

# Congressman Joaquin Castro

# 2024 Year in Review



# A NOTE FROM JOAQUIN



**Dear Friends,**

2024 was a year of opportunity for San Antonio and our district. As small businesses launch, young people graduate, and seniors settle into retirement, my office is committed to a future for our city where everyone can thrive.

During my time in Congress, I've focused on expanding what I call the Infrastructure of Opportunity – the great public schools and universities, sound health care system, and well-paying jobs that help people achieve their American dreams.

In 2024, my office was proud to get nearly \$6 billion in federal funding to help people in San Antonio live healthy and happy lives. Today, that money is making it possible to renovate our senior centers, expand early childhood education programs, lower healthcare costs, and so much more.

If you have ideas to share or if you need help, please reach out to my office. We work for you, and I'm grateful for every chance to serve our community.

**Here's to a great future in 2025 and beyond,**

*Joaquin Castro*



# SERVING SAN ANTONIO

In 2024, my office responded to thousands of calls from San Antonio residents who wanted to share their opinions, learn about our services, and ask for help with issues involving the federal government.

As your congressman, I'm always focused on two vital priorities: **bringing new resources to San Antonio** and **making federal programs work better** for folks in our community.

**Here are the numbers I'm most proud of for 2024:**



**Nearly \$6 billion in grants and funding for San Antonio programs and services**

**\$1.1 million in individual benefits recovered for San Antonio families**

NEWS4SA

**Congressman Castro fights to relieve debt for BAMC patients**

by SBG San Antonio | David Warner | Tue, June 11th 2024 at 4:48 PM

Updated Tue, June 11th 2024 at 5:07 PM



**Hundreds of constituent cases resolved with the federal government**

# 2024 SUCCESS STORIES

## Long-Overdue Benefits for a San Antonio Veteran

Eduardo M. reached out to my office after struggling to get his VA benefits for more than five years.

After my office contacted the VA, he was reclassified as 100% disabled and received nearly \$200,000 in retroactive benefits.

Today, Eduardo receives full disability benefits, which help cover costs related to cancer he developed from his time in service.

In 2024, my office helped San Antonio veterans get more than **\$460,000** in back pay and benefits.

"I was at the end of my rope. The VA kept telling me I didn't have a case. You guys took the bull by the horns and were successful. You don't know how grateful I am." - **Eduardo M.**

## Fixing Problems with Passports and Visas

Yolanda D. called my office after the State Department erroneously denied her passport application. After my office intervened, the decision was reversed and Yolanda received her passport.

"I was very upset, and I called Mr. Castro's office and immediately got assistance. They just started working on it. Mr. Castro keeps us posted, especially as seniors. He is very hands-on for everything." - **Yolanda D.**

# 2024 SUCCESS STORIES

## (CONTINUED)

### Fixing IRS Issues and Helping Taxpayers

David P. reached out after the IRS mistakenly sent his tax refund to the wrong address.

After my office contacted the IRS, David received nearly \$33,000, including interest, because of the delay in payment.

In 2024, my office helped San Antonio taxpayers get nearly **\$130,000** from the IRS

### Resolving Immigration & Naturalization Issues

Stephanie C. and her husband, HK, reached out to my office after HK's application for a Green Card was denied due to paperwork errors at USCIS. After my office intervened, USCIS processed his application correctly and his case was approved.

"[Congressman Castro's office] was really helpful. They helped guide us through the information we needed to submit. Once everything was ready, they sent it out the same day and we heard from immigration two weeks after that our case was approved." - **HK**

*Struggling with a federal agency? My office can help you get answers.  
To learn more, visit [Castro.House.gov/help](https://Castro.House.gov/help) or call **210-348-8216**.*

# INVESTING IN SAN ANTONIO

In 2024, my office helped San Antonio organizations get nearly **six billion dollars** in grant funding, including more than ten million dollars to fund neighborhood-driven community projects.

## Take a look at some of the funding we secured in 2024:

### **\$268 million for VIA's Green Line project**

Expands bus service and transportation options for nearly **54,000** passengers in San Antonio.

### **\$30 million for the biggest municipal solar energy project in Texas**

Funds a **major solar panel installation** at public facilities and a partnership with St. Philip's College to train workers for in-demand energy jobs.

### **\$18 million to expand San Antonio Airport**

Funds a new terminal connector that will allow passengers to **move between terminals without having to re-enter airport security.**

### **\$6 million for Head Start programs in Bexar County**

Supports approximately **forty Head Start classrooms** for young learners.

### **\$4.6 million for CentroMed Community Health Services**

Supports CentroMed's work to provide high-quality health care to **more than 121,000 patients** in the San Antonio area.

### **\$1 million to grow CPS Energy's Home Improvement Program**

Funds home improvements to **help 500 San Antonio homeowners** qualify for no-cost, energy-saving home improvements.

# VICTORIES FOR SAN ANTONIO

In 2024, my office worked to expand and protect important federal programs and services in San Antonio.

**Here are some of the developments we're most proud to share:**

## PROTECTING ON-TIME MAIL DELIVERY IN SOUTH TEXAS

Together with my colleagues in San Antonio's Congressional Delegation, **I successfully opposed a mail centralization plan that would have delayed mail service across South Texas.**

Mail delivery is a critical service, and my office will continue fighting to protect on-time delivery for all.



## DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM SAN ANTONIO TO D.C.

For years, my office has been fighting to get direct flights between San Antonio and Washington D.C.

**Starting in March**, these daily flights will save travel time for our servicemembers and support the growth of our cybersecurity sector.



## FULL RESTORATION OF MARTINEZ CREEK

Decades ago, San Antonio paved over miles of creeks to prevent flooding on the Westside.

**This full ecosystem restoration**, which Congress authorized in late 2024, will restore green spaces on the Westside and protect the community from future flooding.

## A NEW PASSPORT AGENCY FOR SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio is one of the largest cities in the country without a permanent passport agency.

To help travelers get their passports, my office worked with the State Department to **win approval for a new San Antonio passport agency**, with more details to be announced soon.

# LEGISLATIVE WINS FOR SAN ANTONIO IN WASHINGTON

Despite a difficult legislative environment, I was proud to vote for many important bills that became law in 2024, including:

- **The Social Security Fairness Act**, which ends restrictions that unfairly limited Social Security benefits for teachers and other public servants.
- **The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act**, which increases wartime disability compensation and other benefits for veterans.
- **The FAFSA Deadline Act**, which makes FAFSA student aid applications available earlier in the year to help students fully understand their financial aid options for college.
- **The Debbie Smith Act**, which provides funding to state and local governments to help clear the rape kit backlog.
- **The National Plan to End Parkinson's Act**, which creates a national plan to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's disease, and the **BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act**, which advances Alzheimer's research and support for caregivers.





# CELEBRATING YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT

## Highlighting San Antonio's Young Artists

Every year, my office holds a Congressional Art Competition to recognize talented young artists.

In 2024, our winner was Mariela Peña, a senior at the International School of the Americas, who won first place for her piece, "Mirror of Comparison."



## Supporting STEM Talent

The Congressional App Challenge allows students to showcase their tech skills through community-oriented applications.

In 2024, our winner was Neha Hariharaprasad, a freshman at Brandeis High School. Neha's app, "Eczema Ease," helps users manage and understand their eczema.



## Celebrating the Next Generation of Leaders

Every year, my office meets with middle and high school students to talk about Congressional programs for youth. To learn more and schedule a visit for your school, call 210-348-8216.



Learn more about my office's youth programs by visiting [Castro.House.gov/Students](https://Castro.House.gov/Students)

# STAY IN TOUCH

My office is available to help constituents with issues related to the federal government, including:

- Medicare and Social Security
- VA programs
- Small business loans and other support
- Passports, visas, and immigration issues
- Questions related to the Department of Defense

## **SAN ANTONIO OFFICE**

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