

Northeast Texas Business Resource Guide

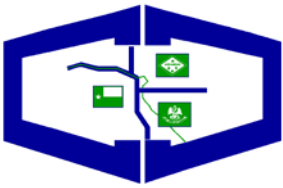


Covering the Counties of
Bowie
Cass
Gregg
Harrison
Marion
Panola
Nacogdoches
Sabine
San Augustine
Shelby

2016



**THE COORDINATING &
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**



**THE
COORDINATING & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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Lorenz Walker
Interim President and CEO

Dear Business Executive:

Improving the economy of Northeast Texas has been a long-term goal of The Coordinating & Development Corporation (CDC), your local county governments and professional economic developers. We are pleased to present you with this “*Northeast Texas Business Resource Guide*,” which we hope will help you find ways to make your business more successful and profitable.

Through this Guide we have attempted to provide you with information and direct you to Internet sites relating to resources and programs available to help you and your business, including:

- Tax Incentive Programs
- Workforce Development Programs
- Financial Assistance and Financing Sources
- Business Taxes and Employee Tax/Insurance Requirements
- Business Advice and Technical Assistance
- Government Procurement Opportunities
- International Trade
- Requirements for Doing Business in Texas

Beyond this publication, we want you to know that CDC as well as the economic development agencies in your county welcome the opportunity to help you and your business. If you have any questions, please contact your local parish, community, chamber of commerce, economic development organization, or the Vice-President of CDC’s Division of Economic Development, (318) 632-2022, Email: info@cdconline.org.

We look forward to being of service to every new, existing, and expanding business that makes Northeast Texas its home.

Best wishes for a very successful and prosperous venture.

Sincerely,

Lorenz Walker
Interim President and CEO

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Tax Incentives

Enterprise Zones

The Texas Enterprise Zone Program is an economic development tool for local communities to partner with the State of Texas to promote job creation and capital investment in economically distressed areas of the state. Designated projects are eligible to apply for state sales and use tax refunds on qualified expenditures. The level and amount of refund is related to the capital investment and jobs created or retained at the qualified business site.

- **Atlanta Enterprise Zone** – Contact: Atlanta City Development Corporation, (903) 796-6041, <http://www.atlantatexas.org/economic-development/industrial-incentives.html>
- **New Boston Enterprise Zone** – Contact: City of New Boston, (903) 628-6340 <http://www.newbostonsidc.org/demographics.htm>, scroll down to Incentives.
- **Jefferson Enterprise Zone** – Contact: City of Jefferson, (903) 665-3922.
- **Longview Enterprise Zone** – Contact: Longview Economic Development Corporation, (903) 753-7878.
- **Marshall Enterprise Zone** – Contact: Marshall Economic Development Corporation, (903) 934-8035, <http://marshalledc.org/community-profile>
- **Nacogdoches Enterprise Zone** – Contact: City of Nacogdoches, (936) 559-1255, <http://www.ci.nacogdoches.tx.us/>

Property Tax Abatement

The counties of Northeast Texas have designated Reinvestment Zones within their respective jurisdictions that allows them to negotiate property tax abatements based on job creation, average wages, and capital investment. The designation of a reinvestment zone for industrial tax abatement is good for five years after the date of the designation and may be renewed for periods not to exceed five years, except that a reinvestment zone in a state enterprise zone is designated for the same period as a state enterprise zone. Tax abatement agreements under this program may provide for the exemption of real property and tangible personal property located on the real property, only to the extent that its value for that year exceeds its value for the year in which the agreement is executed.

County contact information:

- Bowie, (903) 628-6730, <http://www.co.bowie.tx.us/>
- Cass, (903) 756-5513, <http://www.co.cass.tx.us/>
- Harrison, (903) 935-8400, <http://harrisoncountytexas.org/>
- Gregg, (903) 758-6181, <http://www.co.gregg.tx.us/>
- Marion, (903) 665-3281, <http://www.co.marion.tx.us/>
- Nacogdoches, (936) 560-7767, <http://www.co.nacogdoches.tx.us>
- Panola, (903) 693-0340, <http://co.panola.tx.us/>
- Sabine, (409)787-2257, <http://www.co.sabine.tx.us/>
- San Augustine, (936) 275-2300, <http://www.co.san-augustine.tx.us/>
- Shelby, (936) 598-4441, <http://www.co.shelby.tx.us/>

Goods in transit (Freeport Law):

As of January 1, 1990, the Freeport exemption allows local governing bodies the option to exempt personal property consisting of goods, wares, merchandise, or ores other than oil, natural gas, and petroleum and certain aircraft and aircraft parts. Freeport property qualifies for an exemption from property (ad valorem) taxation only if it has been detained in the state for 175 days or less for the purpose of assembly, storage, manufacturing, processing, or fabricating. (800) 252-9121, http://www.texasahead.org/tax_programs/freeport/

Manufacturing Exemptions:

Texas grants sales and use tax exemptions on machinery and equipment utilized directly in the manufacturing process. Purchases of machinery and equipment, replacement parts, and accessories and that are used or consumed directly in the manufacturing, processing, fabricating, or repairing of tangible personal property for ultimate sale (and if the use or consumption of the property was necessary or essential to the manufacturing, processing, fabrication, repair, or operation, or to a pollution-control process) are exempt from state and local sales and use tax.

Tax Incentives

Natural gas and electricity are exempt from sales taxes when sold to commercial businesses that "predominantly" use the gas or electricity in manufacturing. (800) 252-5555, http://texasahead.org/tax_programs/mfg_exempt/

Value Limitation and Tax Credits (Texas Economic Development Act)

An appraised value [limitation](#) may be extended to a taxpayer who agrees to build or install property and create jobs in exchange for a ten-year limitation on the taxable value of the property. The value limitation applies to the local school district maintenance and operations tax (M&O) portion of the property tax and a tax credit. (800) 531-5441, http://texasahead.org/tax_programs/chapter313/

Renewable Energy Incentives

Various tax exemptions, franchise tax exemptions, and franchise tax deductions are available for renewable energy equipment and systems. Renewable energy encompasses solar, wind, ethanol, and biodiesel energy. (800) 252-1382 or (800) 252-9121, <http://seco.cpa.state.tx.us/re/incentives-taxcode-statutes.php>

Research and Development Tax Credit

The Research & Data tax credit provides companies the option of selecting either a sales tax exemption on property purchased by persons engaged in qualified research activities or the franchise tax credit, but not both. The R&D Tax credit went into effect January 2014.

Sales Tax Exemption – The bill provides a sales tax exemption for property purchased, stored or used by a person engaged in qualified research.

Franchise Tax Credit – A company conducting qualified research activities in Texas is eligible for a tax credit equal to 5 percent of the difference between a company's qualified research expenses during the tax year for which the credit is claimed and 50 percent of the average qualified research expenses for the three preceding tax years (base period).

A company which has no qualified research expenses in one or more of the base period years may still claim the credit by selecting the reduced credit rate of 2.5 percent of credit year qualified research expenses. The total credit being claimed is limited to 50 percent of the company's franchise tax due. (800) 252-5555 or (800) 252-1381 http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/qualified_research/

Workforce Development Programs

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Programs available under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) are On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Customized Training. Both programs provide unique opportunities for participants who already possess some job-related skills and the knowledge to "learn as they earn." By participating in training as an employee, the participant not only acquires new skills and knowledge, but also receives the same wages and benefits as current employees in the same or similar positions. The employer benefits by being reimbursed for part of the participant's wages during the training period, while having the services of a full-time employee.

On-the-Job Training (OJT) – OJT focuses on jobs involving the introduction of new technologies, production or service procedures; upgrading to new jobs that require additional skills or workplace literacy; or other appropriate purposes identified by the Board.

- The employer can be in the public, private non-profit, or private sector.
- OJT provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job.
- The employer is reimbursed up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the individual for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and increased supervision related to the training.
- OJT is limited in duration based upon the target occupation for which the participant is being trained, the participant's prior work experience and the service strategy.

Customized Training – Customized Training further benefits an employer by tailoring a training program to the specific needs of the employer, especially in the area of introducing new technologies or procedures. Training can even be offered to incumbent employees in order to upgrade their skills and knowledge. Customized Training is training –

- Designed to meet the special requirements of an employer (including a group of employers);
- Conducted with a commitment by the employer to employ an individual on successful completion of the training; and
- For which the employer pays for not less than 50 percent of the cost of the training.
- Customized Training can be offered to incumbent workers who are not earning a self-sufficient wage. The employer must retain the workers upon successful completion of the training.

Note: All Boards do not provide OJT and/or Customized Training services.

For additional information on OJT and Customized Training opportunities, contact the Local Workforce Centers in your area.

Workforce Solutions of North East Texas Area #7

(903) 794-4163 – Cass and Bowie

<http://www.netxworkforce.org/>

Workforce Solutions of East Texas Area #8

(903) 935-7814 – Harrison County

(903) 758-1783 – Gregg County

(903) 665-1024 – Marion County

(903) 693-2272 – Panola County

<http://www.easttexasworkforce.org/>

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas Area #17

(409) 384-9031 – Sabine County

(936) 560-1441 – Nacogdoches County

(936) 598-2468 -- San Augustine and Shelby Counties

<http://www.detnetwork.org/>

Workforce Development Programs

Self-Sufficiency Fund – Job Training for TANF Recipients

The Self-Sufficiency Fund Program, administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), assists businesses by designing, financing, and implementing customized job training programs in partnership with public community and technical colleges, a higher education extension service, and community-based organizations for the creation of new jobs and/or the retraining of existing workforce, Workforce Business Services Department, Texas Workforce Commission, (512) 463-8844, <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/programs/self-sufficiency-program-overview>

Skills Development Fund

This program, administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is designed to provide state funds to assist businesses with their job training needs in partnership with the state's public community and technical colleges and the Texas Engineering Extension Service. To be eligible for this program, a business must have a training plan and jobs that pay the prevailing wage for occupations in their local labor market. Once a company is approved for participation, TWC will enter into a contract with the public community college, public technical college, or extension service to provide the job training. Workforce Business Services Department, Texas Workforce Commission, (877) 463-1777, <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/programs/skills-development-program-overview>

Financial Assistance and Financing Sources

Texas Loan Programs, (800) 843-5789 or (512) 463-2000

http://gov.texas.gov/ecodev/financial_resources/loanassistance/

Texas Leverage Fund

The Texas Leverage Fund (TLF) provides an additional source of financing to communities that have adopted an economic development sales tax. Communities may leverage future sales tax revenues to support job retention or creation. Available for interim, long-term or gap financing, TLF loans provide flexible financing terms to match the unique needs of communities, with maturities of up to 15 years available. Generally, EDCs are eligible to borrow four to five times annual sales tax revenues, up to \$5 million. TLF loans are low-cost, providing capital to communities at floating Prime Rate, as published in the Wall Street Journal. Future sales tax revenues serve as collateral for loan repayment with required debt service coverage ratios specified in the Texas Leverage Fund Program Guidelines. Pledged tax collections not needed for actual debt service are available for other projects. Texas Leverage Fund Guidelines: (512) 936-0100, http://gov.texas.gov/files/ecodev/TLF_Guidelines.pdf or (512) 981-6736, <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/contact>

Texas Product/Business Fund

The Texas Product/Business Fund provides asset back financing to companies currently doing business in the state. Financing is done in the form of direct asset based loans with a variable interest rate tied to London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). Loans can be amortized up to the life of the asset. Applicants can submit a free brief pre-assessment in order to check eligibility. Attributes of the Texas Product Fund include: asset based loans, competitive loan-to-value (LTV), positive EBITDA not required, and secure loans with property plant & equipment (PP&E). (512) 936-0100, <http://gov.texas.gov/ecodev/financialresources/loanassistance> or (512) 981-6736 <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/financing>

Industrial Revenue Bond Program

The State of Texas Industrial Revenue Bond Program (IRB) is designed to provide tax-exempt or taxable financing for eligible industrial or manufacturing projects as defined in the Development Corporation Act of 1979 (Act). The Act allows cities, counties, conservation and reclamation districts to form non-profit industrial development corporations (IDCs) or authorities on their behalf. The purpose is to provide bonds for projects within their jurisdictions. The IDC acts as a conduit through which monies are channeled. Generally, bond debt service is paid by the business under the terms of a lease, sale or loan agreement. As such, it does not constitute a debt or obligation of the governmental unit, the IDC or the State of Texas. (512) 936-0100, <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/small-business/small-business-incentives/funding-programs>

Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund

Created by the 78th Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry, the Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund, or the "Revolving Loan Fund" as it has become known, is designed to:

- Assist defense communities in enhancing the military value of a military facility in their area.
- Provide financial assistance to defense communities for job creating economic development projects that minimize the negative effects of a defense base realignment or closure decision that occurred in 2005 or later.
- Provide financial assistance to defense communities for an infrastructure project to accommodate new or expanded military missions resulting from a base realignment and closure decision that occurred in 2005 or later.

The Revolving Loan Fund provides a low cost source of revenue to eligible communities who meet the application criteria. The minimum amount of a loan is \$1,000,000 while the maximum amount of a loan is determined by the availability of funds and the creditworthiness of the applicant, State funding will be obtained through the sale of general obligation bonds. The State may provide up to 100% of the cost of the described project, dependent upon the creditworthiness of the applicant. (512) 475-1475, <http://gov.texas.gov/military/loans>

Financial Assistance and Financing Sources

Texas Emerging Technology Fund

The Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TETF) was created by the Texas Legislature in 2005 at the urging of Gov. Perry to provide Texas with an unparalleled advantage in the research, development, and commercialization of emerging technologies.

TETF grants are awarded in the following three areas:

- Research Superiority Acquisition -- funds for Texas higher education institutions to recruit the best research talent in the world,
- Commercialization Awards -- funds to help companies take ideas from concept to development to ready for the marketplace, and
- Matching Awards -- funds create public-private partnerships which leverage the unique strengths of universities, federal government grant programs, and industry. (800) 843-5789 or (512) 463-2000
<http://web.archive.org/web/20110623151551/http://governor.state.tx.us/ecodev/ef>

AR-TEX Council of Governments

ATCOG offers several loan programs designed to help in economic development projects. The purpose of the projects is to create and retain jobs in the region.

- **The Ark-Tex Regional Development Company, Inc. (ATRDC)** is a Small Business Administration Certified Development Company which markets and packages SBA 504 loans under a management agreement with ATCOG. Proceeds from 504 loans must be used for fixed asset projects such as: purchasing land and improvements, including existing buildings, grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping; construction of new facilities, or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities; or purchasing long-term machinery and equipment. The 504 Program cannot be used for working capital or inventory, consolidating or repaying debt, or refinancing.
- **The Chapman Revolving Loan Fund** is an economic development tool for businesses or governmental entities to provide loan funds. The original funds were from a grant from Housing & Urban Development. Former U. S. Representative Jim Chapman was the catalyst for obtaining the funds.
- **The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) Revolving Loan Fund** is primarily for private industry in an eleven-county area in Northeast Texas and was established in 1987 with initial funding from an EDA grant for \$1.4 million.
- The East Texas Rural Access Program (ETRAP) is a revolving loan fund whose purpose is to increase access to primary health care in rural parts of East Texas. This is a new program with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The ETRAP RLF is managed by the North East Texas Economic Development District Inc, (936) 832- 8636, <http://atcog.org/>
(Click on programs and projects, then economic development, then loan programs.)

East Texas Regional Development Company

ETRDC offers several loan programs designed to help in economic development projects. The purpose of the projects is to create and retain jobs in the region.

- **SBA 504 Loan Program** – The SBA 504 Program is designed to provide long-term, fixed rate financing, to eligible businesses. Loan proceeds can be used for fixed assets such as real estate and long life equipment (10 years of life or more), new construction, and even improvements to existing properties.
- **Chapman Loan Program** – The Chapman Loan Program (CLP) is designed to provide long term financing to East Texas Businesses in a 14 county area. Loan proceeds can be used for a variety of purposes including invoice and work capital. Proceeds can even be used to help with equity injections.
- **Economic Development Loans** – The CLP Economic Development Loan Program is designed to financing to cities, counties and non-profit economic development organizations in a 14 county area. Loan proceeds can be used for infrastructure improvements to assist local businesses, (903) 218-6411, <http://www.etrdc.com/242/Home.html>

Financial Assistance and Financing Sources

Small Business Administration

The SBA offers several types of loans to prospective small business owners: loans made by private lenders (usually banks) that are guaranteed by the SBA. While the SBA is not a bank, it does have an important function in the commercial lending market, extending guarantees or participation when a bank is unable or unwilling to provide the small business' entire financing by itself. The SBA may guarantee up to 90% of the loan in the event of a loan default depending on the SBA Loan Program. (800) 827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/>

- **SBA Guaranteed 7(a) Loan** – Available to most start-ups and small businesses. For those applicants that meet the SBA's credit and eligibility standards, the Agency can guaranty between 75 percent and 85 percent of loans, depending on the amount of the loan. This standard applies to most variations of the 7(a) Loan Program. Loans generally range from 7 years (equipment, inventory, and working capital) to 25 years (real estate and equipment). SBA's 7(a) Loan Program has a maximum loan amount of \$2 million dollars. SBA's maximum exposure is \$1.5 million. Thus, if a business receives an SBA guaranteed loan for \$2 million, the maximum guaranty to the lender will be \$1.5 million or 75 percent. Costs include fixed or variable rate of loan plus guarantee fee and service fee. Only available if funds from other sources are not available. Contact your bank or visit: (800) 827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/loans-grants/see-what-sba-offers/sba-loan-programs/general-small-business-loans-7a>
- **SBA 504 Program** – Available to businesses with less than \$7.5 million net worth, and average income of less than \$2.5 million over past two years. Long-term fixed asset loans up to 20 years, made by combination financing of SBA backed Certified Development Corporations (CDCs) and banks. Rates based on current Treasury issues plus guarantee fees of about 3%. The CDC's loan portion cannot exceed 40% of a project. Maximum SBA debenture supporting the loan can be up to \$1.35 million. Must be used for fixed assets, and must create one job for every \$50,000 of CDC's funds. Start-ups must contribute 10-20% equity to total start-up. (202) 205-6490, or contact your bank or visit <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ofa/resources/4049>
- **SBA International Trade Loan Programs** – SBA's Export Working Capital Program (EW CP) loans are targeted for businesses that are able to generate export sales and need additional working capital to support these sales. The EW CP loans can also be used to even out cash flow when exporters have negotiated longer sales terms and cannot carry the resulting receivables with their own working capital. The EW CP loan can be a short-term loan for a single contract or in the form of a line of credit that supports ongoing export sales for a period of 12 months. May not be used to refinance existing debt. Contact your local bank or the Little Rock Export Assistance Office, (501) 324-7379, or visit <https://www.sba.gov/loans-grants/see-what-sba-offers/sba-loan-programs/general-small-business-loans-7a/special-types-7a-loans/sba-export-loan-programs>

Texas Department of Agriculture

The Texas Capital Fund (TCF) program is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture through an interagency agreement with the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA). The TCF program encourages business development, retention, or expansion by providing funds to eligible applicants. Funds will be awarded for the express purpose of assisting in the creation of new permanent jobs or retention of existing permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate income (LMI) persons. In order to comply with the national goal of expanding economic opportunities for LMI persons, a minimum of 51 percent or more of all the jobs created or retained by the business must benefit persons who qualify as LMI, (800) 835-5832 or (512) 463-7476, <https://texasagriculture.gov/> and <http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/TexasCapitalFund/InfrastructureDevelopment.aspx>

Financial Assistance and Financing Sources

R&D Grants/Contracts for Technology Based Companies

- **Small Business Innovation Research Grants (SBIR)** – Competitive awards. Available only to start-up and existing small technology-based companies. Eleven participating federal agencies (NASA, NIH, DOD, EPA, etc.) solicit for R&D proposals and award funding to qualified businesses. Companies submit proposals in response to specific solicitations. Agencies make SBIR awards based on small business qualifications, degree of innovation, technical merit, and future market potential. (571) 306-5201, <https://www.sbir.gov/>
- **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)** – Competitive awards. Available only to start-up and existing small technology-based companies participating in cooperative R&D with research institutions. Five participating federal agencies (NASA, NSF, DOD, DOE, DHHS) solicit for R&D proposals and award funding to qualified businesses. Companies submit proposals in response to specific solicitations. Agencies make SBIR awards based on small business qualifications, degree of innovation, technical merit, and future market potential. Contact Texas Tech University, (806) 742- 4105 or (806) 742-2011, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/vpr/SBIR-STTR.php>, visit <http://www.zyn.com/>, or call the Ark-La-Tex Regional Export & Technology Center, Inc., (318) 632-2022, <http://cdconline.org/>

Business Taxes and Employee Tax/Insurance Requirements

Comptroller of Public Accounts is charged with the administration and collection of state and local sales tax from businesses operating in Texas, and also collects any franchise taxes owed by Texas corporations. There is no state income tax in Texas. The Comptroller maintains field offices in most major Texas cities to provide assistance and aid in complying with tax regulations. For further information on these taxes, contact: Comptroller of Public Accounts: (800) 252-5555, <http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/>.

Income Tax

There is no income tax for corporations or individuals in Texas.

Franchise Tax

The Texas franchise tax is a privilege tax imposed on corporations, including banking corporations and limited liability companies that are chartered in Texas. The tax is also imposed on non-Texas corporations that do business in Texas. For more information, go to <http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/franchise/>

Forms available for download may be accessed at: <http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/taxforms/05-forms.html>

Sales Taxes

You must obtain a Texas sales and use tax permit if you are engaged in business in Texas and you sell tangible personal property in Texas, lease tangible personal property in Texas, or sell taxable services in Texas. To apply for a permit, you must submit a completed application for a Texas sales and use tax permit to the Comptroller's office. An application can be downloaded from our Tax Forms Online page.

<http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/taxforms/00-forms.html>. Sole owners should complete form AP-157. All other ownership types (corporations, LLC's, partnerships, etc.) must complete AP-201 and form 01-707. You may also obtain an application by calling (800) 252-5555 or by visiting an enforcement field office.

<http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/fieldtoll.html#field>

Permits and Licenses

The permits required for taxes collected by the Comptroller are defined and outlined in the section titled Listing of Business Licenses and Permits. (512) 239-1000, <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/>

Local Business Taxes

If the business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the property must be reported on a rendition form to the local county appraisal district, after January 1 and no later than March 31, each year. Business owners must report all inventories, equipment, and machinery. For additional information, contact the local county appraisal district. For phone numbers, go to: <http://comptroller.texas.gov/propertytax/references/directory/cad/> (800) 252-9121

State Unemployment Taxes

The Texas Workforce Commission collects all unemployment taxes for workers employed in Texas. For information regarding these taxes, to obtain a state employer's identification number, and for information on tax credits, contact: Texas Workforce Commission Tax Department, (800) 939-6631

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/businesses/unemployment-tax>. For contact info for local TWC offices go to <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/partners/workforce-development-boards-websites> and click on your region.

Federal Employment Taxes

All companies with employees are required to participate in the following employee tax programs:

- **Federal Income Tax Withholding** – All employers are required to withhold income taxes from their employees' wages for both the Federal and State government.

Business Taxes and Employee Tax/Insurance Requirements

To know how much income tax to withhold from employees' wages, you should have all new employees complete the appropriate forms: a Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate for Federal withholding, (800)-829-1040, <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4.pdf>.

- **Social Security and Medicare Taxes** – By Federal law, all employers must withhold Social Security and Medicare taxes from an employee's gross wages (7.65% up to a certain amount, 1.45% thereafter). The employer must also pay an equal amount for this tax. Depositing procedures vary depending upon the total amount an employer withholds from all employees. Current information on amounts to withhold as well as up-to-date employee income tax withholding taxes may be found in the IRS publication entitled Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide, <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/social-security-tax-medicare-tax-and-self-employment>
- **Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax** – The Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), with state unemployment systems, provides for payments of unemployment compensation to workers who have lost their jobs. Most employers pay both a Federal and a state unemployment tax. A list of state unemployment tax agencies, including addresses and phone numbers, is available in Pub. 926, Household Employer's Tax Guide. Only the employer pays FUTA tax; it is not deducted from the employee's wages. For more information, see the Instructions for Form 940, <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/federal-unemployment-tax>

Business Advice and Technical Assistance

Chambers of Commerce

Your local chamber of commerce provides a wide range of information, services, and programs for businesses.

Bowie County:

- New Boston Chamber of Commerce, (903) 628-2581, <http://www.newbostontx.org/chamber.html>
- DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, (903)667-3706, <http://dekalbtexas.org/>
- Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, (903) 792-7191, <http://www.texarkana.org/>

Cass County:

- Atlanta Area Chamber of Commerce, (903) 796-3296, <http://atlantatexas.org/chamber/atlanta-chamber-of-commerce.aspx>
- Linden Chamber of Commerce, (903) 756-3106, <http://www.lindentexas.org/chamberofcommercefile/>

Gregg County:

- Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, (903) 845-5501, <http://gladewaterchamber.org/>
- Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, (903) 984-5022, <http://kilgorechamber.com/>
- Longview Chamber of Commerce, (903) 237-4000, <http://www.longviewchamber.com/>

Harrison County:

- Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce, (903) 935-7868, <http://www.marshall-chamber.com/>

Marion County:

- Marion County Chamber of Commerce, (903) 665-2672, <http://www.jefferson-texas.com/>
- Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, (936) 560-5533, <http://www.nacogdoches.org/>

Panola County:

- Carthage Chamber of Commerce, (903) 693-6634, <http://www.carthagetexas.us/chamber-of-commerce>

Sabine County:

- Sabine County Chamber of Commerce, (409) 787-2732, <http://www.sabinecountytexas.com/>

San Augustine County:

- San Augustine Chamber of Commerce, (936) 275-3610, <http://www.sanaugustinetx.com/>

Shelby County:

- Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, (936) 598-3682, <https://www.shelbycountychamber.com/>
- Timpson Area Chamber of Commerce, (936) 254-3500, http://www.cityoftimpson.com/chamber_of_commerce.html

Economic Development Corporations

These organizations assist in the growth and development of their communities through projects that contribute to the quality of life and improvements that promote new or expanded business enterprises.

Bowie County

- Bowie Economic Development Corporation, (940) 872-4193, <http://www.cityofbowietx.com/index.aspx?NID=109>
- City of New Boston Industrial Development Corp., (903) 628-6340, <http://www.newbostonsidc.org/about.htm>
- City of Nash Economic Development, (903)-838-0751, <http://nashtx.org/economic-development/>
- City of Nash Industrial Development Corporation, (903) 838-0751, <http://www.nashidc.com/>
- City of Texarkana Economic Development, (903) 798-1715
<http://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us/255/Economic-Development>

Cass County:

- Atlanta Economic Development Corporation, (903) 796-2192, <http://www.atlantatexas.org/economic-development/atlanta-economic-development-corporation.html>
- Atlanta City Development Corporation, (903) 796-6041, <http://www.atlantatexas.org/economic-development/>
- City of Linden Economic Development, (903) 756-7774, <http://lindentexas.org/government/>
- City of Queen City Economic Development, (903) 796-7986
http://www.queencitytx.org/index.asp?SEC=3BB37BCF-2958-4500-99C4-8BABC9EE9B59&Type=B_BASIC,
(Revolving Loan Fund)
- City of Marietta Economic Development, (770) 794-5668
<http://www.mariettaqa.gov/city/businesses/ecodev/contact>

Business Advice and Technical Assistance

Gregg County:

- Gladewater Economic Development Corp., (903) 845-5441, <http://gladewateredc.com/>
- Kilgore Economic Development Corp., (903) 983-3522, <http://www.kilgore-edc.com/>
- Longview Economic Development Corp., (903) 753-7878, <http://longviewusa.com/>

Harrison County:

- City of Longview Economic Development Corp, (800) 952-2613, <http://longviewusa.com/>
- Marshall Economic Development Corporation, (903) 903-8035, <http://marshalledc.org/>

Marion County:

- Jefferson Economic Development Corporation, (903) 665-3922, <http://www.jeffersontexas.us/2015/11/jefferson-economic-development-corporation-november-16-2015-at-630/>

Nacogdoches County:

- Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation, (936) 559-1255, <http://www.nedco.org/>

Panola County:

- Carthage Economic Development Corporation, (903) 693-4345, <http://www.carthagetexas.us/carthage-economic>
Tatum Economic Development Corporation, (903) 947-6403, <http://www.tatumtexas.com/Contact-Us/Tatum-Economic-Development-Corporation.html>

San Augustine County:

- San Augustine Economic Development Corporation, (936) 275-2762, <http://www.co.san-augustine.tx.us/~sacounty/admin/resources/102711communitydevelopment.pdf>

ARK-TEX Council of Governments

ATCOG is an intergovernmental agency for Bowie and Cass Counties that provides regional planning and business assistance for the area; includes loan programs as well as demographic and transportation information, (903) 832-8636, <http://atcog.org/>

Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District

DETCOG is an intergovernmental agency serving Nacogdoches, Shelby, Sabine, and San Augustine Counties that provides regional planning and business assistance for the area, including research, management reviews, and other services for local governments, non-profit organizations and private businesses on a fee-for-services basis, (409) 384-5704, <http://www.detcog.org/>

East Texas Council of Governments

ETCOG is an intergovernmental agency for East Texas Counties including Gregg, Harrison, Marion, and Panola that provides regional planning and business assistance for the area; includes loan programs as well as demographic and transportation information, (903) 984-8641, <http://www.etcog.org/>

The Coordinating & Development Corporation

A private, non-profit economic development organization that provides a wide variety of services for the business community. These services include: business investment and finance, employment and job training, business development and incubation, marketing, international trade development, state tax incentives information, and servicing, (318) 632-2022, <http://cdconline.org/>

Sabine River Authority of Texas

The Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA) is committed to assist counties, cities and current economic development groups throughout the Basin in their economic development initiatives to: strengthen the economic vitality of the Sabine River basin, educate citizens on water related issues, and market the waterways for recreational and tourism activities, (409) 746-2192, <http://www.sra.dst.tx.us/>

Business Advice and Technical Assistance

Business Incubators

- **Marshall Business Development Center, Marshall.** The Center offers low cost and provides a variety of business-related services to start-up and small businesses, (903) 935-8035, <http://marshalledc.org/community-profile/business-incubators>
- **Entrepreneur Development Incubator, Nacogdoches.** As part of its goal of helping entrepreneurs successfully establish new businesses, the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corp. has developed an Entrepreneur Incubator Program in partnership with the Angelina College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Stephen F. Austin State University, (936) 559-1255, <http://www.nedco.org/entrepreneur>
- **Tyler Area Business Incubator, Tyler.** Tyler Junior College Regional Training and Development Complex, A consortium including Tyler Junior College, TJC's Regional Training and Development Complex, the City of Tyler and the Tyler Economic Development Council joined together to create of unique Area Business Incubator for biotechnology, medical and surgical technology, and other high- tech innovations, with the creation of the Tyler Area Business Incubator, (903) 510-2982, http://www.tjc.edu/continuingstudies/info/12/business/76/tyler_area_business_incubator

Small Business Development Centers

The SBDCs provides specialized management and technical needs for the small business community, and also provides counseling, serves as an informational resource center, and coordinates and conducts continuing education programs.

Bowie and Cass Counties:

- Northeast Texas Community College Small Business Development Center, (903) 434-8237, <http://northeasttxsbdc.org/home.aspx>

Gregg, Harrison, Marion, and Panola Counties:

- Kilgore College Small Business Development Center, (903) 757-5857, <https://www.kilgore.edu/>

Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby Counties:

- Tyler Small Business Development Center, located at the Tyler Junior College Regional Training and Development Complex, (903) 510-2975, <http://tylersbdc.com/>

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

Score is an SBA-sponsored program that offers advice, counseling, and management training for owners and would-be owners of small businesses, East Texas SCORE, (903) 510-2975, <http://www.easttexassmallbusinesscounseling.com/>

Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

TMAC provides a comprehensive source of business, management, and technical assistance to area manufacturers. TMAC is an affiliate of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which provides federal funding for the program, TMAC Statewide, Texas Engineering Extension Service, (800) 625-4876, <http://www.tmac.org/>

Office of the Governor Economic Development and Tourism

The mission of this office is to develop and diversify the state's economy to enhance the quality of life for current and future Texans. It offers a variety of information regarding financing, tax incentives, international development, and workforce development programs to assist Texas businesses, (800) 843-5789, <http://gov.texas.gov/ecodev>

Small Business Administration – (800)-827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/>

In addition to the SBA's Internet Procurement Opportunities programs, (see Government Procurement Opportunities Section of this Resource Guide), SBA also offers other programs beneficial to small businesses, including;

- **Online Entrepreneurial Training** – The Small Business Training Network is a virtual campus housing free training courses, workshops and knowledge resources designed to assist entrepreneurs and other students of enterprise.

Business Advice and Technical Assistance

The Training Network makes SBA's business management resources available anytime and anywhere. It is a dynamic learning center designed to help small businesses compete in a constantly changing, global environment. (800)-827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/search/training>

- **Government Contracting/Business Development** – The Office of Government Contracting (GC) works to create an environment for maximum participation by small, disadvantaged, and woman-owned businesses in federal government contract awards and large prime subcontract awards. (800)-827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/contracting/finding-government-customers>
- **SBA Office of Advocacy** – This office's mission is to encourage policies that support the development and growth of American small businesses. Advocacy represents the nation's small businesses within the federal government; conducts policy studies; and compiles statistics on small business characteristics and contributions. (202) 205-6533, <https://www.sba.gov/advocacy/office-advocacy-staff>
- **Office of Women's Business Ownership** – OW BO promotes the growth of women-owned businesses through programs that address business training and technical assistance, and provide access to credit and capital, federal contracts, and international trade opportunities. (202) 205-6673, <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/wbo?>
- **Veteran's Business Development** – Designed to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, and training for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business, (202) 205-6773, <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ovbd>

U.S. Department of Commerce – (202) 482-2000, <https://www.commerce.gov/>

While the SBA is the primary federal agency that advises and assists small businesses, the U.S. Department of Commerce has a number of programs that provide information and/or services to U.S. businesses, including:

- **Bureau of Economic Analysis** – BEA is the Nation's accountant, interpreting data to draw a complete picture of the U.S. economy. BEA's economic accounts provide information on economic growth, regional development, and the Nation's position in the world economy. (301) 278-9004, <http://www.bea.gov/>
- **Bureau of the Census** – The Constitution commands that a census be taken every 10 years. The purpose is the apportionment of seats in Congress, but the information collected provides the cornerstone of knowledge about the people of our nation. (301) 763-4636, <http://www.census.gov/about/contact-us.html>
- **Minority Business Development Agency** – This agency was created specifically to encourage the growth of minority-owned businesses in the United States. It coordinates federal government plans, programs and operations that affect minority business enterprises. It promotes and coordinates the activities of government and private organizations that help minority businesses grow. It collects and distributes information to help those interested in starting or expanding a minority-owned firm, and it provides financial assistance to organizations to provide management and technical assistance to minority entrepreneurs. (202) 482-1940, <http://www.mbda.gov/>
- **Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)** – The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is an advocacy and advisory office responsible for promoting the use of small, small disadvantaged, 8(a), women-owned, veteran-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, and HUBZone small businesses within the U.S. Department of Commerce's (DOC) acquisition process. (202) 482-1472, <http://www.osec.doc.gov/osdbu/>
- **Patent and Trademark Office** – For over 200 years, the basic role of PTO has been to promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for authors and inventors the exclusive right to their writings and discoveries for a limited time. (800) 786-9199, <http://www.uspto.gov/>

Government Procurement Opportunities

System for Awards Management (SAM)

The System for Award Management (SAM), <https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/##11>, has replaced the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) website. (SAM) was created in an effort to improve the federal government contracting process for small business owners. Phase 1 of SAM services combines several procurement systems, including the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), Federal Agency Registration (Fed Reg), and the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), into one, easy-to-use website. If you were registered in the CCR database, your information may already be populated in SAM. However, you will need to register with SAM and to make any changes to your registration. SAM serves as a government-contracting portal and enables small business owners to register to do business with the federal government, and represent/self-certify as a small business all in one place. This streamlined, integrated approach will eliminate data redundancies, improve capabilities of the government-contracting workforce, and save taxpayers money by reducing costs. SAM is managed by the General Service Administration (GSA). If you require any assistance (troubleshooting, data concerns, general information, etc.), contact the Federal Service Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do>, or by telephone at (866) 606-8220.

Note: A DUNS number, provided by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), is required for registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) database – <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. (This link is a special website dedicated to assisting customers doing business with the US Federal Government.)

SBA'S HUB Zone Program – The HUBZone program provides federal contracting assistance for qualified small business concerns located in historically underutilized business zones. To be a qualified HUBZone small business concern, a company must be a small business, owned and controlled by US citizens (51%), have their main office located in a HUBZone, and have at least 35% of the company's employees residing in a HUBZone (doesn't have to be the same HUBZone as the company's principal office). <https://www.sba.gov/contracting/government-contracting-programs/hubzone-program/applying-hubzone-program>. To determine if your company is in a HUBZone, <http://map.sba.gov/hubzone/maps/>

SBA'S 8 (a) Business Development Program – The SBA's 8(a) BD Program helps small disadvantaged business concerns compete in the American economy. As part of the business development of the 8(a) firms, SBA helps small disadvantaged businesses access the Federal contracting marketplace. Certification through the SBA 8 (a) program is required for participation in this program. New rules for the 8(a) program have led to requiring registration on several federal government websites. Information relating to the required websites may be found at: (800) 827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/contracting/government-contracting-programs/8a-business-development-program>.

SBA'S Sub-Contracting Programs – For some small businesses, subcontracting to a Prime Vendor is a great way to "get a foot in the door" of government contracting. (800) 827-5722, <https://www.sba.gov/contracting/finding-government-customers/subcontracting>, provides links to a number sub-contracting opportunities and government agencies' websites.

Government Procurement Center

This agency helps companies find and secure government contracts, assists with marketing and technical aspects of government contracts, and offers specialized assistance to clients in areas such as Construction and Environmental contracting and subcontracting

Bowie and Cass Counties – (903) 434-8237 or (903) 823-3156, <http://northeasttxsbdc.org/home.aspx>,

Gregg, Harrison, Marion, and Panola Counties - (903)757-5857, <http://www.kilgoresbdc.com/>,

Nacogdoches, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby Counties – (936) 633-5432, <http://www.acpactx.org/>

FedBizOpps.gov – <https://www.fbo.gov/>

FedBizOpps.gov is the single government point-of-entry for Federal government procurement opportunities more than \$25,000. Government buyers are able to publicize their business opportunities by posting information directly to FedBizOpps via the Internet. Through one portal - FedBizOpps - commercial vendors seeking Federal markets for their products and services can search, monitor, and retrieve opportunities solicited by the entire Federal contracting community. To register on the site, go to,

<https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=register&subtab=step1&lsys=vendor>

Government Procurement Opportunities

You may also seek procurement opportunities through an advanced search at <https://www.fbo.gov/> Note: To participate in procurement opportunities with the Federal Government, you must register with <https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/##11> and have a DUNS number (see above for more information)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD provides a Contract Opportunities Mailing Notification List that provides information about the Department's current contracting opportunities. You will receive an email notification whenever new solicitations and amendments are posted to HUD's Current Contracting Opportunities.

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/careers/contractopps

Texas State Purchasing

<http://comptroller.texas.gov/procurement/> This site allows you to view postings by Texas state agencies for products/services or to browse and/or search for procurement opportunities. <http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/> The Centralized Master Bidders List (CMBL) also is available. Manufacturers, suppliers and other vendors wishing to furnish materials, equipment, supplies and services to the state should apply to be on the Centralized Master Bidders List to receive bidding opportunities. Registration on the Centralized Master Bidders List is an effective tool for businesses to use to market their products and services to state agencies and institutions of higher education. You may register for this service online or you may print an application and submit with the \$70.00 annual registration fee through <http://comptroller.texas.gov/procurement/registration/> A Vendor's Guide, entitled "*How to Do Business with the State of Texas*" is available for download at http://comptroller.texas.gov/procurement/pub/vendor_guide.pdf

International Trade

U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC)

Companies interested in obtaining export assistance may contact the USEAC, an office of the U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration. The primary focus of the USEAC is to assist export-ready clients, those with the commitment and resources to establish or expand their export potential. The center provides hands-on export marketing for small and medium-size companies. North Texas USEAC. 4300 Amon Carter Boulevard, Suite 114, Ft. Worth, TX, (817) 684-5347, <http://2016.export.gov/texas/northtexas/contactus/index.asp>

North Texas District Export Council

The North Texas District Export Council (NTDEC) is one of the nationwide networks of DEC's which make significant contributions to America's international competitiveness. It is a diverse group of volunteer International Trade Professionals representing regions throughout North Texas. The Mission of the DEC is to contribute leadership and international trade expertise to complement the U.S. Commercial Service's export promotion efforts through counseling businesses on the exporting process and conducting trade education and community outreach. The primary objectives of the NTDEC are to educate the community about free trade and its benefits, and include "how to" education to promote exports by companies in our area, www.exporthtexas.com/content/north-texas-dec. The Texas Export Resource Guide, developed by Texas DEC's, may be downloaded from <http://www.exporthtexas.com/content/texas-exporters-resource-guide>

U.S. Export-Import Bank

The Ex-Im Bank is a federal agency that provides insurance for foreign receivables, working capital, loans and guarantees. It also has special programs for environmental, project financing, and small businesses, (214) 551-4959, <http://www.exim.gov/>

Dallas/Ft. Worth U.S. Customs Port of Entry

Companies involved in importing from foreign sources may clear their goods and/or obtain information from the Customs and Border Protection office based at 7501 Esters Blvd., Suite 160, Irving, TX, (972) 870-7460, <https://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports/tx>

Texas State Export Assistance

As the leading export state in the nation for the tenth year in a row with over \$251 billion in Texas goods reaching the world, Texas has become the foremost leader in international trade. With its unique combination of strategic location, the largest U.S. rail and road infrastructure, the most U.S. ports of entry, a multilingual workforce twice the national average, a vibrant international banking center, a diplomatic hub with a Consular Corps representing some 90 nations, as well as a concentration of corporate and financial resources, Texas is truly a global trade powerhouse. Many international firms base facilities such as warehousing, distribution, and manufacturing in Texas to take advantage of its excellent access to global markets.

In Texas small, medium, and large businesses alike have found great success in doing business globally. Far from being the exclusive domain of large corporations, export trade in Texas is driven by its most innovative, nimble, and oftentimes small firms. In fact, more than 90 percent of all Texas exporters are small businesses – and their numbers continue to grow. With its extensive global ties, Texas has a natural advantage in exporting knowledge-intensive services and has become a major global exporter of high value-added services, including accounting, communications, consulting, engineering, financial, legal, medical, and transportation services.

<https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/small-business/trade-exports>

Requirements for Doing Business in Texas

Office of the Governor Economic Development and Tourism, (800) 843-5789

<http://gov.texas.gov/ecodev/>

Guide to Starting a Small Business in Texas, (512) 936-0100

Includes information regarding registering your company, employer responsibilities, business tax responsibilities, and business license and permit information by industry, <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/start-business>

Domestic Expansion and Recruitment

Serves businesses that want to expand existing Texas operations as well as out-of-state businesses interested in relocating or expanding in Texas. Domestic Expansion & Recruitment serves as a focal point for disseminating business leads to Texas communities.

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=567>

Business License & Permits Listing

The State of Texas does not require a general "business" license; however, there are a number of regulatory agencies that have licensing and permitting requirements based on the type of service, or products associated with your business. To ensure that all permitting requirements are met, you should contact the local county and/or city government in which you plan to conduct business to determine if there are any additional requirements. To determine state occupational licensing and permitting requirements, please visit the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) for more information, <http://www.sba.com/texas/licenses-permits/>

Texas Secretary of State

Registration for Corporations, LLCs, or Partnerships, <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/>

Business Research

Provides economic, demographic data, and access to various databases.

http://gov.texas.gov/ecodev/business_%20research/

Small Business Assistance

The Small Business section serves as a focal point in assisting small and historically underutilized businesses and provides sources of contacts and research information that will assist with federal, state and local business issues for small businesses. <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/start-business>

International Business and Recruitment

The International Business & Recruitment (IBR) Program helps Texas companies expand into foreign markets and assists with recruiting foreign companies to Texas.

<https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/international/services>

Texas Taxes

<http://www.texas.gov/>. If you are conducting business in Texas, it is likely you will have to register your business with the State. Depending on the type of business you conduct, you may also be required to obtain permits, collect and/or pay taxes, and file tax returns.

- **Sales Tax Permits** - To sell taxable items or provide taxable services in Texas, all businesses must have a sales tax permit. The requirement to obtain a Texas sales and use tax permit applies to individuals as well as corporations, firms, partnerships, and all other legal entities.
<http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/sales/questions.html>
- **Corporations and Limited Liability Companies** - doing business in Texas are subject to franchise tax. Find forms, publications, frequently asked questions, and the Franchise Tax Code on the Comptroller website:
<http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/franchise/>

Requirements for Doing Business in Texas

- **Possible Additional Taxes** - Some businesses may have additional Texas business tax responsibilities. Please review this page to find out about any taxes, fees, or special considerations that may apply to you. <http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/>

Employer Responsibilities – <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/businesses/responsibilities-liable-employer>

In addition to federal and state withholding taxes, and the employer's responsibilities for Medicare and social security taxes, employers must also provide Unemployment Insurance coverage for their employees; Worker's Compensation is voluntary.

- **Unemployment Insurance** – for information on Unemployment Insurance, visit <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/businesses/unemployment-tax>, to register online, go to <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/businesses/unemployment-tax-registration>
- **Worker's Compensation** – Texas employers, except for public entities, can choose whether or not to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage for their employees. Workers' compensation provides covered employees with income and medical benefits if they are injured on the job or have a work-related injury or illness. Workers' compensation is regulated by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (the Division). With few exceptions, workers' compensation insurance limits the employer's liability for the work-related injury or death sustained by the worker. (800) 252-7031 <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/employer/index.html>

NORTHEAST TEXAS BUSINESS CONTACTS

Chambers of Commerce

Bowie County:

- New Boston Chamber of Commerce, (903) 628- 2581, <http://www.newbostontx.org/chamber.htm>
- DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, (903) 667-3706 <http://dekalbtexas.org/chamber-of-commerce/>
- Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, (903) 792- 7191, <http://www.texarkanachamber.com/>

Cass County:

- Atlanta Area Chamber of Commerce, (903) 796- 3296, <http://atlantatexas.org/chamber/atlanta-chamber-of-commerce.aspx>
- Linden Chamber of Commerce, (903) 756-3106 <http://lindentexas.org/homepage/>

Gregg County:

- Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, (903)-845- 5501, <http://gladewaterchamber.org/>
- Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, (903) 984-5022, <http://kilgorechamber.com/>
- Longview Chamber of Commerce, (903) 237- 4000, <http://www.longviewchamber.com/>

Harrison County:

- Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce, (903) 935-7868, <http://marshalltexas.com/>

Marion County:

- Marion County Chamber of Commerce, (903) 665-2672, <http://www.jefferson-texas.com/>

Nacogdoches County:

- Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, (936) 560-5533, <http://www.nacogdoches.org/>

Panola County:

- Panola Chamber of Commerce, (903) 693-6634, <http://www.carthagetexas.us/chamber-of-commerce>

Sabine County:

- Sabine County Chamber of Commerce, (409) 787-2732, <http://www.sabinecountytexas.com/>

San Augustine County:

- San Augustine Chamber of Commerce, (936) 275-3610, <http://www.sanaugustinetx.com/>

Shelby County:

- Shelby County Chamber Of Commerce, (936) 598-3682, <http://www.shelbycountychamber.com/>
- Timpson Chamber of Commerce, (936) 254-3500, http://www.cityoftimpson.com/chamber_of_commerce.html

Economic Development Organizations Bowie County:

Bowie County:

- New Boston City Development Corporation, (903) 628-2581, <http://www.newbostontx.org/>
- New Boston Special Industrial Development Corp., (903) 628-6340, <http://www.newbostonsidc.org/>
- City of Nash Industrial Development Corporation, (903) 838-0751, <http://www.nashidc.com/>
- City of Texarkana Economic Development, (903) 798-1715, <http://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us/255/Economic-Development>

Cass County:

- Atlanta Economic Development Corporation, (903) 796-2192, <http://www.atlantatexas.org/economic-development/atlanta-economic-development-corporation.html>
- Atlanta City Development Corporation, (903) 796-6041, <http://www.atlantatexas.org/economic-development/>
- City of Linden Economic Development, (903) 756-7774, <http://lindentexas.org/government/>
- City of Queen City Economic Development, (903) 796-7986 http://www.queencitytx.org/index.asp?SEC=3BB37BCF-2958-4500-99C4-8BABC9EE9B59&Type=B_BASIC, (Revolving Loan Fund)
- City of Marietta Economic Development, (770) 794-5668 <http://www.mariettaqa.gov/city/businesses/ecodev/contact>

Gregg County:

- Gladewater Economic Development Corp., (903) 845-5441, <http://gladewateredc.com/>
- Kilgore Economic Development Corp., (903) 983-3522, <http://www.kilgore-edc.com/>
- Longview Economic Development Corp., (903) 753-7878, <http://longviewusa.com/>

Harrison County:

- City of Longview Economic Development Corp, (800) 952-2613, <http://longviewusa.com/>
- Marshall Economic Development Corporation, (903) 903-8035, <http://marshalledc.org/>

Marion County:

- Jefferson Economic Development Corporation, (903) 665-3922, <http://www.icedc.net/>

Nacogdoches County:

- Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation, (936) 559-1255, <http://www.nedco.org/>

Panola County:

- Carthage Economic Development Corporation, (903) 693-4345, <http://www.carthagetexas.us/carthage-economic>
- Tatum Economic Development Corporation, (903) 947-6403, <http://www.tatumtexas.com/Contact-Us/Tatum-Economic-Development-Corporation.html>

San Augustine County:

- San Augustine Economic Development Corporation, (936) 275-3610

THE  COORDINATING &  DEVELOPMENT  CORPORATION



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