

FUNDING RESOURCES FOR TEXAS WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES

Listed below are some funding resources which may be able to assist with costs associated with upgrading water and wastewater systems. Please keep in mind that there is no guarantee that by contacting any of these sources that you will receive funding for your project.

Table of Contents

State Funding Resources	2
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	2
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	2
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	4
Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)	4
Federal Funding Resources	4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	4
Grants.gov	4
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	4
Additional Funding Resources	5
Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA)	5
Texas Association of Resource & Conservation Development Areas (RC&D)	5
The Rural Assistance Center (RAC)	5
The Foundation Center	5
GrantStation.com	5
Grants.com	5
Catalog of Domestic Federal Assistance	6
U.S. Small Business Administration	6

State Funding Resources

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Funding Sources for Utilities (RG-220)

Listing of agencies and organizations that provide funding and assistance to utilities. This publication is available online at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/rg/rg-220.html>.

Financial, Managerial, and Technical (FMT) Assistance

Assists with a utility's financial, managerial, and technical (FMT) capacities and provide technical assistance to make improvements in these areas. A request for assistance may be submitted by using the FMT Assistance Referral Form (TCEQ-20167). You may download a copy of this form online at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/comm_exec/forms.pl and search the form number 20167. For additional program information, contact the Utilities and Districts Section at (512)239-4691 and ask for the FMT program.

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

The TWDB administers loan and grant programs relating to planning, acquisition and construction of water related infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater treatment, storm water and nonpoint source pollution control, flood control, reservoir construction, storage acquisition, and agricultural water conservation projects. The agency also administers a grant program for regional planning and research on water related issues, and provides technical assistance to water utilities. Visit their website at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/index.asp> or call (512)475-7847.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (CWSRF)

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides loans at interest rates lower than the market to political subdivisions with the authority to own and operate a wastewater system. The CWSRF also includes Federal (Tier III) and Disadvantaged Communities funds that provide even lower interest rates for those meeting the respective criteria. Visit their website at http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/cwsrffund.asp or call (512)463-8510.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (DWSRF)

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides loans at interest rates lower than the market offers to finance projects for public drinking water systems that facilitate compliance with primary drinking water regulations or otherwise significantly further the health protection objectives of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Projects must also be consistent with the 2002 State Water Plan. For additional program information, call (512)475-4816 or visit their website at http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/dwsrf.asp.

Rural Water Assistance Fund Program (RWAFF)

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) administers the Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWAFF), created in 2001 by the 77th Texas Legislature. The RWAFF program is designed to assist small rural water utilities to obtain low cost financing for water or water-related projects. The TWDB offers attractive interest rate loans with short and long-term finance options at tax exempt rates. Funding through this program gives an added benefit to Nonprofit Water Supply Corporations by making construction purchases qualify for a sales tax exemption. For additional information, visit their website at http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/RWAFF.asp or call (512)463-8491.

State Loan Program Texas Water Development Fund II

The Development Fund II refers to the source of funding from which the TWDB makes state loans. This is essentially a pure state loan program that does not receive Federal subsidies, and is the more streamlined of the agency programs. The program includes loans for water supply, water quality enhancement, flood control and municipal solid waste. Visit their website at http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/DfundII.asp or call (512)463-8491.

Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP)

Provides grants, loans, or a combination grant/loan when requirements are met:

- for water and wastewater services;
- in economically distressed areas; and
- present facilities are inadequate to meet residents' minimal needs.

Includes measures to prevent future substandard development. For additional information regarding the EDAP please contact the Texas Water Development Board, Project Finance: (512) 475-0590 or go to

http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/edapfund.asp

Colonias Wastewater Treatment Assistance Program (CWTAP)

is part of EDAP, but the funds are not available for water treatment works.

Federal funds are available when requirements are met:

- for wastewater treatment works (i.e., sewer systems);
- in economically distressed areas; and
- located within 100 kilometers of the border with Mexico.

For additional information regarding the CWTAP programs, call (512)475-0590 or go to http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/self-help.asp

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Funding Information Center

DSHS provides weekly lists of public and private funding opportunities, grant writing training, and other items of interest to grant seekers. Be sure to sign up for their free, automatic grant notification service. For additional information go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/fic/> or call 1-888-963-7111, ext.7684.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

The Texas Capital Fund Infrastructure Development Program

This is an economic development tool designed to provide financial resources to non-entitlement communities. Funds from this program can be utilized for public infrastructure needed to assist a business which commits to create and/or retain permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate income persons. This program encourages new business development and expansions. Visit their website at http://www.agr.state.tx.us/agr/program_render/0.1987,1848_6054_0_0.00.html?channel=6054 or call 1-800-428-7848.

Federal Funding Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Federal Funding Sources for Small Community Wastewater Systems

This publication contains 10 fact sheets of possible funding sources to help small, rural communities attain adequate wastewater systems. The fact sheets provide information on the types of help each program offers, what projects are funded, who is eligible, and how to reach the program contacts to apply for the funds. For additional information go to <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mab/smcomm/eparev.htm> or call (202)260-2268.

Grants.gov

Grants.gov allows grant seekers to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Be sure to sign up for their free, automatic grant notification service. Available online at <http://grants.gov/> or call 1-800-518-4726.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA provides assistance funding for prevention of and recovery from natural and man-made disasters. Visit <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm> for information about grant and assistance programs.

Additional Funding Resources

Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA)

TDRA (formerly known as the Office of Rural Community Affairs) has a variety of grants and funding available, but primarily relies on Community Block Development Grants for projects such as infrastructure building, community planning, and infrastructure improvements. TDRA often partners with the local Council of Governments to determine grants and viability of projects. Visit their website at <http://www.txtdra.org/index.php?page=map> to see a current map of projects or call 1-800-544-2042.

Texas Association of Resource & Conservation Development Areas (RC&D)

RC&D has periodic funding for certain counties for water and sewer improvements. Visit their website at <http://www.texasrcd.org> or call (979)846-0819.

The Rural Assistance Center (RAC)

RAC offers rural funding and grant information. From their website, you can access the information several ways. Visit their website at <http://www.raconline.org/funding> or call 1-800-270-1898.

The Foundation Center (membership required)

The Foundation Center maintains and regularly updates directories of annotated links to more than 2,400 grant maker websites. They also list the 25 largest community foundations ranked by total giving, as well as extensive lists of links to the websites of private foundations, corporate foundations and grant making public charities. Visit their website at <http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/statistics/grantmakerinfo.html>.

GrantStation.com (membership required)

GrantStation.com quickly and easily links communities and nonprofits to all current sources of grant money, while also teaching these organizations how to secure available funding. Developed and tested by fundraising professionals, it is based on in-depth and ongoing research. Visit their website at <http://www.grantstation.com>.

Grants.com

With up-to-date information about which grants are currently open and available, Grants.com explains how to comply with specific grant requirements and how to create an effective grant application. Visit their website at <http://www.grants.com>.

Catalog of Domestic Federal Assistance

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides a full listing of all Federal programs available to State and local governments; federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi-public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals. Visit their website at <https://www.cfda.gov/>

U.S. Small Business Administration

Federal, state and local governments offer a wide range of financing programs to help small businesses start and grow their operations. These programs include low-interest loans, venture capital, and scientific and economic development grants. Visit <http://business.gov/financing/> for more information.