Executive Committee | Agenda

10 a.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2025
CAPCOG Lantana Room
6800 Burleson Rd.
Bldg. 310, Suite 155
Austin, Texas 78744

Judge Brett Bray, *Blanco County*, **Chair**
Council Member Doug Weiss, *City of Pflugerville*
1st Vice Chair
Judge Ron Cunningham, *Llano County*, **2nd Vice Chair and Parliamentarian**
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Hougen, *City of Granite Shoals*, **Secretary**
Mayor Lew White, *City of Lockhart*, **Immediate Past Chair**
Mayor Kirk Watson, *City of Austin*
Commissioner Clara Beckett, *Bastrop County*
Council Member Kerry Fossler, *City of Bastrop*
Council Member Kevin Hight, *City of Bee Cave*
Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, *Burnet County*
Judge Bryan Wilson, *Burnet County*
Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*
Commissioner Clint Sternadel, *Fayette County*
Council Member Ron Garland, *City of Georgetown*
Commissioner Walt Smith, *Hays County*
Council Member David McDonald, *City of Leander*
Commissioner Steven Knobloch, *Lee County*
Council Member Frank Ortega, *City of Round Rock*
Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*
Council Member Cathy Meek, *City of Smithville*
Judge Andy Brown, *Travis County*
Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*
Commissioner Russ Boles, *Williamson County*
Commissioner Cynthia Long, *Williamson County*
Senator Pete Flores
Representative Vikki Goodwin
Representative Caroline Harris-Davila

1. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks by the Chair**

2. **Pledge to U.S. and Texas Flags**

3. **Recognition of Guests**

4. **Consider Approving Minutes for the October 15, 2025 meeting**

5. **Consider accepting the Quarterly Investment Report**
   Silvia Alvarado, Director of Finance

6. **Consider Adoption of the 2026 CAPCOG Homeland Security Grant Program Regional Grant Review Process Guidance**
   Martin Ritchey, Director of Homeland Security

7. **Consider Adopting a Proclamation establishing November as National Family Caregivers Month**
   Jennifer Scott, Director of AAA/ADRC

8. **Consider Approving CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025-2030**
   Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services

A closed executive session may be held on any of the above agenda items when legally justified pursuant to Subchapter D of the Texas Open Meetings Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 551).

9. **Consider Approving CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Policy Statement, Project Summary Sheets and Scoring Criteria for Plan Year 2027**
   Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services

10. **Consider Approving Appointments to Advisory Committees**
    Andrew Hoekzema, Director of Administrative Services

11. **Screw Worm Update**
    Dr. Jessie Monday, DVM, State Epidemiologist
    Texas Animal Health Commission

12. **Staff Reports**
    Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services

13. **Executive Director Report**
    Chris Miller, Executive Director

14. **Executive Session in Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.072: Deliberations About Real Property**
    Chris Miller, Executive Director

15. **Adjourn**

Executive Committee | Minutes

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 15, 2025
CAPCOG Lantana Room
6800 Burleson Rd
Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744

Present (16)

Judge Brett Bray, *Blanco County,* **Chair**
Council Member Doug Weiss, *City of Pflugerville,* **1st Vice Chair**
Judge Ron Cunningham, *Llano County,* **2nd Vice Chair**
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Hougen, *City of Granite Shoals,* **Secretary**
Mayor Lew White, *City of Lockhart,* **Immediate Past Chair**
Council Member Kerry Fossler, *City of Bastrop*
Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, *Burnet County*
Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*
Commissioner Clint Sternadel, *Fayette County*
Commissioner Walt Smith, *Hays County*
Commissioner Steven Knobloch, *Lee County*
Council Member Frank Ortega, *City of Round Rock*
Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*
Council Member Cathy Meek, *City of Smithville*
Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*
Commissioner Cynthia Long, *Williamson County*

Absent (11)

Mayor Kirk Watson, *City of Austin*
Commissioner Clara Beckett, *Bastrop County*
Council Member Kevin Hight, *City of Bee Cave*
Judge Bryan Wilson, *Burnet County*
Council Member Ron Garland, *City of Georgetown*
Council Member David McDonald, *City of Leander*
Judge Andy Brown, *Travis County*
Commissioner Russ Boles, *Williamson County*
Senator Pete Flores
Representative Vikki Goodwin
Representative Caroline Harris-Davila

1. **Call to Order and Opening Remarks by the Chair**
   Judge Bray called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

2. **Pledge to U.S. and Texas Flags**
   Judge Bray led the members in reciting pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

3. **Recognition of Guests**
   Mr. Greg Dutton, Local and Regional Policy Administrator for Austin Government Relations was recognized.

4. **Consider Approving Minutes for the October 15, 2025 meeting**
   Mayor Hughson made a motion to approve the October 15, 2025 minutes. Judge Haden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Consider Updating Assets Policy**
   Andrew Hoekzema, Director of Administrative Services
   Mayor Hughson had a question about replacing the furniture every three years. Mr. Hoekzema explained that the three-year mark was only an estimate. The motions were extracted and will be revisited at a later date.

A closed executive session may be held on any of the above agenda items when legally justified pursuant to Subchapter D of the Texas Open Meetings Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 551).

6. **Consider Awarding Contracts for Employee Insurance Providers**

Andrew Hoekzema, Director of Administrative Services
Edith Wieder, Director of Human Resource

Mr. Hoekzema and Ms. Wieder explained the benefits of selecting Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO for the CAPCOG employee's insurance. Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO is more beneficial for the employee's budgets. Commissioner Howard made a motion to award the contract to Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO for the CAPCOG's employee insurance provider. Mayor Hughson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Consider Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the University of Houston for Mobile Monitoring Study**

Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager

Mr. Cox requested approval of the interlocal agreement with the University of Houston for Mobile Monitoring Study. Mayor Pro Tem Hougen made a motion to approve the agreement for the University of Houston for the Mobile Monitoring Study. Council Member Fossler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Consider Approval of an Application for the State Energy Conservations Officer (SECO) Regional Energy Program Funding Opportunity**

Anton Cox, Air Quality Program Manager

Mr. Cox presented the application for the State Energy Conservations Officer (SEC) Regional Energy Program Funding Opportunity. Council Member Fossler made a motion to approve the application for the State Energy Conservations Officer (SEC) Regional Energy Program Funding Opportunity. Mayor Hughson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Consider Approving Appointments to Advisory Committees**

Andrew Hoekzema, Director of Administrative Services

There were no appointments this month.

10. **Consider Adopting Changes to CAPCOG By-Laws**

Council Member Doug Weiss, Chair of By-Laws Committee

Council Member Weiss explained the committee recommendation of eliminating the attendance requirement. Commissioner Smith stated his preference to have an attendance requirement. Mayor Hughson suggested notifying the mayor or county clerk when a member misses the Executive Committee Board meeting.

Judge Bray asked for the names of the members on the By-Law Committee. Council Member Weiss listed himself as the Chair, Council Member Ortega, Commissioner Long, and Mayor Hughson as members of the committee. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the changes to the CAPCOG By-Laws. Council Member Meeks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Consider Adoption of the 2025 CAPCOG Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the 2025 CAPCOG Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)**

Lance Byers, Senior Homeland Security Planner

Mr. Byers requested adoption of the 2025 CAPCOG THIRA and the 2025 CAPCOG SPR. Commissioner Dockery recognized Mr. Byers for his hard work and dedication. Commissioner Dockery made a motion for adoption of the 2025 CAPCOG THIRA and the 2025 CAPCOG SPR. Commissioner Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Howard request, the July 2025 flood be added to the 2025 CAPCOG THIRA.

12. Consider Adoption of the 2026 CAPCOG Homeland Security Strategic Plan Implementation Plan (HSSP-IP).

There were no staff reports.

Lance Byers, Senior Homeland Security Planner

Mr. Byers requested the adoption of the 2026 CAPCOG Homeland Security Strategic Plan Implementation Plan (HSSP-IP). Judge Cunningham made a motion to adopt the 2026 CAPCOG Homeland Security Strategic Plan Implementation Plan (HSSP-IP). Mayor Hughson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Executive Director's Report

Chris Miller, Executive Director

Mr. Miller thanked the officers, Board, and staff for the evaluation feedback. He reminded the Board of Blanco County Day on October 16, 2025. Mr. Miller told the Board, Burnet County Day is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025.

14. Adjourn

Judge Bray adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

_____ _____

Mayor Pro Tem Steve Hougen, Secretary
Capital Area Council of Governments
Executive Committee

Date

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **5. Consider accepting the Quarterly Investment Report**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

The Public Funds Investment Act and the CAPCOG Investment Policy require that a quarterly investment report be prepared for the Executive Committee. This report is for the 4th quarter ending September 30, 2025. CAPCOG's investments are in the Texas Local Government Investment Pool (TexPool).

The beginning and end balances for each fund reflect the transactions supporting the operating needs of the organization and not the performance of the investments. CAPCOG's use of TexPool as our investment pool is to provide ready access to idle funds for operating purposes while still earning a market interest rate for short-term investments.

During the quarter the average market interest rate earned was approximately 4.43%.

Total interest earnings for the quarter were $551,903

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☒ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to a previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: **Silvia Alvarado, Director of Finance**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: N/A
Source of Funds: N/A

Is the item already included in the fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☐ No
If so, for what city/county/etc.?	N/A	

PROCUREMENT:
N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:
Accept the Quarterly Investment Report

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. Quarterly Investment Report (5 pages)

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED (*to be sent prior to meeting* or *will there be a handout at the meeting*)**:**
None

Capital Area Council of Governments

Quarterly Investment Report Summary
July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

All Investments are held in the Texas Local Government Investment Pool (TexPool)

	Book Value Beginning	Book Value Ending	Market Value Beginning	Market Value Ending	Interest Earnings
General Fund - Operating Fund	2,339,174.75	2,122,792.17	2,339,174.75	2,122,792.17	24,984.55
Solid Waste - TCEQ Grant Advances	331,890.27	2,152.19	331,890.27	2,152.19	2,261.92
Air Quality - Local Funds	66,372.05	67,092.46	66,372.05	67,092.46	720.41
CAECD 911 Funds	46,697,548.82	47,894,851.66	46,697,548.82	47,894,851.66	523,935.71
Total All Investments	49,434,985.89	50,086,888.48	49,434,985.89	50,086,888.48	551,902.59

Average Daily Balance	49,802,125.11	
Average Yield	4.433%	
At September 30, 2025:		
TexPool/Prime Average Weighted Average Maturity	44 days	51 days
TexPool/Prime Average Daily Net Yield	4.25%	4.36%
3-month & 6-Month US Treasury Bill Rate	3.94%	3.84%

TexPool's S&P Global Pool Rating is AAAm. The AAAm is the highest principal stability fund rating assigned by S&P Global. A fund rated AAAm demonstrates extremely strong capacity to maintain principal stability and to limit exposure to principal losses due to credit risk.

Book Value Equals Market Value because TexPool seeks to maintain a $1.00 value per share as required by the Texas Public Funds Investment Act.

This quarterly report has been prepared in compliance with the investment policy and strategy as established for the Capital Area Council of Governments and the Public Funds Investment Act (Chapter 2256, Government Code).

Prepared by:

Silvia Alvarado

Silvia Alvarado, CPA
Director of Finance
Investment Officer

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

General Fund

Quarterly Investment Report

July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

TexPool Investments	Interest	Net Transactions	Account Balance
Beginning Balance			2,339,174.75
July		(180,782.52)	2,158,392.23
Monthly interest	496.94		2,158,889.17
Monthly interest - Prime	8,358.83		2,167,248.00
August		179,215.34	2,346,463.34
Monthly interest	497.99		2,346,961.33
Monthly interest - Prime	8,032.79		2,354,994.12
September		(239,799.95)	2,115,194.17
Monthly interest	477.72		2,115,671.89
Monthly interest - Prime	7,120.28		2,122,792.17
Activity for the Quarter	24,984.55	(241,367.13)	
Ending Balance			2,122,792.17

Average Balance	July	2,356,450.65
	August	2,263,332.10
	September	2,123,307.40
Average Daily Balance for the Quarter		2,247,696.72
Average Annual Interest Rate		4.446%

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Solid Waste

Quarterly Investment Report

July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

TexPool Investments	Interest	Net Transactions	Account Balance
Beginning Balance			331,890.27
July		0.00	331,890.27
Monthly interest	1,245.76		333,136.03
August		(332,000.00)	1,136.03
Monthly interest	1,008.49		2,144.52
September		0.00	2,144.52
Monthly interest	7.67		2,152.19
Activity for the Quarter	2,261.92		
Ending Balance			2,152.19

Average Daily Balance	July	331,930.46
	August	268,975.56
	September	2,144.78
Average Daily Balance for the Quarter		201,016.93
Average Annual Interest Rate		4.501%

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Air Quality

Quarterly Investment Report

July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

TexPool Investments	Interest	Net Transactions	Account Balance
Beginning Balance			66,372.05
July		0.00	66,372.05
Monthly interest	243.09		66,615.14
August		0.00	66,615.14
Monthly interest	243.64		66,858.78
September		0.00	66,858.78
Monthly interest	233.68		67,092.46
Activity for the Quarter	720.41	0.00	
Ending Balance			67,092.46

Average Daily Balance	July	66,379.89
	August	66,638.72
	September	66,866.57
Average Daily Balance for the Quarter		66,628.39
Average Annual Interest Rate		4.325%

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CAECD 911 Fund

Quarterly Investment Report

July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

TexPool Investments	Interest	Net Transactions	Account Balance
Beginning Balance			46,697,548.82
July		680,782.52	47,378,331.34
Monthly interest	1,499.03		47,379,830.37
Monthly Interest - Prime	173,934.72		47,553,765.09
August		(47,215.34)	47,506,549.75
Monthly interest	1,502.14		47,508,051.89
Monthly interest - Prime	176,225.00		47,684,276.89
September		39,799.95	47,724,076.84
Monthly interest	1,440.93		47,725,517.77
Monthly interest - Prime	169,333.89		47,894,851.66
Activity for the Quarter	523,935.71	673,367.13	
Ending Balance			47,894,851.66

Average Balance	July	46,753,959.68
	August	47,404,480.15
	September	47,701,909.37
Average Daily Balance for the Quarter		47,286,783.07
Average Annual Interest Rate		4.432%

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **6. Consider Adoption of the 2026 CAPCOG Homeland Security Grant Program Regional Grant Review Process Guidance**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

Each year the Homeland Security staff and the Homeland Security Task Force review and revise the *CAPCOG Homeland Security Grant Program Regional Grant Review Process Guidance*. The Guidance is the framework for establishing Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) application priorities and applicant expectations.

This year's review and revisions to the Guidance reflect changes in the Homeland Security Grant Program requirements made by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Office of the Governor (OOG) Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD).

Prior to submission for Executive Committee review, the Guidance was vetted and approved by the Homeland Security Task Force during their November 6, 2025, meeting.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☒ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: **Martin Ritchey, Director, Homeland Security**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: N/A
Source of Funds: N/A

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☒ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? _____

PROCUREMENT: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider adoption of the *2026 CAPCOG Homeland Security Grant Program Regional Grant Review Process Guidance*

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. *2026 CAPCOG Regional Grant Review Process Guidance Summary of Changes*
2. *2026 SHSP Grant Worksheet*

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED (*to be sent prior to meeting* or *will be a handout at the meeting*)**:**

1. *2025 CAPCOG Homeland Security Grant Program Process Guidance*

2026 CAPCOG Regional Grant Review Process Guidance Summary of Changes

Overall:

- The grant year was changed from 2025 to 2026 throughout the document
- Substantive changes were made via track changes
- Formatting and grammatical changes were made throughout the document
- Added relevant acronyms and definitions
- Changed document footer to reflect grant year (will revise to reflect CAPCOG Executive Committee adoption date in final copy)

General Information (Section I)

- Clarified allocation approval by DHS and FEMA is required

Program Requirements (Section II):

- Added requirement for eligible applicants to participate in annual development of the CAPCOG THIRA, SPR, HSSP-IP, and IPP
- Updated National Priority Areas to reflect changes designated by DHS/FEMA, where applicable

Eligibility (section III):

- Updated language in various sections to reflect changes in OOG requirements
- Removed outdated TDEM preparedness level requirement and added TDEM contact link
- Added Cybersecurity Training Certification instructions to reflect changes by OOG

Project Submission and Approval Process (Section IV):

- Corrected name of CAPCOG HSTF Strategic Planning Framework
- Updated planned completion dates and deadlines, where applicable

Performance Period and Closeout (Section V):

- No changes

Capital Area Council of Governments
2026 SHSP Grant Worksheet

Please fill out completely

Incomplete worksheets will not be considered for prioritization

Jurisdiction: Click or tap here to enter text.	Agency / Department: Click or tap here to enter text.	Total Amount of Funding Requested: Click or tap here to enter text.	
Project Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	Grant Number: Click or tap here to enter text.	Was Project Identified in ☐ THIRA ☐ SPR ☐ HSSP-IP	LEPTA: ☐ Yes ☐ No

DHS/FEMA Investment Area [only one allowed]:

☐ Cyber Security ☐ Bprder Crisis Response & Enforcement ☐ Soft Targets/Crowded Places ☐ Election Security

☐ ☐ SHSP Task Forces & Fusion Centers ☐ Other _____

FEMA Core Capability/Capabilities [list all that apply]
Click or tap here to enter text.

Item/Equipment to be acquired:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Summary of Purpose [explanation for review committees]:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Summary of Need [explanation for review committees]:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Sustainment of a regional capability: ☐ Yes ☐ No	If yes, what regional capability? Click or tap here to enter text.	Is proposed project a continuation of a previous grant? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what year_____

Describe how proposed project meets regional needs:
Click or tap here to enter text.

If proposed grant project amount had to be reduced, does your request scale? ☐ Yes ☐ No	If yes, what changes can be made? Click or tap here to enter text.	Has Project been submitted for other grant: ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what grant(s): ☐ UASI ☐ Criminal Justice ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional information you wish to convey to reviewers:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Technical Contact: Click or tap here to enter text.	Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

STOP. DO NOT FILL IN ANY INFORMATION BELOW THIS LINE

FOR CAPCOG NOTES ONLY:

Assigned Review sub-committee:

☐ Meets Group 1 ☐ Meets Group 2 ☐ Meets Group 3

Notes:

This document is designated FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY and is confidential under §418.175 *et seq* of the Texas Government Code

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **7. National Family Caregiver Month**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:
Consider Adopting a Proclamation establishing November as National Family Caregivers Month.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☒ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to a previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: **Jennifer Scott, Director of AAA/ADRC**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: N/A
Source of Funds: 0

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☐ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? _____

PROCUREMENT: **No purchases required**
ACTION REQUESTED:
Consider Adopting a Proclamation, establishing November as National Family Caregiver month.

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:
If you have one back-up document, please list like this.

1. Proclamation – Family Caregiver month -November

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED (*to be sent prior to meeting* or *will be a handout at the meeting*)**:**
If you have one back-up document to be handed out at the meeting, please list like this.

1. If you have more than one back-up document, please number them.

A PROCLAMATION
AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

WHEREAS, the ten-county Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) is home to more than 304,841 citizens aged 60 years or older; and,

WHEREAS, In Texas, there are approximately 3.1 million family caregivers and their unpaid care is valued at $41 billion. In Texas, about one in five people are caregivers; and,

WHEREAS, Care recipients themselves are mostly older adults; nearly half are age 75 or older. Most older adults face multiple chronic health conditions. Common conditions include age-related decline, Alzheimer's or other dementias, mobility limitations, cancer, and post surgical recovery; and,

WHEREAS, 20 percent of caregivers live in rural areas , 24 percent of family caregivers support more than one care recipient.

WHEREAS, Cognitive issues are prevalent: 27 percent of caregivers report that their care recipient has Alzheimer's dementia, or another memory-related impairment. 28 percent of family caregivers have difficulty finding affordable care services for care recipients, like home health aides, transportation and meal delivery ; in rural areas that rate rises to 34 percent.

WHEREAS, One-third of caregivers have stopped saving money , and 24 percent have used up short-term savings. Others report taking on debt, delaying retirement or even facing housing instability.

WHEREAS, awareness of services and supports can help family caregivers understand what local resources are available to them to ease stressors and manage the significant role that family caregivers play in the state's healthcare system, providing invaluable support to individuals with various health conditions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Capital Area Council of Governments declares the month of November 2025 to be National Family Caregivers Month Awareness Month in the CAPCOG Region to bring awareness about the role that essential family caregivers play in caring for others.

Resolution adopted by the Capital Area Council of Governments Executive Committee on this 12th day of November, 2025.

Judge Brett Bray, Chair
Executive Committee
Capital Area Council of Governments

Mayor Pro Tem, Steve Hougen, Secretary
Executive Committee
Capital Area Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **8. Consider Approving CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025-2030**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

Every five years, CAPCOG develops a regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan as required under the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) contract. It serves as the foundation for identifying gaps in resources, regional needs, and regional priorities. The plan should also be used as a guide for the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) to make informed funding recommendations. The previous plan was developed during 2019 and early 2020, when public participation was limited to virtual engagement. For the 2025–2030 plan, CAPCOG strengthened its outreach by conducting an online survey, hosting in-person engagement sessions across the ten-county region and utilizing a CJAC subcommittee to provide ongoing guidance and feedback.

The plan fulfills all requirements established by the PSO, including a description of how local communities are engaged in the planning process, the data sources utilized to support the plan, the stakeholders who participated, and the identified gaps in resources across the region. It further details the criminal justice priorities and needs developed through the planning process and outlines how the CJAC will use the plan to inform its project prioritization and funding recommendations.

As part of this year's planning process, CAPCOG added a new component to the Strategic Plan, a dedicated set of Key Objectives and Implementation Strategies aligned with each of the five regional needs. While previous plans focused primarily on identifying needs, this year's plan goes a step further by offering actionable strategies and measurable objectives that can inform project development, funding decisions, and long-term planning.

The CJAC reviewed the proposed CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025- 2030 at its October 7th meeting and recommends approval.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☒ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to a previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services
Karina Trevino, Community Development Coordinator

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: $0
Source of Funds: NA

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☒ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? n/a

PROCUREMENT: NA

ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval of the proposed Criminal Justice strategic plan.

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025-2030

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS <u>NOT</u> ATTACHED:

NA

CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Plan 2025-2030

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Acknowledgements

Office of the Governor – Public Safety Office

The CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Plan was developed with support from the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO). CAPCOG is grateful for the PSO's guidance and funding, which enables regional collaboration and strategic planning to improve public safety system outcomes.

CAPCOG Region Stakeholders

CAPCOG thanks the many stakeholders across the 10-county region who contributed to the development of this plan. Through engagement sessions, surveys, and direct feedback, input was gathered from law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, mental health professionals, juvenile justice advocates, elected officials, educators, nonprofit organizations, and concerned residents. Their insights were critical in identifying regional needs, priorities, and opportunities for meaningful improvement in criminal justice services.

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)

The CJAC played a central role in guiding the development of the strategic plan. As a multidisciplinary body, the committee ensured that the plan reflects a broad spectrum of perspectives and up-to-date knowledge of the region's criminal justice landscape. CAPCOG staff worked closely with CJAC members throughout the planning process, incorporating their expertise to shape strategies and inform future funding decisions. We thank the following committee members for their commitment and service:

Jay Monkerud, Caldwell County
Latreese Cooke, Travis County
Chief Cory Burgess, City of Austin
Selena Xie, City of Austin
Jenifer Murphy, Bastrop County
Chief Robert Woodring, Blanco County
Captain Mike Sorenson, Burnet County
Erwin Sladek, Jr., Fayette County
Matthew Grantham, Hays County
Assistant Chief Bob Klett, Hays County
Judge Michael York, Lee County
Toby Fletcher, Llano Count
Lieutenant Joseph Claypool City of Round Rock
Juliana Guirguis, Travis County
Captain Thomas Szimanski, Travis County
Lieutenant Jerod Morris, Williamson County
Kathy Pierce, Williamson County
Dr. Eloise Sepeda, At- Large
Victoria Berry, At-Large

CAPCOG Staff

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Executive Summary

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) has developed this 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan to prioritize regional criminal justice needs, promote coordination, and guide funding efforts in partnership with the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO). This plan was created through a regional engagement process and reflects input from law enforcement, victim service providers, mental health professionals, juvenile justice representatives, and nonprofit organizations, etc. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to identify gaps in direct victim assistance, juvenile justice, truancy prevention, mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice issues. So, services, existing programs, new initiatives, and funding opportunities may be reviewed, and corresponding resources can be targeted accordingly.

Strategic Planning Process:

The strategic planning process began with the first CJAC subcommittee meeting in August 2024 where members reviewed the planning timeline and discussed key goals. On September 2024, CAPCOG staff presented the proposed planning framework to the CAPCOG Executive Committee, soliciting their input to ensure that the plan aligned with regional priorities. Shortly after CAPCOG distributed a comprehensive needs assessment survey to a mailing list of over 800 criminal justice stakeholders, representing a wide range of disciplines including law enforcement, judicial personnel, victim service providers, mental health professionals, juvenile justice practitioners, and community-based organizations. A total of 94 responses were received, providing valuable insights into service gaps, emerging challenges, and regional priorities.

Following the survey, CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) and Strategic Planning Subcommittee reviewed the results, refining and professionalizing the language of the identified needs and proposed strategies. In June 2025, CAPCOG hosted a series of regional stakeholder engagement sessions across the ten-county region to present the survey findings, gather additional input, and validate priority areas. These sessions ensured that a wide range of community voices contributed to shaping the region's criminal justice priorities.

This multi-step planning process—combining quantitative survey results with qualitative stakeholder input—ensured the final strategic priorities reflect both professional expertise and community perspective.

Top Five Regional Criminal Justice Needs:

The following top five needs were identified through extensive stakeholder engagement and survey feedback. These themes emerged across all ten counties and represent the top needs in the region:

1. Modernize and Strengthen the Criminal Justice System Infrastructure and capacity to enhance community safety.

2. Strengthen Youth Prevention and Intervention Programs.

3. Expand and enhance access to mental health and substance abuse services, with a focus on crisis intervention and treatment availability.

4. Enhance access to trauma-informed, culturally competent victim services across the region, with targeted support for mental health, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter.

5. Promote Diversion and Reentry Solutions.

Use of the Plan:

CAPCOG will use this Strategic Plan as a foundational tool to guide funding recommendations, policy development, and regional coordination efforts. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) will reference the regional priorities and regional needs outlined in the plan when scoring and ranking criminal justice grant applications to ensure alignment with regional needs. Beyond the grant process, the plan will inform CAPCOG's broader criminal justice initiatives, helping to focus technical assistance, promote collaboration across jurisdictions, and drive data-informed strategies to improve public safety and justice outcomes in the region.

Introduction and Purpose

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) is a regional planning organization serving ten counties in Central Texas: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson. Established in 1970 under Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code, CAPCOG is one of 24 regional councils across the state and part of a nationwide network of councils of governments (COGs) that support regional coordination and collaboration.

CAPCOG's mission is 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. It brings together elected officials, municipal and county governments, law enforcement, emergency responders, and nonprofit organizations to collaboratively address cross-jurisdictional issues such as emergency communications, homeland security, aging services, transportation planning, environmental protection, economic development, and criminal justice.

Through its Criminal Justice Program, CAPCOG supports the distribution of state and federal grant funding to eligible entities and facilitates regional planning to identify and prioritize criminal justice needs. CAPCOG's executive committee establishes the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), a volunteer committee composed of professionals representing key disciplines such as law enforcement, victim services, prosecution or courts, education, mental health, and juvenile justice. The CJAC plays a critical role in scoring and prioritizing funding applications.

By supporting interagency coordination and data-driven planning, CAPCOG helps ensure that resources are allocated effectively and that programs address the most pressing challenges in our communities. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to identify gaps in direct victim assistance, juvenile justice, truancy prevention, mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice issues. So, services, existing programs, new initiatives, and funding opportunities may be reviewed, and corresponding resources can be targeted accordingly. The Criminal Justice Strategic Plan is one of the key tools used by the CJAC and its partners to direct funding, shape policy, and promote public safety outcomes across the region.

Regional Profile

CAPCOG serves a 10-county region in Central Texas, encompassing Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson counties. This diverse area spans over 8,400 square miles and includes both rapidly growing urban centers and expansive rural communities.

As of the most recent U.S. Census estimates, the region is home to more than 2.4 million residents, with a majority concentrated in the metropolitan hubs of Travis and Williamson

counties. The area continues to experience significant population growth, placing increased demands on public safety, mental health, and victim services infrastructure.

The region faces a wide range of criminal justice challenges. Urban areas are contending with issues such as violent crime, domestic violence, and homelessness, while rural communities struggle with staffing shortages, aging facilities, and limited access to specialized services.

Key Demographic and Service Metrics by County

The table below presents a snapshot of key demographic and socioeconomic indicators across the ten counties in the CAPCOG region. It highlights variations in population, income levels, and poverty rates, offering insight into the diverse characteristics of communities throughout the region. This overview helps inform planning efforts and the allocation of resources across program areas.

Table 1: County-Level Demographic & Economic Snapshot

County	Major Cities	Population	Median Household Income 2019-2023	Poverty Rate
Bastrop	Bastrop, Elgin, Smithville	114,931	$82,730	11.3%
Blanco	Blanco, Johnson City	13,358	$87,564	8.5%
Burnet	Burnet, Marble Falls, Granite Shoals	55,722	$77,158	9.9%
Caldwell	Lockhart, Luling	52,430	$68,503	13.7%
Fayette	La Grange, Fayetteville, Schulenburg	25,488	$76,541	9.30%
Hays	San Marcos, Kyle, Buda, Wimberley	292,009	$85,827	9.80%
Lee	Giddings and Lexington	18,451	$66,000	11.20%
Llano	Llano, Kingsland, Horseshoe Bay	23,163	$65,636	11.70%
Travis	Austin, Pflugerville	1,363,767	$97,169	10.20%
Williamson	Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Taylor	727,480	$108,309	6.40%

Source: County-Level Demographic & Economic Snapshot (Most Recent Single-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts)

Strategic Planning Process:

The strategic planning process began with the first CJAC subcommittee meeting in August 2024 where members reviewed the planning timeline and discussed key goals. On September 2024,

CAPCOG staff presented the proposed planning framework to the CAPCOG Executive Committee, soliciting their input to ensure that the plan aligned with regional priorities. Shortly after, on September 16, 2024, CAPCOG launched its Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, which remained open through October 3, 2024. The survey was sent to over 800 regional stakeholders and received 94 responses. As the survey went out, we encouraged any respondent to forward or share the survey with any other agency or contact that was not included in the initial list sent out.

Following the survey period, the CJAC subcommittee reconvened May 2025 to analyze the survey data, review stakeholder feedback, and begin drafting the strategic plan. In June 2025, CAPCOG hosted regional stakeholder engagement workshops to further validate the findings and collect additional local input. The draft plan was finalized and presented to the full CJAC in August 2025, then submitted to the CAPCOG Executive Committee in September 2025 for approval.

Local Community Engagement

CAPCOG prioritized meaningful community input throughout the planning process. In addition to collecting feedback through the survey, CAPCOG hosted in-person regional engagement workshops in June 2025. These workshops provided an open forum for community members to review survey findings, highlight local concerns, and help shape the region's priorities. The workshops were intentionally spread across the 10-county region to ensure representation from both urban and rural communities and helped ensure the strategic plan reflects the voices of those most impacted by the criminal justice system.

Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholder engagement was a key component of the planning process. Participants included representatives from:

Table 2: Stakeholder Organizations Participating in Strategic Planning

Alliance for Safety and Justice	Meridell Achievement Center
American Youthworks	NAMI Central Texas
Bastrop County Women's Shelter dba Family Crisis Center	On-Point Re-Entry Consortium, Inc
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas	Round Rock Police Department
Bluebonnet Trails Community Service	SAFE Alliance
Burnet County	San Marcos Police Department
Burnet County Office of Emergency Management	Schulenburg Police Department
Burnet County Sheriff's Office	Seedling Foundation
Caldwell County Constables Office	Texas State University - Translational Health Research Center
Capital Area Private Defender Service	The Settlement Home for Children
Children's Advocacy Center	The Sobering Center
Hays County Sheriff's Office	Travis County
Hays-Caldwell Women's Center	Travis County, Pct 3

Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center	Volunteer Legal Service of Texas
Hutto ISD Police Department	Williamson County
Leander Police Department	Williamson County Crisis Center dba Hope Alliance
Luling Police Department	Williamson County Juvenile Services
Manor ISD	Williamson County Sheriff's Office
Marble Falls Police Department	Yellow House Foundation

Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Planning Records, 2024–2025

These stakeholders contributed valuable insight into service gaps, emerging issues, and opportunities for improvement across the region. Their active participation in surveys, workshops, and subcommittee discussions ensured that the strategic plan was informed by a wide range of professional expertise and community experience.

Methodology

Planning and Methodology

CAPCOG employed a multi-method approach to develop a data-driven and responsive Criminal Justice Strategic Plan. This process integrated quantitative and qualitative data to ensure a comprehensive understanding of regional needs and priorities. Guidance from the Office of the Governor helped align the plan with statewide funding expectations.

Data Collection and Needs Assessment

To accurately assess criminal justice needs across the 10-county region, CAPCOG used the following data sources and engagement strategies:

- Regional Needs and Priorities Survey: Distributed to over 800 stakeholders in September 2024, with 94 responses from law enforcement, courts, victim services, mental health providers, juvenile justice professionals, and nonprofits. The survey identified critical service gaps and emerging priorities.
- Publicly Available Data: CAPCOG reviewed crime trends, juvenile justice metrics, and staffing statistics from sources including the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Texas Health and Human Services, Texas Education Agency and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.
- Stakeholder Engagement Sessions: In June 2025, CAPCOG held in-person sessions in all 10 counties to capture community-specific perspectives and challenges not fully reflected in survey data or state reporting.
- CJAC and Subcommittee Review: Members of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and its Strategic Planning Subcommittee analyzed all findings, refined priority language, and ensured the plan’s alignment with local experience and policy considerations.

Defining Regional Priorities and Gaps

To build a focused and actionable strategic plan, CAPCOG needed a clear method for interpreting the wide range of input gathered through surveys, workshops, and regional data. Defining what constitutes a service gap or a regional priority ensures consistency across counties and stakeholder groups and helps distinguish between unmet needs and areas requiring strategic investment. These definitions were applied throughout the planning process to identify where resources are lacking and where efforts should be concentrated over the next five years.

- Gap in Services: A program or resource that is unavailable, inaccessible, or insufficient to meet community needs—due to funding, staffing, geographic limitations, or capacity issues.
- Regional Priority: An issue stakeholders identified as urgent or impactful, warranting targeted investment or strategic action, even if some services are already in place.

This framework ensured that both immediate and systemic needs were clearly identified and addressed.

Regional Priorities and service gaps were identified based on:

- Direct stakeholder input
- Severity of service insufficiencies
- Impact on vulnerable or underserved populations
- Alignment with CJAC criteria and PSO priorities
- Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Data

This blended methodology ensures the final plan reflects both statistical evidence and local realities creating a foundation that is aligned with regional and state-level goals.

Criminal Justice

Figure 1: Snapshot of Criminal Justice Infrastructure in CAPCOG

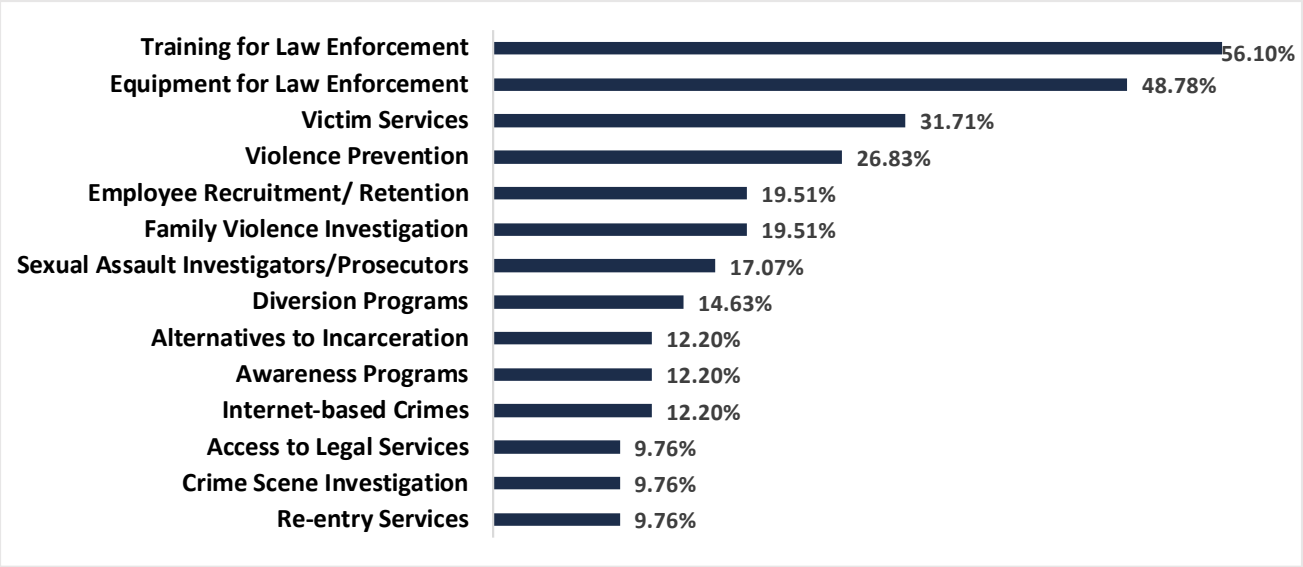
Source: Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Public Licensee Database Search.

The CAPCOG region's criminal justice system includes law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors, public defenders, jails, probation departments, and local nonprofits that support justice-involved individuals. The CAPCOG region is home to 184 law enforcement agencies, 12,456 licensed Police Officers and 13 Basic Police Officer Academies. As regional population growth continues, justice system agencies face mounting pressures related to staffing, equipment, and rising caseloads. Urban counties are

experiencing increases in violent crime, property offenses, and homelessness, while rural areas struggle with aging infrastructure, limited access to services, and persistent workforce shortages. This section outlines the most urgent criminal justice priorities identified through stakeholder engagement, regional surveys, and data analysis.

When asked to select top criminal justice priorities, the majority of survey respondents identified law enforcement training (56%), and equipment needs (49%) as their most urgent concerns. Victim services (32%), violence prevention (27%), and employee recruitment and retention (20%) were also cited as critical focus areas.

Figure 2: Criminal Justice Regional Priorities Identified by Stakeholders

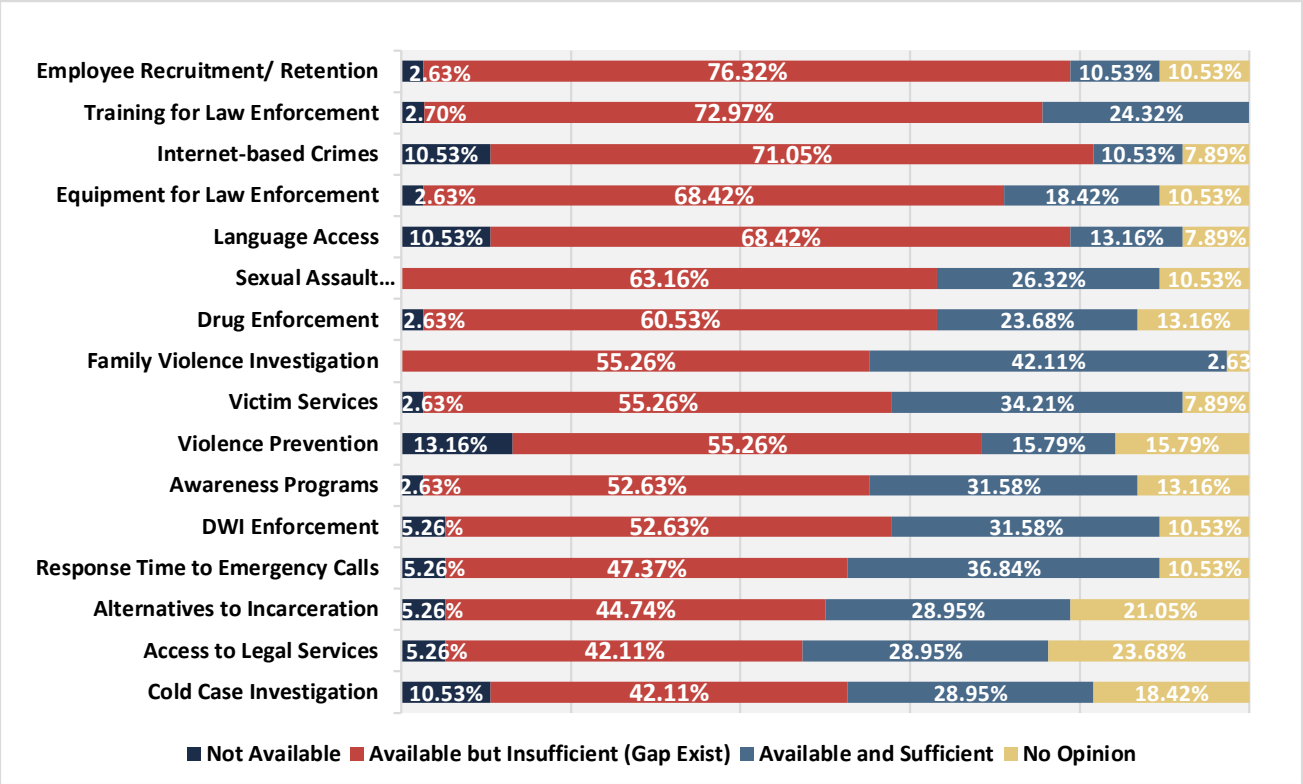


Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Law enforcement agencies across the CAPCOG region consistently identify training as a critical need, particularly in rural and mid-sized jurisdictions with limited resources. Feedback from the regional engagement sessions further emphasized these concerns. Many departments rely on online or lecture-based instruction due to staffing shortages, small force sizes, and the logistical challenges of taking officers off patrol. This limits access to hands-on, scenario-based training, which officers say is essential for effectively responding to high-stress situations, especially those involving mental health crises. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training remains a top priority, yet access is inconsistent across the region. Additionally, the region's growing diversity highlights the importance of language access and cultural competency training including both basic Spanish and broader communication skills to support effective engagement with all members of the community. Some agencies shared that officers would benefit from additional training opportunities focused on building rapport, navigating language barriers, and fostering positive interactions with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

These priorities were reinforced by regional survey responses, which revealed that while many justice-related services are available in some form, they are often inadequate to meet local demand by creating a gap in services. The most prominent gap identified was employee recruitment and retention, with over 76% of respondents reporting insufficient availability. Other frequently cited gaps included law enforcement training (72.97%), enforcement of internet-based crimes (71.05%), and language access (68.42%).

Figure 3: Gaps in Criminal Justice Services Identified by Stakeholders



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Recruitment and retention of qualified personnel remain pressing challenges for many criminal justice agencies across the CAPCOG region. Stakeholders noted that competitive salaries, high workloads, and limited advancement opportunities often contribute to staff turnover, particularly in rural and smaller jurisdictions. Many agencies are also experiencing difficulties attracting new candidates, especially for specialized roles such as certified mental health officers. In addition, the mental and emotional toll of the work especially on first responders regularly exposed to trauma and crisis situations was frequently cited as a key factor affecting long-term retention. These staffing gaps can affect service delivery and increase strain on existing personnel. Regional stakeholders emphasized the importance of workforce development strategies, including mentorship programs, continuing education, wellness initiatives, and stronger pipelines from local training academies and educational institutions.

In addition to addressing workforce challenges, stakeholders emphasized the critical role that equipment plays in supporting effective law enforcement. When asked to identify the most essential pieces of law enforcement equipment in their communities, survey respondents consistently prioritized tools that enhance officer safety, transparency, and communication.

Table 3: Most Essential Law Enforcement Equipment Identified by Respondents

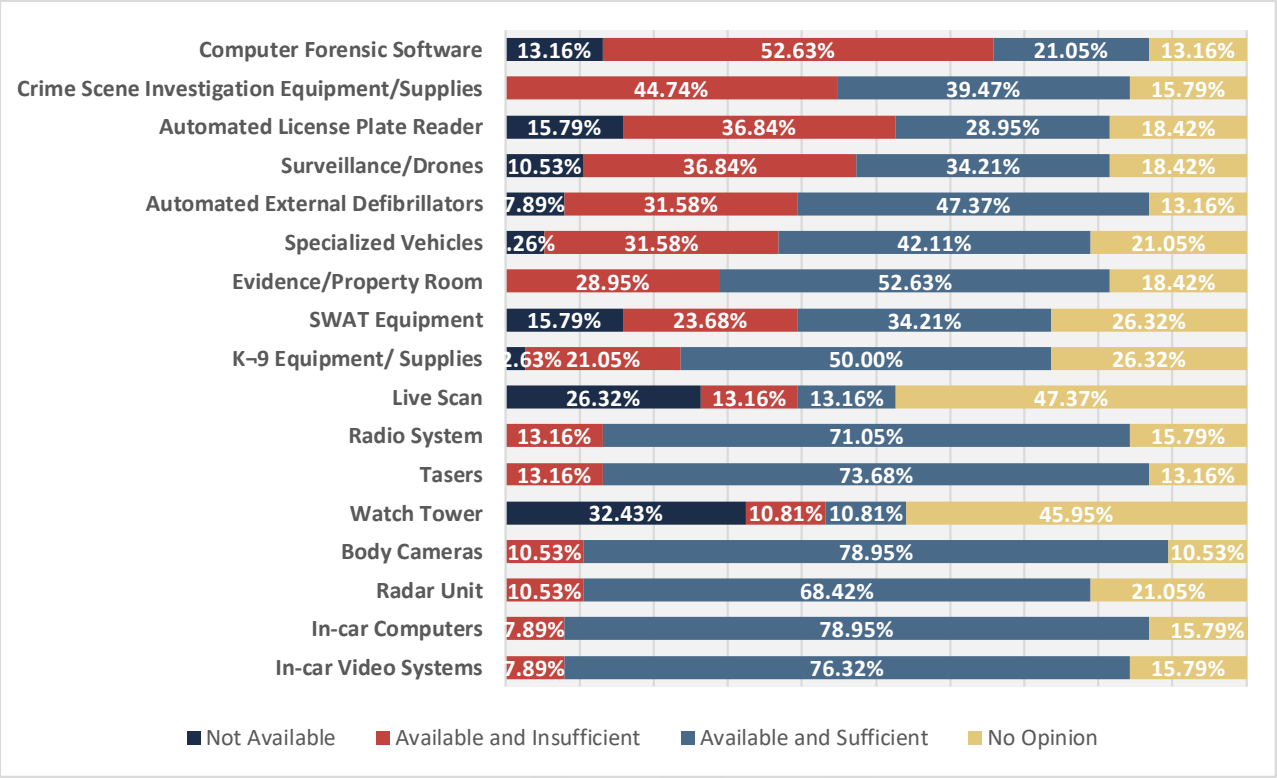
Rank	Equipment	% of Respondents Rating as "Very Important"
1	Body Cameras	89.74%
2	In-car Video Systems	84.21%
3	In-car Computers	81.58%
4	Radio System	81.58%
5	Crime Scene Investigation Equipment/Supplies	76.92%
6	Computer Forensic Software	74.36%
7	Evidence/Property Room Equipment	68.42%
8	Tasers	65.79%
9	Automated License Plate Reader	57.89%
10	Automated External Defibrillators	57.89%
11	SWAT Equipment	55.26%
12	Radar Unit	52.63%
13	Surveillance/Drones	52.63%
14	Live Scan Fingerprint Systems	44.74%
15	Specialized Vehicles	44.74%
16	K-9 Equipment/Supplies	34.21%

Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Survey results revealed that body-worn cameras (89.74%), in-car video systems (84.21%), and in-car computers and radios (both 81.58%) were most frequently identified as "Very Important" to respondents' communities. While many departments are committed to serving their communities with the resources they have, other departments continue to face barriers to acquiring modern equipment. Feedback from the regional engagement sessions further emphasized these concerns. Rural communities expressed a need for basic infrastructure such as patrol vehicles, radio systems, protective vests, and data-sharing systems. While urban communities expressed interest in equipment for training, such as virtual reality equipment for scenario-based training.

Because equipment is frequently requested through Criminal Justice Program funding, the survey asked communities to identify their most significant equipment gaps. This focus is further supported by survey responses visualized in **Figure 5**, which highlight clear equipment needs across the region. Many essential tools including forensic software and crime scene investigation equipment were widely reported as available but insufficient. These findings underscore the need for targeted investments in investigative and operational equipment to enhance public safety and support agency effectiveness.

Figure 5: Equipment Availability and Gaps in Law Enforcement



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Strengthening law enforcement capacity remains a critical need across the CAPCOG region. However, to fully understand the region's criminal justice challenges, it is essential to also consider the types of crimes occurring and the services available for impacted communities.

Table 4: Five-Year Crime Volume by Offense in the CAPCOG Region (2020–2024)

Five-Year Crime Volume by Offense in the CAPCOG Region						
Offenses	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change from 2020 to 2024
Murder	78	123	120	96	90	15%
Rape	1,039	1,208	1,240	1,160	1,353	30%
Robbery	1,435	1,242	1,245	1,235	1,097	-24%
Aggravated Assault	4,909	5,533	6,098	5,758	5,314	8%
Violent Crime Total	7,461	8,106	8,703	8,249	7,854	5%
Burglary	8,168	7,542	7,620	7,876	7,578	-7%
Larceny-Theft	41,524	38,957	40,434	36,581	37,785	-9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	5,815	6,453	7,444	9,769	8,620	48%
Property Crime Total	55,507	52,952	55,498	54,226	53,983	-3%

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas Reports (2020–2024)

As shown in **Table 4: Five-Year Crime Volume by Offense in the CAPCOG Region**, violent crime increased by 5% between 2020 and 2024 specifically in the larger counties of Travis and Williamson, driven largely by a 30% rise in reported rapes and an 8% increase in aggravated assaults. While property crime declined slightly overall (–3%), this trend masks important shifts: motor vehicle theft rose sharply by 48%, while burglary and larceny-theft declined by 7% and 9%, respectively. Robbery showed the greatest decrease among violent offenses, falling by 24% during the same period.

When asked to rank components of their local criminal justice system, respondents reported that reentry services, language access, and case disposition efficiency were among the least effective areas. Conversely, community visibility of law enforcement and crime response times were rated more favorably, with over half of respondents (53.85%) ranking community visibility as the most effective component.

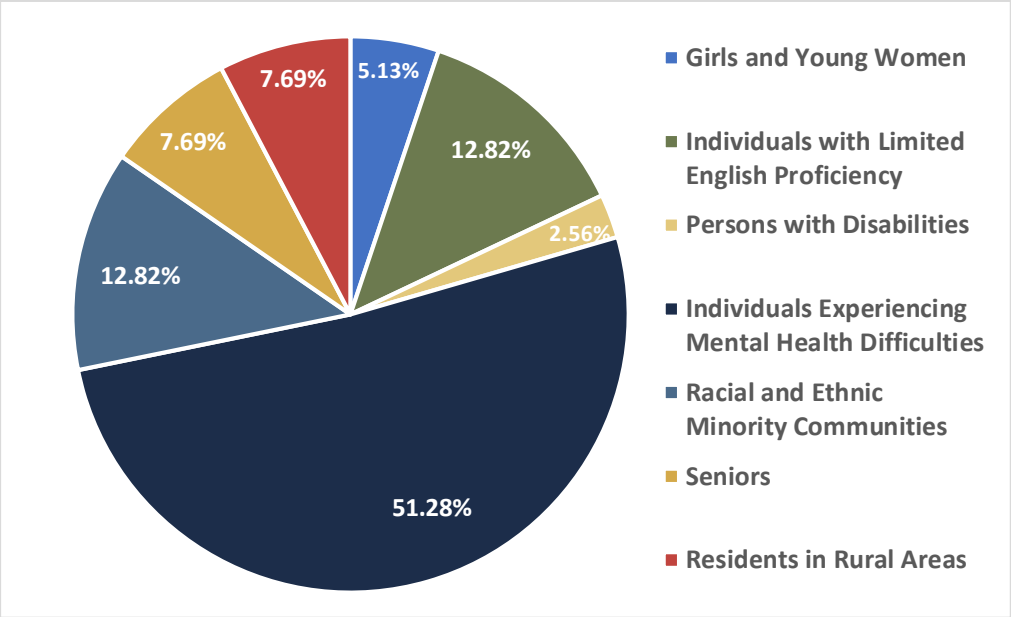
Table 5: Criminal Justice Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"

Criminal Justice Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"
1. Re-entry Services (33.33%)
2. Language Access (23.08%)
3. Prosecution/Case Disposition (21.05%)
4. Technology (5.13%)
5. Responding to Crime (5.13%)
6. Courts (5.13%)
7. Community Visibility (2.56%)
8. Reducing Crime (2.56%)

Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Survey respondents were asked to indicate underserved populations in the criminal justice system. A majority of respondents (51%) indicated that individuals experiencing mental health challenges were among the most underserved in the region. Other groups commonly noted included individuals with limited English proficiency and racial or ethnic minority populations. Respondents cited barriers such as service availability, communication, and access to support resources. The overlap between these population groups and the lower-rated system components suggests areas where targeted efforts could strengthen equitable service delivery across the region.

Figure 6: Underserved Populations in the Criminal Justice System



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Addressing these challenges will require a collaborative, region-wide approach that supports local capacity, invests in needed resources, and helps sustain a strong criminal justice workforce. Expanding access to training, equipment, and reentry support can help communities meet growing demands while continuing to prioritize safety and service. By working together, agencies and partners across the region can build on existing efforts and identify practical solutions that reflect local needs and priorities.

Juvenile Justice:

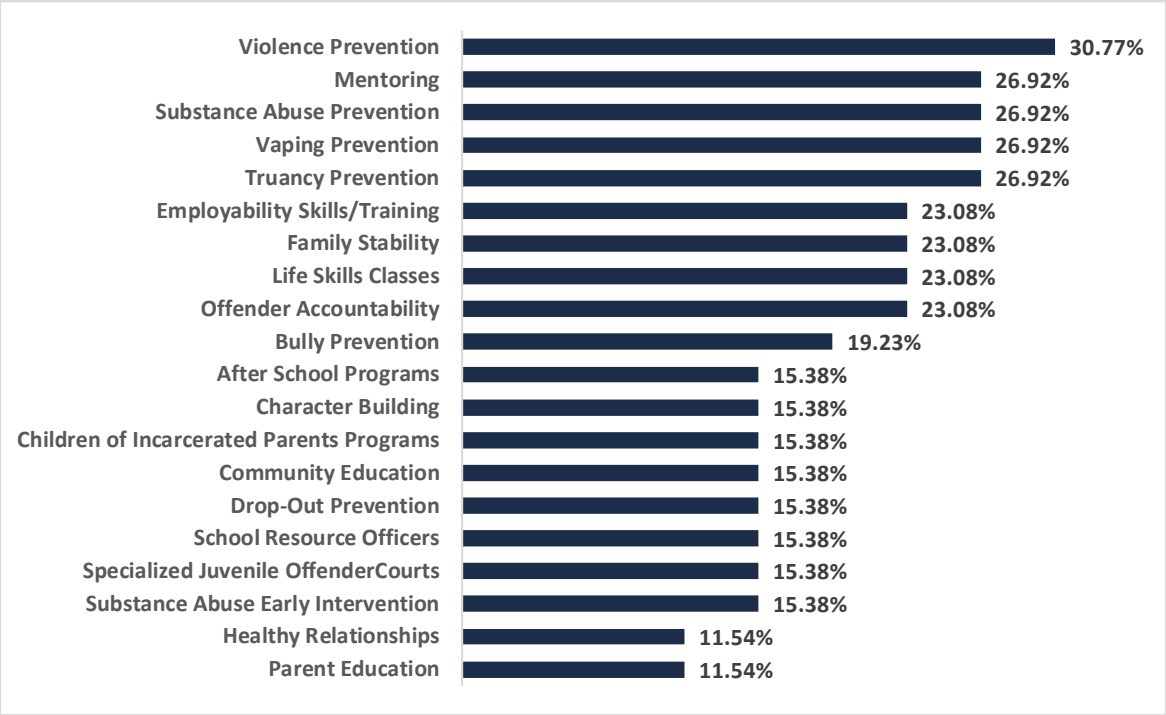
The CAPCOG region is home to an estimated 568,371 youth under the age of 18, representing approximately 21.15% of the total population across its ten counties. The juvenile justice system plays a vital role in shaping long-term outcomes for youth across the CAPCOG region. Ensuring that young people have access to early intervention, accountability, and supportive services is essential to prevent deeper involvement and build safer, healthier communities. As juvenile crime trends shift and behavioral health needs rise, the programs and policies that serve youth must adapt accordingly.

Source: Texas Education Agency. adste: Ad hoc state reporting.

This section of the strategic plan explores the current needs, service gaps, and regional priorities identified by stakeholders in education, juvenile probation, law enforcement, and youth-serving organizations. Their insights reflect a regional commitment to moving beyond reactive approaches and investing in prevention, rehabilitation, and community-based supports that promote positive youth development.

In the 2024 Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, stakeholders were asked to identify which juvenile justice services should be priorities for the CAPCOG region. The top responses reflected a strong emphasis on both prevention and early intervention. Violence prevention emerged as the highest priority by respondents (30.77%), followed closely by mentoring, truancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, and vaping prevention (each at 26.92%).

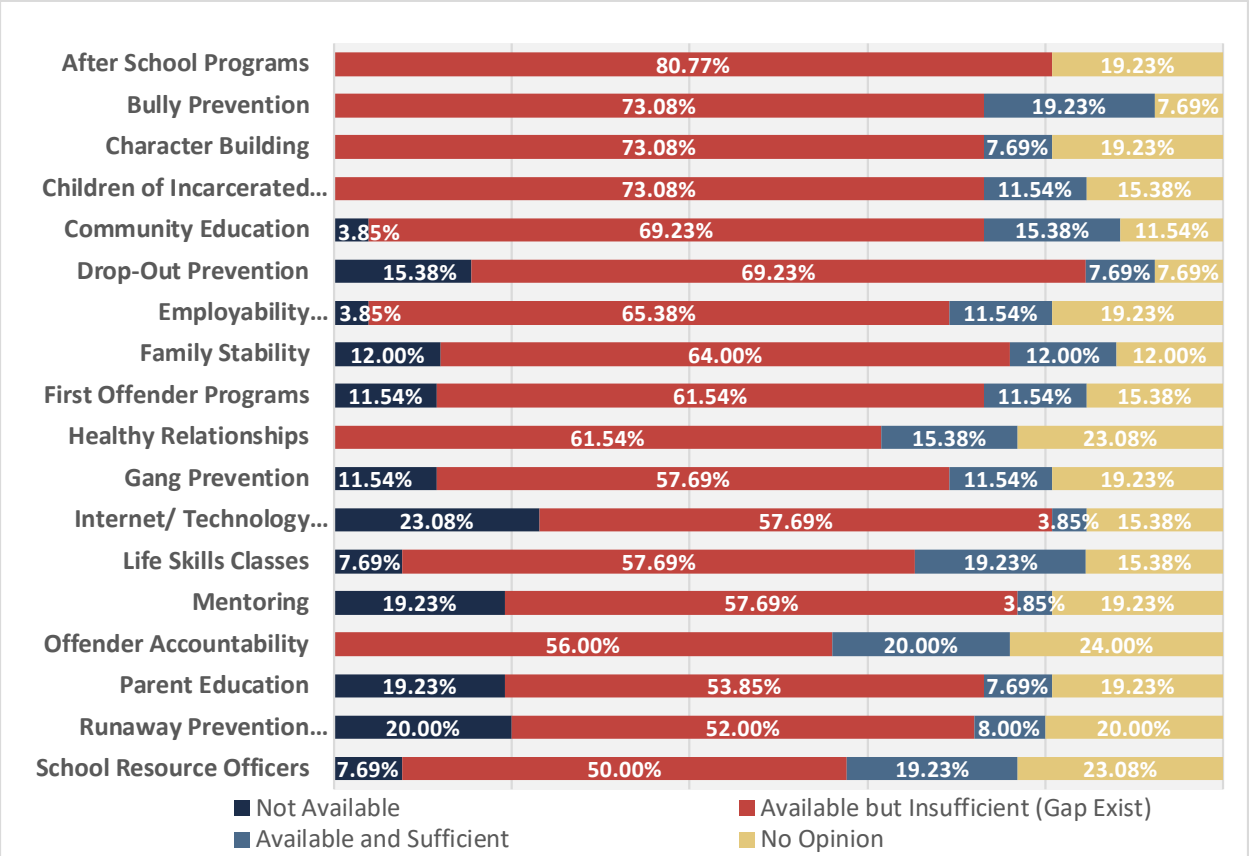
Figure 7: Juvenile Justice Regional Priorities Identified by Stakeholders



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

The survey also asked participants to assess the availability and sufficiency of juvenile justice resources. Most programs, including after school programs, first offender initiatives, and offender accountability programs—were rated as either unavailable or available but insufficient. For instance, 80.77 % of respondents stated that after school programs were insufficient, along with Bully Prevention, Character building course, and Children of incarcerated parent programs all at 73.08%.

Figure 8: Gaps in Juvenile Justice Services Identified by Stakeholders



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

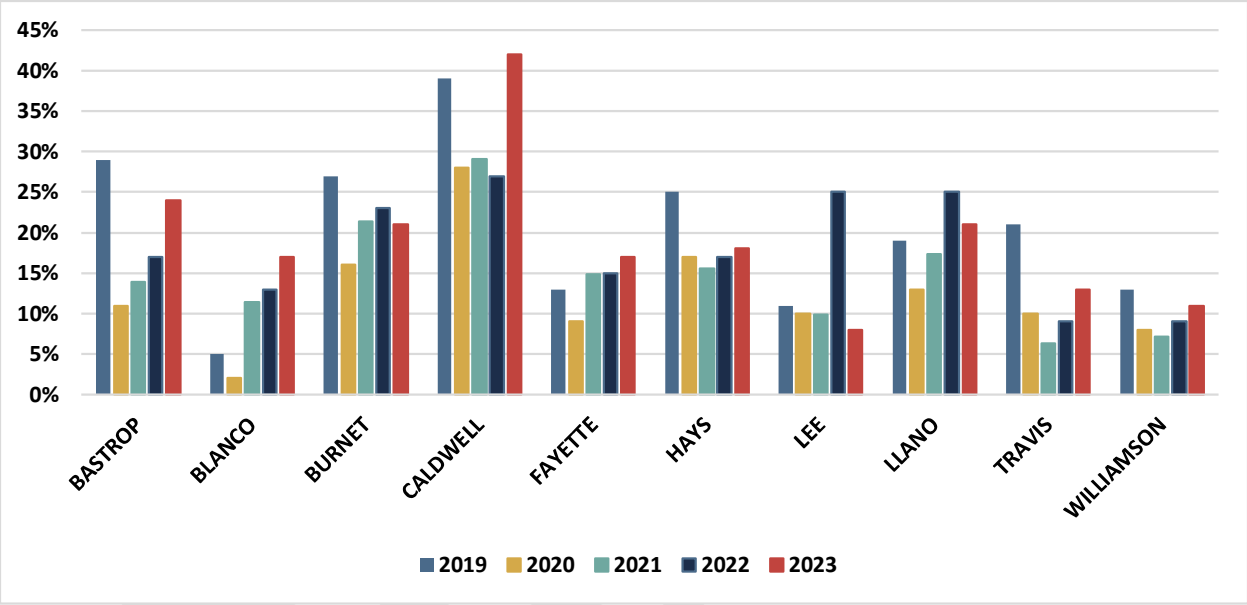
These responses reflect a strong regional demand for early intervention programs that address the root causes of juvenile delinquency and promote positive youth development. Additionally, there was significant support for services that strengthen family stability and provide youth with essential life skills both of which are critical for long-term success and reducing recidivism. Several counties, particularly in rural areas, noted limited access to formal juvenile programming, making it more difficult for schools and law enforcement to connect youth with timely support. During stakeholder engagement sessions, participants frequently pointed to the need for more after-school programs, mentoring opportunities, and truancy prevention efforts. Truancy prevention, in particular, was consistently identified across nearly every county as a top priority and a key area for investment.

These gaps are especially significant when considering the role of schools in early intervention. The region is served by 67 independent school districts, each with varying levels of access to school-based prevention, counseling, and intervention services. Throughout the engagement process, stakeholders emphasized that schools are often the first to identify at-risk youth, but they may lack the resources or partnerships needed to respond effectively. Strengthening

coordination between the juvenile justice system and local ISDs is essential to addressing truancy, behavioral health needs, and early warning indicators for justice involvement.

To better understand the scope of youth justice involvement across the CAPCOG region, **Figure 9** presents five years of juvenile referral rate data by county. A juvenile referral is the formal process by which a youth is referred to a juvenile probation department following an offense such as a misdemeanor, felony, or a status offense like truancy. These referrals are a key indicator of system involvement and are often used to measure trends in youth behavior, service demand, and justice system performance.

Figure 9: Juvenile Justice Referral Rates by County



Source: Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Statistical Reports: Fiscal Years 2019–2023.

As shown in **Figure 9**, referral rates vary widely across the region and over time. Caldwell County reported the highest rates across multiple years, reaching over 40% in 2023. Bastrop, Burnet, Hays, and Llano counties also showed consistently elevated referral rates, while Travis and Williamson counties, despite their larger populations, reported significantly lower rates. These disparities highlight not only differing levels of youth system contact, but also differences in local resources, enforcement practices, and access to early intervention programs.

A follow-up ranking question also revealed specific concerns about transitional services for older foster youth, juvenile victims of crime, and reentry services for youth exiting detention areas that were consistently ranked as the weakest components of local juvenile justice systems. These gaps indicate that many communities lack the resources and continuity of care needed to support successful reintegration and long-term stability. Strengthening these transitional services is critical to reducing recidivism and ensuring that justice-involved youth are not left without support at key turning points in their development.

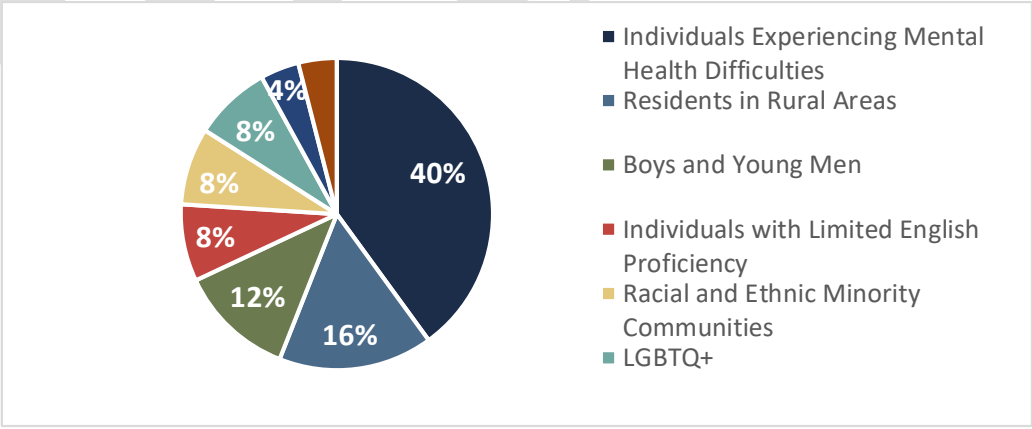
Table 6: Juvenile Justice Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"

Juvenile Justice Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"
1. Transitional Living Services for Older Foster Youth ages 14 up to 23 (39.13%)
2. Reentry Services for Juveniles After Incarceration (17.39%)
3. Prevention Programs for Juveniles (13.04%)
4. Training for Professionals (8.70%)
5. Treatment Programs for Juveniles (4.35%)
6. Children of Incarcerated Parents (4.35%)
7. Juvenile Court System (4.35%)
8. Parental Involvement/Education (4.35%)
9. Preventing Illegal Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs (4.17%)

Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

When asked which youth populations were most underserved, the highest response by 40% pointed to youth experiencing mental health difficulties, followed by residents in rural areas (16%). This highlights a critical intersection between the juvenile justice and mental health systems, and underscores the challenges faced by geographically isolated communities in accessing youth-specific services. Limited behavioral health resources, long travel distances, and workforce shortages in rural areas often leave vulnerable youth without timely intervention further increasing their risk of system involvement.

Figure 10: Underserved Populations in the Juvenile Justice System



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Overall, the data illustrates a strong regional consensus: CAPCOG counties need more accessible, coordinated, and trauma-informed juvenile justice services particularly in the areas of prevention, behavioral health, and reentry support. While many juvenile justice programs

are present in the region, they are often stretched thin and unable to meet the full scope of need. Communities are not lacking services entirely they are under-resourced. Addressing these gaps will require both expanding existing programs and building the infrastructure needed to deliver consistent, high-quality support to at-risk youth across all counties.

Victim Services:

Victim services are a vital component of the criminal justice system, providing support, safety, and advocacy for individuals impacted by crime. Across the CAPCOG region's ten counties, stakeholders emphasized the importance of ensuring that all victims regardless of location, language, or background have timely access to trauma-informed care, shelter, legal assistance, and emotional support. The region includes a diverse mix of urban and rural communities, each with distinct service availability and challenges. While urban counties benefit from more established victim service networks, rural areas frequently face gaps in access, staffing shortages, and limited shelter capacity.

According to Department of Public Safety state-mandated reporting, nearly 19,400 victims of family violence, sexual assault, and hate crimes were identified across the CAPCOG region in 2024 , a 30% increase since 2020. Family violence remains the most reported offense, while sexual assault cases have increased by 54%, and hate crimes have more than doubled over the five-year period. These trends reflect both rising victimization and improved reporting, underscoring the critical need for accessible, trauma-informed services across the region.

Table 7: Five- Year CAPCOG Regional Crime Overview: Special State-Tracked Offenses

Five- Year CAPCOG Regional Crime Overview: Special State-Tracked Offenses						
Offenses	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change from 2020 to 2024
Family Violence	13,600	15,557	15,354	16,997	17,392	28%
Hate Crimes	57	75	99	101	123	116%
Sexual Assault	1,216	1,354	1,389	1,284	1,876	54%
State Mandated Reporting Total	14,873	16,986	16,842	18,382	19,391	30%

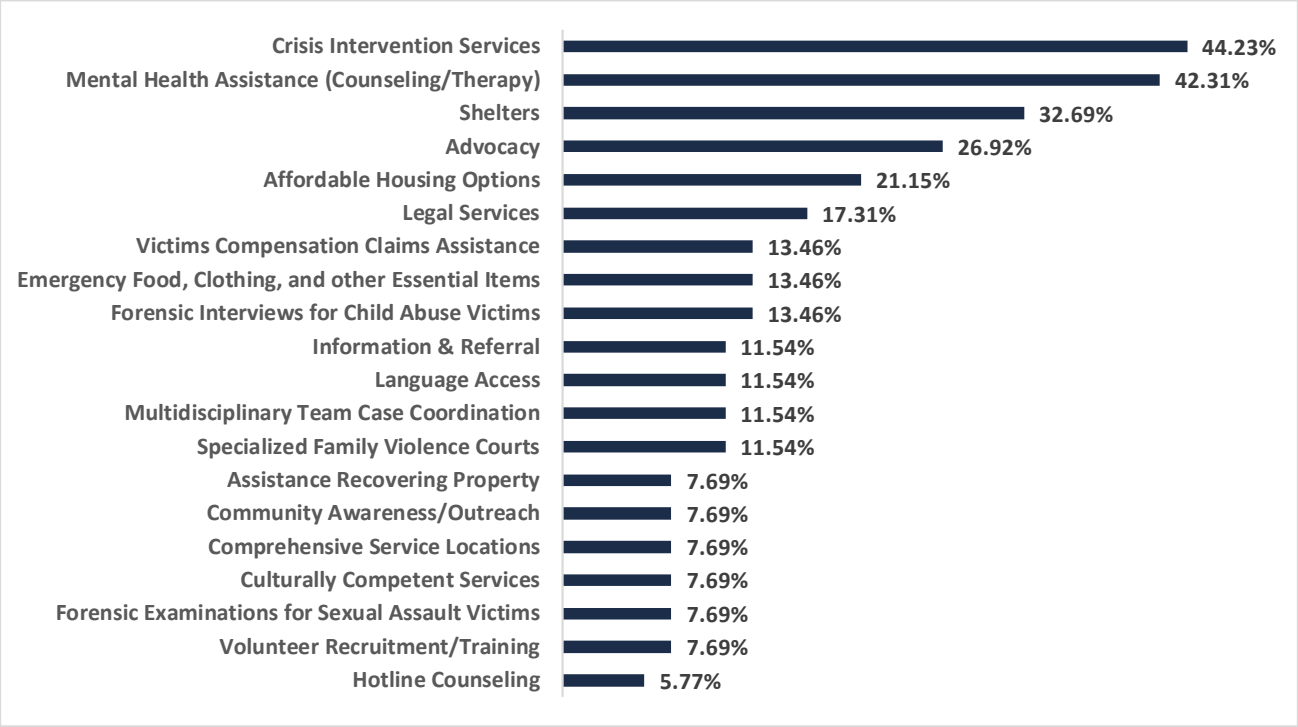
Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas Reports (2020–2024)

Stakeholder feedback and survey results revealed a strong regional commitment to improving victim-centered approaches, enhancing interagency coordination, and expanding culturally and linguistically appropriate services. As the region continues to grow, so does the demand for more comprehensive and accessible victim support systems especially for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other violent crimes. This section outlines key service gaps, emerging needs, and regional priorities that aim to strengthen the safety net for victims across the region.

Victim service providers across the CAPCOG region consistently identified critical gaps in crisis response, housing, and mental health support for individuals impacted by crime. Stakeholders

emphasized the need for expanded access to trauma-informed services, wraparound care, and coordinated response systems that prioritize survivor safety and long-term recovery. In regional surveys, the most frequently cited service needs included crisis intervention (44.23%), mental health assistance and counseling (42.31%), and emergency shelter (32.69%). Additional priorities included access to advocacy, affordable housing, and legal services—highlighting the complex and interconnected challenges victims often face when navigating the aftermath of violence.

Figure 11: Victim Service Regional Priorities Identified by Stakeholders



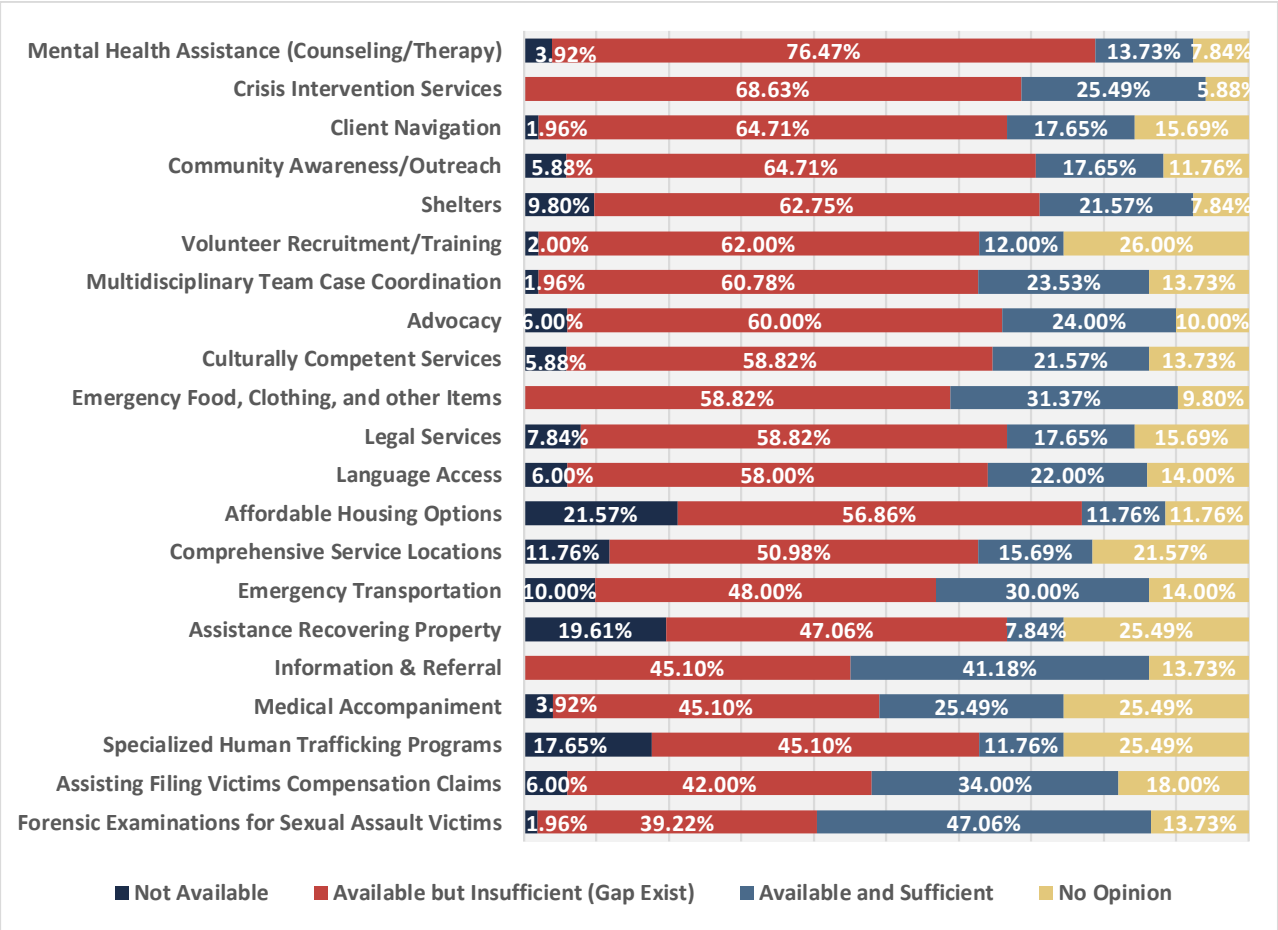
Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Crisis intervention services and access to mental health counseling were consistently ranked among the highest priorities by stakeholders across the CAPCOG region. These services serve as a vital first response following traumatic events, helping individuals stabilize, create safety plans, and begin processing their experiences. For victims of crime—particularly survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking—timely crisis intervention is essential. It not only provides immediate emotional and psychological support but also connects victims to ongoing services such as legal advocacy, housing, and case management. Gaps in crisis response were reported in nearly every county, with rural areas facing especially limited availability, highlighting the urgent need for expanded capacity and coordination in victim services.

Despite the clear need for these services, many respondents reported significant gaps in availability. A significant number of respondents indicated that these services Counseling and

Crisis Intervention services are either not available or available but insufficient in their communities.

Figure 12: Gaps in Victim Services Identified by Stakeholders



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

However, providers noted significant disparities in availability, particularly in rural counties where few agencies have the staffing or infrastructure to offer 24/7 response. Mental health counseling, while essential to long-term recovery, is often limited by funding constraints, waitlists, and a shortage of licensed professionals trained in trauma-informed care. During engagement sessions, participants stressed the importance of expanding crisis response capacity and ongoing therapeutic services tailored to the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other violent crimes. Addressing these gaps is crucial to ensuring that survivors not only find immediate safety but also receive the emotional and psychological support needed to heal and rebuild their lives.

Currently, the CAPCOG region is home to five 24-hour emergency shelters that serve individuals and families fleeing domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

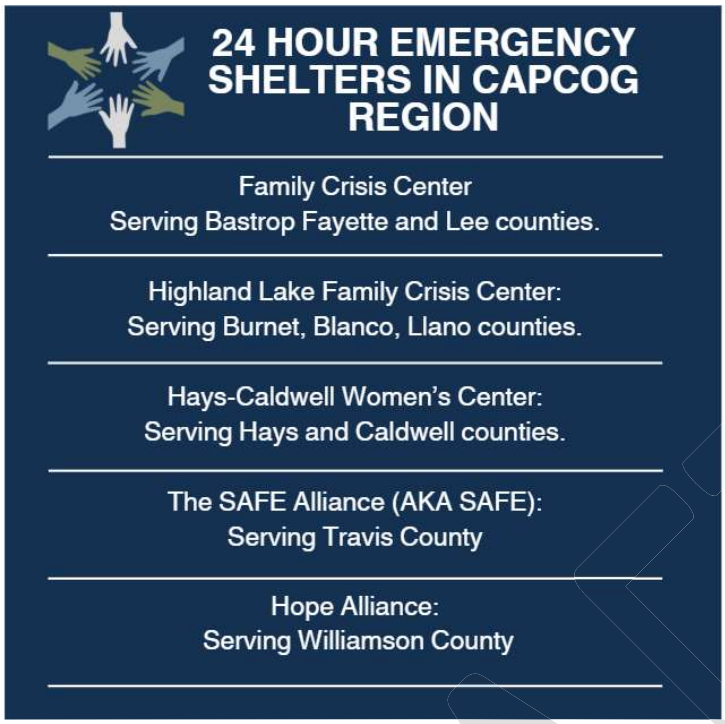


Figure 13: 24 Hour Emergency Shelter in CAPCOG Region

Source: Texas Council on Family Violence. 2024 Annual Report.

These shelters provide critical services including safe housing, crisis counseling, case management, and safety planning. Some of the issues shelters are facing include limited capacity, staff shortages, and high demand. These challenges can delay or restrict access to immediate safety and support. Waitlists, geographic distance, and transportation barriers further complicate access, especially for those in isolated areas.

During stakeholder engagement sessions, participants further emphasized the systemic challenges survivors face when seeking comprehensive care, particularly in rural counties. One major concern was the limited availability of certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). In several parts of the region, survivors must wait hours in emergency rooms for a SANE provider to arrive from another county, delaying crucial forensic exams and trauma-informed medical care. These delays not only increase emotional distress for survivors but can also impact on the quality of evidence collection and the pursuit of justice.

In addition, transportation barriers were repeatedly identified as a significant obstacle. In many communities, especially outside urban centers, victims often lack access to safe, reliable transportation to reach shelters, medical services, law enforcement, or court appointments. In some cases, law enforcement officers themselves are transporting victims' long distances for services, placing additional strain on already limited resources. These gaps highlight the urgent need for regionally coordinated transportation solutions, expanded SANE coverage, and investments in victim-centered infrastructure that ensure timely, compassionate support for all survivors—regardless of where they live.

When evaluating how well their communities respond to victims, respondents ranked assisting victims in stabilizing their lives as areas needing the most improvement. While many communities have basic crisis response infrastructure, long-term recovery and system navigation remain major challenges for victims.

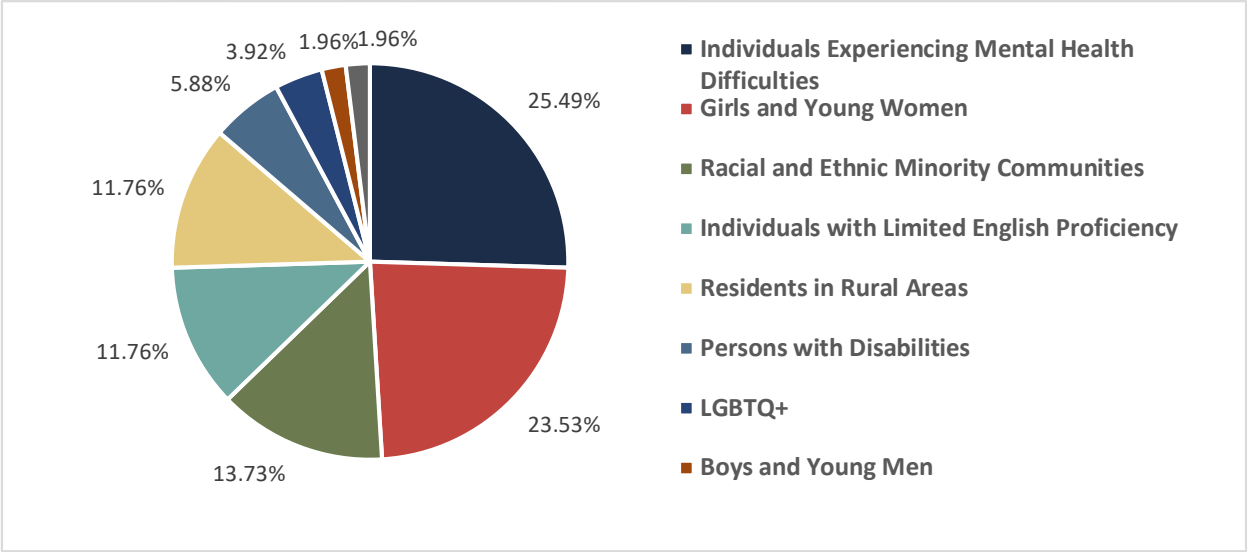
Table 8: Victim Service Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"

Victim Services Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"
1. Assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after victimization (32.65%)
2. Assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system (25%)
3. Providing victims with safety security (22.45%)
4. Responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims (17.02%)

Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

As with other areas of the criminal justice system, respondents were asked to identify the most underserved victim populations in their communities. The most frequently cited were individuals experiencing mental health difficulties (46%), followed by residents in rural areas, people with disabilities, and racial/ethnic minority groups.

Figure 14: Underserved Populations in the Victim Service System



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

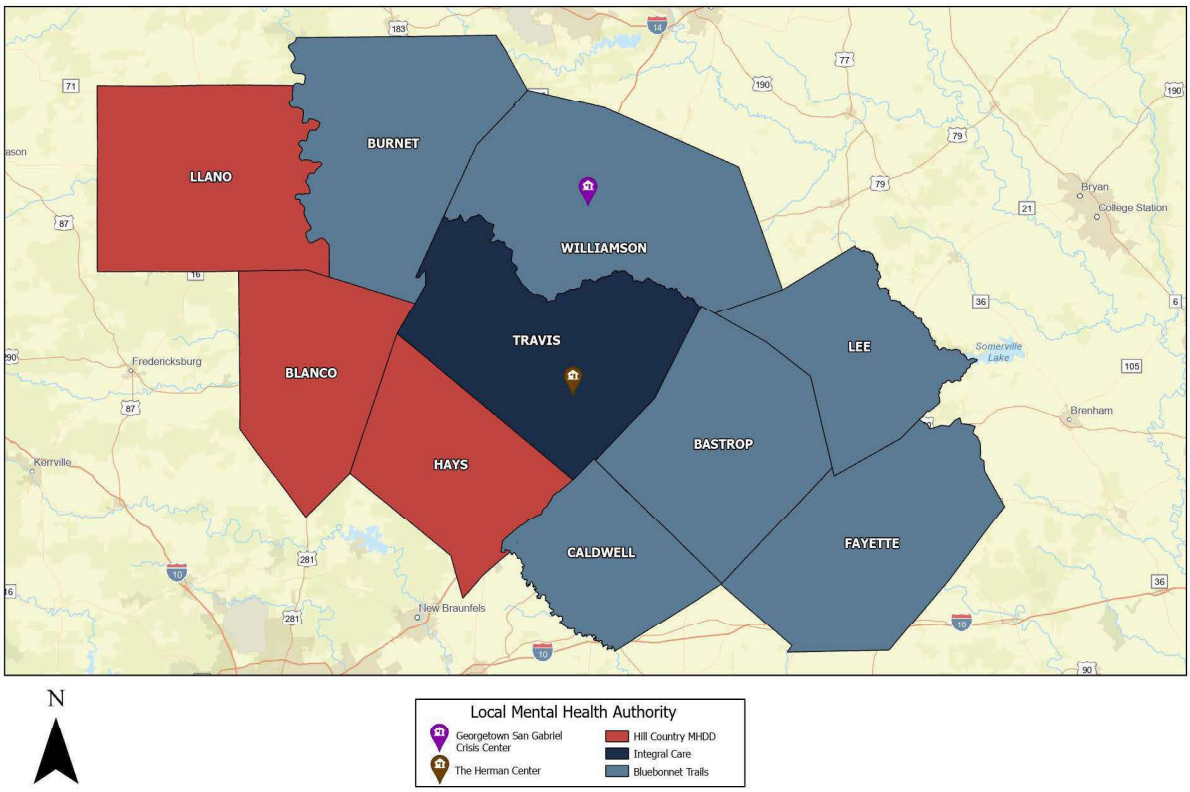
Taken together, the data reinforces the importance of expanding access to comprehensive, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered services throughout the region. Addressing these gaps

will require not only funding but also coordination across law enforcement, courts, housing providers, and nonprofit agencies.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse:

Mental health and substance use issues continue to significantly impact individuals, families, and communities across the CAPCOG region. As the demand for behavioral health services grows, many counties are struggling to meet the needs of residents due to limited local infrastructure, workforce shortages, and gaps in crisis care. As shown in **Figure 15**, the Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) in the region, include Bluebonnet Trails Community Services and Integral Care, and Hill Country MHDD serve as the primary providers of publicly funded behavioral health services in the region. These agencies offer essential supports such as crisis stabilization, outpatient care, substance use treatment, and coordination with law enforcement and emergency responders. However, despite their efforts, access to timely, effective, and coordinated care remains uneven, particularly in rural areas. This section outlines regional challenges, stakeholder feedback, and identified priorities aimed at improving access to mental health and substance use services across the CAPCOG region.

Figure 15: Local Mental Health Authorities and Crisis Center Locations in the CAPCOG Region

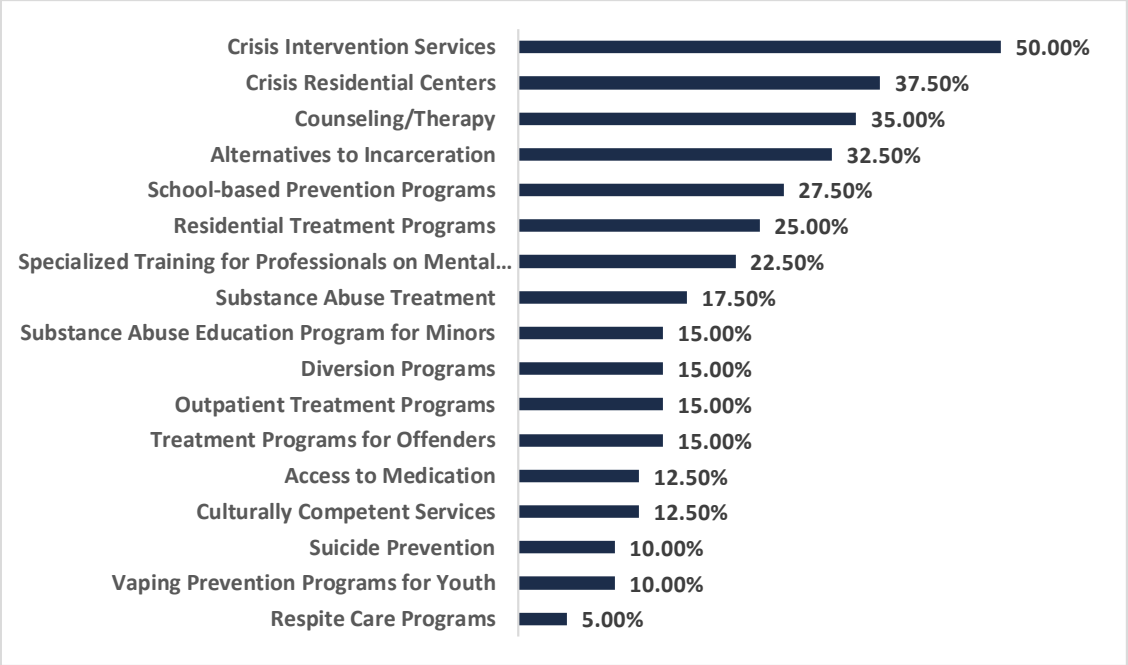


Source: Texas Health and Human Services. Mental Health Crisis Services. Accessed July 2025.

For Mental Health and Substance abuse the most frequently cited priority was crisis intervention services (50%), followed by crisis residential centers (37.50%) and counseling/therapy (35%). Other high-ranking priorities included alternatives to incarceration, school-based prevention, and residential treatment programs emphasizing the need for both early intervention and post-crisis care.

Crisis intervention services are designed to provide immediate, short-term assistance to individuals experiencing severe emotional distress, suicidal ideation, psychosis, or other behavioral health emergencies. These services aim to stabilize the individual, de-escalate the crisis, and connect them to ongoing care. In the CAPCOG region, stakeholders consistently emphasized that while some counties have access to mobile crisis teams or designated crisis facilities, services are often underfunded or geographically limited. Rural counties in particular face long response times and a lack of local facilities, forcing individuals in crisis to travel to distant urban centers often escorted by law enforcement due to lack of transportation or appropriate support staff. This not only places strain on law enforcement agencies but delays access to timely care, increasing the risk of escalation.

Figure 16: Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Regional Priorities Identified by Stakeholders

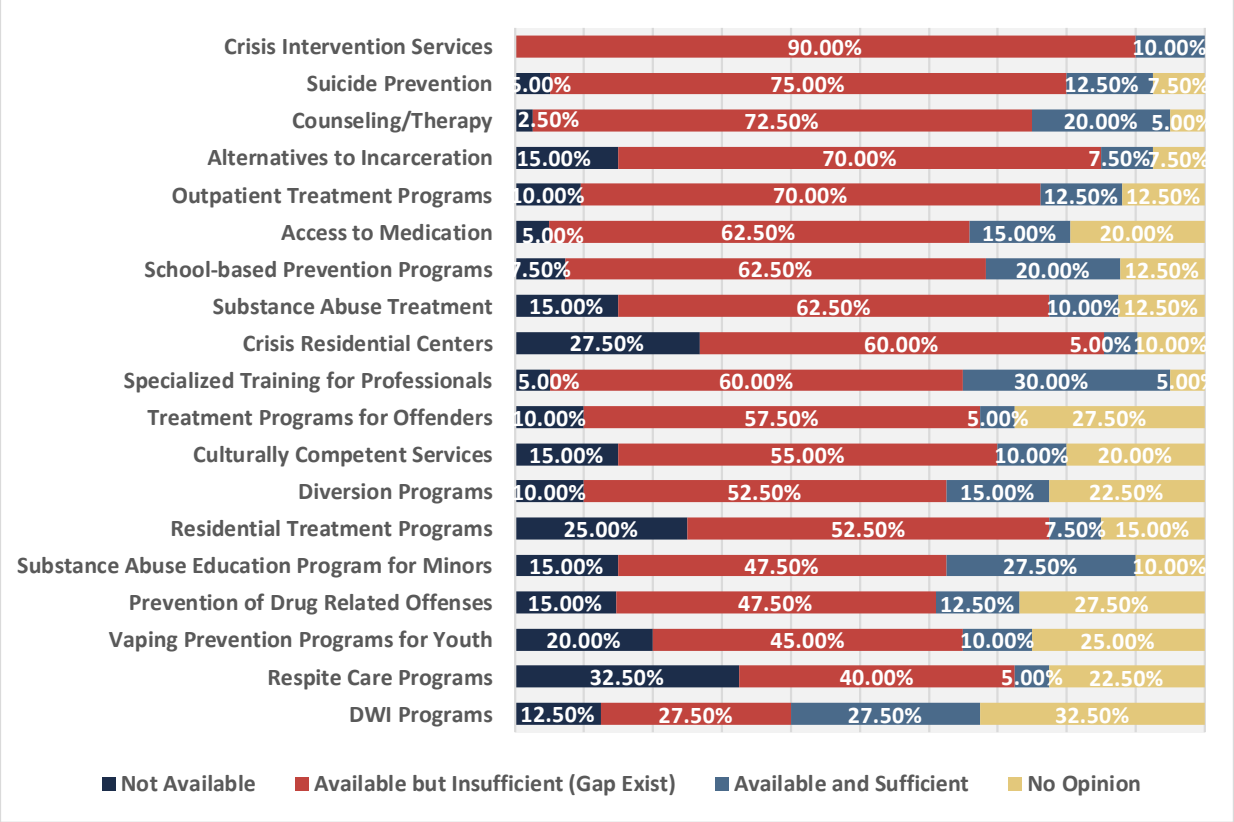


Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

This was also carried over in other portions of the survey for example, over 90% of respondents reported that crisis intervention services were either unavailable or insufficient in their communities. Similar gaps were noted for outpatient services, residential treatment programs, and diversion options, suggesting a systemic shortage of care pathways across the entire

behavioral health continuum. Similar gaps were noted for outpatient, residential treatment, and diversion programs.

Figure 17: Gaps in Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services Identified by Stakeholders



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Stakeholders also the lack of both acute and long-term treatment options creates a revolving door effect, where individuals in crisis may be stabilized temporarily but are unable to access the continued care necessary for recovery. Respondents also noted that when services do exist, they are often difficult to navigate due to long waitlists, eligibility barriers, or lack of coordination between providers. These issues collectively point to a pressing need for sustained investment in regional behavioral health infrastructure and cross-sector partnerships that improve access and continuity of care.

At the core of long-term behavioral health treatment is consistent access to counseling and therapy, which are essential for recovery, prevention of relapse, and overall mental well-being. Data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) show the number of licensed therapists across the CAPCOG region, offering insight into regional capacity.

At the core of long-term behavioral health treatment is consistent access to counseling and therapy, which are essential for recovery, prevention of relapse, and overall mental well-being. According to data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the number

of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) across the CAPCOG region has steadily increased—from 2,783 in 2020 to 3,243 in 2024. However, the distribution remains highly uneven. While urban counties like Travis and Williamson account for the vast majority of LPCs (over 85% of the regional total), rural counties such as Blanco, Fayette, and Llano report fewer than 15 licensed counselors each. Stakeholders consistently noted that even where therapists are present, many choose to work in private practice, limiting the availability of affordable or publicly funded services. This shortage in the public mental health workforce contributes to long waitlists, delayed care, and reduced access for individuals in crisis. Without adequate follow-up or therapeutic support, those with mental health and substance use needs are more likely to cycle through emergency services or justice involvement.

Table 9: Number of Licensed Professional Counselors in the CAPCOG Region by County (2020–2024)

County	# Licensed Professional Counselor in 2020	# Licensed Professional Counselor in 2021	# Licensed Professional Counselor in 2022	# Licensed Professional Counselor in 2023	# Licensed Professional Counselor in 2024
Bastrop	59	60	63	70	74
Blanco	5	8	5	7	6
Burnet	25	34	35	35	37
Caldwell	20	22	24	22	27
Fayette	5	10	11	12	14
Hays	235	227	222	241	252
Lee	11	6	8	10	11
Llano	4	8	8	10	11
Travis	1,890	1,724	1,820	1,956	2,060
Williamson	529	633	664	711	751
Total for CAPCOG Region	2,783	2,732	2,860	3,074	3,243

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Mental Health Dashboard. Accessed July 2025

Substance use and mental health disorders are closely connected, often occurring together and making it harder for individuals to get the care they need. Stakeholders across the CAPCOG region emphasized that substance use is rarely a stand-alone issue—it is frequently tied to underlying mental health conditions, trauma, and ongoing stressors like poverty or housing instability.

The growing number of unintentional drug-related deaths in the CAPCOG region highlights ongoing challenges in meeting behavioral health needs, particularly where mental health and substance use disorders intersect. From 2019 to 2023, unintentional drug-related deaths increased from at least 177 to 482 across the region. Travis and Williamson counties reported the highest totals, with Travis County recording 337 deaths in 2023 alone. Rural counties such

as Bastrop and Hays also experienced steady increases, indicating that this issue affects both urban and rural communities.

Table 10: Drug-Related Deaths by County in the CAPCOG Region (2019–2023)

County	Drug type	Total Deaths 2019	Total Deaths 2020	Total Deaths 2021	Total Deaths 2022	Total Deaths 2023
Williamson	All Drugs	28	40	70	77	75
Travis	All Drugs	149	189	241	314	337
Llano	All Drugs					
Lee	All Drugs					
Hays	All Drugs		13	36	31	36
Fayette	All Drugs					
Caldwell	All Drugs					
Burnet	All Drugs					10
Blanco	All Drugs					
Bastrop	All Drugs		15	12	11	24
CAPCOG Region	All Drugs	177	**257**	**359**	**433**	482

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Drug-Related Deaths Dashboard. Accessed July 2025

A significant cause of this trend has been the rise in fentanyl-related deaths. In Travis County, fentanyl-related deaths rose sharply from 26 in 2019 to 202 in 2023. Williamson County also saw increases, with reported fentanyl deaths growing from 12 in 2020 to 35 in 2023. Stakeholders across the region expressed concern about the growing impact of fentanyl and the limited availability of harm reduction strategies. These trends reflect the need for timely, coordinated care and expanded prevention efforts for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of expanding dual-diagnosis treatment, enhancing recovery support, and improving cross-sector coordination. A region-wide approach focused on prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, and accessible care may help reduce unintentional drug-related deaths and improve long-term health outcomes.

Table 11: Fentanyl-Related Deaths by County in the CAPCOG Region (2019–2023)

County	Drug type	Total Deaths 2019	Total Deaths 2020	Total Deaths 2021	Total Deaths 2022	Total Deaths 2023
Williamson	Fentanyl		12	28	36	35
Travis	Fentanyl	26	37	108	195	202
Llano	Fentanyl					
Lee	Fentanyl					
Hays	Fentanyl			11	22	22

Fayette	Fentanyl					
Caldwell	Fentanyl					
Burnet	Fentanyl					
Blanco	Fentanyl					
Bastrop	Fentanyl					
CAPCOG Region	Fentanyl	26	49	147	253	259

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Drug-Related Deaths Dashboard. Accessed July 2025

The alarming rise in fentanyl-related deaths across the region points to broader challenges within the mental health and substance use service systems. To better understand where improvements are most needed, stakeholders were asked to rank specific aspects of these services. Their feedback echoed themes from engagement sessions, highlighting the urgent need for expanded crisis care, specialized courts, and stronger support systems for individuals seeking treatment and recovery.

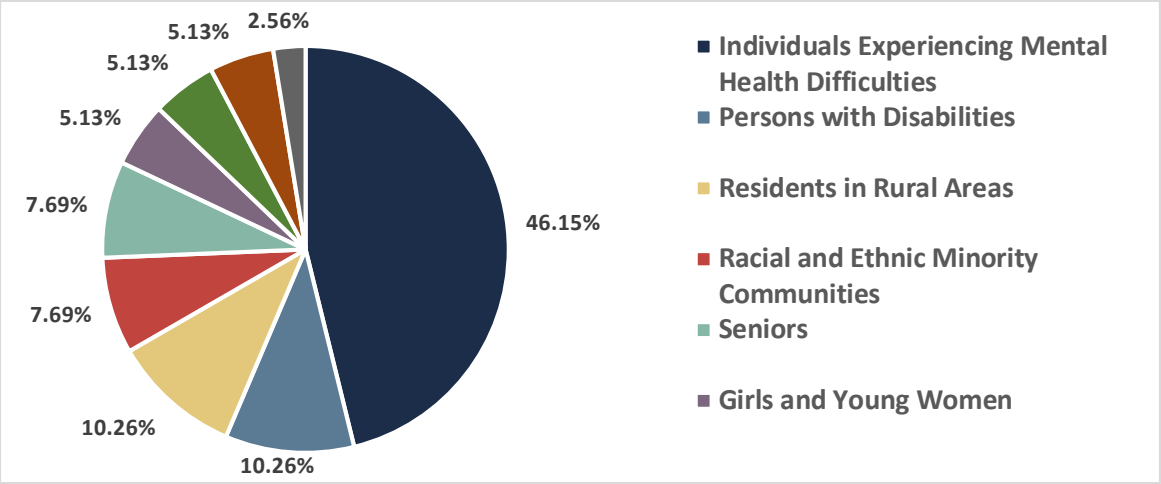
Table 8: Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"

Mental Health/ Substance Abuse Aspects Ranked as "Needing Most Improvement"
1. Crisis Residential/Respite Centers (24.32 %)
2. Mental Health Courts (13.51%)
3. Drug Courts (13.51%)
4. Case Management for Clients (8.11%)
5. Navigation for Clients (8.11%)
6. Supportive Recovery Services (8.11%)
7. Substance Abuse Intervention (8.11%)
8. Substance Abuse Prevention (8.11%)
9. Training of Justice Professionals in Mental Health Issues (5.26%)
10. Counseling/Therapy (2.70%)

Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

Respondents also identified the populations they believe are most underserved. Nearly half (46%) selected individuals experiencing mental health difficulties, followed by rural residents, people with disabilities, and racial/ethnic minority communities. These findings closely align with other program areas, indicating overlapping barriers across systems.

Figure 18: Underserved Mental Health and Substance Abuse Populations Identified by Stakeholders



Source: CAPCOG Criminal Justice Regional Needs and Priorities Survey, 2024

The data suggests that regional solutions must go beyond crisis response to address the full continuum of care, from prevention and intervention to long-term treatment and recovery. Stakeholders consistently emphasized the need for more school-based services, specialized provider training, and culturally competent care, particularly in counties with limited mental health infrastructure. Together, these findings underscore a critical regional priority: expanding and coordinating behavioral health resources to better serve justice-involved individuals, youth, and vulnerable populations.

Diversion and Reentry:

Throughout the regional planning process, diversion and reentry emerged as recurring themes across nearly every topic and stakeholder group from juvenile justice to mental health, victim services, and criminal justice system operations. Stakeholders consistently emphasized the need to reduce reliance on incarceration and provide meaningful pathways back into the community for justice-involved individuals.

Diversion refers to strategies that redirect individuals, particularly those with low-level offenses, mental health challenges, or substance use disorders away from formal justice system involvement and toward supportive services. These can include pre-arrest deflection, specialty courts, or restorative justice programs.

Reentry refers to the process of helping individuals successfully reintegrate into society after incarceration. Effective reentry involves providing access to housing, employment, mental health care, case management, and other wraparound supports to reduce recidivism and promote long-term stability.

These concepts are not limited to a single funding stream or service area they cut across systems and reflect a broader regional goal: to shift from reactive, punitive models toward prevention, rehabilitation, and community-based support. Counties consistently identified gaps in transitional housing, job training, and individualized case management for individuals reentering the community after incarceration. Rural counties reported almost no formal reentry infrastructure. Stakeholders noted that without stable housing or employment support, many returning individuals cycle back into the system. Additionally, mental health and substance use services tailored to justice-involved populations were reported as scarce or nonexistent in several areas.

Youth-specific diversion efforts including truancy prevention, mentoring, and behavioral interventions were also prioritized. Several counties reported having no local juvenile programming, leaving schools and law enforcement without tools to intervene early. Expanding school-based diversion efforts, particularly for truancy and first-time offenses, was seen as essential to reducing future justice system involvement.

Regional Goal and Strategies:

This section outlines objectives and implementation strategies developed to address the highest-priority regional needs identified across the CAPCOG region. These needs, objectives, and strategies reflect the input gathered through regional engagement sessions, stakeholder surveys, and data analysis. A need is defined as a gap in services, resources, or system capacity that prevents communities from adequately addressing criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse, victim services, juvenile justice, or reentry challenges. Each need displays concrete strategies that regional partners can use as guidelines over the next five years to address gaps in services, infrastructure, coordination, and access.

Regional Need #1:

Modernize and Strengthen the Criminal Justice System Infrastructure and capacity to enhance community safety.

Key Objectives:

- Modernize equipment/ technology for the region.
- Expand workforce readiness and training across justice system sectors.
- Support recruitment and retention of professionals in law enforcement and related criminal justice fields.
- Provide care and support for first-on-scene responders exposed to traumatic events.

Implementation Strategies:

- Provide support for agencies in rural or under-resourced areas to update basic infrastructure.
- Support regionally integrated initiatives, including interagency data-sharing systems and regional equipment sharing.
- Provide funding for trauma-informed, de-escalation, and mental health training for officers.
- Fund specialized training on cultural competence, language access, and working with underserved populations.
- Support programs that provide mental health services, peer support programs, and resilience training for first responders.

Top Priorities:	Gaps in Resources:
1. Training for Law Enforcement	• Employee Recruitment/Retention
2. Equipment for Law Enforcement	• Training for Law Enforcement
3. Victim Services	• Violence Prevention
4. Violence Prevention	• Family Violence Investigation
5. Employee Recruitment/Retention	• Victim Services
6. Family Violence Investigation.	

Regional Need #2:

Strengthen Youth Prevention and Intervention Programs

Key Objectives:

- Provide early intervention services to at-risk youth.
- Increase support for youth experiencing trauma, addiction, or mental illness.
- Expand access to truancy prevention programs in coordination with schools and community partners.

Implementation Strategies:

- Fund after-school and mentoring programs.
- Expand access to truancy prevention services.
- Address vaping and substance use through early education.
- Develop services for children of incarcerated parents and runaway prevention.
- Encourage regional coordination and shared service models to address resource gaps in rural areas.
- Promote early intervention programs in schools and youth services to prevent escalation of behavioral health issues and justice involvement.

Top Priorities:	Gaps in Resources:
1. Violence prevention	• Parent Education
2. Mentoring	• After-school programs
3. Substance abuse prevention	• Bully Prevention
4. Truancy prevention	• Employability Skills/Training
5. Vaping prevention.	• Drop Out Prevention

Regional Need #3:

Expand and enhance access to mental health and substance abuse services, with a focus on crisis intervention and treatment availability.

Key Objectives:

• Enhance crisis response across the region.

• Expand access to treatment services, address disparities and improve service access for underserved populations.

• Increase availability of crisis stabilization resources and facilities across the region

Implementation Strategies:

- Support the development or expansion of mobile crisis teams and 24/7 crisis hotlines.
- Support programs that establish cross agency protocols between law enforcement, EMS, and Mental Health Providers for coordinated Crisis Response.
- Fund navigation and case management programs that assist individuals in connecting to and maintaining treatment, particularly those experiencing crisis.
- Support programs that connect individuals to treatment and services.

Top Priorities:	Gaps in Resources:
1. Crisis Intervention Services	• Crisis Intervention Services
2. Crisis Residential Centers	• Suicide Prevention
3. Counseling/ Therapy	• Counseling/Therapy
4. Alternatives to Incarceration	• Alternatives to incarceration
5. School Based Prevention Programs	• Outpatient Treatments

Regional Need #4:

Enhance access to trauma-informed, culturally competent victim services across the region, with targeted support for mental health, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter.

Key Objectives:

- Expand access to core victim services across the region.
- Improve emergency response and wraparound services for victims.
- Increase trauma-informed and culturally appropriate services for crime victims.

Implementation Strategies:

- Fund mental health therapy, case management, and crisis intervention.
- Fund the development or expansion of crisis intervention and 24/7 hotline services
- Increase trauma-informed counseling and mental health resources for victims
- Support the creation or enhancement of shelters across the region.
- Fund client navigation and case coordination staff within VOCA-funded programs
- Support language access and culturally competent services, especially in rural and minority communities

Top Priorities:

1. Crisis Intervention Services
2. Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)
3. Shelters
4. Advocacy
5. Affordable Housing Options

Gaps in Resources:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Crisis Intervention Services
- Community Awareness/Outreach
- Client Navigation

Regional Need #5:

Promote Diversion and Reentry Solutions

Key Objectives:

- Reduce recidivism among first-time and repeat juvenile and adult offenders.
- Expand access to alternatives to incarceration, including diversion and reentry programs.
- Strengthen diversion pathways for individuals with behavioral health needs to reduce justice system involvement.

Implementation Strategies:

- Expand First Offender and restorative justice programs, particularly in schools and youth-serving agencies.
- Fund case management and navigation programs to support individuals reentering the community after incarceration, with a focus on treatment retention and stabilization.
- Support initiatives that divert individuals from arrest or prosecution by connecting them to behavioral health services, housing, and employment support.
- Provide training to justice and public safety personnel on crisis response, de-escalation, and available diversion options.
- Fund navigation and case management programs that assist individuals in connecting to and maintaining treatment, particularly those reentering from incarceration.
- Support programs that connect individuals to treatment and services in lieu of arrest or prosecution.

Top Priorities:	Gaps in Resources:
1. Crisis Intervention Services 2. Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy) 3. Alternatives to Incarceration 4. School Based Prevention Programs 5. Violence prevention	• Mental Health Counseling • Crisis Intervention Services • Alternatives to incarceration

Strategies for Implementation and Evaluation:

To support the effective execution of this strategic plan, CAPCOG will promote alignment between applicant projects and the regional priorities outlined across all five need areas. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) will incorporate these priorities into the grant scoring and funding recommendation process, ensuring that proposed programs directly address identified gaps. CAPCOG will encourage coordination across agencies particularly in rural or under-resourced areas through regional partnerships, shared service models, and interagency collaboration. Technical assistance will be offered to applicants developing programs that support priority objectives, especially those incorporating evidence-based or trauma-informed approaches. Progress will be assessed through regular engagement with regional stakeholders and a review of outcomes reported by funded projects, helping ensure that strategies remain responsive and impactful over the duration of the plan.

Use of the Strategic Plan

This strategic plan serves as a guided document for CAPCOG and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) in prioritizing funding decisions and evaluating grant applications submitted through the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO). CJAC will use the objectives and strategies outlined in this plan to assess how well proposed projects align with regional needs and priorities, ensuring that limited funding is directed toward the most pressing service gaps and high-impact initiatives. CAPCOG will also use the plan to inform policy development, support regional advocacy efforts, and strengthen coordination among justice system partners. As regional conditions evolve, CAPCOG will periodically review the plan in consultation with stakeholders to ensure it remains relevant and actionable. Any necessary updates or revisions will be made to reflect emerging needs, changes in funding priorities, or significant shifts in community safety trends.

Appendix:

Appendix A: Stakeholder Survey Instrument

The following survey instrument was distributed to regional stakeholders as part of the CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Planning process. The purpose was to gather input on current service gaps, emerging needs, and strategic priorities related to the criminal justice system, juvenile justice, mental health and substance abuse, victim services, and reentry/diversion across the 10-county region. Data collected informed key findings and shaped regional goals and strategies for the 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan.

1

Please indicate your professional background.		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Adult Probation	0.00%	0
Citizen	4.26%	4
College/University Professional	0.00%	0
Education (K-12)	9.57%	9
Faith-Based Organization	1.06%	1
Juvenile Probation	7.45%	7
Law Enforcement	37.23%	35
Legal Services	3.19%	3
Mental Health Provider	6.38%	6
Prosecution or Courts	1.06%	1
Public Health	1.06%	1
Substance Abuse Prevention	0.00%	0
Victim Services Provider	15.96%	15
Other (Please specify)	12.77%	12

2

If you are completing this survey as part of an agency, check all counties that are served by your agency: If you are completing this survey as a citizen, select the county in which you reside.		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Bastrop	24.47%	23
Blanco	14.89%	14
Burnet	20.21%	19
Caldwell	21.28%	20
Fayette	18.09%	17
Hays	37.23%	35
Lee	12.77%	12
Llano	13.83%	13
Travis	47.87%	45
Williamson	29.79%	28

3

Please State Your Professional Title
94 Responses

4

As professionals in your field, your input is valuable. This survey is designed to gather insights from those with expertise and strong interest in key areas. Please thoughtfully select the categories below where you have significant knowledge or interest in. (Multiple Categories Can Be Selected)		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Juvenile Justice System and School-based System	37.23%	35
Criminal Justice System	61.70%	58
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment	43.62%	41
Victim of Crime	44.68%	42

5

What Juvenile Justice Services do you think should be a priority/focus for the CAPCOG region? (Please select at most 3)		
	Response Percent	Response Count
After School Programs	15.38%	4
Bully Prevention	19.23%	5
Character Building	15.38%	4
Children of Incarcerated Parents Programs	15.38%	4
Community Education	15.38%	4
Drop-Out Prevention	15.38%	4
Employability Skills/Training	23.08%	6
Family Stability	23.08%	6
First Offender Programs	7.69%	2
Gang Prevention	7.69%	2
Healthy Relationships	11.54%	3
Internet/Technology Safety	0.00%	0
Life Skills Classes	23.08%	6
Mentoring	26.92%	7
Offender Accountability	23.08%	6
Parent Education	11.54%	3
Runaway Prevention Programs	0.00%	0
School Resource Officers	15.38%	4
Specialized Juvenile OffenderCourts	15.38%	4
Specialized Training for Professionals	7.69%	2
Substance Abuse Early Intervention	15.38%	4
Substance Abuse Prevention	26.92%	7
Vaping Prevention	26.92%	7
Truancy Prevention	26.92%	7
Victimized Youth	7.69%	2
Violence Prevention	30.77%	8
Other (Please specify)	7.69%	2

6 **Please rank the following areas based on how well your community serves Juveniles through the Justice System. (With 1 being the best and 11 indicating the area that needs the most improvement).**

	1		2		3		4		5	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Education Programs for Juveniles	13.04%	3	26.09%	6	8.70%	2	0.00%	0	17.39%	4
Prevention Programs for Juveniles	8.70%	2	4.35%	1	13.04%	3	17.39%	4	4.35%	1
Treatment Programs for Juveniles	8.70%	2	4.35%	1	17.39%	4	13.04%	3	21.74%	5
Children of Incarcerated Parents	0.00%	0	8.70%	2	13.04%	3	8.70%	2	0.00%	0
Training for Professionals	26.09%	6	17.39%	4	13.04%	3	17.39%	4	4.35%	1
Juvenile Court System	16.67%	4	20.83%	5	4.17%	1	8.33%	2	16.67%	4
Parental Involvement/Education	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	21.74%	5	0.00%	0	8.70%	2
Preventing Illegal Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs	8.70%	2	0.00%	0	8.70%	2	13.04%	3	8.70%	2
Juvenile Victims of Crime	8.70%	2	4.35%	1	0.00%	0	8.70%	2	8.70%	2
Reentry Services for Juveniles After Incarceration	8.70%	2	4.35%	1	0.00%	0	13.04%	3	4.35%	1
Transitional Living Services for Older Foster Youth ages 14 up to 23	4.35%	1	8.70%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	4.35%	1

6		7		8		9		10		11	
Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
4.35%	1	8.70%	2	0.00%	0	8.70%	2	13.04%	3	0.00%	0
8.70%	2	0.00%	0	8.70%	2	4.35%	1	17.39%	4	13.04%	3
4.35%	1	8.70%	2	8.70%	2	8.70%	2	0.00%	0	4.35%	1
8.70%	2	0.00%	0	17.39%	4	13.04%	3	26.09%	6	4.35%	1
8.70%	2	0.00%	0	4.35%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	8.70%	2
12.50%	3	8.33%	2	4.17%	1	4.17%	1	0.00%	0	4.17%	1
8.70%	2	34.78%	8	17.39%	4	4.35%	1	0.00%	0	4.35%	1
8.70%	2	26.09%	6	13.04%	3	0.00%	0	8.70%	2	4.35%	1
21.74%	5	4.35%	1	4.35%	1	39.13%	9	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
8.70%	2	4.35%	1	17.39%	4	4.35%	1	17.39%	4	17.39%	4
4.35%	1	4.35%	1	4.35%	1	13.04%	3	17.39%	4	39.13%	9

7 **In order to address gaps in Juvenile Justice resources, please evaluate the availability and sufficiency of the following programs in your community.**

	Not Available		Available but Insufficient		Available and Sufficient		No Opinion	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
After School Programs	0.00%	0	73.08%	19	19.23%	5	7.69%	2
Bully Prevention	0.00%	0	73.08%	19	7.69%	2	19.23%	5
Character Building	3.85%	1	65.38%	17	11.54%	3	19.23%	5
Children of Incarcerated Parents Programs	38.46%	10	34.62%	9	7.69%	2	19.23%	5
Community Education	11.54%	3	57.69%	15	11.54%	3	19.23%	5
Drop-Out Prevention	3.85%	1	69.23%	18	15.38%	4	11.54%	3
Employability Skills/Training	0.00%	0	73.08%	19	11.54%	3	15.38%	4
Family Stability	23.08%	6	57.69%	15	3.85%	1	15.38%	4
First Offender Programs	7.69%	2	50.00%	13	19.23%	5	23.08%	6
Healthy Relationships	11.54%	3	61.54%	16	11.54%	3	15.38%	4
Gang Prevention	20.00%	5	52.00%	13	8.00%	2	20.00%	5
Internet/ Technology Safety	0.00%	0	56.00%	14	20.00%	5	24.00%	6
Life Skills Classes	0.00%	0	61.54%	16	15.38%	4	23.08%	6
Mentoring	15.38%	4	69.23%	18	7.69%	2	7.69%	2
Offender Accountability	19.23%	5	42.31%	11	19.23%	5	19.23%	5
Parent Education	0.00%	0	80.77%	21	0.00%	0	19.23%	5
Runaway Prevention Programs	30.77%	8	38.46%	10	3.85%	1	26.92%	7
School Resource Officers	4.00%	1	36.00%	9	56.00%	14	4.00%	1
Specialized Juvenile Offender Courts	30.77%	8	26.92%	7	19.23%	5	23.08%	6
Specialized Training for Professionals	7.69%	2	46.15%	12	23.08%	6	23.08%	6
Substance Abuse Early Intervention	19.23%	5	50.00%	13	11.54%	3	19.23%	5
Substance Abuse Prevention	12.00%	3	64.00%	16	12.00%	3	12.00%	3
Vaping Prevention	19.23%	5	50.00%	13	7.69%	2	23.08%	6
Truancy Prevention	7.69%	2	57.69%	15	19.23%	5	15.38%	4
Victimized Youth	19.23%	5	53.85%	14	7.69%	2	19.23%	5
Violence Prevention	19.23%	5	57.69%	15	3.85%	1	19.23%	5

8 **In the context of Juvenile Justice, which groups in your community are the most underserved? (Select one answer choice)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Girls and Young Women	4.00%	1
Boys and Young Men	12.00%	3
Individuals with Limited English Proficiency	8.00%	2
Persons with Disabilities	4.00%	1
Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties	40.00%	10
Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities	8.00%	2
Residents in Rural Areas	16.00%	4
Residents in Urban Areas	0.00%	0
LGBTQ+	8.00%	2

9 **What Criminal Justice Services do you think should be a priority/focus for the CAPCOG region? (Please select at most 3)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to Legal Services	9.76%	4
Arrest Rates	4.88%	2
Alternatives to Incarceration	12.20%	5
Awareness Programs	12.20%	5
Cold Case Investigation	2.44%	1
Crime Scene Investigation	9.76%	4
Investigators for Defense/Prosecutors	4.88%	2
Diversion Programs	14.63%	6
Drug Enforcement	4.88%	2
DWI Enforcement	4.88%	2
Employee Recruitment/ Retention	19.51%	8
Equipment for Law Enforcement	48.78%	20
Family Violence Investigation	19.51%	8
Gang Prevention Unit Services	2.44%	1
Internet-based Crimes	12.20%	5
Justice Information System	7.32%	3
Juvenile/Adult Drug Court	2.44%	1
Language Access	7.32%	3
Neighborhood Watch	0.00%	0
Re-entry Services	9.76%	4
Response Time to Emergency Calls	4.88%	2
Sexual Assault Investigators/Prosecutors	17.07%	7
Terrorism Prevention/Counterterrorism	2.44%	1
Traffic Enforcement	7.32%	3
Training for Law Enforcement	56.10%	23
Victim Services	31.71%	13
Violence Prevention	26.83%	11
Other (Please specify)	4.88%	2

Please rank the following aspects of the Criminal Justice System in your community. (With 1 being the best and 8 indicating the area that needs the most improvement).

	1		2		3		4	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Community Visibility	53.85%	21	10.26%	4	12.82%	5	15.38%	6
Reducing Crime	5.13%	2	28.21%	11	12.82%	5	10.26%	4
Responding to Crime	23.08%	9	33.33%	13	15.38%	6	10.26%	4
Prosecution/ Case Disposition	5.26%	2	2.63%	1	15.79%	6	13.16%	5
Courts	2.56%	1	7.69%	3	5.13%	2	20.51%	8
Re-entry Services	0.00%	0	5.13%	2	12.82%	5	5.13%	2
Language Access	2.56%	1	2.56%	1	10.26%	4	10.26%	4
Technology	7.69%	3	10.26%	4	15.38%	6	15.38%	6

	5		6		7		8	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
	2.56%	1	2.56%	1	0.00%	0	2.56%	1
	23.08%	9	10.26%	4	7.69%	3	2.56%	1
	2.56%	1	5.13%	2	5.13%	2	5.13%	2
	10.53%	4	18.42%	7	13.16%	5	21.05%	8
	23.08%	9	15.38%	6	20.51%	8	5.13%	2
	5.13%	2	5.13%	2	33.33%	13	33.33%	13
	12.82%	5	20.51%	8	17.95%	7	23.08%	9
	20.51%	8	23.08%	9	2.56%	1	5.13%	2

In order to address gaps in the Criminal Justice system, which of the following services currently have the most significant gaps in resources?

	Not Available		Available but Insufficient		Available and Sufficient		No Opinion	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to Legal Services	5.26%	2	42.11%	16	28.95%	11	23.68%	9
Arrest Rates	5.13%	2	23.08%	9	46.15%	18	25.64%	10
Alternatives to Incarceration	5.26%	2	44.74%	17	28.95%	11	21.05%	8
Awareness Programs	2.63%	1	52.63%	20	31.58%	12	13.16%	5
Cold Case Investigation	10.53%	4	42.11%	16	28.95%	11	18.42%	7
Crime Scene Investigation	0.00%	0	39.47%	15	47.37%	18	13.16%	5
Investigators for Defense/Prosecutors	2.63%	1	31.58%	12	18.42%	7	47.37%	18
Diversion Programs	7.89%	3	34.21%	13	28.95%	11	28.95%	11
Drug Enforcement	2.63%	1	60.53%	23	23.68%	9	13.16%	5
DWI Enforcement	5.26%	2	52.63%	20	31.58%	12	10.53%	4
Employee Recruitment/ Retention	2.63%	1	76.32%	29	10.53%	4	10.53%	4
Equipment for Law Enforcement	2.63%	1	68.42%	26	18.42%	7	10.53%	4
Family Violence Investigation	0.00%	0	55.26%	21	42.11%	16	2.63%	1
Gang Prevention Unit Services	26.32%	10	36.84%	14	15.79%	6	21.05%	8
Internet-based Crimes	10.53%	4	71.05%	27	10.53%	4	7.89%	3
Justice Information System	10.53%	4	31.58%	12	34.21%	13	23.68%	9
Juvenile/Adult Drug Court	13.89%	5	19.44%	7	25.00%	9	41.67%	15
Language Access	10.53%	4	68.42%	26	13.16%	5	7.89%	3
Neighborhood Watch	15.79%	6	26.32%	10	31.58%	12	26.32%	10
Re-entry Services	13.16%	5	28.95%	11	13.16%	5	44.74%	17
Response Time to Emergency Calls	5.26%	2	47.37%	18	36.84%	14	10.53%	4
Sexual Assault Investigators/Prosecutors	0.00%	0	63.16%	24	26.32%	10	10.53%	4
Terrorism Prevention/Counterterrorism	18.42%	7	36.84%	14	18.42%	7	26.32%	10
Traffic Enforcement	5.26%	2	39.47%	15	44.74%	17	10.53%	4
Training for Law Enforcement	2.70%	1	72.97%	27	24.32%	9	2.70%	1
Victim Services	2.63%	1	55.26%	21	34.21%	13	7.89%	3
Violence Prevention	13.16%	5	55.26%	21	15.79%	6	15.79%	6

12

In your opinion, what are the most essential pieces of law enforcement equipment in your community?	Not Important		Somewhat Important		Very Important		No Opinion	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Automated License Plate Reader	5.26%	2	26.32%	10	57.89%	22	10.53%	4
Automated External Defibrillators	0.00%	0	31.58%	12	57.89%	22	10.53%	4
Body Cameras	0.00%	0	2.56%	1	89.74%	35	7.69%	3
Computer Forensic Software	0.00%	0	20.51%	8	74.36%	29	5.13%	2
Crime Scene Investigation Equipment/Supplies	0.00%	0	12.82%	5	76.92%	30	10.26%	4
Evidence/Property Room	0.00%	0	21.05%	8	68.42%	26	10.53%	4
In-car Computers	0.00%	0	10.53%	4	81.58%	31	7.89%	3
In-car Video Systems	0.00%	0	7.89%	3	84.21%	32	7.89%	3
K¬9 Equipment/ Supplies	2.63%	1	50.00%	19	34.21%	13	13.16%	5
Live Scan	5.26%	2	28.95%	11	44.74%	17	21.05%	8
Radar Unit	0.00%	0	34.21%	13	52.63%	20	13.16%	5
Radio System	0.00%	0	10.53%	4	81.58%	31	7.89%	3
Specialized Vehicles	7.89%	3	39.47%	15	44.74%	17	7.89%	3
Surveillance/Drones	0.00%	0	36.84%	14	52.63%	20	10.53%	4
SWAT Equipment	0.00%	0	34.21%	13	55.26%	21	10.53%	4
Tasers	0.00%	0	26.32%	10	65.79%	25	7.89%	3
Watch Tower	18.42%	7	44.74%	17	7.89%	3	28.95%	11

13

In your opinion, what law enforcement equipment do you perceive to be lacking in your community?	Not Available		Available and Insufficient		Available and Sufficient		No Opinion	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Automated License Plate Reader	15.79%	6	36.84%	14	28.95%	11	18.42%	7
Automated External Defibrillators	7.89%	3	31.58%	12	47.37%	18	13.16%	5
Body Cameras	0.00%	0	10.53%	4	78.95%	30	10.53%	4
Computer Forensic Software	13.16%	5	52.63%	20	21.05%	8	13.16%	5
Crime Scene Investigation Equipment/Supplies	0.00%	0	44.74%	17	39.47%	15	15.79%	6
Evidence/Property Room	0.00%	0	28.95%	11	52.63%	20	18.42%	7
In-car Computers	0.00%	0	7.89%	3	78.95%	30	15.79%	6
In-car Video Systems	0.00%	0	7.89%	3	76.32%	29	15.79%	6
K¬9 Equipment/ Supplies	2.63%	1	21.05%	8	50.00%	19	26.32%	10
Live Scan	26.32%	10	13.16%	5	13.16%	5	47.37%	18
Radar Unit	0.00%	0	10.53%	4	68.42%	26	21.05%	8
Radio System	0.00%	0	13.16%	5	71.05%	27	15.79%	6
Specialized Vehicles	5.26%	2	31.58%	12	42.11%	16	21.05%	8
Surveillance/Drones	10.53%	4	36.84%	14	34.21%	13	18.42%	7
SWAT Equipment	15.79%	6	23.68%	9	34.21%	13	26.32%	10
Tasers	0.00%	0	13.16%	5	73.68%	28	13.16%	5
Watch Tower	32.43%	12	10.81%	4	10.81%	4	45.95%	17

14

In the context of Criminal Justice, which groups in your community are the most underserved? (Select one answer choice)	Response Percent	Response Count
Girls and Young Women	5.13%	2
Boys and Young Men	0.00%	0
Individuals with Limited English Proficiency	12.82%	5
Persons with Disabilities	2.56%	1
Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties	51.28%	20
Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities	12.82%	5
Seniors	7.69%	3
Residents in Rural Areas	7.69%	3
Residents in Urban Areas	0.00%	0
LGBTQ+	0.00%	0

15

What Mental Health/ Substance Abuse services do you think should be a priority/focus for the CAPCOG region? (Please Select at Most 3)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to Medication	12.50%	5
Substance Abuse Education Program for Minors	15.00%	6
Alternatives to Incarceration	32.50%	13
Counseling/Therapy	35.00%	14
Crisis Intervention Services	50.00%	20
Crisis Residential Centers	37.50%	15
Culturally Competent Services	12.50%	5
Diversion Programs	15.00%	6
DWI Programs	2.50%	1
Outpatient Treatment Programs	15.00%	6
Prevention of Drug Related Offenses	2.50%	1
Residential Treatment Programs	25.00%	10
Respite Care Programs	5.00%	2
School-based Prevention Programs	27.50%	11
Specialized Training for Professionals on Mental Health Issues	22.50%	9
Substance Abuse Treatment	17.50%	7
Suicide Prevention	10.00%	4
Vaping Prevention Programs for Youth	10.00%	4
Treatment Programs for Offenders	15.00%	6
Other (Please specify)	0.00%	0

16

Please rank the following areas based on how well your community serves individuals dealing with mental health/substance abuse issues in your community. (With 1 being the best and 10 indicating the area that needs the most improvement).

	1		2		3		4		5	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Case Management for Clients	10.81%	4	8.11%	3	13.51%	5	10.81%	4	10.81%	4
Navigation for Clients	2.70%	1	13.51%	5	8.11%	3	13.51%	5	5.41%	2
Mental Health Courts	13.51%	5	10.81%	4	5.41%	2	16.22%	6	10.81%	4
Training of Justice Professionals in Mental Health Issues	34.21%	13	13.16%	5	7.89%	3	10.53%	4	13.16%	5
Counseling/Therapy	8.11%	3	13.51%	5	16.22%	6	8.11%	3	24.32%	9
Drug Courts	16.22%	6	16.22%	6	2.70%	1	10.81%	4	13.51%	5
Crisis Residential/Respite Centers	2.70%	1	2.70%	1	13.51%	5	5.41%	2	2.70%	1
Supportive Recovery Services	5.41%	2	10.81%	4	8.11%	3	8.11%	3	13.51%	5
Substance Abuse Intervention	2.70%	1	5.41%	2	13.51%	5	5.41%	2	2.70%	1
Substance Abuse Prevention	5.41%	2	5.41%	2	10.81%	4	10.81%	4	2.70%	1

	6		7		8		9		10	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Case Management for Clients	8.11%	3	21.62%	8	2.70%	1	5.41%	2	8.11%	3
Navigation for Clients	10.81%	4	8.11%	3	18.92%	7	10.81%	4	8.11%	3
Mental Health Courts	5.41%	2	0.00%	0	5.41%	2	18.92%	7	13.51%	5
Training of Justice Professionals in Mental Health Issues	5.26%	2	7.89%	3	0.00%	0	2.63%	1	5.26%	2
Counseling/Therapy	13.51%	5	2.70%	1	8.11%	3	2.70%	1	2.70%	1
Drug Courts	8.11%	3	5.41%	2	5.41%	2	8.11%	3	13.51%	5
Crisis Residential/Respite Centers	10.81%	4	16.22%	6	10.81%	4	10.81%	4	24.32%	9
Supportive Recovery Services	8.11%	3	10.81%	4	18.92%	7	8.11%	3	8.11%	3
Substance Abuse Intervention	10.81%	4	18.92%	7	18.92%	7	13.51%	5	8.11%	3
Substance Abuse Prevention	18.92%	7	8.11%	3	10.81%	4	18.92%	7	8.11%	3

17

In order to address gaps in mental health/ substance abuse services, which of the following services currently have the most significant gaps in resources?

	Not Available		Available but Insufficient		Available and Sufficient		No Opinion	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to Medication	5.00%	2	62.50%	25	15.00%	6	20.00%	8
Substance Abuse Education Program for Minors	15.00%	6	47.50%	19	27.50%	11	10.00%	4
Alternatives to Incarceration	15.00%	6	70.00%	28	7.50%	3	7.50%	3
Counseling/Therapy	2.50%	1	72.50%	29	20.00%	8	5.00%	2
Crisis Intervention Services	0.00%	0	90.00%	36	10.00%	4	0.00%	0
Crisis Residential Centers	27.50%	11	60.00%	24	5.00%	2	10.00%	4
Culturally Competent Services	15.00%	6	55.00%	22	10.00%	4	20.00%	8
Diversion Programs	10.00%	4	52.50%	21	15.00%	6	22.50%	9
DWI Programs	12.50%	5	27.50%	11	27.50%	11	32.50%	13
Outpatient Treatment Programs	10.00%	4	70.00%	28	12.50%	5	12.50%	5
Prevention of Drug Related Offenses	15.00%	6	47.50%	19	12.50%	5	27.50%	11
Residential Treatment Programs	25.00%	10	52.50%	21	7.50%	3	15.00%	6
Respite Care Programs	32.50%	13	40.00%	16	5.00%	2	22.50%	9
School-based Prevention Programs	7.50%	3	62.50%	25	20.00%	8	12.50%	5
Specialized Training for Professionals on Mental Health Issues	5.00%	2	60.00%	24	30.00%	12	5.00%	2
Substance Abuse Treatment	15.00%	6	62.50%	25	10.00%	4	12.50%	5
Suicide Prevention	5.00%	2	75.00%	30	12.50%	5	7.50%	3
Vaping Prevention Programs for Youth	20.00%	8	45.00%	18	10.00%	4	25.00%	10
Treatment Programs for Offenders	10.00%	4	57.50%	23	5.00%	2	27.50%	11

18

In relation to Mental Health/ Substance Abuse, who is the most underserved populations in your community? (Select one answer choice)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Girls and Young Women	5.13%	2
Boys and Young Men	2.56%	1
Individuals with Limited English Proficiency	5.13%	2
Persons with Disabilities	10.26%	4
Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties	46.15%	18
Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities	7.69%	3
Seniors	7.69%	3
Residents in Rural Areas	10.26%	4
Residents in Urban Areas	0.00%	0
LGBTQ+	5.13%	2

19 **What Victims Services do you think should be a priority/focus for the CAPCOG region? (Select at most 3)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Advocacy	26.92%	14
Affordable Housing Options	21.15%	11
Victims Compensation Claims Assistance	13.46%	7
Assistance Recovering Property	7.69%	4
Client Navigation	3.85%	2
Community Awareness/Outreach	7.69%	4
Comprehensive Service Locations	7.69%	4
Crisis Intervention Services	44.23%	23
Culturally Competent Services	7.69%	4
Emergency Food, Clothing, and other Essential Items	13.46%	7
Emergency Transportation	1.92%	1
Forensic Examinations for Sexual Assault Victims	7.69%	4
Forensic Interviews for Child Abuse Victims	13.46%	7
Hotline Counseling	5.77%	3
Information & Referral	11.54%	6
Language Access	11.54%	6
Legal Services	17.31%	9
Medical Accompaniment	3.85%	2
Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)	42.31%	22
Multidisciplinary Team Case Coordination	11.54%	6
Shelters	32.69%	17
Specialized Child Abuse Courts	1.92%	1
Specialized Family Violence Courts	11.54%	6

20 **Please rank the following areas based on how well your community serves Victims of Crime or Victims of violence in your community. (With 1 being the best and 4 indicating the area that needs the most improvement).**

	1		2		3		4	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims	31.91%	15	34.04%	16	17.02%	8	17.02%	8
Assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization	14.29%	7	16.33%	8	36.73%	18	32.65%	16
Assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system	25.00%	12	25.00%	12	25.00%	12	25.00%	12
Providing victims with safety security	30.61%	15	26.53%	13	20.41%	10	22.45%	11

21

In order to address gaps in victim services, which of the following services currently have the most significant gaps in resources?	Not Available		Available but Insufficient		Available and Sufficient		No Opinion	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Advocacy	6.00%	3	60.00%	30	24.00%	12	10.00%	5
Affordable Housing Options	21.57%	11	56.86%	29	11.76%	6	11.76%	6
Assisting Filing Victims Compensation Claims	6.00%	3	42.00%	21	34.00%	17	18.00%	9
Assistance Recovering Property	19.61%	10	47.06%	24	7.84%	4	25.49%	13
Client Navigation	1.96%	1	64.71%	33	17.65%	9	15.69%	8
Community Awareness/Outreach	5.88%	3	64.71%	33	17.65%	9	11.76%	6
Comprehensive Service Locations	11.76%	6	50.98%	26	15.69%	8	21.57%	11
Crisis Intervention Services	0.00%	0	68.63%	35	25.49%	13	5.88%	3
Culturally Competent Services	5.88%	3	58.82%	30	21.57%	11	13.73%	7
Emergency Food, Clothing, and other Essential Items	0.00%	0	58.82%	30	31.37%	16	9.80%	5
Emergency Transportation	10.00%	5	48.00%	24	30.00%	15	14.00%	7
Forensic Examinations for Sexual Assault Victims	1.96%	1	39.22%	20	47.06%	24	13.73%	7
Forensic Interviews for Child Abuse Victims	0.00%	0	33.33%	17	49.02%	25	17.65%	9
Hotline Counseling	3.92%	2	37.25%	19	39.22%	20	19.61%	10
Information & Referral	0.00%	0	45.10%	23	41.18%	21	13.73%	7
Language Access	6.00%	3	58.00%	29	22.00%	11	14.00%	7
Legal Services	7.84%	4	58.82%	30	17.65%	9	15.69%	8
Medical Accompaniment	3.92%	2	45.10%	23	25.49%	13	25.49%	13
Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)	3.92%	2	76.47%	39	13.73%	7	7.84%	4
Multidisciplinary Team Case Coordination	1.96%	1	60.78%	31	23.53%	12	13.73%	7
Shelters	9.80%	5	62.75%	32	21.57%	11	7.84%	4
Specialized Child Abuse Courts	19.61%	10	31.37%	16	11.76%	6	37.25%	19
Specialized Family Violence Courts	23.53%	12	33.33%	17	11.76%	6	31.37%	16
Specialized Human Trafficking Programs	17.65%	9	45.10%	23	11.76%	6	25.49%	13
Volunteer Recruitment/Training	2.00%	1	62.00%	31	12.00%	6	26.00%	13

22

In relation to Victim Services, who is the most underserved populations in your community? (Select One Answer Choice)	Response Percent	Response Count
Girls and Young Women	23.53%	12
Boys and Young Men	1.96%	1
Individuals with Limited English Proficiency	11.76%	6
Persons with Disabilities	5.88%	3
Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties	25.49%	13
Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities	13.73%	7
Seniors	1.96%	1
Residents in Rural Areas	11.76%	6
Residents in Urban Areas	0.00%	0
LGBTQ+	3.92%	2

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

After-School Programs: Supervised programs outside of school hours that support academic success and reduce risk factors for delinquency by providing positive environments and structured activities.

Alternatives to Incarceration: Community-based options for eligible individuals in place of jail or prison, such as pretrial diversion, restorative justice, mental health courts, or treatment programs. A key strategy to reduce system involvement and recidivism.

Advocacy: Legal or social support services help individuals navigate systems (e.g., criminal justice, housing, medical) and assert their rights, particularly for victims of crime.

Bully Prevention: Programs that teach youth how to prevent and respond to bullying through education, social-emotional learning, and behavioral support. Often delivered in schools.

CAPCOG (Capital Area Council of Governments): A regional planning organization serving 10 Central Texas counties. CAPCOG coordinates efforts in criminal justice planning, economic development, emergency response, and more.

CJAC (Criminal Justice Advisory Committee): A multi-disciplinary committee that evaluates grant applications, sets regional priorities, and advises on criminal justice policy and strategy for the CAPCOG region.

Client Navigation: Individualized support to help clients move through systems of care and connect with needed services such as housing, treatment, legal aid, and victim services.

Community Awareness/Outreach: Efforts to educate the public about available services, prevention programs, victim resources, and behavioral health issues to improve access and reduce stigma.

Counseling/Therapy: Behavioral health services provided by licensed professionals to address trauma, depression, anxiety, and other mental health needs.

Crisis Intervention Services: Emergency services provided to individuals experiencing acute mental health, behavioral, or substance use crises. Services include mobile crisis teams, hotline support, and co-response units.

Crisis Residential Centers: Short-term residential facilities offering stabilization, monitoring, and crisis intervention for individuals in severe mental health crises who do not require hospitalization.

Diversion: Redirection of individuals from formal justice processing into programs that address underlying issues (e.g., mental illness, substance use). Includes community-based programs, treatment courts, and deferred adjudication.

Dropout Prevention: Initiatives to help students stay engaged and enrolled in school. Strategies include credit recovery, wraparound services, mentoring, and behavioral health support.

Early Intervention: Programs that identify and address behavioral or social issues at an early stage to prevent deeper involvement with criminal justice or child welfare systems.

Enforcement of Internet-Based Crimes: Law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts to investigate crimes such as cyberbullying, trafficking, and online exploitation. This area was identified as under-resourced.

Equipment for Law Enforcement: Essential tools and technology (e.g., radios, body-worn cameras, vehicles) needed for safety and service delivery.

CAPCOG Executive Committee: The Executive board of CAPCOG provides oversight and final approval of CJAC funding recommendations and strategic plans.

Family Violence Investigation: The specialized law enforcement response to domestic violence incidents. Identified needs include training, victim-centered practices, and cross-agency coordination.

Gap in Services: A program or resource that is unavailable, inaccessible, or insufficient to meet community needs due to funding, staffing, geographic limitations, or capacity issues.

Grant Scoring: The process by which CJAC members evaluate applications based on standardized criteria including alignment with regional needs, effectiveness, sustainability, and priority fit.

Juvenile Justice: Systems and services that respond to or prevent youth involvement in the justice system.

Language Access: Provision of translation, interpretation, and bilingual services to ensure equitable access to services and justice system participation for individuals with limited English proficiency.

LMHA (Local Mental Health Authority): Regional behavioral health agencies designated by the state to coordinate crisis services, treatment, and community-based supports for individuals with mental illness.

Mental Health Assistance (see also Counseling/Therapy): General services provided to individuals experiencing psychological distress. Includes assessment, treatment, crisis response, and long-term supports.

Mental Health/Substance Use: A combined priority area involving prevention, treatment, recovery, and crisis care.

Mentoring: Structured relationships where youth or adults receive guidance, accountability, and positive role modeling. Helps reduce recidivism, improve academic performance, and support behavioral change.

Outpatient Treatments: Behavioral health or substance use care delivered in a non-residential setting. Frequently cited as an underfunded or unavailable service in rural areas.

Parent Education: Programs that teach caregivers skills to support child development, prevent youth delinquency, and improve school attendance and behavior.

Reentry: A set of services and support that help formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into the community. Includes housing, job training, case management, and mental health support.

Regional Priority: An issue stakeholders identified as urgent or impactful, warranting targeted investment or strategic action, even if some services are already in place.

School-Based Prevention Programs: Programs delivered on school campuses that address violence prevention, substance use, mental health, and absenteeism. Identified as a priority to reduce long-term justice involvement.

Substance Abuse Prevention: Community and school-based efforts to prevent the initiation or escalation of substance use, especially among youth. Strategies include education, outreach, and media campaigns.

Supportive Recovery Services: Post-treatment supports that promote long-term recovery from mental illness or addiction, including peer support, housing, and life skills.

Suicide Prevention: Programs designed to reduce suicidal ideation and behavior through awareness, training, crisis response, and access to care.

Training for Law Enforcement: Ongoing professional development designed to equip officers with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively and safely to complex situations.

Truancy Prevention: Strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism and keep students engaged in school. Common methods include early intervention, mentoring, and family engagement.

Victim Services: Programs and organizations that provide advocacy, counseling, legal support, shelter, transportation, and crisis response for crime victims.

Violence Prevention: Programs aimed at preventing interpersonal and community violence through education, public health strategies, and early intervention.

Vaping Prevention: Programs targeting youth to reduce the use of e-cigarettes through education, school policies, and community awareness.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **9. Consider Approving CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Policy Statement, Project Summary Sheets and Scoring Criteria for Plan Year 2027**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

At the beginning of each plan year for the criminal justice grant program, the Executive Committee must approve the policy which establishes the rules that CAPCOG will follow about reviewing, scoring, and recommending funding for applications. The details in the proposed policy for Plan Year 2027 are like the policy for Plan Year 2026 with key changes. The goals while drafting the proposed policy were to address requirements outlined in the contract with the Office of the Governor, clarify ambiguities from the previous year's policy, retain successful elements, and handle all potential scenarios applicable to applications. In summary the policy includes:

- Adding on to our existing definition for "One-Time Equipment Purchase" to clarify that it applies only to grants without any programmatic elements, such as staffing.
- Updates to the PY 2027 scoring criteria to reflect the shift to awarding 5 points for regional needs and 5 points for regional priorities.
- The continuation funding policy for local government applicants was extended from a four-year to a five-year cycle with funding ratios of 100%, 100%, 80%, 60%, and 40%.
- The Continuation Project Subcommittee, which has been in place for several years, is now being formally incorporated into policy.
- The conflict of interest policy was revised to require committee members to recuse themselves only from scoring the specific application in which they have a conflict, rather than the entire category.

Along with approval of the policy statement, staff request approval of the scoring criteria, score sheet, and project summary sheet. More detailed information regarding the policy and the related document is provided in the attached memo.

The timeline of events related to Plan Year 2027 is attached for reference. Approval of the timeline is not necessary.

The CJAC reviewed the proposed policy and associated documents at its October 7th meeting and recommends approval of all.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☒ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to a previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services
Karina Trevino, Community Development Coordinator

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: $0

Source of Funds: NA

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☒ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? n/a

PROCUREMENT: NA

ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval of the proposed policy statement, scoring criteria, score sheet, and project summary sheet for the Criminal Justice Grant 2027 Plan Year.

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. Memo summarizing policy changes additional information
2. Proposed Plan Year 2027 Criminal Justice Program Policy Statement
3. Proposed Plan Year 2027 Scoring Criteria
4. Proposed Plan Year 2027 Score Sheet
5. Proposed Plan Year 2027 Project Summary Sheet
6. Plan Year 2027 Timeline

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED:

NA

MEMORANDUM
October 20, 2025

TO: **Executive Committee**

FROM: **Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services**

RE: **Summary of proposed policy changes for Plan Year 2027 and additional information**

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), at its October 7 meeting. recommended approval of the attached policy statement, scoring criteria, score sheet, and project summary sheet for the criminal justice Plan Year 2027. The Executive Committee must now review these documents and act on them. The following sections provide additional information about each document.

Policy Statement

The CAPCOG Criminal Justice Policy Statement for Plan Year 2027 has been updated to reflect modifications in policy definitions, scoring criteria, and project evaluation processes. The policy document included with this packet is the result after the revisions were incorporated. Each change from the Plan Year 2026 policy statement is explained below in more detail.

Expansion on definition

"One-Time Equipment Purchase" was expanded to clarify that it applies only to grants without any programmatic components, such as staffing or ongoing service delivery. This clarification ensures that projects consisting solely of equipment purchases are not classified as continuation projects and are evaluated appropriately within the funding process.

Revised Regional Needs and Priorities Scoring

Updates to the PY 2027 scoring criteria reflect the shift to awarding 5 points for regional needs and 5 points for regional priorities. In previous years, all 10 points were allocated solely to priorities. This change ensures the scoring process aligns with the strategic plan requirement to evaluate both needs and priorities when reviewing applications

Extension of the decreasing funding ratio cycle

The decreasing funding ratio policy was extended from a four-year to a five-year cycle with funding ratios of 100%, 100%, 80%, 60%, and 40% for local government applicants. The change is proposed to address the occurrence of grantee organizations usually receiving their awards later than anticipated in the first year, thereby not having a full first year to launch the program. The CJAC determined that extending the policy allows projects additional time to achieve outcomes, strengthen sustainability, and better align with grant implementation timelines.

Continuation Subcommittee established in policy

The Continuation Project Subcommittee, which has been in place for several years, is now being formally incorporated into policy. This subcommittee plays an important role in ensuring that continuation projects and one-time equipment purchase requests are properly reviewed and evaluated to determine project status.

Conflict of interest policy updated

The conflict-of-interest policy proposes that committee members recuse themselves only from scoring the specific application in which they have a conflict, rather than the entire category. The previous policy of requiring members with a conflict to remove themselves from an entire category occasionally caused the composition of the CJAC members present to be out of line with the contractual requirements of the Office of the Governor Public Safety Office (PSO). This update ensures balanced participation across disciplines during the scoring process and maintains fair representation in all funding areas.

Regional Needs and Priorities Added

Regional needs and priorities were added to the policy Statement to align with the CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Plan. This addition ensures that project evaluations and funding recommendations are guided by the region's identified gaps, priorities, and promoting consistency between policy, the strategic plan, and the grant review process. A more detailed explanation of the recommended regional priorities and regional needs is provided near the end of this memo.

Project Summary Sheet

A project summary sheet is a form created by CAPCOG, which includes several questions about an application and is used to help the CJAC during its review and scoring of applications. Questions on the form discuss project status, project performance and fiscal capabilities. No revisions were made to the project summary sheet this year. Approval is being requested to continue using the same version approved and implemented last year for consistency across applications.

The project summary sheet completion is valued at up to 5 points toward the applicant's final score.

Score Sheets:

The PY 2027 score sheet was updated to allocate 5 points for regional needs and 5 points for regional priorities, whereas in previous years all 10 points were assigned solely to priorities. This adjustment aligns the scoring process with the strategic plan requirement to evaluate both needs and priorities in application reviews. The score sheets are provided in PDF format for Executive Committee reference, while CJAC members will utilize an online version for scoring. This approach, successfully implemented last year, streamlines the scoring process and improves efficiency.

Scoring Criteria

A document providing guidance for scoring applications is provided to the CJAC members to assist them in evaluating the applications and assigning scores to scoring them. Specific guidance is given for each question that is included in the score sheet that will be used by CJAC. The scoring guidance document will be provided to prospective applicants also to aid them in preparing their applications.

Timeline

The complete timeline of events is included in an attached document. Highlights of the Plan Year 202 timeline include:

December 12th – 15th, 2025	PSO expected to publish the request for applications.
March 23rd -24th, 2026	Applicant presentations to CJAC, CJAC scores applications and makes funding recommendations.
April 8th, 2026	CAPCOG Executive Committee considers scoring, ranking, and funding recommendations from CJAC and makes recommendations to PSO.
May 8th, 2026	Deadline for CAPCOG to submit scores and funding recommendations to PSO.

Regional Priorities and Needs

CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee has identified the following regional priorities for 2025–2030. While these priorities are intended to guide the region throughout the five-year cycle, they may be revisited if significant changes or emerging needs arise. The selected priorities will serve as the foundation for the grant prioritization process.

Regional Need #1: Modernize and Strengthen the Criminal Justice System Infrastructure and capacity to enhance community safety.

Corresponding Priorities:

- Training for Law Enforcement
- Equipment for Law Enforcement
- Victim Services
- Violence Prevention
- Employee Recruitment/Retention
- Family Violence Investigation

Regional Need #2: Strengthen Youth Prevention and Intervention Programs

Corresponding Priorities:

- Violence prevention
- Mentoring
- Substance abuse prevention
- Truancy prevention
- Vaping prevention.

Regional Need #3: Expand and enhance access to mental health and substance abuse services, with a focus on crisis intervention and treatment availability.

Corresponding Priorities:

- Crisis Intervention Services
- Crisis Residential Centers
- Counseling/ Therapy
- Alternatives to Incarceration
- School Based Prevention Programs

Regional Need #4: Enhance access to trauma-informed, culturally competent victim services across the region, with targeted support for mental health, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter.

Corresponding Priorities:

- Crisis Intervention Services
- Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)
- Shelters
- Advocacy
- Affordable Housing Options

Regional Need #5: Promote Diversion and Reentry Solutions

Corresponding Priorities:

- Crisis Intervention Services
- Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)
- Alternatives to Incarceration
- School Based Prevention Programs
- Violence prevention

The priorities were developed through the CAPCOG Criminal Justice Strategic Plan, which used survey data and public input from engagement sessions to identify regional needs. This addition ensures that project evaluations and funding recommendations are guided by the region's identified gaps, priorities, and promoting consistency between policy, the strategic plan, and the grant review process.

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Capital Area Council of Governments Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Plan Year (PY) 2027 Policy Statement

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

The following policies and procedures are established for the purpose of defining the rules that will govern the Capital Area Council of Government's (CAPCOG's) Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) application review and prioritization process for designated funding streams controlled by the Public Safety Office's Criminal Justice Division (PSO) of the Office of the Governor (OOG) that CAPCOG is responsible for reviewing. In addition, these policies and procedures govern the operation of CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Planning as outlined in the Interagency Cooperation Agreement between the PSO and CAPCOG as it relates to CAPCOG's CJAC.

1.1. Grant applications that will be reviewed include, but are not limited to the following funding opportunities from the Office of the Governor:

- 1.1.a. Criminal Justice Grant Program (CJ-JAG).
- 1.1.b. General Victim Assistance Grant Program (VOCA).
- 1.1.c. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program (JJ).
- 1.1.d. Truancy Prevention Projects (TP).
- 1.1.e. Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program (VAWA) and,
- 1.1.f. Any additional or unique fund sources that PSO determines appropriate.

1.2. In addition to purposes stated or implied in the CAPCOG Regional Strategic Criminal Justice Plan of Plan Year 2025-2030, this policy statement is intended to further the objective of addressing regional criminal justice needs by encouraging the establishment of beneficial programs and continuing funding for them with the goal of progressing them toward self-sufficiency.

1.3. CAPCOG recognizes that some programs provide the benefit of providing core services to the region, and that long-term funding of those programs, and the agencies who operate them, may be considered differently than those programs not providing core services.

1.4. It is the intent of CAPCOG, to the extent that is reasonable, to use all funding that is allocated to the CAPCOG region for funding programs within the region and has therefore developed this policy to encourage doing that.

SECTION 2. COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1. All policies, rules, and regulations outlined in this document comply with the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, and the state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations adopted by reference in Texas Administrative Code. 1 TAC Part 1, Chapter 3; Applicability, Subchapters A, B, D, E, and F of this chapter applies to all applications for funding and grants submitted to the PSO Information regarding the TAC and the OOG rules can be accessed on the website of the Texas Secretary of State, at the link or QR code below.

http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=1&pt=1

All meetings of the CJAC will be held in compliance with the general provisions of the Government Code, Chapter 551. Texas Open Meetings Act, which can be viewed online at:
http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml

SECTION 3. POLICY DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

3.1. The following terms, as used in this policy, shall have the meanings indicated.

3.1.a. Applicant - the agency/organization requesting grant funds from the Office of Governor's Public Safety Office.

3.1.b. Application - an online form that is completed by a potential grantee in eGrants in response to a request for a specific funding opportunity from the Office of Governor for a project or activity. It also refers to the content that is provided in the form along with any required documents that is subject to this policy and being considered for funding by the PSO.

3.1.c. Awarded Project Amount – the total awarded amount from the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office not including matching contributions.

3.1.d. CAPCOG Region - the 10-county CAPCOG area which includes the following counties Bastrop; Blanco; Burnet; Caldwell; Fayette; Hays; Lee; Llano; Travis; and Williamson.

3.1.e. Conflict of Interest – as defined in Section 9 of this policy, a condition that may affect CAPCOG staff, CJAC members, or Executive Committee members from participating in review and processing of applications.

3.1.f. Continuation Project – a project that is the subject of an Application and was funded in any previous plan year having the same Applicant, serving essentially the same target group, having a similar scope of work regarding the area served, the personnel proposed, and services offered as determined by the CJAC, and is not solely a One-Time Equipment Purchase.

3.1.g. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) - a volunteer committee comprised of a multi-disciplinary representation of members from the region. The primary responsibility of the CJAC is to review criminal justice-related grant applications from throughout the region, score and prioritize applications, and provide funding recommendations, based on a standardized application review and prioritization process and a standardized score sheet, to CAPCOG's Executive Committee for review.

3.1.h. eGrants – the online grant management system used by Public Safety Office programs used by applicants to register for an account, submit and certify applications, and manage any grants awarded. Located at egrants.gov.texas.gov.

3.1.i. Executive Committee – CAPCOG's governing body.

3.1.j. Fifth Year Project – a Continuation Project that has not experienced any Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2023 is the first year it received funding, or a Continuation Project that has experienced one or more Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2022 is the first year it received funding.

3.1.k. Fourth Year Project – a Continuation Project that has not experienced any Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2024 is the first year it received funding, or a Continuation Project that has experienced one or more Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2023 is the first year it received funding.

3.1.l. Gap Year– A period in which an application does not receive funding after the first year it has received funding.

3.1.m. Local Government – political subdivisions of the State of Texas, including but not limited to counties, municipalities, cities, towns, utility districts, , school districts, and similar public entities with the authority to levy taxes.

3.1.n. New Project – a project that is the subject of an Application that does not meet the criteria to be considered a Continuation Project.

3.1.o. One-Time Equipment Purchase – The acquisition of equipment through a single, non-recurring expenditure intended to meet a specific need that is not part of an ongoing project. A project that does not include programmatic elements such as staffing and does not require further funding for replacement, maintenance, or continuation of services related to the equipment acquired.

3.1.p. Progressed Project - a Continuation Project that has not experienced any Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2022 is the first year it received funding, or a Continuation Project that has experienced one or more Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2021 or an earlier year is the first year it received funding.

3.1.q. Project Summary Sheet- a form created by CAPCOG, which includes several questions about an Application and is used to help the CJAC during its review and scoring of applications.

3.1.r. Project - the subject of a grant application with a proposed set of objectives that will be performed by the applicant should grant funding be awarded.

3.1.s. Reasonable Budget Estimate (RBE) - an annual notification of fund availability CAPCOG receives from the PSO. The RBE identifies the estimated amount of funds being reserved for each grant program under which the region receives a funding allocation from the PSO.

3.1.t. Second Year Project – a Continuation Project that has not experienced any Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2026 is the first year it received funding, or a Continuation Project that has experienced one or more Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2025 is the first year it received funding

3.1.u. Third Year Project – a Continuation Project has not experienced any Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2025 is the first year it received funding, or a Continuation Project that has experienced one or more Gap Years and for which Plan Year 2024 is the first year it received funding.

3.2. When used in this policy statement, the phrases indicated below have the meaning as described for each.

3.2.a. Received funding – a Project or Application was awarded funding by the PSO, regardless if the Project or Application received a funding recommendation from the CAPCOG Executive Committee or the CJAC, or if the funding was used by the Applicant.

3.2.b. When referring to actions during the application, review, scoring, or funding recommendation process, the term CAPCOG may refer to either the CAPCOG staff, the CJAC, the Executive Committee, or any combination of these.

SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR CAPCOG REGION

4.1. To be eligible to participate in CAPCOG's application review and prioritization process, the Applicant must provide services within the CAPCOG Region.

4.2. Agencies within the CAPCOG Region may expand their service area outside of the CAPCOG Region; however, CAPCOG will only consider Applications for Projects that will provide services within the CAPCOG Region.

4.3. Agencies headquartered outside of the CAPCOG Region may submit a grant Application for CAPCOG review and prioritization if the requested funding will be used to provide services within the CAPCOG Region.

4.4. Agencies that receive direct allocations from the PSO for service programs may not apply for funds that are prioritized by CAPCOG. (Examples include but are not limited to: *Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Crime Stoppers; Children's Advocacy Centers; and Court Appointed Special Advocates*.)

SECTION 5. REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND REGIONAL NEEDS

5.1. In alignment with the CAPCOG 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan, the following regional needs and corresponding priorities have been identified. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their projects address one or more of these needs and priorities. CJAC will consider these areas when scoring and ranking projects.

5.2. Regional Need #1: Modernize and Strengthen the Criminal Justice System Enhance infrastructure and capacity to improve community safety.
Corresponding Priorities:
- 5.2.a. Training for Law Enforcement
- 5.2.b. Equipment for Law Enforcement
- 5.2.c. Victim Services
- 5.2.d. Violence Prevention
- 5.2.e. Employee Recruitment/Retention
- 5.2.f. Family Violence Investigation

5.3. Regional Need #2: Strengthen Youth Prevention and Intervention Programs
Corresponding Priorities:
- 5.3.a. Violence prevention
- 5.3.b. Mentoring
- 5.3.c. Substance abuse prevention
- 5.3.d. Truancy prevention
- 5.3.e. Vaping prevention.

5.4. Regional Need #3: Expand and enhance access to mental health and substance abuse services, with a focus on crisis intervention and treatment availability.
Corresponding Priorities:
- 5.4.a. Crisis Intervention Services
- 5.4.b. Crisis Residential Centers
- 5.4.c. Counseling/ Therapy
- 5.4.d. Alternatives to Incarceration
- 5.4.e. School Based Prevention Programs

5.5. Regional Need #4: Enhance access to trauma-informed, culturally competent victim services across the region, with targeted support for mental health, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter.
Corresponding Priorities:
- 5.5.a. Crisis Intervention Services
- 5.5.b. Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)
- 5.5.c. Shelters
- 5.5.d. Advocacy
- 5.5.e. Affordable Housing Options

5.6. Regional Need #5: Promote Diversion and Reentry Solutions
Corresponding Priorities:
- 5.6.a. Crisis Intervention Services
- 5.6.b. Mental Health Assistance (Counseling/Therapy)
- 5.6.c. Alternatives to Incarceration
- 5.6.d. School Based Prevention Programs

5.6.e. Violence prevention

5.7. CAPCOG will evaluate Applications on the extent to which they advance these priorities and needs. Projects that address these regional needs and priorities will be considered higher priority for funding recommendations. However, CJAC retains the discretion to recommend funding based on overall merit, community impact, and alignment with Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, requirements

SECTION 6. APPLICATION

6.1. Office of the Governor Application Process

6.1.a. To be considered for funding, grant Applications must be submitted directly to the PSO via eGrants by the designated deadline. eGrants will not accept late application submissions.

6.1.b. All Office of the Governor funding opportunities are located on the eGrants website. The Office of the Governor criminal justice grant funding announcements include eligibility requirements set by the Office of the Governor. Please refer to information at the link or QR code below to review applicant eligibility requirements. https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/

6.1.c. The PSO will screen all Applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement. Eligible local and regional applications will be forwarded by PSO to CAPCOG.

6.1.d. PSO will make the final determination as to which funding source is most appropriate for each application.

6.2. Application Limitations

6.2.a. Applicants are limited to three (3) Applications per funding source.

6.2.b. Any Applicant that submits more than three Applications in a single fund source will receive a score of zero and a funding recommendation of $0.00 for all Applications in excess of three submitted Applications as determined by the date and time that the Application was submitted. Applications in excess of three for an Applicant in a single fund source will not be forwarded to the CJAC for scoring or a funding recommendation and will not present to the CJAC.

6.2.c. Applicants with multiple Applications in a fund source must indicate the project preference by indicating which of their applications is primary, secondary, and tertiary on the Project Summary Sheets.

6.2.d. CAPCOG will assign project preference to Applications for which a preference is not indicated on the Project Summary Sheet.

6.3. Application Requirements

6.3.a. In addition to the requirements established by the PSO, this policy establishes several requirements that have consequences to the scoring of an Application. Applicants should review Section 7 of this policy to understand how an Application's scoring can be affected by these requirements. Applications that do not adhere to one or more of these requirements will still be reviewed by the PSO and are eligible to receive funding but are likely to receive a lower score and a lower funding recommendation from CAPCOG.

6.3.b. **Grant Application Workshop**- CAPCOG will conduct a grant application workshop that will be open to all prospective Applicants, at which the provisions of this policy will be reviewed and changes from the Plan Year 2025 policy will be highlighted. Failure of an applicant to attend a grant workshop could adversely affect the scoring and funding recommendation.

6.3.c. **Project Summary Sheet-** A Project Summary Sheet, in a form provided by CAPCOG, that should be submitted for each Application that is submitted through eGrants. The Project Summary Sheet includes several questions about the Application and proposed Project and is used to help the CJAC during its review and scoring of applications. Failure of an applicant to submit this form to CAPCOG could adversely affect the scoring and funding recommendation.

6.3.d. **Attendance at CJAC Project Presentation Meetings-** A representative of the Applicant who is familiar with the application and the proposed project should attend the presentation meeting conducted by the CJAC at the time that has been assigned for the Application. The Applicant representative will be allotted five minutes to present information about the Application to the CJAC and must be prepared to address questions from the CJAC members. Attendance at the meeting or making a presentation by the Applicant are not required. Failure of an Applicant to present its Application to the CJAC could adversely affect the scoring and funding recommendation.

6.4. CAPCOG Application Review Process

6.4.a. Forwarding Eligible Applications to the CJAC

6.4.a.(1) CAPCOG will forward all Applications that are eligible for review to the CJAC. The forwarded Applications will be accompanied by the Project Summary Sheet for the Application and necessary scoring materials.

6.4.a.(2) CAPCOG staff will provide to the CJAC a list of the Applications that are not eligible for review stating the appropriate reason the project cannot be reviewed. CAPCOG will send out email correspondence to the Applicant with reasoning as to why the Application will not be reviewed by the CJAC.

6.4.a.(3) CAPCOG will evaluate each Application that is eligible for review and will determine the status of each Application as a New Project, First Year Project, Second Year Project, Third Year Project, or a Progressed Project.

6.4.a.(4) CAPCOG will indicate the status of each forwarded Application. The CJAC or a subcommittee of the CJAC will meet prior to the scoring meeting to review the status of Applications and make changes to an Application's status.

6.4.b. Review of Applications by the CJAC

6.4.b.(1) CJAC members will individually review the forwarded Applications as soon as they are received and may continue to review them until scoring them.

6.4.b.(2) Prior to the scoring meetings, the CJAC may choose to meet to collaborate on the forwarded Applications.

6.4.c. Applicant Presentation to the CJAC

6.4.c.(1) CAPCOG will determine the schedule for meetings at which Applicants will have the opportunity to present their Applications to the CJAC.

6.4.c.(2) CAPCOG will notify the eligible Applicants to choose a preferred time to present their Application to the CJAC from a list of available times. The times available for presentations and the final presentation schedule is determined by CAPCOG.

6.4.c.(3) Applicants will be notified of their assigned presentation time no later than 3 business days prior to the first day of the presentation meetings.

6.4.c.(4) Applicants who are presenting their Applications must be present and prepared to present at their assigned time.

6.4.c.(5) Applicants will be allowed five minutes to make a presentation to the CJAC. The CJAC, in its sole discretion, may allow more time as long as it does not interfere with the start time for the next scheduled presentation.

6.4.c.(6) The CJAC may allow an Applicant to present earlier than their scheduled time if the Applicant is present and prepared to present and the Applicant that is scheduled to present at that time is not present or has already presented. The CJAC, in its sole discretion, may allow an Applicant to present at a time later than its scheduled time.

6.4.c.(7) The CJAC may choose to conduct one or more additional meetings for presentations after the meetings initially scheduled. Scheduling of presentations during any additional meetings will be determined by the CJAC.

6.4.d. Scoring of Applications and Proposed Funding by the CJAC

6.4.d.(1) CJAC members will consider a variety of factors in scoring the Applications including, but not limited to, cost-effectiveness, overall funding availability, regional priorities, identified gaps in services or resources, geographic distributions, the inherent value of the Project's impact, whether the Project has the potential to be a model program, whether delaying the Project would have a significant negative impact on the area proposed to be served, and any additional factors relevant to a specific request for applications.

6.4.d.(2) After each presentation the CJAC members will individually assign scores and a proposed funding amount to the Application using the materials provided and based on the guidance in this policy and separate scoring guidance materials provided to them.

6.4.d.(3) In addition to scoring the Applications, on the scoring materials each CJAC member will propose a funding amount for each Application. This amount must not exceed the applicant's requested funding or applicable limitations specified in Section 8 and should be determined based on the CJAC member's evaluation of the Project's merits and feasibility.

6.4.d.(4) CAPCOG staff will collect the CJAC members' scores and proposed funding for the Application either in written or electronic form as determined by the CJAC and will calculate the Application's overall score using the scoring method prescribed in this policy. CAPCOG staff will collect the proposed funding amounts from CJAC members. To calculate the final proposed funding amount.

6.4.d.(5) The member score is the total score submitted by the CJAC member on the materials provided after the multiplier has been applied.

6.4.d.(6) When all member scores are submitted or collected, the CAPCOG staff will remove the highest member score and the lowest member score, sum all remaining member scores, and divide by the number of member scores that were summed to determine the application score.

6.4.d.(7) The application score for Progressed Projects submitted by Local Government Applicants will be multiplied by 0.50

6.4.d.(8) When all member recommended funding amounts are submitted or collected, the CAPCOG staff will remove the highest and lowest member recommended funding amounts, sum all remaining member recommended funding amounts, and divide by the number of member recommended funding amounts that were summed to determine the calculated proposed funding amount.

6.4.d.(9) The Applications will then be ordered for each funding category from highest score to lowest score without regard to preference indicated for the application as described in Section 6.2.c.

6.4.e. Score Tie Breaker

6.4.e.(1) In the event two or more applications achieve a tie score, the following method will be used to break the tie by applying the rules below, in the order they are listed, until no ties remain.

6.4.e.(2) New Projects will be placed in order before Applications for Continuation Projects and Progressed Projects.

6.4.e.(3) Applications will be sorted in descending order by the year of their first year to receive funding.

6.4.e.(4) Applications will be sorted in ascending order by the amount of funding requested, or if a Continuation Project, by the maximum funding recommendation amount indicated in Section 8.

6.4.e.(5) The existence of a tie is evaluated after each rule is applied and the next rule is applied only if a tie remains.

6.4.f. Recommendation of Funding by the CJAC

6.4.f(1) After all presentations for a funding category have completed, the CJAC will determine the method to use when recommending funding for Applications. The CJAC may adopt one or more formulas to determine the recommended funding for Applications, or use a combination of methods.

6.4.f(2) When making final funding recommendations, the CJAC will consider the calculated final proposed funding amount for each Application and may recommend a funding amount that is different than the calculated proposed funding amount.

6.4.f(3) The CJAC is not obligated to adhere to rank order or applicant-indicated preferences in making funding recommendations.

6.4.f(4) Regardless of the method chosen by the CJAC to recommend funding for applications, the limitations described in Section 8 of this policy apply.

6.4.g. Review of Applications by the Executive Committee and Funding Recommendation to the Public Safety Office

6.4.g.(1) Prior to the deadline date for CAPCOG to submit scoring, ranking, and funding recommendations to PSO, the CAPCOG Executive Committee will review the scoring and ranking of the Applications from the CJAC and the funding recommendations for each at one of its regularly scheduled meetings, or if it deems necessary, at a specially called meeting.

6.4.g.(2) The Executive Committee will vote on funding recommendations for all Applications prior to the deadline date for CAPCOG to submit scoring, ranking, and funding recommendations to PSO. The Executive Committee may make funding recommendations that are consistent with the CJAC recommendation or may make different funding recommendations as it deems appropriate.

6.4.g.(3) The Executive Committee may specify or give guidance to include any notes or additional information to the PSO for Applications or for an entire grant category.

6.4.h. Appeals to Suspected Scoring Errors Process

6.4.h.(1) Any Applicant of an Application that was scored and received a funding recommendation from the CJAC may appeal the score that the Application received if the Applicant believes that an error was made in calculating the Application's score or in implementing the scoring or tie breaker methods of this policy. An Applicant may not submit a request for an appeal for any other purpose.

6.4.h.(2) Requests for an appeal must be submitted to CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Liaison: Karina Trevino at ktrevino@capcog.org no later than five business days prior to the Executive Committee meeting at which the priority list of Applications will be recommended for funding. The request must include a statement describing the reason for the appeal, including what the Applicant believes to be the error made in scoring

signed by the authorized official as designated by the PSO. Supporting documentation may be included.

6.4.h.(3) If a request for an appeal is received, the CJAC members will receive a copy of the written appeal and the Chair, Vice Chair, or designated representative from the CJAC will be invited to attend the Executive Committee meeting at which the priority list of Applications will be recommended for funding.

6.4.h.(4) The request for the appeal and the supporting material will be provided to the Executive Committee at the same time as materials for the priority list of Applications and funding recommendations.

6.4.h.(5) The Executive Committee, after considering the request for appeal, may change the Application's score and priority ranking and the ranking of other Applications that may be affected by the Application's revised score.

6.4.h.(6) The Executive Committee may choose to, but is not obligated to, discuss the appeal, hear testimony from the appellant, or change the score and ranking of the subject Application based on the information provided.

6.4.h.(7) The decision of the Executive Committee will be the final action concerning all appeals. The CJAC members will be notified of the result of the appeal.

SECTION 7. SCORING CRITERIA

7.1. An Application's score is composed of scores from two parts: Objective Score and Discretionary Score

7.2. The **Objective Score** has two components which are all dependent upon the Applicant's performance during application process or submittal of materials. The score for each objective score component is determined by CAPCOG staff. Objective scores are all (earned if the applicant complied with the requirements of the component) or nothing (assigned if the Applicant did not comply with the requirements of the component). Partial objective scores will not be assigned to any Application.

7.2.a. The objective score for each Application, a description of each, and the values of the components are:

0 or 5 Points for Grant Application Workshop Attendance- CAPCOG will schedule and hold a grant Application workshop to discuss funding opportunities provided by the PSO. If a representative of the applying organization attends a grant application workshop all of the organization's Applications receive 5 points. If an applying organization does not have a representative attend a grant application workshop, all of that organization's Applications will receive zero points for the grant application workshop attendance component.

0, 5, or 10 Points for Submission of Project Summary Sheets- Applicants are to complete and submit a Project Summary Sheet. If a Project Summary Sheet has been submitted for an Application by the indicated deadline, the Application will receive 10 points, if a

Project Summary Sheet is received after the indicated deadline and no later than 5 days before the first day of the presentation meeting, the Application will receive 5 points. If a Project Summary Sheet has not been submitted for an Application, the Application will receive zero points for the submission of Project Summary Sheet component.

7.3. The Discretionary Score has three components. Which are all dependent upon the Applicant's performance in regard to regional priorities and the written Application submitted to eGrants.

7.3.a. The discretionary score for each Application, a description of each, and the values of the components are:

0-10 Points for Regional Priorities - All Applications that are forwarded to the CJAC for scoring will be eligible to receive up to 10 points as determined by the scoring of the individual CJAC members and the method of calculating application scores established in this policy.

0 - 50 Points for Written Application – All Applications that are forwarded to the CJAC for scoring will be eligible to receive up to 50 points for the written application component of the discretionary score as determined by the scoring by individual CJAC members and the method of calculating application scores established in this policy. The score sheets that will be used by the CJAC to assign scores to an Application may divide the written application component into subcomponents that are scored independently and total 50 points.

0 - 25 Points for Project Presentations - All Applications that are forwarded to the CJAC for scoring will be eligible to receive up to 25 points for the project presentation component of the discretionary score as determined by the scoring by individual CJAC members and the method of calculating application scores established in this policy. The score sheets that will be used by the CJAC to assign scores to an application may divide the project presentation component into subcomponents that are scored independently and total 25 points.

SECTION 8. CJAC FUNDING RECOMMENDATION LIMITATIONS

8.1. Except for the exception mentioned below, Continuation Projects submitted by Local Government Applicants are limited to receive a funding recommendation from the CJAC in an amount no greater than the amounts indicated below depending on the Continuation Project's first year of funding for all funding categories.

8.1.a. Second Year Projects: 100 % of amount awarded by PSO for the Project's first year of funding.

8.1.b. Third Year Projects: 80% of amount awarded by PSO for the Project's first year of funding.

8.1.c. Fourth Year Projects: 60% of amount awarded by PSO for the Project's first year of funding.

8.1.d. Fifth Year Projects: 40% of amount awarded by PSO for the Project's first year of funding.

8.1.e. Continuation Projects are not guaranteed funding for every year of the cycle. The CJAC will review each Application and funding recommendations will be based on the Project's merit, adherence to the funding guidelines, and available resources for that particular year.

8.2. Except for the exception mentioned below, Progressed Projects submitted by Local Government Applicants will receive a funding recommendation of $0.00 from the CJAC.

8.3. Except for the exception mentioned below, Applications that receive a total final score less than 70 points will receive a funding recommendation of $0.00 from the CJAC.

8.4. Except for the exception mentioned below, Applications that are in excess of an Applicant's three permitted Applications for a fund source will receive a funding recommendation of $0.00 from the CJAC.

8.5. The CJAC may not recommend funding in an amount greater than the amount requested by the Applicant.

8.6. If the total value of the CJAC funding recommendation for Applications in a funding category is less than the RBE for that category, the CJAC may recommend funding for applications in an amount greater than the amount allowed by Sections 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 above.

8.7 A CJAC subcommittee will review all applications that could reasonably be considered continuation projects. If an application is determined to be a one-time equipment purchase, it will not be classified as a continuation project. The subcommittee may also recommend limiting repeat requests for the same or substantially similar equipment. These determinations will be documented and shared with the applicant prior to the presentation to ensure transparency and consistency.

SECTION 9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.1 To avoid a conflict of interest, members of the CAPCOG's Executive Committee, CJAC members, and CAPCOG staff must abstain from voting and comment on any application in which they have a conflict. Members will remain eligible to participate in the review, discussion, and scoring of all other applications within that funding category.

9.2 Potential Conflicts of Interest include the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree of consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:

9.2.a. Is employed by the Applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded; or,

9.2.b. Serves on any board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded; or,

9.2.c. Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the Applicant agency; or

9.2.d. Receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or services, from the Applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

9.3. CJAC members must recuse themselves from participating in the presentation, discussion, and scoring of the application for which they have a conflict. At the time the presentation and scoring

of the application immediately preceding the conflicted application ends, the member must leave the dais and not speak in a way that CJAC members can hear them. Members may leave the room, but are not required to. They may return and participate once the CJAC has finished scoring the conflicted application.

9.4. Members will clearly state their abstention from voting on certain Applications and will not speak on behalf of or in support of an Applicant.
9.5. Members who declare a conflict of interest may not participate in discussion or deliberation on the conflicted application during the funding prioritization process.
9.6. CAPCOG staff will ensure that all declared conflicts are documented from the score sheets and in the meeting minutes.

9.7. If CAPCOG learns that any inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of PSO criminal justice projects, CAPCOG will notify the PSO of the concerns.

SECTION 10. CAPCOG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

10.1. CAPCOG will maintain a website and post all reference materials here: www.capcog.org/what-we-do/funding-grants/criminal-justice/.

10.2. CAPCOG staff will provide current grantees, potential Applicants, and others with CAPCOG's criminal justice priorities, a copy of the CJAC application review and prioritization scoring instrument, the criteria used in the scoring of Applications, and other relevant materials, including relevant policies, procedures, and bylaws, during the grant application workshop or by request. For more information, please contact CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Liaison: Karina Trevino at ktrevino@capcog.org.

10.3. In addition to the CAPCOG-facilitated grant application workshops, Applicants may request grant-related technical assistance before the Applicant's submission of the certified Application to PSO.

10.4. CAPCOG staff will answer questions for both current grantees and new Applicants via email consultation as much as is practical, as well as in-person upon request. For more information, please contact CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Liaison: Karina Trevino at ktrevino@capcog.org

10.5. The Office of the Governor, PSO staff will provide technical assistance with the operation of the eGrants web-based application.

Capital Area Council of Governments
6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744-2306
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

Plan Year 2027 Criminal Justice Grant Application Scoring Criteria and Guidance

Each question in the Regional Priorities, Application Review, and Project Presentation sections of the Score Sheet indicate a maximum score available for each. CAJC members are advised to indicate a score for each question in the range from 0 to the maximum points allowed based on the extent to which the application addresses the question and by using the guidance provided in this document.

Objective Score
(15 points maximum)

Did the applicant attend CAPCOG's Grant Workshop? (5 Points Maximum)
CAPCOG staff will provide a yes or no answer to this question on Score Sheet if the applicant attended the Grant workshop as stated in Policy Statement.

Did the Applicant Submit a Project Summary Sheet? (10 Points Maximum)
CAPCOG staff will indicate on the score sheet the applicant submission status for the Project Summary Sheet as stated in Policy Statement.

Regional Priorities and Needs
(10 points maximum)

Does this Project align with at least one of the five identified Regional Needs? **(5Points Maximum)** CJAC members should reference the Project Activities Information portion of the application summary when awarding these points. CJAC members should also refer to the CAPCOG 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for the full list of Regional Needs.
. Points should be awarded based on the portion of a project that falls under one or more of these priorities

Does this Project align with at least one of the five identified regional priorities? (5 Points Maximum) CJAC members should reference the Project Activities Information portion of the application summary when awarding these points. CJAC members should also refer to the CAPCOG 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for the full list of Regional Needs. Points should be awarded based on the portion of a project that falls under one or more of these priorities

Application Review
(50 points maximum)

Are the project costs in the budget eligible, reasonable, and essential to the goal and activities of the project? (10 Points Maximum)
CJAC Members should reference the Budget Information in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Does the budget include all items necessary to complete the project?
- How cost effective are the items identified in the project budget?
- Has the applicant provided a clear explanation for how all items in the project budget will be used in the execution of the project?
- Has the applicant budgeted correctly for the proposed project?
- If a match is required for the project, does the applicant have the match properly calculated and allocated?

Does the applicant's approach clearly address the problem and outlined activities that will be conducted during the project? (10 Points Maximum)
CJAC Members should reference the Approach and Activities, and Evidence-Based Practices narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Is it easy to understand what the project does by reading the Approach and Activities narrative in the application summary?
- Will the approach outlined here have a meaningful impact on the problem?
- Is there a justifiable and clear reason given for choosing the approach?
- Is a reasonable timeline for all relevant aspects of the project identified by the applicant?
- Are the methods, approaches, and activities identified evidence-based?
- Is the evidence cited? Is the citation used reputable and knowledgeable?
- Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the target population's needs?

Does the applicant use supporting data that demonstrates the problem exists, demonstrates the problem's size and scope, and demonstrates the problem's negative effects on the target population? (10 Points Maximum)
CJAC Members should reference the Supporting Data and Problem Statement narratives as well as the Performance Management, and Data Management narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Has the applicant cited and used verifiable and trustworthy data sources?
- Is the data used "right sized" for the project? Does it use local or regional data to support the existence of the problem?
- Does the data used clearly support the problem statement?
- In the target group(s) identified in the number, geographic area, and demographic makeup? Is there data supporting these claims?
- Are there clearly defined ways to measure the project's success?
- Have goals and measurable objectives been identified? Are specific outcome and output measures defined?
- How well are the goals and objectives tied to the problem?
- Has the baseline and the expected change resulting from the project been identified?
- Does the applicant have sound methods for reviewing project performance?
- Are the methods used to analyze performance data explained clearly?
- Does the applicant use the information from project performance reviews to make decisions about the project?

- How well does the applicant outline how performance data is collected, tracked, and maintained? Does the applicant identify any software or tools to be used?

How well does the project support a regionally integrated criminal justice system that provides inherent value? (10 points maximum)
CJAC Members should reference the Project Abstract, Problem Statement, and Capacity & Capabilities narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below:

- Is the root problem and need clearly defined?
- Does the identified problem fall within the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the applicant?
- Is the problem supported by evidence, either statistical or anecdotal?
- Has the applicant identified a problem that is not just the lack of the proposed project?
- Does the Problem Statement make a compelling case for the existence of and need to solve the problem?
- Does the problem statement identify the people that will be served?
- Is the target group identified in number, geographic area, and demographic makeup? Is there data supporting these claims?
- Have special characteristics of the targeted population been identified?
- Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the target population's needs?

How capable is the applicant in executing the project identified in the application and completing any required reporting? (10 points maximum)
CJAC Members should reference the Capabilities & Capacity, Approach & Activities, and Performance Management narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Has the applicant provided sufficient information about their organizational qualifications and performance history to confidently ensure the project is feasible?
- Has the applicant provided enough information to indicate it has the capacity to handle all the work required for successful completion of the project, including all reporting that is required by CJD?
- Does the applicant identify personnel who are sufficiently qualified and experienced to add value and increase the likelihood of success for the project?
- Are the proposed activities tied to personnel qualification in a way that shows a reasoned connection between the two?

Project Presentation (25 points maximum)

Is the applicant's presentation consistent with the content provided in the written application? (Maximum 15 Points)
CJAC Members should consider the following and reference to the full application.

- Did the Agency send a presenter that was knowledgeable of the program?
- Was the presenter able to answer the CJAC's questions accurately?
- Were the items mentioned in the presentation consistent with the application?

Does the agency have a strategy to sustain this project if grant funds are not available in subsequent years or if the project received a reduction in funding? (10 Points Maximum)
CJAC members should consider the following and reference the full application and the 5-minute presentation from the presenter.

- Did the presenter describe the agency's strategy to sustain this project beyond the grant period? Would the agency be able to carry out the program if the funding were to disappear tomorrow?
- For equipment or technology projects, did the presenter describe the agency's plan to maintain equipment beyond the grant period (i.e., routine maintenance, repairs, upgrades, etc.).

PY 2027 CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Score Sheet

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

Funding Opportunity:		**Date:**	
Applicant Agency:			
Project Title:			
Application Number:		**Amount Requested:**	**$**

Objective Score	**Points Scale**	**Yes**	**No**		**Score**
Did the applicant attend CAPCOG's Grant Workshop?	**0 or 5**				
	Points Scale	**Before Indicated Deadline**	**Between Deadline and 5 days before presentations**	**Not Submitted**	**Score**
Did the Applicant Submit a Project Summary Sheet?	**0, 5, or 10**				
				Total Points Scored:	

Discretionary Score		
Regional Needs and Priorities (10 points)	**Maximum Points Allowed**	**Score**
Does this Project align with at least one of the five identified Regional Needs? Refer to the CAPCOG 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for the full list of Regional Needs and Priorities.	**5**	
Does this Project align with at least one of the five identified regional priorities? Refer to the CAPCOG 2025–2030 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for the full list of Regional Needs and Priorities	**5**	
Application Review (50 points)	**Maximum Points Allowed**	**Score**
Are the project cost in the budget eligible, reasonable, and essential to the goal and activities of the project?	**10**	

Does the applicant's approach clearly address the problem and outlined activities that will be conducted during the project?	**10**	
Does the applicant use supporting data that demonstrates the problem exists, demonstrates the problem's size and scope, and demonstrates the problem's negative effects on the target population?	**10**	
How well does the project support a regionally integrated criminal justice system that provides inherent value?	**10**	
How capable is the applicant in executing the project identified in the application and completing any required reporting?	**10**	
Project Presentation (25 points)	**Maximum Points Allowed**	**Score**
Is the applicant's presentation consistent with the content provided in the written application?	**15**	
Does the agency have a strategy to sustain this project if grant funds are not available in subsequent years or if the project received a reduction in funding?	**10**	

Proposed Funding:

Funding Requested on Application	**Proposed funding based on individual CJAC member review**

Vote Exemption Status

Per the CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Policy Statement and the requirements established by the State of Texas Office of the Governor's (OOG), a CJAC member must abstain from reviewing, voting, commenting, presenting, or taking any action on any grant application that could be a conflict of interest.

☐ I abstain from voting on this project as I am either employed by or am directly affiliated with the applicant agency and, therefore, cannot vote or provide comment or discussion on this project.

Member Voting Agreement

As a CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee member, I agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness. I understand this committee's bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process and agree to the requirements established by the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Grant Division.

_____

Member Signature

CAPCOG Criminal Justice PY2027 Project Summary Sheet

Organization Name: *

Project Title: *

eGrants Application Identification Number: *

What fund source are you applying for? *

- ○ General Victim Assistance Grant Program (VOCA)
- ○ Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program (VAWA)
- ○ Juvenile Justice Program (JJ)
- ○ Truancy Prevention Program (TP)
- ○ Criminal Justice Assistance Program (JAG)

Will your agency submit multiple applications in a single fund source?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Please indicate your funding priority for this project *

In order for the scoring committee to understand the needs of the agency and to allocate resources effectively, please indicate the preference for this project over your other projects for funding.

- ○ Primary Preference: (This project is the top choice to receive funding)
- ○ Secondary Preference: (This project is the second choice to receive funding)
- ○ Tertiary Preference: (This project is the third choice to receive funding)

Please briefly explain the rationale behind the ranking of your projects (primary, secondary, tertiary)

Include the factors that influenced your decision (300 Word Max) Please refer to the CAPCOG CJAC Policy Statement for more information on project preference.

Please provide a brief summary of your project. *

Be sure to include all relevant information you would like the scoring committee to consider. (Max 750 Words)

Is this a continuation project? *

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

If this is a continuation project what year is the project in? *

If this is a continuation project, are you on track to meet your current impact measures? Please provide details supporting the progress of each measure *

What percentage of the agency's budget does this grant cover? *

Does the project have other components or is part of another project that the scoring committee would want to know about? *

Please provide a breakdown of where your clientele is located (by county) in relation to this project.

This should include clients from the past 12 months, including any current clients.

	Number of Clients Served Per County
Bastrop County	
Blanco County	
Burnet County	
Caldwell County	
Fayette County	
Hays County	
Lee County	
Llano County	
Travis County	
Williamson County	
Outside of CAPCOG Region	

If your project extends beyond the CAPCOG Region, how will you ensure that the funds are dedicated solely to supporting efforts within our region? *

What is the demographic breakdown of your clientele served or proposed to be served?

[White/African American / Hispanic /Asian/etc.]

If your application budget contains indirect costs, please list the amount of indirect cost below:

USD

What long-term funding plans does your agency have in connection with this application?

Please identify the sources and amounts of funds allocated for the proposed project for the current fiscal year. *

For example: This project will be funded 50% by Health and Human Services for $5,000 and 50% by the Office of the Govenor for $5,000.

What would the impact of a 10% reduction in funding be on this project?

Agency Email: *

Please indicate the email address of the individual submitting the Project Summary Sheet, this individual will receive an email confirmation upon submission.

CAPCOG Criminal Justice Timeline Plan Year 2027

Fall CJAC Meeting — **Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 10:00 am**

CAPCOG Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Meeting. This meeting will serve as a review and update CJ policy statement, priorities, and scoring process.

November Executive Committee Meeting — **Wednesday, November 12th, 2025 at 10:00 am**

CAPCOG Executive Committee to consider Criminal Justice scoring process, 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and Criminal Justice Policy Statement.

Office of the Governor releases PY 2027 Criminal Justice RFAs — **Monday December 15th, 2025***

Expected time frame for the Office of the Governor to publish Criminal Justice Request for Applications (RFA's) for PY 2027. All funding announcements can be found on www.egrants.gov.texas.gov/fundingopp

In Person Grant Workshop- Earn 5 Points — **Tuesday January 6th, 2026**

The in-person grant workshop provides guidance on the application process and offers 5 points for attendance. For registration information please visit our website.

Virtual Grant Workshop- Earn 5 Points — **Wednesday January 7th, 2026**

The virtual grant workshop provides guidance on the application process and offers 5 points for attendance. For registration information please visit our website.

Application Deadline for CJ Grants to Office of the Governor — **TBD***

Deadline to submit applications to www.egrants.gov.texas.gov at 5 pm CST. Early and complete submission is strongly encouraged.

Deadline to Submit Project Summary Sheet to CAPCOG — **TBD***

Submit the Project Summary Sheet to CAPCOG to receive 10 points. For more information, visit the CAPCOG website.

Presentation Sign up Link Distributed — **March 18th, 2026**

CAPCOG will notify the eligible Applicants to choose a preferred time to present their Project to the CJAC. The final presentation schedule is determined by CAPCOG.

Applicant Presentations — **March 23rd and 24th 2026**

Applicants present their projects to the CJAC, please arrive 15 minutes early to your scheduled time

CAPCOG Executive Committee Approves Prioritization List — **Wednesday April 8th, 2026**

CAPCOG Executive Committee considers scoring, ranking, and funding recommendations

CAPCOG Submits Prioritization List — **Friday May 8th, 2026**

Deadline for CAPCOG to submit scores and funding recommendations to Office of the Governor.

* Dates are subject to change. This timeline will be amended as times and dates get finalized or are updated by the Office of the Governor (OOG). Please check https://www.capcog.org/what-we-do/funding-grants/criminal-justice/ for updates. Approved on November 12th, 2025.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **10. Consider Approving Appointments to Advisory Committees**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:
This is the monthly item for filling positions on CAPCOG's advisory committees. Please let us know if our staff can assist in identifying interested persons to serve. It is presumed that both city and county representatives will collaborate when making appointments.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☒ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to a previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: **Andrew Hoekzema, Director of Administrative Services**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: N/A
Source of Funds: N/A

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☐ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? _____

PROCUREMENT: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve recommended advisory committee appointments

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:
Advisory Committee Vacancy Memo

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED:

1. Advisory Committee Rosters and Attendance Records
2. Nomination Forms for Recommended Appointments

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM
November 3, 2025

TO: **Executive Committee**

FROM: **Andrew Hoekzema, CAPCOG Director of Administrative Services**

RE: **Advisory Committee Vacancies and Recommended Appointments**

CAPCOG's advisory committees have the following vacancies:

- **Aging Advisory Council (AAC)*:**
  - Burnet County (1 vacancy since November 2021);
- **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC):**
  - City of Austin (1 vacancy out of 3 seats since March 2023);
- **Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC):**
  - 4 vacancies, all at-large;
- **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC):**
  - Travis County (1 vacancy out of 2 seats since June 30, 2025); and
  - Williamson County (1 vacancy out of 2 seats since July 17, 2025).

CAPCOG has not received any nominations for these vacancies as of the date of this memo. Nominations for filling vacancies and changes to appointments may be made at the meeting itself. If you have someone you would like to nominate, please request a nomination form and submit it to Shaun Seale at sseale@capcog.org.

Some committees have special composition requirements that need to be met and may constrain who can be appointed. Please contact the relevant committee staff liaison if you have questions about a potential nominee's eligibility.

Please note: CAPCOG can count AAC meeting participation as in-kind match for administration of its Area Agency on Aging, reducing the amount of local cash match required from the budget.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **11. Screw Worm Update**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

Screw worm update from previous discussion in the October 15, 2025 Executive Board Meeting.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☐ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☐ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☒ Follow-up to previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: **Dr. Jessie Monday DVM, Texas Animal Health Commission**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: N/A
Source of Funds: N/A

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☒ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? _____

PROCUREMENT: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:
No Action Required

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED (*to be sent prior to meeting* or *will be a handout at the meeting*)**:**
Dr. Jessie Monday, DVM Bio

Dr. Jessie Monday, DVM
State Epidemiologist
Texas Animal Health Commission

Dr. Jessie Monday joined the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) in April 2023. With years of experience in the animal agriculture industry, vast knowledge of food animal medicine, and a passion for diagnostic innovations and developments, she leads the State of Texas in her role as the State Epidemiologist. Dr. Monday earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M University, began her professional career with an internship and then a residency in Food Animal Medicine and Surgery at Kansas State University, then earned a Master of Science in Veterinary Biomedical Science, with an emphasis on replacement heifers and bulls.

Dr. Monday served the state through the Texas A&M Medical Diagnostic Laboratory as a bovine veterinary diagnostician before joining the TAHC. Dr. Monday is board-certified through the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine and certified in public health medicine. Dr. Monday, her husband, their Holstein steer, Quarter Horse, four cats, and three dogs currently reside in Lexington, TX.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: **November 12, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM: **14. Executive Session in Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.072: Deliberations About Real Property**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:
In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.072, the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Executive Committee may conduct a closed meeting (otherwise known as an Executive Session) to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. In accordance with this law, only CAPCOG's Executive Committee members have a right to attend this portion of the meeting. CAPCOG staff involved with CAPCOG's office space search and its commercial real estate broker will provide an update on the status of the search and request guidance and/or direction on next steps.

THIS ITEM REPRESENTS A:

- ☒ New issue, project, or purchase
- ☐ Routine, regularly scheduled item
- ☐ Follow-up to a previously discussed item
- ☐ Special item requested by board member
- ☐ Other

PRIMARY CONTACT/STAFF MEMBER: **Chris Miller, Executive Director**

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Total estimated cost: n/a
Source of Funds: n/a

Is item already included in fiscal year budget?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a new expenditure?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does item represent a pass-through purchase?	☐ Yes	☐ No

If so, for what city/county/etc.? n/a

PROCUREMENT: **n/a**

ACTION REQUESTED:
None

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:
None

BACK-UP DOCUMENTS NOT ATTACHED (*to be sent prior to meeting* or *will be a handout at meeting*):
Briefing document on status of office space search