

CARING. PROVIDING. TEACHING. PROTECTING.









CARING. PROVIDING. TEACHING. PROTECTING.

2015 TCOG ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION



are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."



This year's Annual Report is dedicated to the various ways TCOG makes a difference in the lives of the children in our region. As an organization, we are committed to being better leaders building better lives, and where better to invest our resources than in our kids and our future?

Improving quality of life for kids in Texoma has become one of our top priorities and, over the next few years, we will invest more of our resources in a new project. **Kids Matter: Beyond ABC Texoma** is a region wide strategic planning process initiated in 2015 by TCOG in partnership with sev-

eral local agencies and organizations to address children's quality of life in Texoma. The 2014 Beyond ABC children's health report published by Children's Health System of Texas is an assessment of more than 50 indicators of children's overall well-being including data related to health, education, economic security and safety.

The report reveals that in many respects children in Texoma are better off than other children across the State of Texas. However, it also reveals some troubling trends such as the increase in child poverty rates in Grayson County, the childhood obesity

rates in all three counties, and the tremendous lack of access to healthcare across the region. To determine ways to slow or reverse some of those trends, TCOG will complete a strategic plan for each county in our region and facilitate the implementation of various projects to achieve a very simple mission: make life better for kids in Texoma. By caring for children, providing for their economic well-being, teaching them, and in every way we can, protecting them from neglect and abuse, we are able to preserve our most valuable resource, sustain our hope for the future, and make it known that in Texoma, kids really do matter.







PROMOTING LIFELONG INDEPENDENCE

TCOG's Aging Services Department provides a network of senior programs including information and referral, case management, nutrition, inhome services, benefits counseling, home repair, and day health care — all while emphasizing ease of access.

Aging Services is responsible for the development and coordination of a comprehensive system of services for citizens over the age of 60 and/

or with a disability; our professionally-trained staff helps these individuals live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible. This department provides free consultation on long-term care choices, support and navigation of complex service delivery systems – ultimately serving nearly 14,800 clients and providing over \$1.1 million of services to our region last year.

BENEFITS COUNSELING AND OTHER SERVICES

TCOG's Benefits Counseling program is designed to assist persons over the age of 60 and/or with a disability with the complexities of public benefits including benefit awareness, eligibility determination, application & advocacy. This program also serves Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities and provides benefits counseling to those under 60 years of age. During the past year, clients received over 2,000 hours of counseling.

The Money Management Program provides bill payer & representative payee services to individuals in danger of losing their independence because of their inability to manage their finances.

The Information & Referral program provides assistance in locating resources and services for persons over the age of 60. Last year IRA assisted nearly 6,300 clients.



TCOG Advocates for children who are on Medicare.

NURSING HOME OMBUDSMAN

TCOG's Ombudsman Program is responsible for monitoring the quality of care for residents in long term care facilities. Dedicated volunteers and staff are trained and certified by the State to participate in nursing home open hearings, research complaints and ensure the best possible care for the residents of long-term facilities throughout the Texoma Region. Over 1,250 hours of service were provided for the advocacy of seniors in nursing and assisted care facilities last year.



The Local Elder Assistance Partners (LEAP) group is pictured contributing 28 backpacks w/basic school supplies in the Grandparents As Parents Back to School Drive. Participating Texoma agencies are home health, hospices,

hospitals, DME's, nursing and assisted living facilities, as well as TCOG employees. The grandparents raising their grandchildren are part of the Caregiver Program at TCOG's Area Agency on Aging.

CARE COORDINATION

TCOG's Care Coordination Program is a community-based home care program administered by dedicated case workers. Services are available to persons 60+ years of age who are homebound, unable to care for themselves, and/or recently

discharged from area hospitals requiring temporary in-home care. This program provided almost 1,400 hours of service to Senior's last year enabling these seniors to continue independent living.

CARE COORDINATION ASSISTANCE

Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

Over **131,000** Home Delivered meals were provided in the Texoma area at \$717,164 and 48,393 congregate meals totaling nearly \$240,000

Residential Repair

Minor home repairs provided to **41** homes in the Texoma region totaling nearly \$28,000

Transportation

141 one-way rides provided to seniors requiring transportation for medical purposes

Health Maintenance

Nearly **\$317,000** spent in dental, hearing aid, and eye glass assistance services

Evidence Based Intervention

More than **\$1,700** spent for medication dosage alert systems

VOLUNTEERING FOR KIDS



Foster Grandparents serving in schools, day cares and community centers

35,384 hours given to children in the community

volunteers serving in various capacities

87,827 hours volunteered in 2014-15

\$2.17m value of hours volunteered during this fiscal year





2 WHO benefits more from these volunteers? The children? The volunteers? Or the community?

125

Number of children in Texoma mentored and assisted by Foste Grandparents this year alone

CAREGIVER SERVICES

TCOG's Caregiver Program is an ongoing process to assess the needs of a caregiver and care recipient by planning, arranging, coordinating and providing services.

Programs include Caregiver Support Groups, Community Outreach, Respite Care, and Education and Training for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and other caregivers.

Last year this team provided over 3,191 hours of service, and provided outreach to more than 900 clients.

SENIOR CORPS

The Texoma Retired and Senior Volunteer Program placed 623 volunteers in 72 sites where they served in various capacities and provided meals in our tri-county area.



RSVP volunteers served 87,827 hours during the 2014-2015 fiscal year

According to Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time calculator, this equates to a monetary value of \$2,165,816 (\$24.66 per hour in the state of Texas in 2014).

The 44 Foster Grandparent volunteers gave 35,384 hours to the children of our community which has a monetary value of \$872,582. These volunteers serve in schools, day cares, and community centers.

We currently have 146 RSVP volunteers and 4 FGP volunteers who have served more than 10 years with the program.



5 Lifetime Service Awards given to individuals this year who each volunteered over 4,000 service hours



LIFE-CHANGING RESOURCES

Whether providing affordable housing, self-sufficiency programs, home weatherization applications, assistance with utility bills or referrals to crucial social services, the common goal of the Client Services Programs is to **give families hope**. By thoughtfully and strategically planning for the future needs of our region, TCOG

continues to improve the level of services which in turn improves quality of life for all Texomans.

The Client Services Department specializes in the delivery of direct services to qualified families living in the Texoma Region and includes the Public Housing Program, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

Program, Energy Services Program, 2-1-1 Information and Referral Program, and the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Texoma.

These programs are supported with state and federal funds and offer families a better tomorrow by providing life-changing resources today.





ADRC OF TEXOMA

The ADRC of Texoma provides people of all ages and income levels with a broad range of direct referrals to public and private long-term services and supports. The center specializes in providing personal one-on-one consultation to each client including: long-term care counseling, individualized referrals, benefits counseling, program eligibility determination, and program enrollment assistance.

ADRC of Texoma now averages 320 calls per month.

2-1-1 INFORMATION & REFFERAL

Dialing the 3-digit phone number 2-1-1 provides those in need with referrals to critical health and human services as well as community resources and government assistance.

Texas has twenty-five (25) 2-1-1 call centers. Each one is a local operation with services that reflect local needs and concerns. TCOG's 211 Program answered more than 42,000 calls during the past year and provided referrals for

needs such as: mental health, veteran's benefits, homelessness, child care subsidies and disability assistance.

The program is funded through Texas Health and Human Services. *To learn* more visit www.211texas.org



Last year, 211 Texoma published a Veteran's Resource Guide filled with resources to address the needs of those who've served our country.

TOP FIVE RECORDED NEEDS 2014-2015

10.98% Electric Bill Payment
Assistance (4,695 Calls)

10.44% Food Pantries (4,464 Calls)

Assistance (2,127 Calls) Rent Payment

Prescription Expense

Assistance (1, 130 Cells) Assistance (1,130 Calls)

2.54% Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (1,087 Calls)



THINK ABOUT THIS:

do these statistics play a role in assessing the needs of children in our communities?



Number of Households Served

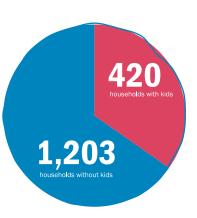


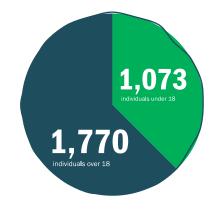
Assistance





on Case Management & Tuition Assistance





Number of Households With and Without Children

Number of Individuals in Households

During the past year, \$1,866,597 in direct services were provided to 1,203 households (2,843 individuals).

ENERGY SERVICES

TCOG Energy Services is composed of three (3) separate programs including: Weatherization, Utility Assistance and Case Management.

The Weatherization Program provides the installation of energy-saving applications to homes; reducing energy consumption up to 40% and thereby lowering utility costs.

The Utility Assistance Program provides co-payment of gas, propane and electric utilities and the provision of supportive services for educating clients on how to conserve energy in an effort to transition low-income families out of poverty and off public assistance.

The Case Management Program provides one-on-one support to families striving

for self-sufficiency by providing assistance with the cost of training or education which will lead them out of poverty.

Priority households for these services include elderly, disabled and families with children under the age of six.

FSS/Homeownership

82 graduates since 1994 102 active FSS/Homeownership Participants

9 New Homeowners since 2004

HUD-VASH

The Department of Veterans Affairs selected TCOG as one of 14 housing authorities

in Texas to administer the Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. These vouchers assist chronically-homeless veterans and their families in transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

TCOG was one of 13 agencies in the State of Texas invited by HUD to participate in the MFP Demonstration. This pilot program allows Texans who are eligible for Medicaid and living in a nursing home to relocate back into the community and receive long-term services & support.

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM, FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) & HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS

With an annual budget of over \$2 million, the Section 8 program provides affordable housing to 500+ families in Fannin and Grayson counties. Families have the opportunity to participate in the Family Self-Sufficiency/Homeownership Program where they can achieve the goal of financial independence through support services including: employment and educational training, credit counseling, and homeownership classes.



Annual Share the Warmth Drive

Over 1,449 coats distributed to families during the winter of 2014

Children of Positivity *January* 22, 2015 The main objective of this event was to promote positivity within households, with a special focus on children.

Good Food Project Community Dinner *May* 16, 2015

This event was a collaborative effort between the Good Food Project, TCOG, and other local organizations in order to make the public aware of the food crisis that currently exists in the Texoma area, specifically Fannin County.



348

Children of families in Graysor County assisted by Section 8

104

Children of families in Fannir County assisted by Section 8

PUBLIC HOUSING STATISTICS

grayson county

school-aged children

under age 5

families

families

fannin county

school-aged children

under age 5

collin county

school-aged children

> under age 5

families

families

hunt county

school-aged children

under age 5



HAPPY HOMES

the Texoma region with its housing programs.









Children whose families participate in the Public Housing Program are provided with regular social and educational opportunities throughout the year including the Summer Youth Program as shown above.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM

Texoma Housing Partners (THP) provides over 479 units of affordable housing across 18 cities in 4 counties as well as social and educational programs. The annual budget is over \$2.6 million dollars and TCOG is responsible for the management and maintenance of over \$26 million in real estate.

Teach, Empower, Assist and Motivate

The TEAM Center provides public housing residents and the community access to a variety of social and educational programs such as tutoring for the GED test and ESL & adult literacy classes.



HOPE GED Program

The HOPE GED Program is a collaborative effort made possible through the partner-ship of agencies serving on the Fannin County Literacy Council. TCOG's public housing program is a founding partner of the Literacy Council and provides the class-room and computer lab at the TEAM Center. Unlike conventional GED programs, the HOPE GED program offers an open entry-open exit GED program where students may work at their own pace.

Enrollment in the Helping Our People Excel (HOPE) GED Program:

Bonham - 83

Honey Grove - 19

Of the 102 enrolled students, 21 are school age (17 or 18 years of age). To date, the HOPE GED Program has graduated over 125 students.



COMMUNITY LEVEL QUALITY OF LIFE

From improvements in the way people get around the region to planning for the population increases that are projected in the next thirty years to making sure first responders have the training and equipment that they need to get to the scene of the

emergency when you call 9-1-1, the Planning & Development team is focused on finding regional solutions to the challenges the Texoma region faces & improving quality of life at the community level.



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DID YOU KNOW?

26.2% Children in Grayson County living in poverty.

Children in Cooke County Public Schools receiving free or reduced lunches.

26.5%

Children in Fannin and Grayson Counties lacking access to enough food for active. healthy lifestyles.*

Kids Matter Strategic Planning

In early 2015, representatives from the Texoma Region were invited to participate on the Children's Hospital Beyond ABC advisory board. When confronted with the facts, figures and statistics in the report. 2014 Beyond ABC - Assessing Children's Health in the North Texas Corridor, the leadership of TCOG determined to do more than just issue more reports and decided to lead an effort to alleviate some of these conditions.

TCOG staff, working with interns from Austin College, presented this and additional data and information about children in the tricounty area and are facilitating strategic plans for each county by identifying the three or four most critical issues for that

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

9-1-1 Addressing

TCOG staff partners with Cooke County, Fanning County, Gunter, Van Alstyne and Whitewright om assigning addresses and developing maps that help first responders get to the right location as quickly as possible. This year alone we have assigned over 300 new addresses.

Quality Assurance and Control

To ensure the highest quality and most reliable data, the GIS & Planning team initiated the start of a tedious process for quality assurance and quality control of GIS datasets in preparation for the upcoming Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) transition.

Map Books

Our team of GIS professionals has produced and printed hundreds of maps and compiled a map book project consisting of layered datasets for Cooke County.

GIS & PLANNING

Professionals in the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Program create, analyze and manage geographic datasets and applications. These datasets include political jurisdictions, transportation networks, emergency management and environmental resources. Local governments and citizens rely on maps and data created by the TCOG GIS Program to make well-informed and often lifesaving decisions. The GIS Program helps promote geographic education in the region and provides a coordinating resource for GIS professionals in the region.



NADO Innovation Award 2014

Infrastructure and Asset Mapping project collaboration with Texoma Housing Partners



Whitewright

Our team is in the process of creating a city-wide GIS zoning map for the City of Whitewright by digitizing older paper zoning maps.

Regional Planning Assistance

The GIS Program has assisted in areas of emergency response, environmental, land use, strategic, trail, and transportation planning.

Leveraging GIS allows regional planners and decision makers the ability to plan for the future with more confidence.



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TCOG is designated as the Economic Development District (EDD) for Texoma by the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Texoma EDD provides technical assistance to industry practitioners and policymakers on specific projects & programs that promote development in the region.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DE-VELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

The CEDS is a 5-year regional plan that provides a benchmark for the Texoma Economy and emphasizes regionalism as a key factor in the way communities should approach their economic development efforts.

To learn more visit www.texomaedd.org

CURRENT PROJECTS

Texoma Innovation Collaborative

In 2015, TCOG staff began working with the City of Sherman with an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for the Texoma Innovation Collaborative to create infrastructure and entrepreneurship in Texoma.

Community Needs Assessment

TCOG staff published a comprehensive report identifying the 5 greatest needs for each county and for the Texoma region collectively.

Community Service Block Grant

In addition to other current projects, TCOG staff generated a Community Action Plan and Strategic Plan for serving low-income families.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Collected and disposed of hazardous
materials in April, including 14,000
lbs. of electronics which were diverted
from area waters and environmentallysensitive areas.

Disaster Debris Workshops

TCOG staff provided a two-day workshop which covered disaster debris training, state and federal assistance management and community involvement by presenting the most current industry standards pertinent to the roles and responsibilities of attendees.

Whitewright Brownfields Grant Planning

Staff worked with officials from the City of Whitewright on successfully securing a \$200,000 Brownfields Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to help remediate dangerous structures and bring additional benefits like improving quality of life and environmental health to the community.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Grant Program provides both financial and technical assistance to city and county governments, school districts, and law enforcement districts in their efforts of combating illegal dumping, promoting recycling, and ultimately reducing the amount of waste introduced to local landfills.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mission Statement

Provide resources to Public Safety Agencies that serve the citizens of the Texoma Region.

Vision Statement

To support and collaborate with area Public Safety Agencies ensuring fundamental protection and services to the citizens of Texoma.



PSAPs included in 9-1-1 Program: Bonham PD, Gainesville PD, Whitesboro PD, Cooke Co. Sheriff's Office, Fannin Co. Sheriff's Office, and Grayson Co. Sheriff's Office

9-1-1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The TCOG 9-1-1 program utilizes state-of-the-art call-taking equipment that incorporates digital mapping applications in the six 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). These PSAPs are responsible for emergency dispatch for more than fifty police, fire and emergency medical service agencies in the region.

- Successfully delivered 101,082 emergency calls for service an average of 276/day
- TCOG is committed to Public Education and outreach to ensure that our citizens especially children— know how and

when to call 9-1-1. 11,450 pieces of Public Education materials were distributed throughout the region, such as a coloring book with familiar characters from the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications.



HOMELAND SECURITY

Emergency Management Planning: The TCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee works with TCOG and the Texas Department of Public Safety State Administrative Agency to facilitate Homeland Security Funding when awarded to our region.

- Communication for our first responders is critical. In 2014, \$225,584 in Homeland Security Funding was awarded to the Region for Communications Projects.
- Facilitated the National Incident
 Management System (NIMS) training of
 40 first responders so that response
 to emergency situations is efficient and
 effective.

TCOG worked with Fannin County to update the Fannin County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan with all school districts invited to participate in the update. ISDs that participated in the update process now have the option to apply to FEMA for Mitigation Project Grants, such as school safe rooms.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TCOG's Criminal Justice Program works with the law enforcement and victim advocacy communities in the Texoma region to make the best use of local, state and federal resources.

Focused Efforts for Public Safety

- Provide grant training and technical assistance to local agencies applying to the Office of the Governors, Criminal Justice Division for Criminal Justice related grants.
- \$280,661 awarded to local agencies for projects related to victim advocacy, law enforcement investigations, and juvenile delinquency prevention.
- TCOG supports an annual process in the region to identify issues and possible solutions. The results of this process are included in the TCOG Community Plan which is located on our website at www. tcog.com
- Agencies funded include: Bonham PD, Fannin Co. Juvenile Services, Abigail's Arms, Fannin Co. Crisis Center, Grayson Co. Women's Crisis Center, and Grayson County.
- Last September, several school district administrators from Fannin County traveled to Oklahoma schools to tour safe rooms which had been funded by FEMA. To learn more about Mitigation Project Grants, visit www.fema.gov

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FISCAL YEARS ENDING (FYE)

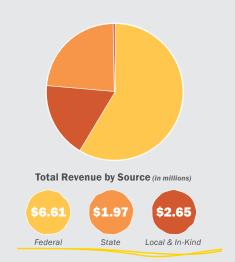
APRIL 30, 2015

During FY2015, Texoma Council of Governments administered over **\$11.2** million in federal, state and local programs.

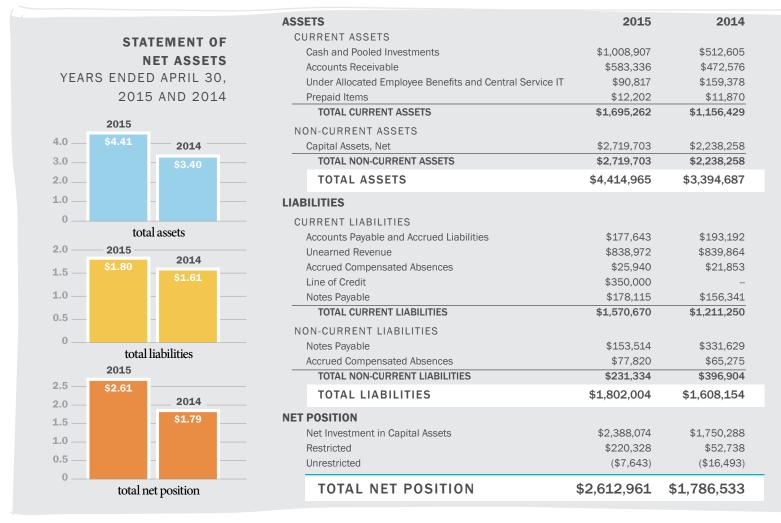
TCOG also provided financial and administrative services to Texoma Housing Partners, a consortium

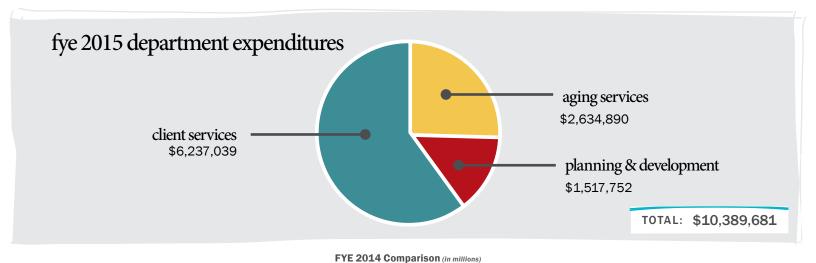
of 18 public housing authorities including the cities of Bells,
Bonham, Celeste, Ector, Farmersville, Gunter, Honey Grove, Howe,
Ladonia, Pottsboro, Princeton,
Savoy, Tioga, Tom Bean, Trenton,
Van Alstyne, Whitewright, and
Windom.

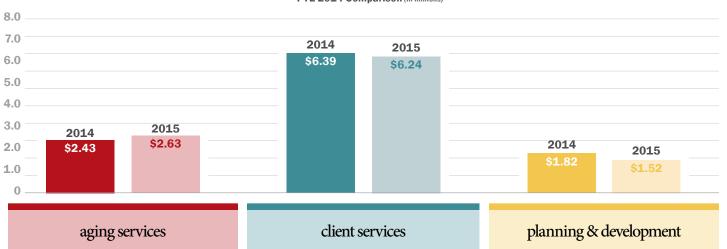
REVENUES	2015	2014
FEDERAL	\$6,605,838	\$6,185,083
STATE	\$1,971,476	\$1,644,156
LOCAL & IN-KIND	\$2,654,363	\$3,019,234
INTEREST	\$241	\$144
TOTAL REVENUES	\$11,231,918	\$10,848,617
EXPENDITURES		
OPERATIONAL		
Direct Salaries	\$1,894,943	\$1,911,688
Benefit Program Costs	\$924,885	\$1,069,551
Indirect Costs	\$925,403	\$843,791
Travel	\$85,652	\$76,417
Supplies	\$103,386	\$123,382
Contracted Services	\$157,935	\$151,143
Capital Outlay	\$743,132	\$262,337
Other Direct Costs	\$176,716	\$432,370
Subcontracts	\$2,263,989	\$1,900,600
In-kind Services	\$91,848	\$132,161
Other	\$3,764,924	\$3,993,499
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,132,813	\$10,896,939
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$99,105	(\$48,322)
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE		
Net Change in Fund Balance*	\$555,274	(\$61,160)
Fund Balance Beginning of Year*	\$123,373	\$184,533
FUND BALANCE END OF YEAR*	\$678,647	\$123,373











fye 2015 board officers & members

PRESIDENT

Creta L. "Spanky" Carter, II Fannin County Judge

VICE PRESIDENT

Keith Clegg, Gainesville City Council

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Cary Wacker, City of Sherman

Robert Adams Cooke County Community Rep

Teresa Adams City of Denison

Roy Floyd City of Bonham Cecil Jones

Fannin County Community Rep Phyllis James

Grayson County Representative

Sarah Somers Grayson County J.D. Roane

City of Valley View

Kate Whitfield Sherman ISD

Debbie Smith City of Knollwood

Chris Burch

City of Ladonia

Jason Brinkley Cooke County Representative

Bill McFatridge Gravson College

Community Rep

fye 2015 general membership

CITIES & COUNTIES

Cooke County Fannin County **Grayson County** City of Bonham City of Callisburg

City of Collinsville City of Denison City of Dodd City City of Ector

City of Gainesville City of Gunter

City of Honey Grove

City of Howe City of Knollwood City of Ladonia

City of Leonard Town of Lindsay City of Muenster

City of Pottsboro Town of Ravenna City of Sadler City of Savoy

City of Sherman City of Southmayd

City of Tioga

City of Tom Bean City of Trenton

City of Valley View City of Van Alstyne

City of Whitesboro City of Whitewright

Town of Windom

SCHOOL DISTRICTS &

COLLEGES

Bonham ISD Denison ISD Dodd City ISD Ector ISD

Fra ISD

Fannindel ISD

Grayson College Honey Grove ISD

Leonard ISD Muenster ISD

North Central Texas

College

Pottsboro ISD Sam Rayburn ISD

Savoy ISD Sherman ISD Tom Bean ISD

Van Alstyne ISD Whitesboro ISD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Bonham Chamber of

Commerce

Denison Chamber of

Commerce

Texoma Housing Partners



better leaders building better lives

executive director Susan B. Thomas, PhD

information technology director Raj Croager, MARJEN Technology Group LLC

planning & development director Randy McBroom, PhD

client services director
Allison Minton
finance director
Stacee Sloan

executive assistant Sean Norton

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities.

Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region and assists the elderly and disabled through a variety of Area Agency on Aging programs. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security and criminal justice.



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