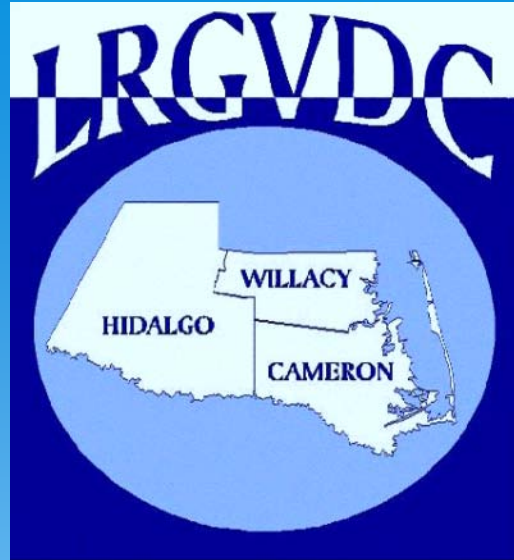




Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Economic Development Department



Economic Development Department

Mission Statement

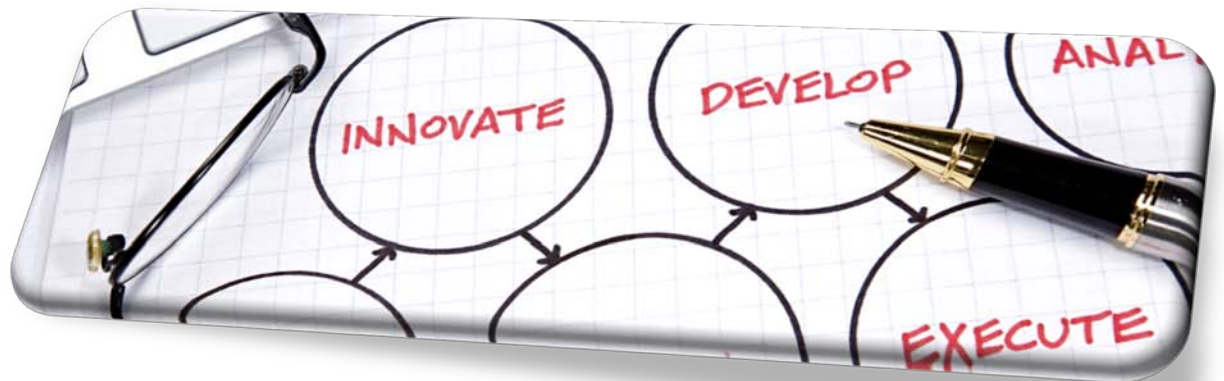
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

Mission Statement: The LRGVDC promotes cooperation among local units of government and provides forums and opportunities for them to work with economic interests and citizen groups in order to improve the region's health, safety, and general welfare and to plan for future development.



Economic Adjustment Assistance

Provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time (e.g., strategy development, infrastructure construction, revolving loan fund capitalization)



LRGVDC



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

History Tidbit: The LRGVDC just celebrated its 44th year (March, 1967) as an Economic Development District. It was the second EDD created in the United States after EDA was established in 1965.

The **LRGVDC** serves the three most southern counties in the United States. The counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy are commonly known as “The Valley”. It is located where the tip of the Rio Grande River meets the Gulf of Mexico.

It is the “real” South Texas.

Lower Rio Grande Valley



LRGVDC

The LRGVDC consists of nine departments:

- *Economic Development
- *Area Agency on Aging
- *Business Development
- *Environmental Resources
- *Homeland Security
- *Police Academy
- *Regional Planning
- *Transportation
- *9-1-1 Department



“B-HIT”

In 2008, the **Economic Development Department (EDD)** applied and received a disaster recovery grant under the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. It was titled “**Business Hurricane Information and Training (B-HIT)**” Program.

Grant period: October 1, 2008 – September, 30, 2009

Total grant amount: \$223,538.00 .

Eligible budget item: Personnel

Travel

Equipment

Supplies

Contractual



Scope of Work

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

- * Conduct damage and needs assessments to quantify and qualify the location and extend of damage to infrastructure, capacity and/or economic impacts and other purposes.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- * Assessment, analysis and creation of strategic and tactical studies and activities required for long-term economic recovery which may include cluster analysis, comprehensive economic development strategies, feasibility analysis, technical assistance, and other purposes consistent with long-term economic recovery.



DISASTER MITIGATION

- * Development of mitigation strategies that encourage the development of disaster resistant communities, infrastructures, capacity to support business continuity and economic security, and other purposes.



MARKETING

- * Development and implementation of marketing strategies for the purpose of image restoration, targeted marketing, communications, public relations supporting business retention, new business creation and other purposes.



* **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

- * Support long-term economic recovery through capacity development, technical assistance, training and administrative activities consistent with this scope of work.



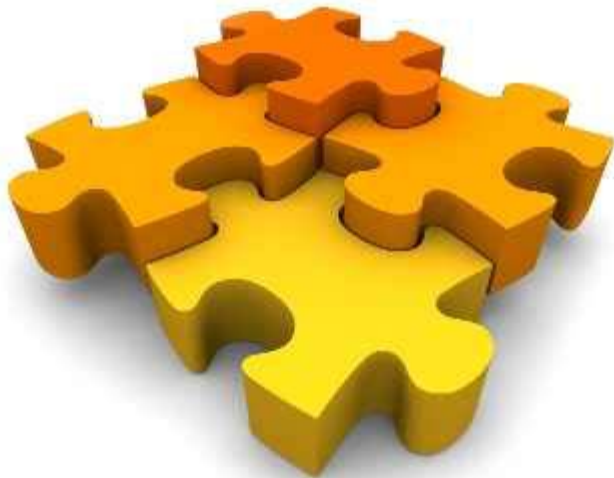


This year, the LRGVDC, EDD partnered with the **Small Cities Coalition (SCC)** under Workforce Solutions Cameron and merged the B-HIT Economic Development and Emergency Management Conference with the SCC's Economic Summit.

Our primary goal for this conference was to provide participants with the resources to help them “*Rebuild, Restore, and Regionalize*”

Planning

Assists local and regional organizations (District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible entities) with their short- and long-term planning efforts



Benefits of regional planning and program implementation include:

- Economies of scale
- Efficiencies of good government
- Local governmental control
- Cooperative public/private partnerships
- State support and confidence
- Comprehensive planning and program implementation

Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund



From amounts otherwise made available for the economic development assistance programs authorized by PWEDA, promotes EDA policies and strategies which contribute to environmentally sustainable development

RICs

Regional Innovation Clusters are a proven way to create jobs and grow the economy. They are geographic concentrations of firms and industries that do business with each other and have common needs for talent, technology, and infrastructure.



LRGVDC

Economic Development District

Within the last five years, the LRGVDC Economic Development District has provided funding in the amount of \$21,905,081 to Hidalgo County alone. These projects cover a variety of business clusters from technology, industrial, and even tourism.

Most recently, the Development Council has received two grants for disaster recovery:

- 1) Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities (\$3,500,000)
- 2) Business Hurricane Information and Training (B-HIT) Project (\$233,000).

Thank you!

Any Questions?

