

Region

AACOG

alamo area council of governments

three americas building san antonio, texas 78205 phone (512) 225-5201

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YCC Encourages Conservation, Park Development



Laying the groundwork for an amphitheatre in Starke Park, these YCC participants are part of the Seguin Project.

Over 80 youths of the AACOG region participated in this summer's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program. The YCC enrollees, between the ages of 15 and 18, performed needed conservation and park development work at six work sites. Work projects included park development work at the newly acquired 47-acre Bexar County Park, repointing the compound walls of historic Mission San Jose, landscape and horticultural operations at the new San Antonio Botanical Center, historic preservation and general operations at the Olympic Park in Kerrville, and the construction of an amphitheatre in Starke Park in Seguin.

In addition to the conservation work, the enrollees increased their awareness of the environment by participating in 80 hours of environmental education sessions.

The YCC is funded by the Department of the Interior and Agriculture through the Texas Department of Community Affairs. AACOG sponsors the program in cooperation with the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio Museum Association, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Cities of Kerrville and Seguin.

Environmental Design Linked with AACOG Crime Prevention

The AACOG Criminal Justice Planning department will assist the San Antonio Housing Authority in its implementation of the newly-announced Urban Initiatives program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Each of the various urban programs carry requirements to address environmental security and crime prevention.

The San Antonio Police Department and other available resources within the area are joining AACOG staff in integrating local efforts. A cohesive approach to crime prevention through environmental design must essentially begin in the earliest stages of planning to be successful. Downtown revitalization, public housing and residential security will eventually be addressed by this innovative crime prevention effort.

Receiving an extension of the original Regional Crime Prevention grant, the staff will perform an in-depth analysis of crime in the downtown and adjacent public housing areas. The resulting analysis should prove an invaluable aid in each of the specific crime prevention target efforts.

Bexar County Suit Set for August 21

A law suit filed by Bexar County seeking to overturn a vote by the Executive Committee will be tried August 21 in District Court. The County's request for a temporary injunction against AACOG was withdrawn on July 20 during a preliminary court hearing and the date was set for hearing the suit on its merits.

Bexar County is attempting to set aside the June 26 vote which resulted in the submission of the final 208 plan for the San Antonio designated area. The County maintains that it was illegally denied its right to participate in the Executive Committee proceedings when a challenge to its membership was upheld by AACOG's legal counsel. The challenge was made by a representative of the City of San Antonio.

At issue in the law suit is interpretation of AACOG's Bylaws and Articles of Agreement, which state that membership is maintained through payment of dues by January 31 of each year. At the meeting of June 26, the San Antonio representative requested a review of member eligibility which resulted in a finding that Bexar County had not paid its 1978 dues up to the time of the meeting. The counsel stated that the challenge of voting rights was legitimate since Bexar County had not fulfilled the basic qualification for membership. The County maintains that other members, including the City of San Antonio, have been late in paying dues but have never been questioned on their voting rights.

The 208 plan was adopted on a 17 to 3 vote after Bexar County's three members left the meeting, joined by representatives of three other counties who were protesting the action. The plan has since been forwarded to the Texas Department of Water Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency for review. AACOG had been facing a July 1 deadline for submission of the plan and the Executive Committee submission of the plan recommendations met that deadline.

The controversy over the 208 waste treatment management plan has focused almost exclusively on the recommendation that AACOG continue as the planning and coordinating agency for 208. Although other parts of the plan propose major capital expenditures by local waste treatment agencies - including over \$200 million by the City of San Antonio - only the continuing planning designation has aroused public interest. The City of San Antonio, which must agree to any 208 plan for the area before EPA will approve it, is on record as strongly favoring AACOG's role.

Prior to the June 26 meeting, Bexar County and several other counties had stated publicly they would use a special provision of the Bylaws, allowing a weighted vote based on population, to remove AACOG from the final plan. In April, when the Executive Committee first made its decision in favor of AACOG, Bexar County lost on both a majority and a weighted vote in attempting to prevent AACOG's designation as the continuing planning agency. The June action by the committee reaffirmed its support of the plan following a review of public hearing and local governments comments on the 208 proposals.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governmental units joined together in a cooperative effort to meet the challenge of today's problems.

The AACOG Region is published monthly by the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Three Americas Building, San Antonio, Texas 78205. Copies are available without charge to members and other interested persons.

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GLEN HARTMAN, Chairman
San Antonio Councilman

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Wilson County Judge

AL J. NOTZON, III
Executive Director

PAULA MARVEL
Public Information Coordinator

JANIE SANTOS
Editor

Application Review Agenda

August 1978

HUMAN RESOURCES

Committee meets: Thursday, August 17, 1 p.m., Three Americas Building
 Comments to: James M. Brandes by Wednesday, August 16

- 8-08-18-701 APPLICANT: EODC of San Antonio and Bexar County
"Migrant Head Start Services": To provide comprehensive developmental services and handicapped services to low income pre-school migrant children and their families that will be tailored to the needs of the individual child, and responsive to the diverse needs of the community. Total Cost: \$127,000. Funding Agency: HEW.
- 8-08-18-702 APPLICANT: Southwest Medical Plan, Inc.
"Health Maintenance Organization": To continue the development of a Health Maintenance Organization which will service 25,000 persons in Bexar County. Total Cost: \$2,500,000. Funding Agency: HEW.
- 8-08-18-703 APPLICANT: Mexican American Neighborhood Civic Organization
"San Antonio Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Project": For the prevention of child abuse and neglect among "high risk" families through early identification; improve parenting and educational interventions. Total Cost: \$155,095. Funding Agency: HEW.
- 8-08-18-704 APPLICANT: Texas Migrant Council, Inc.
"Interstate Migrant Head Start Expansion Grant": To expand Head Start services to the counties of San Patricio, Nueces, and Bexar for implementing child development programs during the working season that address the needs of children in ways that take into account community resources, parent participation, and the capacities of local staff. Total Cost: \$255,672. Funding Agency: HEW.
- 8-08-18-705 APPLICANT: Catholic Family and Children's Services
"Mental Health Services for the Indochinese Refugees": (Further details not yet known.)
- 8-08-18-706 APPLICANT: Mexican American Unity Council
"Family Development Program": Demonstrate a model for family development services. Total Cost: \$137,125. Funding Agency: HEW - \$131,125. Local Funds: \$6,000.
- 8-08-18-707 APPLICANT: Alamo Manpower Consortium
"Comprehensive Employment and Training Grant - Title I": A reapplication for funding in FY'79 to provide skills training and employment services to the unemployed and specially disadvantaged, and to place them in meaningful, unsubsidized employment. Total Cost: \$6,716,508. Funding Agency: DOL.
- 8-08-18-708 APPLICANT: Alamo Manpower Consortium
"Title II Public Service Employment (PSE), Comprehensive Employment and Training Program": Title II services will provide for employment and manpower training programs for unemployed and underemployed persons in areas of substantial unemployment. Total Cost: \$4,210,319. Funding Agency: DOL.

Labor Statistics — Uniform or Inequitable?

Labor force and unemployment estimates for individual counties are released monthly by the Texas Employment Commission and do not always reflect the existing conditions as assessed by many local officials. Since the distribution of federal funds for various manpower services and economic development programs are based, at least partially, on local unemployment figures, there is concern that inaccurate data may result in inaccurate or inequitable fund allocation.

Extensive criticism of the estimating procedures has resulted in attempts to not only improve the accuracy of the labor force estimates, but also to insure that unemployment is defined and is measured the same way in Miami as it is in Seattle. If the procedure for arriving at the labor force statistics is applied uniformly throughout the nation, then the allocation of monies should be uniform and equitable. Local estimates are made by the TEC under strict and uniform guidelines set by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Possibly one of the major reasons for distrust of labor force estimates is due to misunderstanding of what the statistics actually represent. The terms "employment" and "unemployment" are quite narrowly and specifically defined by the BLS.

Employed persons comprise (a) all those who during the survey week did any work at all as paid employees in their own business, profession or farm or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family and (b) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute or personal reasons.

Unemployed persons comprise all persons who did not work during the survey week, who made specific efforts to find a job within the past four weeks, and who were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness).

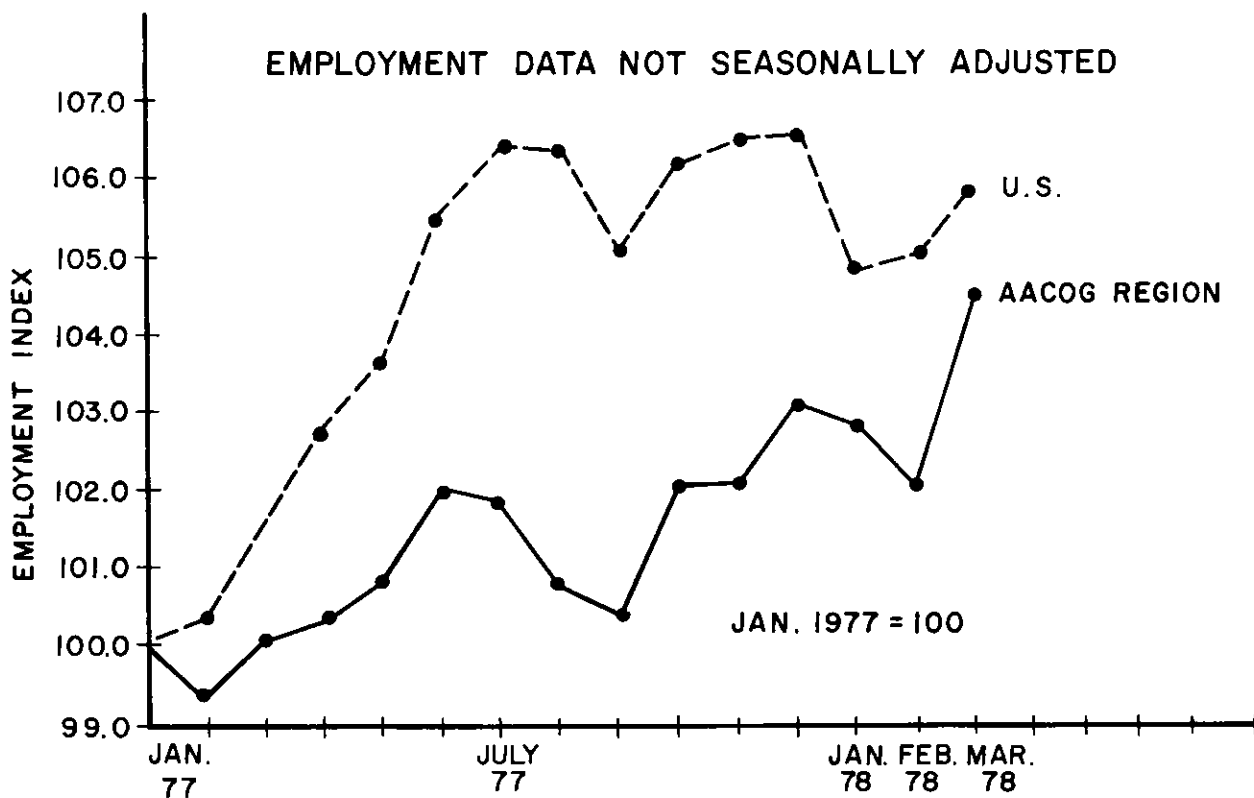
Labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above.

Unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force. All persons 16 years and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed are not in the labor force.

Careful consideration of the above definitions may make the local employment/unemployment estimates appear more plausible, but how are the estimates determined? Labor force estimates are based on three major sources: 1) household interviews by the Census Bureau, 2) reports from employers, and 3) administrative statistics of unemployment insurance systems

The unemployment estimates for the state and local areas are prepared by the TEC under methodology set by the BLS. The unemployment figures are built from data for three categories of unemployed workers: Those who were last employed in industries covered by state unemployment insurance laws; those previously employed in industries not covered by unemployment insurance; and those either entering the labor force for the first time or reentering after a period of separation.

Recognition of the need for improvement of the labor force estimating procedures is indicated by the Emergency Jobs Program Extension Act of 1976 which included a provision for the establishment of a National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics. The commission members were appointed early this year and the deliberations are to extend for 18 months. Producers and users of employment and unemployment statistics are invited to present their views regarding adequacy of current concepts and methods used in producing these statistics. Written comments may be sent to Dr. Sam A. Levitan, Chairman, National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics, 2000 K Street, N.W., Suite 550, Washington, D.C. 20036.



Regional Employment Growth Analysis

In the past two years, more than 25,500 persons in the region were added to the employment force. After a small increase in annual average employment from 383,377 in 1974 to 384,684 in 1975, employment jumped to more than 414,000 in 1977. This is an 8.0 percent increase during the 1974-1977 period. Although the regional rate exceeds the national employment growth rate of 5.14 percent for these four years, it failed to keep pace with the increase of 11.3 percent for the State.

The favorable employment growth was offset to some degree by the increase in total unemployed resulting in the unemployment rate increasing from 5.2 to 6.6 in those years. The regional unemployment rate reached an annual average of 7.1 percent in 1976 before declining to 6.6 percent for 1977, below the national rate of 7.0 percent; however, it is still substantially above 5.3 percent rate for Texas. While the decrease in the unemployment rate in the past year reflects the general strengthening of the economy, the fact remains that more than 29,000 persons in the region were seeking jobs. Transforming a substantial portion of this unemployment pool of workers to productive contributors to the economy must continue to receive concentrated efforts.

The graph compares regional and U.S. current employment trends. The nation's employment increased at a more rapid rate for the first 11 months of 1977. However, this trend reversed and by March 1978 the increased rate of growth in regional total employment almost closed the gap between the U.S. and regional employment indices. Also in comparing monthly rates between the region and the nation, the trends were unchanged in March 1978 from January 1977. However, during the summer and fall months of 1977 the regional unemployment rate slipped slightly above the U.S. rate. This preliminary data, not seasonally adjusted for March 1978, indicates a national unemployment rate of 6.6 percent and 5.8 percent for the region.

- 8-08-18-709 APPLICANT: Alamo Manpower Consortium
"Title VI Public Service Employment (PSE), Comprehensive Employment and Training Program": Title VI services will provide for public service jobs and training programs for unemployed and underemployed persons in areas of excessively high unemployment. Total Cost: \$20,554,888. Funding Agency: DOL.
- 8-08-18-710 APPLICANT: Alamo Manpower Consortium
"Title III Youth Employment and Training Program": The continuation of a program to provide disadvantaged youth with skills training, work experience, and career counseling which will enhance their labor market participation. Total Cost: \$1,823,300. (Estimate). Funding Agency: DOL.
- 8-08-18-711 APPLICANT: Alamo Manpower Consortium
"Title III Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Projects": The continuation of a program to provide disadvantaged unemployed youths with employment in well-supervised work on projects that produce tangible benefits to the community. Total Cost: \$326,394. (Estimate). Funding Agency: DOL.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Committee meets: Tuesday, August 15, 9 a.m., Three Americas Building
 Comments to: Mel A. Goodwin by Monday, August 14

- 8-06-18-004 APPLICANT: Springs Hill Water Supply Corporation
"Water Distribution System Improvements": Pre-application to the Farmers Home Administration for a loan/grant. Total Cost: \$90,000. Funding Agency: FMHA - \$45,000 (loan) \$45,000 (grant).
- 8-07-18-001 APPLICANT: City of Dilley
"Step I Grant Application": To upgrade existing sewage treatment facilities. Total Cost: \$34,680. Funding Agency: EPA - \$26,010. Applicant: \$8,670.
- 8-07-18-003 APPLICANT: Southwest Inns, Ltd., Houston, Texas
"Holiday Inn, New Braunfels, Texas": Pre-application for a loan note guarantee from Farmers Home Administration (Lender - Sessions Mortgage Company, San Antonio, Texas). Total Cost: \$2,160,000 (Loan).

BEXAR SENIOR ADVISORY

Committee meets: Friday, August 11, 10 a.m., Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry
 Comments to: Minnie Williams by Thursday, August 10

Request for Proposals

Bexar Area Agency on Aging requests proposals for a Legal Assistance Program for citizens 60+. Funds available: \$34,947. Send inquiries to Minnie R. Williams by September 1, 1978.

Alamo, Bexar Area Agencies on Aging to Hold Public Hearing

The first joint Public Hearing for the Alamo and Bexar Area Agencies on Aging will be held on August 11 at the Carver Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry in San Antonio. The hearing will allow citizens to provide comments and input to the Annual Area Plan for the twelve-county Region. Participants will assist in identifying needs and establishing priorities for individuals age 60 and over.

The hearing is set to begin at 10 a.m., and will continue until 2 p.m. The public is invited, especially those interested in services by/for the elderly. For further information, contact AACOG offices, Bexar AAA-Minnie Williams or Alamo AAA-Frank Adamo.

701 Work/Study Increases for Fall

The National Work/Study Coordinator has rated the AACOG 701 Work/Study program as one of the best in the nation. Howard Tutman, on a recent visit, attended an AACOG Work/Study seminar and met with university representatives, interns, and AACOG staff to arrive at his appraisal.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development also is aware of the successes of the program as this year's grant has been increased 40 percent from the previous year. The Work/Study program is the second largest in the United States with the State of New York as number one. The HUD funds will be used to hire 28 graduate students on a part-time basis to work with local governments and public agencies.

The \$120,000 grant will be matched with local funds of approximately \$60,000 to be contributed by agencies employing students and the participating universities: St. Mary's University, Southwest Texas State University, Trinity University and University of Texas at San Antonio.

The 701 Work/Study program has received acceptance in all areas. A majority of the participating students have advanced to professional jobs in their career fields. For example, (to cite two out of numerous success cases), Kay Reinerts progressed from an intern in the City of Schertz to City Manager in the City of Kirby and Robert Peche was accepted into the Presidential Management Internship Program. Peche may also be granted career status with the federal civil service without further competition when he completes the two-year internship. This program had stiff competition with 1,000 qualified students applying for 250 openings.

Planning Short Course Scheduled

Over 200 local officials from Texas and Oklahoma are expected at the Annual Short Course for Planning Commissioners and Elected Officials to be held at the Fort Worth Hilton Inn, October 26-28, 1978. The course will feature over twenty qualified speakers on planning and zoning topics of interest to local officials from small and large cities alike.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their individual city planning problems or needs with guest speakers and professional planners at a series of roundtables and at a special clinic on local planning problems. Also, the Short Course immediately precedes the Annual Conference of the Texas Municipal League in Fort Worth. Those who want further information may write or phone Program Coordinator Bob Wegner at P.O. Drawer COG, Arlington, Texas, 76011 or 817/640-3300.

MAST Demonstration Set for Health Officials

Two health officials from Belgium who are touring the Country examining various health systems and programs will come to San Antonio, August 11-17.

The Inspector General of the Ministry of Health, Etienne Pelfrene, and Dr. An Van Biervliet, Chief of ICU in St. Jansziekenhuis Hospital, will visit Brooke Army Medical Center, Santa Rose Medical Center, Wilford Hall, and Bexar County Hospital.

Their visit will include a MAST demonstration and an overview of the Emergency Medical Services in the AACOG region. Alfredo Cervera, director of Regional Services, is coordinating the EMS presentation with Captain Jim Miller, head of the City of San Antonio EMS branch, who will explain the urban side; Sister Laverne Mettlach, head of the Floresville Memorial Hospital in Wilson County, will present a rural view of EMS.

Industrial Development Workshop Offered

A study course and workshop designed to assist civic leaders in the smaller communities to attract industrial payrolls and create new jobs will be offered as part of the Texas Extension Service of Texas A&M University. Enrollment is limited to 60 persons. For further information, contact Dr. James I. Mallett, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 77843.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held in Room 532, Three Americas Building

- Tuesday, August 8 Wilson County RC&D/Goals, 12 Noon, Marvin's Rest., Stockdale.
- Wednesday, August 9 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 11 Bexar Senior Advisory, 10 a.m., 226 North Hackberry.
Alamo Senior Advisory, 10 a.m., 226 North Hackberry.
- Monday, August 14 Housing Advisory, 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 15 Regional Development & Review, 9 a.m.
Vandalism Task Force, 1:30 p.m.
Atascosa RC&D/Goals, 1:30 p.m., Courthouse, Jourdanton.
- Wednesday, August 16 Criminal Justice Planning, 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 17 Human Resources Advisory, 1 p.m.
Task Force on Women & Alcohol/Drugs, Luby's Cafeteria, 719 N. Main.
Medina County RC&D/Goals, 12 Noon - Sammy's Rest., Castroville.
- Friday, August 18 Resource Conservation & Development, 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 11 Open Space Advisory, 1:30 p.m.



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