

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, RESOURCES, AND WEBINARS NEWSLETTER

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

January 3, 2024

### Governor's Community Achievement Awards

Keep Texas Beautiful in partnership with TxDOT created this program to award Texas communities with grants to recognize them for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. In 2024, ten winning communities will share \$2 million in landscaping funds. The application assesses the applicant's environmental program achievements in seven areas:

- Community Leadership and Coordination
- Public Awareness and Outreach
- Environmental Education and Youth Engagement
- Beautification and Community Improvement
- Litter Prevention and Cleanup
- Solid Waste Management
- Litter Law and Illegal Dumping Enforcement

Awardees will receive \$90,000 to \$310,000 based on population size (ten categories from under 3,000 to over 180,000). There is a \$25 application fee. Applications are due **February 15, 2024**. For more information and to apply, go [here!](#)

### USDA Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program

The USDA RISE Program encourages regional, innovation-driven approaches to economic development by funding job accelerator partnerships in low-income and underserved rural communities. In FY 2024, \$2 million is available to partnerships of local governments, investors, industry, institutions of higher education, and other public and private entities in rural areas to:

- Build or support a business incubator facility
- Provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs
- Train the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs
- Develop a base of skilled workers and improve their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries

Awards range from \$500,000 to \$2 million with a match of 20%. Deadline to apply is **April 1st, 2024**. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Texas Digital Opportunity Plan (TDOP) Public Comment

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) has released the TDOP for public comment. The BDO developed the TDOP to complement broadband infrastructure programs already underway in the state, including the Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) program and the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. Comments are due by January 5, 2024. Please use the online form to read the TDOP and provide comments [here!](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DDCT Board Meeting

January 4, 9:30-11:00 AM

Registration Fee: Free

To attend, click [here](#) or go to [2180 N. Main Street, Belton](#).

To view the agenda, click [here!](#)



### Central Texas Entrepreneur Summit

January 30, 2023, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

302 E. 3rd St, Lampasas

Registration Fee: Free

To register click [here!](#)

### Certified Development Professional Boot Camp

January 31, 2023-February 1, 2024, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Registration Fee: \$495

To register click [here!](#)