

Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program (2026-2028)

Informational Webinar
May 18, 2026

The Webinar will be starting shortly.

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Ronny Washington, Program Specialist
Student Success and Institutional Partnerships, THECB

ACE GRANT PROGRAM IN ACTION: BUILDING A TALENT STRONG TEXAS

**UPLIFTING TEXAS STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE POSTSECONDARY
CREDENTIALS FOR WORKFORCE SUCCESS**

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

PURPOSE

To provide grant funding to eligible applicants that seek to develop, support, or expand workforce intermediary and job training programs for Veterans and low-income students to enter careers in high-demand and/or higher earning occupations.



2013:

HB 437 establishes ACE Program and Austin Community College as grant administrator.



2023:

HB 8 transferred administration of ACE Program to THECB.



2024:

THECB adopted rules in the Texas Administrative Code & ACE Grant Program (2024-2026)



2026:

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program (2026-2028)

ACE History

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Nonprofit organization
- Workforce intermediary and job training organization

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS & ATTESTATIONS

1. Provide eligible low-income students or Veterans, job training and a continuum of evidence-based services designed to move a program participant from application to employment.
2. Be governed by a board or other governing structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based community organizations
3. Executed partnership agreement with a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute
4. Matching funds of 50% grant award

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Development, support, or expansion of projects related to job training and evidence-based services to assist students with applying for jobs through employment.
- Assisting veterans and/or low-income students.
- Ability to measure, track, and report particular metrics aligned with the priority outcomes to THECB.
- [CCF High-Demand Occupations Workbook for FY 26-27_08202025b.xlsx](#)

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS CONT.

Low-Income Students

- US Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Adult (18+)
- Texas resident
- High School graduate (Diploma/GED)
- At or below 200% of 2025 Federal Poverty Income Guideline
- Committed to completing program

Veteran Students

- US Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Adult (18+)
- Texas resident
- High School graduate (Diploma/GED)
- Committed to completing program

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

FUNDING INFORMATION



NUMBER OF AWARDS:
Approximately 8



UP TO \$4.3 MILLION DISTRIBUTED:

Up to \$500,000 Maximum total per award.



GRANT PERIOD:

September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2028

FUNDING

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

ALLOWABLE COST CATEGORIES



**Personnel
Compensation**



Travel



**Equipment &
Supplies**



**Pre-Award
Costs**



**Other Direct
Costs**

PROHIBITED COST

**Costs beyond grant
cycle**

**Higher pay rate
(Salaries/stipends)**

**Equipment and
supplies exceeding
25% of award**

**Warranties, protection
plans, and service
contracts beyond
standard coverage**

**Food and beverages
including alcohol**

**Travel not consistent
with state of Texas
guidelines**

Foreign travel

Indirect costs

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

EVALUATION CRITERIA

GENERAL CRITERIA

Project Overview and Impact (15 points)

Rationale and Alignment for Funding (30 points)

Objectives, Background Data, and Main Activities (45 points)

Overall Rating (10 points)

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

GENERAL CRITERIA

Project Overview and Impact (15 points)

- Program should identify the target population the number to be served, and provide a clear summary of the proposed program, including how it aligns with the purpose and goals of the ACE Grant.
- Program should also describe the types of programs participants will enroll in and the program length to demonstrate pathways to high-demand, higher-earning careers.

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

GENERAL CRITERIA

Rationale and Alignment for Funding (30 points)

- **Rationale to implement the proposed program including information and data on target population(s), current outcomes, and other relevant information.**
- **Strength/clarity of Applicant's description of program impact on student persistence and certificate or degree completions.**
- **Strength/clarity of Applicant's strategic allocation of funds that maximizes impact and complies with allowable cost guidelines.**

GENERAL CRITERIA

Objectives

- 1. How many students will complete developmental education at the partnering institution(s) by the end of the funding period?**
- 2. How many students will persist at the partnering institution(s) by the end of the funding period?**
- 3. How many students will complete with a certificate or degree at the partnering institution(s) by the end of the funding period?**
- 4. How many students will enter careers requiring credentials that result in higher earnings?**

GENERAL CRITERIA

Background Data

- **Math, Reading, & Writing Rates**
- **Persistence Rates**
- **Rate of success for certificate or degree completion**
- **Rate of entry into careers/workforce with significantly higher earnings**
- **Achievement Goal/Plan**

GENERAL CRITERIA

Main Activities

- **Outreach**
- **Assessment**
- **Case Management**
- **Support Services**
- **Developmental Education**

GENERAL CRITERIA

Overall Rating (10 points)

- **Program is comprehensive and clearly demonstrates how funding will significantly advance the organization's efforts to achieve stated goals in alignment with the ACE Grant. It includes evidence and research supporting a strong likelihood of program success.**

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

SUBMISSION PROTOCOL

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- All applications must be submitted via the **Grant Management System** for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: <https://theqb.fluxx.io/>
- **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Getting Started: Registration

1. Visit the THECB Online Grants Portal at thecb.fluxx.io
2. Click **Create Account**.
3. Enter information about you and organization (institution).
4. Click **Submit Request**.
5. Once approved, you will receive an email with an assigned username and a link to set up a password.

1 <https://thecb.fluxx.io>

Texas Higher Education COORDINATING BOARD

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Login (all fields required)

Username

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

New to the Online Portal?

Create Your Organizational Profile

To be considered for funding, the first step is to introduce yourself and tell us about your organization. Please click the "Create Account" button below to start.

You will then receive an automated email notification with the login information granting you access to the portal and our application forms. Should your funding application be successful, this portal will give you access to our reporting templates.

Please visit THECB website (<https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-grant-opportunities>) for a current list of grant opportunities.

3 **Texas Higher Education COORDINATING BOARD**

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

You will receive an email with login information from fluxx.io 1-3 business days after submitting this form. Be sure to check your junk/spam folder and verify with your IT administration that you can accept emails from the URL: fluxx.io.

Important Notes:

- To register, it is your responsibility to provide true, complete, and accurate information.
- Updates to existing account information can be made as needed after initial registration approval.
- Approval of a registration in this online portal does not imply grant award approval. Each grant opportunity must be applied for individually.

Required fields are bold with an asterisk*

Organization Information

Organization Name*

Organization Legal Name

This typically refers to the name of the organization as registered with the Texas Comptroller.

Acronym or DBA

DBA = Doing Business As

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Online Portal Preview

When you enter the portal use the left-hand menu to access Grant Opportunities, FAQs, and more.

The screenshot displays the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Online Grants Portal. The left-hand menu is highlighted with yellow boxes and blue callout arrows pointing to specific features:

- Read FAQs**: Points to the 'FAQs' link under the 'Grantee Portal' section.
- View Your Organization Information**: Points to the 'Organizations (1)' link under the 'ORGANIZATIONS (1)' section.
- View or Edit Your User Profile**: Points to the 'People (1)' link under the 'PEOPLE (1)' section.
- View or Apply for Grants**: Points to the 'Grant Opportunities (2)' link under the 'GRANT OPPORTUNITY (2)' section.
- Change Password or Log Out**: Points to the 'FLUXX' logo and settings gear icon at the bottom of the menu.

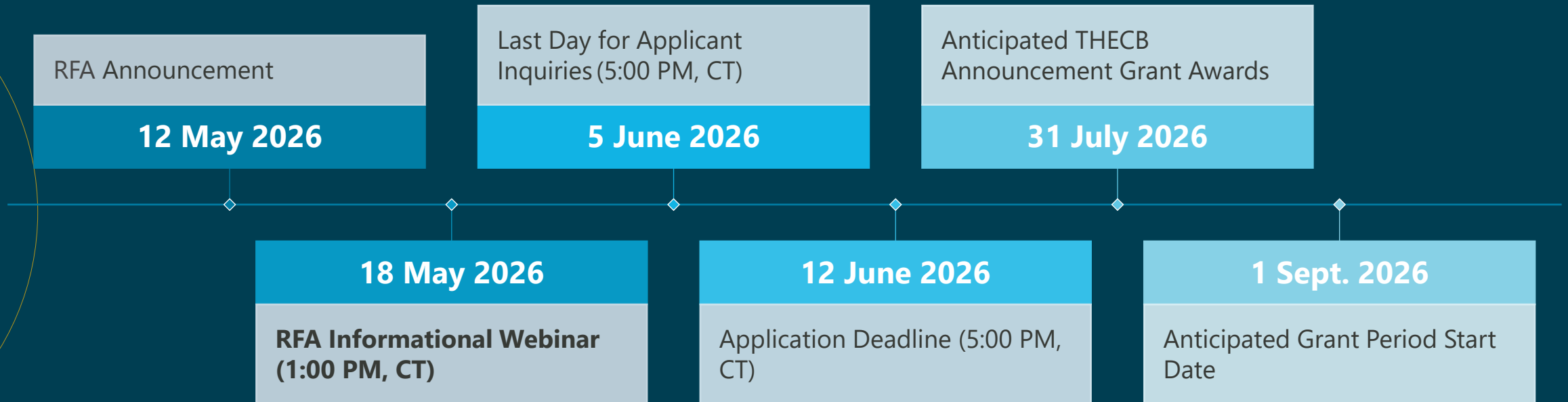
The main content area on the right includes a 'WELCOME' message, a confirmation statement 'Confirm you're in the right place.', and a list of grant programs currently within the portal:

- The Grant Programs currently within this new online grants portal include:
 - Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Through Education Grant Program (TRUE), 2027 cycle
 - Graduate and Professional Education Expansion Grant Program (GME Expansion), beginning with the 2025–2026 cycle
 - Faculty Retention Incentive Grant Program (FPRP), beginning with the 2026 cycle

We will update this list as grant programs complete the transition. If you're looking for

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

APPLICATION TIMELINE



Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

PARTICIPATION & REPORTING

- **Project Reports**
- **Financial Reports**
- **One-pager**
- **THECB Supported Events**
 - **Texas Conference for Student Success**
 - **Higher Edge Conference**

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

INQUIRIES



Point of Contact: Waylon Metoyer
Director of Student Success



ACE@highered.texas.gov

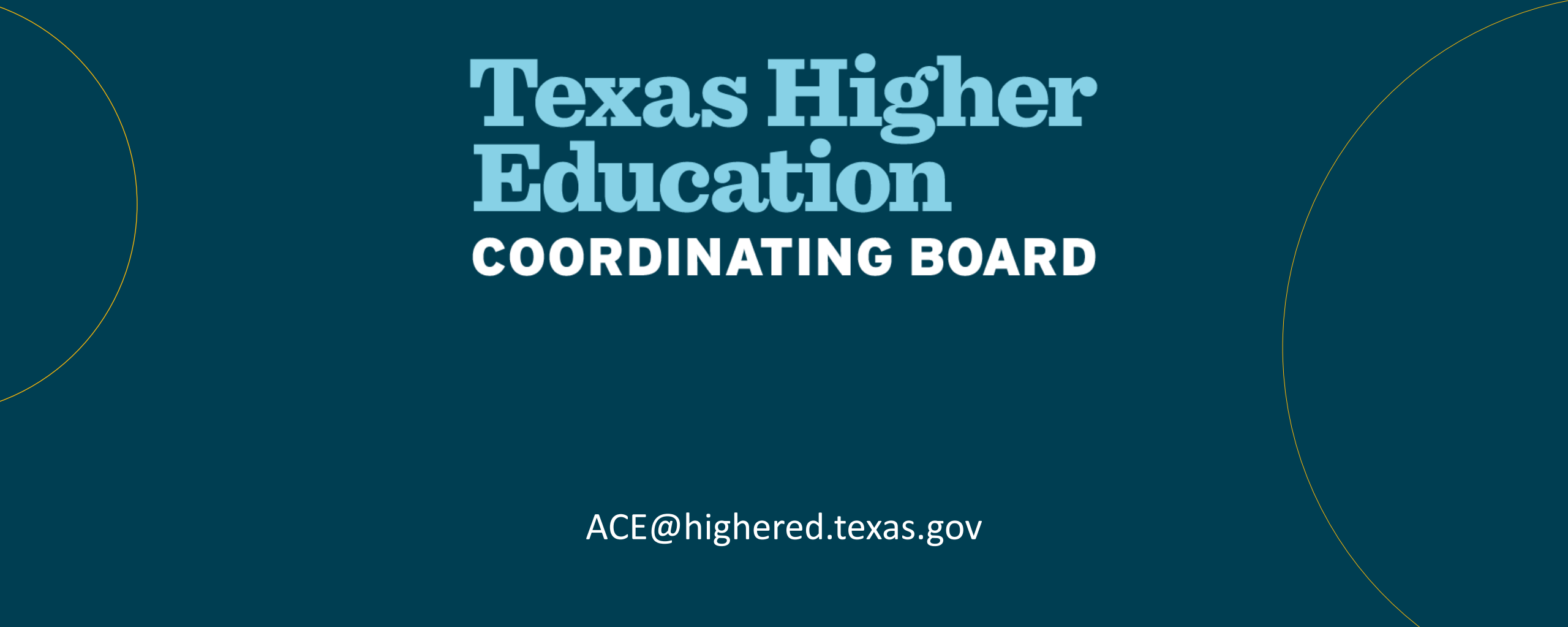


**THECB Institutional Grant
Opportunities (ACE Grants)**

Today's Meeting is recorded and Answers to
questions are posted on ACE Website

Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program

Questions?



Texas Higher Education

COORDINATING BOARD

ACE@highered.texas.gov