000 evacuees may be housed in the hub's

medical special needs shelter. Under the State of Texas point-to-point shelter system, the Capital Area Shelter Hub will reserve space for a maximum of 7,000 evacuees from various communities in Galveston County.

Middle and high schools in Travis and Williamson Counties have been assessed and will serve as the shelter sites, except for the medical special needs shelter. Operating under a Unified Command structure, the American Red Cross, the shelter owner (school), and local government will operate all designated local shelters. The Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center will serve as the Area Command for regional shelter hub operations. Due to logistics, (Cont'd on page 4) see **HUB**

### CAPCOG Releases 2006 Update to Economic Development Plan

In September, CAPCOG published a draft 2006 Update to the Capital Area Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). As the administrative agency for the federally-funded Capital Area Economic Development District (CAEDD), CAPCOG is required to submit this report annually to the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

The 2006 Update provides information on recent activities, economic trends, and preliminary action items for 2007. Notable findings from the regional analysis this year indicate accelerating population growth fueled by out-of-state migration, narrowing gaps between urban and rural incomes, and improving national rankings for most of the Capital Area's key industry clusters. However, the report also highlights a few trends that could undermine regional competitiveness, such as declining per capita income relative to the nation and uneven performance in skilled workforce development as measured by higher education attainment.

A preliminary list of action items for 2007 includes a regional economic competitiveness indicators project, enhancement of online mapping and aerial photo resources on the CAPCOG website, continued investigation of tools available for coordinated economic, transportation, and land use planning, and more. The CAEDD will be prioritizing activities for 2007 at its fall meeting in October.

The draft 2006 Update is available at <http://www.capcog.org/Committees/CAEDD/default.asp>. The CAEDD welcomes your feedback on the report, as well as any suggestions you may have for additional regional priorities and action items in 2007. Please contact Brian Kelsey at 512-916-6183 or [bkelsey@capcog.org](mailto:bkelsey@capcog.org) for further information.

**AWARDS** (cont'd from page 1)

Service Award: Linda Ward, Lee County Sheriff's Office; and Rosanna Wisener, San Marcos Police Dept.

On August 29th, 2006, the Commission on State Emergency Communications recognized the following 9-1-1 Call-takers as Silent Heroes: Amanda Carlisle, Marble Falls Police Dept.; Mary Gibson, Round Rock Police Dept.; Jenny Inman, San Marcos Police Dept.; Matthew Kyser, UT Police Dept.; Sonia Ramirez, Williamson CO 9-1-1; Deborah Thach, Pflugerville Police Dept.

All the 9-1-1 Call-taker awards were a result of nomination by peers or supervisors to a volunteer committee comprised of other 9-1-1 Call-takers within the CAPCOG region and one CAPCOG staff member. For the team and operator-of-the-year awards, the committee analyzed particular calls for service that were included with the nominations.

**FUNDS** (cont'd from page 2)

Environmental Quality (TCEQ). They are the only state funds available for solid waste projects to local governments. The solid waste funds are intended for local and cooperative activities consistent with the strategic objectives of the SWAC's Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Two grants were awarded to CAPCOG. The first award will fund the Regional Environmental Task Force Operations Coordinator who provides environmental law training to combat environmental crimes. The second award will fund a comprehensive study of the region's solid waste stream. This study will link recyclable products in our waste stream with existing markets. For example, old tires can be recycled as crumb rubber and used as a road resurfacing material. Past projects funded by the Solid Waste Program include Blanco County's glass pulverizer, LCRA's Green Purchasing Workshop, and Fayette County's recycling center.

**HUB** (cont'd from page 3)

resource availability, and liability issues, the establishment of other ad hoc shelters (church, community organizations, etc.) will be discouraged.

Many months of planning have created a collaborative and comprehensive shelter hub plan. The City of Austin, Travis County, and Williamson County Offices of Emergency Management, which are jointly responsible for the development and maintenance of the Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan, will continue to provide direction for future development of the plan.

For more information about the Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan, contact Robin Wiatrek at (512) 916-6014 or [rwiatrek@capcog.org](mailto:rwiatrek@capcog.org).

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