



## Reporting Modernization II Grant Frequently Asked Questions

### Allowable Expenses

#### **Q: Are the allowable expenses for Reporting Modernization II Grant the same as other GEER grants?**

A: To some extent. For general guidance on allowable expenses, please visit our agency [Grant Opportunity](#) website. A video and slide deck on “Optimizing Your GEER Award Webinar” is available at the top of the page:

### Institutional Grant Opportunities

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) publishes various grant and funding opportunities which are available to a wide range of partners, including public universities and colleges, Texas hospitals, and other eligible entities.

THECB held a workshop to support the management and administration of GEER-funded projects on Friday, February 11, 2022 called "Optimizing Your Geer-Funded Grant." Topics covered included federal guidance on allowable and non-allowable costs and audit preparation. A recording is now available on our [YouTube Channel](#). You can also access the webinar slide deck here: [Optimizing Your GEER Award Webinar](#)

#### **Q: Are the allowable expenses for Reporting Modernization II Grant the same as the Reporting Modernization I Grant?**

A: To some extent. Reporting Modernization I was directed toward “... support(ing) data and reporting system modifications necessary for upcoming changes to CBM reporting.” Reporting Modernization II, “... will support data and reporting system modifications necessary for recent changes to CBM reporting or other THECB reporting requirements (underline added).” We encourage you to make strong connections between your proposed work and reporting to THECB.

#### **Q: Does the prohibition on travel expenses include travel expenses to/from trainings?**

A: Yes.

#### **Q: Can we use these funds to support costs from FY2022?**

A: Yes, pre-award costs incurred on or after March 13, 2021 may be included in the application; the U.S. Department of Education has authorized pre-award costs in GEER awards.

**Q: Can we use these funds to pay for third-party training on new data reporting tools (i.e., software)?**

A: Yes, if the training occurred during the grant term, between March 13, 2021, and September 30, 2022.

**Q: Can we use these funds to support our data warehouse?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Can we use these grant dollars to support changing reporting tools, for example transitioning from Microsoft 365 to Power BI?**

A: Yes. Pre-award costs incurred on or after March 13, 2021 are allowed as long as they are reasonable and necessary for the purpose of the grant. You may also use these dollars to support training for staff to learn Power BI, or other software that will improve your reporting efforts. You may also use these dollars for additional software licenses during the grant period for these software packages.

**Q: Can we use these funds to support an activity, for example staff training, where the purchase occurs before September 30, but the activity is delivered after the grant period?**

A: No. Grant dollars must be obligated and expended by September 30, 2022.

**Q: Can we use these grant dollars to support reporting beyond CBM reports?**

A: Yes. Updates or improvements to reporting systems purchased during the grant period are supported if they are connected to reporting to THECB, but they need not be limited to CBM reporting.

**Q: Can we use these funds to pay for third-party training on THECB data?**

A: The best source for training on [data collected](#) by and [data reported](#) by THECB is the staff on the THECB data team. Staff are planning training outreach later this fall and next spring. If you are new to institutional research or new to Texas, we also encourage you leverage existing peer networks, such as the [Texas Association for Institutional Research](#) (TAIR) and the [Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers](#) (TACRAO).

**Institution Eligibility**

**Q: If an institution applied for their full amount in Round I, can they apply for the grant in Round II?**

A: Yes. Please refer to the "[Maximum Award Amounts](#)" file shared in the govDelivery announcement for this program. The maximum awards available are shown by institution, for example:

Reporting Modernization Grant -FY22				
Sector	Institution	Award Maximum Round 1	Award Amount Round 1	Maximum Award Round 2
CTC	Alamo CCD	\$ 25,000.00	25,000	\$ 25,000.00
CTC	Alvin Community College	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 75,000.00
CTC	Amarillo College	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 75,000.00
CTC	Angelina College	\$ 50,000.00	33,100	\$ 41,900.00
CTC	Austin Community College	\$ 25,000.00	25,000	\$ 25,000.00
CTC	Blinn College District	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 75,000.00
CTC	Brazosport College	\$ 50,000.00	50,000	\$ 25,000.00
CTC	Central Texas College	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 75,000.00
CTC	Cisco College	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 75,000.00

**Q: Is matching required?**

A: No.

**Application Process**

**Q: How can we expedite our grant if we are selected?**

A: There are several steps you can take to prepare for this grant opportunity:

- Find your SAM.gov [Unique Entity ID](#) (UEID). As of April 4, 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (which is generated by SAM.gov). The Unique Entity ID must be listed on your letter of interest.
- Share the details of the [GEER grant](#) in anticipation of required information by your Grants Office:
  - Federal Grant Title: U.S. Dept. of Education, Education Stabilization Fund Program Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund
  - CFDA: 84.425
  - Federal Award Date: 6/2/2020
  - Federal Award No.: 2020-GE-84425C
  - Authority: Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 27,2020)
  - Research and Development? No

**Grant Implementation**

**Q: Why is the grant term for Reporting Modernization II limited to March 13, 2021 through September 30, 2022?**

A: The Reporting Modernization I Grant allowed for expenses from March 13, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The Reporting Modernization II Grant adds three months to this effort, while also adding additional grant support along with greater flexibility in allowable uses.

**Q: Is there a chance that the grant will be extended through the fall semester?**

A: No. This grant is funded with GEER I funds, and those funds must be expended by September 30, 2022.

**Q: How do we ensure we do not violate the supplanting prohibition when we use grant funds to reimburse pre-award costs?**

A: Supplanting occurs when a state or unit of local government *reduces state or local funds* for an activity, specifically because federal funds are available (or expected to be available) to fund that same activity. If you are planning to use funds for pre-award costs, they could apply to FY2021 (March 13, 2021-Aug 31, 2021), FY2022 (Sept 1, 2021 to the date of grant execution). If you have concerns about whether funds could be considered supplanting versus supplementing your regular budget, please consult your general counsel, business office, and/or audit team to assess use of funds.

**Q: What are the reporting obligations associated with this grant?**

A: Grantees will be required to submit an interim and closeout report that includes the following information for itemized allowable expenses:

- Allowable Expenses
- Description
- Amount of each expenses reported
- Date of expense
- Certification that expenses were used in compliance with grant.

THECB will provide a reporting template to selected grantees. It will be the same reporting template used for Reporting Modernization I.