



# TEXAS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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*Voluntary Cooperation Strategy*



# What Is TWICC?

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- “a one-stop shop for information on funding eligibility or technical assistance for water systems facing infrastructure or compliance issues”
- “a collaborative effort by State and Federal government agencies and technical assistance providers”



# Who Is TWICC?



## Funding Agencies

- CDBG (TDA)
- CDBG-DR / MIT (GLO)
- USDA-RD
- Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF (TWDB)

## Regulatory agencies

- EPA
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Public Utility Commission

## TA Providers

- Communities Unlimited
- Texas Rural Water Association
- American Water Works Association



# What Is TWICC NOT?

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- Joint application / funding body
- State-mandated membership or procedures



# TWICC – Problem-Solving

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- Originally created after EPA's update to drinking water arsenic standards (2001)
- Coordinated effort to identify systems that required upgraded equipment, and match to funding.
- Similar coordinated efforts related to drought emergencies / water conservation



# TWICC – Project Coordination

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- Interagency discussions about project challenges
- Utility systems invited to bi-monthly meeting
  - present project/need
  - receive information from each agency



# TWICC – Project Coordination

- Example: Funding Inquiry Form

Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee

Funding Inquiry Form

Community/Project Information	Contact Information
Entity Name:	Contact Name:
<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Improvement Type</b>
Drinking Water <input type="checkbox"/>	New Facility <input type="checkbox"/>
PWSID#:	Upgrade of existing facilities <input type="checkbox"/>
Wastewater <input type="checkbox"/>	Entity Type:
NPDES#:	
Both <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Estimated Project Cost</b>	
Planning: \$	
Design: \$	
Construction: \$	
Total: \$	

Water Rates	Wastewater Rates
Base Rate: \$	Base Rate: \$
Rate @ 5,000 gallons: \$	Rate @ 5,000 gallons: \$
Date of last increase:	Date of last increase:
Proposed rates: \$	Proposed rates: \$
Number of connections:	Number of connections:
Additional connections due to this project:	Additional connections due to this project:
<b>Annual Operating Cost (Water)</b>	<b>Annual Operating Cost (Wastewater)</b>
Current Income: \$	Current Income: \$
Current Expenses (including depreciation): \$	Current Expenses (including depreciation): \$
Projected Additional Expense after project: \$	Projected Additional Expense after project: \$



# TWICC – Policy Coordination

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- Bi-monthly meeting opportunity to provide program updates to members
- New programs can be developed/vetted
- Uniform standards committee
  - Analyze cross cutting requirements
  - Identify consistencies and differences – can NOT mandate changes





# TWICC – Policy Coordination

## Example: Funding Resource Guide

	Program	Funding Source	Eligible Applicants	Purpose	Access / Eligibility	Terms/Interest Rates	Contact
T W D B	<a href="#">Groundwater District Loan Program</a>	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater District or Authority</li> </ul>	Finance the start-up costs of newly created Groundwater Conservation Districts	First-Come, First Serve	• 3 years	William Alfaro State Programs Coordinator (512) 463-4741  <a href="mailto:Financial_Assistance@twdb.texas.gov">Financial_Assistance@twdb.texas.gov</a>
	<a href="#">Asset Management Program for Small Systems (AMPSS)</a>	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water or Wastewater</li> <li>SRF eligible</li> </ul>	Grant program to fund the creation of an asset management plan and other planning tools. Participant systems will work with a pre-qualified contractor to complete the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serve less than 5,000 connections and less than 10,000 people</li> <li>System must be eligible for DWSRF or CWSRF</li> <li>Application period typically open during summer</li> <li>See program webpage for more information as this is a new program</li> </ul>	• Funding of up to \$100,000 per project	Patrick Kading AMPSS Coordinator (512) 936-8149  <a href="mailto:AMPSS@twdb.texas.gov">AMPSS@twdb.texas.gov</a>
U S	<a href="#">United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) Water/Wastewater</a>	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political Subdivisions</li> <li>non-profit organizations</li> <li>recognized Indian tribes</li> </ul>	Construction loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Planning costs are eligible for reimbursement as part of the total project costs.	Rural (< 10,000 population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 years</li> <li>3.75% market*</li> <li>3.0% intermediate, up to 45% grant, MHI less than state non-metro MHI (\$54,591)</li> <li>2.25% poverty, up to 75% grant, MHI &lt; 80% state non-metro MHI &amp; alleviate health &amp; sanitary issues</li> <li>Interest rates through 03/31/2023 – adjusted quarterly.</li> </ul>	Connie Petru Community Programs Specialist (254) 742-9793 <a href="mailto:connie.petru@usda.gov">connie.petru@usda.gov</a>  For local offices see: <a href="http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/tx">www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/tx</a>



# TWICC – Policy Coordination

## Example: Uniform Standards internal guidance

### Part E. Procurement Requirements

Non-Construction Services	TWDB-Federal	TDA-TxCDBG	USDA-RD	<u>NADBank</u>
<b>Procurement Process</b>				
Engineering Services require RFQ (no pricing until after selection)	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Administrative and other non-construction services require RFP (pricing included in proposal)	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fair Share Goals included?	Yes	No		
Evaluation criteria included in RFQ/RFP	Yes	Yes	By the applicant	
Solicitation of RFQ/RFPs	2 of the 7 methods	Publication and direct contact with 5 firms, including 3 local	Must be publicly announced	
Solicitation period	14 days	10 days		
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) categories	Minority-owned, Woman-owned	Minority-owned, woman-owned, Section 3 (LMI-owned/employed)	Minority-owned, woman-owned	



# Advantages of Voluntary Workgroup

- Organization can evolve to meet current needs
- Can control membership for effective working group
- Frank and informal discussions rather than formal business meeting



# Disadvantages of Voluntary Workgroup

- No required deliverables, requires agency leadership buy in
- Limited ability to ensure results
- No additional administrative support
- Burnout for dedicated volunteers

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[www.TWICC.org](http://www.TWICC.org)



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