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<http://www.texasedc.org>

TEDC 2026 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

APPLICATIONS DUE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 28, 2026

PURPOSE

The TEDC Awards Committee, through its Community Economic Development Awards Program, recognizes exceptional contributions of Texas communities in the following efforts: Business Retention, Business Expansion, Business Recruitment or Community Involvement.

Applicants are grouped according to population and evaluated among other similarly-sized communities.

ELIGIBILITY

- Awards are presented annually to Texas communities whose projects or programs have been completed during the past 12 months ending May 31st of the award year. **For a project to be considered for the 2026 awards competition, ground-breaking or the equivalency such as a signed lease (e.g) must occur between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026. An announcement of a project is not sufficient.**
- A nominating Community must have at least one TEDC member. If not a current member of TEDC, a membership application is available at www.texasedc.org. Your TEDC membership application may be submitted with your CEDA application.
- A \$100.00 application fee applies.
- **The project being submitted for a 2026 CEDA must not have been nominated for a CEDA in a previous year. Only one CEDA application per organization is permitted.**

NOMINATION

CEDA applications may be submitted individually by a community, or through a regional utility or other regional economic development organization of the TEDC. **Applications must be limited to five pages in total, the application page plus four (4) conventionally formatted 8.5" x 11" pages for the narrative portion. If more than four (4) 8.5" x 11" pages are submitted for the narrative, only the first four (4) pages will be considered for the application.** Please also submit up to five (5) digital photographs of the project along with the application form to crystal@texasedc.org. The photographs should be submitted as separate jpeg digital files and are not to be embedded in a pdf file. The photographs will be used for the award ceremony only and will not be considered as part of the evaluation of the application. Multiple entries per community are only permitted if the entries are submitted by separate entities.

JUDGING

The TEDC's CEDA Committee, representing economic development leaders from around the State, will determine and recommend finalists for the CEDA Awards.

TEDC CEDA AWARDS CRITERIA

The awards will be judged on the following criteria:

I. INNOVATIVENESS

The program or project demonstrates innovative approaches to institutional, financial, technical or legal aspects of economic development.

II. TRANSFERABILITY

The program or project shows potential use by other economic development agencies or practitioners for similar opportunities or solutions.

The program or project should be readily transferable to comparable situations in other communities.

III. COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AND LEVERAGE

The program or project makes it possible for others to achieve a greater impact by joining public/private participation or by intergovernmental or state/local involvement to leverage resources.

Examples of this participation may include:

- tax abatements (Chapter 312)
- tax rebates (Chapter 380)
- tax increment financing
- creative financing
- freeport exemptions
- foreign trade zone usage
- enterprise zones
- public improvement districts and the economic development sales tax

IV. MEASURED OBJECTIVES

Results demonstrate a specific objective that the program or project was able to achieve. Measures of the program's value can include:

- jobs created
- jobs retained or improved
- additional monetary investment in the community
- additions to the tax base created by the program or project

V. SECONDARY BENEFITS

Produces ancillary benefits to other economic activities in the area.



TEDC 2026 CEDA APPLICATION

All Applications Must Be Received by August 28, 2026

The 2026 CEDA nominations will be judged in each of the five categories that have made the most significant contribution to economic development in their community and the State of Texas.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The CEDA will be awarded to one community from each of the following five population categories: (as currently marketed). Mark the population category for which you are applying. In addition to CEDA by population, applicants will be considered for five criteria awards such as: Innovativeness, Transferability, Community Commitment & Leverage, Measured Objectives and Secondary Benefits.

- ☐ Population less than 10,000
- ☐ Population 10,001 to 20,000
- ☐ Population 20,001 to 50,000
- ☐ Population 50,001 to 100,000
- ☐ Population 100,001 to 250,000
- ☐ Population 250,001 and above

NOMINATION:

Name of Community: _____

TEDC Member Name: _____ (individual member, organization)

Telephone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Community Population (as currently marketed): _____

Community/Organization Linked-In Profile: _____

Application Submitted By: _____

Email Address: _____

Media Contacts: [optional]

Organization: _____ Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Organization: _____ Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____

SUMMARY REVIEW

Please attach a brief description of the economic development efforts and accomplishments of the project or program (specific to the project or program for which you are submitting the application). Within this description, address the awards criteria of innovativeness, transferability, community commitment, measured objectives and secondary benefits.

The narrative portion of the application is limited to four (4) conventionally formatted 8.5" x 11" pages. Please also submit up to five (5) digital photographs (jpeg) to crystal@texasedc.org. The photos may be submitted with the application form for the CEDA Committee to view. Photographs submitted may be used in a slide show at the Award Luncheon at the at the TEDC's 2026 Annual Conference in Houston, TX.

Questions regarding the awards program or procedures should be directed to:
Crystal Fulbright, crystal@texasedc.org, 512-480-8432

Please return this application form, supporting documents and photographs to:

TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
CRYSTAL FULBRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
919 CONGRESS AVENUE, SUITE 1145
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
[Email: crystal@texasedc.org](mailto:crystal@texasedc.org)