

Request for Applications – Border Economic Development Grant

The Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office, as a Trusteed Program within the Office of the Governor, is soliciting proposals for projects to promote border economic development.

Purpose: The purpose of this solicitation is to promote border economic development, which includes out-of-state business recruitment, the promotion of economic development, and strategic regional planning.

Funding: State funds are authorized for one-to-one matching grants in fiscal year 2020 under House Bill 1, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, also known as the 2020-2021 General Appropriations Act, Rider 31 for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor. All awards are subject to the availability of funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Available Funding: \$200,000. Awarded funds are to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis, and grantees must also commit and expend one-to-one matching funds for the same specific purpose, which may not include in-kind contributions.

Project Period: Initial project period may not go beyond August 31, 2021, with the possibility of extension of up to one year at the sole discretion of the Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office.

Standards: Grantees must comply with applicable standards cited in the funding source, the State Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS), and all other statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable.

Grantees shall provide to the Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office a report on the use of funds awarded, including the number of out-of-state businesses relocated to Texas, the number of jobs created or moved to Texas, and the total amount of new investment brought to Texas resulting from the grant award.

Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must be a non-profit organization that is:

- 1) a binational economic development and policy advocacy organization;
- 2) located along the US-Mexico border;
- 3) in a municipality that borders Mexico and another U.S. State;
- 4) chartered as a 501(c)(6) entity; and
- 5) with a separate foundation operating as a 501(c)(3) entity.

Prohibitions: Grant funds are prohibited for use on:

- 1) Salaries;
- 2) Expenses related to office space;
- 3) Recruitment and promotion activities that result in a business relocation to a community outside the State of Texas;
- 4) Indirect costs;
- 5) Supporting a match requirement for any other grant obtained by the organization; or
- 6) Any other expenses the Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office identifies as inappropriate or unallowable within the proposal or during the grant management process.

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Travel expenses, including food and beverages, may only be reimbursed in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 660; the General Appropriations Act; the rules adopted by the comptroller under Texas Government Code, Chapter 660; and any other applicable Texas State Travel Guidelines. Travel must relate directly to the grant purpose.

Proposal Process: Applicants must submit their proposals to the Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office. At a minimum, proposals must include the following information:

- 1) Documentation of eligibility criteria;
- 2) Narrative of the grant proposal, including objectives;
- 3) Timeline to accomplish grant purpose;
- 4) Proposed grant budget, including details on the amount of matching funds committed; and
- 5) Contact information for the applicant's designated representative, including mailing address, email address, and phone number.

All proposals and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically to the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, at [EcoDevFinance\[at\]gov.texas.gov](mailto:EcoDevFinance@gov.texas.gov).

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be received by 5 p.m. CDT, October 31, 2019.

Selection Process: Proposals will be reviewed by staff members or a review group selected by the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, which will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

Contact Person: If additional information is needed, contact the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, at [EcoDevFinance\[at\]gov.texas.gov](mailto:EcoDevFinance@gov.texas.gov) or 512-936-0100.