

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

# SOUTHWEST SBDC RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM



**NON-FORMULA SUPPORT ITEM REQUEST  
SUPPORTING UTSA'S URBAN SERVING MISSION**

## ANNUAL FUNDING REQUEST

\$877,750 per year | \$1,755,500 over biennium

### OVERVIEW

The SBDC Rural Business program (RBP) increases the competitiveness of rural communities along the Southwest Texas Border. RBP offers services to promote small business economic activity and investment in areas of Texas where corporate expansions are uncommon, and state incentives—like the Enterprise Fund—are rarely accessible.

### THE CHALLENGE

Many Texas rural communities lack the capacity for sustained economic development. The RBP fuels growth in these communities by providing hands-on technical assistance, information and resources to help rural entrepreneurs thrive. Continued funding for this program is needed to bolster economic development opportunities for many neglected rural areas of the state, in turn helping these communities invest in themselves.

### THE IMPACT

Continued support for the RBP will ensure UTSA is able to leverage corporate and Small Business Association funds. Once more, it will ensure the longevity of critical RBP programs such as the Texas Rural Challenge, which helps to identify new markets for traditional products, sector diversification, infrastructure and growth. Other current projects include a collaboration with UTSA's College of Architecture to assist rural communities with preparing comprehensive strategic land-use plans, and a partnership with Shell Oil Company and UTSA's College of Public Policy to drive municipal capacity-building through governance training.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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