

Get to Know Texas Councils of Government (COGs)



Texas Association
of Regional Councils

What are COGs?

Councils of governments (COG), regional councils or regional planning commissions are political subdivisions created under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391 **to improve the health, safety and general welfare of residents and to plan for future development.**

Texas COG regions are made up of **counties, cities, school districts and special districts** and were developed from 1966 to the early 1970s.

Regional councils are **political subdivisions** but have no authority to make laws, levy taxes or exercise police powers.

Each council's policy decisions are made by its board of directors. At least two-thirds of this governing body **must be elected officials from participating counties or municipalities.**

What is TARC?

The **Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)** is the statewide association of COGs whose members are **focused on enhancing quality of life** through regional strategies, partnerships and solutions.

COG activities typically include planning for:



Workforce Development



Housing Programs



Emergency Communications



Transportation Planning
& Rural Transit



Disaster Preparedness &
Recovery



Community & Economic
Development



Aging & Disability
Resource Centers



Services & Supports for
Older Texans



Environmental Quality

How are COGs funded?

COGs primarily receive funding through federal grants but also receive funding from state and local sources.

\$1.02 BILLION

The amount of funding that Texas' 24 member COGs collectively received, administered and awarded in revenue from federal, state and local sources in FY2020. Each COG is **required by statute** to report certain data annually, including the amount and source of funds expended and received. They are frequently audited, both by funders and by independent auditing firms.

The Value of Regionalism

Texas' 24 COGs are comprised of city, county and special district members working together to implement cost-effective, results-oriented strategies that address statewide and local needs on a regional scale for more than 50 years.



Local expertise solving regional challenges | TARC's member COGs are a bridge between federal, state and local governments.



Statewide coverage, regional focus | TARC's member COGs help local governments find solutions to pressing emerging issues, from water and environmental quality to broadband and planning for older Texans.

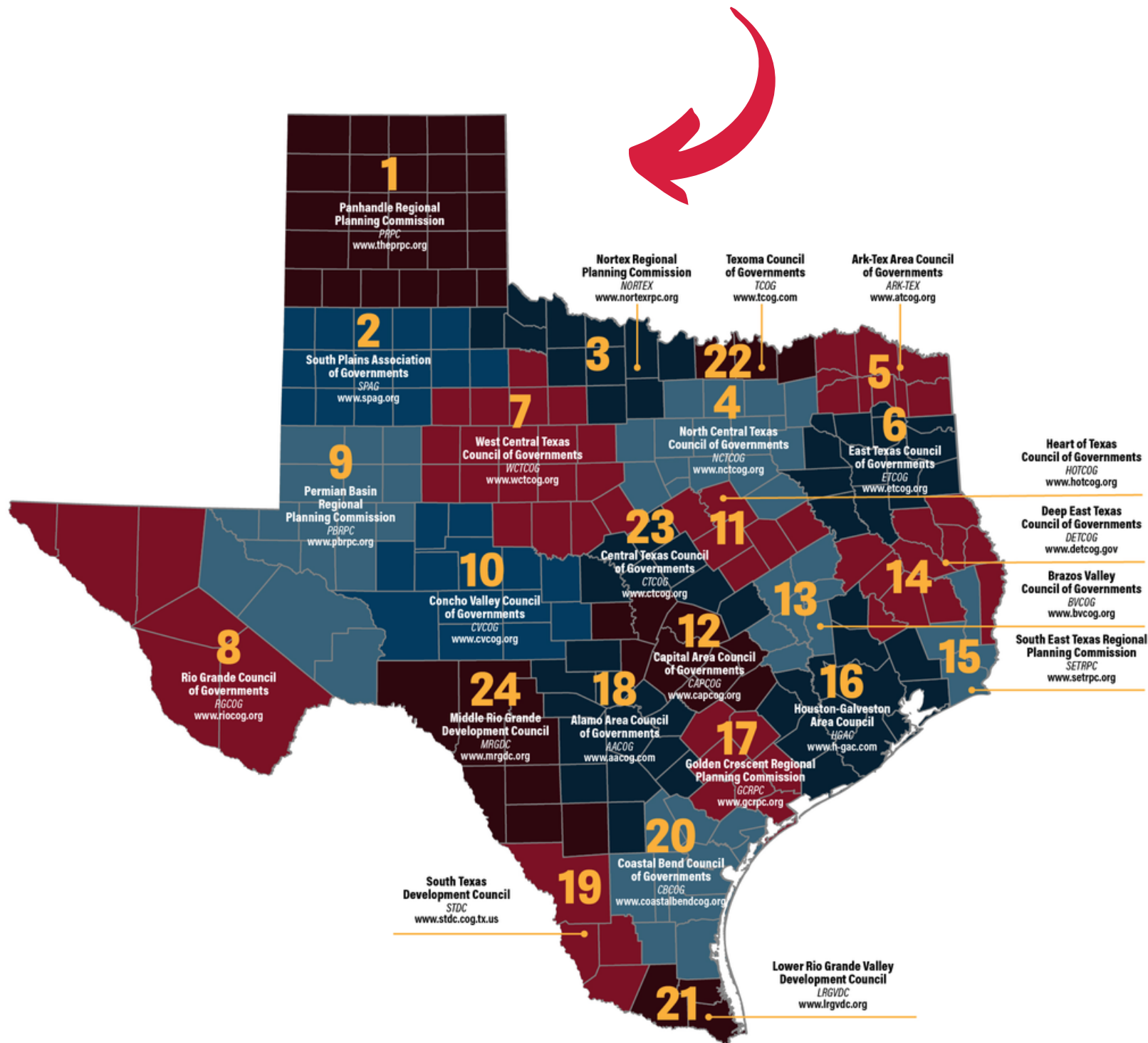


Finding common ground across Texas | TARC and its member COGs work with state and federal partners on vital projects and its initiatives.



Building regional partnerships | TARC's member COGs help spur economic development across Texas by strengthening efficiency and cooperation across geographic boundaries.

Get to know your local COG on the map below.



Learn
More



www.TXRegionalCouncil.org



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