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CLEAN COAST TEXAS FUNDING GUIDE

A RESOURCE FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Document is available for download at <https://cleancoast.texas.gov/>.



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



DOUCET
A Kleinfelder Company

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AGENCY ABBREVIATIONS

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

GBEP - Galveston Bay Estuary Program

GLO - Texas General Land Office

NFWF - National Fish and Wildlife Federation

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

TCEQ - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TDA - Texas Department of Agriculture

TPWD - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

TWDB - Texas Water Development Board

USDA-NRCS - U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



INTRODUCTION

Coastal Texas boasts a rich and diverse range of ecosystems, from marshes and estuaries to coral reefs and beaches. These ecosystems are home to a wide variety of marine and terrestrial species, and millions of Texans living in the coastal zone. The people and places along the 367-mile coastline make up one of the state's greatest economic engines: fishing, aquaculture, and tourism are major sources of local income and employment, generating considerable revenue each year.

Critical to both the coast's beauty and industry is its water quality – increasingly challenged by a growing population and a changing climate. Sustainable stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management, wastewater infrastructure, and freshwater availability are among the most pressing concerns. Due to the area's unique geography, these challenges are compounded by the downstream effects from other regions in the state.

Given these challenges, it is imperative to provide coastal communities with access to knowledge and resources to protect and preserve the health of their environments and economies. The Clean Coast Texas Program (CCT), funded by the General Land Office (GLO), was established to assist local governments in considering and adopting higher water quality and flood management standards. A collaborative partnership of research institutions and industry professionals supports the implementation of CCT goals and directives throughout the Texas Coastal Zone. In the summer of 2023, Doucet and Associates - A Kleinfelder Company (Doucet) and Langford Community Management Services (LCMS) were authorized to develop a funding resource for coastal communities. The goal of this publication is to provide clear, concise information to help communities access and leverage state and federal resources to protect coastal water resources. The following pages contain funding resources, guidance, and other paths to success.

HOW TO GET FUNDED

FINDING THE RIGHT FUNDING

1.

Determine Community Priorities

Securing funding begins with understanding needs.

Collaborate with local stakeholders to take stock of the most pressing challenges facing your community. Consider solutions as well as their estimated costs. This process will help ensure that any proposal for funding meets clear and present needs with a thoughtful approach that will be supported by your community.

2.

Identify Opportunities & Assess Eligibility

Not every grant will work for every community.

Once you've prioritized your projects, it's time to assess potential funding sources using this Funding Guide or other resources. When you find a source that seems like the right fit, determine whether your project/community meets the basic eligibility requirements. Some grants will even provide project scoring criteria up front, helping you get an idea of how competitive your project is likely to be!

Ask yourself:

- Who will I be competing against for this funding?
- What kinds of projects are being prioritized by the funding source?
- What are the variables considered in this application and how much effort are we willing to put forth to affect those variables?

Note: Funding sources increasingly favor projects that align with existing local, state, and/or regional plans (for resilience, development, etc.). Leveraging these efforts with your funding application can greatly improve your odds of success!

3.

Build a Coalition

Find the people and resources that will help you succeed.

A broad base of support will help increase your fundability (and make your life easier)! This support can take on many different forms, but often involves the contributions of other local stakeholder groups, engineers, and grant administrators. A local champion (or champions) is often the critical element in the success of a project.

As you identify these partners, make sure you're following all local, state, and federal procurement requirements. All federally funded projects, per CFR200, will require pre-procurement of any engineering or grant administration services. Read more about the federal regulations here: [eCFR :: 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D - Procurement Standards](#).

HOW TO GET FUNDED

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST

1.

Determine Community Priorities

Have you...

- Determined the top challenges facing your community?
- Considered how the community might address these challenges?
- Estimated potential costs to address these challenges?

Yes	No

Yes

No

If yes to all of the above, have you...

- Assessed potential funding sources and found a fit?
Considered how the community might address these challenges?
- Met the basic eligibility requirements?
- Determined your competitiveness / what you can do impact that?
- Chosen a project that aligns with or exists in a community plan? (if required)

2.

Identify Opportunities & Assess Eligibility

3.

Build a Coalition

If yes to all of the above, have you...

- Assembled a broad base of local and professional support?
- Reviewed the procurement guidelines relevant to the funding?

Yes

No

STATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grant/Funding Program	Agency	Description	Type of Assistance	Per Project Grant Range	Total Available Funding
Galveston Bay Estuary Program Funding	EPA and TCEQ/ GBEP	Funding to protect and conserve the Galveston Bay estuary, including funds to address water and sediment quality, education, outreach, monitoring, and research	Grant with no match	Varies	Varies
Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA)	GLO/ NOAA	Supports studies and projects intended to address habitat restoration, coastal erosion, mitigate the effect of coastal erosion, or maintain or enhance beach stability or width	Grant with cost sharing required in most cases - amount will vary according to project (see table on pg. 4 in link for details)	Varies	Varies depending on the appropriation
Coastal Management Program	GLO/ NOAA	Supports data collection, planning, surveys, mapping, aerial photography, research, land acquisition, small-scale construction or small-scale earth moving activities. Proposed project must directly address a current CMP priority	Grant with 40% local match	Varies	Varies (\$1.8million total in 2023)
Coastal Management Program - Project of Special Merit	GLO	Supports large-scale, innovative projects that comprehensively address a current CMP priority. To the extent possible, they will address a specific coastal issue in its entirety instead of in a phased approach	Grant with no match	\$200,000-\$5 million	Varies depending on the appropriation
Community Development Fund	TDA	Largest category in the TxCDBG Program that provides funds for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities)	Grant with match from 2% to 15%; match based on area population	\$200,000-\$500,000	Varies
Watershed Protection Plans for Nonpoint Source Water Pollution	TCEQ	Support the development and implementation of watershed protection plans that prevent or manage nonpoint source pollution, and in most cases provide funding and technical assistance	Grant with 40% local match	N/A	Varies
Flood Infrastructure Fund	TWDB	Provides financial assistance in the form of loans and grants for flood control, flood mitigation, and drainage projects	Grants and 0% interest rate loans	N/A	Varies
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	TWDB	Provides low-cost financial assistance for planning, acquisition, design, and construction of wastewater, reuse, and stormwater infrastructure	Below market interest rate loans and principal forgiveness (similar to grants)	Varies	\$250 million (with 28.6 million in forgiveness)
Coastal Fisheries State Wildlife Grant	USFWS/ TPWD	Funding to support implementation of the Texas Conservation Action Plan, to prevent the need to list, promote recovery, and enable conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)	Grant with 35% non-federal match	Up to \$100,000	Varies

Additional Details/ Requirements	Key Dates	Primary Contacts	Suggestions for Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly funding priorities are set by GBEP subcommittees Eligible applicants: cities, counties, and non-profits 	Proposals due in August	Galveston Bay Estuary Program 281-218-6461 GBEP@tceq.texas.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects should be fulfilled through collaboration when possible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEPRA funds, if appropriated, are on a two-year cycle that coincides with the Texas Legislative biennium Eligible applicants: any individuals or entities (see pg. 1 of link for details) 	Applications due in June every biennium (next open in 2025)	Call 1-800-998-4GLO and ask for CERPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing more than the required amount of match
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be completed in an 18 month period Reimbursement-based grant program Projects that occur in water will not be considered (should apply as Project of Special Merit) 	Final applications due annually in June	Jessica Chappell Project Manager (512) 463-5818 Jessica.chappell@glo.texas.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be geared towards one of CMP's "Funding Priorities."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be completed in a 3-year period Doesn't require a pre-application Reimbursement-based grant program 	Final applications due annually in June	Meghan Martinez Projects of Special Merit Manager 512-463-8753 megan.martinez@glo.texas.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet a GOMESA Authorized Use Large-scale, collaborative projects geared towards CMP's "Funding Priorities" Shovel-ready holistically address a coastal issue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available on a biennial basis for funding through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions 	Applications released in August, due April/May	(800) Tell-TDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only nonentitlement local governments that are not participating in urban county programs through existing participation agreements are eligible applicants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds community-developed documents informed by stakeholder input Development of a Watershed Protection Plan usually takes about three years 	allow 12-months from application deadline to contract execution with TCEQ	TCEQ NPS Program nps@tceq.texas.gov 512-239-6682	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important to ensure sufficient data are available to characterize pollutant sources Multiple steps can be combined into one funding application and streamlined applications preferred.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for a wide range of flood projects, including structural and nonstructural projects as well as nature-based solutions Two-step application process - abridged applications are ranked/prioritized according to most recent FIF Intended Use Plans and high-ranking applicants are invited to submit full applications Eligible applicants: cities, counties, and any district or authority created under Article III, Section 52 or Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution 	Abridged applications due by March	Click here to look up your Regional Team's contact information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join the TWDB mailing list to be notified of further developments, including opportunities to apply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below market interest rate loans and principal forgiveness (similar to grants) are offered, additional forgiveness for green infrastructure 1.75% loan origination fee Eligible applicants: cities, counties, districts, river authorities, designated management agencies, authorized Indian tribal organizations, and public and private entities 	Must submit a Project Information Form by March deadline, then be invited to apply	Click here to look up your Regional Team's contact information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a project is determined to be of urgent need, the applicant may qualify for 100% principal forgiveness (\$500,000 maximum unless a disadvantaged community, which has up to a \$800,000 maximum depending on the percentage category).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds available through reimbursement Timeline should not exceed four years Eligible applicants: institutions of higher education and non-profits 	Applications due in April	Grant with 35% Diana Isabel Manager, Parks & Wildlife Dept. Diana.Isabel@tpwd.texas.govmatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial conservation actions include habitat restoration or enhancement activities, and field studies that seek to fill information gaps that will enable Texas to develop more effective conservation programs for rare and declining species.

*In addition to the resources listed above, communities who have endured a presidentially declared disaster have opportunities to apply for special funding to help them recover and/or prevent future damage. For more information visit:

<https://recovery.texas.gov/>

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation>

FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grant/Funding Program	Agency	Description	Type of Assistance	Per Project Grant Range	Total Available Funding	Key Dates
Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities	NOAA	Supports opportunities for tribes, and/or tribal entities, and underserved communities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities	Grant with no cost sharing or matching requirements	\$75,000 to \$3 million	\$45 million	Applications due in December
Effects of Sea Level Rise Program	NOAA	Supports the development of actionable information and tools that improve how the nation protects, manages, and conserves ocean and coastal ecosystems	Cooperative agreement	\$200,000 to \$500,000	N/A	Application due in January
National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF)	NFWF	Funds projects to protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazard and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife	Grant with match not required, but strongly encouraged	\$125,000 to \$5,000,000	\$31 million	Pre-proposal due in April, invite-only full proposal due in June
Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership	USDA-NRCS	Voluntary program through which NRCS enters into agreements with eligible partners to leverage resources to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat	Grant with 10% cash and/or in-kind match towards easement acquisition due diligence costs or actual easement restoration costs	Up to \$5 million	Up to \$20 million	Call for proposals issued each fall
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant	USFWS	Protection, restoration, and enhancements of coastal wetlands	Grant with flexible match	Varies	Varies	Applications due in July
National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program	USFWS	Addresses loss of habitat with impacts on fisheries and water quality, recurring algae blooms, unusual maritime/mammal mortalities, invasive species, coastal erosion, water quality, and contaminants	Grant with no match	\$75,000 to \$250,000	~ \$1 million	LOI due in May, with full proposal (invite only) due in July
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program – Small Grants	USFWS	Land-acquisition and habitat creation/restoration. Projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds	Grant with 1-to-1 match ratio	Up to \$250,000	\$40 million	Applications due in October
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program – Standard Grants	USFWS	Land-acquisition, habitat creation/restoration, shoreline stabilization, and hydrologic connectivity. Projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds	Grant with 1-to-1 match ratio	N/A	\$40 million	Pre-applications due in February, final applications due in July

Additional Details/ Requirements	Primary Contacts	Suggestions for Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of their applications, applicants must demonstrate their status as or connection to, a tribe, tribal entity, and/or an underserved community \$20 million reserved for tribes Eligible applicants: see link 	Julia Royster (301) 427-8686 underserved. community.grants@ noaa.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful community engagement Consider/elevate Indigenous voices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks to fund research that addresses harmful algal blooms and hypoxia research, coastal resiliency, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, mesophotic coral ecosystems, and effective ecosystem-based management Recipients must report progress toward achieving outcome-based goals annually 	Trevor.Meckley@ noaa.gov Rebecca.Atkins@ noaa.gov Sarah.Pease@noaa. gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize a collaborative research process Articulate outcomes that benefit management in proposals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals must address nature-based solutions, community resilience benefit, and fish and wildlife benefit Funds available through reimbursement Eligible applicants: non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations. 	202-857-0166	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Coastal Resilience and Evaluation Siting Tool (CREST) to help determine project locations Engage your community!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All agreements are for three years Eligible applicants: state and local units of government, Indian Tribes, and nongovernmental organizations 	Click here to find your local USDA service center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS will prioritize project that provide maximum partner resources as a match and include targeted outreach to underserved groups in the agricultural community Partners should explain outreach and support plans in detail to ensure maximum points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must work with the state to submit States provide 50% of the project cost or 25% if the state has a land conservation program. Match can be provided by the state or partners and may include the value of previously conserved land and in-kind contributions Eligible applicants: coastal and Great Lakes states* and the U.S. commonwealths and territories 	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 1-800-344-WILD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments are encouraged to work with state agencies to develop a project/submit an app. Priority given to projects that: 1) support the goals of the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, 2) provide long-term conservation, 3) conserve maritime forest on coastal barrier islands, 4) benefit threatened and endangered species, 5) encourage public-private partnerships, or 6) complement other conservation projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must occur in their entirety within the geographic areas shown on this interactive map: http://arcg.is/1u19zq Each RFP focuses on slightly different aspects of key issues Two-step process: LOI and full proposal (invitation only) Eligible applicants: states, counties, local & regional entities, academic institutions, tribes 	Program Director, Suzanne Simon ssimon@estuaries. org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that keep grant costs not directly associated with acquisition, restoration, enhancement or establishment activities (e.g., grant administration, overhead, indirect costs) below 20% of the grant request are generally more competitive Contact the coordinator of the Joint Venture region in which your project is located early in proposal development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project must further the goals of the North American Wetlands Protection Act Small Grants Program application process, while simpler than the Standard Grants application process, still takes time and effort, so plan accordingly. 	Rodecia Davis, Grant Administrator: (703) 358-2266 and Anya Rushing, (703) 358- 2032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the coordinator of the Joint Venture region in which your project is located early in proposal development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project must further the goals of the North American Wetlands Protection Act 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the coordinator of the Joint Venture region in which your project is located early in proposal development

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<https://recovery.texas.gov/>

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation>

OTHER RESOURCES

Clean Coast Texas

<https://cleancoast.texas.gov/>

Environmental and Energy Study Institute's Federal Resources for Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change Fact Sheet

https://www.eesi.org/files/FactSheet_Nature-Based_Solutions_Funding.pdf

National Wildlife Federation's Nature-based Solutions Funding Database

<https://fundingnaturebasedsolutions.nwf.org>

The Nature Conservancy's Promoting Nature-based Hazard Mitigation through FEMA Mitigation Grants

<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Promoting-Nature-Based-Hazard-Mitigation-Through-FEMA-Mitigation-Grants-05-10-2021-LR.pdf>

The White House's Nature-based Solutions Resource Guide

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Nature-Based-Solutions-Resource-Guide-2022.pdf>

The White House's Nature-based Solutions Roadmap

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Nature-Based-Solutions-Roadmap.pdf>

New England Environmental Finance Center's Guide to Navigating the Federal Funding Landscape

<https://neefc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Navigating-Federal-Funding-Landscape.pdf>

Texas Prairie Wetlands Project Program Summary

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wetlands/central-coast/media/tpwp_landowner_packet.pdf

