

## LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

# TEXAS DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER

Providing access to reliable, impartial data used to inform policy decisions, strategies and solutions

### FUNDING REQUEST

\$814,439 Year 1 | \$862,401 Year 2 | \$1,676,840 per biennium

### OVERVIEW

Located at UTSA, the Texas Demographic Center (TDC), initiated in 1980, is part of the U.S. Bureau of the Census State Data Center Program, a national network of 52 centers in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The TDC is the official source of demographic, economic and social statistics provided by the Census Bureau and helps develop complex mathematical computer modeling of the state's population based on data collected from federal, state and local government sources. The TDC provides training and technical assistance in accessing and using Census Bureau data for research, administration, planning and decision-making by local governments, the business community and other interested data users.

Since 2004, the Texas State Demographer, appointed by the Governor, has resided at UTSA, providing expert analysis and interpretations of demographic and related trends impacting the state to Texas legislators, legislative committees, state agencies, counties, municipalities, businesses and the non-profit sector. Because significant federal funding is allocated based on population and census data, the State Demographer and the Texas Demographic Center are in high demand to provide accurate population modeling to secure these funds.

### THE CHALLENGE

The population of Texas is growing more than any other state and the capacity of the Texas Demographic Center to produce and disseminate accurate and detailed data products used by the Legislature, State agencies, counties, cities, and businesses is limited due to current levels of funding. The U.S. Census Bureau has a Research Data Center program that if UTSA were to participate as a branch, would allow access to secure data that would enable more accurate and timely production of population estimates and projections. New methodologies have been developed that TDC has not yet had the capacity to incorporate into production and there is inadequate staff to allow the conduct of research to refine the methodology and improve accuracy, efficiency, and timeliness of production. Resources for state demographic data production and dissemination lag behind many other similarly sized states and there are indicators that expanded resources would enable substantial improvements in the quality and utility of demographic data and can result in improved efficiencies of the work of State agencies, counties, and cities and businesses.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[demographics.texas.gov](http://demographics.texas.gov)

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### THE IMPACT

The TDC serves the data and informational needs of more than 15,000 Texans each year and provides data and information to 4 million more users through its website. Special item funding allows the TDC to thoroughly assess, analyze and interpret data and meet the critical data needs of the Texas legislature and state agencies. Increased funding will allow the TDC to expand website access to data and reports, and enable personnel to provide information sessions on the implications of demographic changes for Texas.

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**4M** Annual visitors to Center's website

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**15K** Texans rely on Center's data resources

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### TAKEAWAY

The Texas Demographic Center provides easy and direct access to current and accurate demographic data that is used to facilitate data-driven decision making. To ensure the Center has the resources needed to respond in a timely manner to increasing demands for data, additional state support is needed.

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