

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Seventh Cycle Regional Water Planning Grant

(Note: An RFA is used to invite applications for the award of grant funds designated for a specific purpose.)

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requests applications leading to the possible award of contracts to develop a regional water plan as described in 31 TAC Chapter 357. TWDB plans to award up to \$6,247,284 in grants under the regional water planning grant funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature.

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a political subdivision of the state and must have been authorized to apply for funding on behalf of a regional water planning group (RWPG) as set forth in 31 TAC §357.12(a)(4) and 31 TAC §355.90(b)(3).

Summary of the Request for Applications

Due Date (Closing): Applications are due to TWDB no later than 12:00 PM (CST) on April 2, 2026.

Anticipated Award Date: June 2026

Estimated Total Funding: \$6,247,284 (additional funding to complete the 2031 Regional Water Plans are anticipated to be added to the contracts resulting from this request for applications at a later date, subject to Board authorization).

Local Match Requirement: N/A

Program Purposes and Objectives

Applicants will address initial planning activities of the seventh planning cycle based on the initial scope of work developed by the TWDB and the contract term will be for the full time period through adoption of the 2031 regional water plans. The TWDB anticipates adding known and anticipated future appropriations as a total study cost for the contract budget and to incorporate the remaining planning tasks in 2027, subject to Board authorization.

How to Apply

Additional information and complete application instructions are located on the TWDB website at:

https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2031/rfa_docs.asp

Applicants should review and utilize the following documents found online:

1. Regional Water Planning Grant Application Checklist
2. Draft Initial Scope of Work for the Seventh Cycle of Regional Water Planning
3. Draft Contractor (RWPG Political Subdivision) Task Budget by Region

4. Draft Seventh Cycle of Regional Water Planning Working Schedule

One complete regional water planning grant application must be submitted electronically via email and in Portable Document Format (PDF) to TWDB no later than 12:00 PM (CST) on April 2, 2026

Applications must be submitted to the email address below by the Due Date of April 2, 2026:

Bid-room@twdb.texas.gov

with a copy to

RegionalWaterPlanning@twdb.texas.gov

Questions regarding the application may be submitted by March 13th, 2026, to: William Alfaro; William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov; and Victoria De Leon; Victoria.DeLeon@twdb.texas.gov

Limitations on Use of Funds:

Total funding for activities related to the development of a regional water plan must not exceed 100 percent of the total cost of the planning for that regional water planning area. Funds awarded for grants under this request for applications may total up to the amount of funds appropriated for such activities for the Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027.

Examples of eligible activities for funding include those related to the development of regional water plans including costs associated with public meetings and hearings, certain Political Subdivision's personnel costs (as limited by the contract expense budget) and subcontracting for professional services. Activities ineligible for funding are specified in 31 TAC §355.92(a).

In the event that acceptable applications are not submitted or that insufficient funds are available to fund proposed activities, TWDB retains the right to not award and/or commit contract funds. Additional appropriated funds from future bienniums may be awarded to contracts resulting from this request for applications by Board authorization.

Regional Water Planning Areas C and D (Regions C and D) may seek reimbursement for conducting a study as described in the *Declared Conflict Between Region C and Region D 2026 Initially Prepared Water Plans Mediated Agreement*. Contracts resulting from this Request for Applications for Regions C and D will specify the eligible expenses, the reimbursable expense period, and the amounts eligible for reimbursement.

Evaluation Criteria and Selection Process

Incomplete applications and those that do not meet the requirements of the application instructions may be eliminated from consideration.

Applications will be evaluated according to the criteria listed in 31 TAC §355.91(f):

1. degree to which proposed planning does not duplicate previous or ongoing water planning;
2. project budget;
3. scope of work;
4. the relative need of the political subdivision for the money based on the scope of work and cost to develop the regional water plan;
5. the legal authority of the political subdivision to participate in the development and implementation of a regional water plan; and
6. the degree to which regional water planning by the RWPG will address the water supply needs in the regional water planning area.

Negotiations with Selected Applicants

The applicable expense budget and contract terms will be negotiated after TWDB awards the selected applicants. Failure to arrive at mutually agreeable terms of a contract with a selected applicant will constitute a rejection of the grant award and may result in funding being awarded to another applicant.