



Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) **Community Enhancement Fund**

The Community Enhancement (CEF) Fund provides funds to enhance rural communities by developing facilities or services that address the following needs:

- Public Health*;
- Workforce Development/Education;
- Public Safety;
- Renewable Energy (as part of a public facility); and/or
- Community Centers.

CEF Objective

A project developed through the CEF must enhance a community by providing a facility or service that is *currently unavailable* within an applicant's jurisdiction or through the *substantial expansion* of a facility or service to better serve the applicant's population.

Funding Available

- Total Funds available: \$5 million
- Maximum Request: \$500,000 (\$150,000 for equipment-only requests)
- Match Funds: maximum points for 100% match (25% for applications less than \$150,000)

Application Process

Letter of Interest

CEF Letters of Interest Deadline: 5:00 p.m. C.T. on March 30, 2018

Each applicant must first submit a "Letter of Interest" to the TxCDBG program in order to be invited to submit a CEF application. Letters of Interest must include:

- Project Description;
- Preliminary plan to meet a National Program Objective (primarily to serve low- to-moderate income persons);
- Identified partner organization(s), including organizational bylaws;
- Identified site selected for project (as applicable); and
- Supporting documentation for preliminary scoring.

Technical Assistance to LoI Group

TDA will offer technical assistance to potential applicants based on the information in the Letter of Interest.

Application Submittal

CEF Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. C.T. on October 1, 2018

The application for the 2018 CEF will **only** be made available to applicants that have been invited to apply by TxCDBG.



Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) Community Enhancement Fund (cont.)

Eligible Applicants

Non-entitlement communities (units of general local government) are eligible for a CEF award.

- Non-entitlement cities are located predominately in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000 persons.
- Non-entitlement counties are also predominately rural in nature and generally have fewer than 200,000 persons in the non-entitlement cities and unincorporated areas in the county.
- Eligible applicants may submit applications that will provide benefits through other sub-recipient groups serving the jurisdiction, including districts or non-profits service providers.

Eligible Activities

Public Health* - Develop enhancements that meet the needs of the public's health. Generally, this includes the development of the following: Public health clinics, dental clinics, hospitals, and technical equipment permanently installed or intended to provide a new or expanded service.

* Public Health enhancements are the highest priority for the 2018 funding cycle.

Workforce Development/Education - Develop enhancements that meet the educational and workforce development needs of a community. Generally, this can include the development of: Continuing/vocational education facilities, satellite college campuses, and libraries.

Public Safety - Develop enhancements, to also include the purchase of equipment that would meet the needs of the public's safety. This includes the development and/or purchase of the following: Fire/EMS stations, ambulances, fire trucks and firefighting equipment.

Renewable Energy - Funds for projects that would provide renewable, cost-effective sources of energy for public facilities and/or infrastructure that must demonstrate a cost savings of at least 25%. This includes the development of renewable sources of energy to power any public facility or infrastructure.

Community Centers - Develop enhancements that address the need of a location within a community that is able to host gatherings and events. In general, this includes the development of the following: Community centers, auditoriums, multi-purpose gymnasiums, civic centers, and facilities at a park.

Contact Information

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