2009 Innovations Awards Program
APPLICATION

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 09-S-30TX

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: ______ TEXAS ________________

Assign Program Category (applicant): _Health and Human Services - Aging_________________
(Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name       Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program
2. Administering Agency Texas Department of Agriculture
3. Contact Person (Name and Title) Bryan Black, Assistant Commissioner for Communications
4. Address            1700 North Congress Avenue, 11th Floor; Austin, TX 78701
5. Telephone Number   (512) 463-7664
6. FAX Number         (888) 223-9048
7. E-mail Address     bryan.black@TexasAgriculture.gov

9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.
The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program (Program) is designed to help defray the costs of providing home-delivered meals to homebound seniors and disabled persons who are not fully funded by the Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services or an Area Agency on Aging. This program is allowing organizations to shorten waiting lists, serve weekend meals, expand service areas, meet increased costs, and serve better meals to those less fortunate.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 2, 2009 to be considered.
The program has been operational since September 2007.

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?
The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program was established to supplement and extend future services provided by qualifying home-delivered meal providers and help reduce or even eliminate the waiting lists of many Texas Meals on Wheels organizations.

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.
Spring/Summer TDA staff work to promote the Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program by attending conferences, making presentations and sending direct mailings to potential applicants.
Summer TDA staff updates the application, database and other internal tools to improve the administrative functions of the program from one year to the next.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Application is made public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>TDA begins accepting and processing applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Statutory postmark deadline for applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov-Jan</td>
<td>TDA staff works to process applications and qualify as many organizations as possible. TDA coordinates with the Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (DADS) to ensure TDA’s grant is calculated on other eligible meals and not meals previously funded by DADS. TDA communicates with the individual organizations to resolve any discrepancies or questions raised by the applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Prepare individual agreements for each qualified applicant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Statutory deadline for TDA to make grants.</td>
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Quarterly reports are due throughout the year in order for TDA to monitor how organizations are spending the funds and how the grant is impacting home-delivered meal services.

13. **Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?**
   The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program requires participating organizations to first receive a grant from the county in which they are serving meals. This is a way for the state to leverage its funds with local governments and stretch the donations organizations receive from their communities.

Organizations that serve home-delivered meals provide this service to more individuals than just those who qualify for reimbursement through the federal programs administered by the Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (DADS). The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program calculates the award amounts on the number of eligible meals that were NOT funded by DADS the previous year. Eligible meals are those that are served to persons 60 years old or older, or those individuals who have a disability that prevents them from basic household chores such as preparing a meal. Eligible meals would include meals served to temporarily disabled individuals, such as a person who is unable to prepare his own meals for a week or two while he recovers from surgery.

Additionally, TDA’s program is reaching out to organizations that have previously chosen not to receive any federal funds administered by DADS. Some organizations have felt that the process to receive DADS reimbursement is too cumbersome and have instead relied solely on local contributions. The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program has been designed to be as easy as possible for providers to apply and qualify for funding.

TDA distributes the funds on February 1st of each year allowing the organizations to spend it on expenditures that will supplement and extend their home-delivered meal operations. Many times, an organization does not have enough up-front cash to take on new clients, begin serving a new delivery route or start serving breakfasts. With TDA’s grant, they can spend the money first and report their activities on a quarterly basis to TDA.

14. **What were the program’s start-up costs?** (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)
   To administer this program, the Texas Department of Agriculture used two existing employees and hired one new full-time employee. TDA’s IT department created an Access database for the administrators to use for entering and storing applicant information and from
which to generate reports. TDA developed Home-Delivered Meal informational brochures to use at conferences and other promotional events to increase awareness about the program.

15. **What are the program’s annual operational costs?**
   The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program was appropriated $20 million for Texas fiscal year 2008 and 2009 ($10 million per year). Although the Texas Department of Agriculture is allowed to use up to 5% of the appropriations for administrative costs, TDA has retained only 2.5% for operational costs. In the past two years, $19.5 million has been granted directly to home-delivered meal providers in Texas.

16. **How is the program funded?**
   The Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program is funded with general revenue appropriated by the Texas State Legislature every two years.

17. **Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations?** If YES, please indicate the citation number.
   The Texas Legislature created the Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program with the passage of HB407 in 2007.
   Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 12, Section 12.042.

18. **What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?**
   An Access database was created to help administer the program.

19. **To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state?** If YES, please indicate the innovator’s name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.
   Yes. The Meals on Wheels Association of Texas approached Texas legislators about the need for such a program and were instrumental in its passage. Representative Warren Chisum and Senator Kirk Watson co-authored the bill.

   Meals on Wheels Association of Texas
   106 E. Kilpatrick
   Cleburne, Texas 76031
   Ph #: (817) 558-2840
   E-mail: vinsen@mowjec.org

   Senator Kirk Watson
   Texas Senate
   P.O. Box 12068 – Capitol Station
   Austin, Texas 78768
   Ph #: (512) 463-0114
   E-mail: kirk.watson@senate.state.tx.us

   Representative Warren Chisum
   Texas House of Representatives
   P.O. Box 2910
   Austin Texas 78768-2910
   Ph #: (512) 463-0736
   E-mail: warren.chisum@house.state.tx.us

20. **Are you aware of similar programs in other states?** If YES, which ones and how does this program differ? No

21. **Has the program been fully implemented?** If NO, what actions remain to be taken? Yes
22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program’s effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.
   Pros: According to information provided by organizations that applied in both 2007 and 2008, meal numbers increased significantly. Some organizations were able to eliminate or drastically reduce their waiting lists.

   Several organizations were able to start providing a breakfast meal to the elderly in their area, which increases the effectiveness of medications homebound persons may be taking.

   Cons: Because this is a new program, some home-delivered meal providers are still hesitant to participate. TDA will continue to reach out to organizations and encourage as many as possible to submit applications.

   Some organizations do not understand how their grants are calculated and are frustrated with their smaller than anticipated grant amounts, not realizing it was because most of their meals are paid for by DADS.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?
   Program participation doubled in the second year of funding due to outreach from the Texas Department of Agriculture. TDA funded organizations in 81 counties during state fiscal year 2008 and 158 counties during fiscal year 2009. Ultimately, TDA hopes to have an applicant from each of the 254 Texas counties apply for and receive a grant.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?
   Initial funding is always an obstacle, but because it is a partnership with the counties, any state dollars appropriated to a program will leverage additional grants for home-delivered meals.

   If Title III, XIX, or XX federal programs fund all their meals, an organization may not qualify. Any state considering this program should look at the length of waiting lists for home-delivered meals and determine if the need for a supplemental program exists.
2009 Innovations Awards Program
Program Categories and Subcategories

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate Program Category for your state’s submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

Infrastructure and Economic Development
- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

Government Operations
- Administration
- Elections
- Public Information
- Revenue

Health & Human Services
- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

Human Resources/Education
- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

Natural Resources
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

Public Safety/Corrections
- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application electronically to innovations@csg.org or mail to:

CSG Innovations Awards 2009
The Council of State Governments
2760 Research Park Drive, P.O. Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578-1910

Contact:

Nancy J. Vickers, National Program Administrator
Phone: 859.244.8105
Fax: 859.244.8001 – Attn: Innovations Awards Program
The Council of State Governments
E-mail: nvickers@csg.org

This application is also available at www.csg.org, in the Programs section.

Deadline: March 2, 2009