

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Presidents and Chancellors, Institutional Research Directors, Chief Academic Officers, Chief Financial Officers, and Liaisons of Texas Public Institutions of Higher Education

**FROM:** Harrison Keller, Ph.D., Texas Commissioner of Higher Education

**DATE:** May 26, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Accelerate Student Success Planning Grant Opportunity

As part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity. The Accelerate Student Success Planning Grant supports public and private/independent colleges, universities, and health-related institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The THECB will award grants of up to \$50,000 to eligible institutions to plan for development or expansion of innovative programs and initiatives that accelerate student success by positively impacting access, persistence, completion, and workforce transitions. The deliverable for this grant is a completed work plan concerning the expansion or creation of innovative student success programs and initiatives. Eligible institutions that deliver a robust, completed plan at the end of this planning grant period will be given priority points for the next round of grants for Accelerating Student Success, which the THECB expects to release soon.

Planning projects may focus on student success programs in any of the following areas:

- Academic Supports
- Advising
- Basic Needs/Wrap-Around Services
- Finances/Cost
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Some College, No Credential Reengagement
- Underserved Populations: First Generation and Economically Disadvantaged Student Initiatives.

The THECB is working to provide additional technical assistance and capacity-building services for grantees under this program, which may include the following:

- Workshops and interactive learning experiences to support capacity building
- A statewide community of practice to facilitate the growth of shared knowledge and best practices
- Focus on sustainability and policy change to ensure these efforts last and reduce inequities

### Eligibility

A direct award of up to \$50,000 will be made to Texas public and private/independent institutions of higher education; university systems; health-related institutions; or community, technical, and state colleges that

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meet the application requirements to receive an Accelerate Student Success Planning Grant. Eligible applicants are Texas public and private/independent institutions of higher education, as defined in [Texas Education Code, Section 61.003\(2\)\(3\)\(15\)\(16\)](#).

Consortia of three or more eligible entities may apply for a planning grant. An eligible institution is limited to applying once as a single institution and once as part of a consortium for a maximum total of two applications.

### **Allowable Uses**

In composing, operating, and reporting on the project budget, grantees must conform to federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG). Planning grant budgets can include the following:

- Personnel costs for staff/faculty time dedicated to the planning project, including time needed to prepare for the THECB approval process
- Costs necessary for staff/faculty training central to the planning project
- Costs for meetings and travel necessary and reasonable to the planning project and allowable under UGG
- Costs associated with hiring external trainers and other vendors necessary for the planning project
- Software and technology directly related to the program — for example, degree auditing/advising systems or customer relationship management (CRM) systems

Grant funds must be obligated no later than September 30, 2022, and funds must be expended and liquidated no later than October 15, 2022.

### **Application Process**

Eligible institutions must submit a letter of interest from the president or president's designee from the institution describing the planning project, project deliverables, and how the grant funds will be spent.

A budget form indicating proposed expenditures not to exceed \$50,000, and federal certifications and disclosure forms must also be provided. Templates for these are attached.

Grantees that exercise the option to purchase technology resources must provide the THECB with their plans for the use of these funds in connection to the goals and targeted population for this grant in advance of their execution.

The application checklist is as follows:

- Letter of interest signed by the president or the president's designee
- Proposed budget
- Required federal certification and disclosure requirements

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Please email the completed application packet to [cri@highered.texas.gov](mailto:cri@highered.texas.gov) with the subject line "Accelerate Student Success Planning Grant" **by June 6, 2022**.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please email Waylon Metoyer, Manager, College Completion, at [cri@highered.texas.gov](mailto:cri@highered.texas.gov).

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