



Development District of Central Texas

**July 6th, 2023
9:30 a.m.**

Agenda



Development District of Central Texas

Thursday, July 6th, 2023

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 \(571\) 317-3122](#)

Access Code: 139-342-101

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Opportunity for Public Comment.
3. Staff Update (*Pgs.1-36*)
4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Approval of Meeting Minutes from the April 6th Meeting. (*Pgs.37-42*)
5. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Texas A&M-Central Texas Research Park Presentation. (*Pgs.43-54*)
6. **Discussion Item:** Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Implementation. (*Pgs.55-64*)
7. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives. (*Pgs.65-66*)
8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Federal and State Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development. (*Pgs.67-69*)
9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Updates on Grant Opportunities. (*Pgs.70-84*)
10. Board of Director's Comments.
11. Other Business: Next meeting date Thursday, October 5th, 2023, at 9:30 AM.
12. 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 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.

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 has applied for the IEDC Economic Recovery Corps Program for a 2.5 year fellow who will work to merge our tourism and industry attraction and branding effort as well as a regional housing plan to accommodate growth with increased housing stock.
- Staff ran the latest Newly Elected Officials class on June 27th, covering topics such as managing growth through planning and zoning, city financing, the roles and responsibilities of elected and public officials, and grants to an audience of 31 newly elected officials and public staff.
- The first day of Leadership Central Texas was held June 15th, covering Government and CTCOG Planning Programs for 13 class members (one dropped the course).
- Staff has continued managing the Discover Central Texas Tourism Project, marketing listings and events updated by cities on the site. Currently \$1,562.67 have been spent over 198 days, with 4,274 Facebook page likes. There have been 79,457 views of the Facebook ad.
- Staff has continued publishing two weekly newsletters on
 - Economic Development grants, resources and webinars;
 - Economic Development regional highlights, and events.

And a 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.
- 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.

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- Staff is assisting the City of Cameron with reimbursements for engineering fees and completing required documentation for construction bid submittal for their EDA grant.
 - Staff is now administering an EDA grant for the City of Belton for their Rockwool project.
 - Staff completed and submitted a FY 2023 RAISE grant application for the City of Cameron.
 - Staff applied for the TxCDBG Community Development Fund for the cities of Mullin and Copperas Cove.
 - Staff is applying for the EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant for Rockdale ISD to construct a career/technical education center from a former hospital.
 - Staff is assisting the the cities of Little River Academy and Rogers in developing a regional Economic Development Alliance and applying for an EDA Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance grant.
 - Staff continues to provide technical assistance to communities for grant applications and general resource requests.
 - Staff created a flier for Section 3 employment opportunities to be distributed through Workforce Solutions of Central Texas.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas Q2 2023 Economic Snapshot for CTCOG Region:

- **Unemployment Rate:** As of March 2023, the unemployment rate is 4.83%, an increase from the 3.94%, rate at the end of Q1, 2023.
- **Workforce:** 206,992
- **Exports:** \$48.82 billion; a decrease from Q1 2023's \$48.93 billion.
- **Total Jobs Increase:** From 2017 to 2022, jobs increased by 2.2% from 198,355 to 202,693. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 3.4% by 1.2%.
- **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

542,670 Population (2022) Population grew by 54,997 over the last 5 years and is projected to grow by 59,690 over the next 5 years.	202,693 Total Regional Employment Jobs grew by 4,338 over the last 5 years and are projected to grow by 12,760 over the next 5 years.	\$65.3K Avg. Earnings Per Job (2022) Regional average earnings per job are \$15.7K below the national average earnings of \$80.9K per job.
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Takeaways

- As of 2022 the region's population **increased by 11.3%** since 2017, growing by 54,997. Population is expected to **increase by 11.0%** between 2022 and 2027, adding 59,690.
- From 2017 to 2022, jobs **increased by 2.2%** in 7 Texas Counties from 198,355 to **202,693**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 3.4% by 1.2%**. As the number of jobs increased, the **labor force participation rate decreased from 58.2% to 54.7% between 2017 and 2022**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **16.1% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (4.8% below the national average), and **10.9% hold an Associate's Degree** (2.1% above the national average).
- The top three industries in 2022 are Federal Government, Military, Education and Hospitals (Local Government), and Restaurants and Other Eating Places.

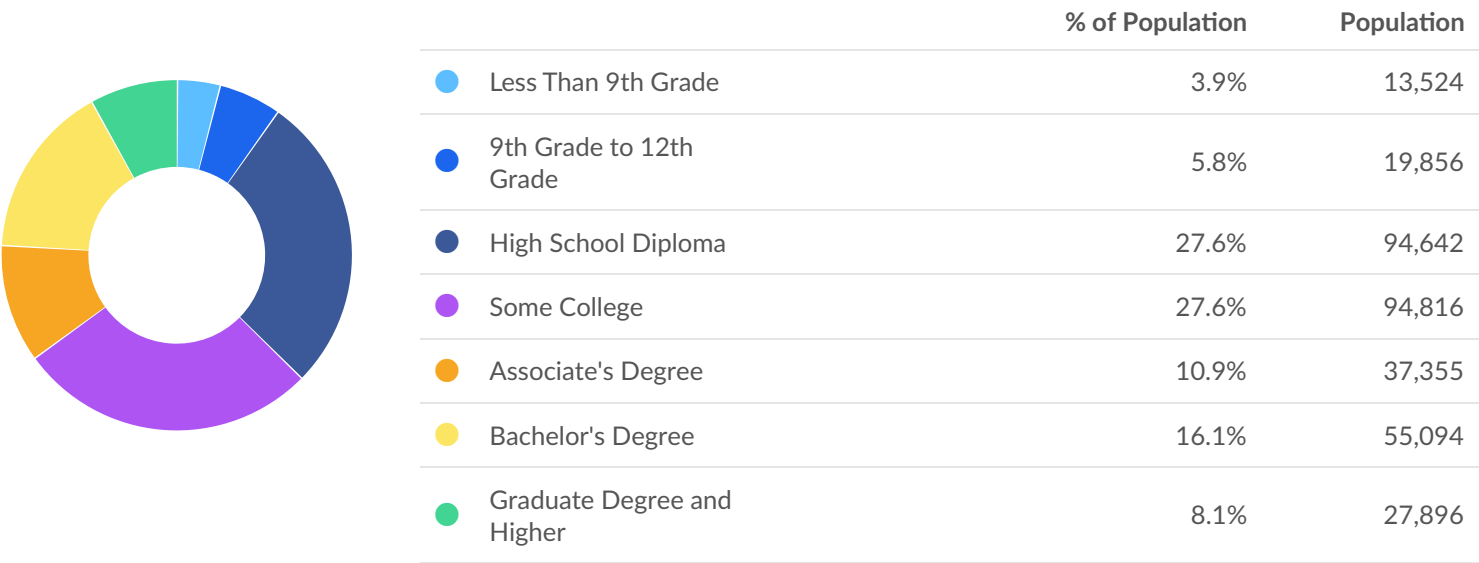
	Population (2023)	Labor Force (Mar 2023)	Jobs (2022)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	554,678	206,992	202,693	97.1	\$25.80B	\$41.74B	\$48.82B
Austin-Round Rock- Georgetown, TX	2,482,032	1,444,122	1,307,256	97.0	\$218.75B	\$151.15B	\$192.83B
Longview, TX	290,475	129,062	126,410	92.6	\$17.53B	\$19.79B	\$20.20B

Mar 2023 Labor Force Breakdown



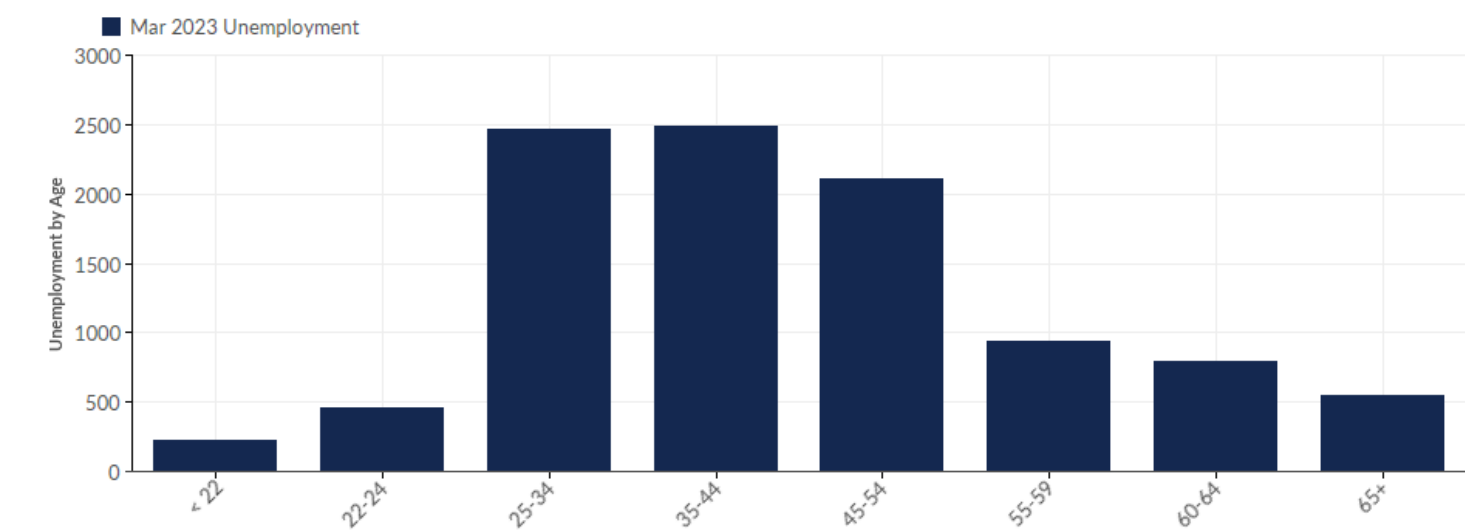
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **16.1% of the selected regions' residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (4.8% below the national average), and **10.9% hold an Associate's Degree** (2.1% above the national average).



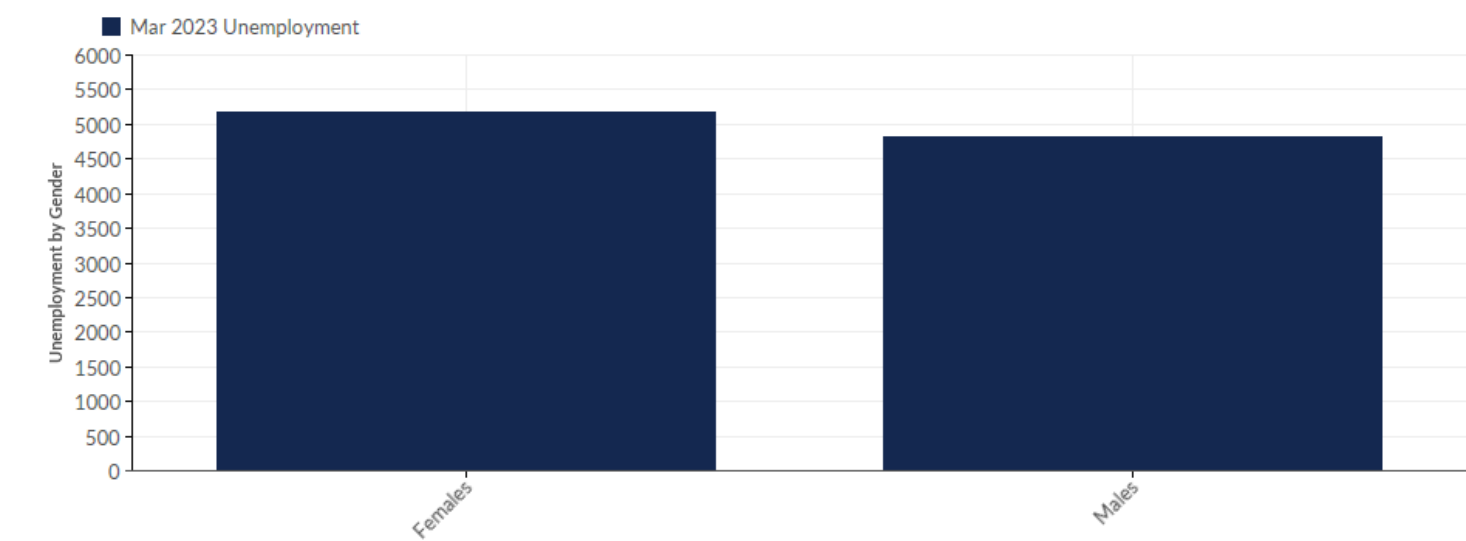
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



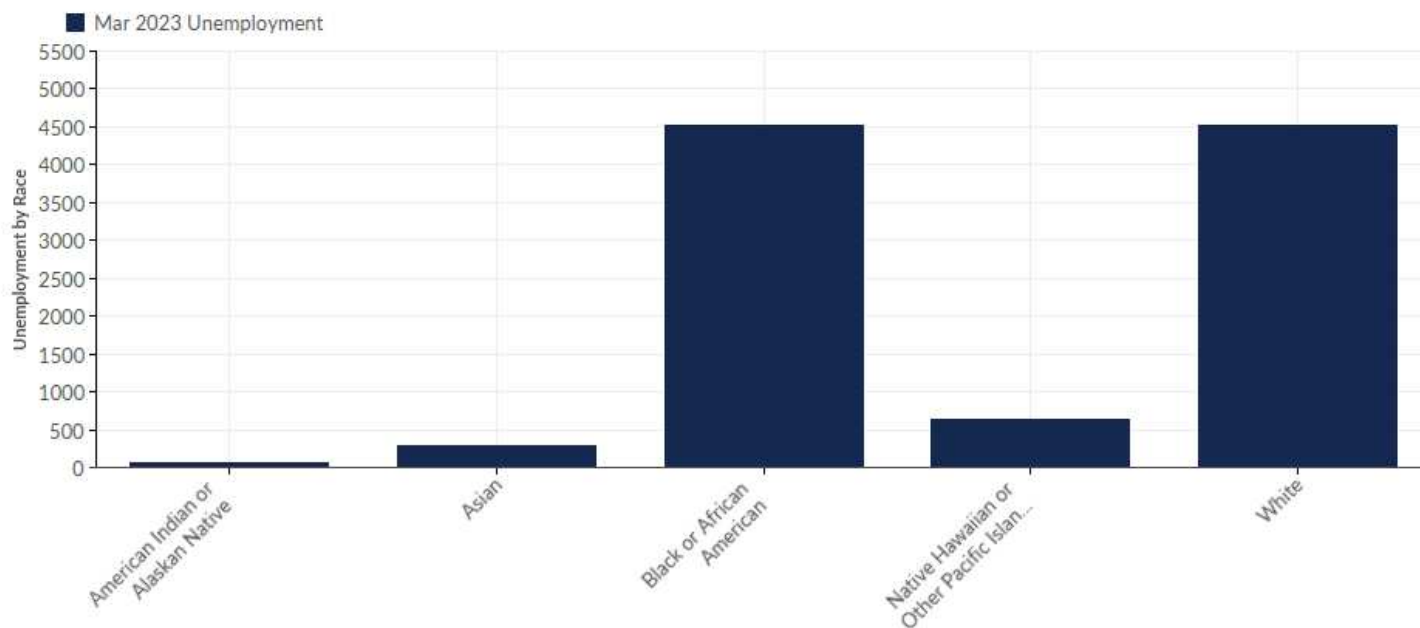
Age	Unemployment (Mar 2023)	% of Unemployed
< 22	218	2.18%
22-24	457	4.57%
25-34	2,468	24.68%
35-44	2,483	24.83%
45-54	2,107	21.07%
55-59	933	9.33%
60-64	793	7.93%
65+	542	5.42%
Total	10,002	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



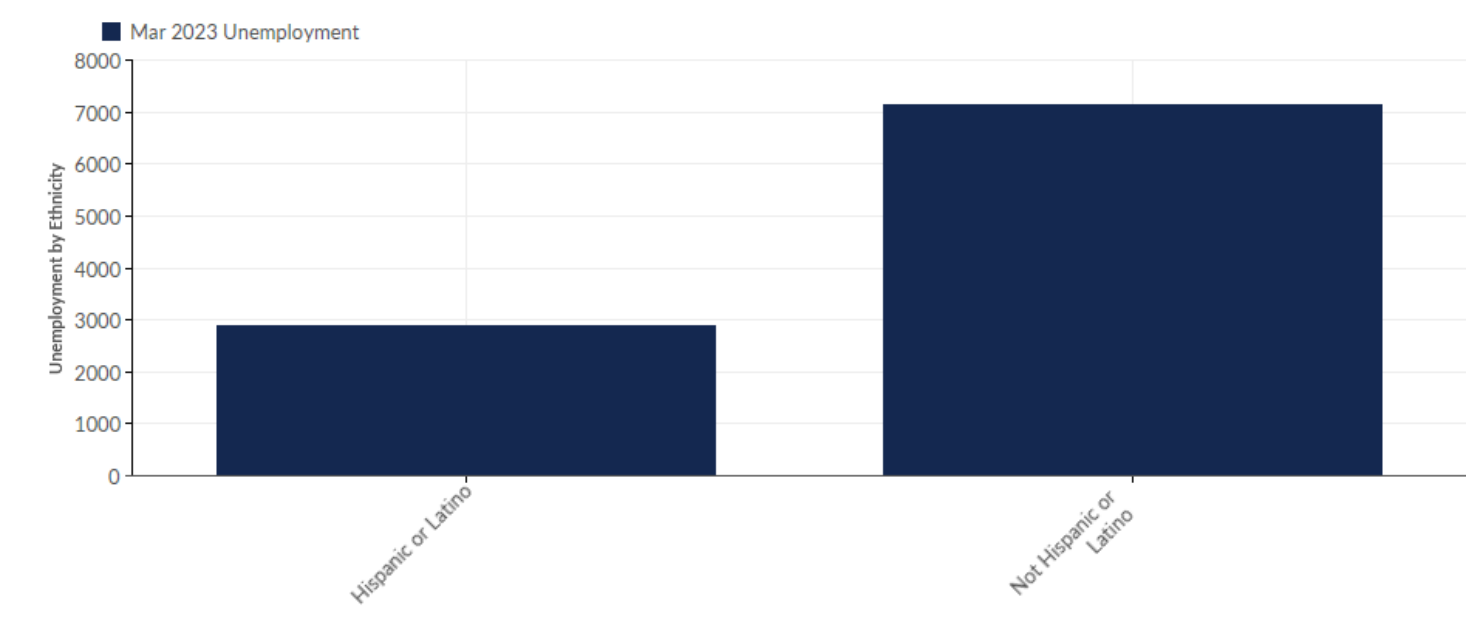
Gender	Unemployment (Mar 2023)	% of Unemployed
Females	5,184	51.83%
Males	4,818	48.17%
Total	10,002	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Mar 2023)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	65	0.65%
Asian	283	2.83%
Black or African American	4,514	45.13%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	629	6.29%
White	4,511	45.10%
Total	10,002	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

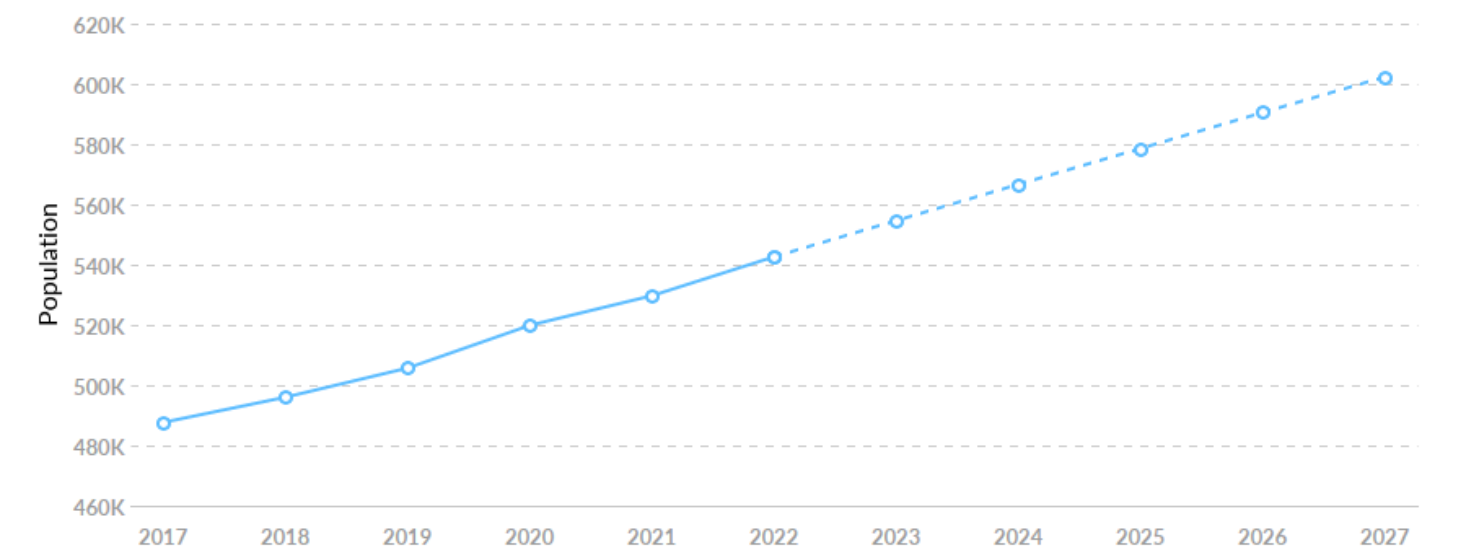


Ethnicity	Unemployment (Mar 2023)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino	2,873	28.72%
Not Hispanic or Latino	7,129	71.28%
Total	10,002	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

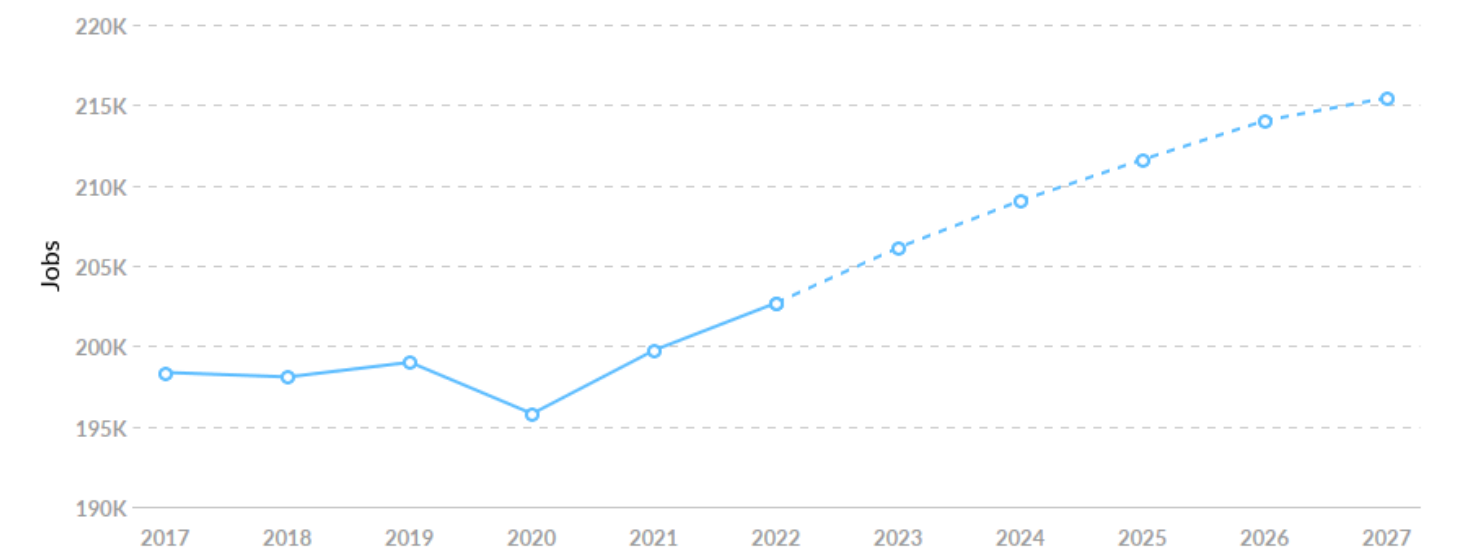
As of 2022 the region's population **increased by 11.3%** since 2017, growing by 54,997. Population is expected to **increase by 11.0%** between 2022 and 2027, adding 59,690.



Timeframe	Population
2017	487,673
2018	496,040
2019	505,732
2020	519,907
2021	529,743
2022	542,670
2023	554,678
2024	566,703
2025	578,615
2026	590,562
2027	602,360

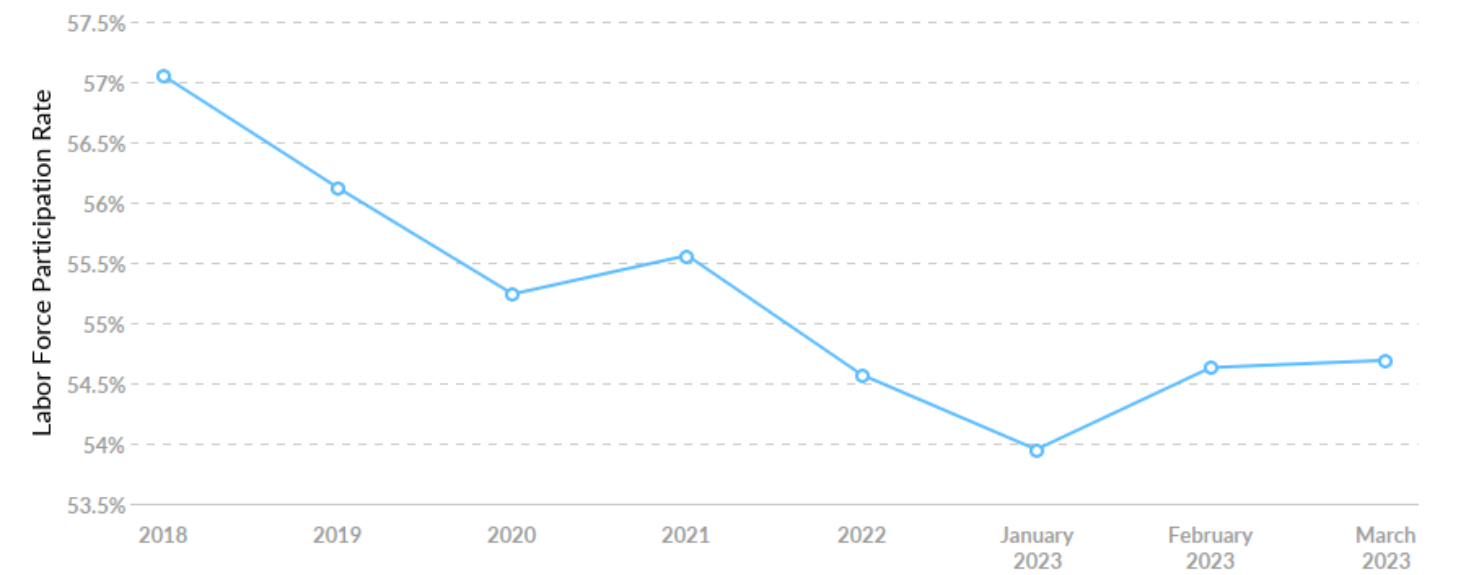
Job Trends

From 2017 to 2022, jobs increased by 2.2% in 7 Texas Counties from 198,355 to 202,693. This change fell short of the national growth rate of 3.4% by 1.2%.



Timeframe	Jobs
2017	198,355
2018	198,076
2019	198,988
2020	195,789
2021	199,743
2022	202,693
2023	206,137
2024	209,058
2025	211,615
2026	214,032
2027	215,453

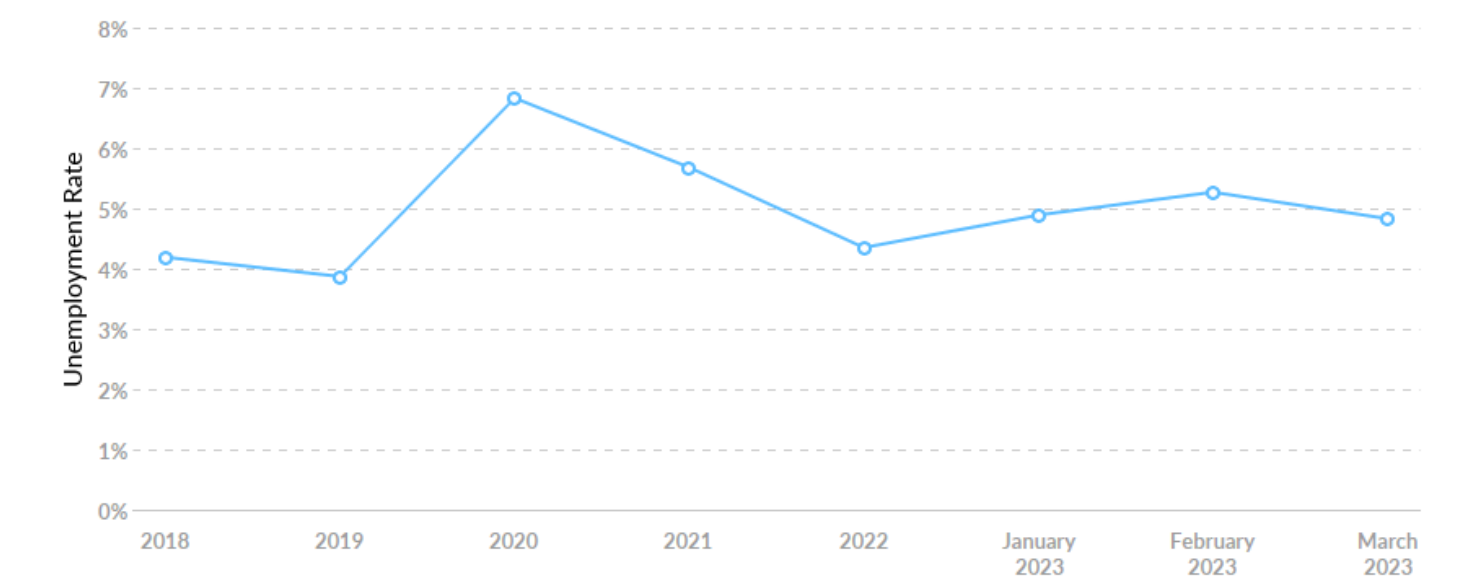
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2018	57.05%
2019	56.12%
2020	55.24%
2021	55.56%
2022	54.57%
January 2023	53.95%
February 2023	54.63%
March 2023	54.69%

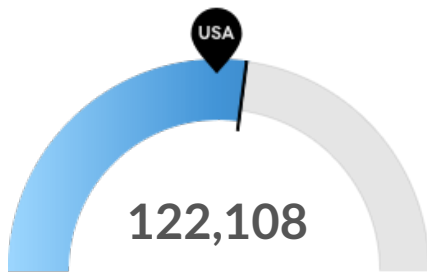
Unemployment Rate Trends

Your areas had a March 2023 unemployment rate of 4.83%,**increasing from 4.19%** 5 years before.



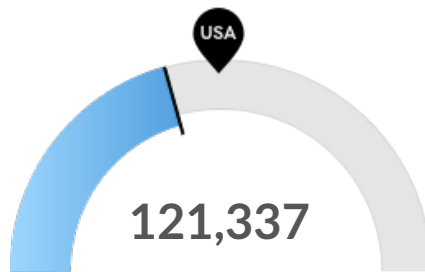
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2018	4.19%
2019	3.87%
2020	6.83%
2021	5.68%
2022	4.35%
January 2023	4.89%
February 2023	5.27%
March 2023	4.83%

Population Characteristics



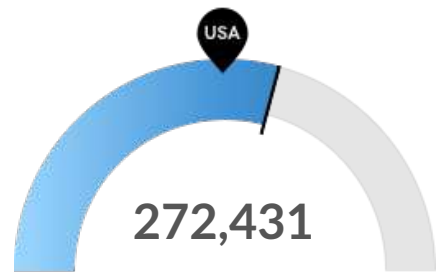
Millennials

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



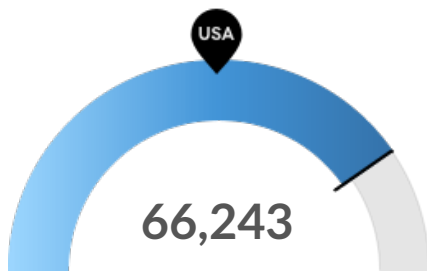
Retiring Soon

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.



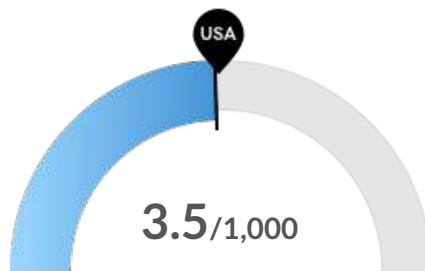
Racial Diversity

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.



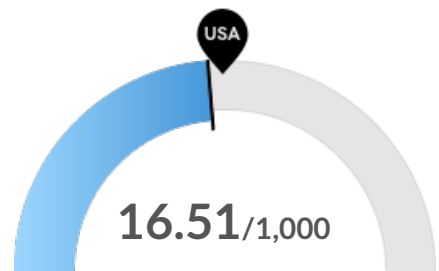
Veterans

Your area has 66,243 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 27,822.



Violent Crime

Your area has 3.5 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.59 per 1,000 people.

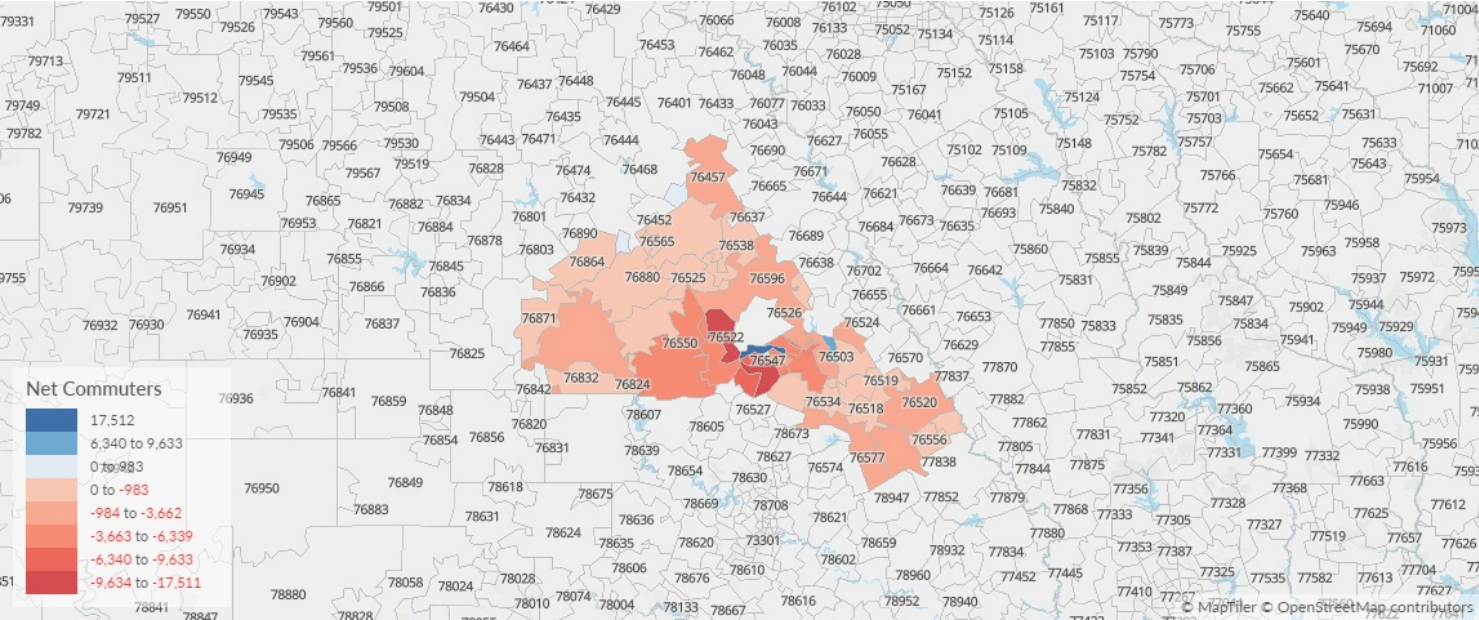


Property Crime

Your area has 16.51 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 17.8 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

ZIP	Name	2022 Employment
76544	Fort Hood, TX (in Bell c...	24,400
76549	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	19,636
76504	Temple, TX (in Bell coun...	17,693
76542	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	17,284
76502	Temple, TX (in Bell coun...	15,331

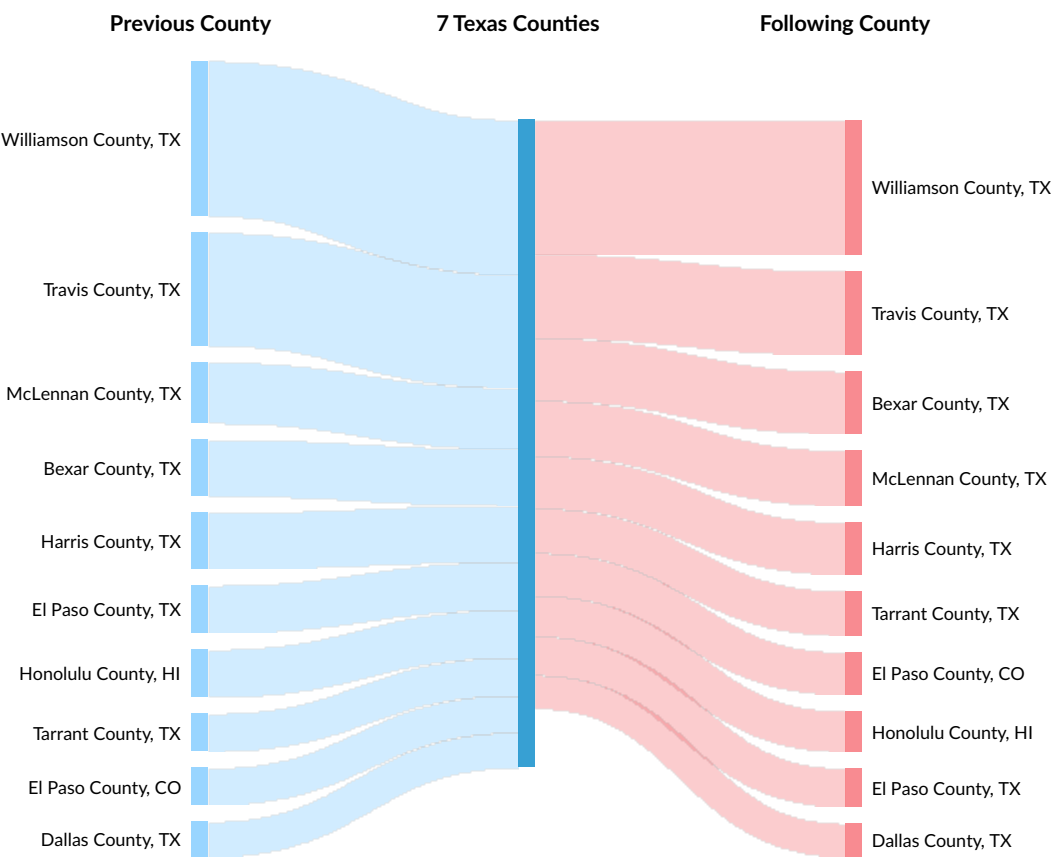
Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2022 Workers
76542	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	27,476
76549	Killeen, TX (in Bell coun...	26,542
76522	Copperas Cove, TX (in C...	19,146
76513	Belton, TX (in Bell count...	18,069
76502	Temple, TX (in Bell coun...	17,820

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.

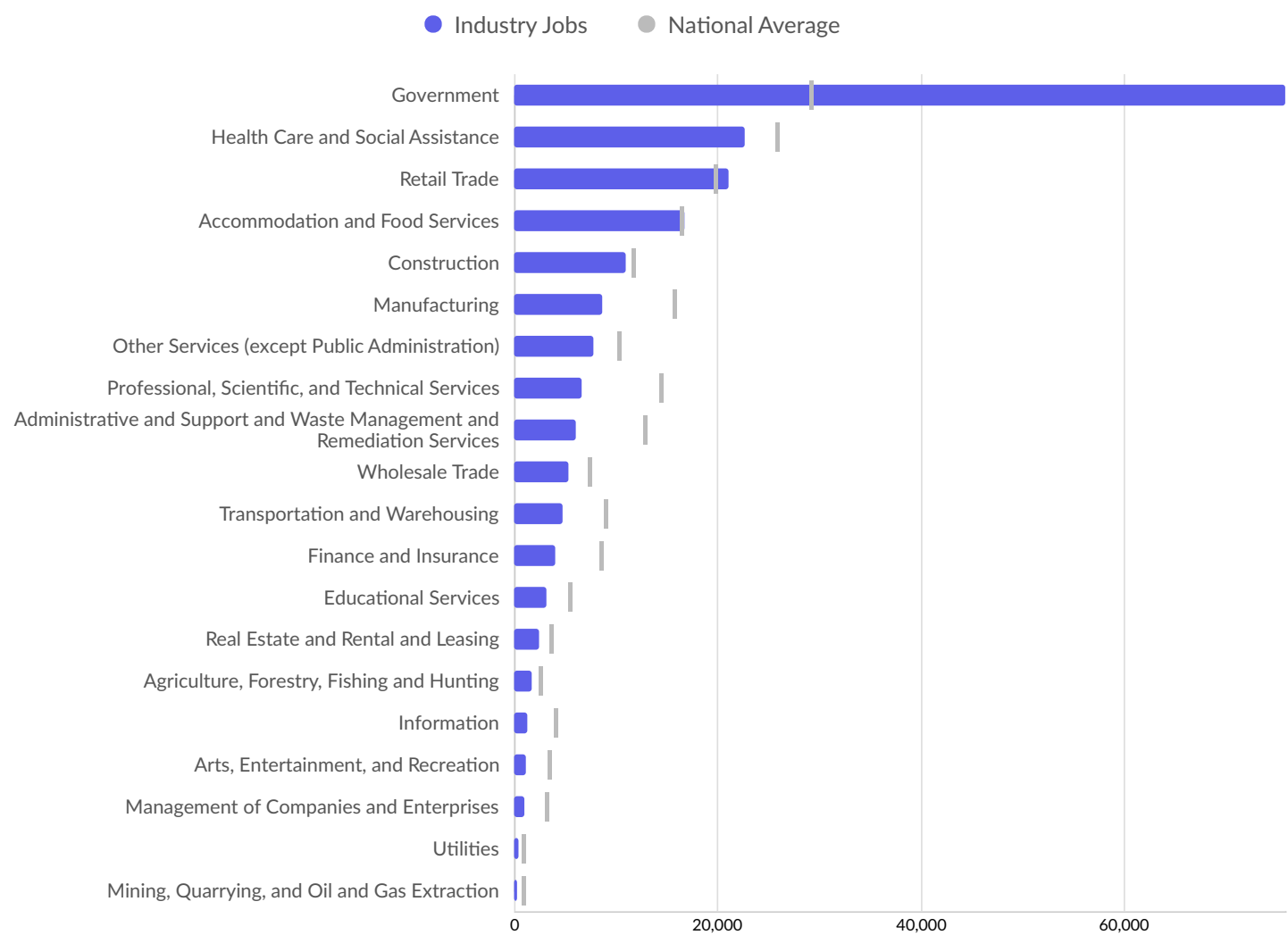


Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Williamson County, TX	2,551
Travis County, TX	1,865
McLennan County, TX	1,005
Bexar County, TX	931
Harris County, TX	930
El Paso County, TX	787

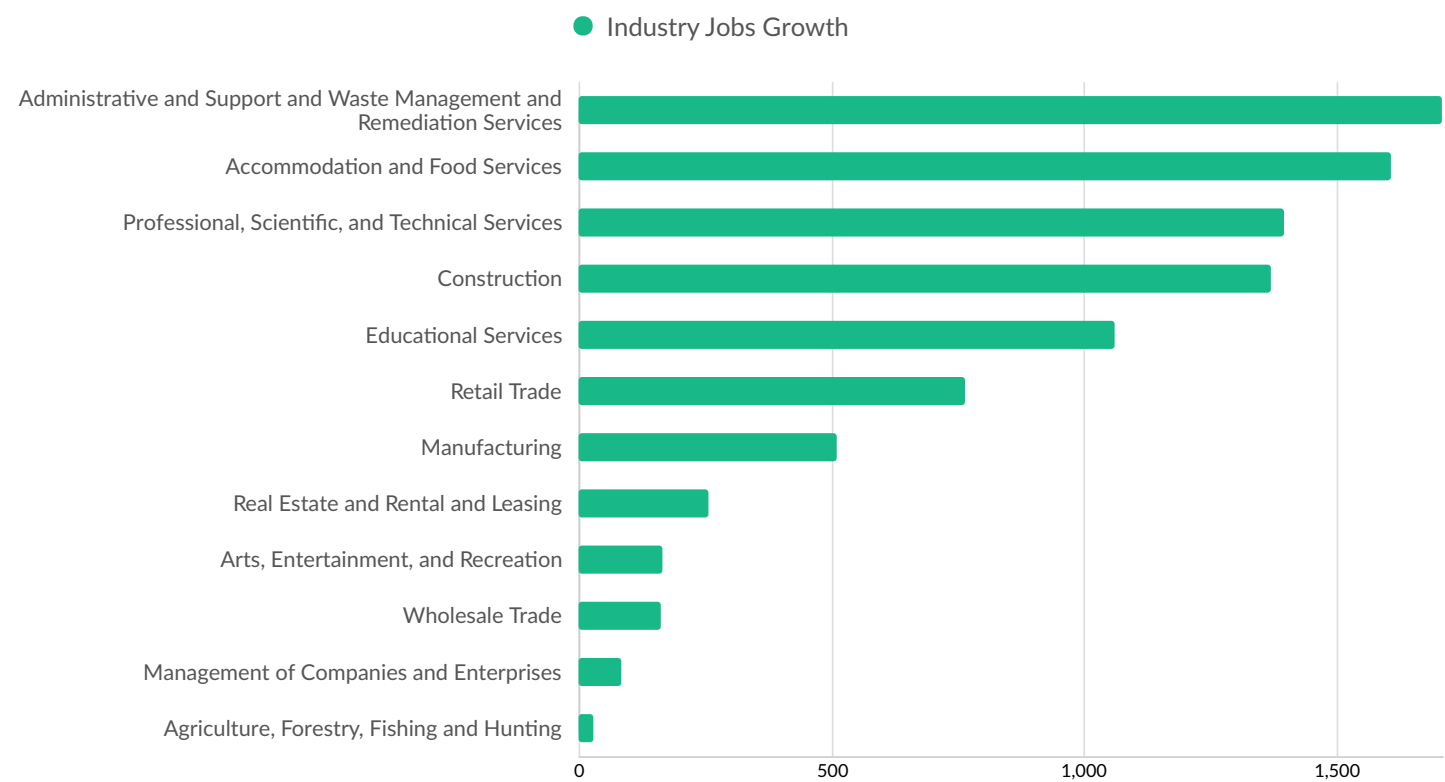
Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Honolulu County, HI	784
Tarrant County, TX	626
El Paso County, CO	611
Dallas County, TX	582
Pierce County, WA	549
Cumberland County, NC	457
Los Angeles County, CA	393
San Diego County, CA	321
Jefferson County, NY	318
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Williamson County, 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

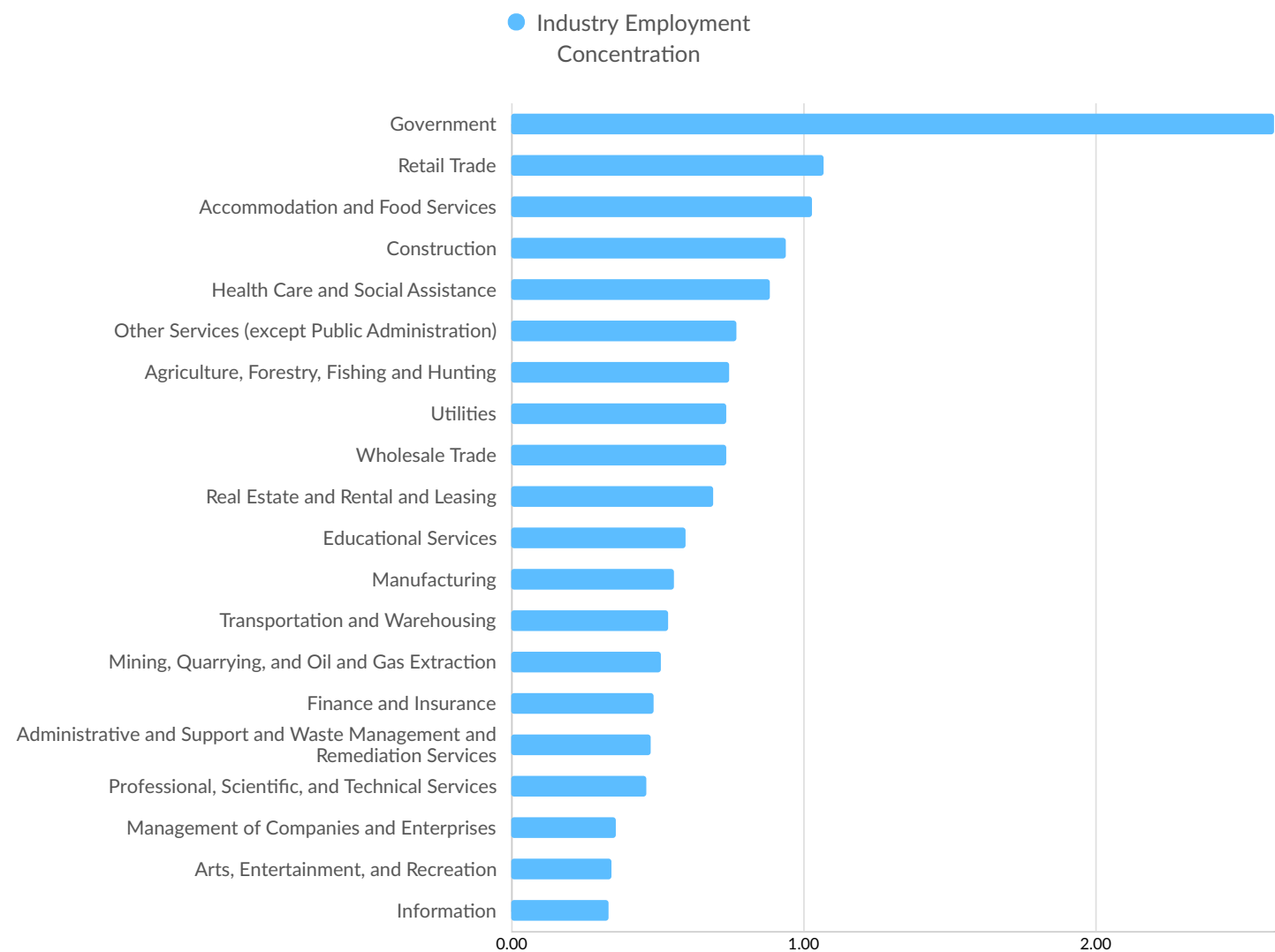
Largest Industries



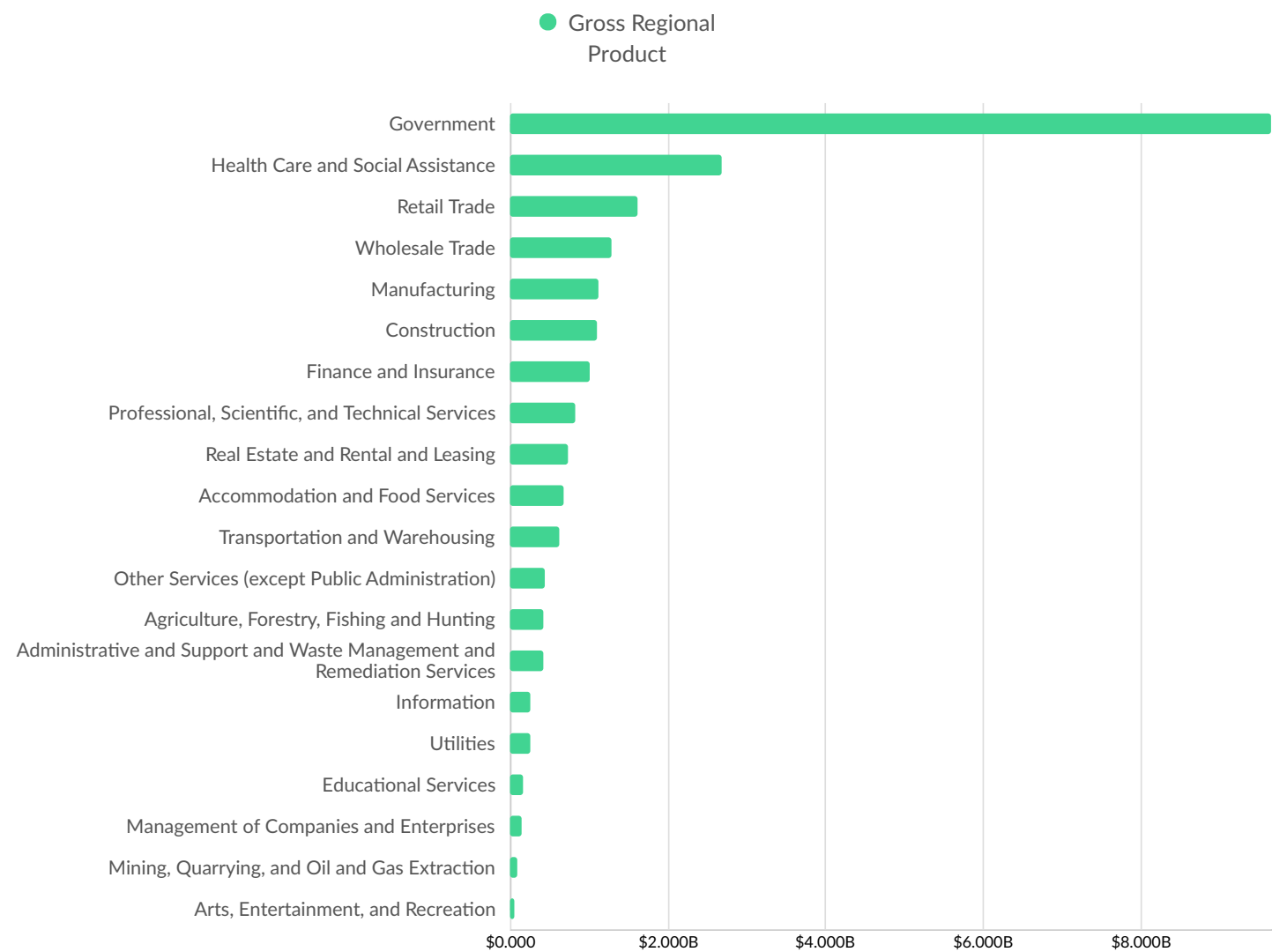
Top Growing Industries



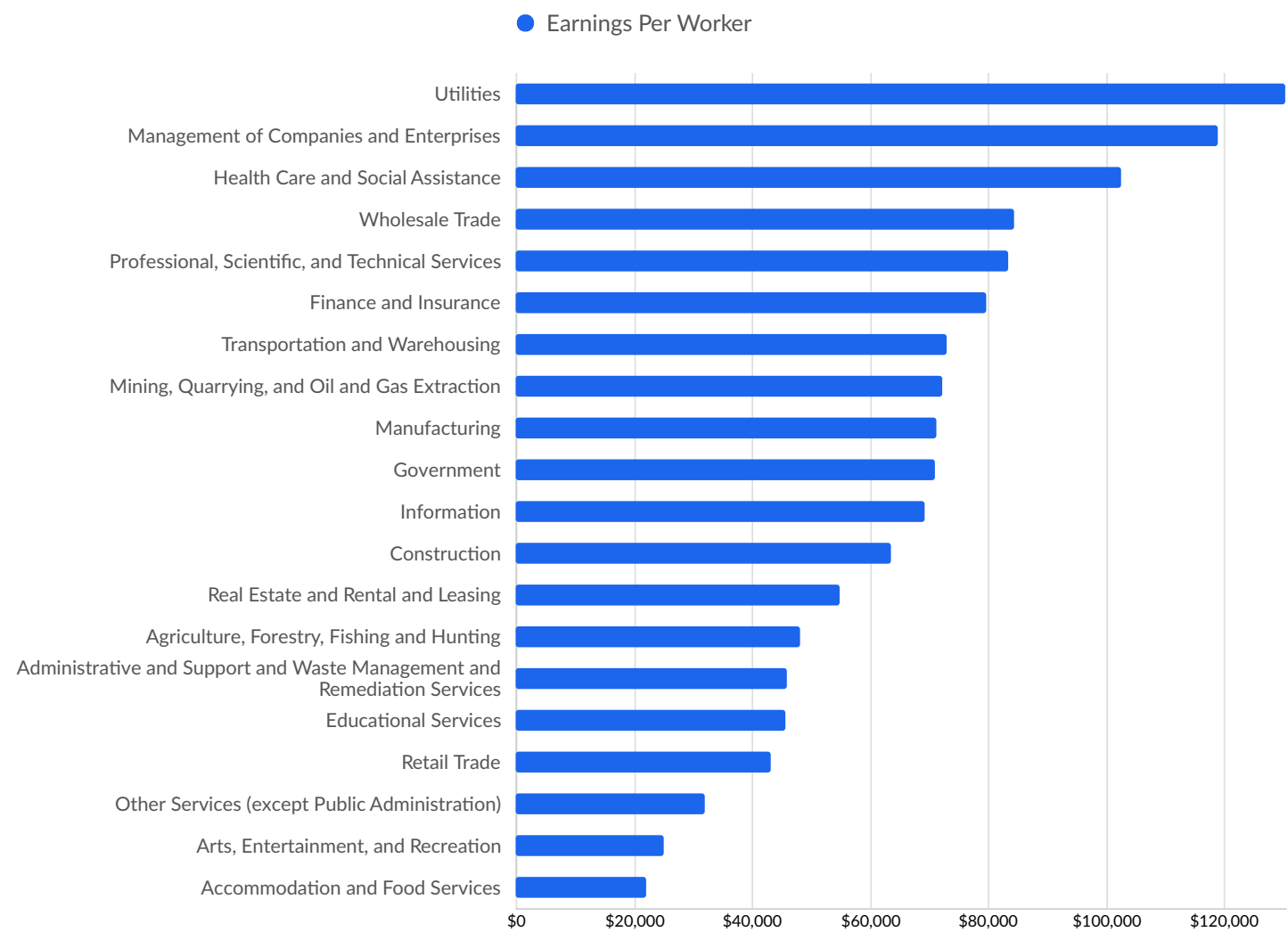
Top Industry Employment Concentration



Top Industry GRP



Top Industry Earnings



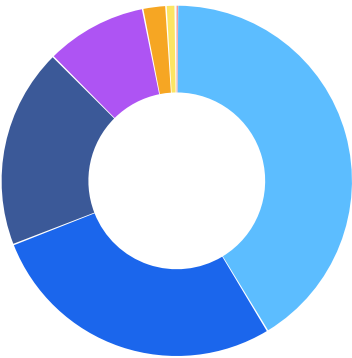
Business Characteristics

30,162 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 30,162 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 4,712 companies in your area posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles	Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
U.S. Army	16,977 	Baylor Scott & White Health	2,580 
Baylor Scott & White Health	4,379 	Clarence Edison Fikes Company	858 
Killeen Isd	3,073 	State Of Texas	694 
Walmart	1,099 	AdventHealth	682 
United States Department of Ve...	1,085 	United States Department of Ve...	671 
State Of Texas	876 	H-E-B	484 
Central Texas College	839 	McLane Company	481 
McLane Company	698 	Walmart	459 
Belton Isd	671 	Central Texas College	456 
Texas A&M University	584 	Seton Medical Center Harker He...	401 

Business Size

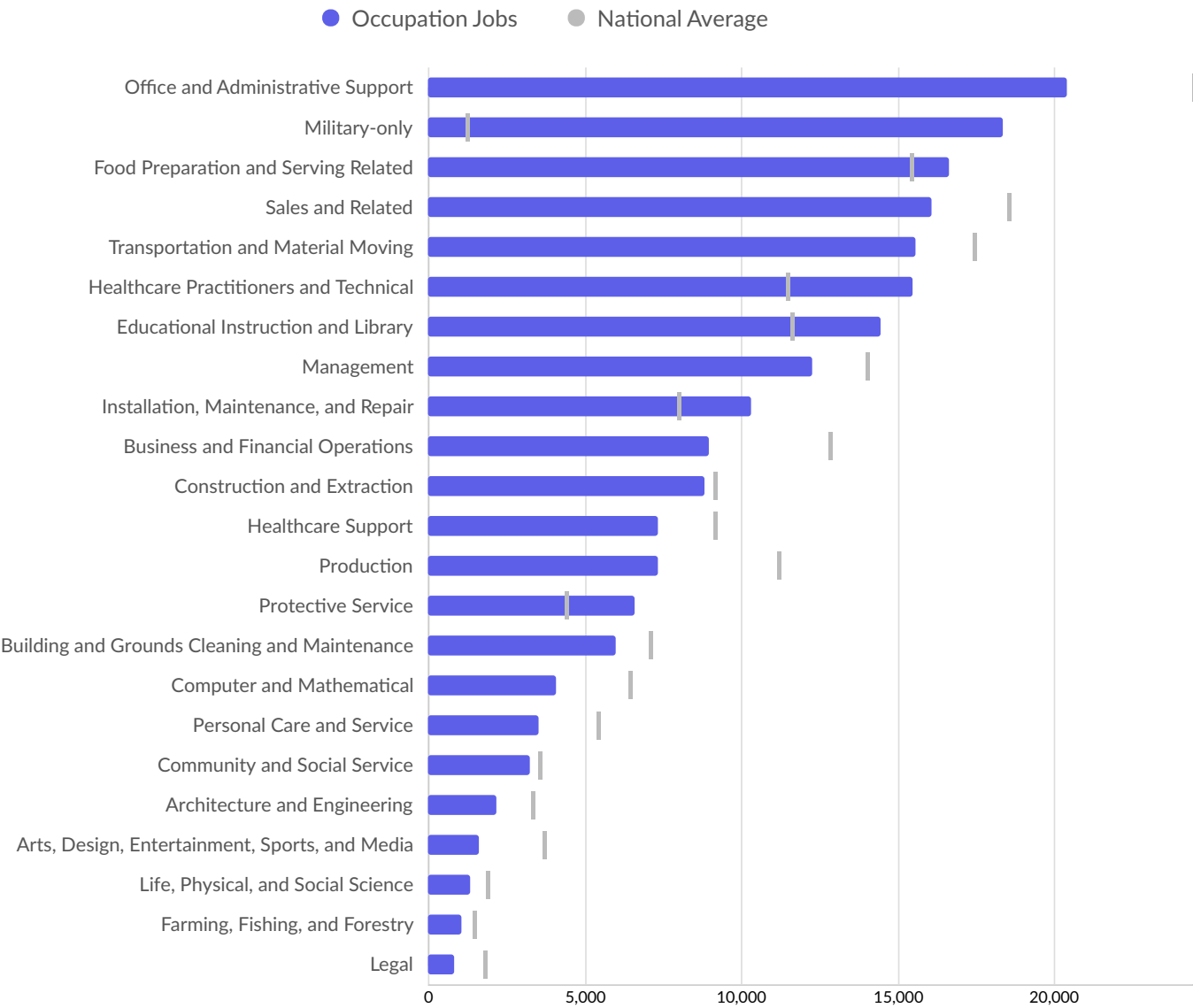


	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	41.3%	6,367
5 to 9 employees	27.7%	4,280
10 to 19 employees	18.5%	2,847
20 to 49 employees	9.3%	1,441
50 to 99 employees	2.1%	330
100 to 249 employees	0.8%	130
250 to 499 employees	0.1%	23
500+ employees	0.1%	10

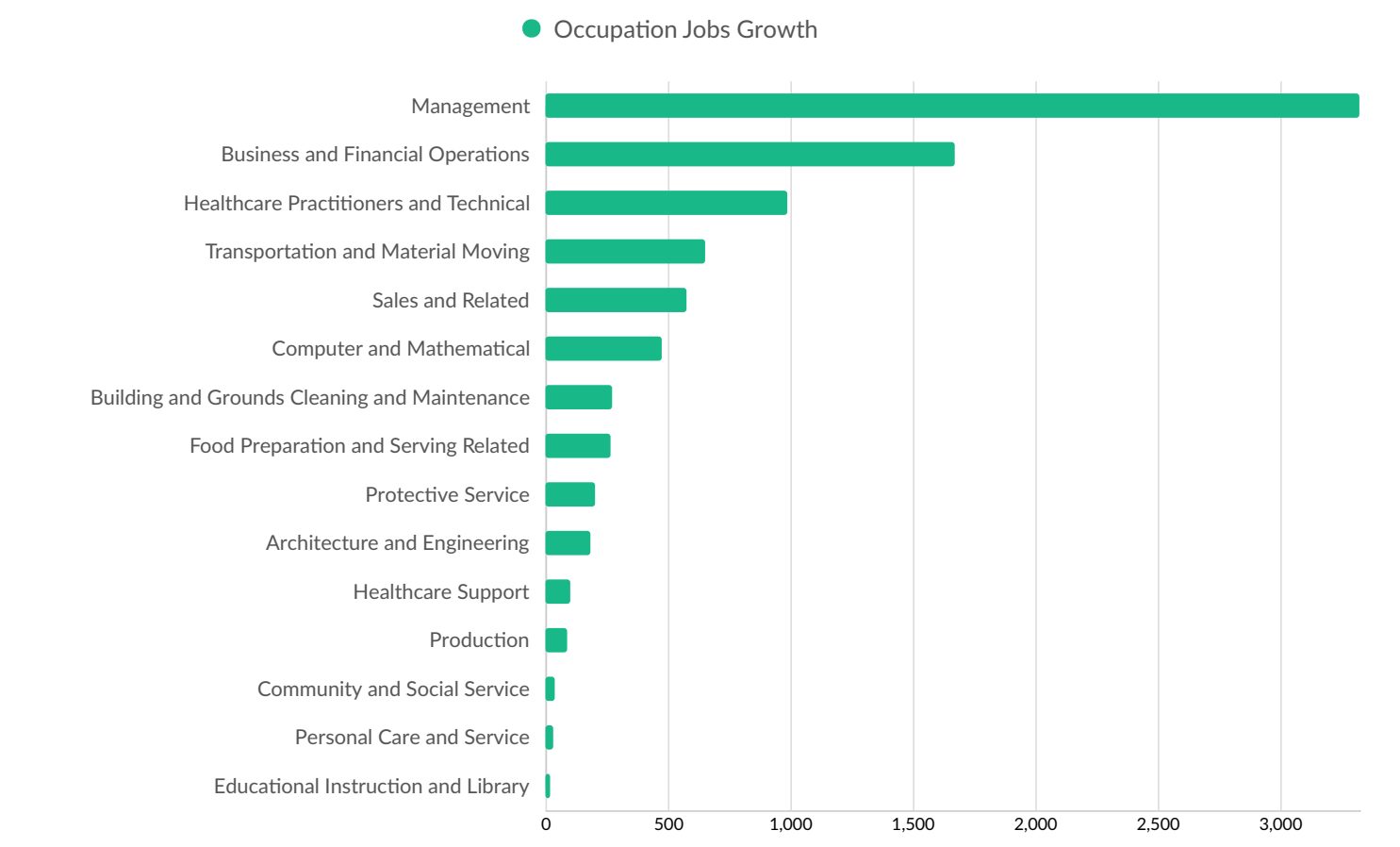
**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on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

Workforce Characteristics

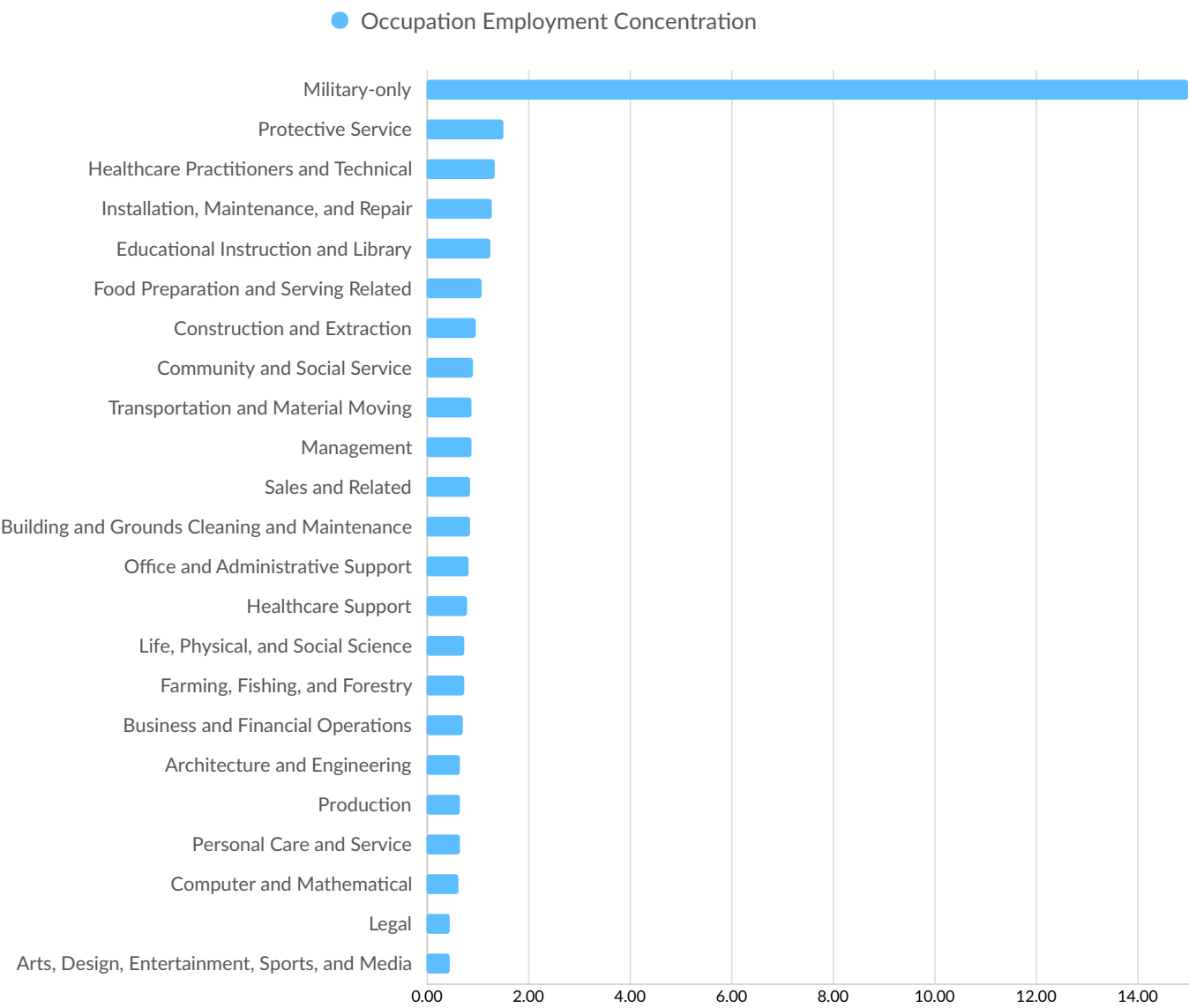
Largest Occupations



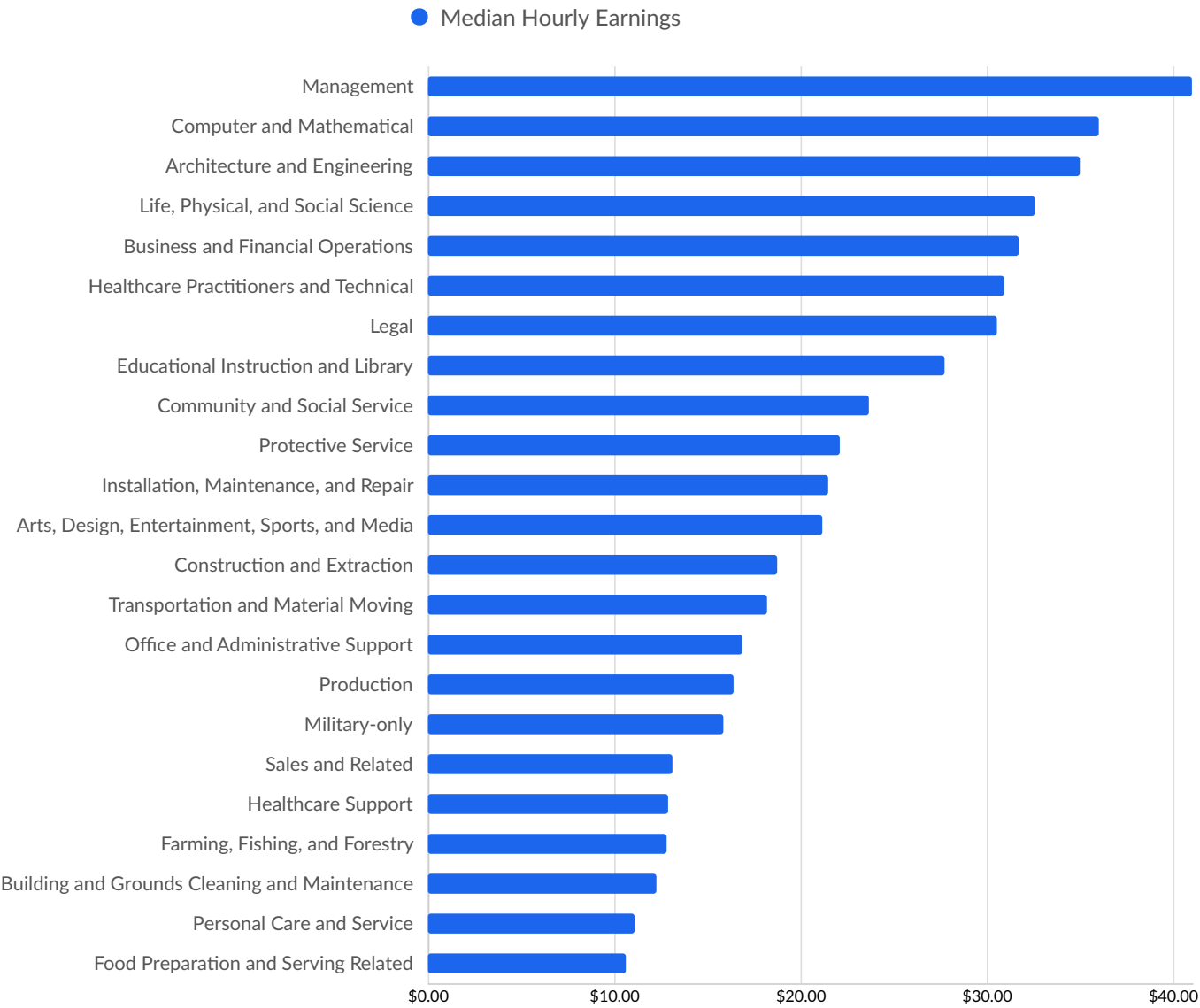
Top Growing Occupations



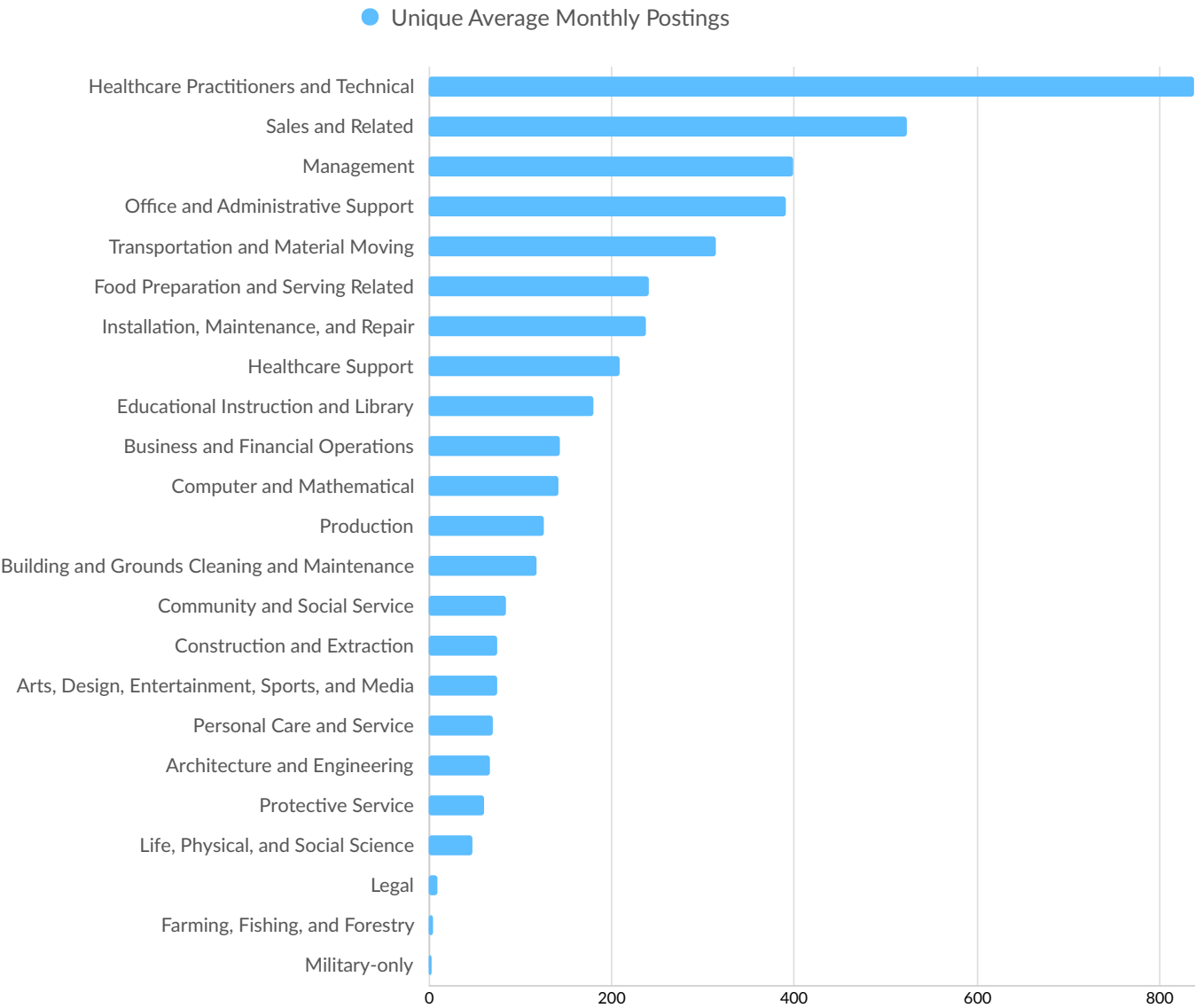
Top Occupation Employment Concentration



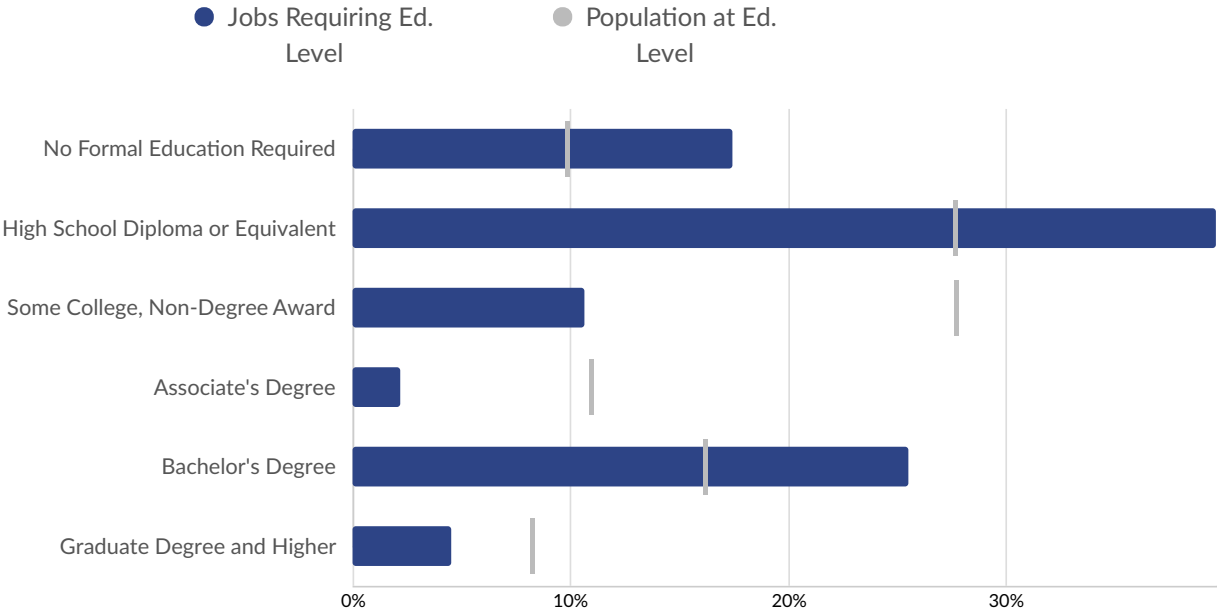
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations

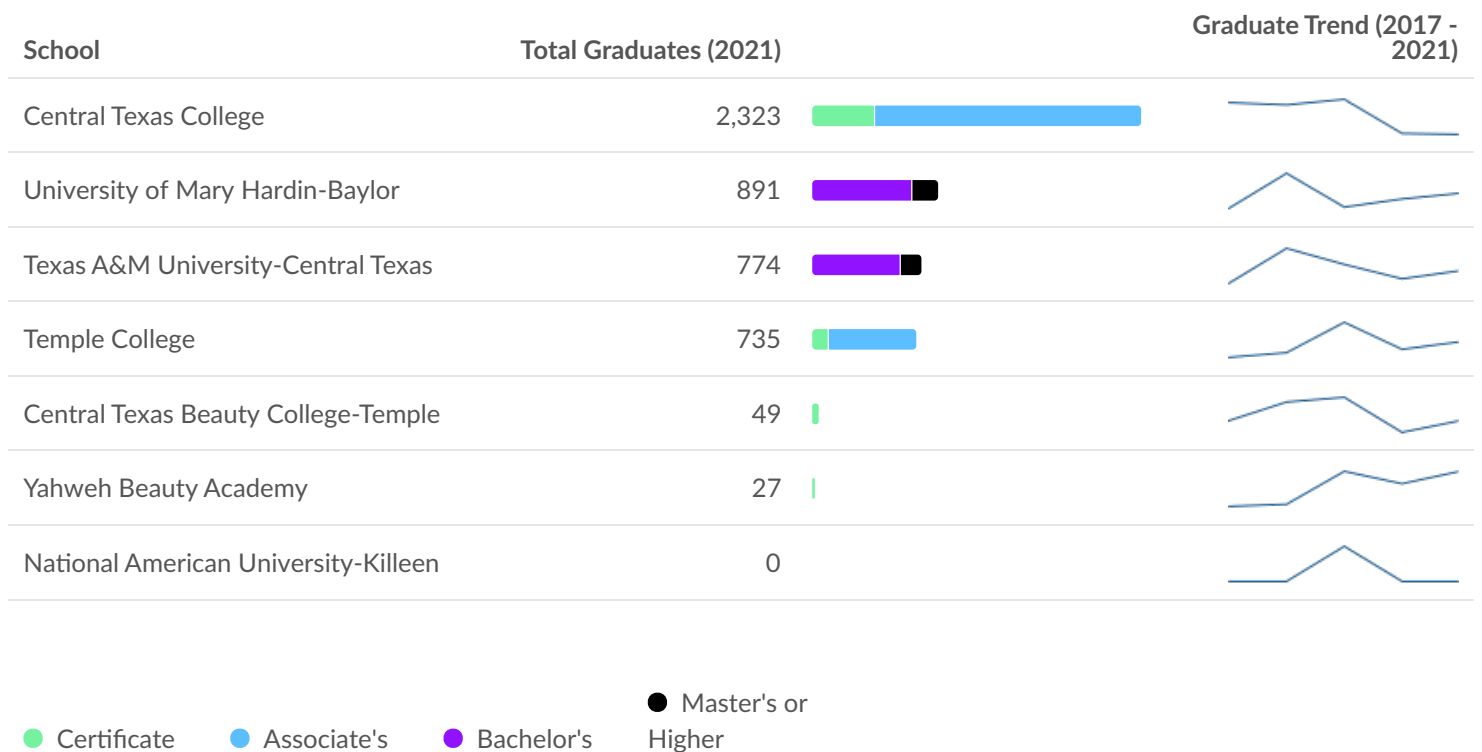


Underemployment

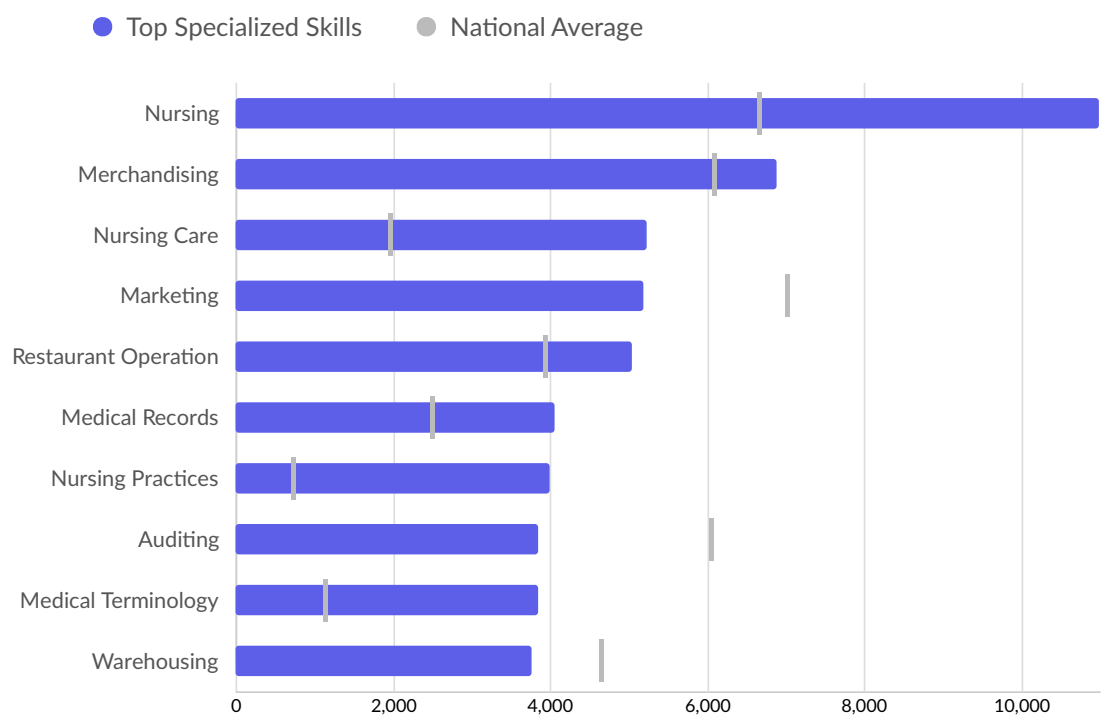


Educational Pipeline

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" (Associate's), "Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies" (Associate's), and "Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse" (Bachelor's).



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, April 6, 2023—9:30 AM

Board Members Present:

Jamie LaDuke: Hamilton EDC
Ted Gonzalez: Central Texas College
Dean Roome: Bartlett Municipal Development District
Cheri Shepherd: Gatesville Convention and Visitor's Bureau
Jim Gibson: Rockdale Municipal Development District
Jason Johnson: JJ Realty Group
Ginger Watkins: Cameron Industrial Foundation

Others Present:

Anna Barge: CTCOG
Dominic Elizondo: CTCOG
Hope Geiger: KTMPO
Connie Quinto: CTCOG
Anita Janke: KTMPO

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Ginger Watkins, Chair of the Board, at 9:30 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 advertising of the Discover Central Texas website and social media, administration and application for EDA and TxCDBG Community Development Fund grants, and the Central Texas Public Transportation Summit. Mr. Elizondo also provided economic updates for Q1 2023, noting that the unemployment rate for the region had been dropping three consecutive quarters.

4. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 5th, 2023 Meeting.

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

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

Two new members were before the Board for approval-Dexter Morris, the city manager of the city of Mullin, and Stacey Ybarra, the economic development director for Lampasas.

Cheri Shepherd made a motion to approve their applications to the Board, and Jim Gibson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of 2023 Leadership Central Texas Applications

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of the Leadership Central Texas and Rural Internship programs advertising, including \$1000 spent on Facebook boosting for advertisement posts, emails sent out to regional contacts, and public notices posted in county courthouses. Mr. Elizondo noted that the list of applications were in the packet. 14 applications were received, which was 6 higher than the 8 received for 2022. Dean Roome made a motion to approve the applications, and it was seconded by Ted Gonzalez; The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding Approval of 2023 Rural Internship Program Applications

Dominic Elizondo explained that at the last meeting the Board approved up to two applications for the Program, but if there were more then they would approve based on funding availability from the EDA planning grant budget. Mr. Elizondo showed that if three applications were approved, the Other line item would run out of funds for advertising Discover Central Texas the week of Nov.15-22, but the DDCT would receive a new EDA planning grant for 2024-26 beginning January 2024. The three applicants were the Hamilton EDC, San Saba EDC and Chamber, and the San Saba Chamber for social media marketing and event planning. Ted Gonzalez made a motion to approve the applications, seconded by Jim Gibson; Ginger Watkins and Jamie LaDuke abstained, with the rest of the Board voting to successfully pass the motion.

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

Dominic Elizondo discussed how the Board decided at the CEDS workshop in January to continue discussions on coordinating implementation of CEDS objectives and strategies and metrics to measure success by changing the CEDS agenda item to be a mini-workshop focusing on one objective at a time rather than a staff update on implementation with input from the Board on what to change or new actions to take. The objective the Board was tasked with discussing was to “Develop a strong regionally-based business marketing effort.” Mr. Elizondo demonstrated that staff had addressed the strategy to “Develop a regional brand and marketing plan and unified business attraction messaging effort” by adding industry, workforce, demographic, educational attainment, median income, and other economic data to the CTCOG and DDCT website, including through a Community Profiles document which highlighted the economic assets (e.g. is the city in an Opportunity or Enterprise Zone, what tax incentives are available for new businesses?) of all 32 cities in the region. Mr. Elizondo noted that a previous idea for this strategy at the workshop was to incorporate this data and information into a business section of Discover Central Texas, and opened the floor for any discussion on implementation and metrics for the strategy.

Ted Gonzalez asked how Central Texas was being defined as he discovered that there were different places designated as Central Texas by different entities, and Dominic Elizondo said that it was based off of the CTCOG and DDCT regional designations. Jim Gibson asked if there was any way to rebrand the region to distinguish it from the Greater Central Texas

region, and Mr. Gonzalez said that the greater investment and resulting business ecosystem from Temple to Copperas Cove and surrounding areas is apparent, and that the region's access to rail and proximity to the coastline as well as Fort Hood makes it an attraction. Mr. Elizondo asked if there were any thoughts on how to disseminate or centralize the economic and industry data for the region to market. Ginger Watkins said that without the budget to build a new website, including the data as a link on the Discover Central Texas website would be beneficial and that there is somewhat of a duplication of data, particularly demographic data that is duplicated. Ms. Watkins suggested that the data be centralized and merged so that it is linked to one place. The Board discussed different ideas for branding the region differently based on the centrality theme already used by different COGs and development districts. Jason Johnson noted that with the region's rail, airports and I-35 corridor it makes more sense for the DDCT region to be the Heart of Texas than other regions. Cheri Shepherd noted that the Community Profiles document did not link to EDCs and chambers for every city and Mr. Elizondo said that he would add that, and that the Board should let him know if there is any information in the document to edit or add. Dexter Morris added that Mills County also markets itself as the "True Center" of Texas. Ms. Watkins added that perhaps Discover Central Texas should indicate its association with CTCOG and DDCT so that the reason it is these seven counties is understood. Mr. Gonzalez mentioned that through his work he found that foreign companies had confusion over where they thought Central Texas was located. Mr. Johnson said maybe the branding can be centered around a unifying theme, such as how cities are branded "The music capital of ____."

Ginger Watkins noted that the Opportunity Zone and regional tourism effort strategies under the objective were complete or ongoing, but that the Fort Hood talent base marketing was a strategy that should be incorporated with the business attraction. Dominic Elizondo said that the unifying theme for the region could be the military talent base. Mr. Gonzalez said that businesses he sees that have a difficult time hiring employees turn to veterans since they are used to working in harsh conditions and dealing with responsibilities.

Dean Roome asked if staff had looked at what other regions are doing as far as marketing their region and if there is any avenue for doing a combined marketing effort. Dominic Elizondo said that staff had not directly cooperated with other COGs on projects, but would look at if there is any possibility for collaboration on marketing for the broader Central Texas region.

Ginger Watkins said that the TAP has good information regarding veteran talent. Anna Barge said that staff needed a good contact for the TAP and innovative ideas for working with Fort Hood. Ms. Watkins said the best partners for working with Fort Hood would be the Killeen Chamber.

Dominic Elizondo provided an overview of audience engagement and insights for Discover Central Texas, noting that the audience was largely women 35-54 located in Temple, Killeen, and out of region cities. The ads have reached 39,000 people and the Facebook advertisement has received 937 engagements, with the page receiving 1600 page likes over 60 days.

The next CEDS objective the DDCT Board will cover will be "Strengthen the conditions for growth of new and existing businesses."

9. Discussion Item: Regarding Furthering TDA and TDHCA Fair Housing Efforts

Dominic Elizondo explained that CTCOG was a recipient of TDA Community Economic Development Assistance Funds (CEDAF), and one of the eligible expenses for the funding was holding a fair housing event. The fair housing event can be a Board discussion of implementing and supporting fair housing efforts, so Mr. Elizondo provided a presentation on the Fair Housing Act and ways in which communities that receive TxCDBG funds must and ways non-recipients can further fair housing efforts in their communities, including by passing a fair housing resolution, including fair housing in the city code, and hosting a workshop for property owners. Mr. Elizondo asked what fair housing measures Board members have seen implemented in their city, what they might try and implement in the future, and what barriers they may see to fair housing in their community. Jason Johnson said that the biggest barrier Morgan's Point Resort faces is that most properties are on septic and there are lots that can't be used because of it. Dexter Morris said that Mullin's biggest issue is the complete lack of affordable housing; it is difficult to address fair housing if the supply is not there in the first place. Jamie LaDuke noted that Hamilton had 77 lots but they have no infrastructure for city utilities, so cannot yet be used for housing. Mr. Johnson said that when it comes to fair housing one of the biggest issues low opportunity people face is that for most of the loans they are able to obtain to purchase homes the house has to be in good shape. There may be homes available but low-income people will not be able to afford a conventional mortgage and options such as FHA loans will not cover dilapidated properties. Mr. Johnson suggested cities provide an opportunity for sellers to fix their house with an incentive, and that that would massively improve the supply of affordable housing. Stacey Ybarra suggested compiling a list of dilapidated properties in a city and ensuring that a property is up to code or otherwise would qualify for loans for low income people. Jim Gibson stated that fair housing was a little different from affordable housing, and that many cities simply pass a resolution recognizing Fair Housing Month. Dominic Elizondo said that affordable housing was definitely a topic that needs to be addressed and could be in conjunction with fair housing; cities can add a fair housing component to their city code to be able to have the issue addressed whenever their affordable housing efforts bring in more low income/opportunity buyers and leasers. Ted Gonzalez asked if CTCOG took the lead on implementing fair housing efforts or cities and counties, and Dominic Elizondo said it would be entirely up to cities and counties though CTCOG disseminates information on what activities could help in those efforts and what resources are available, as well as declare Fair Housing Month for April. Ted Gonzalez said that when he first moved into the area around Baylor the city had passed a law helping homeowners secure a certain mortgage interest rate, and it helped him and others in deciding to live there. Cheri Shepherd said that in her community there are a lot of landlords that own one or two properties that sometimes are not professional and aware of fair housing laws. Ms. Shepherd asked if there are some resources to tap into for consultants to use to conduct Fair Housing workshops, and Mr. Elizondo said that he would look into it to provide for the Board, but the city is able to run those workshops themselves as well.

10. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Anna Barge discussed the Texas Broadband Development Office's Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) program, which does not have any DDCT communities eligible to apply based on the state broadband maps, which indicate what Census blocks have less than 25 Mbps/3 Mbps speeds. Ms. Barge noted that Milam County had done a good job of facilitating broadband development, and that there are other broadband resources available for funding.

Jamie LaDuke asked why there were no areas eligible in our region, and Ms. Barge and Dominic Elizondo said that data from the service providers indicated no Census block met the 25 Mbps/3 Mbps threshold and that a dispute process is open for the maps.

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

Anna Barge discussed the opening of the Texas legislature session and several bills of relevance to economic development, including HB 2127 relating to State preemption for regulations on agriculture, finance, labor, and natural resources, SB 42 for allowing call ins to meetings to count for quorum under the Open Meetings Act, HB 3812 for establishing a Texas Infrastructure Fund for water, ports, broadband, highways, toll roads, bridges, aviation, rail and more, SB 28 for additional funding for the Texas Water Development Board.

12. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Grant Opportunities

Dominic Elizondo provided an update on State and Federal grant opportunities and their eligible projects and match, including the TxCDBG Community Development Fund and Downtown Revitalization Program, the EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs, and the USDA Community Connect Grant.

Ted Gonzalez asked what the deadline for the EDA Public Works grant and Dominic Elizondo responded that applications were accepted on an ongoing basis. Mr. Gonzalez asked if CTCOG would be able to assist with applications or working out projects for the grant, and Mr. Elizondo said that staff could definitely assist in any way possible.

13. Board of Directors' Comments.

Ginger Watkins welcomed the two new members to the Board and thanked everyone for coming in person. Dexter Morris thanked the Board and stated that Mullin was working on a five-year plan, and that the DDCT's work went nicely with their efforts. Mr. Morris discussed ranch land being divided up into multi-acre parcels for the development of the city. Jim Gibson noted that Rockdale had been utilizing ChatGPT for a targeted industry analysis. Dominic Elizondo noted that in research for Quiet Zone efficacy ChatGPT provided incorrect or non-existent data, and said that people should be wary of taking information as true every time AI is used. Cheri Shepherd said ChatGPT had provided inaccurate but very fast information for articles as well. Ginger Watkins said she used the Buffer app to post on all social media platforms simultaneously, and it helped saved time in her marketing work for Cameron.

14. Discuss agenda items for next meeting on Thursday, July 6th, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

15. Adjourned at 10:54 AM

Ginger Watkins, DDCT Chair

Uryan Nelson, Planning Director

Item 5:

**Regarding Texas A&M-
Central Texas
Research Park
Presentation**

Regarding Texas A&M-Central Texas Research Park Presentation

Dr. Russell Porter, Vice President for Research, Economic Development, & Innovation at Texas A&M-Central Texas will provide a presentation on the future of the university's Research Park in Killeen.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas



- **Overview**

- ***Texas A&M University-Central Texas:
Research, Economic Development, & Innovation***
- ***Focused Research: Research 2012 to 2023***
- ***University Economic Development Council –
(UEDC) Oversight for University Center for
Applied Research and Engagement (UCARE)***
- ***University Research Park Planning:
OLDCC Grant - Perkins & Will Consultants***
- ***Future Research Park Planning &
Partnerships = Commercialization w/ TAMUS and
Military Transition Plans (CPF 2024)***

Dr. Russ Porter: Deputy Ethics Officer | TAMUS
VP-Research, Economic Development, & Innovation
Professor of Business – Distinguished Graduate Faculty | TAMUCT



Texas A&M University-Central Texas: Focused Research 2012 to 2023

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

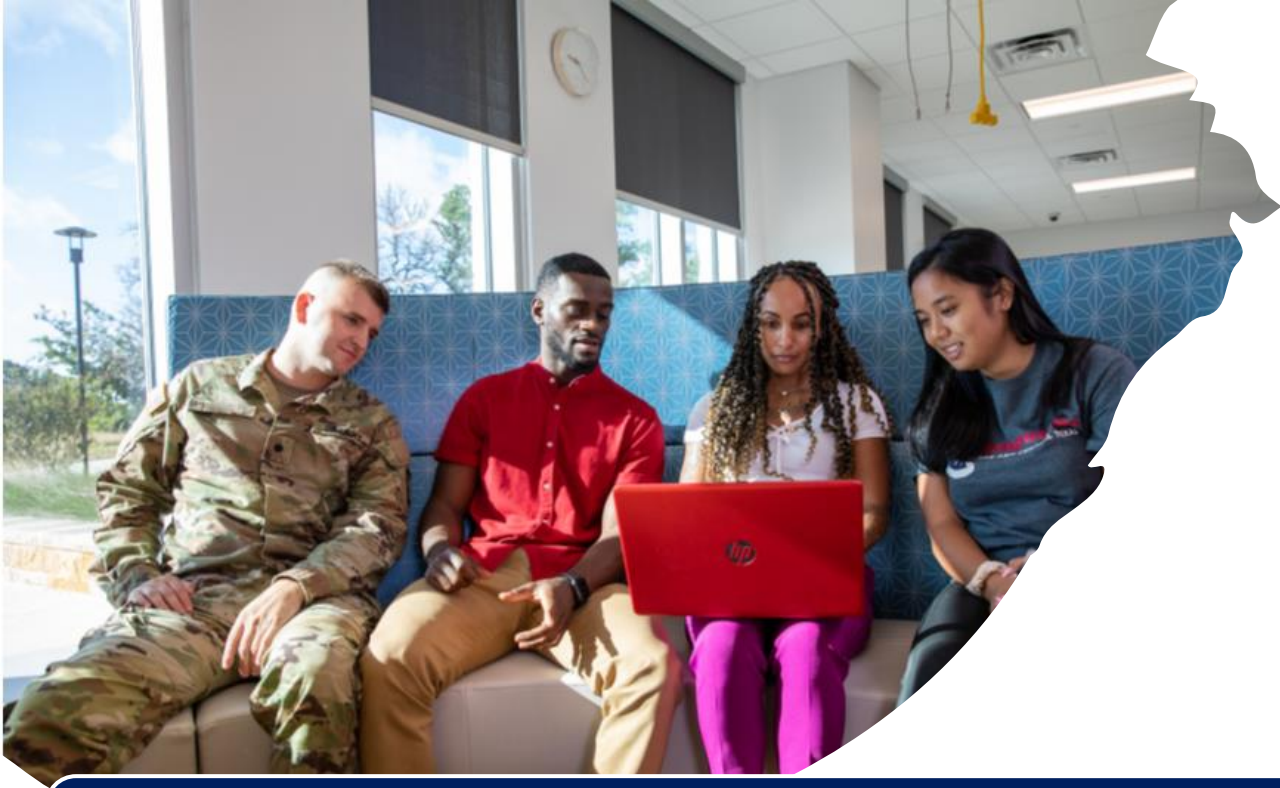
- Predecessor Universities: 1973-2009: American Technological University (Private) / University of Central Texas (Private) / Tarleton State University – Central Texas (Public)

Created in 2009: Research Starts from Scratch \$0 In Research Funds

- Only Public Upper-Level & Graduate University in Texas; Lowest Cost Stand Alone University in Texas
- Only Public Upper-Level & Graduate University with Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI) and Minority Serving Institute (MSI) Status in United States = over 50% Minority Students (Hispanic and African-American/Black)
- Fastest Growing Research Portfolio Per Number of Faculty in Texas A&M University System (Next Slide)

Located Near Ft. Cavazos: Unique Location – Supported by Several Chambers / EDCs

- Ft. Cavazos: Largest Single Site Employer in Texas / Multiple Chambers & EDCs (UEDC Members)



Focused Research: Research Funding 2012 to 2023 (Continued)

Texas A&M University-Central Texas External Research Funding

- 2009-2012: Completion of Tarleton Research Oversight (e.g., IRB / Research Projects)
- 2012: \$0 External Research Funding & **External \$ / # Faculty** = #11/11 Texas A&M University System Universities
- 2017: *First Federal Funds = NSF – I/UCRC Solar Research w/ TAMU / UT-Austin / Colorado State University (Ongoing)*
 - 2017-18 Milestone – Chancellor’s Research Initiative Funds Scanning Electron Microscopes = Exponential Research*
- 2023: **External \$ / # Faculty** = #6/11 Texas A&M University System Universities
- *2023: Last Five Years = Annual Average Research External \$ > \$1.2 Million & Total External Research Grants > \$15 Million
- Federal Funding Agencies Include: NSF / ED / USDA / DHS / AFRL / ARL

*Texas A&M University-Central Texas:
University Economic Development Council –
Oversight for University Center for Applied
Research and Engagement (UCARE)*

*UCARE Currently 14 Projects: Examples with 1.
Mounted Warfare Museum for Under-represented
Groups Representation and Marketing, 2.
Enlarging Army Operational Test Command,
Research, Evaluation and Testing Programs –
Causal Analytics & Big Data Certification , 3.
Degree of Piano Professional Performance Levels,
and 4. IVRE Lab Creation*

*UEDC Members = Advisors for UCARE Research and
Strategic Direction – From Central Texas and Beyond!
If Interested, Email Dr. Porter*

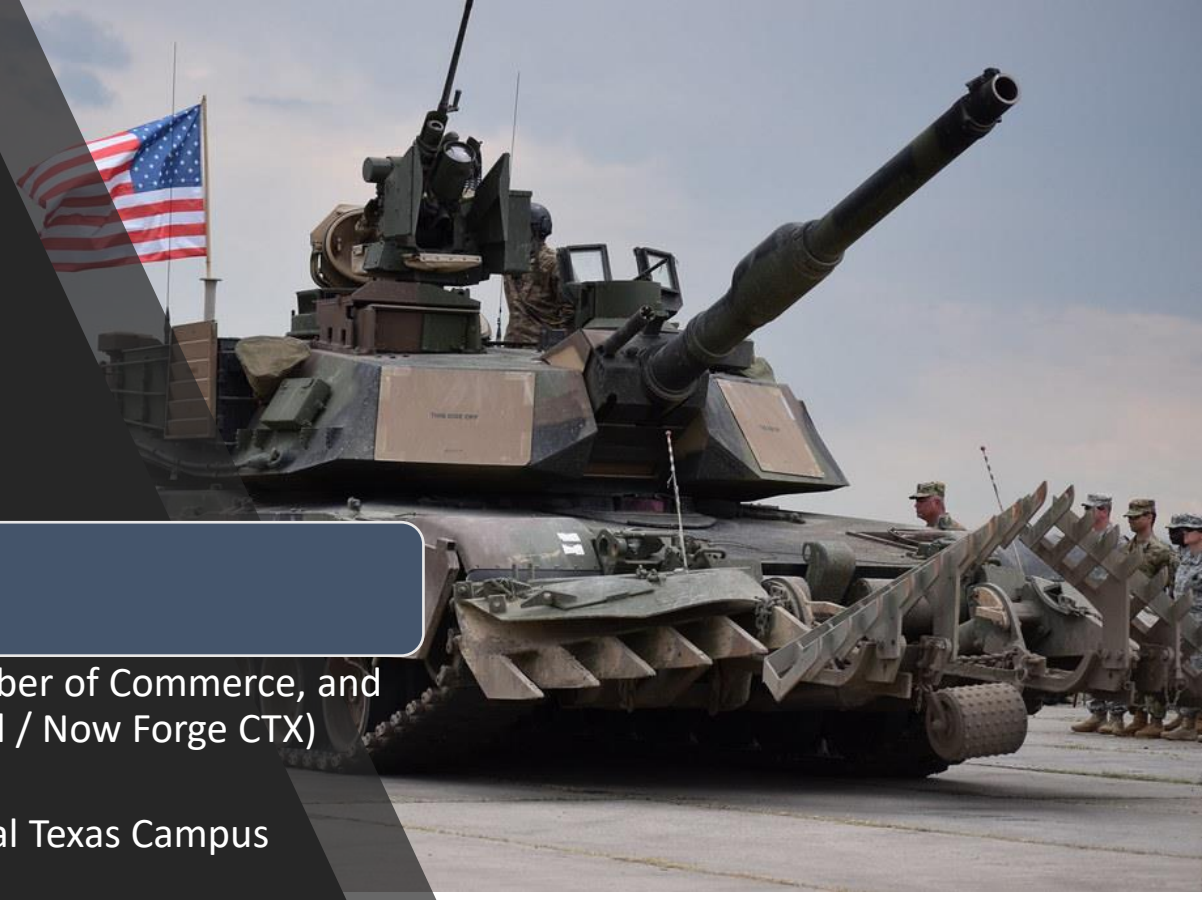


University Research Park Planning Committee & Partnerships: OLDCC Grant – Perkins & Will Consultants

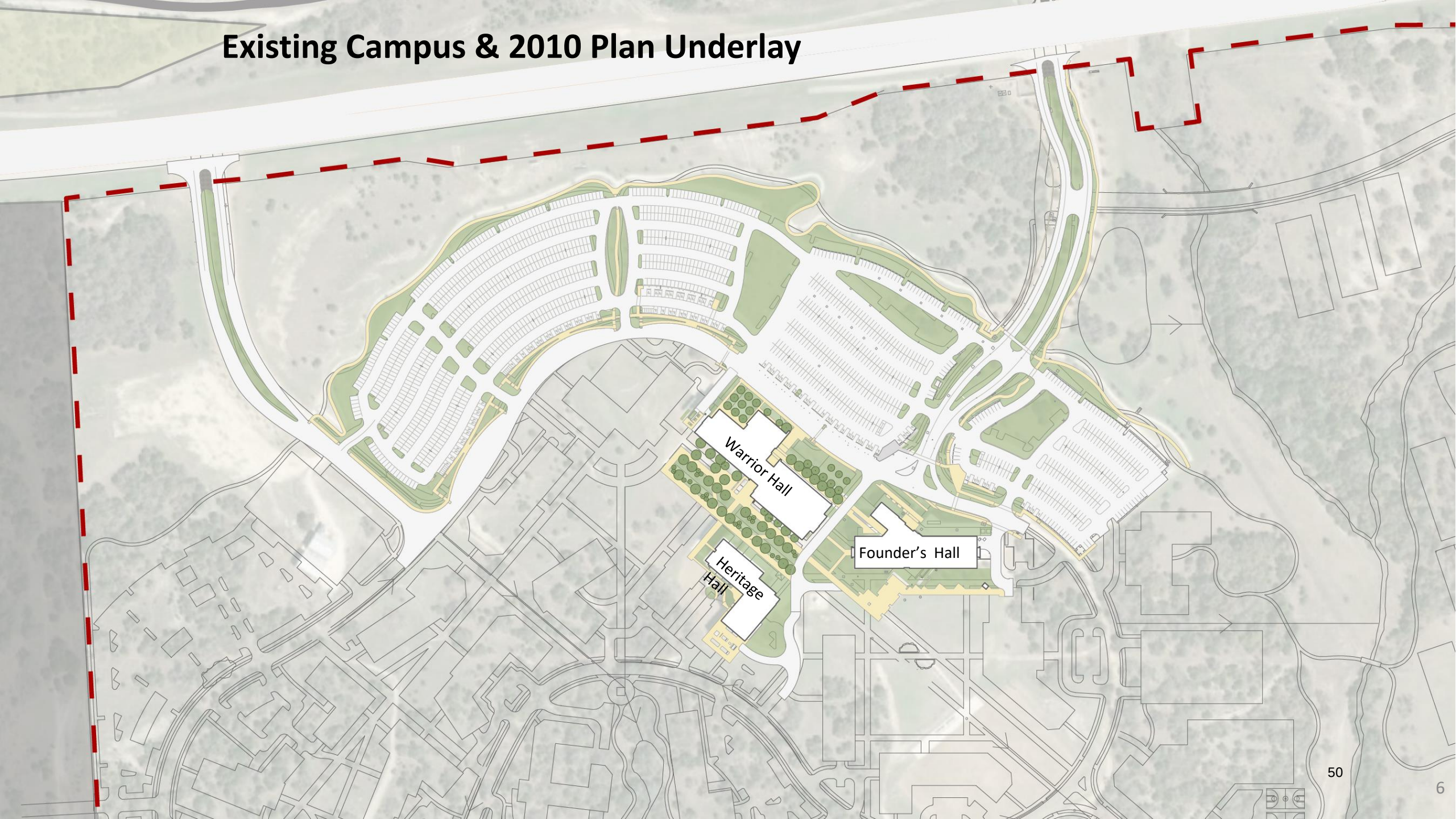
Outcome: The Forge Research Park

Planning Committee, Partnerships, & Foci

- 2017-2018: Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce, and Ft. Hood Region Economic Development Foundation (First I-14 Forward / Now Forge CTX) Create = University Research Park (URP) Planning Committee
- The URP Mission Is to Create a URP at the Texas A&M University-Central Texas Campus
- Monthly Meetings Started in 2018 with Partnerships including:
 - Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce, Forge CTX, Army Operational Test Command, Ft. Hood Garrison Command, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, Central Texas College, Solutions One, Centex Technologies, Trideum, Geeks & Nerds, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, City of Killeen TX, City of Nolanville TX
 - Centex Technologies & Trideum: First Two URP Businesses Operating on Campus
- URP Research Foci: **1. Defense, 2. Alternative Energy, 3. Cybersecurity, 4. Healthcare, 5. Data Sciences, and 6. Education/Archives**



Existing Campus & 2010 Plan Underlay



Naming and Branding: Recommended Name

The Forge

RATIONALE

Make or shape by heating it in a fire or furnace and beating or hammering it. Creating a relationship or creating new conditions.

Speaks to all key project differentiators:

- Research, Development, and Testing (MAKE/SHAPE)
- Talent Pipeline (NEW CONDITIONS)
- Proximity to Army Futures (CREATING NEW RELATIONSHIP)
- Applied Research/Innovation through Application (NEW CONDITIONS)

The name also directly relates and extends the Army Futures brand.

POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS

The Forge
Forge Factory
Forge Innovation Factory
Forge Research Park (FRP)
Forge Innovation District
Forge Innovation Forum
Forge at A&M Central Texas

IDEA STARTERS

Innovation, Process, Research
Opportunity, Forward, Invention,
Ingenuity, Deliberate, Person-
Powered/Self Initiated, Hands-On



Naming and Branding: Recommended Name



The mark has the ability to continue to be recognizable in several orientations and configurations.

Full Perkins & Will Report:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/research/forge/index.html>

Future Research Park Planning & Partnerships



U.S. Department of Defense
Office of Local Defense
Community Cooperation

Innovation Planning
Grant
(Part of OLDCC) 2024?

New URP Partnerships –
Business R&D /
Non-Profits /
Government Agencies

New URP Partnerships –
Commercialization with
UCARE Support

Fourth URP Summit
January 2024

Research & Development
Building/Annex/Addition
(PPP / CPF / Combo?)

Causal Analytics & Big
Data (CABD) Certificate
CE Program with Army
OTC & Non-Military
Students



Texas A&M University-Central Texas REDI/UCARE Contacts

- **Contact Information:**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas Research Questions:

- **Dr. Russ Porter – Deputy Ethics Officer | TAMUS**
Professor of Business & VP for Research,
Economic Development, & Innovation | TAMUCT
Email: porter@tamuct.edu
or Phone: 254-501-5823
- **Dr. Walter Murphy –**
Assistant VP, Research & Innovation | TAMUCT
Email: murphyw@tamuct.edu
or Phone: 254-519-5761



Item 6:

**Regarding 2022-2026
Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy
(CEDS) Implementation**

**Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
Implementation**

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

As a result of the DDCT Board CEDS Workshop on January 12th, 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 “Strengthen the conditions for growth of new and existing businesses.” The strategies under this objective are to:

- Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.
- Develop a regional water/sewer plan prioritizing investments needed for industry growth.
- Identify and prepare additional sites for industrial and distribution facilities; conduct site assessment and preliminary site design to aid in prioritization and site marketing.
- Build on the momentum of the Research Park to further cultivate high-tech industry clusters; study the potential to develop a broader "innovation zone" with the Park as its hub.
- Create a regional outreach effort to promote entrepreneurial opportunities to Fort Cavazos personnel transitioning into the civilian workforce, with a focus on defense contractor opportunities.
- Collaborate with Tesla to connect local businesses to related supply chain opportunities.
- Encourage greater utilization of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers to help local businesses capture greater federal procurement opportunities and Fort Cavazos economic impact; host education/awareness events in collaboration with PTACs.
- Promote digital literacy in small businesses, leveraging existing training models.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only.

Objective	Strategies & Actions	Roles	Priority	Funding Source	Progress Status	Comments/Updates	Board Comments
Improve and formalize emergency operational and community protocol within and across jurisdictions	Prepare municipalities to function in remote/mobile formats during emergencies	CTCOG Technical Advisement to Jurisdictions	High		Not Started	Ongoing through planning process-HSAC	
	Resume periodic emergency drills on various scenarios, including rehearsals for key generator hookups.	CTCOG to participate in local jurisdiction exercises	High		Not Started	Region does trainings at various levels, not really a high priority thing	
	Evaluate scenarios for how people will access emergency medical services & supplies (including temperature-sensitive medicines) in consideration of rural areas' distance to hospitals	CTCOG assist where needed and coordinate with healthcare coalition program manager	High	N/A	Started	Emergency trailer (minus meds with temp sensitive)- reach out to HCCAA (after current grants are submitted)	
	Develop and maintain jurisdiction-specific protocols for emergency communications and operations, including Severe Weather Emergency Response Plans. Protocols should include regional communication; consider municipal leadership overturn; address communication with utilities providers; address backup power use; and address use of radio/TV for residents without social media. Appoint a CTCOG staff member to serve as a point person for advising municipal leaders in times of crisis and for performing checks that protocols are annually updated.	CTCOG to coordinate and provide templates where appropriate and needed	High		Not Started	Anna look into resources for local governments on FEMA's website, compile info and send it out	
	Host a "Small Town Summit" and coordinate basic emergency planning meetings on an ongoing basis	CTCOG as lead; leverage FEMA NIMS materials	High	N/A	Complete	Emergency Mgmt sessions complete	
	Create local volunteer task forces composed of residents willing to perform physical infrastructure checks and advise municipal leadership where roads, water distribution, and electric poles are out; seek participants that own drones.	Municipalities	Med		Not Started	Maybe part of community preparedness program?	
	Educate jurisdictions on how to leverage the Defense Support of Civil Authorities program to secure generators, water, etc. from Fort Cavazos during crises.	CTCOG with DSCA program and National Guard	Med	N/A	Complete	Happened at Small Town Summit	
	Develop and centrally store templates for municipalities to send out emergency information (e.g. boil notices).	CTCOG	Low	N/A	Not Started	CodeRed notification	
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.	CCOG with SBDCs, local chambers, EDCs, and "SBA Regional Navigator" designee	High	SBA programs	Complete	In appendix of CEDS and on our drive in our toolkits from Ready.gov	
	Develop and disseminate educational materials to households regarding preparations they can make to sustain themselves longer without utilities or transportation	CTCOG prepare materials; municipalities disseminate	Med	N/A	Started	Follow up with Connie and Jesse	
	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	Municipalities, coordinated by CTCOG, in collaboration with Housing Divisions, Offices on Aging, Hill Country Community Action	Med	N/A	Not Started	Winter 2022/2023	
	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	Municipalities with local real estate groups; Belton "R U OK?" model	Med	N/A	Started	Need to continue outreach to local govts- maybe with the group that is being developed??	
	Encourage businesses to explore profitable supply chain localization measures.	CTCOG with local chambers and advisement from TMAC (Texas' Manufacturing Extension Partnership)	Low	TMAC assistance pursuing individual grants for businesses to offset costs	Not Started		
	Identify facilities that can house displaced/evacuated residents and serve as command-and-control centers. Prepare them with backup generators, caches of food/water, and transportation plans.	EMCs	High		Not Started	Winter 2022/2023-Anna	
	Evaluate the cyber preparedness of CTCOG's 7-county 911 system.	CTCOG	High		Started	CSEC has staff member doing this	
	Procure and place generators (esp. diesel with 5-7 day capacity) at additional priority locations that will serve as warming/cooling centers.	CTCOG coordinate with municipalities and service providers	High		Not Started	As needed	
	Adopt rural healthcare innovation models that provide for rural urgent care and health emergency response teams, leveraging Texas A&M Health.	Counties, Texas A&M Health (OnMed collaboration)	High	Texas A&M Health program supported by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas	Complete	OnMed presented at Sept Ex Committee Meeting -no one interested	

Prepare and harden infrastructure needed for emergency communications, emergency services, & resilience.	Continue investing in and hardening broadband and cellular networks (e.g. improved battery backup and/or solar on cell towers/repeaters).	CTCOG coordinate with municipalities and service providers	High	Municipal funds, Federal funding and ARPA, Texas Comptrollers office, IIAJ	Started	Research level, networking	
	Invest in roadways needed for emergency services.	CTCOG coordinate with municipalities and service providers	High	Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Organization (KTMO), IIAJ, GLO for Milam & Coryell Counties	Started	Currently identifying the roads that are important for emergency services and their status (flooding, road issues), addressing in the SS4A Action Plan if we get the grant, submitted application.	
	Set up social media channels for individual jurisdictions to build following for improved outreach during emergencies.	Individual jurisdictions, with CTCOG technical assistance	Med	N/A	Started	Shared tips in December. Dominic will be following all of the city and county pages that he can find (Feb task). Will share content via email and tagging local governments on posts. We can send out suggestions on "who to follow"	
	Explore and develop capability for CTCOG to deliver alerts to all phones active in the region.	CTCOG	Med	N/A	Complete	CodeRed app will notify you based on your location, phones already kind of do this independently of us	
	Educate jurisdictions on resources available for cyberattack prevention and mitigation.	CTCOG, leveraging Texas Municipal League and State resources	Med	SHSP	Started	Grant opens in Dec, funded following fall, educate region starting Jan	
	Invest in backup power and communications; consider use of solar for redundancy	CTCOG coordinate municipalities	Med	TX PACE Program, SERI, 911	Started	Review needs of grant wish list (Anna), send out again?	
Develop a strong regionally-based business marketing effort.	Develop a regional brand and marketing plan and unified business attraction messaging effort and showcasing Central Texas as the "hub" of the major Texas metros; diversity of communities and people, including lower-density rural living options; I-14 improvements/expansion; and historical heritage tourism.	CTCOG	High	Consider EDA funding	Started	Industry info and economic data is on the CTCOG and DDCT websites, next step is to merge with DCT website	
	Hold Opportunity Zone investment forums to generate interest in specific development projects and connect investors with developers.	CTCOG with OZ host municipalities	High	N/A	Complete	10/7/2022	
	Develop a regionally-based tourism marketing effort promoting area destinations, downtowns, and outdoor assets.	CTCOG	Med	Municipal contributions; Texas Commission on the Arts' Cultural Districts Designation Program and associated grants	Complete	Updating content, reminding cities about themes, still need 13 cities to participate	
	Integrate messaging about the Fort Cavazos talent base into business attraction marketing efforts.	CTCOG	Low	Municipal Contributions	Started	Needs to be discussed at next DDCT Meeting	
Strengthen the conditions for growth of new and existing businesses.	Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.*	CTCOG with consultant and locally active ISPs	High	ARPA, Connected Nation, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	Started	BDO Regional Working Group (CTCOG, BVCOG, HOTCOG), Texas will be receiving BEAD funding and is working with Connect Texas and creating a BEAD 5 year Action Plan and a TX Digital Opportunity Plan. The BOOT program will see more eligible locations due to SB 1238. Local Gov Broadband Roundtable meets virtually on first Thurs of each month at 10am	
	Develop a regional water/sewer plan prioritizing investments needed for <u>industry growth</u> .	CTCOG with local water and sewer authorities	High	Texas Water Development Board; USDA Rural Development, EDA Public Works Grant	Started	Brainstorm on how this would be useful, focus on industry growth, maybe more of a focus on water, think of dams	
	Identify and prepare additional sites for industrial and distribution facilities; conduct site assessment and preliminary site design to aid in prioritization and site marketing.	EDCs as lead, with counties and municipalities	High	CDBG for certain areas; potential future TxEDC programs replacing Texas Capital Fund Real Estate	Started	Discussed in STS- need further discussion on how EDCs want assistance with this	
	Build on the momentum of the Research Park to further cultivate high tech industry clusters; study the potential to develop a broader "innovation zone" with the Park as its hub.*	CTCOG with A&M-Central Texas	High	Municipal Contributions	Started	The Research Park is still in the research phase, Brian O'Connor is involved (Nolanville), Russell Porter TAMU-CT	

	Create a regional outreach effort to promote entrepreneurial opportunities to Fort Cavazos personnel transitioning into the civilian workforce, with a focus on defense contractor opportunities	CTCOG, SBDCs, area incubators, PTACs	Med	DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation; SBA Office of Veterans Business Development	Started	Meeting with TVC in Lampasas to discuss	
	Collaborate with Tesla to connect local businesses to related supply chain opportunities.	CTCOG and Tesla with local chambers and advisement from TMAC (Texas' Manufacturing Extension)	Low	N/A	Not Started	What lense do we want to look at this through?	
	Encourage greater utilization of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers to help local businesses capture greater federal procurement opportunities and Fort Cavazos economic impact; host education/awareness events in collaboration with PTACs.*	PTACs, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), CTCOG, Fort Cavazos	Low	N/A	Not Started	Try to do event/webinar/summit with PTAC in 2023, incorporate into entrepreneurial event, tried reaching out but no response	
	Promote digital literacy in small businesses, leveraging existing training models.*	Chambers	Low	N/A	Not Started	CTCOG creates fact sheet, type based on feedback from DDCT	
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.	High schools and middle schools, higher education institutions, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Chambers, major employers	High	Texas Workforce Commission programs (Skills Development Fund), employer contributions	Complete	P20 Council. Rockdale technical education/career development center with EDA Public Works grant.	
	Further leverage and scale mechanisms for facilitating entry of Fort Cavazos 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 Cavazos personnel to remain local after service, supporting them in career exploration and accessing transitional services.	CTCOG coordinate with area higher education institutions, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, Chambers, Hiring our Heroes (U.S. Chamber Foundation), Heroes Make America (The Manufacturing Institute)	High	CTCOG and partner staff time with potential employer contributions/sponsorships	Started	Veteran Employer Summit-May 17th, Maybe reoccurring summit (entrepreneurship and/or milspouse). Possibly hold annually. TAP at Fort Cavazos concierge service. Milspouse Event was on 11/1/22. Approx a dozen attendees Maybe have discussions with partners when planning entrep. event on what our role can be on this topic	
Proactively shape growth to ensure quality of place.	Study the region's housing stock and develop strategies to ensure adequate housing product for current and future residents. Product should outline tactics for municipalities to help induce both new construction and improvements to substandard homes.	CTCOG and Jurisdictions	High	Community Development Block Grant	Started	How does the DDCT want us to address this?	
	Create a Regional Trails Plan that enhances multi-modal transportation options and ensures robust access to outdoor amenities and water features. -probably 2023	CTCOG and KTMO, jurisdictions, Texas Parks, and Wildlife, US Army Corp	High	KTMO; Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	Not Started	Maybe start looking into this in winter 23?-KTMO	
	<u>Encourage a diversity of retail, services, and entertainment establishments, particularly in downtowns; conduct retail leakage studies; host a small-town "Texas Downtowns" regional gathering to discuss strategies to increase foot traffic</u>	CTCOG and local EDCs	High	N/A	Started	Small Town Summit 9 Ask if retail leakage studies is something DDCT is interested in	
	Develop a regional land use plan and master plans for cities, setting the foundation for decisions affecting where growth and development are channeled.	CTCOG and Jurisdicaitions	Med	Texas Dept. of Agriculture Programs	Not Started	Master plans should be developing master plans via consultants, CTCOG can help with land use planning as needed - we can look into funding sources (state and federal level)	
	Assist jurisdictions with updating ordinances and policies in anticipation of subdivision development interest; with attention to policies requiring developer contribution to utilities expansion.	CTCOG and Jurisdicaitions	Low	N/A	Not Started	CTCOG can assist in a contract level as needed	
Enhance the region's economic connectivity.	Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.	CTCOG with Connected Nation and locally active ISPs	High	ARPA, Connected Nation, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	Started	Same as another above objective	
	Expand public transit offerings to provide reliable, affordable public transportation options for connecting <u>rural residents</u> with employment centers	CTCOG , Hill Country Transit District, TXDOT, MPO's	High	Federal formula funds	Started	Rural service for the HOP is free for a year, Killeen has a city wide dial for a ride service, upcoming changes will be announced soon. Plans for microtransit zones.	

	Improve the conditions of roadways, with particular attention to increased use of county roads.	CTCOG discussions with Killeen-Temple MPO and other MPO's	Med	State Highway Fund, CDBG	Not Started	INFRA, MEGA, Surface Transportation, Community Development Fund grants may be useful, EDA grants Can be addressed in SS4A Action Plan	
	Develop an airport master plan addressing airport marketing/branding, increasing competitiveness vis-à-vis Austin, and needed upgrades such as additional hangar space	CTCOG and airport authority	Med	FAA Airport Improvement Program	Not Started	Maybe reach out to airport staff across region to see if they are interested?	
Improve municipal systems that allow for fair taxation, stable revenues, and growth.	Accelerate appraisal efforts, particularly in high-growth communities.	Tax Appraisal Districts with CTCOG coordinating	High	N/A	Not Started	Context: Rogers not doing thorough appraisals - losing out on tax money Bartlett and other small towns have opposite issues-appraisals too high due to high growth in neighboring urban areas	
	Harmonize all communities' GIS systems and parcel address methodologies.	Municipalities with CTCOG technical assistance	Low	N/A	Not Started	Talk to GIS team about this to see if it is a need	
Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.	Build additional capacity to assist jurisdictions with grant identification/writing/administration.	CTCOG	High	N/A	Complete	Grant Wish List sent out in April, maybe send around March	
	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.	CTCOG	Med	N/A	Complete	Hosted June 21st- next class June 27/29 2023.	
	Create marketing materials summarizing CTCOG services, assistance, and resources available to municipalities.	CTCOG	Med	N/A	Started	Waiting for input from Housing	
	Conduct remote/hybrid meetings to increase accessibility for rural communities.	CTCOG	Med	N/A	Complete	Ongoing	
	Provide technical support as-needed to communities on subjects of planning, transportation, legal, etc.	CTCOG	Med	N/A	Complete	Ongoing	
	Perform a "circuit rider" function, checking in with smaller/rural communities in particular to ensure functioning relationships with Tax Appraisal Districts, 911 system effectiveness, etc.	CTCOG	Low	N/A	Not Started	Uryan & Jim, have county level meet ups- start scheduling in March, send a Planner with staff	

IEDC Economic Recovery Corps - Expression of Interest for Host Organizations

1. Main Point of Contact Information
 - a. Uryan Nelson
 - b. Director, Development District of Central Texas
 - c. DDCT address
 - d. Uryan email address and phone number
2. How did you learn about this opportunity? IEDC
3. How would you best characterize your organization? Economic Development District (EDD)
4. Please define the make-up of your community or region: include names of counties, communities, and/or region for the defined area.

Counties:

Bell County-370,647, 14.3% poverty rate, \$57,932 median household income
Coryell County-83,093, 10.8% poverty rate, \$58,414 median household income
Hamilton County-8,222, 21% poverty rate, \$44,030 median household income
Lampasas County-21,627, 9.2% poverty rate, \$66,506 median household income
Milam County-24,754, 16.2% poverty rate, \$52,810 median household income
Mills County-4,456, 8.5% poverty rate, \$53,483 median household income
San Saba County-5,730, 11% poverty rate, \$46,927 median household income
(Compared to Texas: 14.2% poverty rate, \$67,321 median household income)

Cities:

Bartlett, Belton, Buckholts, Cameron, Copperas Cove, Evant, Gatesville, Goldthwaite, Hamilton, Harker Heights, Hico, Holland, Kempner, Killeen, Lampasas, Little River-Academy, Lometa, Milano, Morgan's Point Resort, Mullin, Nolanville, Oglesby, Richland Springs, Rockdale, Rogers, Salado, San Saba, South Mountain, Temple, Thorndale, Troy.

5. Does the community/region you indicated above include a federally recognized tribe? No
6. How would you characterize your community/region? (Choose all that apply) Rural, Urban, Suburban.
7. What is the size of the total population area you aim to serve through this program? (estimated) 500,001-1 million.
8. Are there one or more of the following in your community/region as part of this application? (Check all that apply)
Opportunity Zones, Empowerment Zones, Historically Disadvantaged Communities, Areas of Persistent Poverty-DOT
9. Are you located in or adjacent to a federally or state declared disaster area identified within the past 5 years, of which you are aware? Please only include natural disasters or declarations other than the 2020 COVID-19. Search for disaster declarations by State / Tribe at:
<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations> Yes
Yes

10. Has your community/region or any of your counties been engaged in an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) and/or equivalent regional planning effort within the past 5 years?

Yes

11. If yes, please include the year the CEDS or equivalent was last updated and a link to the plan (if available), in the spaces provided below.

Year of last updated CEDS or equivalent plan here: 2022

Link to regional CEDS or equivalent plan here: <https://ddoct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-26-DDCT-CEDS.pdf>

12. Has your community/region historically had difficulty accessing federal, state, and/or philanthropic support for local or regional development efforts?

Yes

13. If yes, please explain. List specific barriers or challenges you experienced.

Of the 32 cities in the Development District of Central Texas (DDCT) region, 25 have populations under 10,000. Most of these communities lack the personnel to effectively monitor the availability of grants, loans, and other resources, or to be able to allocate time away from daily municipal operations to apply for programs with heavy paperwork loads. Many cities in our region will have city staff or administrators taking on multiple roles that would usually be several jobs in larger communities, so even if a city is interested in applying for funds they may be unable to handle the administrative duties if they are awarded. DDCT staff is small and able to handle working on a small amount of grant applications and administer a few others, but there is not enough capacity to help all of our rural communities. The DDCT's limited staff capacity and funding also impacts our ability to implement our CEDS projects. We are currently unable to afford to hire another consultant or dedicate the amount of staff time required to do a combined tourism and industrial branding and marketing effort bringing together all regional partners and data to create a repository of information to promote the region and attract investment. We would also like to develop a housing plan to address the need to ensure an adequate supply of housing to accommodate regional growth, but lack the staff/funding to be able to implement this.

14. Is your organization currently receiving Federally funded technical assistance?

No

15. If yes, please indicate the granting Federal agency and type of technical assistance.

N/A

16. Community Priorities and Needs

Please rank each of the 5 major themes listed below that are of critical importance to your community / region on a scale of "Most Important" to "Least Important" or "Not Applicable."

1. Economic Development
2. Broadband
3. Improving Quality of Life for Community Residents
4. Workforce Development
5. Technological Innovation

17. Through the activities of the ERC Fellows, the expectation is there will be more efficient and more connected economic development infrastructures that benefit regions to effectively plan for and participate in meaningful economic development projects.

Our intent is that projects will also address at least one of the following items:

- a. Increased connectivity, the ability to connect projects with existing regional economic development strategies/ plans that are designed to build the capacity of communities and build shared economic prosperity in the region/nation as a whole.
- b. Increased awareness and participation in grants and programs, as measured by participation in EDA and other federal economic development programs by new participants and communities.
- c. Accelerated job creation, as measured by the forecasted jobs created or retained as a result of Fellows successfully developing projects and attracting investments.
- d. Increased community engagement, as measured by the number of communities or community members who have benefited directly or indirectly from the Fellows' work.
- e. Increased capacity, as measured by the number of communities and/or organizations newly partnered to further federally funded economic development initiatives/grants and programs.

With this in mind, tell us what your organization or community/region could do with an ERC Fellow to move a project forward! This is the time to be audacious and creative in thinking about the ideas that will have a far reaching impact.

In 500 words or less, pitch us a project idea that clearly articulates:

- The local / regional need(s) the project will address (what problem are you trying to solve?)
- The community / regional goals the project will help advance
- If you already have partners or not. If not, who might you want to partner or collaborate with? Include the names of existing or future partners.
- What resources, if any, does your community currently have to support the project idea? (e.g. strategic plan, feasibility study, grant funding, volunteers, etc.)

The Development District of Central Texas (DDCT) would like to address economic development via tourism, industrial development, and affordable housing in alignment with its five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The DDCT has already established the Discover Central Texas project-a website, app, and social media promoting events and attractions around the region for tourists, but does not have the capacity to continue this project without support. The DDCT wants to combine Discover Central Texas with other CEDS strategies to attract industrial and business development along with building a regional brand. Tourism and industrial development are two important factors when attempting to bring more people and businesses into the central Texas region. An additional factor to address is the lack of affordable and safe housing in our region. Along with this joint marketing effort, we would like to complete a housing study with recommendations for municipalities on best practices to

address our housing crisis and to accommodate new growth. The regional goals this project will help address include the implementation of our 2022-26 CEDS, which includes several strategies over tourism, business marketing, and a housing study. We have community partnerships through our DDCT Board, which is comprised of representatives from local economic development corporations, municipalities, counties, chambers of commerce, the Housing Division of the Central Texas Council of Governments, institutes of higher education, and private businesses. DDCT is also staffed by the Central Texas Council of Governments, which has a Housing Division that is a partner for all needs in this area. Future partners will be cities and counties not currently represented on our Board that we will collaborate with for feedback on this project. Current resources include the 2022-26 CEDS and our partners and limited funding from the EDA Partnership Planning Grant, a three-year grant (currently 2021-23 but will be renewed for 2024-26) to fund staff salaries for economic development activities and implementation of the CEDS. Other resources are limited because our organization is funded by grants.

18. Are you open to collaborating with other organizations in your region that may also apply for this opportunity?

Yes

19. Do you already know someone in your community / network that would be a good fellow on this project?

No

Item 7:
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.

- Texas BDO Regional Working Group Central Texas Region has been established (CTCOG, BVCOG, HOTCOG)
- Texas will be receiving BEAD funding and is working with Connect Texas and creating a BEAD 5-year Action Plan and a TX Digital Opportunity Plan. Texas was allocated over \$3.3 billion
- The BOOT program will see more eligible locations due to SB 1238.
- Local Gov Broadband Roundtable meets virtually on first Thursday of each month at 10am (BDO program)
- The BDO developed the [Texas Digital Opportunity Public Survey](#) to better understand the barriers Texas households face accessing reliable and affordable internet service. The deadline to complete the survey has been extended to August 31.

Action Needed: For Discussion Only

Item 8:

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

Regarding Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development Texas

The 88th Legislature Regular Session has ended. The following bills related finance, broadband, and other topics and their status.

Legislative Updates

Bill No.	Status	Title	Synopsis
HB 4082	Signed, effective 9/1/23	Relating to purposes for which <u>certificates of obligation</u> or tax anticipation notes may be authorized.	Outlines the eligible uses of CO's and anticipation notes. This includes "public work" such as roads, sidewalks, bridges, landfills, airports, utility systems like water/wastewater treatment plants, flood control projects, public safety facilities, judicial facilities, administrative office, animal shelter, library, park or recreation facility. Ineligible uses include facilities in which >50% average annual usage is for professional or semi-pro sports or facilities used for a single for-profit tenant for more than 180 in a single year. Hotels are also ineligible.
SB 2035	VETOED	Relating to the issuance of certain anticipation notes and <u>certificates of obligation</u> .	The Governor said he vetoed this bill because of too many loopholes. This bill would have banned CO's if a bond of the same purpose failed to be approved by voters in the previous 5 years
SB 1238	Signed, effective immediately	Relating to <u>broadband</u> development.	Outlines more specifics on broadband coverage including latency, matching federal standards, and how areas are considered covered. Also outlines grants and loans from the Broadband Development Program. This bill prioritizes fiber.
HB 9	Signed by Governor, effective 1/1/24 if voters approve HJR 125	Relating to the development and funding of <u>broadband and telecommunications services</u> ; making an appropriation. (NG911 sends information over IP network routing that allows for better location accuracy.)	Establishes Broadband Infrastructure Fund and Next Gen 9-1-1 fund. The purpose is to expand and ensure access to reliable, high speed, broadband and telecommunications connectivity. The fund may only be used for a purpose described by Chapter 490I, providing funding for 9-1-1 and NG 9-1-1, supporting the deployment of NG911 service including equipment, operations, and administration, supporting the TX Broadband Pole Replacement Program, providing matching funds for the BEAD program, expanding access to broadband service in economically distressed

			communities, and administering and enforcing this subchapter.
SB 28	Signed by Governor, effective 1/1/24 if voters approve SJR 75	Relating to financial assistance provided and programs administered by the <u>Texas Water Development Board</u> .	Creates the New Supply for Texas Fund. The fund may be used to: provide financial assistance to political subdivisions to develop water supply projects that create new water sources for the state including: desalination projects, produced water treatment projects, aquifer storage and recovery projects, or development of infrastructure to transport water.
HB 3440	Signed, effective 9/1/23	Relating to the governmental bodies required to <u>post on the Internet agendas</u> for meetings under the open meetings law.	Requires governmental bodies and EDCs to also concurrently post notice of meeting and agenda of meeting on the internet website of the governmental body or EDC: a municipality, county, school district, governing body of a junior college (district), development corporation organized under the Development Corp Act, a regional mobility authority, a joint board created under the transportation code, or a district or authority created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59 Article XVI, Texas Constitution. This only applies to an open meeting held on or after the effective date of this act.
HB 2127	Signed, effective 9/1/23	Relating to <u>state preemption</u> of certain municipal and county regulation	Purpose is to create statewide consistency for regulations. Unless expressly authorized by another statute, a municipality or county may not adopt, enforce or maintain an ordinance, order, or rule in the following categories: Agricultural Code, Business & Commerce Code, Finance Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Local Government Code, Natural Resources Code, Occupations Code, Property Code

Action Needed: For Discussion Only.

Item 9:

**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:** **Reopens Spring 2025**

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: Reopens Spring 2025**

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)

EDA

- **EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs: Applications Ongoing**

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;

-
- Expansion of port and harbor 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, expansion, or improvement of wet labs, 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);
- Development and implementation of long-term disaster recovery and resiliency plans;
- Enhancement of infrastructure to make it more resilient to natural disasters;
- Implementation of military base realignments and closures (BRAC) responses;
- Development or expansion of commercialization and proof of concept centers;
- Procurement of equipment for workforce training programs;
- Market or industry research and analysis for larger hard or soft economic projects;
- Creation or expansion of foreign direct investment, trade, or export initiatives;
- Economic development projects that enhance density in the vicinity of other economic development;
- “Strategy grants” to develop, update, or refine a CEDS; 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-\$5 million for the Public Works Program and \$150,000-\$2.5 million for the EAA. Match ranges from 50-80% 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.

<https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppPkgId=255947>

- **Recompete Pilot Program:** Applications for Phase One Due October 5th, 2023

This program will award grants of between \$250,000 and \$500,000 to local governments, political subdivisions of the state, a public entity or non-profit in cooperation with a political subdivision, or a coalition of these entities in Phase One to develop Strategy Development Grants and approve Recompete Plans that address persistent economic distress and support long-term, comprehensive economic development and job creation in places with a high prime-age (25 to 54 years) employment gap. Plans can include:

- Coordination and execution of an inclusive, locally-defined planning process, across jurisdictions and agencies, to develop a comprehensive regional strategy to address high prime-age employment gaps in the regions (i.e., a PAEG strategy)
- Identification and fostering of regional partnerships for developing and implementing a comprehensive regional PAEG strategy
- Implementation or updating of assessments to determine regional needs and capabilities; Development or updating of goals and strategies to implement an existing comprehensive regional PAEG strategy
- Identification or implementation of planning, local zoning, and other changes to code, law, or policy necessary to implement a comprehensive regional PAEG strategy
- Development of plans for promoting broad-based economic growth in a region
- Hiring of the coalition's RPC to lead the overall effort and other necessary staff
- Formation of a workforce development strategy, according to the needs for a skilled and diverse technical workforce aligned with the region's strengths
- Activities necessary to prepare for strategy implementation, which may include workforce development strategies, environmental, and engineering documentation, if applicable

Eligible project areas must either be a Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area with a Prime Age Employment Gap (difference between national 5-year average prime-age employment rate and the 5-year average prime-age employment rate of the eligible area) of at least 2.5% and a local community with a PAEG of at least 5% and median income of no more than \$75,000.

Approved Recompete Plans will be eligible for Phase Two Implementation grants.

For more information and to apply, go here: [Recompete Pilot Program NOFO phase 1 vF.pdf \(eda.gov\)](#)

- **Tech Hubs Program:** Application Deadline is August 15th, 2023

This program was created as part of the CHIPS Act, and has \$10 billion authorized over five years. This program offers up to \$500,000 in grants in FY 2023 for initiatives that strengthen a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy critical technologies. Awards will be made to regions that have the assets, resources, capacity, and potential to transform into globally competitive innovation centers in the next decade while spurring the growth of jobs for American workers of all skill levels. Eligible applicants are consortia which must include AT LEAST one of EACH the following entities:

1. Institutions of higher education, and Minority-Serving Institutions;
2. State, territorial, local, or other political subdivisions of a State
3. Industry or firms in relevant technology, innovation, or manufacturing sectors (EDA encourages two or more firms in the consortium's selected core technology area to be part of the consortium)
4. Economic development organizations or similar entities that are focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, or access to capital; and
5. Labor organizations or workforce training organizations, which may include State and local workforce development boards

Phase 1 will be for applications for Strategy Development Grants, which will fund activities such as:

1. Identification of regional partnerships for developing and implementing a comprehensive regional technology strategy
2. Implementation or updating of assessments to determine regional needs and capabilities.
3. Development or updating of goals and strategies to implement an existing comprehensive regional plan;
4. Identification or implementation of planning, local zoning, and other changes to code, law, or policy necessary to implement a comprehensive regional technology strategy;
5. Development of plans for promoting broad-based economic growth, creating good paying jobs, assessing job quality, and helping students and workers gain the skills for jobs in target technology area.
6. Hiring of the coalition's Regional Innovation Officer (RIO) to lead the overall effort

For more information and to apply, go here: [Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs \(Tech Hubs\) | U.S. Economic Development Administration \(eda.gov\)](#)

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

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- 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>

USDOT

- **MPDG Program:** **Application Deadline August 21st, 2023**

The FY 2023 NOFO combines three different programs funded by the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act:

- **\$1.8 billion for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance ([Mega](#)) program:** The Mega program supports large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and are likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits. Eligible projects could include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects of national or regional significance. Per the law, 50 percent of funds are available for projects above \$500 million in total cost, and 50 percent are available for projects between \$100 million and \$500 million in total cost.
- **\$3.1 billion for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America ([INFRA](#)) program:** The INFRA program awards competitive grants to multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, accessibility, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. Eligible projects will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and hold the greatest promise to eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and improve critical freight movements.
- **\$675 million for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant ([Rural](#)) program:** The Rural program supports projects that improve and expand our nation's surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas in order to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life. Eligible projects for Rural grants include highway, bridge, and tunnel projects that help improve freight, safety, and provide or increase access to agricultural, commercial, energy, or transportation facilities that support the economy of a rural area. 90% of rural funding must be awarded in \$25 million or greater amounts.

Eligible applicants include local governments, states, political subdivisions, and special districts.

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>

- **Community Connect:** Reopens 2024

The Community Connect program provides \$100,000-\$5 million grants 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

Eligible areas must be rural areas that lack any existing broadband speed of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 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. Projects must provide 100 Mbps/20 Mbps service.

<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 September 30th, 2023**

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-QWIOskRItyTeG8PZwJSuKfMMSdEiJuEnTEDr1xANijCttBoE>

- **Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program-Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline September 30th, 2023**

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 September 30th, 2023**

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>

Texas Broadband Development Office

- **Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program- Reopens 2024, Eligibility Will Broaden to Include Low Latency Areas**

The BOOT Program has released its NOFA! Eligible applicants, including political

subdivisions of the State and broadband service providers are now eligible to apply for \$200,000-\$4,999,999 grants with no required match for broadband infrastructure projects that are designed to deliver 100 Mbps symmetrical service through last mile connections to unserved or underserved 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).

<https://www.txsmartbuy.com/esbddetails/view/BDO-NOFA-001>

Texas Water Development Board

- **Texas Water Development Fund (DFund):** Applications are accepted year-round

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.

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/TWDF/index.asp>

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 Travel Industry Recovery Grant Program: Applications Ongoing**

The Office of the Governor announced the launch of this new recovery program, which began accepting applications July 6, 2022. The purpose of this program is to provide grants to Texas businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry that were negatively impacted due to COVID-19. This program will issue a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 to eligible businesses in the following industries: arts, entertainment, and recreation; food services and drinking places; traveler accommodation; RV parks and recreational camps; traveler arrangement and reservation services; convention and tradeshow organizers; breweries; wineries; and distilleries.

<https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/texas-travel-industry-recovery-grant-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

- **Local Parks Grant Programs-Application deadline August 1st, 2023**

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: \$1.5 million, Application deadline TBD

Local Parks Non-Urban Indoor Recreation: \$1 million, Application Deadline TBD

[Local Parks Grants — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#)

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

Thriving Communities Program- Applications Ongoing

HUD's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program is now open for local governments and political subdivisions to request technical assistance!

The Program will provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to teams of community partners that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. USDOT and HUD funded capacity building teams in late 2022 to provide this technical assistance for 2023-25- local governments and other political subdivisions are now able to request technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support including assistance with grant applications, project scoping, planning and predevelopment activities, and pre-engineering studies from these teams for transportation and community revitalization activities that

1. Increase mobility
2. Reduce pollution from transportation sources
3. Expand affordable transportation and housing options

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4. Improve health outcomes
 5. Facilitate efficient land use
 6. Preserve or expand jobs, and
 7. Enhance connections to health care, education, and food security to benefit disadvantaged populations and communities.

Priority will be given to cities and political subdivisions with populations of less than 250,000 people, as well as to those receiving certain Department of Transportation competitive funds. Technical assistance will begin to be provided in Spring 2023.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cpdt/tcta?fbclid=IwAR3XIX3oE1W2TA3oozFjN9WEbdMBZ3tTJXRZRFHanJkvGUrgnn_jvJDxD9g

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 2023 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@workforcesolutionctx.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	
Jason Johnson		Bell	Owner	JJ Realty Group	Morgan's Point Resort, TX, 76513	jasonj@jjrealtygroup.com	(254)541-0318
Stacey Ybarra		Lampasas	Economic Development Director	City of Lampasas	312 E. Third St. Lampasas, TX 76550	sybarra@cityoflampasas.com	512-556-6831
Dexter Morris		Mills	City Manager	City of Mullin	105 N. 3rd Street Mullin, TX 76864	dexter.morris.tx@gmail.com	(325) 985-3909

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

End of Packet