

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****November 5, 2024**

Page 1 of 2

SUBJECT: FY25 USEPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

The purpose of this Informal Report is to outline two, separate City of Fort Worth applications in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) for grant funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant (CCG) program.

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant (CCG)

CCG funding is competitive and available through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to support local efforts to advance environmental and climate justice activities that benefit local communities. The City of Fort Worth may submit up to two applications in FY25; each application seeks a maximum award of up to \$20,000,000 and requires a partnership with a community-based, non-profit organization. If awarded, staff seek to leverage federal funds to advance greenspace initiatives, complete a sustainability plan, and pilot a project for community-based air quality sensors.

Application 1: Greenspace Acquisition and Recovery Projects in Fort Worth – \$20M Request

If awarded, funding is requested for Greenspace Acquisition and Recovery Projects in Fort Worth to support themes for greenspace conservation, brownfields restoration, stormwater management, access to greenspace and litter control for waterways. Lending support to the Mayor's Good Natured Greenspace Initiative, example projects within this application include:

- Acquisition and demolition of abandoned grain elevators with site restoration as greenspace at 3700 Alice St.
- Acquisition and greenspace improvements near the former Fort Worth incinerator site at 3298 Yuma St.
- Stormwater/green infrastructure improvements and litter control devices near S. Hulen / IH-20 and La Gran Plaza.

Additional greenspace acquisition and recovery projects will be identified, as all proposed projects and project elements are subject to funding availability and USEPA approval. For this application, Taking Care of Texas dba Texan By Nature (TxN) will serve as a statutory partner and subrecipient for an amount up to \$50,000.00, if awarded. This amount is less than 1% of the total grant award, and funds will be used by TxN to support these projects through collaborative community engagement with the City which may include social media, web presence, annual blogs detailing efforts and accomplishments. TxN Certification and storytelling will promote the value of greenspace and environmental stewardship within Fort Worth.

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****November 5, 2024**

Page 2 of 2

SUBJECT: FY25 USEPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT APPLICATIONS**Application 2: Sustainable Futures and Air Quality Planning in Fort Worth – \$20M Request**

If awarded, funding is requested for Sustainable Futures and Air Quality Planning in Fort Worth to support themes for local sustainability planning and air quality. Example projects within this application include:

- Development of a City of Fort Worth Sustainability Plan alongside local or regional planning efforts with updates for long-range solid waste and environmental strategies.
- Development of local air quality programming to include a pilot project for a network of community-based sensors to assist with communicating air pollution levels to the community and to help to inform other air pollution control activities.

For this application, the North Texas Commission (NTC) Foundation will serve as a statutory partner and subrecipient for an amount up to \$50,000.00, if awarded. This amount is less than 1% of the total grant award, and funds will be used by NTC to support these projects through community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, residents, and community participants. NTC will also assist with community outreach activities, project data collection, and overall promotion of sustainable planning and environmental stewardship within Fort Worth.

Schedule

A summary of next steps for each of these applications is below:

1. Receive authorization to apply through Mayor & Council action: November 19, 2024
2. Execute respective partnership agreements: November 20, 2024
3. Submit application materials by deadline: November 21, 2024
4. Receive decision by USEPA of any award: 2025 and no later than September 30, 2026.

For questions on the information in this report, please call Cody Whittenburg, Environmental Services Director: (817) 392-5455.

David Cooke
City Manager