



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Texas 1944 Water Treaty Grant — 2023/2024

Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Am I eligible?

You're eligible if you meet **all** the following requirements:

- You are an agriculture producer.
- You owned or leased acreage in the eligible area during 2023 or 2024.
 - During this time, you farmed on this acreage, and
 - During this time, you were eligible for water allocations for agricultural use because you held a permit, obtained either individually or through a water irrigation district.

*NOTE: Independent water right owners along the Rio Grande River are also eligible if they meet the same criteria. Landowners are **not** eligible unless the landowner is also the agricultural producer.*

Additionally, you must be lawfully permitted to reside or conduct business in the United States. For a complete list of these requirements, please review the [application instructions](#).

What is the eligible area?

Eligible agricultural producers must farm land and have water allocations in one or more of the following counties: Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, or Zapata counties.

Are all business partners eligible to apply for this assistance?

No. Only one application per operation is allowed. If awarded funds, they must be equitably disbursed among business partners per written or verbal agreement. During inspection or post-payment audit, agricultural producers must provide proof of distributions.

I lease land and pay the irrigation fees. Can I apply or does the owner need to apply?

Yes, the tenant/agricultural producer who would access the water for diversion is eligible to apply. *Landowners are not eligible unless the landowner is the agricultural producer.*

Is my crop eligible for this award?

Yes, TDA does not determine eligibility based on crop type. Any agricultural operation is eligible so long as the producer held water rights OR was eligible to receive water diverted through the Rio Grande Watermaster program in all or part of calendar year 2023 and/or 2024.

Can I apply for this grant as a landowner ONLY?

No. You can only apply for this grant if you held water rights on the land, which allocate water for agricultural use. If you have a financial arrangement with an agricultural producer that you believe qualifies you for a portion of the payment, you must contact the producer directly.

WATER RIGHTS QUESTIONS

What are water rights?

In Texas, surface water is owned by the state and is held by the state in trust for the public. A person may file a permit and obtain a “water right” from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This permit allows the permit holder the right to use water with restrictions, but ownership remains with the State of Texas.

Alternatively, agricultural water users may access water through a state irrigation district. There are 23 irrigation districts that are eligible for this Grant.

I receive water from an irrigation district, which irrigation districts are eligible?

See [Exhibit 1](#) for a full list.

Can I receive an award if I was eligible in 2023 and 2024, but no longer farm on that land?

Yes. If you met the eligibility criteria in *either* 2023 or 2024, you may still apply.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can I apply for this grant?

Applications are available through an online platform called “TDA-GO.”

First, download the [application instructions](#) from the website. Then, [register for a TDA-GO account](#).

- You’ll need to register **AT LEAST** 72 hours before the application submission deadline.
- Last-minute registrations are not guaranteed and could result in your application missing the deadline.

Once registered, you’ll fill out all application fields and upload required materials. When this is done, you’re ready to submit!

Do I have to apply online?

Online applications are *strongly preferred*, but paper applications are available upon request.

How do I request a paper application?

- Email: Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov
- Call: 1 (512) 936-0247 or 1(800) 835-5832

Who do I call or email for assistance?

Please contact: Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov

You may call: 1 (512) 936-0247 or 1(800) 835-5832

Will you help me complete the forms?

While you may reach out with questions about any part of your application, TDA staff will not assist you in completing forms or portions of the application.

When are applications due?

May 22, 2025, at 11:59 PM Central.

When will I hear back about my application?

June 2025.

When will I receive my financial payment?

July 2025.

TDA-GO QUESTIONS

What’s TDA-GO? How do I register?

TDA-GO stands for “Texas Department of Agriculture – Grants Online.” It is an online grants management system that streamlines the application process.

To register:

1. Visit the **TDA-GO login page**.
2. Click "**New User/Organization Registration**" and enter the required information.
3. Wait for **TDA approval** and an email confirmation.
4. Once approved, you may start your application.

For detailed instructions, refer to the [application instructions](#).

I'm trying to access the application, but I can't find it online.

You must have an **active** TDA-GO account to access the application. Refer to the registration instructions for guidance.

How do I know if my application was submitted successfully?

On the document landing page, the status of your grant application will change from "application in process" to "application submitted."

Who do I call or email for assistance relating to the online TDA-GO system?

Please contact Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov.

You may call: 1(512) 936-0247 or 1(800) 835-5832

REQUIRED MATERIALS QUESTIONS

What information do I need to have prepared to complete the application?

Applicants should be prepared to provide:

- authorized irrigation certificate number;
- documentation of Irrigation District or TCEQ water rights; and
- documentation of total number of authorized irrigable acres.

Where do I find my Agriculture/Timber License number?

You can search for your number here: [Ag/Timber Registration](#)

I have been farming for many years—what is an Agriculture/Timber License number, and do I need it to apply for this assistance?

Farmers, ranchers, and timber producers can claim exemptions from some Texas taxes when purchasing certain items used exclusively to produce agricultural and timber products for sale. If you do not have this number, it will not prevent you from submitting your application. TDA may follow up with you if this is left blank on your application.

Do you need a copy of my water diversion tickets or water rights permit?

You do not need a copy of the water diversion tickets, but they may be attached as supporting documents. If you are an independent water rights user and have a copy of your certificate, it would be helpful to include it as a supporting document, but it is not required.

FUNDING QUESTIONS

How much funding will I receive?

Award amounts depend on how many people apply for funding.

- Once the application period closes, TDA will calculate how many irrigable acres were claimed by applicants.
- Then, TDA will divide the \$280,000,000 grant amount by the total number of irrigable acres. This determines a “per-acre” award amount.
- TDA will multiply this “per-acre” award amount by how many acres each applicant claimed.
- TDA will distribute funds after all valid applications are received and awards calculated.

Will the funding I receive be taxable? / Will I receive an IRS 1099 Form next year?

Yes, an IRS 1099 Form will be sent in January 2026.

Will the Farm Service Agency (FSA) payment limits apply to this program?

No. TDA has confirmed with USDA-FSA that the payment limits enforced in other FSA programs such as Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Price Loss Coverage, or other Disaster Assistance Programs do not apply to this water assistance grant.

Does FSA’s Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation provision apply to this water assistance grant?

No. TDA has confirmed with USDA-FSA that the AGI limitation for payment eligibility will not be enforced for this water assistance grant.