

**Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER)  
FY2024 Work Program\***

**October 1, 2023 –September 30, 2024**

**Background:** The Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER) is an educational partnership between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), municipalities, and water utilities in the North Texas region. WATER’s mission is to help reduce potential damage to the region’s household plumbing systems and wastewater treatment systems as well as to decrease hazards to water quality through educational efforts related to the proper disposal of items such as wipes; paper towels; feminine hygiene and personal care products; medicines; household hazardous waste; and fats, oils, and grease (FOG).

This work program reflects the administrative support needed for the activities associated with WATER’s mission. NCTCOG will provide this support by coordinating and administering up to four committee meetings for WATER over the course of the fiscal year, assisting with outreach, and producing deliverables identified through the group’s recommendation. In some instances, NCTCOG will act solely as the project coordinator and media buyer; in other instances, NCTCOG may produce the deliverables directly. When possible, deliverable files will be made available to the participants so that they may customize the files as appropriate (i.e., inserting entity name, logo, website, etc.).

**Funding of Work Program:** The annual work program is funded by individual cost shares provided by each of the participants. Completion of the full work program is contingent upon receiving the approved level of funding from participating entities. The scope of campaigns will be decided on by the group based on available funds. Cost shares for each participant are calculated according to population and size category. FY2024 work program deliverables are listed in Appendix A. The cost of the full program is estimated at \$57,214, as described in Appendix B. The cost-sharing allocations are listed in Appendix C.

**It is requested that entity representatives contact Hannah Allen at [hallen@nctcog.org](mailto:hallen@nctcog.org) to be invoiced for the FY2024 Work Program by Friday, September 22, 2023 in order to facilitate the program budgeting process.** The invoice will be emailed to the entity representative that requested it in October 2023. If you require additional documentation or have any questions, please contact Hannah Allen at [hallen@nctcog.org](mailto:hallen@nctcog.org).

**Task 1. General Administrative Support:** NCTCOG will provide this support by coordinating and administering up to four committee meetings for WATER over the course of the fiscal year. NCTCOG staff will also draft a synopsis of the fiscal year’s work program accomplishments.

\*Numbers are subject to change. This is an estimate only and is dependent on what the group approves. Funds not expended will roll over into the next year’s program budget.

**Task 2. General Support Related to Defend Your Drains Campaign Elements (Proper Disposal of FOG, Wipes, Medicines, etc.):** NCTCOG will facilitate outreach to the general public through creation of outreach materials, paid social media promotional activities, and support of a targeted regional FOG collection event (the Holiday Grease Roundup).

**Task 2.1. Outreach and Education:** At WATER’s direction, NCTCOG may support development of public service announcements (PSA) in Spanish and English. With member guidance, NCTCOG will develop and update outreach materials that may include, but are not limited to bill inserts, social media graphics, flyers, yard signs, and infographics. NCTCOG will provide deliverable files to entities as appropriate.

**Task 2.2. Holiday Grease Roundup:** NCTCOG will work with WATER to support the Holiday Grease Roundup, a regional FOG collection event. This includes contacting potential collection partners; assisting with event organization, messaging consistency, and coordination; helping support the production and distribution of related deliverables; and assisting with event wrap-up items, including the development of materials that show the environmental benefits of grease collection and calculations of emission reductions.

**Task 2.3. Support for Updating and Maintaining the Websites:** NCTCOG will maintain DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com. NCTCOG staff will also provide general support for the sites, such as responding to questions from the public.

**Task 2.4. Application for Grants and Awards:** Guided by member interest and measured campaign impacts, NCTCOG will see opportunities to leverage outcomes of this work program to build upon and develop new relationships with partner organizations that help advance the WATER mission. NCTCOG will also seek financial resources from other federal, state, and local funding opportunities, either directly with or through partnership/teaming arrangements with other organizations to further advance the WATER mission. Additionally, NCTCOG will support efforts related to applying for suitable awards such as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.

**Task 3. Training:** NCTCOG will coordinate the annual regional training workshop. This may include seeking approval for continuing education units from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. *Attendees may need to pay a fee for this workshop. If so, WATER members will get a discount for a limited number of people from their organization (for example, two people at 50% of the workshop cost).*

## Appendix A: Deliverables

- Up to four committee meetings conducted over the course of the fiscal year
- A synopsis of FY2024 work program accomplishments
- Maintenance of [www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com) (cost-share participants to get organization logo and URL link on [www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com) site)
- Holiday Grease Roundup coordination
- Development of outreach materials and production of related digital assets  
*This is dependent on participant interest, but may include:*
  - *PSA videos in English and Spanish related to Defend Your Drains*
  - *Defend Your Drains bill insert or postcard, poster/signage artwork, and/or web banners and tiles*
  - *Holiday Grease Roundup bill insert; flyers; web banners and tiles; billboard/poster/signage artwork; social media sample posts; email blast template; and a news release template*
- Regional training workshop coordination
- Purchase of sponsored advertising

**Appendix B: Budget**

The cost of the full program for this fiscal year is estimated at \$57,214. The budget is presented in the below table. The completion of the full work program is contingent upon receiving the full amount of funding from participating entities.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>NCTCOG Personnel/Salary</b>	Salary for planning staff and management oversight along with administrative, fiscal, and technology support staff.	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Fringe Benefit Rate</b>	Estimated 43.7% of salary	<b>\$10,925</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	--Trainer/workshop (30% of projected estimate) (sharing costs with participants or other entities)	<b>\$3,000</b>
	--Sponsored social media posts and professional voiceovers of public service announcements	<b>\$6,930</b>
<b>Other (Misc.)</b>	Covers printing, copying, mailing, postage, network services, rent, communications, PSA, and in-region travel. Many of these items are fixed charges (e.g., rent, network services).	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Indirect Cost Rate</b>	Calculated as 17.7% of personnel (salary + fringe) based on provisional rate provided in indirect cost rate agreement with cognizant agency (DOL)	<b>\$6,359</b>
		<b>Total: \$57,214</b>

## Appendix C - Cost Share

The cost share for this fiscal year is provided below. The annual work program is funded by individual cost shares provided by each of the participants. Completion of the full work program is contingent upon receiving sufficient funding from participating entities. The NCTCOG 2023 population estimates can be found [here](#).

2023 Population (NCTCOG Estimates)	Cost
1 million+	\$7,500
750,000–999,999	\$7,000
500,000–749,999	\$6,000
350,000–499,999	\$5,000
200,000–349,999	\$4,150
100,000–199,999	\$3,250
50,000–99,999	\$2,150
25,000–49,999	\$1,400
10,000–24,999	\$1,000
Less than 10,000	\$500
Special district partners serving 1 million+	\$7,500
Special district partners serving 500,000–999,999	\$6,500
Special district partners serving 100,000–499,999	\$4,000
Special district partners serving less than 100,000	\$2,150

Note: Special district partners should use wastewater ratepayer population. A special district partner with regional systems is considered one entity.