

ETCOG HAPPENINGS

EAST TEXAS RECEPTION IN TWO WEEKS! LAST CHANCE TO RSVP TO THE NETWORKING EVENT WITH TEXAS LEGISLATORS



Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Hotel Ella
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Join us for the third bi-annual East Texas Reception in Austin, Texas! The East Texas Council of Governments cordially invites all East Texas elected officials, civic, business and not-for-profit leaders to join us as we visit with our legislators in Austin and let them know what is important to East Texans.

A Texas Legislator of the Year will be honored at the event and a ranked list of regional priorities will be shared with the Legislators and Officials in attendance.

It is \$70 to attend the event, which includes valet parking at Hotel Ella. To RSVP, visit <http://www.etcog.org/518/East-TX-Reception.htm>.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING SERVED 350+ SENIORS AT OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas (AAA) recently finished up a successful Medicare open enrollment campaign during the October 15th - December 7th open enrollment period. At this time, Medicare beneficiaries can compare and change their Medicare prescription drug plan or Advantage plan for the following year. Our certified benefits counselors assisted these recipient's by counseling them about their choices and assisting them in getting enrolled in a new plan. During this enrollment period the three Benefits Counselors assisted 363 people and conducted 9 enrollment events in the 14 county region.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS EAST TEXAS BOARD PROVIDES TRAINING FOR "TEXAS RISING STAR" CHILDCARE CENTER DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANTS



To increase the quality of childcare offered in East Texas, Workforce Solutions East Texas Board will be hosting four training academies for Texas Rising Star Childcare Provider directors and assistants. The first of these trainings will be offered in Kilgore at the Hampton Inn on January 28th from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM; 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM and January 29th from 8:30 AM - 3 PM. At this academy, 27 directors and staff will be trained by Champions for Children of Tyler and will receive continuing education certifications from Tyler Junior College.

Texas Rising Star Providers are designated childcare providers meeting standards above those required for a state licensed childcare provider. They have made a commitment to provide 'quality' early childhood education realizing that the first few years in a child's life are imperative in cognitive development.

"Of the 23 Texas Rising Star Providers in our region, we have participation in our first academy training from 20 centers. We are very encouraged by this and know we are meeting a need in the region and fulfilling a mission of the board to increase the quality of childcare in East Texas," said Keith Huddleston, Workforce System Improvement Lead at the East Texas Council of Governments.

Additional academies will occur in March, April, and June and will be held at the same location. The focus of the academies will be to provide the newest ideas and information in early childhood education, create a better childcare environment, establishing a pathway/blueprint to quality childcare and improve childcare center operations.

SAVE THE DATE!

ETCOG Board of Director's Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2015
11:45 AM

Jefferson Institute
120 East Austin Street, Jefferson, TX 75657

NEW PROJECT FOR ETCOG GIS PROGRAM IMPROVES EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN MINEOLA



The City of Mineola recently contacted ETCOG GIS to help map the trails and facilities in their Nature Preserve. ETCOG GIS and the Preserve Committee members collected data for 9-1-1/Public Safety. This information will be used in the 9-1-1 databases so that any emergency that happens on the Preserve will be responded to in a more efficient and timely manner. They are also considering using the data for online and printed maps for patron use. The project is currently underway and is estimated to be completed by summer. To find out more about ETCOG Services, visit <http://www.etcog.org/614/GIS-Services-Program.htm>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

The Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) is currently accepting applications for the following solicitations:

- General Victim Assistance (VOCA) - Direct Program Services;
- Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Projects (VAWA)
- Juvenile Service Projects (JJDP) - Local; and the
- Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

Request for applications can be found here - <https://egrants.governor.state.tx.us/fundopp.aspx>

Applications must be submitted AND certified by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2015.

Please contact Stephanie Heffner, Director of Public Safety with any questions at 903.218.6461 or at stephanie.heffner@ecog.org.

TWO WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS EAST TEXAS CENTERS HAVE MOVED OFFICE LOCATIONS



Rains County / Emory

903 E. Lennon Dr., Suite #103
Emory, TX 75440
Office Phone: (903) 473-8757
Office Fax: (903) 473-4362



Marion County / Jefferson

119 W. Lafayette St., Suite #5
Jefferson, TX 75657
Office Phone: (903) 665-1024
Office Fax: (903) 665-8215

East Texas Council of Governments

3800 Stone Road Kilgore, TX 75662

Phone - (903) 218-6400

Fax - (903) 983-1440

www.etcog.org

ETCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY); 1-800-735-2988 (Voice); 1-800-662-4954 (Español).

