

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

UNIFIED SCORING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION: Abilene Heritage Square
Room: Stone Owl Classroom 3rd floor
1699 S 1st, Abilene, TX 79602

DATE: September 2, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM – 11:40 AM – Adjournment

Greetings and Introduction by Suzanne Barnard, State Director of CDBG at 9:00 AM.

Agenda:

- I. Swearing in of New Committee Members by Danielle Mitchell, Texas Department of Agriculture Legal Division at 9:12 AM.
- II. Call to Order by Barnard at 9:13 AM.
- III. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum.

Region	2026 Member	Present	Absent
AACOG	Mark Gillespie, County Commissioner, Atascosa County	X	
ATCOG	Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of Dekalb	X	
BVCOG	Joe Fauth, County Judge, Grimes County		X
CAPCOG	Stephanie Fisher, Mayor, Johnson City	X	
CBCOG	Leslie Casterline, County Commissioner, Aransas County	X	
CTCOG	Jett Johnson, County Judge, Mills County		X
CVCOG	Charles Bradley, County Judge, Schleicher County	X	
DETCOG	Bill Stewart, City Administrator, City of Huntington	X	
ETCOG	James Mason, County Judge, Camp County	X	
GCRPC	Robin Alaniz, Alderwoman, City of Goliad	X	
HGAC	Andrew Isbell, Director of Planning, Walker County	X	
HOTCOG	Megan Henderson, City Manager, City of Hillsboro	X	
LRGVDC	Ben Medina, City Administrator, City of Palm Valley	X	
MRGDC	Bella Rubio, County Judge, Real County	X	
NCTCOG	Darrell Whitfield, City Administrator, City of Italy	X	
NORTEX	Bert Cunningham, City Manager, City of Bowie	X	
PBRPC	Foy O'Brien, County Judge, Dawson County	X	
PRPC	Dustin Meyer, Assistant City Manager, City of Canyon	X	
RGCOG	Joanna MacKenzie, County Judge, Hudspeth County		X
SETRPC	Wayne McDaniel, County Judge, Hardin County	X	
SPAG	Ray Resendez, City Manager, City of Littlefield	X	
STDC	Sandalio Ruiz, Commissioner, Jim Hogg County	X	
TEXOMA	Monte Walker, City Administrator, City of Howe	X	
WCTCOG	Matthew Hitt, City Manager, City of Merkel	X	

James Yates serves as proxy for Judge Johnson, CTCOG.

Marios Parpounas, TDA Assistant Commissioner for Finance/CFO chairs.

IV. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Barnard at 9:14 AM.

V. Discussion and Possible Action relating to Approval of Meeting Minutes from the April 2024 Committee Meeting.

VI. Public Comment opened at 9:16 AM.

No comments.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action of the Following Items:

a) Review of Unified Scoring Committee and

b) Member Training on Scoring Metrics by Barnard and Crystal Vasquez, Program Specialist Team Lead

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action, including Recommendations relating to TDA Updates on Cycle Schedule Application.

Discussion occurred during the training with many clarifying questions and answers between USC representatives and TDA's Barnard.

Input heard from audience members including grant administrators and COG members at 10:22 AM.

10:25 AM Break.

IX. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the Annual or Biennial Application Cycle for the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program - Community Development (CD) Fund.

At 10:36 AM the committee reconvenes. Discussion occurs whether to change the application cycle to a 1-year cycle, keep it a 2-year cycle or table the discussion for the next USC meeting. Discussion centers around whether the change in frequency will hinder or heighten access to funding for the neediest communities with limited resources.

Medina- makes motion to table the application cycle length discussion until next USC in 2 years. Several people seconded (namely Mason). Motion carries at 10:49 AM.

X. Discussion and Possible Action relating to 2027 (or 2027-2028) TxCDBG-CD Fund Scoring Factors.

Discussion occurs with members directing changes to minimum match commitment percentages at various population sizes, adding smaller brackets for cities with smaller population ranges.

Match commitment required to receive maximum points		
Category of Applicant(s)	Percent of available grant funds	Dollar Amount
All Counties	2% or more	\$15,000
City applicant population equal to or less than 1,500	1% or more	\$7,500
City applicant population 1501 to 3000	3.5% or more	\$26,250
City applicant population 3001 – 5,000	5% or more	\$37,500
City applicant population 5001 – 10,000	10% or more	\$75,000
City applicant population greater than 10,000	15% or more	\$112,500

Henderson makes a motion to use the state poverty tax rate as baseline instead of average of applicants as baseline. Cunningham seconds. Discussion occurs regarding the potentially unintended effects this might have on the overall scoring range. Henderson withdraws the motion. Ruiz makes a motion to leave the baseline tax rate unchanged. Isbell and Braley second. Motion carries at 11:12 AM.

Discussion continues with potential scoring factors including tax rate changes, previous funding scoring, and Median Household Income in scoring metrics. The committee agrees to continue using the MHI factors as a tiebreaker. Hitt suggests introducing a scoring factor based on utility rates.

At 11:25 AM Parpounas speaks about the committee making informed decisions and avoiding groupthink. Parpounas suggests putting emphasis to water/wastewater as top priority project activities and reducing sidewalk and street projects as not high priorities. Walker, Fisher, and Stewart disagree with these priority rankings, emphasizing that their communities have adequate access to water, while streets remain an important need in their respective regions.

Hitt segues the discussion suggesting changing the previous funding metric could potentially serve to balance these differences in activity priority preferences. Sideline discussion confirms that Hitt is satisfied to push utility rates to next meeting. Discussion returns to previous funding scoring rates and the implications of changes.

Walker makes a motion to keep the current previous funding metrics unchanged. Bradley seconds. Discussion occurs. Motion carries at 11:31 AM.

XI. Discussion and Possible Action relating to Other Business Raised at this Meeting to be Placed on the Next Agenda.

Barnard introduces discussion on points totals.

Isbell makes motion to leave points as/is. Hitt seconded. Motion carries at 11:36 AM.

XII. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the Next Meeting Date and Time.

Committee agrees to meet in 2 years at 11:37 AM.

Record directions to staff:

- Research the impact of median household income combined with poverty rate.
- Provide information on the pros/cons/potential effects of an annual cycle.
- Provide information/research about how tax utility rates could impact scoring in the future, potentially using utility rate increases over a multi-year period, and considering scenarios where utility rate is used only for utility projects.

XIII. Adjourn.

Ruiz makes a motion to adjourn. Stewart seconds. Discussion of next potential USC meeting place- Stewart recommends Tyler, TX. TDA agrees to consider.

Motion carries to adjourn at 11:40.