



Deep East Texas Council of Governments

Annual Performance Report to the State of Texas

Fiscal Year 2023

(October 2022 - September 2023)

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Overview	3
Regional 9-1-1 Network	4-5
Area Agency on Aging	6-9
Senior Nutrition Services	6
Homemaker Services	7
Case Management Services	7
Ombudsman Services	8
Benefits Counseling Services	8
Home Repair & Accessibility Modifications	9
Senior Transportation	9
2-1-1 Texas Area Information Center	10
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	11
Public Safety Programs	12-15
Law Enforcement Training	12
Criminal Justice	13-14
Homeland Security	14-15
Family and Youth Success (FAYS)	16
Regional Housing Authority	17
Community & Economic Development <i>(Includes Disaster Recovery & Mitigation)</i>	18-19
Regional Solid Waste Grant Program	20
Transportation & Transit Planning	21

OVERVIEW OF DETCOG AND THE REGION

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments, better known as DETCOG, is a voluntary association of cities, counties, school districts, and other governmental units within Texas State Planning Region 14. The region borders the State of Louisiana and encompasses the counties of Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler. Our region also includes the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, a fully functioning sovereign government which is the oldest Indian reservation in Texas. Some of our programs also provide services to residents of the neighboring South East Texas Region.



DETCOG was established in November of 1966 as an Economic Development District under the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. In 1968 DETCOG also became a political subdivision of the State of Texas as a Regional Planning Commission under state law now re-codified as Chapter 391 of the Local Government Code.

DETCOG has no taxing authority and no ordinance-making authority. We are an organization of, by, and for the local governments of Deep East Texas. We exist to support our member governments and serve their residents. DETCOG is governed by a diverse 54-member Board. More than two-thirds of our board members are elected officials of our counties and cities.



Deep East Texas is one of the most rural of the 24 state planning regions. Also known as the Texas Forest Country, we are home to four national forests plus vast areas of privately owned forestland, as well as the three largest reservoirs in the state. The 2020 Census puts our population at 338,090. We believe our population is actually higher and assert the 2020 Census did not accurately count the residents of our region which includes many “hard-to-count” groups. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that many of our counties are either slowly declining in population or seeing no growth. This follows the trend across Texas’ rural counties.

Historically, Deep East Texas has been economically distressed with high rates of unemployment and poverty. These economic factors, plus the rural nature of our region, provide us with unique challenges but also underscore the importance of DETCOG's mission.

A major need in Deep East Texas is better access to broadband (high speed internet) service. The current state of broadband in our region has a negative impact on public education, healthcare, public safety, and job creation. DETCOG’s goal is to ensure that every home and business in Deep East Texas has access to reliable and affordable broadband. Because of our rural nature, this can only be accomplished utilizing a regional approach – we must leverage the entire region’s population to benefit every resident, including the most rural and difficult to serve.

Regional cooperation leads to stronger communities and more efficient use of resources. DETCOG provides the opportunity for local jurisdictions to work together to accomplish more than any individual member could accomplish on its own.

During most of FY-2023 DETCOG operated in temporary facilities. A fire caused extensive damage to the DETCOG office building on September 29, 2021. The roof structure suffered significant fire damage and the entire building suffered heavy smoke and heat damage. Reconstruction was completed and we were able to reoccupy the building in July of 2023. In spite of the disruption and inconvenience caused by the fire, all DETCOG programs continued to function and provide full services to our member governments and the citizens of Deep East Texas.

DETCOG Regional 9-1-1 Network

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Our network routed 195,349 total calls and texts to 9-1-1 to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across the region. 169,410 of these were wireless calls. 1,640 were texts.
- Conducted 161 monitoring visits to PSAPs.
- Conducted 44 database monitoring visits to our 11 counties.
- Completed replacement of all copper-based network circuits with fiber-based network circuits for more reliability and lower network costs in Sabine County. (This was completed in the other 10 counties in 2022.)
- Implemented location-based routing with T-Mobile and Comcast.
- Continued the ongoing process with AT&T to migrate Originating Service Providers (OSPs) from the legacy network to the Regional ESInet.
- Upgraded the GIS servers for use with the PSAPs and county offices.
- Collaborated with DETCOG Public Safety Program and the counties of the region to provide critical data for implementation of a regional mass notification system.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Citizens and stakeholders were served by an efficient 9-1-1 emergency communications delivery system that met or exceeded state agency performance measures.
- The PSAPs complied with all state agency requirements as documented through onsite and virtual monitoring reports.
- The County ALI Maintenance Coordinators complied with all state agency requirements as documented through onsite and virtual monitoring reports.
- PSAPs are more reliable with replacement and upgrade of technology.
- Security and protection against cyber-attacks was enhanced.
- Continued seamless operations under our Continuity of Operations Plan to maintain which was implemented in response to the DETCOG office fire in September 2021. Normal operations resumed in July 2023.

2024 Expected Outputs

- 9-1-1 call volume is expected to remain steady or increase slightly, with the number of wireless calls expected to continue increasing.
- Staff will conduct a minimum of 125 PSAP monitoring visits.
- Staff will conduct a minimum of 33 County Database monitoring visits.
- Replacement of call handling equipment, uninterruptible power supply units, and networking equipment at the Regional 9-1-1 PSAPs will continue as scheduled.
- Location-Based Routing will be implemented with additional wireless service providers.
- OSP Migration with wireless and landline service providers will continue.
- Migration of traffic from wireless service providers to Real-Time Text (RTT).
- Perform a Cybersecurity Assessment of the Regional 9-1-1 ESInet and PSAPs.
- Next Generation Security and other security enhancements will be deployed at all PSAPs.
- Collaborate with school districts in the region to implement indoor mapping of school facilities.

- Collaborate with state-approved industry partner to perform an intensive Cybersecurity Assessment of the Regional 9-1-1 ESInet network and PSAPs.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Citizens and stakeholders will be served by an efficient 9-1-1 emergency communications delivery system that meets or exceeds state agency performance measures.
- The accuracy of 9-1-1 call routing will improve when a 9-1-1 call is made from a mobile device. The estimated location will be derived from the handset.
- Continued improvements made possible by Next Generation 9-1-1 infrastructure will allow OSPs to take full advantage of new digital technologies.
- The 9-1-1 network will have improved defense against cyber-attacks and internal risks.
- Students and school staff will be safer as telecommunicators, law enforcement and other emergency responders will have access to more accurate location information inside school facilities.
- Network testing of the Regional ESInet with Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), telephone companies, wireless service providers, and others public safety entities will ensure the continued operation, functionality, and reliability of the Regional PSAP Network and equipment.

DETCOG Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided funding for 77,903 congregate meals that meet the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) requirements to 4,957 older adults for an average cost per meal of \$7.47.
 - This service also generated \$240,814 in program income that purchased 31,323 additional meals.
 - This service also generated \$223,981 local in-kind match funds.
- Provided funding for 158,098 home delivered meals that meet the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) requirements to 2,339 older adults for an average cost per meal of \$5.72.
 - This service also generated \$17,145 in program income that purchased 2,848 additional meals.
 - This service also generated \$217,346 in local in-kind match funds.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Older citizens benefited from nutritious meals and social contacts five days a week which helped alleviate economic risk to those low-income individuals and helped to reduce isolation of individuals who live alone or in rural and remote areas.
- Achieved a 146 percent increase over previous year's congregate meals, as congregate meal sites re-opened following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Achieved 96 percent of 2023 Projected Outputs in number of congregate meals served.
- Achieved 88 percent of 2023 Projected Outputs in number of meals delivered.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Provide funding for 77,903 Congregate Meals that meet the DRI requirements to 4,957 older adults for an average cost per meal of \$7.99. Increased per meal cost is due to across the board increases in food, supplies and staffing.
- Provide funding for 158,098 Home Delivered Meals that meet DRI requirements to 2,339 persons for an average cost per meal of \$7.31. (The reimbursement rate is currently capped at \$6.46 per meal for HHSC common contractors.)

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Older adults who are at greatest social and economic risk will receive nutritious meals and regular social contact. This will promote better health and allow them to continue living independently, as well as reduce hunger in the Deep East Texas region.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided Homemaker Services for 30 people.
- Provided 851 hours of Homemaker services at an average cost of \$17.36.
- The average cost per person for Homemaker Services was \$492.57, which was 61% more than projected. The higher cost/person is due to providers having difficulty in finding workers to provide homemaker services to eligible individuals, and then paying increased wages to attract workers, resulting in higher per hour costs to program.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Older adults were able to continue to live independently in a safe and secure home environment while they were recovering from an illness and/or hospital stay.
- The number of hospital readmissions was reduced.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Provide Homemaker Services to 33 persons at an average cost of \$527.04 per person.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Older adults will be able to continue living independently in a safe and healthful home environment while they are recovering from an illness and/or hospital stay.
- The number of hospital readmissions will be reduced.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided direct case management services for 661 persons, 67 percent more than projected.
- Provided 1,703 hours of case management services for an average cost of \$57.44 per hour.
- The average cost per person served was \$147.98.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- More older adults and their families received direct services which equipped them to make informed choices about the programs and services available to help them continue to live independently and securely while recovering from illness, injury, or surgery.
- Persons affected by financial setbacks, including those caused by natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, received assistance to help them recover and maintain an independent lifestyle.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Provide direct case management services for 694 persons at an average cost of \$151.68 per person.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- More older persons recovering from illness, injury or surgery will become more aware of programs and services available to help them maintain their independence by making informed choices about their care and arranging for those services.

OMBUDSMAN SERVICES

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided Ombudsman Services to residents of 40 nursing homes and 16 assisted living facilities utilizing six trained and State Certified Ombudsman staff and volunteers.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Maintained a success rate of 98 percent of complaints made by or on behalf of residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities being successfully resolved in a timely manner, promoting better care and a better quality of life for the residents.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Continue to provide Ombudsman Services to residents of 40 nursing homes and 16 assisted living facilities.
- Increase the number of trained and State Certified Ombudsman staff and volunteers to 15.
- Continue to achieve at least 95 percent of successful and timely resolutions to complaints made by or on behalf of residents or nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Residents of long-term care facilities will receive better care and live happier lives in a more secure environment.
- Residents will feel like there is someone they can turn to when they need help or have concerns.
- When complaints are received, they will be dealt with in a timely and professional manner.

BENEFITS COUNSELING

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Facilitated 909 legal awareness contacts to provide information about Medicare Open Enrollment.
- Provided one-on-one counseling services to 285 unduplicated persons.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Recipients and potential recipients of Medicare and Medicaid benefits have increased awareness and knowledge about the benefits and services available to them and how to access their benefits.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Conduct 75 legal awareness programs to provide information regarding Medicare Open Enrollment.
- Provide one-on-one counseling services to 292 persons.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- More citizens will be aware of public entitlement programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.
- More citizens will enroll in, and benefit from, these programs.

HOME REPAIR AND ACCESSIBILITY MODIFICATIONS

2023 Outputs Achieved

- 94 households were assisted with minor home repairs and modifications to make homes accessible for persons with disabilities, minor roof repairs, and repair/replacement of heating and air systems – average cost per household - \$4,995.98.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Elderly and disabled citizens in 94 households were able to continue living independently at home in a safe environment.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Serve at least 70 families/households with minor home repairs and modifications to ensure accessibility.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- More elderly and disabled citizens will be able to continue living independently at home in a safe environment rather than having to relocate to more expensive long-term care facilities.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided funding for 3,064 one-way trips to assist 67 older adults. These trips were for medical appointments, grocery shopping and other personal business. Average cost was \$26.47 per one-way trip.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Older persons living in remote, rural areas where medical and other services are limited or non-existent and public transit is unavailable had access to healthcare and other services.
- Older persons were able to independently schedule trips to grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, etc., to conduct personal shopping and business.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Provide funding for 3,217 one-way trips to assist at least 69 older adults.
- Increase the number of volunteer transportation drivers to 30.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Older adults living in areas where public transit is unavailable will have transportation to medical appointments, purchase groceries, conduct personal business and/or attend senior center activities.
- Older adults living in rural areas will have the opportunity to continue to live independently and enjoy happier, healthier lives.
- State and Federal resources required to fund long-term care solutions will be conserved.

DETCOG 2-1-1 Texas Area Information Center

2023 Outputs Achieved

- The Deep East Texas Area Information Center (AIC) provided information and referral services to 52,544 callers. This was a record call volume and a 35 percent increase over the previous year.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Thousands of people received information about programs, services and resources that provided help with food, housing, childcare, crisis intervention, substance abuse treatment, Covid-19 testing/vaccinations.
- Citizens were better informed and protected during disasters and emergencies.
- Although more people are accessing information online via the 2-1-1 Texas website, a substantial number of residents of Deep East Texas continued to rely on the regional call center. The number of calls received has trended upward over the past five years:
 - 52,544 calls in 2023
 - 38,720 calls in 2022
 - 35,287 calls in 2021
 - 42,963 calls in 2020 (record call volume attributed to onset of COVID-19)
 - 29,017 calls in 2019

2024 Expected Outputs

- We project the Deep East Texas AIC will handle at least 40,656 calls for information and referral services.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Citizens who need help with food, housing, childcare, crisis intervention, substance abuse or other issues will be referred to resources to assist them.
- Citizens will receive important public safety information during emergencies and disasters.
- More citizens will become aware of the services and resources available within our region.
- Increased awareness will result in increased utilization of services to ensure the safety and improve the quality of life of the citizens in our region.

DETCOG Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

2023 Outputs Achieved

- A total of 111,080 hours of service were documented by RSVP Volunteers with an estimated value of \$3,532,344.
- 299 RSVP Volunteers served at 20 food pantries around the region, providing Education, Nutrition and Food Support.
- 7 RSVP Volunteers served with Senior Citizens Nutrition Centers and Home-Delivered Meal providers to serve or deliver meals to older and disabled persons, including many who are homebound. These volunteers also placed two or more reassurance calls to each homebound person each week.
- 13 RSVP Volunteers served at the San Augustine Master Gardeners outdoor school classroom community garden.
- 6 RSVP Volunteers served in after-school and summer tutoring programs and service-learning programs. These programs included Solid Foundation, an after-school tutoring program which served more than 20 at-risk youth.
- 714 RSVP Volunteers served at various other work stations throughout the region, including public libraries, historical commissions, thrift stores, volunteer ambulance and fire departments, and veterans service organizations.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Thousands of individuals received food support and education, reducing food insecurity.
- More than 2,300 homebound persons received nutritious meals delivered to their homes and social interaction from Volunteers delivering meals and making reassurance calls.
- Approximately 50 young students learned how to grow a garden and received information about healthy eating, nutrition, and exercise.
- 25 at-risk youth are more likely to stay in school, be successful in their studies, and become involved in positive community activities because of mentoring and tutoring services they received.
- Organizations serving vulnerable populations in Deep East Texas -- including persons living in poverty, aging and disabled persons, veterans, and at-risk youth -- were able to extend their reach and provide services to the public that otherwise would not have been available.

2024 Projected Outputs and Outcomes

- All 2023 initiatives will continue.
- New volunteers and volunteer stations will be recruited to increase opportunities for volunteers to contribute their time to improve the lives of others in our region.
- Many community service organizations will be able to continue and expand their services which benefit the residents of Deep East Texas. These include Important services like senior citizens nutrition and social activities, outreach and meal delivery to homebound persons, public safety functions including volunteer fire departments and ambulance services, veterans' services, mentoring and tutoring for at-risk youth, and many other services and activities that are important to our region and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

DETCOG Public Safety Programs

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided basic, intermediate, or advanced TCOLE-certified courses to 332 peace officers, correctional officers, and communications personnel.
- Provided 2440 training contact hours in basic courses and intermediate or advanced TCOLE-certified courses.
- Continued to work with our law enforcement partners in the region to identify and bring high quality required and specialized training into the region.
- Continued to provide support for the voluntary regional mental health peer support and assistance team to work with law enforcement professionals in the region

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Law Enforcement in the Deep East Texas Region are better trained and have increased knowledge to perform their duties.
- Agencies hosted training that was needed in their own communities.
- Officers and other emergency responders were better equipped to handle the stresses of the job and the mental toll it takes on themselves, their families, and their communities.
- The cost of law enforcement training was reduced for local governments and taxpayers.
- Agencies from outside the region attended courses within the region, bringing increased commerce to Deep East Texas instead of sending dollars outside the region.
- The citizens of Deep East Texas live in a safer, more secure environment.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Provide Law Enforcement Training to 1000 peace officers, correctional officers, and communications professionals within our region.
- Provide selected smaller agencies with funding to send two potential peace officer candidates to the Police Training Academy.
- Continue to provide mental health resources for first responders.
- Provide high quality professional development training opportunities in our region. Keeping our officers close to their jurisdiction and encouraging outside agencies to send their officers into our region for this training and boosting our regions economics.
- Make more specialized and “hard-to-obtain” training available to Law Enforcement Officers, including more “Train the Trainer” courses.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Law Enforcement personnel in the Deep East Texas Region will be better trained and have increased knowledge to perform their duties.
- More officers will benefit from hard-to-obtain training that was not previously offered close to home.
- The officers in the region will have greater resources and support to deal with job-related stress that impacts not only the officers, but their families and communities.
- The citizens of Deep East Texas will live in a safer, more secure environment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided support to the regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) by hosting in person and virtual meetings and preparation and distribution of meeting materials.
- Served as liaison between the CJAC, local jurisdictions, and the Office of the Governor Public Safety Office (PSO) to support the Criminal Justice grant application process.
- Hosted three meetings plus a regional online training session for county officials to discuss the importance of Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) reporting, reporting challenges, and best practices.
- Provide grant application assistance and technical assistance to 35 grant applicants or prospective applicants.
- Gathered and provided information about funding sources outside the PSO to regional stakeholders.
- Conducted orientation briefings with newly elected officials to explain the services DETCOG Public Safety Programs can provide.
- All reports to the State were submitted on time or ahead of schedule.
- The 2022-2026 Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for Deep East Texas was updated with input from the CJAC and the public, and approval of the DETCOG Board of Directors.
- The Combined CJAC Bylaws and Policies & Procedures were updated with input from the CJAC and approval of the DETCOG Board of Directors.
- Met with and communicated the function of COGs to new TDEM Region 14 County Liaison Officers.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- 14 agencies and non-profits in the region were awarded a combined \$1,435,578 in funding under the following categories of grant funds administered by the Office of the Governor PSO: Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention, and Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).
- Regional partners including school districts and non-profits were better informed about issues and funding opportunities, resulting in more regional collaboration.
- Local agencies and organizations developed more effective programs and submitted more complete grant applications with fewer errors.
- Ten of the 11 counties of the region met or exceeded the mandate for 90 percent CJIS Reporting Status.
- Local officials and stakeholders are better informed about services the DETCOG Public Safety Programs can provide.
- The Governor's Public Safety Office and other state partners were well informed of activities, expenditure of grant funds, and special needs/issues in the region.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Provide technical assistance to a minimum of 25 Grantees/Applicants applying for grant funding through the PSO. This includes Law Enforcement, NPOs and Judicial entities.
- Continue to build and update databases and improve communications between the DETCOG Public Safety Program and regional stakeholders.

- Work with CJAC members and our Law Enforcement Partners to explore and seek potential JAG grant funds to compliment other grant funding which has been secured to improve regional interoperable radio communications in the region.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Local agencies and organizations will develop more effective programs and submitted more complete grant applications with fewer errors, maximizing the amount of funding available to support our region.
- Law Enforcement Agencies, Schools, and Non-Profits will have more resources at their disposal to respond to public safety and criminal justice needs within their jurisdictions.
- All counties in the region will meet or exceed the mandate for 90 percent CJIS Reporting Status.
- The citizens of Deep East Texas will be better served and live in a safer, more secure environment.

HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Updated the region's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) using five incidents and 32 core capabilities in the exercise. Also updated the region's State Preparedness Report (SPR), Implementation Plan (IP) and Risk-Based Methodology Report.
- Continued support of the ALERRT Active Shooter Training Program in partnership with Lufkin Police Department. More than 80 officers were trained using the new techniques.
- Submitted an implementation plan to the Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP) for Deep East Texas.
- Facilitated seven meetings of the regional Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC).
- Formed a new Communications Work Group to study and make recommendations on developing and sustaining region-wide interoperable radio communications.
- Established a regional emergency mass notification system in partnership with our local jurisdictions.
- Completed Phase One of a regional interoperable radio communications project and began planning to implement Phase Two and Phase Three. Funding for Phase One (\$1.1 million) and Phase Two (\$1.5 million) was provided by the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) program. Funding for Phase Three (\$14 million) has been allocated from Texas General Land Office Hurricane Harvey CDBG Disaster Mitigation funds.
- Hosted monthly roundtable meetings of local Emergency Management Coordinators.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- The DETCOG region was awarded \$197,178.00 in SHSP grant funding through the Governor's PSO to support regional homeland security planning and acquire eight chemical detection devices to be placed with local jurisdictions to assist in response to critical incidents.
- Potential threats have been identified and risks have been reduced, allowing the citizens of Deep East Texas to live in a safer, more secure environment.
- Authorities throughout the region are better prepared to deal with an active shooter situation.

- Local jurisdictions and stakeholders have a better knowledge of processes and procedures used by the DETCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee.
- Six counties of the region now have improved interoperable radio communications from access to the Texas Wide Area Radio Network (TxWARN).

2024 Expected Outputs

- Working with regional partners we will continue to activate the TxWARN interoperable radio system in six counties along the US-59/I-69 corridor and the western portion of the region.
- Complete Phase Two of the Regional Interoperable Radio Communications Project and begin Phase Three to extend improvements to the counties in the eastern portion of the region.
- Seek funding sources and apply for funding from the Governor’s Public Safety Office, State Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant program, General Land Office Disaster Mitigation Grant programs, and/other funding agencies to continue making improvements in the region’s interoperable radio communications infrastructure.
- Continue to work with and encourage jurisdictions to work together to utilize a combination of SERI, GLO, ARP and Local Funding to expand their communications capabilities.
- Convene local jurisdictions and stakeholders to identify and monitor threats and risks through development of the 2024 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), State Preparedness Report (SPR), the Implementation Plan (IP) and Risk-Informed Methodology Report.
- Utilizing the new course curriculum DETCOG will continue to facilitate, in partnership with the Lufkin Police Department, the ALERRT Program and provide active shooter training classes throughout the region.
- Convert to and train local emergency management personnel on the web based Juvare Web EOC.
- Continue DETCOG’s Partnership with Texas Division of Emergency Management to host the DDC14 Regional Emergency Operations Center during times of disaster.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Law Enforcement and Public Safety officials and First Responders throughout the region will have improved communications capabilities.
- Local authorities will be better prepared to respond to active shooter situations and other public safety and homeland security issues.
- All DETCOG Public Safety programs will continue to operate in a coordinated and efficient manner which will increase effectiveness while reducing administrative costs.
- The citizens of Deep East Texas will live in a safer and more secure environment and citizens from outside the region will be safer when travelling through our region.
- Citizens will be better informed and more secure through local jurisdictions’ use of the Genasys Regional Mass Notification System.

DETCOG Family and Youth Success Program (FAYS)

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Served 654 clients, exceeding annual target goal of 500.
- Averaged over eight visits per client served by face-to-face sessions.
- Achieved an over 95 percent positive affect at closure for each client served.
- Achieved an over 95 percent positive affect at follow-up for each client served.
- Met and surpassed monthly output target of 132 youth/families for all 12 months.
- Follow-ups were completed for more than 100 percent of clients served.
- Conducted Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention outreach including public service campaign on local radio stations and distribution of brochures throughout the region.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- At Risk Youth and their Families received counseling services, anger management training, parenting wisely sessions and family skills classes which strengthened the family unit and helped avoid disruption or breakup of families.
- Youth in crisis situations received help, enabling them to cope now and in the future.
- School truancy and vaping was reduced.
- 100% of Protective Factor Surveys (PFS) show an increase in scores for at least one protective factor.
- The public was better informed about the problem of Child Abuse and how to prevent it. 185,000 persons reached through radio campaign, social media, and print materials.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Serve a minimum of 644 unduplicated clients during the year with increased one-on-one counseling sessions as well as family sessions.
- Continue to utilize DFPS approved evidence-based programs to serve clients.
- Achieve a success rate of over 85 percent for closures completed for each client served, and a positive affect at closure for at least 85 percent of clients.
- Continue to strengthen public awareness of child abuse awareness and prevention.
- Serve a minimum of 84 clients through the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support..

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Reduction of at-risk delinquent behaviors and reduced conflict within families.
- Youth and their families will be able to better cope with stressful events.
- Increased accountability resulting from evidence-based approaches being used.
- Increased school attendance, increased awareness of vaping and other street drugs.
- Reduction of child abuse and neglect with aggressive April Child Abuse Prevention Campaign, as well as the use of Evidence based Parenting Skills training.

DETCOG Regional Housing Authority ***(HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program)***

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Provided rental payments to local landlords for 1,720 families (monthly average).
- Processed 1,100 waiting list applications.
- Processed paperwork on 426 families determined ineligible or non-responsive.
- Provided orientation/briefings to 324 new families.
- Performed inspections on 1,542 housing units.
- Provided rental assistance for 67 Veterans and their families in the VASH program.
- Issued 28 emergency vouchers in the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program.
- Provided case management for 38 families enrolled in the Family Self Sufficiency Program.
- Provided monthly mortgage assistance payments for 15 families.
- Renewal of an allocation of 25 new vouchers per fiscal year in the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI).

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- More families who otherwise could not afford it have access to safe and fair housing.
- Families are more self-sufficient. Five families graduated from the Family Self Sufficiency Program.
- 28 families in emergency situations received expedited housing vouchers.
- More than \$12 million was injected into the region's economy through payments to landlords.
- 1,000 applications were received and processed online resulting in no staff data entry errors.
- Time spent on waiting list was reduced from an average of 15 months to 12 months.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Increase the number of families served with a goal of 1,800 HCV families and 102 Veterans.
- Identify and provide housing assistance payments for more Homeless Veteran Families.
- Perform bi-annual inspections on 900 housing units.
- Increase participation in the Family Self Sufficiency and Homeownership Programs.
- Develop partnerships with lenders in support of the Homeownership Program.
- Develop partnerships with property owners and developers to increase available housing.
- Provide housing assistance for up to 25 youth leaving foster care.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Low-income families and families experiencing homelessness and other threats beyond their control will have access to safe, fair, and affordable housing.
- More families will become more self-sufficient.
- More families will achieve home ownership.
- Homelessness in the region will be reduced.
- In partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies, youth and young adults who age out of foster care will have safe and fair housing as they transition to independence and self-sufficiency.

DETCOG Community & Economic Development Program *(Includes Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Programs)*

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Completed update of five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Deep East Texas Region.
- Administered EDA grant-funded construction projects for San Jacinto County and the City of Crockett to support job creation and retention.
- Provided technical assistance to cities and counties for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications, EDA grants, and other funding opportunities.
- Began environmental review and engineering of the \$9 million North Newton County fixed wireless broadband network.
- Started project plan and environmental review and engineering for the \$42 million regional fixed wireless broadband network in Newton, Polk, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Jasper counties.
- Provided project management/consulting services for Sabine County in support of their \$17 million fiber-to-the-premises project funded by NTIA and Kinetic by Windstream.
- Assisted in the development and submission of Stephen F. Austin State University's successful application to the EDA to participate in its University Center Program.
- Supported and worked cooperatively with other local and regional economic development organizations to create and retain quality jobs in Deep East Texas.
- Developed an amendment to the Method of Distribution (MOD) for the Hurricane Harvey Local Infrastructure Program to reallocate \$100,000 in de-obligated funds in the region.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- New jobs were created and sustained, and existing jobs retained, improving the economy and quality of life within our region.
- Local entities received financial support from EDA, GLO, TDA, USDA and other federal and state resources to promote community and economic development and create/retain jobs.
- Infrastructure throughout the region improved, including broadband infrastructure.
- Communities affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Harvey, the 2016 Floods, and other disasters recovered from the impact of the disasters more quickly and robustly and have become more resilient to future disasters.
- The value of regional cooperation to improve the economy and standard of living in all communities of the region was advanced.
- Significant progress was made toward the goal of ensuring reliable and affordable broadband service for every household and business in Deep East Texas.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Assist local governments in identifying eligible projects and submitting applications for funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- Continue administering and close out active EDA grants for San Jacinto County and the City of Crockett.

- Work with Texas Department of Agriculture to develop regional priorities for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and provide technical assistance to local communities making application.
- Complete the environmental phase and begin construction of the \$9 million North Newton County fixed wireless broadband network.
- Complete project planning and begin environmental review phase for the \$42 million regional fixed wireless broadband network in Newton, Polk, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Jasper counties.
- Continue project management/consulting services for Sabine County in support of their \$17 million fiber-to-the-premises project funded by NTIA and Kinetic by Windstream.
- Continued planning and seeking funding to expand regional fixed wireless broadband network to cover additional unserved and underserved households in the region.
- Continue working with Stephen F. Austin State University's new Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation to advance economic development and resiliency in the region.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- New jobs will be created and sustained, and existing jobs will be retained, improving the economy and quality of life within our region.
- Local entities will receive financial support from EDA, GLO, TDA and other federal and state resources to promote community and economic development and create/retain jobs.
- Infrastructure throughout the region will improve, including broadband infrastructure.
- Environmental review will be completed and substantial progress will be made on construction of the North Newton County Fixed Wireless Broadband Network. An operator will be selected through an RFP process to operate and maintain the network.
- The project plan will be completed for a \$42 million regional fixed wireless broadband network in Newton, Polk, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Tyler, and Jasper counties, and the environmental phase will be completed or nearing completion.
- Our communities will make substantial progress in the economic recovery from natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey and Laura and the COVID-19 pandemic.

DETCOG Regional Solid Waste Grant Program

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Received preliminary approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) of the 20-year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (2022 to 2042 Planning Period).
- Provided technical assistance training sessions to local governments and organizations.
- Coordinated outreach, education and training programs promoting a clean environment.
- Coordinated the application and selection process for regional solid waste grants.
- Awarded six (6) solid waste grants to cities and counties totaling \$66,233.01.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- The amount of waste materials going to landfills was decreased.
- There is increased awareness among city and county officials and the general public of the importance of solid waste reduction and recycling.
- Trinity County continues to report a reduction in illegal dumping, and hosted an event that resulted in the disposal of 59,740 pounds of large items.
- Angelina County/Angelina Beautiful Clean collected over 20,420 pounds of hazardous waste there was an increase of 1.94 tons and 13,480 pounds of non-hazardous waste during collection drives a total of 267 vehicles came through the HHW event.
- San Jacinto County collected 55,920 pounds of Tires during their 2-day tire recycle event.
- Cape Royale, a new grantee for 2023, collected 27,540 pounds of cardboard in only five months of its Source and Reduction program.
- Sabine County collected 29,020 pounds of tires during a Litter & Illegal Dumping event.
- Polk County collected 55,000 pounds of (cardboard), 12,000 pounds of plastic, 6,260 pounds of aluminum and steel) during their Source Reduction event.
- DETCOG sponsored a two-day training course on illegal dumping with which provided training on enforcement of illegal dumping laws for police officers, code enforcement officers, constables, and county commissioners. There were 34 attendees each day.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Submit seven regional solid waste grant applications by cities, counties, and municipal utility districts in the DETCOG Region to TCEQ for funding approval.
- Provide technical assistance training sessions to local governments and organizations applying for regional solid waste grants, plus individual assistance as needed.
- Working with the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee, coordinate the application and selection process for regional solid waste grants.
- Execute, fund, and monitor seven or more contracts for solid waste planning and implementation projects with local governments.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- DETCOG will receive final TCEQ approval of its 20-Year Solid Waste Management Plan. Deep East Texas will have an updated regional plan that is forward-looking for the next 20 years and which will lead to more effective and better coordinated programs.
- Deep East Texans will benefit from a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful environment.
- A reduction in waste materials going to landfills, thereby extending the life of landfills and saving taxpayer and consumer dollars.
- Increased collection of hazardous waste will lead to a safer region and better health outcomes..

DETCOG Transportation/Transit Planning

2023 Outputs Achieved

- Facilitated meeting of RTPO with TxDOT Lufkin and Beaumont Districts to receive updates and provide input on planning for I-69, I-14, and other regional transportation projects.
- Worked with DETCOG Region Transit Stakeholders Committee to continue planning for improved transit services in the region.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Deep East Texas Area Agency on Aging for continued operation of the pilot rural transportation voucher program.

2023 Outcomes Achieved

- Received final approval of the DETCOG Region 5-Year Transit Plan from the Texas Department of Transportation.
- More involvement from regional stakeholders, including three meetings of regional Transit Stakeholders Committee, resulting in increased awareness of needs for inter-county shuttles to Lufkin's Medical Center and Veterans Clinic.
- More public awareness of available public transportation options where they exist in our region.
- Construction of bus stop shelters serving elderly and disabled populations.
- Persons aged 60 and older in five rural counties which have no public transportation systems continue to have an option through DETCOG Area Agency on Aging for limited rural public transportation.
- Better collaboration in regional transportation planning throughout much of East Texas.

2024 Expected Outputs

- Work with non-profit agencies in the DETCOG Region to raise awareness of Texas Department of Transportation vehicle grants for handicapped & social-services client transport vehicles.
- Coordinate meetings of the Deep East Texas Rural Transportation Planning Organization and facilitate engagement with TxDOT for regional transportation planning.
- Search for grant funding from TxDOT or other sources to provide the Deep East Texas RTPO with services of a professional transportation planner.
- Continue to work with the DETCOG Area Agency on Aging to seek new funding to further develop and expand the rural transportation voucher program.

2024 Expected Outcomes

- Increased utilization of available public transit where it exists in the region.
- Expansion of public transit/transportation options for currently unserved areas of the region.
- More rural transportation projects in the region will be addressed through cooperation with the TxDOT regional offices in Lufkin and Beaumont.
- Effective planning and prioritization of transportation projects to provide better access and improve safety throughout the region.
- Deep East Texas will receive its fair share of state and federal funding for transportation projects.