

February Finance and Budget Committee Meeting

Schedule	Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:30 AM — 10:00 AM CST
Venue	Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Ln. Houston, TX 77027
Organizer	Rick Guerrero

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4a. ADVANCED FUNDING AGREEMENT RIDESHARE PROGRAM

Request approval and adopt a resolution authorizing staff to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$2,500,000. (Staff Contact: Robyn Egbert)

4b. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SOFTWARE PLATFORM

Request approval to enter into contracts with the two highest-ranked proposers, Lightcast and Chmura Economics & Analytics, LLC, for a combined contract amount not to exceed \$200,000 over a four-year period. (Staff Contact: Thomas Brown)

4c. UNITED WAY OF GREATER HOUSTON-CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Request authorization for staff to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with United Way of Greater Houston to increase funding by \$200,868, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$2,700,868. (Staff Contact: Thomas Brown)

Board of Directors



4d. CYBER INSURANCE

Request authorization to renew a one-year contract for cyber insurance through the Texas Mutual League not to exceed \$100,000. (Staff Contact: Scott Young)

4e. REGIONAL AERIAL IMAGERY DATA

Request approval to proceed with the procurement of high-resolution aerial imagery data products and services for portions of the remaining five counties for a total amount not to exceed \$320,000. (Staff Contact: Thushara Ranatunga)

4f. TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL/BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE GRANT

Request authorization to enter into an agreement with the Texas Association of Regional Councils; amount not to exceed \$107,000. (Staff Contact: Darryl Briscoe)

5. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

5a. JANUARY 2026 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Request approval of the monthly financial report ending January 31, 2026. (Staff Contact: Christina Ordonez-Campos)

5b. 2026 BUDGET & SERVICE PLAN-FEBRUARY ITERATION

Request approval of the February iteration for the 2026 Budget & Service Plan. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

5c. LOCAL FUNDS POLICY

Request approval of the Local Funds Policy. (Staff Contact: Christina Ordonez-Campos)

6. AREA AGENCY ON AGING GRANT AWARD

Request authorization to accept this grant in the amount of \$300,000 to expand benefits counseling services and capacity. (Staff Contact: Alejandra Rischan)

Board of Directors



7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

8. ADJOURNMENT

ADVANCED FUNDING AGREEMENT-HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL RIDESHARE PROGRAM

Background

Commute Solutions is H-GAC's Travel Demand Management outreach and education program. The program provides marketing, education, and outreach materials about regional transportation options that reduce congestion and improve air quality. Commute Solutions is administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Metropolitan Planning Organization, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, regional transportation agencies, employers, universities, local governments, and other community organizations. The Transportation Planning Council allocated \$2,500,000 Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding through the Transportation Improvement Program to Commute Solutions to implement software that facilitates ride-matching services to encourage carpooling, vanpooling, and ride-sharing. The platform will also ensure that commuters using alternative transportation modes have convenient access to H-GAC's regional emergency ride home program. These efforts will enhance the program's efforts to reduce congestion and improve regional air quality.

Current Situation

The Commute Solutions program is currently preparing a Travel Demand Management rideshare software pilot program. This Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation will continue to support and potentially expand the reach of this program throughout the region.

Funding Source

Federal – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funding

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request approval and adopt a resolution authorizing staff to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$2,500,000. (Staff Contact: Robyn Egbert)



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ADVANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL RIDESHARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2024, via Minute Order 116752, the Texas Transportation Commission authorized Houston-Galveston Area Council Rideshare project (the "Project") to receive Congestion Management and Air Quality funds for project construction and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) oversight; and

WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council commits to provide the match. The local match is comprised of cash or Transportation Development Credits; and

WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council is responsible for all nonreimbursable costs and 100% of overruns, if any, and;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Houston-Galveston Area Council desires to reaffirm its support of the Project, approve and authorize the execution of an Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT for the Project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Houston-Galveston Area Council THAT the Executive Director of the Houston-Galveston Area Council is authorized to enter into an AFA with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for this Project.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 17th day of February 2026 by the Board of Directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

APPROVED:

The Honorable Jay
Knight
County Judge
Liberty County
H-GAC Chair

ATTEST:

The Honorable Ty Prause
County Judge,
Colorado County
H-GAC Chair Elect



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SOFTWARE PLATFORM

Background

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board currently contracts with Chmura Economics’ labor market data platform, JobsEQ, to provide Regional Economic Analysis staff with access to labor market data not readily available from state and federal statistical agencies.

Prior to 2024, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board maintained subscriptions to multiple labor market information platforms that offered complementary services. This multi-platform approach provided broader data coverage and increased confidence in the completeness and reliability of labor market analyses used to support regional workforce planning and economic development efforts.

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board now seeks to return to a multi-platform model to ensure continued access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date labor market information available.

Current Situation

A Request for Proposal (RFP-HS-WKF-LMI-11-25) was released on November 19, 2025, to select contractor(s) capable of providing labor market data and analytics to support regional workforce and economic analysis. A total of five proposals were received and evaluated in accordance with the established evaluation criteria.

The evaluation results are summarized below:

Proposer	Score
Lightcast	90
Chmura Economics & Analytics, LLC	82
Geographic Solutions, Inc.	76.8
Vulcan Technologies, Inc.	65.2
Full Digital Consulting Systems, LLC	54.4

Lightcast and Chmura Economics & Analytics, LLC received the highest evaluation scores among the proposers.

Lightcast is a global labor market data and analytics firm that specializes in collecting, integrating, and interpreting workforce information from a wide range of public and private data sources.

Chmura Economics & Analytics, LLC, a current contractor of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, is a labor market data, economic research, and workforce analytics firm founded in 1998.

Funding Source

Texas Workforce Commission

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request approval to enter into contracts with the two highest-ranked proposers, Lightcast and Chmura Economics & Analytics, LLC, for a combined contract amount not to exceed \$200,000 over a four-year period. (Staff Contact: Thomas Brown)

Background

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board is dedicated to enhancing the quality of early childhood education by offering a diverse array of supportive services. These services are twofold: first, providing consumer education and support to families in need of child care solutions; and second, strengthening the capacity of home-based child care providers, who are often the primary source of child care for many families. Through these initiatives, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board seeks to foster a nurturing and supportive early childhood education environment that benefits both providers and the families that they serve.

The Family Engagement and Home-Based Provider Initiative supports the following key elements:

- a. Facilitate training events and activities to support home-based providers and the children in their care;
- b. Create opportunities for home-based providers to enhance and develop sustainable business practices;
- c. Collaborate and partner with existing entities that provide family engagement services to support families in their role as their child's primary caregiver; and
- d. Connect families to community resources needed to strengthen the families' ability to support their children.

Since 2024, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board has contracted with United Way of Greater Houston to deliver these services.

Current Situation

United Way of Greater Houston continues to perform effectively and meet contract expectations:

Performance Target	FY26 Goal	Year to Date	Percentage of Goal
Number of home-based providers engaged in and participating in in-person intensive mentoring/coaching	30	28	93%
Number of community partners maintained or established/events participating in to provide support and awareness to families	20	23	115%
Number of home-based providers receiving technical assistance from subject matter experts	100	43	43%
Number of home-based providers receiving intensive in-person coaching/mentoring	30	28	93%

Number of home-based providers receiving materials and/or equipment	30	18	60%
Number of families receiving information and resources in-person to support financial stability, education, and health safety	3,000	1,545	52%
Number of community events attended by Family Engagement Specialists	15	29	193%

To assist with continued success, staff are recommending a contract amendment that increases funding to support consumer education for approximately 6,000 families and professional development for 350 home-based child care providers.

Funding Source

Texas Workforce Commission

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization for staff to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with United Way of Greater Houston to increase funding by \$200,868, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$2,700,868. (Staff Contact: Thomas Brown)

UNITED WAY OF GREATER HOUSTON-CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Background

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board is dedicated to enhancing the quality of early childhood education by offering a diverse array of supportive services. These services are twofold: first, providing consumer education and support to families in need of child care solutions; and second, strengthening the capacity of home-based child care providers, who are often the primary source of child care for many families. Through these initiatives, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board seeks to foster a nurturing and supportive early childhood education environment that benefits both providers and the families that they serve.

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CYBER INSURANCE

Background

Cyber insurance is one of many layers in a cybersecurity and information security defense program. The purpose of cyber insurance is to assist in the remediation and recovery of critical IT assets and data, ensure there are adequate resources for recovery, repair of organizational reputation, aid in maintaining business continuity, and ensure adequate funds for incurred regulatory fines, in the event of a major cyber incident.

Current Situation

H-GAC currently has cyber insurance coverage under the Tokio Marine Houston Casualty Company and desires to renew for 1 year. In continuation to support H-GAC's risk profile and risk appetite, Tokio Marine Houston Casualty Company through Risk Placement Services will provide the necessary coverage to ensure adequate recovery resources and continuity of business.

Funding Source

Indirect

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to renew a 1-year contract with Tokio Marine Houston Casualty Company through Risk Placement Services not to exceed \$100,000. (Staff Contact: Scott Young)

REGIONAL AERIAL IMAGERY DATA

Background

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Geographic Data Workgroup has been conducting the acquisition of high-resolution aerial imagery for the 13-county region on a bi-annual basis since the year 2000. The data acquisitions are carried out as cost-share programs by regional agencies and workgroup participants to obtain imagery data for a reduced cost. For the year 2026, the Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District covers the updated imagery for the eight counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Liberty, Matagorda, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Current Situation

H-GAC's twenty Geographic Data Workgroup partners expressed interest in acquiring high-resolution imagery for the remaining five H-GAC counties – Austin, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery – or portions thereof. These partners have committed to collectively fund the imagery acquisition.

All products and services will be procured through Texas Department of Information Resources cooperative purchasing agreements.

Source of Funding

Cost-share member agencies.

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request approval to negotiate a contract with the top-ranking Respondent for the remaining five counties for a total amount not to exceed \$320,000. (Staff contact: Thushara Ranatunga)

TEXAS REGIONAL BROADBAND PROGRAM – GRANT AGREEMENT

Background

H-GAC intends to enter into an agreement with the Texas Association of Regional Councils and the Texas Broadband Development Office for a grant award of \$107,000.

The Texas Regional Broadband Program is administered by the Texas Association of Regional Councils in partnership with the Texas Broadband Development Office. This initiative supports the development of regional broadband capacity and digital opportunity planning efforts across Texas. Through the program, each participating Council of Governments will serve as a regional coordinator, leading outreach, data collection and strategy development to expand broadband access and digital inclusion across their region in collaboration with a consultant serving as the subject matter expert.

Current situation

The Texas Regional Broadband Program emphasizes regional planning and capacity building. Councils of Governments that have already completed broadband planning efforts may tailor their participation to advance digital capacity and literacy initiatives within their regions. These activities include supporting community efforts to expand digital literacy programs, enhance broadband data and mapping, strengthen local coordination among stakeholders, project facilitation, enhancing data readiness and strengthening digital literacy initiatives consistent with Broadband Development Office guidance.

Funding source

State – Texas Broadband Development Office

Budgeted

Yes

Action Requested

Request authorization to enter into an agreement with the Texas Association of Regional Councils; amount not to exceed \$107,000. (Staff Contact: Darryl Briscoe)

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2025 FINAL

Background

N/A

Current Situation

Presenting the final results of the December 2025 financials.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

Not Applicable

Action Requested

Request approval of the monthly financial report ending December 31, 2025.
(Staff Contact: Christina Ordonez-Campos)



HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC)

FY25 Monthly Financial Report

For Month Ending December 31, 2025 - Near Final

Prepared on February 4th, 2026

Esteemed H-GAC Board of Directors and Executive Director Wemple, please find attached the financial report for last month. The information contained within is intended for managerial reporting purposes. All figures are unaudited and subject to change. Should you have any questions, please feel free to let me or a member of my staff know. Respectfully submitted, Christina Ordóñez-Campos, CPA - Chief Financial Officer.

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES

*** Please note: January 2026 financials will be presented in March to capture pass-through January expenses, typically received in the second week of the following month. We will follow this financial reporting process going forward, providing the board with a more accurate view of the organization's financial position. ***

REVENUES

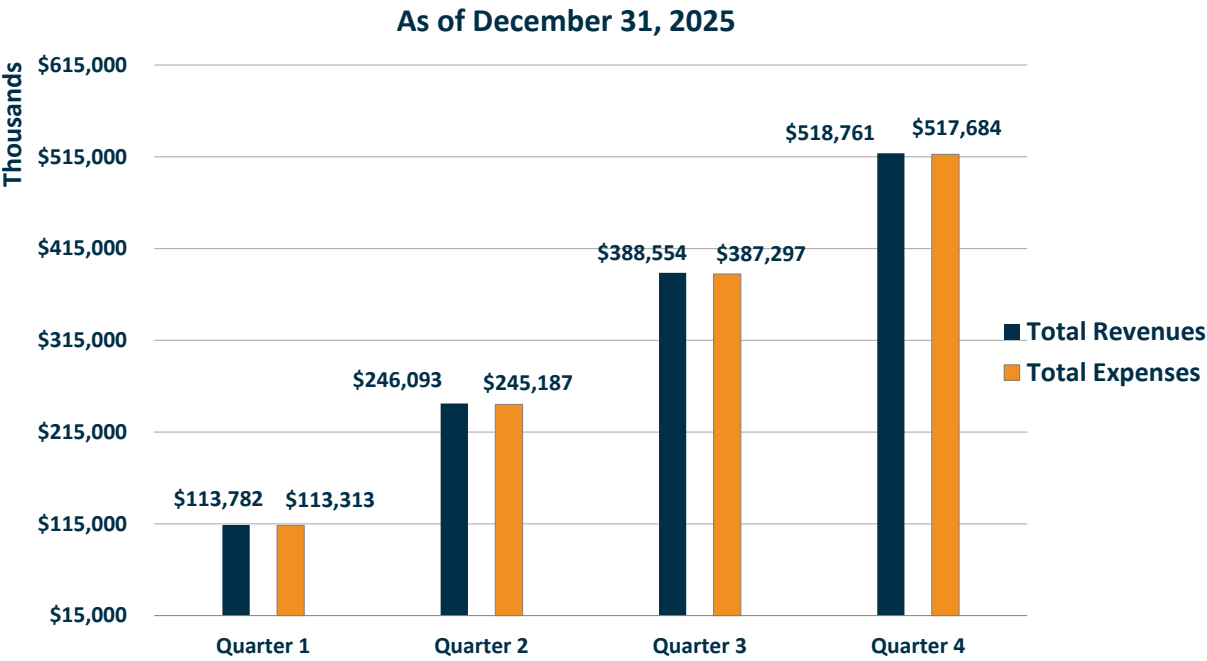
- > As of December 2025, 91% of membership fees have been collected. During the period, 6K related to 2024 and 416K related to 2025 were collected. The remaining unpaid balances will be carried forward and included in the respective members' 2026 invoices.
- > Cooperative purchasing recorded 2.2 mil in revenue for December. As a result, total revenue is currently 14% above budget and 3% higher than the revenue recorded at the final close of 2024.
- > Although interest income declined in the second half of 2025 due to lower interest rates, it closed the year 6% above budget.

EXPENDITURES

- > Personnel expenses are at 80% of budget, primarily due to vacant positions that we have been actively working to fill. As of December 31, total headcount was 447 employees, compared to 376 in December 2024.
- > At this point in time, pass-through expenses are at 91% overall. Transportation exceeded its budgeted pass-through by 23%. Workforce is at 92%, Aging at 79%, and Community & Environmental at 60% of their respective budgets.
- > Currently, 2.5 mil in 911 program equipment expenses have been booked, which improved the variance in this category from 12% to 51%. The remaining grant equipment costs are expected to be incurred in 2026.

*** Please note: the financial activity outlined above and in the report falls within the past trends observed in H-GAC's operations and is not out of the ordinary. ***

Quarterly Trends Chart



HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC)

FY25 Quarterly Trends Report

For Month Ending December 31, 2025 - Near Final

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<u>Revenues</u>				
General & Enterprise Fund Revenues				
Membership Dues	\$ -	\$ 305,595	\$ 6,028	\$ 111,723
HGAC Energy Corporation	24,309	29,360	38,154	20,650
Cooperative Purchasing Fees	1,076,030	1,548,937	1,419,954	4,051,620
Gulf Coast Regional 911 Fees	1,045,363	1,767,489	1,292,038	1,124,822
Interest Income	414,587	289,287	326,018	243,725
Other Revenues	442,002	1,021,203	349,528	342,073
Total General & Enterprise Fund Revenues	\$ 3,002,290	\$ 4,961,871	\$ 3,431,720	\$ 5,894,614
Special Revenue Fund				
Federal Grants	\$ 81,175	\$ 68,712	\$ 168,559	\$ 358,669
State Grants	110,698,514	127,280,687	138,860,704	123,953,770
Total Special Revenue Fund Revenues	\$ 110,779,690	\$ 127,349,398	\$ 139,029,263	\$ 124,312,439
Total Revenues	\$ 113,781,979	\$ 132,311,269	\$ 142,460,982	\$ 130,207,054
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Personnel	\$ 10,160,488	\$ 11,503,546	\$ 13,759,635	\$ 11,533,593
Pass-through Funds - Grant	99,464,950	115,046,882	123,167,828	108,858,638
Consultant and Contract Services	1,879,196	3,029,246	2,315,159	3,945,797
Lease of Office Space	375,414	377,877	387,330	541,774
Equipment	146,886	109,815	301,694	2,826,768
Travel	99,172	160,152	215,702	229,025
Other Expenses	1,187,183	1,646,144	1,963,138	2,450,690
Total Expenditures	\$ 113,313,289	\$ 131,873,661	\$ 142,110,485	\$ 130,386,285
Excess of Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 468,690	\$ 437,608	\$ 350,498	\$ (179,231)

HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC)

FY25 Budget to Actual Report - All Funds

For Month Ending December 31, 2025 - Near Final

100% of Year
Elapsed

	FY25 Budget	FY25 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY25 % of Actuals to Budget	FY24 Budget	FY24 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY24 % of Actuals to Budget
Revenues						
General & Enterprise Fund Revenues						
	FY25 Budget	FY25 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY25 % of Actuals to Budget	FY24 Budget	FY24 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY24 % of Actuals to Budget
Membership Dues	\$ 466,414	\$ 423,346	91%	\$ 462,137	\$ 446,936	97%
HGAC Energy Purchasing Corporation	130,000	112,473	87%	80,000	130,642	163%
Cooperative Purchasing Fees	7,124,694	8,096,540	114%	5,640,451	6,288,216	111%
Gulf Coast Regional 911 Fees	5,465,253	5,229,711	96%	2,767,797	4,793,513	173%
Interest Income	1,200,000	1,273,617	106%	1,200,000	1,494,224	125%
Other Revenues	7,992,736	2,154,806	27%	7,173,876	5,298,455	74%
Total General & Enterprise Fund Revenues	\$ 22,379,097	\$ 17,290,493	77%	\$ 17,324,261	\$ 18,451,985	107%
Special Revenue Fund						
	FY25 Budget	FY25 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY25 % of Actuals to Budget	FY24 Budget	FY24 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY24 % of Actuals to Budget
Federal Grant	\$ 695,000	\$ 677,115	97%	\$ 695,000	\$ 769,529	111%
State Grants	568,351,064	500,793,676	88%	523,305,764	513,083,821	98%
Total Special Revenue Fund Revenues	\$ 569,046,064	\$ 501,470,790	88%	\$ 524,000,764	\$ 513,853,350	98%
Total Revenues	\$ 591,425,161	\$ 518,761,283	88%	\$ 541,325,025	\$ 532,305,335	98%
Expenditures						
	FY25 Budget	FY25 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY25 % of Actuals to Budget	FY24 Budget	FY24 Year-to-Date Actuals	FY24 % of Actuals to Budget
Personnel	\$ 58,728,438	\$ 46,957,261	80%	\$ 39,263,214	\$ 36,476,944	93%
Pass-through Funds - Grant	493,399,060	446,538,299	91%	478,270,303	472,044,598	99%
Consultant and Contract Services	16,205,886	11,169,398	69%	14,691,223	11,713,685	80%
Lease of Office Space	2,496,177	1,682,394	67%	1,461,237	1,471,012	101%
Equipment	6,702,797	3,385,162	51%	602,696	645,014	107%
Travel	1,078,717	704,051	65%	700,865	592,826	85%
Other Expenses	12,814,086	7,247,154	57%	6,754,873	5,014,990	74%
Total Expenditures	\$ 591,425,161	\$ 517,683,720	88%	\$ 541,744,411	\$ 527,959,070	97%
Excess of Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 1,077,563		\$ (419,386)	\$ 4,346,265	
Beginning Fund Balance (all funds) - Jan. 1 (1)	\$ 45,454,933	\$ 45,454,933		\$ 43,468,636	\$ 43,468,636	
Ending Fund Balance (all funds) - Dec. 31 (2)	\$ 45,454,933	\$ 46,532,496		\$ 43,049,250	\$ 47,814,901	

(1) All beginning fund balances are as of January 1 for each year. Jan. 1, 2025 beginning fund balance is based on the 2024 ACFR which was presented during the May 2025 Board.

(2) All ending fund balances are as of end of December 31 for each year.

2026 BUDGET & SERVICE PLAN – FEBRUARY ITERATION

Background

N/A

Current Situation

An update on the 2026 Budget & Service Plan

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

Not Applicable

Action Requested

Request approval of the February iteration for the 2026 Budget & Service Plan. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

[OpenBook](#)

LOCAL FUNDS POLICY

Background

N/A

Current Situation

Review the local funds policy.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

Not Applicable

Action Requested

Request approval of the Local Funds Policy. (Staff Contact: Christina Ordonez-Campos)

H-GAC LOCAL FUNDS POLICY

By Christina Ordóñez-Campos, CPA – Chief Financial Officer – January 2026

Overview:

Each year, H-GAC and its departments proactively seek out additional funding from local entities to supplement their budgets to meet specific needs.

Local funding may come from municipal and county governments within our region, ISDs within our region, or local non-profits. Funds received from these local entities are referred to as “local funds” & interlocal agreements must be used to document each relationship.

Funding may also come via transfers from the proprietary fund (H-GACBuy cooperative), workshop revenue, fee for service programs, or any interest revenue earned by the general fund; these funds will be treated as agency-wide unrestricted funds.

Request & Receipt of Local Funds:

The Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director will approve local budgets via the annual and mid-year revision budget processes. Once approved, the accounting department will create local project codes that can be used by each requesting department for funding approved expenditures.

Local entities may reimburse H-GAC for local expenses incurred; they may also provide cash advances or payments for services/goods rendered. H-GAC accepts funds electronically or via check. Each approved project will be credited with the related revenue receipts.

Allowable Uses:

- Expenses approved by local entities in interlocal agreements.
- Grant matching funds.

- Grant unallowable direct expenditures and unallowable indirect expenditures.
- Agency-wide meetings/events/trainings.
- Revenue shortfalls due to temporary restrictions, program cancellations or unexpected events.
- Program overspending.
- Professional development not allowable by grant funding.
- Certain costs associated with peer exchanges as approved by the Executive Director

In all instances, the pertaining departments must submit a written request to the Chief Financial Officer for approval at least 60 days prior to the start of any applicable budget cycles or as soon as the need arises. Unanticipated urgent requests that develop within the 60-day timeframe may be considered on a case-by-case basis in coordination with the Executive Director.

Prohibited Expenditures:

- Donations to other agencies/organizations.
- Unapproved uses including grant matching commitments.

Reconciliation and Project Deficits & Surplus:

- All local funds will be reconciled at least quarterly to ensure sustainability and compliance with this policy.
- Any local projects found to be in a deficit situation during the reconciliation process will need to cover the overage with other applicable funding and/or via fund balance. The use of fund balance must be approved by the Chief Financial Officer. If deficits are not addressed within 30 days from the notification by the accounting department, the project will be deactivated, and no additional expenditures will be allowed to post. Exceptions for deactivation may be granted by the Executive Director if the project is essential to public safety, places the

agency in a situation of violating contract agreements, and/or has a reasonable, short-term plan for recovery of costs and local expenditures.

- Any local project surpluses must be handled as instructed by the related local entity. If specific instructions are not provided, the surplus will be kept in the local project and its use in future fiscal years must be approved by Chief Financial Officer.

DRAFT

AREA AGENCY ON AGING GRANT AWARD

Background

H-GAC is the Area Agency on Aging for Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties. The Area Agency Aging provides Medicare benefits counseling services for older persons and persons with disabilities of all ages. Our certified benefits counselors deliver non-lawyer services and information to Medicare beneficiaries, family members, caregivers or others working on behalf of an eligible person. Some allowable topics that can be discussed for one-on-one assistance are: Original Medicare (Parts A & B, Medigap and Medicare Select, Medicare Advantage (MA and MA-PD), Medicare Part D, Medicare Part D Marketing Sales Complaints & Issues; and Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS Extra Help).

Current Situation

The Area Agency on Aging, in cooperation with our agency fund development team, submitted an application in November 2025 and has been awarded \$300,000 by the National Council on Aging's Center for Economic Well-Being. The grant is for us to serve as a Benefits Enrollment Center and is for 30 months from February 1, 2026 to July 31, 2028.

This grant will allow us to grow our benefits counseling team and expand screening, application, and recertification assistance for low-income Medicare beneficiaries across our 12-county service area. Key outcomes will include:

- Increased benefits enrollment support for older adults and adults with disabilities
- Expanded outreach in rural and underserved communities
- Strengthened regional No Wrong Door alignment and public agency coordination

Action Requested

Request authorization to accept this grant in the amount of \$300,000 to expand benefits counseling services and capacity. (Staff Contact: Alejandra Rischon)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Background

N/A

Current Situation

N/A

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)