



Development District of Central Texas

**January 16, 2025
9:30 a.m.**

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Agenda



Development District of Central Texas

Thursday, January 16, 2025

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 \(872\) 240-3212](#)

Access Code: [599-946-797](#)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Opportunity for Public Comment.
3. **Action Item:** Regarding approval of meeting minutes from the October 3, 2024 meeting. (pg 8-10) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of Scott Edmonson as a new board member. (pg 12-13) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding nomination and approval of new board officers. (pg 16-17) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
6. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of proposed amendments to the DDCT Bylaws. (pg 20-21) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
7. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of FY 2025 Leadership Central Texas Program. (pg 24-29) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
8. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of FY 2025 Rural Internship Programs. (pg 32-34) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
9. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of Discover Central Texas marketing expenditures. (pg 36-39) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
10. **Discussion Item:** Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Implementation. (pg 40-52) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]

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 DDCT 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.

11. **Discussion Item:** Regarding updates on regional broadband initiatives. (pg 54) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
12. **Discussion Item:** Regarding legislative updates impacting economic development. (pg 56) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
13. Staff Update. (pg 58-59) [Presenter: Dominic Elizondo, DDCT]
14. Board of Directors Comments.
15. Other Business: Next meeting date Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 9:30 AM.
16. Adjourn.

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Item #3

Meeting Minutes



Development District of Central Texas (DDCT)

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 3, 2024

9:30 AM

Regular Meeting

Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)

2180 North Main Street

Belton, TX 76513

Voting Members Present:

Jim Gibson – Rockdale MDD*

Dean Roome – Bartlett Activity Center

Dr. Teddy Clevenger – Bartlett ISD

Commissioner Bobby Whitson – Bell County, Pct.3*

Ginger Watkins – Cameron Industrial Foundation*

Kayla Schraub – Mainstreet Hamilton*

Chair Dexter Morris – City of Mullin*

Brian O'Connor – Nolanville EDC*

Additional Attendees

Teresa Chandler – City of Nolanville

Melissa Unger – Lampasas Chamber of Commerce*

David Lopez – CTCOG

Sam Agha – CTCOG

Valencia Ramirez – City of Nolanville

Anita Janke – CTCOG

Callie Tullos – CTCOG

James McGill – CTCOG

**Denotes online attendee*

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order: A quorum was present. The Board Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting in person. Per the bylaws a vote was taken to nominate a director to preside over the meeting.

Dean Roome made a motion to select Dr. Theodore Clevenger to preside over the meeting, seconded by Dexter Morris; the motion passed unanimously.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment: No comments were made by the public.

3. Action Item: Regarding approval of meeting minutes from the July 11, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Bobby Whitson made a motion to approve the July 11, 2024 minutes, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding approval of proposed amendments to DDCT Bylaws.

Dominic Elizondo reviewed the proposed changes including adding CEDS management to the board's scope of work, increasing the quorum requirement to be 50% plus one member, clarifying how proxy board members are selected, moving the subcommittees section after the officers and staff section, clarifying board member terms, and adding in a staff section. Due to the introduction of new proposed revisions by CTCOG that would cover selection of the DDCT director and the incorporation of DDCT, the board decided to postpone approval of all Bylaws amendments until the January meeting, where all changes could be compiled together.

Commissioner Bobby Whitson made a motion to table the proposed amendments to the DDCT Bylaws, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Election of Board Officers.

Dexter Morris nominated himself to remain as Chair for his second term.

Theodore Clevenger made a motion to approve Dexter Morris as Board Chair for FY 2025, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

Ted Gonzalez was nominated by the Board to remain as Vice Chair for his second term.

Theodore Clevenger made a motion to approve Ted Gonzalez as Board Vice Chair for FY 2025, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Item: Regarding 2024 Rural Internship Program Awardees Presentations.

Kayla Schraub, Melissa Unger, and Valencia Ramirez presented on the accomplishments of their organizations' interns from the Rural Internship Program. Dominic Elizondo discussed the work performed by Rockdale Kay Theatre's interns as no representative was available to present.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Implementation.

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of the next CEDS objective "Improve and formalize emergency operational and community protocol within and across jurisdictions" and its strategies.

Mr. Elizondo discussed work staff had done on these strategies, including the creation of a Central Texas Emergency Planning and Management summit, the 2022 Small Town Summit series, and an OnMed presentation at a CTCOG Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Elizondo opened discussion from the Board on how staff can work to accomplish these strategies.

Ginger Watkins added information about how OnMed operates its telehealth facility in the Milam County Sheriff's Office and said that she would connect staff with OnMed to identify the funding source the county used to afford their services. There was further discussion from the board on how to disseminate emergency preparedness information to municipalities, with suggestions including staff compiling a checklist for mitigation, response, and recovery for separate disasters to send out to communities.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives.

Dominic Elizondo discussed updates from the Texas Broadband Development Office including:

- Volume 2 of its BEAD Initial Proposal and the RFI for Universal Broadband Service Access.

- The Local Government Roundtable the first Thursday of the month.
- The Pole Replacement Program.
- Boot II challenge period.
- BDO's State Digital Equity Capacity Grant application.

Additionally, Mr. Elizondo discussed the Benton Institute's broadband permitting guide and SB 2238, which could refund the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program and direct federal agencies to develop a "National Strategy to Close the Digital Divide".

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

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of the FY 2025 Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act funding the federal government through December 20, 2024, and the Texas Senate Committee on Business and Commerce meeting on the state's ability to serve its growing electricity demand. Mr. Elizondo also discussed the opening of the 2024-25 TxCDBG Community Development Fund program cycle.

10. Staff Update:

Dominic Elizondo gave an update about CTCOG activities including the Leadership Central Texas graduation, 2024 TxCDBG stakeholder feedback session, plans for the circuit rider pilot meeting, the creation of a housing toolkit for local governments, and a grant wish list for cities.

Mr. Elizondo also provided economic updates for Q3 2024, noting that the unemployment rate in Central Texas increased to 5.07% from Q2 2024, the fastest growing industries in our region were construction, retail, food services, and professional services, and that there was a deficit of bachelor's degree attainment in the labor pool compared to the available jobs that require one. Similarly, the population with an associate's or graduate degree exceeds the jobs in our region requiring those education levels.

11. Board of Director Comments:

Ginger Watkins invited the board to attend several upcoming events in Cameron for October.

12. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

13. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Dexter Morris, DDCT Chair

Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director

Item #4

Approval of New Board Member

New Board Member

Scott Edmonson, the EDC director for the city of San Saba, has submitted a letter of support from the San Saba County Judge to join the DDCT Board.

Action Needed: Consideration of approval of Scott Edmonson as new board member.

JODY A. FAULEY
COUNTY JUDGE

KIM WELLS
DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLERK

JAMES B. LEBOW
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

MIKE POE
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

KENLEY KROLL
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

GREG MCGREGOR
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

RANDALL ROBINSON
COUNTY ATTORNEY



COUNTY OF SAN SABA
SAN SABA, TEXAS 76877

DAVID JENKINS
SHERIFF &
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

LOIS VANBECK
COUNTY TREASURER

NEAL ALEXANDER
COUNTY AGENT

SHARON BLOSSMAN
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

ALLAN GARRETT &
EVAN STUBBS
DISTRICT JUDGE

WILEY "SONNY" McAFEE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PHIL PALL
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

November 12, 2024

Central Texas Council of Governments
Attn: Dominic Elizondo
P.O. Box 729
Belton, Texas 76513

RE: Development District of Central Texas (DDCT) Letter of Support

Mr. Elizondo,

I would like to nominate Scott Edmondson, to represent San Saba on the Development District of Central Texas Board. Scott will be a great asset to the board and is currently the City Manager of San Saba. He is interested joining due to involvement as EDC Director for San Saba City. He has agreed to serve and will meet the required board membership criteria.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is required. I can be reached at 325-372-3635 or ssjudge@co.san-saba.tx.us.

Respectfully,

Jody A. Fauley
San Saba County Judge

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Item #5

New Board Officers

New Board Officers

Dexter Morris, the Chairman for the DDCT Board of Directors, has submitted a letter of resignation from his position as Chair. Ted Gonzalez, the Vice Chair, has resigned from the Board. Per the bylaws, a new Chair and Vice Chair will need to be nominated and approved by a majority vote from the board.

Action Needed: Nomination and approval of new Board officers.

December 19, 2024

Dominic Elizondo

Economic Development Planner, CTOG

Dominic, due to my past and current health issues, I must regretfully resign my position as Chairman of the DDCT Board, effective immediately.

I have so enjoyed the board's activities but can no longer participate at the level due this office.

I wish you and the board all success in your future endeavors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dexter Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dexter" and last name "Morris" clearly distinguishable.

Dexter Morris

Chairman, DDCT Board of Directors

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Item #6

DDCT Bylaws Amendments

DDCT Bylaws Amendments

The proposed revisions to the Bylaws include:

Article	Proposed Changes
Principles and Policies	Delete; focused on CTCOG.
Definitions	Delete; redundant.
I: Organization	Move DDCT purpose to Article II, change “advisory group” to “District Board of Directors”, and remove statement about CTCOG Executive Committee.
II: Purposes and Objectives	Clarify work on CEDS includes implementation and builds on local governments’ economic development goals.
III: Powers and Duties of the District	Remove section 1.f and 3. Add CFR citation for EDA regulation of districts.
IV: Membership	• Insert description of eligible board members, 25-member limit, county and Executive Committee appointments, and requirements for joining from Article V. • Clarify board member terms based on EDA Planning and Partnership grant term. • Clarify requirements for renewal of membership. • Add Proxy Voting section from Article VI and clarify written notice requirements for selecting proxy. • Require written notice for all requests to join or leave board. • Remove section 5.
V: Representation Issues	Add in CFR reference for EDA regulation for District membership and section for anti-discrimination policy.
VI: Meetings of the Development District	• Add in section 3 on OMA compliance and public hearings. • Change quorum requirement to 50%+1 of the board. • Require cameras to be on to count towards quorum.

	• Update attendance policy. • Add in section 1 from Article VII.
VII: Officers and Staff	Remove sections 2 and clarify majority vote requirement for removal of board officer prior to term ending. Simplified Officer descriptions and removed Secretary/Treasurer position and replaced with staff section.
VIII: Parliamentary Authority	Changed “advisory group” to “District.”
IX: Finance	• Update section 6 to reflect staff management of budget and Board’s in-kind match duties. • Remove section 7. • Add 501(c)(3) restrictions on activities.
X: Adoption and Amendment	Clarify majority vote requirement for approval of Bylaws and changes to Bylaws.
XI: Subcommittees	Remove; already covered in Article III.
XII: Adoption and Revision Date	• Add in adoption date. • Update Chairman and remove Vice-Chair and Secretary signature lines. • Add in line for date of CTCOG Executive Committee approval.

The revised Bylaws are attached in the meeting packet for the board’s approval. If desired, members of the Board may form a review group for future revisions to the bylaws or allow staff to continue to propose changes for board discussion.

Action Needed: Consideration of approval of amendments to DDCT Bylaws.

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Item #7

2025 Leadership Central Texas Program

2025 Leadership Central Texas Program

The Leadership Central Texas Program was developed to provide local leaders with pathways to regional leadership roles with knowledge of the resources they can use in those positions. Over three days participants learn from elected officials and directors of regional entities and districts on a broad range of topics, from the roles of government officials to social services and economic development. The 2025 application is in the meeting packet with suggested changes from 2024 for board discussion and approval.

Section	Proposed Changes
Purpose	Clarified focus on recruiting local leaders to become regional leaders.
Objectives	Emphasized sharing of pathways to leadership and relationship development. Removed “Organizations, topics, and dates subject to change”.
Topics	Added this section to provide applicants with information on what topics will be covered in the classes.
Eligibility Requirements	Clarified that we are seeking applicants who want to become regional leaders.
Applicant Obligations	Updated application deadline and selection dates for 2025.
Contact Information	Replaced “Business” information with “Employer” information. Changed “Home phone” to “Cell phone” and “Home email” to “Personal email”.
Current Employment	Changed “firm” to “employer” and specified previous positions held in past five years.
Background Information	Extended sizes of text boxes.
Program Understanding	Updated class dates for 2025 and clarified that missing 2 or more hours prevents attendee from graduating.

Action Needed: Consideration of approval of 2025 Leadership Central Texas Program.



Leadership Central Texas 2025 Application

PURPOSE

Leadership Central Texas is offered by the Development District of Central Texas to any qualified citizen who lives or works within its seven county-region (Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba) interested in moving from a local to regional leadership role.. The purpose of Leadership Central Texas is to identify and develop regional leaders and to promote awareness of regional/state leadership opportunities and resources. Topics are covered by leaders serving on regional governments, boards, committees, districts and organizations. Each certified attendee will be encouraged to identify leadership opportunities where their individual talents would best be applied to ensure 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, providing pathways to leadership that benefit the participants, their communities, and the region.
2. Provide useful information and resources for participants to utilize, thereby enabling them to be effective leaders on the regional level.
3. Develop relationships with cohorts across the Central Texas Council of Governments' 7 county region.

TOPICS

Leadership Central Texas 2025 will cover the following topics:

1. Local Government and Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) Planning Programs.
2. Regional Infrastructure and Social Services.
3. Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Economic and Business Development.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS*

To be eligible, an applicant must fulfill **one** of the following requirements:

1. Citizen demonstrating a desire to serve in a regional 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 28, 2025**.
- The selection process will be finalized as of April 3, 2025.
- 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: _____

Employer Name: _____

Employer Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Business Phone:

Business Email:

Home Address: _____

City: Zip: County:

Cell Phone: _____

Personal 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 (Past 5 Years): _____

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 employer 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 will not receive certification or be allowed to graduate from the class.

2025 Class Dates:

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Thursday, August 21, 2025

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.

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Item #8

2025 Rural Internship Program

2025 Rural Internship Program

The Rural Internship Program provides small grants to government departments, EDCs, chambers, and any other entity performing activities related to economic development to fund high school interns to support those activities and build capacity for the organization. DDCT will be unable to use its EDA Partnership Planning Grant funds for this program moving forward, so staff is exploring options to support the interns for 2025. The 2025 application is in the meeting packet with suggested changes from 2024 for board discussion and approval.

Section	Proposed Changes
Program Overview	Increased available funding to \$4,000 from \$3,000. Clarified that local governments and tourism related organizations may apply.
2.	Changed “community service” to “organization” intern will be assisting.
6.	Changed “only two applicants will be accepted” to “a limited number of applicants will be accepted”.
Signature	Updated application deadline and selection date for 2025.
Throughout all	Updated grammar to indicate organization can host multiple interns.

Action Needed: Consideration of approval of 2025 Rural Internship Program.

Rural Internship Program Application

The DDCT is offering \$4000 in scholarships to local governments, chambers of commerce, economic development/tourism related organizations for the internship of Junior and Senior high school students to promote economic development in rural communities. Scholarships are \$1000 each. 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 2020 US Census: _____

2. What type of organization will the student/s be assisting with?

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

Other () Explain: _____

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

4. Tasks/Responsibilities student/s will be assigned:

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

6. **Desired start date for Student Intern/s: ____/____/2025.**

NOTE: Student/s must submit a Letter/Notice of Acceptance to the Organization within 60 days of being selected. A limited number of applications will be selected by the Board each year.

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

NOTE: Student is required to work a minimum of 60 hours, not to exceed 100 hours. Scholarships may be split between students.

8. **Additional Information/Comments:**

Application submitted by:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address (If awarded, checks will be sent here):

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications or questions may be submitted to Dominic Elizondo at

dominic.elizondo@ctcog.org. **Application Deadline is March 28, 2025**

Applications will be evaluated by the DDCT Board and recipients selected on April 3, 2025.

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

Item #9

Discover Central Texas Advertising Budget

Website and Advertising Budget for Discover Central Texas

Currently the Discover Central Texas (DCT) website needs search engine optimization, speed, code, and content improvements. Presley Design, the new website host, has estimated that a full site audit would cost \$5-6,000 with the actual improvements being made at a cost of \$105/hr.

Additionally, the DCT Facebook has 4,353 followers mainly as a result of the initial advertising push in 2022/3. From December 13, 2022 – May 18, 2023, \$1,562.67 was spent on a Facebook advertisement for Discover Central Texas resulting in 4,274 follows, 79,457 accounts viewing the ad (reach), and 297,359 overall ad impressions. This equates to approximately 506 unique accounts following DCT each day during the campaign. Comparatively, the total reach of all DCT Facebook posts combined over the past 28 days has been 573, or roughly 20 accounts reached by our posts each day with only one new follow. This means that \$10 a day of advertising the DCT website/Facebook page or a post could yield over 25 times more reach.

Funds for a website audit/improvements or social media advertising would come out of the “Other” line item in the DDCT budget, which currently has **\$3,788** left; the budget is for 2024-26.

The board may consider starting a new ad campaign and determine the ad date range and budget amount if doing so, or whether it wants to focus on a website audit and future funding for site improvements.

Option 1: \$10/day Facebook advertisement campaign for page and linking to website

30 days: \$300

60 days: \$600

100 days: \$1,000

Option 2: \$4-5,000 for Presley Design website audit (some funds may be transferred from the Other Contract Services line item in budget-\$17,425 available). Based on audit and cost estimate for improvements, seek funding to redesign website.

Discover Central Texas
Published by Dominic Elizondo · December 14, 2022 ·

Find out everything Central Texas has to offer for your next visit!

Visit discovercentraltexas.org and follow us @DiscoverCenTex to view events, arts and entertainment, dining and shopping sites, historical sites, outdoor recreation, and lodging in our seven counties and 32 cities!

WITH 32 CITIES IN 7 COUNTIES CENTRAL TEXAS HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO DISCOVER

HAMILTON
LAMPASAS
CORYELL
BELL
MILLS
SAN SABA
MILAM

DOWNLOAD OUR APP!
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DISCOVERCENTRALTEXAS.ORG/

Discover Central Texas
Come visit Central Texas and see what our 32 cities have to offer you on your next vacation.

No insights to show

604 25 comments

Like Comment Share

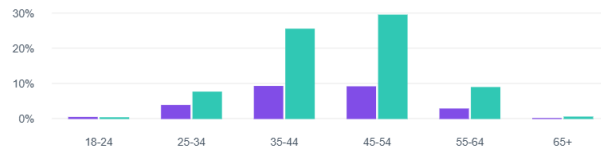
Audience

These values are based on total followers of your Page or profile.

Create a post

Age and gender

Men 26.40%
Women 73.60%



Location

Cities Countries

Killeen, TX	276
Temple, TX	254
Arlington, TX	160
Round Rock, TX	113
San Antonio, TX	108
Copperas Cove, TX	96
Corpus Christi, TX	94
Houston, TX	85
Austin, TX	84
Fort Worth, TX	65

Performance overview

Day ▾

Activity types: All ▾

Customize

Follows or likes ⓘ

4,274

Impressions ⓘ

297,359

Amount spent (Cumulative)

\$1,562.67

Follows or likes



Performance ⓘ

Page Likes ⓘ

4,274

Cost per Page Likes
\$0.37 ⓘ

Similar to others

Usually: \$0.19 - \$0.77

Reach ⓘ

79,457

Activity

Page Likes or followers

4274

Post engagement

2363

Link clicks

1275

Post reactions

940

Post shares

87

Post saves

40

Post comments

21

Page overview

Create a post

Last 28 days

Discovery

Post reach	573
Post engagement	36
New Page likes	1
New Page Followers	1

Interactions

Reactions	10
Comments	1
Shares	1
Photo views	12
Link clicks	4

Other

Hide all posts	0
Unfollows	0

Action Needed: Consideration and approval of Discover Central Texas marketing expenditures.

Item #10

2022-26 CEDS Implementation

2022-2026 CEDS Implementation

The 2022-26 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was approved by the DDCT Board on January 6, 2022.

As a result of the DDCT Board CEDS Workshop on January 12, 2023, the Board decided to have a recurring agenda item for Board discussion on strategizing implementation of CEDS objectives and strategies.

This meeting the focus will be the objective to **“Educate and prepare residents and businesses to better sustain themselves during disasters.”** The strategies under this objective are to:

- 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.
- Develop and disseminate educational materials to households regarding preparations they can make to sustain themselves longer without utilities or transportation.
- Conduct outreach and assistance to residents of mobile/manufactured homes and other vulnerable structures to encourage repairs and other measures to make them more resistant to storm impacts.
- Consider processes for jurisdictions to further build relationships with residents to gain awareness of who has special needs and risks in the event of a crisis.
- Encourage businesses to explore profitable supply chain localization measures.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

OBJECTIVE

EDUCATE AND PREPARE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO BETTER SUSTAIN THEMSELVES DURING DISASTERS.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

1

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.



2

DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO HOUSEHOLDS REGARDING PREPARATIONS THEY CAN MAKE TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES LONGER WITHOUT UTILITIES OR TRANSPORTATION.



3

CONDUCT OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS OF MOBILE/MANUFACTURED HOMES AND OTHER VULNERABLE STRUCTURES TO ENCOURAGE REPAIRS AND OTHER MEASURES TO MAKE THEM MORE RESISTANT TO STORM IMPACTS



4

CONSIDER PROCESSES FOR JURISDICTIONS TO FURTHER BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESIDENTS TO GAIN AWARENESS OF WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS AND RISKS IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS



5

ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO EXPLORE PROFITABLE SUPPLY CHAIN LOCALIZATION MEASURES.





2025 Funding Priority List

The Central Texas Council of Governments, Planning and Regional Services Division, would like to assist your agency with the upcoming 2024/2025 grant identification and potential opportunities. Some grant funding cycles begin in the new fiscal year. If you would like to receive timely information about grants relevant to your agency's priorities, please complete the form below with your top 3 priorities and return via email to: cindy.finnegan@ctcog.org. Please submit your responses in by Monday, December 16, 2024. Thank you!

Organization/Agency/Department:

Location (City/County):

Contact Name:

Contact Title:

Contact Telephone:

Contact Email:

Please check your top three (3) priorities for 2024/2025:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Artificial Intelligence | ☐ Road Improvements |
| ☐ Broadband | ☐ Sewer |
| ☐ Communications Infrastructure | ☐ Solid Waste |
| ☐ Community Centers | ☐ Sidewalks |
| ☐ Crime Victim Services | ☐ School Buses |
| ☐ Cyber Crime | ☐ Small Business |
| ☐ Environmental (Dams or Brownfields) | ☐ Transportation |
| ☐ First Responder Equipment / Training | ☐ Water |
| ☐ Parks and Recreation | |
| ☐ Physical Security Measures | |

If you have any questions, call Cindy Finnegan, Special Projects Coordinator at (254) 770-2370 office or (512) 705-8011 cell. Grant funding information will be sent to the listed contact on this form. Please add a second contact if needed.

We appreciate your taking the time to complete this request!

Date of Meeting	Main Issues Raised by City Staff	Next Steps CTCOG	Next Steps City Staff	Priority Support Areas Identified	Last Update
10/23/2024	1. Water and Sewer infrastructure issues. 2. New Generator purchase \$463K. 3. Loan requirement for \$10M TWDB grant. 4. Water study and Water Sewer Rate study. 5. Grants are needed for city streets, water and sewer improvements/repair. 6. PR, Public Outreach and Community engagement for Airport Hangar improvements. 7. Grant writing support for HEDC under T-Mobile Hometown Grant. 8. Support required with CBA for Airport. 9. City Lake development. 10. Environment and Site study for FEMA funding for City Dam deterioration. 11. Potential FEMA funding for City dam debris removal. 12. Strategic Plan development for the City.	1. CTCOG to help coordinate a meeting between the City of Hamilton and TWDB and TCEQ to discuss the way forward on the Dam deterioration and leakage concerns. 2. CTCOG to share a list of planning consultants with the city, 10/31/2024. 3. CTCOG to write a debriefing report with additional recommendations, 10/31/2024. 5. Coverage of the CTCOG committees needs to be shared via a one-page overview. 6. Assist city of Hamilton with TxCDBG Community Development Fund phase one application for sewer main replacement. 7. Assist city of Hamilton with TxCDBG Community Development Fund phase two application.	1. The City of Hamilton to share a list of priorities, current grants, grant requests. 2. Request for future strategic planning will be explored/discussed by CTCOG. 3. City of Hamilton to coordinate and organize a meeting with TWDB and TCEQ at CTCOG office, Belton TX 11/08/2024. 4. Submit TxCDBG Community Development Fund phase one application. 5. Wait for notification from TDA of selection for phase two TxCDBG Community Development Fund Project Application.	1. Water infrastructure 2. Sewer infrastructure 3. Street infrastructure	12/18/2024
10/29/2024	1. Water Infrastructure Issues 2. City Zoning and Ordinances 3. Late water bills payment 4. Public Safety concerns related to City Police, Code Enforcement and Constable Office. 5. Grant Support for repair of water infrastructure. 6. New Community Center	1. CTCOG and the City of Evant have scheduled a meeting for further discussion on Thursday, November 14, 2024. 2. Cindy Finnegan will check potential funding regarding the lack of public safety coverage faced by the city. 3. CTCOG will share a list of planning consultants by Thursday, 10/31/24. 4. CTCOG to share an overview of the CTCOG Committees. 5. CTCOG Public Safety team to meet with City of Evant to discuss possible avenues for Public Safety support including 911. 6. City of Evant Staff to meet with CTCOG staff at the CTCOG office sometime in January 2025 to walk through development of City Ordinances and Zoning Codes.	1. The city will develop a list of all active grants.	1. Water infrastructure-lines, wells, pipe replacements 2. Comprehensive planning and zoning 3. Community center	12/18/2024

Draft Circuit Rider Locations and Dates of Visit

Sr no	County	City	Date of Visit
1	Hamilton	Hico (postponed from 12/05/2024)	3/13/2025
2	Mills	Goldthwaite (Postponed until January 2025)	
3		Mullin	1/9/2025
4		Priddy	1/23/2025
5	San Saba	San Saba	2/6/2025
6		Richland Springs	2/20/2025
7	Lampasas	Lampasas	3/6/2025
8		Lometa	3/20/2025
9		Kempner	4/3/2025
10	Coryell	Gatesville	4/17/2025
11		Oglesby	5/1/2025
12		South Mountain	5/15/2025
13	Milam	Buckholts	5/29/2025
14		Thorndale	6/12/2025
15		Milano	6/26/2025
16		Cameron	7/10/2027
17		Rockdale	7/24/2025
18	Bell	Morgans Point Resort	8/7/2025
19		Little River/Academy	8/21/2025
20		Holland	9/4/2025

21		Rogers	9/18/2025
22		Bartlett	10/2/2025
23		Nolanville	10/16/2025
24		Salado	10/30/2025
25		Troy	11/13/2025

Central Texas Emergency Planning and Management Summit

December 5, 2024

2180 N. Main Street, Belton, TX

Conference Room D8

9:00am-9:05am	WELCOME <i>Dominic Elizondo, Economic Development Planner, CTCOG</i>
9:05am-9:35am	CTCOG PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS <i>Jesse Hennage, Assistant Director, Public Safety, CTCOG</i>
9:35am-10:05am	INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY AND HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLANS <i>Heather Ferrara, Mitigation Program Manager, H2O Partners</i>
10:05am-10:15am	BREAK
10:15am-10:45am	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION <i>Bod Reinhard, Bell County EMC</i>
10:45am-11:15am	DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY <i>Brandi Ashby, Assistant Chief, Region 8, TDEM</i>
11:15am-11:45am	SUCCESS STORIES PANEL <i>Gary Young, Copperas Cove Fire Chief and EMC</i> <i>Bob Reinhard, Bell County EMC</i> <i>Jennifer Henager, CEM, Division Director, Emergency Management, Temple</i>
11:45am-11:50am	WRAP-UP AND DISMISSAL <i>Dominic Elizondo, Economic Development Planner, CTCOG</i>

Local Government Emergency Management Toolkit

Planning and Preparation

- Be familiar with your county's Hazard Mitigation Plan, work to implement strategies for your community:
 - [2024 Bell County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [2018 Milam County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [2024 Hamilton County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan](#)
 - [2023 San Saba County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan](#)
 - [2023 Coryell County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- Be familiar with your [TDEM Region 8 contacts](#) including [Incident Support Task Force \(ISTF\) staff](#); TDEM can assist local governments in preparation response, recovery, and mitigation for disasters.
- Be familiar with your county's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), emergency management division, or other staff dedicated to emergency response across the county.
- Strengthen community and regional partnerships for managing disasters.
 - [Building Private-Public Partnerships](#)
- Promote citizen and business registration on [CodeRED](#) to receive emergency notifications.
- Develop a local plan of action for handling an emergency event, such as an Emergency Operations Plan. Comprehensive Preparedness Guides:
 - [Developing and Maintaining an Emergency Operations Plan](#) (For local jurisdictions)
 - [Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship](#)
 - [Emergency Operations Plans for K-12 Schools](#)
 - [Emergency Operations Plans for Institutes of Higher Education](#)
 - [Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Guide for Local Governments](#)
 - [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#)
 - [Developing a Crisis Communication Plan](#)
- Be prepared for coordination of recovery efforts.
 - [Local Recovery Plan Template](#)
 - [Post Disaster Model Recovery Ordinance](#)
- Make sure your community utilizes grant funding and other programs for infrastructure resiliency and emergency preparedness:
 - [USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant](#)
 - [Homeland Security National Training Program](#)
 - [FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)
 - [FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program](#)
 - [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)
 - [TxCDBG Community Development Fund](#)

Response

- When a disaster first occurs, take steps to immediately notify citizens through CodeRED, social media, radio, television, and other public announcements. Issue evacuation orders if necessary.
 - [Public Safety and Crisis Communication in an Emergency or Disaster](#)
 - [The Use of Social Media for Disaster Recovery](#)
- Declare and submit a Local State of Disaster to request disaster recovery assistance.
- Stay in contact with partners including other communities impacted by the disaster, your county EMC, and TDEM to coordinate response.
- Dispatch fire, police, and emergency medical personnel where needed. Coordinate efforts with volunteer organizations assisting with the disaster.
 - Learn more about the available [Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) (VOAD)
- Follow strategies and processes laid out in local Emergency Operations Plan and ensure community partners are adhering to plans.
- TDEM's ISTF staff can assist with efforts such as mass care, community stabilization, volunteer and donations management, short- and long-term recovery solutions, emergency operations center needs, sheltering and feeding citizens, debris management, disaster finance, communications, nonprofit support, voluntary organization coordination, and general emergency management guidance.
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality \(TCEQ\) Emergency Response Teams](#) can provide technical assistance such as helping supply drinking water, restoring water system functionality, management of waste from hazardous materials spills, post-emergency weather and damage assessments, wastewater treatment, dam safety, water quality, and covering costs for cleanup.
 - [TCEQ Drought Response Guide](#)
 - [TCEQ Tornado Response Guide](#)
 - [TCEQ Wildfire Response Guide](#)
 - [TCEQ Flood Response Guide](#)

Recovery

- After the initial response, local governments should work with public/private utilities, volunteer organizations, and other partners to ensure water, power, communications, transportation, shelter, and medical care are provided as well as debris removed.
 - [State of Texas Local Catastrophic Debris Management Guide](#)
- City departments should begin gathering cost estimate for response and damage to complete a [Disaster Summary Outline](#) (DSO) for the State Operations Center.
 - Utilize the [Public Assistance State of Texas Assessment Tool](#) (pSTAT) to catalogue damage to public infrastructure.
 - For damage to homes, businesses, and farms, use the [Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool](#) (iSTAT) and provide residents and businesses access to the tool.
 - If damage assessments surpass county thresholds of uninsured damage, you may be eligible for [FEMA Public Assistance and Individual Assistance grants](#).
- Access other funding streams to assist with recovery.
 - [TDEM Disaster Recovery Loan Program](#)
 - [TxCDBG State Urgent Need Fund \(SUN\)](#) (If no Presidential Disaster Declaration)
 - [USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant](#)
 - [TxCDBG Community Development Fund](#) (allows interim assistance for recovery from storms)
 - [TxCDBG Disaster Recovery Funds](#) (allocated for certain disasters)
 - [EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant](#)
 - [Post-Disaster Financial Recovery](#)
 - [OneStar Foundation Rebuild Texas Fund](#) (dedicated for certain disasters)
- If your community developed a local recovery plan or passed an ordinance outlining the process for local recovery, consult it and be sure to note where there were needs for improvement or gaps in what it addressed.
- Stay in contact with community and regional partners, TDEM, VOADs, and CTCOG to address any needs in your recovery efforts!
- [FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework](#)-Guideline for how FEMA supports disaster affected communities and federal and non-governmental organization resources.

Small Business Disaster Preparedness

To minimize the impact of disasters on employees, property, and operations, businesses must make preparations. They should create a plan, identify priorities, train employees, and review insurance coverage. Here are resources to help prepare for disasters and organize your response.

TIPS TOP 10 PREPAREDNESS TIPS

1. Build a team to create your plan.
2. Gather critical documents and information needed for decision making.
3. Identify and prioritize critical operations and processes.
4. Identify hazards—the potential disruptions to your operations.
5. Keep it simple: Build your plan and create a grab and go case.
6. Create a communications strategy and plan to use post emergency. Maintain emergency contact lists for employees, vendors, suppliers, and other key people.
7. Recruit and train employee volunteers that can keep emergency supplies and take the preparedness message home.
8. Back up and store vital records and data off-site.
9. Take action to mitigate the potential impact on your equipment, buildings, facilities, inventory, and storage. Consider insurance and a generator.
10. Exercise, test, and update your plan. Keep it current.

Only 33% of small businesses have business interruption insurance.

National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)



PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

For additional resources, visit our guide at: www.uschamberfoundation.org/ccc.

Preparedness Guides

- Comprehensive business preparedness guide that uses real business stories. <http://bit.ly/1yN3up9>
- Guide to prepare and assist businesses affected by a disaster. <http://bit.ly/1BJoOS8>
- FEMA's Preparedness Planning for Your Business. <http://www.ready.gov/business>
- The American Red Cross' Ready Rating program provides a 123-question assessment to help businesses identify gaps and strengths and where to focus attention. www.readyrating.org



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Small Business Disaster Preparedness

Checklists—General

- Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Small Businesses from the American Red Cross: <http://bit.ly/1qPsrfp>.
- IOWA Business Emergency Preparedness Plan: <http://bit.ly/11e5XOn>.
- Business Disaster Planning Checklist – A quick list broken down into bullets of tips or questions: <http://bit.ly/1t4CoVZ>.
- Checklist focused on security issues: <http://bit.ly/1A8ABYw>.
- One page checklist to act upon as a disaster is approaching: <http://bit.ly/1u2sCDX>.

Checklists—By Hazard

- Transportation and Utility Disruptions: <http://bit.ly/1BJp3Nf>
- Hurricane Preparedness: <http://bit.ly/1xQsPQM>
- Tornado Preparedness: <http://bit.ly/1xIYhzc>
- Flood Preparedness: <http://bit.ly/11I5rhM>
- Earthquake Preparedness: <http://bit.ly/1t4LS3G>

Business Continuity Planning (BCP)

- This video from the IRS shows four business areas to consider for BCP. <http://1.usa.gov/1u2ABRs>
- Preparing for Disaster—Questions and tips to consider before a disaster happens. <http://bit.ly/1A8IKfF>
- DRB Toolkit© (Disaster Resistant Business)—A step-by-step, fully customizable software tool to help all sizes and types of businesses build a disaster plan, train employees, run exercises, and prepare operations. <http://www.drbtoolkit.org> Use discount code: USChamber
- FEMA's IT Disaster Recovery Plan. <http://1.usa.gov/1bRoHXx>
- Planning and Responding to Workplace Emergencies – Fact sheet for protecting employees. <http://1.usa.gov/1vkVVrT>
- American Red Cross' Preparing Your Business for the Unthinkable. <http://rdcrss.org/1EVU0f3>

71% of small businesses say they are “very dependent” on 1 or 2 key people, but only 22% have “Key Person Insurance.”

National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)



INSURANCE

Insurance is not a tax. While often viewed as a costly necessity to be kept as low as possible, it is a risk management tool critical for all businesses. It can reduce the financial impact of accidents, fires, and other unplanned disruptions. It protects businesses from events out of their control and improves chances for survival. Here are some tips to keep your business running smoothly:

- Review your coverage, and design an insurance program that fits your business and risks. Determine adequate coverage. Bring in a professional to explain different types of available coverage to decide the best fit for your business.
- When disaster strikes, file a claim as soon as possible. Plan which on what items you will be required to provide (eg. photos of equipment pre- and post-disaster).



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

Small Business Disaster Preparedness



COMMUNICATING WITH EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS, AND CUSTOMERS

During disasters, communication with employees, suppliers, customers, and the general public is essential. It is also one of the first to break or experience challenges. To plan for potential business interruptions, create a crisis communication strategy as part of your larger BCP. Here are some tips:

- Keep your emergency contact list current with every possible mode to reach each person (personal phone and cell number, email, address; family member's phone number and email; evacuation plan and contact; social media: Facebook, Twitter, etc.).
- Consider an alert mechanism to keep your employees, customers, vendors, suppliers, and stakeholders informed and regularly updated in multiple ways (e.g., email, text messages). Test it regularly.
- Use existing social media platforms to communicate online (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).
- Have procedures in place to work with the media.
- Identify a spokesperson and backups to be the only public voice of your company.
- Create key messages and talking points specific to the intended audience (eg. employees, vendors, etc.).
- Update the communications strategy often. Train employees and provide to new hires with the communications strategy.
- Communicate often with customers to keep them informed of delays in delivery, alternatives, expectations, and any compensation. Be solution oriented.
- Monitor outside communications to determine what is working well and what is needed.

During disasters, communication with employees, suppliers, customers, and the general public is essential.



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

- If you don't have an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), consider starting one, as it addresses reasons for productivity decline.
- Consider how your company can help employees and families access: medical care, food, housing, and other essentials.
- Those hit hardest may not have working phones or the ability to call area resources to find new housing, child care, a kennel, a rental car, or other necessary services. Plan to connect employees with resources.
- To provide any financial employee aid (eg. housing, emergency grants, advance on future wages).
- For a comprehensive guide to employee assistance, visit: <http://bit.ly/1qPqsrr>



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Item #11

Regional Broadband Initiatives

Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

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

- [Volume 2 of the BDO's BEAD Initial Proposal](#) approved on November 19, 2024. This volume outlines BDO's administration of the subgrantee selection process and how it will award \$3.3 billion in BEAD funding. Before starting this, a challenge process must be initiated.
- [BEAD Challenge Process](#): Challenge Window December 3-17, 2024, Rebuttal Period January 10-24, 2025.
- [Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program](#) application period January 6-10, 2025.
- The BDO applied to the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (SDECGP) on May 27, 2024 and was awarded the grant on November 21, 2024. Texas was allocated \$55.6 million to implement the digital opportunity initiatives identified in the [Texas Digital Opportunity Plan](#). SDECGP funds will be used to expand broadband connections and digital literacy across the state, with programs tentatively beginning in early 2025.
- The Center of Rural Innovation's [research](#) found that rural areas with high usage of broadband saw 200% growth rate for businesses.
- The BDO hosts Local Government and Community Roundtables virtually on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM. The event link can be found [here](#).
- The Benton Institute released a guide for local governments to revise permitting policies to facilitate broadband access- "[Permitting Success-Closing the Digital Divide Through Broadband Permitting](#)".
- [SB 2238](#) could refund FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program with \$7 billion and direct federal agencies to develop a "[National Strategy to Close the Digital Divide](#)". Currently on Senate Legislative Calendar for 2025.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Item #12

Federal & State Updates

Federal and State Legislative Updates for Economic Development

- FY 2025 Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act passed September 25, 2024 funding federal government through December 20, 2024.
- The TxCDBG Community Development Fund has opened for its 2024-25 program cycle. TDA will select projects from the phase one Community Applications to be invited to apply for the phase two Project Application, where communities will provide scope of work, budget, and beneficiary information.
- [Texas HJR35](#)-Constitutional amendment creating the Grow Texas Fund.
- [Texas HB563](#)-Establishing small municipality revenue recovery grant program for financial assistance for economic development.
- [Texas HB346](#)-Would eliminate all first year licensing and registration fees for business, allocate economic development funds to support businesses.
- [Texas HB 406](#)-Would require local governments to notify Workforce Development Board of the execution of certain local economic development agreements.
- [USDA Circuit Rider Program](#)-technical Assistance for rural water systems.
- [EDA Reauthorization Act of 2024](#).

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Item #13

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 began the CTCOG Circuit Rider Program in October 2024 and have met with Hamilton and Evant.
- Staff compiled economic asset and industry data for region and individual cities onto DDCT website.
- Staff has created a Housing Toolkit, Local Government Emergency Management Toolkit, and Small Business Disaster Preparedness Guide for local governments, and is working on comprehensive planning, zoning, and economic development toolkits. These will be added to the DDCT website.
- Staff created and hosted the Central Texas Emergency Planning and Management Summit on December 5, 2024.
- Grant Management/Technical Assistance
 - Phase One Community Application for TxCDBG Community Development Fund for the cities of Belton, Hamilton, and Mullin.
 - City of Rockdale EDA EAA grant application for utility connection and road reconstruction for future industrial park.
 - Administration of Rockdale ISD EDA EAA grant for college and career academy. Currently completing Bid Review Checklist for opening of bids to procure contractor.
 - City of Cameron EDA grant administration. In closeout process.
 - City of Belton Rockwool project EDA grant administration. Working on Bid Review Checklist.
 - City of Cameron FY 2025 RAISE Grant application.
 - EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistant Program application.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Economic Snapshot

Q4 2024 CTCOG Region

AT A GLANCE

Unemployment Rate 2024



Exports



Workforce: 209,359

Labor Force Participation 2024



Total Jobs

2018 205,925



**This change outpaced the national growth rate of 4.5% by 0.2%.

2024 215,706

4.8%** 

EMPLOYMENT

Professional & Business Services

National Average 172,000 +

Local Average 60,000 +



Trade, Transportation and Utilities

National Average 150,000 +

Local Average 76,000 +

Government Sector

National Average 35,000 +

Local Average 80,000 +



Fastest Growing Industries



Construction

Accommodation &
Food Services



Retail Trade

Largest Industries



-Government

-Health Care

-Social Assistance

TRENDS

Fastest Growing Occupations



Management

Transportation &
Material Moving



Healthcare Practitioners



Skills In Demand

1. Nursing 

2. Merchandising

3. Restaurant
Operation

Largest Occupations

1. Office & Admin
Support

2. Transportation &
Material Moving

3. Military

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DDCT Members

DDCT Board Membership 2025 Contact Information

Name	Board position	County Represented	Title	Organization	Address	Email	Phone
Cynthia Hernandez		Bell	Executive Director	Belton EDC	412 East Central Ave., Belton, TX 76513	chernandez@beltonedc.org	254-831-6960
Bobby Whitson		Bell	Bell County Commissioner, Pct.2	Bell County Commissioners Court	3305 E. Elms Rd. Killeen TX 76542	bobby.whitson@bellcounty.texas.gov	254-690-2274
Ginger Watkins		Milam	Economic Development Director	Cameron Industrial Foundation	102 E. First Cameron TX 76520	gwatkins@cameronindustrialfoundation.com	254-697-4970
Dean Roome		Bell	Director	Bartlett Activities Center	300 W Bell 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
Jim Gibson		Milam	Economic Development	Rockdale Municipal Development District	134 North Main Street, Rockdale, TX 76567	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	
Dexter Morris		Mills	City Manager	City of Mullin	105 N. 3rd Street Mullin, TX 76864	dexter.morris.tx@gmail.com	(325) 985-3909
Kayla Schraub		Hamilton	Main Street Manager	City of Hamilton	108 N. Bell Street, Hamilton, TX, 76531	mainstreet@hamiltontx.com	254-784-5610
Dr. Teddy Clevenger		Bell	Bartlett ISD Superintendent	Bartlett ISD	404 Robinson, Bartlett, TX, 76511	tclevenger@bartlett.txed.net	

Bell, Milam, Hamilton, and Mills = Counties represented by Board Members

Grant Opportunities

Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant

- Community Development Fund

Project Application Deadline June 2025

Description: The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the TxCDBG Program. This fund is available on a biennial basis for funding through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used. Awards are up to \$750,000 with match <2% to >20% depending on applicant population. The scoring for these applications is on a 200-point scale with 50 being determined by regional priorities selected by each council of governments. The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) Executive Committee convened on April 25, 2024 to select regional priorities for FY 2025-26 Community Development Fund applications based on prior funding cycle priorities and local priorities from non-entitlement communities. First priority (scoring 50/50 points) projects were determined to be **water/sewer infrastructure, street/road reconstruction, residential unit rehabilitation, fire stations/equipment, flood drainage improvements, and sidewalks**. The full list of priorities can be viewed [here](#). For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Programs

Closed April 3, 2024, reopens FY 2025

Description: 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.

At least 51% of project expenses must go towards sidewalks/lighting and ADA improvements.

Match: Minimum 3.5%

Award: \$1 million

For more information, click [here](#)!

EDA

- EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Applications Ongoing

Description: These Programs provide funding for cities, counties, states, private and public institutes of higher education, and non-profits for build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance bottom-up economic development goals to promote regional prosperity if aligned with the current 2022-26 CEDS, and any construction and non-construction activities that help communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocation. Examples of previously funded Public Works projects include:

- Acquisition and development of land and improvements for use in public works or other types of development facilities;
- Design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of public works, public service, or related development facilities, including related machinery and equipment;
- Water and sewer system improvements;
- Creation or expansion of industrial parks;
- Creation or expansion of business incubator and accelerator facilities;
- Construction or expansion of facilities for workforce development;
- Redevelopment of brownfield sites;
- Expansion, construction, or improvements of technology-based facilities and research and development commercialization centers, including the procurement of necessary equipment;
- Construction of multi-tenant manufacturing facilities;
- Expansion or improvement of research, business and science parks; and
- Expansion or enhancement of public facilities with higher quality fiber optic cables and
- Telecommunications infrastructure and broadband infrastructure deployment.

Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) projects include infrastructure, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of revolving loan funds in regions experiencing adverse economic changes. Examples of prior funded projects include:

- Construction or upgrading of public infrastructure;
- Design and implementation of sectoral partnerships;
- Activities necessary to strengthen cluster acceleration and expansion;
- Capitalization or recapitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs);
- Enhancement of infrastructure to make it more resilient to natural disasters;
- Implementation of military base realignments and closures (BRAC) responses;
- Procurement of equipment for workforce training programs;
- Market or industry research and analysis for larger hard or soft economic projects;
- Economic development projects that enhance density in the vicinity of other economic development; and
- Development of projects that provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of key economic development actors in the region to promote the region's locally owned strategies.

Awards are expected to be \$600,000-\$2 million for the Public Works Program and \$150,000-\$2.5 million for the EAA. Match ranges from 20-50% based on the average per capita income and unemployment rate as well as the actual or threatened economic situation of the region where the project is located. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

TDA

- Rural Economic Development Finance Program Texas Rural Community (TRC) Loan
Application deadline on rolling basis.
Description: The TRC loan provides financing to rural political subdivisions including cities, counties, and special purpose districts as well as EDCs to address economic development priorities, rural economic development, or support the agriculture industry. Unincorporated areas or cities must have a population under 50,000 and counties must have a population under 200,000. Maximum loan amount is \$5 million. Loans can be used to capitalize economic development projects including infrastructure, business recruitment and expansion, community facilities (i.e. healthcare facilities), and any other eligible use that can be identified to improve or assist in rural economic development and/or impact the agricultural industry. Match is at least 10%. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

USDA

- Rural Business Development Grant

Deadline to apply is February 25, 2025

Description: This grant program is designed to fund technical assistance, training, and development services for the development or expansion of small and emerging businesses in rural areas (outside urban areas with population of 50,000 or higher) with less than 50 employees and not more than \$1 million in annual revenue. Eligible applicants are:

- Towns
- Communities
- State agencies
- Authorities
- Nonprofit Corporations
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Rural Cooperatives

There are no minimum or maximum awards, but smaller grants are prioritized. There is no cost sharing requirement. There are two grant types:

Enterprise type grant: Used for small and emerging businesses for:

- Technical assistance
- Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way
- Construction, conversion, renovation of buildings
- Rural business incubators and community economic development
- Purchase of machinery and equipment

Opportunity type grant: Used for projects in rural areas for:

- Technology based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Business support centers
- Leadership and entrepreneur training

- Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program

Applications are accepted throughout the year

Description: 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. 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. Non-Federal Match: 25-85% depending on population and median household income of community. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantee

Applications are Accepted Throughout the Year

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

- Rural areas and towns with a population of 5,000 or less
- 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. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant

Applications Accepted Year Round

Description: 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. Funds can be obtained in up to 6 months.

- Non-Federal Match: No Match Required
- Award Maximum:
 - Water Transmission Line Grants: \$150,000
 - Water Source Grants: \$1,000,000

For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

Application deadlines quarterly, with the next deadline being March 30, 2025

Description: 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:

- Nonprofit utilities 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.
- Facilities and equipment to train rural residents to facilitate economic development.
- Start-up venture costs, including real estate, buildings, equipment or working capital.

For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline March 30, 2025

Description: 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%. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

- Section 504 Direct Single Family Housing Home Repair Loans and Grants

Applications accepted year-round

Description: This program offers \$10-40,000 in loans and \$10,000 in grant funding to homeowners with an income below the very-low limit for their county, and who cannot obtain affordable credit elsewhere. For grant funding, applicants must be aged 62 or older. Loan terms are 20 years at 1% interest. Funds must be used for repairing, improving, or modernizing homes, or removing health and safety hazards. On December 2, 2024, this program was updated to include a pilot that allows applicants to utilize grant or loan funds for payment of construction materials prior to site delivery and without the need for the contractor to provide a surety bond.

Texas Broadband Development Office

- Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program

Reopens 2025 for Round III

Description: Eligible applicants, including political subdivisions of the State and broadband service providers are able to apply for \$1-125 million grants with no required match for broadband infrastructure projects that are designed to deliver minimum 100 Mbps symmetrical service through last mile connections to unserved (<25 Mbps/3 Mbps) and underserved (<100 Mbps/10 Mbps) areas. Eligible expenses include the repair, rehabilitation, construction, improvement, and acquisition of real property, equipment (e.g., devices and office equipment), and facilities (e.g., telecommunications equipment, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle, and last mile networks). For Round 2 only Texas' 24 highest need counties were eligible, but this will likely change next round. For more information, click [here](#)!

- Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program

Application Period January 6-10, 2025

The BDO's Broadband Infrastructure Fund established by the 88th Texas Legislature established the Pole Replacement Program, authorizing \$75 million to reimburse pole replacement costs for pole owners or providers of broadband service who incur the costs of replacing poles. Applicants can apply for \$5,000 to \$5 million to reimburse the lesser of 50% of the cost of each pole replacement or \$5,000 per pole incurred after August 31, 2021 and before November 4, 2024 in unserved areas of a county (less than 25 Mbps/3Mbps service). For more information, click [here](#)!

Texas Water Development Board

- Texas Water Development Fund (DFund)

Applications are accepted year-round

Description: The Texas Water Development Fund (DFund) is a state funded loan program that enables the Texas Water Development Board to fund multiple eligible components in one loan to borrowers for planning, design, acquisition, and construction of projects for

- Water supply
- Wastewater
- Water quality enhancement

Loans are 20-30 year fixed interest and projects must be consistent with the current TWDB State Water Plan. To apply, reach out to one of the TWDB's Regional Project Implementation Teams to determine if the proposed project is eligible. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Clean Water/Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF/DWSRF)
Applicants typically submit a Project Information Form by March of each year-due March 1, 2025.

Description: Provides loans for wastewater or drinking water-related projects at interest rates lower than those offered by commercial markets. Projects include planning, acquisition, and construction of

- Treatment facilities
- Collection/distribution systems
- Stormwater, nonpoint source pollution control
- Estuary management
- Consolidation and source water protection.

Program includes principal forgiveness (up to 70% based on annual median household income and household cost factor, 100% with \$300,000 maximum if serving population of 1,000 or fewer, and 15% for projects with up to 30% green components) for disadvantaged communities, green infrastructure projects, or emergencies. Eligible entities are cities, counties, and districts. Emergency preparedness principal forgiveness may be available for the preparation of an emergency preparedness evaluation/audit plan. Max forgiveness for a public water system is \$75,000, unless project is determined to be urgent need-100% forgiveness up to \$500,000). For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

Texas Workforce Commission

- Skills for Small Business for Employers

Apply All Year

Description: Through this 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 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.
- 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.

For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program

Deadline to apply is January 29, 2025

Description: The TWC's JET Program has now reopened for FY 2025. \$15 million has been allocated to the program this year to provide grants to ISDs, open-enrollment charter (OEC) schools, and institutes of higher education to purchase equipment for a new or existing CTE Program or course that leads to a license, certificate, or post-secondary degree in certain occupations. Equipment must be tangible personal property with a useful life more than one year and unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or higher. ISDs and OECs must partner with an institute of higher education to apply. Grant amounts will range from \$40,000 to \$375,000 with a minimum 5% match. The grant period will be 15 months from the start date if awarded. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

Lower Colorado River Authority

Application period is January 1-31, 2025

Description: The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Community Development Partnership Program provides grants of up to \$50,000 for capital improvements projects in its service area, including Coryell, Mills, Hamilton, Lampasas, and San Saba counties. Past projects include improvements for fire departments, emergency response centers, community centers, schools, and libraries. Match is 20%. For more information and to apply, go [here](#).

T-Mobile Hometown Grant

Deadline to apply for Q1 2025 is March 30, 2025

Description: T-Mobile offers a quarterly grant to 25 small towns for various community projects, including revitalizing or repurposing a historic structure, creating a downtown asset or destination, or improving a community space. This initiative will put \$25 million in 500 rural towns over five years. Local governments or non-profits can apply for up to \$50,000 for shovel-ready projects that have a plan, budget, timeline, estimate of impact, and letters of support. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

OneStar Foundation AmeriCorps Program

Deadline to submit notice of intent is February 12, 2025

Description: The OneStar Foundation has opened its 2025 Notice of Intent to Apply for the Texas AmeriCorps Program. Non-profit organizations, local governments, and institutes of higher education are able to submit this Notice of Intent with basic organizational information and an outline of the program area and project they would like their Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) to work on. Projects can be from areas including economic opportunity, disaster services, environmental stewardship, health, and veterans and military families. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife

- Local Parks Grant Programs

Application deadline August 1, Annual

Description: TPWD administers the Local Parks Grant Programs consisting of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Match is 50%. The five programs are:

- [Local Parks Urban Outdoor Recreation](#): Up to \$1.5 million
- [Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation](#): \$750,000
- [Local Parks Small Community Recreation](#): \$150,000
- [Local Parks Urban Indoor Recreation](#): \$2 million
- [Local Parks Non-Urban Indoor Recreation](#): \$1.5 million

For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

EPA

- Water Technical Assistance (WTA) Program

Applications accepted on ongoing basis

Description: This program provides free technical assistance to states, local communities, and other stakeholders by identifying water challenges, developing plans, building capacity, and developing application materials for these entities to access water infrastructure funding. Technical assistance can address the following areas:

- Drinking water accessibility and quality;
- Water reliability and low-water pressure;
- Lead, PFAS, and other contamination;
- Sewer and sewage backups;
- Flooding and stormwater backups; and
- Cybersecurity

For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

Communities Unlimited Financing

Open Year Round

Description: Communities Unlimited is a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that finances small businesses, water and waste wastewater projects, and community facilities projects for nonprofit corporations and local government entities. Financing for water/community facilities projects will be up to \$750,000 at 6% interest and for small businesses \$1,000-\$100,000 at around 3% interest with a turnaround time on receiving funds of several months. Eligible recipients must serve a significant number of low-income customers and have a population of less than 20,000.

- Small Business Loans can be used for working capital, equipment purchase, and business purchase.
- Community Facilities projects include public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, fire departments and/or fire trucks, safety services, etc.
- Water and wastewater projects must improve public health and system security, extend service to new customers or improve service to existing customers, and create opportunities for economic development.

For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

End of Packet
