



CITY OF AUSTIN

Small Business Incentives Guide



Published by
Small Business Development Program
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City of Austin

Economic Development Department
Small Business Development Program
P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

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Dear Entrepreneur:

The City of Austin is committed to the development of small businesses while promoting a higher quality of living for all its residents. Austin is a national leader in small business creation, technological innovation and business expansion. We take pride in our uniquely expansive small business cultural, and our unparalleled wealth of information and services to assist entrepreneurs with their business needs.

We are pleased to present you with the first edition of the City of Austin Small Business Incentive Guide. This directory is a compilation of incentives and rebates offered by various local, state, and federal government agencies. Programs and services range from industry specific loan programs and rebates, to no-cost development assistance. Our goal for the City of Austin Small Business Incentive Guide is to increase your awareness and use of the programs that provide aid in the development of your business.

In addition, to the Small Business Development Program offers no-cost *BizAid Business Orientation* classes; no-cost individualized business coaching; low-cost business education classes; and no-cost use of the Business Solutions Center, a technology resource center. Call 512.974.7800 or visit our website www.AustinSmallBiz.org for information about all our services and resources.

Thank you for being a part of Austin's vibrant and dynamic business community.

Sincerely,

Vicky Valdez
Small Business Administrator
Small Business Development Program
City of Austin
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Accion Texas Inc.

Website: [Accion of Texas](#)

Phone Number: 888.215.2373

Small Business Service: To provide credit and services to small businesses and entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources and to provide leadership and innovation to the micro-lending industry. Accion Texas Inc. is a designated community development financial institution (CDFI.) CDFIs finance community businesses, including small businesses, microenterprises, nonprofit organizations, commercial real estate, and affordable housing.

Alternative Irrigation Compliance Pilot Program

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.6548

Small Business Service: Austin Water is conducting a pilot program for commercial customers that will allow them to water according to a calculated water budget rather than the assigned watering schedule. Participating properties must have a dedicated irrigation meter, have been a direct customer of Austin Water for at least 3 years, and be in compliance with Austin City Code, Chapter 6-4-12(B), Water Waste Prohibited. Austin Water staff will conduct site inspections to determine compliance.

Austin Energy Green Building

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.482.5300

Small Business Service: Our team incorporates a range of experts including mechanical, electrical, civil, and architectural engineers, architects, and other code specialists. We are partners in your commercial developments and consultants invested in your success. Our experienced professionals guide you through the design and construction process, and review, rate, and market your project.

Austin U.S. Export Assistance Center

Website: [Austin U.S. Export Assistance Center](#)

Phone Number: 512.916.5940

Small business Service: The Austin U.S. Export Assistance Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce is part of the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, a federal agency with an extensive network of trade specialists located in the U.S. and throughout the world devoted to assisting U.S. companies expand their international business presence.

BiGAUSTIN

Website: [BiGAUSTIN](#)

Phone Number: 512.928.8010

Small Business Service: BiGAUSTIN is a non-profit, micro-enterprise development organization. It was a city-funded organization, founded in 1992 as a means to break down barriers and foster small business growth.

Bonding

Website: [City of Austin Small and Minority Business Resources](#)
Phone Number: 512.974.7600

Small Business Service: In order to help our vendors overcome the challenges that can be associated with bonding, SMBR has a Bonding Financial Consultant on staff. The Bonding

Business Community Lenders of Texas (BCL)

Website: [Business and Community Lenders of Texas](#)
Phone Number: 512.912.9884

Small Business Service: Business & Community Lenders of Texas is a nonprofit economic development organization providing business lending, Small Business Administration (SBA) and community development programs. Dedicated to improving the lives of Texans through asset-building and job creation, BCL of Texas is committed to providing valuable, customized solutions and comprehensive service to every customer.

Business Expansion and Relocation Assistance

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)
Phone Number: 512.974.6381

Small Business Service: As your company plans its relocation to Austin or expands its existing Austin location, our staff is here to help. We process incentive applications, assist with zoning and planning issues, and do what it takes to make your process fast and easy.

Business Retention and Enhancement Program

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)
Phone Number: 512.978.2505

Small Business Service: The City of Austin created the Business Retention and Enhancement (BRE) Program to support the re-establishment of Congress Avenue and East 6th Street as retail and urban entertainment district destinations by providing low-interest loans.

Business Solutions Center

Website: [City of Austin Small Business Development Department](#)
Phone Number: 512.974.7786

Small Business Service: The Business Solution Center is small business research and technology center dedicated to assisting small

business owners identify solutions to their small business questions. Small business owners are provided no-cost access to a variety of research based software programs that aid in the business development process. These software programs cover topics such as demographics, marketing opportunities, real estate research, business plan writing and a business database of over 1,500 small business documents. These services are delivered via a T-1 internet connection and current office suite software and hardware technology is provided. In addition, our knowledgeable staff will assist small business owners with the navigation of our software and technology resources.

Chapter 380 Grants and Loans

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.7820

Small Business Service: The Local Government Code authorizes both municipalities and counties to offer incentives that will promote economic development on items such as commercial and retail projects.

Commercial and Small Business Power Saver Program

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.505.3704

Small Business Service: Rebates up to \$200,000 per site to businesses to help underwrite the cost of energy efficiency improvements that will save you money.

By investing in your energy savings projects, Austin Energy also reduces the need to generate additional power during peak demand periods and delays the need to build additional generation, which helps us keep electric rates lower.

Commercial Irrigation Evaluations

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2199

Small Business Service: Austin Water Utility offers no cost irrigation system evaluations to help commercial properties determine efficient watering schedules for their landscapes and identify existing equipment problems. Commercial customers receiving irrigation evaluations may also be eligible for rebates when making recommended upgrades to existing systems.

Commercial Preservation and Revitalization

Website: [City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.3863

Small Business Service: The Commercial Revitalization program



An entrepreneur getting his start at the City of Austin Business Solutions Center

provides loans to businesses inside the indicated zone in East Austin. Existing businesses, start-ups and non-profits that are located or plan to locate inside the zone are eligible for the program.

Commercial Process Water Evaluations and Rebate

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.3514

Small Business Service: As a no cost service to Austin Water Utility commercial customers, Water Conservation auditors are available to evaluate all aspects of your water consumption to determine how your company uses water. Auditors will suggest opportunities for reducing water consumption and discuss your eligibility for special commercial process rebates.

Commercial Washwise Rebate Program

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2199

Small Business Service: Commercial and multi-family properties may receive rebates of up to \$250 per washer when installing water- and energy- saving coin-operated machines.

Commit, Calculate, Conserve (3C) Business Challenge

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2199

Small Business Service: Participate in the 3C Business Challenge to get information about ways to reduce your business's water use and show your commitment to saving water. Simply complete the application and checklist form listed below. Water Conservation staff will review it and recommend steps you can take to improve water efficiency and your eligibility for rebates.

Community Development Bank

Website: [City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#)

Phone Number: 512.472.8087

Small Business Service: The Community Development Bank (CDB) offers financial assistance in the form of loan programs that provide flexible capital and technical assistance to small and minority businesses that are expanding or relocating to low-income areas.

Disadvantaged Business Certification

Website: [City of Austin Small and Minority Business Resources](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.7600

Small Business Service: As a local partner in the Texas Unified Certification program, SMBR offers Disadvantaged Business

Enterprise Certification for federally funded aviation and transportation projects to socially and economically disadvantaged business owners who qualify.

EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.7833

Small Business Service: The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program allows qualified investors to become eligible for green cards for themselves and their dependent family members.

Expedited Development Process

Website: [City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.4000

Small Business Service: The Planning and Development Review Department is offering self-certification for Certified Building Designers and Texas-licensed Architects. As long as certain criteria are met, qualifying projects are: when the proposed use is new single family construction, an addition to a single family use, and interior remodels of single family homes.

Facade Improvement Program

Website: [City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.3100

Small Business Service: The Facade Improvement Program provides financial assistance in the form of matching grant funds to eligible property owners with commercial buildings located in the designated East Austin program corridors that are seeking to improve, renovate, or restore their commercial building facades.

Family Business Loan Program

Website: [City of Austin Family Business Loan Program Flyer](#)

Phone Number: 512.978.2502

Small Business Service: The Family Business Loan Program (FBLP) is a public-private partnership between the City of Austin, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and participating private lenders to offer low-interest loans to qualified small businesses that are expanding and creating jobs.



Another success story for the City of Austin Family Business Loan Program

Global Business Recruitment and Expansion Division

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.6381

Small Business Services: The Global Business Recruitment and Expansion Division increase jobs and investment in Austin through business attraction and by assisting local businesses with international expansion and trade.

GreenChoice®

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.494.9400

Small Business Service: Austin Energy's GreenChoice® program is the nation's most successful utility-sponsored and voluntary green-pricing energy program. New GreenChoice® options for 2014 make it easier than ever to do something good for Austin and the environment.

Historically Underutilized Business Program

Website: [Travis County Historically Underutilized Business Program](#)

Phone Number: 512.854.9020

Small Business Service: In May 1994, the Travis County Commissioners Court unanimously passed a resolution creating the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program within Travis County. The primary objective of the program is to ensure that minority and woman-owned businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the county's procurement process.

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Facility (ICI) Audit Rebate Pilot Program

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.074.3901

Small Business Service: Austin Water offers a rebate that pays customers up to \$5,000 for an independent water efficiency audit of their industrial, commercial or institutional facility.

Infrastructure and Property Leasing Program

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.972.7626

Small Business Service: Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM) works with businesses needing access to Austin Energy's (AE) and the City of Austin's (CoA) infrastructure assets to further their business goals.

International Business Institute at Austin Community College

Website: [Austin Community College](#)

Phone Number: 512.223.0390

Small Business Service: The focus of the programs offered by the International Business Institute at Austin Community College District (ACCD) in Austin, Texas is the certification of graduates as a

Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP), a competency designation certified by the North American Small Business International Trade Educators (NASBITE).

International Trade and Investment Program

Website: [City of Austin International Trade and Investment Program](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.6416

Small Business Service: The International Trade and Investment Program works to link Austin businesses with international markets and business partners, and increase foreign direct investment in the city. The program involves one-on-one counseling for businesses interested in trade and our resource guides for importing and exporting and establishing international businesses.

Local Producer Loan Program

Website: [Whole Foods](#)

Phone Number: 512.542.0895

Small Business Service: Whole Foods Market provides low interest loans to independent local farmers and food artisans.

Micro-Enterprise Technical Assistance

Website: [City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#)

Phone Number: 512.928.8010

Small Business Service: The Micro-enterprise Technical Assistance Program offers training and technical assistance to qualified micro-enterprises in the City of Austin.

Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE)

Website: [City of Austin Small and Minority Business Resources](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.7645

Small Business Services: The Small & Minority Business Resources Department (SMBR) offers Minority-and Women-Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Certification to qualified business owners throughout the State of Texas for City of Austin projects.

Multi-family Partnership Program

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.494.9400

Small Business Service: The Multi-Family Partnership Program (MPP) provides automatic transfer of utility services from vacated rentals into the name of the property owner. Participants can monitor activity for all units in their complex through our secure MPP Web site.



Music Venue Assistance Program

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.7817

Small Business Service: The Music Venue Assistance Program (MVA) is intended to provide low-interest loans for Eligible Sound Mitigation Costs to venues that demonstrate a significant sound impact to residential areas. Such venues located in or willing to locate within Austin city limits demonstrates the physical and/or financial need to implement sound mitigation technologies.

Neighborhood Commercial Management Program

Website: [City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.3100

Small Business Services: The Neighborhood Commercial Management Program (NCMP) provides financial assistance in the form of business loans to existing businesses looking to expand operations. Firms that have been in existence for two or more years can apply.

No Cost Bike Rack Program

Website: [City of Austin Public Works Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.074.7065

Small Business Service: Austin's designation as a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community reflects the Program's commitment to providing safe, efficient, and accessible bicycle facilities for all residents and visitors. Here, you can see the City's Bicycle Master Plan, register bicycles, view laws, map your route, explore local groups and more.



PeopleFund

Website: [PeopleFund](#)

Phone Number: 512.472.8087

Small Business Services: PeopleFund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) based in Austin, Texas. Founded in 1994 as Austin Community Development Corporation, we provide loans, financial and technical assistance to people who are left out of the financial mainstream.

Plug-In Austin

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2000

Small Business Services: If you own a plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) or are thinking about buying one, Austin Energy can help keep you and your vehicle on the move.

PowerSaver™ Program

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2000

Small Business Service: Austin Energy's PowerSaver™ Program can help reduce the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to your home, business, or multifamily property. Whether you are interested in a large-scale energy performance upgrade or in making only a few improvements at a time, the PowerSaver Program has savings for you.

Public Improvement District

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.6415

Small Business Service: On April 15, 1993, Austin City Council created a Public Improvement District (PID) to provide constant and permanent funding to implement downtown initiatives. The PID is a means for the Downtown Austin community to provide adequate and constant funds for quality of life improvements and planning and marketing of Downtown Austin.

Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2919

Small Business Service: Rebates of \$0.50 per gallon of capacity for non-pressurized rainwater harvesting systems (i.e. rain barrels) and \$1.00 per gallon of capacity for pressurized rainwater harvesting systems (i.e. large cisterns with a pump) are available for qualifying purchases.

Small Business Assistance

Website: [City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.3100

Small Business Service: The City offers many services for small businesses in the Austin community from technical assistance to loan services to enhance the success of growing small businesses and encourage the creation of jobs for low- to moderate-income households.

Small Business Development Program

Website: [City of Austin Economic Development Department](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.7800

Small Business Service: The mission of the Small Business Development Program (SBDP) is to foster job creation and support

small business
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
CITY OF AUSTIN

the growth of new and existing businesses by providing capacity building information, tools, and resources.

Small Business Lighting Program

Website: [Austin Energy](#)

Phone Number: 512.505.3704

Small Business Service: Austin Energy offers small business and small non-profit customers up to an 80% discount to install high-efficiency lighting. The cost of buying high-efficiency lighting can be an obstacle for small businesses and non-profits.



Special Commercial Process Rebates

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.505.3704

Small Business Service: Water Conservation offers rebates of up to \$100,000 to industrial, commercial, and institutional customers for installing new equipment and processes that conserve water at existing facilities. Some projects may also qualify for property or sales tax exemptions or other incentives.

Vendor Connection

Website: [Vendor Connection](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.2018

Small Business Service: Vendors wishing to do business with the City of Austin must be registered before being awarded a contract or receiving a payment. Registrations allow vendors the opportunity to identify those products and services they wish to offer to the City; makes it possible for City departments to find your company; and receive email notification of upcoming solicitations.

WaterWise Hotel Partner Program

Website: [Austin Water](#)

Phone Number: 512.974.6548

Small Business Service: Show your guests that your facility is smart about saving water. Apply today to become a WaterWise Hotel Partner and get free publicity and recognition from Austin Water.

Workforce Solutions-Capital Area (WFS Capital Area)

Website: [Workforce Solutions Capital Area](#)

Phone Number: 512.381.4200

Small Business Service: WFS Capital Area Workforce Board is the leadership and governing body for the regional workforce system. A private, publicly-funded non-profit organization, WFS Capital Area is responsible for the planning, oversight, and evaluation of workforce development activities in the Austin/Travis County area.

**Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program**

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9932

Small Business Service: Provides loan guarantees and interest rebates for agriculture-related businesses and ranching operations.

Cancer Prevention & Research General Obligation Bonds

Website: [Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.3190

Small Business Service: Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) offers several funding opportunities for promising cancer research, product development, and prevention programs.

Certified Capital Company (CAPCO)

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: The Local Government Code authorizes both municipalities and counties to offer incentives that will promote economic development on items such as commercial and retail projects.

Chapter 380 Grants and Loans

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.4679

Small Business Service: The Local Government Code authorizes both municipalities and counties to offer incentives that will promote economic development on items such as commercial and retail projects.

Data Centers Tax Exemptions

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 800.252.5555

Small Business Service: A new law provides a temporary exemption from state sales and use tax on certain items necessary and essential to the operation of a qualified data center. The exemption is for state sales tax only. Local sales taxes are due on purchases of these qualifying items.

Defense Economic Readjustment Zone Program

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512-936-0100

Small Business Service: The Defense Economic Readjustment Zone Program (DERZ) was established to stimulate business recruitment and job creation in adversely impacted defense-dependent communities.

Downtown Revitalization Program

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9932

Small Business Service: Awards matching grant funds for public infrastructure to foster and stimulate economic development in rural downtown areas.

Economic Development and Diversification In-State Tuition for Employees

Website: [College for all Texans](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0101

Small Business Service: The Economic Development and Diversification In-state Tuition Incentive may be offered by the Economic Development & Tourism division of the Office of the Governor to qualified businesses that are in the decision-making process to relocate or expand their operations into Texas.

Economic Development Bank

Website: [State of Texas Governor's Office](#)

Phone Number: 512.436.2000

Small Business Service: The Economic Development Bank provides flexible funding and oversight of several finance and tax incentive programs. The incentive programs target three key audiences which include Texas businesses, Texas communities and Texas lending institutions. The Economic Development Bank programs include Finance Programs, Enterprise Programs and Small Business Assistance.

Freeport Exemptions

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 512.322.5680

Small Business Services: Freeport exemptions can be offered by a school district, county, and municipality to exempt tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation.

Goods-In-Transit (GIT) Exemption

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 512.305.9999

Small Business Services: Section 11.253 provides an exemption from taxation of a person's inventory or property that consists of goods-in-transit. Goods-in-transit are tangible personal property, including goods, wares, merchandise, aircraft parts and ores other than oil, natural gas and petroleum products.



Governor's Small Business Forums

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: Governor's Small Business Forums, sponsored by the Texas Governor's Office, the Texas Workforce Commission, and local partners, are designed to give entrepreneurs and small businesses valuable tools, skills, and knowledge needed to thrive in today's fast-paced economy.

Historically Underutilized Business Certification Program (HUB)

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 888.863.5881

Small Business Service: The Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) program requires all Texas state agencies to make a good faith effort to use HUBs for purposes of contracting for construction services or commodity purchases.

Industrial Revenue Bonds

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: The State of Texas Industrial Revenue Bond Program (IRB) is designed to provide tax-exempt or taxable financing for eligible industrial or manufacturing projects as defined in the Development Corporation Act of 1979.

Infrastructure Development

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9932

Small Business Service: Provides grants for Infrastructure Development to create or retain permanent jobs in primarily rural communities and counties.

Interest Rate Reduction Program

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512-936-0100

Small Business Service: Reduces the loan interest rate for people starting or expanding agricultural businesses in Texas.

International Trade and Recruitment Program

Website: [State of Texas Governor's Office](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.2000

Small Business Service: The state's International Business and Recruitment Program (IBR) works with a variety of entities to ensure that Texas companies are represented abroad. It helps Texas companies expand into foreign markets.

Jobs for Texas

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.6616

Small Business Service: Jobs For Texas (J4T) is an innovative program designed to increase small businesses' access to capital and enable private entrepreneurs to make market-driven decisions to grow jobs. The J4T program won a \$46.5 million award from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI).

Main Street Improvements Program

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.7476

Small Business Service: Provides eligible Texas Main Street communities with matching grants to expand or enhance infrastructure in historic main street areas.

Manufacturing Tax Incentives

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 800.252.5555

Small Business Service: State sales and use tax exemptions are available to taxpayers who manufacture, fabricate or process tangible personal property for sale. Texas sales and use tax exempts tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of an item manufactured for sale, as well as taxable services performed on a manufactured product to make it more marketable.

Pollution Control Equipment

Website: [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

Phone Number: 512.239.1000

Small Business Service: A Texas constitutional amendment providing an exemption from property taxation for pollution control equipment was approved in 1993.

Property Tax Rule 9.105

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 800.252.5555

Small Business Service: The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts offers a refund of state franchise and sales/use taxes paid by companies owning certain abated property. Reference our website to determine if your company is eligible for a refund.

Real Estate Development

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9932

Small Business Service: Provides a zero-interest loan to fund real estate acquisition or improvements to create or retain permanent jobs in primarily rural communities and counties.

Relocation Expense Deduction

Website: [Austin Chamber](#)

Phone Number: 512.478.9398

Small Business Service: Companies may deduct from apportioned margin relocation costs incurred in relocating their main office or other principal place of business to Texas from another state provided the company (1) did not do business in Texas before the relocation and (2) is not a member of an affiliated group engaged in a unitary business, another member of which is already doing business in Texas.

Reinvestment Zones

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 800.252.5555

Small Business Service: The designation of specified areas as "reinvestment zones" is a local economic development tool used by municipalities and counties throughout the state of Texas. Reinvestment zones have been used to stimulate local economies by attracting new companies and encouraging the growth of existing businesses.

Renewable Energy Incentives

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512-974-7827

Small Business Service: Federal, state, and local directory for renewable energy and associated incentives.

Research & Development Tax Exemptions

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512-936-0100

Small Business Service: The Research & Development tax credit provides companies the option of selecting either a sales tax exemption on property purchased by persons engaged in qualified research activities or franchise tax credit, but not both.

Self-Sufficiency Fund

Website: [Texas Workforce Commission](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.8844

Small Business Service: The Self-Sufficiency Fund program assists businesses and trade unions by financing the development and implementation of customized job-training projects for new and current workers.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

Website: [SCORE](#)

Phone Number: 1.800.634.0245

Small Business Service: SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow, and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. SCORE has a variety of resources available to small businesses.

Skills Development Fund

Website: [Texas Workforce Commission](#)

Phone Number: 877.463.1777

Small Business Service: The Skills Development Fund is Texas' premier job-training program providing training dollars for Texas businesses and workers. Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, success is achieved through collaboration among businesses, public Community and Technical colleges, Local Workforce Development Boards and economic development partners.

Skills for Small Business Program

Website: [Texas Workforce Commission](#)

Phone Number: 877.463.1777

Small Business Service: The Skills for Small Business Program is an opportunity for small business (less than 100 employees) to train new workers or upgrade the skills of incumbent workers.

Southwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center

Website: [Southwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center](#)

Phone Number: 210.458.2020

Small Business Service: If your company is experiencing a decline in sales and a decline in employment levels due to the adverse effects of foreign competition, you might qualify for assistance in marketing, manufacturing, engineering, finance, employee training, information management or new product development from SWTAAC.

State Infrastructure Bank Financing

Website: [Texas Department of Transportation](#)

Phone Number: 512.305.9546

Small Business Service: State Infrastructure Banks (SIB) were authorized in 1995 as a part of the National Highway Designation Act (NHS) to help accelerate needed mobility improvements through a variety of financial assistance options made to local entities through state transportation departments.



Texas Camino Real District Export Council

Website: [Texas District Export Council](#)

Phone Number: 512.372.3426

Small Business Service: The District Export Councils contribute leadership and international trade expertise to complement the U.S. Commercial Service's export promotion efforts through counseling businesses on the exporting process and conducting trade education and community outreach.

Texas Capital Access Program

Website: [State of Texas Economic Development Programs](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0266

Small Business Service: The Texas Capital Access Program was established to increase the availability of financing for businesses and non-profit organizations that face barriers in accessing capital. It encourages financial institutions to support businesses that do not meet the requirements of conventional loans, lack sufficient collateral to qualify for conventional financing, or do not meet other business requirements.

Texas Capital Fund Infrastructure Program

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.6908

Small Business Service: The Texas Capital Fund Infrastructure Development Program is an economic development tool designed to provide financial resources to non-entitlement communities. Funds from this program can be utilized for public Infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.) needed to assist a business which Commits to create and/or retain permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate-income persons.

Texas Capital Fund Real Estate Development Program

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.6908

Small Business Service: The Texas Capital Fund Real Estate Development Program is designed to provide financial resources to non-entitlement communities. Funds must be used for real estate development (acquisitions, construction, and/or renovation) to assist a business which commits to create and/or retain permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate-income persons.

Texas Economic Development Act

Website: [Texas Taxpayers and Research Association](#)

Phone Number: 512.472.8838

Small Business Service: Chapter 313 incentives give school districts the authority to enter into an agreement with a corporation or

limited liability company that limits the appraised value of property for the maintenance and operations portion of school district property tax. This incentive also allows recipients to earn tax credits.

Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TETF)

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.5314

Small Business Service: The Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TETF) was created by the 79th Legislature at the urging of Governor Rick Perry to provide Texas with an unparalleled advantage in areas of research, development, and commercialization of emerging technology.

Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TETF) Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization

Website: [State of Texas Governor](#)

Phone Number: 512.637.9852

Small Business Service: Regional Centers of Innovation and Commercialization (RCICs) were established by the Legislature to support the activities for a specified region; research and development, commercialization of research and development, incubation and acceleration for businesses related to research and development, and workforce training for businesses related to research and development.

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

Website: [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

Phone Number: 512.239.1000

Small Business Service: The TERP program is comprised of eight different grant programs. Each program has its own specific eligibility requirements and may accept applications at different time periods of the year.

Texas Enterprise Fund

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: The Texas Enterprise Fund was established in 2003 to allow the state to respond quickly and aggressively to opportunities to bring jobs and employers to Texas. The funds are used primarily to attract new business to the state or assist with the substantial expansion of an existing business as part of a competitive recruitment situation.

Texas Enterprise Zone Program

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.478.9383

Small Business Service: The Texas Enterprise Zone Program is an economic development tool for local communities to partner with the State of Texas to promote job creation and significant private investment that will assist economically distressed areas of the state. Approved projects are eligible to apply for state sales and use tax refunds on qualified expenditures.

Texas Leverage Fund (TLF)

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: The Texas Leverage Fund (TLF) provides a source of financing to communities that have adopted an economic development sales tax. Communities may leverage future sales tax revenues to expand economic development through business expansions, business recruitment, and exporting.

Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: Financing provided to defense communities for job creation and infrastructure projects.

Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIIP)

Website: [Texas Film Commission](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9200

Small Business Service: The Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIIP) is designed to build the economy through the moving image industry and create jobs in Texas. TMIIIP provides qualifying film, television, commercial, visual effects and video game productions the opportunity to receive a cash grant based on a percentage of a project's eligible Texas expenditures, including eligible wages paid to Texas residents.

Texas Product/Business Fund

Website: [Texas Economic Development Division](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: The Texas Product/Business Fund provides financing to aid in the development, production and commercialization of new or improved products within the state. The Fund is available to businesses looking for asset-based financing at rates below conventional borrowing.

Texas Small Business Fund

Website: [Texas Wide Open for Business](#)

Phone Number: 512.936.0100

Small Business Service: The Texas Small Business Fund provides

financing to foster and stimulate the development of small businesses in Texas. The fund is available to businesses looking for asset-based financing at rates below conventional borrowing.

Texas State Small Business Development Center

Website: [Texas State University Small Business Development Center](#)

Phone Number: 512.610.0996

Small business Services: The Texas State Small Business Development Center (SBDC) works with existing and startup small business to help them grow and compete in today's global economy.

Type A and Type B Sales Tax

Website: [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.4679

Small business Services: Municipalities may offer financial incentives made possible by local sales and use tax allotments dedicated to economic development (Type A and Type B sales tax). Financing of this type requires the parties to enter into a performance agreement.

Young Farmer Grant

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9932

Small Business Service: Provides grants to young agricultural producers who are starting or expanding agricultural businesses in Texas.

Young Farmer Interest Rate Reduction Program

Website: [Texas Department of Agriculture](#)

Phone Number: 512.463.9932

Small Business Service: Reduces the loan interest rate for young farmers or ranchers who are starting or expanding agricultural businesses in Texas.

Business Energy Tax Credit

Website: [Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#)

Phone Number: 800.829.1040

Small Business Service: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allows taxpayers eligible for the federal renewable electricity production tax credit (PTC) to take the federal business energy investment tax credit (ITC) instead of taking the PTC for new installations.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

Website: [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#)

Phone Number: 866.606.8220

Small Business Service: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides a full listing of all Federal programs available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi- public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals.

Community Advantage 7(a) Loan Initiatives

Website: [Small Business Administration](#)

Phone Number: 800.659.2955

Small Business Service: Community Advantage is a pilot initiative aimed at increasing the number of Small Business Administration (SBA) 7(a) lenders who reach underserved communities, targeting community-based, mission-focused financial institutions which were previously not able to offer SBA loans.



Energy-Efficient Appliance Manufacturing Tax Credit Deduction

Website: [Internal Revenue Service](#)

Phone Number: 512.499.5127

Small Business Service: The Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2010 modifies and extends the energy efficient appliance credit for certain dishwashers, clothes washers, and refrigerators manufactured after December 31, 2010. Under Code §45M(a)(1), the credit may be claimed as part of the Code §38 general business credit for each type of qualified energy efficient appliance produced by the taxpayer during the 2011 calendar year ending with or within the taxpayer's taxable year.

Foreign Trade Zone Boards

Website: [Foreign Trade Zones Board](#)

Phone Number: 202.462.2350

Small Business Service: A foreign-trade zone is a designated location in the United States where companies can use special procedures that help encourage U.S. activity and value added- in competition with foreign alternatives- by allowing delayed or reduced duty payments on foreign merchandise, as well as other savings.

Indian Incentive

Website: [Indian Incentive Program](#)

Phone Number: 571.372.6191

Small Business Service: The Indian Incentive Program (IIP) is a congressionally sponsored program that provides a 5% rebate back to the prime contractor on the total amount subcontracted to an Indian-Owned Economic Enterprise or Indian Organization.

Modified Acceleration Cost-Recovery Systems

Website: [Internal Revenue Service](#)

Phone Number: 800.829.4933

Small Business Service: Under the federal Modified Accelerated Cost-Recovery System (MACRS), businesses may recover investments in certain property through depreciation deductions. The MACRS establishes a set of class lives for various types of property, ranging from three to 50 years, over which the property may be depreciated.

Renewable Energy Grants

Website: [U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)

Phone Number: 202.622.2000

Small Business Service: The Section 1603 Grant Program is a renewable energy grant program that is administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury. This program allows taxpayers eligible for the federal business energy investment tax credit (ITC) to take this credit or to receive a grant from the U.S. Treasury Department instead of taking the business ITC for new installations.

Renewable Energy Investment/Production Tax Credit

Website: [U.S. Department of Energy](#)

Phone Number: 800.829.1040

Small Business Service: The Investment Tax Credit (ITC) reduces federal income taxes for qualified tax-paying owners based on capital investment in renewable energy projects (measured in dollars).

Sales and Use Tax Exemptions

Website: [U.S. Department of State](#)

Phone Number: 800.252.5555

Small Business Service: The Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) issues tax exemption cards to eligible foreign missions, mission personnel and their eligible family members consistent with international law, domestic statute, and the underlying principle of reciprocity.

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Website: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

Phone Number: 800.955.2232

Small Business Service: The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program is a source of financing allotted for the economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities rehab, construction or installation for the benefit of low- to moderate-income persons, or

to aid in the prevention of slums.

Small Business Administration 504 Loan

Website: [Small Business Administration](#)

Phone Number: 210.403.5900

Small Business Service: A 504 loan can be used for:

- The purchase of land, including existing buildings
- The purchase of improvements, including grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping
- The construction of new facilities or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities
- The purchase of long-term machinery and equipment

A 504 loan cannot be used for:

- Working capital or inventory
- Consolidating, repaying or refinancing debt
- Speculation or investment in rental real estate

Small Business Administration 7(a) Loan

Website: [Small Business Administration](#)

Phone Number: 210.403.5900

Small Business Service: The 7(a) Loan Program, Small Business Administration's (SBA) most common loan program, includes financial help for businesses with special requirements.

Basic uses for 7(a) loan proceeds include:

- To provide long-term working capital to use to pay operational expenses, accounts payable and/or to purchase inventory
- Short-term working capital needs, including seasonal financing, contract performance, construction financing and exporting
- Revolving funds based on the value of existing inventory and receivables, under special conditions
- To purchase equipment, machinery, furniture, fixtures, supplies or materials
- To purchase real estate, including land and buildings
- To construct a new building or renovate an existing building
- To establish a new business or assist in the acquisition, operation or expansion of an existing business
- To refinance existing business debt, under certain conditions

Small Business Administration Veterans Advantage

Website: [Small Business Administration](#)

Phone Number: 210.403.5900

Small Business Service: The U.S. Small Business Administration Veteran's Advantage will begin January 1, 2014 and continue through September 30, 2014, and is intended to facilitate lending to veteran-owned small businesses so that they have the tools they need to start and grow their business

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

Website: [Small Business Innovation Research](#)

Phone Number: 202.205.7343

Small Business Service: The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization.

Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program

Website: [Small Business Investment Company](#)

Phone Number: 202.205.6510

Small Business Service: The SBIC Program is one of many financial assistance programs available through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The structure of the program is unique in that SBICs are privately owned and managed investment funds, licensed and regulated by SBA, that use their own capital plus funds borrowed with an SBA guarantee to make equity and debt investments in qualifying small businesses.

Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)

Website: [Small Business Technology Transfer](#)

Phone Number: 202.205.7343

Small Business Service: Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) is another program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development (R&D) arena. Central to the program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions.

Small Loan Advantage

Website: [Small Business Administration](#)

Phone Number: 210.403.5900

Small Business Service: One of the initiatives SBA rolled out aimed at increasing the number of lower-dollar loans in the underserved communities.

Startup America Partnership

Website: [Startup America Partnership](#)

Phone Number: 207.467.2056

Small Business Service: “Startup America” is a White House initiative to celebrate, inspire, and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the nation. This coordinated public/private effort brings the country’s most innovative entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, foundations, and other leaders with a wide range of federal agencies to increase the prevalence and success of America’s entrepreneurs.

Tax Incentives in Renewal Communities and Empowerment Zones

Website: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

Phone Number: 202.708.1112

Small Business Service: Provides substantial tax incentives for businesses that hire local residents, upgrade their equipment needs, and build or rehabilitate commercial property, in designated Renewal Communities (RCs) and Empowerment Zones (EZs).

U.S. Foreign-Trade Zone Program

Website: [Enforcement and Compliance](#)

Phone Number: 202.482.2350

Small Business Service: Through the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Program, a company can reduce their production, transaction, and logistics-related costs. Foreign-trade zones are secure areas under supervision of U.S. Customs and Border Protection that are considered outside the customs territory of the United States for the purposes of duty payment. Located in or near customs ports of entry, they are the U.S. version of what are known internationally as free trade zones.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Website: [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#)

Phone Number: 877.872.5627

Small Business Service: The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a Federal tax credit incentive that the Congress provides to private-sector businesses for hiring individuals from twelve target groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment. The main objective of this program is to enable the targeted employees to gradually move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income and become contributing taxpayers, while the participating employers are compensated by being able to reduce their federal income tax liability.



The City of Austin is pleased to provide this directory of small business incentives. We have taken care to ensure its accuracy at time of publication but we cannot accept responsibility for the elimination or modification of these programs as published. Please consult the appropriate website for current information.