



# 2022 Members' Report



Thank you  
for your  
continued  
support!



## Meet Your Staff

Chris



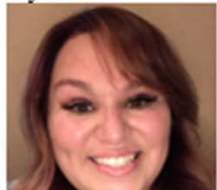
Vicki



Alan



Angelica



Byron



John



Jodi



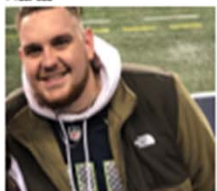
Jeff



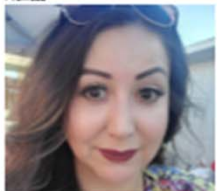
Albert



Maria



Aina



Tami



Shane



## 2022 Outstanding Service Award



The 2022 Outstanding Service Award for 2022 goes to Sheriff Bob Udell and Chief Dan Christman of Selah. In this year, the YVCOG Executive Committee selects a person or persons who exemplify regional service that is above and beyond what public servants already do, benefiting all municipalities within the Yakima Valley.

The criteria used to determine these unique individuals include:

1. Commitment to excellence
2. Integrity
3. Benefits all YVCOG Members

Sheriff Udell and Chief Christman were the leading catalysts for educating City and Town Councils on the benefits of a Local Crime Lab. Their expertise and dedication to these services for local law enforcement agencies was evident in hundreds of miles they drove throughout the County to attend council meetings, rotary meetings, chamber meetings, and multiple other stakeholder meetings throughout 2022.

Sheriff Udell has been in law enforcement for 33 years. As Yakima County Sheriff, he is the Executive Officer for Yakima County. He is responsible to protect the peace within the borders of the county for all people. As he stands in his cowboy hat, Sheriff Udell is passionate about fighting crime in the Yakima Valley. He stated over and over during council meetings, "We can do better than this. We **HAVE** to do better than this, as he spoke about increased crime. Citizens deserve resolution for crimes committed against them. During his 33 years with Yakima County Sheriff's Office, he has seen a rise in homicides, drug crimes, gun crimes, and property crimes. He shared his vision for the Local Crime Lab as a collaborative approach to combat crime together and aid detectives, enhancing their ability to process evidence and data in a timely manner.

Chief Christman has been in law enforcement for over 25 years. He started his career as Deputy Coroner in Boise, Idaho. He became a medicolegal death investigator, a criminal justice instructor, and opened an independent forensic science consulting firm providing case investigation and forensic education. He then authored the State CJTC curriculum, "Basic Death Investigation", and was employed by Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. He is currently Chair of Yakima Valley Special Investigations Unit and Police Chief for the city of Selah. He shared during council meetings the importance for all law enforcement agencies to participate in the LCL, "when we squeeze crime in one area, it moves to another location".

Working collaboratively, squeezing crime together, we hope to see greater success interrupting crime before it begins in the Yakima Valley. It was with great respect to present these 2022 Outstanding Service Awards to Sheriff Bob Udell and Chief Dan Christman.

*Thank you, gentlemen, for your commitment to the Yakima Valley.*

## Message from Our Chair



On behalf of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, I am pleased to submit our 2022 Annual Report highlighting the work accomplished to benefit the membership and valley. The report contains programs and projects administered by YVCOG.

2022 has been an exciting year for the Yakima Valley. Through community outreach, YVCOG partnered with its members to move priorities forward by investing time, effort, and resources focused on solutions. Expanding the efforts by YVCOG members with community stakeholders is affecting positive change; leaders in the valley are already discussing new ideas with additional funding sources.

YVCOG Members have been tackling tough decisions as they work with the Legislature to create sustainable funding sources. Taking the necessary steps now by establishing regional priorities as a valley offers our legislative delegation the benefit of supporting the Yakima Valley without requiring them to decide on competing priorities. Our members know that when we collaborate and make decisions together, the long-term results benefit us all.

Continuing to work together will strengthen our valley. Each city, town, and County is equally essential. What one community does will affect its neighboring communities. As we share knowledge and resources, we will continue to provide solutions to our members' issues and challenges.

James Restucci  
YVCOG Chair

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## Purpose

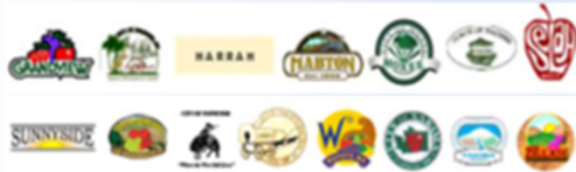
Beginning in 1966 with sixteen members and a budget of \$53,990, Yakima County Conference of Governments was born! Yes... Yakima County at that time which eventually became Yakima Valley to recognize the independence of the COG representing all municipalities.

Each municipality appoints an elected official to represent their interests on the YVCOG General Membership. The General Membership then votes on an Executive Committee to govern the day-to-day operations at YVCOG.

At the time of conception, COG was established for elected officials to join together to work on issues and concerns in a collaborative manner. Offering a local government, formed by them, provided each municipality a means to work across jurisdictional boundaries. This structure allowed them to maintain authority within their own jurisdictional boundaries for projects and programs while sharing in the cost of projects and programs.

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments became the designated Federal Transportation Planning Organization in 1972 and the state Transportation Planning Organization in 1990 for the Yakima Valley. A Transportation Policy Board was established to govern the transportation program, housed within YVCOG. The Transportation Policy Board consists of the YVCOG Executive Committee + WSDOT, a public transit agency, and an economic development agency. We continue to reach out to the Yakima Nation for participation on this Board.

Today, YVCOG is a thriving government with the same purpose it was formed with in 1966. YVCOG provides a round-table for collaboration, administers programs, and offers services, crossing jurisdictional boundaries, for all municipalities. We continue to offer planning, transportation, GIS, outreach, housing, and public safety programs. Compliance is our number focus as we continue to represent our members with grants and assisting them to administer grants on their behalf. We are proud to say we have not had a finding in any program we have administered.



## 2022 Executive Committee & Transportation Policy Board



Jim Restucci, Sunnyside



John Hodkinson, Union Gap



Janice Gonzales, Zillah



Ron Anderson, County



Jose Trevino, Granger



Patricia Byers, Yakima



Sherry Raymond, Selah



Madelyn Carlson, PFP



Jon Smith, YCDA



Todd Trepanier, WSDOT

## 2022 General Membership

### 2022 YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD

Grandview: Bill Moore, Council Member  
 Granger: Ryan Stonemetz, Council Member  
 Harrah: Pat Kueger, Council Member  
 Mabton: Arturo De La Fuente, Council Member  
 Moses: David Roy, Council Member  
 Naches: Paul Williams, Mayor  
 Selah: Sherry Raymond, Mayor  
 Sunnyside: Julia Hart, Council Member

Tieton: Ed Marquand, Council Member  
 Toppenish: Clara Jimenez, Council Member  
 Union Gap: James Marr, Council Member  
 Wapato: Margaret Estrada, Mayor  
 Yakima: Patricia Byers, Council Member  
 Yakima County: Ron Anderson, Commissioner  
 Zillah: Janice Gonzales, Council Member



## Transportation Planning

YVCOG Project Obligations for 2022

**\$1,225,632**

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MODEL

YVCOG performed a comprehensive update of its Regional Transportation Model, including a complete land use update of all municipal and county lands. The new model includes analysis and forecasting of infrastructure and land use changes and their impacts on the region's transportation systems.

Regional Traffic Count Program performed set a record total of 364 tube counts, turning movements, and pathway video counts for all 14 municipalities. Member jurisdictions use this data to determine traffic volumes on street systems, project effects of land use changes, and measure mobility impacts.

### Other Highlights

- Co-hosted with City of Union Gap the first in-person, hybrid, Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) monthly meeting in over two years - April 2022
- Partnered with WSDOT and member jurisdictions to develop regional corridor studies including:
  - SR12/Powerhouse Road (complete)
  - SR24 East Valley Active Transportation Solutions (ongoing)
  - SR12/Naches Active Transportation Connections (just started)
  - Scheduled to begin the I-82/SR 97 Freight Express Route Study in 2023
- Completed the 2022 Human Services Transportation Plan Update
- Completed the 2022 Yakima Valley Regional Transit Feasibility Study (Phase I)
- YVCOG Transportation Program staff continued to provide transportation planning and coordination assistance on a variety of transportation areas including:
  - WSDOT's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Statewide Implementors and Technical Advisory Committees
  - WSDOT's Statewide "Investment Strategies Workgroup"
  - Statewide and local discussion on returning passenger rail to Central Washington
  - Yakima Nation's Transportation Safety and Heritage Connectivity Trail Project Committees
  - Yakima Region Transit and Para-Transit Agencies, Citizen Advisory Committees
  - Yakima (City) and Yakima County "East-West Corridor Project"

### \$ PROJECTS OBLIGATED \$ 1,225,632 IN

YVCOG-administered federal transportation Funds :

- \$ 30,275: Air Quality
- \$ 309,960: Pathways, sidewalk improvements
- \$ 285,397: Roadway reconstruction, preservation, and planning
- \$600,000: Regional Planning (traffic modeling, counts, various studies)
- Anticipate over \$5.5 million in YVCOG-administered obligations in 2023



# State & Federal designated transportation planning organization for the Yakima Valley

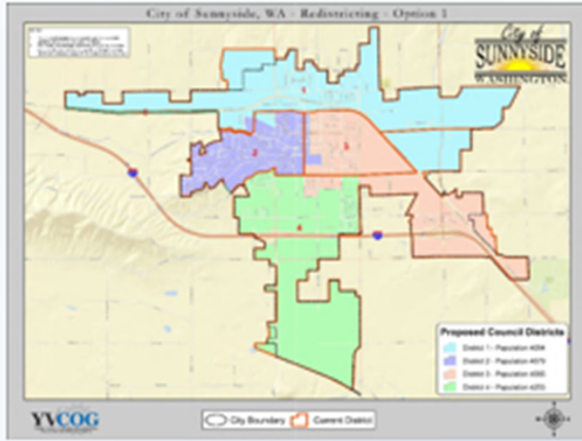
Federal Highways  
 Federal Transit  
 State Highways  
 Commute Trip Reduction  
 Air Quality  
 Human Services  
 Feasibility Studies  
 Transportation Modeling  
 Traffic Counts  
 STPG Federal Funding  
 Complete Streets  
 Trails & Pathways

## 2021 Land Use Planning

*Planning for anticipated population growth under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA).*

YVCOG provided land use planning for many of our communities. We worked with our members throughout 2022 to ensure that they remained compliant with the Growth Management Act (GMA), Comprehensive Plans, and their development regulations. Some of the services we provided included processing conditional use permits, subdivisions, annexations, rezones, and text amendments to Comprehensive Plans and development regulations.

YVCOG worked with Grandview, Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Sunnyside, Tieton, Toppenish, Union Gap, and Wapato on their land use projects. Some projects included a new museum in Granger, a new library and community center for Union Gap, a rezone and subdivision in Grandview, and updates to the development code in Tieton to allow for residential development above businesses in their commercial zone. We also provided Sunnyside with their redraw for their City Council Electoral District boundaries to reflect US Census data.



Our major long-term project in 2022 is developing a Housing Action Plan (HAP) for six of our communities: Grandview, Tieton, Toppenish, Union Gap, Wapato, and Zillah. The goal of the HAP is to identify actions that can be implemented to create more housing and more diversity in our housing options in the individual communities.

In 2022, we focused on creating a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and community outreach. Creating the HNA involved analyzing census data and other information available from the state and Yakima County. The community outreach efforts included speaking with elected officials, home builders, realtors, as well as "pop-up" events to hear what the people who live in the

individual cities feel is needed. Moving into 2023 we will take the results of the HNA and community outreach and develop the Housing Action Plans for adoption by City Councils.

# Current Planning

Annexations  
Subdivisions  
Conditional Use Permits  
Electoral District Boundaries  
Rezones

# Housing Action Plans

Work directly with City Council  
❖ *Planning Commissions responsible for permit planning*  
Outreach  
❖ Realtors, Developers, Public

Public Believes it's the  
Governments job to  
create housing

\$4,000,000,000 coming

# What the STATE is focused on



## Governor and Legislative Reaction to the Housing Crisis

- \$4,000,000,000 using bonds requested from legislature
- Targeted at 50% AMI





## YVCOG's Reaction to the Housing Crisis

- Help cities retain LOCAL CONTROL with housing policies and help maintain each city's identity
- Zoning Barriers
- Demand VS Inventory
- Generational Shifts
- Walkable Neighborhoods

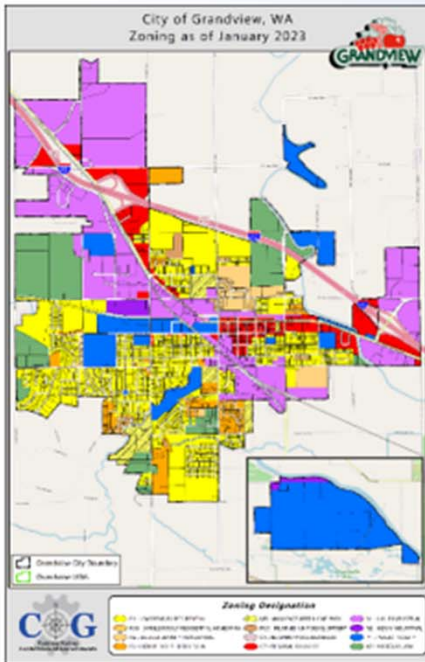


## Geographic Information Systems

Yakima County Development Association partnered with YVCOG to develop an interactive web-based map in an ongoing effort to support economic development in the Yakima Valley beginning in 2021. Zoning within our members jurisdictions is constantly changing. The economic development zoning data will offer a preliminary review for possible sites for development. Maps are for illustrative purposes and are not to be considered an official citation to, or representation of, the codes or development regulations and ordinances of a jurisdictions.



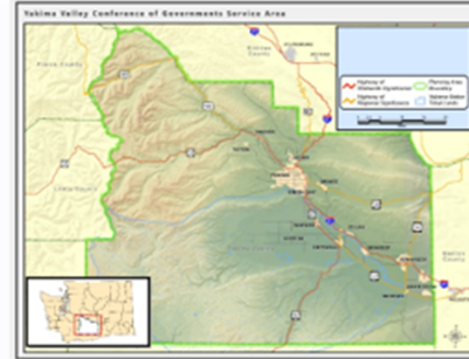
As YVCOG was building zoning maps, we learned that a few of our members believed Yakima County was providing this service for them, and others had not given us updated zoning changes. We had one city with over 300 parcels not accounted for within their city limits! Working with the city and county, YVCOG was able to update the zoning to accurately reflect all parcels within the city limits and update the county with this information for their online GIS program.



### Growing Cities

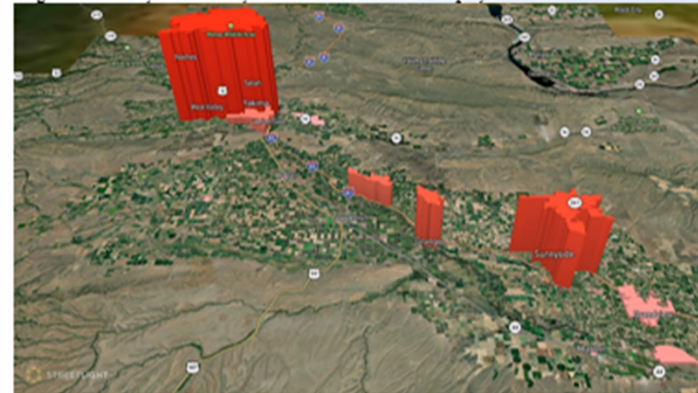
The YVCOG GIS program has been busy developing data and maps in support of many other programs in the YVCOG. In the previous calendar year, the GIS was used to map and create notifications for over 50 current planning development projects in the Valley. These maps keep neighbors informed of the changes occurring in their communities. This GIS program is also used heavily to gather and analyze data for decision makers for more complex projects in our communities such as Housing Action Plans, Human Services Transportation Plans, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and other regionally focused planning efforts.

Data and maps were developed in support of redistricting efforts as well as various comprehensive planning map changes to maintain compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) and to prepare for the upcoming GMA amendment cycle.



Finally, YVCOG has begun the process of migrating the GIS program to a web-based enterprise level system that will give members direct access to their own data and online mapping tools to allow YVCOG to support the mapping efforts of the emerging Local Crime Lab.

The graphic shown here identifies people from Yakima County Cities who are headed to the Casino Monday through Thursday between 6:00 and 10:00 AM. This most likely represents where the day shift employees are coming from. The green dot in Toppenish is the Casino destination. The 3D heights of each city are scaled by the number of travelers/employees.



Providing visual maps  
Working with YCDA to develop  
web-based map with zoning  
information

New tool, Streetlight  
demonstrates traffic flow  
in and out of your community

## Community Law Enforcement Partnership



Promoting partnerships between law enforcement and community members to build trust, safety, and gang prevention/education was the focus of this grant. Before the real work begins, YVCOG spent 2022 connecting with law enforcement to learn what they were already doing, held pop-up meetings in English and Spanish to understand community safety concerns, convened school assemblies to education students about domestic violence, healthy relationships, Crime Stoppers app and other services they may need. YVCOG conducted individual and business surveys to learn about property crime, homelessness, and other concerns.

During community events, community days, Central Washington State Fair, parades, or any other event bringing community members together, YVCOG was there to encourage participation in our survey! Through community outreach, YVCOG was able to begin forming partnerships with service providers interested in contributing to the goals of this grant. YWCA's domestic violence services request the assistance from YVCOG in organizing one of their grants which includes the lower valley's law enforcement, schools, and agencies that work with the community. Crime Stoppers participated with YVCOG sharing information on the P3 app which allows students and the community report crime anonymously. The P3 app has been a great tool for high school students to report crime within the schools. SAFE Yakima Valley partnered with YVCOG in many of the events sharing information on recruitment of mentors for low-risk youth they serve. These agencies are a few of the partnerships.



Hidden in Plain Sight was a staged bedroom with over 100 gang or drug paraphilia laying 'in plain sight'. Only 30 items were seen by parents or law enforcement.

What YVCOG learned in the beginning from law enforcement was the need for enhanced collaboration to improve public safety between our 13 local law enforcement agencies. Our local officers need enhanced technology with a neutral party administering the staff and technology purchased by combining their resources. Through this specific grant, the Local Crime Lab was determined to be a benefit for increasing public safety.

YVCOG is working with specific cities to implement 'Handle With Care', a program that informs schools when a child has been present at a domestic violence incident. This program provides a heads up to school counselors or teachers that 'little Susie' may be extra tired, or irritable, or act out, giving them an opportunity to intervene to offer any assistance they may provide to the child.

Reaching all sectors  
of your community

Survey  
Task Force  
Popup Meetings  
Community Events  
School Functions  
Bazaars  
Churches  
Classrooms  
Steering Committee  
Council



## Community Development Block Grant

*Community outreach, engagement, and data leads to thriving communities!*

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments was awarded a CDBG grant, through Toppenish, for the purpose of providing senior citizens and persons with disabilities a means to request emergency home repairs to prevent them from becoming displaced. YVCOG is currently working in Toppenish, Wapato, and Mabton with these specific services.

Before we begin accepting projects, YVCOG is conducting a gap and overlap study to learn who is providing what services already. We do not want to provide services already available seniors and disabled individuals, but instead, to fill in the gap with services not currently being offered.



to

With this new grant, YVCOG is creating policies and procedures for compliance. The specific funding through HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) has strict guidelines that we are required to follow. Developing appropriate policies and procedures allows for clear understanding of what

the process is for approving services, who qualifies for services, how much they qualify for, and who is authorized to perform services.



During Community Outreach, it was determined that 'Aging in Place' is important in communities. People who can stay in their homes are happier and enjoy life more. Living on fixed incomes, these individuals cannot afford to replace a water heater, furnace, leaky faucets, or electrical panel. Mitigating mold or unsafe drinking

water increases the health of seniors. Broken windows or doors that do not lock can create stress and anxiety. Criminals who prey on seniors look for unsafe signs to be able to enter a senior's home. These simple, yet extremely important fixes may not be able to occur without the assistance of this grant.

Stay tuned as YVCOG moves forward with this grant. We hope to be able to open this opportunity to all our members in 2023 who would like to participate in services for low-income seniors and disabled individuals who live in your community.



*Taking care of those  
who took care of us.*

# Senior Assistance

30-80% Area Median  
Income  
\$16,600 - \$44,200 per  
year (1)

## Objectives:

1. Allowing Seniors to 'Age in Place'
2. Preventing Seniors from becoming displaced

## 2022 Health & Housing Grant



After a year of outreach in Toppenish to understand health issues related to housing, YVCOG was ready to begin services for mitigating these health risks. We learned health risks in relation to physical health, mental health, and emotional health are, at times, competing priorities. Each of these priorities are being addressed with some of the work YVCOG performed in 2022.

When YVCOG applied for this grant, our objective was to learn about unhealthy living conditions based on a zip code. Does where you live decrease or

increase your personal health? Why? What are the facts? Partnering with Department of Commerce, we learned about the overcrowding in homes and all the immediate or future health concerns directly related to too many people occupying one residence. By having multiple families living together, the physical and emotional effects on people was astounding.

Some immediate physical health concerns were not enough food, sleep, and prone to catching diseases more regularly. Having community lead priorities for increasing more housing, YVCOG partnered with Habitat for Humanity to discuss a land trust idea and YVCOG applied for and was awarded a grant for \$75,000 per municipality to develop Housing Action Plans. We anticipate another round of grants available in July 2023 to assist in the development of Housing Action Plans for those jurisdictions who did not participate in the first round of grants.



Some immediate and long-term emotional health concerns identified by community members could be recruitment into gangs, domestic violence, sexual assault, and adverse early childhood experiences. When YVCOG learned of these concerns from the community, we applied for and received the Community-Law Enforcement Partnership grant. We began partnering with experts in these areas for additional resources.



YVCOG has started researching contractors to assist in lead paint detection and abatement, water purification systems if lead is detected in a home's water system, mold abatement, removal of carpeting for individuals with asthma, window replacement, locks on doors and windows, constructing ramps for people with this type of need, and consideration for other health concerns that could be improved based on the structure they live in. Currently, this specific grant is in Toppenish. YVCOG will begin this process with outreach in 2023 in two additional cities in the Yakima Valley.



# Health Issues

# Toppenish

## Asbestos

## Mold

## Contaminated water

## HVAC Systems

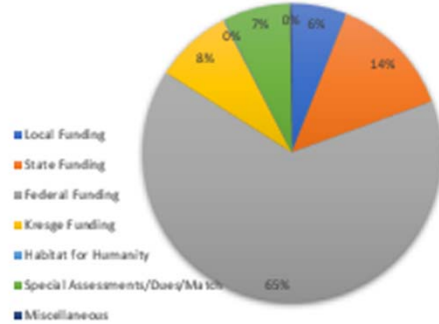
## Increasing Housing Stock

# Why Toppenish?

# *Community Outreach and Engagement!*

## 2022 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue Totals



Revenues Totals	Revenue Totals
Local Funding	\$ 170,859.95
State Funding	\$ 384,703.45
Federal Funding	\$ 1,846,737.95
Health & Housing Funding	\$ 240,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 3,060.00
Special Assessments/Dues/Match	\$ 208,684.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,806.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,859,852.07</b>

Expense Totals

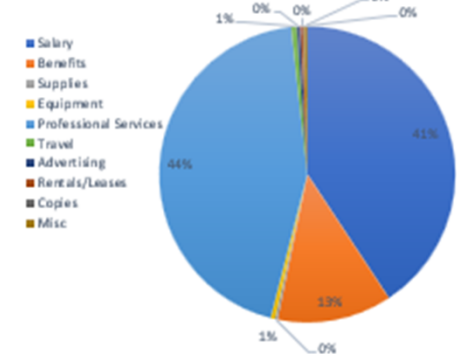


Expenses Totals	Expense Totals
Salary	\$ 916,402.82
Benefits	\$ 282,316.79
Supplies	\$ 8,159.85
Equipment	\$ 8,897.94
Professional Services	\$ 472,608.24
Communications	\$ 8,880.37
Travel	\$ 12,662.89
Advertising	\$ 4,987.01
Rentals/Leases	\$ 50,814.16
Insurance	\$ 9,155.00
Copies	\$ 749.26
Miscellaneous	\$ 27,988.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,803,622.67</b>

## Transportation Expenses

Transportation Expenses Totals	Transportation Totals
Salary	\$ 325,426.29
Benefits	\$ 100,051.04
Supplies	\$ 2,293.64
Equipment	\$ 3,763.60
Professional Services	\$ 353,761.12
Travel	\$ 4,835.11
Advertising	\$ 3,024.40
Rentals/Leases	\$ 2,481.70
Copies	\$ 693.32
Misc	\$ 2,940.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 799,270.42</b>

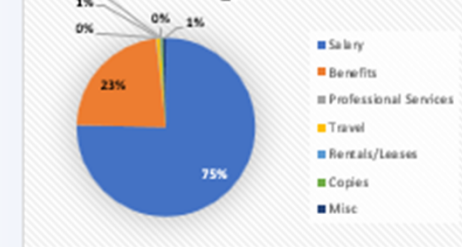
Transportation Totals



## Planning / GIS Expenses

Planning/GIS Expenses Totals	Planning/GIS Totals
Salary	\$ 72,197.65
Benefits	\$ 21,826.28
Professional Services	\$ 113.48
Travel	\$ 615.94
Rentals/Leases	\$ 118.49
Copies	\$ 371.46
Misc	\$ 530.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 95,773.41</b>

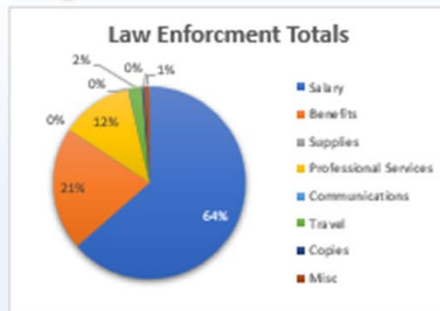
Planning/GIS Totals





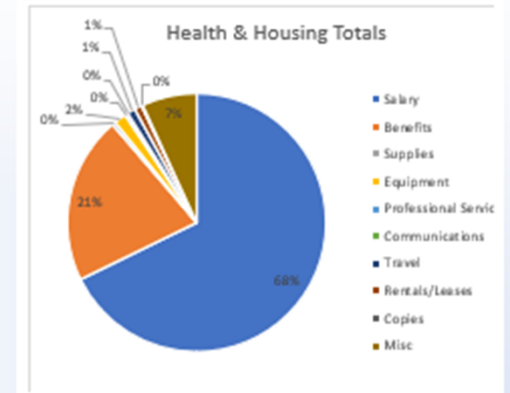
## Community - Law Enforcement Outreach Expenses

Law Enforcement Outreach Expenses	Total Expenses
Salary	\$71,384.20
Benefits	\$23,276.73
Supplies	73.17
Professional Services	\$13,574.48
Communications	21.93
Travel	2587
Copies	462.06
Misc	956.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$112,336.29</b>



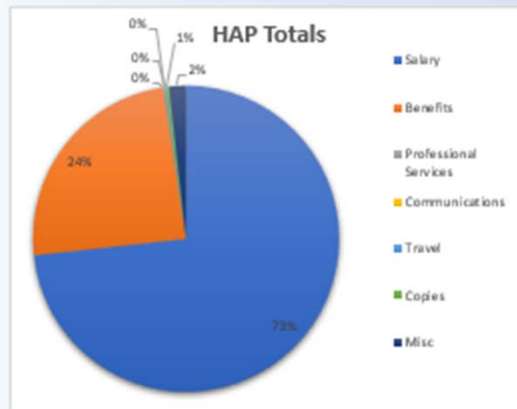
## Health & Housing Expenses

Health & Housing Expenses Totals	Health & Housing Totals
Salary	\$ 49,202.58
Benefits	\$ 15,221.77
Supplies	\$ 308.83
Equipment	\$ 1,096.98
Professional Services	\$ 265.30
Communications	\$ 15.84
Travel	\$ 736.62
Rentals/Leases	\$ 658.64
Copies	\$ 127.18
Misc	\$ 4,981.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 72,614.84</b>



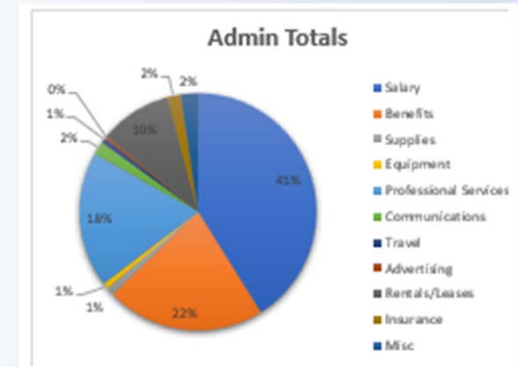
## Housing Action Plan Expenses

HAP Expenses	HAP Totals
Salary	\$ 36,844.12
Benefits	\$ 12,235.40
Professional Services	\$ 25.27
Communications	\$ 15.83
Travel	\$ 97.54
Copies	\$ 174.78
Misc	\$ 892.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,285.42</b>



## Administrative Expenses

Admin Expenses Totals	Admin Totals
Salary	\$ 200,188.82
Benefits	\$ 105,342.50
Supplies	\$ 5,080.73
Equipment	\$ 4,037.36
Professional Services	\$ 90,072.16
Communications	\$ 8,826.77
Travel	\$ 3,362.06
Advertising	\$ 1,962.61
Rentals/Leases	\$ 47,447.02
Insurance	\$ 9,155.00
Misc	\$ 11,219.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 486,694.46</b>



## Future Priorities

### *I am excited to share 2023 priorities with our membership!*

**TRANSPORTATION** continues to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the Yakima Valley. YVCOG will begin the 2024-2045 (yes, 20 years!) Long-range plan and completing the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program and 2024 – 2027 Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Improvement Plan. YVCOG will update transportation's public participation plan and will kick off the Toppenish Freight Express Route study in partnership with WSDOT.

It is also the intention to have a Call for Projects - 2025 and Beyond for Surface Transportation Block Grant and a Call for Projects for 2022/2023 Carbon Reduction Program.

**PLANNING AND GIS** will continue to work with members regarding an online GIS map for economic development opportunities. Planning and GIS will continue to serve members with land use applications, noticing requirements, hearing procedures, and Comp Plan Amendment timelines. Planning staff will also be creating procedural guidelines for the city's staff to follow to help ensure Growth Management Act (GMA) compliance.

Focusing on Housing Action Plans (HAP) to update the Housing Element in members comprehensive plan is an opportunity to review and update ordinances and codes to offer streamlining development for additional housing. YVCOG will pursue additional HAP grants for members who did not participate in the previous grant to offer this service to members at no cost to them. YVCOG will also pursue a Housing Action Plan Implementation (HAPI) grant to begin to implement the approved Housing Action Plan by each municipality.

**COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (CLEP) OUTREACH** will continue to develop a Yakima Valley Public Safety Plan and present the plan to Councils for their consideration to approve for their municipality. YVCOG will pursue another CLEP grant to continue the work we have learned in each [community](#) such as, but not limited to, Block Watch, In Plain Sight, Handle with Care, and educational materials to help parents recognize behaviors or indicators that their child may need intervention.

**HEALTH AND HOUSING** will be a focus for YVCOG as we work to abate homes with lead paint, mold, and other unhealthy substances in homes located in the City of Toppenish. We will continue outreach in two other communities to provide possible rehabs for homes identified in those jurisdictions that may have an unhealthy condition. Besides lead paint, mold, and carpeting that may increase breathing issues for a person with asthma, YVCOG will also test water, install door locks, offer roofing assistance, replace broken windows, and work with partners to add additional housing in these communities to reduce overcrowding in homes.

**SENIOR HOUSING EMERGENCY REPAIR** program is working with Washington State Department of Commerce to identify gaps in services throughout our Valley. By launching the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Senior Repair program successfully, we will be able to extend this program to all our cities by showing the need of services to the Department of Commerce which will allow our valley to receive more funding to support [all](#) of our member cities.

YVCOG will continue to build partnerships with developers and partnerships within our communities to work together for our community housing needs. Part of this is continuing to expand our knowledge on Community Land Trusts to be able to assist and partner with Habitat for Humanity for a successful Community Land Trust project.

**LOCAL CRIME LAB** is in its initial phase including approval for policies and procedures, ordering equipment, determining, and hiring qualified staff, prioritizing trainings, working federal and state agencies for access into databases, and coordinating all the moving parts. The focus for 2023 is standup the service, work with Law Enforcement to build criminal mapping dashboards in each of their departments, listen to determine priorities for processing evidence, and to continue to seek funding to offer more services to reduce crime in the Yakima Valley.

As you, our YVCOG Member, are tackling tough decisions, YVCOG is ready to serve you with collaboration, program oversight, grant administration with the assistance you have always expected.

Thank you for your continued support!



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