



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Texas Community Development Block Grant Program
Overview



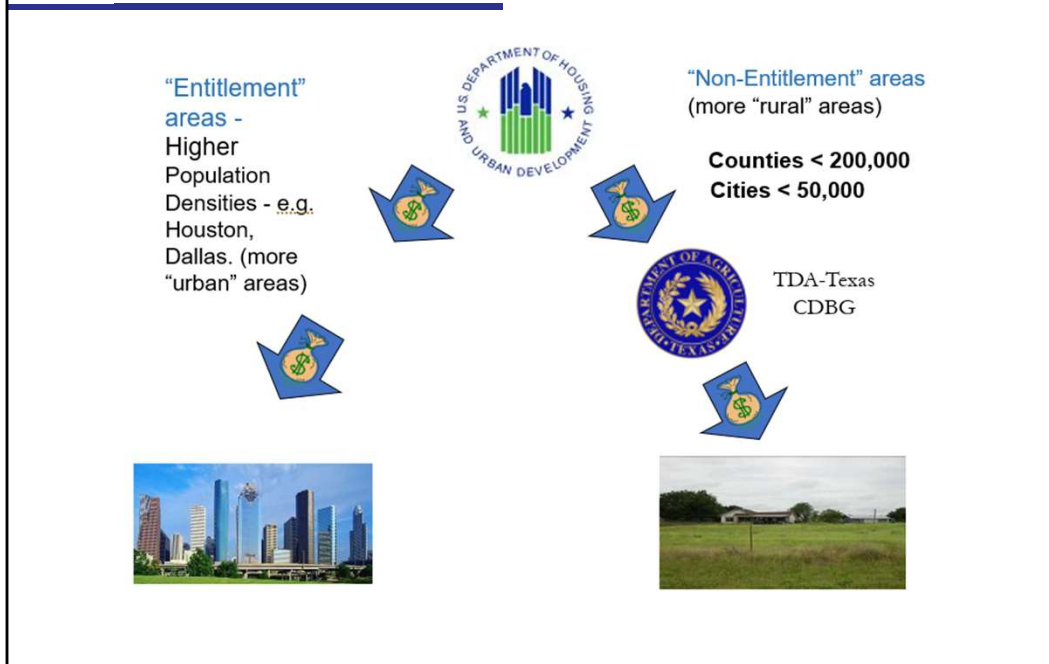
TxCDBG- Providing Suitable Living Environments in Rural Areas



The Texas Community Development Block Grant Program provides funding for small and rural communities to address a variety of local community development needs and promote a suitable and sustainable living environment.



TxCDBG – Opportunity for Every Community



The CDBG funding is administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. CDBG funding is appropriated by Congress and made available to communities across the country.

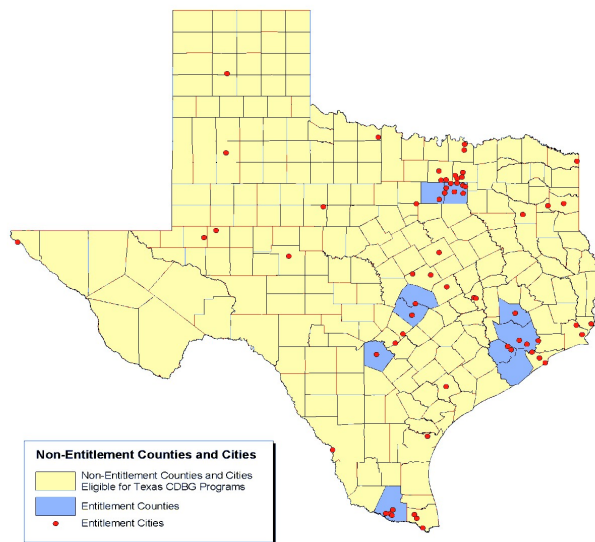
Large cities and Urban Counties are eligible to receive a direct allocation, calculated by formula each year, directly from HUD. Generally, this includes cities with populations greater than 50,000 persons, and counties with non-metro populations greater than 200,000.

Communities that do not qualify or participate in the entitlement allocation can still access CDBG funding through the State CDBG program. Thirty percent of the total CDBG appropriation is allocated to state agencies to offer grants to small and rural communities. The state takes on the relationship and grant responsibilities with HUD, and in turn develops programs and policies to ensure successful grants with smaller communities.

Quick note: a community can only participate in in entitlement program, or the non-entitlement program, but not both. If you are a small community in an Urban County, please check with your county to confirm whether your community is included in the Urban County consolidated plan.



TxCDBG Non-Entitlement Cities and Counties



The following counties are designated as entitlement counties: Bexar, Brazoria, Dallas, Fort Bend, Harris, Hidalgo, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson.

Map Prepared By:
OFFICE OF RURAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
March, 2008

There are 10 Urban Counties in Texas – shown here in blue – and over 60 entitlement cities – shown here as red dots. The area shaded yellow shows the geography for the TxCDBG non-entitlement program.



TxCDBG State Program

Largest "State CDBG" program in the nation (based on dollars granted)

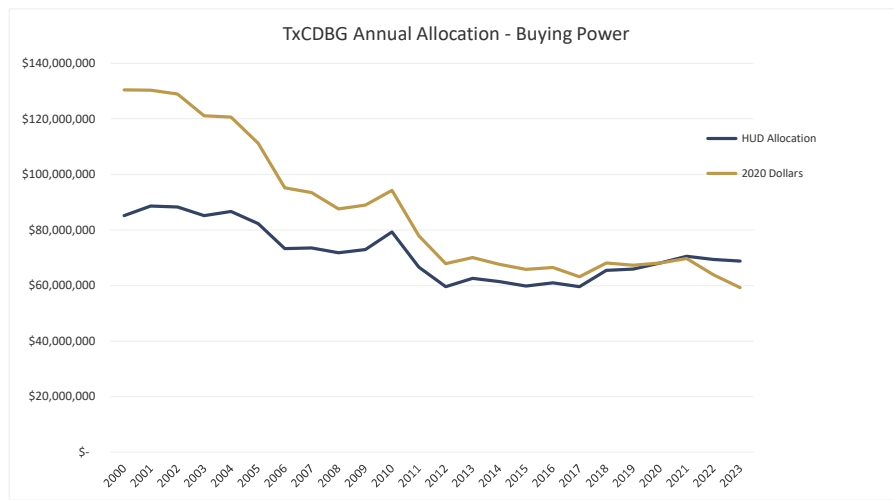
Serves:

- ~1,000 cities
- 244 counties

Texas operates the largest State CDBG program in the nation, with approximately \$70 million dollars allocated annually. However, that funding serves 244 counties, and (depending on the source) approx. 1,000 cities - there is never enough funding to address the needs of the many Texas communities eligible to participate.



TxCDBG Allocation to Texas



Congress continues to regularly support the CDBG program with annual allocations. However, we have seen a significant reduction in the total appropriation and the relative buying power of those funds over the decades. For this reason, TxCDBG staff continually evaluates the programs offered to ensure that the limited funding is used effectively in Texas rural and small communities.



TxCDBG – Making a Difference

BEFORE



AFTER





TxCDBG Programs

Community Development Fund

Colonia Fund

Downtown Revitalization Program

Special funds

The federal CDBG program is very flexible and each entitlement community or state must make decisions about which activities to pursue. The TxCDBG program has been designed to accomplish several goals by offering funding in multiple categories.



TxCDBG – National Program Objectives

- **Benefit to Low- to Moderate-Income Persons**
 - LMI Area
 - LMI Limited Clientele
 - LMI Housing
 - LMI Jobs
- **Elimination of Slum and Blighted Conditions**
 - Spot Basis
 - Area Basis
- **Urgent Need**
- [TxCDBG Guide to Meeting a National Program Objective](#)

The federal CDBG program includes 3 statutory National Program Objectives. All CDBG projects must meet one of these objectives. The TxCDBG program is designed to ensure applicants understand and comply with at least one of these objectives for each funding category. The TxCDBG Guide to Meeting a National Program Objective provides extensive detail for how these requirements are documented.



Community Development Fund

- Primary competitive grant opportunity for most communities
- Biennial competition
- Common activities:
 - Water/sewer improvements
 - Street reconstruction
 - Drainage improvements
 - Community center / other facility
 - Community / system planning

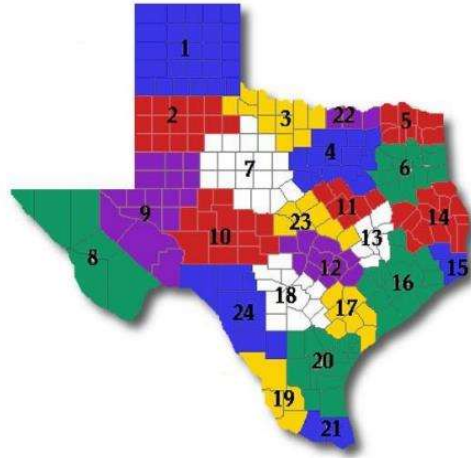
The Community Development Fund is the primary TxCDBG grant application for most communities – approx. three quarters of each year’s grant funding is dedicated to this program. Applications are accepted every two years.

Although there are many different types of eligible projects under this category, the most common requests are basic infrastructure activities. Some communities also request community centers, parks, clinics, and other community facilities.



Community Development Fund

- Funds are allocated to 24 regions – Texas state planning / Council of Government regions – to ensure access to funding across the state.



TDA allocates the CD Fund across 24 regions, using a formula to ensure that each region receives a portion of the CD Fund. Applicants are scored only against applicants within their own region.



Colonia Fund

- Federal set aside to assist colonia communities
 - Colonia Fund: Construction (CFC)- annual competitive application cycle
 - Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program (CEDAP) – as needed partnership with other agencies
- Required primary activities:
 - Water/sewer improvements
 - Housing Rehabilitation

The federal regulations and the state legislature require TDA to set aside 10% of each year's grant funding to assist colonia communities. To do this, TDA offers several application opportunities. The Colonia Fund Construction Program is an annual competitive opportunity. Separately, the state legislature has directed TDA to make colonia funding available in partnership with other agencies extending first time water and sewer service to colonia communities.

Colonia funding must primarily benefit a colonia community and address water, sewer, or housing needs.



Colonia Fund

Colonia defined for TxCDBG:

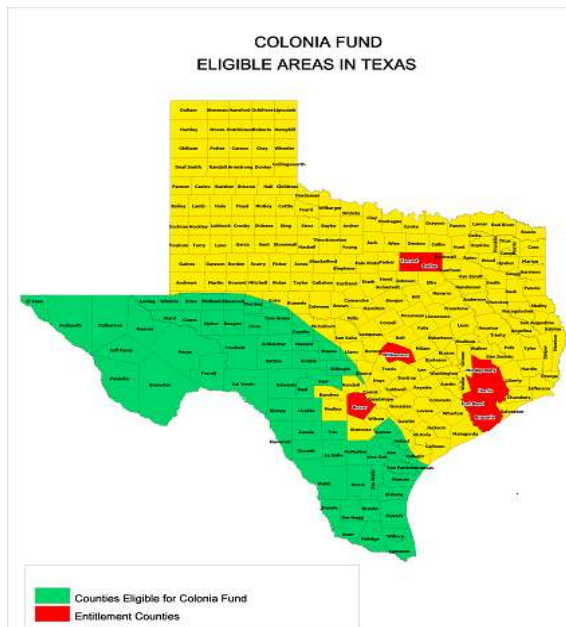
1. an identifiable unincorporated community located within 150 miles of the Texas-Mexico border.
2. lack of potable water supply, lack of adequate sewage systems, and lack of decent, safe, and sanitary housing; and
3. was in existence as a colonia before November 28, 1990.

What is a colonia? Each agency defines a colonia slightly differently, and for TDA, a colonia must be:

- An identifiable community
- An unincorporated community
- Located within 150 miles of the Texas-Mexico border
- Lacking in basic infrastructure
- Established as a community prior to the effective date of the Cranston-Gonzales Act in 1990.



Colonia Fund



The green area on this map shows counties eligible for the Colonia Fund. This includes the 150 mile border region, excluding the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area. Several counties have opted out of the Colonia Fund programs, which are not shown on this map.



Rural Economic Development – Downtown Revitalization Program

- Removal and prevention of slum & blighted conditions
- Annual application cycle
- Focus on pedestrian-driven economic development in small and rural communities
- Common activities:
 - Sidewalk rehabilitation
 - accessible downtown areas
 - other related infrastructure



Another funding opportunity under the TxCDBG program is the Downtown Revitalization Program. This is part of the economic development effort by TDA, and focuses on the pedestrian led economic opportunities in small community downtown areas. This annual application generally funds sidewalk and lighting improvements, accessibility improvements to comply with ADA requirements, and similar activities. Other activities may be eligible, please contact TDA staff for technical assistance.



Fire Ambulance & Service Truck Fund

- Vehicles to serve low- to moderate-income populations
- Periodic application cycle, varies by funding availability and program priorities
- Common activities:
 - Fire trucks – pumpers, brush trucks
 - Ambulances
 - Emergency rescue equipment
 - Paramedicine program support vehicle



One of the most popular TxCDBG programs is the Fire, Ambulance, and Service Truck – or FAST – Fund. This program is not offered on a regular schedule but is released when funds are available and program priorities can support the application cycle.

Fire fighting vehicles and equipment, ambulances and related equipment have been eligible in previous rounds. The program has also funded a limited number of vehicles to support community paramedicine services. Be sure to check the application guide, as the specific vehicles and equipment supported by the application may vary.



State Urgent Need Fund

- State Declarations – TxCDBG is generally the only source of disaster relief assistance for eligible counties & cities.
- Repair / restoration / improvement of damaged infrastructure
- Priority Activities:
 - Safe drinking water (permanent priority)
 - Debris removal (priority for this year)

In cases where a natural disaster event has damaged local infrastructure, the State Urgent Need Fund may be an option. SUN fund projects address more localized disaster events that create damages beyond the resources of the community to address. For SUN funds to be available, the natural disaster must have a state level declaration of disaster – if the event has reached the level of damages to receive a federal declaration of disaster, the SUN fund is no longer appropriate. Examples of state level disasters include tornados, localized flooding, persistent drought, and similar events.



Agriculture Federal Laws that Affect CDBG Project Management

- Labor Standards
- Environmental Law
- Civil Rights Law
- Acquisition / Relocation
- Lead-based Paint
- Procurement
- Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS)
- 2 CFR 200
- Buy America Preferences (BABA)

Once funded, a number of federal and state requirements apply to TxCDBG projects. The grant agreement period generally lasts about two years, during which these and other requirements will be satisfied. Most communities procure an administrator to coordinate the grant implementation. Whether procured or a designated staff member, a Certified Administrator is required for each project to ensure there is a knowledgeable individual responsible for compliance and coordination. Ultimately, however, the Grant Recipient is responsible for the grant's compliance with all federal, state, and program requirements.

For questions or comments:

CDBGApps@TexasAgriculture.gov



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TDA is always open to feedback as we administer the TxCDBG program. If you have questions, comments, or recommendation for the TxCDBG program, please contact us at CDBGApps@TexasAgriculture.gov.