

# Texas Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Grant Program

## Description

a. In the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session the Texas Legislature transferred the Tier II Chemical Reporting Program to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Health and Safety Code 505.016(d), 506.017(d), and 507.013(d) authorizes up to 20% of chemical reporting fees to be awarded to the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to fulfill their responsibilities under Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The total amount to be awarded under this grant program will depend upon the amount of revenue received from chemical reporting fees in the Tier II Chemical Reporting General Revenue Workplace Chemicals List account.

The funds for this grant program are appropriated to the TCEQ by the Legislature and are subject to change annually. This **\$4,420,000** grant amount includes an additional \$4,000,000 appropriated for the 2016/2017 biennium. **Future grants will be approximately \$210,000 annually based on fee revenue received.** Because of this, the TCEQ encourages LEPCs to use this one-time grant amount to establish large projects or plans that can be used in multiple years or shared with other LEPCs.

b. This grant will allow LEPCs to establish, maintain, and/or improve their implementation of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The EPCRA requires each state to create a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), designate emergency planning districts, and to establish LEPCs for each district. LEPCs are to work with facilities to develop response procedures, evacuation plans, and training programs for people who will be the first to respond in the event of an emergency. Only LEPCs that are officially recognized by the SERC are eligible for this grant.

**No match** will be required during this grant period, but future match requirements may be established.

## **Timeline**

This Texas LEPC Grant Program must be received by the TCEQ by no later than 5:00 p.m. Central Time, August 31, 2016. Applications can be submitted by mail or electronically. Applications received after this deadline will be awarded on a case-by-case basis as funds are available. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application as early as possible.

Our application will include:

A risk analysis of our County followed by a full scale exercise

Public education unit

Response / training equipment