

NETEDD

NORTH EAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Updated June 25, 2026

North East Texas Economic Development District, Inc.



2023-2028

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ABOUT NETEDD

The North East Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) was created in 1966 to help the flow of Economic Development Administration grant and loan funds into the northeast Texas region. NETEDD was designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for nine northeast Texas counties. Members Counties include Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River and Titus. NETEDD is a 501(c)6 nonprofit organization and is governed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives throughout the nine counties. Board members are appointed by each County Judge and represent a cross section of the region's population and economic interest.

The NETEDD utilizes a regionally focused, locally driven approach to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Our goal is to provide a living/dynamic CEDS that encourages meaningful conversation and debate about the best practices, building capacity, and state of the region to best serve our economic development. The 2023-2028 CEDS would not have been possible without the time and service of our valued regional stakeholders. This living document is intended to identify key opportunities for development and growth specific to the needs of the communities within our region.

The 5-year CEDS (updated annually) provides an opportunity to take an in-depth analysis into where NETEDD will be by 2027/2028. NETEDD's location in the middle of the United States is a critical advantage for many industries. Geographically the region covers approximately 5,740 square miles of land and approximately 300 square miles of water (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 Geography). Due to locally-based economic development organizations and initiatives throughout NETEDD's service area, the District's Development Department places an emphasis on providing a supportive role to entities focused on economic development such as chambers of commerce, business associations, local governments, special districts, and economic development corporations.

The CEDS is a pre-requisite for federal designation as an Economic Development District and must be updated at least every five (5) years. The NETEDD CEDS is a working document, approved by the NETEDD Board of Directors, used by both public and private sectors to provide guidance on the economic state of the NETEDD region.

INTRODUCING NETEDD CEDS

The **NETEDD CEDS** is designed for information and a tool for use for grants. The first section is a brief introduction of **The NETEDD Region**.

- **Counties/Cities/Towns/Communities of NETEDD** will detail the Nine (9) Counties, Fifty-two (52) Incorporated Cities/Towns, One (1) Special Purpose District/Redevelopment Authority, and One Hundred Twenty-Eighty (128) Unincorporated Communities in the Northeast corner of Texas. This becomes important when you are identifying the low-income areas and/or beneficiary impacted areas of an application.
- **NETEDD Roads & Highways** have a major impact on much of the region. Major roadway infrastructure upgrades are in process in various parts of the region.
- **NETEDD University(s), Junior Colleges, and School Districts** impact the establishment of many businesses in an area.
- **NETEDD Quality of Life** details some of the best **Outdoor Recreation/ Fishing Areas** in Texas with camp sites and nature trails. **Entertainment Districts/Activity Calendars** are becoming popular in the region with online sites that market events.

The next section is a **Summary Background** of NETEDD during the past Five (5) years (2018 - 2023).

- **Impacts of COVID-19** hit the NETEDD region like the rest of the world. With over 46,773 cases and 1,503 fatalities reported to the CDC (*as of 2023*) in the region, documented food shortages, schools closed, citizens shuttered in by mandate, and health care facilities attempting to keep up with the medical need, NETEDD communities rallied back with resiliency plans and shared information.
- **Broadband** became a major factor as schools were closed, remote workers were utilizing the Internet, citizens were streaming videos and/or music, Non-remote workers were utilizing the Internet on a daily basis, emergency personnel/Hospitals/Clinics were depending on the Internet for data, and wireless equipment/devices were needed to access remote Internet. Nationwide Internet became a major issue; Federal and State funding are now implemented to assist with meeting the needs of every person.
- **HOME Grants** in the Region is a program to offer eligible homeowners that live in sub-standard homes the chance to have their home replaced with quality living space. Over the past Five (5) years, 169 NETEDD region homeowners have benefited through \$18,421,000 in HOME grant funds. for quality living.



- **Industry in the Region** has seen a dramatic increase in Health Care Clinics and 24-hour emergency care units since 2020. Manufacturing and Retail continue to increase. With the major highway upgrades occurring, Fuel Stops combined with convenience stores and food operations have become a trend.
- **Pandemic Funding** brought an influx of funds to the region that brought about new small businesses, saved existing businesses, remodeled businesses for pandemic protection, and refinanced other businesses. NETEDD staff worked diligently with key stakeholders, including SBDC, traditional lenders, and private partners, to provide information and options to small businesses in the NETEDD region.

Regional SOAR Analysis Chart leads in to the Strategic Plan, Visions and Goals, and the Action Plans.

- By understanding identified aspects and factors, leaders throughout the NETEDD can better position their firms and organizations for action.
- These aspects can be used to leverage opportunities and mitigate risks to the economic wellbeing of the region.
- Visions and Plans are derived from the SOAR Chart and goals and objectives are determined for a period of time.
- Often analyzing the chart brings across Strength, Opportunity, Aspiration, and Risk in a Region for the same aspect - some need more actions than others in the continued growth of economic development.

Strategic Plan will guide the District with tools provided by these Strategic Directions as identified by the NETEDD Board of Directors.

- The Board identifies the actions necessary to reach the Strategic Direction.
- At the end of the calendar year, the District's performance will be evaluated by the Board of Directors.
- The reporting methodology in place will determine the effectiveness of the performance measure (PM) and whether these targets were achieved.

Vision and Goals will agree with the Seven identified areas of the Strategic Plan.

Action Plan Goals/Objectives will follow the identified areas of the Strategic Plan.



Population & Growth starts the 2023 - 2028 NETEDD CEDS information. The region had a steady growth since 2010 until 2020. With the 2020 Census, the population declined across the region and the projection moving into the future reflect this decline. NETEDD contracted a population study in cooperation with the Sulphur River Basin Authority as valid data impacts water utilities, housing and future projections, which are important for economic growth.

Workforce & Education work together for citizens looking for specific jobs and training needs. With closures such as U.S. Steel in Morris County, Coalmine closures in Hopkins, Titus, and Franklin counties, and layoffs at Red River Army Depot and other industries in the region, education has become more important for citizens to “relearn” new skills for job placements.

Educational Development indicates that more students are graduating from High School and pursuing higher education. **All NETEDD counties** have been impacted by higher education numbers since the Pandemic. Targeting the High School students that are planning on higher education should be a focus to ensure that education is available to meet the NETEDD economic development needs and assist with less migration after graduation.

Economic Resiliency is not a new concept. The devastating impact of COVID-19 was not something that could be planned for or mitigated in advance. As a region, improvements in many areas of Economic and Regional Development, were identified to help mitigate future pandemics, and/or economic downturns.

Hazard Mitigation, as part of the State of Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan or City/County Hazard Mitigation Plan, is vital for planning to reduce or eliminate hazardous conditions that:

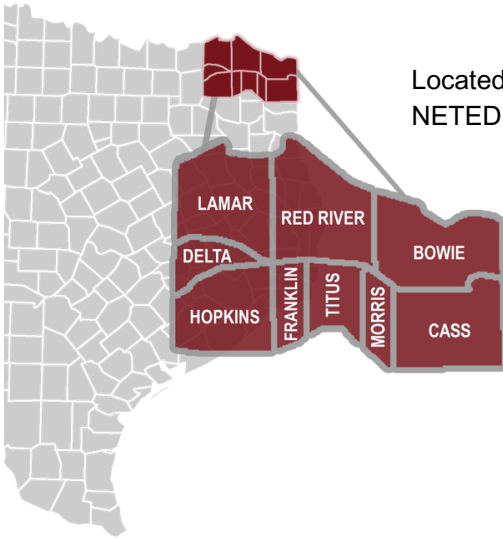
- Cause Loss of Life
- Inflict Injury
- Cause Property Damage, or
- Degrade Important Natural Resources

All of the Nine (9) counties have Hazard Mitigation Plans. Some are in various stages of plan renewal as the greatest challenge has been funding.

County data details information about all Nine (9) NETEDD counties.

Statistics and Relevant Information follows the county data.

THE NETEDD REGION



Located in the Northeast corner of Texas, NETEDD is made up of:

9 Counties

52 Incorporated Cities/Towns

1 Special Purpose District

128 Unincorporated Communities

BOWIE COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: De Kalb, Hooks, Leary, Maud, Nash, New Boston, Red Lick, Red Water, Texarkana, Wake Village

Special Purpose District/Redevelopment Authority: TexAmericas Center

Unincorporated Communities: Basset, Beaver Dam, Boston, Burns, Carbondale, College Hill, Corley, Dalby Springs, Hoot, Hubbard, Malta, Oak Grove, Old Boston, Old Salem, Old Union, Red Bank, Siloam, Simms, South Texarkana, Spring Hill, Victory City, Wamba, Ward Creek.

CASS COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: Atlanta, Hughes Springs, Linden, Queen City

Incorporated Towns: Avinger, Bloomburg, Domino, Douglassville, Marietta

Unincorporated Communities: Almira, Antioch, Bivins, Bryans Mill, Carterville, Cass, Cornett, Cusseta, Dalton, Fairview, Gum Springs, Huffins, Kildare, Lanark, Lanier, New Colony, Nickleberry, O'Farrell, Patman, Pruitt, Red Hill, Roach, Smyrna, Springdale, Three States

DELTA COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: Cooper, Pecan Gap

Unincorporated Communities: Antioch, Ben Franklin, Charleston, Crossroads, East Delta, Enloe, Horton, Jot 'Em Down, Kensing, Klondike, Lake Creek, Pacio, Rattan, Vasco, Yowell

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Incorporated City: Winnsboro

Incorporated Town: Mount Vernon

Unincorporated Communities: Clearwater, Cypress, Daphne, Eureka, Hagansport, Hopewell, Lakeview, Macon, Majors, New Hope, Purley, Scoggins

HOPKINS COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: Cumby, Sulphur Springs

Incorporated Towns: Como, Tira

Unincorporated Communities: Addran, Birthright, Brashear, Dike, Gafford, Miller Grove, Pickton, Saltillo, Sulphur Bluff

LAMAR COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: Blossom, Deport, Paris, Reno, Roxton, Sun Valley, Toco

Census Designated Place: Powderly

Unincorporated Communities: Adams, Ambia, Arthur City, Atlas, Brookston, Byrdtown, Caviness, Chicota, Cunningham, Glory, Hopewell, Midcity, Milton, Pattonville, Petty, Sumner

MORRIS COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: Daingerfield, Hughes Springs, Lone Star, Omaha

Incorporated Towns: Naples

Unincorporated Communities: Cason, Jenkins, Rocky Branch, Snow Hill, Wheatville

RED RIVER COUNTY

Incorporated City: Bogata, Clarksville, Deport, Detroit

Incorporated Town: Annona, Avery

Unincorporated Communities: Aikin Grove, Albion, Acworth, Addielou, Bagwell, Boxelder, Cuthand, Dimple, English, Hopewell, Maple, Negley, McCoinville, Peters Prairie

TITUS COUNTY

Incorporated Cities: Mount Pleasant, Talco, Winfield

Incorporated Towns: Cookville, Miller's Cove

Unincorporated Communities: Argo, Blodgett, Bridges Chapel, Green Hill, Maple Springs, Midway, Monticello, White Oak, Wilkinson



NETEDD REGION

ROADS & HIGHWAYS

BOWIE COUNTY

Interstate Highways: I-30, I-49, I-369

US Highways: US 59, US 67, US 71, US 82, US 259

State Highways: SH 8, SH 93, SH 98

Farm-to-Market Roads: FM 44, FM 558, FM 559, FM 560, FM 989

CASS COUNTY:

US Highways: US 59

State Highways: SH 8, SH 11, SH 77, SH 155

Farm-to-Market Roads: FM 248, FM 250

DELTA COUNTY:

State Highways: SH 19, SH 24, SH 154

FRANKLIN COUNTY:

Interstate Highways: I-30

US Highways: US 67, US 271

State Highways: SH 11, SH 37

HOPKINS COUNTY:

Interstate Highways: I-30

US Highways: US 67

State Highways: SH 11, SH 19, SH 154, SH 301

LAMAR COUNTY

US Highways: US 82, US 271

State Highways: SH 19, SH 24

MORRIS COUNTY

Interstate Highways: I-30,

US Highways: US 67, US 259

State Highways: SH 11, SH 49, SH 77, SH 338

Farm-to-Market Roads: FM 130, FM 144, FM

161, FM 250

TITUS COUNTY

Interstate Highways: I-30

US Highways: US 67, US 271

State Highways: SH 11, SH 49

RED RIVER COUNTY

US Highways: US 82, US 271

State Highways: SH 37



NETEDD REGION

COLLEGE/ SCHOOL

DISTRICTS

BOWIE COUNTY

Junior College/University: Texarkana College, Texarkana College TexAmericas Center, Texas A&M University Texarkana (TAMUT)

School Districts: De Kalb ISD, Hooks ISD, Hubbard ISD, Leary ISD, Liberty-Eylau ISD, Malta ISD, Maud ISD, New Boston ISD, Pleasant Grove ISD, Red Lick ISD, Redwater ISD, Simms ISD, Texarkana ISD

CASS COUNTY

Junior College/University: Texarkana College Atlanta Learning Center

School Districts: Atlanta ISD, Avinger ISD, Bloomburg ISD, Hughes Springs ISD, Linden-Kildare CISD, McLeod ISD, Pewitt CISD. Queen City ISD

DELTA COUNTY

School Districts: Cooper ISD

FRANKLIN COUNTY

School Districts: Mount Vernon ISD

HOPKINS COUNTY

Junior College/University: Paris Junior College - Sulphur Springs Center

School Districts: Como-Pickton CISD, Cumby ISD, Miller Grove ISD, North Hopkins ISD, Saltillo ISD, Sulphur Bluff ISD, Sulphur Springs ISD

LAMAR COUNTY

Junior College/University: Paris Junior College

School Districts: Chisum ISD, Honey Grove ISD, North Lamar ISD, Paris ISD, Prairiland ISD

MORRIS COUNTY

School Districts: Daingerfield-Lone Star ISD, Hughes Springs ISD, Pewett CISD

RED RIVER COUNTY

School Districts: Avery ISD, Clarksville ISD, Detroit ISD, Rivercrest ISD

TITUS COUNTY

Junior College/University: Northeast Texas Community College

School Districts: Chapel Hill ISD, Harts Bluff ISD, Mount Pleasant ISD





Lake Wright Patman

NETEDD REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION

LAKE WRIGHT PATMAN

Located on the Sulphur River in Bowie and Cass counties, approximately 10,994 surface acres. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Blue catfish, Channel catfish, Flathead catfish, Crappie, Sunfish, and White bass.

CADDO LAKE

Caddo Lake is a 25,400-acre lake and bayou on the border between Texas and Louisiana. East of Jefferson, the site offers boat tours, fishing, camping, and wildlife. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Crappie, White bass, Yellow bass, and Bream. Channel catfish, Blue catfish, and flathead catfish are present and provide a good seasonal fishing opportunity.

LAKE BOB SANDLIN

Lake Bob Sandlin, located on Big Cypress Creek, is approximately six (6) miles southwest of Mount Pleasant and six (6) miles northwest of Pittsburg, Texas. The lake is located in Camp, Franklin, Titus, and Wood counties and covers an area of 9,004 acres with 75 miles of shoreline. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Spotted bass, Catfish, Crappie, Bluegill, and redear sunfish.



LAKE MONTICELLO

Fishing Lake Monticello is one of the most popular largemouth bass fisheries in Texas. Monticello reservoir is located approximately two and one-half miles east of Monticello in Titus County on Blundell Creek, a tributary of Big Cypress Creek. Surface area is 2,001 acres. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Channel catfish, Bluegill and redear sunfish.

LAKE OF THE PINES

Lake of the Pines is a reservoir on Big Cypress Bayou, also known as Big Cypress Creek. The lake covers approximately 18,700 acres. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Spotted bass, Blue catfish, Channel catfish, Flathead catfish, White bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Chain pickerel.

JIM CHAPMAN LAKE

Jim Chapman, also known as Cooper Lake, is a 19,305 acre impoundment located in Delta County. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Walleye, Crappie, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, and sunfish.

LAKE PAT MAYSE

Pat Mayse is located in the Red River Basin in Lamar County. Approximately 12 miles north of Paris on Sanders Creek with a surface area of 5,940, the lake was impounded in 1967. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Spotted bass, White bass, Crappie, and Catfish.

LAKE FORK

Lake Fork is world renown for trophy bass, located approximately 15 miles south of Sulphur Springs on Highway 154. The lake covers 27,000 surface acres.. Fishing on the lake offers Largemouth bass, Crappie, Bluegill, and Catfish.

ENTERTAINMENT

- North East/East Texas Things To Do
- Sulphur Springs Attractions
- Events in Paris Tour Texas
- Mount Pleasant Special Events
- Atlanta Event Calendar
- Mount Vernon Downtown Attractions
- New Boston Entertainment District
- Texarkana Downtown Entertainment Districts



Meat Processing

REGIONAL SUMMARY IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic was a defining moment in our regional and national history. The impacts will shape our economic ecosystem for years to come. Since 2019, NETEDD, along with the rest of the nation, has suffered through the COVID-19 pandemic with over 1,435 fatalities reported to the CDC that directly impacted the NETEDD region. While the region is in the recovery stages of communities, businesses, and economic growth, the lessons learned regarding the lack of broadband during a major pandemic crisis, the lack of local food production facilities within the region, and the major changes that were occurring in restaurants/fast food service became evident.

During COVID-19 some immediate needs became evident throughout the region. Northeast Texas did not have the ability to meet the the food needs of the population without bringing the products in from other regions and/or states. When COVID-19 impacted food chain locations the food shortage had a dramatic impact on the entire region. As the region began to recover and assess the needs, an emphasis was placed on bringing local "meat processing" facilities and "local food producers" to the region in various location to meet the needs of the Northeast Texas and beyond.

Restaurants and fast food sites within the region had to find a way to protect their employees and their customers. During a pandemic that was not selective of age or race, many citizens refused to believe that it was more than a flu like epidemic. This created issues for many businesses across the nation. Restaurants and fast food services began to offer drive thru or delivery only. Staffing became a problem for many with illness and/or death throughout the region. Even with the help of government subsidies many food services closed completely never to reopen. Other "new" small food businesses took advantage of the shortages and opened up their dream with the help of low interest funding.



JOB REDUCTIONS & RIPPLING COVID-19 EFFECTS

➡ The NETEDD region has shifted in the quality of some jobs in Northeast Texas in the last few years with losses in higher paying jobs and increases in retail, service, and medical related jobs. In the last decade alone, there have been significant layoffs and closures that have impacted our region. Red River Army Depot sent out notice of **layoff to 600 employees** March 2018; Pilgrim's Pride (a large food producer in the region) filed for Bankruptcy and was bought out by JBS industries (with a **loss of over 300 jobs**); Luminant Mines at Sulphur Springs (**26 employees**), Winfield (**29 employees**), and Mount Pleasant (**27 employees**) **laid off over 80 jobs** to become permanent with the coalmine closures; U.S. Steel Total Shutdown in 2020 caused the job **loss of 1,500 employees** at Lone Star Tubular, Wheeling Machine – Hughes Springs, and Fairfield Tubular. The U.S. Steel Plant in Lone Star plant released approximately **600 employees** with their official closing of the site. Husqvarna Nashville plant announced that the production facility would close the doors by the end of 2024 with over **650 employees** living in and around the ATCOG region losing their jobs. J. Skinner Baking, who made an appearance in Paris in 2012 closed their doors **eliminating almost 140 jobs**. ➡

These are just some of the significant layoffs and closures in Northeast Texas. COVID-19 changed the dynamics of many workforces. After many locations realized that remote work was possible, office locations closed leaving the unemployed seeking education to meet the growing demand of the remote workforce needs.

➡ **Key information for Grants**



REGIONAL SUMMARY BROADBAND/INTERNET

The Internet in homes, schools, and offices has become a normal part of life. In the Spring of 2020, when sheltering in place meant many businesses were closed, people were working remote, and schools were closed expecting many students to study remotely, Northeast Texas, along with most rural areas, found how lacking in broadband services the region was.

The Federal Government realized that this was a nationwide problem and funds became readily available. Major providers bid on various locations throughout the U.S. with a guarantee to meet specific deadlines of service provision. Regulations seem to change regarding speeds, in-ground fiber, overhead lines, satellite service providers, who could apply for funds, who meets eligibility, etc.

Ark-Tex Council of Governments (with NETEDD) contracted for a broadband report of the region. The report started with various surveys to get a better understanding of the true state of broadband in the Northeast Texas Region. The information may be used as supportive data for future funding needs. The report is available online and provided to all counties.

The report identified the following: **(1) Counties need to develop a County-wide Broadband strategy** utilizing the information gathered from the survey and data; **(2) The County should** not become the internet provider but **focus on developing public/private partnerships**; **(3) Improved and Affordable Fiber and Wireless is Needed** - many residents and businesses rely on poor Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Internet access and need an alternative; **(4) Grant Funds need seeking**; **(5) Manage Expectations** - the current deficiencies took decades to develop, proposed improvements should be approached as a multi-year process; **(6) Counties need to develop Partnerships with WISP's and ISP's**. Wireless Internet Service Providers and ISPs suggestions should help inform the broadband strategy for the County; and **(7) Develop a Long-Term Funding Strategy**- be prepared when the next grant is available.

BROADBAND
MAPS

BROADBAND SURVEY
RESULTS

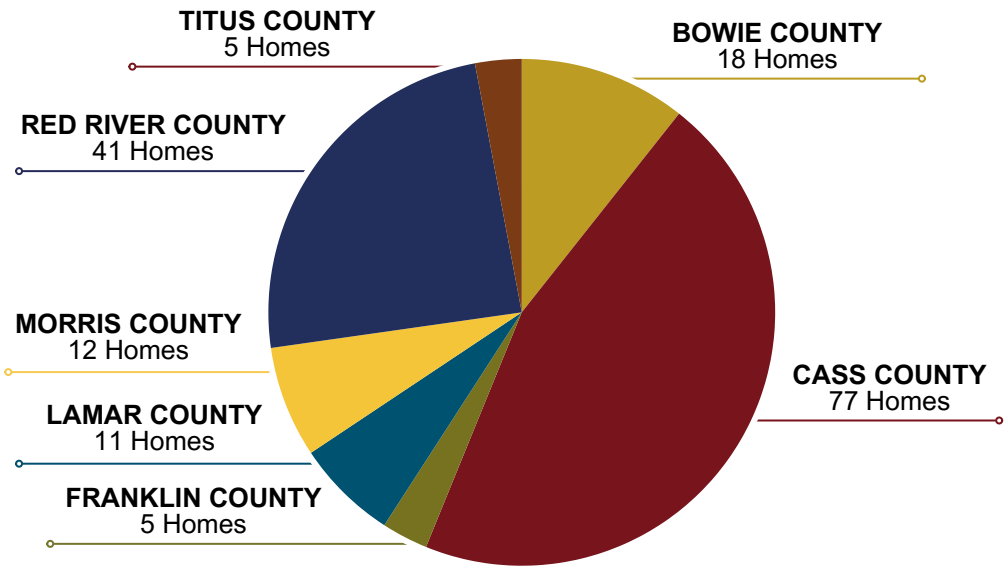


REGIONAL SUMMARY

REGIONAL HOME GRANTS

In the past five years, seven of our nine counties have participated in the HOME program. This program is not a competitive grant process! Any of the ATCOG region cities or counties that wish to participate in the program are eligible. Over the past five years, approximately \$18,421,000 has been expended to provide decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for eligible home-owners. The counties that have benefitted the HOMES through this program are in the graph below. TDHCA has an annual allocation and it has been sufficient to meet the demand. Funding amounts change as well as demands. This is a great program to offer eligible homeowners that live in sub-standard homes.

HOME PROGRAM
PER COUNTY HOMES BENEFITED

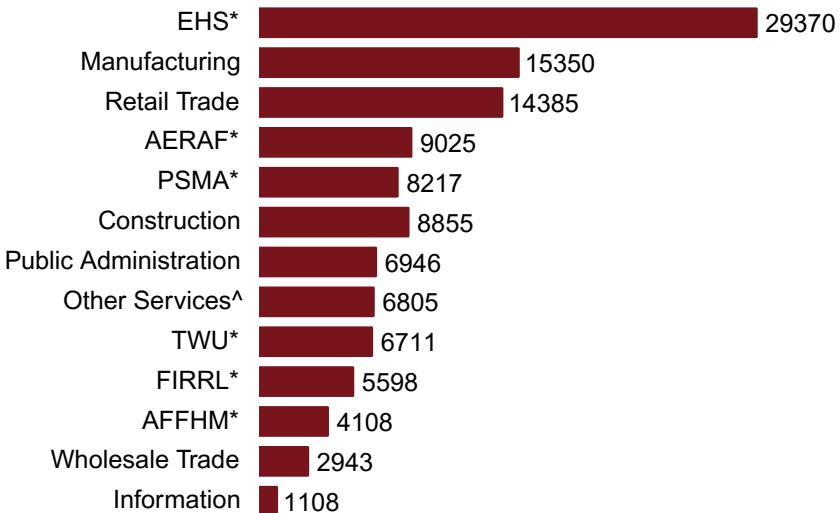


REGIONAL SUMMARY

INDUSTRY IN THE REGION

Many industries within the NETEDD region dropped slightly since the 2018 CEDS primarily due to COVID 19. With the influx of funds to assist some business modify their mode of operations (namely food operations), the dynamics have changed in the way many food and other services continue to provide services. Health Care Finance industries as well as Manufacturing increased significantly in the NETEDD region. Industry in the NETEDD region, as indicated by the chart reflects a dramatic difference in Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance. Health Care Clinics and 24-hour emergency care units emerged throughout the region (except Delta County). Manufacturing and Retail continue to increase and various food service sites are opening throughout various parts of the region. With the major highway upgrades occurring, Fuel Stops combined with convenience stores and food operations are becoming a trend.

NETEDD INDUSTRY



*EHS: Education, Healthcare, Social Assistance

*AERAF: Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, Food

*PSMA: Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative

*TWU: Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities

*FIRRL: Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, Leasing

*AFFHM: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Mining

^Except Public Administration





REGIONAL SUMMARY DURING & POST PANDEMIC FUNDING

New businesses benefited from funds that became available during and after COVID-19. Businesses that were in jeopardy of closing were afforded the ability to remain viable while other businesses took advantage of expansions and refinancing to ease economic burden. Key stakeholders, including SBDC, traditional lenders, and private partners, provided excellent referrals for their communities to maintain and boost economic activity.

It must be noted several businesses who did not take advantage of any forms of assistance, such as EIDL, PPP, or RLF low interest funding have shuttered or completely closed for business since COVID-19. Funding resources provided through various state and federal agencies that came about during and after the pandemic include:

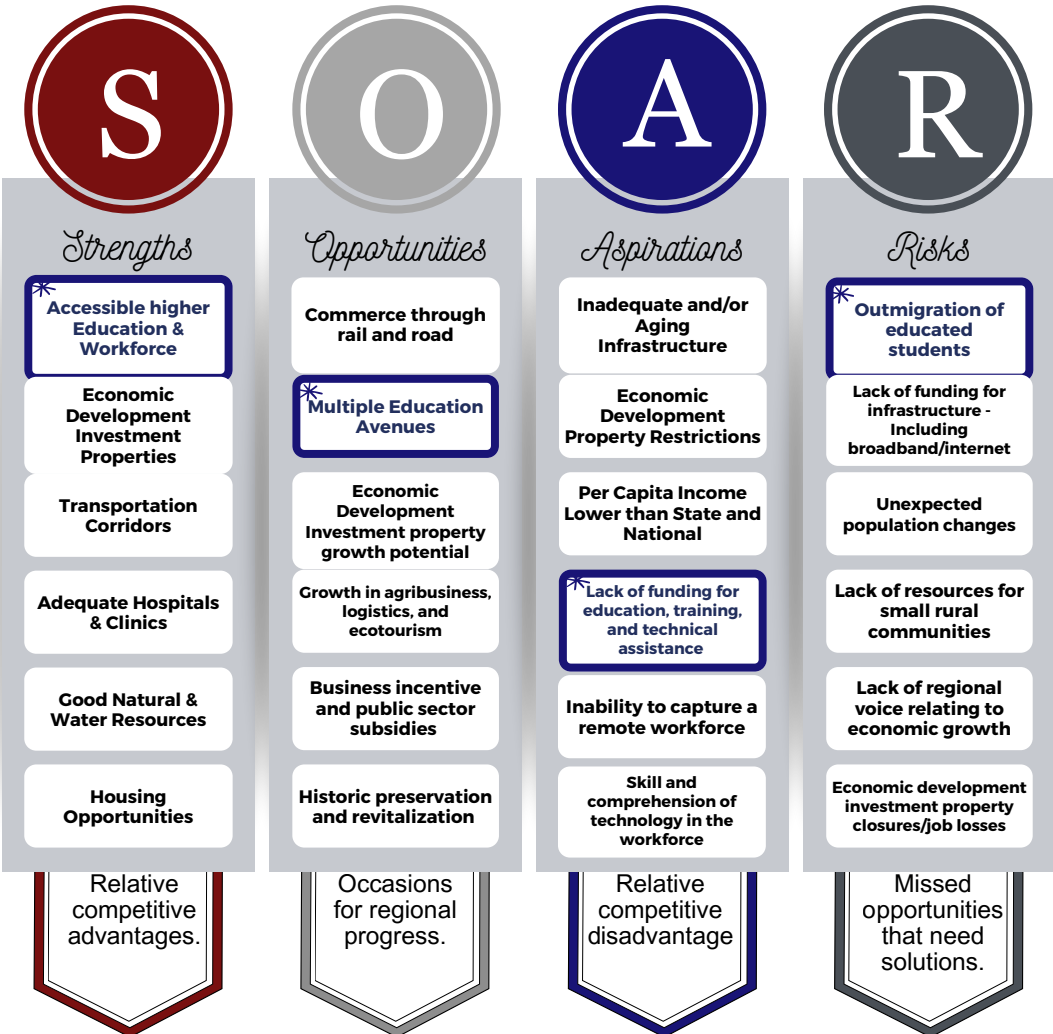
- **CARES ACT**
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
- **ARPA Act**
The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or American Rescue Plan
- **EIDL**
COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan
- **PPP**
Paycheck Protection Program
- **RLF**
Revolving Loan Fund

For more information on funding resources, click the acronyms above.



REGIONAL SOAR ANALYSIS

Analyzing something as simple as a chart can bring to light that [Education](#), for instance, can play a role in Strength, Opportunity, Aspiration, and Risk in a Region yet be such a vital part of economic development.



The North East Texas Economic Development District, Inc. is fortunate to have stakeholders who are committed to their communities and desire to contribute to the implementation of this CEDS. The NETEDD Board of Directors is comprised of a group of stakeholders from throughout the region's local governments to ensure that the diverse perspectives and interests in the region are reflected, as well as to give the NETEDD efficacy in implementing the CEDS. The Visions, Goals, and Action Plans will be utilized as a tool for the North East Texas Economic Development District, Inc. The CEDS will guide the District with tools provided by these Strategic Directions as identified by the NETEDD Board of Directors. Below, the Board identifies the actions necessary to reach the Strategic Direction. As such, at the end of the calendar year, the District's performance will be evaluated by the Board of Directors. The methodology in place will determine the effectiveness of the performance measure (PM) and whether these targets were achieved. A review of 2025/2026 indicates that the seven (7) targets remain in effect.

1. **Increase communication** through regional information regarding Funding opportunities, Housing and Aging information, and any handbooks available for regional improvement.
2. **Support the development of a skilled and technical workforce** by-way of enhanced cooperation and support between the Northeast Texas Workforce Commission, new/existing employers and regional educational institutions.
3. **Offer competitively priced financing** for existing and new small businesses in the region by offering SBDC training, RLF loans, Workforce Commission cooperation and other services that promote small business retention and growth.
4. **Support the creation of higher paying and meaningful jobs** in an economically depressed region by attracting new businesses to the region that offers higher skilled and higher wage jobs.
5. **Support counties as they increase broadband** infrastructure needed to support business growth, remote education, and remote workers.
6. **Seek and promote funding for economic assistance** to develop infrastructure, industrial parks, and other public projects.
7. **Disaster Recovery and Economic Resilience** to anticipate and respond.



NETEDD will coordinate with counties, cities, economic development corporations, communities, businesses, funding agencies, and all partners in the Northeast Texas area to maximize economic growth in the region.

GOAL 1: INCREASE COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

The ATCOG, through its Regional and Economic Development Departments, shares information with local governments and businesses, provides information regarding funding opportunities and best practices, and offers training avenues which allow more economic growth in the region. Staff will share the information in the updated Web-Site: CEDS for more immediate statistical information. The CEDS is to provide more information for grants and regional details.

GOAL 2: EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

The NETEDD Region has a less well-educated workforce than state averages. While somewhat equal numbers hold a high school diploma, the percentage with Bachelor's degrees or higher educational levels is significantly less than state averages. In Delta, Franklin, and Morris, the 18-24 year old with college or Associates degree exceeds the Texas average. All other ages with Associates and/or Bachelors or higher are significantly lower than state and national averages. In that education relates to skills, these low education levels results in low wages and higher poverty rates for the region. Consequently, average annual wages continue to be significantly lower in the NETEDD Region than all state comparison areas. The local High Schools and Community Colleges work together with students to help prepare them for the workforce. Quality education and quality training are vital to meet the needs of today's fast moving industries and in developing an equitable workforce.



GOAL 3: OFFER AFFORDABLE FINANCING TO BUSINESSES IN THE REGION FOR EXPANSION

Developing new and expanding industrial opportunities will produce the benefits of creating new jobs, an increased tax base, business opportunities, and new/expanding industrial development. Development poses significant challenges for our region such as (1) providing regional economic coordination and technical assistance (2) the need for new infrastructure (3) the need for business financing capital, and (4) workforce development and technical training. The availability of business capital and a trained labor force are vital for this region to sustain its current and future economic growth. These challenges must be met for Northeast Texas to remain attractive to existing and new industries and to remain competitive with other regions, both nationally and internationally.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTIES BRINGING NEW BUSINESSES AND JOBS TO THE REGION.

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments established under State law for the purpose of promoting intergovernmental cooperation and strengthening local units of government within Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties, Texas. The ATCOG, through its Regional and Economic Development Departments, provides services within our region to promote the expansion of existing underutilized properties and newly planned developments which benefits the citizens within the region. While working in conjunction and partnering with the North East Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) to encourage economic growth, the region has experienced progressive job creation and ongoing economic development. Revitalization of property through resiliency planning is a vital part of growth. NETEDD will concentrate on coalmine properties, TexAmericas Center (former Red River Army Depot), Economic Development Corporation sites that have growth potential, and low income high poverty areas to offer underserved communities job potentials.





GOAL 5: SUPPORT COUNTIES WITH BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Affordable high-speed Internet is essential to the future growth and prosperity of counties and communities. Broadband has become an essential infrastructure that is lacking throughout the NETEDD region. The NETEDD has provided Broadband Study for all nine (9) counties through EDA funding. The study for each county details basic guidelines and maps of providers, RDOF funds awarded, areas with no service, speeds, etc. The NETEDD and other providers will be able to utilize this data to assist the counties with funding options and/or applications for eligible areas. 2026 brought a Broadband 3-year Regional planning opportunity to ATCOG through an agreement with Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and the Broadband Development Office (BDO) to assist counties with plan development.

GOAL 6: SEEK FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Texarkana, Texas (Bowie County) Metropolitan Statistical Area and Paris, Texas (Lamar County) Micropolitan Statistical Area, the two MSA's in the region, are both experiencing steady and robust economic development. Texarkana, the largest MSA in the NETEDD Region, has undergone major infrastructure activity as a result of the expansion of Interstate activity by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and consequently will continue to be a major and more efficient thoroughfare for traffic from Little Rock, Arkansas and Dallas, Texas. However, many of the rural communities and rural portions of the Region, are increasingly experiencing the detrimental impact of high unemployment, out migration, reducing per capita income and increasing poverty rates. The staff of NETEDD continues to be diligent in its efforts to promote the retention, creation and increase in employment levels in the Region it serves, as well as meeting the goals and objectives in its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Job retention and creation is the primary focus of NETEDD, and this objective is being supported through EDA Economic Development and Public Works grants, EDA RLF Loans, TxCDBG grants, and other RLF loans and grants.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bowie County

- The Honorable Bobby Howell, County Judge
- Mr. Scott Norton, CEO – TexAmericas Center (**VICE PRESIDENT**)

Cass County

- The Honorable Travis Ransom, County Judge (**SECRETARY**)

Delta County

- The Honorable Tanner Crutcher, County Judge
- The Honorable Seth Cox, County Commissioner

Franklin County

- The Honorable Scott Lee, County Judge (**TREASURER**)

Hopkins County

- The Honorable Robert Newson, County Judge

Lamar County

- The Honorable Brandon Bell, County Judge

Morris County

- The Honorable Doug Reeder, County Judge

Red River County

- The Honorable Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

Titus County

- The Honorable Kent Cooper, County Judge

ATCOG Staff

- Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
- Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
- Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director
- Melody Harmon, Economic Development Director
- Holly Willige, Development Specialist
- Kathy McCollum, Hazard Mitigation/Development Specialist





GOAL 7: DISASTER RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Establishing economic resilience in a local or regional economy requires the ability to anticipate risk, evaluate how that risk can impact key economic assets, and build a responsive capacity. As one of the most distressed parts of the state, the NETEDD Region will continue to be plagued with many economic challenges in the coming years. However, resolutions of these challenges are attainable with the support from the following partners and advocates:

- U.S Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Small Business Administration
- Housing and Urban Development
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Homeland Security
- Ark-Tex Council of Governments
- Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
- Texas Department of Economic Development
- Texas Office of Rural and Community Affairs
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- County Officials
- City Officials
- Economic Development Corporations
- Housing Authorities & Affordable Housing Developers
- Educational Institutions
- Private Foundation



Item 1: Promote Economic Development

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
Increased involvement with local governments and businesses to promote economic development of the region.	Assist local governments in planning to support economic development and leadership development that results in lower unemployment and poverty rates in the local community and the region.	Number of jobs created; and/or number of projects resulting in job retention; number of technical assistance visits made on job creation/retention projects; decreased unemployment in the region.
Provide assistance to governmental entities in region to promote economic development.	Provide planning and technical assistance to communities in the region that result in new businesses or expansion & job creation.	Number of EDA proposals submitted during fiscal year; number of technical assistance visits to communities during fiscal year
Maximize growth in Distressed areas including Opportunity Zones	To increase economic growth in low income / economically distressed areas	Number of Proposals, grants, loans, and businesses in Distressed Areas and/or Opportunity Zones
Increased involvement with local governments, businesses, and communities to insure CEDS is completed with valid data	Provide updated information for planning and technical assistance to communities in the region.	Completed CEDS for the region

Item 2: Education and Workforce

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
Development of higher educated, skilled and Technological workforce ready to fill the employment needs of new and existing businesses.	Raise standard of living for residents of the region by emphasizing higher education & technical skills as route to higher wages.	Number of semi and skilled workers with increase in per capita income.
Increased involvement with local workforce to increase the employment within the region	Provide updated information from employers on job needs; work with workforce and employers for employment opportunities	Compare unemployment numbers annually

Item 3: Offer Available Affordable Financing

Make available affordable financing to businesses in region for expansion.	Source of economic development finance programs for small businesses and local Economic Development Corporations.	Number of loans outstanding in NETEDD RLF, SBA 504, ETRAP RLF, Chapman & RLF portfolios.
Maximize loans for businesses in Distressed Areas or Opportunity Zones	Increase economic growth in low income areas through low interest loans	Number of loans for businesses in Distressed Areas Opportunity Zones
Provide information on the funding mechanisms that are available to improve their resources	Educate Communities on the availability of 504 and RLF's available and the benefit of low interest financing	Number of education units provided



Item 4: Support Infrastructure in Underdeveloped Areas

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
Infrastructure for Economic Growth	Increase funding efforts in brownfield, coalmine, and existing underutilized economic development properties.	Number of New Businesses that are funded and move in to the target properties
Upgraded aged infrastructure (water, sewer, roadway)	Decrease in increased maintenance expense for aged infrastructure upkeep.	Number of grants for infrastructure upgrades
Maximize property utilization in Opportunity Zone/Higher poverty areas	Target Opportunity Zones for economic development to increase job potentials and decrease the poverty rates	Number of job opportunities in Opportunity Zones and decreased poverty rates

Item 5: Support Counties with Broadband Needs

Educate the county on data in the Broadband Survey report	Help the county understand the maps and the data available for possible funding	Increase funding option for Broadband in the counties
Provide current information related to Broadband in Texas	Keep counties informed vis newsletters and constant contact mailers	Number of Newsletters and Mailers for more informed region
Provide assistance with funding application(s)	Increase the funds available for Broadband services	Number of applications submitted for Broadband services

Item 6: Seek Infrastructure Funding for Commercial & Industrial Growth

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
Upgrade infrastructure for commercial, and industrial economic growth.	Retain Jobs	Number of EDA grants, RLF Loans, TxCDBG grants, and SBA loans.
New infrastructure for commercial, and industrial economic growth.	Create Jobs	Number of EDA grants, RLF Loans, TxCDBG grants, and SBA loans.
Expand infrastructure for commercial, and industrial economic growth.	Increase in employment levels	Number of EDA grants, RLF Loans, TxCDBG grants, and SBA loans.

Item 7: Disaster Recovery and Economy Resiliency

Provide assistance to government entities in the region to build plans to enhance their response capacity.	Maintain active plans for the nine (9) counties in the NETEDD region	Number of 5-Year Hazard Mitigation plans submitted during the fiscal year.
Provide assistance to government entities in the region to remain in annual compliance with FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plans.	Increase government annual knowledge of Hazard Mitigation Plans.	Number of FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plans reviewed with government entities during the fiscal year.
Provide training on utilization of Hazard Mitigation Actions and resilience in grant applications	Utilize information in Hazard Mitigation Plans in EDA applications - resiliency, etc.	Number of training sessions



In the 2018 CEDS, we indicated that the region had been steadily growing since 2010. This appeared to remain the case until 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments in cooperation with the Sulphur River Basin Authority contracted out a population study to gain a better understanding of potential growth patterns within the region and counties. This study will:

- Educate decision makers and the public;
- Support SRBA in estimating water needs;
- Examine existing deficiencies and the impact on local economies as a result of COVID-19;
- Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; and
- Communicate with Region D Water Planning Group and Region 2 Flood Planning Group.

Population Estimates below are based on ATCOG SRBA

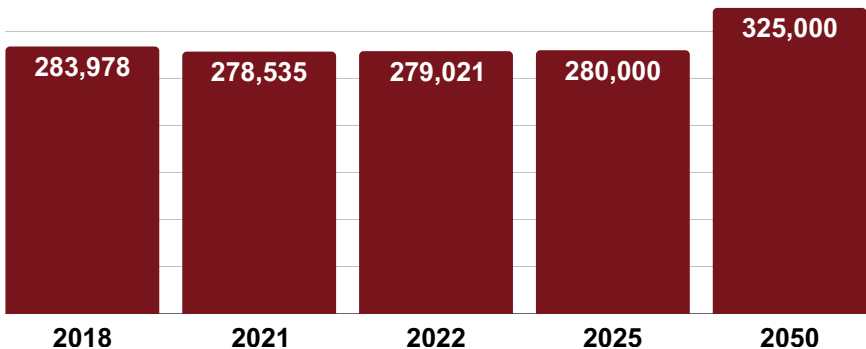
Click each button below to access the full documents:

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

**FULL
REPORT**

**POPULATION/
HOUSING
PROJECTIONS**

POPULATION



*Population estimates charted above are based on Census.gov. data

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

WORKFORCE

The Workforce Solutions of Northeast Texas provides services to the NETEDD Region (Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus County) to help employer and employees come together to meet workforce needs for economic and community development continued growth in the region. Workforce Solutions has a Local Workforce Development Plan that offers training to employers and employees seeking employment opportunities.

In the NETEDD Workforce Development Area, in August 2022 124,201 citizens were in the labor force with 5,506 Unemployed (4.4%) while August 2023 126,409 citizens are in the labor force with 5,923 Unemployed (4.7%). The number of employed have increased by 2,208. The NETEDD region needs to decrease the unemployment rate. For more information:

- **Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas**
- **Local Workforce Development Plan**
- **Workforce Solution Offices**
- **Texas Labor Market Information**

EDUCATION

Education is becoming a critical component of many “specific” jobs. Many employees are increasing their education while on the job while others are deciding on their career path prior to engaging in the workforce. The young citizens of the NETEDD are looking for work/life challenges that meet their individual needs and it falls on the communities and the education units to meet that challenge. The NETEDD region has multiple Junior College, and Universities offering education programs that can meet the needs of the individuals continuing their education, the individuals working towards a degree in a specific field, or the individual seeking a certificate in a specialized field. Each of these locations have online information about their programs and degree plans.

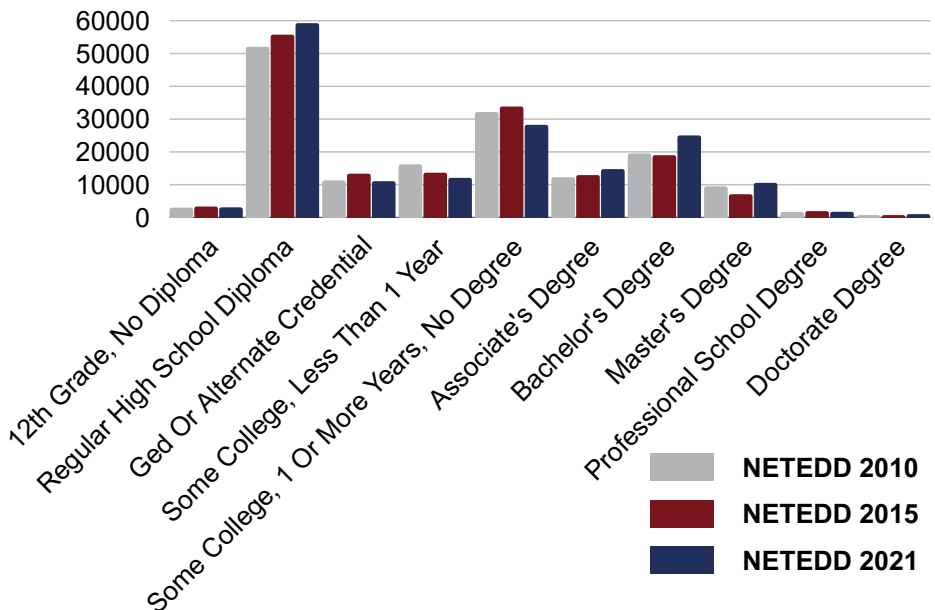


EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A review of education since 2010 reflects that all nine (9) counties were impacted by education as a necessary component of many “specific” jobs. While some employers are providing on-the-job training, citizens throughout the region are seeking higher levels of education. Compared to 2010 and 2015, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Morris and Red River counties have decreased the number of 12th grade students with no diplomas. Virtually all of the counties have increased the number of Regular High School Diplomas which resulted in an increase of High School Graduates from 2015 by 3,506 possible students going to college or the workforce.

Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Professional school, and Doctorate degrees are the greatest achievements in the NETEDD region. While there was not as much movement between 2010 and 2015, by 2021 the importance of education seems to have impacted all of the counties. Multiple closures of coal mines, complete closure of U.S. Steel and industries that may have been impacted, COVID-19 and changes in scopes of work all may have been significant factors as well as the possibility of a remote education. The end result for 2021 was 1,826 additional Associate's degrees, 6,027 additional Bachelor's degrees, 3,464 additional Master's degrees, 58 additional Professional school degrees, and 302 Doctorate degrees.

Full Report/Breakdown of access to County access to universities and colleges can be found [HERE](#).



ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

Over the years, the NETEDD region has often faced similar risks and/or hazards that required some form of pulling together to overcome and rebound. As a region, one community is often interdependent on other communities and a major impact in one can affect many. During the past Five-Years (5-years), however, the negative impact resulted in a nation-wide hazard: COVID-19.

PANDEMIC RESILIENCY

COVID-19 impact was not an impact that was planned for in Hazard Mitigation plans, development vulnerability assessments, emergency planning, or even in our future strategic plans for “pandemics”. This was beyond anything that cities and/or counties could plan for, yet somehow our region pulled together and basic services continued. As a region we recognized the need for improvements in many areas of Economic and Regional Development that were already in place and will continue in the future.

- Technical Assistance is provided to all cities, counties, businesses, and EDC’s on funding options, deferments, Small Business Loans, and Grants that may become available to protect employees and businesses to keep them open.
- Shared information is important within the department to make sure that the most up-to-date information is readily available for distribution via email when needed.
- Grant Writing is more detailed with emphasis on resilience especially in the environmental narrative and the Investment Priorities. Adding additional information in the environmental narrative relating to the city/county action plans from the Hazard Mitigation Plan details their dedication to planned resilience for their community(ies).
- Revolving Loan Funds are utilized as businesses within the lending areas are looking for resources to protect their employees, modify their business, if possible, to avoid direct contact with customers, and continue to remain open to provide a service to the community.
- Be prepared for opportunities to open up that were not anticipated due to circumstances.



- Development Department keeps Cities, Counties, and EDC's notified of funding opportunities to improve Infrastructure within their communities which helps bringing the possibility of new jobs. The availability of municipal utilities, business capital, and a trained labor force are vital for this region to sustain its current and future economic growth. These challenges are constantly on the forefront of the governing bodies of the counties/ the cities/ and the EDC's of the NETEDD region.
- The demand for federal assistance programs, such as those administered through EDA, may increase and needs far outpace available federal funding.
- Local communities continue to search for additional resources and ways to leverage existing resources such as public-private partnerships and creative financing vehicles, to ensure that challenges and costs for tomorrow's economic growth is met.
- The NETEDD will assist with new grant opportunities offered for infrastructure in a region where aging and/or failing roads, water, and sewer are in desperate needs of repair.
- Because of the location of this region between Dallas and the Port of Shreveport, its central location between the east and west coasts of the U.S., and the fact that it lies within the north-south transportation corridor connecting Mexico and eastern half of the U.S., the region draws attention from numerous industries in regard to sites for distribution centers.
- A foreign trade zone at TexAmericas Center, west of Texarkana, continues to be an attraction for the region.
- The plans for proposed Interstate 69 and completion of Interstate 49, the upgrade of U.S. 59, and the availability of U.S. 271, U.S. 259, the expansion of U.S. 82 and several state highways should increase the attractiveness of this region for distribution centers and other industries dependent upon access to major highways.
- Continued expansion of area airports will be an important part of this growth as will development of large industrial parks near major transportation corridors.



While recognizing the need for improvements, the NETEDD continues to understand the importance of planning and preparing for economic changes and/or disasters. This often begins with Hazard Mitigation Planning.

Hazard Mitigation

The North East Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) partners recognizes the importance of planning for hazards in their cities and/or counties. To remain in compliance with 44 CFR Part 201, all of the NETEDD region participates in the Texas Standard Mitigation Plan (at a minimum). The State of Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated every 5 years.

Goals of the State Plan are to reduce or eliminate hazardous conditions that:

- Cause loss of life,
- Inflict injuries,
- Cause property damage, or
- Degrade important natural resources.

Objectives:

- Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more
- Resistant to natural hazards; and
- Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

Public Awareness Objectives:

- Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards; and
- Provide information on tools, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

Natural Systems Objective:

- Preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance natural systems to serve natural hazard mitigation functions.

Partnerships and Implementation Objective:

- To encourage leadership within public and private sector organizations to prioritize and implement local, county, and regional hazard mitigation activities



Emergency Service Objectives:

- Establish policy to ensure mitigation projects for critical facilities, services and infrastructure;
- Strengthen emergency operations by increasing collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organizations and business; and
- Integrate natural hazard mitigation activities with emergency operation plans and procedures.

Each of the counties have individual Hazard Mitigation Plans. In order to be in compliance with 44 CFR, local mitigation plans have to be updated every 5 years. Updated plans allow the counties the ability to participate in program funding then needed, which is outside of the funding that is allowed with the State of Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan.

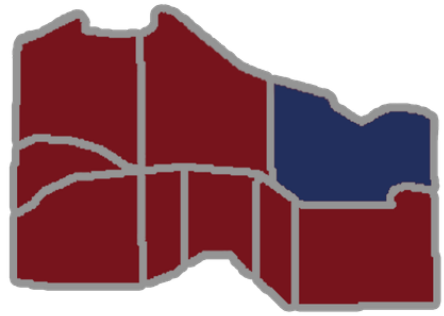
One of the greatest challenges facing the counties has been the ability to fund the five-year extensive updating requirements of a plan update. ATCOG has worked diligently researching options to assist the Counties with maintaining a current Hazard Mitigation Plan. All Nine (9) Texas ATCOG Counties are current or in the process of plan update. ATCOG's Development Department will be coordinating with the county emergency management divisions and/or designated officials to review plans annually to ensure that updating the five-year plan is less of a burden and will assist with keeping a current plan.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

- Bowie County
- Cass County
- Delta County
- Franklin County
- Hopkins County
- Lamar County (In Progress)
- Morris County (In Progress)
- Red River County
- Titus County

BOWIE COUNTY

- **FOUNDED 1840**
- **COUNTY SEAT: NEW BOSTON**
- **HONORABLE BOBBY HOWELL**



Bowie County is the most populous within NETEDD's domain. Bowie County acts as a corridor to and from Texas with Interstates 30, 69, & 49 and U.S. Highways 59, 67 & 82. Bowie County is fortunate that the TexAmericas Center is centrally located in the county. The TexAmericas Center owns one of the largest mixed-use industrial parks in the United States which services the four-states market. The New Boston Special Industrial Development Corporation, the Nash Industrial Park, and the De Kalb Economic Development Corporation are all actively seeking industry for Bowie County.

17.4%

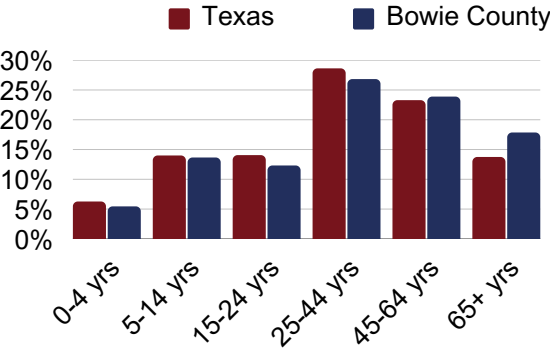
Estimated population below poverty level+

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Texas A&M University
Texarkana
- Texarkana College

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 92,747



- **Median Age:** 38.2 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 71.2%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)

7 OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Texarkana: 480370104.00; 480370105.00; 480370108.00
Hooks: 480370113.00

Redwater: 480370114.01

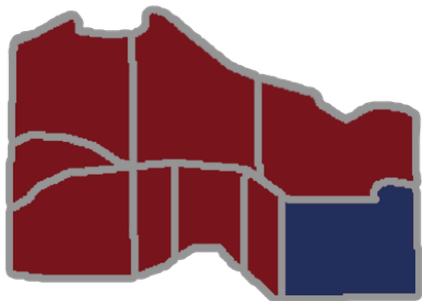
Maud: 480370114.02

New Boston: 480370115.02

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Texarkana EDC
- TexAmericas Center
- AR-TX REDI
- Texarkana Chamber
- New Boston Chamber
- New Boston SIDC
- DeKalb EDC
- Nash Industrial
- New Boston Entertainment District



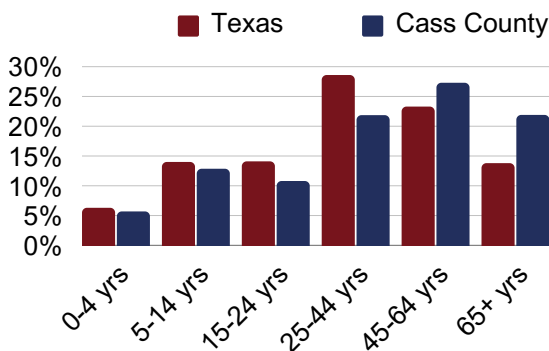


CASS COUNTY

- **FOUNDED 1846**
- **COUNTY SEAT: LINDEN**
- **HONORABLE TRAVIS RANSOM**

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 28,637



- **Median Age:** 44.3 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 74.4%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)



OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Douglassville: 480679502.00

Atlanta: 480679504.00

Linden: 480679506.00

Hughes Springs: 480679507.00

Cass County is rich in economic resources including transportation needs served by Hwy 59 which is in the process of becoming part of the Interstate 69 system, by State highways 8, 11, 77, and 155, and by two rail lines, the Missouri Pacific and the Louisiana and Arkansas; 937 square miles of the East Texas timberlands, heavily forested with a great variety of softwoods and hardwoods; 20 to 30% of the land considered prime farmland; rich mineral resources including ceramic clay, granite, industrial sand, oil, gas, iron, and lignite coal. Cass County has 4 Opportunity Zones in or around Atlanta, Douglassville, Hughes Springs and Linden.

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Cass County
- Atlanta EDC
- Linden EDC
- Queen City EDC
- Atlanta Area Chamber

HIGHER EDUCATION

Bowie County colleges are less than 40 miles away.

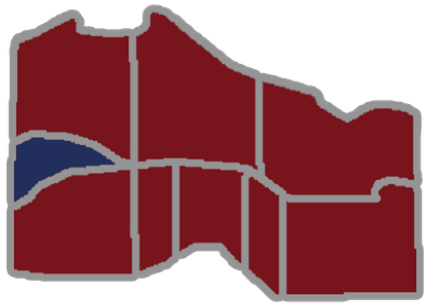
18.5%

Estimated population
below poverty level+



DELTA COUNTY

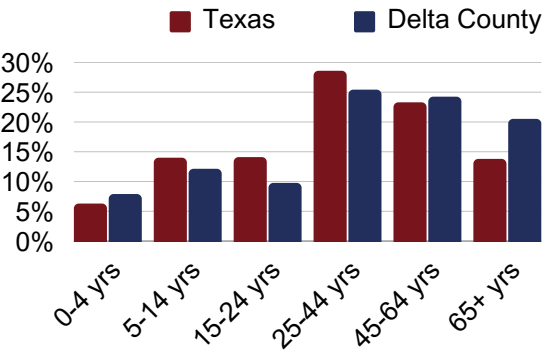
- **FOUNDED 1870**
- **COUNTY SEAT: COOPER**
- **HONORABLE TANNER CRUTHER**



Delta County has the smallest population in the NETEDD. Delta County's economy significantly relies on agriculture, in-transit consumerism, and tourism despite the aged population. Delta County has the tourism/economic benefit of Lake Cooper. Thousands of acres of parks and wildlife management areas surround the lake. The park sits where the Tallgrass Prairies and Post Oak Savannah ecosystems meet inviting tourists to the area annually. There is 1 Opportunity Zone in Delta County.

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 5,278



- **Median Age:** 40.6 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 86.8%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)

1 OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Cooper: 481199502.00

14.1%

Estimated population below poverty level+

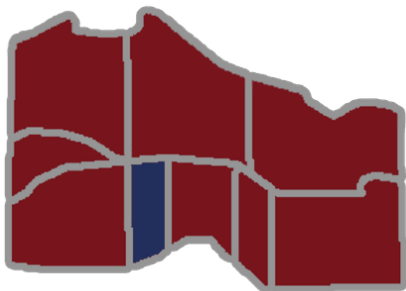
COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Delta County
- City of Cooper

HIGHER EDUCATION

- AMUC is less than 15 miles from locations in Delta County.
- PJC is less than 35 miles from locations in Delta County.



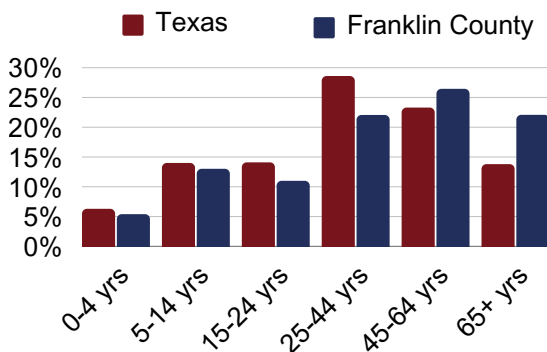


FRANKLIN COUNTY

- **FOUNDED 1875**
- **COUNTY SEAT: MOUNT VERNON**
- **HONORABLE SCOTT LEE**

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 10,445



- **Median Age:** 42.9 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 85.1%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)

Franklin County has a welcoming attitude of a "perfect blend of country living and developing business atmosphere". While Franklin County is the 8th smallest county in the State of Texas, it has been among the top counties in dairy and broiler production. Franklin County is known for Lake Cypress Springs (lakecypress-springs.org), a reservoir lake used for recreation, municipal, and industrial purposes. Lake Cypress has 20 subdivisions surrounding the lake and is home to 6 parks. Franklin County has 1 Opportunity Zone.

1 OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Winnsboro: 481599503.00

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Franklin County
- Mt. Vernon EDC
- Franklin County Chamber
- Franklin Texas Agrilife Extension

8.6%

Estimated population
below poverty level+

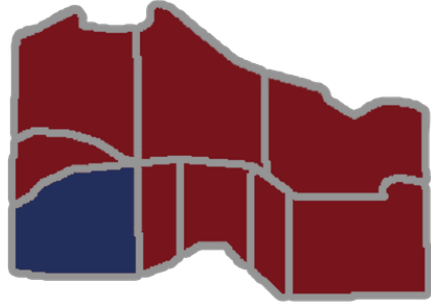
HIGHER EDUCATION

- NTCC is less than 25 miles from locations in Franklin County.
- TAMUC is less than 50 miles from locations in Franklin County.



HOPKINS COUNTY

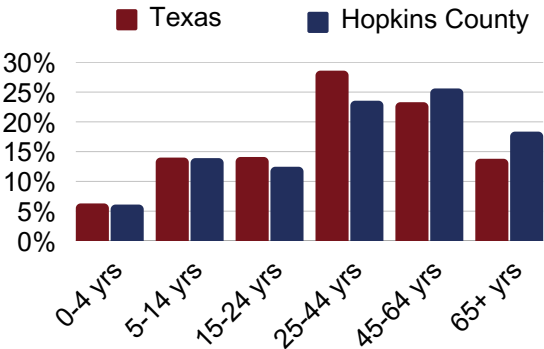
- **FOUNDED 1846**
- **COUNTY SEAT: SULPHUR SPRINGS**
- **HONORABLE ROBERT NEWSOM**



Hopkins County has a steady growing population in the southwest corner of NETEDD. As the population grows, the employment rate continues to increase. Agricultural, industrial, and consumer manufacturers serve as the primary economic stimulus for the county. The City of Sulphur Springs is in a prime location for business growth with I-30, and Hwy's 11, 19, & 154 as they travel from North, South, East and West. There are 3 Opportunity Zones in Hopkins County, including Sulphur Springs, Como and Yantis.

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 37,008



- **Median Age:** 39.7 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 82.0%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)



OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Sulphur Springs: 482239506.00

Como: 482239507.00

Yantis: 482239508.00

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Hopkins County
- Sulphur Springs EDC
- Hopkins County Chamber

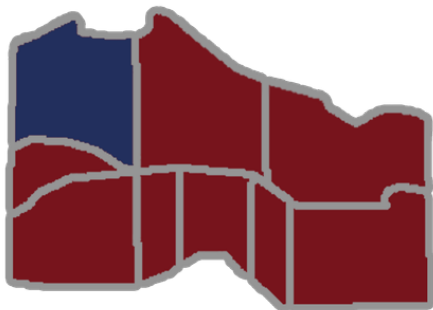
13.4%

Estimated population
below poverty level+

HIGHER EDUCATION

- TAMUC is less than 35 miles from locations in Hopkins County.
- PJC & NTCC are both less than 45 miles from locations in Hopkins County.



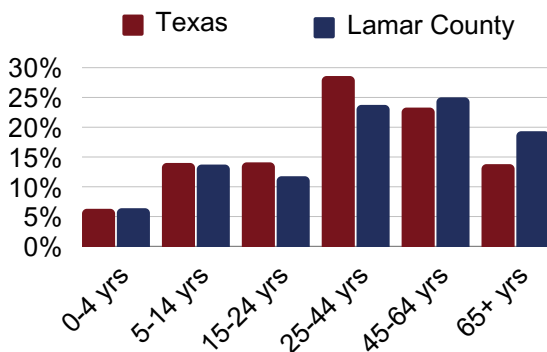


LAMAR COUNTY

- **FOUNDED 1841**
- **COUNTY SEAT: PARIS**
- **HONORABLE BRANDON BELL**

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 50,149



- **Median Age:** 40.3 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 81.8%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)

5 OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Blossom: 482770003.00

Paris: 482770005.00; 482770006.00;

482770007.00; 482770008.00

Lamar County's population is the second largest in the NETEDD. The rural nature of the county land is primarily dependent on agriculture; 49% of which is devoted to crops, 36% to pasture, and 12% to woodlands. Beef, dairy, hay, soybeans, wheat, corn, and sorghum are the chief agricultural products. Lamar is fortunate to be part of North East Texas Trails with Trail de Paris (<http://traildeparis.org/>) where Parks, Gardens, Trails, and Campsites are enjoyed by many. Lamar County has 5 Opportunity Zones with the City of Paris containing four of the Opportunity Zones.

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Lamar County
- Paris EDC
- Paris Chamber
- Paris SBDC Chamber

HIGHER EDUCATION

- [Paris Junior College](#)
- [TAMUC](#) is less than 55 miles from locations in Lamar County.

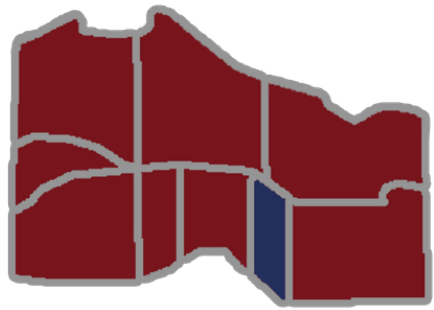
16.0%

Estimated population
below poverty level+



MORRIS COUNTY

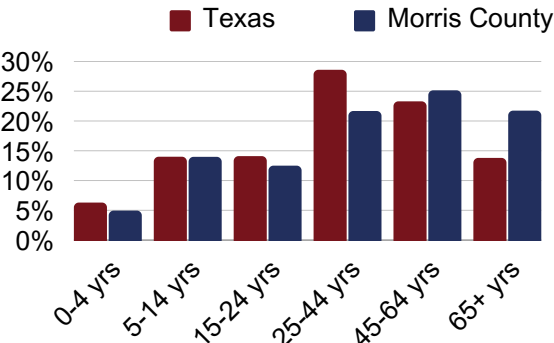
- **FOUNDED 1875**
- **COUNTY SEAT: DAINGERFIELD**
- **HONORABLE DOUG REEDER**



Morris County needs to see revitalization of the U.S. Steel property closed in 2020 impacting over 600 jobs including neighboring companies. Outdoor recreational activities are thriving in several areas: Daingerfield State Park with approximately 507 acres, including an 80-acre Lake opened in 1938, is managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Seasonal Activity at Rocky Point Adventures Water Park Lone Star is back to full capacity. Morris County is fortunate to have the Morris County Collaborative with a [2020-2023 Strategic Plan](#) for the County with a Vision and Mission.

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 11,993



- **Median Age:** 43.0 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 78.6%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)

3 OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Naples: 483439501.00
Lone Star: 483439502.00
Dangerfield: 483439503.00

15.8% Estimated population below poverty level+

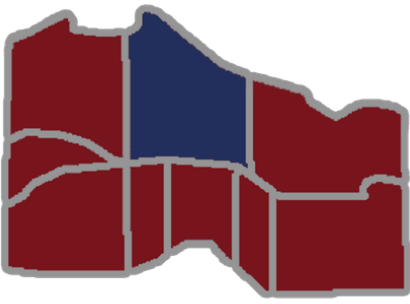
COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Morris County
- Lone Star Economic Development

HIGHER EDUCATION

- NTCC is less than 10 miles from locations in Morris County.
- TAMUT is less than 60 miles from locations in Morris County.
- UT - Tyler is less than 75 miles from locations in Morris County.





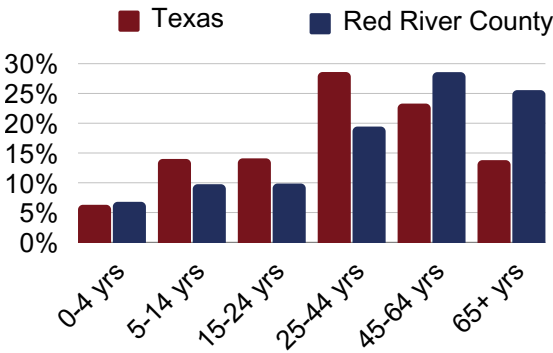
RED RIVER COUNTY

- **FOUNDED 1837**
- **COUNTY SEAT: CLARKSVILLE**
- **HONORABLE ROBERT BRIDGES**

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 11,627

- **Median Age:** 48.9 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 65.9%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)



Red River County has experienced minimal decline through the last decade. The entire northern border is the Red River and the southern border is the Sulphur River. Mineral resources in the county include oil, gas, clay, industrial sand, and chalk. No Opportunity Zones are identified in Red River County.



OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

None.

20.2%

Estimated population
below poverty level+

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Red River County
- Clarksville EDC

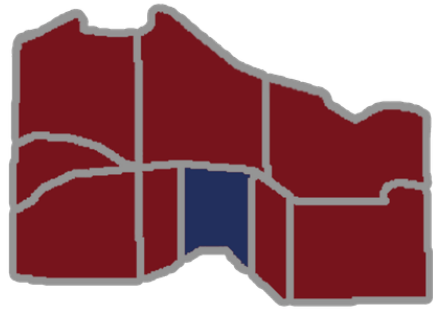
HIGHER EDUCATION

- PJC is less than 40 miles from locations in Red River County.
- TAMUT is less than 70 miles from locations in Red River County.



TITUS COUNTY

- **FOUNDED 1846**
- **COUNTY SEAT: MOUNT PLEASANT**
- **HONORABLE KENT COOPER**



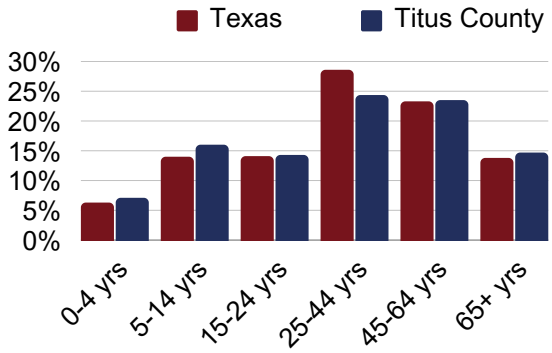
Titus County has experienced a steady increase of population and employment since 2013. 2023 reflects a slight decline. Their Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Council strives to “inspire business leadership, promote regional tourism, and enhance quality of life in Mount Pleasant and Titus County”. It should be noted that Titus county has the youngest median age in the NETEDD domain. By working with the Mount Pleasant Young Professionals and engaging an emerging group of young leaders who are committed to personal growth, career advancement, civic engagement, and service, the Chamber is enhancing the economic growth of Titus County.

18.3%

Estimated population below poverty level+

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Total County Population: 31,301



- **Median Age:** 34.4 years
- **Population in Prime Working Age:** 77.7%
- **Median Household Income:** [Click Here](#)
- **Economic Overview 2025:** [Click Here](#)

1 OPPORTUNITY ZONE BY CENSUS TRACT

Mount Pleasant: 484499503.00

COUNTY RESOURCES:

- Titus County
- Mount Pleasant EDC
- USDA Area Office
- Mount Pleasant Texas

HIGHER EDUCATION

- [Northeast Texas Community College](#)
- [TAMUT](#) & [TAMUC](#) are both less than 70 miles from locations in Titus County.



NETEDD STATISTICS & DATA

ECONOMIC DISTRESS CRITERIA

- 24-month Average Unemployment Rate (BLS) period ending April 2026
- **2024** Per Capita Personal Income (BEA PCPI)
- **2024** Per Capita Money Income (ACS 5-year PCMI)
- To Measure Distress - County Tool, [click here](#)

	2023 Per Capita 24 Month Unemployment	Threshold	BEA PCPI	Threshold	ACS 5-Year PCMI	Threshold
Region	4.15	-0.09	\$54,663	74.7	\$31,657	70.9
United States	4.24	0.00	\$73,204	100.0	\$44,673	100.0
Bowie County	4.18	-0.06	\$53,921	73.7	\$31,241	69.9
Cass County	5.06	0.82	\$51,139	69.9	\$29,660	66.4
Delta County	4.28	0.04	\$51,821	70.8	\$31,723	71.0
Franklin County	3.66	-0.58	\$61,557	84.1	\$41,630	93.2
Hopkins County	3.34	-0.90	\$58,893	80.4	\$34,712	77.7
Lamar County	4.12	-0.12	\$53,557	73.2	\$33,256	74.4
Morris County	5.53	1.29	\$52,766	72.1	\$27,778	62.2
Red River County	4.67	0.43	\$56,814	77.6	\$29,753	66.6
Titus County	4.03	-0.21	\$54,678	74.7	\$27,244	61.0

Project Eligibility:

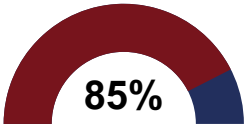
- An unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least 1% greater than the national average unemployment rate;
- Per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data are available, 80% or less of the national average per capita income; or
- A Special Need, as determined by EDA.



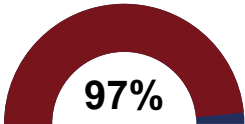


NETEDD STATISTICS & DATA

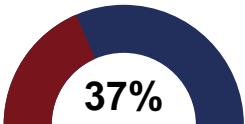
BROADBAND/INTERNET SURVEY KEY FINDINGS



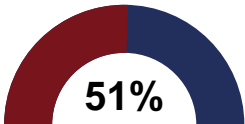
Interested in faster & more reliable Internet Services



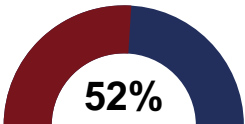
Said they believe the County government should help facilitate better broadband



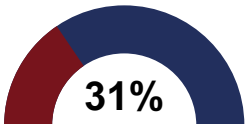
Have no other options for their internet service



Are "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with current Internet Speeds



Have 7 or more Internet-connected devices in their home



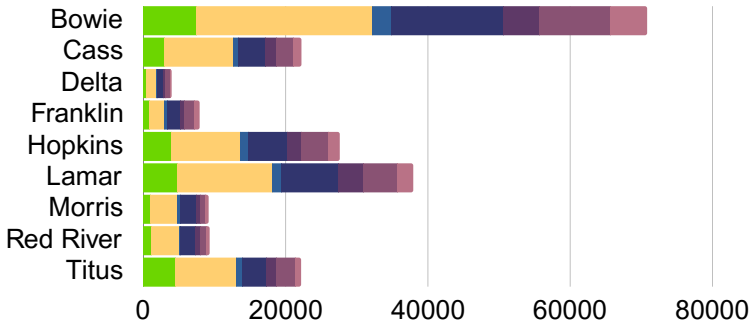
Indicate that availability of broadband Internet is effecting where they choose to live



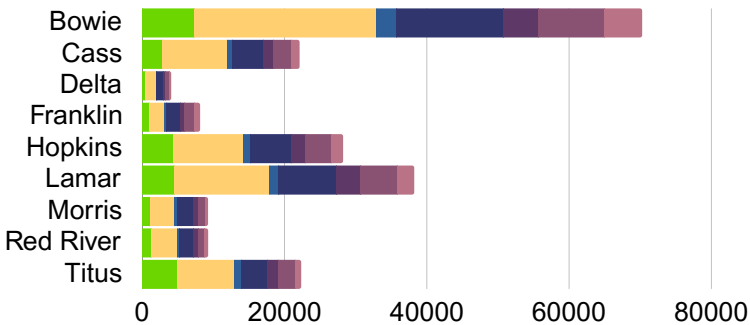
NETEDD STATISTICS & DATA

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT COMPARISON

NETEDD's Regional Education Attainment Breakdown for the year 2021.



NETEDD's Regional Education Attainment Breakdown for the year 2023.



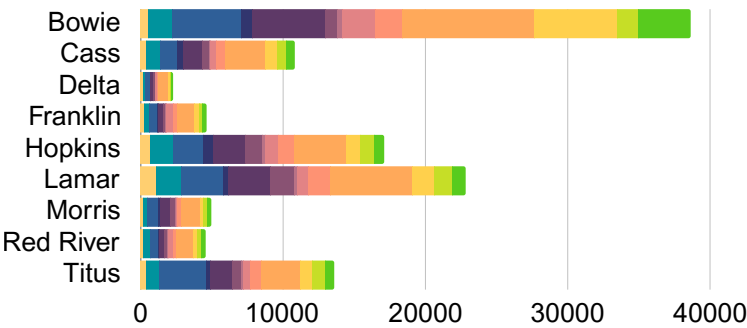
- 12th grade, no diploma
- Regular High school diploma
- Some college, less than 1 year
- Some college, 1 or more years, no degree
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master/Professional degree



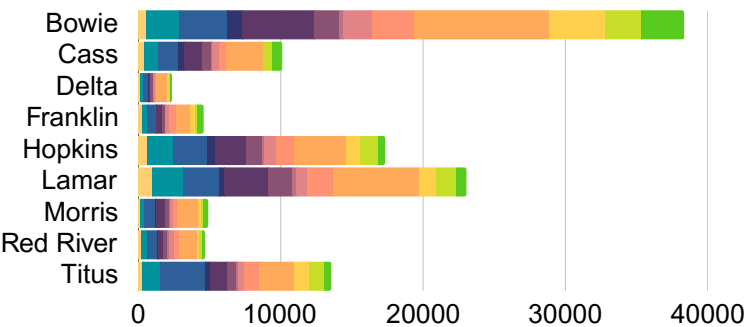
NETEDD STATISTICS & DATA

INDUSTRY COMPARISON

NETEDD's Industry 2021: Civilian employed population 16 years & over.



NETEDD's Industry 2023: Civilian employed population 16 years & over.



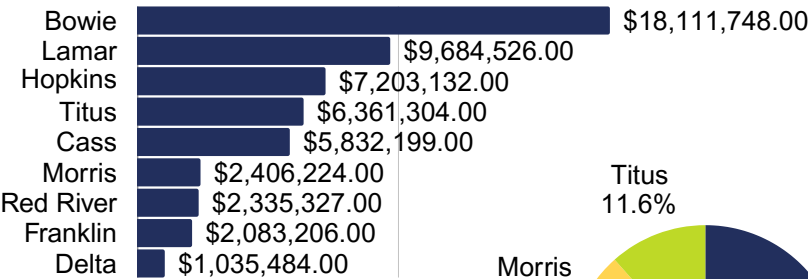
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining
- Transportation, warehousing, & utilities
- Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, & leasing
- Management, administrative & waste management Services
- Other services, except public administration
- Educational services, healthcare, & social assistance
- Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, & food services
- Public administration
- Wholesale trade
- Manufacturing
- Retail trade
- Information



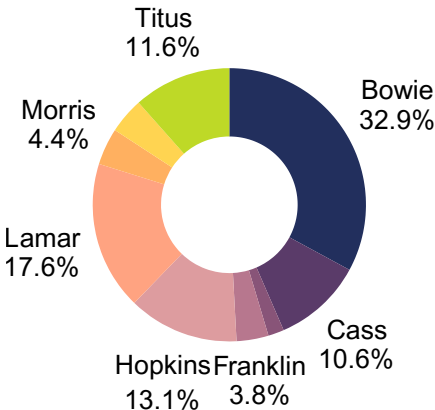
NETEDD STATISTICS & DATA

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

American Rescue Funds (ARPA)



*Total estimate of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds made available throughout our region was **\$93,264,572.**



DISCLAIMER

Please feel free to use any information found in this document. However, it must be noted that the **information listed may not be the most current information available.** Please utilize the [Helpful Links/Resources](#) page to find information for funding your city or county. All information found throughout this document provided is free and open for use.



COMMUNITY & PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

Stakeholder Engagement meetings were conducted:

- March 22, 2023 @ 2:30 PM CDT
- March 24, 2023 @ 9:00 AM CDT
- April 10, 2023 @ 1:30 PM CDT
- April, 11, 2023 @ 11:30 AM CDT

Stakeholder surveys includes:

- Visions & Plans Evaluation
- SWOT Analysis (Regional & County)

In consideration of the size of the district, the Board and staff relied on a variety of resources and partners to obtain input into the 2023 CEDS. Virtual Stakeholder Engagement Meetings were used to springboard and evoke discussion of the economic development issues affecting the region. Regional stakeholders provide the information that is an integral part of this report.

The NETEDD is grateful for the following, including but not limited to:

- Elected official from the counties and cites;
- City Managers, Economic Development Administrators, Chambers of Commerce staff and Board members;
- Northeast Texas Workforce Commission staff and Board members;
- Local education organizations; and
- The Ark-Tex Council of Governments staff and Board members.

The initial survey was sent out to the entire region to have a diverse group of committee members participating in the 2023-2028 CEDS. Many factors have impacted various parts of the NETEDD region during the past five (5) years with COVID-19 having a major impact on many businesses, closed venues, recreation sites that have not returned to full capacity, staffing issues, new businesses, shifts in population, housing, and others.



CEDS PARTICIPANTS

The following is a list of regional volunteers who assisted with the CEDS 5-year plan:

• Bart Spivey	Business Development Project Manager, Workforce NETX
• Eric Voyles	VP & CEDO, TexAmericas Center
• Keith Whitefield	City Manager, Daingerfield
• Lisa Thompson	Economic Development, Texarkana
• Miranda Johnson	Executive Director, Atlanta EDC
• Nathan Tafoya	Executive Director, Mount Pleasant EDC
• Rea Donna Jones	Director, Texarkana Metropolitan Organization
• Robert Sitterly	President & CEO, Ar-Tx REDI
• Roger Feagley	Executive Director, Hopkins Co-Sulphur Springs EDC
• Tory Niewiadomski	Community Development Director, Sulphur Springs
• Tim Wilson	Director, SBDC - Mount Pleasant
• Bob McFarland	President, Franklin County Industrial Foundation
• Kent Cooper	County Judge - Titus
• Cathy Hardin-Harrison	County Judge - Miller
• Darren Braddy	Mayor, Cooper
• David Orr	City Manager, Texarkana, TX
• Doug Bowers	City Manager, Nash
• Janell Morton	Director, SBDC - Magnolia
• Jennifer Johnston	Director, SBDC - Paris
• Lee Elliot	Executive Director, Linden EDC
• Maureen Hammond	Executive Director, Paris EDC
• Paul Hines	EDC Administrator, Clarksville
• Randy Reed	Executive Director, Workforce NETX
• Billy Lindsey	Executive Director, De Kalb EDC
• Tanner Crutcher	County Judge - Delta
• Robert Bridges	County Judge - Red River
• Bobby Howell	County Judge - Bowie
• Scott Norton	President, TexAmericas Center
• Travis Ransom	County Judge - Cass
• Scott Lee	County Judge - Franklin
• Doug Reeder	County Judge - Morris
• Brandon Bell	County Judge - Lamar
• Robert Newsom	County Judge - Hopkins
• Ann Rushing	Mayor, City of Clarksville
• John Sellers	Mayor Pro Tem, City of Sulphur Springs
• Marc Reiter	Mayor, City of Hooks
• Stan Wyatt	NETX Municipal Water District/Board of Directors



HELPFUL LINKS/RESOURCES

Need help finding current city/county statistics & data?

- Census Website Guide
- Texas Labor Market Information Website Guide

American Rescue Information

- Fiscal Recovery Funds: County Funding

Track Census & County Poverty Here

- EDA-Census Poverty Status Viewer: Poverty Status Viewer

Partners & Advocates

- U.S Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Small Business Administration
- Housing and Urban Development
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Homeland Security
- Ark-Tex Council of Governments
- Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
- Texas Department of Economic Development
- Texas Office of Rural and Community Affairs
- Texas Department of Agriculture



FEMA





903.832.8636



4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, TX 75503



development@atcog.org



www.ATCOG.org



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NETEDD

NORTH EAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

