



PANHANDLE
REGIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION


2023 ANNUAL REPORT



GROWTH

VIBRANCE

SUSTAINABILITY



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
REQUIRES
HUMAN INGENUITY.
**PEOPLE ARE THE
MOST IMPORTANT
RESOURCE.”**

-DAN SCHECTMAN



PRPC

STAFF

2023



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.

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission 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.



427,927

REGION POPULATION

PRPC CITIES

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

PRPC COUNTIES

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

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

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

94 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

06 SPECIAL DISTRICTS

26
COUNTIES

62
CITIES

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission has undergone remarkable change over the last few years and throughout this change the organization has continued to pursue its vision of creating vibrant, healthy and sustainable growth in the communities we serve. I believe that the deep commitment of the PRPC staff creates richer bonds among the citizens within our region.

The essential prerequisites for maintaining long-term growth must be the collective pursuit of balanced integration and the retention of dedicated stakeholders. I truly feel that the PRPC staff, along with the citizens of the Panhandle, commit wholeheartedly to solving the region's issues with discernment and kindness.

If the Texas Panhandle is to succeed it is the responsibility of all of us to understand and recognize the needs of each individual and those families who are living, working and trading in our area. We should be mindful of our heritage while seeking to create communities that sustain forward momentum. In this sense we establish cornerstones throughout our region that underpin infrastructure and commerce,

all while holding the sanctity of community forefront. This preparation will yield success for generations to come within the Texas Panhandle.

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission accommodates these principles on various levels. Programs that develop and support expansion of our communities include; Local Government Services, Regional 9-1-1, Executive Team, Regional Services, Workforce Development, Area Agency on Aging, Dispute Resolution and the Finance Department. These employees are the stakeholders of PRPC.

It is an understatement to say that we are resilient in this region. The Planning Commission staff are exceptional examples of enthusiastic devotion. They are the boots on the ground and those who are serving in the trenches. They are the ones answering the calls in the middle of the night. They are the ones creating new and innovative ways to solve ongoing and emergent issues among our citizens. They are also the ones who take every opportunity to serve their communities with humility and compassion.

The employees of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission recognize obstacles and commit to solving issues in all aspects. They learn from those challenges and adhere to teaching others in our region, so that we all can continue to courageously reconstruct and move forward.

The Panhandle spirit is embedded deep within the staff who serve at the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission and I am honored to serve as the 2022-2023 Board of Directors Chair. It is an extraordinary opportunity to be a part of the drive that makes our communities, more vibrant, healthy and sustainable for years to come.



Tobe Shields
PRPC Board Chairman

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tobe Shields
Chair
Mayor, City of Spearman



Salvador "Sal" Rivera,
Vice-Chair
Sheriff, Castro County



Nancy Tanner,
Secretary/Treasurer
Judge, Potter County



Shawn Ballew
Judge, Oldham County



Juan Cantu
Commissioner, Lipscomb County



Cleo Castro
Citizens Representative, Cactus



Rank Cogdell
Judge, Briscoe County



Buster Davis
Mayor, City of Gruver



Christy Dyer
Judge, Randall County



Ronnie Gordon
Judge, Hartley County



Bill Hallerberg, Ph.D.
Canadian River Municipal
Water Authority



John Howard, M.D.
Judge, Donley County



Daniel Jackson
Citizens Representative



Kim Jones
Judge, Childress County



Harold Keeter
Judge, Swisher County



Greg Lewellen
Mayor, City of Friona



Dan Looten
Judge, Carson County



Oscar Ostos
Citizens Representative, Amarillo



Walter "Four" Price
Representative, District 87



Karen Price
Citizens Representative, Pampa



Yolanda Robledo
Alderwoman, City of Bovina



Dan Sams
Mayor, City of Wheeler



Winston Sauls
Citizens Representative, Borger



Phillip Self
Greenbelt Municipal & Ind.
Water Authority



Cole Stanley
Mayor, City of Amarillo



Kerry Symons
Mayor, City of Perryton

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." - Mother Teresa. Over the course of my tenure with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, almost 10 years, the greatest privilege is working with some of the most talented and amazing people serving the region, both within the organization and from outside.

The service area of the Planning Commission includes 26 counties, 62 municipalities and several special districts throughout the Texas Panhandle. I can say unequivocally it has been a privilege to work amongst the most sincere and well intentioned individuals serving throughout the region. I truly believe that these individuals, serving as leaders, protectors, and servants, to be the cornerstone of the strength and vitality of the region. Personally, whether it is working directly with a City Council to help them find their next City Manager, or learning from PRPC Benefit Councilors who care and assist the elderly in the region, all have approached their tasks and their purpose with a true servant's heart.

The PRPC Board of Directors is the essence of this servant leadership that actively works to realize the mission of creating growing, sustainable and thriving communities throughout the Texas Panhandle. The Board of Directors is made up of mayors, county

judges, elected officials and civil servants from the region, each of whom bring an immense amount of knowledge, experience and goodwill towards every decision that is made on behalf of this organization. Through the dedicated leadership of the PRPC Board of Directors, the Planning Commission has been at the forefront of helping the cities, counties and citizens of the region to tackle the many challenges of 2023.

Similarly, the mission of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission of working to create an environment of cooperation and bringing together entities to act in concert with one another to achieve the betterment of their respective communities is very capably fulfilled by the staff that has dedicated their careers to that end.

The uniqueness of PRPC, as an organization, doesn't stop at its underlying mission, but in the fact that it attracts the necessary people to fulfill that mission through a strong desire to be of service to others. Each department, be it Workforce Development, Regional Services, Area Agency on Aging, Regional 9-1-1, Finance, Dispute Resolution, Local Government Services or the Executive Department are filled with individuals actively working to create programs that will advance sustainability of communities, develop cooperation and partnerships to ensure a thriving and prosperous region and perhaps most importantly a spirit, willingness, and desire to be of service to others.

The forty-nine individuals that make up the Planning Commission have this exceptional trait in common which creates a truly remarkable place to work. As I close this letter out, I am reminded of another quote from the great Mother Teresa that truly captures the spirit of the organization, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."



Dustin Meyer
PRPC Executive Director

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Meyer'.

Executive Team

The PRPC executive office staff provides administrative support for board members, committee members, and the PRPC staff as they serve the region conducting a wide range of leadership and managerial functions directly benefiting all PRPC programs and projects.

Left to right: Dustin Meyer (Executive Director), Julie Arvello, Lori Woolf, Melissa Whitaker



AREA AGENCY ON AGING



The Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle (AAA) remains dedicated to improving the lives of older adults in communities across the Texas Panhandle. The AAA works to ensure that individuals age 60 and older have the vital support, necessary resources, and critical services they need to age well and maintain their independence. The AAA acts as a bridge between the region's population of older adults including Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers, and the various state and federal programs, local assistance, and relevant information available to them.

Through the AAA, older adults can access a wide range of services that cater to their unique needs. These services include everything from providing nutritious meals and in-home services to promoting social engagement through community activities and educational gatherings. The AAA also offers valuable information and assistance, helping older adults and their family caregivers navigate the often-complex landscape of aging-related resources.

Left to right: Laurie McAfee, Jaime Sharp, John Atchison, Anna Ojeda, Dana Hoyler, Janet Schulte, Lisa Hancock, Terrie Campbell, Kathryn English, Isabell Villareal (Panhandle Aging and Disability Resource Center), and Felicia Shaffer



The Vital Role of Collaboration

Collaboration stands as the cornerstone of the AAA's ability to provide effective and comprehensive services to older adults. Addressing the diverse needs of older adults requires a collective effort. Through collaboration, the AAA is able to go beyond its individual capacities and creates a more comprehensive and impactful approach to serving the Panhandle, allowing the AAA to offer a wider array of services and supports.

AAA FINANCIALLY
SUPPORTED

13

CONGREGATE AND
HOME-DELIVERED
MEAL PROGRAMS

Cultivating Growth in New Community Partnerships

In FY23, the AAA financially supported thirteen congregate and home-delivered meal programs in communities across the Panhandle. In Amarillo, the AAA was able to strengthen existing ties to local programs, see expansion into new areas of the City, and enter into new partnerships to reach more people in underserved communities.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The AAA is a proud supporter of Amarillo Wesley Community Center (AWCC), a community-driven non-profit organization that was established in 1951. In July 2023, the AWCC began serving congregate meals to older adults at their South Campus located at 4801 South Austin Street in the Southlawn neighborhood of Amarillo.

Brian Hampton, AAA Client and Wesley Senior Program Participant, with Lucinda Frausto, Senior Program Director for Wesley South.



*I get to meet new people.
I can sit and talk with
new people where it isn't
as busy or loud as other
places might be."*

- Brian Hampton

CREATING A SPACE FOR BELONGING

The AAA has partnered with Acts Community Center for a number of years as a meal site under the umbrella of the FoodNET program in Amarillo. In May 2023, Acts Community Center began serving clients at a new location downtown.



Josefa "Josie" Flores
AAA Client and Acts
Community Center Participant

I made a lot of friends, made some new friends here. It keeps me out of the house and from being lonely. You never know who you will run into."



Cordelia Robertson
AAA Client and Acts Community Center Participant

During COVID, we had health issues. We were stuck at home with these issues and couldn't get out. It has been a wonderful place to meet kind people. The meals are wonderful and when we can't afford to donate we can still eat. Where else can you get such a good meal and not have to pay if you can't?"

NEW LOCATION

Located at 816 South Van Buren street where participants can enjoy a meal together

5 DAYS
PER WEEK

GATHERING OVER SHARED MEALS

After a long search for a local meal provider, Transformation Park went above and beyond with an extraordinary commitment to fill the gap in providing hot, congregate meals to FoodNET participants at Hilltop Senior Citizens Association, Bivins Village, Independence Village, and Northwest Village in Amarillo.

In July 2023, Transformation Park began serving the first hot meals FoodNET participants had since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. After receiving three years of frozen, home-delivered meals, participants are glad to gather together again.



Everybody's happy. It gives us a chance to get out of the apartment and see everybody. The meals and people are wonderful." - Rosa Mora

Rosa Mora, AAA Client and FoodNET Participant at Bivins Village, and Mark Zimmerman, Executive Director of Transformation Park.

Supporting Sustainability at Home

In FY23, the AAA strengthened two critical partnerships in an effort to empower older individuals with aging in place in their communities.

AMPLIFYING QUALITY OF LIFE

The AAA is incredibly thankful to continue into another year of partnership with the Amarillo Hearing Clinic.

The commitment of AHC to providing quality care ensures that recipients of hearing aids achieve an enhanced quality of life with improved communication, safety, social engagement, and overall well-being.



I cannot express how special this program has been to our patients. Your assistance has literally changed the lives of so many people. There is nothing worse than having to turn a patient away for treatment because of financial restrictions. Because of organizations like the AAA, we have not had to send a single senior home without treatment for their hearing loss since our partnership!"

Dr. Maegan Laughlin, Audiologist and Owner of AHC



Bismarck Blackstock, the very first AAA Client to receive a hearing aid from the Amarillo Hearing Clinic, with Dr. Maegan Laughlin, Audiologist and Owner of AHC.

AAA PURCHASED

hearing aids

FOR **41** OLDER ADULTS
& RESIDENTS OF

8 COUNTIES
ACROSS THE PANHANDLE

PRESERVING PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE

In FY23, the AAA continued its partnership with the City of Amarillo's Community Development Department to promote independence and enable many individuals to continue to live safely in their own homes.

The AAA financially supported projects for 22 older adults ranging from new air and heating units, the replacement of sewer lines, roof repairs, and necessary bathroom improvements.



"I was pleasantly surprised on how fast the contractors worked and got the bathroom remodeled to make it more accessible for me".

Charlene DeLaho, AAA Client

The Power of Connection

Connection lies at the heart of the AAA's ability to create meaningful and impactful services for older adults. Recognizing the profound impact that social bonds and interactions have on well-being, the AAA emphasizes building connections that go beyond the surface.

Meeting Older Adults Where They Are

This commitment to connection resonates in every service the AAA offers, from tailored healthcare guidance for Medicare beneficiaries, to addressing the unique needs of long-term care residents and meeting family caregivers on their caregiving journey. The AAA's approach is centered around understanding each individual's circumstances, preferences, and desires.

REACHING COMMUNITIES

Benefits Counselors assist individuals and their families in accessing information about their Medicare options. They play a key role in advocating for Medicare beneficiaries and in connecting them to programs and services that will fit their needs including application assistance with Medicare Savings Programs and the Extra Help Program, which reduce the financial burden of their Medicare and medication costs.

People are very helpful and genuine. My parents needed help and had guidance every step of the way."

- Gonzalez Family

Gerardo Gonzalez, Esperanza Brenes, Dora Gonzalez, with Benefits Counselors Terrie Campbell and Anna Ojeda.

Advocating for Medicare Beneficiaries





I was having health and money issues. AAA helped me greatly. With my medication and my rent during the times when I was in and out of the hospital having surgeries."

- Clarence Coley



As a Coming Home Case Manager, I assist our clients with overcoming challenges to daily life by building independence. Referring to local resources, such as AAA, connect my clients with overcoming the daunting tasks of obtaining eligibility to programs available to secure their financial and medical stability. This helps them maintain housing and wellbeing."

- Gerri Terry

BRIDGING THE GAP

As resident advocates, Ombudsmen help bridge the gap between residents and facilities. By working with residents and staff to find solutions to issues that arise in long-term care facilities, Ombudsmen help to achieve the collective goal of providing resident-focused care that ensures residents' best outcomes.

As Ombudsman, our advocacy efforts focus on the needs and goals of nursing and assisted living residents in their immediate environments. However, behind those scenes, advocacy efforts expand even further to the state and federal levels creating positive changes for residents now and in the future. During the 88th Legislative Session, Ombudsmen advocated for residents to receive an increase in their Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance. This is the only spending money residents on long-term care Medicaid are allowed per month to cover hair care, preferred toiletries, clothing, shoes, phones and computers, phone plans, eating out, gifts for children and grandchildren, and entertainment items.

Currently, nursing facility residents receive \$60 per month in Personal Needs Allowance. The Ombudsmen program began encouraging residents in nursing facilities to write letters to their representatives asking for their support. The Ombudsmen collected those letters as well as our own statements and with these combined advocacy efforts resulted in a raise of \$15. Beginning in January 2024, residents will receive \$75 each month. It is a very welcome and long-awaited raise. These grass roots efforts have created change at a macro level and are greatly appreciated by residents.



Dana is my sister's Ombudsman over the last 2 years. Tonya has Cerebral Palsy. Dana has always stepped up and helped in any way she can. Dana responds to emails, phone calls, attends meetings and listens to her client's needs and concerns. We as a family have the upmost respect for Dana, as well as all of the Ombudsmen who speak up for those that can't. Dana has become a great friend and we consider her part of our family. We thank you Dana from the bottom of all our hearts, you my friend are a phenomenal Ombudsman!!

- Kathy Thomas

JOINING ON THE JOURNEY

Through monthly caregiver educational support groups, coordinated services, and evidence-based programming, families and grandparents raising grandchildren are provided the critical support needed to assist them in maintaining their caregiver role. The Family Caregiver Support Program provides respite care to their loved ones on a temporary, limited basis, to relieve caregiver stress. The Family Caregiver Support Program has provided over 2600 hours of respite to family caregivers and their loved ones.



I did not ask to be on this journey and I doubt there is any caregiver that wanted to be in the position they are in. Caregivers are special people and my heart will always be praying for them. My message to caregivers...you do not need to do this alone. There is so much available today, we just need to ask and put aside "I can do this alone." My deepest regret is not asking for help, don't be one of those."

-DANIEL WELCH

AAA Client of the Caregiver Support Program

Engaging Across the Panhandle

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.

FACILITATING IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS

The AAA takes educational programming to diverse community groups across the Panhandle including local churches, senior centers, rotary clubs, retired teacher groups, rural health clinics, affordable senior housing complexes, and more.

315

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Ranging from topics on Medicare and Transfer on Death Deeds to SNAP Food Benefits and overall wellness.

We appreciate all the updates on Medicare and other information that the Area Agency on Aging provides. Thank you for helping seniors, especially in rural areas!"

- Aloise Martin, The White Deer Senior Citizens Director



Attendees at a AAA speaking event held at White Deer Senior Citizens Center.

EXPLORING DIVERSE AGING EXPERIENCES

Aging Unbound was the theme of the AAA's Older Americans Month Celebration held on May 5, 2023. This community event offered over 200 participants an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences.

The AAA provided sessions on a variety of topics on that theme, which promoted flexible thinking, about aging and how we all benefit, when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included.

Sefe Lujan, Cindy and Shelly Gilbrith, and D'Ann Berry



Lisa Hancock, Public Education, Outreach and Volunteer Specialist, Kathryn English, Operations Manager, and Nicole English, Volunteer form Micro Technologies.

The Craig Cardio Drummers



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Workforce Development connects employers and job seekers by helping Texas Panhandle employers recruit, hire, and retain qualified workers while helping job seekers find and keep stable employment.

The Board supports the mission of economic prosperity in the region by assisting local employers with finding and developing the talent they need, and by investing in skills development that can increase workers' career opportunities and self-sufficiency.

The vision of the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB) is to establish and enhance a workforce delivery system that serves the needs of area employers, job seekers, and constituents with efficient and effective services by promoting collaboration among stakeholders, creating partnerships with other community organizations, and focusing on workforce issues. The PWDB also supports regional economic growth and economic self-sufficiency that will guide the development and provision of services.

Left to right: Heather Reid, Jolene Ortega, Rosie Gonzalez, Leslie Hardin, Marin Rivas, Yvette Gaytan, Kathy Cabezuela, Ana Gonzalez, Gracie Aragon



Workforce Solutions Youth Career & Training Services

Youths, ages 16-24, who are experiencing difficulties, may be eligible for workforce benefits based on individual circumstances. Youth Training Services can assist motivated young adults who are authorized to work in the U.S., registered with selective service (if required) and are experiencing challenges to workforce success.

45

CUSTOMERS IN TRAINING

24

CUSTOMERS IN A
WORKFORCE PAID INTERNSHIP

13

CUSTOMERS IN
STAFF-ASSISTED JOB SEARCH

67

CUSTOMERS IN
CAREER GUIDANCE

61

FINANCIAL LITERACY

89

YOUNG ADULTS
SERVED

20.2%

RURAL PARTICIPANT
PERCENTAGE

YOUTH IN TRAINING

PROGRAMS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

NURSING

LAW ENFORCEMENT

PHLEBOTOMY

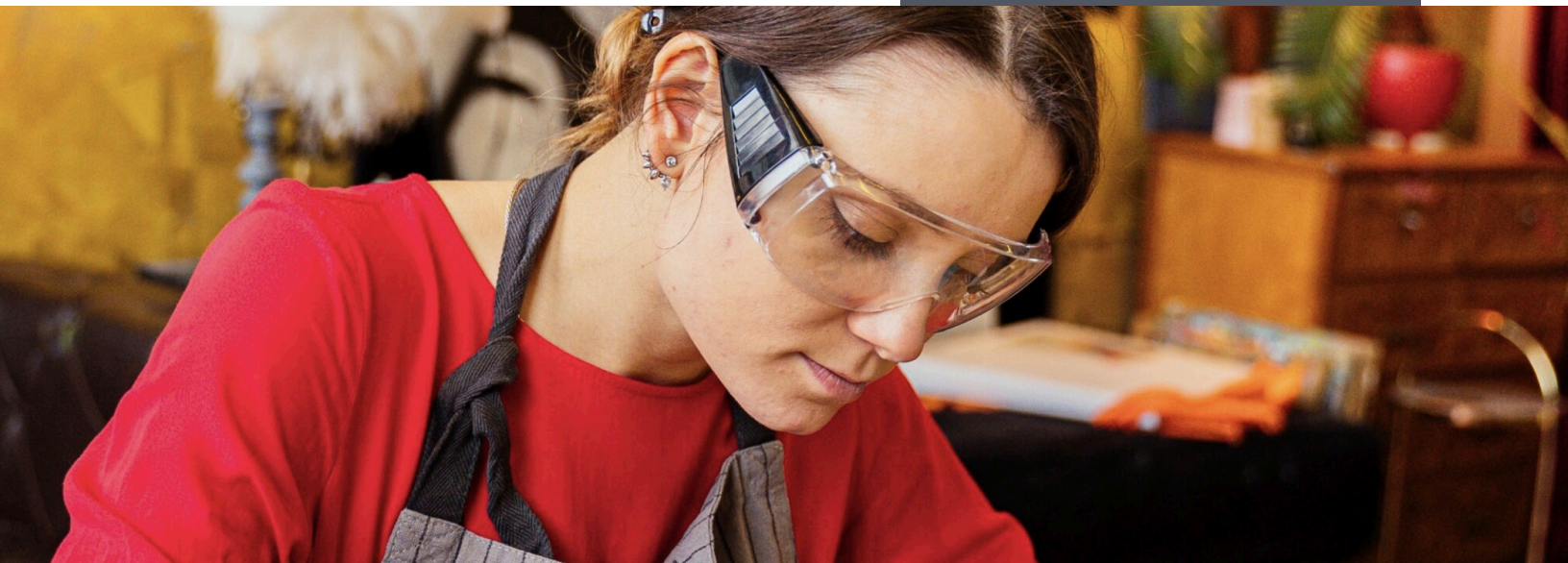
FIREFIGHTER

HEATING, VENTILATION, AC

AIRCRAFT MECHANIC

CYBERSECURITY

36 GRADUATES



Youth Summer Programs

Workforce Solutions Panhandle has two Summer Youth Programs, in addition to the year-round Youth Program.

The Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) Program is designed to give students with disabilities a meaningful work opportunity in which work-based learning is utilized. Youth earn a paycheck while learning new skills and gaining professional experience.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Summer Youth Program is designed to assist low-income youth by providing a paid work-experience during the summer months in order to learn employment skills and gain professional experience.

| PROGRAM | PARTICIPANTS |
|--|--------------|
| Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) | 53 |
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Summer Youth | 40 |

Youth Connections Staff



Communities Served Through Youth Summer Programs

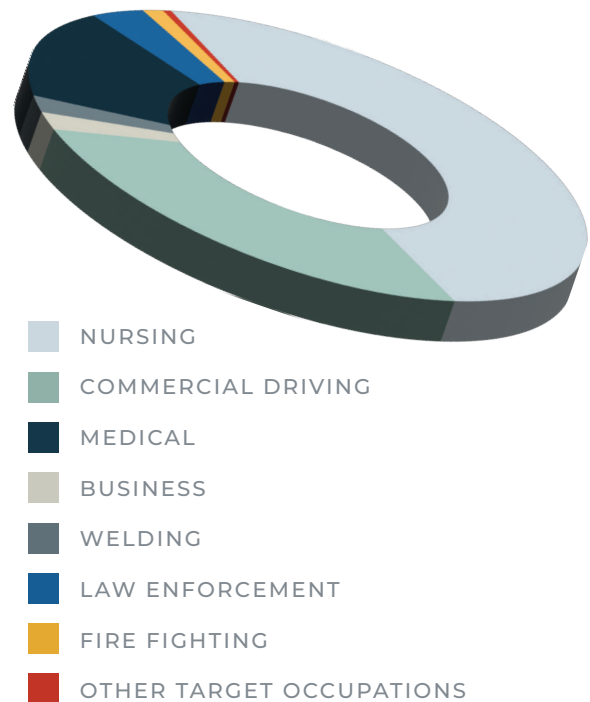
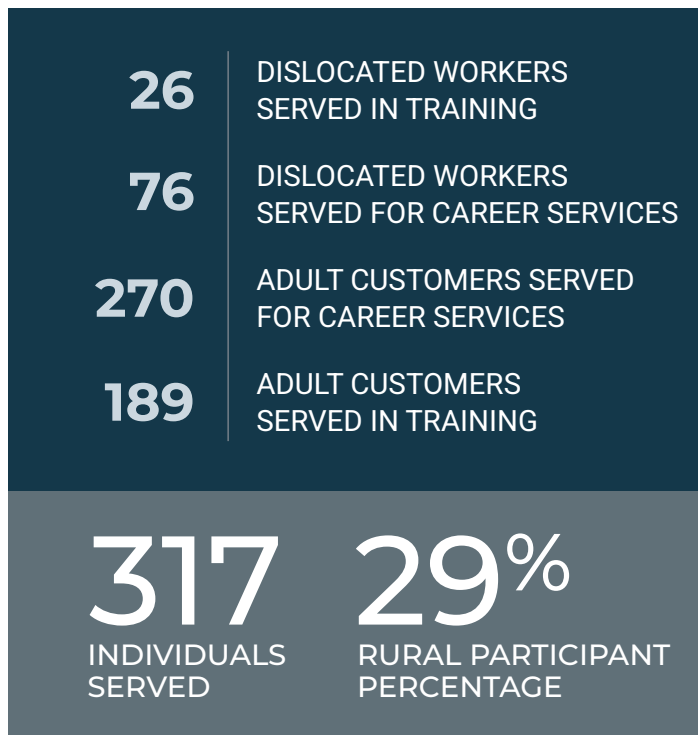
AMARILLO
BORGER
CANYON
CLAUDE
DIMMITT
DUMAS

FRIONA
FRITCH
HEREFORD
LAZBUDDIE
MEMPHIS
PAMPA

QUITAQUE
SILVERTON
STINNETT
TULIA
TURKEY
VEGA

Workforce Solutions Panhandle Career & Training Services for Adult and Dislocated Workers

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).



Disaster National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG)

Workforce Solutions Panhandle implemented the National Dislocated Worker project to assist individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic residing in the top 26 counties of Texas. Under the project, WFS Panhandle implemented two types of assistance, which included Disaster Relief Employment and Employment and Training Services.

39 RECEIVED
SUPPORT SERVICES

44 RECEIVED
TRAINING SERVICES

72 TOTAL
CUSTOMERS

Ashley Haynes Story

At Workforce Solutions Panhandle, we experience many moments of great pride. One such moment was during the Texas Panhandle Career Signing Day event, where Ashley Haynes, a high school senior from River Road High School, displayed her determination and commitment. Inspired by her mother's former career as a welder, Ashley signed her letter of intent to pursue welding at Amarillo College. She also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Education Credit Union Foundation. It was truly a remarkable journey, guided by her welding instructor, Mary Bridges, and it fills us with pride and hope.

Ashley's story exemplifies the transformative power of our initiative, as we witnessed 52 students embrace their chosen paths with passion and conviction. Through Career Signing Day, we have not only connected students, teachers, employers, and training providers but also sowed seeds of possibility and ambition in the minds of future generations. As we reflect on the remarkable achievements of 2023, we eagerly await the boundless opportunities that lie ahead, where we can continue celebrating the dreams and accomplishments of our young professionals in the Texas Panhandle. Together, we have created a lasting impact and changed lives, shaping brighter futures for our students and the communities they call home.



I was fortunate to attend the AmTech signing day this morning and was able to witness fifteen young men and women take the first step into the world after high school. These young people have a direct path into the workforce and are going to hit the ground running into their chosen field. AmTech is a wonderful facility and I look forward to working with them for years to come in getting new workers into our companies.

Paul Salazar, Training Director

Success Stories



AMANDA BOYEA, RN

I am beyond grateful for the WIOA program. With their help, I was able to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse."



ASHLEY SMITH, RN

Thank you Gaby for your support over the past 2.5 years, I couldn't have made it through nursing school without you."



TONI TUCKER

Thank you Gaby! If it wasn't for you and Workforce I would not have been able to graduate! I remember the first time we sat down and I was in tears thinking I was not going to be able to afford to finish school after my husband was hurt. You told me that it's okay to need help and that you were going to do just that! Now here I am about to take my boards and get licensed to do a job I feel like I was born to do!"



LETICIA SZEGO

Determination is power and if you want you will. There's no age or time limit to pursue an education or a goal. One person can make a difference and this is the reason I want to thank the Work Force solution but especially to my caseworker Trissy Arceneaux because without her amazing effort, I would have not been able to achieve my goals."

Nathan Ramirez Story

Hello, my name is Nathan Ramirez, and I am a current student with the ultimate goal of becoming an attorney. In the midst of pursuing my studies, just days before Christmas, I tragically lost my mother to cancer. This was an immense shock for me, as my parents have always been a tremendous inspiration. My mother had been bravely battling breast cancer that had spread to her lungs, bones, and brain, leading to seizures. Meanwhile, my retired and disabled father and my dependent younger sister were also relying on me.

Realizing the importance of finding a mentor to make progress in my academic life, I reached out to Workforce Solutions. Starting with a simple Google search, as many people do, I discovered Workforce Solutions and allowed myself a week to grieve my loss before embarking on a journey of personal and professional growth with their assistance. The team at Workforce Solutions expertly guided me and helped me secure a position that allows me to learn and develop on a daily basis.

Throughout this challenging journey, there is a quote that I remind myself of daily, which keeps me disciplined: "Don't live in the past or dwell on the future, because the present is where you belong." This quote serves as a constant reminder to focus on the present moment and make the most of the opportunities before me. I am immensely grateful to the company for subsidizing my studies and providing invaluable support in my job placement.

Choices Program and SNAP Employment & Training

Choices and SNAP E&T have assisted 133 customers to find employment from October 1, 2022 through May 26, 2023. This is 35% of customers in SNAP E&T and 68% of customers in Choices. For the population that we serve, they are not always coming to see us because they want assistance to find employment. Staff must convince them of the benefits and services at workforce are a means to locate employment.



The workforce center has benefited me and my family in so many ways. I am so grateful for the new opportunities and a new path in life. Thank you very much for the work y'all have done.

- Aaliyah Moreno

Choices AALIYAH MORENO

We first met Aaliyah in December 2022 when she was approved for TANF benefits. We began assisting Aaliyah with services to help her locate employment. She was able to find a job at the end of December; however, it didn't work out. She got a job offer in mid-January in which she worked three months.

She had to leave that job due to family issues. She was then able to get a job at Amazon that started in April 2023. She has a work schedule that is perfect for her and her family. Her mom is able to help her with childcare and this has been what she wanted. This job has worked out very well for her.

Snap E&T AMANDA JOHNSON

Amanda contacted us in early May 2023 asking for help to find employment. She had received help from workforce services back in 2021 and knew we would be able to assist her. Due to her legal issues, she had experienced difficulty in finding and keeping employment.

We enrolled Amanda in the SNAP E&T Program and helped her prepare for job interviews, WIT registration, referrals to prospective employers and fuel cards. Within a week, she received a job offer from Torchy's Tacos. We were then able to assist with needed work clothing, and fuel cards, to aid in transportation.



The Snap Workforce Solutions program has helped me in so many ways. Having people there in my corner has been such a blessing. I am very grateful for everything the program has given me.

- Amanda Johnson

High-Demand Job Training

This program brings funding to the Panhandle to develop and expand career and technical education programs in regional secondary and post-secondary schools.

This year, PRPC partnered with the Economic Development Corporations in Amarillo, Borger and Perryton. Other partners include Frank Phillips College and Independent School Districts of Amarillo, Bushland, Canyon, Highland Park, and River Road.

A portion of this year's funding will include equipment for Frank Phillips College's Perryton campus and Amarillo ISD's AmTech Career Academy for the Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics programs. The Frank Phillips College campus in Perryton will also be receiving welding equipment for a newly-renovated facility.

\$600,000
INVESTED IN STUDENTS

Future of the
PANHANDLE WORKFORCE

Child Care Services

Child Care Services is essential for working parents and parents who are attending school or who are in training and searching for work. In some cases, this service can be the difference between keeping a job or losing one for working parents.

Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services (CCS) helps low to moderate-income families with assistance in paying for child care while parents work, attend school, participate in a training program, or even search for a job. This assistance helps families become more self-sufficient. CCS also supports with partnered child care providers through quality improvement projects.

CLIENT SERVICES

2,097

Average Number of
Children Served Daily

1,403

Average Number of
Families Served

934

Average Number of
Children in Texas
Rising Star Centers

PROVIDER SERVICES

107

Total providers
47% TRS
Certified

88%

Maintained or
Increased their TRS
Certification Level

Texas Rising Star Certified

Effective October 1, 2022, all partnered CCS child care providers will need to become Texas Rising Star certified.

Each of the 73 providers who were not currently Texas Rising Star certified will begin the onboarding process with a Texas Rising Star mentor and are expected to receive certification by September 30, 2024. Between January 2023 and May 2023 fifteen (15) providers received Texas Rising Star certification.

NUMBER OF PROVIDERS WHO RECEIVED

7

2-STAR
CERTIFICATIONS



6

3-STAR
CERTIFICATIONS



2

4-STAR
CERTIFICATIONS



This year we have expended **\$108,284** on scholarships for child care teachers and directors.

56 NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
AWARDED AMARILLO
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

55% WERE
NEW APPLICANTS

\$57,000
TEXAS RISING STAR PROGRAM BONUSES

\$147,460
CURRICULUM

\$277,539
INDOOR/OUTDOOR LEARNING MATERIALS

We also used Quality funds to purchase indoor/outdoor learning materials, curriculum, and offer program bonuses for providers who are Texas Rising Star certified or working towards certification.

BARBARA JOHNSON

Workforce Development had the opportunity to offer scholarships for teachers from our partnered centers to complete their Early Childhood degree. So far this year, we have awarded scholarships to 56 teachers for tuition and books (\$108,284.00). Six teachers have graduated with an Associate degree this year and four more are scheduled to graduate this fall.

Barbara Johnson operates a Registered Child Care Home in Amarillo. Mrs. Johnson told us that initially, she was nervous to go back to school, but that she understood this opportunity would allow her to provide a higher level of quality care to the children she serves. She went on to say, "I just couldn't pass it up. The children deserve the best me that I can be."



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, Jarian Fred, Kristen Duree, Alex Guerrero, Paige Goodell, Max Seymour, Amber Gerber



Community Development Block Grant Program

This program passed through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has traditionally provided sustainable and replaced aged water/waste-water infrastructure for the Panhandle region for many years. LGS staff prepared and submitted 23 applications in the 2021-2022 Community Development Fund for infrastructure projects. Historically, the Panhandle region receives 6-8 funded projects out of a full cycle of applications, however, the LGS staff were notified that 21 of the 23 applications would be funded. These are unprecedented numbers.

The City of Wellington received a 2021 Downtown Revitalization Project to revitalize their historical downtown square of the City with newly constructed sidewalks, ADA ramps and much needed lighting to promote safety and enable the residents and outside visitors to shop and do business locally. Towards the end of construction, a brand-new eatery and bar, Brix, opened its doors adding to the newly renovated downtown square that intends to benefit the City of Wellington for years to come.

Over the last twenty years, the City of Wheeler has actively pursued grant funding and other sources of revenue, in-order for the City to install a brand-new elevated storage tank. This particular elevated water storage tank will be submitted to a very competitive contest called the Tank of the Year through Themec.

969,000+

l.f. in waterline

217,000

l.f. sewer line

35

ground
storage
tanks

34

elevated
water storage
tanks

24

lift stations



100,000

GALLON ELEVATED STORAGE TANK

provided to the City of Wheeler by a CD Fund grant

23

APPLICATIONS

for water, waste-water
and road improvement
infrastructure projects

\$4.77

MILLION

received in grant funding
for water, sewer, and
road infrastructure

\$1 MILLION

RECEIVED IN GRANT FUNDING

in Downtown Revitalization Projects in 2022

Searches and City Management

Success Stories

PRPC has provided city management services to the Villages of Timbercreek Canyon and Lake Tanglewood since the early 2000s.

PRPC professional search services continues to be highly sought after. PRPC staff has continually assisted communities to conduct search services for professional staff ranging from City Secretary to Police Chief and City Manager. Over the course of a 12-month period, PRPC has assisted in three different professional searches filling vital positions within Texas Panhandle Communities.



Village of Lake Tanglewood

5 CITY | **4** COUNTY

American Rescue Plan Act reports were completed during the month of April, 2023.

2 MUNICIPAL
BUDGETS
ADOPTED

HIRED

1 City
Administrator

2 Police
Chiefs

1 Public Works
Director

Transportation

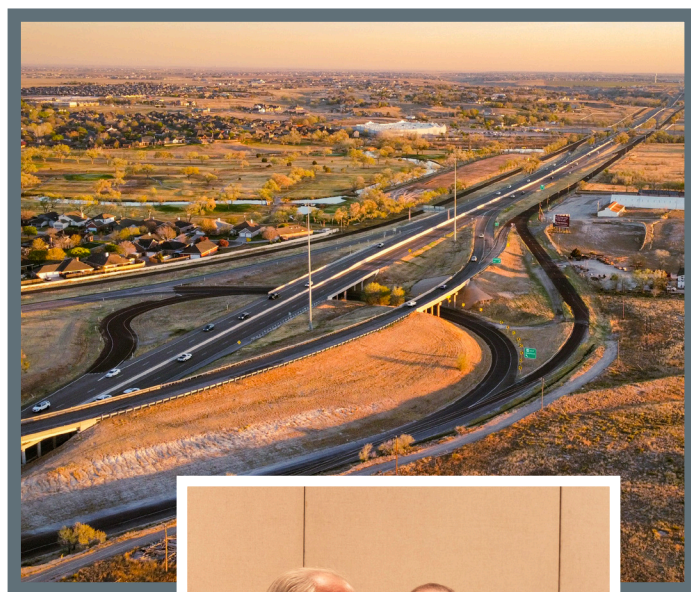
PROGRAMMATIC MILESTONES

The Local Government Services department staff at the PRPC prepared an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation Build America Bureau's 2022 Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) Program. In August 2022, the PRPC was one of five agencies selected in a nationwide competition to establish an RIA program in the Panhandle and South Plains regions of Texas. This program was established as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and is focused on providing technical assistance to cities, counties, special districts, and other entities to rehabilitate and repair surface transportation facilities. Facilities include county roads, municipal roads, non-TxDOT-owned bridges, etc.

The PRPC in coordination with the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) hosted a first-ever kick-off event for the RIA program that was held in Plainview, TX at the Plainview Civic Center for both the Panhandle and South Plains regions on May 17th, 2023. This kick-off event generated much interest with our communities in the Panhandle as well as the South Plains region.

In the month of May 2023, LGS staff prepared and submitted a second funding application to continue efforts as an RIA designated entity for the following council regions; Texas Panhandle, South Plains and initial partnership with the Eastern Plains Council of Government (EPCOG) located in Clovis, New Mexico.

This second RIA application is providing the level of expedited service delivery on eligible transportation infrastructure projects and the application should be reviewed and decided from the Build America Bureau in the Fall of 2023.



\$454,852

IN GRANT FUNDING
for the RIA Designation
from the U.S. Department of
Transportation

6 MEETINGS

WITH TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING BOARDS

RETURN HOME FROM HOSPITALIZATION PILOT PROGRAM

Funded through TxDOT's 2022 Coordinated Call initiative has launched a survey designed to gather data and produce a coordinated effort with hospitals, medical providers, and transit agencies in order to improve health outcomes for persons with limited transportation options.

The idea for this project came from reports by area nurses regarding patients that were too sick to be treated at a local hospital and were transferred to a hospital in Amarillo. In one instance, a patient was discharged so late on a weekend day that the only available person to pick the patient up and bring them home was a custodial staffer.

This project seeks to bring all of the key players to the table and discuss how to best serve those with limited transportation options in the areas surrounding the City of Amarillo.

Water Planning

Success Stories

OGALLALA COMMONS STEWARDING OUR AQUIFER FIELD DAY

On February 8th, 2023, the PRPC hosted the Ogallala Commons Stewarding Our Aquifer Field day at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex. The purpose of Stewarding Our Aquifer Field Days is to provide general information about playa ecosystems as well as playa restoration options available through Ogallala Commons collaborators (USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm Services Administration, and the Texas Playa Conservation Initiative).

The following topics were presented and discussed: Responding to Water Challenges through Regional Collaboration, General Overview of the Ogallala Aquifer in the TX Panhandle, Playa Ecosystems and TX Playa Conservation Initiatives, and Connecting People, Playas, and the Ogallala Aquifer Across Generations.

Through our marketing materials and communication efforts, there were more than 85 people in attendance. A survey was conducted shortly after the meeting with highly positive reviews of the event. We were able to obtain five sponsors to help make this event possible.



PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

Mr. Steven D. Walthour has been a member with the PWPG for sixteen years marking a dedicated career in water conservation efforts and in his previous role as General Manager for the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. It has been an honor working with Steven and we wish him well in his retirement.

REGION 1 CANADIAN-UPPER RED REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

The Region 1 RFGP has formally considered and approved the 1st ever developed Region 1 Regional Flood Plan in June, 2023 and has been submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the compilation of the entire regions' flood plan to fold into the state's flood plan.

PWPG

STATISTICS

1 GMA **4** PWPG **8** RFGP

Number of Meetings from October 2022 – October 2023

KEY DATES

The Groundwater Management Area -1 (Joint Planning Committee) has begun efforts to procure a technical consultant to begin the next round of joint planning for the development and adoption of Desired Future Conditions.

FUNDING

\$713,630

Sixth Cycle Funding: TWDB contract total appropriated amount Conditions.

\$1,702,800

First Cycle Funding: TWDB contract amount

Broadband Planning and Regional Initiatives

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) is preparing to administer key federal programs from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). A critical component to program success is robust public engagement to help inform program planning and design. The BDO has developed a public engagement model which mobilizes three sets of working groups to coordinate, canvass, and consolidate public input; a Statewide Working Group, six outcome-focused Task Forces and twelve geo-based Regional Working Groups (RWG).

The mission of these RWG's is to foster active engagement with local governments, non-profit organizations, community anchor institutions, and residents. Through these collaborative efforts, the BDO aims to gain valuable insights into the impact of broadband access, adoption, and utilization in your region. By understanding the priorities, challenges, and opportunities that arise from these factors, the BDO can effectively address the needs of our communities and work towards sustainable solutions.

In coordination with the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), the LGS Director is serving as the High Plains Regional Co-Chair and will drive a collective effort to connect our region in support to the state's broadband planning efforts. The goal of this effort will be to bring reliable, affordable high-speed internet to all residents of the region's community and enhance digital literacy to improve quality of life.



Economic Development

The PRPC has served as the Economic Development District (EDD) for the Texas Panhandle, a designation by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), for forty-five years. As the EDD for the Texas Panhandle region, Staff have coordinated and implemented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan for the region and worked on a multitude of applications and subsequent projects for EDA assistance over that time.

The road, water, and sewer infrastructure in Amarillo Economic Development Corporation's (Amarillo EDC's) South Georgia Business Park was partially funded through a \$2.4 million EDA grant. PRPC Staff worked with Amarillo EDC and the City of Amarillo on the grant application to EDA and are administering the ongoing project. Construction is complete on the first phase of the project, and Cacique Foods, LLC., the first company in the South Georgia Business Park, had its grand opening in May 2023. The company invested over \$88 million in its plant in the Business Park and has created over 200 jobs. The second phase of the project will expand South Georgia Street between State Loop 335 and Farmers Avenue in Amarillo.

\$2.4 MILLION
EDA GRANT

\$88 MILLION
INVESTED

200 JOBS
CREATED



\$150,000 GRANT

AWARDED TO DALHART AND BOVINA
FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATIONS

2 SPLASH PADS

1 PLAY SET

Parks

Splash pads made a splash in the cities of Dalhart and Bovina this year thanks to grant funding from Texas Parks & Wildlife's Local Park Grant Program. Local Government Services Staff worked with the City of Dalhart on a Texas Parks & Wildlife application in 2020 and the City of Bovina on an application in 2021. Both communities received a \$150,000 grant award, and LGS Staff have administered the resulting projects.

Park renovations at the Rita Blanca Lake Center project in Dalhart have included the installation of the splash pad as well as playground equipment. The project has expanded the recreation elements available for young children at the Lake Center which also has eight miles of walking trails, an 18-hole disc golf course, fishing pond, RV parking, and Rita Blanca Lake.

The City of Bovina's splash pad continued the momentum at Arnold Park that started with a Texas Parks & Wildlife grant the City received in 2017 for a concrete walking path. The splash pad is the first aquatic recreation venue in the City of Bovina and complements the existing playground equipment at Arnold Park.

REGIONAL SERVICES



Regional Services provides guidance and services within the Emergency Preparedness, Solid Waste Management, and Criminal Justice Programs to our area local governments and organizations. We provide support through workshops, seminars, facilitation of round-table discussions, grant writing assistance, management of projects, communication for first responders, and various grant funds.

Left to right: Daphne Morcom, Lori Gunn, Delaney Pruett, Shane Brown



The Regional Solid Waste Management Program

This program works to assist our local governments in diverting waste from the landfills, encouraging recycling initiatives, and developing the region's Solid Waste Management Plan. In 1996 the RSWMAC formed the Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP), to help transport waste to recycling mills and divert it from the region's landfills.

**593
TONS**

diverted from landfills

\$58,041

Payments returned to jurisdictions from recycling efforts

\$13,903

Landfill shipping costs saved



\$118,091

In equipment, security upgrades and education protecting resources and reducing landfilling.

We are a small town of 4,123. Like many others in the panhandle, we don't have the financial means to implement recycling programs. The PRPC's solid waste grants have helped us create a cardboard recycling program as part of our Keep Friona Clean campaign. The grant helped pay for a baler, forklift, and security cameras and assisted with free outreach and marketing material through Keep Texas Beautiful. The total fiscal commitment from the city was \$980. The community buy-in for our cardboard recycling program has far exceeded expectations. We cannot thank PRPC for making our program such a success."

-Lee Davila, Friona City Manager



Thank you for the Panhandle Regional Training and the KTB Regional Training class in Dumas, TX. PRPC really does an awesome job helping out the cities and counties in our area with Solid Waste Planning."

Winston Sauls, City of Borger

Emergency Preparedness Program

By working with the area's first responders to respond to, recover from, or even thwart disasters, we are addressing the state's Homeland Security strategic plan. Whether it is a large-scale, man-made or natural disaster, our goal is to better prepare those who show up first.

The PRPC is on call 24/7/365, working to minimize 9-1-1 disruptions, repair and maintain the Panhandle-Area Regional Information System (PARIS).



When the tornado hit Perryton in June, the City of Perryton's infrastructure was destroyed. The entire city was without power and had limited cell service. Our radio system remained operational thanks to the development and planning of PANCOM. Within 24 hours the 9-1-1 system was transferred to Ochiltree County Sheriff's Office and re-routed through the PANCOM Microwave system."

Terry Bouchard, Ochiltree County Sheriff

PANCOM

FUNDED THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM CITIES, COUNTIES, HOMELAND
SECURITY AND 9-1-1 FUNDS.

20

Non-EMPG local
EOPs maintained

22

Hazard Mitigation
Plans maintained

60

PANCOM Sites
maintained

50

PARIS licenses
maintained





MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE

JANELL MENAHEM, 2-1-1 DIRECTOR & TEXAS PANHANDLE VOAD CHAIR

The Mass Casualty Exercise was beneficial to me in many ways. It allowed me to meet many other prominent members of the emergency response community throughout the Panhandle while learning to think outside the box of what we thought we know would happen in a disaster. The exercise taught me to expect and to prepare for the unexpected. I now have a better understanding of how to be proactive and not reactive."



Safe Room | Storm Shelter Rebate Program

Funded under the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management. This year, the PRPC was able to secure additional funding for our existing Regional Shelter Program under multiple disaster declarations.

\$2,869

AVERAGE REBATE PAID THIS YEAR

191

SHELTERS
INSTALLED THIS YEAR

\$548,059

TOTAL REBATES PAID THIS YEAR



CAPTAIN JOSEPH LOFTUS
AMARILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

As a first responder, I know my role will be to respond to the area of a major disaster when it occurs. Having a storm shelter at my house gives me the peace of mind that my family will be safe while I am out serving the public."

Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice program administers, monitors, and reviews grants for local governments, victim service agencies, and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention programs, and funding opportunities through the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor.

09

Law Enforcement projects funded

09

Victim Service projects funded

01

Truancy Prevention projects funded

198

Peace Officers trained

2,880

Basic county correction hours completed

LAW ENFORCEMENT

It is difficult to recruit new law enforcement officers. Working with the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy Advisory Committee, we started two (2) day academies and immediately saw an increase in recruits.

JOINT TRAINING

Through Basic County Corrections Courses for two (2) jail schools, new jailers completed 120 hours of training to help local jails to adequately maintain well-equipped staff.

120 Hours

Of training completed by new jailers

Truancy Interventionists:

Arlen Avalos, Ayda Gonzalez, Dania Donis, Ariana Fuentes



The Truancy Intervention/Prevention Grant that Dalhart ISD has been instrumental in reducing truancy and chronic absenteeism. We have been able to hire a Truancy Interventionist for each of our four campuses who help support students who are at risk by having excessive absences and make connections with families who experience chronic absenteeism or truancy.

Through this grant, Dalhart ISD has been able to purchase a curriculum that helps address at-risk student needs and provides resources to families. Dalhart ISD appreciates this funding that provides needed support to each campus, families, and the students we serve.

- Kurtis Abila, Dalhart JH School Assistant Principal

REGIONAL 9-1-1 NETWORK



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: Craig Wolf, Mandi Jones, John Schaumburg, Mike Peters, Becky Blair, Khasi Campos





83,928

9-1-1 CALLS FROM
MOBILE DEVICES



99,044

9-1-1 CALLS
DELIVERED TOTAL



6,802

TEXT MESSAGES
SENT TO 9-1-1



Tornado

On June 15, the Perryton Police Department Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) took a direct hit from an EF-3 tornado. Network staff was on site the next morning to assess damage, retrieved all of the 9-1-1 call-taking equipment from the wreckage and transported it to the Ochiltree County Sheriff's Office.

Once power was restored to the PANCOM radio equipment, 9-1-1 was restored within 24 hours.

Network Reliability

The 9-1-1 Network strives to ensure network operability when met with tumultuous circumstances. This year's heavy rainfall tested many facets of our region's infrastructure.

With the multiple network and power redundancies deployed by the 9-1-1 Network over the past decade, the call-taking reliability remained responsive throughout the storms.

Location Based Routing

Mobile devices present challenges for 9-1-1 call routing. Initially, mobile 9-1-1 calls were routed to their appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) based on the directional cellular sector, which may not be accurate near county or state boundaries.

In 2023, the 9-1-1 Network worked with primary cellular providers to enable Location Based Routing (LBR) throughout the entire Texas Panhandle, enabling call-routing using location of the mobile device to deliver the 9-1-1 call. This means faster response times with more accurate information.

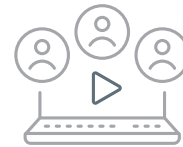
DISPUTE RESOLUTION



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

Left to right: Trent Taylor, Jerri Glover



Virtual Mediations continue to be popular for cases outside Potter and Randall Counties, reducing hardships for travel and time required for mediation.

113 TOTAL
MEDIATIONS

56% AGREEMENT
RATE

\$158,400

\$300 per hour x 528 hours

THE ESTIMATED DOLLAR VALUE
OF MEDIATIONS PROVIDED

100
REMOTE
MEDIATIONS

01
EMPLOYEE
MEDIATION

32
IN-PERSON
MEDIATIONS

20
PRE
PLEAS

47
DIVORCE
CASES

100
CONTRACT

54
FAMILY
LAW CASES

11
CIVIL
CASES

528
HOURS MEDIATED



DRC Advisory Council - H.R. Kelly, Doug Woodburn, Jerri Glover, Vaavia Rudd, Tracy Byrd, Trent Taylor

*Mediation helps
avoid hours in
court, freeing up
the judicial system
to focus on the
most complicated
cases.*



Jerri Glover, Program Coordinator

In 2023, Jerri Glover was hired as the Program Coordinator. Jerri began as a volunteer mediator and was named Volunteer Mediator of the Year 2022.

FINANCE



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, 2021. This was the 37th 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.

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.

Left to right: Natasha Clower, Cristy Henderson, Trent Taylor, Stephine Neuwirth, Heike Todd



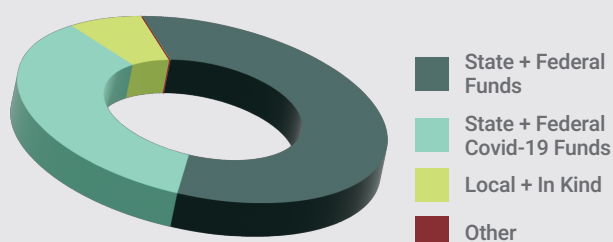
Financial Summary

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

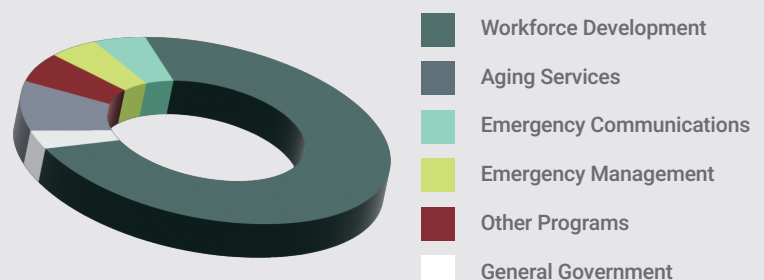
| SOURCE OF REVENUE | PERCENTAGE | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| State + Federal Funds | 57.2% | \$19,644,762 |
| State + Federal Covid-19 Funds | 35.5% | \$12,173,163 |
| Local + In Kind | 6.9% | 2,366,518 |
| Other | 0.4% | \$134,522 |
| | | \$34,318,995 |

| EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION | PERCENTAGE | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Workforce Development | 72% | \$24,401,236 |
| Aging Services | 9.4% | \$3,175,553 |
| Emergency Communications | 6.1% | \$2,057,545 |
| Emergency Management | 4.5% | \$1,533,941 |
| Other Programs | 4.6% | \$1,570,647 |
| General Government | 3.4% | \$1,144,672 |
| | | \$33,883,594 |

Source of Revenue



Expenditures by Division



Advisory Committees

Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Vance Easley, Chair | Childress |
| Manuel Almanza | Amarillo |
| Melissa Anderson | Claude |
| Cheryl Cano | Canadian |
| Johnny Carter | Wheeler |
| Mark Garcia | Amarillo |
| Misty Garrett | Spearman |
| Robin Grice | Dumas |
| Michele Griffin | Dalhart |
| Vicki Groneman | Vega |
| Tom Heck | Memphis |
| 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 |
| Nick Yara | Perryton |

Economic Development Advisory Committee

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

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Norma Luginbyhl, Chair | Borger |
| Kent Birdsong | Vega |
| Shelly Bohannon | Amarillo |
| Terry Bouchard | Perryton |
| Lukas Day | Amarillo |
| Letta Day | Amarillo |
| Stephanie Fowler | Dalhart |
| Rob Hampton | Pampa |
| Sace Hardman | Panhandle |
| Brent Harrison | Hereford |
| Hueston Harry | Canyon |
| Monty Hysinger | Dumas |
| Joe Jarosek | Canadian |
| Joseph Loftus | Amarillo |
| Anna Nobile | Tulia |
| Sara Northrup | Amarillo |
| Nina Parvin | Amarillo |
| Cythina Perales | Hereford |
| Traci Rogers | Amarillo |
| Hattie Sanderson | Wellington |
| Bruce Scott | Dalhart |
| Randall Sims | 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 | Canadian |
| Floyd Hartman | Amarillo |
| Danny Krienke | Perryton |
| David Landis | Perryton |
| Gary Wayne Marek | Bushland |
| David B. Parker | Amarillo |
| Dillon Pool | Amarillo |
| Drew Satterwhite | Canadian |
| Janet Tregellas | Booker |
| Steve Walthour | Dumas |
| Whitney Wiebe | Mesquite |

Texas Revenue Recovery Association (TRRA) Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| BJ Potts, Chair | Tulia |
| Ellie Blasingame | Perryton |
| Jennifer Gonzalez | Amarillo |

Rosa Mendez
Sarah Osbourne
Lee Porter

Friona
Levelland
Canyon

Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Chris Forbis, Chair | Amarillo |
| Martin Birkenfeld | Amarillo |
| Kyle Brack | Canyon |
| Tommy Brooks | Dumas |
| Jacob Clifton | Pampa |
| Joanne Culin | Amarillo |
| Ken Daughtry | Wheeler |
| Leander Davila | Friona |
| Charlene Duke | Canadian |
| Max Dunlap | Amarillo |
| Paul Dutcher | Perryton |
| Steve Fuston | Dumas |
| Cindy Irwin | Stinnett |
| Daniel Jackson | Dimmitt |
| Ashley Johnson | Amarillo |
| Kimberly Jones | Childress |
| Brent Lane | Amarillo |
| Jimmy Lanning | Stratford |
| P.J. Lemons | Canyon |
| Stephen Malley | Amarillo |
| Kevin McClaran | Amarillo |
| Janell Menahem | Amarillo |
| Joe Minshev | Lubbock |
| Rodney Mosier | Amarillo |
| Justin Parker | Spearman |
| BJ Potts | Tulia |
| Dan Reese | Canyon |
| Jodee Robison | Silverton |
| Dori Roots | Spearman |
| Nicole Sheedy | Amarillo |
| Tyler Smith | Amarillo |
| DJ Wagner | Hereford |
| Ronnie Walker | Amarillo |
| Brent Warden | Vega |
| Ben Weinheimer | Amarillo |
| Zack Wilson | Groom |

Groundwater Management Area #1

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Bob Zimmer, Chair | Dumas |
| Britney Britten | White Deer |
| Jason Coleman | Lubbock |
| Janet Guthrie | Canadian |
| Thomas Isaacs | Canadian |
| Lee Peterson | Wheeler |
| Lynn Tate | Amarillo |
| Steve Walthour | Dumas |

Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Brandon Knapp, Chair | Perryton |
| Jason Anderson | Borger |
| Paul Arganbright | Wheeler |
| Drew Brassfield | Fritch |
| Anju Chalise | Austin |
| Brittany Crawford | Amarillo |
| Orrin Dankworth | Amarillo |
| Eric Davidson | Dumas |
| Leander Davila | Friona |
| Curtis Green | Dalhart |
| Ramsay Hamm | Amarillo |
| Alan Harder | Amarillo |
| Susan Leary | Childress |
| Richard Miller | White Deer |
| David Morris | Memphis |
| Justin Parker | Spearman |
| Harvey Perez | Panhandle |
| Larry Plumlee | Turkey |
| Russell Proctor | Tulia |
| Dan Reese | Canyon |
| Tony Rios | Dimmitt |
| Adam Schaer | Amarillo |
| Todd Stiggins | Amarillo |
| Mike Story | McLean |
| Johnny Torres | Hereford |
| Gary Turley | Pampa |
| Mark Washburn | Gruver |
| Tommy Wyatt | Canadian |

Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium Governing Body

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| DJ Wagner, Chair | Hereford |
| Terri Carter | Stratford |
| Cindy Irwin | Stinnett |
| Harold Keeter | Tulia |
| Dan Looten | Panhandle |
| Chris Porter | Pampa |
| Cole Stanley | Amarillo |

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 |
| Marci Leffler | |
| Cherrie Miller | Amarillo |
| Ameka Mobley | Amarillo |
| Shannon Parker | Amarillo |
| Isabell Villarreal | Amarillo |
| Brad White | Amarillo |

Panhandle Workforce Development Board

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Kevin Caddell, Chair | Dalhart |
| Francisco Apodaca | Pampa |
| Betty Bara | Amarillo |
| Jay Barrett | Amarillo |
| Ryan Bradley | Pampa |
| Texas Buckhaults | Clarendon |
| Sonja Clark | Amarillo |
| Tamara Clunis | Amarillo |
| 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 |
| Geneva Tiller | Amarillo |
| Uriel Villa | Hereford |
| Lisa White | Amarillo |
| Magi York | 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 Rural Planning Organization

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Travis Muno, Chair | Amarillo |
| Shawn Ballew | Oldham |
| Kara Beyers | Rep Smithee |
| Kit Black | TxDOT |
| Terri Carter | Sherman |
| Gina Dowdy | Amarillo |
| Christy Dyer | Randall |
| Aldo Gallegos | Cactus |
| Ronnie Gordon | Hartley |
| Cindy Irwin | Hutchinson |
| Lisa Johnson | Hemphill |
| Blair Johnson | TxDOT |
| Charles Kelly | Ochiltree |
| Brandon Knapp | Perryton |
| Dan Looten | Carson |
| Chris Porter | Gray |
| Hugh Reed | Armstrong |
| Rowdy Rhoades | Moore |
| Wes Ritchey | Dallam |
| Micky Simpson | Lipscomb |
| Garrett Spradling | Borger |
| Nancy Tanner | Potter |
| Rick Tennant | Roberts |
| Melissa Vossmer | Dalhart |
| DJ Wagner | Deaf Smith |
| Russell Washer | TxDOT |
| Benny Wilson | Hansford |

Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Travis Muno, Chair | Amarillo |
| Kacie Bell | Amarillo |
| Timothy Holland | Amarillo |
| Cody Jones | Canyon |
| Dan Looten | Carson County |
| Trent Morris | Amarillo |
| Richard Neill | Amarillo |
| Chris Quigley | Amarillo |
| Laura Reyher | Canyon |
| Rowdy Rhoades | Moore County |
| Jason Riddlespurger | Amarillo |
| Joe Rogers | Amarillo |
| Chris Sharp | Amarillo |
| Garrett Spradling | Borger |
| Lylene Springer | Canyon |
| Grace Strait | Lubbock |
| Nancy Tanner | Potter County |
| Benny Wilson | Hansford County |

Canadian Upper Red - Regional Flood Planning

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Kyle Schniederjan | Amarillo |
| Layne Chapman | Vernon |
| Jeff Watts | Iowa Park |
| Ronnie Gordon | Channing |
| Glen Green | Amarillo |
| Nathan Howell | Canyon |
| Carolann Corado | Bowie |
| Don Davis | Nocona |
| Chandler Bowers | Groom |
| Russell Schreiber | Wichita Falls |
| Jane Ketcham | Wichita Falls |
| Randy Whiteman | Wichita Falls |
| Joseph (Joe) Shehan | Canyon |
| Tracy Mesler | Nocona |
| Floyd Hartman | Amarillo |

Rolling Plains Organization for Rural Transportation

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Travis Muno, Chair | Amarillo |
| John Howard | Donley |
| Kevin Brendle | Dickens County |
| Mark Christopher | Foard County |
| Duane Daniel | King County |
| Jennifer Foster | Political Rep |
| Karl Holloway | Cottle County |
| Carrol Horton | Wheeler County |
| Ronnie Ingram | Hardeman County |
| John James | Collingsworth County |
| Kim Jones | Childress County |
| Anabelle Jurado | TxDOT |
| Darwin Lankford | TxDOT |
| Jim Meador | Motley County |
| Wayne Nance | Briscoe County |
| Ray Powell | Hall County |
| Cary Preston | Childress County |
| Chuck Steed | TxDOT |
| Stan Wojcik | Knox County |



DUSTIN MEYER

PRPC Executive Director

**Serving the PRPC
2014-2023**

Dustin Meyer will without a doubt, be sorely missed. He inherited the genetics of leadership, work ethic, and passion for the Panhandle People from the previous two PRPC Executive Directors. Nine years ago he began his Planning Commission career as a Local Government Services Specialist, and his character and commitment was soon revealed, and all whom he assisted knew he was destined to someday lead the organization.

The Perryton community realized Dustin's skills were of such "gold standard" value that we attempted to hire him as our Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director. As hard as we tried to recruit the Meyers' to our community, Dustin knew his purpose in life at the time was to serve the entire Panhandle and do what was best for his family.

We stand behind Dustin's future endeavors and know he will excel in anything he chooses to do. We wish the very best for Dustin as he enters a new chapter in his life.

DAVID LANDIS, CITY MANAGER OF PERRYTON

With eight years' experience in Local Government Services, serving under Directors Pitner and Ingham, Dustin emerged to take the helm of PRPC at a critical juncture.

With the nation and region recovering from the COVID pandemic, PRPC faced new challenges. Dustin's intellect, intuition and integrity served as an inspiration for the entire organization.

He leaves a legacy of leadership in the model of Gary and Kyle. He was truly the right person at the right time; he will be remembered and missed.

JUDGE JOHN HOWARD, DONLEY COUNTY

Dustin Meyer is a unique individual. He is the epitome of a gentleman. He is always kind, respectful and generous with his time.

Several years ago, Potter County was in desperate need of someone to help us with our Strategic Plan. Dustin was that man.

He helped us with several meetings of all the elected officials and department heads. He had the patience and due diligence to listen to every want, need and desire.

He put this plan together for us and it is in motion now. We could not have done it without him. So, hats off to you Dustin and congrats on your decision to retire and think about something else for a while.

JUDGE NANCY TANNER, POTTER COUNTY

I got to know Dustin when he and his team worked closely with the Panhandle Water Planning Group and the Groundwater Management Area Joint Planning Committee to make those programs very successful. I enjoy his diligence, organizational skills, work ethic and often patience that allowed our committees to focus on planning goals.

I have seen firsthand the extra effort he puts into any project he takes on. Dustin is committed to making any program, process, or those he works with better. As a leader, Dustin Meyer is an exceptional and consummate professional. He is certainly an example for others to follow. I appreciate his service to our community.

STEVEN D. WALTHOUR, PG - GENERAL MANAGER
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

"Public Service" could be Dustin Meyer's middle name. PRPC and the Panhandle have been very fortunate to have Dustin work diligently for the betterment of our communities and this organization. We will miss you greatly, but wish the best for your future. Thank you, Dustin for your leadership and your service.

JUDGE DAN LOOTEN, CARSON COUNTY

2023 Staff Service Awards



Heike Todd *30 years*
Accounts Payable Specialist

Heike performs complex accounting and fiscal record keeping that involves specialized accounts payable functions. Heike's exemplary attention to detail and diligence in serving the commission as an expert in her field has kept the accounting systems of the Planning Commission running smoothly for the last 30 years.



Janet Schulte *30 years*
Area Agency on Aging Care Coordinator

Janet developed and coordinated the HomeCare Options program within AAA. She performs advanced case management services assisting older adults and their families in finding providers for medical, social, educational, and related service needs. Janet has led her department with a true servant's heart for over 30 years. The impact she has had on the area's older adult population is immeasurable and will be impactful for decades to come within our region.



Gracie Aragon *15 years*
Workforce Development Fiscal Admin Assistant

Gracie ensures compliance with local, state, and federal policies and statutes. Her astute knowledge of these guidelines and policies governing the workforce programs has led the WFD department over the last 15 years to consistent and comprehensive coverage of services within our region. The children and families who have been shaped by the TWC Childcare program are profoundly grateful for her direct contributions.



Yvette Gayton *15 years*
**Workforce Development
Program Specialist**

Yvette performs the complex administrative task of collecting and processing client and fiscal information and records associated with WFD programs. Her direct contributions to the WFD department processing systems and her dedication to the children and families of the Texas Panhandle prove as an outstanding example of the mission of PRPC.



Paige Goodell *5 years*
Local Government Services Program Manager

Paige provides application and administration of Community Development Block Grants and Park Grants. Paige also provides City Management services for The Village of Lake Tanglewood. She also provides economic development planning and manages Economic Development Administration grants for the region. Paige's dedication to the citizens of the Texas Panhandle throughout continued improvements in infrastructure has contributed almost \$10 million in federal and state investments in our region.



Jaime Sharp *10 years* Caregiver Specialist

Jaime spearheaded a comprehensive transformation and enhancement of the Family Caregiver Support Program. She performs complex planning and research of informational, educational, and social services for the caregivers in our area. Jaime's dedication has successfully coordinated and allocated over 50,000 respite hours to support caregivers throughout the Texas Panhandle.



Heather Reid *5 years* Workforce Development Contract/Accounting Manager

Heather diligently serves the Workforce Department in contract management, monitoring and analyzing budgets, developing and evaluating budget requests, and coordinating program activities. Her specialized skills have provided the department with superior consultative and technical services to other governmental agencies, community organizations, and the general public. She is highly valued as one of Workforce's key members and is greatly appreciated in the PRPC's role in serving our area.



Alex Guerrero *5 years*
**Local Government
Services Director**

Alex has led the LGS department by assisting local government officials and the citizens of our region in addressing major community development and infrastructure needs throughout the cities and counties of the Panhandle. Alex has shown true innate leadership qualities throughout his career at PRPC. Alex meets the diverse challenges of the Texas Panhandle with kindness, discernment, and the utmost professionalism.



Melissa Whitaker *5 years*
Executive Assistant

In the role of Executive Assistant, Melissa provides direct support to the PRPC Board of Directors and the Executive Director by developing, implementing, and evaluating administrative practices and procedures for the Planning Commission. Prior to the Executive Assistant position, she served as the Managing Local Ombudsman in the Aging Department at PRPC where she advocated for the rights of residents in Long-Term Care facilities at a local, State, and Federal level.



PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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