

Texas Department of Agriculture GO TEXAN Certified Retirement Communities



AT A GLANCE

Started in 2006 by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples, the GO TEXAN Certified Retirement Community Program promotes the benefits of retiring in Texas.

Mission:

- To establish a certification program that is user-friendly, informative and helpful in assisting Texas communities in their efforts to market themselves
- To promote Texas as a retirement destination to retirees and potential retirees both inside and outside Texas
- To encourage Texas tourism

Benefits of becoming a CRC:

- Use of a statewide marketing campaign to attract retirees, tourists, businesses and developers
- Positive economic and social impact to the community
- Requires no tax abatements or incentives
- Available tools to assess your community's strengths and weaknesses for recruiting retirees
- Regional networking opportunities with other CRCs

To become a certified retirement community, each community must complete a rigorous application process, including a retiree desirability assessment. Each application is reviewed and scored by an independent advisory committee comprised of volunteers who are experienced in various aspects of community and economic development.

Areas of evaluation include, but are not limited to the following:

- State and local tax structure
- Housing opportunities and cost
- Personal safety
- Climate
- Employment and volunteer opportunities
- Health care services, including home-based and community-based services, housing for the elderly, assisted living, personal care and nursing care facilities
- Transportation options
- Recreational activities and facilities, performing arts, festivals and events, and sports
- Continuing education opportunities

Once an application is submitted, TDA has 90 days to review the application, recommend a decision and notify the applicant. Forms may be found online [here](https://www.retireintexas.org) or by visiting www.retireintexas.org.

With affordable housing, a lower cost of living and a wealth of experiences to share, any of Texas' 41 Certified Retirement Communities are ideal for those looking to retire. The GO TEXAN stamp of approval ensures each certified community has demonstrated through its application that it can meet the needs of retirees and visitors.