

LIRAP Participation

History:

The LIRAP is a voluntary program, and only those counties that have implemented vehicle emissions I/M programs are eligible to participate in the LIRAP.

The LIRAP is separated into two grant programs - Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) and local initiative projects (LIP). DACM funds provide monetary assistance to qualifying vehicle owners in participating counties for emission-related vehicle repair, retrofit, and replacement.

LIP funds are granted to participating counties for use in approved projects focused on improving air quality in the program area.

I/M program counties include Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery Counties in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area; Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant Counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area; Travis and Williamson Counties in the Austin-Round Rock (ARR) area; and El Paso County.

Vehicle owners in nonattainment areas pay an additional \$6 on their emissions inspection fee to fund LIRAP in those counties. Other participating counties impose a \$2 fee.

Participating:

To participate, an eligible county must submit a written request to the TCEQ from the county's commissioners court to implement the LIRAP. The TCEQ executive director and the participating county then enter into a grant contract for implementation of the program.

Opting Out:

In June 2015, TCEQ adopted rules that would allow a county to opt out of the programs.

A county that opts-out will have three options regarding unspent grant funds:

- 1) Return them to TCEQ within 90 days of the end of participation;
- 2) Transfer them via an official inter-county agreement to other LIRAP counties in the area within 90 days of the end of participation; or
- 3) Continue to use the funds for LIRAP and LIP purposes until the end of the legislative biennium.

A participating county may opt out of LIRAP by submitting a written request from commissioners court to the TCEQ Executive Director. Since the DMV issues vehicle registration notices about 90 days prior to expiration, a request to terminate collection of the LIRAP surcharge will be delayed until the next series of expiration notices are printed (without the LIRAP information). The date when the non-LIRAP notices are printed is the official ending date of participation in LIRAP. The county will need to maintain LIRAP program records for three years after participation is ended.

To view the entire rule visit TCEQ's <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/legal/rules/rules/pdflib/114c.pdf>