

Sanger Industrial Development Corporation (Type A)

Potential New Programs & Community Engagement Initiatives

Purpose

The Sanger Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC) has expressed interest in becoming more visible and engaged within the community while continuing to operate within the legal authority granted to Type A Economic Development Corporations under Chapters 501, 504, and 505 of the Texas Local Government Code.

This document outlines potential programs, grants, and initiatives that could increase SIDC's community impact while supporting economic development, workforce development, primary job creation, and business expansion.

Understanding Type A Limitations

Type A corporations are primarily intended to support:

- Primary job creation and retention
- Manufacturing and industrial development
- Distribution and logistics facilities
- Workforce development and job training
- Research and development
- Infrastructure supporting new or expanded business enterprises
- Business recruitment and expansion
- Corporate headquarters and office development

Unlike Type B corporations, Type A corporations generally cannot fund parks, community events, beautification projects, recreational facilities, tourism projects, or general quality-of-life initiatives unless separately authorized by voters.

Existing SIDC Programs

Current initiatives already supporting Type A objectives include:

SWAG Workforce Development Program

- Career and Technical Education support
- Industry certifications
- Workforce pipeline development
- Partnership with SISD and Sanger Education Foundation

Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)

- Business outreach
- Expansion assistance
- Business support services

Business Recruitment Efforts

- Site marketing
- Trade show attendance
- Prospect engagement
- Workforce promotion

Recommended New Programs

Tier 1: High Impact / Easy to Implement

1. Workforce Training Grant Program

Purpose:

Assist Sanger businesses with employee training and professional development.

Eligible Uses:

- Industry certifications
- OSHA training
- CDL training
- Leadership development
- Technical certifications
- Continuing education

Potential Structure:

- Up to \$2,500 per business annually
- 50/50 matching requirement
- Reimbursement basis

Benefits:

- Supports workforce development
- Helps local businesses retain employees
- Creates measurable outcomes

Example:

The Colony EDC's Assisting Continued Education (ACE) Grant reimburses workforce training expenses for local employers.

2. Industry Credential Scholarship Program

Purpose:

Increase the number of skilled workers entering high-demand careers.

Eligible Programs:

- Welding
- HVAC
- Electrical
- Industrial Maintenance
- CDL
- Healthcare Certifications

Potential Structure:

- Scholarships ranging from \$500-\$2,000
- Recipients agree to work locally after certification

Benefits:

- Addresses workforce shortages
- Creates local talent pipeline
- Highly visible community program

3. SIDC Business Ambassador Program

Purpose:

Increase board member engagement with local businesses.

Activities:

- Quarterly business visits
- Workforce discussions
- Expansion opportunity identification
- Business climate feedback

Benefits:

- Stronger relationships with employers
- Better understanding of business needs
- Increased board visibility

Tier 2: Medium Complexity / High Impact

4. Business Expansion Grant Program

Purpose:

Support local companies that are creating jobs and investing in Sanger.

Eligible Uses:

- Equipment purchases
- Machinery
- Technology upgrades
- Facility expansion

Potential Structure:

- Performance-based reimbursement
- Job creation requirements
- Capital investment requirements

Benefits:

- Supports existing employers
- Encourages reinvestment
- Creates measurable economic impact

5. Manufacturing Innovation Grant

Purpose:

Encourage modernization and productivity improvements.

Eligible Uses:

- Automation
- Robotics

- Production equipment
- Manufacturing technology

Potential Structure:

- Matching grant
- Job retention requirement
- Productivity improvement metrics

Benefits:

- Supports industrial growth
- Increases competitiveness
- Encourages expansion

6. Teacher & Counselor Externship Program

Purpose:

Expose educators to local career opportunities.

Activities:

- Summer industry tours
- Job shadowing
- Workforce presentations

Benefits:

- Stronger workforce alignment
- Better student career awareness
- Partnership with SISD

Tier 3: Long-Term Strategic Initiatives

7. Site Readiness Assistance Program

Purpose:

Prepare development sites for future investment.

Eligible Activities:

- Engineering studies
- Utility analysis

- Environmental assessments
- Site planning

Benefits:

- Improves marketability of sites
- Supports recruitment efforts
- Creates long-term development opportunities

8. Revolving Loan Fund

Purpose:

Provide low-interest financing for qualified economic development projects.

Eligible Uses:

- Equipment
- Expansion projects
- Building improvements
- Startup costs for eligible primary businesses

Benefits:

- Sustainable funding source
- Encourages private investment
- Unique economic development tool

Challenges:

- Requires administration and oversight
- Higher legal and financial complexity

Examples from Other Texas Communities

The Colony EDC

Programs:

- Assisting Continued Education (ACE) Grant
- Business Retention and Augmentation Grant (BRAG)

Focus:

- Workforce training
- Equipment purchases
- Business expansion

Allen EDC

Program:

- Small Business Grant Program

Focus:

- Primary employers
- Equipment
- Training
- Expansion
- Relocation

Midland Development Corporation

Focus Areas:

- Business retention and expansion
- Workforce development
- Site development
- Industrial recruitment

Floydada EDC

Program:

- Workforce Development Center

Focus:

- Workforce training
- Employer training assistance
- Career development

Recommended Priorities for SIDC

Immediate (FY 2026-2027)

1. Workforce Training Grant Program
2. Business Ambassador Program
3. Industry Credential Scholarship Program

Near-Term

4. Business Expansion Grant Program
5. Teacher Externship Program

Long-Term

6. Site Readiness Assistance Program
7. Revolving Loan Fund

Questions for Legal Counsel

Prior to implementation, SIDC should seek legal review regarding:

- Eligibility requirements for workforce scholarships
- Grant performance agreements
- Repayment provisions
- Primary job requirements
- Public benefit standards
- Revolving loan authority
- Eligible business classifications

Conclusion

The most practical opportunities for SIDC to increase community visibility while remaining firmly within Type A authority are workforce development, business retention and expansion, industry credential programs, and employer training assistance.

These initiatives would provide direct benefits to Sanger businesses, strengthen the local workforce pipeline, increase board engagement, and create measurable economic development outcomes while minimizing legal risk.