



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

# Rural Economic Development Finance



# *Rural Economic Development Finance Program*

Through the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA), the **Texas Rural Economic Development Finance Program** provides affordable & flexible funding to further rural economic development and support the agricultural industry.

**Texas Rural Community Loan:** Provides access to needed financing (loans, bonds & other securities) with favorable terms to rural political subdivisions and EDCs to support agricultural businesses or to further rural economic development.

## **Eligibility:**

- Rural EDC, MDD or political subdivision.
- Project must be in a community that is rural in nature and located in a city with a population under 50,000 or a county with less than 200,000.
- Loan funds must be used for economic development purposes.

## **Application:**

- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Application in TDA GO.
- Application fee - \$1,000 (if approved, will be applied towards principal).



# *Rural Economic Development Finance Program*

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## **Details:**

- The maximum loan amount is \$5 million.
- Maximum loan term is 20 years.
- Loan is not forgivable and must be collateralized, typically secured by a source of public revenue.
- The applicant must contribute at least 10% to the project.

## **Example Projects:**

Proceeds can be used to address economic development priorities including infrastructure, business recruitment and expansion, community facilities, and any other eligible use that can be identified to improve or assist in rural economic development and/or impact the agricultural industry.

- Loan to address a food or healthcare desert.
- Loan to build a new water tower to meet the needs of current & future population growth.
- Loan to build out infrastructure in industrial park.
- Loan to support a business expansion/retention project.

[EconomicDevelopment@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:EconomicDevelopment@TexasAgriculture.gov)

# **Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG)**



# *TxCDBG Program*

## Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program

TxCDBG develops viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low- to moderate-income.

### **Non-entitlement Eligibility:**

- City applicants, generally less than 50,000 population
- County applicants, generally less than 200,000 non-metro population

### **Programs:**

- Community Development Fund
- Colonia Fund
- RED Downtown Revitalization Program
- State Urgent Need (SUN) Fund

Sign Up TxCDBG Listserv - to receive email announcements about program updates, funding availability, events, and more from the TxCDBG Listserv.



# *TxCDBG Program*

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## **Community Development Fund (2025-2026)**

Community Application Deadline: December 9, 2024

Max Award: \$750,000

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.



# *TxCDBG Program*

## **Downtown Revitalization Program (2025)**

Community Application Deadline: April 3, 2025

Max Award: \$1,000,000

Provides grant funds for public infrastructure to eliminate deteriorated conditions and foster economic development in historic main street areas and rural downtown areas.



2025 Downtown Revitalization Program (CDM) Community Application  
Webinar: Jan. 29, 2025 at 2 pm





# *TxCDBG Program*

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## **Colonia Fund (2025)**

Application Deadline: December 9, 2024

Max Award: \$1,000,000

The Colonia Fund provides grants for eligible counties within 150 miles of the Texas-Mexico border to support community development projects in identified unincorporated colonias, with programs targeting construction, planning, economically distressed areas, and self-help centers in designated counties.



# *TxCDBG Program*

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## **State Urgent Need Fund (As Needed)**

Application Deadline: As Needed

Max Award: \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 for certain multi-jurisdiction awards)

Assistance to communities impacted by state-declared disaster events that are not eligible for federal disaster assistance. Infrastructure repair, replacement, and improvement are eligible projects, with priority for drinking water systems and debris removal.



# *TxCDBG Program*

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## **New Two-Phase Competitive Process**

### **Phase 1 – Community Application:**

- City/County commits to the program guidelines, including matching funds.
- Applicant provides information for scoring based on community characteristics.
- Applicant identifies variety of local community needs that could become CDBG projects.

### **Phase 2 – Project Application:**

- Highest scoring applicants are invited to develop the full project.
- Identify construction project, document beneficiaries, develop project budget.
- Ongoing technical assistance from TDA to ensure project eligibility.

# State Office of Rural Health



# *Texas State Office of Rural Health (SORH)*

The **Texas State Office of Rural Health** has been serving rural hospitals and clinics in the state since 1989, providing technical assistance and grant funding for:

- financial practices
- operations
- quality improvement
- capital improvements
- leadership





# *Who We Serve*

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CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

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PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT  
SYSTEM HOSPITALS

336

RURAL HEALTH CLINICS

5

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS



# *SORH CORE Programs*

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## **Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (FLEX)**

Provides training and technical assistance to build capacity, support innovation, and promote sustainable improvement in rural health care systems.

## **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant (SHIP)**

Provides funding for quality improvement activities and updating payment systems with hardware/software or trainings.

## **Rural Facility Capital Improvement Project Grant (CIP)**

Provides funding for rural public and non-profit hospitals to make capital improvements to existing facilities, construction of new health facilities, or to purchase equipment.

## **Rural Communities Healthcare Investment Program (RCHIP)**

Assists rural hospitals to retain non-physician healthcare professionals in medically underserved areas (MUAs).



# *SORH CORE Programs*

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## Rural Health Clinic Project

Strengthens the State's rural health safety net and Texas rural health clinics (RHCs) by providing funding for facility improvement/construction, workforce development, and initiatives that support social determinates of health (SDOH) through the Texas Rural Health Capacity Building Grant (TRCBG).

### **Highlights of RHC Project:**

- Texas RHC Toolkit: Online, interactive technical assistance toolkit that covers topics such as managed care contracting, chronic care coordination, and front-end revenue cycle management.
- How to Become an RHC Toolkit: Provides thorough instructions and guides users on how to set up and establish their own RHCs, along with how to conduct mobile clinic visits and how to create and emergency preparedness plan.





# *SORH Resources*

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## Other Resources

- Quality Improvement Training Program
- Farmer's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program
- Board Education Trainings
- Workforce Recruitment (3RNet)
- Trauma Informed Care Webinar Series

## Upcoming Projects

- Hospital Emergency Preparedness Pilot
- Quality Improvement Initiatives
- C-Suite Leadership Bootcamps



**GO TEXAN**



# *GO TEXAN*

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Established in 1999 by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The GO TEXAN program is a marketing initiative dedicated to identifying and supporting Texas-based businesses and connecting them with customers across the Lone Star State and around the world.

GO TEXAN generates widespread awareness among consumers searching for products grown, produced, processed, or manufactured in Texas.

The GO Texan program works to persuade millions of Texans who shop, dine, and travel to support the state's economy.



**GO TEXAN.**<sup>®</sup>



# GO TEXAN

## GO TEXAN Partners Include:

- Food & Beverage Products
- Bath, Body & Home Products
- Farmers Markets
- Farms & Ranches
- Distilleries
- Wineries
- Manufacturers
- Restaurants
- Producer Associations
- Communities/Chambers of Commerce
- Events





# GO TEXAN

## Partnership Levels:

- Tier 1 - \$100
- Tier 2 - \$500
- Tier 3 - \$1,000
- Champion Sponsor - \$5,000

## Partnership Categories:

- **Product** – Companies with products grown or processed in Texas. Non-agricultural Texas-made products are eligible to apply as well with some limited benefits.
- **Associate** – Retailers, restaurants, commodity groups and associations, trade associations, farmers markets, interested in assisting with the promotion of the GO TEXAN program





# GO TEXAN Benefits

## Promotional Opportunities:

- Use of GO TEXAN certification mark.
- List your company on the GO TEXAN website and sell product on e-commerce site, The GO TEXAN Market.
- Recognition on @gotexan social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram).
- GO TEXAN Partner Facebook Group.
- GO TEXAN Gift guide (25,000 subscribers).
- GO TEXAN product photography initiative.
- GO TEXAN Newsletter (monthly).
- Virtual Partner Meetings (quarterly).
- Retail buyer meetings (HEB, Kroger, Brookshire's, etc.).
- International inbound/outbound trade missions.
- Save on advertising in publications like the *Houston Chronicle* and *Cowboys & Indians*.



# *GO TEXAN Benefits*

## Access to Funding, Workshops & Networking Opportunities:

- **Marketing Enhancement Grant Assistance (MEGA):**
  - Product Promotion (GTP) - A grant opportunity for Tier 2 or higher GO TEXAN product partners to market and promote their qualifying GO TEXAN products.
  - Event Grant program (GTE) - Designed to provide grant funds to Associate GO TEXAN partners who coordinate public festivals, farmers markets, and events across the state that will promote GO TEXAN businesses, their Texas made products, and the overall GO TEXAN Program
- **The GO TEXAN Expo:** Event offering networking opportunities and workshops.



# *GO TEXAN Benefits*

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## Access to Some of the Largest Events in Texas:

- **GO TEXAN Pavilion** at the State Fair of Texas is GO TEXAN's largest outreach event of the year offering the following opportunities:
  - General Store
  - Sampling
  - Sponsorship Opportunities
  - Community Booth
- **Stock Shows & Rodeos** throughout the state provide opportunities to advertise or to sample/sell product.
- **Local/Regional Events** where you can receive discounted booth space.
- **Trade Shows** we participate in might have GO TEXAN pavilion or special pricing.



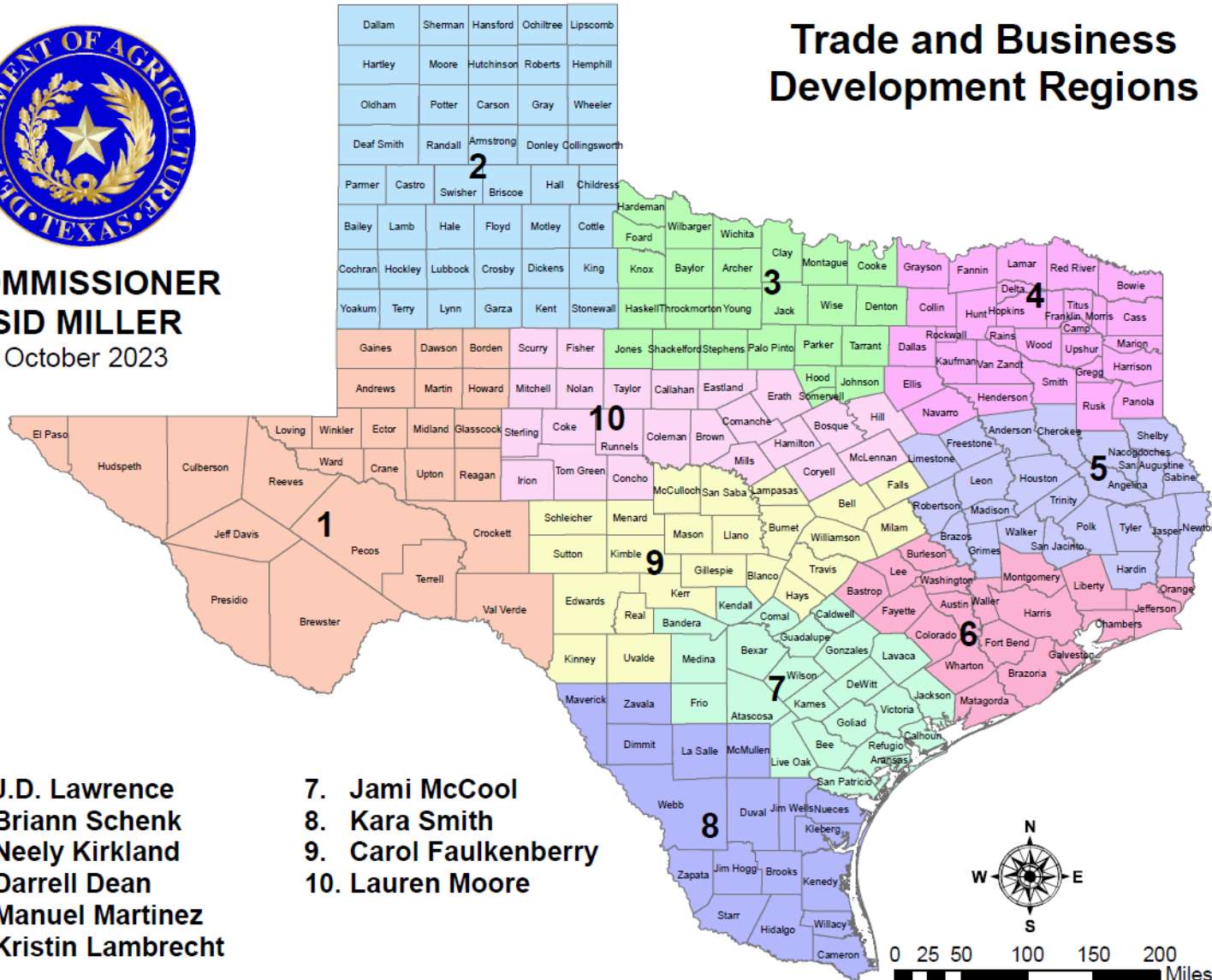


# Trade & Business Development Regions



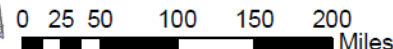
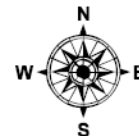
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SID MILLER**  
October 2023

## Trade and Business Development Regions



- 1. J.D. Lawrence
- 2. Briann Schenk
- 3. Neely Kirkland
- 4. Darrell Dean
- 5. Manuel Martinez
- 6. Kristin Lambrecht

- 7. Jami McCool
- 8. Kara Smith
- 9. Carol Faulkenberry
- 10. Lauren Moore





# Supporting TX Businesses & Ag Industry

## Marketing – Texas Products Domestically & Abroad

- Texas Wine
- Texas Gulf Shrimp
- Specialty Crops

## International Trade & Promotion

- Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA)
- U.S. LGE Association
- State Trade Expansion Program



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