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## **Business Incentives**

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## **Incentives**

The City of Rockdale offers business development incentives to prospective businesses including [property tax abatements](#), Chapter 380 sales tax incentive agreements, and negotiated city permits and fees.

## **Municipal Development District**

The Rockdale Municipal Development District may assist in the acquisition of land or construction expenses associated with a new business venture that creates primary jobs.

## **Facade Improvement Incentive Program**

The Rockdale Municipal Development District has implemented a city-wide facade improvement incentive program for businesses. The Municipal Development District will match eligible facade improvement projects on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$10,000.00. The total funds available for all projects is \$30,000.00

A copy of the program including program description, program goals, eligible applicants, eligible costs and improvements, design requirements, funding availability, and application form can be [downloaded here](#).

## **Chapter 380 Agreements**

Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code allows Texas municipalities to provide a grant or a loan of city

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funds or services to promote economic development. A Chapter 380 development agreement bypasses the need for upfront government incentives and kicks in only when a project is operating, thereby avoiding the prospect of a failed development taking incentive dollars.

Under a Chapter 380 agreement, a developer and taxing body negotiate a contract to provide sales tax incentives in return for the project meeting performance benchmarks. The agreement should help the business offset some costs associated with construction and infrastructure.

Projects will be evaluated individually. The maximum sales tax rebate granted, by law, will be 50%. The rebate must be put into approved infrastructure improvements on the property.

For a copy of the Chapter 380 application form in Word format, email [knauf@rockdalecityhall.com](mailto:knauf@rockdalecityhall.com) or [tblanchard@rockdalecityhall.com](mailto:tblanchard@rockdalecityhall.com) and a copy will be emailed to you. A pdf version of the application form can be [downloaded](#) from this website.

## **Tax Abatement**

On February 11, 2013 the City Council adopted an ordinance establishing guidelines, criteria and rcedures governing tax abatement agreements. Download a copyof the guidelines, criteria and procedures.

For the County of Milam and the City of Rockdale Joint Application for Tax Abatement Assistance form in Word format, email [knauf@rockdalecityhall.com](mailto:knauf@rockdalecityhall.com) or [tblanchard@rockdalecityhall.com](mailto:tblanchard@rockdalecityhall.com) and a copy of the form will be emailed to you. Applicants may submit an application to the City of Rockdale and/or Milam County; however, there is no requirement that the application be submitted to both organizations.

## **Expedited Development Process**

The City of Rockdale can expedite permit applications, plats or re-plats and governing body approval to assist businesses which are expanding or are considering locating to Rockdale.

## **Texas Capital Fund**

The Texas Capital Fund is administered through the State of Texas, Department of Agriculture. The Texas Capital Fund provides funds to eligible applicants to help in creating jobs or retaining existing jobs, primarily for low-to-moderate income persons. The City of Rockdale is a non-entitlement community, thus making businesses in the City eligible for assistance from the Texas Capital Fund.

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## Texas Department of Agriculture Grants

The Texas Department of Agriculture has a variety of [grants and services available](#) that can assist with new businesses and existing businesses.

## Texas Emerging Technology Fund

The Texas Emerging Technology Fund provides grants for research at Texas universities, assist companies with new technology and expedite innovative products into the marketplace.

## Texas Enterprise Fund

The [Texas Enterprise Fund](#) provide incentives to companies which are also considering viable locations out-of-state. The fund is used only as a final incentive tool where a single Texas site is competing with another viable out-of-state option. Additionally, the TEF will only be considered to help close a deal that already has significant local support behind it from a prospective Texas community.

## Texas HOME Program

Affordable housing is critical to the economic strength and quality of life in Texas communities. The Texas HOME Program helps local administrators meet affordable housing needs in the community. The Texas HOME Program awards grants and loans to eligible administrators to provide affordable housing assistance and services to eligible low-income families. [Click here](#) to read more.