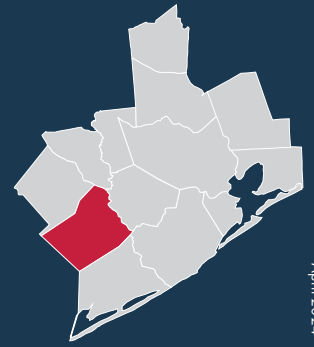




What We Heard

in WHARTON COUNTY



April 2024

Bringing H-GAC to Wharton County

Beginning in late 2022 and throughout 2023, the Houston-Galveston Area Council embraced the theme of "Year of Service" by embarking on a journey to enhance its support of stakeholders, members, and the communities they represent.

This is what we heard in Wharton County.

Top Successes:

- Solid waste grant programs
- Senior adult programs
- Drainage/flood risk reduction

Issues to Explore Further:

- Mental health
- H-GAC resource database with funding resources and staff contacts
- Workforce Solutions in rural areas emphasizing priority jobs (agriculture) and second-chance programs



Wharton County Quick Facts

41,824 Population (2022)

- Population increased by 1% in the last 5 years and is projected to increase by less than 1% in the next 5 years.

14,961 Total County Employment (2023)

- Jobs grew by less than 1% in the last 5 years and are projected to grow by 3% in the next 5 years.

\$60K Median Household Income (2022)

- Median household income is \$15K below the national median household income of \$75K.

Top Three Largest Industries

1. Elementary and secondary schools
2. Restaurants and other eating establishments
3. Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production

Top Three Growing Industries

1. General medical and surgical hospitals
2. Lawn and garden equipment and supplies retailers
3. Nursing care facilities (skilled nursing facilities)

Top Growing Occupations

1. Registered nurses
2. General and operations managers
3. Cashiers

Top Five Employers of County Residents

1. Walmart
2. Oakbend Medical CTR-Wharton
3. Green Leaf Nursery Co.
4. El Campo ISD
5. H-E-B



Source: American Community Survey