

El Paso County, Texas

El Paso County is the westernmost county in the state of Texas. It is centered in a tri-state area surrounded by New Mexico, Chihuahua-Mexico, and Texas. As of the 2021 Census estimates, the population was 867,947, making it the ninth-most populous county in the State. The county is surrounded by the beautiful Franklin Mountains in the north and the Hueco mountains in the east making El Paso a premiere location for outdoor sports such as hiking and biking. El Paso County's nearly year-round sunny weather makes El Paso the perfect place to work and raise a family. El Paso County has a high quality of life with attractive residential and commercial areas. Our strategic location offers exceptional opportunities for a variety of development.

Another area treasure is Fort Bliss, one of the largest military installations in the United States. Fort Bliss gives El Paso County the honor of serving active military families and retired veterans. The rich culture experienced along the borderland makes El Paso County a great place for retirees and their families. El Paso County is the "Veterans Capital of the U.S.A."



SQUARE MILES



INCORPORATED/ UNINCORPORATED CITIES



867,947 TOTAL POPULATION



\$498 MILLION TOTAL BUDGET



3,028 COUNTY EMPLOYEES



COUNTY ELECTED
OFFICIALS

Enrique Moreno County Courthouse

On October, 27th, 2021, the El Paso Community celebrated the life of attorney Enrique Moreno with a ceremony and building dedication of the Enrique Moreno County Courthouse. Mr. Moreno was an admired member of the community, staunch advocate for justice, and tireless advocate for the less fortunate.

"The county courthouse is where Enrique Moreno touched so many lives through his kindness, wits, generosity, and dedication to doing what was right," said Commissioner Robinson. "It is only fitting that we remember his legacy through this building dedication and ceremony."

Enrique was born in Chihuahua to Enriqueta, a seamstress, and Manuel, a carpenter. He grew up in El Paso and graduated from Austin High School, Harvard University and Harvard Law School. Enrique was a tireless ally to people who, by circumstance or choice, were fighting for justice. He was nominated in 1999 by President Bill Clinton for a judgeship on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals — the first El Pasoan to be so honored — and was re-nominated in 2001. He dedicated his law practice to employment and

Judge Alicia R. Chacón Commissioners Courtroom

Judge Alicia R. Chacón has had a distinguished career in public service, breaking barriers by being the first woman and the first Hispanic to hold the County Judge seat for El Paso County in 100 years. On Wednesday, March 30th, 2022 a dedication ceremony was held to honor her life and work with the unveiling of the Judge Alicia R. Chacón Commissioners Courtroom.



Through El Paso County Commissioners Court approval, this celebration is for Judge Chacón's commitment, strength, courage to take a stand, and power to motivate others to act which has made her a strong advocate for the less fortunate, women, children, minorities, and the elderly. Judge Chacón was born in Canutillo, Texas, raised in the Ysleta area of El Paso, Texas and graduated from Ysleta High School in 1957.



civil rights law.

El Paso County CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy C. Keller

Dear Community Members and Visitors,

On behalf of El Paso County Commissioners Court and our County Family, I am pleased to provide this annual report for October 2021-September 2022, which highlights how your County is working to make life better for all through accessibility, equity, safety, and more.



Over the last year, we have rolled out unprecedented funding through federal grants and local dollars to help businesses, non-profits, families, veterans, and our community. We have partnered to provide important services including critical infrastructure for water, wastewater, and flood control which have been built or started at historic levels. We also launched the local government corporation to address regional public transit. Our leadership expanded our crisis intervention team to help approach mental health in a more equitable and compassionate manner. We have continued our work to be an employer of choice with higher minimum wages and family friendly and equitable policies; and we have made exciting plans for an improved quality of life for all!

Along with these accomplishments, we invite you to read about so many others in this annual report. Our team's hard work has earned them several awards including our "Malcolm Baldrige Framework Commitment Level Award" received by the Quality of Texas Foundation. Fortunately, we were prepared for the financial challenges of today and were able to complete this work by relying only on revenue from new growth and other resources, rather than a tax increase.

We have learned that today's challenges are tomorrow's opportunities, and we are even more excited about the opportunities ahead! Together, we will work with you and our community partners to deliver on the County's values of excellence, professionalism, integrity, and creativity.

We thank our elected officials, employees, community partners, our seven cities and Fort Bliss for the programs and services they provide, and for making El Paso County the best place to live, learn, work and play!

Yours in service,

Patry C Keller Betsy C. Keller, CM

EL PASO COUNTY Commissioners Court



EL PASO COUNTY JUDGE Ricardo Samaniego

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1 Carlos Leon

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

David Stout

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3 Iliana Holguin

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT. Carl L. Robinson



El Paso County COMMISSIONERS COURT

Ricardo Samaniego EL PASO COUNTY JUDGE

Throughout our community's challenges, the County's philosophical premise is to ensure we connect our most vulnerable residents to quality of life services such as accessibility to transportation, healthcare, water and waste water services, as well as parks and green-space. El Paso County has also taken the lead to improve major gaps that were exposed during the pandemic such as improving mental health resources, broadband connectivity, business development, and much more. Take a look at the following accomplishments that came out of my office this fiscal year:

- Ensuring the Wellbeing of the Community as we Continue to Mitigate the Coronavirus Pandemic: My office continued to work with health officials to ensure the safety and health of the community. El Paso County is now looking at the aftermath of the pandemic as it relates to mental health, delayed healthcare, etc.
- Creation of a Women's Commission: I would like to thank community leader Dora Oaxaca-Rivera, and Dr. Sylvia Acosta, former CEO of the YWCA for their work to create the County's first ever Women's Commission! The Women's Commission will serve to alleviate any inequities that may confront women in social, health, education, economic and vocational pursuits.
- American Rescue Plan Coordination: We have continued to work with community leaders, government entities, school districts and non-profits to prioritize the best use of American Rescue Plan funding. The El Paso County American Rescue Plan Portfolio is well underway and will distribute \$163 million in federal funding to the local community.
- Aerospace and Defense Manufacturing Partnership: In collaboration with UTEP and the City of El Paso, my office is beyond excited to support a world class aerospace technology district in Fabens to further expand the Technology Research and Innovation Acceleration Park, El Paso received the Build Back Better Grant A
- vation Acceleration Park. El Paso received the Build Back Better Grant Award for this community effort.
- Mitigating the Refugee Crisis: As the County Judge, I have been at the forefront of the County's efforts to create a Migrant Support Services Center to assist migrants crossing into El Paso from all over the world in pursuit of the American dream.
- El Paso County's Healing Garden: After the unveiling of the Healing Garden last year, my office has focused on using the garden as a transformational tool to continue to spread hope throughout the community in times of tragedy.
- Veteran of the Year Award: Even after serving their country, many of our veterans continue to lend a hand to
 those in our community who need it the most. On October 30th, the County's Veteran of the Year 2022 will
 be announced at the El Paso County Courthouse.
- Veterans Capital of the United States Unveiling: Veteran advocates and I continue to work on coining El Paso as the "Veterans Capital of the U.S.A." El Paso County plans to unveil this initiative on November 1st!
- Corbin-Sambrano Wellness Center/Alameda Project: By securing the confiscation of the Naked Harem, we are in the process of working with the community to create a wellness center that the community can be proud of.

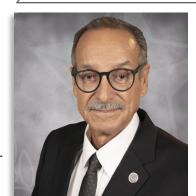
Note: This year, Judge Samaniego was awarded the Ohtli Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Mexican Government upon an individual. This award is administered by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and recognized individuals who have aided, empowered or positively affected the lives of Mexican nationals in the United States and other countries. In addition, El Paso Community College awarded Judge Samaniego with the 2022 Crossing Borders Award, a very prestigious recognition in honor of the bi-national approach taken by the County Judge's Office through the many challenges El Paso has endured.

El Paso County

COMMISSIONERS COURT



It takes a team effort to meet the diverse needs of our County residents, and I am so proud of the County family and our many partners who have stepped up to improve the lives of residents in Precinct 1 and across the County. Together we have been responsive, thoughtful, innovative, and judicious in our efforts to make sure that all residents of the County feel we are listening to them, are dedicated to their well-being, and are providing the highest quality services regardless of where they live in the County.



Here are some of the important issues that I have focused on during the last year:

- Continued support for funding and building the Sheriff's Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT), adding seven deputies and other personnel and equipment. Since April, CIT units responded to 390 calls and diverted over 250 clients to appropriate mental health services.
- Continued to support Constables by providing them with additional resources for salaries and the proper equipment they need to meet the challenges they face in being responsive to the residents of the County.
- Supported the reinstatement of a curfew for children 16 and younger in the unincorporated areas of El Paso County from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., which will help protect our young people from being the victims of crime as well as help prevent criminal activity.
- Requested that funding for Crime Stoppers be doubled to help our public safety partners solve cases more quickly.
- Supported a No-New Revenue Tax Rate for County residents.
- Supported a pay increase for employees with the exception of the Commissioners Court and the County Judge.
- Supported and helped pass a measure that allows County residents to ride our buses for free throughout the system for up to six months, paid for through emergency grants as well as formula funding to sustain general transit operations with no impact on the County's general fund.
- Served as Chairman of the El Paso Area Transit System, a local government corporation created by the County and partner communities in our rural areas that is focused on transit improvements.
- Supported ongoing improvements in our Parks and Coliseum and investments in family-oriented events.
- Supported significant improvements to County Parks and Recreations facilities, including a multi-sport court, Skate Park, and adventure course at Estrella Park in Precinct 1 and an adventure course at Ascarate Park.



- Led the effort to fund and construct the new electric marquee off the Border Highway that is already helping inform county residents of upcoming events.
- Continued working in conjunction with Texas Gas, El Paso Water, and our County Public Works Department to bring infrastructure, utilities and road improvements to our unincorporated areas of the precinct.
- Voted to provide funding from the County for our locally based Alliance for Regional Military Support (ARMS)
 Committee, which advocates for increasing the military value of our region.

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COMMISSIONERS COURT

El Paso County COMMISSIONERS COURT





The Coronavirus pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, and your Precinct 2 team has been there for every step. I pushed for equity in our community's vaccination roll-out, for a direct cash assistance, rental assistance and utility assistance, and for creating programs that support small businesses. In that time, my office also worked hard in many other areas.

Some highlights from this past fiscal year:

- I led a coordinated effort with neighborhood leaders to create a redevelopment plan for the former Valley Theater/Naked Harem site on Alameda. It was seized by the District Attorney's office in 2014 due to illegal activities and turned over to the County in 2020, with legal restrictions on its use. Over the last year, residents of Corbin-Sambrano, San Juan, Washington-Delta, and Val Verde worked with the County to develop the Corbin-Sambrano Wellness Center concept.
- In Spring, I was named Chairman-Elect of the Texas Border Coalition, an organization of border mayors, county judges, and economic development commissions within the 2.8 million-population Texas-Mexico border region that advocates for state and federal government investment in transportation, immigration, workforce development, economic development and health care.
- Your Precinct 2 office worked with County Economic Development on a celebration called Corazon, Historia, y Patrimonio to highlight history in the heart of El Paso, including County assets like the El Paso Coliseum and Ascarate Park.
- I continue to bring investment to Ascarate Park, the region's crown jewel of parks, improving the golf course and equipment, increasing access by getting rid of the parking fee for almost every weekend except for holidays and major special events. Also at Ascarate is development of the All-Abilities Playground; and we are working to dredge the lake to make it cleaner and safer for fishing and boating.
- The Healthy Food Finance Initiative is growing with successes at Bodega Loya, Desert Spoon, and other locations providing access to fresh foods in under-served areas.



- I successfully opened up almost \$10 million in federal ARPA funds to local non-profits.
- The Segundo Barrio Historic District recognition was a key accomplishment for your Precinct 2 office; this recognition will help with the restoration of Sagrado Corazon Church.
- I successfully proposed dedicating 1 percent of major capital works funding for public art projects in each precinct.
- Looking ahead, we have critical decisions regarding capital works that support County growth and the needs of Precinct 2, including the \$345 million University Medical Center bond proposal. I am proud to actively progress in Precinct 2 and the County while being fiscally prudent.



This past year has certainly still been full of challenges as El Paso County continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, but Precinct 3 has nonetheless still seen many improvements and successes. I am very proud of everything that my office and the staff of the County of El Paso were able to accomplish and want to take a moment to let our County staff know how much their hard work and dedication to the residents of our community is appreciated. Thank you!



Here are just some of this year's accomplishments:

- A major priority for the El Paso County and Precinct 3 continued to be the need for water and wastewater infrastructure for residents of the rural, unincorporated areas of the County. I am very proud to report that the County made tremendous progress towards connecting more neighborhoods to very necessary water infrastructure. In addition to the projects funded by federal funds, the County continued to work with various community partners to connect even more neighborhoods to water infrastructure, and in 2021-2022 saw the construction of wastewater infrastructure in the Lourdes/ Conquistador subdivisions in partnership with the Texas Water Development Board and the Lower Valley Water District, water infrastructure in the Cochran Colonia in partnership with DigDeep, and the selection of the Sandhills Water Collection System project for Community Funding through the Office of Congressman Tony Gonzalez.
- Another priority in Precinct 3 was the improvement and expansion of our County parks. Not only did many of the parks in Precinct 3 receive funding for much-needed renovations and improvements, but sites for two potential new parks to be located in Precinct 3 have been identified. The Commissioners Court formally accepted the donation of nearly 14 acres of land located within the Horizon View Estates from the Horizon Community Improvement Association in June of 2022, which will result in a large neighborhood park being built on land that had been vacant and unused for decades.
- Thanks to a collaboration with Moms-On-Board, the groundbreaking for an All-Abilities Playground was held at Risinger Park in Fabens earlier this year, which will allow children of every age and every ability level to enjoy the park's amenities. Additionally, Agua Dulce Park received funding for the installation of a new and much-improved skate park, which is being constructed with the guidance and assistance of a nationally-renowned skate boarding expert.
- The County also continues to work on many other projects located within Precinct 3, including storm water mitigation to reduce flooding in the Socorro, San Elizario and Clint areas, road repair and repaving in the Fabens, Tornillo and Horizon areas, and traffic mitigation efforts in the Eastlake/Mission Ridge area as Precinct 3 continues to be the fastest growing part of El Paso County!



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COMMISSIONERS COURT



Carl L. Robinson

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

Thank you for supporting me as your County Commissioner in Precinct 4. It has been my honor to serve you. I have actively and with great care accomplished the following for El Paso County and have contributed to the County by incorporating my deep charitable acts for those who are in most need.

See some of the notable projects that my office supported:

• Spearheaded the Enrique Moreno Courthouse renaming with a unanimous vote from the Court in the memory of the respected attorney who did so much for this community. A dedication ceremony was held on October 27th along with the unveiling of a mon-

ument and glass display case honoring the life of Mr. Moreno.

Supported the completion of passenger shelters Phase 1 which included the installation of four new passenger shelters, concrete pads, and amenities such as a map case, solar illumination, trash receptacle, ADA mat, bike rack, and bench at each location. The shelters are in Horizon, Tornillo, Homestead Meadows, and Westway. CIP funds were used for the design and construction of these passenger shelters. Public Works will begin Phase II which consists of five more shelters scheduled to be completed by the end of Jan



of five more shelters scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2023.

- Spearheaded the purchase of four Vac-Con heavy vacuum trucks. "Vac-Con" vacuum trucks are used to help better respond to floods by removing multiple tons of ponding water from roadways, neighborhoods, and canals.
- Initiated talks with TxDOT, city, and state leaders to bring change to the flooding afflicted areas of the County.



- Supported annual Veterans Day parades across the County to commemorate all who served in the United States Armed Forces.
- Voted for the protection of employees rights within the county retirement system.
- Led an annual Martin Luther King Food Drive collecting and distributing 16 tons of food for ten shelters across the County and City.
- Organized an annual Thanksgiving dinner that feeds 3-5 thousand people for the past 15 yrs.
- Partnered once again with the Sheriff's Office providing Christmas help to over 500 hundred families each year.

OUR MISSION

Delivering sound and exceptional public services to the people of El Paso County through judicious, efficient and responsive government, and the conscientious development of ideas that produce compassionate solutions to our community's obligations, challenges, and ever changing demands.

OUR VISION

Our unique heritage, diverse economy, and unified regional leadership provide an extraordinary quality of life for all.

OUR VALUES

EXCELLENCE As responsible stewards of public funds, we are committed to being the

best and delivering exceptional services to the community, collaborating with our partners and empowering stakeholders to achieve common goals

in a fiscally responsible manner.

PROFESSIONALISM We demonstrate high levels of knowledge and competence in our work,

keeping our commitments, holding ourselves and each other accountable

for results, and providing for the wellbeing and safety of our employees.

INTEGRITY We strive to earn the public's trust, conducting ourselves with the highest

degrees of fairness, honesty, transparency, and respect.

CREATIVITY Embracing high-quality, innovative solutions and diverse approaches to

meeting the needs of our community.



To encourage a justice system that operates fairly and equitably, ensuring the dignity and humanity of those interacting with the system; that the constitutional rights of defendants are protected, while public safety is

TRANSFORM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To create growth, increase commercial development and values, raise incomes, and improve overall well-being of our citizens.



INCREASE TOURISM

To grow our vitality through investing in and promotion of the County's treasured assets, recognizing our region's deep and tenured history and promoting its cultural heritage and diversity.

UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

For businesses to prosper, to provide sustainable neighborhoods where families can thrive, and where everyone can connect.



PROMOTE COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT

ADVANCE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

To meet the needs of the most vulnerable, reduce poverty, and increase social mobility.

VALUE EL PASO COUNTY FAMILY

To support our employees who shape our Core Values and are essential to creating successful working relationships, encouraging professional development, and developing staffing and management practices that will produce and maintain an A+ workforce.

STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL HEALTH

By maintaining assets, identifying new sources of funding, encouraging creativity, involving community, and recognizing excellence.

OAL 9

OPTIMIZE INTERNAL PROCESSES

Using data to make informed decisions and being effective and accountable stewards to our citizens.

mission and vision.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

Since first implementing the County strategic plan a few years ago, the County has

progressed in several vital areas. While some slowdowns have been encountered, including the coronavirus pandemic, the County's priorities have advanced. In addition, the County's Strategic Plan is a living document updated periodically to ensure our community priorities are reflected. The progress and status of the strategic plan are

evaluated quarterly to ensure the nine strategic goals are on track to fulfill the Court's



Community Services offers a wide range of programs to support a healthy quality of life to El Paso County Families. Those services include nutrition programs, the Colonia Self Help Center Program, General Assistance, Reentry Support Services, and support for recent immigrants.

Here are some highlights from fiscal year 2021-2022:

- Hired El Paso County's first Digital Services Librarian. Purchases for a language learning service, online tutoring service, video streaming, and e-books and e-audiobooks including magazines and comic books have been made or are soon to be placed. The new digital library for El Paso County is set to launch before the end of this fiscal year.
- Reopened the senior nutrition congregate meal program in six County run congregate centers safely after achieving almost 100% vaccination rate amongst County center participants, oversaw a 13% increase in congregate center participation, and a 15% increase in the home delivered meal program participation serving 1,565 eligible elderly and disabled individuals.
- Established a noontime meal for EVERYDAY of the week to all eligible participants.
- Coordinated several vaccine drives at every County run center and at Tornillo Independent School District in partnership with University Medical Center. Facilitated the vaccination of 696 county residents with 1st, 2nd, and booster vaccines.



- Oversaw the administration of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program Phase 1 funds with the County's partner, Paso del Norte Community Foundation, for rental and utility assistance where 851 households received up to 15 months of assistance for a total of \$2,522,705.67.
- Operated the final year of the County's commitment to HUD's Coordinated Entry system and facilitated housing and emergency shelter placement for 5940 homeless individuals and households.
- Partnered with the United Way of El Paso County and AYUDA Inc., to develop a funding agreement to administer the U.S. Treasury's ERA Phase II funds in the amount of \$2,028,157.66 to provide rental, utility and temporary non-congregate shelter to out-county residents, homeless justice involved individuals and veterans.
- · Resumed Project Chance programming within the three Reentry cell blocks in the El Paso County Jail in October 2021. As of June 2022, a Veteran's cell block was incorporated accepting 24 incarcerated veterans to receive specialized programming in collaboration with veteran service organizations including the County's Veterans Service Office.
- · The Office of New Americans facilitated the establishment of a Migrant Support Services Center in preparation of the eventual lifting of Title 42. The Center proposes to work in collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to safely and humanely assist migrants who have been processed and released from CBP custody, to connect with their sponsors and to arrange for travel to their final destination.





Through the County's General Fund investment and small grants, the General Assistance Program has assisted



Rental Assistance 467 Households = \$ 331,894.54

Water Utility Assistance 401 Households = \$ 90,407.02



Gas Utility Assistance 165 Households = \$ 22,912.58

Electric Utility Assistance 549 Households = \$ 150,807.08



Mortgage Assistance

Burial Assistance 114 Households = \$87.340.00



TOTAL

1872 Households = \$ 779,904.81



Economic Development creates job opportunities for new and existing industrial and commercial development that expands the tax base, thereby improving the quality of life and prosperity for the county. This office also provides business assistance, collaborates with educational institutions to develop new initiatives and the military to support veterans and create a robust workforce.

Here are some highlights from fiscal year 2021-2022:

- The \$5 million EDA grant fueled work to expand infrastructure at Fabens Airport is proceeding rapidly and helping to prime our region for major investment and growth in the aerospace and defense industry. Staff has been engaging with private-sector companies about the improvements and how they can benefit their work for lucrative research and development innovations.
- The County safely re-started tourism activity that was put on hold during the pandemic by reactivating Los Portales Museum. It also provided support for the Binational Heritage Tourism conference in August 2021, the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society's Annual Conference, and also provided support for and participated at the Binational Tourism Conference in December 2021.
- The FASTER Economic Relief Program provided more than 800 El Paso County businesses with support through grants, loans and technical assistance as they navigated a global pandemic. The program's strengths included deploying assistance promptly and support for businesses in smaller communities and unincorporated communities. FASTER was enabled by synergy with several El Paso community partners and continues with resources that provide businesses with free marketing assistance, key market data and a pipeline to other funding and support opportunities.
- Eco-Tourism & Sustainability efforts have re-started to include key beautification projects such as a City to Parks Program in San Elizario, the regional growth of desert appropriate edible flowers and culinary herbs. Similar beautification activities are taking shape at the Former Civil Conservation Corps site, Ascarate Park, Risinger Park and the Tornillo O.T. Smith Trail and Coyote Park.

- El Paso County has led the re-launch of Digital El Paso, now re-branded as Borderplex Connect, and has grown the regional coalition of public sector, private sector, nonprofit and educational institution partners. The activity has gained support from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, which chose El Paso County for its inaugural Digital Inclusion Cohort and has led to engagement with the newly created Texas Broadband Office to explore state support for broadband improvement. The County's leadership in this area defined the coalition's focused and comprehensive summary of critical needs that were the focal point during a visit by state officials to assess broadband gaps in El Paso.
- The National Park Service and the Texas Historic Commission approved El Paso County's nomination of the Segundo Barrio neighborhood as a historic district that would allow certain property owners tax credits for improvement projects. Staff is engaging with property owners and the public to ensure they are aware of the tax credits.
- A County Events and Venue Feasibility Study that included recommendations for restoration and upgrades to the El Paso Coliseum and a potential amphitheater at Ascarate Park were presented to Commissioners Court in February 2022. Various funding options are under consideration.
- Two Historic Markers were dedicated. The El Paso County Historical Commission dedicated a National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT) historic marker at the El Paso County Courthouse recognizing the achievements of African American women in El Paso to mobilize women to vote during the women's suffrage movement. The second, honored businessman Felix Martinez, whose contributions to the El Paso community continue to have a lasting, positive impact today.
- El Paso County provided the region with its first-ever baseline understanding of the digital divide and options for improving broadband for residents and businesses. The study was in partnership with El Paso Community Foundation (EPCF), and relied on data and analysis from UTEP's Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness and the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce.
- The County awarded over \$446,000 in Healthy Food Financing Initiative Grants. The County of El Paso, in partnership with the Center for Community Impact at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) School of Public Health El Paso Campus, and PeopleFund Community Development Financial Institution, awarded two rounds of Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) grants to small local businesses.
- Implementation is underway with a possible shift to a designation with the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro: National Historic Trail Designation. Historical preservation efforts continue to include Casa Ronquillo Restoration Project, Los Portales Adobe Restoration, San Elizario Historic District Flood Mitigation Project, and the Redevelopment of the Former Civil Conservation Corps site.
- The County helped our community win the \$40 million Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant. The
 Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant will help the City of El Paso's advanced manufacturing work
 and accelerate El Paso County's work with the University of Texas at El Paso to grow an aerospace and
 defense ecosphere that adds good jobs, creates technical skill-sets around innovation and attracts investment to our community.





Justice Support includes the Public Defenders, Criminal Justice Coordination, and Domestic Relations Divisions. Justice Support Services helps individuals who are involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Justice Case Management provides ongoing support to individuals who are connected to the Criminal Justice System until such time as these matters are resolved and established goals have been realized. The Community Services and Animal Welfare Divisions also fall under Justice Support and can be found on pages 13 and 25, respectively.

Here are some highlights from fiscal year 2021-2022:

Special Projects

- El Paso County and community stakeholders explored site redevelopment options for the 1.93-acre Corbin-Sambrano property location along Alameda Avenue within the Sambrano neighborhood. After a six-month long planning process, the community reached consensus and identified a plan to redevelop the property into a public Wellness Center with enrichment programs, services for crime victims, and outdoor recreation/gathering spaces.
- The County is installing kiosks throughout the County with the help of Advanced Robot Solutions. Some of the functions of the kiosks will be to provide navigational assistance for the public user through an avatar and the ability to video conference with a participating department.

Domestic Relations Office

• The Domestic Relations Office's (DRO) Child Support services is set to outperform last year's record-setting collection and disbursement of child, medical, and dental support payments for El Paso County children. The office has collected and disbursed \$13,746,478.09 of those payments during this year.

The DRO's Family Court Services also had a record number of participants in the Cooperative Parenting Classes and Court Order Orientation Classes since offering those classes online. So far, there have been 269 participants in the Cooperative Parenting Class and 136 participants in the Court Order Orientation Class.

• The Domestic Relations Office's Friend of the Court program has received a record number of 83 applications this year for our Access and Possession services; this is a 50% increase over last year. Under our Friend of the Court program, DRO assisted in enforcing and modifying Access and Possession schedules between parents and children when parents have a court order for shared parenting time with their children.

Criminal Justice Coordination

- An increase in Personal Recognizance (PR) Bonds over the past several years has also been accompanied by a decrease in violent crime impacts. As of 2020, according to FBI data, El Paso violent crime rate is at its lowest in recent history. Thousands of less unnecessary jail bed days in the jail produce better outcomes (according to local research), and save the County money.
- Approximately 1100 warrants were averted resulting in approximately \$550,000 in savings to El Paso County.
- Funding was obtained for our detox/diversion center and those in need of residential services who have a PR bond. When complete, individuals requiring detox will not be jailed. Comprehensive substance abuse services can be administered to those in need.

COURT ORDERED ORIENTATION CLASSES

163

269

Participants

170%

Inrease in Participants

• The County partnered with UTEP to update the pretrial risk assessment validation and conducted quantitative analysis and adjustments of the current risk assessment and racial and gender bias analysis. Supervision guidelines were also updated.

Public Defender's Office

- The Public Defender's Office received grant funding to provide highly specialized immigration advice to their clients. They were also awarded a grant for three additional attorneys to assist with eliminating the Court backlog caused by the pandemic.
- The Public Defender's Office expanded their mitigation team to work more closely with the District Attorney in resolving matters with plea agreements. They have specialized Mental Health attorneys to assist in navigating the complicated intersection of mental illness and criminality.
- They have created a robust continuing education program to train the very best litigators as well as a public interest education program, inviting members of the community to learn more about the justice system at no cost, directly from system experts from all over the country.







The Public Works Department provides a systematic approach to the care and maintenance of El Paso County's Infrastructure, road system, buildings, and parks as well as quality service and support to townships and municipalities in the county while maintaining employee and public safety as a priority. Divisions and core services include Infrastructure, Environmental Services, East Montana Water System, Engineering, Planning and Development, Transportation, Parks and Recreation (see page 23), Facilities and Administration.

Here are just some of the highlights from fiscal year 2021-2022:

- Provided key community services by hosting 24 Free Community Cleanup events. Each event is intended to collect and dispose of household waste, passenger tires, bulk trash, electronic waste and recyclable materials.
- Public Works partnered with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger to provide a weekly food drive.
- Completed Passenger Shelters (Phase 1) which constitutes the installation of four new passenger shelters and concrete pads and amenities such as a map case, solar illumination, trash receptacle, ADA mat, bike rack, and bench at each location as well as accompanying sidewalks. This first phase impacts shelters located in Horizon, Tornillo, Homestead Meadows, and Westway.
- Completed three localized flooding issues with our internal forces and have designed three more projects to roll out for next year.
- Purchased four "Vac-Con" vacuum trucks. The \$1.8 million investment is the first of its kind to be integrated into the Public Works fleet and will improve the outcome for communities and the County's response time to flooding.

- Completed the Canutillo Sidewalk Project which consisted of 0.66 miles of new sidewalks along Central Avenue and La Union Avenue. It includes 18 ADA ramps, pavement marking, driveways, and street signs to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity between existing residences, various community centers, elementary schools, and local places of worship.
- Upgraded our water system by completing the Vista Del Este water distribution system project and upgrading nearly 400 residential connections.



- Partnered with El Paso Water to extend 1st-time water to lots within the Square Dance community through local East Montana Water System Funds.
- Completed the grant tasks on two Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) first-time wastewater projects in the Morning Glory Subdivisions which provided approximately 105 homes with first-time sewer service, thereby eliminating their reliance on old and outdated on-site septic tanks.
- Celebrated the completion of a first-time construction of wastewater service to the Lourdes & Conquistador Communities in Fabens, Texas. This critical project will help more than 300 residents of the Greater Fabens community gain access to sanitary sewer service. The \$3 million project is funded through a partnership between the County, Lower Valley Water District and the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Received a \$1.6 million in financial grant assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency—North American Development Bank (EPA-NADBank) toward the construction of first-time water in the Hillcrest Center area, thereby reducing the original \$2.3 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- After completing a bus stop location feasibility study, the County secured funding from our partners at TxDOT for the design of over 100 bus stops, benches and shelters throughout the County Transit service area.
- Secured \$6 million in regional transit expansion and start-up assistance for the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization over the next three fiscal years, assisting in the cost of expanding county-wide transit service.
- Completed the construction of approximately \$1 million of capital improvements to the
 Fabens Airport through the Texas Department of Transportation's Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP), including a resurfacing and re-striping of the runway and taxiways,
 construction of a perimeter fence for the facility, and installation of a first-tile secure gate
 entrance to the facility.
- Completed the El Paso County Stormwater Master Plan update in partnership with El Paso Water, which included detailed analysis and updates to the East Montana sector, Fabens, Tornillo, Socorro, Clint and Northwestern areas of the County.

21 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The El Paso County Parks and Recreation Department serves the community by assuming the role of principal parks provider for the residents of El Paso County. By providing a rich mix of cultural, recreational, and social opportunities, the citizens of El Paso and our visitors can enjoy an enhanced quality of life. The department falls under the Public Works Department and is divided into six individual divisions: Administration, Aquatics, Ascarate Golf Course, Park Maintenance, Special Events, and Sportspark. Throughout the County, they maintain severals parks to include: Ascarate, Gallegos, Estrella, Agua Dulce, Westway, and Risinger.

Take a look at just some of the accomplishments over the last fiscal year:

- The Parks and Recreation team began working in December of 2019 with HALFF Associates, Inc. to complete a comprehensive parks master plan that will guide the County in the future to provide "Great Parks for Everyone". The plan includes a guide in future facility investments, public programs, improved maintenance, and operations. A number of community and special interest meetings along with a statistically valid needs survey and condition assessment of each park were held in-person and virtually to help develop the plan. Commissioners Court approved and adopted the Park's Master Plan at the beginning of FY22.
- El Paso County was awarded \$1.3 million in grant funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for skatepark, playground and basketball renovations, and the addition of adventure courses in collaboration with the national non-profit organization KABOOM!. The newly awarded funding will go towards five of our county owned parks: Agua Dulce, Estrella, Gallegos, Sparks, and Westway Parks.
- Partnered with Moms-On-Board (MOB) and TPWD to build three All-Abilities Playgrounds at county-owned parks. An All-Abilities playground is an all-inclusive playground for adults and children of all capacities. Gallegos Park is complete and Ascarate and Risinger playgrounds are underway.

- The 1st Phase of the new Outdoor Multipurpose Special Event area located inside Ascarate Park was completed to include a hike and bike trail, 4 futsal courts, multiple flat fields to host large-scale festivals/outdoor events, and field rentals that host youth and adult recreational leagues.
- New shade canopies at the Sportspark near fields #5 and #6 were completed to provide much needed protection for spectators from the sun. The cost of the project was \$244,375.
- Renovation of warning tracks at the Sportspark Fields #5 and #6 were completed at a cost of \$79,516 to ensure the safety of players and provide a better quality of fields.
- The Musco Lights at the Sportspark were updated by using the Control Link app to remotely control the fields lights from any laptop which saves the county money on utilities, and allows for the maintenance staff to maximize efficiencies.
- In-house engineers replaced a portion of the big lake wall with a more sustainable and appealing option.
- Staff replaced all shade structures at Ascarate Golf Course with new metal structures which were built in-house to save money.
- New landscaping and irrigation was installed at Gallegos Park to improve the quality of the fields, and better serve our citizens.
- The Parks and Recreation team held a series of Design Input Community Meetings for an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park at San Felipe Park and for three new skateparks located at Agua Dulce, Gallegos, and Estrella Parks.
- A total of 56 County partnership events were coordinated by the Special Event's Division which include the Fourth of July fireworks, Lights on the Lake, Overnight Campout and other kid park activities. When combined with special events held by outside organizations, there were 94 events held at El Paso County parks in 2022 attracting over 50,000 visitors.





The Animal Welfare Department is committed to protecting pets, wildlife, and livestock in the El Paso County while providing a low-cost and no fee wellness clinic to pets in our community in support of keeping families together. Spreading compassion and support, Animal Welfare works to find loving families for homeless animals and to keep public spaces safe. This team also returns lost pets to their owners, facilitates adoptions, fosters and transports to rescue partners and manage the County Pet Wellness clinic.

\$1,500

00/100

Here are just some of the highlights from the Animal Welfare Division in 2022-2023:

- An 8,800 square foot building previously used as a Veteran Affairs Medical facility was donated in 2022. Public Works accepted the donation and it will be renovated into the new Pet Wellness clinic for the County's Animal Welfare Department.
- Congresswomen Escobar has submitted her support for the Pet Wellness Clinic with a recommendation for funding of a \$1.3 million dollar federal grant.



Starting in 2023, eligible veterinarian graduates from the medical university in Juarez UACJ will work as Veterinarian Residents technicians in the County's Pet Wellness clinic. The Animal Welfare department plans to offer an educational pathway opportunity for eligible veterinarian residents to study and acquire the skills to pass the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates® (ECFVG American Veterinary Medical Association) and the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE ICVA) so they may then qualify to sit for the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Exam DVM.

- Over 300+ pets have been reunited to their owners! 340 plus family members reunited!
- Over 800+ pets have been placed into new homes, in foster homes and rescue groups.
- Over 300+ pets have been sterilized in the Animal Welfare Pet Wellness clinic, creating safer and healthy communities while serving our County pet owners.



Animal Welfare was invited to travel to Palm Valley Animal Services for educational interaction
with their animal welfare officers. The trip was funded by Best Friends Animal Society Impacts.
Animal Welfare officers from El Paso County were recognized for offering community driven
services including education, resources, adoptions and fostering.







- Animal Welfare Manager, Crystal Reyes presented at the Best Friends National conference this year in Raleigh, North Carolina. The attendees were very honored to learn from El Paso County Animal Welfare procedures and policies, and the work our officers facilitate in the field which focuses on returning pets to their owners, and vaccinating and microchipping our animals.
- The Sheriff's Office funded a new 16 kennel run for Animal Welfare that will be stationed at the Montana jail annex. Inmates (trustees) will learn a transferable skill, working and caring for the shelter pets as they interact with the canines in the kennels.
- Animal Welfare along with the Parks and Recreation Division held the County's inaugural Santa Paws Pet Walk at Ascarate Park. The Santa Paws Pet Walk is one of many events scheduled between the two departments where they come together to bring awareness of spaying and neutering El Paso County pets.
- Animal Welfare offered 200 free pet vaccinations and microchips to pets via a drive-thru pet wellness clinic, sponsored by Petco Love Foundation. Dogs received a parvo/distemper vaccination, while cats received a feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia (FVRCP) vaccination.





The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office provides veterans a direct link to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and its services agencies. The office helps veterans file claims directly to the DVA regional office in Waco, Texas for benefits that include healthcare, education, home loans, death/burial services etc. Veterans and their dependents are encouraged to call or visit the Veterans Affairs Offices and schedule an appointment to receive information on available benefits and how to access them.

Here are a few highlights from this past year:

- On June 10, 2022, the El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board along with the support of the County held an inaugural Women Veterans Day Brunch. The celebratory brunch honored the military service of 200 women veterans throughout El Paso County.
- Veteran Services received the Veterans Assistance Grant award from the Texas Veterans Commission to assist veterans and surviving spouses with rental and utility expenses and also covered some staffing expenses for dispersing these funds. The grant amount this year was \$300,000.
- El Paso County Veterans Office oversaw \$50,000 that was committed by the Commissioners Court in support of all four local Veterans Day parades in El Paso County. The reimbursement of this funding provided tangible support to the local veteran organizations that often struggle to conduct these events.
- County Veteran Hidden Heroes Fellow, Linda Mais, hosted the first ever Restorative Weekend
 for El Paso Veteran Caregivers. Caregivers on the home front in partnership with the Elizabeth
 Dole Foundation's Hidden Heroes hosted the event. Fourteen veteran family caregivers were
 able to attend the event which focused on their own mental health and wellness with workshops designed to help sustain their caregiving journey.
- The County Veteran Services Office added a Digital Media Library to educate our local veterans on benefits and resources in our community while in the office waiting area.

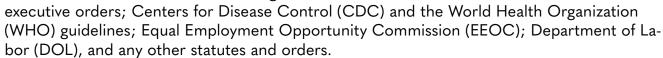




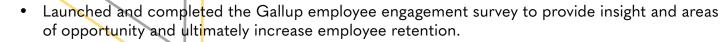
El Paso County is one of the region's largest employers, and the County works diligently to create an inclusive, engaging work environment. The Human Resources Department partners and innovates with our leaders to help achieve the County's mission and strategic plan. Human Resources oversees training and development, talent management, employee compensation, benefits, and employee relations.

Here are some of the highlights from this past year:

- Grand Opening of the Employee Fitness and Wellness Center! This center offers County employees resources such as equipment and educational items to enhance their health and well-being.
- Developed and guided COVID-19 Human Resources best practices to include the Re-Opening Operations Plan (ROOP) by researching and keeping abreast of local, state, and national legislation and



- Implemented a Workers Compensation 504 Network allowing employees to recover and return to work sooner.
- Awarded Aetna's platinum "Leading the Way" Wellness Award. El Paso County was selected out of 100 applicants in the Southwest region. This recognition highlights our commitment to enhancing the well-being of our employees.



- Assessed several County Buildings, Facilities, and Programs to ensure accessibility and ADA/ TAS compliance. Further, developed a thorough report, recommendations, priorities, and master plan entry.
- Completed Phase I of Juvenile Probation Department's (JPD) Reclassification Project, which analyzed and rated over 60 JPD positions (internal and external market analysis). This analysis allowed for a transition to the County pay scales.
- Initiated executive recruitment plans and hired a new Procurement Agent, Chief HR Officer, County Communications Manager, and Government Affairs Manager.
- Researched American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) guidelines to seek as much as \$3 million in reimbursements from ARPA for COVID-related medical and Workers' Compensation Claims.
- Advanced towards the County's goal of increasing employee minimum wage by identifying and examining lower-wage positions and operated FY22 with a minimum wage of \$13/hr.











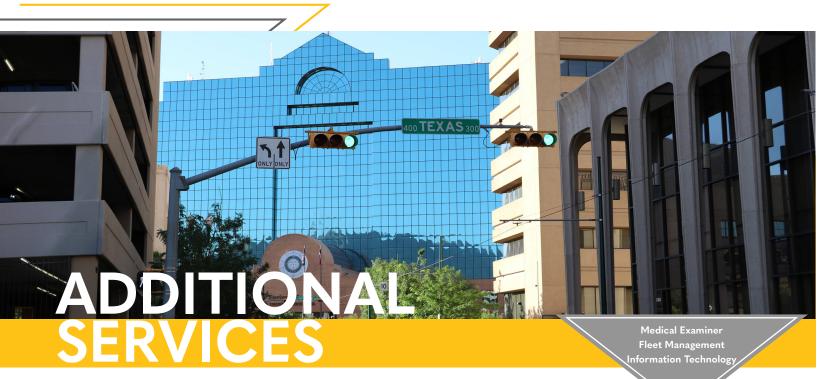












Medical Examiner's Office

The Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) is a science-based, independent agency responsible for the medicolegal death investigation as well as the determination of cause and manner of death in sudden, unexpected, or unexplained deaths occurring within El Paso County. The service incorporates the fields of forensic scene investigation, forensic pathology, morgue services, forensic imaging, forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, and forensic toxicology. The office is accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME).

Here are some of the highlights:

- Made two presentations at international conferences in the last two years; continues involvement with local/regional organizations.
- Certified nine out of ten investigators by American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.
- Hosted ongoing medical student rotations to advance education and the profession.
- Maintained accreditation by National Association of Medical Examiners.
- Secured funding for new Office of the Medical Examiner building.

Fleet Management

The Fleet Management Department's core services include monitoring, coordinating, and advising on all County Vehicles to include acquisition, maintenance, and disposal.

See some accomplishments for the year:

• Invested almost \$3.5 million dollars in new vehicles and equipment with the ongoing effort to modernize the fleet. Investments were made in our heavy vehicles and equipment within our public works department for flood control and paving, and with our Law Enforcement vehicles.

- Completed the Fleet Munis Work Order Module Wireless Connectivity project at the Fabens warehouse.
- Completed the procurement and installation of ten above ground fuel tanks to ensure public safety access to fuel during emergencies.
- Completed the Fabens canopy equipment shelter project to protect and prolong the life of equipment and reduce the cost of maintenance.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Department (ITD) provides processing and programming support for administrative applications including accounting, budgeting, elections, the criminal justice information system and traffic warrants, among others. ITD supports the jail and warrant systems 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Additional highlights include:

- Upgraded courts and justice enterprise applications.
- Implemented the HappyFox service call management software.
- Implemented the UKG cloud-based time and labor system.
- Achieved 100% state mandated cybersecurity compliance.
- Finalized procurement of the Parks and Recreation management systems.
- Internally developed Tax Office Fraud, Waste, and Abuse software.
- Software.
- Internally developed County Attorney CA Protective Orders software.
- Extended after hours Pilot for Sheriff's Department.
- Completed the installation of cabling and wireless access points at Ascarate Park. Wireless services are now available at the Pavilion, Golf Shop, and the areas within Ascarate Park.



ARPA AMERICAN RESCUE



In 2021, US Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and established a one-time Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery fund. The \$350 billion program set aside \$65.1 billion in direct and flexible funding to local municipalities nationwide. From this fund, El Paso County received aid in the amount of \$163 million intended for recovery from the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

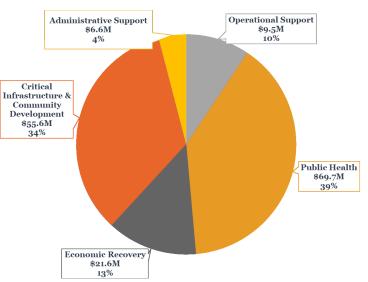
County staff quickly went to work and initiated an internal call for projects, which resulted in the identification of over \$750 million of potential projects, in April 2021. The El Paso County Commissioner's Court provided direction to staff to begin structuring the County's ARPA portfolio into programs and initiatives within the allotted funding amount provided by US Treasury. After a comprehensive analysis and vetting process by County staff, the Commissioner's Court adopted the formal ARPA portfolio in October 2021.

The El Paso County's ARPA portfolio focuses on six critical areas: public health, critical infrastructure, community development, economic recovery, operational support, and administrative support. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of resources amongst these focus areas, highlighting public health as the largest investment within the portfolio at \$69.7 million. Some of the key projects and initiatives funded within this focus area include a \$34.7 million investment in the University Medical Center, \$15.6 million allocated for upgrading and constructing County facilities to ensure resiliency and modernization in the face of potential future public health emergencies, and \$3.5 million for the expansion of the County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Team. Strategic investments in the areas of critical infrastructure and community development include a sizable \$34 million for first time water and wastewater projects in the east, west, and lower valley areas of the County, \$10 million to provide services to the unhoused and those exiting the criminal justice system through a transition re-entry center, and a \$8 million investment in broadband infrastructure. Economic

recovery investments totaling \$21.6 million include \$9.7 million to private small businesses in the form of assistance and loan forgiveness, another \$9.7 million in nonprofit assistance, and \$1.9 million to partner with Workforce Solutions Borderplex to provide childcare training and workforce development in the region. The County's operational support investments include \$5.2 million dedicated to public safety pandemic staffing needs and \$1.5 million to ensure that high traffic areas in County

public facilities are regularly sanitized and organized to maximize public health safety in the face of the pandemic. Finally, administrative support is the smallest allocation at \$6.6 million intended to set aside a fund balance reserve for any of the projects and for staffing and support services working to manage and oversee the successful implementation of the El Paso County ARPA portfolio.

On Friday, May 13, 2022, the County held a Notice of Funding (NOFO) Workshop with close to 200 participants online in collaboration with the Paso del Norte Foundation. There were a wide variety of participants from various nonprofits



throughout the community on the call, and about forty five minutes of Q&A. The workshop included a presentation providing an overview of the County's ARPA Portfolio, and held specific discussion on the rules and guidelines established by the Court for the NOFO.

Later that summer, a review board met to determine funding recommendations and begin conducting a vetting process. Final recommendations will be provided to the court with expected action in October to support ARPA funding in the estimated amount of \$9.7 million to various local non-profits.



FINANCIAL HEALTH

TAX RATES



EPISD

\$1.318

\$1.354

42.22%

43.34%

YEAR

2021

2022







CITY OF EL PASO EL PASO COUNTY 29.06%

\$0.470 8.26% \$0.258

FY22 APPROVED GENERAL FUND **Culture and Recreation** TOTAL: \$414 MILLION Resource Development General Government * 29.3% **Public Safety Public Works** Health and Welfare Administration of Justice 2.6%

El Paso County **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

El Paso County was honored with the Quality Texas Malcolm Baldrige Framework Commitment Level Award. The Malcolm Baldridge program is a method for evaluating and seeking feedback on an organized approach of managing how we operate, including our efforts toward continuous improvement and constant striving for excellence.

Aetna "Leading the Way"

El Paso County was selected out of 100 applicants in the Southwest region to receive the Aetna's Platinum "Leading the Way" Wellness Award. This recognition highlights our commitment to enhancing the well-being of our employees.

NACo

The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented the El Paso County with four 2022 Achievement Awards. Three awards in the category of Information Technology were in recognition of the DA Portal (District Attorney Case Management Portal), E-Bond Electronic Bonding, and the El Paso County Website Redesign. The fourth award, which fell under the category of Risk and Emergency Management, was in recognition of the Reduce the Risk Campaign 2020-2022.

GFOA

Budget and Finance was recognized as a Triple Crown Winner by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for receiving GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Professional Excellence

El Paso County Parks and Recreation Master Plan was selected as the 2022 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals Project Excellence Award. The award will be presented at their annual conference in October of 2022.



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Report

El Paso County 500 East San Antonio El Paso, Texas, 79901

For questions or concerns regarding the Annual Report, or for additional copies, please contact:

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