

Frequently Asked Questions about the Community Development Fund



What is the Community Development Fund?

The Community Development Fund (CDF) provides grant funding to cities and counties for water, sewer, housing, and other projects. The CDF is part of the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) of the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA). TCDP serves as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) non-entitlement program for smaller communities.

Who can apply?



Non-entitlement communities are eligible to apply. In general, non-entitlement communities are cities with populations less than 50,000 and counties with populations less than 200,000.

How much money is available?

Although the amount of funding varies from year to year, approximately \$4 million is available for the North Central Texas region annually. In past grant cycles, the maximum grant award for a single jurisdiction was \$250,000.



What kinds of projects are eligible?



In the North Central Texas region, highest priority has historically been given to water, sewer, and housing projects. However, street and drainage projects are also eligible. Projects must principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

When is the next grant cycle?

Applications are accepted every two years. The next opportunity to apply will be in the fall of 2006.

How are funding applications scored?



A Regional Review Committee, consisting of 12 North Central Texas elected officials appointed by the Governor, provides 50% of an application's score. The State provides the other 50%. State scores are based on data and statistical figures that measure community distress, benefit to low- to moderate-income persons, local match, and project impact. Regional scores are based on 3 factors: project priority, local effort, and project merit.

Regional Scoring Factors

Project Priority

The highest project priority scores have historically been given to water, sewer, and housing projects in North Central Texas.

Local Effort

Local effort scores reflect factors such as water and sewer rates, property tax rate, and local match.

Project Merit

Project merit assesses how badly a project is needed. Some factors that are considered include whether the project provides first time service, whether the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued a Notice of Violation or Enforcement Order, and how many low- to moderate-income people will benefit from the project.