Breakout Session 2
Community Programs
Moderator

Horace Hodge
USDA Liaison
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement
Community Programs
Program Objective

Provide affordable financial assistance to rural areas and towns to develop water supply, sewage, stormwater, and solid waste disposal systems.
Water & Environmental Programs

- Water and Waste Disposal (WWD) Direct Loans and Grants
- Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loans
- Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks (Section 306C Program)
Eligible Applicants

• Public bodies or governmental entities

• Nonprofit organizations

• Native American Tribes
Eligible Applicants

• Must serve rural areas

• Cities, towns, or incorporated areas that have a population of 10,000 or less inhabitants.*

• Eligible facilities must serve rural areas only.

• WWD loans and grants must finance only the portion of facilities serving rural areas, but the facilities may be located in non-rural areas.

*based on 2010 Census data for Texas
Eligible Facilities

- Water
- Wastewater
- Solid Waste
- Stormwater Drainage
Grant Eligibility

Median Household Income (MHI) of service area

• MHI must be less than 80% of the state non-metropolitan MHI ($43,672*) to qualify for up to 75% grant and/or the poverty rate of interest.

• MHI must be less than the state non-metropolitan MHI for the state ($54,591*) to qualify for up to 45% grant and the intermediate rate of interest.

• If MHI exceeds state non-metropolitan MHI ($54,591*) applicant qualifies for market rate of interest … no grant consideration.

*based on 2010 Census data for Texas
Grant Eligibility

Comparable System Costs
Grant assistance may not be used to lower the user cost of the service below that provided by similar systems.

Availability of Funds
Even though an applicant may meet all the requirements for a grant, the actual grant they receive may be limited by the amount of funds available from the WWD allocation, the amount of cash on hand, or the amount of funding from other sources that is available for use in the project.
Other WEP Programs

• Pre-development Planning Grants

• SEARCH Grant

• Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)
WEP Facilities
Program Objective

Develop infrastructure in rural communities which promote rural economic development and improve public health, safety and overall quality of life.
Community Facilities Programs

- Direct Loans
- Grants
- Loan Guarantees
Applicant Eligibility

• Public Bodies
• Non-Profit Corporations
• Federally Recognized Indian Tribes
Eligible Areas

- Must serve rural areas

- Cities, towns, or incorporated areas that have a population of 20,000 or less inhabitants.
CF Eligibility – Essential Community Facilities

- Must serve the local community
- Needed for the orderly development of community
- May not include private or commercial undertakings
- Must have significant community support (non-profit organizations)
Test for Credit

- Financial Analysis
- Unable to get credit elsewhere
- Reasonable rates and terms
- Determines Ratio of Guaranteed to Direct and Direct to Grant
Community Facilities
Community Facilities
“Together, America prospers”
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bertha Venegas
State Outreach Coordinator
Grant Opportunities through NRCS
Grant Opportunities

To address food deserts and educate rural and urban citizens and youth on the benefits of locally grown fresh produce and greening of the urban landscape through demonstration projects.
Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entity types:

• City or Township
• Governments
• County Governments
• For profit organizations other than small businesses
• Native Americans (Tribal Governments)
• Native Americans tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
• Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
• Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
Vegetable Gardens up to $4,000

Rainwater Harvesting Systems up to $5,000

Pollinator Habitat up to $3,000

High Tunnels up to $6,500
Additional Information

- Availability of funds is depending on the federal budget
- It is a competitive process
- Applications are received through www.grants.gov
- Additional information and past grantees can be found on our website:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/tx/programs/landscape/?cid=nrcseprd1458072
Rough-leaf dogwood offers wildlife value

The Native Plant Society of Texas featured a write-up by Juliet Carter, NRCS soil conservationist in Stephenville, about Rough-leaf dogwood, a perennial shrub.
Central Texas Food Bank

- Expand the production of the garden
- Support monarch butterfly populations
- Increased production of food for hunger relief in an urban food desert
- Increase habitat for monarchs
- Expand opportunities for low income populations to access urban greenspace
Galveston’s Own Farmers Market

- Enhance Young Gardeners Program through expansion of gardens
- Hands-on nutrition programs based on the use of gardens to increase the number of fruits and vegetables children eat on a daily basis, particularly as healthy snack choices.
Laredo Community College

- Hands-on environmental science experiences for students
- Teaching students how to grow food
- Learn the skills needed to grow food to feed themselves and others
Bertha T. Venegas
State Outreach Specialist

bertha.Venegas@usda.gov

(830) 998-5659

www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov
Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
EDA CARES ACT RECOVERY ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW

Agenda:
• Austin Regional Office
• Economic Development Districts
• CARES Act Overview and Notice of Funding Opportunity
• Eligibility
• Investment Priorities
• Economic Development Integration
EDA Regions

- More information on EDA’s programs is available from your state’s Economic Development Representative (EDR).

- Contact information for your EDR can be found at eda.gov/contact.
Economic Development Districts (EDDs)
March 2019

Austin Region: NM, OK, AR, LA, TX
Under the CARES Act, EDA was appropriated $1.5 billion in additional Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program funds to assist communities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and EDA has determined that nationwide eligibility exists for these funds.

EDA has allocated CARES Act funds among six Regional Offices and Headquarters as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>$248,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>$236,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>$225,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>$193,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>$259,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>$266,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>$40,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDA is making the majority of CARES Act funds available through an addendum to the FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

EDA Funding Opportunities posted at: https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/

EDA generally expects to fund 80% of eligible total project costs i.e. 80/20 cost share.

You can find the NOFO at grants.gov by searching for the Opportunity Number “PWEAA2020.”

The CARES Act Recovery Assistance Addendum is at pages 46–50 of the NOFO.
To be eligible for EDA’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants, applicants must explain clearly how the proposed project will “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus” or respond to “economic injury as a result of coronavirus.”

Projects that consider economic recovery in general must address the direct consequences of the coronavirus pandemic itself.

Eligible Applicants include:
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- State governments
- City or township governments
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- County governments
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Special district governments
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
Applications should explain how the proposed project would meet EDA’s Recovery & Resilience Investment Priority.

Applications should explain how the proposed project will meet other EDA investment priorities as applicable; Critical Infrastructure, Workforce Development & Manufacturing, Exports & FDI, and Opportunity Zones: https://www.eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/

Examples of projects that EDA may fund under CARES Act:

- Planning and strategy projects that directly address distress caused by the pandemic, support economic recovery activities, and improve resilience for future pandemics.
- Technical Assistance for private sector entities e.g. existing businesses, entrepreneurs, major employers, et al. to be a catalyst for economic recovery and diversification.
- Infrastructure projects e.g. broadband, roads, water, sewer, etc. that support healthcare systems, private sector entities, and serve as a catalyst for economic recovery.
- New construction and facility improvements to support workforce development programs that will satisfy the unmet hiring needs of commercial and industry partners.
Contact Information

U.S. Economic Development Administration

www.eda.gov

Apurva Naik
Economic Development Integrator
Austin Regional Office
Mobile: (737) 207-1415
Email: anaik@doc.gov
Wrap Up