



Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Proposed Budget FY 15-16

**Presented to the Austin Community Technology
& Telecommunications Commission**

June 10, 2015

TARA Programs and Services

1. Provide regulatory oversight and rate regulation of the City's private utility companies
2. Provide contract negotiation and administration
3. Provide financial and right-of-way franchise management services to maximize collected and available funds
4. Provide purchasing services of capital equipment funded with public, educational and government capital equipment funds

TARA Programs and Services

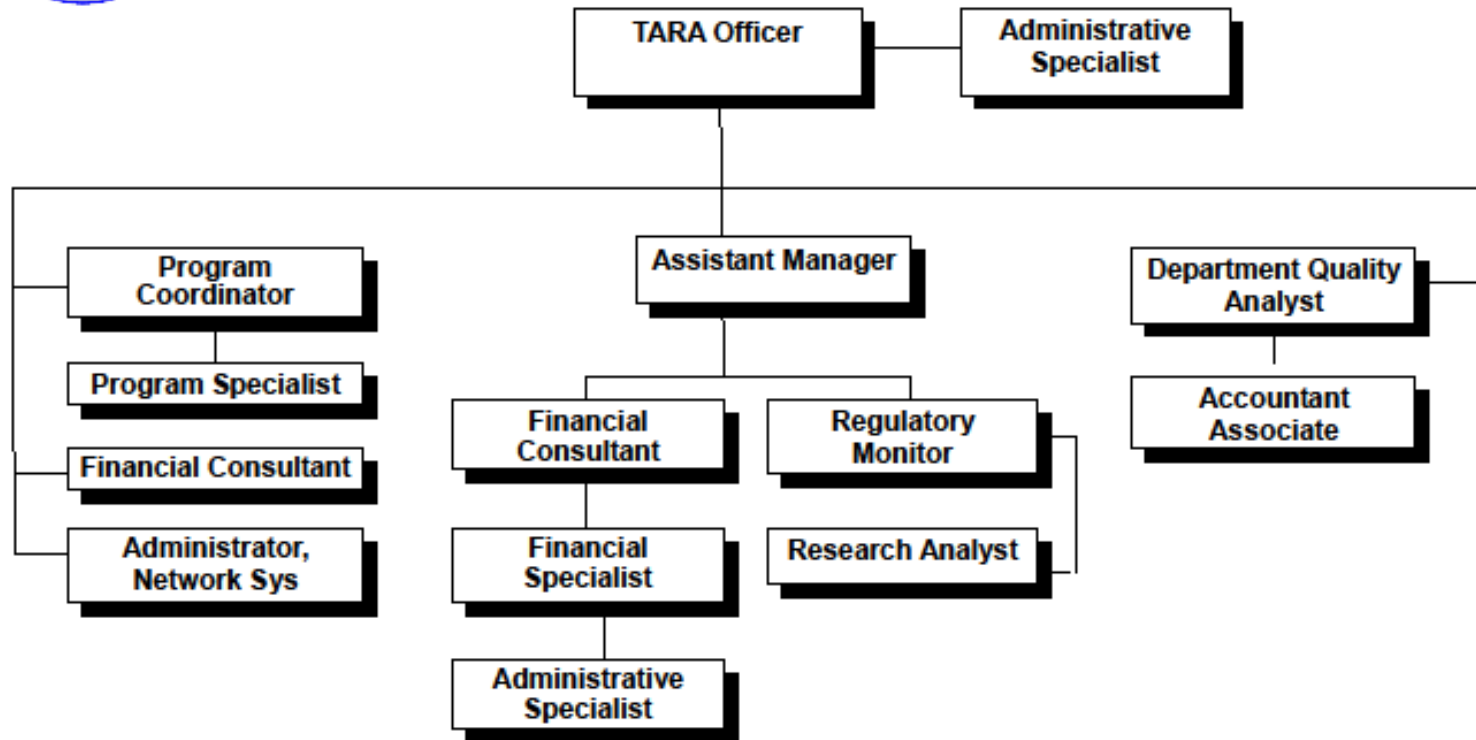
5. Provide collection services for client City departments
6. Provide support and resources for Community Technology Initiative programs including Austin Free-Net, Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs), and the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan
7. Provide monitoring and enforcement of the Credit Access Business ordinance (payday and auto title lenders)
8. Provide staff support to Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

TARA Performance Measures

	Approved FY 15	CYE FY 15	Proposed FY 16
Austin Free-Net public access average monthly user sessions at Community Centers	8,000	12,921	12,498
Cost of claims collections per dollar amount collected	.18	.21	.21
Maintain or increase right-of-way revenue	\$34,748,263	\$36,944,287	\$37,481,431
Percent of digital inclusion programs' participants that improved their basic digital skills	90 (New measure In FY 15)	80	80



City of Austin Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs



Budget Overview for FY 15 and FY 16

	FY 15 Adopted	FY 15 CYE	FY 16 Proposed
ROW Revenue-General Fund	\$ 34,748,263	\$ 36,944,287	\$ 37,481,431
Cable Access Revenue-Restricted Funds	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,900,000
Total TARA Budget	\$ 1,665,420	\$ 1,632,841	\$1,718,951
Number of FTEs	14 FTEs	14 FTEs	14 FTEs

Significant Changes for FY 16 Budget

	Variances-FY 15 Budget to FY 16 Proposed Budget
\$ 54,057	Citywide Personnel Cost Drivers Increase Additional funding to cover the cost of a 3% wage increase in FY 2015-16, as well as an increase in City contributions for health insurance.

TARA Unmet Service Demands

Consultant/Legal Fees

Texas Gas Service Rate Case Expenses

\$100,000

1 FTE - Regulatory Monitor

Credit Access Business Ordinance enforcement support

\$86,183 (salary and benefits)

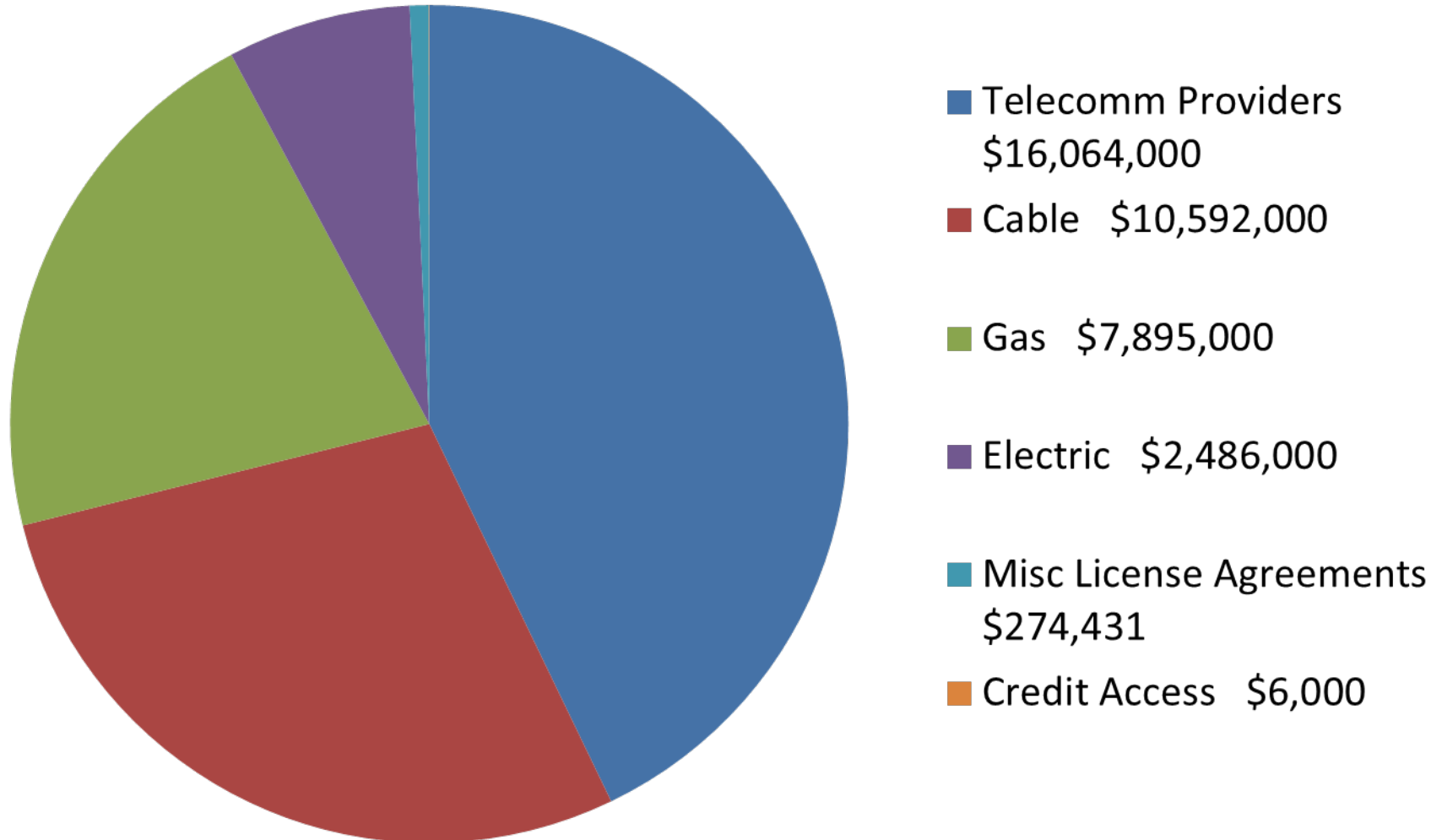
Mandated Budget Reductions by City Departments

Reduce Grant for Technology Opportunity Program (GTOPs) funding by \$25,000

Current GTOPs funding is provided through a backcharge of \$175,000 to Austin Energy and a \$25,000 transfer from the General Fund. This \$25,000 General Fund transfer was the result of an amendment on the dais for FY 2014. ***If this budget reduction is necessary, the reduction would eliminate the transfer from the General Fund and the GTOPs budget would total \$175,000 for FY 16.***

FY 16 TARA General Fund Revenue

Proposed total = \$37,481,431



Community Technology Initiative

FY 16 Proposed Budget

\$200,000	Grant for Technology Opportunities Program
\$197,744	Austin Free-Net contract
\$475,000	Public Access TV contract

Austin Cable Access Fund FY 16

- **Austin Cable Access Fund Revenue: \$1,900,000**
 - Cable Access Revenue is calculated as 1% of gross revenues of state tv/video franchise holders. The estimated revenue is restricted for capital expenditures.
- **Public Access Channel Operating Expenses: \$475,000**
 - The current contract expires on 09/30/2015. The new contract will provide an annual operating budget of \$475,000, which is an increase of \$25,000 over the current \$450,000 annual operating budget.
 - The operational expenses of \$475,000 are provided by a General Fund transfer of \$475,000.

AustinCable Access Fund

PEG Capital Funds Distribution

City of Austin Cable Access Fund PEG Capital Funds Distribution	
City Hall Channel 6 /ATXN Capital Equipment	\$ 700,000
Public Access Facilities and Capital Equipment	\$ 525,000
GAATN Capital Equipment/Contingency Equipment	\$ 300,000
AISD PEG Equipment	<u>\$ 350,000</u>
Total Capital Outlay	\$ 1,875,000

Budget Timeline

Online Budget Input available at www.austintexas.gov/financeonline

June 22-24, 2015	-CMO Budget Work Sessions
July 30, 2015	-Budget Work Session #1-Proposed Budget Presented to Council
August 10, 2015	-Budget Work Session #2-Department Presentations -Department Budget Presentations published /posted to Web
August 12, 2015	-Budget Work Session #3-Department Presentations
August 20, 2015	-Budget/Tax Rate/Utility Rate Public Hearings
August 27, 2015	-Budget/Tax Rate Public Hearings
September 1, 2015	-Council Budget Work Session
September 8-10, 2015	-Budget/Tax Rate Adoption

TARA Contacts

Rondella Hawkins, TARA Officer, 512-974-2422

Paul Lewis, Assistant Manager, 512-974-3415

**Melanie Kroll Eichman, Financial Consultant,
512-974-2909**