



**SOUTH EAST TEXAS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SETEDD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Hardin County Courthouse
Red Room, 1st Floor
300 West Monroe Street
Kountze, Texas 77625**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dean Robinson, Chair, SETEDD

2. PRESENTATION ON TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS

Manuel S. Martinez, Field Representative-Trade and Business Development, Texas Department of Agriculture

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

4. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

5. ADJOURNMENT

**SOUTH EAST TEXAS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SETEDD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 28, 2019

TIME: 11:30 AM

PLACE: Neches Belle Antique Mall & Market
3892 Highway 96
Silsbee, TX 77656

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Dean Robinson, SETEDD President, welcomed board members and guests. He requested introductions from all present.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (TX-PACE) PROGRAM

- Marina Badoian-Kriticos, Regional Program Advisor, Texas PACE Authority

Ms. Badoian-Kriticos began her presentation by explaining what the Texas Pace Program is. Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy (TX-PACE) is a voluntary program that creates jobs, improves the environment, and saves Texas companies money on their utility bills. She stated that local governments across the state are taking advantage of the Texas PACE statute and establishing programs to further provide quality and valuable services to their constituencies, stakeholders, and taxpayers. Local PACE programs have already enabled over \$30 million of new private investment in local building stock in urban and rural Texas in just two years.

Ms. Badoian-Kriticos spoke to the attendees about the PACE benefits and types of property improvements that are available:

- Local Government Benefits
 - Workforce and economic development * No local government obligation * Minimal staff support * Improve building stock * Business retention and expansion * Better air quality * Water and energy conservation
- Property Owner Benefits
 - Cash flow positive projects * 100% financing * Automatic transfer upon sale * Long-term financing (up to 20 years or more) * Lower energy and water costs * No personal guarantees * Competitive rates and terms * Owner retains all tax incentives * Increase property value * Healthier and more comfortable facilities * Reduce environmental impacts
- Service Provider Benefits
 - Increase local hiring * Accelerate project timelines * New market penetration * Best practices * Technology advancement improvements
- Capital Provider Benefits
 - Steady stable process * Fully collateralized * Tax assessment lien position * Improve asset value * Mortgage-holder consent * Enhance customer finance position
- Eligible Property Types
 - Commercial * Industrial/Manufacturing * Multifamily housing (5+ units) * Hospitality * Agricultural * Nonprofit
- Eligible Improvements
 - Chillers, boilers, and furnaces * HVAC, BMS, BAS, EMS controls * Lighting * Water heating systems * Energy Management systems and controls * Roofing * Windows * Doors * Insulation * Elevator modernization * Pool equipment * Cogeneration or combined heat and power * Heat recovery and steam traps * Solar panels * Wind turbines * Water management systems and controls * Irrigation equipment * Rainwater collection systems * Toilets * Faucets * Greywater systems...and more

She went on to say that many owners are searching for financial solutions to fix properties damaged by Hurricane Harvey and that Texas PACE Authority is working with local governments to help communicate TX-PACE as an effective recovery tool.

In closing, Ms. Badoian-Kriticos advised that TX-PACE is transforming how developers, owners, and contractors look at projects, proving that there is a clear path forward to disaster recovery, energy efficiency, distributed generation, water use reduction and resiliency improvements.

III. QUESTIONS

None at this time

IV. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date not set at this time.

V. ADJOURMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dean Robinson Insurance Agent, State Farm Insurance

GUESTS PRESENT

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Marina Badoian-Kriticos | Regional Program Advisor, Texas PACE Authority |
| Kayla Bishop | Executive Director, Silsbee Chamber of Commerce |
| Wayne McDaniel | Judge, Hardin County |
| Matt Morones | Legal Coordinator, Jackson Morones |
| William "Butch" Sanders | Mayor, City of China |
| David Short | Owner, Best Impressions Printing |
| Christy Brown | Executive Director, Silsbee EDC |
| Bertie Standley | Volunteer, Silsbee Downtown Revitalization |
| Casey Copley | Realtor, Keller Williams Realty |
| Kathy Merritt | Owner/Volunteer, Younger Years, Downtown Revitalization, Silsbee Little Theater |
| Mike Merritt | Owner/Volunteer, Younger Years, Downtown Revitalization, Silsbee Little Theater |

SETRPC STAFF PRESENT

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Bob Dickinson | Director, Transportation & Environmental Resources |
| Paige Callaway | Administrative Assistant, Transportation & Environmental Resources |
| Shanna Burke | Executive Director |
| Jes Prince | Economic Resiliency Planner, Transportation & Environmental Resources |



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GRANTS OFFICE PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Health & Nutrition Grants

Agricultural Surplus (AS) Grant Program (STATE)

Purpose: The AS Grant Program is established to provide funding for collecting and distributing surplus agricultural products to food banks and other organizations that serve needy or low-income individuals.

Eligibility: Grant funds may be awarded to non-profit organizations that have a 501 (c) (3) IRS designation. These organizations must have at least 5 years of experience coordinating a statewide network of food banks and charitable organizations that serve each of the 254 counties in this state.

Availability: Funding is conducted on a two-year cycle. The next RFA is anticipated June 2019 pending legislative appropriations.

Home-Delivered Meal (HDM) Grant Program (STATE)

Purpose: The HDM Grant Program is established to provide assistance to home-delivered meal providers by supplementing and/or extending their current program.

Eligibility: The grant funds may be awarded to any governmental agency or non-profit organization that deliver meals to homebound persons that are elderly and/or have a disability.

Availability: Funding is conducted on a one-year cycle. The RFA is published every summer, and applications may be submitted beginning September 1 but must be postmarked no later than November 1st each year. Pending legislative appropriations

Nutrition Education Grant Programs (Expanding 3Es and Establishing 3Es) (STATE)

Purpose: The Nutrition Education Grant Programs are established to promote better health and nutrition programs and prevent obesity among children in this state. Projects increase awareness of the importance of good nutrition and encourage children's health and well being through education, exercise and eating right. TDA's Nutrition Education Program will consist of two grant programs; Expanding 3E's Nutrition Education Grant Program (X3E's) and Establishing 3E's Nutrition Education Grant Program (E3E's).

Eligibility: Grant funds for the X3E's may be awarded to public school in the State of Texas. Grant funds for the E3E's may be awarded to a participant in an early childhood education or community organization that provides programs for children younger than 19 years of age.

Availability: Funding is conducted on a one-year cycle. The X3E solicitation is anticipated for late Oct 2019. The E3E RFA is anticipated February 2019.

Urban Schools (US) Agricultural Grant Program (DONATIONS)

Purpose: The US Grant Program is established to foster an understanding and awareness of agriculture in elementary and middle school students in urban school districts across the state. Funds are provided through private donations.

Eligibility: Proposals must be submitted by a Texas public elementary or middle school from an urban school district with an enrollment of at least 49,000 students. A non-profit organization that partners with an eligible school may also submit a proposal. Currently there are 19 eligible school districts.

Availability: Funding is conducted on a one-year cycle. The next RFP is anticipated February 2019.

Small Businesses – Economic Development

Capital for Texas (C4T) – Loan Participation Program (STATE)

Purpose: C4T is designed to increase rural and other underserved communities small businesses' access to capital and enable private entrepreneurs to make market-driven decisions to grow jobs, assist their growth potential and employment capabilities through partnering Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). This program supports TDA's goals of empowering rural communities and cultivating winning strategies for rural



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GRANTS OFFICE PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Texas, by providing finance options to small businesses and manufacturers that are creditworthy, but are not getting the loans they need to expand and create jobs.

Eligibility: Texas-based small businesses are eligible to participate in the C4T Program. Federal SSBCI guidelines encourage investment of the funds to benefit communities and businesses meeting certain qualifications focused in rural Texas, including but not limited to: (i) low and moderate income communities; (ii) minority communities; (iii) other underserved communities; and (iv) veteran, women and minority owned small businesses.

Availability: Open enrollment, first-come first-served. Federal Funds

State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) (FEDERAL)

Purpose: STEP is grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. TDA will administer the STEP program through partnerships that include the Office of the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Division and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The program's objectives are to increase the number of small businesses that are exporting, and to increase the value of exports for those small businesses that are currently exporting. The STEP program will take the necessary steps to create or expand their export capacity and provide financial assistance along the way to help them achieve success.

Texas' STEP program will encompass recruitment, training and planning, and execution of export trade activities; including trade show involvement and assist with small business export development through a stipend program and state sponsored trade shows and trade missions.

Eligibility: Texas-based small businesses that: 1) meets SBA "Eligible Small Business Concern" size guidelines; 2) is not debarred from federal funding; 3) has a product/service manufactured, produced, processed or value-added in Texas; 4) has been in business for at least one year at the time of application; and 5) has demonstrated understanding of the costs associated with exporting.

Availability: Open enrollment, first-come first-served. Federal Funds

Producer

Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)Program (FEDERAL)

Purpose: The sole purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. TDA encourages organizations to develop projects to solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops pertaining to the following issues affecting the industry: Food Safety, Marketing, Nutrition, Plant Health and Value Added/Industry Development

Eligibility: The grant funds may be awarded to any other agencies, universities, institutions, and producer, industry or community-based organizations involved with specialty crops. Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that directly benefit or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual.

Availability: Funding is conducted on a one-year cycle and is contingent on Farm Bill appropriations. The next RFP is anticipated to be released in late January 2019.

State of Texas Agricultural Relief Fund (DONATIONS)

Purpose: The STAR Fund (State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund) was created solely with monetary donations from private individuals and companies. STAR Fund money may be used to assist farmers and ranchers in rebuilding fences, restoring operations and paying for other agricultural disaster relief. If you'd like to help folks impacted by the wildfire, floods or tornadoes, consider making a donation to the State of Texas Agriculture Relief, or STAR Fund. TDA is offering a cost share (50% of eligible expense) to qualified agricultural producers not to exceed \$4,000 per applicant.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GRANTS OFFICE PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Eligibility: Texas Agriculture Farmers, Rancher, producers and agribusiness owners will be required to complete an application and present such information as copies of invoices, proof of payment and proof agricultural loss specifically attributed to the specific natural disaster identified by the Texas Governors Disaster Declaration, property identification number, and other records needed by the department to determine eligibility. Agriculture business means - a business that is or proposes to be engaged in producing, processing, marketing, or exporting an agricultural product

Agricultural product means - an agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, or vegetable product, bees, honey, fish or other seafood, planting seed, livestock, a livestock product, a forestry product, poultry, or a poultry product.

Availability: If the applicants county is listed the Texas Governor's declaration of disaster, they have 90 days from the date of his proclamation to turn in an application. Open enrollment, first-come first-served.

Boll Weevil Eradication (STATE)

Purpose: As provided by statute, TDA provides funds to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to assist with efforts in eradicating the boll weevil and pink boll worm in Texas. Funds are used to reimburse expenses such as employee salaries and wages, chemicals, costs of aerial application services, trapping supplies, vehicle expenses, field equipment and office operations

Eligibility: Per statute, funds are provided to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Organic Cost Share (FEDERAL)

Purpose: The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide cost share assistance to producers, processors, distributors or other handlers of organic agricultural products.

Eligibility. Texas-based organic producers (crops, wild crops, and/or livestock) and/or handlers are eligible to participate in the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). Operations must possess current USDA organic certification to be eligible to receive reimbursements. This means operations either must have successfully received their initial USDA organic certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent, or must have incurred expenses related to the renewal of their USDA organic certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. Operations with suspended or revoked certifications are ineligible for reimbursement. The applicable NOP regulations and resources for certification are available on the NOP website at www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

Funding: For each certificate, a producer is eligible to receive a reimbursement of a maximum of 75% of the organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750.

Availability: The cost share program will be conducted on a first come, first served basis. The new RFA will be published in Spring 2019

WARNING: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is also offering this National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). Eligible entities described above may only receive ONE cost-share per organic certificate or category of certification from TDA or FSA, not both. TDA will work with FSA to ensure duplicate awards are not made. If a duplicate award is made, FSA will be the agency to seek collections. Collections may include repayment from the applicant, a reduction in other FSA payments.

Texas Agricultural Finance

Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program (ALG) (STATE)

Purpose: The Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA) Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program (ALG) provides financial assistance to establish or enhance farming or ranching operations or to establish an agricultural-related business. This program provides assistance in the form of guarantees based on a tiered structure, not to exceed \$750,000 or 70% of the loan amount, whichever is less.

Eligibility: Open to all agricultural enterprises



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GRANTS OFFICE PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Availability: Open Enrollment

Interest Rate Reduction Program (STATE)

Purpose: The Interest Rate Reduction (IRR) Program is intended to facilitate lower interest rates to eligible applicants through a commercial lender. Through this program, lenders are able to receive capital for their loans from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, who is authorized by the Legislature to offer below-market interest rates. These lower rates are then passed along to the borrowers, who may benefit from interest rate reductions of several percentage points.

Eligibility: Any person who proposes to use loan proceeds for the creation or expansion of an agricultural business in Texas.

Availability: Open Enrollment

Young Farmer Grant Program (YFG) (STATE)

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching grant funds to young agricultural producers that are engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding an agricultural business in Texas.

Eligibility: Grant applications will be accepted from any individual person 18 years or older, but younger than 46 years of age as of the application deadline, who is engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding agriculture in Texas.

Availability: Funding is conducted twice a year, spring and fall.

Other Programs (informational only)

Specialty License Plate Program (STATE)

Purpose: TDA has previously agreed to act as a nominating state agency for the Non-profit to receive, and distribute funds received from TxDOT from the sale of Non-profit's specialized license plates for the Non-profit to use for a specified purpose.

Eligibility: TDA is the sponsoring agency for American Quarter Horse Association, Grand Lodge of Texas (Masonic), and Order of the Eastern Star specialty license plates.

Availability: Payments are made annually.

Lottery Weights and Measures

Purpose: The grants office manages the agreement between the Texas Lottery Commission and TDA's Metrology Lab. TDA's Metrology Calibration Service's Laboratory shall weigh the TLC's draw game ball sets to ensure such ball sets are within TLC's established weight tolerances.

Agriculture Research and Economic Development

Purpose: TDA is the lead agency for pesticide regulation in Texas. In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, TDA enforces pesticide laws and regulations governing the safe handling, use, storage, distribution, and disposal of pesticide products. Project will assist TDA in its implementation of its statutorily mandated duties regarding pesticide regulation.



Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) Fire, Ambulance, & Services Truck (FAST) Fund

The Fire, Ambulance, & Services Truck (FAST) Fund provides funds for eligible vehicles to provide emergency response and special services to rural communities.

Application Submittal FAST Fund Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. C.T. on June 13, 2019

Eligible Vehicles

Eligible vehicles must serve primarily low- to moderate-income residential areas. Eligible vehicle types include:

- Fire Trucks (most types);
- Ambulances and similar emergency medical vehicles;
- Jaws of Life and similar rescue equipment; and/or
- Rescue boats and similar specialized emergency vehicles.

Ineligible vehicles include:

- Police cars and other vehicles used primarily by law enforcement;
- Vehicles that do not address a specific public safety requirement; or
- Vehicles used primarily for the general conduct of government; or
- Supplies (e.g., restocking equipment or vehicle components are not eligible).

Eligible Applicants

Non-entitlement communities (units of general local government) are eligible for a FAST award.

- Non-entitlement cities are located predominately in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000 persons.
- Non-entitlement counties are predominately rural in nature and generally have fewer than 200,000 persons in the non-entitlement cities and unincorporated areas.
- Eligible applicants may partner with other organizations, including districts or non-profit service providers, to submit applications that will provide benefit within the jurisdiction.

Funding Available

- Funds available: estimated \$8M (all CDBG funds nearing federal expiration date)
- Maximum Request: \$500,000
- Match Funds: minimum \$5,000 match



Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) Fire, Ambulance, & Services Truck (FAST) Fund (cont.)

Application Process

Step 1: Identify local needs

- Does your community require additional vehicles to provide adequate service?
- Does your existing vehicle need to be replaced?

Step 2: Select application preparer (and grant administrator, if funded)

- Use the Pre-Qualified/Approved Vendor list and streamlined Procurement process
- [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/PrequalifiedProfessionalServices.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/PrequalifiedProfessionalServices.aspx)

Step 3: Determine benefit area for the vehicle/equipment and eligibility

- Will the vehicle serve a specific area of the community?
- Will 2019 LMISD data or a survey of the community support the low- to –moderate income requirement?

Note: HUD revised LMISD data is effective April 1, 2019; prior LMISD data will not be accepted

Step 4: Prepare application

- Must include a quote (no more than 90 days prior to submission) or procurement documentation with pre-agreement (see application guide for more details)
- Public hearing (may be held jointly with hearing for other TxCDBG fund categories)

Scoring Criteria

Applications will be scored and ranked based on:

- Poverty Rate of applicant (cities compared to cities and counties compared to counties)
- Previous Funding
- Past Performance see 2019-2020 CD Fund - State scoring factors and timeframe
- Tie-Breaker, Per Capita Income (cities compared to cities and counties compared to counties)

Contact Information

Program Specialist Michelle Phares can be reached at Michelle.Phares@TexasAgriculture.gov or (512) 936-6702.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Rural Texas

The primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low- to moderate-income.

Eligible Applicants: Non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and that are not designated as eligible for the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Community Development Fund

Application Deadline: March 2019

Max Award: \$275,000 - \$800,000
(varies by region)

The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the TxCDBG Program. This fund is available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used.

Texas Capital Fund

Supports rural business development, retention, and expansion.

Infrastructure / Real Estate Development Programs

Applications due February, May, August & November 2019

Max Award: \$1,000,000

Provides grants or zero-interest loans for infrastructure and building improvements to create or retain permanent jobs.

Main Street / Downtown Revitalization Programs, with Small & Microenterprise Revolving Funds

Application Deadline: October 2019

Max Award: \$250,000

Provides grant funds for public infrastructure to eliminate deteriorated conditions and foster economic development in historic main street areas and rural downtown areas. Additional \$100,000 loan funds available for downtown small businesses.

Fire, Ambulance, and Service Truck (FAST) Fund

Application Deadline: June 2019

Max Award: \$500,000

Provides funds for eligible vehicles to provide emergency response and special services to LMI rural communities.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Rural Texas (cont.)

Planning and Capacity Building Fund

Application Deadline: March 2019

Max Award: \$55,000

An annual competitive grant program for local public facility and housing planning activities. Localities apply for financial assistance to prepare a "comprehensive plan" or any of its components.

Disaster Relief Fund

Application Deadline: 1 Year from Event

Max Award: \$350,000

The Disaster Relief Fund addresses emergency situations that have received an official state or federal disaster declaration. Funds can be used to restore infrastructure damaged by natural disasters to pre-disaster condition in design, function, and capacity. In a drought situation, the DR fund may also be used to install new facilities that resolve a primary drinking water supply shortage.

Colonia Funds

Funds available to eligible county applicants for projects in severely distressed unincorporated areas. The term "colonia" generally means an identifiable unincorporated community that is within 150 miles of the border between the United States and Mexico.

Colonia Planning Fund

Application Deadline: August 2019

Max Award: \$100,000

Assistance for the completion of planning activities to prepare colonia areas for water, sewer and housing improvements.

Colonia Construction Fund

Application Deadline: August 2019

Max Award: \$500,000

Assistance to fund water and wastewater improvements, housing rehabilitation, and other improvements in colonia areas.

Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program

Application Deadline: As Needed

Max Award: \$1,000,000

Assistance to colonia areas to connect to a water and sewer system project funded by other state and federal funds.



Texas Capital Fund

The Texas Capital Fund provides resources to rural cities and counties that support rural business development by providing funds to attract or expand business operations or create an environment to stimulate economic growth.

Eligible applicants for the Texas Capital Fund are non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and that are not eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Stimulate Development

Downtown Revitalization Program & Main Street Program Small and Microenterprise Revolving Fund Application Deadline: October 2019

Awards matching grant funds for public infrastructure to foster and stimulate economic development in rural downtown areas and historic main street areas.

The Texas Capital Fund (TCF) Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Programs are designed to foster and stimulate economic development in the downtown and Main Street areas by providing matching grants for public infrastructure improvements. Awards must meet the CDBG national program objective of aiding in the elimination of designated slum or blighted areas.

Eligible projects include:

- sidewalk construction or improvements;
- lighting;
- ADA ramps and rails;
- utility improvements;
- street construction or improvements; and
- other activities to eliminate architectural barriers for disabled persons.

Communities applying for TCF Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Programs may also request Small and Microenterprise Revolving Funds (SMRF) to invest in new and/or existing small businesses and microenterprises.

- In cooperation with a qualified, nonprofit development organization, SMRF monies are loaned to local small businesses to support job creation/retention activity for predominately low and moderate income persons.
- The payments on these loans establish a locally controlled revolving loan fund.

Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Program awards range from \$50,000 to \$250,000, plus up to \$100,000 in Small and Microenterprise Revolving Funds. Awards are made on a competitive basis.



Texas Capital Fund

The Texas Capital Fund provides resources to rural cities and counties that support rural business development by providing funds to attract or expand business operations or create an environment to stimulate economic growth.

Eligible applicants for the Texas Capital Fund are non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and that are not eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Job Creation

Infrastructure Development & Real Estate Development Applications accepted: 20th of February, May, August & November

Provides grants for public Infrastructure Development or zero-interest loans for private Infrastructure Development and private Real Estate Development to create or retain permanent jobs.

The Texas Capital Fund Infrastructure Development program and Real Estate Development program are economic development tools providing financial resources needed to assist a business that commits to create and/or retain permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate income persons.

Infrastructure Development Program funds may be used for:

- utilities such as water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical improvements;
- street construction or improvements;
- telephone and fiber optic lines;
- drainage channels and ponds;
- railroad spurs; and
- other improvements.

Real Estate Development program funds may be used for

- acquisition of land and buildings;
- construction of new buildings;
- rehabilitation of buildings; and
- site improvements.

The real estate must be initially owned by the community and leased to the business.

Competitive awards range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.

- Awards may not exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- Awards may not exceed \$25,000 per job created.
- Awards of more than \$750,000 require a greater level of job creation and matching funds.