

What is CTCOG?

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The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) is a voluntary association of, by and for *local governments*. CTCOG operates to assist its members in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development.

Who is CTCOG?

CTCOG membership includes counties, cities, school districts, and special districts. Comprised of thirty-seven member governments, CTCOG represents over 385,000 area residents. The vision, leadership and cooperative spirit displayed by the membership - as well as the citizens of the region - make the work of CTCOG possible.

Our Mission

“Accomplishing together that which we cannot accomplish alone”

The CTCOG mission works to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments, and helps them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication and make joint decisions.

What does CTCOG do?

CTCOG is a regional planning organization that works to implement federal and state government programs on behalf of local member governments.

How does CTCOG work?

CTCOG was founded in 1968 by state-enabling legislation aimed at serving local governments. While CTCOG is therefore a political subdivision of the State of Texas, it has no regulatory power, taxing authority or similar authority possessed by local governments. CTCOG's decisions are considered and adopted according to members' needs.

CTCOG is governed by a General Council made up of elected officials from each member jurisdiction. These voting representatives annually elect the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee appoints the Executive Director and operates as the policy-making body for all activities undertaken by CTCOG. The Committee is supported by technical, study and policy committees, and a professional staff under the leadership of the Executive Director.

How is CTCOG financed?

CTCOG members pay annual dues which entitle them to a basic core of services. In addition, the State of Texas provides some financial assistance to encourage regional planning. These funds are supplemented by state and federal grants which permit CTCOG to plan for and implement specific programs and studies. At the request of its members, CTCOG may also undertake special projects on a “fee-for-service” basis.

CTCOG Divisions

Office of the Executive Director

The Executive Director's Office is responsible for providing staff support to the Executive Committee. Its primary mission is to implement the policies and directives of the Executive Committee as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Administration

The Administration Division is responsible for grant accounting and reporting to state and federal agencies. In addition, the Division manages all Human Resources elements and provides all budgeting, auditing and financial control functions.

Planning and Regional Services

The Division of Planning and Regional Services is committed to the provision of professional planning services to CTCOG members. It is responsible for the staffing and administration of multiple programs and projects, such as 9-1-1 Emergency Communications, Resource Conservation, the Killeen-Temple Urban Transportation Study, Criminal Justice, and Homeland Security.

Area Agency on Aging

The mission of the Area Agency on Aging is to develop a greater capacity for providing nutrition services and access to home and community-based services for older individuals at risk of nursing home placement. The Agency seeks to concentrate available resources, identify local needs, determine regional priorities and develop strategies to formulate a comprehensive, coordinated system of services for those persons 60 years of age or older.

Housing Assistance

The Central Texas Housing Assistance Program is committed to providing quality, affordable housing in a safe environment. By fostering partnerships between residents and other groups, the Housing Assistance Program works to provide those we serve with opportunities to become self-sufficient.

Examples of Recent Work

Central Texas Support Teams for Family Caregivers

The Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas (AAACT) was awarded a prestigious grant by the Johnson & Johnson/Rosalyn Carter Institute in the fall of 2006. Because of this grant AACT has been able to form the Central Texas Support Teams for Family Caregivers. The teams are comprised of volunteers from the community, and with the guidance and resources of the AACT are able to offer practical, educational and spiritual support to individuals providing in-home care for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diagnosis. The goal of the Central Texas Support Teams for Family Caregivers is to provide continued support to the caregiver, so that he/she may continue to care for their loved one at home.

The Central Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center

The Central Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (CTADRC) is a highly visible, trusted and valued place to which people of all ages and incomes can turn for information. The CTADRC slogan "It's All About You" exemplifies the Center's primary message. Partner agencies include: the Area Agency on Aging; the Department of Aging and Disability Services;

Central Counties MHMR; the Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center; the Hill Country Community Action Association; the 2-1-1 Area Information Call Center; and the Children with Special Needs Network.

The CTADRC empowers individuals to make informed decisions regarding long-term support options. The CTADRC guides individuals through an "interview" process which ensures all needs are addressed and that the individual is sent directly to the appropriate partner agency within the Center for additional specialized assistance and Options Counseling. The CTADRC works to provide individuals with accurate and current information in order to plan ahead for long-term support needs as outlined in Governor Perry's "Own Your Future" campaign.

CTCOG Homeland Security Program

After the events of 9/11, it became clear that in order to meet the President's goal to "secure the homeland" a regional response would be required. The Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee unanimously voted to develop a Regional First Responder Preparedness Plan to coordinate the region's ability to effectively respond to regional security incidents. The end result has been a consolidated regional approach to all Homeland Security Activities. Highlights include:

- ✓ The region (31 cities and 7 counties) has pooled all Homeland Security funds for use on projects of regional significance.
- ✓ The region has formed three Regional HAZMAT Teams - each with a response zone which, in total, covers all 6,540 square miles of the region.
- ✓ The region has completed Mutual Aid Agreements that bind together all counties, and all entities within each county.
- ✓ The region has completed a Regional Interoperability Communications Plan, and has purchased equipment that allows seamless communication between all First Responders in the region.
- ✓ The region has purchased a mobile command post to support multi-agency disaster response.

The CTCOG Homeland Security Program was awarded the National Association of Regional Councils Achievement Award - Medium Metro Category in 2005.

Where can I get more information?

You can find out more about CTCOG programs and activities via e-mail at info@ctcog.org or by visiting our website at www.ctcog.org.

CTCOG's offices are located at 2180 North Main Street in Belton, Texas. The CTCOG facility includes three classrooms, two conference rooms and a board room. The facility may be used for hosting training sessions, seminars, meetings, etc. and is rented on an as-available basis.

Inquiries and concerns should be directed to:

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