



GRASSROOTS HISTORY:

The Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone is a Presidential initiative designed to afford communities real opportunities for growth and revitalization. The RGVEZC was designated an EZ/EC on December 21, 1993.

The framework of the Empowerment Zone is embodied in four guiding principles:

- **Economic Opportunity**
- **Social Development**
- **Sustainable Community Development**
- **Community Based Partnerships**
- **Strategic Vision for Change**

The implementation of the RGVEZC initiative evolved from a valley-wide effort composed of public officials, grassroots activist, and business interests who had a vested interest in their communities.

Vision

To promote a better "quality of life" for empowerment zone communities.

Mission

The mission of the RGVEZC is to create self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas of pervasive poverty, unemployment and general distress while at the same time demonstrating that distressed communities can achieve self-sufficiency through innovative and comprehensive approaches.

Disclaimer: The RGVEZC-VOC/PR Program is subject to changes and is based solely on funding availability. Certain rules and regulations apply to qualify for certain victim services.

"If you are a victim of a Violent Crime in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, Starr Counties please contact us for FREE victim assistance services."

**Rio Grande Valley
Empowerment Zone
VOC/PR Program**

**Phone: 956-424-3276
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<http://www.facebook.com/rgvez>



www.rgvez.org

**Rio Grande Valley
Empowerment Zone
Corporation**

**"Dedicated to the Restoration of
Victims of Violent Crimes"**



**Victims of
Crime
Prevention &
Restoration
Program**

**416 South Alton Blvd
Alton, TX 78573
Tel:(956) 424-3276
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**This program is funded in part by a grant of the Office of the Governor of Texas/ Criminal Justice Division, the Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone and the Office of the Texas Attorney General/ OVAG Division.*

We are in desperate need of VOLUNTEERS and DONATIONS, if you would like to help in our cause, please call the office for more information.

**"For victims that have been
impacted by violent crime"**

Established 2013

RGVEZC -VOC/PR Program

The Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone Corporation "Victims of Crime/ Prevention & Restoration Program" was established in 2013 to assist victims of violent crimes in the Rio Grande Valley Region. This is a regional program assisting in Hidalgo, Cameron, Wilbacy, and Starr counties. The Goal of the RGVEZC-VOC/PR Program is to decrease re-victimization in an effort to achieve victim restoration. It provides on-going victim assistance services for victims of:

Survivors of Homicide Victims

Family Violence

Sexual Assault

Stalking

Teen Dating Violence

Human Trafficking

Child Abuse

Sex Trafficking

Forced Labor/ Modern Slavery

Other Violent Crimes

MISSION:

RGVEZC-VOC/PR makes the difference through on-going emotional support, education, and advocacy in an effort to decrease re-victimization and achieve victim restoration.

VISION:

To provide prevention and restoration services while working to create a world free of violence.



SUPPORT SERVICES

Support Groups

On-going support groups for Survivors of Homicide Victims are held on a monthly basis. Groups are self help to assist survivors in the grieving process and the aftermath of murder.

Crisis Intervention

Victims of violent crimes can contact the Regional Crime Victim Specialist to receive individual crisis counseling via phone, on-site, and in person.

Legal Advocacy

Victims will be assisted with Protective Orders, legal referrals, will be informed of the legal rights of victims of violent crimes.

Court Accompaniment

Victims will be provided accompaniment and support in the criminal/civil prosecution process and probate court for estate planning and will be educated on the court process.

Police Accompaniment

Victims will be assisted with advocacy and accompaniment to police departments and explained the investigation process.

Safety Planning

Victims will be given safety planning training so they learn to live without fear.

Information & Referral

Victims will be provided with information and referrals to social services agencies.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Victim Impact Statements

Victims will be assisted with the victim impact statements.

Victim Impact Panels

Victims will participate in the victim impact panels to allow them an appropriate outlet to speak of the aftermath of the crime.

VINE: Victim Information and Notification Everyday

Victims will be assisted in the registration on the VINE System to be informed of offender status and court dates.

Court Ordered Restitution

Victims will be educated and assisted in the court ordered restitution process.

Crime Victims Compensation Program

Victims will be assisted with the Crime Victims Compensation application process and CVC follow-ups.

PREVENTION SERVICES

Professional Trainings

Professionals will be trained on special topics on violent crimes. If you are interested in a training please contact us.

Presentations

You can request a presentation on agency services or special topics on violent crimes.