



Development District of Central Texas

**January 5, 2023
9:30 a.m.**

Agenda



Development District of Central Texas

Thursday, January 5th, 2022

Central Texas Council of Governments Building
2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513

Regular Meeting: 9:30 AM

Virtual Link: [DDCT Meeting](#)

Call In Number: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](#)

Access Code: 577-685-285

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Opportunity for Public Comment.
3. Staff Update
4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Approval of Meeting Minutes from the October 6th Meeting.
5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Approval of New Board Member.
6. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Approval of 2023 Leadership Central Texas and Rural Internship Program Applications.
7. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Updates on the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Implementation.
8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives.
9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Federal and State Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development.
10. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Updates on Grant Opportunities.
11. Board of Director's Comments.
12. Other Business: Next meeting date Thursday, April 6th, 2022, at 9:30 AM.
13. Adjourn.

The Development District of Central Texas is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the DDOCT office at 254-770-2379 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed. Citizens who desire to address the Board on any matter may sign up to do so prior to this meeting. Public comments will be received during this portion of the meeting. Comments are limited to 3 minutes maximum. No discussion or final action will be taken by the Board.

Item 3:

Staff Update

Update on CTCOG Planning Grants and Activities

EDA Planning Grant Update:

- Staff has kept up to date with reporting for the EDA Planning Grant, including ED916 and 918 Semi-annual Program Outputs and Annual Capacity Outcomes Questionnaires, Annual Progress Reports, and SF-425 Financial Reports.

CTCOG Activities:

- Staff completed the Small Town Summit series for 2022, which served to provide local municipalities information on digital literacy, CTCOG services, community resiliency, intergovernmental relations, infrastructure, and economic development.
- The Discover Central Texas Tourism Project has published its website providing users with access to add and edit listings and events for their Cities on the site. An app for Discover Central Texas has been created for Google Play and Apple. A Facebook and Twitter highlighting events, businesses, and activities in Central Texas has been created as well, along with paid advertising for Facebook.
- Staff has continued publishing two weekly newsletters on
 - Economic Development grants, resources and webinars;
 - Economic Development regional highlights, and events.

And a new biweekly newsletter on Central Texas Transportation, highlighting grants, resources, and updates on implementation of the 2022-26 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan.

- Staff attended TxCBDG, TDA, TEDC, TARC, EDA, TML and other partner agency virtual meetings during the last year to receive updates. Staff recently returned from an economic and community development training from Texas Association of Regional Councils.
- Staff has updated the grants and resources page on the DDCT website to include more information on deadlines and eligible uses of funds, as well as deleted older resources and added new ones. These include grants for water and wastewater infrastructure, broadband, TxCBDG grant programs for public infrastructure, and for small businesses and community resiliency.
- Staff has continuously updated the DDCT and Central Texas Transportation Facebooks with grants and other resources.
- Staff is researching and coordinating implementation of programs for the 2022-2026 CEDS and Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan, and is hosting a CEDS workshop on Jan.12th for the Board to provide input on vision and strategies.
- The Opportunity Zone Summit was held Oct.7th 2:30-5:00 PM at CTCOG Offices. There were speakers from ATDL Opportunity Zone Fund, Clearinghouse CDFI Opportunity Fund, Palace Way Fund, and a roundtable with cities with Opportunity Zones, including Gatesville, Copperas Cove, Belton, Temple, and Cameron. This Summit served to connect communities with investors for future development projects in Opportunity Zones across our region.
- Staff is monitoring programs funded and created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to learn how they can benefit our region.

-
- Bell and Coryell Counties are working with the procured consultant, the Foresite Group, utilizing ARPA funds to address broadband in their counties.
 - Staff worked to complete closeout for the Milam County Annex grant, has completed reporting for the Milam County Strategic Plan grant, and assisting the City of Cameron with reimbursements for engineering fees and completing required documentation for their EDA grant.
 - Staff is now administering an EDA grant for the City of Belton for their Rockwool project
 - Staff is working on FY 2023 RAISE grant application for the City of Cameron
 - Staff continues to provide technical assistance to communities for grant applications and general resource requests, particularly for the TxCDBG Community Development Fund and Downtown Revitalization Program.
 - CTCOG/DDCT is coordinating to host an EDA Federal Interagency Resource Event (FIRE) in Spring 2023. This will provide presentations from various federal agencies on what resources they provide to local governments.
 - A Military Spouse Networking Event was held on Nov.1, 2022.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas Q4 2022 Economic Snapshot for CTCOG Region:

- **Unemployment Rate:** As of September 2022, the unemployment rate is 4.21%, a decrease from the 4.72% rate at the end of Q3, 2022.
- **Workforce:** 199,646
- **Exports:** \$49.44 billion; an increase from Q3 2022's \$49.39 billion.
- **Total Jobs Increase:** From 2016 to 2021, jobs increased by 1.5% from 196,266 to 199,302. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 1.9% by 0.4%.
- **Professional & Business Services:** 80,000+ Jobs vs. national average 172,000+ Jobs.
- **Trade, Transportation and Utilities:** 76,000+ Jobs vs. national average of 150,000+ Jobs.
- **Government Sector:** 60,000+ Jobs vs. 35,000+ national average.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only.



7 Texas Counties

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas



Texas

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Report Parameters

7 Counties

48027	Bell County, TX	48331	Milam County, TX
48099	Coryell County, TX	48333	Mills County, TX
48193	Hamilton County, TX	48411	San Saba County, TX
48281	Lampasas County, TX		

Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen geographical areas.

Economy Overview

529,743

Population (2021)

Population **grew by 49,081** over the last 5 years and is projected to **grow by 41,752** over the next 5 years.

199,302

Total Regional Employment

Jobs **grew by 3,036** over the last 5 years and are projected to **grow by 13,454** over the next 5 years.

\$62.6K

Avg. Earnings Per Job (2021)

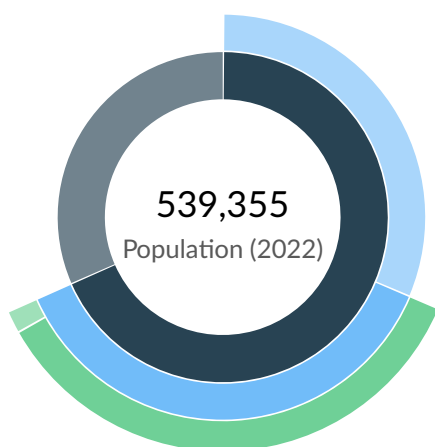
Regional average earnings per job are **\$15.1K below** the national average earnings of \$77.8K per job.

Takeaways

- As of 2021 the region's population **increased by 10.2%** since 2016, growing by 49,081. Population is expected to **increase by 7.9%** between 2021 and 2026, adding 41,752.
- From 2016 to 2021, jobs **increased by 1.5%** in 7 Texas Counties from 196,266 to **199,302**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 1.9% by 0.4%**. As the number of jobs increased, the **labor force participation rate decreased from 58.7% to 55.5% between 2016 and 2021**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **15.3% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.2% below the national average), and **11.3% hold an Associate's Degree** (2.5% above the national average).
- The top three industries in 2021 are Federal Government, Military, Education and Hospitals (Local Government), and Restaurants and Other Eating Places.

	Population (2022)	Labor Force (Sep 2022)	Jobs (2021)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	539,355	199,646	199,302	97.5	\$24.63B	\$40.00B	\$49.44B
State	30,025,340	14,538,923	14,430,458	96.6	\$1.98T	\$1.28T	\$1.59T

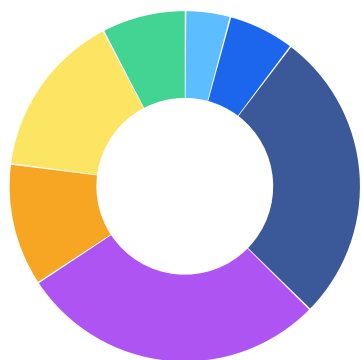
Sep 2022 Labor Force Breakdown



	Population
● 16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	368,508
● Not in Labor Force (16+)	168,862
● Labor Force	199,646
● Employed	191,233
● Unemployed	8,413
● Under 16, Military, and institutionalized Population	170,847

Educational Attainment

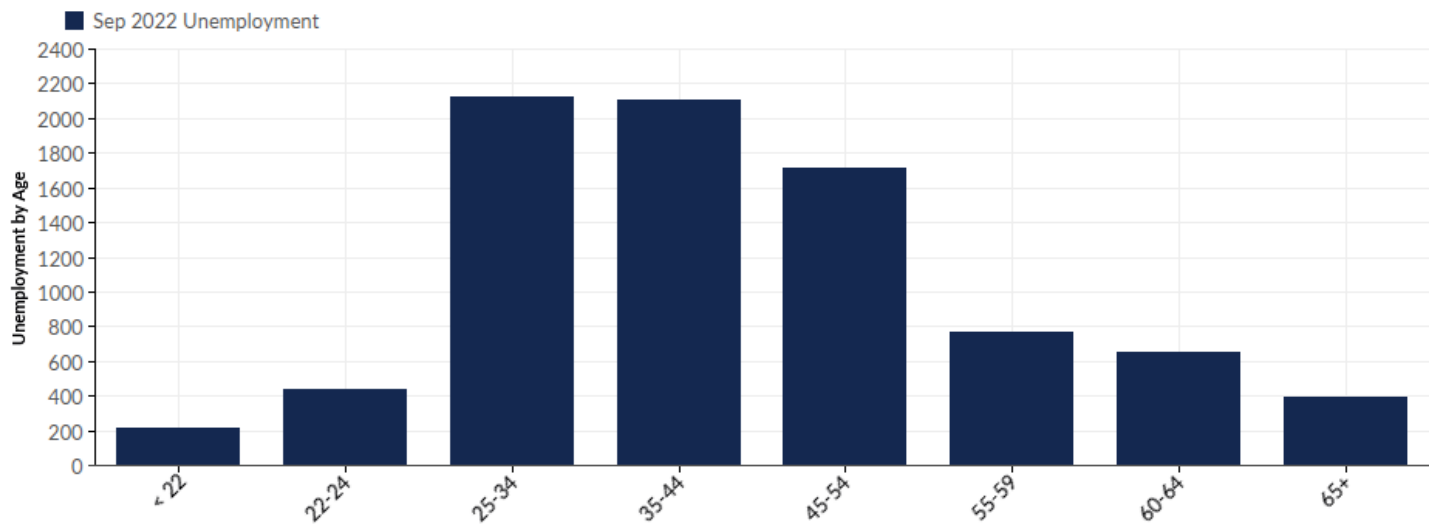
Concerning educational attainment, **15.3% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.2% below the national average), and **11.3% hold an Associate's Degree** (2.5% above the national average).



	% of Population	Population
● Less Than 9th Grade	4.1%	13,802
● 9th Grade to 12th Grade	6.1%	20,435
● High School Diploma	27.1%	90,407
● Some College	28.4%	94,809
● Associate's Degree	11.3%	37,754
● Bachelor's Degree	15.3%	51,093
● Graduate Degree and Higher	7.7%	25,883

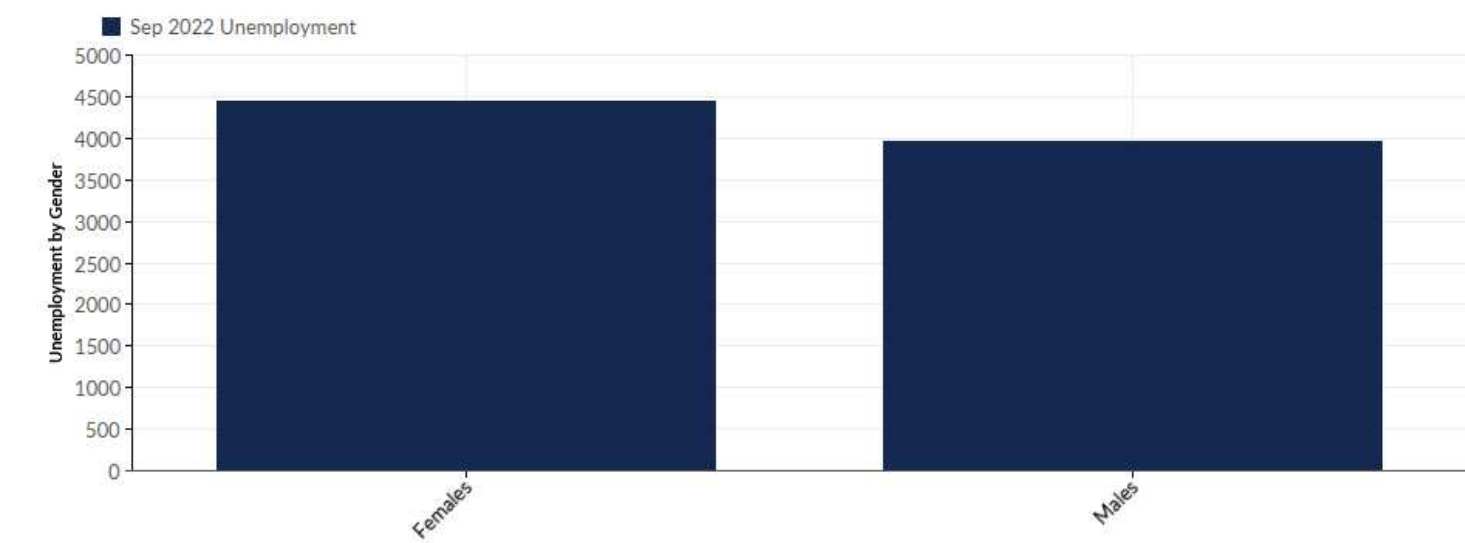
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



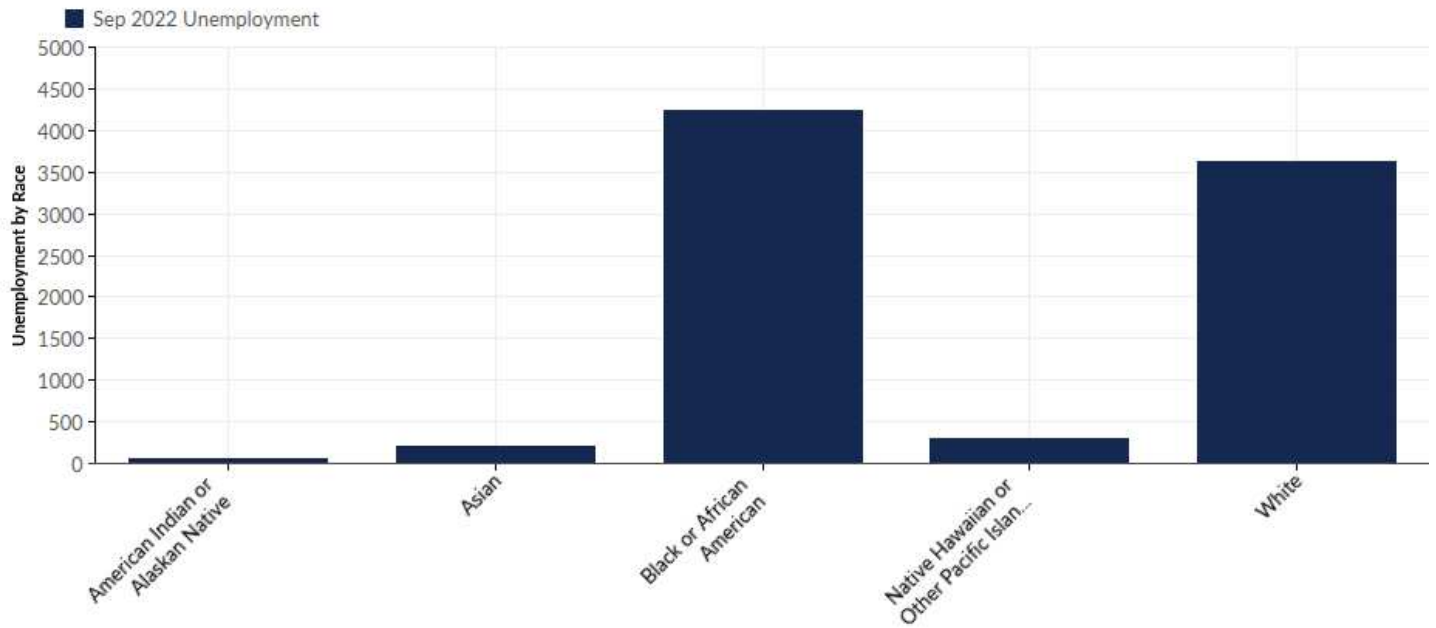
Age	Unemployment (Sep 2022)	% of Unemployed
< 22	210	2.50%
22-24	437	5.19%
25-34	2,128	25.29%
35-44	2,110	25.08%
45-54	1,712	20.35%
55-59	771	9.16%
60-64	649	7.71%
65+	396	4.71%
Total	8,413	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



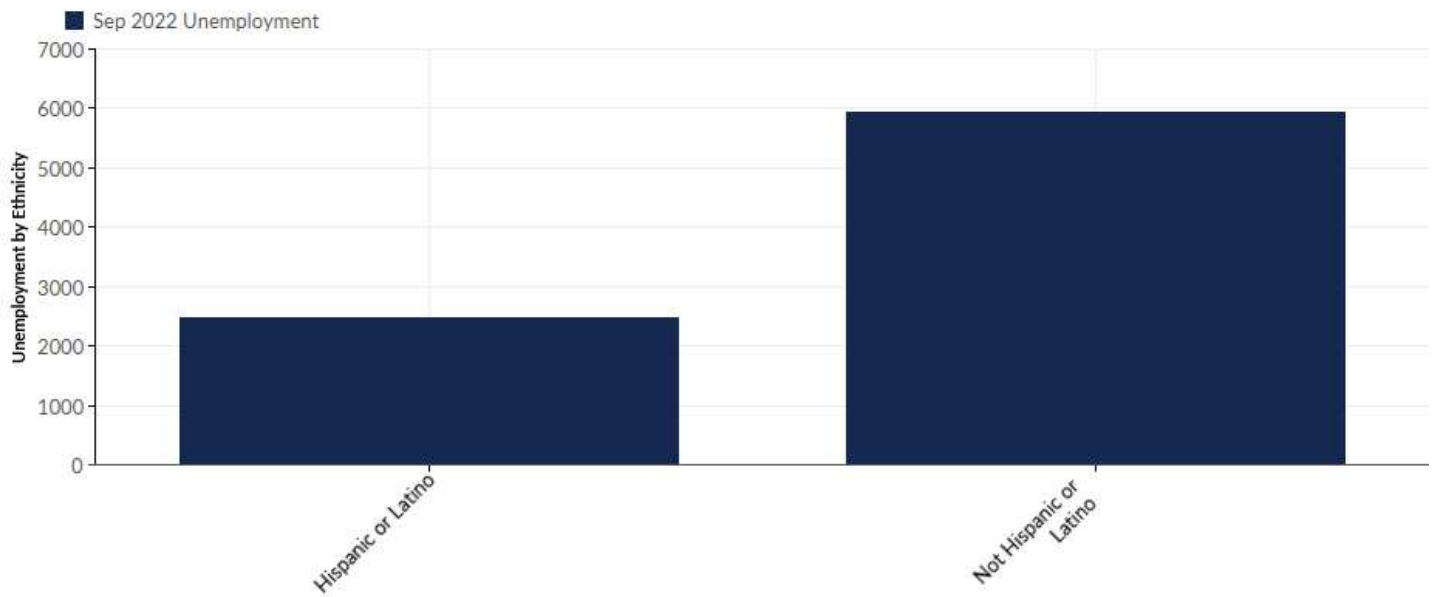
Gender	Unemployment (Sep 2022)	% of Unemployed
Females	4,449	52.88%
Males	3,964	47.12%
Total	8,413	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Sep 2022)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	55	0.65%
Asian	203	2.41%
Black or African American	4,229	50.27%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	295	3.51%
White	3,631	43.16%
Total	8,413	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

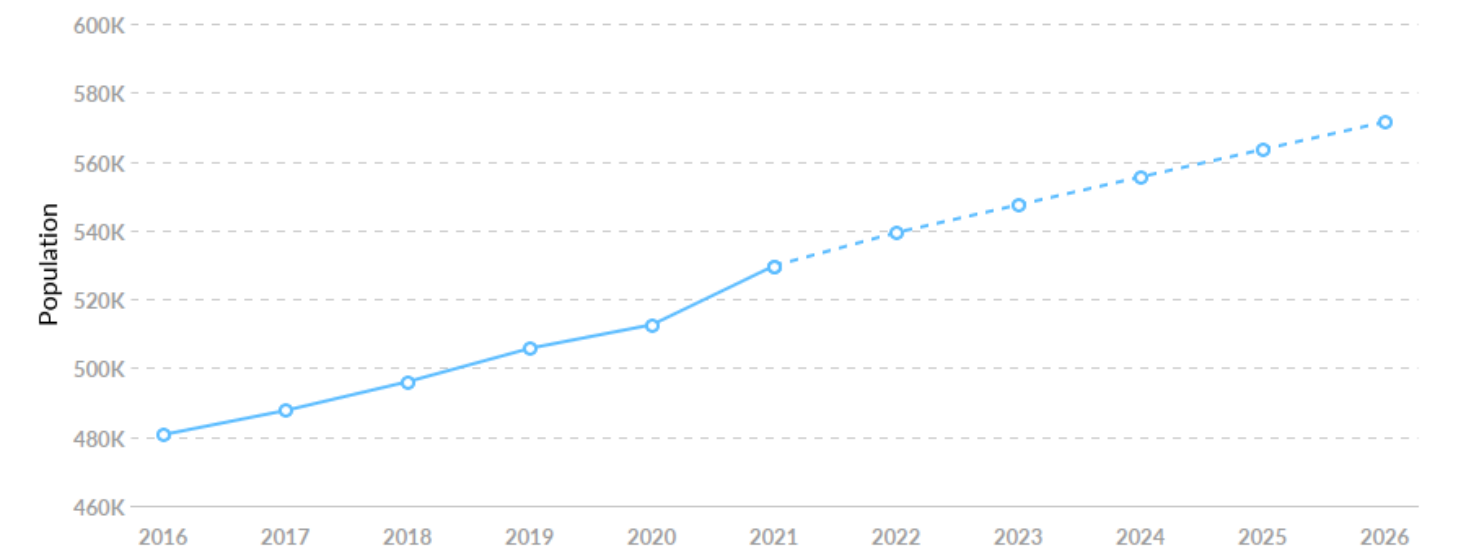


Ethnicity	Unemployment (Sep 2022)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino	2,481	29.49%
Not Hispanic or Latino	5,932	70.51%
Total	8,413	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

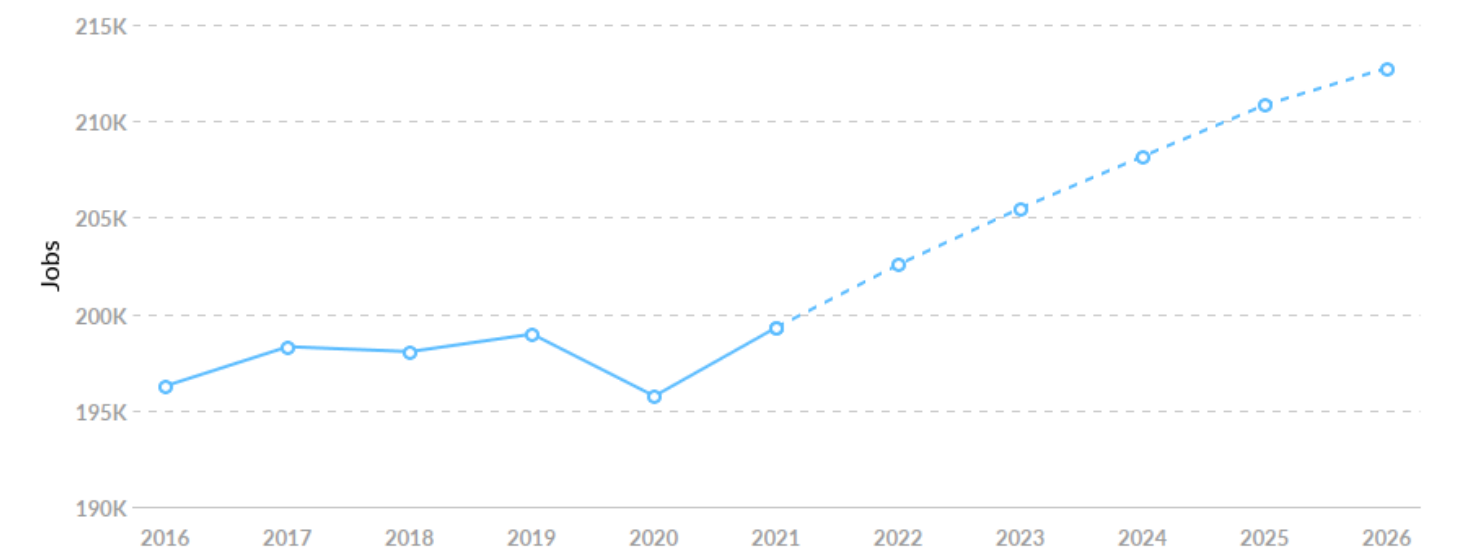
As of 2021 the region's population **increased by 10.2%** since 2016, growing by 49,081. Population is expected to **increase by 7.9%** between 2021 and 2026, adding 41,752.



Timeframe	Population
2016	480,662
2017	487,673
2018	496,040
2019	505,732
2020	512,597
2021	529,743
2022	539,355
2023	547,420
2024	555,514
2025	563,498
2026	571,495

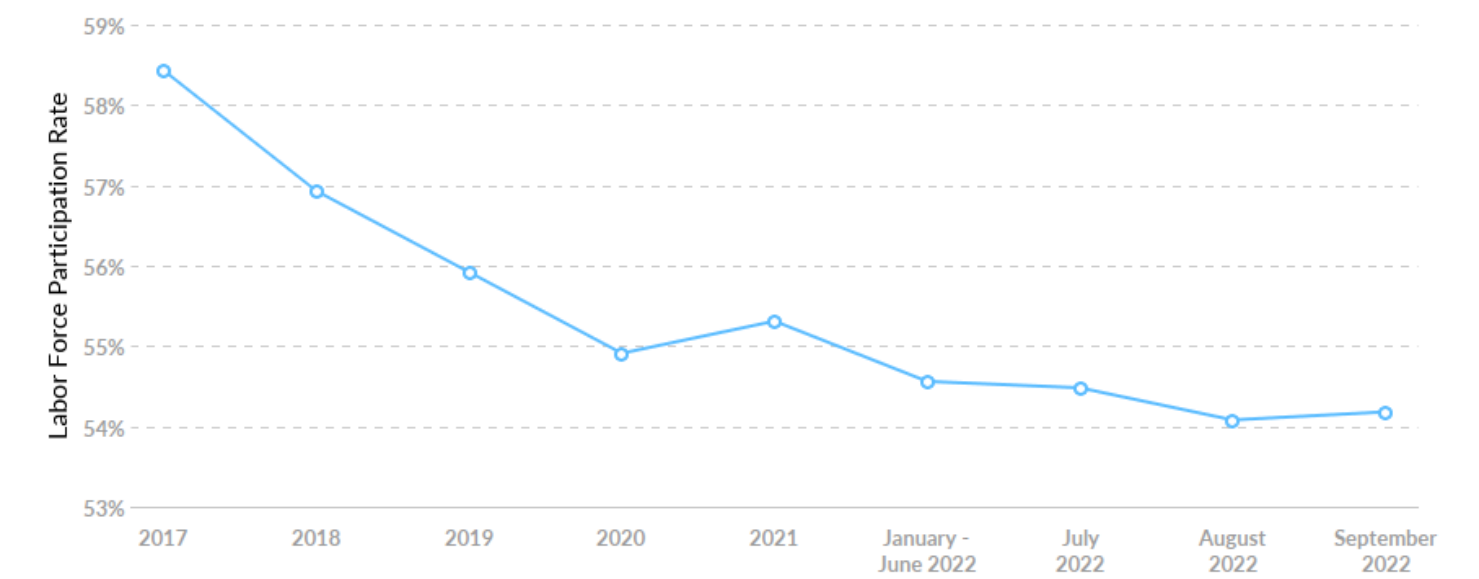
Job Trends

From 2016 to 2021, jobs increased by 1.5% in 7 Texas Counties from 196,266 to 199,302. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 1.9% by 0.4%.



Timeframe	Jobs
2016	196,266
2017	198,299
2018	198,042
2019	198,954
2020	195,737
2021	199,302
2022	202,567
2023	205,490
2024	208,176
2025	210,844
2026	212,755

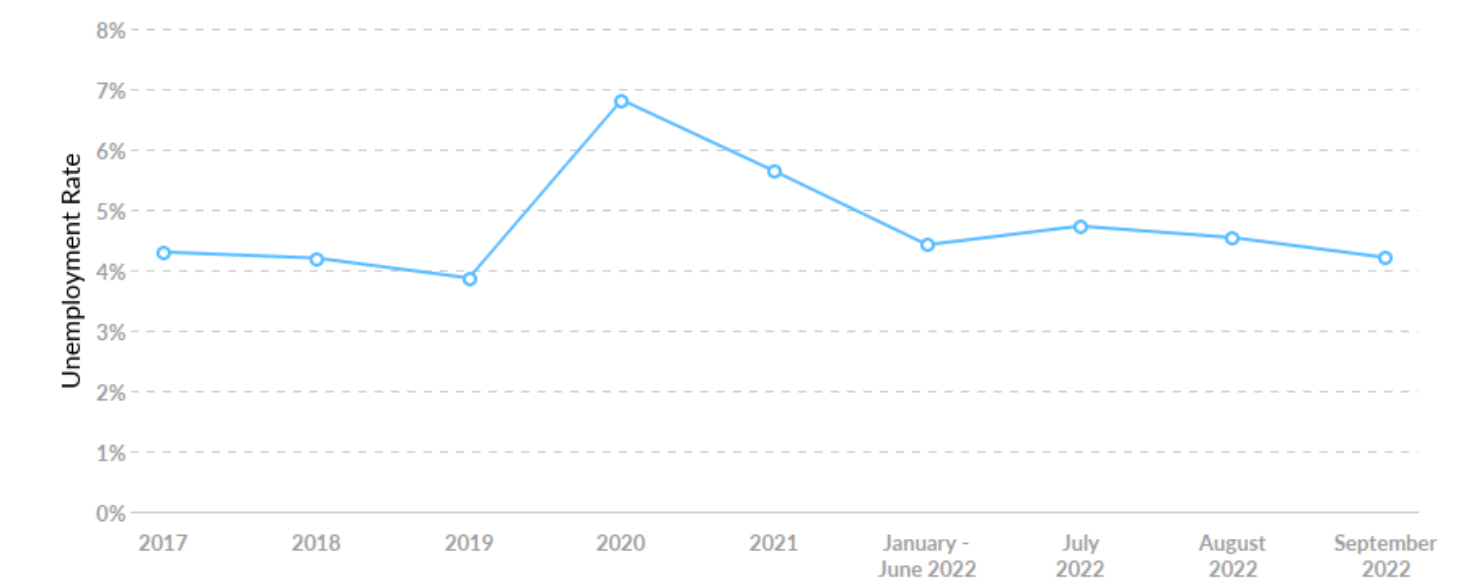
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2017	58.43%
2018	56.93%
2019	55.92%
2020	54.91%
2021	55.31%
January - June 2022	54.56%
July 2022	54.48%
August 2022	54.08%
September 2022	54.18%

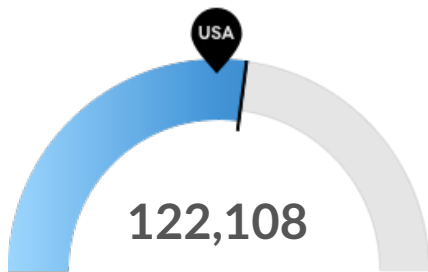
Unemployment Rate Trends

Your areas had a September 2022 unemployment rate of 4.21%, **decreasing from 4.30%** 5 years before.



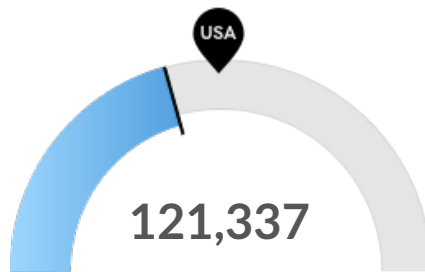
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2017	4.30%
2018	4.20%
2019	3.87%
2020	6.82%
2021	5.64%
January - June 2022	4.42%
July 2022	4.73%
August 2022	4.54%
September 2022	4.21%

Population Characteristics



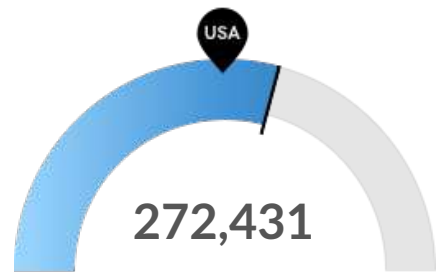
Millennials

Your area has 122,108 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 108,208.



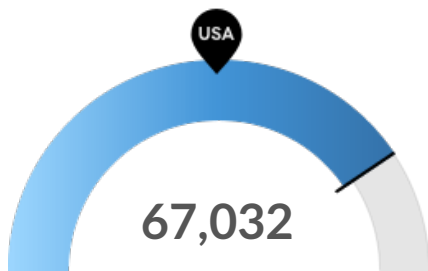
Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is low in your area. The national average for an area this size is 157,459 people 55 or older, while there are 121,337 here.



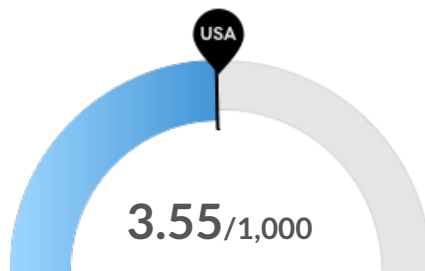
Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is high in your area. The national average for an area this size is 215,573 racially diverse people, while there are 272,431 here.



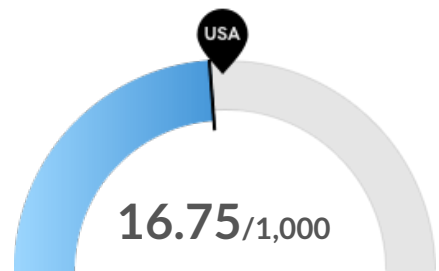
Veterans

Your area has 67,032 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 27,748.



Violent Crime

Your area has 3.55 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.62 per 1,000 people.

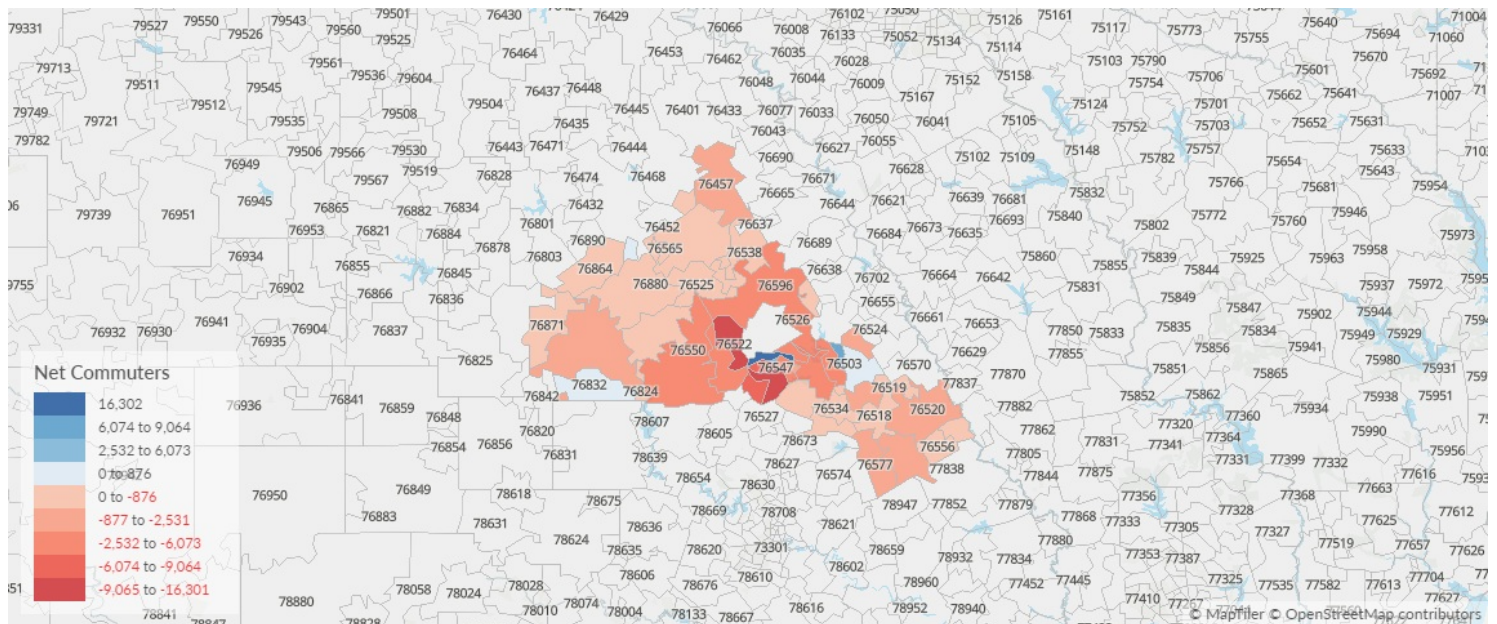


Property Crime

Your area has 16.75 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 17.91 per 1,000 people.

Place of Work vs Place of Residence

Understanding where talent in the region currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions. For example, the #1 ranked ZIP for employment ranks #13 for resident workers. The top ZIP for resident workers is 76542.

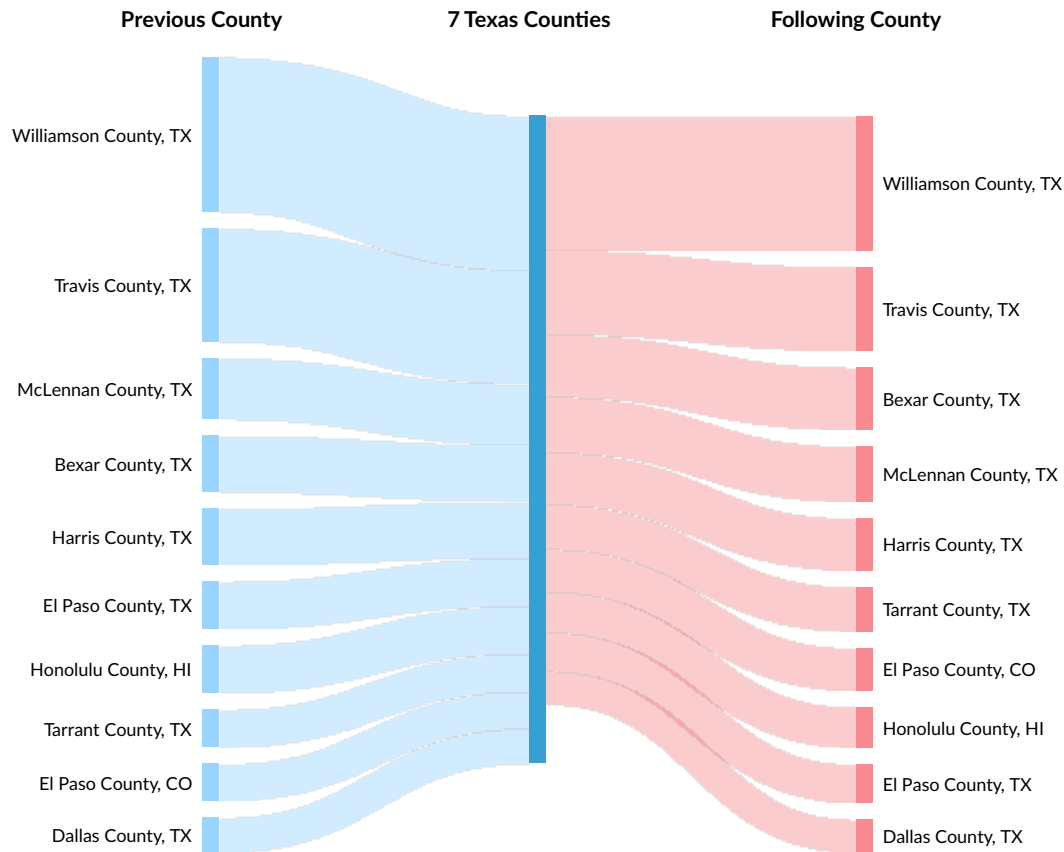


Where Talent Works			Where Talent Lives		
ZIP	Name	2021 Employment	ZIP	Name	2021 Workers
76544	Fort Hood, TX (in Bell c...	22,463	76542	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	26,436
76549	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	19,888	76549	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	26,019
76542	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	17,267	76522	Copperas Cove, TX (in C...	18,717
76504	Temple, TX (in Bell coun...	17,053	76502	Temple, TX (in Bell coun...	18,289
76502	Temple, TX (in Bell coun...	14,708	76513	Belton, TX (in Bell count...	17,706

Inbound and Outbound Migration

The table below analyzes past and current residents of 7 Texas Counties. The left column shows residents of other counties migrating to 7 Texas Counties. The right column shows residents migrating from 7 Texas Counties to other counties.

As of 2020, 2,551 people have migrated from Williamson County, TX to 7 Texas Counties. In the same year, 2,213 people left 7 Texas Counties migrating to Williamson County, TX. The total Net Migration for 7 Texas Counties in 2020 was 3,815.

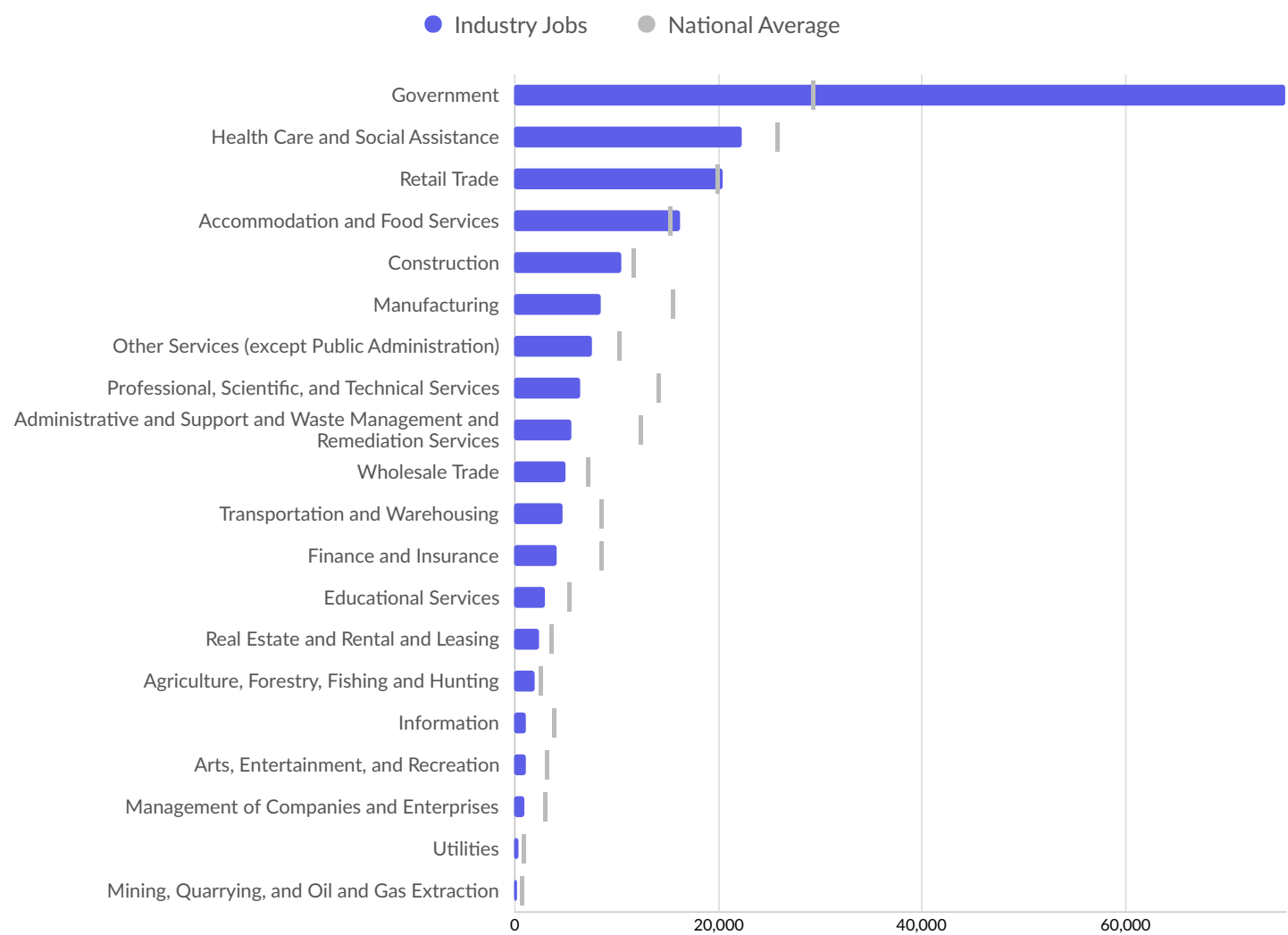


Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Williamson County, TX	2,551
Travis County, TX	1,865
McLennan County, TX	1,005
Bexar County, TX	931
Harris County, TX	930
El Paso County, TX	787

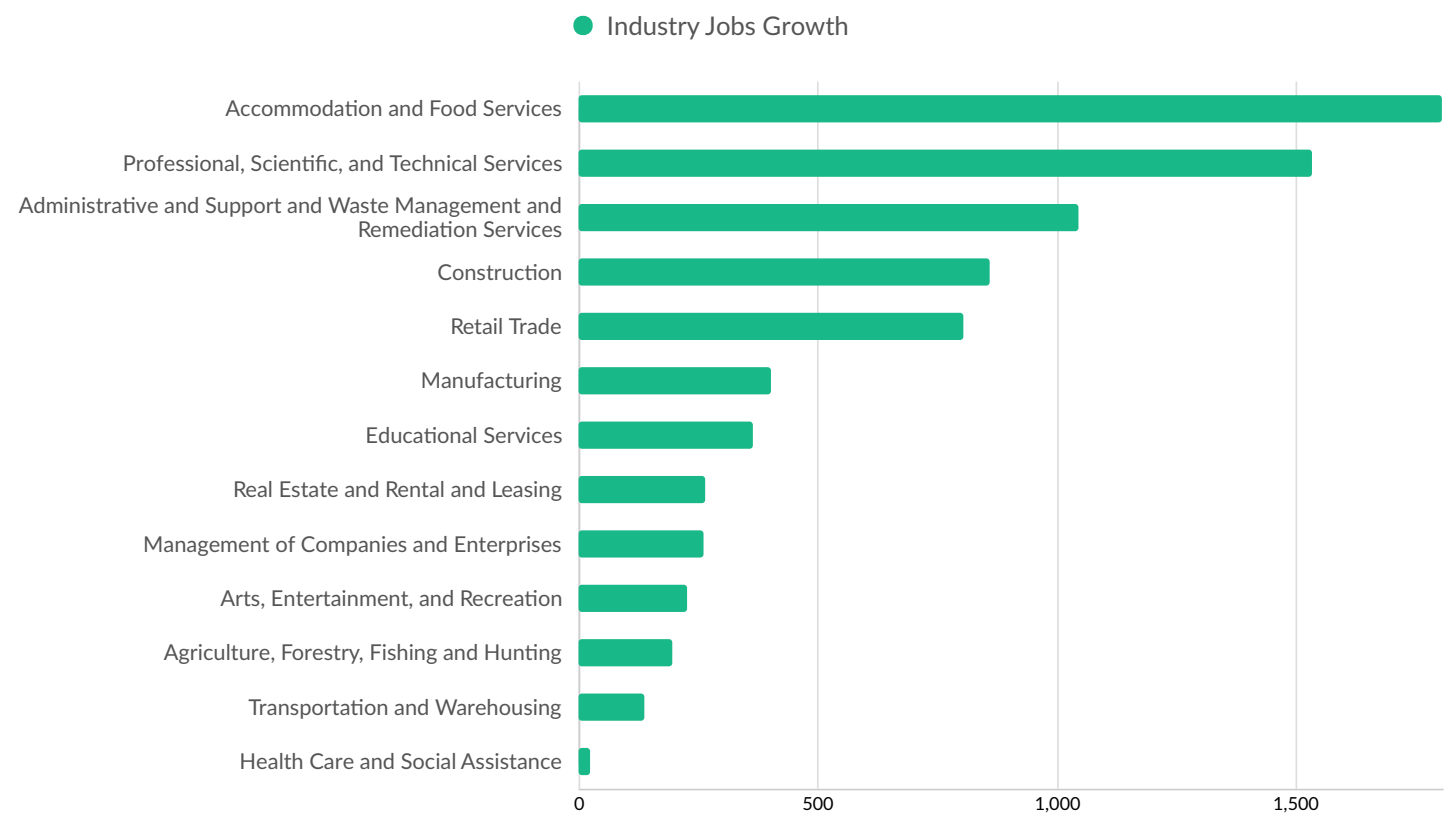
Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Honolulu County, HI	784
Tarrant County, TX	626
El Paso County, CO	611
Dallas County, TX	582
Pierce County, WA	549
Cumberland County, NC	457
Los Angeles County, CA	393
San Diego County, CA	321
Jefferson County, NY	318
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Williamson County, TX	2,213
Travis County, TX	1,382
Bexar County, TX	1,032
McLennan County, TX	913
Harris County, TX	859
Tarrant County, TX	735
El Paso County, CO	703
Honolulu County, HI	668
El Paso County, TX	638
Dallas County, TX	551
Pierce County, WA	384
Cumberland County, NC	366
Montgomery County, TN	355
Brazos County, TX	332
Muscogee County, GA	315

Industry Characteristics

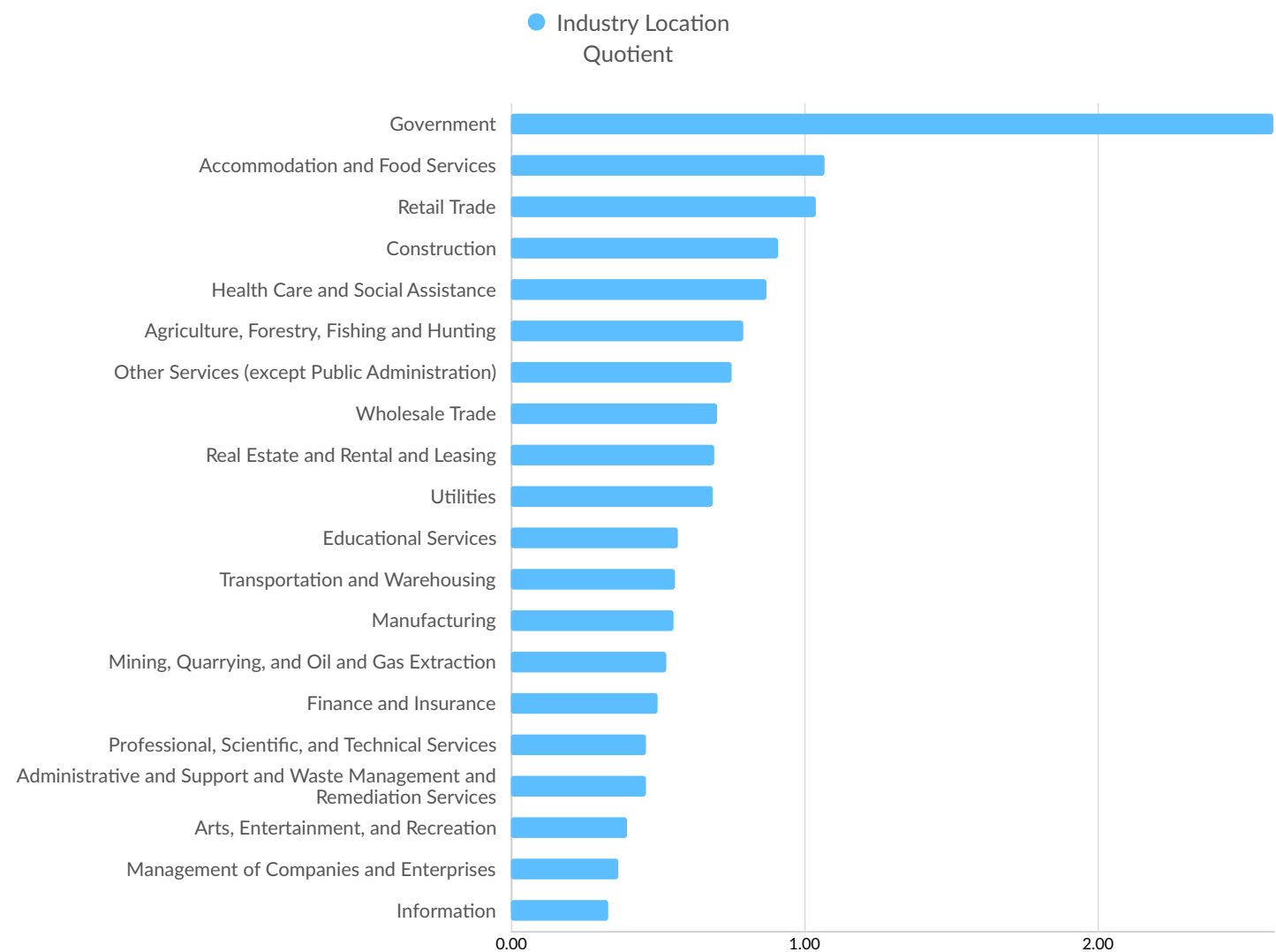
Largest Industries



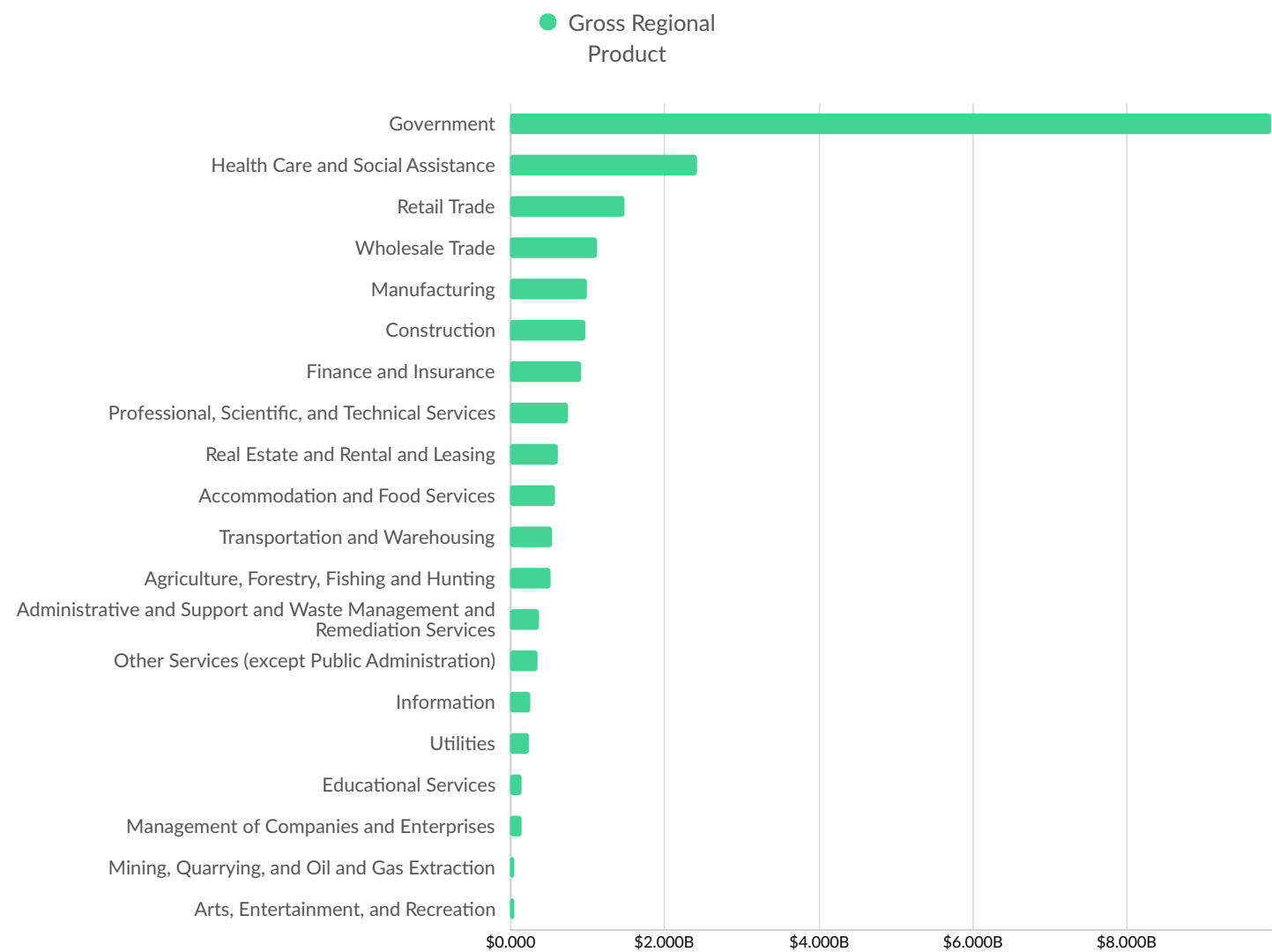
Top Growing Industries



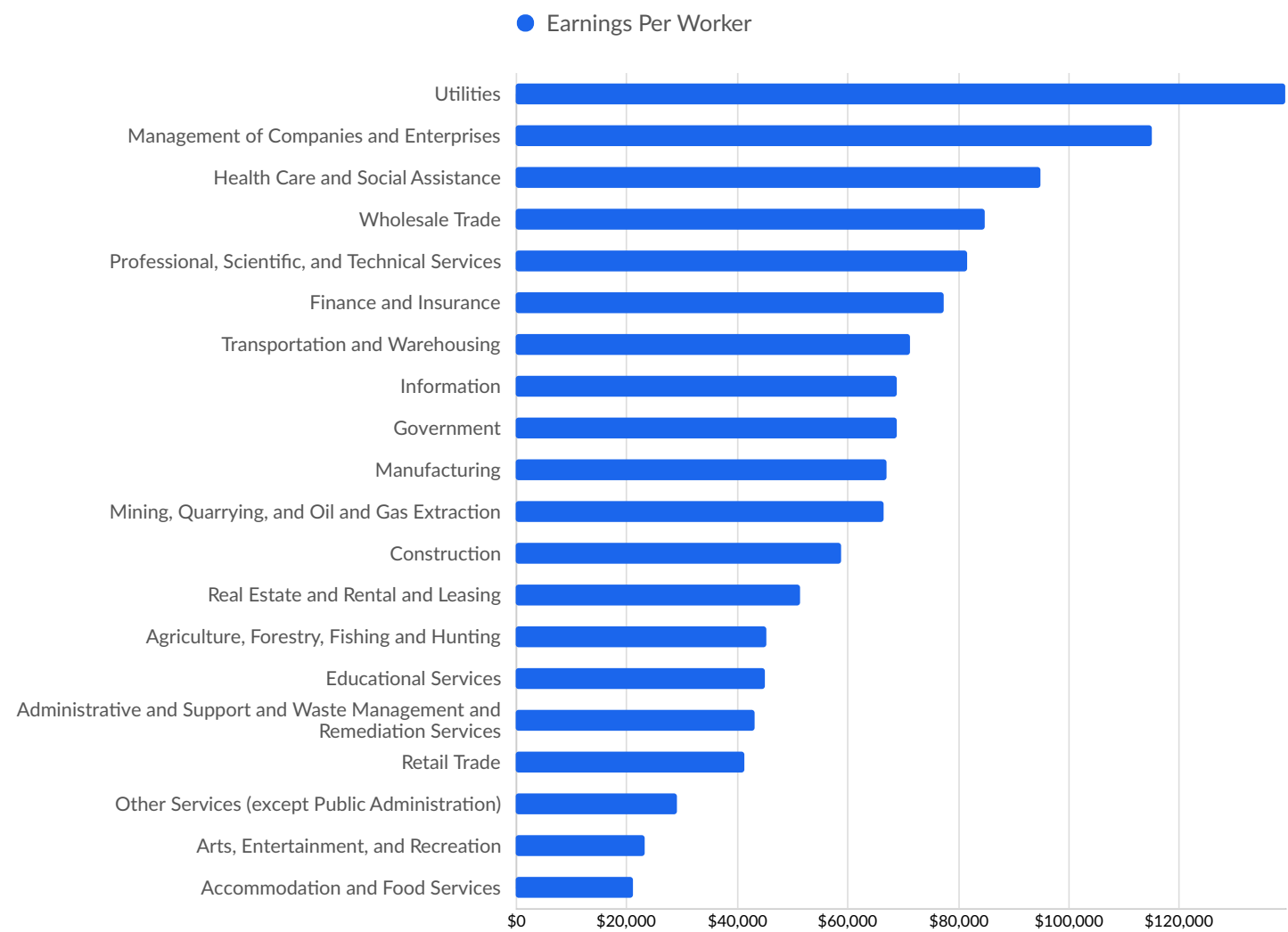
Top Industry Location Quotient



Top Industry GRP



Top Industry Earnings



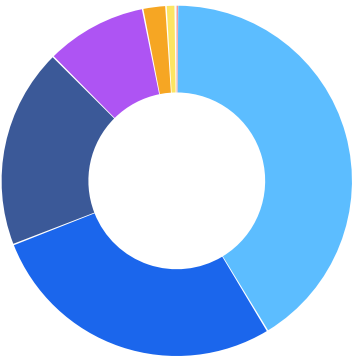
Business Characteristics

33,701 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 33,701 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 4,223 companies in your area posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles	Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
U.S. Army	19,917 	Baylor Scott & White Health	3,883 
Baylor Scott & White Health	4,575 	AdventHealth	771 
Killeen Isd	3,293 	United States Department of Ve...	572 
Walmart	1,214 	Walmart	541 
United States Department of Ve...	1,112 	Central Texas College	500 
Central Texas College	906 	McLane Company	426 
McLane Company	724 	H-E-B	411 
Belton Isd	682 	Clarence Edison Fikes Company	378 
H-E-B	609 	First National Bank Texas	333 
University of Mary Hardin Baylor	566 	Temple Independent School Dis...	327 

Business Size

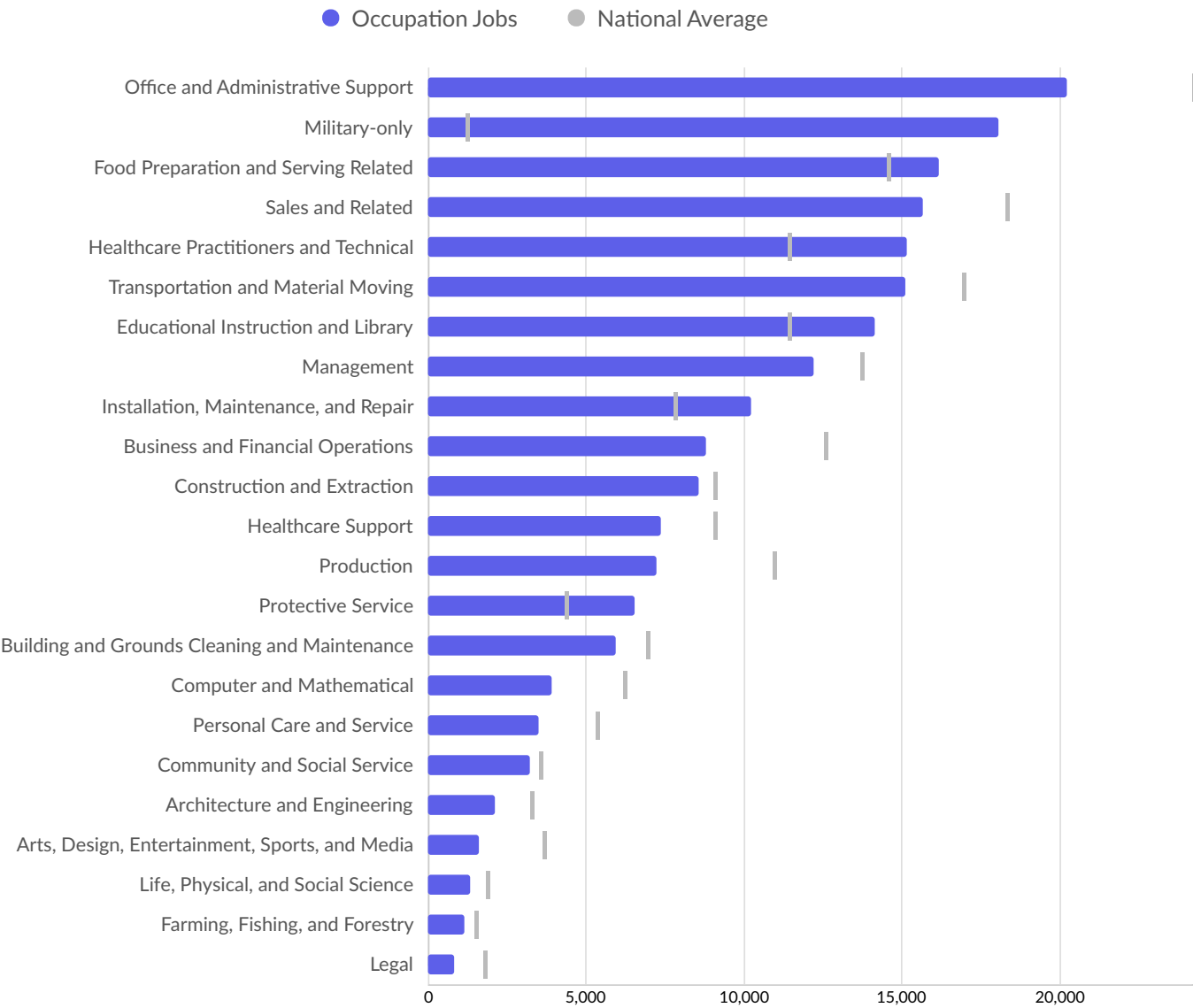


	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	41.3%	6,367
5 to 9 employees	27.7%	4,280
10 to 19 employees	18.5%	2,847
20 to 49 employees	9.3%	1,441
50 to 99 employees	2.1%	330
100 to 249 employees	0.8%	130
250 to 499 employees	0.1%	23
500+ employees	0.1%	10

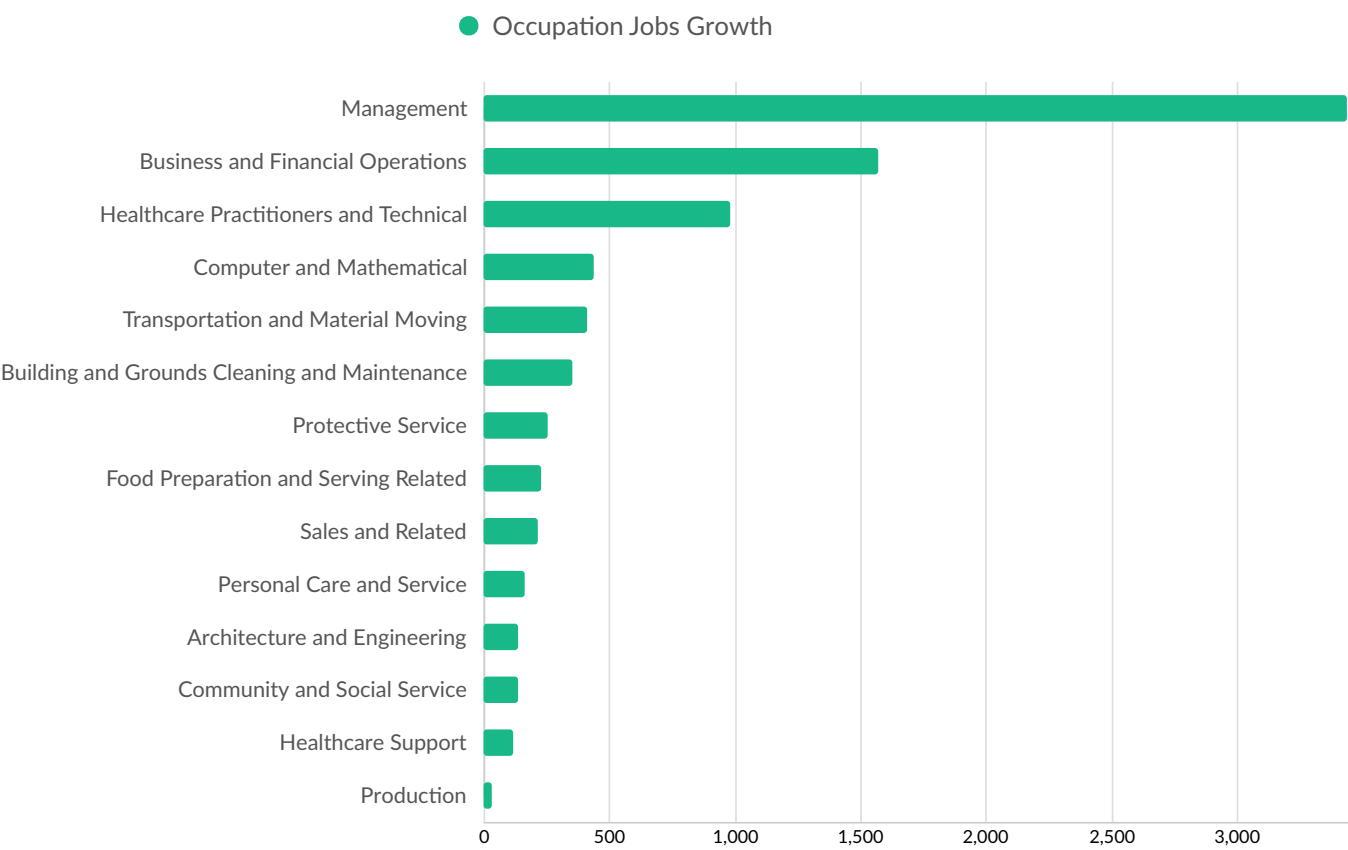
**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.*

Workforce Characteristics

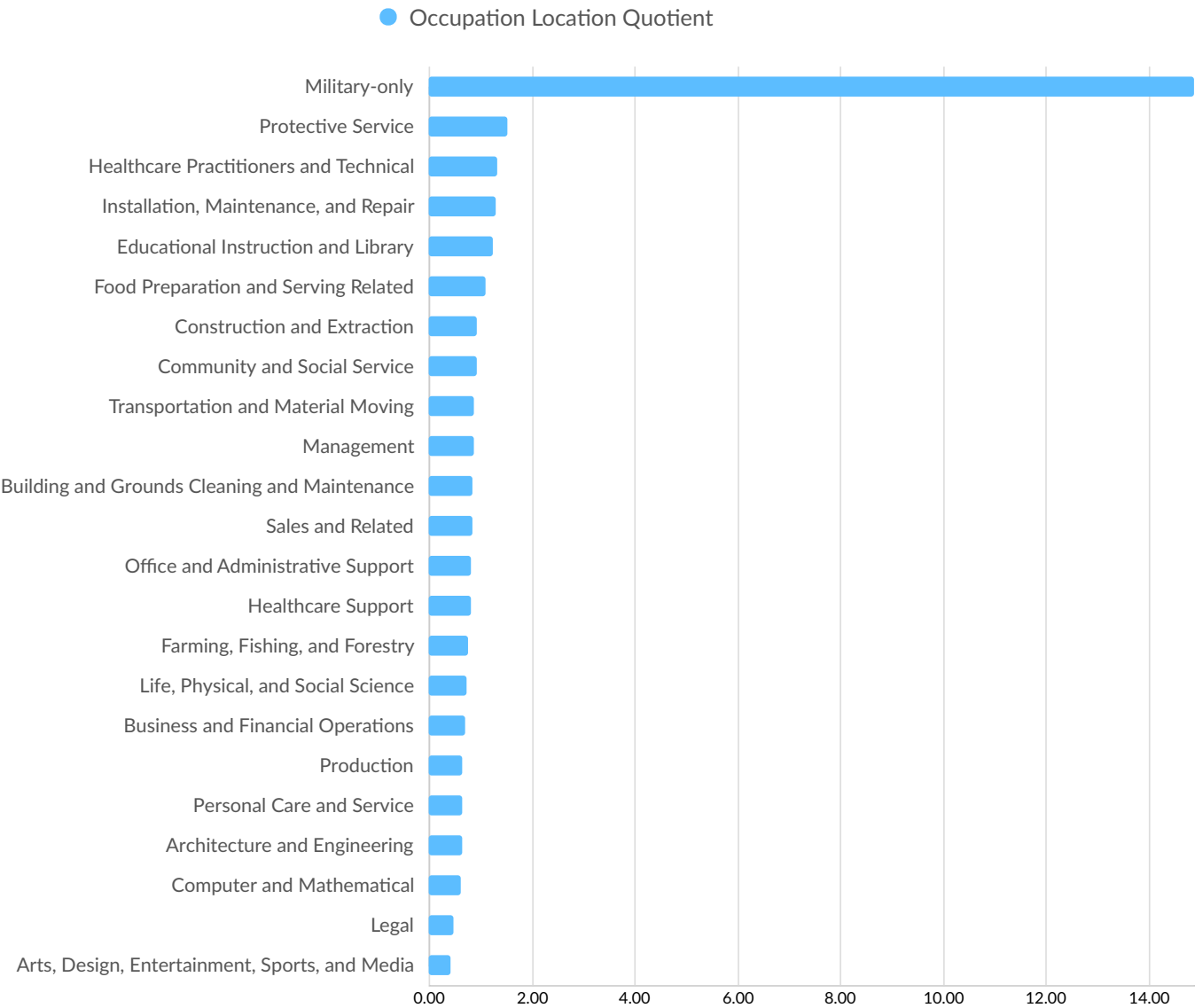
Largest Occupations



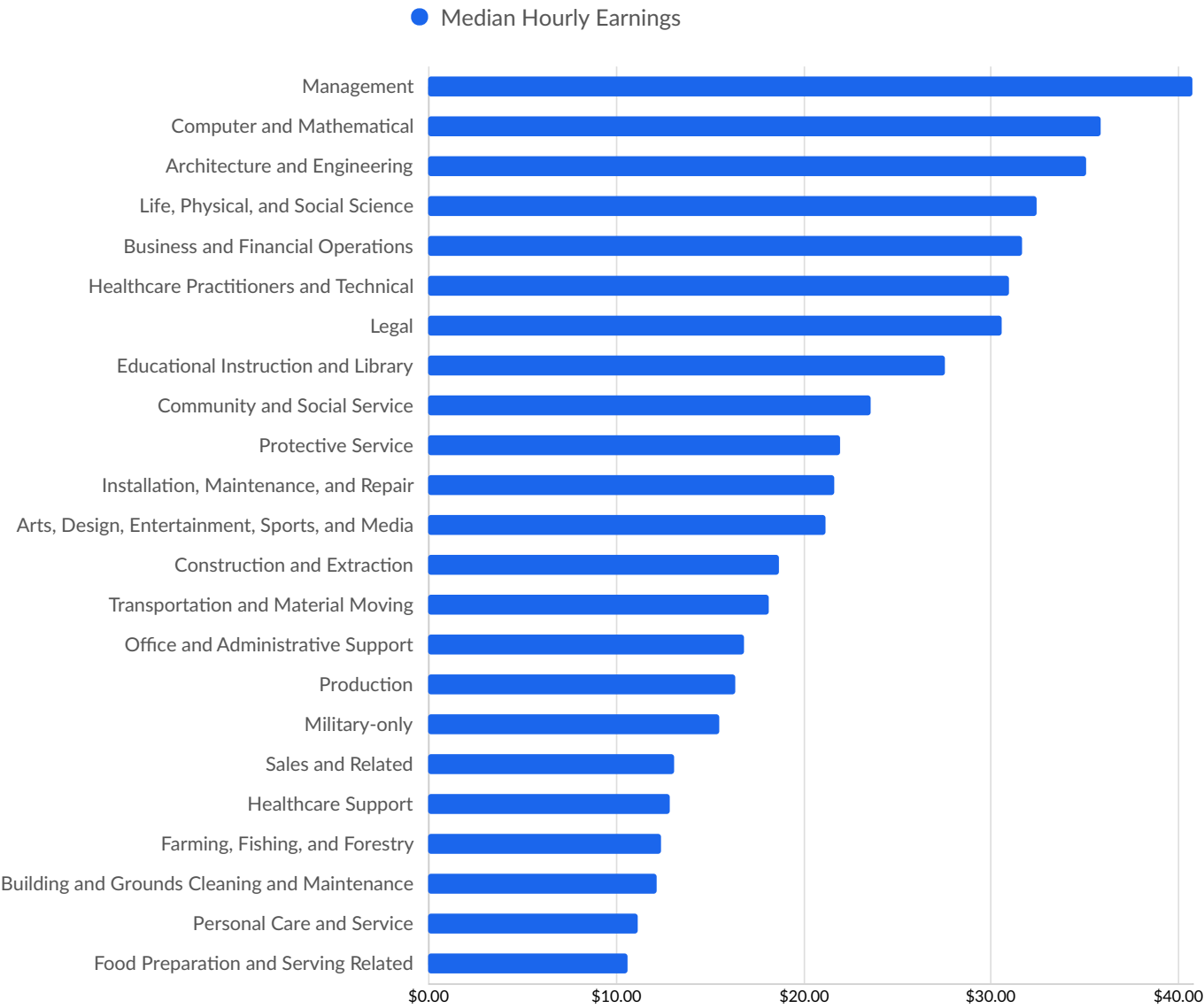
Top Growing Occupations



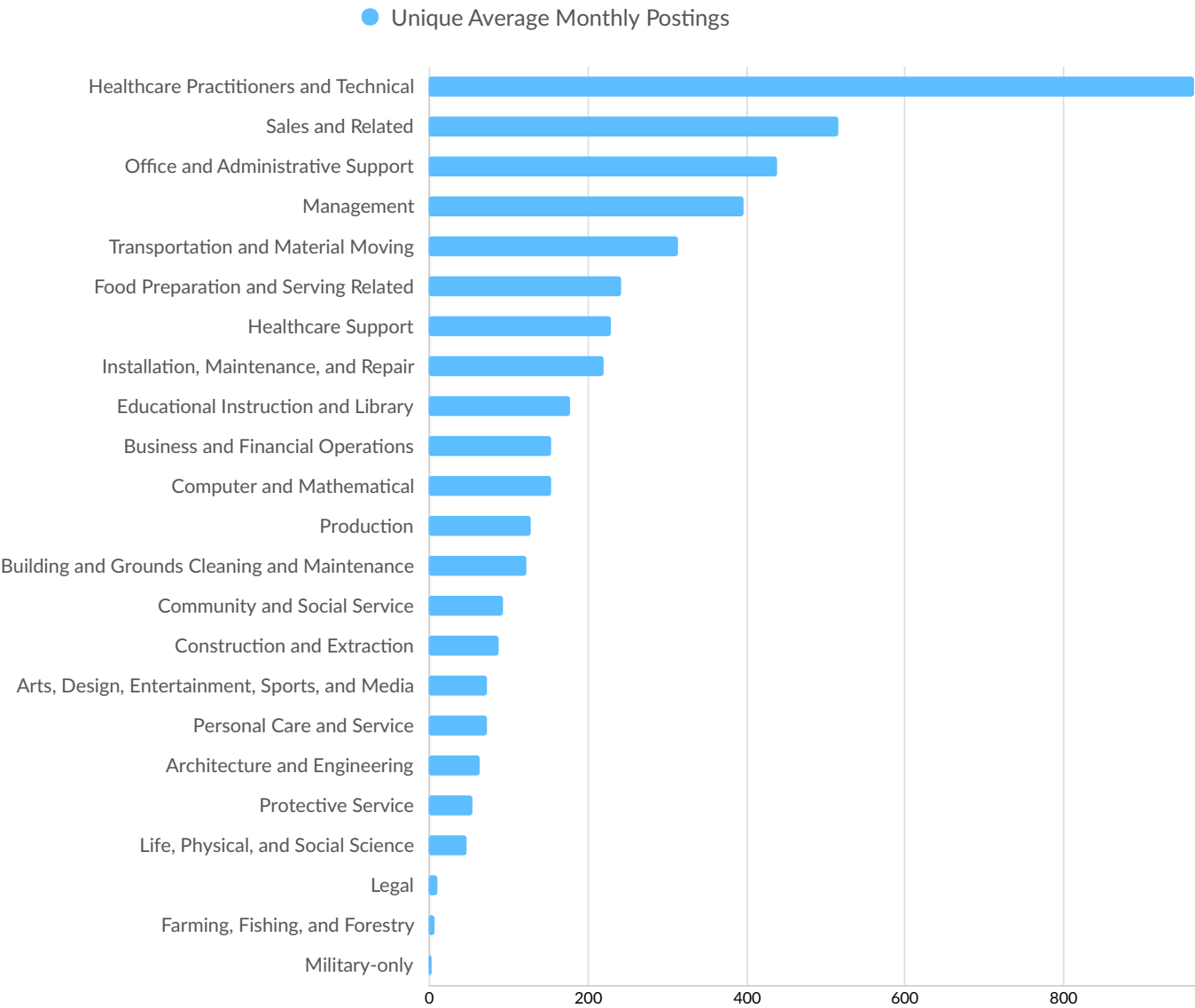
Top Occupation Location Quotient



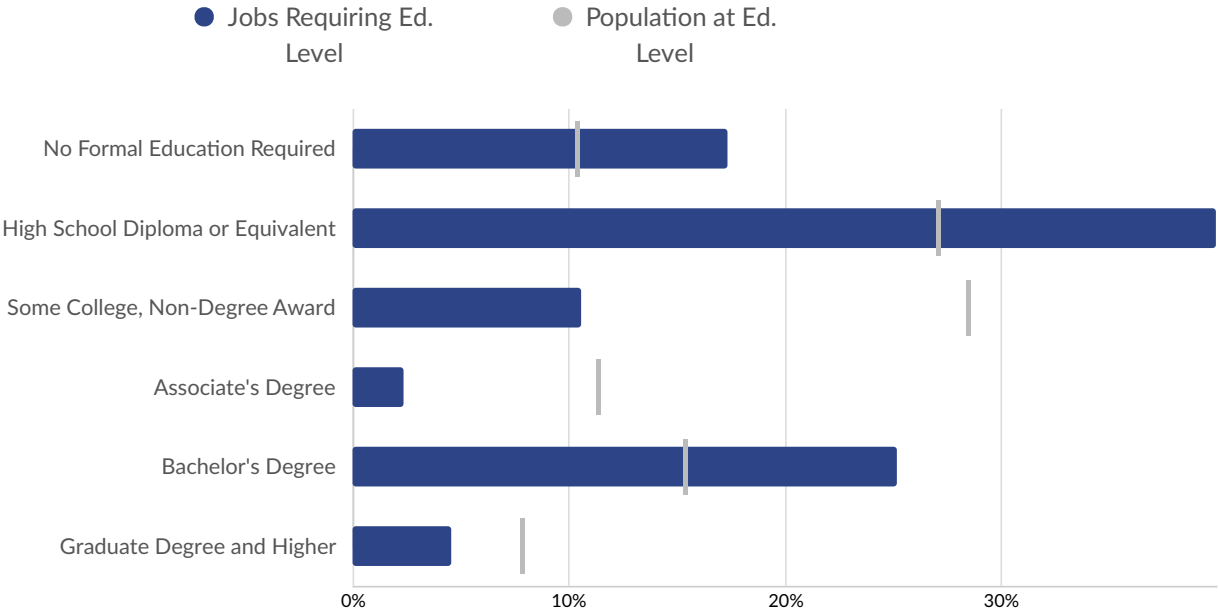
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations

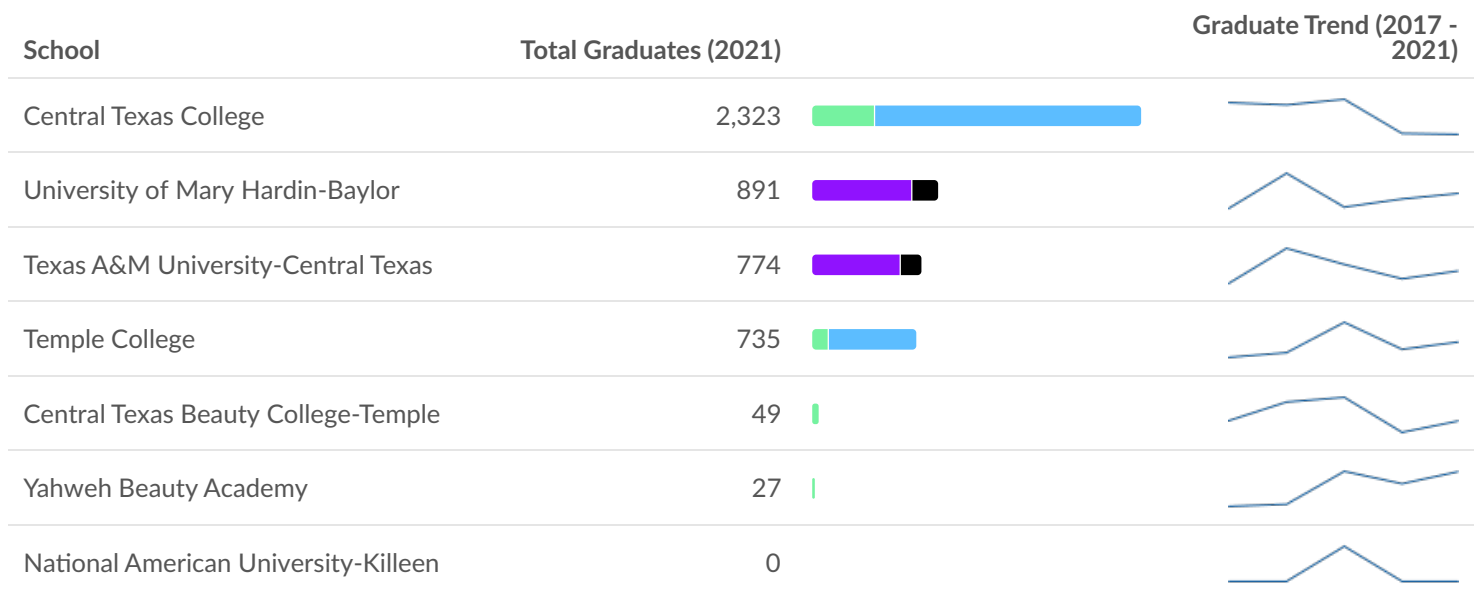


Underemployment



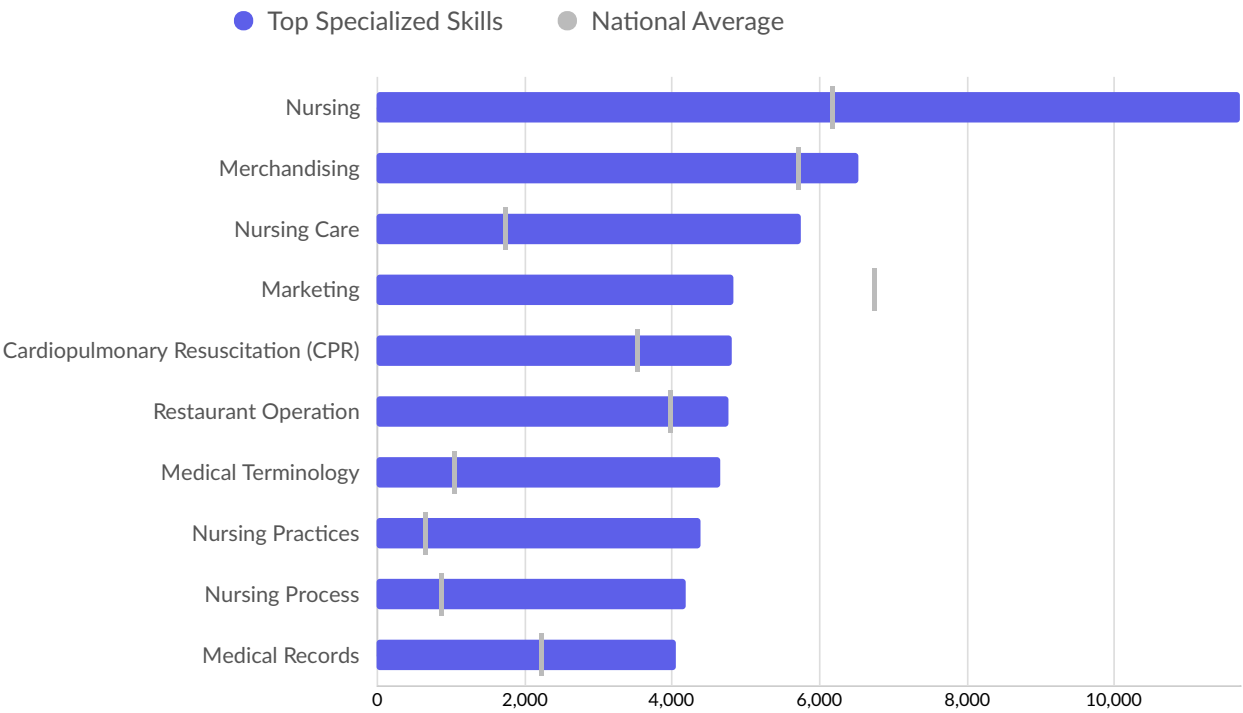
Educational Pipeline

In 2021, there were 4,799 graduates in 7 Texas Counties. This pipeline has shrunk by 22% over the last 5 years. The highest share of these graduates come from General Studies, Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies, and Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse.



● Certificate
 ● Associate's
 ● Bachelor's
 ● Master's or Higher

In-Demand Skills



Item 4:

Meeting Minutes



**Development District of Central Texas
Board of Directors**

Central Texas Council of Governments 2180
North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513

Thursday, October 6, 2022—9:30 AM

Board Members Present:

Jamie LaDuke: Hamilton EDC
Ted Gonzalez: Central Texas College
Brian O'Connor: Nolanville EDC
Ginger Watkins: Cameron Industrial Foundation
Dean Roome: Bartlett Municipal Development District
Cynthia Hernandez: Belton EDC
Cheri Shepherd: Gatesville Convention and Visitor's Bureau
Bobby Whitson: Bell County Commissioner's Court

Others Present:

Uryan Nelson: CTCOG
Anna Barge: CTCOG
Dominic Elizondo: CTCOG
Hope Geiger: CTCOG
Connie Quinto: CTCOG
Anita Janke: CTCOG
Thomas Butterfield: Office of the Governor Office of Economic Development and Tourism
Dan Kelleher: City of Temple Main Street Program

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Ginger Watkins, Chair of the Board, at 9:31 AM. A quorum was present.

2. Public Comments. No public comments were made.

3. Staff Updates.

Dominic Elizondo gave an update about CTCOG activities, including the completion of the Discover Central Texas website and app, the Opportunity Zone Summit, economic development newsletters, the Small Town Summit series, plans for an EDA FIRE event in early 2023, 2022-26 CEDS implementation, plans for a Transportation and Opportunity Zone Summit and other economic updates from Workforce Solutions' Economic Snapshot for Q3 of 2022.

4. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding approval of minutes from the July 7, 2022, Meeting.

Ted Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of New Board Members

A new member were before the Board for approval-Brian O'Connor, the new director of the Morgan's Point Resort EDC. Cynthia Hernandez made a motion to approve his applications to the Board, and Ted Gonzalez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Item: Regarding Texas Main Street Program

Dan Kelleher, the Temple Main Street Program Administrator provided an overview of the Main Street Program in Temple. The Main Street Program allows various stakeholders in a city (businesses, governments, non-profits, residents, etc.) to have a unified vision for developing its downtown. It utilizes the National Main Street Program's four point approach to downtown improvement: design, promotion, economic vitality, and organization, to implement historic preservation efforts that spur economic development. Temple has a Main Street Advisory Board with four committees for each of these points which meet monthly. The Promotion Committee deals with any promotion for activities and advertising, as well as assisting businesses with marketing plans. The Economic Vitality Committee works to keep and expand businesses, connect business owners with property owners, and work to attract new businesses. The Design Committee works with everything in the physical or built environment, reporting on building improvements. The Organization Committee deals with bylaws, meeting schedules, and community outreach initiatives. When a city becomes certified as a Main Street city it is given access to the staff from the State Main Street Office, including designers, architects, and economic development staff. Businesses can fill out a form and send photos of their business to the State and the design team will provide a free design for restoration. Temple has a Strategic Investment Zone (SIZ) which provides match for grants businesses apply for. Temple's Main Street Program also offers "targeted persuasion" and training for businesses, and collaborative promotions. Mr. Kelleher showed several examples of new development and historic preservation in Temple. He explained that all Main Street cities sign an annual agreement with the Texas Main Street Program, submit quarterly activity and reinvestment reports, and an annual six-standard report. Cities that score high on these reports become nationally accredited. The six standards are: A broad based community commitment, active leadership and organizational capacity, diverse funding and sustainable program operations, strategy driven programming, preservation based economic development, and demonstrated impact and results. The application process requires that the city create a Main Street Manager position. All new Main Street Cities receive a visit from the First Lady of Texas. Anita Janke asked what impacts and results are measured by the standards, and Mr. Kelleher said that they look at examples of successful programs or programs that have grown over the past year, as well as examples of preservation of buildings, community, outreach, etc. Dominic Elizondo asked how façade improvements and other programs are funded. Mr. Kelleher said that every city does it differently, but Temple has a Redevelopment Zone (RZ), which is a Tax Increment Finance Zone, in its downtown. He also mentioned that some cities use hotel occupancy tax.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding Texas Enterprise Zone Program

Thomas Butterfield, a Finance Specialist with the Office of the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office, provided an overview of how local communities can use the

Texas Enterprise Zone Program. This Program provides sales and use tax refunds to businesses to encourage investment and job creation in economically distressed areas of the State. Cities nominate businesses for the program and they are eligible to receive refunds based on their investment for up to five years. Businesses may reapply after this term. Six businesses are allowed to be designated in the Program per fiscal biennium for cities with less than 250,000 people and nine for cities with a population of 250,000 or more. Application deadlines are quarterly in September, December, March, and June. Enterprise Zones are Census Block Groups where at least 20% of the area are at or below poverty level, are classified as a Federally Designated Renewal Community, Federal Empowerment Zone, or Federal Enterprise Community, is an area located in a Distressed County (none in the DDCT region are Distressed), or are in the boundaries of a defense base development authority. Qualified businesses must be located in the Zone and 25% of new permanent jobs must be held by residents of the Enterprise Zone, economically disadvantaged individuals, and veterans. If located outside the Zone, it must be 35%. Businesses must apply to the city to be nominated for the Zone, and if nominated the application goes to the State to be approved and the Project moves to the Comptroller's Office. If the Project meets the requirements of the Program, the business receives sales tax refunds. Since FY 2016 the Program has averaged 51 project designations per fiscal year, more than \$4.7 billion in investment, and created or retained more than 50,000 jobs. Ted Gonzalez asked if the 76% of all jobs created or retained being in manufacturing was in the State as a whole or just the DDCT region, with Mr. Butterfield responding that it was for the State. Cynthia Hernandez asked if this Program could only be accessed by an existing company, not a development project. Mr. Butterfield stated a construction company could apply but they couldn't count contracted labor towards the requirement, but the funds towards construction could count towards the sales tax refund. Mrs. Hernandez asked if the Zone designations were automatic based off of the demographics or if there was an application process. Mr. Butterfield said that the Zones are updated every ten years based off of Census poverty data.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Implementation

Ginger Watkins congratulated staff for the monitoring and tracking of the CEDS implementation. Dominic Elizondo gave an update on the implementation of several high priority strategies in the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Action Plan Matrix. One strategy was developing a regionally based tourism brand, which was being developed with the Discover Central Texas project. shot footage at cities and towns across the region to use on the website for events and CTCOG and RGVision completed the development of the website and app, and CTCOG is now working on advertising for the website on social media. CTCOG hired a new VISTA who will work on things like marketing and search engine optimization for the site. The next strategy in the Action Plan Matrix for the CEDS was to hold an Opportunity Zone Summit. Dominic Elizondo provided a draft agenda for the Summit, to be held on Oct.7, which will include representatives from three Opportunity Zone Funds giving overviews on their investment areas and projects, and cities with Opportunity Zones in a panel discussing potential areas for investment. Mr. Elizondo also showed a list of questions for the panel that will be asked, including asking what current investments exist in the Zone, and what plans there are for future investment. Anna Barge gave an overview of the Small Town Summit series as hour long webinars every other week covering topics such as digital literacy, CTCOG services, emergency preparedness, and downtown development. The next two Summits will be later in October and November over

economic development and tourism. Anna Barge also noted that staff was working with Hiring our Heroes to host a Military Spouse Networking event with employers, which is planned to be held in November. Kolin Yancey spoke on the CEDS strategy dealing with creating marketing materials for CTCOG. He has created a one page document detailing the services each CTCOG department offers, which will be sent out to city managers and posted on social media once approved. Dominic Elizondo covered the strategy for creating a Central Texas regional brand for businesses. He discussed the 2022-26 CEDS' Appendix F, which detailed steps on regional marketing for business attraction, including formalizing an identity and identifying assets. Mr. Elizondo showed the CTCOG site in the Regional Economy and Regional Demographics menus, which had been updated with 2020 Census demographic and Workforce Solutions data on employment, industry, occupation wages, educational, ethnicity, median household income, and major employers.

9. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of use of EDA Planning Grant Funds for Discover Central Texas Advertising

Dominic Elizondo said that staff had receive confirmation from the EDA that the DDCT would be able to use the EDA three year Planning grant "Other Expenditures" line item for advertising as it would fall under "Program outreach and other specific purposes necessary to meet the requirements of the award." Mr. Elizondo said that staff as well as VISTA Kolin Yancey researched advertising cost estimates for Facebook, Google, and billboards. He showed a breakdown of the costs, finding that Facebook was cheaper with lower estimated monthly clicks compared to Google, but was able to target demographics that click on the ad more. Billboards would cost anywhere from \$669-\$7,000 per month depending on the location with limited ability to gauge efficacy. Mr. Elizondo broke down the line items where funds could be transferred to "Other Expenditures," finding that a total of \$7,622 would be available for the line item. Uryan Nelson asked if staff would be able to receive reports on metrics and who has clicked on the ads. Mr. Elizondo said he believed there would be monthly metrics reports, with Anita Janke stating that each post can have its individual metrics tracked. Ted Gonzalez asked if Facebook cast the widest net, and Mr. Elizondo said you are able to select what demographics and locations to target, but it can adjust based on who is actually clicking the ad. Cynthia Hernandez asked if staff had looked on Instagram and if DDCT should look into doing billboard since a domain can be used for the billboard to track the visitors we're receiving. Mr. Elizondo said that staff had not done a cost estimate for Instagram since a Discover Central Texas Instagram had not been created yet (after this meeting it was found that Facebook ads automatically post to Instagram). Mr. Nelson said the motion can be for moving funds to the line item rather than choosing a specific social media platform in case a better option was found. Cheri Shepherd asked if there was a dedicated staff member as social media manager, with Mr. Elizondo saying that Mr. Yancey would be the point of contact for all social media associated with Discover Central Texas. Mrs. Watkins said that it would be important to respond to comments on social media as well. Mr. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the moving of the funds, and Mrs. Hernandez seconded the motion.

10. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Anna Barge briefly discussed various broadband opportunities and initiatives for the region. The State Broadband Plan was mentioned and Mrs. Barge said that there would be future funding opportunities through the Plan down the road. Mr. Nelson said that at the Texas Association of Regional Councils Economic Development Committee, a representative from Connected Nation spoke about funding opportunities from NTIA and the State Broadband Office, and that as that information comes out, it will be shared with the region.

11. Discussion Item: Regarding Federal and State Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development

Mrs. Barge discussed the programs funded by the recently signed Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA). The RAISE Grant NOFO for FY 2023 will be opening in Fall of 2022.

12. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Grant Opportunities

Dominic Elizondo provided an update on State and Federal grant opportunities, including the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Technology grant from USDOT for pilot projects of advanced technology in public transportation, FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant for improving resiliency in public infrastructure, the Reconnecting Communities Program for removing mobility barriers, the USDA Reconnect Program round 4 for acquiring and constructing infrastructure for broadband-at least 50% of the households in the service area should have access to 10 Mbps and 1 Mbps upload to be eligible for the grants/loans, as well as the USDA Community Connect grant program for construction and acquisition of broadband infrastructure, the USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Program and Intermediary Relending Program for financing revolving loan funds for microentrepreneurs and economic development, the Office of the Governor's Texas Travel Industry Recovery Grant Programs with hotels, motels, and beds and breakfasts being eligible for up to \$20,000 in grants for October, and the Texas Veterans Commission's General Assistance Grants for developing employment support, financial assistance, temporary housing, transportation assistance, and entrepreneurship training for veterans.

13. Board of Directors' Comments.

There were no comments.

14. Discuss agenda items for next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5th, 2022, at 9:30 AM.

15. Adjourned at 11:20 AM

Ginger Watkins, DDCT Chair

Uryan Nelson, Planning Director

Item 5:

**Regarding Approval of
New Board Member**

Regarding Approval of New Board Member

Summary:

Jason Johnson, owner of JJ Realty Group, has a Letter of Support submitted for his application to the Board to replace Stan Briggs. The Letter of Support is included in the packet for Board approval.

Action Needed: Approval of New Board Member.



**Morgan's Point Resort
8 Morgan's Point Blvd.
Morgan's Point Resort, TX 76513**

December 29, 2022

Dominic Elizondo
Economic Development Planner
CTCOG – Planning & Regional Services
[2180 N. Main Street](#)
P.O. Box 729
[Belton, Texas 76513](#)
dominic.elizondo@ctcog.org

RE: Development District of Central Texas (DDCT) Appointment

Mr. Elizondo,

The City of Morgan's Point Resort recommends the appointment of Jason Johnson to serve on the Development District of Central Texas Board of Directors. Jason Johnson is a local business owner.

JJ Realty Group
254.541.0318
jasonj@jjrealtygroup.com

Any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Green, Mayor
City of Morgan's Point Resort
254.718.4510

Item 6:

**Regarding Approval of
2023 Leadership Central
Texas and Rural
Internship Program
Applications.**

**Regarding Approval of 2023 Leadership Central Texas and Rural Internship
Program Applications**

Summary:

Leadership Central Texas is offered by the Development District of Central Texas to any qualified citizen who lives or works within the seven county-region (Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba) served by the Central Texas Council of Governments to identify and develop regional leaders and to promote awareness of regional/state leadership opportunities. The Program educates participants on topics including Government and CTCOG planning services, regional infrastructure and social services, and economic development planning. Topics are taught with active participation from leaders on regional boards. Each certified attendee will be encouraged to identify leadership opportunities where their individual talents would best be applied to insure the growth and future well-being of our Central Texas Region. The 2023 Leadership Central Texas Application is included in the meeting packet for review.

The Rural Internship Program offers \$2000 in scholarships in 2023 to Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Organizations, and Departments of Tourism for the internship of high school students that promotes economic development in rural communities. Awards will be made in the amount of \$500 per entity. To be eligible for this program, the rural community population must be 20,000 or less based on the 2020 US Census and must be located within the seven-county Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) region. DDCT has the authority to revise award amounts and/or total program funds awarded. The 2023 application is included in meeting packet for review.

The application deadline is March 31, 2023.

The acceptance of applications and awarding of funds will be considered during the April meeting following the review of applications received.

Action Needed: Approval of 2023 Leadership Texas and Rural Internship Program Applications.



Leadership Central Texas 2023 Application

PURPOSE

Leadership Central Texas is offered by the Development District of Central Texas to any qualified citizen who lives or works within the seven county-region (Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba) served by the Central Texas Council of Governments. The purpose of Leadership Central Texas is to identify and develop regional leaders and to promote awareness of regional/state leadership opportunities. Topics are taught with active participation from leaders serving on regional boards, committees and organizations. Each certified attendee will be encouraged to identify leadership opportunities where their individual talents would best be applied to insure the growth and future well-being of our Central Texas Region.

OBJECTIVES

Leadership Central Texas has the following objectives:

1. Highlight opportunities for regional public service which match the area(s) of interest of the participants resulting in benefits for the participants, their communities and the region.
2. Provide useful information for participants to utilize, thereby enabling them to be effective leaders on the regional level.
3. Develop relationships across the Central Texas Council of Governments' 7 county region.

** Organizations, presentations and dates are subject to change.*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS*

To be eligible, an applicant must fulfill one of the following requirement(s):

1. Citizens demonstrating a desire to serve in a leadership role;
2. Completed a local leadership program in his or her community or is currently enrolled;
3. Be a past/present elected official of his/her community, region or state.

** Prior non-acceptance of an applicant does not affect future consideration for selection.*

Local Leadership Program Completed, if any:

Date Completed

Name of company, organization or individual sponsoring your application, if other than self:

APPLICANT OBLIGATIONS

- The tuition fee of **\$75.00** for Leadership Central Texas is nonrefundable and payable upon acceptance to the program.
- Tuition must be submitted with a 1 page personal biography.
- The deadline for applications is **March 31, 2023.**
- The selection process will be finalized as of April 7, 2023.
- Class size is limited. All eligible applicants will be considered with an effort to have leaders from each county represented in the class.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Limit your responses to the space available. Letters of recommendation are encouraged but not required.

Name: _____

Name as you wish it to appear on your name tag: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Business Phone: _____

Business Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Home Phone: _____

Home Email: _____

Which address should we use to contact you? [Business](#) [Home](#)

Number of years you have lived in the region. _____

Number of years you have worked in the region. _____

How did you hear about Leadership Central Texas? _____

Word-of-mouth _____ DDOCT web page _____ Local chamber _____

Other (please list) _____

EDUCATION

Include high school, college, business / trade school or other training as well as degrees and/or certifications.
(Most recent first)

--

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Employer Name _____

Your title _____

Previously held positions at this firm:

Do you have the full-time support of your employer for the time required to participate effectively in Leadership Central Texas?	Yes	No

May we call your supervisor for verification?

Name of Supervisor/ Phone #

Do you want your firm to be identified in news releases?

ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Organizations (civic, social, professional, business, non-profit, etc.) please include dates and positions held. (Include honors and awards if any.)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What do you consider to be your best skill, career, or personal achievement to date? Be descriptive.

Describe what you believe to be your most significant contribution to any community in which you have lived? Describe current or previous leadership activities/experience.

If you are chosen as a class member, what do you hope to gain from the experience?

PROGRAM UNDERSTANDING

- I have answered the above questions to the best of my knowledge.
- I have read and understand the eligibility requirements.
- I hereby give Leadership Central Texas the right to make inquiries regarding the information provided on this application form.
- It is my understanding that Leadership Central Texas is to be a learning experience and that attendance of the meetings is mandatory. Due to the in-depth and timed instruction given, any participant who is absent for two (2) or more hours in any given session, up to and including missing a full session, will not receive certification from the class.

2023 Class Dates (subject to change):

Thursday, June 15, 2023 Thursday, July 20, 2023 Thursday, August 17, 2023

Classes times are from 9:00am-4:00pm with lunch provided.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Employer Signature, if applicable: _____

Date: _____

PROMOTIONAL RELEASE AGREEMENT

I hereby grant the Development District of Central Texas ("DDCT"), their partners, affiliates, agents, contractors and respective successors and assigns, the right and permission, with respect to those photographs taken of me, any video and/or audio recordings of me, and with respect to any printed matter in connection therewith, to do the following:

1. Include such photographs, and/or recordings in all media pertaining to Leadership Central Texas, and in the advertising, publicity, and promotion thereof.
2. Use my name in connection with the foregoing.

I hereby release, discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless DDCT, their partners, affiliates, agents, contractors and respective successors and assigns, from all claims and demands whatsoever arising out of or in connection with the foregoing, and waive any right to inspect or approve the same.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Application submission or questions, please contact Dominic Elizondo at dominic.elizondo@ctcog.org or 254-770-2379.

Rural Internship Program Application

The DDCT is offering \$2000 in scholarships to Chambers of Commerce, local Economic Development organizations or tourism organizations for the internship of Junior and Senior high school students that promotes economic development in rural communities. To be eligible for this program, the rural community population must be 20,000 or less based on the 2020 US Census and must be located within the seven-county Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) region.

Organization: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

1. Applicant community population per 2010 US Census: _____

2. What community service will the student be assisting?

Chamber of Commerce () Economic Development Org () Tourism Organization ()

Other () Explain: _____

3. Current Staffing and reason for need of student Intern:

4. Tasks/Responsibilities student will be assigned:

5. **Skillsets/Talents the student should possess:**

6. **Desired start date for Student Intern: ____/____/2023.**

NOTE: Student must submit a Letter of Acceptance to the Organization within 60 days of being selected. Only 4 Applications will be selected by the Board per fiscal year.

7. **Estimated Daily/Weekly hours required from Student Intern: _____**

NOTE: \$500 scholarship will cover approximately 69 hours based on minimum wage of \$7.25/hour. Scholarship may be split between students.

8. **Additional Information/Comments:**

Application submitted by:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: ____/____/____/ email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications or questions may be submitted to Dominic Elizondo at

dominic.elizondo@ctcog.org. **Application Deadline is Mar.31, 2023**

Applications will be evaluated by the DDCT Board and recipients selected on April 7, 2023.

To be completed by DDCT Staff:	Date Application received _____
DDCT Board Action: Application Approved/Denied	Date of Action: _____
If denied, explanation: _____	

Item 7:

**Regarding Updates on the
2022-2026
Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy
Implementation**

Regarding Updates on the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Implementation.

Summary:

2022 saw the implementation of several 2022-26 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) strategies. Staff will provide an overview of what has been accomplished in 2022 and what is being worked on for this year.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only.

TOP 5: 2022 DDCT CEDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS



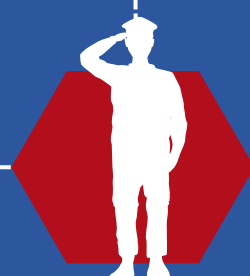
NUMBER 1

HOSTED 9 SMALL TOWN SUMMIT WEBINARS

These webinars included topics such as economic development, emergency preparedness, updating infrastructure, grants, digital literacy, and websites and social media

VETERAN EMPLOYER SUMMIT

DDCT staff gathered subject matter experts to present on the best practices for hiring veterans. We had 24 companies in attendance.



NUMBER 2



NUMBER 3

OPPORTUNITY ZONE FORUM

DDCT Staff held the Opportunity Zone Investment Forum to generate interest in specific development projects and connect investors with developers.



NUMBER 4

DISCOVER CENTRAL TEXAS

DDCT staff hired a consultant group to help develop a regionally based tourism marketing effort, including a website, app, and promotional video.



NUMBER 5

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS CLASS

DDCT staff hosted class to share on topics such as roles of elected officials, forms of local government, and grant programs. Seventeen elected officials attended the free class.

DDCT CEDS Accomplishments 2022

Established for Continuous Practice

Strategy/Event name/short description	Priority on spreadsheet
Remote/Hybrid meetings	Medium
Technical support as needed to communities on subjects of planning, transportation, legal, etc.	Medium
Build additional capacity to assist jurisdictions with grant identification/writing/administration-Grant Wish List	High
Explore and develop capability for CTCOG to deliver alerts to all phones active in the region-Code Red.	Medium

Completed: Non-Recurring

Month	Date	Strategy/Event name/short description	Priority on spreadsheet
March	2	Assisted businesses in developing continuity plans and accessing resources/programs for recovery and resilience-CEDS Appendix E	High
July	28	Regionally based tourism marketing effort-Discover Central Texas	Medium
August	1	Educated jurisdictions on how to leverage the Defense Support of Civil Authorities program to secure generators, water, etc. from Fort Hood during crises-Small Town Summit August 1 st	Medium
October	7	Opportunity Zone Investment Summit-brought together five cities and three Opportunity Zone Funds for potential investment	High
November	29	Set up social media toolkit for individual jurisdictions to build following for improved outreach during emergencies.	Medium
December	21	Business Attraction Marketing Effort-CTCOG and DDCT website economic and demographic profiles of all 32 cities	High
N/A		Strengthened and continued partnerships between institutions of higher education and high/middle schools in the region to provide apprenticeships opportunities and increase participation of youth in skilled jobs and post-secondary degrees-P20 Council.	High

Annual: Recurring

Timeframe	Event name/description	Priority on spreadsheet
June-December	Small Town Summits-online events with speakers covering topics including digital literacy, economic development, infrastructure, broadband, emergency preparedness, and tourism	High
Twice a Year	Newly Elected Officials Summit for officials to be familiarized with	Medium
Spring for Summit, Fall for Networking Event	Veteran Employer Summit and Military Spouse Networking Event	High
Once a Year	Send out CTCOG Services sheet to cities to explain all the services it offers	Medium
Once a year	Create a regional outreach effort to promote entrepreneurial opportunities to Fort Hood personnel transitioning into the civilian workforce, with a focus on defense contractor opportunities	Medium

On-Going/Work In Progress

Event name/Description	Priority on spreadsheet
Develop a regional water/sewer plan prioritizing investments needed for industry growth.	High
Study the region's housing stock and develop strategies to ensure adequate housing product for current and future residents.	High
Expand public transit offerings to provide reliable, affordable public transportation options for connecting rural residents with employment centers-HOP dial-a-ride service and app.	High
Develop and disseminate educational materials to households regarding preparations they can make to sustain themselves longer without utilities or transportation	Medium
Continue investing in and hardening broadband and cellular networks (e.g. improved battery backup and/or solar on cell towers/repeaters).	High
Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.	High

Objective	Strategy as worded in CEDS	Event with longer description	Continue? Or Onetime thing?	
Improve and formalize emergency operational and community protocol within and across jurisdictions	Host a "Small Town Summit" and coordinate basic emergency planning meetings on an ongoing basis	Hosted 9 Small Town Summit Sessions covering topics such as economic development, tourism, emergency preparedness, updating infrastructure, grants, digital literacy, websites and social media, and general information about the CTCOG.	Maybe repeat every two years?	
Improve and formalize emergency operational and community protocol within and across jurisdictions	Educate jurisdictions on how to leverage the Defense Support of Civil Authorities program to secure generators, water, etc. from Fort Hood during crises.	This item was accomplished during one of the emergency preparedness themed Small-Town Summit webinars.	Yes, if Small Town Summits are repeated.	
Educate and prepare residents and businesses to better sustain themselves during disasters.	Assist businesses in developing continuity plans and accessing resources/programs for recovery and resilience. Leverage U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Guides.	This was accomplished via sending out materials including the Post-Pandemic Toolkit to cities and chambers of commerce.	This can be sent out annually.	
Prepare and harden infrastructure needed for emergency communications, emergency services, & resilience.	Adopt rural healthcare innovation models that provide for rural urgent care and health emergency response teams, leveraging Texas A&M Health.	This was accomplished by meeting with Texas A&M Health Science Center. OnMed presented to regional leaders and representatives at a CTCOG Executive Committee Meeting.	N/A	
Prepare and harden infrastructure needed for emergency communications,	Explore and develop capability for CTCOG to deliver alerts to all phones active in the region.	This has been achieved via individuals signing up for CodeRed and as technology	One time thing	

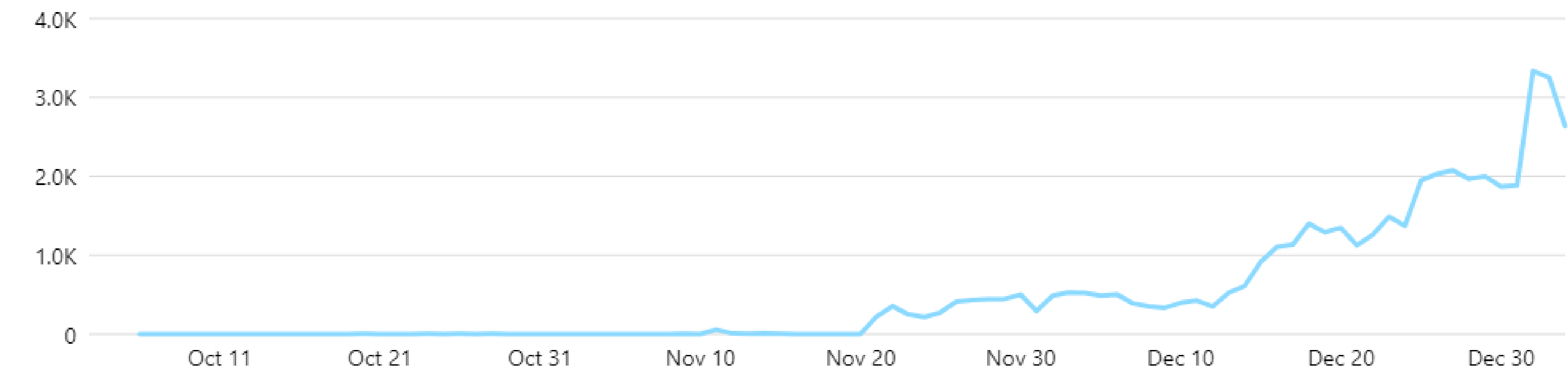
emergency services, & resilience.		has evolved naturally by cell phone providers sending out emergency alerts such as tornado warnings.		
Develop a strong regionally-based business marketing effort.	Hold Opportunity Zone investment forums to generate interest in specific development projects and connect investors with developers.	We had representatives from Gatesville, Cameron, Copperas Cove, Temple, and Belton.	One time.	
Develop a strong regionally-based business marketing effort.	Develop a regionally-based tourism marketing effort promoting area destinations, downtowns, and outdoor assets.	This includes the development of the Discover Central Texas website, app, and promotional video.	Updates as necessary.	
Cultivate, attract, and retain a talented workforce.	Strengthen and continue partnerships between institutions of higher education and high/middle schools in the region to provide apprenticeships opportunities and increase participation of youth in skilled jobs and post-secondary degrees.	This was completed by the P20 Council.	One time.	
Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.	Build additional capacity to assist jurisdictions with grant identification/writing/administration.	This included keeping tabs on what the regions needs were through the Grant Wish List and assisting jurisdictions as requested.	Ongoing as able.	
Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.	Hold a periodic introductory class for newly elected officials to familiarize them with CTCOG capabilities, and to provide them with a "municipal imperatives" cheat sheet to aid in their prioritization.	Held an introductory class for newly elected officials to familiarize them with CTCOG capabilities, and to provide them with a "municipal imperatives" cheat sheet to aid in their prioritization. We plan for this to be on a	Planning to be twice a year.	

		biannual basis with one event held towards the beginning of the year and one towards the middle of the year. This event includes topics such as roles of elected officials, forms of Texas local government, Public Information Act, and grant programs.		
Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.	Conduct remote/hybrid meetings to increase accessibility for rural communities.		Ongoing as able.	
Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.	Provide technical support as-needed to communities on subjects of planning, transportation, legal, etc.		Ongoing as able.	
Cultivate, attract, and retain a talented workforce.	Further leverage and scale mechanisms for facilitating entry of Fort Hood personnel into local private sector talent pool (e.g. the Heroes MAKE America and Hiring Our Heroes programs). Create a marketing campaign and associated "concierge service" to encourage Fort Hood personnel to remain local after service, supporting them in career exploration and accessing transitional services.	Veteran Employer Summit (May 17 th) and partnership with Hiring Our Heroes for the Military Spouse Networking Event (November 11 th).	Might be every two years.	

Results

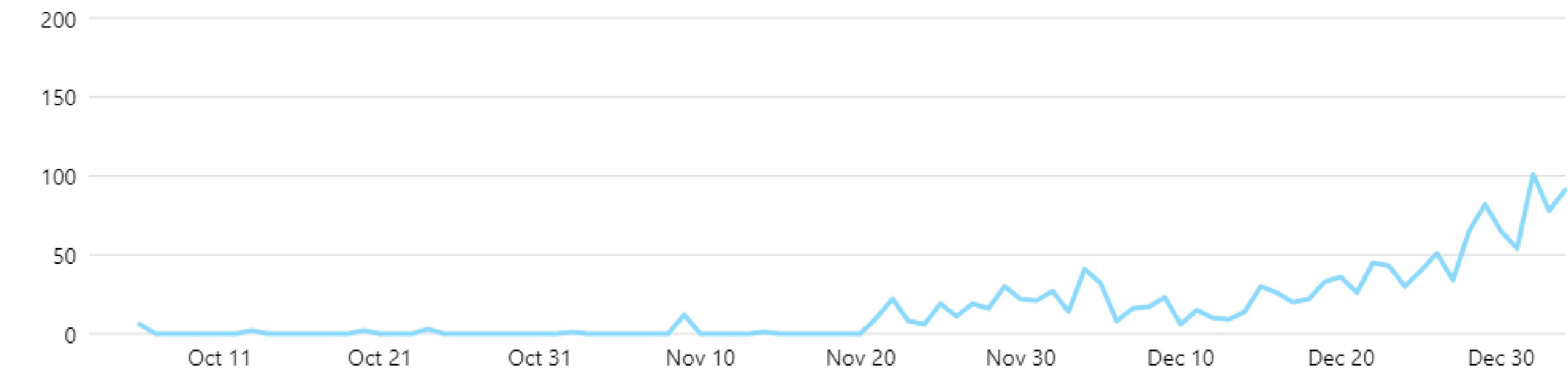
Facebook Page reach ⓘ

23,284 ↑ 52.8K%



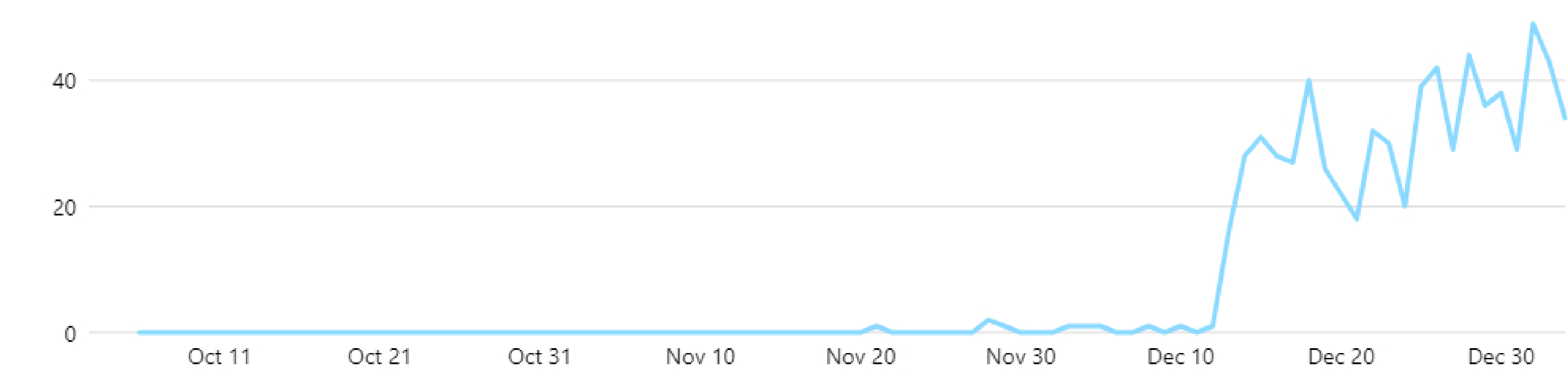
Facebook Page visits ⓘ

1,415 ↑ 11.7K%



Facebook Page new likes ⓘ

711 ↑ 17.7K%



Audience

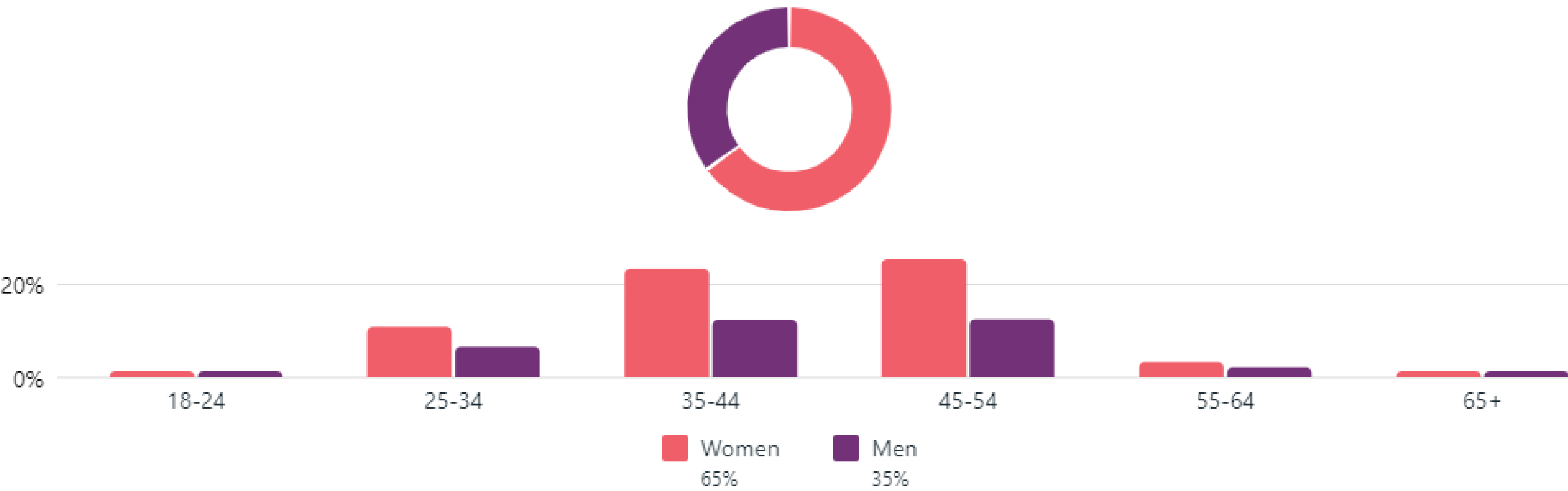
Current audience

Potential audience

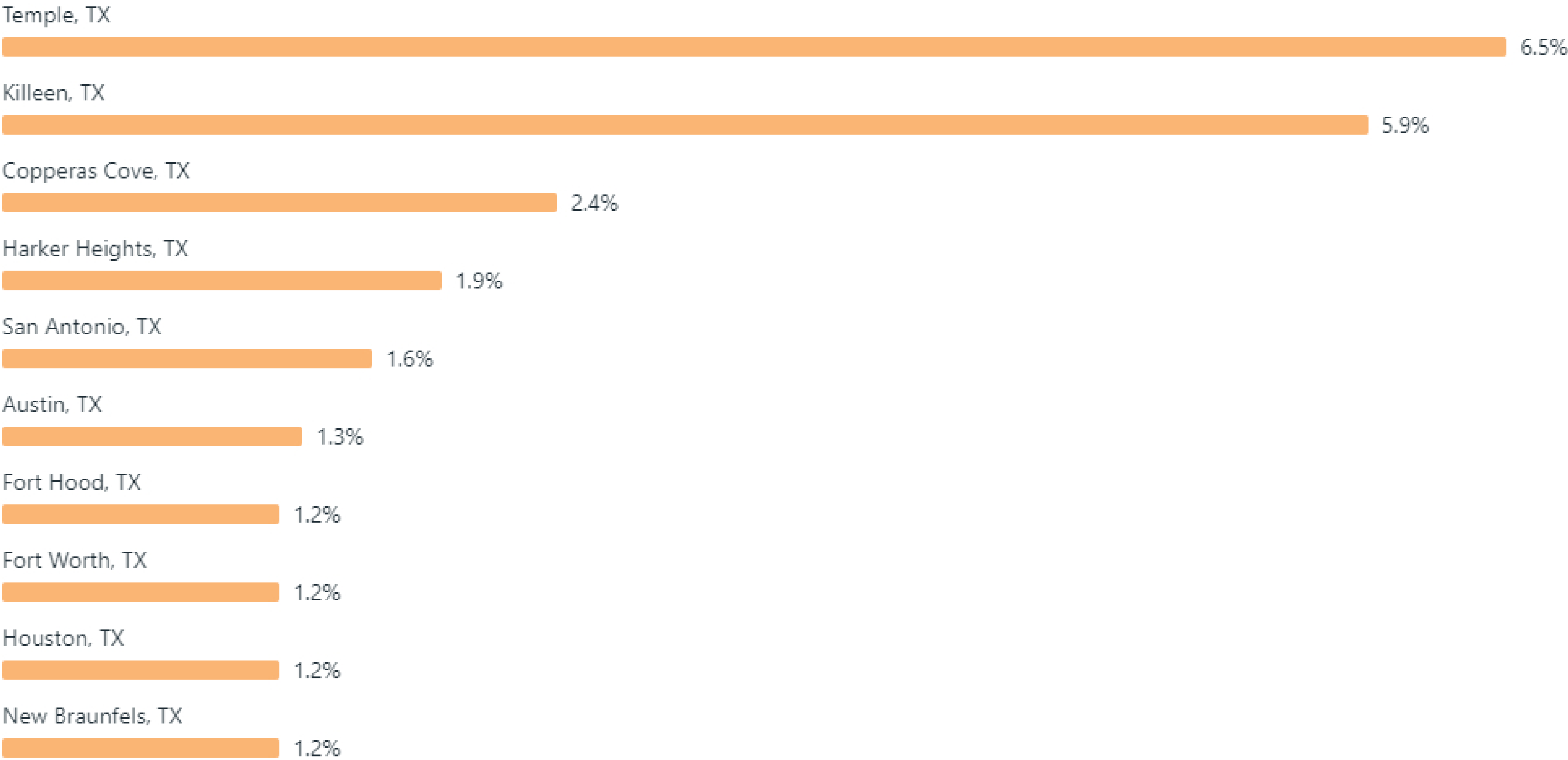
Facebook Page followers ⓘ

744

Age & gender ⓘ



Top cities



Top countries



Item 8:
**Regarding Updates on
Regional Broadband
Initiatives**

Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Staff will provide an update on various broadband initiatives and opportunities for the region.

- The Texas Broadband Development Office released their [State Broadband Plan](#)
- The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded \$8.1 million in funding to Texas to plan for the deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable, and reliable high-speed internet service throughout the state. This will fund the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and address digital equity. More information can be found [here](#).
- We are monitoring funding opportunities as they arise from the federal and state government.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only

Item 9:

**Regarding Federal and
State Legislative Updates
Pertaining to Economic
Development**

Regarding Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- This Act funds programs in various infrastructure programs including water, broadband, roads, bridges as well as addressing environmental resilience and overall community resilience.
- We are monitoring grant programs that are funded from the IIJA. Some of those programs have been outlined in the grant section of the staff report.
- The RAISE Grant NOFO for FY23 has been released.

Texas

- There have been a record number of bills filed at the Texas Legislature for the 88th Legislature which formally begins on January 10th. We will be monitoring bills related to economic development, community development, environmental concerns, among others.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only.

Item 10:

**Regarding Updates on
Grant Opportunities**

Other Grant Opportunities

Texas Community Development Block Grant

- **State Urgent Need (SUN) Fund:** **Deadline is 1 year from event**

Fund is by invitation only. Funds can only be utilized for activities that will restore water or sewer infrastructure whose sudden failure has resulted in either death, illness, injury or pose an imminent threat to life or health within the affected applicant's jurisdiction and the problem being addressed must be of recent origin (no more than 30 days from date of event).

Match: Varies 70/30-80/20

Award minimum: \$25,000

Award maximum: \$350,000

[https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/CDBGResources/Applications/DisasterReliefFundApplicationandGuide.aspx](https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/CDBGResources/Applications/DisasterReliefFundApplicationandGuide.aspx)

- **Community Development Fund:** **Deadline Apr.3, 2023**

The objectives of the TxCDBG Program are to improve public facilities to meet basic human needs, principally for low-to-moderate income persons, to improve housing conditions, principally for persons of low-to-moderate income, to expand economic opportunities by creating or retaining jobs, principally for low-to-moderate income persons, to provide assistance and public facilities to eliminate conditions hazardous to the public health and of an emergency nature. For the Community Development Fund, 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. Scoring of applicants will be done by the State out of 200 points, with 150 determined by the Unified Scoring Committee Criteria and TDA State Scoring Factors. 50 points are determined by the applicant's project being one of our region's priorities. The Regional Priorities for the CTCOG region have been selected;. CTCOG's priorities will be flood drainage improvements, water/sewer improvements, street improvements, first time public service water/wastewater yard line projects.

Non-Federal Match: <2%->20% depending on population

Award:

Application Minimum: Single Jurisdiction: \$200,000; Multi-Jurisdiction: \$200,000

Application Maximum: Single Jurisdiction: \$500,000; Multi-Jurisdiction: \$500,000

Contact Aubrey-Ann Gilmore by email at

Aubrey-Ann.Gilmore@TexasAgriculture.gov or by calling (512) 936-7894.

[https://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/CDBGResources/Applications/CommunityDevelopmentFundApplicationGuide.aspx](https://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/CDBGResources/Applications/CommunityDevelopmentFundApplicationGuide.aspx)

• **Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Programs: Deadline May.3, 2023**

Addresses the objective of eliminating slum or blight conditions in the downtown area of a city or town. The assistance must be for public infrastructure improvements, which will aid in the elimination of a slum or blighted area. Eligible applicants are cities with less than 50,000 people, and counties with less than 200,000 people, with a designated downtown district satisfying two or more of the following:

- The city's historic area of commerce
- May be the area around the courthouse or city square;
- Commercial area for the community
- Buildings of historical significance, but not primarily residential
- Must be areas included in or contiguous to the economic center of the community; and
- The retail area for the community that does not include single-family dwellings.

Match: Minimum 3.5%

Award Minimum: \$250,000

Award Maximum: \$500,000

Contact Crystal Ortegon by email at

Crystal.Ortegon@TexasAgriculture.gov

<https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant%28CDBG%29/CDBGResources/Applications/DRPMS.aspx>

• **Planning and Capacity Building Fund: Reopens 2023**

The Planning and Capacity Building Fund is a 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.

Match: Depends on population of localities

Award Maximum: Grant maximum depends on population of localities

Beneficiary Population	Maximum Grant Amount	Minimum Match Commitment
200 to 1,000 persons	\$35,000	5%
1,001 to 1,500 persons	\$37,500	5%
1,501 to 2,500 persons	\$40,000	10%
2,501 to 5,000 persons	\$45,000	10%
5,001 to 7,500 persons	\$55,000	15%
7,501 to 10,000 persons	\$65,000	15%
10,001 to 25,000 persons	\$75,000	20%
25,000 to 50,000 persons	\$75,000	25%

Contact Aubrey-Ann Gilmore at (512) 936-7894 or Aubrey-Ann.Gilmore@TexasAgriculture.gov
[https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/CDBGResources/Applications/PCBApplicationandGuide.aspx](https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/CDBGResources/Applications/PCBApplicationandGuide.aspx)

- **Fire, Ambulance and Services Truck (FAST) Fund: Reopens 2023**

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

Match: 50%

Award Amounts:

Application Minimum:

Single Jurisdiction: \$50,000

Multi-jurisdiction: \$50,000

Application Maximum:

Single Jurisdiction: \$750,000

Multi-jurisdiction: \$750,000

Contact Michelle Phares by email at

Michelle.Phares@TexasAgriculture.gov or by calling (512) 936-6702

[https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/CDBGResources/Applications/FASTFund.aspx](https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/CDBGResources/Applications/FASTFund.aspx)

USDOT

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program- The deadline to apply is Feb.28,2023

This Program makes a total of \$1.5 billion is available for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve: safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism, state of good repair; partnership and collaboration, and innovation. The minimum award is \$5 million and \$1 million in rural areas, with a \$25 million max. Match is 20%, or 0% if applicant is in a rural area, historically disadvantaged community, or an area of persistent poverty.

Eligible applicants include local governments, public agencies, and special purpose districts with a transportation purpose.

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>

FY22 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program for Projects Not Located on the Northeast Corridor-Application Deadline Mar.7, 2023

Program provides funding for capital projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service. Eligible

applicants include local governments. Up to \$51,150,000 is available for fiscal year 2022 with \$41,850,000 to \$51,150,000 for each award. Eligible projects include:

1. A project to replace, rehabilitate, or repair infrastructure, equipment, or a facility used for providing intercity passenger rail service to bring such assets into a state of good repair.
2. A project to improve intercity passenger rail service performance, including reduced trip times, increased train frequencies, higher operating speeds, improved reliability, expanded capacity, reduced congestion, electrification, and other improvements, as determined by the Secretary.
3. A project to expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service.
4. A group of related projects described in paragraphs (1) through (3).
5. The planning, environmental studies, and final design for a project or group of projects described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

Minimum match is 20%.

FEMA

- **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program:** Application Deadline Jan.27, 2023

Department of Homeland Security:

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. Up to \$1 billion will be distributed through the BRIC Program, with up to \$919 million awarded on a competitive basis. Subapplicants (Counties, Cities, Towns) must apply to the applicant (State, Tribe, Territory) for funds. Applicants can submit as many subapplicants as they want each capped at \$50 million Federal cost share.

Non-Federal Match: 25%, 10% if Economically Disadvantaged.

Award Maximum: \$500 Million

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program:** Application Deadline Jan.23, 2023

This grant program makes funds available to states, territories, and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Projects include

- Project Scoping: Develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner that result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for FMA or another.
- Technical Assistance: FEMA will select eligible Technical Assistance subapplications up to \$50,000 federal cost share for Recipients to which FEMA obligated at least \$1 million federal share the previous FMA cycle.

-
- **Community Flood Mitigation Projects:** Projects are local level drainage/flood control projects to improve drainage and reduce flood risk for communities and can include numerous activities such as drainage pipes, pump stations, topographic grading, seawalls, marsh restoration, and other nature-based solutions.
 - **Individual Structure/Property-Level Flood Mitigation Projects:** Projects that mitigate the risk of flooding to individual NFIP-insured structures and give priority to properties meeting SRL and RL definitions. These project types include acquisition, relocation, elevation, mitigation, reconstruction, and dry floodproofing of historic or commercial structures.
 - **Management Costs**

Non-Federal cost share is 25%, but can be 0% if project is on a severe repetitive loss property.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods?fbclid=IwAR3Po7YwmU9zAzEHQ0yVJpwEGE9nfCArQDO2ViGdmvw0Eass2v0BZzDj5FM>

American Planning Association

Community Planning Assistant Teams: Open

APA, through its professional institute AICP, organizes volunteer planning teams tailored specifically to a community's needs. Members offer their time and expertise to people and places where additional resources are needed. This program is supported by volunteer professionals, community contributions, and grant funding.

Contact Ryan Scherzinger, Programs Manager, at 312-786-6359.

<https://planning.org/foundation/initiatives/assistance/>

EDA

• VISTA Corps: Apply Year Round

EDA's unique partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) combines the local resources and overlapping missions of both organizations to build prosperity in regions across the country.

EDA provides funding and technical assistance to advance prosperity in distressed communities, while CNCS provides human resources in the form of "Volunteers in Service to America" (VISTAs). Both organizations seek to develop lasting solutions to economic distress in America.

Under this combined program, EDA-designated Economic Development Districts (EDDs) receive VISTA Members for a one-year term to extend their mission of leading locally based, regionally driven economic development planning. Each VISTA assists their assigned EDD by undertaking tasks and building capacity in areas where EDD resources shortfalls exist.

Contact Sally Waley by email at swaley@eda.gov or by calling 512-381-8141 or Southwest region or Stacey Webb at (303) 844-4715

<https://www.eda.gov/programs/multi-agency/vista-corps/>

SBA

- **7(a) Loans**

The 7(a) Program is the SBA's most common loan program, and provides up to \$5 million in working capital for for-profit small business, as defined by SBA. Eligibility is determined by income, credit history, and where the business operates. Eligible uses of funds include

- Long- and short-term working capital
- Revolving funds based on the value of existing inventory and receivables
- The purchase of equipment, machinery, furniture, fixtures, supplies, or materials
- The purchase of real estate, including land and buildings
- The construction a new building or renovation an existing building
- Establishing a new business or assisting in the acquisition, operation or expansion of an existing business
- Refinancing existing business debt, under certain conditions

Loan terms are worked out with the SBA. For more information and how to apply, visit the SBA 7(a) page- <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/7a-loans>

USDA

- **Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program:** Applications are accepted throughout the year

This grant and/or loan is for the purchase, construction, and/or improvement of essential community facilities, including health care facilities such as hospitals and medical clinics, public facilities such as town halls and courthouses, community support services, public safety services, utility services, and local food systems such as community gardens and kitchens. For FY 2022, Texas has approximately \$30 million for loans, and <\$1 million for grants. Eligible recipients include public bodies and community-based nonprofits. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Non-Federal Match: 25-85% depending on population and median household income of community

Award: Grant funds portion of project depending on population and median household income of community. Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicants authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less.

Contact Daniel Torres, Acting State Director at USDA Rural Development Texas, at (254) 742-9700

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

- **Rural Business Development Grant Program: Application Deadline Feb.28, 2023**

This Program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses with less than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue. Eligible applicants include towns, communities, State agencies, nonprofit corporations, and institutes of higher education. Eligible project areas are rural areas or towns outside of a city with more than 50,000 people. There is no grant maximum or cost share requirement.

Enterprise grants are available for uses including:

- Training and technical assistance
- Acquisition or development of land
- Revolving loan funds
- Rural transportation improvement
- Community economic development
- Technology-based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

Opportunity grants are available for

- Community economic development
- Feasibility studies
- Rural business incubators
- Leadership and entrepreneur training

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants/tx?fbclid=IwAR3LZqYc_KFZTH_vypwqtaJyRYoe1hwFfSeHvS6zeJ0nVpcVQoRTI5E6OCE

- **ReConnect Program-May Reopen in 2023**

The ReConnect Loan and Grant Program furnishes loans and grants to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. Last round up to \$150 million was available for 100 percent Loans, up to \$150 million for 100 percent Grants (\$200 million if 90% of area lacks sufficient access to broadband) , and up to \$300 million for Grant-Loan Combinations. Awardees must meet 100 Mbps minimum service requirement. The Program will reopen for the next Fiscal Year.

<https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>

- **Community Connect-Closed, May Reopen in 2023**

The Community Connect provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where service does not exist.

Eligible applicants include:

- Incorporated organizations
- State and local units of government

-
- Any other legal entity, including cooperatives, private corporations, or limited liability companies organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis
Rural areas that lack any existing broadband speed of at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream are eligible.
Funds may be used for:
 - The construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, spectrum, land or buildings used to deploy broadband service
 - The cost of providing broadband service free of charge to the critical community facilities for 2 years
 - Less than 10% of the grant amount or up to \$150,000 may be used for the improvement, expansion, construction or acquisition of a community center that provides online access to the public
At least 15% match required.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/community-connect-grants>

- **Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantee:**
Applications are Accepted Throughout the Year

This program provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. Eligible areas include

1. Rural areas and towns with a population of 5,000 or less
2. Areas without telecommunications facilities or areas where the applicant is the recognized telecommunications provider

Loans are available for improvements, expansions, construction, and acquisition and refinancing in certain cases.

- **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant:** **Applications Accepted Year Round**
This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 are to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply. Water source grants up to \$1,000,000 are to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility.

Non-Federal Match: No Match Required

Award Maximum:

Water Transmission Line Grants: \$150,000

Water Source Grants: \$1,000,000

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants/tx>

- **Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program:** **Application deadlines quarterly, with the next deadline being Mar.31**

The USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program provides zero-interest loans and grants to current and former eligible Rural Utilities Service borrowers to then use the funds to

help local businesses finance projects to create and retain jobs or finance community facility projects. Up to \$300,000 in grants and \$2 million in loans may be requested to establish revolving loan funds. Eligible entities include:

- A former Rural Utilities Service borrower who borrowed, repaid or pre-paid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan.
- Nonprofit utilities that are eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs.
- Current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs borrowers.

Eligible areas are rural with a population of less than 50,000. Eligible projects include:

- Business incubators.
- Community development assistance to nonprofits and public bodies (particularly for job creation or enhancement).
- Facilities and equipment to educate and train rural residents to facilitate economic development.
- Start-up venture costs, including, but not limited to, financing fixed assets such as real estate, buildings, equipment or working capital.
- Business expansion.
- Technical assistance.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program?fbclid=IwAR1H3uTwNP-QWIOskRltyTeG8PZwJSuKfMMSdEiJuEnTEDr1xANljCttBoE>

- **Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program-Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline Mar.31, 2022**

The USDA's Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) for fiscal year (FY) 2023 provides loans and grants to a non-profit entity, or public institutions of higher education as a Microenterprise Development Organization (MDO) to establish revolving loan funds to provide loans to rural microenterprises and micro entrepreneurs. Loan funds are used by the MDO to establish or recapitalize a revolving loan program for making microloans to a rural microentrepreneur business. Grant funds are used by the MDO to provide technical assistance and entrepreneurship training to rural individuals and businesses. Maximum awards are \$500,000 for loans, and \$100,000 for grants. Match is 15-25%.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-microentrepreneur-assistance-program/tx>

- **Intermediary Relending Program-Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline Mar.31, 2022**

The USDA's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) for FY 2023 provides low-interest loans to

local lenders or “intermediaries” that re-lend the funds to businesses to improve economic conditions and create new opportunities in rural communities. Eligible applicants include private non-profit corporations, public agencies, or a cooperative entity, identified as eligible intermediary. Maximum loan amounts are expected to be \$1 million. Match will be 25% minimum.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/intermediary-relending-program/tx>

- **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)-Application Deadline Mar.31, 2023**
This Program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Businesses must be in located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 residents or less. Examples of energy improvements include:
 - High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC).
 - Insulation.
 - Lighting.
 - Cooling or refrigeration units.
 - Doors and windows.
 - Electric, solar or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots.
 - Switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor.
 - Replacement of energy-inefficient equipment.Loan and loan-grant guarantees are up to 75% of eligible project costs. Grants are for up to 25% of eligible project costs.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Comment Period for FCC Maps Open until Jan.13, 2023. This Determines BEAD Allocation to States.**
Appropriates \$42.45 billion for states, territories, the District of Columbia (D.C.), and Puerto Rico (P.R.) to utilize for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects. Each state, D.C., and P.R. will receive an initial allocation of \$100 million -- and \$100 million will be divided equally among the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands -- to support planning efforts including building capacity in state broadband offices and outreach and coordination with local communities. States, territories, D.C., and P.R., leveraging initial planning funds that will be made available through the program, will submit a 5-year action plan, which shall be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities. The remaining funding will be distributed based on a formula that considers the number of unserved and high-cost locations in the state, based on the maps published by the FCC in 2022. The first priority for funding is for providing broadband to unserved areas (those below 25/3 Mbps), followed by underserved areas (those below 100/20 Mbps), and then serving community anchor institutions (1/1 Gbps).
- **Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program: Closed**
Establishes and funds a \$1 billion program for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. The purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend

middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet backbone. Eligible applicants include States, political subdivisions of a State, tribal governments, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperatives, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperatives, nonprofit foundations, nonprofit corporations, nonprofit institutions, nonprofit associations, regional planning councils, Native entities, or economic development authorities.

Award Amount: \$5-100 million

Match: At least 30%

- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program: Opening 2022**
\$1.25 billion discretionary grant program distributed via annual grant programs over 5 years to implement digital equity projects. Eligible applicants include specific types of political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a state; tribal governments; nonprofit entities; community anchor institutions; local educational agencies; and entities that carry out workforce development programs.
<https://ntia.gov/category/grants>

Texas Water Development Board

State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) Program-Abridged Applications **Deadline Feb.1, 2023**

This Program helps communities develop and optimize water supplies at cost-effective rates. The program provides low-interest financing, extended repayment terms, deferral of repayments, and incremental repurchase terms for projects with state ownership aspects. It also includes additional interest rate subsidies for rural and agricultural projects. To be eligible for SWIFT program financial assistance, projects must be recommended in the 2022 State Water Plan. Political subdivisions of the State and nonprofit water supply corporations are eligible to apply. Eligible projects must be:

- Recommended water management strategy projects with an associated capital cost in the most recently adopted state water plan at the time abridged applications are due to the TWDB for consideration
- Projects include conservation and reuse, desalinating groundwater and seawater, building new pipelines, developing reservoirs and well fields, and purchasing water rights, as well as numerous other strategies

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/swift/index.asp?fbclid=IwAR1f4AzWpnfBg_zCYwz7noerl5WdZHWcoqEEPzjA_A7dGEDzPvPnPiy2224

Office of the Governor

- **Event Trust Fund Program: Application Period Rolling**
The Event Trust Program can assist Texas communities with paying costs related to preparing for or conducting an event by depositing projected gains in various local and

state taxes generated from the event in a dedicated event-specific trust fund to cover allowable expenses. Eligible entities include municipalities, counties, or non-profit local organizing committees endorsed by a Texas municipality or county which has been selected to host a qualified event.

Match: Applicants must contribute \$1 in local tax gains for every \$6.25 the state contributes to the fund. Events Trust Fund grant awards are disbursed on a reimbursement basis following a review by the Governor's Office of submitted costs after the completion of the qualified event.

Award Maximum: One-hundred percent of allowable expenses may be funded, provided sufficient tax receipts are deposited in the trust fund. The program is funded through event-generated tax increase; there is no maximum or minimum amount of funds available.

<https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/event-trust-funds-program>

Texas Workforce Commission

- **Skills for Small Business for Employers: Apply All Year**

Through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Skills for Small Business program, up to \$2 million from the Skills Development Fund is dedicated to training for employees of small employers. Small businesses can apply to TWC for training offered by their local community or technical college, or the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). TWC processes the applications and works with the college to fund the specific courses selected by businesses for their employees.

This opportunity supports businesses with fewer than 100 employees and emphasizes training for new workers though it also may help upgrade the skills of incumbent workers.

- Skills for Small Business emphasizes training newly hired employees, those who have been hired by the business up to twelve months prior to the date that TWC receives an application.
- The program pays up to \$1,800 for each new employee being trained and \$900 for existing employees per 12-month period.
- Funding for training is for full-time employees.
- All training must be provided by a public community or technical college, or the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). No third-party vendor training is allowed.
- Training must be selected from active course catalogs/schedules— credit, continuing education, online or other available unpublished courses.
- Employers must pay the prevailing wages in the local labor market for the trainees funded under the grant.

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/businesses/skills-small-business-employers#overview>

Texas Parks and Wildlife

- **Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Recreational Trails Grant-Deadline Feb.1, 2023**

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The reimbursable grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$300,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of \$600,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants (call 512-538-4427 for more information regarding potential motorized trail grants). Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

TX-PACE Program

The Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (TX-PACE) is a long term financing tool for improvements to energy efficiency, water-conservation, and on-site generation for commercial, industrial, and multifamily properties. The program allows property owners to finance 100% of their project costs with private funding paid off through a senior lien as long as the useful life of the equipment, allowing all PACE Projects to be cashflow positive. A non-profit, Texas PACE Authority, can administer the financing and is paid a user fee by the property owner. The Texas Pace Authority has also created a "PACE in a Box" toolkit for local governments to use to create uniform and sustainable local PACE programs.

<https://www.texaspaceauthority.org/>

Housing and Urban Development

HUD HOPE VI Main Street Program- Deadline to apply is Jan.31, 2023

The purpose of this Program is to provide grants to small communities to assist in the renovation of an historic or traditional central business district, or "Main Street" area, by replacing unused, obsolete, commercial space in buildings with affordable housing units, and to enhance economic development in the area. Eligible applicants are local governments with a population of 50,000 or less and not be served by a local or county/parish Public Housing Agency (PHA) that administers more than 100 physical public housing units within the local government's jurisdiction. Awards are \$500,000-\$1 million. Minimum match of 5%.

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=344327&fbclid=IwAR3LZgYc_KFZTH_vypwqtaJyRYoe1hwFfSeHvS6zeJ0nVpcVQoRTI5E6OCE

Websites:

Texas Economic Development Council: <https://texasedc.org/>

American Planning Association: <https://planning.org/>

Texas Department of Agriculture: <https://texasagriculture.gov/>

Grants.Gov: <https://www.grants.gov/>

EDA: <https://www.eda.gov/>

USDA: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs>

USDOT: <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law>

Texas PACE Authority: <https://www.texaspaceauthority.org/>

Texas Office of the Governor Economic Development: <https://gov.texas.gov/business>

Texas Parks and Wildlife: <https://tpwd.texas.gov>

National Telecommunications and Information Administration: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/>

Texas Water Development Board: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/>

Texas Workforce Commission: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/>

Department of Housing and Urban Development: <https://www.hud.gov/>

Staff requests discussion of other grants that DDCT would like to make known to the region.

Action Needed: For discussion only.

DDCT Board Members

DDCT Board Membership 2022 Contact Information

Name	Board position	County Represented	Title	Organization	Address	Email	Phone
Cynthia Hernandez	Vice-Chair	Bell	Executive Director	Belton EDC	2180 N. Main Belton, TX 76513	chernandez@beltonedc.org	254-770-2270
Bobby Whitson		Bell	Chief Executive Officer	Bell County Commissioners Court	3305 E. Elms Rd. Killeen TX 76542	bobby.whitson@bellcounty.texas.gov	254-690-2274
Ginger Watkins	Chair	Milam	Economic Development Director	Cameron Industrial Foundation	102 E. First Cameron TX 76520	gwatkins@cameronindustrialfoundation.com	254-697-4970
Dean Roome		Bell	Municipal Development District Board Member	City of Bartlett	140 W Clark St Bartlett TX 76511	deana001@aol.com	254-527-3219
Charley Ayres		Bell	Director, Industry/Education Partnership	Workforce Solutions of Central Texas	200 Main St. Belton, TX 76513	charley.ayres@workforcesolutionsctx.com	972-983-1411
Cheri Shepherd		Coryell	Director	City of Gatesville Convention and Visitor's Bureau	110 N 8th St, Gatesville, TX 76528	cshepherd@gatesvilletx.com	(254)499-0102
Jamie LaDuke		Hamilton	Executive Director	Economic and Community Development City of Hamilton	103 ½ N Rice, Hamilton, TX 76531	edc@hamiltontx.com	(254) 386-5954
Ted Gonzalez		Bell	Associate Deputy Chancellor	Business Services at Central Texas College	Academic Dr., Killeen, TX 76549	ted.gonzalez@ctcd.edu	254.526.1668
Jim Gibson		Milam	Economic Development	Rockdale Municipal Development District	134 North Main Street, Rockdale, TX 76	jim.gibson@rockdalemdd.org	
Michael Boyd		Bell	Councilmember	City of Killeen		mboyd@killeentexas.gov	254-952-7837
Brian O'Connor		Bell	Director	City of Nolanville EDC	101 N 5th Street	boconnor@nolanvilletx.gov	

Bell, Milam, Hamilton, Coryell = Counties represented by Board Members

End of Packet