



STEWARD

Solutions To Encourage Widespread Action for Rural Development



Event Overview

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program:
auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
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About STEWARD

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas and Community Strategies, LLC are partnering on a new initiative called STEWARD. The STEWARD Initiative provides small, rural communities the opportunity to educate themselves with successful strategies for planning, budgeting, seeking funding for, and implementing local development projects.

Many smaller communities have ideas and needs for community improvement that can be beneficial to the local economy but may lack the experience, human resources and/or fiscal resources to make these projects a reality.

What STEWARD Offers

Through the STEWARD Initiative, six communities — one from each county in the Heart of Texas region — will be selected through a short application process to participate in a day and a half workshop in Waco. The selected communities must send a five-person team for participation in this unique opportunity. At least one member of each team must currently serve in the capacity of Mayor, City Manager, or similar position. The other four members of each team can include any members of the community. Some possible suggestions include economic development officials, local volunteers, community activists, business representatives, employers, and/or leaders of community-based organizations.

Overnight accommodations will be provided for each team member, as are most meals. All team members must be willing to travel to Waco and must commit to attendance and participation in the full workshop.

Community Strategies, LLC will facilitate the workshop, with each team receiving one-on-one strategies for creating an actual development proposal and culminating in a formal, competitive presentation by each team before a panel of judges. Each proposal will be rated for completeness, community benefit, schedule, cost, and other factors. Funding of up to \$5,000 shall be awarded to the successful team whose proposal is selected as a result of this competitive process.

Your Responsibilities

Grantee communities will have only 90 – 120 days to complete their project, so we aren't talking capital improvements! A focus of the STEWARD Workshop is to provide each participating community team guidance for developing a viable project proposal. In the final segment of the workshop, STEWARD Teams will

present their project(s) to a panel of evaluators who will score and select proposals for mini-grants of up to \$5,000 from the Board of Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas.

STEWARD communities may submit projects and activities that enhance and support community and economic development such as:

- Cultivating new business opportunities;
- Improving the community appearance to enhance attractiveness to potential businesses and residents;
- Nurturing education, training or other skills of current residents;
- Using existing assets to improve the local economy or quality of life;
- Creating or expanding opportunities for entrepreneurship;
- Developing the social, cultural or technological environment; and
- Other activities that will have a noticeable impact on the development of the community.

...ideally, these will be projects that have been on the community wish list and that will provide long term benefits for development of the community.

Benefits To You and Your Community

Each team, whether selected for grant funding or not, should expect to walk away from this workshop with the following skills and community development solutions:

- Solid understanding of skills and tactics needed to prepare successful community development projects
- Improved awareness of proper methods for developing and executing realistic timelines and budgets
- Step-by-step processes for conducting all phases of a development project, from project management and oversight, through execution and follow-up
- Listing of financial resources available for funding community development projects
- Ultimately, a highly-energized team of five community members who will take these new skills back to their respective communities and improve the quality of life for their residents

For more information, please visit: www.stewardforgrowth.com, or contact Sarah Bird: (254) 296-5382 / sbaileybird@hotworkforce.com

