

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMITMENT TO REGIONALISM

The essence of regionalism lies in the celebration of local culture and the recognition that every region has its own unique contributions to offer.

It's about more than just geographic distinctions; it's about valuing the history, traditions, and practices that define a region's identity.

In a globalized world, where uniformity often overshadows individuality, regionalism serves as a reminder of the importance of diversity and the strength founded in preserving and promoting local traditions and ways of life.

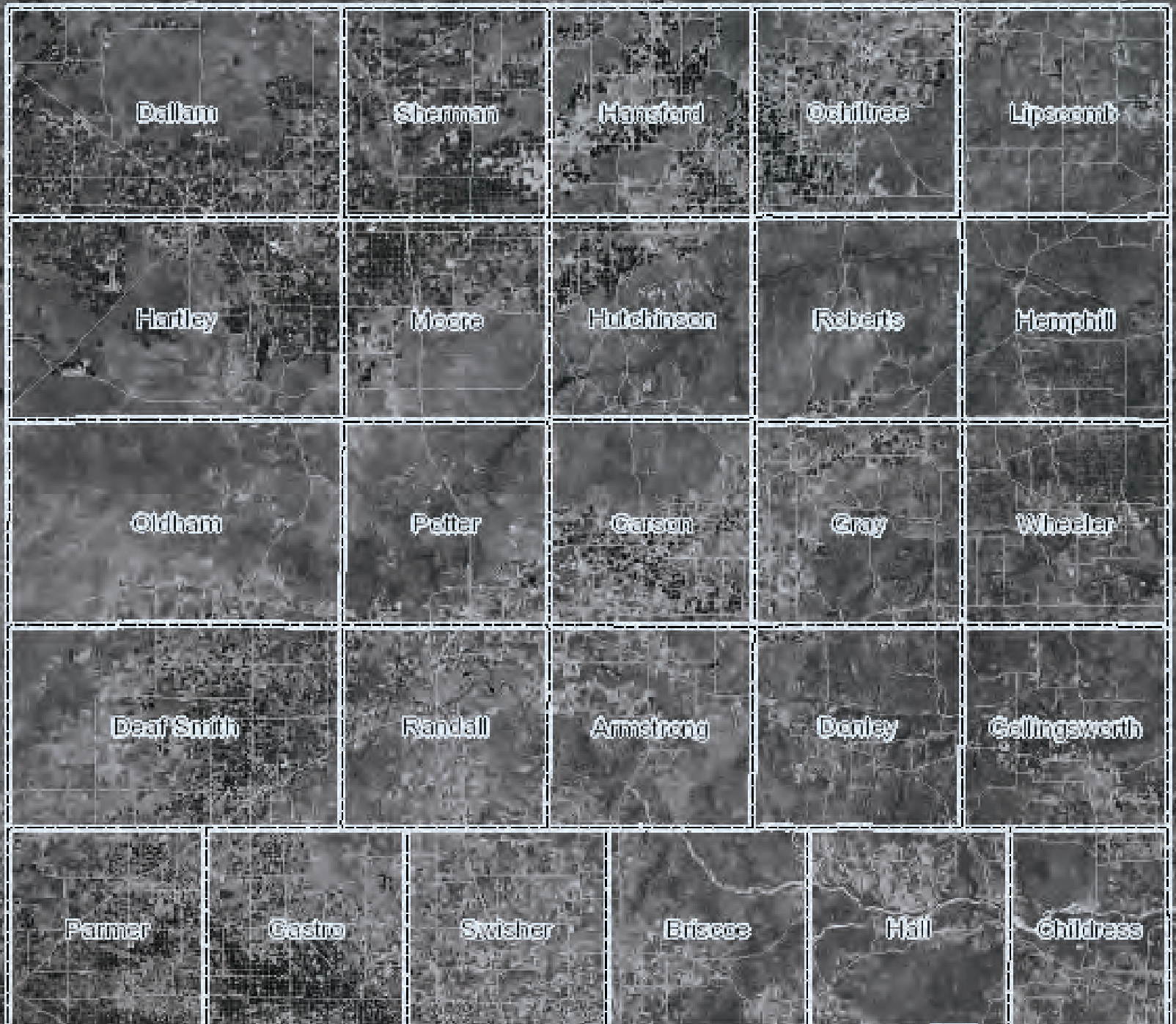


2024
STAFF PHOTO

**PANHANDLE REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**

THE PLANNING COMMISSION IS AN ORGANIZATION OF, BY, AND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE PRPC WAS CREATED BASED ON THE CONCEPT THAT MORE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACTING COOPERATIVELY RATHER THAN ALONE.

PRPC is a voluntary association of cities, counties, and special districts in the Texas Panhandle. Established in 1969, the Planning Commission assists local governments in planning, developing, and implementing programs designed to improve the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens in the Texas Panhandle. Since 1969, the Planning Commission has been involved in a wide range of projects and programs. Activities currently include initiatives in the areas of workforce development, aging, local government services, economic development, dispute resolution, 9-1-1 services, criminal justice, solid waste management, emergency preparedness, transportation planning, water planning, regional services, and technical assistance to the local governments of the Panhandle.



REGIONAL POPULATION

434,358

06 SPECIAL DISTRICTS

94 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

PRPC CITIES

Adrian, Amarillo, Bishop Hills, Booker, Borger, Bovina, Cactus, Canadian, Canyon, Channing, Childress, Clarendon, Claude, Dalhart, Darrouzett, Dimmitt, Dodson, Dumas, Estelline, Farwell, Follett, Friona, Fritch, Groom, Gruver, Happy, Hart, Hedley, Hereford, Higgins, Howardwick, Kress, Lake Tanglewood, Lakeview, Lefors, McLean, Memphis, Miami, Mobeetie, Nazareth, Palisades Village, Pampa, Panhandle, Perryton, Quitaque, Sanford, Shamrock, Silvertown, Skellytown, Spearman, Stinnett, Stratford, Sunray, Texhoma, Texline, Timbercreek, Tulia, Turkey, Vega, Wellington, Wheeler, White Deer

PRPC COUNTIES

Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

PRPC SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Authority, Mackenzie Municipal Water Authority, Palo Duro River Authority, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, Red River Authority



Sheriff Salvador
"Sal" Rivera
Board Chairman
Panhandle Regional
Planning Commission

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

As the Board Chair of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, I am honored to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board and help lead such an outstanding organization. It has been a privilege to work alongside a dedicated team of professionals who are committed to enhancing the quality of life for the cities, counties, and residents of the Texas Panhandle.

Over the past year, the collective efforts of our 27 member board have resulted in significant achievements that have positively impacted our region. From advancing infrastructure projects to promoting sustainable development and fostering economic growth, the work we do is both meaningful and transformative. It is truly inspiring to witness the tangible benefits of our initiatives and the lasting difference they make in our communities.

I am continually impressed by the resilience, innovation, and collaborative spirit that define our organization. These qualities have enabled us to navigate challenges and seize opportunities, always with the goal of creating a brighter future for the Texas Panhandle. The dedication and passion of our team, partners, and community members are the driving forces behind our success.

As we celebrate our 55th anniversary, I am filled with optimism for the future. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the needs of our region and building on our legacy of excellence. With your continued support and engagement, I am confident that we will achieve even greater milestones in the years to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact and ensure the prosperity of the Texas Panhandle.

Sheriff Sal Rivera
Board Chairman
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Salvador "Sal"
Rivera,
Chairman
Sheriff, Castro
County



Nancy Tanner,
Vice Chair
Judge, County
of Potter



Pat Sims, Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner, City of Dumas



Shawn Ballew
Judge, County of Oldham



Juan Cantu
Commissioner, County of Lipscomb



Rank Cogdell
Judge, County of Briscoe



Buster Davis
Mayor, City of Gruver



Christy Dyer
Judge, County of Randall



Andy Garcia
Citizens Representative, Cactus



Ronnie Gordon
Judge, County of Hartley



Dr. Bill Hallerberg
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority



Dr. John Howard
Judge, County of Donley



Daniel Jackson
Manager, City of Dimmitt



Kim Jones
Judge, County of Childress



Harold Keeter
Judge, County of Swisher



Greg Lewellen
Mayor, City of Friona



Dan Looten
Judge, County of Carson



Oscar Ostos
Citizens Representative, Amarillo



Karen Price
Citizens Representative, Pampa



Walter "Four" Price
Texas House of Representatives
District 87



Yolanda Robledo
Alderwoman, City of Bovina



Pat McDowell
Judge, County of Wheeler



Winston Sauls
Citizens Representative, Borger



Phillip Self
Greenbelt Municipal and
Industrial Water Authority



Tobe Shields
Mayor, City of Spearman



Cole Stanley
Mayor, City of Amarillo



Kerry Symons
Mayor, City of Perryton



Michael J. Peters
Executive Director
Panhandle Regional Planning
Commission

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we celebrate the 55th anniversary of our organization, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude to be leading an entity that plays such a vital role in the lives of the cities, counties, and residents of the Texas Panhandle. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment and collaborative efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and community members.

Over the past year, we have continued to build on our legacy of service, addressing the diverse needs of our region with innovative solutions and unwavering dedication. From enhancing public health initiatives to supporting economic development and ensuring access to essential services, our work has touched countless lives and strengthened the fabric of our community.

Our achievements are a reflection of the resilience and spirit of the Texas Panhandle. Together, we have navigated challenges and seized opportunities, always with the goal of making our region a better place to live, work, and thrive. The stories of impact and transformation that emerge from our efforts are a constant reminder of the importance of our mission.

As we look to the future, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We remain committed to fostering partnerships, driving innovation, and advocating for the needs of our community. With your continued support, we will build on our successes and create new pathways for growth and prosperity.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of the people of the Texas Panhandle.

Michael J. Peters
Executive Director
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

PRPC EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Executive Department provides administrative support for Board members, committee members, and the PRPC staff as they serve the Texas Panhandle conducting a wide range of leadership and supervisory functions directly benefiting all of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission programs and projects.



Left to right: Julie Arvello, Lori Woolf, Michael Peters (Executive Director) and Melissa Whitaker



Left to right: Kathryn English, Anna Ojeda, Terrie Campbell, Felicia Shaffer, Debbie King (AAA Director) Dana Hoyler, Jaime Sharp, Isabell Villareal (Panhandle Aging and Disability Resource Center) John Atchison and Laurie McAfee

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle (AAA) is committed to enhancing the lives of older adults in the Texas Panhandle communities. The AAA aims to ensure that individuals aged 60 and above have access to essential support, resources, and services that are vital for aging well and maintaining their independence.

The AAA serves as a link between the region's older adult population, including Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers, helping them connect with various state and federal programs, local assistance, and relevant information. The AAA provides a wide range of services tailored to the unique needs of older adults, including providing nutritious meals, in-home services, and organizing social engagement through community activities and educational gatherings. Additionally, the AAA offers valuable information and assistance to help older adults and their family caregivers navigate the often complex aging-related resources landscape.

The AAA also collaborates with local partner organizations to bring programs and services to the community, enhancing communities and improving the well-being and independence of older adults across the counties they serve. This helps consumers to age with independence and thrive in their communities.

Benefits Counseling

Our Benefits Counselors have played a crucial role in connecting our services with the communities across 26 counties. Through their dedicated efforts, they have actively engaged with the community, providing valuable education and assistance on Medicare. They have also established important connections with local pharmacies, participated in health and resource fairs, and shared vital information on Medical Advance Directives.



*"I feel that without Terrie Campbell I would have been lost. She walked me through what I needed. She was so patient with me and made me feel comfortable in what I didn't understand."
~Linda Gray*

Program Highlights

WTAMU Social Work Internships -
Engaging with interns from West Texas A&M University's Social Work program to provide hands-on learning opportunities in benefits counseling.

Pharmacy Friends -
Building and maintaining relationships with local pharmacies to support community members in accessing their Medicare Benefits.

Health & Resource Fairs -
Participating in events to provide education and resources related to health and well-being to the community.

Legal Awareness -
Medical Advance Directives: Offering information and guidance on medical advance directives to ensure individuals have the necessary legal documents in place for their medical care preferences.

Outreach & Education -
Engaging in various outreach efforts to educate and empower the community with knowledge about available benefits and resources.

Caregiver Services

Caregiving can be an emotional rollercoaster, with caregivers experiencing various emotions such as joy, fulfillment, frustration, and sadness. It's common for caregivers to feel guilt, grief, and compassion fatigue. Through the AAA Caregiver Services Programs, monthly educational support groups are available for caregivers. Coordinated services and educational programs are provided to offer essential support for families and grandparents raising grandchildren in their caregiving roles.

The Family Caregiver Support Program offers temporary, limited respite care for loved ones to help alleviate caregiver stress. To date, the program has provided over 4,100 hours of respite care to family caregivers and their loved ones.



(AAA staff pictured with Lori Le Bey)

Through the Caregiver Programs caregivers have access to various resources to help them through their journey. Workshops and support groups provide a safe space for sharing experiences and learning coping strategies. Caregivers need to understand and accept help from others in order to sustain their role. The 2023 Caregiver Conference, held during National Family Caregiver's Month, featured Lori Le Bey, a renowned speaker and author. Lori shared valuable insights and personal experiences with family and professional caregivers in our community. This year's event was attended by over 150 people. Numerous local resources were available on-site for additional information for attendees and clients.



Promotion of Independence and Sustainability in the Community

The Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle either directly or through contracts with local service providers, oversees social, nutrition, and long-term services and supports to older individuals across the Panhandle.

Public Information and Outreach

Recognizing that genuine connections foster a sense of belonging and purpose, the AAA takes proactive steps to engage older adults by fostering meaningful interactions, facilitating important conversations, and celebrating diverse aging experiences. An emphasis has been placed on reaching rural populations to ensure these connections are established throughout the Panhandle.





“Laurie, the three courses provided for us by the AAA have been so informative and helpful, especially the one on nutrition. The notebook we were given has been a wonderful resource and one that I have referred to over and over again. Thank you so much for doing these classes for us and for answering all of our questions. You're very knowledgeable and I appreciate you and the time you've spent preparing for us.”

Facilitating Important Conversations

In FY24, the AAA directly provided over 100 educational events covering topics such as Medicare, Medicare fraud, Medicare Advantage, Transfer on Death Deeds, and TSAP Food Benefits. To expand this outreach, AAA conducted 28 Senior wellness classes titled *Ready. Set. Thrive!* and 5 A Matter of Balance fall prevention series. The AAA delivers educational programming to a variety of community groups across the Panhandle, including senior church groups, senior centers, Lions and Rotary clubs, retired teacher groups, senior clubs, rural health clinics, affordable senior housing complexes, and more.

Additionally, AAA staff distribute information about Medicare and SNAP food benefits to food pantries, rural health care clinics, Meals on Wheels programs, and housing authorities in rural communities, in addition to providing outreach and classes.

Nutrition services

Nutrition services are a major part in addressing food insecurity in the Panhandle. The AAA contracts with 13 organizations to provide both congregate and home delivered meals to eligible older adults in Amarillo and the surrounding rural areas. By providing both Texas DRI compliant meals and additional nutrition education, AAA nutrition clients are able to improve their health and well-being through these programs. Congregate clients are also able to take their meals in a group setting, providing an additional socialization aspect to the program which improves mental health of those participating.

Pictured to the right are volunteers with Transformation Park who operate the FoodNET program in Amarillo serving meals Monday through Friday to residents at Bivins Village, Independence Village, Northwest Village, and Hilltop Senior Citizens Association.



**AAA HAS SERVED 196,199 MEALS
ACROSS THE PANHANDLE
THIS YEAR.**

Ombudsman Program

The AAA Ombudsman Program is essential for protecting the rights and well-being of residents in long-term care facilities. It advocates for quality care and ensures that residents have a say in decisions that impact their lives. Ombudsmen work to ensure that clients receive fair treatment and have access to the assistance they need to navigate the system effectively.



Ombudsman Volunteers

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the ARP Grant to support their work, the Ombudsman program has doubled in size over the past year. We are extremely proud of our volunteers because they have the most generous hearts! With this increase in volunteers, we can now make more visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities to educate residents about their rights and provide the necessary advocacy to ensure they receive respectful and competent care. The Ombudsman staff is now able to build more trusting relationships and help residents improve their quality of life and care. With more volunteers, the program can also investigate more complaints, achieve more resolutions, and report findings to inform government officials as they create positive legislation that benefits long-term care residents.

On March 11, 2019, an Ombudsman Star was born. While hosting the 2024 Spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Training, staff honored Mr. Ross Wellesley and celebrated his five years of outstanding advocacy and service to the Panhandle's long-term care residents.



“Just a small note to say thanks for all the help with Sam. The staff at the nursing home seem to have really changed their attitude towards him and things are improving more all the time. Most of this is because of your help. It really is nice to know that someone out there, other than us, cares about him. Forever Grateful,
The Hagbergs”

Home Care Options

The AAA provided vital Homemaker and Personal Assistance Services to 57 older adults, delivering over 2,300 hours of temporary in-home care. These services helped seniors with daily activities such as meal preparation, housekeeping, and personal care, allowing them to remain in their homes and maintain their independence. In addition to offering this short-term assistance, the agency also connected individuals to long-term services and support, ensuring they could continue living comfortably and safely in familiar surroundings over the long term.



Transportation

A lack of available transportation can be a common difficulty for older adults in Amarillo. The AAA works with ACT-Connect to provide a number of rides to clients that can be utilized for doctor appointments, groceries and any other needs an older adult may have. Providing this services allows older adults that are not able to drive to have more independence in their own home. Working with ACT-Connect also allows older adults to access long term transportation at a low cost.

AAA HAS PROVIDED 3,948 RIDES TO OLDER ADULTS IN AMARILLO

\$67,000
Rent &
Utility
Assistance

9
Hearing
Aids for
Older
Adults

Hearing Aid Assistance

The AAA also continued its partnership with the Amarillo Hearing Foundation to purchase hearing aids for 9 older adults. This initiative significantly improved the recipients' ability to communicate and engage with their community, leading to a more fulfilling and connected life.

Income Support

In the past year, the AAA provided crucial financial support to older adults in need, allocating over \$67,000 towards rent and utility assistance. By addressing these fundamental needs, this investment helped ensure that vulnerable older adults could maintain stable housing and access essential services, reducing the risk of homelessness and improving their overall quality of life.

Older Americans Month Celebration

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month (OAM), a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm commitments to serving the older adults in our communities. The 2024 theme was Powered by Connection.

It recognized the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being.



Left to right: Mayor Cole Stanley, Councilmember Josh Craft, Councilmember Don Tipps, Anna Ojeda, Kathryn English, Terrie Campbell, Councilmember Tom Scherlen and Councilmember Les Simpson

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PRPC's Workforce Development division, through Workforce Solutions Panhandle (WSP), assists Texas Panhandle employers recruit, hire, and retain qualified workers while helping job seekers find and keep stable employment. Workforce Development receives funding from the Texas Workforce Commission which has structured oversight of workforce program services, provided in the 26-county region of the Panhandle, to be performed by the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB).

The PWDB is a business-led group, the majority of which is comprised of employers from the private sector, as well as representatives from labor, economic development, child care workforce, secondary and post-secondary education, adult and continuing education, literacy, vocational rehabilitation, community-based organizations, public employment services, and the State department of human services.



Left to right: Amanda Leal, Kathy Cabezuela, Leslie Hardin, Marin Rivas (WFD Director) Gracie Aragon, Heather Reid, Rosie Gonzalez and Ana Gonzalez, not pictured Yvette Gayton

The volunteer members of the PWDB are appointed by the Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium's Governing Body (PWDCBG) comprised of six county judges, chosen by their peers from among the Panhandle's Chief Elected Officials, and the Mayor of the City of Amarillo. The mission of the PWDCBG, the PWDB, WSP and the staff of the Workforce Development Division is to establish and enhance a workforce delivery system that connects local employers with resources to find and develop the talent they need; invest in skills development that increase workers' career opportunities and self-sufficiency; and support economic growth by promoting collaboration among stakeholders, creating partnerships with other community organization, and focusing on workforce development issues.

High Demand Job Training

High-Demand Job Training (HDJT) programs utilize Economic Development Corporations' regional tax dollars to bring matching federal grants to the region through TWC. The combined funding is then used to purchase equipment and supplies for eligible educational institutions for the purpose of developing career and technical education courses. For the Fiscal Years of 2018-2024, PRPC has partnered with the Economic and Community Development Corporations in Amarillo, Borger, Childress, Clarendon, Dalhart, Pampa, Perryton, and Shamrock; Clarendon College and Frank Phillips College; and the Independent School Districts (ISDs) of Amarillo, Bushland, Canyon, Highland Park, and River Road. These projects have invested more than \$2,175,000 in students – the future workforce of the Panhandle.



"Before we had our trainers, we didn't have any way of teaching "hands on" diesel mechanics. Now, the students have the ability to diagnose and repair problems we teachers have put into the trainers, which makes it so valuable to prepare them for the workforce."

AmTech Instructor - Trey Hilbert

Child Care Services

Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services (CCS) provides financial assistance (also known as subsidies or scholarships) for child care to families who meet income requirements, enabling parents to work, search for work, attend school, or receive job training. With access to affordable, quality child care, these families can pursue employment and educational opportunities, promoting long-term self-sufficiency.

The program strives to educate parents about the availability of quality child care, enhance children's early learning, and support child care and early learning programs that are working to improve the quality of the child care and early education they provide.



2,242
Average of
Children
Served Daily

2,197
Average of
Families
Served

Children enrolled in CCS may attend any child care and early learning program as long as that program has agreed to participate in the CCS program and has a signed CCS Provider Agreement with the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB).

\$171,196 - Indoor/Outdoor
Learning Materials

\$175,139 - Curriculum

\$112,698 - Curriculum Kits

\$62,441 - Training



Child Care Services

Texas Rising Star

The Texas Rising Star program is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care programs participating in CCS program. Texas Rising Star certification is available to licensed centers and licensed and registered child care home facilities that meet certification criteria. The Texas Rising Star program offers three levels of quality certification (Two-Star, Three Star and Four-Star) to encourage child care and early learning programs to attain progressive higher levels of quality.



22 New providers received initial Texas Rising Star certification.

2-Star Certification = 5
3-Star Certification = 15
4-Star Certification = 2

104 Total providers - 60% are TRS Certified

Child Care Quality (CCQ) Funds

CCQ funds dedicated to support quality improvement activities such as professional development for child care teachers and administrators, classroom materials and resources for child care providers, consumer information about the importance of quality child care.



Child Care Services

Receiving these scholarships to help me through school has been a blessing and has motivated me to keep going as far as possible. Attending in-person classes has also helped me break out of my shell a little more. I've built so many new friendships and I've been able to network with people who work in the same field as me and we can all collaborate and work together on what's best for early childhood education. The scholarships helped me reach my goal which was to graduate with my Associate's in Early Childhood Development. I plan to work towards my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development at Texas Women's University in Spring 2025. I am currently working as a preschool teacher, 3 to 4-year-olds and I love working with this age. We can expand more of their knowledge and it's rewarding to see their growth and development as they age.

Samantha Chavez
Bright Minds Academy at Bushland



This year Workforce expended **\$220,227** on scholarships for child care teachers and directors between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024

91 Applicants were Awarded Amarillo College Scholarships - **50** were new applicants



Panhandle WorkEssentials

Panhandle WorkEssentials is a program meant to eliminate financial obstacles that may prevent people from accepting employment opportunities due to the inability to afford work-related items. The program is funded a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission and is designed to help new hires have necessary tools to succeed in their jobs.

Jessica Reed: Jessica is currently enrolled in the Diesel Mechanic program at Amarillo College. She was hired by Bruckner's as a Service Technician.

With the support of Panhandle WorkEssentials, Jessica was able to acquire the essential tools needed for her role, enabling her to start her new job without the financial burden of purchasing equipment.



Hector Garcia recently completed his classes at WyoTech and was hired as a Fabrication Technician at Bruckner's through Panhandle WorkEssentials.

Hector received the necessary tools and equipment to begin his position, ensuring he was fully prepared and equipped from day one.

Training Services

Workforce Solutions Panhandle's Training Services is designed to help job seekers secure the education, training and support necessary to succeed in the workforce while providing skilled workers to meet local employer's needs. The Workforce Solutions Panhandle Training Services program is funded by the Department of Labor through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Panhandle-Area Regional Information System (PARIS).

289
Job
Trainings

84
Youth
Summer
Jobs Program

44- SEAL Participants

The SEAL program support students with disabilities through work-based learning to gain professional experience and a paycheck.

40- TANF Summer Youth

The TANF initiative supports low-income students in rural communities, by providing work experience and a paycheck.

162- Metrix on-line learning

SkillUp Panhandle, hosted by the Metrix Learning program it's a gateway to free career training and upskilling opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you're a recent graduate, a mid-career professional, or an employer looking to support your workforce's development, SkillUp Panhandle caters to everyone's needs. The key benefits of SkillUp Panhandle is its focus on marketable skills. Participants can access over 5,000 courses across 10 sectors, representing more than 200 occupations. From healthcare to hospitality, there's a course for every career interest, enhancing employability and opening doors to new opportunities.



"Words cannot adequately express my thankfulness for your service. Through long hours and challenging circumstances, you ensured I had the support I needed to succeed. Because of your hard work, I am now able to give back as a registered nurse. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being there for me and countless other like me. Your contribution to our community is truly invaluable."

*~ Jesus Moreno
Nursing, AAS - May, 2024*

Workforce Solutions Hiring Events

During BCY24, The BSU hosted a substantial number of job fairs and hiring events, totaling 118 in number. These events were strategically distributed throughout the Texas Panhandle area, catering to a diverse range of job seekers and employers. They encompassed both large-scale job fairs and more intimate hiring events, aiming to provide comprehensive employment opportunities and support to the local workforce.



20,528
Employers
Served

454
Veterans
Served

Choice Program and SNAP Employment and Training

Choice and SNAP E&T programs have assisted 638 customers to find employment from October 1, 2023 - May 26, 2024.



22,033
Job Seekers
Served

638
SNAP &
Choices
customers

Choices SNAP

"I would like to thank Christine Walters and the Workforce Solutions Team for being so compassionate and understanding with the circumstance I was in. All of the services that were provided for my son and me has helped us come a long way. I was not aware of all the relief that was available for me during this hardship, but Christine Waters informed me about them all. It's awesome to know that the Workforce Solutions Team exists and does help to provide for a brighter future. I can't thank you enough for all your empathy. Thank you so much for all that you do!"

- Cynthia Nicolas

Career Signing Day

"We had an absolutely amazing morning at AmTech for Signing Day! Eighteen of our students signed their letters of employment with their future employers and are going straight to work after their amazing experience at AmTech. We had students sign from our auto tech classes, animal science classes, IT classes, dental classes, pharmacy classes, electrical classes, and even a military signing. We love to celebrate ALL students!"



Career Signing Day Events

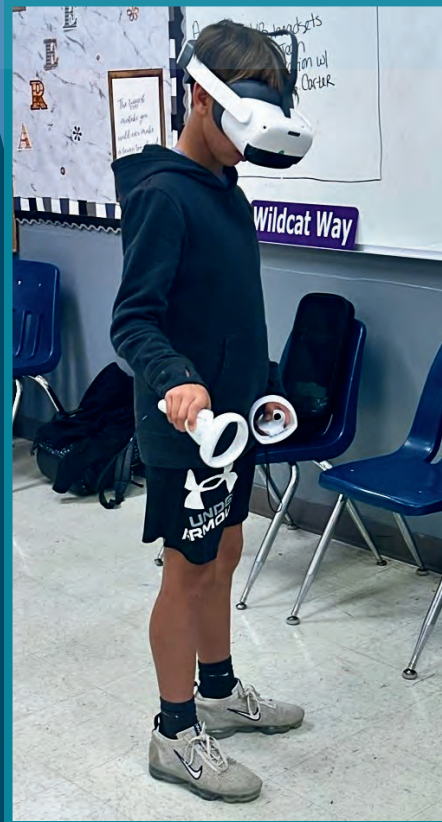
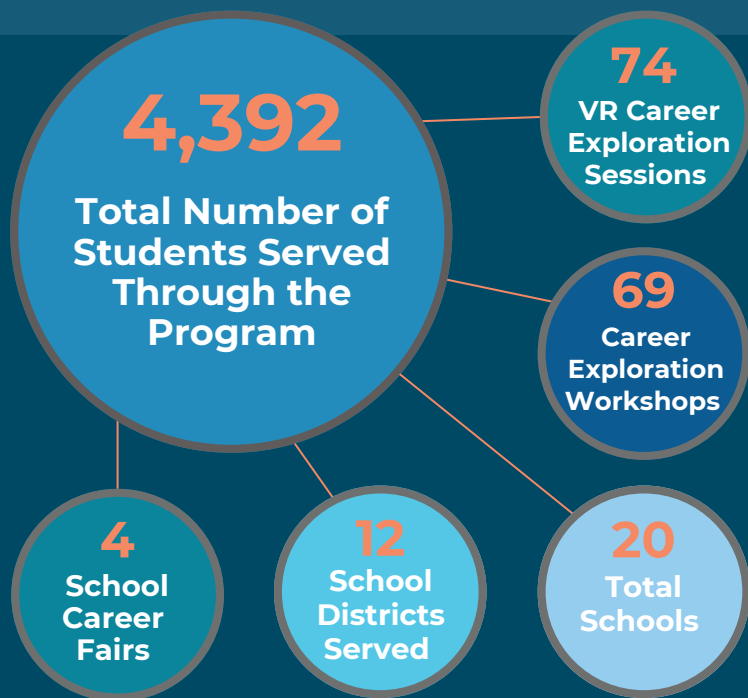
- Atmos Energy
- West Texas High School
- Hereford High School
- Bovina High School
- River Road High School
- Adrian High School
- Canadian High School
- Canyon ISD – Canyon, Randall and West Plains High Schools
- Sanford-Fritch High School
- White Deer High School
- AmTech Career Academy
- Dumas High School

**205 Students
Signed on
Career
Signing Days**



Career and Education Outreach Program

The Career and Education Outreach Program serves students in the Texas Panhandle. The program is designed to provide students with information about educational opportunities, local labor market information, career exploration, and Workforce Solution Panhandle Services. Through this program, students can explore different careers using Virtual Reality (VR) technology. Careers options available for exploration include registered nurse, electrician, welder, pharmacy technician, carpenter, and automotive service technician.



“Mrs. Carters expertise has provided me with a perspective on career paths, and I am very excited to put her recommendations into action.”

Kimberly, River Road ISD teacher

- Bonham ISD
- Booker ISD
- Bowie ISD
- Boys Ranch ISD
- Claude ISD
- Hart ISD

- Hereford ISD
- Highland Park ISD
- Kress ISD
- Nazareth ISD
- River Road ISD
- Tulia ISD

“The one thing I learned about was all these cool jobs and what to do when I get older.”
-6th Grade Highland Park ISD Student

“The one thing I liked was having a hands-on experience for jobs.” -7th Grade Bonham Middle School Student

“She helped me figure out that I didn’t want to be something I thought I did”
-8th Grade Highland Park ISD Student

Plains Dairy - Skills Development Fund



In the fall of 2023, the Panhandle was awarded a Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Skills Development Fund (SDF) program grant which provides funding to businesses, in the area requiring specific training to upskill new and incumbent workers. The Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB) and Workforce Solutions Panhandle (WSP) collaborated with professional specialized Trainer, Mr. Jody Holland, to develop Skills Training for employees of Plains Dairy.

Plains Dairy, located in Amarillo, is a leading provider of high-quality milk and dairy products in the region. The company is dedicated to producing fresh, wholesome milk from local farmers and distributing it to customers in the area. They have a state-of-the-art processing facility that allows them to quickly and efficiently turn raw milk into a variety of products, including milk, cheese, butter, and ice cream.

Plains Dairy is committed to sustainable practices and supporting the local community. They are also known for their commitment to providing excellent customer service and building long-lasting relationships with their customers. In order to remain competitive in this market, Plains Dairy recognized the importance of investing consistently in the measurable skills of its current and future employees.



Hiring Process – Implementation of a new hiring process that utilizes behavioral and situational interviewing connected to the specific job-related skills for our employees is important because it uses new team interview processes. There is significant reduction in employee turnover at all levels.

Consistent Development of our Leaders – Investment of upskilling supervisors and potential supervisors, results in multiple promotions, better employee performance, and increased retention. Most supervisors and managers have taken advantage of the supervisory and leadership training offered. As a result, productivity has increased by 30% and there is a significant decrease in leadership turnover.

Stay Interviews – Instead of using exit interviews to identify employment concerns, staff have created “Stay Interviews” which are conducted with employees to discover issues that would cause them to leave. This system also identifies employees engagement opportunities and creates job retention.



Plains Dairy

Key Training Skills – Research has shown that younger generations won't stay in an organization if they are put in a position where they feel unprepared for the job/role. By collaborating with Jody Holland, Inc. and Workforce Solutions, Plains Dairy created training programs in each of the key areas of the plant.

Staff developed department specific training videos accessible from any smartphone. Staff also trained employees specifically in their primary role, which expanded their knowledge and ensured they were growing toward their potential. Efforts to cross-train employees for opportunities of advancement, growth, and success were accomplished through the Skills Development Fund grant.

“Our turnover rate has decreased by 40% and our injury rate has improved as well. Through our collaboration, we have seen our productivity go up, the quality of our product enhanced, and the need to grow our organization established. Since the start of this project, we have added over 40 new full-time employees, with benefits, and now with a clear path to the growth of their careers. Additionally, we have seen a reinvigoration and a stronger enthusiasm from our existing employees.”

- Safety and Security Director, Todd Finley



One person in particular who took advantage of all the upskill training and many others is Matt Kennedy. After completing the Supervisory and Management training, he dove into the Leadership Collaborative. This is a group learning model that teaches a short skill, creates a discussion and application within the group, then allows for learning within a larger group of leaders from across the country.

“Jody’s platform has given our department the tools needed to improve our culture. Our management team has been able to implement these practices, in turn making our employees feel empowered and valued. The education, insight, and inspiration we have received has directly resulted in reduced turnover rate, improved efficiencies, and happier employees.”

- Matt Kennedy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Local Government Services department has evolved to meet the needs of the cities and counties of the Texas Panhandle. With a focus on being an extension of the staff in local government, there are many unique and useful programs that exist today. The Local Government Services staff assists the cities and counties of the Texas Panhandle in addressing community and economic development and infrastructure needs. Results of these services can be seen with improvements such as new water/waste-water infrastructure, park renovations, road and sidewalk construction and often times supportive infrastructure for the development of new industry and business attraction initiatives. LGS staff plays a part in multiple phases of these projects for its communities, from assisting with grant preparation and project administration. In addition, LGS staff performs contract city management, facilitates professional searches, and is directly involved in the development of planning initiatives for water, flood, economic development and transportation programs.



Left to right: Ally Hubbard, Max Seymour, Jarian Fred, Abby Sanders, Alex Guerrero (LGS Director) and Paige Goodell

Economic Development

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated Panhandle Regional Planning Commission as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the Texas Panhandle in 1978. Since then, the PRPC has spearheaded regional economic development planning through the Texas Panhandle Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and facilitated numerous Economic Development Administration investments from application to the end of construction.



Governor Greg Abbott stated, “I thank the Economic Development Administration for this grant that will help construct a workspace for local small businesses that sustained damage. The construction of the Rebuild Perryton Incubator is an important step forward as we work together to help Texans and businesses on the road toward recovery.”

EDA’s most recent investment in the region is a **\$2,683,700** grant for a retail incubator in downtown Perryton which will provide businesses affected by the June 15, 2023 tornado with the opportunity to lease space and continue operations. The Rebuild Perryton Phase I incubator will provide two retail spaces and approximately 4,300 SF of new retail development.



Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said, “This EDA investment will support businesses in Perryton as they work to come back from recent tornadoes – creating jobs and strengthening the regional economy in the process.”

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program, administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), continues to be a cornerstone of community development in the Panhandle region. The TxCDBG program provides essential funding for improvements that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons, eliminate slum or blighted conditions, or respond to an urgent need (such as a disaster). Through investing in water, sewer, and road projects, as well as downtown revitalization, the TxCDBG program empowers communities to achieve sustainable growth and development.

For the last forty years, Panhandle communities have leveraged the TxCDBG program to bring about significant changes, ensuring that our region remains resilient and vibrant. This year's achievements are a testament to our collective commitment to building a brighter future for communities across the Panhandle.

Community Development Fund (CD): Bovina & Friona: Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation

Bovina and Friona were among the communities that utilized the Community Development Fund in 2024. The two cities made significant strides in improving their water infrastructure through the rehabilitation of their elevated storage tanks. Both communities faced challenges with aged and deteriorated water storage tanks that threatened the reliability and safety of their water supply. With grant funding, Bovina and Friona undertook comprehensive rehabilitation projects, including structural reinforcements and modern protective coatings to prevent corrosion. These essential upgrades have not only ensured a stable and safe water supply but also extended the lifespan of these critical infrastructure components, supporting the future growth and health of both communities.

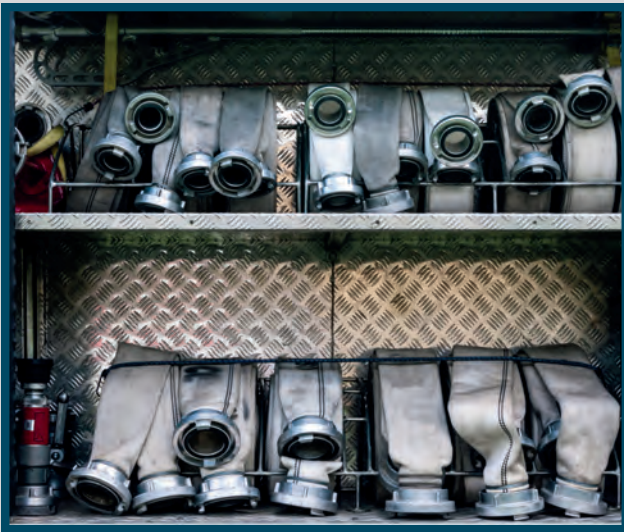
Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP): Dumas & Pampa Downtown Revitalization

The cities of Dumas and Pampa recently finished Downtown Revitalization Program projects in key areas to create safer and more accessible downtowns. Both projects received grant funding to replace deteriorated and non-ADA compliant sidewalks with new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, alongside the installation of ADA ramps and handrails. These improvements have encouraged foot traffic, fostering local economic activity, and instilling community pride.



Fire, Ambulance, & Services Truck Fund (FAST) Adrian & Quitaque

In 2024, the cities of Adrian and Quitaque were notified that their 2022 FAST Fund (Fire, Ambulance, & Services Truck Fund) applications were being funded. With a combined allocation of \$1,500,000, the grant has enabled each community purchase two vehicles - two fire trucks in Adrian and a fire truck and ambulance in Quitaque. These acquisitions aim to bolster emergency response capabilities, facilitating swift and effective interventions during firefighting operations, grassland emergencies, and medical crises.



Fire, Ambulance, & Services Truck Fund (FAST)

Total Allocation: \$1,500,000 for emergency response vehicles and a special services vehicle.

Community Development (CD)

Total Allocation: \$2,000,000 towards water and wastewater infrastructure improvements

Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP)

Total Allocation: \$3,000,000 – Six applications were funded for downtown infrastructure enhancements

State Urgent Need Fund (SUN)

Perryton: \$500,000 for disaster relief and recovery from the June 15, 2023 tornado

Moving Forward: Commitment to Sustainable Growth

The accomplishments of the TxCDBG program in 2024 highlight our unwavering dedication to fostering resilient and thriving communities throughout the Panhandle region. As we look to the future, our focus remains on strengthening rural infrastructure and improving the quality of life for our residents.

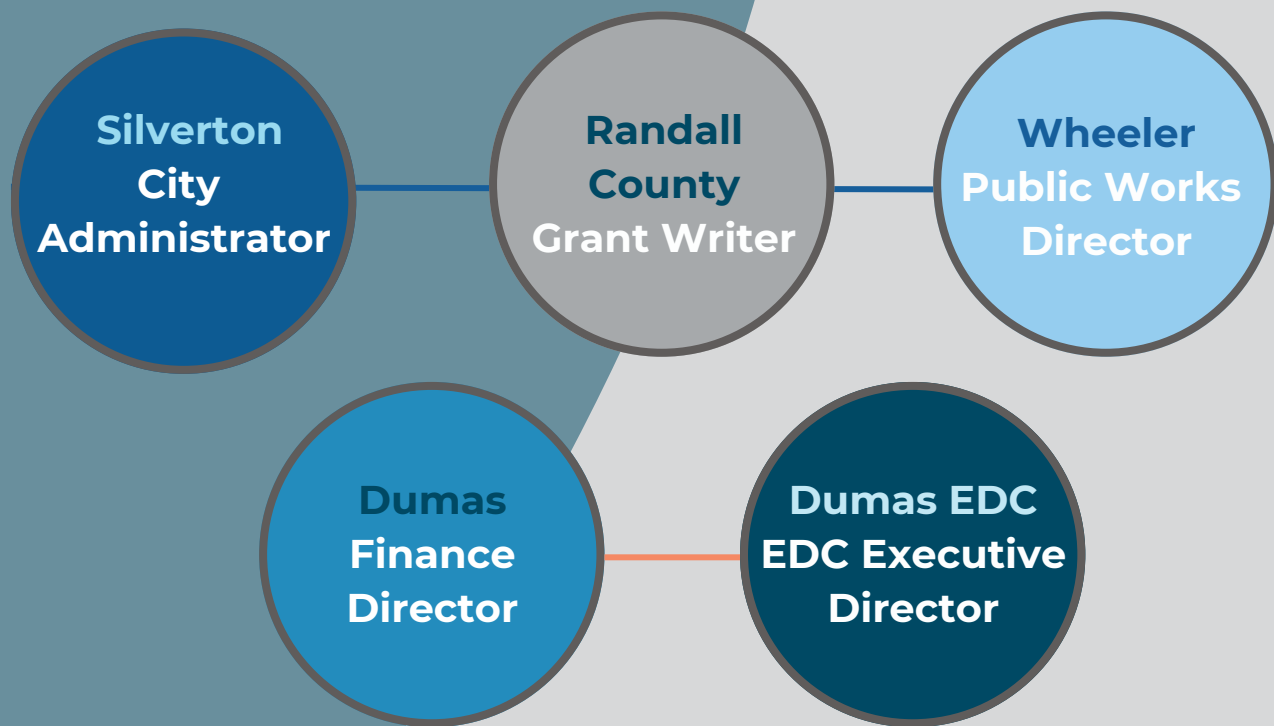
We are committed to continuing our work with local governments, businesses, and residents to identify and address the most pressing needs of our communities. We will pursue initiatives that enhance water and sewer infrastructure, promote economic vitality, and improve social well-being.

The journey ahead is filled with opportunities, and we are excited to build on this year's successes. Together, we will ensure that the Panhandle region remains a great place to live, work, and thrive for generations to come.

City Management & Executive Searches

PRPC has been dedicated to providing exceptional city management services to the Villages of Timbercreek Canyon and Lake Tanglewood since the early 2000s, fostering their growth and development. Additionally, the professional search services Local Government Services staff remain in high demand, as cities and counties look to hire key personnel.

Our experienced staff has continuously supported communities in conducting comprehensive search services for professional staff, covering a broad spectrum from City Secretary to Police Chief and City Manager. Over the past 12 months, PRPC has successfully assisted in filling vital positions within Texas Panhandle Communities, including



PRPC was instrumental in assisting six cities and five counties in completing their American Rescue Plan Act reports in April 2024. Our team provided comprehensive support, including expertise in data collection, analysis, and report compilation to ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Additionally, we offered specialized technical assistance to five more cities, helping them navigate reporting complexities and maximize the use of relief funds.

These successful placements underscore our commitment to serving the diverse needs of communities across the region, further solidifying PRPC's position as a trusted partner in municipal development.

Parks

The Texas Parks & Wildlife's Local Park Grant Program achieved significant success this year, funding three park projects in the cities of Dimmitt, Friona and Fritch which includes; two splashpads and one set of playground equipment. Local Government Services staff collaborated with the City of Borger on a grant application in 2021 and with the City of Cactus in 2019, both of which received funding for the Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant and have successfully completed their projects this year.



In Borger, the recent renovations at Huber Park feature the installation of an inclusive playground area designed to cater to people of all ages and abilities, making it the fourth all-inclusive park in the city. This significant addition not only ensures that everyone, regardless of physical or cognitive limitations, can enjoy and benefit from the recreational opportunities the park offers but also promotes social interaction and community integration. The new renovation to Huber park demonstrates Borger's commitment to creating equitable and accessible public spaces that contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and connected community.

The City of Cactus received a grant in 2019, leading to significant improvements for residents. Enhancements to Cactus City Park include a sepak takraw court (the first ever funded by Texas Parks & Wildlife), new concessions and restroom structures, two dugouts, a multi-purpose ballfield, two sand volleyball courts, , and updated utilities, landscaping, lighting, irrigation, and parking. These improvements not only foster athletic opportunities but also create a community space for all residents to enjoy.



TRANSPORTATION

The PRPC Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) Final Year of Designation

On November 29, 2023, the Build America Bureau held the first-ever Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) Summit in College Park, Maryland. The Summit convened over 70 people, including representatives from 19 of the 21 RIA grant awardees, the Bureau, University of Maryland staff, Global Infrastructure Investor Association staff, and USDOT operating administration staff. Alex Guerrero, Local Government Services Director and Paige Goodell, Local Government Services Manager attended the RIA event in Maryland representing the PRPC RIA's designated area which includes the Panhandle and South Plains of Texas.



The RIA Program

RIA was established by the FAST Act to assist entities in building capacity and providing technical assistance to accelerate the development of projects using innovative financing. Over three funding cycles, the Bureau has awarded \$34 million dollars to 21 public entities.

Return Home from Hospitalization (RHFH) Health Summit

Derived from a 2022 TxDOT Coordinated Call application, the RHFH Pilot Program allowed Local Government Services (LGS) staff to conduct a Panhandle-wide study and coordinate multiple focus-group sessions that ultimately led to critical transportation barriers that exist with patient return from hospitals back home either from Amarillo and regional hospitals due to a lack of transportation options.

Over the last year, LGS staff have compiled a number of plausible solutions from various meetings and the RHFH Health Summit in order to evaluate and potentially pursue additional funding to address these issues. At the recent RHFH Health Summit, our efforts were recognized for their significant impact on regional healthcare initiatives and provided additional feedback necessary to ensure compliance with our funded application with TxDOT.



Ride Share Voucher Pilot Program

This year, the Ride Share Voucher Pilot Program, received official funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 2021 Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) Pilot Program, which signifies another milestone in our transportation initiatives. This program will foster a partnership between PRPC and Amarillo City Transit (ACT), offering complimentary rides to low-income individuals who face challenges in affording transportation fares. The grant awarded to PRPC by FTA includes provisions for a vehicle, enabling ACT to procure an ADA accessible van for transporting Ride Share Voucher participants. Moreover, PRPC anticipates the vouchers being utilized for other ride-share services such as Uber and Lyft, expanding accessibility options for underserved populations.

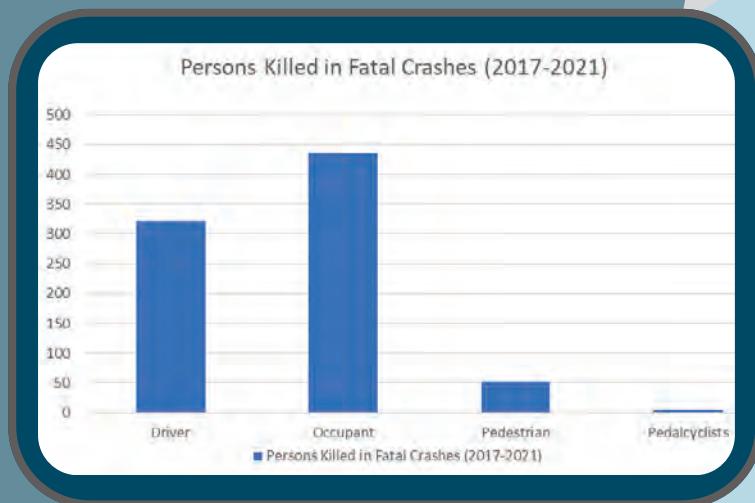


Advancing Transportation Initiatives: A Comprehensive Approach

The Local Government Services team at PRPC spearheaded the preparation of an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. This program, established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), allocates funds to enhance high-fatality roadways. With \$5 billion designated over five years (2022-2026), U.S. DOT aims to support regional, local, and Tribal transportation endeavors. To qualify for implementation funds, a Safety Action Plan must be crafted and endorsed, outlining potential projects.

Leveraging data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), PRPC identified the severity of roadway fatalities in each county, as illustrated in the accompanying graph. PRPC is committed to developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan spanning the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

On September 4th, 2024 PRPC was given notice of award for the fully requested amount of \$1.2 million dollars to develop a Safety Action Plan and will play a crucial role in mitigating fatalities across various roadways in the region. PRPC is committed to developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan spanning the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.



Infrastructure

PRPC staff conducted 4 meetings with transportation planning boards from 2023 to 2024, fostering collaboration and strategic planning for improved transportation infrastructure.

Transportation Collaboration

Orchestrated a joint meeting between the Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation (PROMPT) Committee and the South Plains Regional Coordination Transportation Advisory Committee (SPRCTAC), promoting synergy and coordination between regional transportation entities.

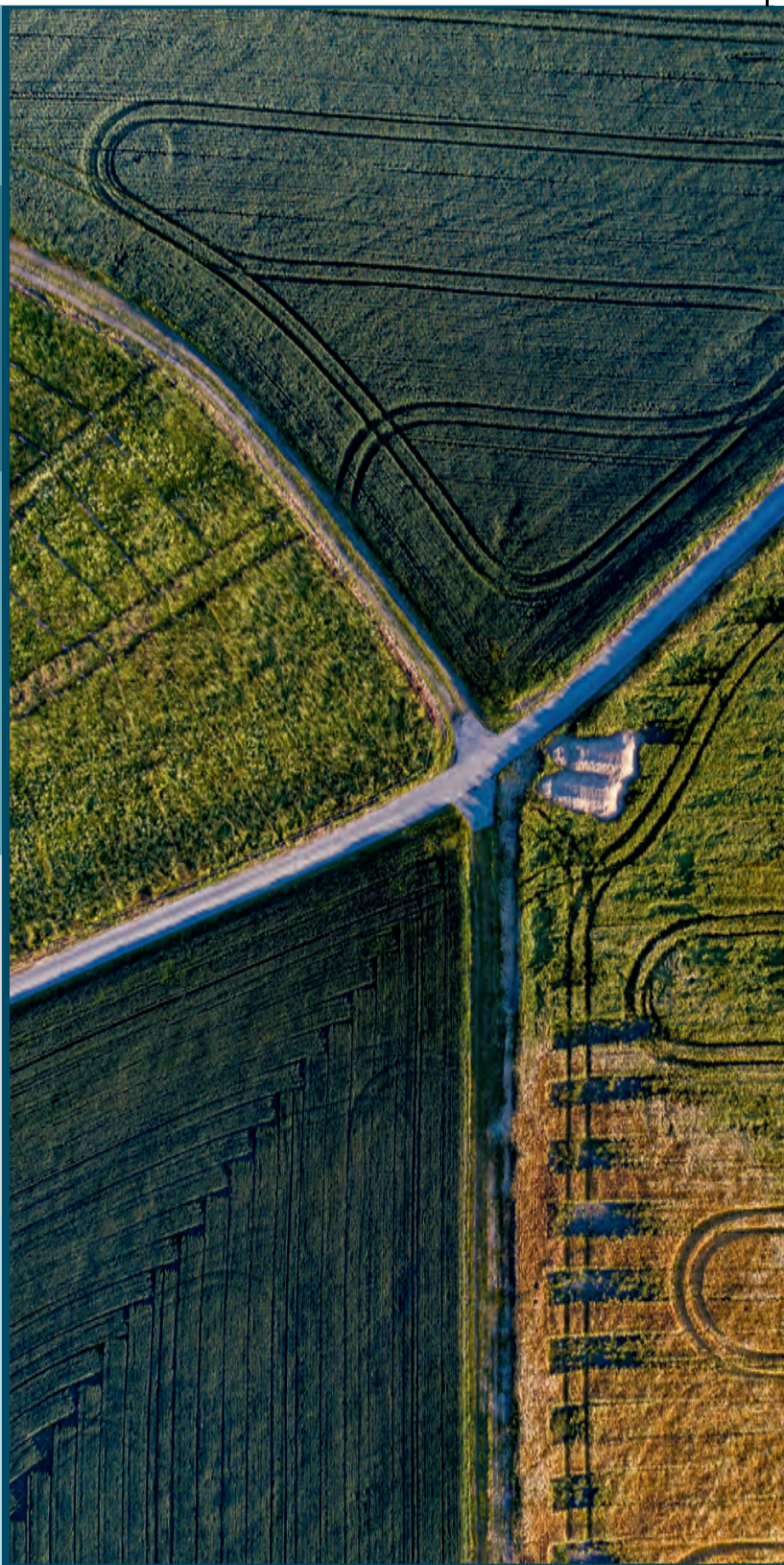
Safe Streets and Roads for All

Secured funding for \$1,200,000 through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant, enabling PRPC to further advance our mission and expand our reach within our region.

Return Home from Hospitalization

Facilitated 5 stakeholder outreach meetings for the RHFH Pilot Program, promoting community involvement and support for this vital healthcare initiative.

These achievements affirm our commitment to driving positive change and improving transportation accessibility across our region. As we continue to innovate and collaborate, we remain steadfast in our dedication to enhancing the health, road safety and well-being of our communities.



In 2023, the PRPC received a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) award for the Amarillo College Innovation Outpost project, which was partially funded by a \$1.5 million EDA investment.



Additionally, the City of Shamrock recently finished construction on a project partially funded by a \$1.2 million EDA investment to provide wastewater infrastructure in the Shamrock Industrial Park. The infrastructure will allow Ecolomondo, a Canadian-based cleantech company, to build its first facility in the United States in Shamrock. The facility is expected to be completed in 2026, provide \$93 million in investment, and create approximately 70 direct and 140 indirect jobs.



Region A Panhandle Water Planning Group

On January 19, 2021, the Texas Water Development Board approved the 2021 Regional Water Plans, including the Panhandle Water Plan for the fifth planning cycle. The Region A Panhandle Water Planning group is now in the sixth cycle, working on the 2026 Regional Water Plan. The Planning Group evaluates population and water demand projections, water supplies, and water needs in their region through 2080. The TWDB utilizes Regional Water Plans to develop the State Water Plan every five years. Communities with projects that align with the regional objectives and projects incorporated in adopted plans, may be eligible for participation in the TWDB Financial Assistance Programs. These programs can potentially help fund water infrastructure planning initiatives or construction projects.



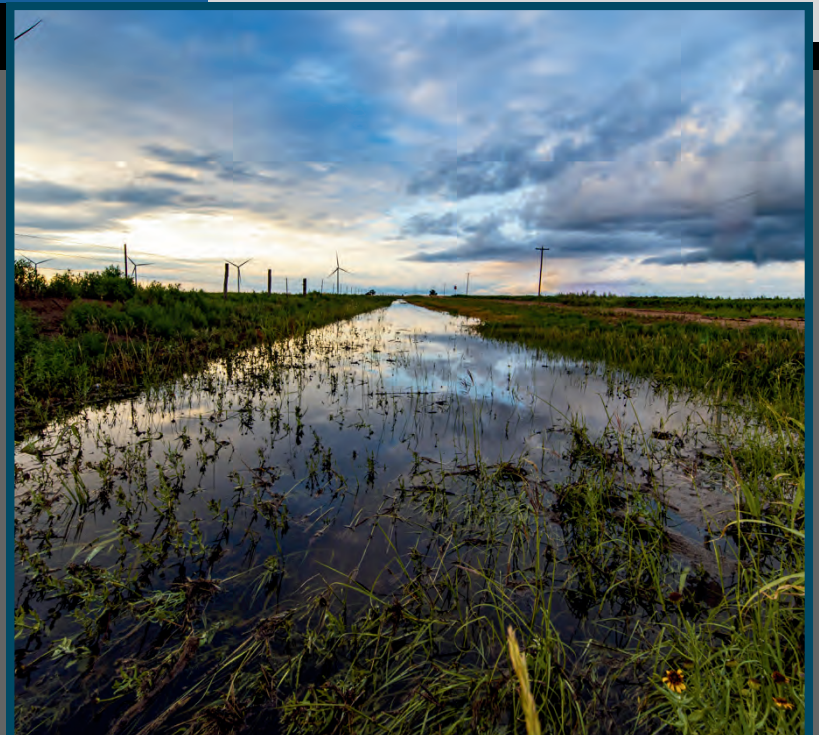
Regional Water/Flood Planning Statistics

Number of Meetings from October 2023 – October 2024 (estimated)

Region A PWPG	4
GMA No. 1	3
Region 1 RFPG	3

Regional Water and Flood Planning Updates

- The Ground Water Management Area -1 Joint Planning Committee procured Intera, Inc. to begin the next round of joint planning for the development and adoption of Desired Future Conditions for 2026 marking
- PWPG Funding: Sixth Cycle Funding- TWDB contract total appropriated amount - \$773,270.00
- RFPG Funding: Second Cycle Funding for the 2028 Regional Flood Plan: TWDB contract amount - \$2,305,100.00



Water/Flood Planning

7th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium

On February 28th, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) hosted the 7th Biennial Water Conservation Symposium at the Amarillo Civic Center. The event drew approximately 250 attendees who had the opportunity to listen to 13 speakers covering a range of water-related topics and network with numerous event sponsors. PRPC staff introduced the speakers, reinforcing PRPC's ongoing collaboration with PGCD in organizing this event. The symposium focused on leveraging water resources, exploring innovative water conservation strategies, and engaging with various entities to promote effective water management.

Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red Regional Flood Planning Group

The Region 1 RFPG has formally considered, approved, and submitted the amended Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red Regional Flood Plan, which has been accepted by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The flood plans from all 15 regions have been combined into a single state flood plan, set to be delivered by the TWDB to the Legislature by September 1, 2024.



Second Cycle of Regional Flood Planning

On February 29, 2024, LGS staff submitted an application for the Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red 2nd Regional Flood Planning Cycle, which also received acceptance and approval. We are continuing to demonstrate PRPC's unwavering dedication by serving as the sponsoring agent and facilitator for flood planning initiatives.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Regional Services provides guidance and resources within the Emergency Preparedness, Solid Waste Management, Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Programs for our local governments and non-profit organizations. We provide support with workshops, seminars, facilitation of round-table discussions, grant writing assistance, project management, communication for first responders through various grant funds.



Left to right: Delaney Pruett, Lori Gunn (RGS Director) Shane Brown and Daphne Morcom

Emergency Management

In FY2024, The Regional Homeland Security Program under the direction of the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee conducted the Texas Severe Weather Exercise, in order to establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates critical decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extend of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response. Provide life sustaining and human services to the affected population to include hydration, feeding, sheltering, temporary housing, evacuee support, reunification, and distribution of emergency supplies. Restore and improve health and social service capabilities and networks to promote the resilience, independence, health (including behavioral health), and well-being of the whole community. Return economic/business activities (including food and agriculture) to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that result in an economically viable community.

The Multi-Agency Coordination Center was activated during the wildfire outbreak.

528,737
messages
launched via
PARIS

Staff assisted
with 8 IPAWS
evacuation
messages

23 PARIS
Trainings



Photo taken by Texas A&M Forest Service

Staff assisted 9 hazard mitigation project applications for submittal

Texas Panhandle Severe Weather Exercise

In FY2024, The Regional Homeland Security Program under the direction of the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee conducted the Texas Severe Weather Exercise, in order to establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates critical decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extend of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response. Provide life sustaining and human services to the affected population to include hydration, feeding, sheltering, temporary housing, evacuee support, reunification, and distribution of emergency supplies. Restore and improve health and social service capabilities and networks to promote the resilience, independence, health (including behavioral health), and well-being of the whole community. Return economic/business activities (including food and agriculture) to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that result in an economically viable community.



145
Attendees

22 Emergency
Operations Plans
maintained

The Panhandle Regional Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Conference

The PREP conference is an annual conference hosted by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission's Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (PREMAC). The purpose is to help our various disciplines evolve their current mission and explore affordable methods to become more resilient. Over these last 12 years of the conference; first responders, elected officials/city management, medical personnel, emergency managers, industry partners, volunteers, and many other disciplines have attended this conference. Speakers from all over the country have presented a variety of topics that aid in the all-hazard planning needed to help our communities in times of disasters.



2024 New Initiatives

PREMAC's subcommittee participated in a pilot study to identify 10 critical infrastructure sites around the region for review. The Texas Department of Public Safety's, Department of Homeland Security will use the pilot study to inform them about best practices before rolling out the critical infrastructure review to the entire state.



Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Program assists our region's stakeholders with grant administration. In addition the program's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee oversees the evaluation and prioritization of projects through various funding opportunities available from the Office of the Governor. PRPC has continued to contract with Amarillo College for our Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy to provide both basic and in-service training for peace officers.



128th Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy

September 26, 2023 - March 4, 2024

Back Row (L-R): Joe Cannon (Coordinator of Law Enforcement Academy), Jonathan Mendoza, Swade Wright, Seth Klein.
Front Row (L-R): Logan Watson, Aaron Gonzales, Claudia Robles and Eric Wallace (Director of Public Service Programs).

- 8 - Victim Service projects funded \$1,705,180.45**
- 1 - Felony Domestic Violence Prosecutor Position funded \$62,165.771**
- 1 - Truancy Prevention project funded \$102,448.35**
- 8 - Law Enforcement projects funded \$412,287.42**
- 3,360 - Basic county correction hours completed**
- 232 - hours of law enforcement in-service classes completed**
- 7 - scholarships awarded for the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy**
- 2 - officers sent to specialized training outside of the region**

Regional Solid Waste Management

The Solid Waste Management program works to assist our jurisdictions with planning and diversion initiatives that benefit the entire region. The solid waste program continues to promote recycling of materials to elongate the lifespan of landfills. Through the oversight of the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, the recycling programs around the region implemented new equipment and educational opportunities totaling \$96,557.00



Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) diverted **495.75 tons** from the region's landfills **\$18,229.40** landfill shipping costs saved **\$59,585.70** in payments returned to jurisdictions from recycling efforts

Panhandle
Forklift for
Recycling
Center

Tulia
Grapple
Trailer

PRPC
Marketing and
Transportation

Memphis
OCC Containers
for Recycling



PANCOM

The Panhandle Regional Interoperable Communication System (PANCOM) is a fully interoperable VHF repeater infrastructure that consists of a network of 61 tower sites interconnected by microwave radio to provide the 26 counties, region-wide P25 standards-based communications. In addition to VHF communications, the PANCOM microwave system also provides backup communication services, patching ability and rerouting capability for the regions 911 PSAPs. The PANCOM system is managed by the PRPC on behalf of its 88 city and county member jurisdictions.



No
PANCOM
tower site
was down
for more
than 4
hours.

61 PANCOM
towers
maintained

\$77,850 in
PANCOM
repairs this
year

Staff
responded 20
times to after
hour calls

Storm Shelters

The PRPC closed out the most recent Regional Residential Safe Room Rebate Program; which is funded under the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The PRPC continues to get requests and we will look for additional funding for new iterations of the program. 101 storm shelters installed.

\$292,799.40 REBATES TO ASSIST WITH INSTALLATION OF STORM SHELTERS

\$2,899 AVERAGE REBATE PAID TO A HOMEOWNER



REGIONAL 9-1-1

The Regional 9-1-1 Network is responsible for the maintenance and ongoing improvement of the network, equipment, and software needed to deliver every 9-1-1 call in the Texas Panhandle. The 9-1-1 Network also assists public safety professionals with software and equipment training, certification requirements, and intra-regional collaboration. In support of emergency responders in the Texas Panhandle, the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network provides enhanced location capabilities through the rural addressing program. Using state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and digital aerial photography, the program provides physical addresses for homes and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the 24 county program.



Left to right: John Schaumburg (9-1-1 Director) Mandi Jones, Khasi Campos, Craig Wolf and Becky Blair (not pictured) Melissa Devenport

In February, the Texas Panhandle was struck with the largest fire in Texas history.

Over 1 million acres scorched several of our counties. Throughout the duration of the conflagration, the Regional 9-1-1 Network experienced no fire-related outages. Panhandle Regional Planning Commission staff remained in contact with the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to ensure 9-1-1 functionality and prepare for telecommunicator relocations.

As emergency call volumes intensified, the telecommunicators exhibited composure and poise, diligently attending to the citizens of the Texas Panhandle, embodying a unique sense of duty and care that only those intimately connected to this region could provide.

96,080
TOTAL
9-1-1 CALLS

6,643
TOTAL
TEXTS

78,423
WIRELESS
CALLS



DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

The PRPC Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to resolve conflicts through mediation. It is a cost-effective solution to litigation and other disputes by utilizing trained volunteer mediators and the Program Coordinator for mediations, allowing the DRC to offer its services at well below market rates and sometimes free of charge. The DRC was started in 1989 by a group of community leaders who could be classified as the “who’s who” in Amarillo. Names such as Elisha Demerson, Bill Thomas, Judge David Gleason, Judge Darrell Carey, Judge E. J. Hail, Judge Cliff Roberts, Danny Hill, Randall Sherrod Charles Warford, Harold Hook, Judge Janis Thorn, Richard Darmon, Dr. George Miller, Nancy Garms, Linda Craven and Rev. Jacinto Alderete served as the first Advisory Board Members.



Left to right: Trenton Taylor and Jerri Glover

Dispute Resolution Center Board Members

Board members all see the value of having a service available to provide citizens of the Texas Panhandle an opportunity to settle disputes outside the judicial system.



Attorney Dave Kemp
Chairman



Judge Nancy Tanner



Judge Dale Rabe Jr.



Attorney Vaavia Rudd



Dr. Tacy Gamel



Judge Phil Vanderpool



Judge Doug Woodburn



Commissioner H.R. Kelly



Judge Joanne Garcia-Flores

Mediation

Mediation involves the intervention of a third person, or mediator, into a dispute to assist the parties in negotiating jointly acceptable resolution of issues in conflict.” In 2023-2024 the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) focused on a number of different areas. First and foremost was Mediations. The DRC offered mediations to the Panhandle community. Mediations were offered in person, via Zoom and even off-site for clients.

Family law cases (including CPS cases) continue to be the bulk of the mediations addressed at the DRC. However, they also saw employment mediation, business matters, debt mediation, probate cases, landlord-tenant issues and real estate disputes.



Pre-trial Diversion

Pre-trial diversion cases are referred from Randall County JP1 Court. The participants in the pre-trial diversion program are young people under the age of 21 who are cited for possession or consumption of alcohol under the legal age of 21. These young people agree to complete three required components of the program as well as any additional components required by their parents. The young person and at least one person meet with the DRC Program Coordinator to learn about the requirements of the program .

The young person must pay an administrative fee of \$250, complete an eight hour online drug and alcohol course, and complete eight hours of community services with a 501(c)(3) organization. Parents have been creative in the additional requirements for their child. They have included additional drug and alcohol classes and completing manual tasks on the parents' property.

When the young person completes all components of their program the Program Coordinator notifies the court and the court process the case in such a way that the young person has no court record, no court fine record, basically no evidence of “being in trouble” at all. This program is important to prevent young people from starting out life with a negative strike against them

Dispute Resolution Training

The DRC hosted three separate trainings in 2023. The first was a basic mediation training that took place in August of 2023. This cohort had five participants that successfully completed the 40-hour course. Four of those went on with one additional trainee to take the Family Law Mediation which is an additional 30-hour course that focuses on various areas of family law including divorce, matters involving children, domestic violence, estate planning, probate and so much more.



In February 2024 the DRC hosted another round of Basic Mediation training and had six new mediators successfully complete the 40-hour course. These participants will attend a Family Law Mediation Training in September of 2024. These trainings take a great deal of dedication from those who are attending. They also require volunteer commitment and time from our instructors. Attorneys, mental health professionals, domestic violence experts and conflict resolution/negotiation experts create unique curriculum and offer hours of their time to teach the new mediators. Once the newly trained mediators have completed their programs we encourage them to observe a few mediations, then co-mediate a couple of mediations and thereafter they mediate or co-mediate as their time allows. Each of these mediators volunteer their time for mediations. Sometimes a mediation is an hour, sometimes the mediations can take nine hours. Our volunteers are so gracious and generous with their time.



Trainings

- 1 - 2023 Fall Training
- 5 - Basic Mediation Trainings
- 5 - Family Law Trainings
- 1 - 2024 Spring Training
- 6 - Basic Mediation Trainings
- 1 - 2024 Fall Training
- 5 - Family Law Trainings

Outreach

Jerri joined the PRPC and DRC with a number of community connections she had established during her years in Amarillo serving in various professional and community service positions. She has utilized those connections to spread the word about the DRC, its mission, and the services it has to offer. Her presentations have reached members of the community through Rotary, Lions Club, Amarillo Area Foundation, NAACP Amarillo and even the West Texas Council of County Judges. Through these presentations she has attracted businesses interested in the services of the DRC and a number of mediator trainees. She continues to seek opportunities to present to groups in the community and share how the DRC can benefit individuals and groups in the Texas Panhandle (and beyond).



93
Mediations

47
Pre-Trial
Diversions

Volunteer Development

The DRC relies heavily on its Volunteers to successfully carry out mediations for clients. Jerri feels it is important for the DRC to give back to its volunteers. She seeks out education opportunities and information to help them to continue to grow as mediators and offer professional mediation services.

Texas Association of Mediators Rising Star Award

In January 2023 DRC named Varvara Lazaridis our Volunteer Mediator of the Year. Varvara lives in Pennsylvania and accomplished her mediations via Zoom. She was well respected by mediation clients and attorneys alike. Varvara went on to be nominated by the Montgomery County DRC and successfully win the Texas Association of Mediators Rising Star Award. Jerri Glover had the privilege of meeting Varvara in person at the TAM conference in Plano and when she received her award from TAM.



Professional Development

In an effort to improve the professional standards of the DRC Jerri Glover met the requirements and submitted her application to become a Credentialed Mediator through the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association. This requires a specific number of hours mediating as well as maintaining continuing education requirements to achieve and maintain the credentialed status.

Jerri also attended the Texas Association of Mediators Conference in March 2023 which provided three days of education and networking opportunities. As a result Jerri has volunteered for two TAM committees: The Newsletter Committee and the Conference 2025 Committee. Serving in these committees will grow the reach, resources and network of the DRC throughout the state of Texas.

PRPC FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance staff provides professional accounting services necessary to establish and maintain financial policies, practices and controls to ensure the highest degree of financial accountability and fully safeguard all funds entrusted to PRPC.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. This was the 38th consecutive year that the PRPC has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.



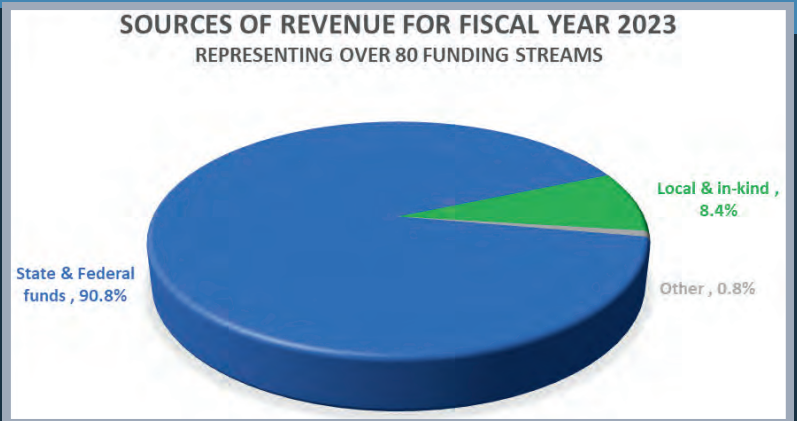
Left to right: Diana Green, Heike Todd, Trenton Taylor (Finance and Deputy Director) and Stephine Neuwirth

Financial Summary

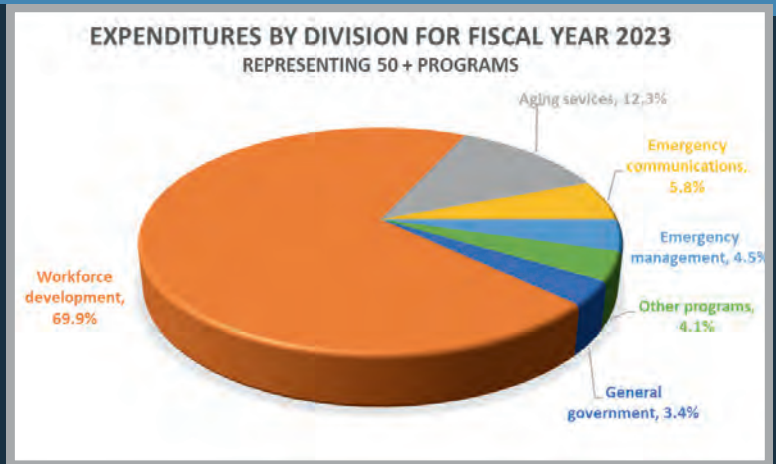
For the Fiscal Year Ending in September 30, 2023

- Financial accountability to the public, Board of Directors, membership, state and federal agencies.
- Development of Annual Budget.
- Assist in multiple monitoring reviews
- Completion of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- Completion of annual independent audit.
- Management of all organizations fixed assets and expendable equipment.
- Provision of timely financial trends and opportunities
- Management of employee benefits.
- Prepare payroll and related tax forms.
- Maintain financial integrity
- Ensure adherence to all federal/state fiscal policies, rules and regulations.
- Development of cost allocation plans.
- Maintain an adequate system of internal controls

SOURCE OF REVENUE	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT
State & Federal Funds	90.8%	29,891,799
Local & In Kind	8.4%	2,765,990
Other	0.8%	269,545
		Total: \$32,927,334



EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT
General Government	3.4%	\$1,125,121
Workforce Development	69.9%	\$23,072,808
Aging Services	12.3%	\$4,067,467
Emergency Communications	5.8%	\$1,905,957
Emergency Management	4.5%	\$1,499,898
Other programs	4.1%	\$1,352,033
		Total: \$33,023,284



2024 STAFF SERVICE AWARDS



Cristy Henderson

Assistant Finance Director

30 years

Cristy is the Assistant Finance Director for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission. She has assisted with the annual PPRC Budget and the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for over 30 years, which has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 38th year from the Government Finance officers Association.

She has provided support and guidance to the various departments of the PPRC in an ever-changing and expanding environment. She continues to develop and maintain relationships with the various local and state agencies that support the PPRC.



Lori Gunn

Regional Services Director

10 years

Lori Gunn administered the Texas Eviction Diversion Program (TEDP) pilot project during the pandemic. PPRC aided with rental assistance to prevent eviction for 56 renters over the 8 month project period; that included a limited number of counties across the state. She oversaw the transition of the Panhandle Electronic Warrant System (PEWS) from Amarillo Police Department to PPRC to enable regional access. Since 2015 PPRC has seen over 5,300 warrants and complaints executed. She facilitated the Regional Residential Safe Room/Storm Shelter Rebate Program for 8 years that assisted 1,143 homes with the installation of a storm shelter. Lori oversaw the implementation of \$1.3 million in solid waste funding pass thru to our jurisdictions for recycling efforts. She assisted criminal justice stakeholders with grant applications and implementation on \$22.3 million over the last 10 years. She also developed and directed grant project implementation of homeland security projects across the region of \$2 million over the last 3 years.



Felicia Shafer
Area Agency on Aging
Care Coordination Program Specialist

10 years

Felicia Shafer believes there is nothing better than helping seniors and their families throughout the Texas Panhandle find ways to improve their lives. She has been fortunate over the last 10 years to work at the Area Agency on Aging doing just that helping and serving others. Some days can be long and challenging but at the end of the day nothing is more rewarding than knowing she was able to assist individuals and possibly enhance their lives by locating community resources, helping them better understand their benefits, and providing agency program services.

Laurie McAfee
Area Agency on Aging
Public Education Administrative Assistant

10 years

Laurie McAfee has educated hundreds of seniors throughout the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. Her educational programs include Medicare savings programs, Medicare fraud, Medicare Advantage, and Legal awareness topics. In addition, Laurie teaches two senior wellness programs: Matter of Balance (fall prevention program) and Ready Set Thrive which includes nutrition, physical activity, and stress management. Laurie considers it an honor and privilege to help seniors live their best lives everyday by presenting these wonderful educational programs.



Trenton Taylor
Deputy Director - Finance Director

5 years

Trenton Taylor is the Chief Financial Officer of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission performing highly advanced financial, personnel and procurement work. Develops and oversees implementation of systems necessary to maintain and direct fiscal, personnel, procurement activities and implementing programs of the PRPC. Responsible for the annual pay plan, budget and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 38th year from the Government Finance officers Association.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

Brandon Knapp, Chair - Perryton
Tommy Wyatt - Canadian
Paul Arganbright - Wheeler
Alan Harder - Amarillo
David Morris - Memphis
Mike Story - McLean
Harvey Perez - Panhandle
Brent Sheets - Fritch
Curtis Green - Dalhart
Jason Anderson - Borger
Orrin Dankworth - Amarillo
Russell Proctor - Tulia
Justin Parker - Spearman
Mark Washburn - Gruver
Gary Turley - Pampa
Adam Schaer - Amarillo
Ramsay Hamm - Amarillo
Johnny Torres - Hereford
Leander Davila - Friona
Isidro Renteria - Dumas
Traci Bogart - Stratford
Stephen Skipper - Booker
Kevin Gomez - Canyon
Daniel Jackson - Dimmitt
Spenser Harvey - Amarillo
Eddie Taylor - Childress
Brittany Crawford - Amarillo
Anju Chalise - Austin

Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council

Desha Butler, Chair - Amarillo
Shana Beaty - Borger
Pamela Bell - Amarillo
Elvire Blakemore - Amarillo
Warren Coble - Amarillo
Andy Crocker - Amarillo
Shirley Harrold - Amarillo
Ludell Hill - Amarillo
Cody Jones - Amarillo
Marcie Leffler -
Cherrie Miller - Amarillo
Ameka Mobley - Amarillo
Shannon Parker - Amarillo
Isabell Villarreal - Amarillo
Brad White - Amarillo

Dispute Resolution Center Advisory Board

Dave Kemp, Chair - Amarillo
J. Tracy Byrd - Canyon
Vaavia Edwards - Amarillo
Tacy Gamel - Amarillo
Joanne Garcia Flores - Amarillo
H.R. Kelly - Amarillo
Dale Rabe - Childress
Nancy Tanner - Amarillo
Phil Vanderpool - Pampa
Doug Woodburn - Amarillo

Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium Governing Body

Cindy Irwin, Chair - Stinnett
DJ Wagner - Hereford
Harold Keeter - Tulia
Dan Looten - Panhandle
Chris Porter - Pampa
Cole Stanley - Amarillo
Alicia Law - Startford

Panhandle Workforce Development Board

Kevin Caddell, Chair - Dalhart
Francisco Apodaca - Pampa
Betty Bara - Amarillo
Jay Barrett - Amarillo
Texas Buckhaults - Clarendon
Sonja Clark - Amarillo
Edward Dominguez - Hereford
Michelle Griffin - Borger
Kristi Hanes - Amarillo
Crystal Hermesmeier - Shamrock
Lisa Lillard - Borger
Jahnel McClain - Amarillo
Amy Moran - Amarillo
David Parker - Amarillo
Amy Rambo - Amarillo
Charlie Rivas - Amarillo
John Roberts - Amarillo
Paul Salazar - Amarillo
Frank Sobey - Amarillo
Geneva Tiller - Amarillo
Lisa White - Amarillo
Magi York - Amarillo

Panhandle Water Planning Group

Ben Weinheimer, Chair - Amarillo
Brent Auvermann - Amarillo
Joe Baumgardner - Wellington
Herman Bergen - Dalhart
Britney Britten - White Deer
Spencer Cave - Borger
Jason Coleman - Lubbock
Vernon Cook - Miami
Dean Cooke - Borger
Megan Eikner - Amarillo
Rusty Gilmore - Dalhart
Glen Green - Amarillo
Janet Guthrie - Dumas
Floyd Hartman - Amarillo
Danny Krienke - Perryton
David Landis - Perryton
Gary Wayne Marek - Bushland
David B. Parker - Amarillo
Jason Shubert - Amarillo
Drew Satterwhite - Canadian
Janet Tregellas - Booker
Christa Perry - Canadian
Whitney Wiebe - Mesquite

Panhandle Rural Planning Organization

Travis Muno, Chair - Amarillo
Shawn Ballew - Oldham County
Kara Beyers - Rep Smithee
Kit Black - TxDOT
Alicia Law - Sherman
Gina Dowdy - Amarillo
Christy Dyer - Randall County
Aldo Gallegos - Cactus
Ronnie Gordon - Hartley County
Cindy Irwin - Hutchinson County
Lisa Johnson - Hemphill County
Blair Johnson - TxDOT
Charles Kelly - Ochiltree County
Brandan Knapp - Perryton
Dan Looten - Carson County
Chris Porter - Gray County
Adam Ensey - Armstrong County
Rowdy Rhoades - Moore County
Wes Ritchey - Dallam County
Dori Roots - Lipscomb County
Garrett Spradling - Borger
Nancy Tanner - Potter County
Mitchell Locke - Roberts County
Ken Nickels - Dalhart
DJ Wagner - Deaf Smith County
Russell Washer - TxDOT
Tim Glass - Hansford County

Canadian Upper Red - Regional Flood Planning

Kyle Schniederjan, Chair - Amarillo
Layne Chapman - Vernon
Jeff Watts - Iowa Park
Shawn Ballew - Vega
Glen Green - Amarillo
Nathan Howell - Canyon
Kimberly Hamlin - Amarillo
Don Davis - Nocona
Carolann Corado - Bowie
Chandler Bowers - Groom
Russell Schreiber - Wichita Falls
Jane Ketcham - Wichita Falls
Kyle Miller - Wichita Falls
Fabian Heaney - Wichita Falls
Joseph (Joe) Shehan - Canyon
Tracy Mesler - Nocona
Floyd Hartman - Amarillo

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee

Michelle Griffin, Chair - Dalhart
Manuel Almanza - Amarillo
Melissa Anderson - Claude
Johnny Carter - Wheeler
Vance Easley - Childress
Mark Garcia - Amarillo
Misty Garrett - Spearman
Robin Grice - Dumas
Michele Griffin - Dalhart
Vicki Groneman - Vega
Tom Heck - Memphis
Kris Hogan - Canadian
Ty Lane - Lipscomb
Kara Lee - Borger
Kalee Massey - Panhandle
Cheryl Phillips - Clarendon
Kyle Ray - Dumas
Lance Richburg - Pampa
Kent Riley - Wellington
Salvador Rivera - Dimmitt
Jeannie Rogers - Tulia
Kim Weatherly - Stratford
Kirsten Williams - Hereford
Bret Wilson - Farwell
Raphael Gonzalez - Perryton

Rolling Plains Organization for Rural Transportation

Wes Ritchey, Chair - Dallam County
Cindy Irwin - Hutchinson County
Alicia Law - Sherman County
Mitchell D. Locke - Roberts County
Ronny Gordon - Hartley County
Christy Dyer - Randall County
Charles Kelly - Ochiltree County
Chris Porter - Gray County
Dan Looten - Carson County
Adam Ensey - Armstrong County
Rowdy Rhoades - Moore County
DJ Wagner - Deaf Smith County
Dori Roots - Lipscomb County
Lisa Johnson - Hemphill County
Nancy Tanner - Potter County
Tim Glass - Hansford County
Travis Muno - Amarillo
Brandon Knapp - Perryton
Stacey Norris - Dalhart
Garrett Spradling - Borger
Aldo Gallegos - Cactus

Texas Revenue Recovery Association (TRRA) Board of Directors

BJ Potts, Chair - Tulia
Ellie Blasingame - Perryton
Jennifer Gonzalez - Amarillo
Rosa Mendez - Friona
Sarah Osbourne - Levelland
Lee Porter - Canyon

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Kristen Moudy, Chair - Wheeler
Kathy Allen - Stratford
Brian Barboza - Clarendon
Remelle Farrar - Canadian
Amy Fesser - Borger
Andrew Freeman - Amarillo
Karen Haddon - Booker
Howard Heath - Claude
Daniel Jackson - Dimmitt
Kurt Jones - Hereford
Tiffany Fowler - Vega
Joe Livingston - Dalhart
Sheabree Nix - Childress
Cortnie Patterson - Pampa
BJ Potts - Tulia
Emma Rector - Friona
Woody Richardson - Memphis
Brenda Robinson - Panhandle
Brandon Cox - Dumas
Jon Sessions - Wellington
Kay Swart - Miami
Bonnie Thompson - Spearman
Stephanie Tucker - Canyon
Colby Waters - Perryton
Guy Young - Quitaque

Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation

Travis Muno, Chair - Amarillo
Kacie Bell - Amarillo
Kathryn English - Amarillo
Kimberly Ford - Amarillo
Robin Moseley - Amarillo
Dan Looten - Carson County
Trent Morris - Amarillo
Chris Quigley - Amarillo
Laura Reyher - Canyon
Jason Riddlespurger - Amarillo
Joe Rogers - Amarillo
Chris Sharp - Amarillo
Garrett Spradling - Borger
Lylene Springer - Canyon
Grace Strait - Lubbock
Nancy Tanner - Potter County
Eric Garcia - Childress
Sridevi Veeramachaneni - Amarillo

Groundwater Management Area #1

Bob Zimmer, Chair - Dumas
Britney Britten - White Deer
Jason Coleman - Lubbock
Christa Perry - Canadian
Thomas Isaacs - Canadian
Devin Sinclair - Wheeler
Lynn Tate - Amarillo
Janet Guthrie - Dumas

Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Max Dunlap, Chair - Amarillo
Kyle Brack - Panhandle
Tommy Brooks - Dumas
Jacob Clifton - Pampa
Joanne Culin - Amarillo
Ken Daughtry - Wheeler
Lee Davila - Friona
Charlene Duke - Canadian
Paul Dutcher - Perryton
Chris Forbis - Amarillo
Steve Fuston - Dumas
Robert Howell - Canyon
Cindy Irwin - Stinnett
Daniel Jackson - Dimmitt
Ashley Johnson - Amarillo
Kim Jones - Childress
Brent Lane - Amarillo
P.J. Lemons - Amarillo
Joseph Loftus - Amarillo
Steve Malley - Amarillo
Kevin McClaran - Amarillo
Janell Menahem - Amarillo
Joe Minschew - Canyon
Rodney Mosier - Amarillo
Justin Parker - Spearman
BJ Potts - Tulia
JoDee Robison - Silverton
Tyler Smith - Amarillo
DJ Wagner - Hereford
Ronnie Walker - Amarillo
Brent Warden - Vega
Ben Weinheimer - Amarillo
Zack Wilson - Amarillo

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Traci Rogers, Chair - Amarillo
Lukas Day - Amarillo
Anna Kate Nobile - Tulia
Stephanie Fowler - Dalhart
Louis Sanchez - Amarillo
Hattie Sanderson - Wellington
Shalyn Hamlin - Dimmitt
Norma Luginby - Borger
Sace Hardman - Panhandle
Terry Bouchard - Perryton
Shelly Bohannon - Amarillo
Kent Birdsong - Vega
Shannon Ellis - Amarillo
Nina Parvin - Amarillo
Joe Jarosek - Canadian
Landon Swan - Hereford
Monty Hysinger - Dumas
Karen McGahen - Pampa
Sandra Garza - Amarillo

2024 PRPC RETIREES

31 YEARS – JANET SCHULTE

Janet was the Care Coordinator for the Area Agency on Aging. Blessed with a genuine heart, happy spirit and exceptional personality. Her patience allowed her to assist, likely thousands of seniors with applying for state and federal benefits.

She served as an amazing mentor to other social workers within the Area Agency on Aging and other community resources. She went to Canyon High School and graduated from WT. She has her bachelors in Psychology and her Masters in Social Sciences. She has 3 children Christopher, Nicholas, and Katy. She also has 2 Grandchildren. She loves the gym, hiking, biking, and kayaking



17 YEARS - LISA HANCOCK

Lisa served as the Public Education and Volunteer Specialist with the Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle. Lisa worked with Senior Adult Programs in Amarillo since 1983. Lisa spent 17 years training and educating Nursing Home Activity Directors through Amarillo College and has worked with the Bivins Homes for the Aged and the Jan Werner Adult Day Care program. Lisa was responsible for training and educating countless volunteers over the years as well as the Area Agency on Aging staff. Her impact on the seniors throughout the top 26 counties of the Panhandle is immeasurable.



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The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission would like to extend a special thanks to local photographer Cris Villagomez for the donation of his photography and talents pictured throughout the PRPC 2024 Annual Report.



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