



Alamo Area Council of Governments Regional Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The Regional Strategic Plan represents the Criminal Justice vision and priorities for the Alamo Area. This strategic plan and all regional priorities have been established by the community stakeholders comprised of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties. The entire estimated population of 2,667,198¹ is served by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), also known as the Alamo Area or State Planning Region 18.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to identify and prioritize criminal justice needs and gaps in services in the areas of Criminal Justice System Improvements, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, Direct Victim Services, and Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment. The Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division (CJD) has determined council of governments will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a strategic plan prioritizing the criminal justice needs in their region.

This regional strategic plan is in accordance with §2.G in the current Interagency Cooperation Contract between CJD and AACOG:

Mission: The mission of the AACOG – Public Safety Division Planning Department is to enhance the quality of life of all residents of the Alamo Region in partnership with elected and appointed officials, funders, community partners and beneficiaries.

Planning Process

The AACOG Criminal Justice Planning Department's Regional Strategic Plan was developed through the collaborative efforts of our region's County Judges, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee members, regional law enforcement jurisdictions, current and past CJD applicants, and concerned citizens. Planning Staff created and implemented a Regional Needs Assessment Survey to distribute throughout the region to determine public approval of current regional priorities, request suggested changes, determine gaps in our regional sustainability, and to identify gaps in regional criminal justice services and resources. The link to the survey was shared with Region 1800 through multiple emails to our distribution list (including county judges), notifying CJAC members, e-Blasts, and was located on our website. All Community Stakeholders were encouraged to pass the link on to any additional service providers impacted by the criminal justice system. AACOG Staff also provided the community with a registration link to participate in the virtual Regional Strategic Planning Meeting to review survey results and determine any necessary changes to the regional priorities. Participants met on October 27th, 2021 to finalize any changes in priorities. These changes were then presented to the CJAC for final approval.

¹ US Census Data, 2020



Criminal Justice Regional Strategic Planning Priorities

Juvenile Issues

- Priority 1: Mental Health
- Priority 2: Family Stability
- Priority 3: Truancy
- Priority 4: Improving School Climate
- Priority 5: Adult life-skills

Law Enforcement

- Priority 1: Personnel
- Priority 2: Equipment
- Priority 3: Training
- Priority 4: Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Priority 5: Family Violence

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention

- Priority 1: Access to screening and referral to psychiatric and substance abuse services and therapy
- Priority 2: Access to & Funding to Treatment & Prevention Programs for Substance Abuse & Mental Health
- Priority 3: Access to & Funding for Technology Based Services
- Priority 4: Access to & Funding for Transportation

Victim Issues

- Priority 1: Comprehensive Victim Support Services
- Priority 2: Victim Advocacy
- Priority 3: Accessible and Affordable
- Priority 4: Restoration Services
- Priority 5: Professional Development and Training