



Transparency Stars Program

FINANCE COMMITTEE: DECEMBER 17, 2025

Purpose of the Transparency Stars Program

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts. The program recognizes government entities that accomplish the following:

- Open their books not only in their traditional finances, but also in the areas of contracts and procurement, economic development, public pensions, debt obligations, and Open Government and Compliance; and
- Provide clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations, downloadable data, and other relevant information.



Types of Transparency Stars

You can apply for one or more Stars, up to six. Entities must first receive a Traditional Finances Star, but may apply for Stars in up to five other areas:

- Contracts and Procurement;
- Economic Development;
- Public Pensions;
- Debt Obligations; and
- Open Government and Compliance

Where We Were

- Awarded first Transparency Star at the end of June for Traditional Finances.
- Only 1 of 6 stars achieved, highlighting room for growth in transparency.
- Set the foundation for expanding transparency available on Burleson's through the Star's landing page.



Stars



1/6

Current Progress

- Additionally awarded both the Debt Obligations & Public Pensions star
- Applied for our 4th star for Open Government & Compliance in November.
- Finalized Website setup for the remaining Transparency Star categories.



Explore financial documents such as annual budgets, annual comprehensive financial reports, quarterly financial reports, investment reports, check registers, and unclaimed property.



Summary and detailed information on the city's debt obligations - general obligation (GO) bonds, certificates of obligation (CO) debt, and utility revenue bonds.



Explore Burleson's public pension program with summarized and downloadable information such as actuarial reports and Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) documents.



Open Government & Compliance
Obtain information about local governance including City Council meetings, public access, and policies.



Contracts & Procurement
View information on the City's purchasing processes, awarded contracts, bid opportunities, and procurement transparency.



Economic Development
Access data highlighted the City's economic growth, including incentive agreements, major projects, and development activities.

Stars

Obtained

Applied

3/6

Statewide Award Recipients by Star

Star 6: 12

Star 5: 7

Star 4: 5

Star 3: 13

Star 2 23

Star 1: 39

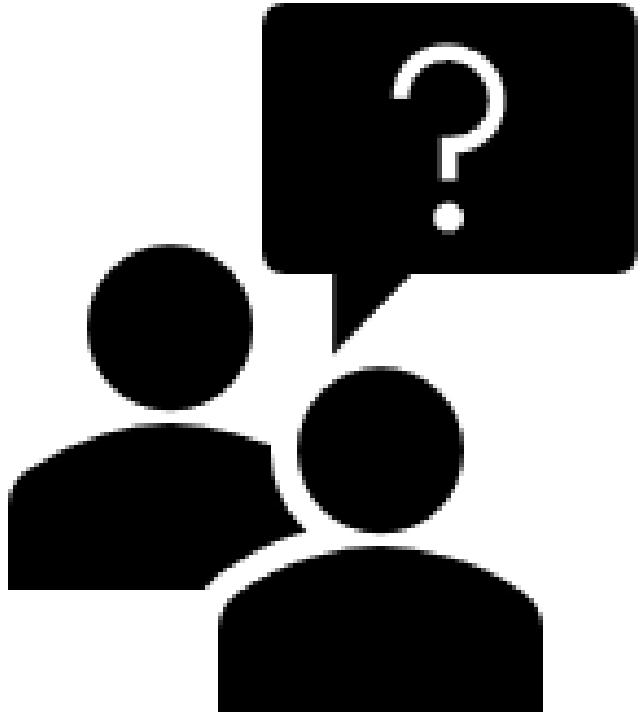
Future Goals

- Continue work towards applying for the Contracts & Procurement and Economic Development Stars.
- Plan to have obtained all 6 transparency stars over the next 9 months.
- Join the elite club of Municipalities with all 6 Transparency Stars.

Town of Addison	City of Arlington	City of College Station
City of Denton	City of Gainesville	City of Lancaster
City of McKinney	City of Round Rock	City of Rowlett
City of Carrollton	City of Keller	City of Richardson

Recommendation

Apply for the remaining Transparency
Stars for Economic Development and
Contracts and Procurement



Questions, Comments & Direction
