TxCDBG announcement: new website look, 2024 Implementation Manual (draft) release, and information on upcoming application cycles

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## **New TxCDBG Website Look and Feel**

TDA is pleased to announce the launch of TxCDBG's newly redesigned website. Our goal with this redesign was to create a user-friendly browsing experience for our valued grant recipients and stakeholders. We invite you to visit (TxCDBG) Rural Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) (texasagriculture.gov) and explore the new features. Your feedback is valuable to us as we continue to improve and enhance our online presence. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope you enjoy exploring our redesigned website. Be sure to update your bookmarks, as the now archived webpages will not be updated with new information.

## 2024 TxCDBG Project Implementation Manual (draft)

As you explore the new webpage, please take note of the Implementation Manual drafts uploaded for Program Year 2024. These drafts are essential for understanding the upcoming program guidelines and requirements, so we encourage you to review them carefully. Your insights and suggestions on these documents will help us refine our resources to better serve you. Certain text appears in blue font to highlight changes to the language from previous additions, though minor edits that do not change policy are not necessarily marked. A summary of the 2024 changes can be found in the Stakeholder letter at the top of the page.

After reviewing the draft manual, TDA welcomes feedback on policy and clarity of the program requirements. Feedback that is received prior to **August 15, 2024**, may be incorporated into the final manual if appropriate.

The 2024 TxCDBG Project Implementation Manual will be effective **September 1, 2024**. Note that several of the revisions reflect recent changes to HUD policies to allow more flexibility in meeting grant requirements. If a Grant Recipient opts to begin implementing the 2024 Manual requirements before September 1, you must include clear documentation in the local files of the date on which all actions are to be compliant with the 2024 Manual.

The 2024 Manual updates will be discussed at the upcoming TxCDBG Implementation Workshops.

2024			
July 30-31, 2024	TxCDBG Administrator Workshop	1.5 days	Click HERE to register.
August 20-21, 2024	TxCDBG Administrator Workshop	1.5 days	Click HERE to register.

## **Upcoming Application Opportunities**

Included in the new website is updated information for the next Community Development Fund Application – early information on other TxCDBG applications will be posted as it becomes available.

2025-2026 Community Development Fund

- · Application Method: Two Phase Application
  - Community Application open to all eligible local governments
  - Project Application subsequently required for applicants whose scores place them in funding range
- Maximum Grant Request: \$750,000
- Project Priorities: See Regional Priorities
- Application Schedule:
  - Community Application Guide and application documents available in TDA-GO September 2024
  - Community Application due December 1, 2024
  - Applicants in first year funding range invited to begin the Project Application approx. January 2025
  - Project Application due approx. June 2025
  - Grant Awards for first year recipients Fall 2025

This information is provided in advance of the formal application guide. While Applicants cannot yet begin completing application forms, other actions can begin now:

- Review the basic eligibility requirements and consider whether the Community Development Fund is appropriate for your community;
- Discuss local community needs with community stakeholders and begin considering what projects might be assisted by TxCDBG funding;
- For communities that intend to apply and have a lengthy process to procure grant related services, such as a
  project engineer or grant administrator, consider preparing the Request for Proposals / Request for Qualifications
  early.