



Development District of Central Texas

**July 11, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

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Agenda



Development District of Central Texas

Thursday, July 11, 2024

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

Regular Meeting: 9:30 AM

Virtual Link: [DDCT Meeting](#)

Call in Number: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](#)

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome.
2. Opportunity for Public Comment.
3. **Action Item:** Regarding approval of meeting minutes from the April 18, 2024 meeting. *(pg.6-9)*
4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding approval of proposed amendments to DDCT Bylaws. *(pg.12-35)*
5. **Discussion Item:** Regarding presentation on Leon-Bosque Resource Conservation and Development Council (Leon-Bosque RC&D) services in DDCT region. *(pg.38)*
6. **Discussion Item:** Regarding presentation on progress on the Forge at A&M-Central Texas Research Park. *(pg.40-48)*
7. **Discussion Item:** Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Implementation. *(pg.50-56)*
8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding updates on regional broadband initiatives. *(pg.58)*
9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding federal and state legislative updates pertaining to economic development. *(pg.60-63)*
10. Staff Update.
11. Board of Director's Comments.
12. Other Business: Next meeting date Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 9:30 AM.
13. Adjourn.

The Development District of Central Texas is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the 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:

Meeting Minutes



Development District of Central Texas (DDCT)

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2024

9:30 AM

Regular Meeting

Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)

2180 North Main Street

Belton, TX 76513

Voting Members Present:

Dean Roome – Bartlett Municipal Development
District

Ginger Watkins – Cameron Industrial Foundation

Dr. Teddy Clevenger – Rockdale ISD*

Michael Boyd – City of Killeen

Bobby Whitson-Bell County

Michael Boyd, City of Killeen

Ted Gonzalez – Central Texas College

David O'Connor – Nolanville Economic Development
Corporation*

Kayla Schraub – Mainstreet Hamilton*

Teddy Clevenger, Rockdale ISD

Cynthia Hernandez, Belton Economic Development
Corporation

Additional Attendees

Anna Barge – CTCOG*

Dominic Elizondo – CTCOG

Shakima Lourick – Resident of Copperas Cove*

James McGill – CTCOG

Anita Janke – CTCOG

Callie Tullos – CTCOG

Tay Floyd – CTCOG*

**Denotes online attendee*

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order: Ted Gonzalez, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

3. Staff Update:

Dominic Elizondo gave an update about CTCOG activities including the Leadership Central Texas and Rural Internship Program advertising, Discover Central Texas website hosting, and the Central Texas Entrepreneurial Summit.

Staff are assisting the City of Cameron and the City of Belton with administration of EDA grants. We are helping Central Texas Water Supply Corporation, and New Life Village with grant and loan applications. Staff are assisting with planning and hosting the Central Texas Entrepreneurial Summit which took place in January. The event was successful, and another event is being planned for late summer. Mr. Elizondo also provided economic updates for Q1 2024, noting that the unemployment rate went down slightly to 4.46% and the labor force participation rate was 53.2%.

4. Action Item: Regarding approval of meeting minutes from the January 4, 2024 meeting.

Ginger Watkins made a motion to approve the January 4, 2024 minutes, seconded by Cynthia Hernandez; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding approval of 2024 Rural Internship Program applications.

Dominic Elizondo reviewed the applicants with the Board and referenced the applications within the packet. He notified the Board that the EDA reached out to the DDCT noting that we can no longer use our grant funds for scholarships or fellowships like the Rural Internship Program. The DDCT was notified the week before the meeting. Dominic Elizondo is reviewing other funding and asked for board feedback on funding. Cynthia Hernandez noted her concerns about timelines and the need of students to have their internship solidified with graduation quickly approaching. The Board gave the DDCT until May 3rd to find funding.

Cynthia Hernandez made a motion to approve the Rural Internship Program applicants, contingent on identifying funding, with the deadline of May 3rd, seconded by Bobby Whitson; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding approval of 2024 Leadership Central Texas Program applications.

Dominic Elizondo reviewed the Leadership Central Texas applicants with the Board. He noted there are not any funding problems here since applicants pay their tuition. There were 8 applicants in the program.

Dean Roome made a motion to approve the Leadership Central Texas Program applicants, seconded by Cynthia Hernandez; the motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding Fair Housing Presentation and Discussion

Dominic Elizondo presented about Fair Housing, noting that April is Fair Housing Month. The DDCT receives funds through the TDA, including the CDBG. One of the program items is providing a presentation on fair housing policies. He noted policies including the Civil Rights Act of 1968. He noted how communities can help further fair housing. Dominic opened the presentation up for discussion with discussion questions around fair housing measures that have been implemented, future implementation plans, and barriers to fair housing access in local communities. Discussion surrounded there not being enough proactive fair housing work done in Bell County.

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

Dominic Elizondo read the objective and strategies below.

- Objective: Enhance the region’s economic connectivity”. The strategies under the objective are to:
 - Strategy 1: Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.
 - Strategy 2: Expand public transit offerings to provide reliable, affordable public transportation options for connecting rural residents with employment centers.
 - Strategy 3: Improve the conditions of roadways, with particular attention to increased use of county roads.
 - Strategy 4: Develop an airport master plan addressing airport marketing/branding, increasing competitiveness vis-à-vis Austin, and needed upgrades such as additional hangar space.

Dominic Elizondo opened discussion for the strategies. There were the following comments:

- Strategy 1: No comments.
- Strategy 2: No comments.
- Strategy 3: Board members decided that awareness of grants would be the role of DDCT staff. Ginger requested an update to the newsletter. The Board also discussed roadway designations, including I-14.
- Strategy 4: Board members recommending making an inventory of local airports.

9. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Anna Barge discussed had updates from the Texas Broadband Development Office including:

- Central Texas Regional Working Group.
- BOOT Program expanding eligible locations due to SB 1238.
- Local Government Roundtable, 1st Thursday of the month (might change in July)
- The BDO submitted the Texas Digital Opportunity plan to the NTIA on February 28th.
- The Comptroller has adopted final rules for the broadband development program established by SB 1238.
- The BDO requires agencies to acquire a Tier E license if the agency wants to challenge broadband coverage maps.
- The BDO announced their Technical Assistance Program. Applications are on their website.

Anna Barge also discussed other updates including:

- The USDA ReConnect Loan & Grant Program is now open. Applications are due on May 21, 2024.
- The NTIA’s State Digital Equity Capacity Grant program opened for applications in March. States are eligible applicants. We will be monitoring whether Texas applies.
- The Affordability Connectivity Program is shutting down. Some ISPs plan on offering an alternative low-cost solution to the ACP-approved recipients.

There was some discussion on how to know whether an area is considered served by broadband standards.

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

Anna Barge noted that there are not a lot of legislative updates due to the Texas Legislature being inactive at this time. She presented the additional EPA funds the state of Texas will receive for the Clean

Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Anna Barge clarified that there are programs for both new and existing water lines after asked by Dr. Clevenger.

11. Board of Director Comments: Dominic Elizondo noted that the Community Development Fund is opening soon and priorities will be made at the next Executive Committee meeting. Dean asked about the DDCT's involvement in local issues surrounding insurance costs.

12. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

13. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:01 PM.

Dexter Morris, DDCT Chair

Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director

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Item 4:

**Approval of Bylaws
Amendments**

DDCT Bylaws Amendments

The proposed revisions to the Bylaws include:

- Adjusting the quorum requirement for board meetings and officer removal vote to be 50% plus one member from the previous 1/3 of the board requirement.
- Clarifying how proxy board members are selected.
- Moving the Subcommittees section after the Officers and Staff section.

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

Action Needed: Consider approval of amendments to DDCT Bylaws.



Development District of Central Texas Bylaws

Principles and Policies

1. The Representatives of local governments (or stakeholder groups) in the Central Texas Area join together in a voluntary organization to be known as the Central Texas Council of Governments (or its Advisory Groups), for the purpose of meeting at regular intervals to discuss problems and needs which require action on an area-wide or regional basis, to develop plans, policies (if authorized), and recommendations for action and implementation by local member governments and other appropriate levels of government within the region.
2. Counties, Cities and School Districts are the principal units of local government in the region. As such, they have the responsibility of planning for and meeting the local governmental needs which future development will produce, including the need for joint and coordinated area-wide service.
3. Sound and workable policies and programs for meeting and solving the area-wide problems of local governments will be most effective and ultimately carried out through regular meetings of the local governmental units (or stakeholder groups) in an area-wide voluntary council dedicated to the solution of these problems.
4. The Council (or its Advisory Groups) is a voluntary organization whereby individual governmental units (or stakeholder groups) can work together in coordination of their efforts in planning and guiding the needs of a progressive society.

Definitions:

The following terms are defined for use within this document.

Bylaws – The governing rules and articles adopted and amended by the membership.

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Council – This term refers to the Council of Governments, specifically the Central Texas Council of Governments in this case.

CTCOG – This is the official abbreviation for The Central Texas Council of Governments.

DDCT- This is the official abbreviation for the Development District of Central Texas.

Executive Committee – The Governing Body of the Council.

EDA – Economic Development Administration.

Article I: Organization

The name of this organization is the Development District of Central Texas.

The State of Texas designated the Central Texas Council of Governments as the fiduciary and administrative agent for this District. The creation of the Development District is authorized by the Central Texas Council of Governments under 13 CFR Part 304, Subsection 2.

The District shall initially serve the following Texas counties: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba.

The Advisory Group membership is made up of economic development stakeholders who comprise the DDCT as defined in Article IV. The Executive Committee is the Governing Body of the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) and is responsible for the general policies and programs of the Council and the control of its funds.

The DDCT is staffed by the CTCOG Planning and Regional Services Division and was created to address economic development issues and related legislation such as that enacted under the Economic Development Administration.

Article II: Purposes and Objectives

1. The objectives of the DDCT shall be to encourage and permit economic development stakeholders to cooperate with one another and with representatives of major economic

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interest, citizen groups, and other interested agencies to improve the health, safety, and general welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of the Region.

2. The purposes of the Development District of Central Texas are to:
 - a. Promote economic growth in the Texas State Planning Region 23;
 - b. Increase employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed persons;
 - c. Assist and coordinate economic development planning efforts of state and local governments and local economic development organizations in the region;
 - d. Coordinate economic development planning with transportation planning, community development programs, job training programs, and other programs and activities that might stimulate the region's economic betterment;
 - e. Implement an economic development technical assistance program that includes workshops, assistance in implementing economic development programs, and assistance to local organizations in applying for grants for economic development purposes;
 - f. Develop and maintain a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which builds upon county goals and objectives;
 - g. Conduct other activities supporting the region's economic development goals and objectives.

Article III: Powers and Duties of the District

1. In order to accomplish its objectives and purposes, the District shall perform the following functions:
 - a. Exercise the rights and powers granted the District pursuant to the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act;
 - b. Adopt the Bylaws of the District and amendments to the Bylaws;
 - c. Elect District Officers;
 - d. Establish procedures and take necessary actions to assure compliance with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations;

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- e. Establish procedures and take necessary actions to assure implementation of an effective economic development program and compliance with all applicable requirements and regulations of the EDA;
 - f. Adopt an annual budget.
2. In addition to the above function, the District has the power to:
- a. Enter into contracts;
 - b. Receive and expend funds from federal, state, and local governmental or private sources;
 - c. Establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary to conduct its work and determine the duties of such subcommittees upon their establishment;
 - d. Authorize a program of technical assistance to the District Service Area, including, but not limited to workshops and seminars, and information and assistance regarding state and federal economic development grants and loans;
 - e. Coordinate the District's activities with local governments and economic development agencies.
3. The corporate powers, business, and property of the Board shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the Board. The Board shall serve as the policy making body of the District.
- a. Organization
 - b. Contracts
 - c. Subcommittee
 - d. Civil Rights
 - e. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 - f. Technical Assistance
 - g. Coordination and Implementation
4. Authority
- a. The District shall be established and shall function within the rules, regulations, and guidelines of Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of

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Commerce and the laws of the State of Texas. **Federal Register/ Vol. 79 No. 244-Rules and Regulations

Article IV: Membership

1. All members shall be subject to ratification at a CTCOG Executive Committee meeting.
2. Each Director shall serve for his or her term in office and until his or her successor shall have been duly appointed. Directors are eligible for re-appointment without limitation, so long as they continue to meet the qualification of the category they represent.
3. Vacancies on the Board may be filled in the same manner as initial appointments. If an appointment is made to fill a vacancy on the Board, the successor Member shall serve for the remaining unexpired term of his or her predecessor.
4. Each member may resign at any time upon notice to the Chairman or Secretary of the District. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon the receipt thereof, and the acceptance of such recognition shall not be necessary to make it effective.
5. The Board shall provide admittance to meetings by persons who are not members of either the Central Texas Council of Governments or the District to enable such persons to make their views concerning ongoing and proposed activities in the District's Service Area, in compliance with section 303.4-1 (f) of Part 303 of the EDA regulations.

Article V: Representation Issues

1. The District Organization must demonstrate that its governing body is broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the Region, including the private sector, public officials, community leaders, and representatives of workforce development board, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups and private individuals. Board members who qualify under the above requirements and who wish to become board members must present a letter, or letters of Support or recommendation from an elected official(s) from their county within the DDCT. New members will be voting members after recommendation letter to the DDCT Board of Members has been received and conditions are met. New members will then be ratified by the

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CTCOG Executive Committee at the next appropriate meeting. It is a desirable goal that the DDOCT Board be comprised of at least a minimum of one member from each of the seven (7) regional counties within the CTCOG/DDCT region, however membership should represent our rural communities adequately. In addition, the governing body must demonstrate the capacity to implement the EDA-approved CEDS.

2. The business and affairs of the District shall be exercised, controlled and supervised by its Board of Members. The Board shall be comprised of the necessary representatives so as to comply with the Economic Development Administration's Rules and Regulations as outlined in the Federal Register/ Vol 79. No. 244 page 76131 paragraph 304.2 "District Organizations: Formation, organizational requirements and operations.

Article VI: Meetings of the Development District

1. Regular Meeting
 - a. The District Organization must hold meetings open to the public at least twice a year.
2. Special Meetings
 - a. Special meetings may be called by the Board Chairman, District Staff, or upon the request of at least three (3) members of the Board. All requirements for notice, quorum, and other rules governing regular meetings shall apply to special meetings.
3. Notice
 - a. The Board shall publish the date and agenda of such meetings sufficiently in advance (no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting) to allow the public a reasonable time to prepare in order to participate effectively. Board members shall receive notification of date, hour and location of meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
4. Quorum
 - a. At any meeting the Board, 50% plus one~~one third (1/3)~~ of the sitting Members being present in person and entitled to vote at such meeting shall constitute a quorum for all purposes except where it is otherwise provided by law or by these Bylaws.

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5. Proxies

- a. All voting by the Members shall be in person at a meeting called pursuant to these Bylaws. Proxy voting is allowed. A board member must notify DDCT staff of his or her selection of an individual to serve as a proxy for future meetings.

6. Attendance and Removal of Board Members

- a. Failure to physically or via video conference attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board shall constitute a resignation from the Board.

7. Video Conference.

- a. Any board member or Officer may videoconference in and are considered "present" and are counted toward the making of a quorum. They may also discuss and vote on any item so brought before the board.
- b. It is the purpose of this bylaw revision to make the board meeting(s) accessible to a board member who may be physically unable to attend the meeting.

Article VII: Officers & Staff

The Officers of the District shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary/Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by the Board. The Board may from time to time grant certain officers the right to act on behalf of the district and at all times the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are each authorized to execute and deliver agreements and other instruments on behalf of the District.

The Chairman of the Board, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Board, or in his/her absence, a chairperson chosen by the Members present, shall preside at each meeting of the Board.

1. Manner of Acting

- a. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members presents at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board except for Article VI Section 4 herein in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, except as specially exempted by these bylaws.

2. Subordinate Officers and Employees

- a. The Board may appoint and remove such other officers and their employees, as it may

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deem necessary, who shall have authority and shall perform such duties, as from time to time may be prescribed by the Board.

3. Tenure of Office and Removal

- a. The tenure of office of the Board shall be one year. Any officer may not succeed himself/herself more than once. Any officer, at any time, may be removed prior to the expiration of his/her term by affirmative vote of ~~50% plus oneone-third (1/3)~~ of the Members present, at a meeting duly called and held where a quorum is present.

4. The Chairman

- a. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the district and at all meetings of the Members at which he/she is present. He/She shall see that all orders and resolution of the Board are carried to effect.

5. Vice-Chairman

- a. The Vice-Chairman shall, during the absence of the Chairman, or in the case of his/her inability to act, be vested with powers and shall perform the duties of the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall also perform such other duties and exercise such other powers, as may from time to time be imposed upon or vested in him/her by resolution of the board.

6. Secretary/Treasurer

- a. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board. He/She shall assure that official records of the Board shall be maintained and give notice of all meetings as required by these bylaws. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for reporting to the Board concerning the financial affairs of the District. He/She shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.

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Article VIII: Sub Committees

1. It is the intent of this Advisory Group that the DDCT, shall when advisable, seek the advice and cooperation of interested citizen groups in the formulation of recommendations and to establish the priority of projects for consideration.
2. The DDCT may establish sub committees as necessary to effectively carry out the business of the DDCT planning grant.

Article ~~IX~~VIII: Parliamentary Authority

- ~~1.~~ Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters not covered by the Bylaws or any specific rules of procedure adopted by the Advisory Group.
- 1.

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Article IX: Finance

1. Limitation of Liability
 - a. Any debt, liability, or obligation of the District shall be of the District only, and not any entity participation in the District.
2. Indemnification
 - a. The District may indemnify any current or former Member, officer, agent, employee, or similar functionary of the District against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, and reasonable expenses actually incurred by such person as provided in Article 1396-2.22A of Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes, as amended.
3. Contributions
 - a. The Board may accept on behalf of the District any contribution, gift, bequest, or device for any purpose of the District.
4. Dissolution
 - a. The District's Board may dissolve the District in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and the Texas Non-profit Corporation Act.
5. Fiscal Year
 - a. The Fiscal year of the District shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December each calendar year.
6. Budget
 - a. The District's Board shall adopt the annual budget as established by the CTCOG under the guidance of the federal and/or state funding agency(ies) for the operation of the District prior to each fiscal year. The Board shall ensure that local matching funds will be provided for state and/or federal grants.
7. Books and Records
 - a. The district shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall keep minutes of the proceeding of the meetings of its Board and subcommittees.
8. Non-Profit Status

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- a. The District is a non-profit corporation. It shall be organized and operated exclusively for non-profit purposes. No part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any officer, member, member, or private individual, nor shall it ever declare or make to any such persons any dividend or other distribution.
- 9. Reasonable Compensation
 - a. Nothing herein shall prevent the payment of reasonable compensation for services rendered or the reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the District's affairs.
- 10. Political Activities Prohibited
 - a. The District shall not attempt to influence legislation nor shall it participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Article XI: Adoption and Amendment

The Board may amend or repeal these bylaws or adopt new bylaws not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or laws of this state, upon an affirmative vote of 50%one-third (1/3)plus one of the Members, at meetings duly called and held at which a quorum is present. Proposed amendments for initial consideration must be forwarded to each Member at least ten (10) day in advance of a Board meeting.

Article XI: Sub Committees

- ~~1. It is the intent of this Advisory Group that the DDOCT, shall when advisable, seek the advice and cooperation of interested citizen groups in the formulation of recommendations and to establish the priority of projects for consideration.~~
- ~~2. The DDOCT may establish sub committees as necessary to effectively carry out the business of the DDOCT planning grant.~~

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Article XII: Adoption and Revision Date

ATTEST:

The Bylaws of the Development District of Central Texas were accepted and passed by the Board Members on the 8th day of May, 2002, and are hereby revised on this 11~~8~~th day of July~~April~~, 2024~~1~~.

Dexter
MorrisGinger-
Watkins
Chairman

Ted Gonzalez
Cynthia Hernandez
Vice-Chairman

Bobby Whitson
Secretary/Treasurer

Uryan Nelson
CTCOG Director of Planning and Regional Services

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Development District of Central Texas Bylaws

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interest, citizen groups, and other interested agencies to improve the health, safety, and general welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of the Region.

2. The purposes of the Development District of Central Texas are to:

- a. Promote economic growth in the Texas State Planning Region 23;
- b. Increase employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed persons;
- c. Assist and coordinate economic development planning efforts of state and local governments and local economic development organizations in the region;
- d. Coordinate economic development planning with transportation planning, community development programs, job training programs, and other programs and activities that might stimulate the region's economic betterment;
- e. Implement an economic development technical assistance program that includes workshops, assistance in implementing economic development programs, and assistance to local organizations in applying for grants for economic development purposes;
- f. Develop and maintain a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which builds upon county goals and objectives;
- g. Conduct other activities supporting the region's economic development goals and objectives.

Article III: Powers and Duties of the District

1. In order to accomplish its objectives and purposes, the District shall perform the following functions:
 - a. Exercise the rights and powers granted the District pursuant to the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act;
 - b. Adopt the Bylaws of the District and amendments to the Bylaws;
 - c. Elect District Officers;
 - d. Establish procedures and take necessary actions to assure compliance with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations;

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- e. Establish procedures and take necessary actions to assure implementation of an effective economic development program and compliance with all applicable requirements and regulations of the EDA;
 - f. Adopt an annual budget.
- 2. In addition to the above function, the District has the power to:
 - a. Enter into contracts;
 - b. Receive and expend funds from federal, state, and local governmental or private sources;
 - c. Establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary to conduct its work and determine the duties of such subcommittees upon their establishment;
 - d. Authorize a program of technical assistance to the District Service Area, including, but not limited to workshops and seminars, and information and assistance regarding state and federal economic development grants and loans;
 - e. Coordinate the District's activities with local governments and economic development agencies.
- 3. The corporate powers, business, and property of the Board shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the Board. The Board shall serve as the policy making body of the District.
 - a. Organization
 - b. Contracts
 - c. Subcommittee
 - d. Civil Rights
 - e. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 - f. Technical Assistance
 - g. Coordination and Implementation
- 4. Authority
 - a. The District shall be established and shall function within the rules, regulations, and guidelines of Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of

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Commerce and the laws of the State of Texas. **Federal Register/ Vol. 79 No. 244-Rules and Regulations

Article IV: Membership

1. All members shall be subject to ratification at a CTCOG Executive Committee meeting.
2. Each Director shall serve for his or her term in office and until his or her successor shall have been duly appointed. Directors are eligible for re-appointment without limitation, so long as they continue to meet the qualification of the category they represent.
3. Vacancies on the Board may be filled in the same manner as initial appointments. If an appointment is made to fill a vacancy on the Board, the successor Member shall serve for the remaining unexpired term of his or her predecessor.
4. Each member may resign at any time upon notice to the Chairman or Secretary of the District. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon the receipt thereof, and the acceptance of such recognition shall not be necessary to make it effective.
5. The Board shall provide admittance to meetings by persons who are not members of either the Central Texas Council of Governments or the District to enable such persons to make their views concerning ongoing and proposed activities in the District's Service Area, in compliance with section 303.4-1 (f) of Part 303 of the EDA regulations.

Article V: Representation Issues

1. The District Organization must demonstrate that its governing body is broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the Region, including the private sector, public officials, community leaders, and representatives of workforce development board, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups and private individuals. Board members who qualify under the above requirements and who wish to become board members must present a letter, or letters of Support or recommendation from an elected official(s) from their county within the DDCT. New members will be voting members after recommendation letter to the DDCT Board of Members has been received and conditions are met. New members will then be ratified by the

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CTCOG Executive Committee at the next appropriate meeting. It is a desirable goal that the DDCT Board be comprised of at least a minimum of one member from each of the seven (7) regional counties within the CTCOG/DDCT region, however membership should represent our rural communities adequately. In addition, the governing body must demonstrate the capacity to implement the EDA-approved CEDS.

2. The business and affairs of the District shall be exercised, controlled and supervised by its Board of Members. The Board shall be comprised of the necessary representatives so as to comply with the Economic Development Administration's Rules and Regulations as outlined in the Federal Register/ Vol 79. No. 244 page 76131 paragraph 304.2 "District Organizations: Formation, organizational requirements and operations.

Article VI: Meetings of the Development District

1. Regular Meeting
 - a. The District Organization must hold meetings open to the public at least twice a year.
2. Special Meetings
 - a. Special meetings may be called by the Board Chairman, District Staff, or upon the request of at least three (3) members of the Board. All requirements for notice, quorum, and other rules governing regular meetings shall apply to special meetings.
3. Notice
 - a. The Board shall publish the date and agenda of such meetings sufficiently in advance (no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting) to allow the public a reasonable time to prepare in order to participate effectively. Board members shall receive notification of date, hour and location of meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
4. Quorum
 - a. At any meeting the Board, 50% plus one of the sitting Members being present in person and entitled to vote at such meeting shall constitute a quorum for all purposes except where it is otherwise provided by law or by these Bylaws.

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5. Proxies

- a. All voting by the Members shall be in person at a meeting called pursuant to these Bylaws. Proxy voting is allowed. A board member must notify DDCT staff of his or her selection of an individual to serve as a proxy for future meetings.

6. Attendance and Removal of Board Members

- a. Failure to physically or via video conference attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board shall constitute a resignation from the Board.

7. Video Conference.

- a. Any board member or Officer may videoconference in and are considered "present" and are counted toward the making of a quorum. They may also discuss and vote on any item so brought before the board.
- b. It is the purpose of this bylaw revision to make the board meeting(s) accessible to a board member who may be physically unable to attend the meeting.

Article VII: Officers & Staff

The Officers of the District shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary/Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by the Board. The Board may from time to time grant certain officers the right to act on behalf of the district and at all times the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are each authorized to execute and deliver agreements and other instruments on behalf of the District.

The Chairman of the Board, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Board, or in his/her absence, a chairperson chosen by the Members present, shall preside at each meeting of the Board.

1. Manner of Acting

- a. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members presents at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board except for Article VI Section 4 herein in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, except as specially exempted by these bylaws.

2. Subordinate Officers and Employees

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- a. The Board may appoint and remove such other officers and their employees, as it may deem necessary, who shall have authority and shall perform such duties, as from time to time may be prescribed by the Board.
3. Tenure of Office and Removal
 - a. The tenure of office of the Board shall be one year. Any officer may not succeed himself/herself more than once. Any officer, at any time, may be removed prior to the expiration of his/her term by affirmative vote of 50% plus one of the Members present, at a meeting duly called and held where a quorum is present.
4. The Chairman
 - a. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the district and at all meetings of the Members at which he/she is present. He/She shall see that all orders and resolution of the Board are carried to effect.
5. Vice-Chairman
 - a. The Vice-Chairman shall, during the absence of the Chairman, or in the case of his/her inability to act, be vested with powers and shall perform the duties of the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall also perform such other duties and exercise such other powers, as may from time to time be imposed upon or vested in him/her by resolution of the board.
6. Secretary/Treasurer
 - a. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board. He/She shall assure that official records of the Board shall be maintained and give notice of all meetings as required by these bylaws. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for reporting to the Board concerning the financial affairs of the District. He/She shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.

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Article VIII: Sub Committees

1. It is the intent of this Advisory Group that the DDCT, shall when advisable, seek the advice and cooperation of interested citizen groups in the formulation of recommendations and to establish the priority of projects for consideration.
2. The DDCT may establish sub committees as necessary to effectively carry out the business of the DDCT planning grant.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

1. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters not covered by the Bylaws or any specific rules of procedure adopted by the Advisory Group.

Article X: Finance

1. Limitation of Liability
 - a. Any debt, liability, or obligation of the District shall be of the District only, and not any entity participation in the District.
2. Indemnification
 - a. The District may indemnify any current or former Member, officer, agent, employee, or similar functionary of the District against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, and reasonable expenses actually incurred by such person as provided in Article 1396-2.22A of Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes, as amended.
3. Contributions
 - a. The Board may accept on behalf of the District any contribution, gift, bequest, or device for any purpose of the District.
4. Dissolution
 - a. The District's Board may dissolve the District in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and the Texas Non-profit Corporation Act.
5. Fiscal Year
 - a. The Fiscal year of the District shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December each calendar year.

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6. Budget

- a. The District's Board shall adopt the annual budget as established by the CTCOG under the guidance of the federal and/or state funding agency(ies) for the operation of the District prior to each fiscal year. The Board shall ensure that local matching funds will be provided for state and/or federal grants.

7. Books and Records

- a. The district shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall keep minutes of the proceeding of the meetings of its Board and subcommittees.

8. Non-Profit Status

- a. The District is a non-profit corporation. It shall be organized and operated exclusively for non-profit purposes. No part of its net earnings shall insure to the benefit of any officer, member, member, or private individual, nor shall it ever declare or make to any such persons any dividend or other distribution.

9. Reasonable Compensation

- a. Nothing herein shall prevent the payment of reasonable compensation for services rendered or the reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the District's affairs.

10. Political Activities Prohibited

- a. The District shall not attempt to influence legislation nor shall it participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Article XI: Adoption and Amendment

The Board may amend or repeal these bylaws or adopt new bylaws not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or laws of this state, upon an affirmative vote of 50% plus one of the Members, at meetings duly called and held at which a quorum is present. Proposed amendments for initial consideration must be forwarded to each Member at least ten (10) day in advance of a Board meeting.

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Article XII: Adoption and Revision Date

ATTEST:

The Bylaws of the Development District of Central Texas were accepted and passed by the Board Members on the 8th day of May, 2002, and are hereby revised on this 11th day of July, 2024.

Dexter Morris
Chairman

Ted Gonzalez
Vice-Chairman

Bobby Whitson
Secretary/Treasurer

Uryan Nelson
CTCOG Director of Planning and Regional Services

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Item 5:
Leon-Bosque RC&D
Presentation

Leon-Bosque RC&D Presentation

Joe McFarland, chair of the Leon-Bosque RC&D will provide an overview of the services the council provides, particularly in the DDCT region.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Item 6:

**The Forge Research Park
Progress Presentation**

Presentation on Forge Research Park Progress

Dr. Walter Murphy, the Associate Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Innovation for the President's Office at Texas A&M-Central Texas will provide a presentation on the current status of the university's efforts to start a research park in Killeen as well as future plans for its operation.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

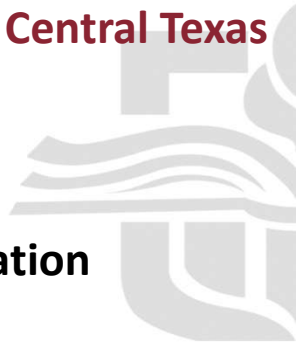


- ***Status update: The Forge research park***
 - ***Background information***
 - ***Integration into development of the university's Campus Master Plan***
 - ***The Forge on the A&M-Central Texas website***



**Presentation to Development District of Central Texas
July 11, 2024**

**Walter Murphy
Division of Research and Innovation**



University Research Park Planning Committee & Partnerships

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. Cavazos Garrison Command, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, Central Texas College, Temple College, Solution One, Centex Technologies, Trideum, Geeks & Nerds, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Nolanville EDC, Copperas Cove EDC, Killeen ISD
 - Centex Technologies & Trideum: First Two URP Businesses Operating on Campus
- OLDCC Grant: Perkins and Will study and report
- URP Research Foci: **1. Defense, 2. Alternative Energy, 3. Cybersecurity, 4. Healthcare, 5. Data Sciences, and 6. Education/Archives**



**Existing and in-progress campus buildings with
2010 Campus Master Plan underlay**

CORE Building

Warrior Hall

Heritage
Hall

Founder's Hall



A vision for A&M-Central Texas

The Campus Plan for A&M-Central Texas endeavors to create a blended knowledge community where academia and industry thrive together and students of diverse backgrounds and life stages are availed of the opportunity to advance their lives, careers, and community through the educational experience.

Gateway Building 1

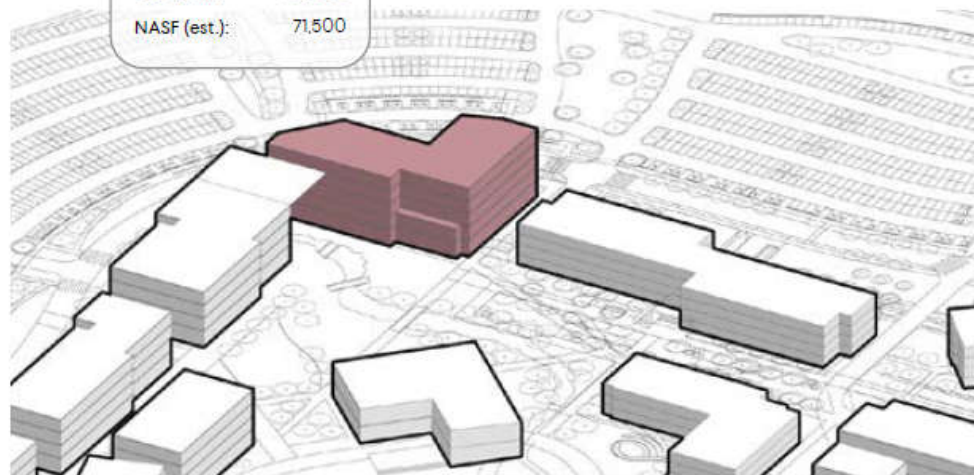
The first of the Gateway buildings will house a hybrid of academic and industry related uses to support the University needs and the extended Forge @A&M-Central Texas users.

The proposed hybrid facility should include a mix of flex, dry lab, and office spaces intended to capture untapped market opportunities, attracting industry partners and supporting university research needs. This hybrid facility absorbs and expands upon the requirements for the previously proposed Research and Testing Annex, along with potential relocation and expansion of existing research uses and industry partners who occupy other spaces on campus. In addition to the research environments, the university has identified the need for a large auditorium of approximately 500 seats, and has the opportunity to relocate administrative suites for executive level offices to this building to free up space in other academic buildings.

Conceptually speaking, the first floor of this partnership building may include 20' ceiling heights to accommodate flex space for machinery and equipment related to prototyping, testing, and evaluation. Flexible space could include options for small offices, co-working spaces, and shared meeting and conferencing spaces that operate on short-term agreements and are subsidized by public funding.

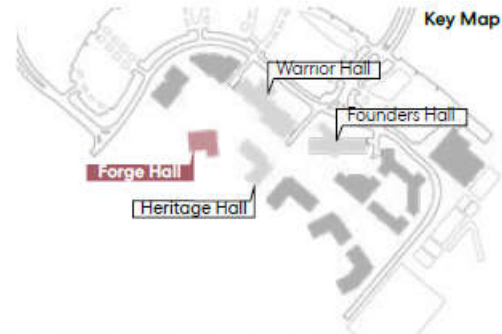


Phase:	Near-Term
GSF (est.):	110,000
NASF (est.):	71,500



Forge Hall

Forge Hall is a building that represents the collaborative nature of the work carried on from the Forge @A&M-Central Texas innovation-driven planning effort. It is designed to be an open community asset, accessible by all that represents the blended community and contains space to facilitate events, assembly, and serendipitous interactions around food or a cup of coffee. As represented on the conceptual program on the adjacent page, this would include cafeteria, large flexible assembly spaces, flexible meeting rooms or pods, student organization space, and more.



Phase:	Near-Term
GSF (est.):	20,000
NASF (est.):	13,000



Future Research Park Planning & Partnerships

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

Community Project Funding –
Downtown Killeen Building
Renovation for Innovation
District/ Military Transition Program

New URP Partnerships –
Commercialization with UCARE
Support

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

Apply for Innovation Planning Grant

Fifth URP Summit
January 2025
(Planning meeting next week)



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



Texas A&M University-Central Texas Website and Contact Information

- The Forge – information on university website
 - [Forge webpage](#)
 - [Campus Master Plan](#)
- Contact Information:
 - Dr. Walter Murphy
Assistant VP, Research & Innovation
Email: murphyw@tamuct.edu
or Phone: (254) 519-5761



Item 7:
2022-26 CEDS
Implementation

2022-2026 CEDS Implementation

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

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

This meeting the focus will be the objective to **“Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.”** The strategies under this objective are to:

- Build additional capacity to assist jurisdictions with grant identification/writing/administration.
- 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.
- Create marketing materials summarizing CTCOG services, assistance, and resources available to municipalities.
- Conduct remote/hybrid meetings to increase accessibility for rural communities.
- Provide technical support as-needed to communities on subjects of planning, transportation, legal, etc.
- 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.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Objective	Strategies & Actions	Roles	Priority	Progress Status	Comments/Updates
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	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	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	Complete	Happened at Small Town Summit
	Develop and centrally store templates for municipalities to send out emergency information (e.g. boil notices).	CTCOG	Low	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	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	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	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	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	Not Started	
Prepare and harden infrastructure needed for emergency communications, emergency services, & resilience.	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	Complete	OnMed presented at Sept Ex Committee Meeting -no one interested
	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	Started	Research level, networking
	Invest in roadways needed for emergency services.	CTCOG coordinate with municipalities and service providers	High	Started	Currently identifying the roads that are important for emergency services and their status (flooding, road issues), try to address this in the SS4A Action Plan
	Set up social media channels for individual jurisdictions to build following for improved outreach during emergencies.	Individual jurisdictions, with CTCOG technical assistance	Med	Started	Shared tips in December. Dominic followed all of the city and county pages that he could find. Shares content via email and tagging local governments on posts.
	Explore and develop capability for CTCOG to deliver alerts to all phones active in the region.	CTCOG	Med	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	Started	Grant opens in Dec, funded following fall, educate region starting Jan
Develop a strong regionally-based business marketing	Invest in backup power and communications; consider use of solar for redundancy	CTCOG coordinate municipalities	Med	Started	CTCOG PS paying for maintenance and some repairs of generators for 9-1-1 centers
	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	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	Complete	10/7/2022

Business marketing effort.	Develop a regionally-based tourism marketing effort promoting area destinations, downtowns, and outdoor assets.	CTCOG	Med	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	Started	Work with Fort Cavazos TAP
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	Started	BDO Regional Working Group (CTCOG, BVCOG, HOTCOG), Texas received BEAD funding to create BEAD 5 year Action Plan and a TX Digital Opportunity Plan. Both have received public comments. 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. The Broadband Infrastructure Fund has been created.
	Develop a regional water/sewer plan prioritizing investments needed for <u>industry growth</u> .	CTCOG with local water and sewer authorities	High	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	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	Started	Research Park is applying for EDA Tech Hubs grant, with focus on tech such as AI, rehabbing building for military transition program
	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	Started	Event to take place in Jan 30 2023
	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	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	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	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	Complete	P20 Council-SOAR Career Coaches program engaging thousands of students with career readiness and support, training workshops, resources for employment, and graduate hiring events. Next hiring event is Apr.16, 2024 at Cadence Bank Center. Also provides Virtual College Experience Program. 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	Started	Veteran Employer Summit was held May 17th, 2023-maybe reoccurring summit (entrepreneurship and/or milspouse). Possibly hold annually. Central Texas Entrepreneur Summit held in Lampasas on Jan.30,2023 with resources for veterans on business plans and financing. Second summit being held in Lampasas on July 23 over marketing, branding, sales, and certifications for veteran owned businesses, as well as local entrepreneur start up stories. TAP at Fort Cavazos concierge service. Milspouse Event was on 11/1/22. Approx a dozen attendees
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	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	Not Started	Could be part of Regional Multimodal Plan (KTMO), TxDOT has their Bicycle, Tourism, and Trails Plan which was created by their statewide BPAC
	<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	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 Jurisdictions	Med	Not Started	Master plans should be developed 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 Jurisdictions	Low	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	Started	Same as another above objective-CAPCOG, BVCOG, CTCOG Regional Working Group on broadband.
	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	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. HOP is trying to secure funding from cities/counties to make up for budget shortfalls. May 2024- microtransit stops getting rolled out, TMAs later that year Secured contributions from every county but Hamilton, still in the talks with Hamilton. RFP out for 60-90 microtransit vehicles and a tech vendor to do trip planning, vendor selected-Spare Labs. Might be applying for TxDOT coordinated call grant and ICAM Pilot Program. Connector route from Copperas Cove to Temple planned with six vehicles, 30 minute headway and connector terminus. Hydrogen corridor planned-Low/No Emission grant?
	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	Not Started	RAISE, Community Development Fund grants may be useful, EDA Public Works grants, Transportation Alternative (TA) Program. Certificates of Obligation are option as well. Can be addressed in SS4A Action Plan-draft plan done September 2024, final plan January 2025 tentatively. Region eligible to apply for implementation grants after plan is complete. RAISE grant open for applications. ROUTES. EDA Public Works-Mullin may apply for reconstruction of roads.
	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	Started	Maybe reach out to airport staff across region to see if they are interested? , microtransit route to GRK? No current marketing plan, but have 2019 master plan. Airport inventory across region-TxDOT.

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	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 Bell County Appraisal District Summit on hold. Property tax value exemption law ~\$100,000
	Harmonize all communities' GIS systems and parcel address methodologies.	Municipalities with CTCOG technical assistance	Low	Started	We would need specific funding for staff coordination
Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.	Build additional capacity to assist jurisdictions with grant identification/writing/administration.	CTCOG	High	Complete	Anna working on this at the end of August
	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	Complete	Next class is July 2024, includes topics on planning and zoning, grant resources, and roles and responsibilities of officials. Planning begins in May.
	Create marketing materials summarizing CTCOG services, assistance, and resources available to municipalities.	CTCOG	Med	Complete	Printed and sent out!
	Conduct remote/hybrid meetings to increase accessibility for rural communities.	CTCOG	Med	Complete	Ongoing
	Provide technical support as-needed to communities on subjects of planning, transportation, legal, etc.	CTCOG	Med	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	Started	Uryan & Jim, have county level meet ups- start scheduling in July 2024, send a Planner with staff. Availability during Summer and Fall for meetings with local governments.

Item 8:
**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)
- Local Gov Broadband Roundtable meets virtually on first Thursday of each month at 10am (BDO program). The event link can be found [here](#).
- To challenge the new broadband coverage maps from the BDO, your agency will need to acquire a Tier E license. For more information, visit this [link](#).
- The BDO applied to the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (SDECGP) on May 28. Texas was allocated \$55.6 million to implement the digital opportunity initiatives identified in the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) expects to begin issuing awards to eligible states no later than Aug. 28 and make additional awards on a rolling basis. SDECGP funds will be used to expand broadband connections and digital literacy across the state, with programs tentatively beginning in late 2024 or early 2025.
- On May 22nd, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) held a webinar to help rural communities prepare for the next round of its Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) program. More information can be found in this [TML Legislative Update](#).

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

Item 9:

Federal & State Updates

Legislative Updates for Economic Development in Texas

- In mid-June, Governor Abbott announced the results of a study that estimated military installations contribute at least \$151.2 billion to the state economy and support more than 677,022 jobs in communities across the state. The results are based on a study completed by the comptroller at the request of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. [Fort Cavazos](#) was specifically studied with the following economic impact:
 - Total direct employment: 59,695
 - Total employment (direct and indirect): 173,730
 - Output: \$39,093,559,000
 - Disposable personal income: \$10,890,216,000
- The Senate Natural Resources Committee met on June 13th to discuss Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT). The committee listened to feedback from the comptroller's office, interested associations, and other non-profit organizations. The committee mainly discussed the current uses of local HOT revenue and whether an expansion is warranted; and city reporting requirements of HOT to comptroller.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

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 continued publishing three weekly and biweekly newsletters on
 - Economic Development grants, resources and webinars;
 - Economic Development regional highlights, and events.
 - Central Texas Transportation, highlighting grants, resources, and updates on implementation of the 2022-26 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan.
- Staff attended the Southwest Region Economic Development Association (SWREDA) Regional Conference 2024 Annual Conference May 15-17 in Oklahoma City.
- Leadership Central Texas held its first class on June 20 over Local Government and CTCOG Planning Programs. 12 class members attended total, including two new staff members. The next class is July 18 on Regional Infrastructure and Social Services.
- Staff is hosting the next Veteran Entrepreneurial Summit in Lampasas on July 23, 2024. This summit will focus on marketing, branding, and sales, certifications for veteran-owned businesses, and start up stories from entrepreneurs.
- Staff is hosting the next Newly Elected Officials Class on July 16. This class will cover topics such as managing growth through planning and zoning, economic development, city and county finance, CTCOG services, and grant programs for local governments.
- Staff has continuously 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 on water and wastewater infrastructure, broadband, economic development, workforce development, and community revitalization.
- Staff has continuously updated the Discover Central Texas Facebook and Twitter with events, sites, attractions, and destinations for tourism along a theme for each month. Calendar posts and event/site highlights have now restarted with staff planning to reach out to cities without access to the WordPress to obtain a contact who can update events and attractions for their city on the website.

- Staff is working to create a housing, comprehensive plan, and zoning toolkit and resources page on the DDCT website.
- Staff has continuously updated the DDCT and Central Texas Transportation Facebooks with grants and other resources.
- CTCOG, HOTCOG, and BVCOG are in the Central Texas Regional Broadband Working Group for the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO). Staff distributed information to the region on the BDO's Technical Assistance Program and how counties can form Broadband Committees to access the program.
- Grant Management/Technical Assistance
 - Staff is assisting the City of Cameron with reimbursements for engineering and construction fees for their EDA grant as well as administering the project and completing all progress and financial reports.
 - Staff is continuing administering an EDA grant for the City of Belton for their Rockwool project with reimbursements for engineering fees and completing required documentation for construction bid opening and submittal as well as the construction contract. Easement requests for parcel owners on property have been submitted, waiting on parcel owner legal reviews of requests.
 - Staff is working on an EDA EAA grant application for the city of Copperas Cove for a Downtown Improvements Plan update.
 - Staff is assisting the non-profit New Life Village to fund new tiny homes, a water storage tank, and water and street infrastructure for aged out foster youth. Staff is applying for the USDA Community Facilities grant for this project and is currently working on pre-application materials to confirm eligibility of the project.
 - Staff is assisting the City of Lometa with a USDA Community Facilities application for purchasing and renovating a property to house their city hall and services.
 - Staff is assisting the Water Finance Exchange where needed for Central Texas Water Supply Corporation's application for various TWDB and USDA programs for new raw water and high capacity pumps.
 - Staff continue to provide technical assistance to communities for grant applications and general resource requests.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas Q1 2024 Economic Snapshot for CTCOG Region

- Unemployment Rate: As of February 2024, the unemployment rate is 4.85%, a decrease from the 4.46% rate at the end of Q4 2023.
- Labor Force Participation Rate: As of 2023 the labor force participation rate is 54.4%, a decrease from 56.9% in 2018.
- Workforce: 207,818
- Exports: \$49.43 billion; an increase from Q4 2023's \$48.57 billion.
- Total Jobs Increase: From 2018 to 2023, jobs increased by 4.3% from 205,925 to 214,833. This change outpaced the national growth rate of 3.9% by 0.4%.
- Professional & Business Services: 80,000+ Jobs vs. national average 172,000+ Jobs.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities: 76,000+ Jobs vs. national average of 150,000+ Jobs.
- Government Sector: 60,000+ Jobs vs. 35,000+ national average.
- Fastest Growing Industries: Construction, retail trade, and accommodation and food services.
- Largest Industries: Government, health care and social assistance, and retail trade.
- Largest Occupations: Office and Administrative Support, Transportation and Material Moving, Military-Only.
- Fastest Growing Occupations: Management, Transportation and Material Moving, and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical.
- In 2022 there were 5,252 college graduates in our region, shrinking 19% over the past 4 years. Most of these graduates were Associate's degrees and Bachelor of Nursing degrees.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

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Grant Opportunities

Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant

- Community Development Fund

Opens early 2025

Description: The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the TxCDBG Program. This fund is available on a biennial basis for funding through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used. Awards are up to \$500,000 with match <2% to >20% depending on applicant population. The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) Executive Committee will convene to select Regional Priorities for FY 2025-26 Community Development Fund applications based on prior funding cycle priorities and local priorities from non-entitlement communities. These Regional Priorities will account for 50 of the 200 points that the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will award to applicants. For more information go [here](#).

- Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Programs

Closed April 3, 2024, reopens FY 2025

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

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

Match: Minimum 3.5%

Award: \$500,000

Contact Crystal Ortegon by email at

Crystal.Ortegon@TexasAgriculture.gov

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

- Planning and Capacity Building Fund

Reopens 2024

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

EDA

• EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Applications Ongoing

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

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

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

- Construction or upgrading of public infrastructure;
- Design and implementation of sectoral partnerships;
- Activities necessary to strengthen cluster acceleration and expansion;

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

Awards are expected to be \$600,000-\$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. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

TDA

- Rural Economic Development Finance Program Texas Rural Community (TRC) Loan

Application deadline on rolling basis.

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

LCRA

- Community Development Partnership Program

Application period is July 1-31, 2024.

Description: Program provides grants of up to \$50,00 for capital improvements projects in its service area, including Coryell, Mills, Hamilton, Lampasas, and San Saba counties. Past projects include improvements for fire departments, emergency response centers, community centers, schools, and libraries. Match is 20%. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

SBA

- 7(a) Loans

Applications are accepted throughout the year

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

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

Loan terms are worked out with the SBA. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

USDA

- Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program

Applications are accepted throughout the year

Description: This grant and/or loan is for the purchase, construction, and/or improvement of essential community facilities, including health care facilities such as hospitals and medical clinics, public facilities such as town halls and courthouses, community support services, public safety services, utility services, and local food systems such as community gardens and kitchens. For FY 2022, Texas has approximately \$30 million for loans, and <\$1 million for grants. Eligible recipients include public bodies and community-based nonprofits. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Grant funds portion of project depending on population and median household income of community. Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicants authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less. Contact Daniel Torres, Acting State Director at USDA Rural Development Texas, at (254) 742-9700. Non-Federal Match: 25-85% depending on population and median household income of community. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

- Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantee

Applications are Accepted Throughout the Year

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

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

Loans are available for improvements, expansions, construction, and acquisition and refinancing in certain cases. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant

Applications Accepted Year Round

Description: This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 are to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply. Water source grants up to \$1,000,000 are to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility. Funds can be obtained in up to 6 months.

- Non-Federal Match: No Match Required
- Award Maximum:

Water Transmission Line Grants: \$150,000

Water Source Grants: \$1,000,000

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

- Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

Applications Accepted Year Round

Description: This program provides \$150,000-approximately \$20 million in long term, low interest loans (and grants if funds are available) for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in cities with populations less than 10,000. While it is primarily for drinking water sourcing and treatment as well as sewer collection, funds may also be used for start up operations and maintenance. Loan term is 40 years and fixed interest rate is determined by the need for the project and median household of the area to be served. Funds can be obtained in 18-24 months. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

Application deadlines quarterly, with the next deadline being September 30, 2024

Description: The USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program provides zero-interest loans and grants to current and former eligible Rural Utilities Service borrowers to then use the funds to help local businesses finance projects to create and retain jobs or finance community facility projects. Up to \$300,000 in grants and \$2 million in loans may be requested to establish revolving loan funds. Eligible entities include:

- Nonprofit utilities eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs.
- Current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs borrowers.

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

- Business incubators.
- Community development assistance to nonprofits and public bodies.
- Facilities and equipment to train rural residents to facilitate economic development.
- Start-up venture costs, including real estate, buildings, equipment or working capital.

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

- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline September 30, 2024

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

- Intermediary Relending Program

Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline September 30, 2024

Description: The USDA's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) for FY 2024 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. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grant Program

Application Deadlines are quarterly, with the next deadline September 30, 2024

Description: This program provides loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Projects must be located in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or less. Loan guarantees are available up to 75% of eligible project costs and grants up to 50% of project costs. Grant terms are:

- Renewable Energy System Grants: \$2,500 minimum, \$1 million maximum.
- Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1,500 minimum, \$500,000 maximum.

Match is 50-75% depending on certain criteria. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

Texas Broadband Development Office

- Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program

Reopens 2024, Eligibility Will Broaden to Include Low Latency Areas

Description: Eligible applicants, including political subdivisions of the State and broadband service providers are able 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). For more information, click [here](#)!

- Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Application window opened in June 2024. Will reopen for 2025

Description: is available for applications from county broadband committees certified by the BDO through application on website. Counties awarded in the TAP Program will receive assistance from a team of contracted broadband planning and consulting specialists from Cobb, Fendley and Associates. The final deliverable will be a County Broadband Plan with actionable strategies to improve availability of broadband. All services are paid for directly by the BDO. For more information, go [here](#).

Texas Water Development Board

- Texas Water Development Fund (DFund)

Applications are accepted year-round

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

- Water supply
- Wastewater
- Water quality enhancement.

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

- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

Applications closed January 8th, 2024, Annually Reopens in October

Description: This program provides funding to help states and communities pay for cost effective ways to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss structures covered by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). \$800 million is available for the FY 2023 program for political subdivisions that are in good standing with the NFIP with a FEMA approved and locally adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan for structures that have active NFIP flood insurance policies to:

- Develop or update the Flood Hazard component of a community's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (limited to \$25,000 in federal funding per sub applicant).
- Develop flood risk reduction projects and/or individual flood mitigation projects (limited to \$900,000 in federal funding per sub application).
- Partnership development, enhancing local floodplain management, severe repetitive loss/repetitive loss strategy plan development.
- Acquisition and demolition or relocation of structures.
- Mitigation reconstruction.
- Localized flood risk reduction (drainage and stormwater) projects (limited to \$50,000,000 in federal funding per sub application).
- Dry flood-proofing of non-residential properties and historic residential properties.
- Structural retrofitting of existing buildings, and infrastructure retrofits.

Match ranges from 0% (if project mitigates a severe repetitive loss property) to 25%. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

- Clean Water/Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF/DWSRF)
Applicants typically submit a Project Information Form by March of each year-due March 1, 2025.
Description: Provides loans for wastewater or drinking water-related projects at interest rates lower than those offered by commercial markets. Projects include planning, acquisition, and construction of
 - Treatment facilities
 - Collection/distribution systems
 - Stormwater, nonpoint source pollution control
 - Estuary management
 - Consolidation and source water protection.

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

Office of the Governor

- Event Trust Fund Program
Application Period Rolling
Description: 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. 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. 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. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

Texas Workforce Commission

- Skills for Small Business for Employers

Apply All Year

Description: 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.

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

Texas Parks and Wildlife

- Local Parks Grant Programs

Application deadline August 1, Annual

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

- [Local Parks Urban Outdoor Recreation](#): Up to \$1.5 million
- [Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation](#): \$750,000
- [Local Parks Small Community Recreation](#): \$150,000
- [Local Parks Urban Indoor Recreation](#): \$1.5 million, Application deadline TBD
- [Local Parks Non-Urban Indoor Recreation](#): \$1 million, Application Deadline TBD

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

TX-PACE Program

Open Year Round

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

USDOL

- Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program

Deadline to apply for Q2 2024 is July 7, 2024

Description: The USDOL has made available \$80 million for the first round of this grant program to fund public-private partnerships develop, implement, and scale worker-centered sector strategy training programs in H-1B industries and occupations, particularly those that address local and regional infrastructure needs and lead to high paying middle to high skilled quality jobs. Eligible lead applicants include:

- National or community-based nonprofit organizations targeting the advanced manufacturing, IT, and/or professional, scientific, and technical services occupations.
- Workforce development entities
- Education/training providers
- Economic development agencies
- State, county, and local governments

Applicants can choose to apply for one of two program tracks:

1. Development Track: Developing and implementing local/regional worker-centered sector strategy programs. 50% of available funding. Awards of \$500,000 to \$2 million. No match is required, but recommendation of leveraging funding from partner organizations and businesses equal to 15% of total requested grant.
2. Scaling Track: Scaling effective worker-centered sector strategy programs. 50% of available funding. \$2 million to \$5 million. 15% match required.

Because this grant is funded by user fees paid by employers to hire foreign workers on H-1B visas, training programs must serve people at least 17 and not enrolled in a secondary school, particularly those that face employment barriers to middle to high skilled H-1B occupations. The period of performance is 60 months. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

HUD

- FY 2023 Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program

Applications due July 18, 2024

Description: This HUD program provides Capital Advance funding up to \$20 million for non-profits to provide funding for the development of supportive rental housing for Very-Low-Income persons aged 62 years or older and project rental subsidies in the form of Project Rental Assistance Contracts (PRAC). Supportive services include nutritional, transportation, continuing education, and/or health-related services. Capital Advance funds must be used to finance construction, reconstruction, moderate or substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a structure with or without rehabilitation. Capital Advance funds are interest free and repayment is not required if the housing remains available to Very-Low-Income elderly persons for rental for at least 40 years. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

EPA

- Water Technical Assistance (WTA) Program

Applications accepted on ongoing basis

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

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

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

Communities Unlimited Financing

Open Year Round

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

- Small Business Loans can be used for working capital, equipment purchase, and business purchase.
- Community Facilities projects include public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, fire departments and/or fire trucks, safety services, etc.

- Water and wastewater projects must improve public health and system security, extend service to new customers or improve service to existing customers, and create opportunities for economic development.

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

OneStar Foundation

- 2024-2025 AmeriCorps Texas – Planning Grant

Deadline to apply is July 24, 2024

Description: OneStar Foundation is administering this planning grant program for organizations in Texas to develop an AmeriCorps volunteer program for the FY 2025-26 cycle. AmeriCorps volunteers can work on projects that address critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, reducing poverty, preparing for disasters, and more. Eligible applicants include local governments, institutes of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and states. Each applicant must describe a plan to develop a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members to solve a crucial community issue. This grant is up to \$100,000 for an 11 month period beginning October 1, 2024. Match is 24%. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

Texas Woman's University Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership

- Texas Rural Woman Grant

Application deadline July 5, 2024

Description: The Texas Woman's University Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership is offering this grant for female entrepreneurs in rural areas of Texas. Ten \$5,000 grants will be awarded across the state to for-profit businesses at least 51% woman owned in designated rural counties (in our region this is Milam, Hamilton, Mills, Lampasas, and San Saba counties) for:

- Purchase of machinery, equipment, or technology.
- Farm implements or machinery.
- Addition or acquisition of new inventory or raw materials.
- Purchase and installation of fixtures or display units.
- Property improvements that will result in increased sales and revenue.
- Marketing or advertising campaigns.
- Any other business-related activity that CWE deems is aligned with the stated purpose of this program.

Awardees will also complete a small business training course hosted by the University's Center for Women Entrepreneurs, meet with a small business advisor, and complete a business plan. For more information and to apply, click [here!](#)

T-Mobile Hometown Grant

Deadline to apply for Q3 2024 is September 30, 2024

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

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

DDCT Board Members

DDCT Board Membership 2024 Contact Information

Name	Board position	County Represented	Title	Organization	Address	Email	Phone
Cynthia Hernandez		Bell	Executive Director	Belton EDC	412 East Central Ave., Belton, TX 76513	chernandez@beltonedc.org	254-831-6960
Bobby Whitson		Bell	Bell County Commissioner, Pct.2	Bell County Commissioners Court	3305 E. Elms Rd. Killeen TX 76542	bobby.whitson@bellcounty.texas.gov	254-690-2274
Ginger Watkins		Milam	Economic Development Director	Cameron Industrial Foundation	102 E. First Cameron TX 76520	gwatkins@cameronindustrialfoundation.com	254-697-4970
Dean Roome		Bell	Director	Bartlett Activities Center	300 W Bell St, Bartlett, TX 76511	deana001@aol.com	254-527-3219
Charley Ayres		Bell	Director, Industry/Education Partnership	Workforce Solutions of Central Texas	200 Main St. Belton, TX 76513	charley.ayres@workforcesolutionsctx.com	972-983-1411
Ted Gonzalez	Vice-Chair	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 76687	jim.gibson@rockdalemdd.org	
Michael Boyd		Bell	Councilmember	City of Killeen		mboyd@killeentexas.gov	254-952-7837
Brian O'Connor		Bell	Director	City of Nolanville EDC	101 N 5th Street	boconnor@nolanvilletx.gov	
Dexter Morris	Chair	Mills	City Manager	City of Mullin	105 N. 3rd Street Mullin, TX 76864	dexter.morris.tx@gmail.com	(325) 985-3909
Kayla Schraub		Hamilton	Main Street Manager	City of Hamilton	108 N. Bell Street, Hamilton, TX, 76531	mainstreet@hamiltontx.com	254-784-5610
Dr. Teddy Clevenger		Bell	Bartlett ISD Superintendent	Bartlett ISD	404 Robinson, Bartlett, TX, 76511	tclevenger@bartlett.txed.net	

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

End of Packet