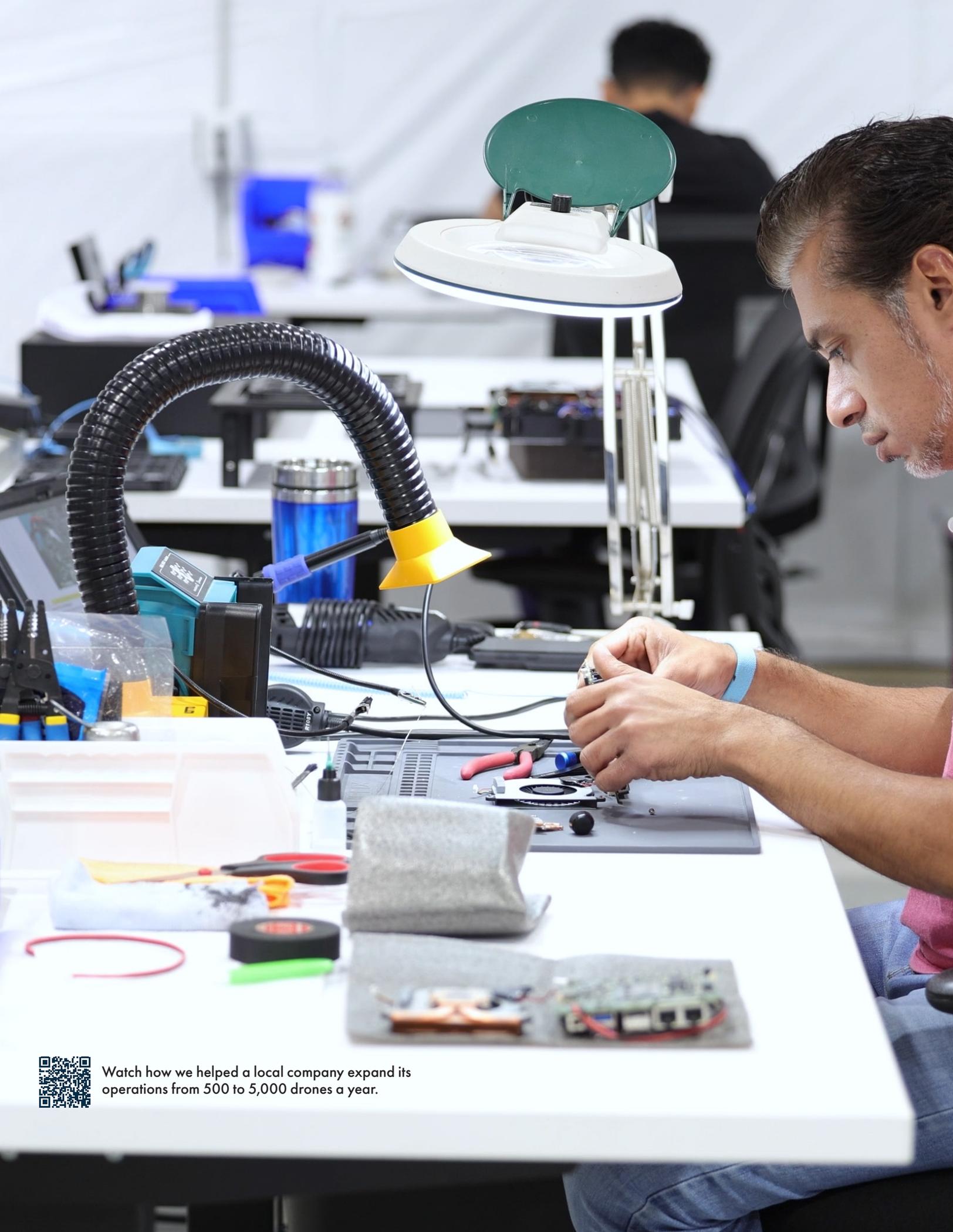


2025 ANNUAL REPORT



HOUSTON
GALVESTON
AREA
COUNCIL



Watch how we helped a local company expand its operations from 500 to 5,000 drones a year.



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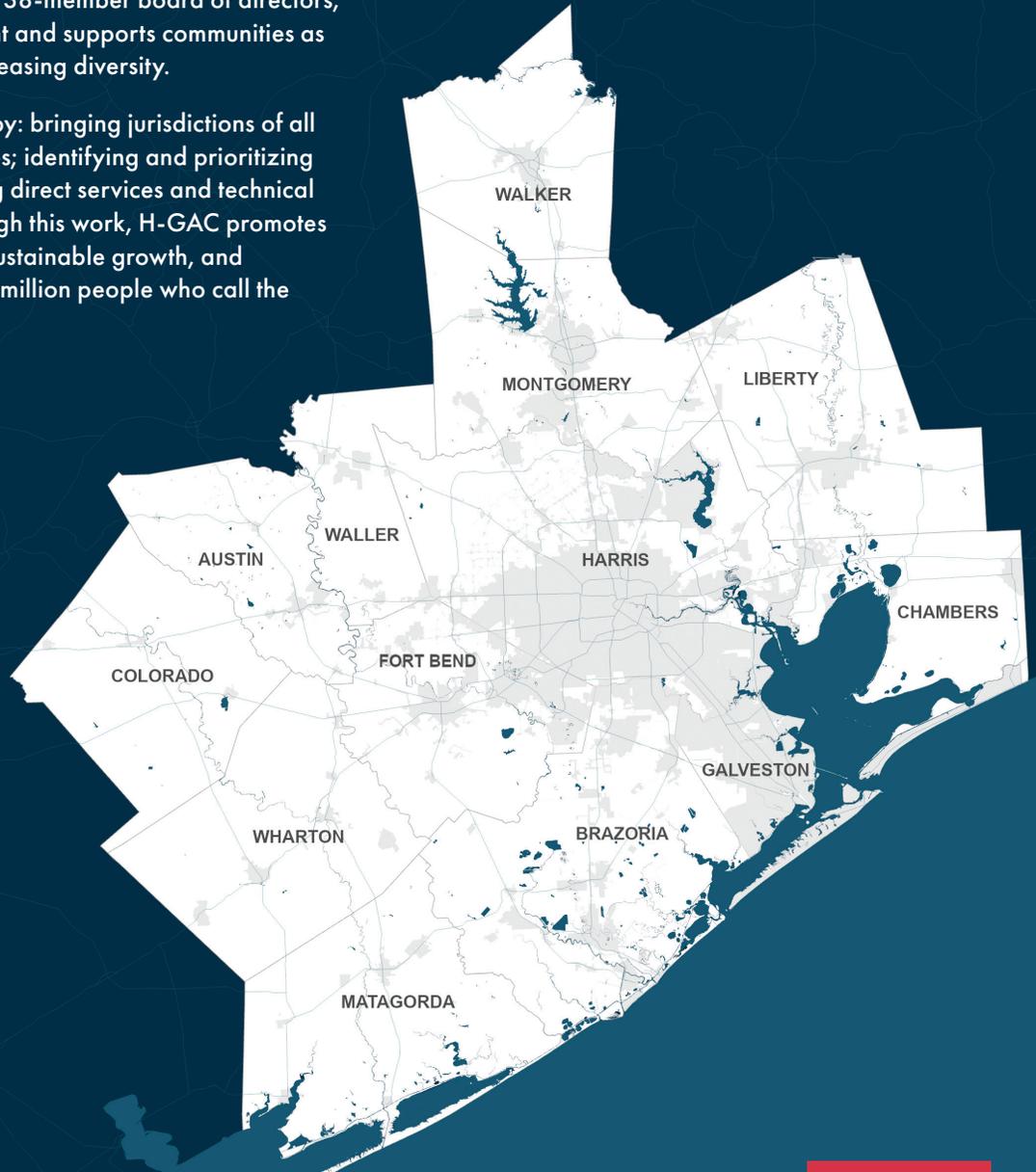


The HoustonGalveston Area Council (H-GAC) is the largest regional planning commission in the United States, serving a region that encompasses 187 cities, 78 school districts, and 13 counties, including Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

H-GAC provides a trusted forum for local governments to collaborate on multi-jurisdictional issues, anticipate regional challenges, prevent inefficiencies, and save public funds.

With a staff of more than 450 and a 38-member board of directors, H-GAC guides regional development and supports communities as they navigate rapid growth and increasing diversity.

The organization accomplishes this by: bringing jurisdictions of all sizes together to solve regional issues; identifying and prioritizing funding opportunities; and providing direct services and technical support to local governments. Through this work, H-GAC promotes efficient use of resources, supports sustainable growth, and enhances the quality of life for eight million people who call the Houston- Galveston region home.



8

MILLION PEOPLE

13

COUNTIES

187

CITIES

78

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

HOUSTON
GALVESTON
AREA
COUNCIL

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



**LIBERTY COUNTY JUDGE
JAY KNIGHT**
2025 Chairman
H-GAC Board of Directors

As we come to the close of another great year for the Houston-Galveston Area Council, let me say that it has been my sincere privilege and honor to serve as your board chairman for 2025. H-GAC continues to play a vital role in helping local governments come together to address shared challenges and plan for a dynamic regional future. In a year marked by rapid growth, strong collaboration, and steady and meaningful progress, we have completed this year in splendid fashion.

As elected officials, our board represents communities with unique needs and perspectives. In 2025, we worked collectively to ensure those voices were reflected in regional decision-making, while maintaining a clear focus on accountability, fiscal responsibility, and public trust. The result is a solid organization that continues to deliver real value to cities, counties, school districts, and the people they serve.

This annual report highlights the impact of coordinated planning, strong partnerships, and a dedicated staff committed to excellence across transportation, aging services, workforce development, emergency preparedness, and community planning. It also reflects a forward-looking approach. One that balances today's priorities with the long-term needs of a growing region.

Looking ahead, the board remains focused on supporting H-GAC's mission and strengthening regional collaboration. Together, we are well-positioned to continue serving our region with integrity, purpose, and a shared commitment to the future.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report! We have some great examples of excellent customer service and showcase several ways that the team at H-GAC takes on new challenges and refines existing programs to ensure we are a beacon of public service and regional collaboration.

Our agency continues to adapt to meet the needs of our members and improve quality of life for nearly eight million people. We amplified our work this year by leaning into our core values of Service, Collaboration, Accountability, Leadership, Innovation, Integrity, and Community.

We also made intentional investments into professional development for our team and obtained new tools, expanded data resources, and deepened partnerships that help local leaders make informed decisions for a rapidly growing region. From long-range transportation planning and workforce development to public safety and aging services, our work remained anchored in a simple belief: that regional challenges are best met with bringing people together to find regional solutions.

I am proud of the dedication of our team and grateful for the guidance and support of our board and partners. Together, we are building a more connected, resilient, and prosperous future for the people we serve.

Thank you for your trust and collaboration. I look forward to the progress we will continue to make in the year ahead.



CHUCK WEMPLE
Executive Director
H-GAC

BUILDING A STRONGER REGION THROUGH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC

Reflecting back to 2023, the H-GAC Board of Directors set a clear path to address the region's most pressing challenges by establishing five key priorities: Healthcare, Water Resources, Housing, Broadband, and Customer Service. These priorities guide the organization's work through 2028, providing focus for programs and regional planning.

In 2025, the board expanded its vision to include two additional priorities: Safety and Economic Development. Today, H-GAC's seven strategic priorities serve as the framework for regional collaboration, resource allocation, and long-term planning.

Through these priorities, H-GAC supports local governments, strengthens communities, and ensures regional growth is sustainable, resilient, and inclusive.

HEALTHCARE.

H-GAC is improving access to quality healthcare, including mental health, across the region, addressing workforce shortages and connecting residents, particularly in rural communities, to essential services.

WATER.

Reliable water systems are vital to the region's future. H-GAC is supporting local governments in water supply planning, infrastructure development, flood management, and long-term sustainability strategies.

HOUSING.

To address affordability, availability, and future growth, H-GAC is providing small communities with toolkits to navigate developer relations, housing vision plans, and technical support to help local governments plan sustainable neighborhoods, attract investment, and meet residents' diverse needs.

BROADBAND.

Broadened in 2025, this priority focuses on internet availability, accessibility, and affordability. H-GAC is working to provide best practices and strategies to ensure communities can receive quality service and participate fully in education, healthcare, economic growth, and civic engagement across the region.

SERVICE.

H-GAC emphasizes responsiveness, transparency, and tangible results. By maintaining clear communication and strong partnerships, the organization is ensuring that local governments and residents experience a custom, tailored experience and support from each program.

SAFETY.

Introduced in 2025, safety is integrated across H-GAC programs, from transportation planning to disaster preparedness and community development, ensuring safe systems and resilient communities.

ECONOMY.

This priority underscores the link between economic vitality and community well-being. H-GAC is supporting site selection, public-private partnerships, attract industry to our region as well as investors to help our communities build long-term prosperity.



HEALTHCARE.

H-GAC's Healthcare priority is focused on ensuring residents across the region have access to quality, timely, and equitable healthcare. Working with local governments, healthcare providers, and community partners, H-GAC helps identify and address service gaps, workforce shortages, and barriers to care — particularly in smaller and rural communities. Through data-driven insights, technical assistance, and regional collaboration, H-GAC supports public health planning, emergency preparedness, and strategies that strengthen healthcare delivery.

CARING FOR OLDER ADULTS ACROSS THE REGION

Responding to a Growing Aging Population

Across the Houston-Galveston region, the population of older adults is growing faster than any other age group. Since 2000, the number of residents aged 65 and older has increased dramatically, with projections showing this population more than quadrupling by 2050. As older adults account for a growing share of the region's population, demand is increasing for age-friendly transportation, healthcare access, nutrition support, and community-based services that help individuals age safely and independently.

At the same time, many federally funded senior programs, including nutrition services such as Meals on Wheels, have returned to pre-pandemic funding levels, even as demand continues to rise. This mismatch between growing need and limited resources makes innovative, community-centered service delivery more important than ever.

Bringing Services Directly to Communities

H-GAC's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is meeting this challenge by reimagining how services reach older adults. In 2025, AAA completed the first round of its



regional Aging Roadshow, an outreach initiative that brought staff directly to senior centers and community gathering spaces across the region.

By traveling into communities, AAA staff reduced common barriers to access and created welcoming environments where older adults could learn about available programs, ask questions, and share their needs. Meeting people where they are fostered trust, encouraged participation, and strengthened connections between residents and service providers.

Expanding Community Partnerships

From October 2024 through September 2025, the Aging Roadshow reached all 12 counties served by the AAA (Harris County is served by a separate agency). Each stop featured program presentations, interactive activities and facilitated discussions designed to connect participants with resources they might not otherwise access.

Community partners, including senior center staff, local organizations, and elected officials, played a key role in hosting and promoting the events. Planning is underway for a second round of Roadshows in 2026.

Addressing Unmet Health Needs

Building on the success of the Roadshow and informed by community feedback, AAA launched Mobile Dental Days in April 2025 to address unmet oral health needs among older adults. The first event, held in Wharton County, provided free dental care to residents, a critical service that is often difficult to access but essential to overall health and quality of life.

Adapting Services for the Future

Together, these initiatives reflect a shared commitment to responding to demographic change, maximizing limited resources, and delivering responsive, community-centered services. As the region's older adult population continues to grow, AAA remains focused on innovative approaches that support dignity, independence, and quality of life for older adults across the Houston-Galveston region.



Watch how the Area Agency on Aging is meeting seniors where they are, listening to their needs, and helping them live independently and thrive.

WATER.

Water is the foundation of thriving communities, and resilient systems are vital to the Houston-Galveston region's future. Guided by the board's Water Resource priority, H-GAC partners with local governments and organizations to plan, fund, and implement strategies that strengthen infrastructure, manage water quality and flood risks, and advance long-term regional resilience.

SECURING TEXAS' WATER WORKFORCE

Connecting Careers and Securing the Next Generation of Workers.

With one in three water and wastewater operators in Texas nearing retirement, the need for skilled professionals in this critical field is growing. To address this challenge, H-GAC partnered with leading water organizations and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to launch Texas Water Careers, an online hub connecting and preparing the next generation of water professionals.

Launched in fall 2025, the Texas Water Careers website helps job seekers explore career paths, certifications, and training while connecting directly with employers. Early engagement shows strong interest from utilities, training providers, and applicants, helping bridge workforce gaps.

To expand outreach, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board partnered with Sam Houston State University's Institute for Homeland Security and its Water Vets Coalition to promote water careers through workforce centers and employer networks.

Together, these efforts are building a skilled workforce essential to sustaining Texas' water infrastructure.



See how Texas Water Careers connects training, employers, and future professionals to ensure a skilled workforce capable of sustaining Texas' critical water infrastructure.



BUILDING REGIONAL RESILIENCE

All five of H-GAC's regional priority disaster mitigation projects were approved this year by the Texas General Land Office, securing more than \$60 million for resilience-focused infrastructure across the Houston-Galveston region. Developed with local governments, the projects address long-term vulnerabilities. Two projects are now in the contracting phase, with the remaining projects expected to begin construction by late 2026.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COLLABORATION TO SECURE A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE

This year, H-GAC partnered with local and state organizations to advance public education, workforce initiatives, and regional water projects. Staff presented and facilitated discussions at the Pearland Water Symposium, engaging nearly 200 participants to address water management challenges and opportunities while promoting sustainable, reliable water resources across the region.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH WATER QUALITY DATA

Through its Texas Clean Rivers Program, H-GAC collects and reports regional water quality data through the Water Resources Information Map. Redesigned in 2025, the interactive tool offers improved navigation and clearer visuals, helping communities explore trends, understand key indicators, and support clean, resilient waterways.



Dive into the Water Resources Information Map to see trends, conditions, and insights that impact your community.

HOUSING.

H-GAC helps cities and counties create sustainable, attainable, and resilient housing across the Houston-Galveston region. Updating its Regional Housing Plan with data on prices, zoning, and development trends, H-GAC provides technical assistance, feasibility studies, and planning resources. By offering toolkits, guidance, and best practices, the organization supports smaller communities in navigating developers and infrastructure planning. Through public-private collaboration, H-GAC empowers communities to meet housing demand, strengthen neighborhoods, and promote long-term stability and economic opportunity.

HOUSING VISION PLAN MODEL

Clute Builds a Clear Housing Vision for the Future

In 2025, H-GAC piloted its Housing Vision Plan in Clute, using data and community input to explore medium-density housing, walkable neighborhoods, and attainable homes. This model offers a replicable blueprint for developers and local leaders, supporting strategic housing planning, long-term growth, and community pride across the region.

TURNING BUSINESS IDEAS INTO REAL OPPORTUNITIES

In 2025, H-GAC and the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) helped public-housing residents in Section 3 communities launch small businesses through the Entrepreneur Development Program. Participants completed nine to 10 interactive workshops on business formation, finance, branding, and growth with mentorship and virtual support. Sessions included hands-on exercises, one-on-one mentorship from experienced business professionals, and virtual support.

Thirty graduates developed viable business plans and ongoing support, fostering financial independence, economic mobility, and long-term housing stability, while strengthening local entrepreneurship and contributing to resilient communities across the 13-county, Houston-Galveston region.



Discover the Clute Housing Vision Plan and regional housing resources.



REGIONAL HOUSING INSIGHTS FOR SMARTER COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Houston-Galveston region continues to face growing housing pressure.* home prices rose from \$77,199 in 1994 to \$335,000 in 2024, while incomes for ages 25 to 44 grew 38 percent versus a 66 percent rise in home values, increasing the Payment-to-Income ratio from 25 to 37 percent. Lower-income households and renters are most affected, highlighting the need for targeted housing strategies.

Explore the data shaping these trends:



Regional Housing & Demographic Story Map



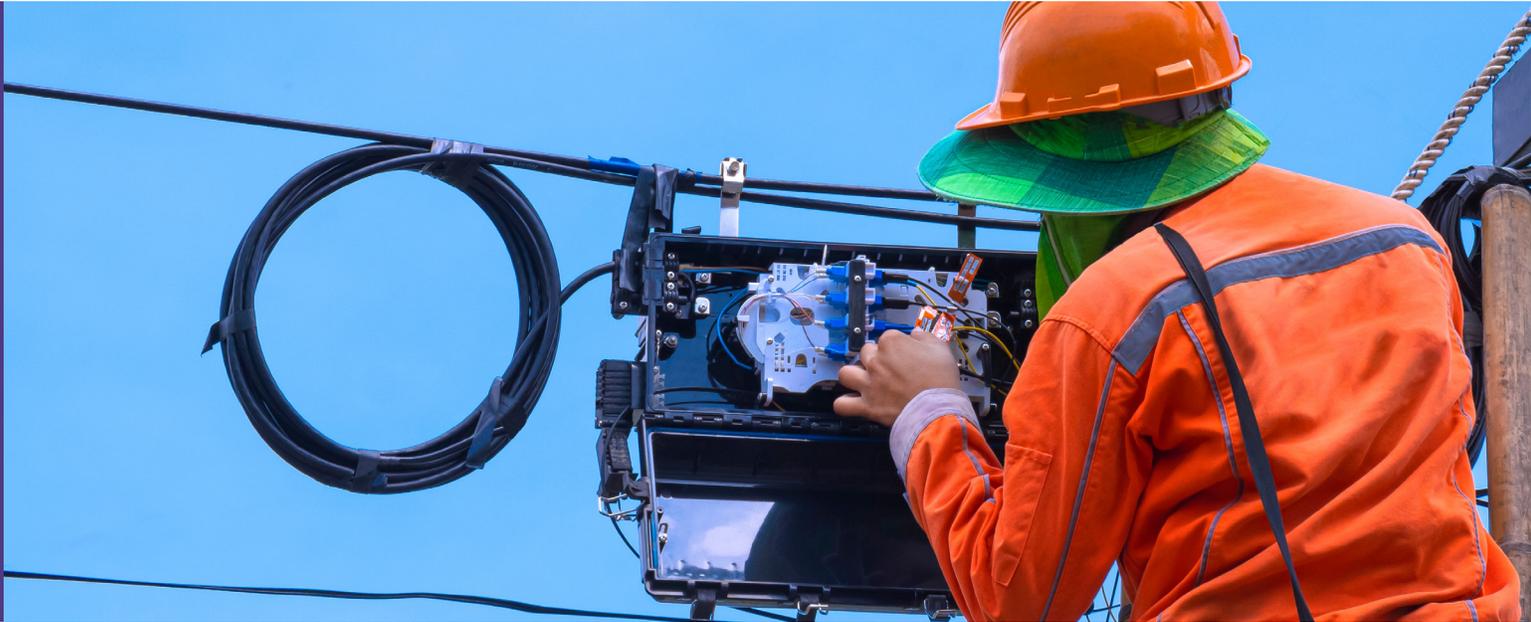
Regional Demographic Snapshot



Regional Economic Indicators Dashboard

*Sources: Zillow Housing Data (2025); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2015–2023). Calculations by H-GAC Data Analytics & Research.

BROADBAND.



Broadband access is essential for education, healthcare, economic development, and civic engagement. As Austin County Judge and H-GAC Broadband Committee Chair Tim Lapham notes, “As the State of Texas continues to lead in growth and the economy, it is paramount that we provide services to all of our communities. The ability to work remotely, whether that is from home or across the world, depends greatly on the ability to communicate and interact. H-GAC’s broadband committee is dedicated to securing funding to assist in this monumental process.”

H-GAC’s Broadband seeks to expand reliable, affordable connectivity across the region by guiding infrastructure planning, funding, and procurement. In 2025, H-GAC advanced these efforts by collecting case studies, requesting qualifications to vet internet service providers, and obtaining a Tier E License for federal broadband grants. Additionally, the committee explored using HGACBuy, H-GAC’s cooperative purchasing program, to streamline purchases, helping to close the digital divide, strengthen resilience, and ensure broad access for all communities.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE ACROSS THE TEXAS GULF COAST

To better understand the broadband challenges of both urban and suburban communities in our region and shape regional solutions, the Gulf Coast Economic Development District (GCEDD) hosted a series of four broadband workshops in spring 2025.

Meetings were held in Prairie View, Angleton, Baytown, and Huntsville to gather input from local leaders, internet service providers, and community stakeholders. The workshops revealed common themes across the region, including outdated broadband coverage data, gaps in middle- and last-mile infrastructure, affordability and digital literacy challenges, and inconsistent permitting standards.

Findings from these workshops are guiding the development of a regional broadband framework aimed at improving permitting coordination, encouraging public-private partnerships, and advancing digital equity initiatives.

Together, H-GAC and GCEDD are creating a Broadband Implementation Toolkit to help communities plan and pursue funding opportunities, while exploring grant opportunities to train the future workforce needed to expand broadband infrastructure.

This initiative highlights our commitment to supporting regional connectivity and ensuring that every community, from the most rural to the most urban, has access to the tools and opportunities of the digital economy.



Learn how H-GAC is bridging the digital divide, guiding communities with regional planning, and providing tools to improve access, affordability, and connectivity.

SERVICE.

H-GAC is strengthening Customer Service for member governments by improving transparency, responsiveness, and access to resources. In 2025, initiatives included clearer communication, intuitive digital tools, expanded technical assistance, and enhanced cross-department coordination. By combining data, expert support, and user-friendly systems, H-GAC is helping communities plan, develop, and engage more effectively, demonstrating its commitment to reliable, accessible service for all cities and counties.

REIMAGINING HOW COMMUNITIES CONNECT TO OPPORTUNITY

In 2025, H-GAC, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast, launched a new career office model to expand access, strengthen collaboration, and connect people to meaningful careers.

The model organizes Workforce Solutions into three coordinated regions (North, East, and West) each led by experienced leaders and supported by community partners. This structure advances the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's goals: promoting business-forward strategies, leveraging innovation and technology, serving as a regional convener, and increasing outreach to ensure opportunities reach "all communities.

Services are meeting people where they are through virtual, hybrid, and in-person options, including new in-community access points. The Workforce on Wheels initiative brings career guidance and employer engagement directly to neighborhoods, while co-location with local government and educational partners enhances convenience and collaboration.

Together, these efforts create a more connected, innovative, and accessible workforce system that supports regional growth and the evolving needs of workers and employers.

 Learn how we are connecting people to meaningful careers, expanding access, and supporting regional growth.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

H-GAC is modernizing how member governments access information, resources, and funding across the Houston-Galveston region through two key initiatives: the Services Report Dashboard and the Funding Development Program, both designed to enhance transparency, streamline services, and improve support.

Services Report Dashboard

Developed by H-GAC's Outreach & Government Affairs and Data Analytics teams, the dashboard launches in early 2026. It will give member governments immediate access to data on H-GAC services in their counties and cities, including planning studies, technical assistance, and funding programs allowing them to track support, identify partnership opportunities, and make informed decisions.

Funding Development Program

This program helps members identify funding opportunities and prepare competitive proposals aligned with regional priorities. By providing hands-on grant support, it strengthens members' ability to secure resources and advance projects that support local and regional goals.



Learn how H-GAC helps member governments identify funding opportunities and how you can request support.

STREAMLINING TRANSPORTATION PROJECT DELIVERY

H-GAC's Transportation Project Delivery Group assists cities, counties, and transit agencies from planning through construction, coordinating timelines, managing risks, and ensuring federal and state compliance. The new Project Development and Delivery Milestone Policy will streamline oversight, keep projects on schedule, and prioritize funding for projects ready to advance.



Learn more about how H-GAC delivers transportation projects across the eight-county Metropolitan Planning Region.

HGACBuy™

In 2025, HGACBuy surpassed \$3 billion in sales, serving more than 10,000 members nationwide. This growth reflects expanded, innovative product offerings and a strong commitment to customer service. Program revenues are reinvested into H-GAC initiatives that support small businesses, economic development planning, and technical assistance across the Houston-Galveston region.



Explore HGACBuy and discover how your organization can benefit.

SAFETY.

H-GAC promotes resilient, secure, and prepared communities across the 13-county region. Partnering with medical, energy, and supply chain providers, H-GAC focuses on disaster planning, flood resiliency, and emergency preparedness. Safety initiatives also cover transportation, including traffic projects, Tow and Go, teen driver education, and updated hurricane evacuation maps. H-GAC supports public safety through criminal justice, homeland security, and emergency management training, including specialized programs for major events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 UPGRADE

In May 2025, the Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District completed its transition to the Next Generation 9-1-1 system, connecting 23 emergency communication centers across Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado,

ADDRESSING CRITICAL REGIONAL SAFETY CHALLENGES

The Houston-Galveston region accounts for nearly 20 percent of all traffic deaths in Texas, with an average of 760 fatalities and more than 3,700 serious injuries each year. To address this, H-GAC and local partners launched the Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (SAP) to reduce fatalities and improve safety for all road users.

A Data-Driven Approach to Saving Lives

The SAP identifies high-risk corridors, prioritizes the most dangerous roadway segments, and guides investments with the greatest potential to reduce crashes. H-GAC is also creating individual Safety Action Plans for 11 local jurisdictions, including METRO and the Gulf Coast Rail District, offering technical assistance, coordination, and public input opportunities. These plans position the region to compete for millions in federal funding.

Improving Safety at Rail Crossings

H-GAC also launched the Freight Rail Grade Separation Program to address nearly 1,100 at-grade public rail crossings along key freight corridors, ports, and historic neighborhoods. The program evaluates, prioritizes, and advances grade-separation projects to improve roadway safety and freight mobility, reducing risks and congestion across the region.



Learn how H-GAC is shaping safer, more efficient freight movement across our region.



Liberty, Matagorda, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties and their municipalities — months ahead of the statewide deadline. The upgrade now enables voice, video, and text messages to reach dispatchers faster and with greater accuracy.



Learn how the district connects 23 emergency centers, enhances response capabilities, and ensures accurate, dispatchable locations for residents and businesses.





If you're concerned about the safety of an older adult, the Elder Justice Program is here to help. Reach us at 346-500-4620 or online at [H-GAC.com/elder-justice](https://www.h-gac.com/elder-justice).



BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE: FLOOD PREDICTION IMPROVEMENTS

Watch to learn how H-GAC is working to increase the ability to predict the extent of future flooding on the Lower Colorado and San Bernard rivers.



STRENGTHENING ELDER JUSTICE ACROSS THE REGION

National Training Expands Local Capacity to Protect Older Adults

Elder abuse is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the U.S., driven by an aging population, increasing financial exploitation, and rising neglect and physical harm. In the Houston-Galveston region, residents aged 65 and older are projected to grow from 12 percent in 2020 to 18 percent by 2050, highlighting the urgency of prevention and prosecution efforts.

Supported by a Victims of Crime Act grant from the Texas Office of the Governor, H-GAC's Elder Justice Program works to safeguard older adults from abuse and exploitation.

In June 2025, H-GAC hosted the National Institute on the Prosecution of Elder Abuse (NIPEA), a 3.5-day intensive training featuring 15 national elder-abuse experts mentoring approximately 50 local and Texas prosecutors. The program strengthened litigation skills and provided strategies for prosecuting complex elder-abuse cases, including interviewing

witnesses with dementia, presenting medical evidence, and preserving testimony when victims may later be unable to participate.

Co-sponsored by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, the Office on Violence Against Women, and AEquitas, NIPEA reflects H-GAC's commitment to enhancing protection, accountability, and support for older victims of crime while building local capacity to effectively pursue elder-justice cases.

ECONOMY.

H-GAC's Economic Development priority fosters regional prosperity by helping communities attract investment, support job growth, and build resilient local economies. Key initiatives include Site Selection Support to evaluate development locations and the Local Incentives Toolkit to leverage incentives effectively. H-GAC also strengthens partnerships with organizations like the Greater Houston Partnership, connecting local governments to business networks. These efforts help communities create vibrant economies, attract sustainable investment, and support job growth across urban and rural areas.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Innovate, Connect, Thrive: A Roadmap for a Stronger Workforce

In 2025, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board adopted its five-year Strategic Plan, Innovate. Connect. Thrive., guiding the region's workforce system through 2029. Developed with input from employers, educators, and community leaders, the plan shifts from a compliance-based approach to one centered on engagement, results, and long-term impact.

The plan focuses on four interconnected goals:

- Supporting business-forward strategies to fuel the regional economy
- Serving as a convener and forging strategic partnerships
- Increasing awareness of services and opportunities
- Improving service delivery through technology and innovation

These goals align workforce initiatives with the needs of key industries, including energy, healthcare, construction, and manufacturing, while preparing workers for emerging fields such as hydrogen, life sciences, and digital technology.

By strengthening collaboration, expanding career pathways, and investing in small- and medium-sized employers, the plan positions the Houston-Galveston region for continued growth driving meaningful results for businesses and workers in a rapidly evolving economy.

Hire Gulf Coast Youth Expands Opportunities for Young Workers

Workforce Solutions-Gulf Coast launched Hire Gulf Coast Youth, its flagship, space-themed program empowering youth ages 14 to 24 to ignite, launch, and land their futures. Through its first Summer Jobs initiative, the program connected more than 1,000 youth to paid work experiences that built career skills, strengthened employer partnerships, and helped young people gain confidence and momentum toward lifelong career success.



Visit the Hire Gulf Coast Youth web page to discover programs, training, and support designed to help young people build skills and find career pathways.

MAPPING THE REGION'S TOURISM ECONOMY

A Cross-Agency Effort Highlights Local Destinations to Strengthen Our Region's Economy

In 2025, H-GAC's Gulf Coast Economic Development District, in collaboration with Community and Environmental Planning (C&E) and Data Analytics and Research (DAR), launched a regional tourism initiative targeting underrepresented and rural areas that could benefit from increased visibility and investment, particularly as the region prepares for FIFA World Cup 2026 tourism.

Identifying Gaps & Opportunities

Through February 2026, the project is assessing whether current revitalization efforts reach the right areas and how prepared smaller communities are to attract and manage visitors. Using demographic and economic data, DAR is identifying cities and counties that could gain most from tourism-driven business growth.

Community Engagement & Collaboration

C&E is leading surveys, discovery sessions, and regional workshops, allowing local leaders to showcase assets such as festivals, rodeos, and historic sites. These sessions highlight the events, destinations, and infrastructure that define each community's appeal.



With a \$1 million loan from the Houston-Galveston Area Local Development Corporation, Hyllo scaled production boosting efficiency, service, and precision agriculture.

Building a Regional Tourism Repository

The initiative will create a regional tourism repository to help communities attract visitors, advocate for investment, and support long-term business recruitment and job growth empowering small communities to tell their stories and boost economic opportunity across the region.

A REGIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR GROWTH

Approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in 2025, H-GAC’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) outlines a five-year roadmap for regional investment and resilience. A new CEDS Committee will track progress, guide funding, and ensure growth throughout the region remains equitable, data-driven, and aligned with community and industry priorities.

The CEDS Action Plan

To implement this vision, the Gulf Coast Economic Development District (GCEDD) is committed to a CEDS Action Plan that advances both digital and physical foundations. This includes expanding broadband access to strengthen high-capacity internet infrastructure and pursuing funding to upgrade aging storm, water, sewer, and drainage systems, ensuring these essential services reach underserved areas.

To empower local leadership, the plan emphasizes collaboration on data tools that assist communities in accessing vital funding and economic information. By aligning workforce development with high-growth industries and emerging job opportunities, the GCEDD aims to foster a skilled talent pipeline. Ultimately, these integrated efforts are designed to build economic resilience, providing the region with the stability needed to withstand and recover from future challenges.



Explore the 2025–2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to learn about regional priorities and strategies guiding economic growth.

DOUBLING SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

In 2025, H-GAC’s Local Development Corporation achieved a 200 percent increase in Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 lending, expanded partnerships with Guaranty Bank, Wells Fargo, and the Houston Housing Authority, and applied for Community Development Financial Institution status providing access to federal funding and flexible capital to better serve underserved borrowers and strengthen small business growth across the region.

The Local Development Corporation portfolio now totals \$3,848,628 of loans supporting 86 businesses across sectors.



EXPLORE REGIONAL GROWTH IN ACTION

County Economic Profiles: Explore key data for each county in the Houston-Galveston region — from population and workforce trends to major industries and income levels. These one-page “mini CEDS” tools support local planning, business attraction, and economic development across the region.



New Regional Growth Forecast: Discover H-GAC’s latest Regional Growth Forecast and see how the Texas Gulf Coast is projected to grow to 10.7 million residents by 2050, adding 3.6 million people and 1.6 million jobs. Explore charts, interactive tools, and data to guide sustainable, data-driven planning for transportation, infrastructure, and the environment.





885,633

meals served
to older
adults



3,376

law enforcement
officers received
training



\$45K

for juvenile
mental health
services



468

residents placed
in apprenticeship
opportunities



39,411

no-cost tows
provided to
stranded motorists

**13 COUNTIES
8 MILLION
WORKING
TO BUILD A
REGION.**



325

water
quality sites
monitored



\$16M

in energy
procurement
for 53 entities



1,176

abused seniors &
protectors received
legal advocacy



2,633

residents received
job training and
education



24,931

families received
child care
scholarships



38,000

employers served
with workforce
needs

ES. PEOPLE. TOGETHER A BETTER



190,000

people assisted
with employment
services



\$35M

in criminal justice
grants to 207
recipients



\$91M

in regional
HGACBuy
purchases



\$500K

in loans
to small
businesses



\$1.2B

for 118 regional
transportation
projects

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN SERVICE DELIVERY

HARNESSING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO ENHANCE OPERATIONS

H-GAC advanced its commitment to innovation by integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into daily operations, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and service across departments. Guided by the organization’s Responsible AI Framework and phased roadmap, this initiative demonstrates how technology can optimize workflows and support regional collaboration.

AI is being used throughout the organization to transcribe board meetings, create action items in Asana, our project management software, and analyze federal legislation to identify funding and compliance impacts within seconds. It is also streamlining data requests, meeting notices, and policy reviews, freeing staff to focus on strategic priorities and direct services.

To foster staff engagement, H-GAC launched AI Office Hours, an interactive space where employees explore use cases, from summarizing public feedback to improving email deliverability. These sessions generate innovative ideas that shape AI applications across the organization.

H-GAC’s approach has earned national recognition, cited by peer agencies in Washington, D.C., and Seattle as a model for public-sector AI adoption. Through thoughtful implementation and staff engagement, H-GAC is leveraging AI to improve efficiency, collaboration, and transparency, setting a national example for innovative public service.



TRANSFORMING BUDGETING FOR SMARTER, TRANSPARENT SERVICE

As H-GAC manages more than half a billion dollars in federal, state, and local funds, innovation in financial management has become essential. In 2025, the organization implemented Questica, a cloud-based budgeting, and financial reporting and analysis system, to centralize and automate the annual budget and service plan.

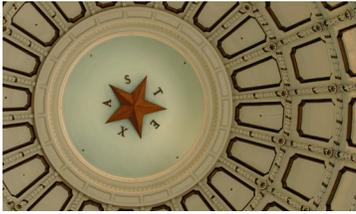
The budgeting process is now integrated with accounting and human resources systems, providing real-time reporting, enhanced security through single sign-on, and a detailed audit trail that strengthens accountability and internal controls.

Launched during the 2025 mid-year budget revision, Questica has improved accuracy, reduced administrative time, and provided leadership with faster access to actionable financial insights. Questica’s OpenBook feature also offers the public an interactive view of H-GAC’s budget and spending, furthering transparency.

With Questica and complementary tools, H GAC has modernized financial management, providing faster, more accurate insights for leadership and the public, reinforcing accountability, improving efficiency, and ensuring responsible stewardship of regional resources.



Visit our Financial Information page to explore Questica’s OpenBook tool, where you can interactively view current and historical budgets and see how regional resources are allocated.



TEXAS 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

A UNIFIED REGIONAL APPROACH TO POLICY, COMMUNICATION, AND ADVOCACY

In 2025, H-GAC reinforced its role as a trusted policy resource, keeping local governments informed and prepared during a fast-moving legislative year. The organization closely monitored state and federal legislation to help communities understand potential impacts on funding, programs, and local authority.

During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, H-GAC tracked bills tied to its programs and Strategic Seven priorities, including transportation, aging services, disaster recovery, emergency communications, and local government operations. To improve responsiveness, staff enhanced legislative monitoring with technology tools, including AI-assisted policy review.

H-GAC also launched tailored legislative newsletters for General Law and Home Rule Cities and the H-GAC General Assembly.

These updates provided clear, actionable summaries of bills, funding changes, and key deadlines, equipping local leaders to make informed decisions.

Staff held regular briefings with the Legislative Committee and program advisory committees, ensuring members had ongoing context as legislation progressed.

H-GAC has expanded coordination with regional partners, including the Transportation Advocacy Group, to identify shared priorities, refine messaging, and strengthen the region's voice with state and federal decision-makers. With robust communication networks and collaboration in place, H-GAC enters the next legislative session prepared to support members in navigating emerging opportunities and challenges.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: WHAT PASSED, WHAT MATTERS

PRIORITY/SERVICE AREA	KEY LEGISLATION & OUTCOME	WHY IT MATTERS FOR OUR REGION
HEALTHCARE	<p>S.B. 5 (Dementia Institute) — Establishes the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.</p> <p>H.B. 3000 — Creates a grant program to assist ambulance providers in rural counties.</p>	<p>Expands statewide capacity to address aging-related health challenges affecting families across the region.</p> <p>Strengthens emergency medical services in rural and hard-to-reach areas.</p>
WATER RESOURCES	<p>S.B. 7 — Expands funding eligibility for water/wastewater, reuse, reservoirs, and water transport projects.</p> <p>H.J.R. 7 — Constitutional amendment proposing stable, long-term funding for water infrastructure (Enacted, effective effect Sept. 1, 2027).</p>	<p>Expands access to critical water/wastewater funding for fast-growing communities.</p> <p>Provides long-range financial stability to support future water needs as the region's population grows.</p>
HOUSING	<p>S.B. 15 — Limits city control over lot sizes and housing density to increase housing supply and affordability.</p> <p>S.B. 840 — Sets state guidelines for regulating and converting multifamily and mixed-use buildings, aiming to streamline redevelopment and increase housing availability.</p>	<p>Impacts municipal planning and development decisions across fast-growing communities.</p> <p>Supports local governments as they balance redevelopment, housing availability, and community character. Provides clarity for cities experiencing rapid infill and redevelopment pressures.</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT & OPERATIONS	<p>S.B. 1173 — Raises the competitive procurement threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for various governmental contracts in Texas, effective Sept 1, 2025.</p> <p>S.B. 14 — Establishes the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office to streamline statewide rulemaking.</p>	<p>Reduces administrative burdens and improves procurement efficiency at the local level.</p> <p>Supports consistent and predictable regulatory processes that benefit local governments and regional partners.</p>
SAFETY	<p>S.B. 5 — Allocates disaster match funds, enhances forecasting and alert systems, and expands flood warning capabilities statewide.</p>	<p>Bolsters resilience in one of the nation's most flood-prone regions and improves emergency response capacity for coastal and low-lying communities.</p>
TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY	<p>S.B. 1555 — Creates a grant program to fund railroad grade separation projects.</p>	<p>Helps address critical mobility and safety challenges at rail crossings — especially important for freight-heavy corridors in the Houston-Galveston region.</p>

A Half-Century of Service

FIVE DECADES OF COORDINATED PLANNING SUPPORTING A SAFER, STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED REGION

Established in 1974, the Houston Galveston Area Council's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) ensures that federal transportation funds are directed through a coordinated regional process. For 50 years, the MPO has served the eight-county region, which includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties, bringing together local governments, transit partners, and community members to plan the multimodal system that keeps the region moving.

Over the past half-century, the region's population has more than doubled, job centers have expanded, and the transportation network has grown into one of the nation's largest and most complex. In 2025, H-GAC commemorated the MPO's 50th anniversary by honoring major milestones and highlighting the vision that will guide the next 50 years.

At an anniversary reception, regional leaders reflected on decades of transformative investments, from major highway improvements to multimodal projects that support transit, freight, bicycling, walking, and emerging technologies. This progress is rooted in the MPO's collaborative model, which brings jurisdictions of all sizes together to address shared challenges and support long-term regional prosperity.

50 YEARS OF MOVING THE REGION FORWARD

A MILESTONE ROOTED IN PARTNERSHIP

For 50 years, the MPO has united cities, counties, transit agencies, state and federal partners, and millions of community members to build a stronger, more connected region. As H-GAC looks toward 2050 and beyond, the organization remains committed to delivering transportation solutions that meet today's needs while preparing the region for the decades ahead.



RON PAPSDORF

H-GAC WELCOMES CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER

With more than 30 years in transportation planning, Ron Papsdorf's leadership and strategic vision is driving forward-thinking transportation solutions that improve mobility, safety, and quality of life across the region.

THE 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

One of the MPO's key responsibilities is developing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the long-range vision guiding billions in future transportation investments. The RTP sets priorities for safety, congestion management, multimodal connectivity, resiliency, and economic opportunity to meet the needs of a rapidly growing region.

Developing the plan is a multi-year effort driven by public input. In 2025, H-GAC held more than 20 public meetings across the eight counties, gathering feedback from community members, local governments, and partners to shape the 2050 RTP. Engagement will continue into 2026 and beyond to ensure the plan reflects the priorities of urban, suburban, and rural communities, creating a shared vision for mobility, growth, and economic opportunity.

TURNING LONG-RANGE VISION INTO LOCAL ACTION

In 2025, H-GAC and its partners translated vision into tangible projects that connected local innovation with regional expertise.

Expanding Mobility in Sugar Land

In March 2025, the region's first electric microtransit pilot launched, supported by a \$1.2 million H-GAC grant. The three-year program operates seven on-demand electric vehicles, including an accessible shuttle, linking people to destinations like the University of Houston–Sugar Land, Constellation Field, and local hospitals. The pilot has reduced congestion and emissions while offering flexible, same-day mobility.

Planning for Growth in Chambers County

H-GAC partnered with Chambers County to update its 50-year Thoroughfare Plan, preserving right-of-way and identifying priority corridors to ensure safe, efficient network expansion as the county grows.

Strengthening Local Networks in Pearland

In Pearland, a new mobility study developed with public input provides a roadmap of short-, mid-, and long-term strategies to improve traffic flow, safety, and infrastructure alignment with projected growth.



CELEBRATING THE MPO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Hear board members and partners reflect on milestones, achievements, and the vision guiding the region's transportation for the next 50 years.



THE 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Take a look at the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and see how our region is collaborating to create safer, smarter, and more connected transportation systems.



DRIVING GROWTH THROUGH THE REGION'S PORTS

From record cargo and cruise growth to major highway and harbor expansion, discover how strategic investments and partnerships are keeping Texas moving.



BUILDING RESILIENCE ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 87

See how the new Highway 87 designation, coordinated support, and regional planning will help evacuate Bolivar Peninsula safely and efficiently during major storms.





LIFTOFF

to a better commute!



PREPARING FOR THE WORLD STAGE: H-GAC'S REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™

H-GAC is strengthening coordination and partnerships across the Houston-Galveston region to ensure a safe, sustainable, and seamless FIFA World Cup experience for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

H-GAC contributed to regional sustainability planning through active participation on the FIFA Host Committee's Sustainability Subcommittee, alongside more than 100 partner organizations. The agency supported both short- and long-term initiatives designed to deliver lasting community benefits, including regional cleanups, reforestation efforts, and legacy tree plantings near community soccer fields, many of which are scheduled for implementation in 2026.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

H-GAC coordinated and continues to closely align with 23 participating cities to advance regional emergency management planning. This work supports preparations for the February 2026 Emergency Management Summit with FIFA, the City of Houston, and Harris County.

Looking ahead, H-GAC will host specialized emergency preparedness and response trainings in 2026, with support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, further strengthening regional readiness for large-scale events.

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

H-GAC's economic development team engaged communities and local businesses through town halls, trade workshops, retailer partnerships, and targeted technical assistance. These efforts focused on helping small businesses and entrepreneurs access World Cup-related opportunities and leverage the global spotlight to strengthen long-term economic vitality.

APPLYING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION EXPERTISE

H-GAC provided technical analysis and modeling support to Houston TranStar, contributing to transportation scenario planning for NRG Stadium, FIFA Fan Festival areas, and surrounding corridors. Planning efforts addressed congestion mitigation, transit capacity, parking, and security-related travel restrictions and will continue into 2026.

The agency also advanced a regional Transportation Demand Management strategy to balance visitor mobility while minimizing impacts to residents, commuters, and local businesses. In January 2026, the Commute Solutions program launched commutegameplan.com, bringing regional attention to anticipated high-traffic days, encouraging alternative transportation options, and helping employers support their workforce through innovative commuting solutions.



Explore [CommuteGamePlan.com](https://commutegameplan.com) to view your commute alternatives.

DRIVING REGIONAL ACTION ON AIR QUALITY

In partnership with the FIFA World Cup Sustainability Committee and Baylor College of Medicine, H-GAC convened regional leaders in 2025 to focus on clean air and public health. The summit fostered collaboration and set the stage for the 2026 Air Quality Summit, which will emphasize implementation of the Clean Air Action Plan and expanded regional capacity to protect community health.

Through a partnership with Texas Southern University, H-GAC is also launching air quality monitoring sites throughout event venues and fan festival areas to provide real-time monitoring during the World Cup.

H-GAC expanded communications and engagement efforts by providing data, briefing materials, and technical insights to support media coverage and partner coordination. The agency also engaged peer councils nationwide to share best practices and lessons learned in preparing for global-scale events.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As Houston prepares to welcome the world in June 2026, H-GAC will continue leading regional coordination efforts, including emergency management summits, transportation workshops, sustainability initiatives, and small business engagement. H-GAC also looks forward to hosting a FIFA Membership Forum in spring 2026 to educate members about ongoing activities and identify opportunities for collaboration and support.

Through its leadership, technical expertise, and strong partnerships, H-GAC has strengthened regional readiness and is well-positioned to deliver a safe, efficient, and community-focused FIFA World Cup experience with lasting benefits for the Houston-Galveston region.

H-GAC'S FOUR KEY AREAS OF FIFA WORLD CUP COORDINATION

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

- Hosting a regional Emergency Management Summit
- Expanding Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program training
- Supporting the distribution of public safety awareness materials

Transportation & Mobility

- Partnering with the FIFA Transportation Subcommittee, led by Houston TranStar
- Modeling traffic flow and contingency scenarios
- Supporting congestion mitigation near stadiums, fan zones, and key corridors
- Exploring regional coordination opportunities to improve mobility



GOOOOAL!

Economic Development & Community Vitality

- Connecting communities and small businesses to FIFA-related opportunities
- Supporting international trade, cooperative purchasing, and entrepreneurship
- Promoting community beautification and revitalization to showcase regional diversity

Environmental Sustainability

- Expanding Trash Bash cleanups and reforestation projects
- Serving on the FIFA Sustainability Subcommittee (100+ partner entities)

2025 RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE



2025 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Chuck Wemple, Executive Director
Awarded by: National Association of Regional Councils

2025 ALICEANN WOHLBRUCK IMPACT AWARD

Area Agency on Aging Roadshow
Awarded by: National Association of Development Organizations

GOLD EXCALIBUR AWARD: INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

2024 Hurricane Season Internal Preparedness Campaign
Awarded by: Public Relations Society of America – Houston Chapter

BRONZE EXCALIBUR AWARD: SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Hurricane Guide – Supplement for Older Adults & Special Populations
Awarded by: Public Relations Society of America – Houston Chapter



Explore our award-winning Hurricane Guide – Supplement for Older Adults & Special Populations for practical, easy-to-follow tips designed to help older adults and caregivers stay safe, informed, and ready for any storm.



2024 SILVER PLANNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: URBAN DESIGN

Alvin Livable Centers Study
Awarded by: American Planning Association – Houston Chapter

CERTIFICATION OF INVESTMENT POLICY

Awarded by: Government Treasurers' Organization of Texas

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY Ending Dec. 31, 2024
Awarded by: Government Finance Officers Association

GROWING FROM WITHIN INVESTING IN PEOPLE

BUILDING LEADERSHIP, LEARNING, AND COLLABORATION ACROSS H-GAC'S WORKFORCE

H-GAC continues to invest in its greatest strength — its people. Through leadership development, continuous learning, and intentional culture-building, the organization is strengthening internal capacity while fostering collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose across the organization.

Learning That Drives Innovation

Continuous learning remains central to the employee experience at H-GAC. The organization expanded its Learning Hub to provide greater access to professional development, leadership resources, and on-demand training that supports long-term career growth.

Staff also participated in new artificial intelligence (AI) training sessions focused on streamlining workflows, improving data analysis, and enhancing public service delivery. These efforts complement H-GAC's broader AI initiative, which has received national recognition from the National Association of Regional Councils for responsible, people-centered innovation.



Leading With Purpose and Collaboration

In 2025, H-GAC hosted manager and director retreats designed to strengthen leadership skills and cross-department collaboration. These sessions encouraged open dialogue, shared accountability, and alignment with organization priorities, helping leaders connect strategic goals to daily operations and better support their teams.

The retreats reinforced a renewed commitment to teamwork and innovation, creating clearer pathways for collaboration across departments and accelerating the organization's collective impact for the region.

Reinforcing a Values-Driven Culture

To further strengthen organizational culture, H-GAC intentionally began incorporating its Core Values into all-staff meetings in 2025. These discussions serve as both a refresher for long-tenured employees and a foundation for new team members.

Through guided conversations and learning exercises, staff explored how the organization's values shape decision-making, collaboration, and service to the region. By embedding these principles into regular staff engagement, H-GAC continues to ensure that how the work is done reflects the same care and purpose as the outcomes delivered.

H-GAC LEADERSHIP TEAM



CHUCK WEMPLE
Executive Director



CHRISTINA ORDÓÑEZ-CAMPOS, CPA
Chief Financial Officer



RICK GUERRERO
Chief Outreach and Government Affairs Officer



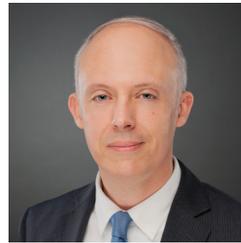
RON PAPSDORF
Chief Transportation Officer



JULIET STIPECHE
Chief Workforce Officer



RONNIE BARNES
Director of Enterprise Services



JUSTIN BOWER
Director of Community & Environmental Planning



VIET DANG
Director of Data Services



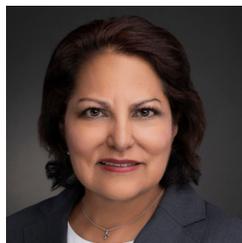
JOCHEN FLOESSER
Director of Data Analytics & Research



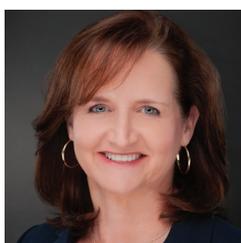
CHARLES HILL
Director of Internal Audit



KRISTINA KOLLAJA
Director of Procurement and Contracts



GILDA MENDOZA
Controller Accounting



TERI RAMSEY
Director of Human Resources



MIGUEL SEGURA
Director of Public Affairs

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The H-GAC Board of Directors is the governing body of H-GAC responsible for the general policies, programs, and services of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The board comprises 38 locally elected officials representing all of H-GAC's members, including 13 counties, 111 cities, and 11 school districts. As the regional planning organization, the board of directors and H-GAC staff work in tandem to guide regional growth and ensure the organization continues to provide quality services to the people who call our region home.

BOARD OFFICERS



CHAIR
THE HONORABLE
JAY KNIGHT



CHAIR ELECT
THE HONORABLE
JOE GARCIA



VICE CHAIR
THE HONORABLE
TY PRAUSE

AUSTIN COUNTY

The Honorable Tim Lapham
County Judge

BRAZORIA COUNTY

The Honorable Stacy Adams
Commissioner

CHAMBERS COUNTY

The Honorable Tommy Hammond
Commissioner

COLORADO COUNTY

The Honorable Ty Prause
County Judge

FORT BEND COUNTY

The Honorable K.P. George
County Judge

GALVESTON COUNTY

The Honorable Joseph Giusti
Commissioner

HARRIS COUNTY

The Honorable Lesley Briones
Commissioner

The Honorable Adrian Garcia
Commissioner

LIBERTY COUNTY

The Honorable Jay Knight
County Judge

MATAGORDA COUNTY

The Honorable Bobby Seiferman
County Judge

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Honorable Mark Keough
County Judge

WALKER COUNTY

The Honorable Brandon Decker
Commissioner

WALLER COUNTY

The Honorable Trey Duhon
County Judge

WHARTON COUNTY

The Honorable Phillip Spenrath
County Judge

ALVIN

The Honorable Martin Vela
Councilmember

BAYTOWN

The Honorable Laura Alvarado
Councilmember

CONROE*

The Honorable Harry Hardman
Councilmember

The Honorable Howard Wood
Councilmember

DEER PARK

The Honorable Tommy Ginn
Councilmember

FRIENDSWOOD

The Honorable Sally Branson
Councilmember

GALVESTON

The Honorable Marie Robb
Mayor Pro-Tem

HOUSTON

The Honorable Sallie Alcorn
Councilmember

The Honorable Amy Peck
Councilmember

HUNTSVILLE

The Honorable Russell Humphrey
Mayor

LAKE JACKSON

The Honorable Gerald Roznovsky
Mayor

LA PORTE

The Honorable Chuck Engelken, Jr.
Councilmember

LEAGUE CITY

The Honorable Nick Long
Mayor

MISSOURI CITY*

The Honorable Jeffrey Boney
Councilmember

The Honorable Joanna Ouderkirk
Councilmember

PASADENA

The Honorable Dolan Dow
Councilmember

PEARLAND

The Honorable Kevin Cole
Mayor

ROSENBERG

The Honorable William Benton
Mayor

SUGAR LAND

The Honorable Stewart Jacobson
Councilmember

TEXAS CITY

The Honorable Jami Clark
Commissioner

GENERAL LAW CITIES

The Honorable Nancy Arnold
Councilmember, Waller

The Honorable Joe Garcia
Mayor Pro-Tem, Pattison

HOME RULE CITIES*

The Honorable Dan Davis
Mayor, Manvel

The Honorable Ross Gordon
Councilmember, Bellaire

The Honorable Johnnie Simpson, Jr.
Councilmember, Dickinson

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Honorable Michelle Cruz Arnold
Board Member, Houston I.S.D.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Honorable Rissie Owens
Trustee, Huntsville I.S.D.

EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING

Vacant

*Designees changed during 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COUNTIES

Austin	Chambers	Fort Bend	Harris	Matagorda	Walker	Wharton
Brazoria	Colorado	Galveston	Liberty	Montgomery	Waller	

CITIES OVER 25,000

Alvin	Deer Park	Houston	Lake Jackson	Pasadena	Sugar Land
Baytown	Friendswood	Huntsville	League City	Pearland	Texas City
Conroe	Galveston	La Porte	Missouri City	Rosenberg	

HOME RULE CITIES

Angleton	El Campo	Iowa Colony	Mont Belvieu	Seabrook	Wharton
Bay City	Freeport	Jacinto City	Nassau Bay	Sealy	Willis
Bellaire	Fulshear	Jersey Village	Palacios	Stafford	
Cleveland	Galena Park	Katy	Prairie View	Sweeny	
Clute	Hempstead	La Marque	Richmond	Tomball	
Dayton	Hitchcock	Liberty	Richwood	Webster	
Dickinson	Humble	Manvel	Santa Fe	West University	

GENERAL LAW CITIES

Ames	Columbus	Jamaica Beach	Oak Ridge North	Shoreacres	Waller
Anahuac	Daisetta	Jones Creek	Old River-Winfree	South Houston	Wallis
Arcola	Danbury	Kemah	Oyster Creek	Southside Place	Weimar
Bayou Vista	Eagle Lake	Kendleton	Panorama Village	Splendora	West Columbia
Beach City	East Bernard	Magnolia	Pattison	Spring Valley Village	Weston Lakes
Bellville	El Lago	Meadows Place	Piney Point Village	Stagecoach	
Brazoria	Hedwig Village	Montgomery	Pleak	Surfside Beach	
Brookshire	Hillcrest Village	Morgan's Point	Riverside	Taylor Lake Village	
Brookside Village	Holiday Lakes	Needville	Roman Forest	Thompsons	
Bunker Hill Village	Hunters Creek Village	New Waverly	San Felipe	Tiki Island	
Clear Lake Shores			Shenandoah		

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Alief	Fort Bend	Hitchcock	Huntsville	New Waverly	Waller
Columbia-Brazoria	Hempstead	Houston	Magnolia	Pearland	

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Advisory committees and their affiliated groups are an essential part of H-GAC's work. The leadership and knowledge of the volunteers that serve on these committees is the key to their success. Many of H-GAC's advisory committees are appointed by the board, based on nominations from individual board members and other groups.

Aging and Disability Advisory Committee

Advises on needs, services, and programs for older adults in the 12 counties surrounding Harris.

Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee

Serves as the primary forum for discussion of water quality issues and advises on all administrative matters related to the Clean Rivers Program.

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Advises on law enforcement and criminal justice issues.

Healthcare Committee

Reviews and provides recommendations on regional health challenges.

Housing Committee

Reviews and provides recommendations on regional housing challenges.

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Advises on environmental and natural resources issues.

Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee

Advises on air quality issues.

Regional Broadband & Technology Committee

Reviews and provides recommendations on regional broadband and technology challenges.

Regional Flood Management Committee

Advises on all aspects of flood management issues.

Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council

Advises on matters related to regional homeland security issues.

Solid Waste Management Committee

Advises on solid waste management issues.

AFFILIATE GROUPS

Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization

Promotes air quality improvement while helping to mitigate the adverse impacts on economic development in the eight-county metropolitan planning region.

Energy Purchasing Corporation

Acts as an agent to negotiate the purchase of electricity on behalf of participating jurisdictions.

Geographic Data Workgroup

Convenes regional geographic users to collectively share, distribute, and acquire digital geospatial data.

Gulf Coast Economic Development District

Assists and advises elected officials and industry on issues related to economic development and provides oversight to H-GAC economic development planning programs.

Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District

Promotes enhanced public safety and increased fiscal and service efficiencies in the administration of emergency communications for the municipalities and counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Liberty, Matagorda, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Gulf Coast Workforce Board

Provides policy guidance, planning, oversight, and evaluation for the Texas Gulf Coast region's public workforce system.

Houston-Galveston Area Local Development Corporation

Implements Small Business Administration Section 504 loan program; provides long-term, moderate interest loans to eligible small businesses.

Transportation Policy Council

Provides policy guidance and coordination of transportation planning activities and selects/approves federal funding for highway and transit projects in the eight-county metropolitan planning region.

Learn more about H-GAC's advisory committees.



FINANCIALS & AUDITING

H-GAC’s unified budget for 2025 is presented below. This summary provides an overview of the funding streams and anticipated expenditures by program area. Budget documents and audit reports can be viewed at H-GAC.com. In addition to the independent annual audit, H-GAC routinely undergoes monitoring and evaluation by funding partners and the internal auditing department. The internal auditing staff conducts pre-award assessments, contracts compliance inspections, and works with organization departments to identify process improvements.

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



CHRISTINA ORDÓÑEZ-CAMPOS, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Aging	\$18,873,108
Community & Environmental	\$24,230,778
Data Services	\$2,039,250
Enterprise Solutions	\$13,685,604
Local Activities	\$3,628,335
Shared Services	\$10,216,177
Transportation	\$28,140,095
Workforce	\$490,611,814
TOTAL	\$591,425,161



GILDA MENDOZA
Controller Accounting

FUNDING SOURCES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	\$695,000
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$13,973
Commission on State Emergency Communication	\$3,674,064
Texas Education Agency	\$337,000
Texas Department of Emergency Management	\$398,694
Texas Department of Transportation	\$36,407,002
Texas Criminal Justice Division	\$2,055,340
Texas Workforce Commission	\$492,215,885
Texas General Land Office	\$6,567,030
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	\$4,790,876
Texas Health and Human Services Commission	\$14,885,262
Other Public Agencies	\$13,431,686
Local Contracts	\$11,963,810
Houston Galveston Area Council Funds	\$3,989,540
TOTAL	\$591,425,161



CHARLES HILL
Director of Internal Audit

IN MEMORIAM



JUDY PRZYBORSKI

Judy Przyborski, pictured second from left, devoted many years to H-GAC's small business loan program, providing exceptional service to our small business clients, Local Development Company Board, banking network, and federal partners. Much of the program's success is thanks to Judy's dedication, knowledge, and steady presence through decades of change and growth.

Affectionately called the team's "Mother Hen," Judy cared for her colleagues as she did for the chickens she raised at home. She often brought fresh eggs to the office, a small gesture reflecting her larger nature—quietly looking out for everyone, ensuring things were done right, and offering support whenever needed.

Judy joined H-GAC in May 1989 and quickly became a trusted friend and mentor. She was always ready with a warm smile and a sensitive ear, helping colleagues navigate challenges at work and in their personal lives. Her grace, wisdom, and kindness left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

We take comfort knowing her impact, presence, and legacy will remain part of our work, and that she is watching over us with the same care and warmth she shared every day.

HOUSTON
GALVESTON
AREA
COUNCIL



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Houston, Texas 77027

713-627-3200

H-GAC.com

@HouGalvAreaCog