



SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION– 2025 Grant Awards - TX, NM, CA, AZ

TEXAS

COUNTY OF JIM HOGG, TX

SBRC Grant \$871,010.00

The county will utilize funds to construct a rural emergency clinic in Jim Hogg County, an economically distressed county, and a federally designated whole county Health Professional Shortage Area. The nearest emergency clinic is 60 miles away from the community. The new clinic will integrate primary/urgent care, basic diagnostics (lab/X-ray), and telehealth. In addition to matching funds the county is providing the land for the project. The project will improve health outcomes, and save lives as well as create new high wage jobs, and strengthen community resilience. Project activities include planning and design, architectural and engineering services, site development and construction, and procurement of medical equipment.

CITY OF ROMA, TX

SBRC Grant \$449,224.00

The grant funds will be used for the reconstruction of Mendez Avenue, the only commercial exit from the Roma International Port of Entry. The project will replace damaged pavement with a stabilized base and reinforced concrete to create a durable freight corridor that supports efficient trade, increases safety, lowers maintenance costs, and drives regional economic development. The roadway connects to a new 122 acre industrial park. Trade in the Roma Port of Entry has increased from 20 tractor trailers a day in 2018 to over 200 tractor trailers a day in 2025. The project is consistent with Connecting Texas 2050, TxDOT's statewide long-range transportation plan, and will improve freight mobility, reduce travel and maintenance costs, and encourage private investment in surrounding industrial and commercial areas. By reducing truck congestion and extending the roadway's service life, the project will enhance safety and improve quality of life for the community. These infrastructure improvements will facilitate logistics, trade, and freight primary drivers of the region's economic vitality.

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

SBRC Grant \$486,023.00

Texas State Technical College (TSTC) will expand its Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training Program through the creation of a new Professional Driving Academy at its Harlingen campus, addressing the critical shortage of certified commercial drivers in Texas and Cameron County, an economically distressed county. The project will develop and enhance a CDL training yard's infrastructure, procure two commercial trucks with 53-foot trailers, and hire three certified instructors. TSTC will implement a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration-compliant Driver Training curriculum to ensure graduates are job-ready. TSTC is also a Texas Department of Public Safety certified license testing center. Students can be tested and acquire a commercial license onsite.

CITY OF LAREDO, TX

SBRC Grant \$664,890.00

The City of Laredo will utilize the funds to renovate and revitalize a deteriorated space in a historic downtown building. The City will repurpose it for public use and implement a small business technical assistance program focused on downtown revitalization, the redevelopment and reuse of vacant buildings, and spurring economic development and private capital investment. The area has been decimated by economic decline, with almost 50% of buildings unoccupied or boarded up.

FRIOS COUNTY, TX

SBRC Grant \$871,000.00

Frio County, an economically distressed county, will utilize funds for engineering and design of broadband infrastructure. The 30-square-mile project area includes Moore and Bigfoot, communities' northeast of Pearsall with high poverty, limited water, sewer, and broadband service. The county estimates the project will serve about 1,090 residents and 473 households. The project aligns with the Texas Broadband Plan. The project will enable the county leverage private investment and state and local funding sources to expand broadband access in unserved and underserved areas.

NEW MEXICO

CITY OF SUNLAND PARK, NM

SBRC Grant \$1,000,000.00

The City of Sunland Park an economically distressed community and an U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designated Healthcare Professional Shortage Area. The city will utilize funds for site development to construct a new medical complex, project will include environmental and engineering studies, site grading; water and sanitary sewer infrastructure; power, gas, and fiber infrastructure; site paving; and stormwater management. The project will improve community health outcomes, and create new high-wage jobs in critical industries. The city is providing the land for the project and an additional 800,000 in matching funds.

CITY OF DEMING, NM

SBRC Grant \$480,000.00

The City of Deming will utilize funds to complete a comprehensive infrastructure mapping and condition assessment of its existing water, gas, and wastewater underground utility networks. The project will generate a geospatial infrastructure planning document incorporating detailed data critical for system resiliency, asset management, and identification of future expansion nodes. The City of Deming is an economically distressed rural community with a 26.2 percent poverty. The City's utility network contains pipelines exceeding 80 years in service life, and the absence of current as-built documentation of utilities presents operational and safety risks and hinders economic development. The resulting utilities map will ensure compliance with state Pipeline Safety Bureau standards and allow for development and capital improvements that enhance the reliability, efficiency, and affordability of utility services to the community.

GILA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SBRC Grant \$168,809.00

The Gila Foundation will expand its Pathways to Progress initiative to provide targeted capacity-building, fiscal accountability training, and project development strategies to individuals, nonprofit organizations, and water boards operating in severely economically distressed and unincorporated communities known as "colonias." These communities lack adequate water, sewage access, and infrastructure, and the project will deliver technical support for water resource mapping, infrastructure planning, and resource mobilization.

THE BRIDGE OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

SBRC Grant \$100,000.00

The Bridge of Southern New Mexico (BNM) will launch a workforce development initiative to address the region's critical workforce shortages and industry needs. The BNM will establish a firsthand training program that integrates internships, capstone experiences, and industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields such as healthcare and the high demand skilled trades such as electrician, plumber, carpenter, welder, or mechanic. The Microlearning Course Project, a multi-phase strategy designed to equip students, young adults, and jobseekers with the skills and credentials needed to prepare for, and thrive in these essential career pathways.

COUNTY OF LUNA, NM

SBRC Grant \$400,000.00

The County will conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate the extension of first-time natural gas service to the Village of Columbus, NM. The village is a rural, economically distressed community with a poverty rate of 37.6 percent, more than three times the national rate. The study will include infrastructure mapping, preliminary engineering assessments, financial modeling, and regulatory review to determine the technical, economic, and regulatory viability of two supply options. The county will proceed with the most cost-effective and viable option, providing a new source of energy and opening up the community for new economic development, housing, private investment, and commercial construction.

MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE

SBRC Grant \$436,343.00

The Mescalero Apache Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, will utilize funds to reopen and expand a sawmill facility, closed since 2012, to process forest materials generated from hazardous fuels reduction and ecological restoration projects on Tribal lands, National Forest System lands, and other federal and state lands. The initiative will improve forest health, reduce wildfire in high risk areas, and promote ecological balance, while simultaneously driving sustainable economic growth through job creation and the productive use of wood byproducts.

CALIFORNIA

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SBRC Grant \$266,606.00

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) will utilize funds to implement phase 1 of their CONNECT Initiative. The IID will repurpose and develop their underutilized utility easements into safe, sustainable multi-use corridors for public use. Funds will be used for predevelopment and designed and will be leveraged by both local match and private investments for construction. The project will improve mobility, safety, and economic development. provide safer routes to school, create jobs and transportation alternatives, increase community connectivity, enhance property values, and stimulate local business activity in an economically distressed community.

CITY OF CALEXICO, CA

SBRC Grant \$1,000,000.00

The City of Calexico, an economically distressed area, will utilize funds to construct a new 80-foot diameter clarifier at its Water Treatment Plant to meet current and future demand. The facility's single existing clarifier is fully utilized, leaving no capacity for residential, commercial, or industrial growth and creating a single point of failure for water service. The new clarifier will expand capacity to support economic development, while enhancing reliability and resilience in the event of equipment failure or natural disaster by providing critical system redundancy. This investment will ensure continuous water service for 40,073 residents and strengthen long-term economic growth in the region. The city will leverage SBRC funds with an additional 6 million dollar investment in the project.

CITY OF BRAWLEY, CA

SBRC Grant \$841,335.00

The City will utilize funds to expand water and sewer infrastructure in the northeastern area, including its most economically distressed sections with double the state's poverty. The project includes installing a 12-inch PVC waterline loop along Best Road, and a 21-inch PVC sewer main connecting to existing infrastructure near Ganado Drive. The project will enhance system reliability and fire flow while providing direct wastewater conveyance to the treatment plant. These improvements will address water pressure deficiencies, improve fire protection, and expand sewer capacity to accommodate new affordable housing and commercial development. The project will strengthen essential infrastructure, support economic growth, and improve service for both new and existing neighborhoods.

IMPERIAL COUNTY, CA

SBRC Grant \$400,000.00

The county will utilize funds to implement their Innovation X program, an 8-week structured training initiative for startups, entrepreneurs and innovators in Imperial County, an economically distressed area. Resources will be used to deliver entrepreneurial development services, including mentorship, specialized business development training, and access to capital. Program activities will also cover proposal preparation, manufacturing, supply chains, production readiness, and fundraising guidance. Imperial County experiences a poverty rate that is twice the national average and an unemployment rate that is four times higher.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION—IMPERIAL VALLEY CAMPUS

SBRC Grant \$500,000.00

The foundation will utilize funds to purchase modern laboratory and instructional equipment for the new SDSU–Imperial Valley Engineering & Sciences Lab in Imperial County, an economically distressed area. The project will help support the launch of accredited four-year degree programs in engineering and chemistry and address a critical workforce shortage in these fields where vacancies can remain unfilled for up to six months, limiting industry expansion and discouraging new investment. By preparing approximately 100 engineers and 50 chemists, the programs will create a reliable pipeline of skilled workers with wages well above the county's \$49,100 median household income, \$87,000 for engineers and \$78,000 for chemists, reducing unemployment, strengthening industry, and advancing regional priorities. Imperial County is home to the Salton Sea geothermal lithium resource, a designated critical mineral essential to national security and economic development. The United States currently depends on foreign imports for most of its lithium supply. Development of this resource depends on a highly skilled technical workforce, and this project will help train that workforce.

ARIZONA

ARIZONA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

SBRC Grant \$750,000.00

This project will implement the Advanced Manufacturing ReadyTechGo (RTG) program—an industry-driven workforce development initiative spanning Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Maricopa Counties. The program is built and designed through a collaborations between industry, academia, and the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. The program will provide industry-recognized certifications in advanced manufacturing sectors such as semiconductors, robotics, metal fabrication, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace, while creating stackable pathways that lead to college degrees and advanced credentials. Funds will support program courses, equipment, and facility upgrades, and will provide students hands-on experience with work-based training systems and the sophisticated mechanical and electrical systems used by major employers. These investments replicate high-stakes industrial environments, including semiconductor fabrication and aerospace manufacturing.

CITY OF BISBEE, AZ

SBRC Grant \$253,500.00

The City of Bisbee will upgrade and rehabilitate its aging Wastewater Treatment Plant. Project activities include replacement of the headworks machine, installation of a new UV disinfection system, draining and cleaning of the surge basin to reduce pollution, completion of the environmental review, and permitting. These upgrades will reduce health and environmental hazards, strengthen drought resilience, ensure continuity of service, and support economic growth. The project is aligned with Arizona's goals for sustainable water resource management. The community has a poverty rate of 21.7%, which is significantly higher than both the state and national averages. The project will help enable future residential and commercial development.

TOWN OF DUNCAN, AZ

SBRC Grant \$485,000.00

The project will rehabilitate multiple roads in the 2.2- square-mile Town of Duncan, Arizona, a rural economically distressed community with a 30 percent poverty rate. The town will utilize cost-effective chip seal resurfacing to repair arterial, and collector roads—that have gone unrepaved for over 40 years. The initiative will address deteriorating surfaces, restore durability, enhance safety, and strengthen community connectivity. It will improve transportation access for residents, businesses, elementary schools, commercial developments and the agricultural sector, supporting economic growth and public safety.

CITY OF WILLCOX, AZ

SBRC Grant 425,000.00

The city will implement its Destination Downtown Willcox redevelopment initiative to revitalize the downtown area after decades of deterioration. The city will redevelop dilapidated alleys, vacant parcels, and historic passthroughs into connecting passageways that will link businesses with consumers in residential areas, and extending the “Main Street” corridor to include a wider array of businesses and commercial and mix-use properties. The City will redevelop these deteriorating spaces into safe, connected pedestrian areas with walkways, seating, landscaping, lighting, and business wayfinding, improving access and safety for small businesses while leveraging public and private investment. The City of Willcox is a rural community with almost double the state’s poverty and unemployment rate, the project will help diversify the local economy.

TOWN OF PIMA, AZ

SBRC Grant \$337,500.00

The town will utilize funds to complete engineering and environmental studies necessary for design, permitting, and regulatory compliance. Upon completion, the town will leverage additional state and local funding sources to advance construction. The final project will construct a 420-foot, two-lane roadway with turning lanes, a signalized 200 S intersection, and associated pavement and traffic control improvements. The project will tie into existing infrastructure to improve traffic operations, safety, and accessibility, addressing transportation demands generated by the new high school and supporting economic development within the distressed area.

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

SBRC Grant \$150,000.00

The Colorado River Indian Tribes, a federally recognized tribe, require funding to replace the Colorado River Sewage System. The system has exceeded its 50-year design-life and is at risk of failure. It provides wastewater treatment for approximately 5,000 residents, including both tribal and non-tribal populations in the Town of Parker, AZ, and tribal lands. The system is experiencing structural corrosion, outdated equipment, and components. Funding will support technical staff, planning assistance, and financial resource guidance to help project delivery.