



Annual Report

2024

Elevating El Pasoan's
Quality of Life

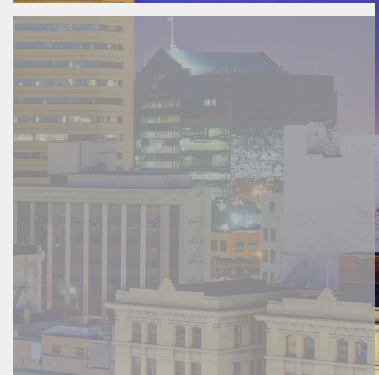
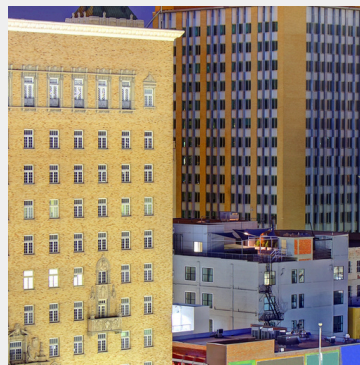
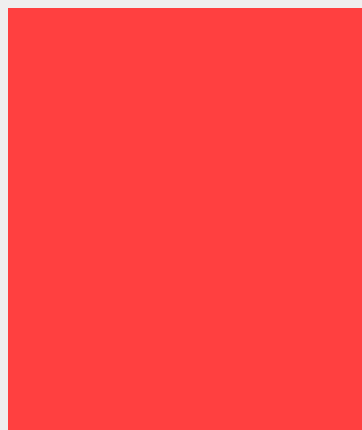
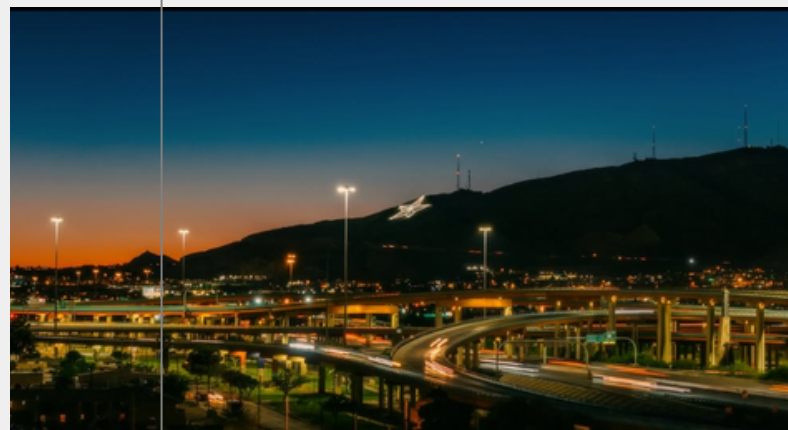


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Executive Director's Report

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to share the progress and partnerships that have propelled our mission forward. Project BRAVO remains committed to empowering families and building stronger communities across El Paso County. This year, our community's support and the dedication of our team enabled us to make significant strides in areas of basic needs, financial empowerment, and dignified living.

Thanks to generous funding from Wells Fargo, we expanded the SOURCE HydroPanel initiative in the Hueco Tanks colonias. This innovative project provides families living without access to municipal water with HydroPanels that harvest clean drinking water directly from the atmosphere. This life-changing technology helps to ensure that every family—regardless of location—can access a basic human right: safe and reliable drinking water.

Summer 2024 also marked the success of our inaugural Homeowner Expo. This first-of-its-kind event brought together future homeowners with critical resources including lenders, inspectors, realtors, and housing counselors. It was an inspiring day of connection, empowerment, and education for those navigating the homebuying process.

Project BRAVO was also honored to be selected as one of two pilot cities for UnidosUS' BankOn initiative. The project consisted of research and community connections, and it sought to reduce the number of unbanked Latinos by providing banking options designed for affordability. These bank accounts feature zero to low monthly fees, no overdraft charges, and tools to build financial stability.

In July, we were able to participate in the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies' 60th anniversary commemoration of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. It was a powerful reminder of the legacy Community Action Agencies throughout Texas continue to uphold by fighting poverty through opportunity, collaboration, and compassion.

As we move forward, we carry the momentum of this year's accomplishments with us. Our work is only possible because of the trust, investment, and support from our community. Thank you for believing in Project BRAVO and standing with us as we strive for dignity and opportunity for all.

Laura Ponce

Executive Director



Board of Directors

The Project BRAVO Board of Directors coordinates, evaluates, administers, and monitors the Community Services Block Grant Program in El Paso County in order to impact the causes of poverty and to mobilize human, social, and economic resources for the economically disadvantaged persons in El Paso County. One third of the members (4) of the Project BRAVO Board of Directors represent low-income individuals.

Officers

Luis Carlos Perez | Board Chair

Alberto Mesta | Vice Chair

Fernando Escobedo, Jr., | Board Treasurer

Sylvia Carreon | Board Secretary

Low-Income Sector Representatives

Luis Carlos Perez, District I: Westside

Sylvia Carreon, District II: Central & Eastside

Laurencio Bosquez, District III: Lower Valley & Far Eastside

Louis Castillo, District IV: Northeast

Private Sector Representatives

Loren Cartagena, Socorro ISD

Fernando Escobedo, Jr., President & Founder, The Frugal CFO, LLC

Alberto Mesta, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA)

Fred Perea, Helen of Troy

Public Sector Representatives

State Senator César Blanco, Texas Senate District 29

County Attorney Christina Sanchez

Judge Enedina Serna, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 6, Pl. 2

Commissioner David Stout, Commissioner's Court, Pct. 2



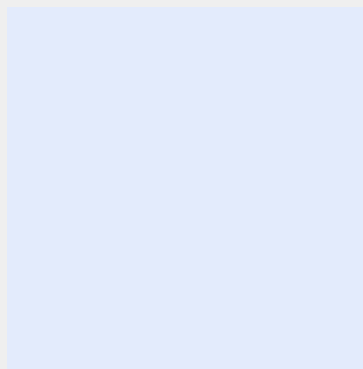
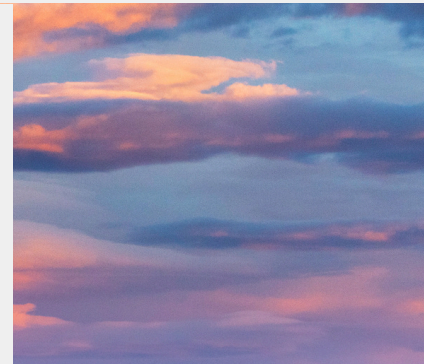
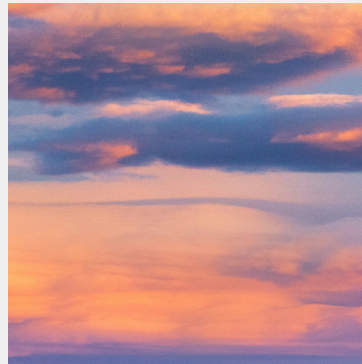
About Project BRAVO

Vision

To bridge access to opportunities for residents of El Paso County to elevate their quality of life through education and social services that lead to self-sufficiency.

Mission

Project BRAVO builds bridges to opportunities that help individuals and families thrive in our community.



Weatherization Assistance Program

Weatherization services enhance home energy efficiency, reduces energy usage, and lowers energy expenses for our qualified clients. Installation of energy-efficient upgrades like attic and wall insulation, along with weatherstripping around doors and windows, are common weatherization measures.

When weatherizing homes, a comprehensive evaluation is done to identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption for the home. This evaluation is to ensure we are maximizing the savings for each home's unique needs.

Additionally, the department conducts repairs on furnaces, air conditioners, and offers HVAC startups for households in need. While any low-income household is eligible for assistance, priority is given to households with a person over 65, a small child under 5, or a person with a disability.



120 HOMES WEATHERIZED

\$701,866 WEATHERIZATION LABOR & MATERIALS

926 HOMES RECEIVED HVAC SERVICES

\$1,653,980 HVAC SERVICES LABOR & MATERIALS

Community Services

Project BRAVO's Community Services Program strives to empower families by assisting them in overcoming economic challenges, and enabling them to move beyond poverty. The program offers support such as utility assistance, career coaching, and health & wellness services.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

7,486 HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED

\$5,731,555 DIRECT UTILITY PAYMENTS

CAREER & ACADEMIC READINESS (CARE) PROGRAM

19 CLIENTS TRANSITIONED OUT OF POVERTY

\$6,681 SUPPORT SERVICES

\$4,575 TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

\$2,575 TUITION ASSISTANCE FROM CSBG

\$115,777 TUITION ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE GRANTS

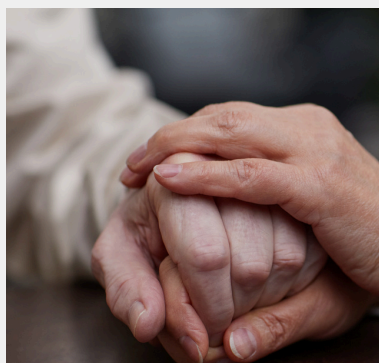
PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

69 CLIENTS ASSISTED WITH MEDICATION PRESCRIPTIONS

519 FREE EYE EXAMS

579 FREE EYEGLASSES

\$115,490 ESTIMATED AGGREGATE SAVINGS TO CLIENTS

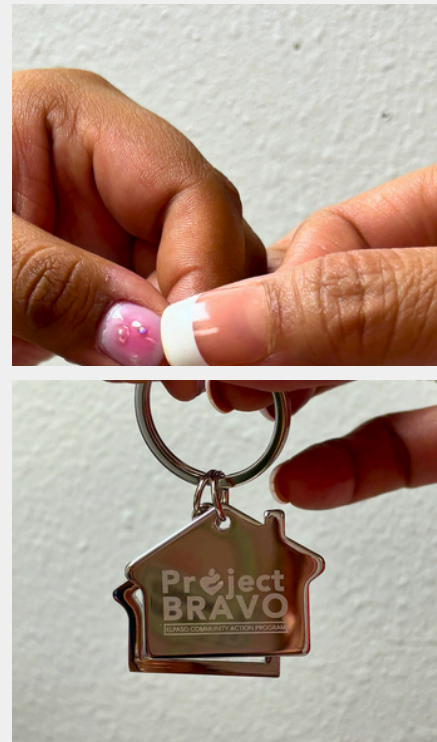


Housing Services

Our Housing Services are dedicated to helping families find stable and affordable housing solutions. As one of three HUD Certified programs in El Paso, Project BRAVO offers a range of services including affordable apartment units, rental and housing counseling, as well as financial empowerment assistance. Our dedicated housing counselors guide first-time homebuyers through the complexities of the evolving housing market and provide essential support for families experiencing foreclosure.

Project BRAVO is able to succeed in these measures through collaborations with local organizations to broaden its outreach, ensuring that even more families can access its services. We regularly host workshops and educational seminars to inform community members about their housing rights, available resources, and effective strategies for financial management.

Housing Counselors harbor the skills, compassion, and training required to provide our homeowners with education and support needed to grow their most valuable asset, their home.



AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS

36 Units

Affordable Apartment Units

45 Families / 129 Tenants

Obtained Affordable Housing

\$304,075

Rental Savings for Tenants

HOMEBUYING EDUCATION & COUNSELING

360 Clients

Received Homebuyer Education

936 Hours

Of Homebuyer Education & Counseling

6 Families

Purchased their First Home

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

70 Families

Assisted in Foreclosure Prevention

\$161,768

Aggregate Savings for Homeowners

Stories of Success



When caring for clients, Project BRAVO looks beyond just taking care of their immediate needs. Staff take the time to understand their goals, their challenges, and their dreams. By assessing each situation in full, Project BRAVO can connect individuals and families to the tools, resources, and guidance they need for long-term success.

One example is the story of Andy and his family. In April 2021, Andy began renting one of Project BRAVO's Affordable Apartments. The lower rent provided immediate financial relief, allowing his family some breathing room in their budget. With that stability, Andy could shift his focus away from simply making ends meet and toward building a brighter future.

Once settled into the apartment community, Andy was connected to Project BRAVO's First Time Homebuyer Counseling program. He decided to take the leap, enrolling in seminars, one-on-one counseling sessions, and financial workshops. Step by step, he worked on improving his credit score, creating and implementing a savings plan, and learning everything he could about the homebuying process.

Before long, Andy found himself making an exciting exchange. He turned in his apartment keys for the keys to his very own home.

Housing Programs Manager Jessie Vasquez remembers the moment clearly. Like all First Time Homebuyer Counseling graduates, Andy received a small silver house keychain engraved with the Project BRAVO logo, a symbol of his achievement. But unlike most recipients, Andy didn't tuck it away in a drawer for safekeeping. "As soon as I handed the keychain to Andy, he immediately put it on his home keys," recalled Jessie. "I felt like he was proud of the path that got him here."

In 2024, Project BRAVO's Career & Academic Readiness (CARE) Program was able to transition 19 of their case management clients out of poverty. Two participants, Mariana Band Jare, accessed resources and tools that allowed both of them to earn their nursing degrees, launch their careers, and take the steps toward financial empowerment.

Our staff worked closely with them to identify resources, remove barriers, and provide the financial and personal support they needed to stay focused on their studies. The assistance covered essential needs and allowed them to concentrate entirely on completing their education and preparing for their state licensing requirements.

The timing of the assistance was helpful for Jare as her husband was deployed just as she was reaching her last semester of nursing school while maintaining a household with five children. The case management provided emotional support as she tackled this educational feat without her spouse physically by her side. Her caseworker Estela Munoz recalls the process with Jare, saying "I provided her motivation to give her that little extra push in order for Jare to graduate." In late 2024, Jare was able to finish school, earning a 4.0 GPA.

Through the Trellis Foundation's grant, Mariana was able to receive customized support as she earned her degree. This specific grant was established to address a unique challenge faced by many nursing students. In their final semester, nursing students must complete intensive coursework and demanding clinical rotations. These schedules leave little to no time for outside employment, making it difficult to cover living expenses during this critical time. Without financial stability, even the most determined students can struggle to finish their degree.

As both graduates step into the nursing field, they are ready to care for patients, support their communities, and build the futures they've worked so hard to achieve. Their dedication, resilience, and passion for helping others exemplify the spirit of the CARE program and the mission of Project BRAVO.

Stories of Success



Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash	\$	998,116
Grants and Other Receivables		72,293
Prepaid Expenses		25,207
Total Current Assets		989,718

Non-Current Assets

Property and Equipment-net		830,440
Right of Use Assets		159,278

Total Assets \$ 2,085,280

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$	237,915
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities		229,051
Current Portion of Notes Payable		11,833
Current Portion of Forgivable Notes		21,475
Current Portion of Lease Liability		101,058

Total Current Liabilities \$ 601,332

Long Term Liabilities:

Long Term Notes Payable	\$	4,728
Forgivable Notes		4,974
Operating lease liability, net of current		58,220

Total Long Term Liabilities \$ 67,922

Total Liabilities \$ 669,254

Net Assets:

Without Donor Restrictions	\$	1,000,172
With Donor Restrictions		415,854

Total Net Assets \$ 1,416,026

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 2,085,280

Financial Report Cont.

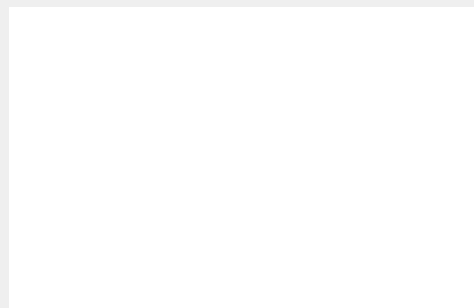
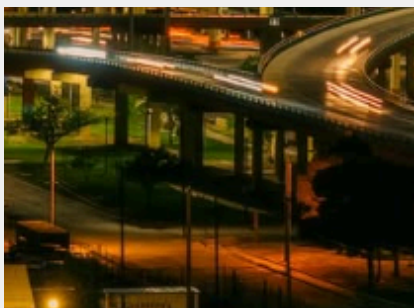
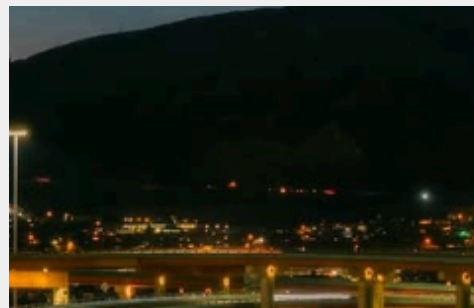
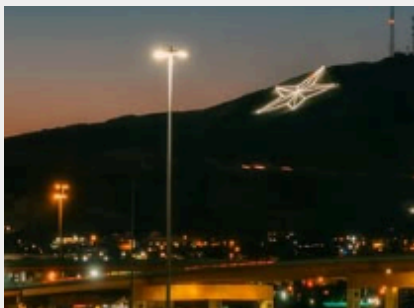
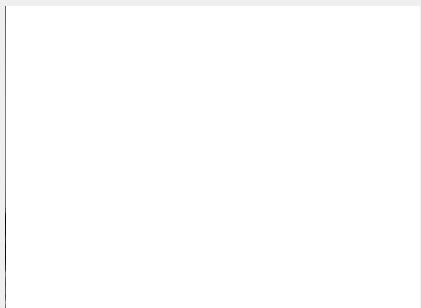
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

PROGRAM REVENUES

Federal Grants	\$	11,195,812
State and Local Funds		369,309
Interest Income		28
In-Kind Contributions		167,675
Rental Income		251,676
Other grants, contributions, and support		101,295
Total Revenue and Income	\$	12,085,795

EXPENSES

Utility Assistance	\$	4,830,470.48
Weatherization		1,389,667.74
Other Direct Client Services (CSBG)		90,827.05
Direct Program Support		5,498,267.73
General and Administrative		185,525.00
Total Expenses	\$	11,994,758
Change in Net Assets	\$	101,033
Net Assets, Beginning	\$	1,314,993
Net Assets, Ending	\$	1,416,026



Thank You

Project BRAVO is one of many nonprofits in El Paso, working with other organizations to provide essential services and resources for community self-sufficiency. We thank our partners for their support in sharing information and assisting families. Together, we foster a resilient community, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We encourage continued engagement through events, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy initiatives, as every contribution significantly impacts those we serve. Thank you for your vital role in our mission; let's keep making a difference together.

Administrative Office

2000 Texas Ave. El Paso TX 79901

Community Centers

Central | 2000 Texas Ave. El Paso TX 79901

Northeast/Westside | 4838 Montana, El Paso, TX 79903

Eastside | 14901 Whitetail Deer Dr. El Paso TX 79938

Ysleta | 8908 Old County Rd. El Paso TX 79907



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