



Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for 2024 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Discretionary Funds for Education and Employment Services to Native American and Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) Populations

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) is pleased to announce a NOFA for 2024 CSBG Discretionary funds for education and employment services to Native American and MSFW populations. The Department is seeking organizations interested in administering projects focused on employment and education in Native American and MSFW populations.

Interested applicants must meet the requirements set forth in the application and must submit a complete application through the established system described in the NOFA on or before **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Austin local time.**

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/nofa.htm> and the application forms referenced in this packet and submission instructions are available on the Department's web site at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/nofas.htm>. The Department looks forward to receiving your completed application. Should you have any related questions, please contact Rita Gonzales-Garza at (512) 475-3905 or rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us.

Table of Contents

I.	Application Instructions	3
A.	<i>Application Deadline:</i>	3
B.	<i>Electronic Submission:</i>	3
C.	<i>Application Questions.....</i>	3
II.	Proposed Timeline for NOFA and Application.....	3
III.	General Information	3
A.	<i>Background.....</i>	3
B.	<i>CSBG-D Subrecipient Performance Requirements:</i>	4
C.	<i>Funds Available and Award Amounts.....</i>	4
D.	<i>Eligible Applicant Organizations.....</i>	5
E.	<i>Ineligible Applicant Organizations.....</i>	5
F.	<i>Private Nonprofit Organizations.....</i>	5
G.	<i>Registration Requirements</i>	5
IV.	State and Federal Requirements	5
V.	Application Content	6
VI.	Application Review Process	8
A.	<i>Eligibility Review</i>	8
B.	<i>Deficiency Notices.....</i>	8
D.	<i>Awards</i>	9
E.	<i>Appeals Process.....</i>	9
VII.	Appendices	9
VIII.	List of Attachments	9

I. Application Instructions

A. Application Deadline:

All applications must be submitted on or before **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Austin local time.**

B. Electronic Submission:

All applications must be submitted electronically to be considered eligible applications. Applications must be submitted through the Wufoo system using the following link:

<https://tdhca.wufoo.com/forms/native-americansmigrant-seasonal-farm-worker-nofa/>

C. Application Questions

Application questions may be submitted via electronic mail to rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us. Answers will be provided in the order in which they are received. Please do not submit the same question twice as you await a response.

The deadline to submit questions related to the content of the NOFA and Application is Monday, January 8, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. Austin local time. Questions related to the content of the NOFA submitted after this deadline may not be answered.

II. Proposed Timeline for NOFA and Application

Date	Action
December 7, 2023	The application will be available through the TDHCA Website: http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/nofa.htm
January 8, 2024 5:00 p.m. (Austin local)	Deadline to submit questions regarding the NOFA and application prior to application submission
January 9, 2024 5:00 p.m. (Austin local/CST)	Deadline for Applicants to submit applications in response to this NOFA
February 8, 2024	Anticipated date for the Department to present funding recommendations to Board of Directors
April 1, 2024	Anticipated Contract Start Date*
March 31 2025	Anticipated Contract End Date*

*Any Appeal may delay the Contract Start and End Date

III. General Information

A. Background

The Department has been designated as the state agency to administer the CSBG Program. On an annual basis, the Department receives CSBG funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) to ameliorate the causes of poverty within communities.

The Department is permitted to reserve up to 5% of CSBG funds for state discretionary use for which the Department's Board has determined specific uses. This NOFA releases the portion of these 2024 CSBG Discretionary (CSBG-D) funds aimed at education and employment services for Native Americans and MSFWs.

Capitalized words in this NOFA, unless otherwise defined herein, have the meaning outlined in Chapter 2306 of the Texas Government Code or in Title 10 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapters 1, 2, or 6, as applicable.

B. CSBG-D Subrecipient Performance Requirements:

This NOFA is for services to Native American and MSFW populations. The NOFA will provide funding to organizations to provide new or existing projects that provide education and/or employment assistance and services focusing on the direct needs of individuals and families within the MSFW population or the Native American population. The successful applicant must ensure that participants receive case management along with employment and/or education assistance and services.

This activity must be completed throughout the 12-month Contract Term. The Contract Term is anticipated to be April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

Subrecipient must complete activities that have the following results:

- For employment projects, an increase in employment skills or increase in persons assisted in obtaining jobs; and/or
- For education projects, an increase in education and or skills that are expected to lead to an increase in income.

Persons eligible for direct assistance must have an annual income at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines issued annually by HHS.

C. Funds Available and Award Amounts

In this NOFA, the Department makes available \$300,000 of 2024 non-formula CSBG funds to be utilized for the following discretionary projects:

Category 1: Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker Employment Assistance and Services Projects (Two projects at \$100,000 each)	\$200,000
Category 2: Native American Education Employment Assistance and Services Projects	\$100,000

An applicant must apply for \$100,000 per application and an applicant (or Affiliate as defined in 10 TAC §6.2(b)(1)) is limited to receiving an award in only one category (unless no other eligible applications under either Category are recommended). If applying in both categories, the applicant must indicate in the application on Attachment A which award it will accept if the score results in a recommendation for both. If applying for more than one category of award (i.e., applying for both MSFW and NA), the applicant must fill out a separate application for each.

If sufficient eligible applications are received that meet threshold criteria it is anticipated that three awards of \$100,000 each will be made by the Department's Board of Directors (Board). The Department intends to fund the two highest scoring applications for assistance to the MSFW population, and the one highest scoring application for assistance to the Native American population. However, if sufficient eligible applications are not received to accomplish that, then the next highest scoring application meeting threshold and scoring criteria in either category will be recommended. If no other applications in either category remain, except from an applicant (or Affiliate) that has already been recommended for an award, the Department may recommend a second award to the next highest scoring application. In the event that the Department does not receive sufficient eligible applications in response to this NOFA to exhaust available funding, the Department reserves the right to reprogram the funds.

The availability of 2024 CSBG-D funds to subrecipient organizations is dependent on the Department's receipt and availability of funds from USHHS. Access to funds may be limited to the amount of 2024 CSBG-D funds available to the Department from USHHS, and is subject to Board decisions regarding its use.

D. Eligible Applicant Organizations

Organizations eligible to apply for CSBG-D NOFA funds are: Private Nonprofit Organizations with 501(c) status, Public Housing Authorities, Local Mental Health Authorities, Units of General Local Government, and Regional Councils of Governments who are proposing an educational and/or employment project targeted to either MSFW populations or Native Americans.

E. Ineligible Applicant Organizations

Organizations ineligible to apply for the competitive 2024 CSBG-D funds are:

- Private Nonprofit Organizations that do not have a Certificate of Formation (or Articles of Incorporation);
- Private Nonprofit Organizations that the Texas Secretary of State's Office website does not state are authorized to do business in Texas;
- Organizations for which persons on the organization's governing body or employees are debarred or suspended by the Department or another governmental agency; and
- Organizations for which persons on the organization's governing body or employees are on the suspended or debarred listed for the System for Award Management in accordance with 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 376.

F. Private Nonprofit Organizations.

The Department is not requiring that an organization submit a Certificate of Formation or proof of eligible status. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that its information including its Certificate of Formation (formally known as Articles of Incorporation) with the Texas Secretary of State's Office is correct and complete at the time of application. The Department will confirm proof of active status directly with the Texas Secretary of State. No administrative deficiencies will be issued for failure to have the appropriate status and governing documents reflected on the Secretary of State's Office when confirmed by the Department. Failure to have this information will cause the application to be terminated without further review as further described in Section VI.A of the NOFA.

G. Registration Requirements

Prior to contract execution, the successful applicant must provide the Department with the organization's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) (formerly known as Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)) and proof of registration with the System for Award Management (SAM). If the organization is not registered, go to <https://www.sam.gov> to renew, update, or create a new registration.

IV. State and Federal Requirements

Subrecipient shall comply with all provisions of the Federal and State laws and regulations listed below and in Attachment G, including but not limited to:

Public Law 105-285, Title II - Community Services Block Grant Program, Subtitle B Community Services Block Grant Program of the Community Services Block Grant Act, Chapter 106 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. §9901 *et seq.*), as amended by the "Community Services Block Grant Amendments of 1994" (P.L. 103-252) and the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-285).

Subrecipient shall also comply with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and Executive Order 13166 of August 11, 2000 related to Limited English Proficiency.

Subrecipient shall practice non-discrimination and provide equal opportunity in compliance with federal law in keeping with the President's Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and ensure that a person shall not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be subjected to discrimination under, or be denied employment in the administration of or in connection with any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this contract, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief.

Subrecipient shall comply with political activity prohibitions and shall not utilize CSBG funds to influence the outcome of any election, or the passage or defeat of any legislative measure or to directly or indirectly hire employees or in any other way fund or support candidates for the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of government of subrecipients, the State of Texas, or the government of the United States. Subrecipient shall comply with 45 CFR. §87.2 and ensure that CSBG funds are not to be used for sectarian or inherently religious activities such as worship, religious instruction or proselytization, and must be for the benefit of persons regardless of religious affiliation.

Subrecipient shall comply with Chapter 2264 of the Texas Government Code and will not knowingly employ an undocumented worker, where "undocumented worker" means an individual who, at the time of employment, is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States or authorized under law to be employed in that manner in the United States.

Subrecipient is not permitted to award any funds provided by this contract to any party that is debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549. The Subrecipient will be required to agree that prior to entering into any agreement with a potential subcontractor that the verification process to comply with this requirement will be accomplished by checking <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/searchRecords/search.jsf>

Chapter 2306 of the Texas Government Code;

Title 10 Texas Administrative Code, Part 1, Chapters 1 and 2;

Title 10 Texas Administrative Code, Part 1, Chapter 6, Subchapters A and B;

2 CFR Part 200, as applicable; and

Texas Grant Management Standards.

V. Application Content

Attachments A-H are Threshold Documents. Each Application must contain the items listed below in the following order:

- Attachment A – Applicant Information Form – Form must be placed on the top of the application.
- Attachment B – Application Questions Parts 1-4 – Complete the NOFA Application Questions document. Any attachments related to questions within Attachment B should identify the question # and be numbered accordingly. Please use the following format to provide any information which is requested in response to questions if the space provided in the Excel worksheet is insufficient:
 - ✓ 11 font
 - ✓ Standard 8½ " x 11" paper with 1" margins
 - ✓ Provide brief descriptions of requested information.

- Attachment C – Audit Information – All applications must include the following documents relating to fiscal accountability, even if this information has been previously submitted to the Department.
 - A. An application must include a completed Audit Certification Form, found on the Department’s website at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/forms.htm>.
 - B. An organization that is subject to the Federal Single Audit Act requirements must certify that the Single Audit for the latest fiscal year is available at the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. An Organization that is subject only to the State Single Audit Act must submit one copy of the organization’s most recent Single Audit report.
 - C. An organization not subject to either the Federal or the State Single Audit requirements must submit one copy of a third-party audit of financial statements prepared by a Certified Public Accountant, including any notes to the audit.
 - D. A Private Nonprofit Organizations not subject to either the Federal or State Single Audit Act requirements and who have received LIHEAP or CSBG funds in the last fiscal year from the Department are not required to submit a separate audit. For these organizations, the previous participation review will suffice as the measure to determine organizational financial health.
- Attachment D – Uniform Previous Participation Form for Single Family and Community Affairs.
- Attachment E – Certifications Regarding Legal Actions, Debarment & Compliance with Laws.
- Attachment F – Private Nonprofit Organization’s Tax-Exempt Status Documentation. Existing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ruling – All private nonprofit organizations must provide documentation of their status as a tax-exempt entity under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. The ruling should be on IRS letterhead which is legible and signed by the IRS District Director. Expired advanced rulings from the IRS are not acceptable. If an organization is a subsidiary of a parent organization, documentation of the parent organization’s IRS ruling and a copy of the page listing the affiliate organization in the documents filed with the IRS by the parent organization.
- Attachment G – Applicant Certifications

The certification must be signed by the organization’s Executive Director or equivalent title, with contractual signatory authority. If such cannot be attested, then attach a document explaining why.
- Attachment H – CSBG Budget Worksheets
 - A. The proposed budget for CSBG is to be submitted utilizing the Attachment H form. There are several tabs within the spreadsheet to complete. Complete the budget based on the estimated funds available noted in Section III. C (i.e., \$100,000).
 - B. This NOFA does not have limitations on the amount of funds utilized for the provision of direct services or for the costs of staff assigned to provide the direct services, as long as the costs meet federal and state requirements.

VI. Application Review Process

A. Eligibility Review

The Department will review applications to determine if they meet the following eligibility criteria. If the Department determines that any of these criteria have not been satisfied, the application will not be reviewed and the applicant will be sent a notice of the elimination of their application from consideration, and notified of their opportunity to appeal. The eligibility criteria are:

- Application documents must be submitted electronically to be considered eligible applications. Applications are to be submitted through the Wufoo using the following link: <https://tdhca.wufoo.com/forms/native-americansmigrant-seasonal-farm-worker-nofa/>
- An Applicant must meet all requirements as set forth in III. General Information, D. Eligible Applicant Organizations; and
- An Applicant must not be an ineligible applicant organization as set forth in III. General Information, E. Ineligible Applicant Organizations.

Any applicant not meeting these threshold criteria will be terminated. A notice of termination will be sent, and an applicant will have an opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with 10 TAC §1.7, Staff Appeals Process.

B. Deficiency Notices

After the application receipt deadline, the Department will not consider any unsolicited information that an applicant may want to provide. If the Department identifies deficiencies within Attachments A-H it will issue a deficiency notice to request the deficiency be resolved and automatically deduct 10 points from the final score for each deficiency. Applicants will have three (3) business days from the date of issuance of the deficiency notice to provide the requested information. Deficiency notices will be e-mailed to the applicant's chief executive and the person specified as the "person to contact with application questions" in the applicant information form (Attachment A). If the applicant does not provide the requested information within the three business day time period, the applicant will be sent a notice indicating termination of the application.

C. Scoring of Applications

Applications determined eligible for review will be scored by the Department. The Department will utilize a standard scoring instrument to evaluate, score, and rank each application. The scoring instrument will award points based on the applicant's response to the requested information in Attachment B. Questions within Attachment B that go unanswered will not receive any points. The Department reserves the right to reject applications with a score below 50% of the maximum eligible points. If all applicants score below the minimum point threshold, the Department reserves the right to review the top overall scoring entity and if, in the Department's judgment, they can appropriately administer the CSBG-D funds, may recommend an award to its Governing Board.

Upon completion of scoring each application, applicants will be provided a scoring notice with an opportunity to appeal.

The Department will consider and evaluate prior monitoring and/or audit issues during its application scoring. Additionally, other factors to be considered in the scoring of each application will include, but not be limited to:

- Capacity to effectively administer federal funds and to ensure compliance with regulations;

- Ability to demonstrate staff and organizational capacity to deliver the proposed services; and,
- Ability to demonstrate positive past performance with Department or other federally funded programs, including the results of Department monitoring reviews, timeliness of submission of reports, and other information deemed relevant to performance.

D. Awards

Applicants whose applications score competitively will be reviewed by the Department's Previous Participation Review Approval Process and subsequently brought to the Department's Governing Board for consideration of an award.

E. Appeals Process

An appeal of a staff determination must be submitted in writing and in accordance with the Texas Administrative Rule Title 10, Part 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, §1.7 which can be found at the Secretary of State's website at:

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=1&sch=A&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=1&sch=A&rl=Y).

VII. Appendices

Federal and State Resources:

CSBG Act, COATES Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998, available at

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/community-services-block-grant-statute>

Texas Administrative Code - 10 TAC Chapter 1, Administration, available at

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=10&pt=1&ch=1](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=10&pt=1&ch=1)

Texas Administrative Code - 10 TAC Chapter 2, Enforcement, available at

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=10&pt=1&ch=2](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=10&pt=1&ch=2)

Texas Administrative Code - 10 TAC Chapter 6, Subchapter A, General Provisions, available at

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=6&sch=A&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=6&sch=A&rl=Y)

Texas Administrative Code - 10 TAC Chapter 6, Subchapter B, Community Services Block Grant, available at

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=6&sch=B&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=6&sch=B&rl=Y)

VIII. List of Attachments

Attachments are posted separately on the TDHCA website as fillable MS Excel documents at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/nofas.htm>

- Attachment A-G:
 - Attachment A: Applicant Information Form
 - Attachment B: Application Questions Parts 1-4
 - Attachment C: Audit Information
 - Attachment D: Uniform Previous Participation Form
 - Attachment E: Certifications Regarding Legal Actions, Debarment & Compliance with Laws
 - Attachment F: Private Nonprofit Organization's Tax-Exempt Status Documentation
 - Attachment G: Applicant Certifications
- Attachment H: CSBG Budget Worksheets