

ETCOG HAPPENINGS

EAST TEXAS REGIONAL BROADBAND PROJECT

Approximately 75 individuals have joined ETCOG and Connected Texas in the recent East Texas Regional Broadband Plan Kickoff Meetings in Anderson County and Harrison County. With the help of regional stakeholders and partners, the East Texas and Northeast Texas Regional Broadband project will result in the development and completion of a comprehensive, regional broadband blueprint for the underserved and unserved areas of our 23-county region.

This process began in May when ETCOG and Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) announced a partnership and informational meetings scheduled to begin the process of developing a broadband plan for the 23 county region. There were 7 informational meetings held across the region reaching approximately 100 attendees.

Next on deck is the Cherokee County Kickoff on August 12, 2014, from 9:30am to 11:30am at the Rusk Civic Center located at 555 Euclid Street. Please stay tuned for information on future county kick off meetings that will be announced as they are scheduled.



MENTAL HEALTH REPORT RESULTS

At the direction of the CEO Board of county judges in our region ETCOG commissioned a study of the costs associated with addressing the needs of residents of the region who have mental health and substance abuse disorders.

In order to collect expenditure data from each of the 14 counties, a survey was developed with input from county judges and other elected officials. Survey results were considered as well as data collected on state funding for local mental health authorities (LMHAs) by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The report will serve as a detailed background and planning document that will support the future development of a regional strategic plan for mental health.

The information in this report may be used by ETCOG and the elected officials in the region to develop a plan to: strengthen resource management practices related to the target population; identify system and community capacity for implementing best practices; assist local elected and appointed officials and community leaders in making meaningful decisions involving the management of care and the efficient management of related costs of care for the target population within the ETCOG region; and assist local elected and appointed officials. The report can be viewed at: <http://www.etcog.org/files/648-MentalHealthReport.pdf>

UPCOMING ALL ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S CONFERENCE

Henderson County's

All About Alzheimer's 2014

FREE EVENT

Participants will learn about:

- Daily Living Strategies
- Coping Skills
- Legal and Financial Information
- Healthy Living
- Community Resources

Presented by:
East Texas Council of Governments
Area Agency on Aging

REGISTER ONLINE
www.etcog.org/645/ALZ-2014.htm
or call
800-442-8845

Date Saturday, August 16, 2014
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Location Faith Baptist Church
268 S. Broad St.
Chandler, TX 75758

2014 Participating Organizations
Alzheimer's Association
East Texas Council of Governments
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Area Agency on Aging of East Texas
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
Trinity Valley Community College

2014 Event Sponsors

TEXAS RISING STAR SUCCESS



Workforce Solutions East Texas Child Care Services was recently able to assist one of its Texas Rising Star child care providers, North Tyler Day Nursery, by providing new playground equipment and updating the playground area to meet new safety standards for their day care school. The funds were provided through the Texas Workforce Commission's Quality Improvement funding allocation to the East Texas Workforce Development Area. These funds have been set aside to assist child care providers in offering a higher quality of child care to parents within the East Texas Workforce Development Area. The North Tyler Day Nursery requested funding assistance after being given only a two month notice to vacate from the previous facility from which they rented. With such a short time to vacate, find a new location, get rezoned and move, they did not have the assistance needed to move all of their outdoor playground equipment. The assistance made possible through the Quality Improvement funds allocation from the Texas Workforce Commission to the Workforce Solution East Texas Board allowed for the ground work, equipment and installation of the new playground equipment at their new location. Workforce Solutions East Texas Child Care Services contracts with many child care providers in East Texas. The child care program subsidizes child care for low-income families, promoting long-term self-sufficiency by enabling parents to work or attend workforce training or education activities. It also educates parents about the availability of quality child care, which enhances children's early learning.

SOLID WASTE GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

Local governments and special districts have the opportunity to receive grant funds from ETCOG funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). To support regional waste minimization efforts in ETCOG's fourteen county region, the solid waste program is accepting applications for its annual Municipal Solid Waste grant funds.

Grant funding requests must be in support of the goals and objectives of the ETCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Eligible public entities that may apply for funds are: 1) Cities; 2) Counties; 3) Public Schools and School Districts (excluding universities and other post-secondary educational institutions); and 4) General and Special Law Districts created as political subdivisions of the state, with the authority and responsibility for water quality protection or municipal solid waste management, including river authorities. The approximate expected total amount of funding is \$118,153.

ETCOG will also hold a MANDATORY pre-application workshop for applicants to assist in filling out the application, on Tuesday, August 12th at 10 A.M. in the ETCOG Large Conference Room at 3800 Stone Rd., Kilgore. The deadline for application submittal is 5:00 pm Thursday, August 28th, 2014. To view the RFP and application forms, visit <http://www.etcog.org/417/2015-Grant-Funding.htm>.

SAVE THE DATE! BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING NEXT MONTH

The ETCOG Board of Directors will be meeting for its 89th Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Athens, Texas, on Thursday, September 18, 2014. The Board will review and consider the FY 2015 budget for the organization. The meeting will be held at the Henderson County Senior Citizens Building located at 3344 Texas 31, in Athens, TX from 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Invitations will be mailed next week.

East Texas Council of Governments

3800 Stone Road Kilgore, TX 75662

Phone - (903) 984-8641

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).

