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Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) Grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 available for community projects



LCRA and its wholesale electric customers support local communities through grants of up to \$50,000 through the Community Development Partnership Program. The grants help local governments, emergency responders and nonprofit organizations fund capital improvement projects that might otherwise not be possible. Grant-funded projects must have physical addresses located within LCRA's wholesale electric or water service area (/about/maps/Pages/default.aspx).

June 17, 2019
(Exhibit #8)

Click here to view a previously submitted CDPP grant application. (<https://webportal.app.com/sp/lcragrant2019>)

The next cycle for new applications is July 1-31.

Read about recent CDPP grants.

- Spring 2019
- Fall/Winter 2018
- Spring/Summer 2018
- Fall/Winter 2017

Did you know?

To date: LCRA and its customers have awarded 1,717 grants totaling more than \$45 million. Communities have raised more than \$224 million in matching funds. The total investment in local projects is almost \$270 million.

May 15, 2019

LCRA, HALLETTSVILLE AWARD \$20,000 GRANT FOR FIREFIGHTER GEAR

*New volunteer firefighters will be outfitted with lifesaving bunker gear
and state-of-the-art pagers*

HALLETTSVILLE, Texas – First responders at the Hallettsville Volunteer Fire Department will be outfitted with personal fire protection equipment and new pagers thanks to a \$20,000 community development grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Hallettsville.

The fire department will use the Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$5,000 in local matching funds, to purchase seven sets of bunker gear and 10 pagers. The new equipment will outfit firefighters who recently joined the department and replace some outdated equipment.

“We’ve brought on five new volunteer firefighters,” said Fire Chief Stephen Grahmann. “Until they have structural bunker gear, including gloves and boots, they aren’t able to assist with structure fires. This type of gear is vital to the safety of our first responders, but it’s also very expensive. Leveraging grant dollars will allow us to get the full team ‘emergency ready’ to keep the community safe.”

The department uses radio pagers to dispatch firefighters to emergencies. A portion of the grant will fund the replacement of 10 older pagers that use out-of-date technology.

“As a volunteer department, all of our responders have full-time jobs somewhere else,” Grahmann said. “The pagers provide a reliable, immediate way to request assistance for a fire or other emergency.”

Grahmann said he expects all of the equipment to be in service by July.

The community grant is one of a number of grants recently awarded through LCRA’s Community Development Partnership Program. The program provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in LCRA’s wholesale electric and water service areas. The program is part of LCRA’s effort to give back to the communities it serves. Hallettsville is one of LCRA’s wholesale electric customers and a partner in the grant program.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted July 1-31, 2019. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.



May 15, 2019

LCRA, CITY OF HALLETTSVILLE AWARD \$25,000 TO HALLETTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Grant will make popular event venue ADA-compliant

HALLETTSVILLE, Texas – A popular Hallettsville event venue will become more accessible to all visitors, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from LCRA and the City of Hallettsville.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with a matching contribution, will allow the Hallettsville Garden Club to build an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant entry for the historic 1930s cottage in City Park.

The garden club serves as custodian of the cottage, which is a frequent venue for showers, reunions, meetings and workshops. With a low rental rate – only \$80 for four hours – it's used year-round by many people in the community.

"The cottage is rented almost every weekend and sometimes it's rented twice in one day," said Melba Hynes, Hallettsville Garden Club president. "There is no other public venue that is so family friendly, and the very low rental rate makes it possible for everyone to use."

The cottage is located in a city park with a playground, tennis courts, covered pavilions and walking trails.

"Because it is unique in location and is affordable for all, the garden club would like to ensure that it is physically accessible to all," Hynes said.

The club will make the cottage entrance ADA-compliant by building wider sidewalks, replacing the existing wood ramp with one that has the correct slope, adding a new entry door, resurfacing the entry porch to comply with all codes, replacing damaged wood columns and updating exterior lighting for added safety. The City of Hallettsville will provide demolition and tree removal.

"We're very grateful for the grant," Hynes said. "It's a beautiful location surrounded by trees. People like to bring their families as children can play outside in the closed-in yard. It's an ideal place."

The community grant is one of a number of grants recently awarded through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. The program provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in LCRA's wholesale electric and water service areas. The program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves. The City of Hallettsville is one of LCRA's wholesale electric customers and a partner in the grant program.



May 13, 2019

LCRA AWARDS \$25,000 GRANT TO PALACIOS COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

*New emergency generator will help ensure local medical services
remain available during disasters*

PALACIOS, Texas – The Palacios Community Medical Center will soon have a new, reliable emergency generator that will allow the center to continue treating patients even during power outages, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$41,782 in matching contributions, will help the center fulfill its mission of being open 24 hours a day, rain or shine.

The center opened in 1960 and remained in full operation until Hurricane Harvey in 2017, when hospital staff feared the almost 60-year-old generator would fail during the storm. Without a reliable generator, the hospital was forced to temporarily close. As a result, the community was left without local access to critical care during the storm, and people needing help had to travel at least 40 miles north to El Campo for medical services.

"The funding being provided by LCRA will position the organization to be there for the community next time," said Robert Pascasio, the center's administrator and chief executive officer.

The lack of locally available healthcare services during Hurricane Harvey affected other operations in the community as well. County emergency medical services were strained by transporting patients outside of Matagorda County and several local businesses had to modify their disaster and storm response plans because local medical services were unavailable.

"We are truly grateful to LCRA for providing the funds essential to supporting our continuing operations," Pascasio said.

The community grant is one of a number of grants recently awarded through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. The program provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in LCRA's wholesale electric and water service areas. The program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted July 1-31. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.



May 15, 2019

LCRA, CITY OF MOULTON AWARD \$20,000 GRANT TO MOULTON AMERICAN LEGION

Funds will assist in repairs to Geier-Merrem Post 392 hall

MOULTON, Texas – The Lower Colorado River Authority and City of Moulton have awarded a \$20,000 community development grant to the Geier-Merrem American Legion Post 392 in Moulton to help the organization upgrade its hall with new windows and ceiling tiles.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant will help make the facility more energy efficient, which will reduce maintenance costs, and make the venue more appealing to people wanting to hold events there. The post will contribute \$8,300 in matching funds to the project.

“The American Legion hall has been a gathering place for the Moulton community since the hall was first built in 1959,” said James Freytag, the post’s executive director. “But 60 years is a long time for any building to go without major improvements. This wonderful grant will help the Moulton American Legion continue to serve our community for many years to come.”

The American Legion has lost rental income in recent years due to the condition of the building. Post 392 has made some upgrades, but has not been able to replace the building’s original wood-framed windows and ceiling tiles due to lack of funds.

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Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted July 1-31. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.

About LCRA

The Lower Colorado River Authority serves customers and communities throughout Texas by managing the lower Colorado River; generating and transmitting electric power; providing a clean, reliable water supply; and offering outdoor adventures at more than 40 parks along the Colorado River from the Texas Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. LCRA and its employees are committed to enhancing the lives of Texans through water stewardship, energy and community services. LCRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1934. For more information, visit lcra.org.



May 28, 2019

LCRA, BLUEBONNET AWARD \$21,025 GRANT TO PRAIRIE HILL-ROCKY HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Funds will help purchase new all-terrain vehicle and other firefighting equipment

BRENNHAM, Texas – The Prairie Hill-Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department soon will purchase a new all-terrain vehicle and other firefighting and rescue equipment thanks to a \$21,025 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$5,256 in matching contributions, will mean improved access to rural areas during emergencies. In addition to the ATV, the department will purchase a trailer, firefighting tools and rescue equipment to carry on the ATV.

Recent wet weather has added to the difficulties that standard, heavy fire trucks have maneuvering safely through rural terrain. The smaller, lighter-weight ATV will allow firefighters to move through difficult terrain without getting stuck or leaving ruts behind.

“We have a gap in our fleet,” said VFD Deputy Fire Chief Doug Zwiener. “Our larger trucks can’t get through heavy brush, heavily wooded areas or even through gates. This means our crew must find a stable location and then hand-carry tools and equipment to the emergency. This is no longer adequate for our growing population.”

Zwiener said the new ATV will serve a dual purpose.

“We will use the vehicle during search and rescue missions to cover rural terrain quickly and also assist emergency medical personnel with medical calls in areas where an ambulance can’t reach,” Zwiener said. “This community grant will help us better serve the people living in this area.”

The community grant is one of a number of grants recently awarded through LCRA’s Community Development Partnership Program, which provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in LCRA’s wholesale electric and water service areas. The program is part of LCRA’s effort to give back to the communities it serves. Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is one of LCRA’s wholesale electric customers and a partner in the grant program.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted July 1-31. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.



May 28, 2019

LCRA, CITY OF BRENHAM AWARD \$8,000 GRANT TO WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Project will provide new air-conditioning units
for popular meeting space*

BRENHAM, Texas – The Washington County Chamber of Commerce will install new air-conditioning units thanks to a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Brenham, helping ensure the many community leaders and nonprofit organizations who meet there have a comfortable place to gather.

The \$8,000 Community Development Partnership Program grant, combined with a matching contribution of \$2,000, allows the chamber to replace two units that are more than 25 years old. When one unit failed in the past, the community room couldn't be used until it was repaired, putting users of the meeting space in a bind.

Groups from Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, Independence and other areas use the building for meetings. Additionally, leaders from government agencies use the space to work for their communities and meet with residents and businesses.

"This building fills a lot of needs," said Amanda Stolz, Washington County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors chairperson. "It's a neutral meeting site where members of government agencies are able to work side-by-side and connect with residents and businesses. We also have ribbon cuttings in the chamber board room for chamber members who do not have storefronts and wish to promote their businesses. Nonprofits are able to hold their meetings in the board room as well."

The new A/C units also provide the chamber with more energy-efficient equipment, helping to ease the cost of cooling the meeting space.

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May 28, 2019

LCRA, BLUEBONNET CO-OP AWARD \$10,000 GRANT TO BURTON ISD

New cover will provide shade for Burton Elementary School playground

BURTON, Texas – A popular community playground will receive some relief from the Texas sun this summer thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$2,500 in matching contributions, will allow the Burton Independent School District to install a shade cover at Burton Elementary School's playground, which also is open to the entire community.

"As we approach the sunniest period of our Texas year, sun safety and heatstroke prevention are realistic concerns in our community, especially for our youngest and most vulnerable citizens," said Teresa Shuey, Burton ISD Parent Teacher Organization vice president.

The district recently partnered with the Washington County Boys and Girls Club, which uses the elementary school facility for its summer program. Shuey said the program has increased use of the playground tenfold during summer, but intense heat prevents the program from using the playground during the middle of the day.

"Shade at the playground will help ensure our children's health and well-being and encourage year-round physical activity," Shuey said. "This grant is going to make a positive difference in our community. We are so grateful for the support from LCRA and Bluebonnet for this improvement."

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