

Water Infrastructure Funding Resources for Rural Public Water Systems (as of Dec 2025)

This document provides a list of funding and technical assistance resources available to rural Public Water Supply (PWS) systems in Polk County, Texas. These programs are designed to help small water systems plan, finance, and implement critical infrastructure improvements such as drilling new wells, upgrading equipment, or expanding system capacity.

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

TWDB administers state and federal funding programs that provide low-interest loans and grants for water infrastructure projects. Programs such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Texas Water Fund specifically help small and rural communities develop or upgrade public water supply systems.

- Patrick Kading, Program Admin – (512) 936-8149 – patrick.kading@twdb.texas.gov
- Heather O'Keefe, DWSRF – (512) 475-1835 – heather.okeefe@twdb.texas.gov
- Moises Madrid, CWSRF – (512) 475-1645 – moises.madrid@twdb.texas.gov
- TWDB Main Line – (512) 463-7847
- Website: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/index.asp>

USDA Rural Development – Texas Office

USDA provides grants and long-term low-interest loans to rural water systems through the Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. Assistance may also cover predevelopment planning and training to improve operational and managerial capacity.

- Connie Petru – (254) 742-9793 – connie.petru@usda.gov
- Monica Pierre, Area Director (Lufkin) – (936) 634-9900 ext 4 – monica.pierre@usda.gov
- State Office – (254) 742-9700
- Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs>

Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC)

TWICC coordinates multiple agencies to assist Texas communities in identifying funding opportunities and regulatory support for water and wastewater infrastructure. It is especially helpful for small PWS systems seeking multi-agency funding advice.

- Patrick Kading (TWDB) – (512) 936-8149 – patrick.kading@twdb.texas.gov
- Suzanne Barnard (TDA) – (512) 463-6612 – suzanne.barnard@texasagriculture.gov
- Dorothy Young (TCEQ) – (512) 239-6064 – dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov
- Website: <https://twicc.org>

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ oversees environmental compliance and offers technical assistance programs like FMT (Financial, Managerial, Technical) to help small water systems improve their operations and prepare for funding.

- Dorothy Young – (512) 239-6064 – dorothy.young@tceq.texas.gov
- Laura Higgins – (512) 239-2354 – laura.higgins@tceq.texas.gov
- FMT Program – (512) 239-4691 – fmt@tceq.texas.gov
- Website: <https://www.trwa.org/page/FMT>

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

TDA administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for rural infrastructure projects, including water and wastewater improvements. Grants support economically distressed communities.

- Suzanne Barnard – (512) 463-6612 – suzanne.barnard@texasagriculture.gov
- Melissa Gonzales – (512) 936-0277 – melissa.gonzales@texasagriculture.gov
- Krystal Loera – (512) 936-6709 – krystal.loera@texasagriculture.gov
- Website: <https://texasagriculture.gov/Grants-Services>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 6

EPA offers WIIN grants to assist small and underserved communities in achieving compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. These funds may be used for infrastructure, technical assistance, and planning.

- Roberta Ezike – (214) 665-2760 – ezike.roberta@epa.gov
- Mehdi Taheri – (214) 665-2298 – taheri.mehdi@epa.gov
- Website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-small-underserved-and-disadvantaged-communities-grant-program-contacts>