

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Evelyn Cano  
Disability Chamber of Commerce Rio Grande Valley  
Phone: 956-502-0055  
Website: [www.dccrgv.com](http://www.dccrgv.com)

### **Disability Chamber of Commerce RGV Receives Grant from Texas Bar Foundation to Help Families Better Understand Guardianship and Legal Options for Loved Ones with Disabilities**

McAllen, Texas — May 15, 2026 The Disability Chamber of Commerce Rio Grande Valley is proud to announce that it has received a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to support a new legal education project, Legal Pathways to Adulthood for Texans with Disabilities Under Texas Law.

The project will help families, caregivers, and adults with disabilities better understand important legal options that often come up when a young person with a disability becomes an adult. These include guardianship, supported decision-making, powers of attorney, and other tools that can help families plan with more confidence and clarity.

For many families, the transition into adulthood can feel overwhelming. Parents are often told they “need guardianship” without fully understanding what guardianship entails, what responsibilities it entails, or whether a less-restrictive option may be available. This project is designed to slow that process down, explain the options in plain language, and help families ask better questions before making life-changing legal decisions.

In collaboration with regional school districts, DCC-RGV will host a comprehensive half-day community seminar to reach families directly. This educational seminar is designed to meet families where they are, providing a supportive environment for exploring guardianship, supported decision-making, and powers of attorney in clear, accessible language. By offering guidance at transition fairs and within trusted academic spaces, this initiative ensures that caregivers and adults with disabilities have the time and resources to navigate the complexities of adulthood with clarity and confidence.

“We are deeply grateful to the Texas Bar Foundation for supporting this work,” said Evelyn Cano, Executive Director of the Disability Chamber of Commerce RGV. “Families should not have to feel lost or pressured when making decisions about guardianship or adulthood. They deserve clear information, respectful guidance, and the chance to understand all of their options. This grant helps us bring education directly to the families who need it.”

The project will include bilingual, easy-to-understand materials and interactive presentations led or reviewed by Texas attorneys familiar with guardianship, disability law, and related decision-making tools. Families will learn about different types of guardianship, the rights adults with disabilities may retain, the responsibilities of serving as a guardian, and alternatives such as Supported Decision-Making Agreements and Powers of Attorney.

The project will also connect families to legal aid, pro bono resources, and private attorneys when they need more individualized guidance.

"This is about dignity, access, and informed choice," said Esmeralda Leal, Development Director of DCC-RGV. "We want families to know that guardianship is not the only conversation. There are options, and every person with a disability deserves to have their voice, safety, and future considered."

The Texas Bar Foundation provides funding to enhance the rule of law and the justice system in Texas, with a focus on programs that support legal assistance, public education, legal research, publications, forums, and the administration of justice.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$30 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably funded bar foundation.

For more information about the Disability Chamber of Commerce RGV, visit [www.dccrgv.com](http://www.dccrgv.com) or call 956-502-0055.

### **About Disability Chamber of Commerce RGV**

The Disability Chamber of Commerce RGV (501c3) works to advance the independence, productivity, and self-sufficiency of people with disabilities through inclusive employment, entrepreneurship, access to technology, community education, advocacy, and partnerships across South Texas.

### **About the Texas Bar Foundation**

The Texas Bar Foundation solicits charitable contributions and provides funding to enhance the rule of law and the justice system in Texas. Grants are made possible through the generosity of the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation and charitable gifts from individuals and law firms across the state.

###