

# **Texas Fund for Geography Education Grant Program**

## **Request for Applications**

Supported by investment proceeds from the  
Texas Legislature and the National Geographic Society

**Application Deadline:**  
**August 15, 2020**



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
1200 E. Anderson Lane  
Austin, TX 78711



National Geographic Society  
1145 17th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20036

June 15, 2020

**Texas Fund for Geography Education**

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*This packet provides instructions and forms for submitting an application to the Texas Fund for Geography Education Grant Program. To be eligible for an award, an institution must submit an*

*application to the Texas Fund for Geography Education Advisory Committee, as specified in this Request for Applications. Applications must be submitted electronically.*

## **Program Overview**

Purpose. The grant is to provide funding to eligible institutions of higher education to support geography education within the state of Texas. Other content or subject areas that employ geographic knowledge and skills may be eligible for support; for example, environmental education, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and/or science.

Authority. Authority is found in Texas Education Code, 61.9681 – 61.9684; and Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter J, Rules 13.180 – 13.186. See Appendices.

Eligible Institutions. Public and independent institutions of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003 shall be able to compete for grants.

Eligible Projects. The grant funds initiatives designed to improve the quality of geography education in Texas, including collaborative efforts between public and independent institutions of higher education in Texas and other partners serving K-12 students and youth. The latter may include, but is not limited to, school district(s), individual schools/teachers, regional education service center(s), community organizations serving youth, and public or private entities.

Priorities. The grant's 2020 priorities are (A) Professional Learning for K-12 educators or pre-service educators, (B) Geography education content for K-12 learning, and C) Direct to youth programming that builds geographic thinking. Applicants will be asked to choose one of these priority areas.

Other priorities include:

- Projects that use National Geographic resources as a means to meet state specific needs. Applicants are encouraged to build upon existing National Geographic resources in order to best meet the needs of educators and students in Texas. All National Geographic Education programs and resources are free or at cost.
- Projects that focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and reaching educators and youth in underserved areas.
- Projects that have the potential to scale (wide distribution or a replicable model).

A) **Professional Learning for K-12 educators or pre-service educators.** Proposals should utilize at least one National Geographic program or resource, and should meet Texas-specific needs in geography education. Projects that build professional learning around one or more National Geographic curriculum units in the Resource Library or National Geographic mapping resources are encouraged as is professional learning on data literacy using National Geographic resources. Applicants' projects should be designed for scale and must clearly describe the potential to scale professional learning in Texas as part of the application. Hybrid virtual and in-person models or other creative uses of technology as a means to scale professional learning are encouraged. Applications should clearly state the anticipated number of educators or pre-service educators that could be reached through the project.

B) **Geography education content for K-12 learning.** Applicants should focus on projects related to the development and implementation of TEKS-aligned educational resources utilizing National Geographic programs or resources that support geography education in Texas and improves geographic literacy in the

K-12 environment. Applications proposing to develop instructional resources must include plans to operationalize resources with students and/or educators as part of the project plan and must include the anticipated number of students and/or educators reached. Projects that include elements focused on protecting or conserving natural areas in Texas are encouraged but not required.

- C) **Direct to youth programming that builds geographic thinking and/or geographic perspectives.** Proposals could include how to prepare students to use geographic thinking to address challenges in their communities, help prepare them for careers in geography, or help deepen their understanding of their local environment. Projects that include elements focused on protecting or conserving natural areas in Texas are encouraged but not required. Partnerships with schools or community organizations serving youth are encouraged but not required. Projects can be directed toward any age of youth within the age range of 10-25 years.

#### Select National Geographic Education Resources and Programs

- [Educator Certification](#)
- Assets from the [National Geographic Resource Library](#)
- [Online Courses](#)
  - Connecting the Geo-Inquiry Process to Your Teaching Practice
  - Teaching Global Climate Change in Your Classroom
  - Collecting Data to Explore Plastic Pollution in Our Communities
  - Mapping as a Visualization and Communication Tool in Your Classroom
  - Integrating Service with Learning Goals
- [Geo-Inquiry Process](#)
- [Giant Maps](#)
- [Mapping Resources](#)
- [BioBlitz](#)
- [Explorer Classroom](#)

For more information on National Geographic Society's education programs and resources, please visit [www.natgeoed.org](http://www.natgeoed.org).

General Selection Criteria. The grant is competitive and is designed to make awards that provide the best overall value to the state in line with the priorities in the previous section. Selection criteria shall be based primarily on project quality, cost, and the impact the project will have on enhancing geography education in the state of Texas.

Available Funds. Total Funding is \$106,190 for the 2020 calendar year.

Grant Award. The maximum grant award is \$53,095 and the minimum grant award is \$15,000. Applicants may submit proposals for an amount within the \$15,000 - \$53,095 range.

Grant Period. One calendar year, beginning and start dates variable depending on the project.

Grant Disbursement. Single payment, disbursed to award recipient(s) upon execution of the grant.

Carryover Funds. Unspent and unencumbered funds (Carryover Funds) may not carry over beyond the grant period and must be returned to National Geographic Society (NGS) unless specifically authorized by NGS. If Recipient needs an extension to the Project period, Recipient will contact National Geographic Society to request an extension at least one month prior to the end of the agreement.

Application Deadline. Applicants must submit a completed Application using the following link <https://ngs.submittable.com/submit/165452/national-geographic-society-request-for-applications> on or before August 15, 2020, 5:00 PM C.T. Late Applications will not be accepted. No mailed, hand-delivered, or faxed Applications will be accepted.

More Information. Contact Carley Lovorn at [clovorn@ngs.org](mailto:clovorn@ngs.org).

## **Program Schedule**

August 15, 2020: Applications are due and must be submitted electronically at the following link: <https://ngs.submittable.com/submit/165452/national-geographic-society-request-for-applications>

September 2020: Texas Geography Education Advisory Committee meets to consider proposals and make funding recommendations to the National Geographic Society (NGS).

October 2020 (tentative): NGS selects grant recipient(s).

October-November 2020 (tentative): Grant agreements are sent by NGS to grant recipients and signed by grantee(s).

November-December 2020 (tentative): Grant programming period begins.

May 1, 2021 (tentative): Interim report due to NGS.

December 31, 2021 (tentative): Final report due to NGS.

## **Instructions**

### **Definitions of Key Terms**

Committee: The Texas Fund for Geography Education Advisory Committee.

Eligible or grantee institution: A public or private two-year or four-year general academic institution as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003 shall be able to compete for grants.

Grant period: The period that is funded by the grant. The grant period is from on or about December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

National Geographic Society: Refers to the National Geographic Society Education Foundation, the grant funder of the Texas Fund for Geography Education.

Project director: The principal educator responsible for the implementation and oversight of the proposed project. The person shall be a faculty member at an eligible institution. One additional co- project director may be named from the eligible institution if the person meets eligibility requirements and shares responsibility for the project.

## **Document Format and Submission Standards**

Writing Style. Write clearly and concisely. Proposals should be a reasonable length with no unnecessary appendices or extensive supporting documentation. Spell out terms the first time used with the abbreviations following in parentheses.

Submission. Proposals must be submitted electronically via the application form:  
<https://ngs.submittable.com/submit/165452/national-geographic-society-request-for-applications>

Deadline. Applicants must submit a completed application via the form linked above on or before August 15, 2020, 5:00 PM C.T. Late Applications will not be accepted. No mailed, hand- delivered, or faxed Applications will be accepted for this RFA. Please refer to the Geography Education Grant Program website ([www.theccb.state.tx.us/geographygrant](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/geographygrant)) to view and download the RFA.

## **Funding Restrictions**

State Appropriation Restriction. The Committee will not recommend an award to an institution that proposes to substitute or supplant funds available under this proposal to support an existing program. The Committee shall make the final determination of a proposed project's eligibility for funding.

Other Sources of Funding. Institutions shall report other sources of funding for the proposed project on the budget form. Institutions that report a significant commitment of matching funding for the project will receive points in the peer review process. Indirect/overhead costs may **not** be included in any amount reported.

## **Budget Restrictions**

Institutions may include all reasonable costs in the proposed project budget, with the following exceptions. The following types of costs shall not be included in the proposed budget or charged to the grant award without prior approval from the NGS, in consultation with the THECB:

- Purchase of equipment for an eligible institution or its partner in an amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total project budget.
- Construction or remodeling of facilities.
- Domestic travel not specifically identified in the grant application. Foreign travel is not permitted.
- Indirect/overhead costs.
- Salaries and fringe benefits for positions other than those specifically identified in the grant. Costs for staffing must reflect research or instructional salaries of the eligible institution appropriate to the tasks that will be performed and the length of time spent on the project. Salaries and benefits may not be drawn at a higher pay rate than that normally received by the individual (or a similar position). (Note: This does not prohibit offering stipends for participants and experts).

## **Other Grant Restrictions/Conditions**

The National Geographic Society and the grantee institution shall agree to the following restrictions and conditions.

The National Geographic Society:

- May visit the grantee institution to review project accomplishments and financial records.
- May suspend or terminate the grant if the institution fails to comply with the terms of the contract or if the project director(s) leaves the institution without a suitable replacement

approved by the NGS and the THECB.

- Shall not be held liable in the event of damages to persons or property which may occur in the course of activities conducted as a result of the grant.

The Grantee Institution shall:

- Ensure that the focus of the project is on improving geography education aligned to the RFA's priorities.
- For applicants in the A and B priority areas: Demonstrate the project's strong relationship to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). It is the expectation of the Committee that grant-funded activities both deepen teachers' knowledge of the TEKS and CCRS and enable them to develop and implement challenging classroom lessons related to the TEKS and CCRS.
- Ensure that the project's participants have the appropriate qualifications to successfully complete the project.
- Ensure that all personnel associated with the grant abide by all state and federal regulations for educational projects. Institutions should review proposed projects with legal counsel before submitting applications.
- Ensure that all personnel associated with the grant abide by the institution's intellectual property policy.
- Ensure that no person is excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under the grant on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Have a financial management system that provides appropriate review and approval of expenditures of grant funds and monitoring of project performance. The institution shall have its financial records and other materials pertinent to the grant available for review and audit by the State Auditor and other auditors for a period of three years following the end of the grant period.
- Notify the NGS of any potential conflicts of interest that arise during the competitive process or grant period.
- Notify the NGS if a project director leaves the grantee institution or otherwise relinquishes active direction of the project.
- Expend funds in accordance with **Budget Restrictions** (see page 5). Subcontractors shall abide by the same restrictions. Grantee understands that acceptance of state funds under this grant acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency, to audit or investigate the expenditure of state funds under this grant. Grantee further agrees to cooperate fully with the State Auditor's Office or its successor, including providing all records requested.
- Grantee will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to audit state funds received indirectly by subcontractors through Grantee and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.
- Request NGS approval, in consultation with the THECB, of any fund transfers across Budget Categories A, B, C and D that cumulatively exceed 20 percent of the total award.
- Submit at least two reports, as specified by the Committee, on how the funds were spent and the objectives accomplished. A one-page interim report, outlining the status of the grant deliverables, is due no later than May 1, 2021, and shall be submitted as a Word or pdf document via email to Carley Lovorn ([clovorn@ngs.org](mailto:clovorn@ngs.org)) and Travis Price ([tprice@ngs.org](mailto:tprice@ngs.org)). The final report, due no later than December 31, 2021, shall be submitted to the same addresses. Final reporting guidelines will be sent to award recipients. Recipients may use the same budget template required for the application for financial reporting or they may submit a financial report using their own financial reporting format.
- Return Carryover Funds to the NGS within 60 days of the expiration of the grant unless a no-cost extension is requested and approved prior to end of Term.

## **Additional Restrictions and Conditions from THECB**

Assignment or Subcontracting. No rights, interest, or obligations in a grant award resulting from this grant application shall be assigned, delegated, or subcontracted by grantee institution without prior written permission of THECB (or, to the extent THECB transfers this authority to NGS, the permission of NGS).

Liability and Indemnification. Nothing herein shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under the grant agreement, or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of the work required by the grant agreement. THECB shall have no liability except as specifically provided by law. Grantee institution stipulates and agrees that no provision or any part of the grant agreement between NGS and grantee institution, or any subsequent change order, amendment, or other grant agreement modification shall be construed: (1) as a waiver of the doctrine of sovereign immunity or immunity from suit as provided for in the Texas Constitution and the Laws of the State of Texas; (2) to extend liability to THECB beyond such liability provided for in the Texas Constitution and the Laws of the State of Texas; or (3) as a waiver of any immunity provided by the 11th Amendment or any other provision of the United States Constitution or any immunity recognized by the Courts and the laws of the United States. To the fullest extent possible by law, NGS shall not be liable under this Agreement for any damages whatsoever and grantee institution agrees to release NGS, its trustees, officers, employees, representatives or agents from any and all liability resulting from the grant agreement.

To the extent allowed by law, grantee institution agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State of Texas, THECB, NGS as well as officers, agents, and employees of THECB or NGS, respectively, from any liability, for any and all claims, demands, fees, suits or actions of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to personal injury or illness, bodily injury (including death) and property damage occurring in connection with or in any way incident to or arising out of the use, service, operation or performance of work under the terms of the grant agreement, except claims, demands, fees, suits, or actions arising from any negligence by THECB or NGS, their respective officers, agents, employees, contractor, or subcontractors, or any negligence of a third party, its (their) officers, agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors. Notwithstanding any indemnification clause, THECB and NGS shall have full authority to conduct its own defense, negotiations, and settlements, but grantee institution's indemnification nevertheless remains in full force and effect.

Affirmation Clauses. Grantee institution has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, travel, favor, or service to a THECB public servant, including employees, in connection with the submitted response. Under Texas Government Code §2155.004, no person who was compensated by the THECB to assist in preparing the grant application specifications has any financial interest in grantee institution's application. If grantee institution is not eligible, then any contract resulting from this grant application shall be immediately terminated. Further, under Section 2155.004, Texas Government Code, grantee institution certifies that the individual or business entity named in this application is not ineligible to receive the specified grant award and acknowledges that this grant award may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

Release of Application Information by THECB. Grantee institution understands and acknowledges that as Texas state agency, THECB is subject to the provisions of the Texas Public Information Act, Government Code, Chapter 552 as interpreted by judicial opinions and the opinion of the Attorney General of the state of Texas. Grantee institution will cooperate with THECB in the production of documents responsive to any such requests under the Public Information Act. THECB will make a determination whether to submit a Public Information Act request to the Attorney General.

All submitted Applications become the property of THECB after the grant application submittal deadline date. Upon acceptance of the grant award, all information submitted with grantee institution's application becomes public record and all information submitted with the application becomes part of the award. Therefore, such information is subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act, unless an exception under the Texas Public Information Act is applicable.

## Partnerships

An eligible institution may propose a compensated or uncompensated partnership with one or more K-12 institutions located in Texas; one or more teachers or institutions that are affiliated with Texas K-12 institutions; or one or more community organization serving youth located in Texas, to conduct the project. To document the partnership, the eligible institution(s) or teacher(s) must include a letter from the partner(s) with description of the partner's role that outlines the services to be performed.

## Instructions for Completing the Application

Content for the application forms is explained below.

The complete application form is available electronically and needs to be submitted electronically. The instructions are detailed on the form above next to each section of the application. Here is the application form:

<https://ngs.submittable.com/submit/165452/national-geographic-society-request-for-applications>

The budget template is available at the following link. Please review the budget restrictions on page 5 before completing.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cOBSAPtDoH4zuUD5MGRlwXpzIKGWrF75Jx3NLWB5OU4/edit#gid=0>

- Include a separate budget in the appendix for any subcontracted work that exceeds 25 percent of the total budget.
- Line D. The total should equal the amount on the "Total Amount Requested" section of the application form" The amount should not include indirect costs.
- Line E. The total should equal the amount on the "Total Proposed Matching Funding" section of the application form.
- The sum of the subtotals on Lines A, B, and C should equal the amount shown on Line D. The form must be electronically signed by the project director.

## Evaluation of Proposals

General Selection Criteria. The NGS will award grant funding based on a competitive process, designed to provide the best overall value to the state. Selection criteria shall be based primarily on project quality as determined by peer reviewers, alignment to the priorities, the impact the project will have on improving geography education in the state of Texas, and the cost of the proposed project.

## Award Process

Committee Review. The Committee is made up of qualified individuals who will evaluate the quality of the

applications. Reviewers shall not evaluate any applications for which they have a known conflict of interest. Peer reviewers will evaluate applications and assign scores based on award criteria. All evaluations and scores of the Committee review panel are final and will be based solely on the information provided in the written application. The Committee reviewers will evaluate each application based on the established criteria and their relation to the RFA's priorities. Generally, the criteria are:

- Project Design
- Significance and Impact of Project
- Project Resources
- Cost Effectiveness
- Evaluation and Expected Outcomes

Committee's Funding Recommendations. Funding recommendations to the NGS will consist of the most highly ranked and recommended applications up to the limit of available funds. In making funding recommendations, the Committee also may consider state and regional needs.

Individual funding recommendations will be based on the written information provided on the application. If available funds are insufficient to fully fund a proposal after the higher-ranking and recommended applications have been fully funded, the NGS, on behalf of the Committee, will communicate with the applicant to determine if a lesser amount would be acceptable. The Committee anticipates that the grant awards will be announced on or about October 15, 2020.

Grant Agreement and Payments. The grantee institution shall sign a grant agreement with the NGS, agreeing to the grant restrictions and conditions on pages 3-6 of this document, and any other requirements of the NGS and the State of Texas.

## **Appendices**

### **Texas Education Code § 61.9681 – 61.9684 Texas Fund for Geography Education**

#### **Sec. 61.9681. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this subchapter is to:

- (1) create an endowment to support geographic education programs in Texas;
- (2) improve the quality of geography education in Texas; and
- (3) promote a better understanding of Texas by all of its residents.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 901, Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 61.941 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(44), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

#### **Sec. 61.9682. DEFINITION.**

In this subchapter, "fund" means the Texas Fund for Geography Education.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 901, Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 61.942 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(44), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

**Sec. 61.9683. FUND; GRANTS.**

- (a) the board may enter into an agreement with the National Geographic Society of Washington, D.C., to operate an endowment fund for purposes of this subchapter to be known as the Texas Fund for Geography Education.
- (b) The agreement must include the following conditions:
  - (1) appropriated money may be deposited to the fund only in an amount equal to matching funds deposited to the fund by the National Geographic Society from other sources;
  - (2) the National Geographic Society shall provide to the board an annual report describing the fund's investments, earnings, operating procedures, and major programs; and
  - (1) if the board determines that the public purposes described by Section 61.9681 are not being accomplished, the fund shall be dissolved and the fund balance shall be distributed as follows:
    - (A) one-half to the general revenue fund; and
    - (B) the remainder to be returned to the donors of any amount deposited to the fund for the preceding five years in proportion to the amount of the donation, if the donor accepts the return of the donation, and any remainder to the National Geographic Society.
- (b) The board may transfer to the National Geographic Society for deposit to the fund any amount appropriated to the board for that purpose.
- (c) The National Geographic Society shall award grants from the fund to institutions of higher education and private or independent institutions of higher education as defined by Section 61.003(15) to promote the purposes of this subchapter.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 901, Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 61.943 and amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(44), 3(13), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

**Sec. 61.9684. GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

- (a) The board shall appoint an advisory committee consisting of seven persons who have expertise and an interest in geography education to assist the National Geographic Society in awarding grants from the fund under this subchapter.
- (b) The advisory committee on behalf of the National Geographic Society shall solicit proposals from institutions of higher education and private or independent institutions of higher education as defined by Section 61.003(15) for use of proceeds from the fund and shall recommend to the society those that best promote the purposes of this subchapter.
- (c) The advisory committee is subject to Chapter 2110, Government Code.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 901, Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 61.944 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(44), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

**Texas Administrative Code**

TITLE 19: EDUCATION  
PART 1: TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
CHAPTER 13: FINANCIAL PLANNING  
SUBCHAPTER J: TEXAS FUND FOR GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION

- (a) Authority. Authority for this subchapter is provided in the Texas Education Code, Subchapter X, Texas Fund for Geography Education. These rules establish procedures to administer the fund as prescribed in the Texas Education Code, §§61.942 through 61.945.
- (b) Scope. Unless otherwise noted, this subchapter applies to the National Geographic Society, the Texas Higher Education Board, and any institution seeking funding from the Texas Fund for Geography Education.
- (c) Purpose. This subchapter establishes guidelines for the creation and implementation of the Texas Fund for Geography Education, which will support projects to improve the quality of geography education in both public and higher education in Texas and promote a better understanding of Texas By all its residents.

**RULE §13.181      Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in these sections, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Agreement--The agreement between the National Geographic Society and the Coordinating Board to create and administer the Texas Fund for Geography Education.
- (2) Board--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (3) Commissioner--The Commissioner of Higher Education.
- (4) Committee--The advisory committee appointed by the Commissioner to solicit and recommend grant proposals.
- (5) Fund--The Texas Fund for Geography Education, which consists of funds contributed by the Board, the Society, and donors and income to the fund.
- (6) Society--The National Geographic Society of Washington, D.C.

**RULE §13.182      Agreement with National Geographic Society**

- (a) The Board shall enter into an agreement with the Society to create and to manage the fund, subject to the following conditions:
- (b) The Board shall deposit money into the fund only in an amount equal to the matching funds deposited by the Society;
- (c) The Society shall provide to the advisory committee an annual report describing the fund's investments; and
- (d) The Board and the Society shall each retain the right to dissolve the agreement if the purposes herein are not being accomplished.
- (e) The Board may transfer to the Society any amount appropriated by the Texas Legislature to the Board for that purpose.
- (f) The Board or the Society may accept donations from private individuals or corporations who wish to contribute to the fund.

**RULE §13.183      Dissolution of the Fund**

If the Board or the Society dissolves the fund, the fund balance shall be distributed in the following manner:

- (1) One-half to the general revenue fund of the State of Texas;
- (2) remainder to donors to the fund, in the amount the donor deposited; and
- (3) any further remainder to the Society.

**RULE §13.184      Advisory Committee**

The Commissioner shall appoint an advisory committee of seven (7) persons who have expertise and interest in geography education. The committee shall include at least one member representing the interests and needs of K-12 education and at least one representative of the Texas Geographic Alliance. The committee shall solicit grant proposals, consider those proposals, and make recommendations to the Society.

**RULE §13.185      Procedures for Solicitation and Recommendation of Grant Proposals**

The Committee shall, in cooperation with the Society, establish standards and procedures for soliciting grant proposals, the grant application process, consideration of proposals, committee recommendations to the Society, and awarding of grants.

**RULE §13.186      Eligibility**

Public and private and independent institutions of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003 shall be eligible to compete for grants.