# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

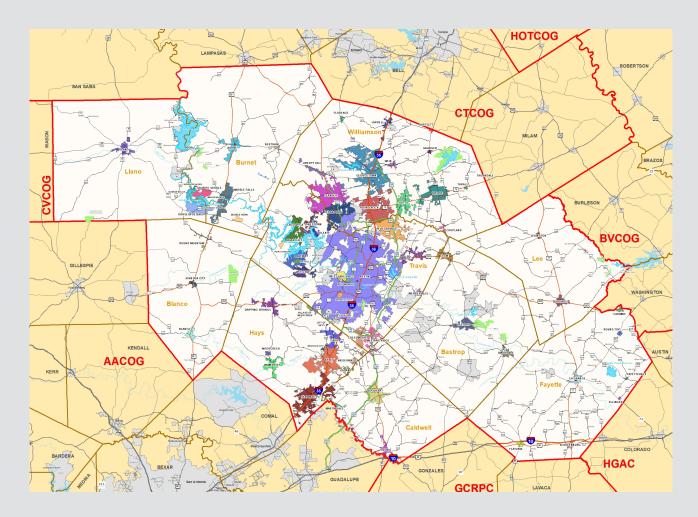












### **CAPCOG's Mission Statement**

"CAPCOG will continue to strengthen the Capital of Texas ten-county region by supporting urban and rural local governments through coordination, collaboration, and sharing of ideas and resources."

Formed in 1970, CAPCOG serves a ten-county region spanning more than 8,400 square miles that consists of Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties. According the 2020 Census, the region's population has grown by more than five times since 1970, from a population of 446,602 to more than 2.4 million. Having started with 37 members, CAPCOG now consists of 98 full and associate members who support regional planning efforts.

As a regional partner directed by local governments, CAPCOG assists jurisdictions with regional planning in the areas of emergency communications, aging resources, law enforcement education, criminal justice, solid waste management, air pollution reduction, homeland security, transportation, economic and community development, GIS data and usage and more.

### **Board Chair's Message**



It is both challenging and rewarding to lead the CAPCOG team of local elected officials. Local government is where policy and legislation most directly meets those who are governed. It is a crucible of interaction and compromise. Local government is where the privilege of public service comes closest to the people.

This has been another busy and productive year for CAPCOG. Our Council of Governments provides a vital opportunity to manage many big issues so that cities and counties don't

have to deal with them alone — things like law enforcement training, emergency management response, air quality monitoring, and mapping for Next Generation 9-1-1 service. Speaking of NextGen9-1-1, we know that co-locating and addressing issues at the regional level are beneficial to cities and counties. Working with a regional perspective gives each of us better results and support. That's the value of big-picture thinking.

Together we are meeting the challenges of the COVID pandemic and are now meeting again in person. That's important, since personal relationships are the glue that hold us together. When we were limited to video-conferencing, I missed the buzz of informal conversation and the sense of community. There is immense value in a handshake, a pat on the back, and the non-verbal communication that can only be gained by person-to-person contact.

I believe the future is bright for the Capital Area Council of Governments. Although our challenges are great, our resources and will are greater. It is an honor to be a part of this team focused on improving lives and getting positive things done for the citizens of Central Texas. Onward together,

ul Pape



### **Executive Director's Message**

In last year's annual report, I discussed the impact COVID-19 had on our agency's operations — while we continued to have the pandemic and our employees' safety as a concern, our programs were administered successfully by the professional and dedicated staff we are fortunate to have at CAPCOG. All employees were back in the office beginning June 1 and the Executive Committee, CAPCOG's governing board, also transitioned from hybrid virtual meetings to in-person meetings that month which triggered the advisory committee meetings

to return to the office, and the reminder that we must work with a focus on regional cooperation.

The divisions most impacted by the pandemic with a significant increase in workload were the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Homeland Security. The AAA saw a spike in requests for transportation, in-home services, rental assistance, and meal delivery. Homeland Security staff, who support our local governments' emergency management coordinators (EMCs), provide a constant source of information, technical assistance, and coordination regarding resources and communications tools. The regional notification system (Warn Central Texas) and WebEOC are tools they manage to support EMCs' communication with their citizens and among themselves. During February's winter storm, these tools were used at a record level by the public safety community.

All of CAPCOG's program goals are to support and enhance activities at the city and county level — older adult services, emergency management, law enforcement training, 9-1-1 communications, air quality monitoring, criminal justice and solid waste grant management, and community development. We are always open to new ideas for our program work, are constantly looking for opportunities to work with regional stakeholders, and we enjoy invitations to make presentations about our work to public and private sector groups.

Sincerely,

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



**Chair** Judge Paul Pape Bastrop County



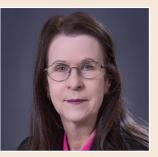
First Vice Chair Mayor Brandt Rydell City of Taylor



Second Vice Chair Judge James Oakley Burnet County



Secretary Mayor Lew White City of Lockhart



Immediate Past Chair Mayor Jane Hughson City of San Marcos



Parliamentarian Judge Ron Cunningham Llano County

> Commissioner Steven Knobloch Lee County

Commissioner Cynthia Long Williamson County

Mayor Pro Tem Lyle Nelson City of Bastrop

Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Pitts City of Georgetown

Commissioner Brigid Shea Travis County

Judge Joe Weber Fayette County

#### **State Representatives**

John Cyrier Celia Israel Terry Wilson Erin Zwiener

Council Member Matt Baker City of Round Rock

Commissioner Russ Boles Williamson County

Judge Brett Bray Blanco County

Council Member Janice Bruno City of Smithville

Mayor Sandy Cox (*Partial Term*) City of Lakeway

Mayor Christine De L'isle City of Leander

Commissioner Joe Don Dockery Burnet County



Council Member Bill Gordon (Partial Term) City of Smithville

Judge Hoppy Haden Caldwell County

Council Member Mike Heath City of Pflugerville

Council Member Kevin Hight City of Bee Caves

Commissioner Ann Howard Travis County

Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe Hays County

Council Member Mackenzie Kelly City of Austin

> The Executive Committee also serves as the Capital Area Emergency Communications District Board of Managers.



### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Left to Right, Back Row: Matt Morgan, Gus Gonzales, Lauren Matthews, Finance Director Lisa Bowman, IT Director Kelly Claflin Front Row: Cyrile Dabbs, Silvia Alvarado, Administration Director Sheila Jennings, Deborah Brea, Mason Canales

The Administrative Services staff oversees agency functions related to budgeting, purchasing, audits, contracts, compliance, records management, human resources, website maintenance, membership and information technology (IT)— the behind-the-scenes, keep-the-COG-going activities.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, the administrative staff remained vital in conducting COG business virtually and ensuring members and residents had access to COG programs in a timely manner. The staff also continued to organize and support virtual meetings for CAPCOG functions to include committee meetings, workshops and training courses. By midyear, it had conducted several hybrid style meetings while the agency transitioned back to in-person meetings as COVID-19 vaccinations became more prevalent. By June 1, the CAPCOG staff returned to the office.

To meet the increased demand of internet bandwidth for virtual programing, IT staff performed several site internet speed tests during different traffic levels to secure more reliable and faster broadband services that prevented distributions for employees. IT staff also enhanced internal cybersecurity protocols on employee's computers and network-wide devices as well as conducted training to prevent social-engineered cyberattacks that target employees and could affect the agency.

This year was time to explore the market for healthcare benefits. Proposals were solicited for medical, dental, and vision and contracts were executed for new providers for January 1.

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The Emergency Communications Division provides 31 emergency communication centers (ECC), or public safety answering points, with a resilient and reliable 9-1-1 telecommunications infrastructure. The division also provides licensing, certification, and continual education for the region's more than 800 telecommunicators and 9-1-1 public education materials for residents.



Emergency Communications Director, Richard Morales, (middle left) shows members of the CAPCOG Executive Committee the Regional Back Up Center's server room. Also pictured is Bastrop County Judge and Executive Committee Chair, Paul Pape; Bee Cave Council Member, Kevin Hight; and Leander Mayor, Christine De L'isle.

#### Infrastructure & Next-Generation 9-1-1 (NextGen 9-1-1)

The Emergency Communications Division completed technology upgrades and enhancements to the region's 9-1-1 infrastructure. It migrated an antiquated, analog system to scalable, diverse and completely digital 9-1-1 telecommunications service for 31 ECCs while the nation was under pandemic lockdowns. This task had unique circumstances because of the region's large geographical area and growing population. The region's 9-1-1 service now functions on diverse networks and within the Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESINET) making it more resilient and reliable as well as establishing the foundation for an operational system that uses NextGen 9-1-1 capabilities. The upgrades make CAPCOG one of the leading Emergency Communications Districts for instituting NextGen 9-1-1.

NextGen 9-1-1 will support wired and wireless devices as well as the Internet-of-Things' devices, such as security alarms and products providing protection of life and property direct connections to emergency services. It provides the capability to transfer additional and advanced forms of digital data, such as instant messaging, recorded videos, and medical files across the 9-1-1 network to and from ECCs. To support NextGen 9-1-1 telecommunication services, the division installed fault tolerant connection routing equipment. Call routing handled via VOIP security was a major cybersecurity concern for the modernized 9-1-1 network, so the division installed improved firewall technology to serve as initial line of defense against cyberattacks at each ECC.

Despite the COVID-19 lockdowns and unprecedented 2021 winter storm, the region faced minimal outage occurrences. The region's contingency 9-1-1 call routing plans proved useful and effective with no denial of 9-1-1 services to any resident. Restoration of telecommunications services to include contingent power generation were quickly remedied when it became safe to do so during the winter storm.

The division facilitated relocations and remodels of ECCs. The installation of eight dual training and live 9-1-1 call taking consoles were completed at the Williamson County ECC. The Burnet County Sheriff's Office ECC received a radio dispatch console upgrade during the remodel of its modernized 9-1-1 center. The regional back up center added a radio master site and 20 more 9-1-1 call taking consoles, and Caldwell County completed the construction of its new radio tower and radio shelter but is awaiting the final phase of interconnectivity of microwave and cabling to go live.

#### **2021** Annual Report



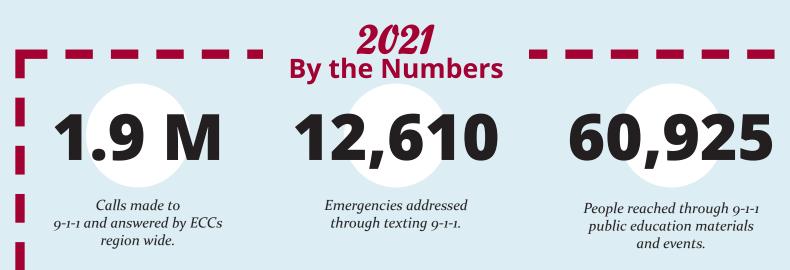


Left to Right, Back Row: Martha Fernandez, Michael Aurora, Renee Hover Front Row: Nadia Gonzales, Bianca Salas, Director Richard Morales, Pamela Frisk, Lisa Ybarra

#### **Training and Educational Outreach**

COVID-19 lockdowns temporarily suspended education outreach for 9-1-1 topics as many public events were canceled region wide, but once communities began in-person public safety campaigns again, CAPCOG supported them with 9-1-1 educational materials. These campaigns help the emergency telecommunicators by preparing the public on how to provide appropriate information on a 9-1-1 call, so telecommunicators can dispatch the proper response.

Emergency telecommunicator training continued with virtual training courses and occasional traditional, in-person classroom training when necessary. During this period, the division supplemented its traditional Emergency Telecommunicator Certification Course by temporarily supplying Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service access tokens that allowed new telecommunicator hires to participate in the 80-hour licensing course virtually and obtain their TCOLE Basic Telecommunicator License. The division continued to offer a variety of courses for every level of ECC telecommunicator, supervisor, and manager to include its mandated public safety database access courses, which must be taught in-person. The division reduced the participation size to provide for COVID-19 safety measures when necessary.



## REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

The Regional Law Enforcement Academy (RLEA) serves law enforcement agencies in the tencounty region as a training provider for all required continuing education courses, Basic Peace Officer Courses (BPOCs), and other courses deemed important to those agencies.



Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers investigate a mock crime scene during an Intermediate Crime Scene Search course held at RLEA.

#### **Peace Officers In-service Courses**

RLEA offered numerous courses to ensure the region's peace officers maintained or advanced their licenses and certificates during FY 2021 which also marked the end of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement's two-year training cycle. Many mandated courses were offered more frequently including using an online platform to give officers scheduling options during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regular courses that RLEA offered included Interacting with Drivers Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Basic Instructor, Intermediate Crime Scene Search, and 40-hour Crisis Intervention.

RLEA brought several courses to the region that allowed local law enforcement agencies to teach topics to their own officers. A defensive tactics instructor course took place in August and focused on subduing and controlling subjects as well as self-defense skills that minimize the risk of injury to a subject and the officer. Attending officers earned certificates to instruct 12 different forms of defense to their fellow officers. RLEA also conducted a TASER Instructor Course meant to prepare every officer to know when and how to use TASER equipment; the course trained techniques, best practices, safety protocols and training drills. Officers from around the region, state and nation attended both courses.

Specialty training courses included the Law Enforcement Tactical Trauma Course held in June. It developed skills for treating injuries sustained while responding to active shooter incidents, but such skills also could be used during other violent and life-threatening incidents such as severe family violence cases and vehicle crashes. The course emphasized tourniquet use, wound packing, and bleeding and circulation management as well as tactical rescue and evacuation. A Basic SWAT Course taught methods deployed by SWAT teams during high-risk situations allowing attendees to learn through repetition and perspective. It provided practical knowledge of safety techniques used when serving a hazardous warrant, maintaining a security or emergency perimeter, and containing a critical incident such as an active shooter. The September course was geared for officers interested in becoming a SWAT team member or departments interested in creating a SWAT team.





*Left to Right*: Sergio Flores, Terri Kroeger, Director David Bertling

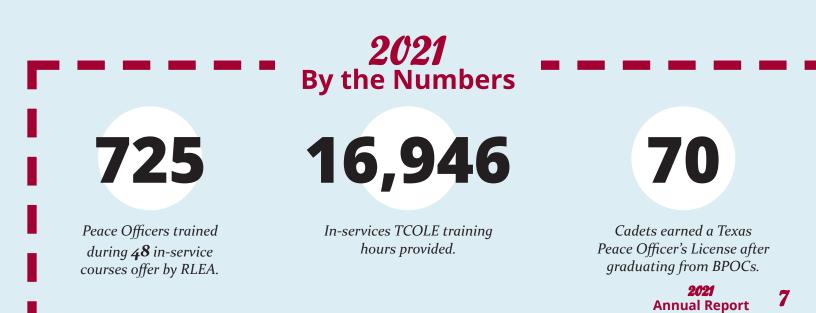
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#### **Basic Peace Officer Courses**

RLEA completed three BPOCs during 2021 graduating 70 cadets, all which earned their TCOLE basic peace officer license. The officers joined agencies such as the Travis County Constables Office; Travis County Parks; Hays and Llano County Sheriff's offices; Bastrop, Elgin, San Marcos, Horseshoe Bay, and Leander police departments; Austin Fire Department and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Because of the pandemic, courses started virtually and concluded in the classroom for greater individual instruction and collaborative study for the cadets. Graduating cadets maintained RLEA's 100 percent pass rate, 99.8 percent on the first attempt, on the TCOLE licensing exam despite the commission instituting a more rigorous test. The courses taught more than 730 hours of law enforcement curriculum per BPOC.

RLEA continued to focus on recruitment for BPOCs offering three or more entrance exams per course that started in 2021. Before the end of FY 2021, two additional BPOCs kicked off with more 50 cadets hoping to graduate in early 2022. RLEA added fitness training into the latest courses, so future peace officers could learn more about managing their health on the job. Texas A&M Commerce partnered with RLEA to perform a voluntary study on the benefits of fitness programs on peace officers. RLEA was the first academy to participate in the study, and participating cadets are scheduled to get their personal results before they graduate.



## HOMELAND SECURITY

The Homeland Security Division works closely with local governments and other emergency management stakeholders to provide regional disaster management planning and to support the coordination of operations, situational awareness, and training to respond to natural and man-made disasters.



The above image is from a WarnCentralTexas.org promotional video which was completed in late 2020 and used throughout 2021 to promote self-registrations for the RNS. It is available for download in English and Spanish for local jurisdictions to use.

#### Planning

The Homeland Security Division coordinated and led several planning efforts with the assistance of the Homeland Security Task Force and its many subcommittees and workgroups during the year. A combined regional effort developed a public safety drone policy meant to set common standards and best practices for training and using drones to assist with emergency and disaster response and mitigation efforts. The division also completed a significant update to the region's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment along with its Stakeholder Preparedness Review. These planning documents lay the foundation for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery to the region's threats, hazards and risks as well as equip the region to better coordinate disaster response efforts. The plans support how the region identifies capability gaps and potential threats and helps determine what actions the region and local governments can take to address those issues. Updated annually, they also serve as the guide for developing future plans as threats and risks evolve and are used to help prioritize grant applications for the State Homeland Security Program.

The division oversaw the recommendation and prioritization of 31 emergency management and public safety related grant projects submitted to the State Homeland Security Program, which recommended 15 projects for funding based on the state's regional allocation. Projects recommended included training and equipment for emergency response teams that meet the FEMA Critical Priority Area targets: cybersecurity, soft targets and crowded places, intelligence and information sharing, and emerging threats. Projects funded through the grants were implemented to prepare for or respond to incidents region wide. CAPCOG also continually assisted with reallocating unspent funding from awarded projects to other prioritized projects to maximize the use of the grant dollars. CAPCOG assisted the Texas General Land Office (GLO) in promoting a Hurricane Harvey recovery aid program, meant to strengthen flood resiliency, by leading discussions about the programs eligibility and coordinating stakeholder meetings with local governments impacted by the historic hurricane. The GLO awarded nearly \$71 million to seven local governments in Bastrop, Caldwell and Lee counties.

The division supported the regional response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by implementing weekly, regional conference calls between emergency managers, health officials, and other public safety personnel. The calls disseminated information about the virus's spread, hospital capacity, community response and vaccination distribution efforts. The division also began providing a bi-weekly Situation Report that informed emergency management personnel about homeland security related issues.

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*Left to Right*: Matt Zimmerman, Dee Harrison, Olivia Hemby, Director Martin Ritchey

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#### **Training & Preparedness**

The CAPCOG Cyber Symposium on Emerging Threats to the Public Sector 2021 took place in August and brought together senior executives and IT staff members from cities, counties, school districts and other community stakeholders to discuss cybersecurity risks and best practices. Nationally recognized cybersecurity experts shared their mitigation experiences with real-world attacks, such as SolarWinds Chief Information Security Officer Timothy Brown who discussed The SolarWinds attack that impacted information on many government networks throughout the United States. The symposium concluded with a tabletop exercise using the National Institute of Standards and Technology security factors to test agencies risk levels from cybersecurity attacks.

A joint training between Texas Division of Emergency Management and CAPCOG — the Emergency Tracking Network (ETN) training course — prepared emergency managers and public safety personnel to better transport, receive, and care for disaster evacuees. Held in June, the course demonstrated how WebEOC — an online disaster communication, planning and response platform — can be used to follow individuals through the evacuation process; share information among responding jurisdictions, local and state; and plan accordingly for evacuations during a disaster. The training was valuable to the region, as local jurisdictions have hosted thousands of coastal residents during hurricane seasons and counties and cities have supported neighboring residents fleeing dangerous wildfires and floods.

#### **Response Tools**

The regional notification system (RNS), known publicly as Warn Central Texas, as well as WebEOC proved invaluable to local government's ongoing pandemic response and the 2021 winter storm response. During the year, more than 18 million messages from the RNS were sent to residents from nearly every local government with the majority of the alerts being issued during the winter storm. WebEOC was used to share critical information during the winter storm as it allowed emergency management coordinators and other public safety officials to share spot weather reports and coordinate efforts such as tracking the use of warming centers across jurisdictions to manage the location capacity. It also assisted jurisdictions with sharing requested specialty equipment and coordinating their use.



# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area (AAACAP) provides services and supports to older adults, their caregivers, and those with disabilities that include information and referral to resources, nutrition assistance, health and wellness programing and more. It partners with local governments and nonprofits to deliver its services helping people age in the place of their choosing.



The above screen shot is from the Estate Planning for Older Adults webinar hosted by AAACAP Benefits Counselors. More than 100 people attended and learned how estate planning can benefit their long-term care options.

#### **Nutrition Services**

Food insecurity was the number one issue for information and referral clients when the COVID-19 pandemic started, and it continued to demand additional resources in 2021. Home delivered meal programs experienced a growing number of participants with many requests from first-time clients. AAACAP's four meal providers successfully met the increased demand, despite congregate sites and senior centers remaining closed for most of the year. Many congregate sites became meal distribution sites helping new COVID-19-related funding from the Administration for Community Living via Texas Health and Human Services support record meal delivery numbers, which more than doubled the number of meals funded in the last pre-COVID fiscal year. This included about 600 meals served at Llano County's two congregate sites; the only sites to reopen by the end of FY 2021. These providers also connected clients to other resources to meet their pandemic needs.

#### **Benefits Counseling**

AAACAP Benefits Counselors implemented virtual and in-person presentations for outreach and education related to Medicare and other public benefits. The counselors continued to augment key community referral partnerships and in 2021 established an ongoing connection with the Medicare insurance agents affiliated with various insurance programs, which connected newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries by screening them for possible cost saving programs.

The Benefits Counseling program collaborated with Texas Legal Services Center, Austin Young Lawyers Association and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to offer an Estate Planning for Older Adults Legal Clinic that provided information about low-cost methods to protect people's property and finances, so they can obtain greater access to long-term care when needed. The online clinic was a first for the region and is planned to be a recurring event.

#### **Care Coordination & Caregiver Support Coordination**

The Care Coordination Program staff offered services via phone and email as pandemic safety concerns persisted, but home visits returned when older adults started getting vaccinations. Additional COVID-19 funding addressed basic needs, such as rent and utility assistance and caregiver support for families who had challenges related to sheltering in place, losing employment, and transitioning to virtual communications. Housing costs concerns and people's desire to age in place spurred more residential repair requests including everything from grab bars to wheelchair ramps and leading to \$126,000 of home-improvements.

Despite the pandemic, more than 9,000 hours of in-home attendant services — homemaker, personal care and respite — were provided to older adults. Program staff also assisted with an increased number of mental health support services as families grappled with challenges of adults' health and safety and pandemic related stress.







Left to Right, Back Row: Pete Moreno, Judy Sears, Bridget Steward, JC Callahan, Yvette McVey, John Granado, Carlos Ross, John Blackard, Delia Garcia, Debi Vizcarra Middle Row: June Waters, Karen Thomas, Crystal Grant, Will Teal, Rhonda Thompson, Sherry Wright Front Row: Mellisa Crawford, Siena Lindemann, Michelle Davis, Director Patty Bordie, Sonia Flores, Susie Drum, Pam Moreno

#### Ombudsman

The Ombudsman Long-term Care Program continually adapted to changing federal, state and local regulations that prohibited visitors and families from entering nursing homes and assisted living facilities as they continued handling complaints, providing Information and referrals, and conducting consultations to residents, families, staff, and consumers. The program focused on complaint resolution and adjusting policies and procedures to ensure core services such as on-site facility visitation continued, so residents could thrive. As the pandemic continued, the ombudsman program fulfilled an important role of giving facility residents or their representative information about evaluating their long-term care options to appropriately address health and safety concerns.

#### Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The ADRC of the Capital Area's core mission of providing information, referral, and supports to persons with disabilities, older adults, and caregivers experienced significant increases during the second year of the pandemic and allowed the program to assist more than 100 people with receiving in-home support services from Texas Health and Human Services.

The ADRC provided nearly \$100,000 in emergency rental and utility assistance helping those seeking pandemic related assistance and assisting Austin Energy clients. The ADRC provided this support through Critical Response CARES Act funding and its Austin Energy Plus1 Partnership; the latter grew for the third year in a row because of the ADRC's ability to timely assist consumers.

Serving six counties, the 2021 ADRC Senior Connect pilot project provided mobile devices and internet usage training to older adults to reduce social isolation. The project worked with community partners to assist 50 participants. The ADRC also provided funding support the Texas Technology Access Project at the University of Texas' Center for Disability Studies, an effort to ensure persons with disabilities have access to training and assistive devices. The project created 20 digital and technology assistive device kits and made on-going trainings available to participants. Through the Texas Lifespan Respite program, the ADRC assisted caregivers with short-term respite assistance; \$45,000 of new funding allowed 66 families to get respite caregiver support.

Hours of care provided to **367** families through the Care Coordination Program.





Meals provided to 5,124 unique clients in the region.



Callers accessed services or supports through the ADRC.



## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community and Economic Development Division supports local governments and regional partners through planning activities, analyzing and evaluating community issues, and identifying funding opportunities to foster economic and community growth.



A pile of scrap tires accumulates at a Granite Shoals community collection event as residents drop off their bulky trash items in April 2021. CAPCOG Solid Waste Program grants support such events.

#### **Economic Development**

As the year kicked off, the CED staff working with the Capital Area Economic Development District (CAEDD) committee completed and adopted the 2020-25 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), an economic development plan for the region. The process began in March 2020 and was delayed by the pandemic which changed the plan's trajectory by adding a goal for economic resiliency. Other focuses for the plan are workforce development, entrepreneurship and innovation, and expansion of freight and broadband infrastructure. The work of the CAEDD and the CED staff is driven by the plan, a primary deliverable funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Coinciding with the CEDS, the program participated in broadband expansion efforts and partnered with Connected Nation Texas, a nonprofit broadband planning organization, on community planning efforts in Blanco, Burnet and Llano counties and assisted with similar efforts in Lee and Caldwell counties. CAPCOG also hosted a broadband round-table discussion on regional and local planning initiatives featuring the Greg Conte, Texas Broadband Development Office's director, who discussed plans for a state-wide broadband expansion strategy.

Also taking its lead from the CEDS, the CAEDD developed an application to the EDA's Build Back Better Challenge Regional Challenge program. The Austin Regional Manufacturers Association (ARMA), one of several CAEDD members who scoped and prepared the application, agreed to be the lead institution for the project which focused on expanding the semiconductor industry and its supply chain companies in the region by addressing the need for a pipeline of skilled workers, reliable sources of water and energy, and expanded air freight services. The Build Back Better Regional Challenge is an American Rescue Plan Act grant program meant to spur economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The twophased program will award planning grants and select projects to receive up to \$75 million for implementation.

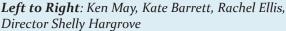
The CED Division also promoted other EDA American Rescue Plan Act programs, such as the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program and the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Program, to local governments. To encourage applications, CED staff conducted a three-part webinar series focused on EDA application needs, making a successful application, and an overview of each EDA Rescue Plan program. The division offered to provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions applying for Rescue Plan funding as well with EDA Public Works grants and TxDOT Transportation Alternatives grants.

#### Transportation

CED staff began an update of the Llano County Economic Development and Transportation Plan in tandem with the county's designated steering committee and the TxDOT Austin District staff. Originally developed in 2015, the plan will update the economic, demographic and transportation data and include community input to review the transportation needs and economic development strategies originally identified.

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#### **Solid Waste**

Solid Waste Program staff worked on a new Regional Solid Waste Management Plan to replace the 20-year-old plan. The update, which is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), provides direction on allocating solid waste grant funding, managing solid waste facility conformance reviews, and ensuring the region doesn't reach landfill capacity. It identifies the region's needs to increase solid waste diversion, extend landfills' longevity, and increase recycling, reuse and reduction rates by defining priorities, goals and objectives.

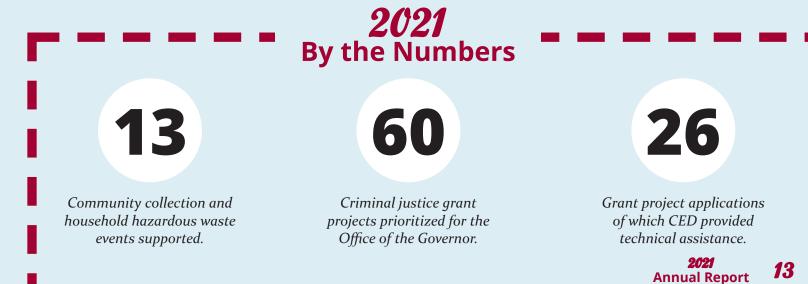
Program staff facilitated a basic environmental law course in July after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 course; more than 70 people attended to learn how to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes. For the first time, the program hosted a 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training, so local jurisdictions could operate household hazardous waste permanent facilities in a safe and responsible manner. The mandated course taught chemical identification; safety protocols; chemical storage, labeling and packing; and incident response.

Funded by Solid Waste Program grants, cities and counties conducted house-hold hazardous waste and community collections events during the year. The events ensured proper disposal of items such as paint, tires, mattresses and household hazardous waste. Grant money also funded resources for the Capital Area Regional Environmental Task Force to address illegal dumping and environmental laws enforcement as well as operations at three permanent house-hold hazardous waste facilities.

#### **Criminal Justice**

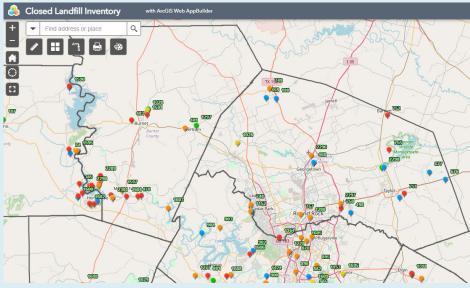
Criminal Justice Program staff coordinated the review and prioritization for more Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division (CJD) grant project applications than previous years across five grant programs. Staff facilitated greater communications and participation with criminal justice stakeholders despite the pandemic by hosting stakeholder input webinars, conducting a needs survey, and reaching out to additional local agencies that support criminal justice related activities.

As the 2021 planning process closed, the program immediately started updating its policies, procedures and strategic planning documents to increase the number of funding recommendations submitted to the OOG during 2022.



# REGIONAL PLANNING & SERVICES

The Regional Planning and Services Division manages a variety of programs benefiting the region including air quality planning and monitoring and GIS services. The division also takes the lead on new initiatives, which included the support and analysis of the 2020 Census results and presenting demographic and economic data.



The above image shows the interactive Closed Landfill Inventory map being hosted on capcog.org and CAPCOG's open data portal. The interactive map was created by the GIS program to increase access to those seeking closed landfill data.

#### **Air Quality**

The Air Quality Program continued to coordinate the region's efforts to improve air quality and ensure compliance with federal air quality standards. CAPCOG operated eight regional air quality monitors throughout the region, redeploying one monitor from Hutto to Round Rock.

The Air Quality Program staff conducted and participated in several significant research and planning projects in 2021. CAPCOG coordinated the development of an update to the voluntary regional air quality plan in order to address fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution after extensive consultation with local partners and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the region's participation in EPA's Particulate Matter Advance Program. The Clean Air Coalition, the policy committee which helps guide regional air quality improvement efforts, decided to join the Particulate Matter Advance Program because of the effects particulate matter air pollution has on public health. CAPCOG also conducted a study on how changes in commuter behavior related to the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the region's air quality.

The program continued its regional air quality outreach efforts through the Air Central Texas initiative, which includes social media, e-newsletters, and advertising.

#### **Geographic Information Services (GIS)**

During 2021, the GIS Program made significant progress in preparing the region to transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NextGen 9-1-1) by continuing to work with local governments to improve the quality of their 9-1-1 GIS databases. The databases will use new GIS software to bring the region's 9-1-1 data into compliance with national NextGen 9-1-1 standards and expedite more accurate call-routing to local emergency call centers instead of relying on cellphone tower location data to route calls. This new system also will improve data quality for computer-aided dispatch systems used for making emergency response decisions.

The GIS Program revamped CAPCOG's open data website, which provides an internet portal for community stakeholders to get



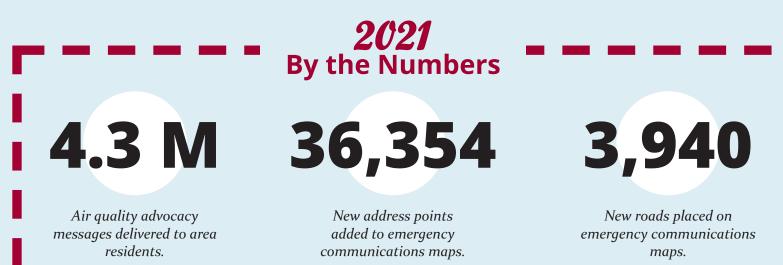


Left to Right: Nik Pullias, Susan Cooper, Christiane Heggelund, Director Andrew Hoekzema, Ben Bullard

GIS information that CAPCOG has either created or aggregated. The GIS team is routinely updating it with new data for local governments and the public to reference. GIS staff supported other CAPCOG programs throughout the year by assisting with mapping needs such as the creation of an interactive closed landfill inventory map. The interactive map's creation made viewing plausible closed landfills across the region easier and can help people conduct initial assessments of a closed landfill's location before acting on the property.

#### Other RPS Projects

The division analyzed and delivered presentations on the 2020 Census results for the region, which were released mid-year. It also started developing a way to provide easier access to the Census results for planners seeking regional demographic information. It compiled data to assist with the development of the Llano County Transportation and Economic Development plan and assisted other CAPCOG divisions and local governments with numerous data requests. The division provided staff support to the Regional Transit Coordination Committee.





COUNCIL OF



### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **BASTROP COUNTY**

Bastrop County — Judge Paul Pape Bastrop County — Commissioner Mel Hamner City of Bastrop — Mayor Pro Tem Lyle Nelson City of Elgin — Mayor Ron Ramirez City of Elgin — Council Member Forest L. Dennis City of Smithville — Council Member Janice Bruno

#### **BLANCO COUNTY**

Blanco County — Judge Brett Bray City of Blanco — Mayor Rachel Lumpee City of Johnson City — Council Member Stephanie Fisher City of Round Mountain Vacant

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Burnet County — Judge James Oakley Burnet County — Commissioner Joe Don Dockery City of Bertram — Ms. Georgina Hernandez City of Burnet — Council Member Joyce Laudenschlager City of Cottonwood Shores — Mr. J.C. Hughes City of Double Horn — Alderman John Osborne City of Granite Shoals — Council Member Steve Hougen City of Highland Haven — Mayor Olan Kelley City of Marble Falls — Council Member William (Dee) Haddock City of Meadowlakes — Ms. Mary Ann Raesener

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#### **FAYETTE COUNTY**

Fayette County — Judge Joe Weber Fayette County — Vacant City of Carmine — Mayor Wade Eilers City of Fayetteville — Mayor Carl Marino City of Flatonia — Ms. Sarah Novo City of La Grange — Mayor Janet Moerbe Town of Round Top — Mayor Pro Tem Keith Sharp City of Schulenburg — Mr. Roger Moellenberndt

#### **HAYS COUNTY**

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#### **LEE COUNTY**

Lee County — Commissioner Steven Knobloch City of Giddings — Mayor John Dowell City of Lexington — Mayor Allen Retzlaff

#### **LLANO COUNTY**

Llano County — Commissioner Jerry Don Moss Llano County — Judge Ron Cunningham City of Horseshoe Bay — Council Member Randy Rives City of Llano — Mayor Gail Lang City of Sunrise Beach Village — Council Member Dan Gower

#### **TRAVIS COUNTY**

Travis County - Commissioner Brigid Shea Travis County - Commissioner Ann Howard Travis County - Commissioner Jeff Travillion City of Austin - Council Member Mackenzie Kelly City of Austin - Council Member Sabino Renteria City of Austin – Mr. DeWayne Lofton City of Austin - Mayor Steve Adler City of Bee Cave - Council Member Kevin Hight City of Jonestown — Alderman Dave Nelsen City of Lago Vista - Mayor Ed Tidwell City of Lakeway - Mayor Thomas Kilgore City of Lakeway - Mayor Pro Tem Louis Mastrangelo City of Manor – Mayor Dr. Christopher Harvey City of Manor - Mayor Pro Tem Emily Hill City of Mustang Ridge - Mr. Alfred Vallejo II City of Pflugerville - Council Member Doug Weiss City of Pflugerville - Council Member Ceasar Ruiz City of Pflugerville - Council Member Mike Heath City of Rollingwood - Mayor Mike Dyson City of Sunset Valley - Rose Cardona City of West Lake Hills – Mayor Linda Anthony Village of the Hills – Mayor Eric Ovlen Village of Point Venture - Vacant Village of San Leanna – Mayor Molly Quirk Village of Volente – Mr. Ken Beck

#### WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Williamson County - Commissioner Russ Boles Williamson County - Commissioner Cynthia Long Williamson County - Vacant City of Bartlett – Mr. Norris Ivy City of Cedar Park - Council Member Heather Jefts City of Cedar Park - Council Member Eric Boyce City of Cedar Park - Council Member Mel Kirkland City of Florence — Mayor Mary Condon City of Georgetown - City Manager David Morgan City of Georgetown - Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Pitts City of Georgetown - Vacant City of Granger – Alderwoman Monica Stojanik City of Hutto -Ms. Patti Martinez City of Hutto- Council Member Mandi Villarreal Salvo City of Jarrell - City Manager Vanessa Shrauner City of Leander - Mayor Christine De L'isle City of Leander — Council Member Esme Mattke Longoria City of Leander - Council Member Na'cole Thompson City of Liberty Hill - Council Member Angela Jones City of Round Rock - Council Member Frank Ortega City of Georgetown - Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Pitts City of Round Rock - Council Member Rene Flores City of Round Rock — Vacant City of Taylor - Council Member Robert Garcia City of Taylor – Mayor Brandt Rydell City of Thrall – Mayor Troy Marx City of Weir - Vacant

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

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### **POLICY & ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

#### **Capital Area Economic Development District**

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#### **Clean Air Coalition**

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#### Capital Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Mayor Lew White, City of Lockhart, Caldwell County, Chair Mayor John Dowell, City of Giddings, Lee County, Vice Chair Commissioner Clara Beckett, Bastrop County Mayor Pro Tem Lyle Nelson, City of Bastrop, Bastrop County Mayor Joanna Morgan, City of Smithville, Bastrop County Commissioner Emil Uecker, Blanco County Commissioner Thomas Weir, Blanco County Council Member Clayton Young, City of Johnson City, Blanco County Judge James Oakley, Burnet County Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County Mayor Richard Westerman, City of Marble Falls, Burnet County Judge Hoppy Haden, Caldwell County Mayor Mike Hendricks, City of Luling, Caldwell County Commissioner Mark Jones, Hays County Commissioner Lon Shell, Hays County Commissioner Alan Turner, Lee County Commissioner Richard Wagner, Lee County Judge Ron Cunningham, Llano County Commissioner Linda Raschke, Llano County Council Member Randy Rives, City of Horseshoe Bay, Llano County Commissioner Jeff Travillion, Travis County Trustee Ricardo E. Rendon, Del Valle ISD, Travis County Mayor Dr. Larry Wallace Jr., City of Manor, Travis County Commissioner Terry Cook, Williamson County Commissioner Cynthia Long, Williamson County Mayor Larry Bush, City of Jarrell, Williamson County Tucker Ferguson, P.E., TxDOT, Ex officio Ashby Johnson, CAMPO, Ex officio

#### **Homeland Security Task Force**

Chief Russell Sander, Marble Falls Fire Rescue, Chair Deputy Director/EMC Christine Files, Bastrop County, Vice Chair Division Chief Brandon Wade, Austin Fire Department Director Juan Ortiz, Austin HSEM Chief Epidemiologist Janet Pichette, Austin Public Health Division Chief Adam Johnson, Austin-Travis County EMS Commissioner/EMC Chris Liesmann, Blanco County EMC Jim Barho, Burnet County Chief EMC Hector Rangel, Caldwell County Executive Director Douglas Havron, CATRAC Chief of Emergency Management Craig Moreau, Fayette County Director Emergency Services Mike Jones, Hays County Chief Scott Kerwood, Hutto Fire Rescue EMC Delynn Peschke, Lee County EMC Gilbert Bennett, Llano County Chief Randy Jenkins, Lockhart Fire Rescue Executive Director Johnny Campbell, Marble Falls Area EMS District 12 Coordinator Robbie Barrera, TDEM Chief EMC Eric Carter, Travis County Captain William Poole, Travis County Sheriff's Office EMC Dorothy Miller, Round Rock Fire & HSEM Deputy Director/EMC Michael Shoe, Williamson County Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County, EC Liaison



#### **Aging Advisory Council**

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#### Capital Area Emergency Communications District Strategic Advisory Committee

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#### **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**

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#### Law Enforcement Education Committee

Chase Stapp, Dir. Public Safety, San Marcos, Chair Chief Clint Nagy, City of Bastrop Cpt. Christopher Jett, Burnet County Sheriff Mike Lane, Caldwell County Chief David Gilbreath, Fayette County Mr. George Vanderhule, Hays County Chief Deputy James Crockett, Lee County Lt. Cole Reasor, Llano County Bill May, Travis County Rachel Arnold, Williamson County Chief Greg Minton, Williamson County Judge Ron Cunningham, Llano County, EC Liaison

#### **GIS Planning Council**

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#### Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Commissioner Linda Raschke, Llano County, Chair Commissioner Bill Wall, Burnet County, Vice Chair Gerry Acuna, City of Austin Richard McHale, City of Austin Commissioner Paul Granberg, Blanco County Commissioner Joe Roland, Caldwell County Paul Zapalac, Fayette County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, Hays County Tammy Crumley, Hays County Commissioner Mark Matthiejetz, Lee County Jon White, Travis County Emily Ackland, Travis County Michael Cooper, Williamson County R. Lynn Lantrip, Williamson County Rachel Hering, Keep Texas Beautiful, Citizen/Environmental Rep. Darien Clary, Austin ISD, Educational Rep. Steve Jacobs, Waste Management, Private Industry Rep. Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, Private Industry Rep. Michael Mnoian, Central Waste & Recycling, Private Industry Rep. Jack Ranney, Stericycle PSC, At-Large Member w/ HHW Expertise Matthew Smith, Hill Country Recycling, Private Industry Rep. Honorable Judge Hoppy Haden, Caldwell County, EC Liaison Elizabeth Slone, TCEQ, Region XI, Ex officio Cheryl Untermeyer, TCEQ, RSWGP, Ex officio

### **UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT**

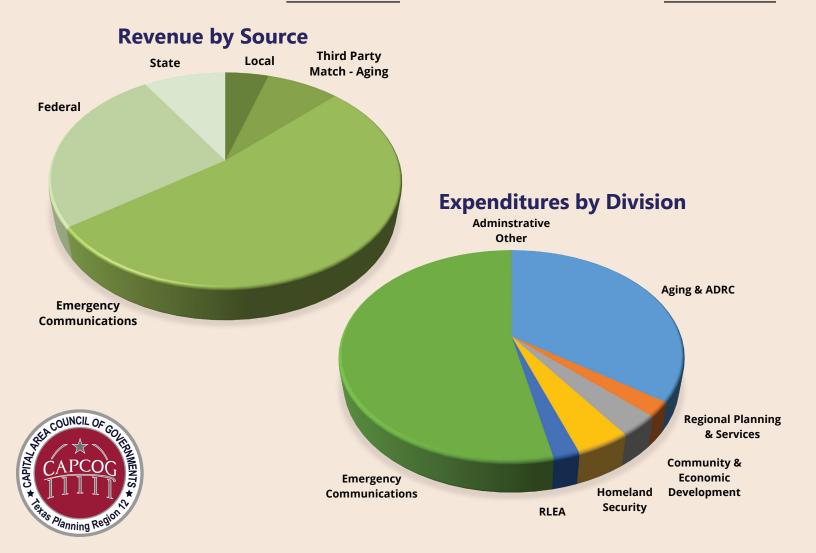
### **Revenue by Source**

Local	
Membership Dues	\$294,751.16
Contract Revenue	\$701,877.76
Tuition	\$330,134.30
Interest	\$13,520.60
Other	\$9,095.48
Subtotal	\$1,349,379.30
Third Party Match - Aging	\$2,269,516.00
Emergency Communications	\$14,994,775.05
Federal	\$7,372771.20
State	\$2,566,844.88
Total Revenue by Source	\$28,553,286.43

### **Expenditures by Division**

Aging and ADRC \$9,958,542.61
Regional Planning & Services \$635,496.08
Community & Economic Dev \$934,845.91
Homeland Security\$1,234,930.24
RLEA\$603,938.20
Emergency Communications\$15,232,779.95
Administrative - Other\$3,885.46

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	by Division.	\$28,604,418.45



#### **Front Cover Photos**

**Top**: Two Williamson County Sheriff Deputies practice American Sign Language during a Interacting with Drivers who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing course. The Regional Law Enforcement Academy taught the course many times during the year to ensure officers could maintain their TCOLE licenses.

**Upper Middle**: Regional Planning and Services Director, Andrew Hoekzema, speaks at the September 2021 General Assembly meeting about the 2020 Census and how the region has grown. He made several presentations about the newly released Census data during the year.

**Lower Middle**: Workers stand next to mattresses delivered to a Granite Shoals community collection event. Mattresses were a common item collected during such events which were supported by CAPCOG Solid Waste Program funding.

**Bottom**: CAPCOG Emergency Communications Director, Richard Morales, shows Smithville Council Member, Janice Bruno, emergency telecommunicator consoles during a tour of CAPCOG Regional Back Up Center, which can take 9-1-1 calls from anywhere in the region.



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