

2022
PROJECT BRAVO
EL PASO COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

In 2022, our community transitioned from a pandemic to an uncertain economic climate. As the designated Community Action Agency for El Paso County, Project BRAVO is dedicated to meeting struggling families where they are at and offer services that provide opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.

Project BRAVO met many challenges, including distributing additional federal grants, such as funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. One critical ARPA program implemented in 2022 was the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). The LIHWAP program was developed from the ground up by the federal government to assist families struggling with water utility payments during and after the pandemic. Project BRAVO received \$1.9 million in LIHWAP funds in April of 2022 and by October of 2022 we spent more than 50% of our funds, just over \$1 million in water assistance. Project BRAVO is proud to be the first organization to provide more than \$1 million in water utility assistance in the state of Texas, ahead of other organizations that serve metropolitan areas with higher population density. Project BRAVO received additional \$1.5 million in LIHWAP funds in April of 2023 due to high performance.

In 2022, Project BRAVO also expanded the Career and Academic REadiness (CARE) Program through a new grant from the El Paso Community Foundation. Project BRAVO was awarded \$80,000 to support college and vocational education for people attending local public colleges. CARE Program participants have access to more financial resources during their academic journey thanks to the generosity of the El Paso Community Foundation.

Project BRAVO achievements in 2022 are thanks to our amazing team members and our board of directors who inspire us to serve. As you review this report, I hope you learn more about how Project BRAVO makes a difference every day in our borderland community!



Laura Ponce

In addition to being the Executive Director for Project BRAVO, Laura currently serves as President for the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies board of directors, Chair of the Affiliate Council and board member for UnidosUS Affiliate, and a board member of the Executive Forum.

2022 Board of Directors

Officers

Fred Perea, Chair

Loren Cartagena, Vice Chair

Paulina Lopez, Secretary

Alberto Mesta, Treasurer

Low-Income Sector Representatives

Paulina Lopez, District I: Westside

Sylvia Carreon, District II: Central & Eastside

Laurencio Bosquez, District III: Lower Valley & Far Eastside

Marla Jo St. Leon, District IV: Northeast

Private Sector Representatives

Loren Cartagena, Socorro ISD

Fernando Escobedo, Jr., Makios

Alberto Mesta, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Fred Perea, Helen of Troy

Public Sector Representatives

State Senator César Blanco, Texas Senate District 29

Christina Sanchez, Office of County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal

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

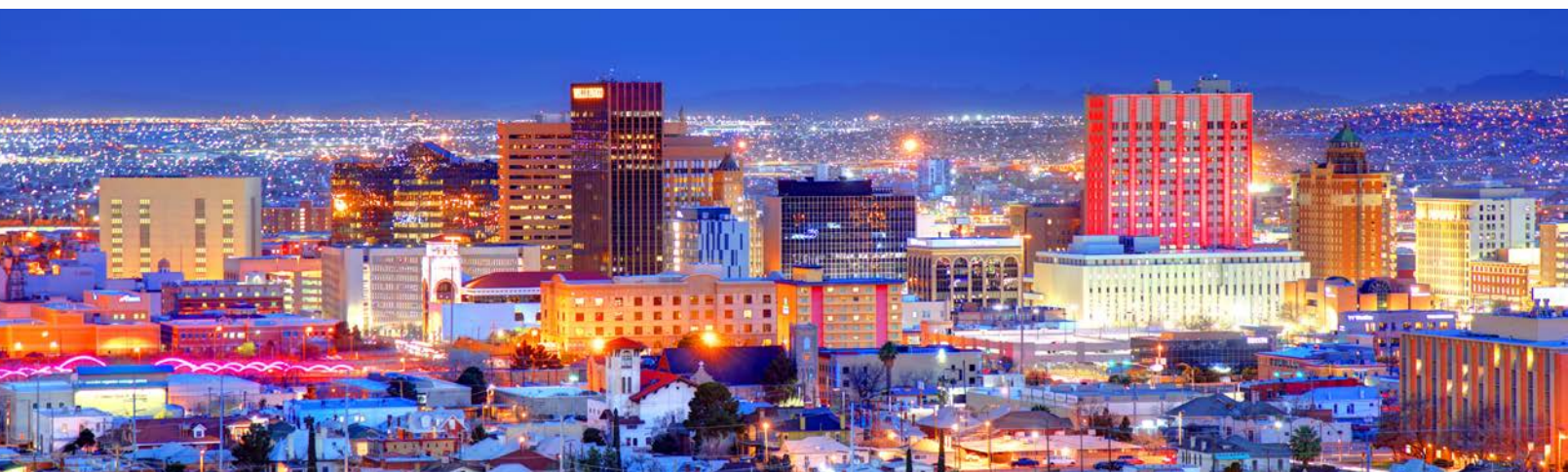
Commissioner David Stout, Commissioner's Court, Pct. 2

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Weatherization is a service that makes homes more energy efficient, reduces energy consumption, and saves money spent on energy. Energy efficiency measures are installed such as attic and wall insulation and weatherstripping around doors and windows. A "whole house" approach is used to determine the measures that will be installed. The department also repairs furnaces, air conditioners, and provides HVAC startups for vulnerable households.

97

HOMES WEATHERIZED

\$869,177

WEATHERIZATION LABOR & MATERIALS

954

HOMES RECEIVED HVAC SERVICES

\$1,734,889

HVAC SERVICES LABOR & MATERIALS



The changes Weatherization implements in homes make them more energy efficient and reduce utility bills.

One of our 2022 Weatherization and HVAC clients, Zoila, compared the furnace and duct work performed on her home as "an early Christmas present."

Community Services

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

13,858

FAMILIES ASSISTED

\$8,979,808

PROVIDED IN UTILITY ASSISTANCE

WATER ASSISTANCE

3,569

FAMILIES ASSISTED

\$1,089,602

PROVIDED IN WATER ASSISTANCE

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

87

MEDICATION PRESCRIPTIONS

347

FREE EYE EXAMS

400

FREE EYEGLASSES

\$121,861

ESTIMATED AGGREGATE SAVINGS TO CLIENTS



Project BRAVO's Community Services Program aims to empower families by helping them overcome economic hardships so they can transition out of poverty. The Community Services Program provides utility assistance, case management, adult basic education, and patient assistance.

Community Services

CAREER & ACADEMIC READINESS (CARE) PROGRAM

34

CLIENTS TRANSITIONED OUT OF POVERTY

\$1,854

RENTAL ASSISTANCE*

\$4,917

SUPPORT SERVICES

\$7,650

TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

\$96,173

TUITION ASSISTANCE

*Value of CARE clients assisted with rental payments.

Project BRAVO did not provide rental assistance to non-CARE clients in 2022.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM (GED)

15

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GED CLASSES

5

STUDENTS RECEIVED THEIR GED

\$1,836

TESTING SCHOLARSHIPS

WATER ASSISTANCE

in El Paso

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the federal government passed funding to help Americans struggling due to the pandemic. Millions were facing financial strains that caused food insecurity, hindered utility payments, and left people with hard decisions to make.

Part of the ARPA funds were designated to the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to help provide a temporary water assistance program. Texas received \$92.4 Million to distribute in the state, with \$3.4 Million going to Project BRAVO to assist El Pasoans.

Even though it took almost a year for agencies to receive the funds, Project BRAVO started building a program as soon as Congress passed the act. We began building relationships with local water vendors and developing strategies to spend the highly restricted funds. The proactive approach proved worth it, as Project BRAVO was the first agency in Texas to provide \$1 Million in assistance to low-income families, vastly surpassing the large metropolitan areas in the state.

Housing



Our Housing Services assist families needing access to stable and affordable housing. Project BRAVO offers affordable apartment units, rental and housing counseling, and financial empowerment services.

Project BRAVO's Housing Department continues to be only one of two HUD Certified Programs in El Paso. Housing counselors are dedicated to assisting homebuyers navigating the fluctuating housing market as they purchased their first home, as well as families at risk of foreclosure.

AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS

36 Units

Affordable Apartment Units

39 Families / 101 Tenants

Obtained Affordable Housing

\$205,786

Rental Savings for Tenants

HOME BUYER EDUCATION & COUNSELING

276 Clients

Received Homebuyer Education

994 Hours

Of Homebuyer Education & Counseling

3 Families

Purchased Their First Home

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

93 Families

Assisted in Foreclosure Prevention

\$169,286

Aggregate Savings for Homeowners

CHANGING REAL LIVES

While the pandemic became a threat all the way in 2020, our community continued to experience lasting repercussions in 2022. In late 2021, Jocelyne and her husband Ricardo came to Project BRAVO because they were falling behind on their mortgage payments. Ricardo was the sole provider of the family, and he had lost his job due to the pandemic. While our Housing Department was requesting forbearance and applying for the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF), our Career and Academic Readiness (CARE) Program helped Ricardo get a new job. The CARE Program offered him career and academic advise that resulted in Ricardo getting a job in a new career field.

Unfortunately, as Ricardo was in the process of getting his CDL, he passed away unexpectedly. Jocelyne could not take over the mortgage payments because she did not have a high school diploma and had very limited work experience. She knew she had to make a change to take care of her family.

Jocelyne reached out to the CARE Program to get on a path similar to the one her late husband was on. Jocelyne was able to get her GED and get a job that transitioned her out of poverty right before her forbearance ended.

While Jocelyne got her GED and entered the workforce, Project BRAVO provided her with supplemental resources such as gas cards, grocery cards, utility assistance, and more.

Shortly after her forbearance ended, Jocelyne was approved for HAF and her mortgage was brought current. In the summer of 2023, Jocelyne resumed regular payments on her mortgage using her income after less than a year in the workforce.

“

Proyecto BRAVO has been helping me before my beloved husband passed away and way afterwards.

I will be forever grateful for all [staff] and all your organization did for my family.

”

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets:		
Cash	\$	982,571
Grants and Other Receivables		204,696
Prepaid Expenses		21,535
Total Current Assets		1,208,802
Non-Current Assets		
Property and Equipment-net		906,544
Total Assets	\$	2,115,346

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$	348,876
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities		130,319
Current Portion of Notes Payable		21,833
Current Portion of Forgivable Notes		32,742
Total Current Liabilities	\$	679,947
Long Term Liabilities:		
Long Term Notes Payable	\$	34,946
Forgivable Notes		56,295
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$	91,241
Total Liabilities	\$	625,011
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$	1,344,157
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	2,115,346

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

PROGRAM REVENUES

Federal Grants	\$	16,555,387
State and Local Funds		32,742
Interest Income		-
Rental Income		237,705
Other grants, contributions, and support		114,797
Total Revenue and Income	\$	16,707,606

EXPENSES

Utility Assistance	\$	10,320,298
Weatherization		2,385,341
GED and Transition Out of Poverty		-
Direct Program Support		1,616,768
General and Administrative		2,576,534
Total Expenses	\$	16,898,940

Change in Net Assets	\$	41,691
Net Assets, Beginning	\$	1,302,466
Net Assets, Ending	\$	1,344,157

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank You!



Project BRAVO is only one of hundreds of nonprofits in El Paso. Each one offers unique and valuable services that assist El Pasoans. We work hand-in-hand with these organizations to close the gap in assistance and ensure our clients receive the tools needed to become self-sufficient.

We thank all the community partners that took the time to tell their clients about us, filled out applications on their behalf, and made us aware of how their services could help the families we serve.

We appreciate your commitment to
Helping People and Changing Lives!

STAY CONNECTED:

Administrative Office

2000 Texas Ave. El Paso TX 79901

Community Centers

Central | 2000 Texas Ave. El Paso TX 79901

Westside | 4838 Montana, El Paso, TX 79903

Northeast | 4838 Montana, El Paso, TX 79903

Eastside | 14901 Whitetail Deer Dr. El Paso TX 79938

Ysleta | 8908 Old County Rd. El Paso TX 79907

Lower Valley | 13680 Socorro Rd. San Elizario TX 79849



www.projectbravo.org



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