

**Texas Higher
Education
COORDINATING BOARD**

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Autism Grant Program

2022-2023

BMS# 26890

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59 p.m. CST/CDT, May 16, 2022

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1. OVERVIEW OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

1.1. PROGRAM TITLE

Autism Grant Program (AGP)

1.2. SYNOPSIS OF PROGRAM

The THECB is seeking to award grants to eligible autism research centers at Texas public, private and independent institutions of higher education to improve and expand the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

This RFA is seeking Applications from Texas public institutions of higher education and private or independent institutions of higher education as those terms are defined by section 61.003 of the Texas Education Code, to serve at least 3,297 children each year of the grant period. The Application may address one or more of the following three categories, and specific amounts of funding are available for each category: 1) Parent-directed Treatment, 2) Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for teachers/paraprofessionals, and 3) Innovative ASD Treatment Models.

1.3. PROGRAM AUTHORITY

This program is authorized and appropriated by the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session through the General Appropriation Act, SB 1, Article III, Rider 44. The Autism Grant Program is administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (“THECB”) under the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part I, Chapter 6, Subchapter K, Rules 6.210-6.218.

1.4. POINT OF CONTACT

All inquiries and communications concerning this RFA shall be directed **in writing** via email to:

Melinda Valdez, EdD, Manager

Academic and Health Affairs

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Email: Melinda.Valdez@highered.texas.gov

Phone: 512-427-6115

1.5. INQUIRIES

All inquiries shall be directed to the Point of Contact. Applicants and prospective Applicants must not discuss an Application, including this RFA with any other THECB employee unless authorized by the Point of Contact. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the disqualification of an Application. All responses by THECB must be in writing to be binding. Inquiries must be submitted via email to AGP@highered.texas.gov by 4:59 p.m. CT, May 9, 2022.

Any information deemed by THECB to be important and of general interest or which modifies requirements of the RFA shall be sent in the form of an Addendum to the RFA to all Applicants that have submitted an Application. All Applicants must acknowledge receipt of all addenda, if any, to this RFA by an email to AGP@highered.texas.gov.

2. AWARD SUMMARY

2.1. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF AWARDS ANTICIPATED AND MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT ANTICIPATED

There are three funding categories under the AGP to be awarded: 1) Parent-directed Treatment, 2) Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for teachers/paraprofessionals, and 3) Innovative Autism Treatment Models

THECB may award one or more AGP awards for each of the three grant categories to one or more Applicant(s) to provide treatment to serve the maximum number of children with ASD. The following amounts are available by category:

- 1) Parent-directed Treatment – one or more grant awards, each with a minimum award of \$300,000 and a maximum award of \$500,000 over two years. Applicants should aim for a minimum number of children directly served at 190 total/95 per year. There will be a maximum of 10 grant awards.
- 2) Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals – one or more grant awards, each with a minimum award of \$250,000 and a maximum award of \$400,000 over two years. Applicants should aim for a minimum number of children served at 1,020 total/510 per year. There will be a maximum of 10 grant awards.
- 3) Innovative ASD Treatment Models, including research, development, and evaluation –one or more grants, with a minimum award amount of \$500,000 and a maximum award amount of \$1,400,000 of one, or combination of grants, over two years. There will be a maximum of five grant awards.

2.2. GRANT PERIOD

The Grant Period will begin upon execution of the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) and will conclude on May 31, 2024. Awarded Applicants will have contractual obligations that extend beyond the Grant Period.

At the THECB’s sole discretion, the second year of funding is contingent upon the Awarded Applicant using the grant funds according to the grant contract terms and conditions and meeting established benchmarks and deadlines in the first year of the Grant Period.

2.3. SELECTION FOR FUNDING

The funding available to support AGP Grants in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 and 2023 will be awarded to Applicants selected on a competitive basis. Criteria for evaluation and selection of Applications for Awards are described in Section 7.

Applicants in the Parent-directed Treatment category should aim for a required minimum number of children directly served at 190 total/95 per year.

Applicants in the Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals category should aim for a required minimum number of children served at 1,020 total/510 per year.

2.4. APPLICATION TIMELINE

The application process for this RFA is anticipated to proceed according to the published application timeline. A Calendar of Events for the entire Grant Period is in Appendix B.

Dates	Application Steps
May 9, 2022	Inquiry Deadline
May 16, 2022	Application Deadline
June 2022	THECB Announcement of Grant Awards

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANT

An eligible Applicant is a public, private, or independent Texas institution of higher education, as defined in section 61.003 of the Texas Education Code, and as of September 1, 2015, operates an autism research center or a partnership among Texas public, private, or independent institutions of higher education that operate one or more autism research centers as of September 1, 2015.

An eligible Applicant is hereinafter “Applicant,” which, once selected, becomes an “Awarded Applicant.”

AGP funding is competitive. Selection of Awarded Applicants is based on meeting specific criteria, which include effectively serving the most children with ASD during the grant period.

Applicants to the Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals category may partner or contract with Educational Service Centers to provide training. Partnering with Education Service Centers is encouraged.

See Appendix A, Definitions, for further description of the terms listed above.

3.2. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Applications submitted under this RFA must be conducted by an autism research center, as defined in Section 3.1, Eligible Applicant. Autism research centers include centers, institutes, departments, colleges, and schools, which are part of a Texas public, private or independent institution of higher education or a partnership of public, private, or independent institutions of higher education and were actively engaged in autism research and treatment of children with ASD on or before September 1, 2015.

3.3. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PER APPLICANT

4. **Each Applicant may submit only one Application per autism research center/department within their institution, one maximum for each of the three categories, as defined in Section 2.1. Thus, if an eligible institution of higher education has more than one autism research center/department, it may submit more than one Application.**APPLICATION SUBMISSION

4.1. APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59 p.m. CDT/CT, May 16, 2022

The AGP Application email subject line should include the institution’s abbreviation, category type, and last name of the proposed principal investigator/project director. For example, “CTU.PD.Smith.doc” indicates an application from Central Texas University in the Parent-directed Treatment category with Dr. Smith submitting. TP indicates the Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals category and IT indicates the Innovative ASD Treatment Models category.

Each Applications must be:

- completed according to the guidelines and requirements in this RFA;
- submitted, with required Attachments, by an authorized agent of the Applicant entity; and
- submitted in one document via email to AGP@highered.texas.gov. Multiple documents will not be accepted.

*Late or incomplete Applications will not be accepted. Applications submitted to an address different from AGP@highered.texas.gov will **not** be accepted.*

THECB will not accept mailed, hand-delivered, or faxed Applications.

Submission of an Application confers no rights of Applicant to an award or to a subsequent Contract if there is one. The issuance of this RFA does not guarantee that a Contract will ever be awarded. The THECB reserves the right to amend the terms and provisions of the RFA, negotiate with Applicant, add, delete, or modify the Contract and/or the terms of Application submitted, extend the deadline for

submission of Application, or withdraw the RFA entirely for any reason solely at the THECB's discretion. An individual Application may be rejected if it fails to meet any requirement of this RFA. The THECB may seek clarification and additional documentation from Applicant at any time, and failure to respond within a reasonable timeframe is cause for rejection of an Application.

4.2. THECB CONFIRMATION OF APPLICATION RECEIPT

The THECB shall not be responsible for Applications that are captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined, or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by THECB or Applicant antivirus or other security software.

The THECB will confirm Application receipt via email within **three (3)** state business days of receipt by THECB. If an Applicant does not receive such confirmation from the THECB, contact the Point of Contact listed in Section 1.4 immediately. Applicant will be required to provide proof of timely submission of the Application.

4.3. COST OF APPLICATION PREPARATION

All costs associated with the preparation and submission of an Application for this RFA are the responsibility of Applicant. These costs shall not be chargeable to the THECB by any successful or unsuccessful Applicant.

4.4. APPLICATION DELIVERY AND LATE APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by an authorized agent of the Applicant.

Applications shall be considered to be "on time" if they are received on or before the date and time of established deadlines. Applicant shall be solely responsible for ensuring that Application is received by the THECB prior to the deadlines outlined in Section 4. The THECB shall not be responsible for failure of electrical or mechanical equipment, operator error, or inability of an electronic delivery agent to deliver an Application prior to the deadline. Failure to respond in a timely manner to this RFA shall result in Applicant losing the opportunity to receive a Grant under this program. A late Application, regardless of circumstances, shall not be evaluated or considered for award.

5. PROGRAM BACKGROUND

5.1. DETAILED PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session passed the General Appropriations Act, SB 1, Article III, Rider 44 which directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board/THECB) to award grants to existing autism research centers at Texas public, private, or independent institutions of higher education for projects in three award categories: 1) Parent-directed Treatment, 2) Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for teachers/paraprofessionals, and 3) Research, development, and evaluation of innovative autism treatment models.

AGP is funded from a General Revenue appropriation of \$7,710,000 to the Coordinating Board. The 87th Texas Legislature direction on categories, funding, and numbers of children served in Article III, Section 44.

Funding for this Request for Applications (RFA) is to support eligible Applicants at autism research centers at Texas public, private or independent institutions of higher education. Applicants may address one or more of the three categories, with specific funding available for each category.

6. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

6.1. FUNDING RESTRICTION

AGP funds shall not be substituted for any other funds available to the Applicant or any program or project partners. Awarded funds shall be spent only on expenses that support the AGP as documented in the Applicant’s Budget and Timeline.

6.2. ALLOWABLE COSTS AND PROHIBITED COSTS

6.2.1. Allowable Cost Categories.

Funds awarded under AGP must be spent only on costs necessary for the operation of the awarded project under the specified category. The THECB may negotiate a final budget, including any itemized detailed information, with each Awarded Applicant. Indicate what percent (X%) of the total project budget will be utilized for each of the allowable budget categories. Reasonable costs in the budget categories below are allowable so long as they are necessary for operation of the awarded project:

Personnel Compensation - Costs for faculty and staff must reflect salaries appropriate to the tasks that will be performed, and the length of time spent on AGP-related activities. Salaries/stipends and benefits are allowed for graduate students, research assistants, or similar paraprofessionals for time spent working on the awarded project.

Travel - Travel expenses are allowed for personnel conducting activities directly related to the grant project. These costs must be specifically identified and justified in the Application Budget, the Final Award Budget, or a budget subsequently approved by THECB via a Budget Change Request. Travel expenses must be consistent with state of Texas guidelines relating to type (transportation, lodging, meals), funding basis (actual cost, per diem, mileage), and reasonableness.

Equipment and Technology – The equipment must be necessary for the project to succeed and have a useful life of more than two years. As with all allowable budget categories, indicate what percent (X%) of total project budget will be dedicated to this category, along with the dollar amount.

Other Direct Costs -- Approval of expenditures for Other Direct Costs is at the discretion of THECB. These costs must be specifically identified and justified in the Application budget and the negotiated award budget.

6.2.2. Prohibited Costs.

The following types of costs shall not be included in the proposed budget or be paid with AGP Grant funds:

Costs incurred prior to the Grant Period, unless written approval by the THECB has been granted for pre-award grant activity.

Costs for ongoing support of the awarded project after the end of the grant award.

Salaries or other stipends that are calculated at a higher pay rate than that which an individual normally receives in a position (or in a similar position).

Researcher or paraprofessional recruiting expenses, including travel, entertainment, and relocating expenses.

Travel expenses for children with ASD or members of their families participating in the AGP.

Foreign travel and other travel not consistent with state of Texas guidelines relating to type (transportation, lodging, meals), funding basis (as actual cost, per diem, mileage), and reasonableness.

Scholarship and loan assistance for students (stipends for graduate assistantships are allowed).

Supplies that are considered consumables.

Construction or remodeling of facilities, architect's fees, and feasibility studies.

Rent paid to an institution of higher education or an external facility.

Warranties, protection plans, and service contracts beyond the standard coverage period that is included in the purchase price.

Food and beverages.

Alcohol.

Tips or gratuities.

Indirect costs.

The Awarded Applicant may not charge any of the following costs to the AGP without prior written approval from THECB:

Equipment, including software, not specifically itemized in the awarded Application.

Domestic travel not specifically itemized in the awarded Application.

Salaries and fringe benefits for positions other than those specifically identified in the awarded Application.

Budget transfers across Budget Categories that cumulatively exceed 10 percent of the total Grant Award during the Grant Period.

6.2.3. Budget Changes

Submission of a Budget Change Request and prior written approval from the THECB is required to allow changes to the budget categories:

Domestic travel not specifically itemized in the Application Budget of the Final Award Budget.

Other Direct Costs not specifically identified and justified in the Application Budget or the Final Award Budget.

Budget transfers across the allowable budget categories listed in Subsection 6.2.1 that exceed 10 percent of the total Grant Award during the Grant Period.

Budget Change Request approval must be received in writing from the Point of Contact for the AGP.

7. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Each Applicant shall satisfy Section 3. Eligibility Requirements to be considered during the award selection process. Applicants shall be selected for funding on a competitive basis.

This RFA is designed to issue Grant Awards that provide the best overall value to the state. General selection criteria shall be based on the number of children with ASD served, project quality as determined by reviewer criteria, cost of the project, financial ability to conduct the project, state and regional needs and priorities, ability to continue project after the Grant Period, and past performance on THECB grants.

Applicants in the Parent-directed Treatment category must directly serve at a minimum 95 children per year.

Applicants in the Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals category must directly serve at a minimum 510 children per year.

7.1. APPLICATION SCREENING

THECB staff shall conduct an initial screening of Applications to determine if they adhere to the Grant program requirements contained in the RFA. An Application must meet RFA requirements and be submitted with proper authorization on or before the day specified by the THECB to qualify for further consideration.

All incomplete, ineligible, or otherwise non-compliant applications will not be considered for funding. It is anticipated that THECB staff will notify Applicants eliminated through the screening process within 30 days of the submission deadline.

Each Application that passes the initial screening for completeness and eligibility will be further considered for award selection according to the funding priority categories and general selection criteria described in Section 7.3.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR AWARD SELECTION

Reviewers will evaluate Applications submitted for this RFA based on the project elements and the criteria presented in this section (#1-4 for all three categories, as well as category-specific criteria that is detailed individually) which are designed to enable the reviewers to assess the quality of a proposed project and determine the likelihood of its success. THECB staff may seek consultation with national experts in the field to assist in the evaluation of submitted Applications. A maximum of 200 points may be awarded. The Application Evaluation Form is in Appendix C.

1. Project design and viability Provides a detailed explanation of the Applicant's autism treatment, training, or research program and provides a rationale, including the evidence basis. (90 points)
2. Resources Provides detailed information related to administration and support for the program.(40 points)
3. Budget/Cost Effectiveness indicates that financial resources are appropriately allocated to achieve project goal and objectives (40 points)
4. Evaluation and expected outcomes Applicant's evaluation plan is designed to determine the effectiveness of its proposed project. (30 points)

Parent-directed Treatment Grant Category: The available program funding may be awarded to multiple Applicants so that the total number of parent/child pairs with ASD served in a year by all Parent-directed Treatment grants equals at least 750 (1,500 total) in the Grant Period.

- Applications for the Parent-directed Treatment Grant must indicate the number of children with ASD/parent pairs that will be served within the space of one year, for two consecutive years of the Grant Period, and state how many children will be served in each year of the grant, to include a grand total projected to be directly served during the Grant Period. Children directly served in current or past AGP Grants Periods may not be included.
- The Applicant must include 1) a timeline for development and implementation, and 2) a description of the target population, including strategies to recruit and serve diverse populations.
- The Applicant must also demonstrate evidence to indicate that parents, legal guardians, immediate family members, and/or caregivers will be effectively instructed in treatment methods.

- Applicants in the Parent-directed Treatment category must provide direct services to at least 95 children per year.

Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals Category: The available program funding may be awarded to multiple Applicants, so that the total number of children with ASD served in a year by all Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals grants equals at least 2,547 (5,094 total) in the Grant Period.

- Applications for the Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals grant must indicate the number of teachers who will receive training and the number of children with ASD that will be served in each year of the grant, to include a grand total projected to be served during the Grant Period. Children directly served in current or past AGP Grants Periods may not be included.
- The Applicant must demonstrate evidence to indicate that teachers and/or paraprofessionals will be instructed in Behavior Analyst treatment methods. Applicants are encouraged to contract with Educational Service Centers to increase the number of teachers/paraprofessionals trained.
- Applicants in the Board-certified Behavior Analyst Training for Teachers/Paraprofessionals category must provide services to at least 510 children per year.

Innovative ASD Treatment Models Category: The available program funding may be allocated among multiple Applicants to serve the maximum number of children with ASD.

- Applications for the Innovative ASD Treatment Models grant must indicate the number of children with ASD that will be served in each year of the grant. The Applications must provide a clear description that demonstrates how the proposed treatment model is innovative in comparison to conventional treatment models.

7.2. RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING

THECB staff shall make a recommendation of selected Applicants to be funded to the Commissioner of Higher Education, who will submit his funding decision to THECB Board members for their final approval as consistent with THECB Rule 1.16.

8. APPLICATION FORMAT AND CONTENT

An Application must include the elements described in Subsections 8.1 through 8.8 of this RFA. Maximum length per section will be noted when applicable. The Application Checklist contains required details for each element. Appendix F provides Application FORMS.

In completing the Application, applicants should provide sufficient information to allow reviewers to clearly evaluate the Application based on the selection criteria described in Section 7.1 of this RFA. Only one PDF document containing Application items should be submitted via email, multiple documents will not be accepted.

8.1. COVER PAGE WITH CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION INFORMATION (FORM 1)

The Certification section on the Cover page provides a signature by an authorized institutional representative to certify the accuracy and completeness of information submitted in the Application. The signatory must be an individual who is legally authorized to bind the Applicant institution. Provide Applicant contact information. Provide Partner contact information (if applicable). Provide location information on the proposed program/project.

8.2. PROJECT NARRATIVE (FORM 2)

8.2.1 Project Summary

The summary must identify the Project Goal Statement (see Section 8.3.1) and provide a brief description of the overall project plan.

8.2.2 Description of Applicant and Partners

Provide information on Applicant and Partners (if applicable) expected to participate in the program/project, including expected detailed information on their roles and contributions. Clearly describe participants' level of commitment to the project, including percent of work allocated to project, if applicable. Include information about any third party or partner involvement. Provide clear explanation of relationship between Applicant and Partner, include whether the Applicant would delegate authority or responsibilities. Provide documentation per Section 8.7.

Provide information on facilities and service areas that would be used for the AGP. Include the amount of time planned for project activities at each facility if more than one is used, including partnership location(s).

8.2.3 Assessment of Need

Describe how the project is planned to improve and expand treatment of children with ASD for the best overall value to the state.

8.3. PROJECT WORK PLAN (FORM 3)

Project Work Plan should include the Project Goal Statement, objectives, description of target population, including strategies to recruit and serve diverse populations, and a timeline for the development and implementation of activities and outcomes. Generally, each objective should be supported by one or more activity, process, or deliverable. If the Applicant is selected for an Award, it is expected that the Project Work Plan will be more fully developed and expanded over the course of the grant period, in conjunction with project reporting and verification requirements.

8.3.1 Project Goal Statement

The Project Goal Statement shall identify the ultimate outcome of the project.

8.3.2 Major Project Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Major Project Objectives measure the progress toward the project goal. Objectives should be specific and measurable. Applicants should include at least three (3) project objectives and expected outcomes that support achievement of the project goal statement identified in Section 8.3.1.

The expected outcomes should be clearly articulated, relate to the objective and include appropriate measures for assessment of those objectives.

8.4. PROJECT EVALUATION

Project evaluation is incorporated into the Project Work Plan. Awarded Applicants must document status of expected outcomes during required project reporting and include how the evaluation plan will be used to determine the effectiveness of the proposed project. After the end of the funding period, Awarded Applicants must report on the final outcome of each identified project objective. Section 10 provides detail on grant reporting requirements.

The THECB may conduct an evaluation, including a site visit, to assess the statewide effectiveness of the project, including a site visit.

8.5. BUDGET (FORM 4)

The total budget should be only whole numbers rounded to the nearest thousand and should include costs for the Grant Period.

Applicant must complete the Budget. The budget must include:

- A reasonable, realistic estimate of funds expenditures over the Grant Period, per fiscal year and in total.
- Amounts and justification of allowable funds expenditures by category and year (Refer to Section 6.2).
- Any available matching funds by source and amount (there is no cost sharing or matching funds requirement).

THECB shall negotiate a Final Award Budget with each Awarded Applicant.

8.6. EVIDENCE OF LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

Provide documentation as evidence of project commitment of Applicant's Leadership. Such documentation should be in the form of Letters of Commitment from Applicant's senior management and, if applicable, from leadership of Applicant's facility and/or educational and community partners, as applicable.

8.7. ATTACHMENTS

Provide a biosketch for key personnel in the project. Biosketches should contain page numbers and the last name of the expert in the footer.

9. DISTRIBUTION OF AWARD FUNDS**9.1 ISSUANCE OF GRANT AWARD**

Following all negotiations between the THECB and Applicants and the announcement of awards, the Awarded Applicants will receive an electronic copy of the THECB's AGP Notice of Grant Award (NOGA, Appendix E), which will take effect on the day the NOGA is fully executed. Throughout this RFA, the terms "NOGA," "Award," "Contract", and "Grant" are used interchangeably.

The Contract must be executed by an individual authorized to enter into a contract on behalf of the Applicant. Upon execution of a Contract resulting from this RFA, the term "Applicant" shall have the same meaning as "Awarded Applicant" or "Grantee." The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, a state agency, may also be referred to as the "THECB," "Board," or "Agency." At times, THECB or "Board" and Contractor are referred to singularly as "Party" and collectively as "Parties." Likewise, the terms "Request for Applications" and "Application" shall have the same meaning as the term "Contract" or "Agreement."

9.2 "DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES" REQUIREMENT

The THECB may not execute a contract/grant requiring approval of the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Chair until the non-state Business Entity has presented a certificate disclosing interested parties. For-profit organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and private institutions selected for an award must complete this requirement before a grant award contract can be executed. Further information relating to Disclosure of Interested Parties is provided in Section 11.25 of this RFA.

9.3 FUNDS DISBURSEMENT AND PAYMENT TERMS

Subsequent to full NOGA execution and THECB receipt of the Disclosure of Interested Parties as applicable (required for private institutions, refer to Section 11.25), Grant Award funds will be disbursed according to the following provisions of this RFA.

AGP Grants are funded through state general appropriations. Awarded Applicant shall receive payments through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts via Recurring Transaction Index (RTI) process in the Uniform Statewide Accounting System (USAS). Awarded Applicant should contact their Appropriation Control Officer regarding receipt of funds. The THECB shall not disburse awarded funds until the NOGA has been fully executed and, if applicable, the Disclosure of Interested Parties has been received and acknowledged by the THECB, as described in Section 9.2.

After full NOGA execution and THECB receipt of the Disclosure of Interested Parties, as applicable, 50% of awarded funds are payable to enable the Grantee to fully perform the Services described in its Application.

At the THECB's sole discretion, the second year of grant funding is contingent upon the Awarded Applicant using grant funds appropriately, meeting project benchmarks, timely Progress Report submissions, and producing expected outcomes in the first year of the Grant Period.

Awarded Applicant must submit Progress Reports by the deadlines established in Section 10 Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.

All grant-related expenses must be incurred on or prior to May 31, 2024. Any grant funds received by Grantee and not expended prior to the end of the Grant Period shall be returned to the THECB within 90 days, unless otherwise agreed by THECB and Grantee.

Awarded Applicant shall not expend awarded funds until the NOGA has been fully executed.

9.4 LAST DAY OF EXPENDITURES

All allowable grant-related expenses must be incurred on or before May 31, 2024. Expenses incurred after this date cannot be charged to the AGP.

9.5 RETURN OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS

Awarded Applicants shall return any unexpended funds to THECB within ninety (90) days after the end of the Grant Period days unless otherwise agreed by THECB and Grantee.

Awarded Applicant shall return any remaining funds promptly, if Award is terminated.

9.6 GRANT EXTENSION

Extension of the Grant Period for the project may be granted at the sole discretion of THECB. An Awarded Applicant may be eligible to request a maximum 12-month no-cost extension (NCE) to fully complete grant project activities and goals. Awarded Applicant must request an extension by email to the point of contact for AGP no later than November 30, 2023. Extensions are subject to the eligibility requirements.

Additional documentation and monitoring reports will be required if granted an NCE. No-cost extension requests to the THECB Point of Contact must include a budget worksheet, narrative rationale, and activity timeline pertaining to the no-cost extension.

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

10.1. MONITORING

The THECB staff shall monitor and oversee AGP progress and compliance through required reporting to ensure that grant commitments are fulfilled and that the financial matters related to the grant award

are accurate and appropriate. Awarded Applicant shall be required to complete the progress reports listed in Sections 10.2 and 10.3 for a project funded as a result of this RFA. The THECB will provide a template and instructions for electronic submission for required reports.

If Awarded Applicant does not submit the required reports detailed in Sections 10.2 and 10.3 by the established deadline, and the Awarded Applicant has not been granted a submission extension, the THECB reserves the right to require return of unexpended funds. Delinquent and unaccepted reports may affect Awarded Applicant's eligibility to apply for future THECB grant awards.

10.2. NARRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORTS

Awarded Applicant shall submit eight (8) written progress reports as specified by the THECB on or before the following dates:

1. Progress Report due September 19, 2022
2. Progress Report due December 19, 2022
3. Progress Report due March 20, 2023
4. Progress Report due June 19, 2023
5. Progress Report due September 18, 2023, must include if an NCE request is anticipated.
6. Progress Report due December 18, 2023
7. Progress Report due March 18, 2024
8. Final Progress Report due June 24, 2024

Progress Reports will generally include, but may not be limited to:

- (a) Narrative status report on the development of an AGP program, including number of children served, and teachers as applicable, per award category requirements for each reporting period and to date.
- (b) Project Work Plan. The work plan submitted with the Applicant's Application shall be updated and supplemented for each reporting period and for the final report.
- (c) Financial status detailing budget funding received, expenditures, and unexpended balance for each reporting period and to date.

10.3. FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Awarded Applicant shall submit a final financial expenditure report as specified by the THECB due on September 2, 2024, that **must include the amount of unexpended funds that will be returned to the THECB.**

11. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

11.1 TERMINATION

Notwithstanding the termination or expiration of this Contract, the provisions of this Contract regarding confidentiality, indemnification, transition, records, right to audit and independent audit, property rights, dispute resolution, invoice and fees verification, provision of services, and default shall survive the termination or expiration dates of this Contract.

11.1.1 Convenience of the State

THECB, in its sole discretion, may terminate this Grant Award/Agreement upon one (1) calendar day's written notice to Grantee. Such notice will be provided in accordance with Section 11.36, Notice, of this Grant Award/Agreement. In the event of such termination,

the Grantee shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing, cease all work immediately upon the effective date of termination. THECB will be liable only for payments for any deliverables received from or services performed by the Grantee before the termination date.

11.1.2 Termination for Cause

THECB may, by written notice to Grantee, immediately terminate this Grant Award/Agreement for cause if: (a) THECB is not reasonably satisfied with Grantee's Services; (b) default or abandonment by Grantee occurs; or (c) Grantee fails to comply fully with any term or condition of this Grant Award/Agreement, through no material fault of THECB. If THECB deems it appropriate under the circumstances, THECB will provide a three (3) business day advance written notice of intent to terminate to Grantee, and THECB will provide Grantee with an opportunity for consultation with THECB prior to termination during that three (3) business day period.

If Grantee fails or refuses to perform its obligations under this Grant Award/Agreement, THECB may exercise any and all rights as may be available to it by law or in equity. In the event THECB exercises its right to terminate for cause, Grantee is responsible for paying damages to THECB including but not limited to re-procurement costs (if applicable), and any other consequential damages to the State of Texas and THECB resulting from Grantee's non-performance.

11.1.3 Abandonment or Default

If the Grantee Abandons or Defaults on the Grant Award/Agreement, THECB reserves the right to terminate the Grant Award/Agreement without notice and either re-solicit or re-award the Grant Award/Agreement to the next best responsive and responsible Grant Applicant. The defaulting Grantee will not be considered in the re-solicitation and may not be considered in future solicitations for the same type of work, unless the specification or scope of work significantly changed. The period of suspension will be determined by THECB based on the seriousness of the default.

11.1.4 Applicable Law and Conforming Amendments

THECB may terminate this Grant Award/Agreement immediately upon notice to Grantee in the event federal or state law is enacted, amended, or judicially interpreted so as to render continued fulfillment of the Grant Award/Agreement, on the part of THECB, wholly unreasonable or impossible. THECB reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to unilaterally amend this Grant Award/Agreement throughout the Grant Award/Agreement Term to incorporate any modifications necessary for THECB's compliance, as an agency of the State of Texas, with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, requirements, and guidelines.

11.1.5 Excess Obligations (Non-Appropriation)

The Grant Award/Agreement is subject to termination or cancellation, without penalty to THECB, either in whole or in part, subject to the availability of state funds.

11.1.6 Effect of Termination

Upon any termination, all indemnities, including without limitation those set forth in this Grant Award/Agreement, as well as Grant Award/Agreement provisions regarding confidentiality, records retention, right to audit, ownership, and dispute resolution, shall

survive the termination of this Grant Award/Agreement for any reason whatsoever and shall remain in full force and effect. In the event of any termination, Grantee shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing, cease all Services immediately upon the effective date of termination, except such Services that THECB deems are necessary to wind-up in a cost-effective manner. For any termination by THECB other than termination for non-appropriation, THECB shall be liable to Grantee for only that portion of the Services authorized by THECB and which have been completed prior to the effective date of termination, provided that THECB shall not be liable for any work performed that is not acceptable to THECB and/or does not meet Grant Award/Agreement requirements, plus any necessary work deemed appropriate by THECB to cost-effectively wind-up.

11.1.7 Transfer of Duties

In the event of termination, Grantee will provide reasonable cooperation to transfer its duties under the Grant Award/Agreement to another entity without disruption, if applicable.

11.2 AMENDMENT

This Grant Award/Agreement may be modified only by written amendment executed by the Parties hereto; however, any amendment of this Grant Award/Agreement that conflicts with the laws of the State of Texas shall be void ab initio.

11.3 INDEMNIFICATION

(THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO STATE AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS)

Acts or Omissions: GRANTEE SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THECB AND THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, OTHER CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, AND EXPENSES ARISING OUT OF, OR RESULTING FROM, ANY ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THE GRANTEE OR ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, SUBCONTRACTORS, ORDER FULFILLERS, OR SUPPLIERS OF SUBCONTRACTORS IN EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF THE GRANT AWARD/AGREEMENT AND ANY PURCHASE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE GRANT AWARD/AGREEMENT. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY GRANTEE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF TEXAS IF THECB AND/OR THE STATE OF TEXAS AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, OTHER CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND DESIGNEES ARE A NAMED DEFENDANT IN ANY LAWSUIT AND THE GRANTEE MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. GRANTEE AND THECB AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

11.4 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

The Parties stipulate and agree that no provision of, or any part of this Grant Award/Agreement between THECB and Grantee, or any subsequent amendment 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 State of Texas and the United States. The State of Texas and THECB do not waive sovereign immunity by entering into this Grant Award/Agreement and specifically retain such immunity and all defenses available to them under the laws of the State of Texas or the common law.

11.5 ASSIGNMENT

Grantee shall not assign its rights under the contract or delegate the performance of its duties under the Grant Award/Agreement without prior written approval from the THECB. Any attempted assignment in violation of this provision is void and without effect.

11.6 DELEGATION OR SUBCONTRACTING

Unless as otherwise provided for in this Grant Award/Agreement, no contractual rights, interest, or obligation shall be delegated or subcontracted by Grantee without prior written approval of THECB. No delegation or subcontract approved by THECB shall relieve Grantee of any obligation or responsibility under this Grant Award/Agreement. It is the Parties' intent that to the extent subcontracting is approved by THECB, Grantee shall make a good faith effort to subcontract with Historically Underutilized Business(es) (HUB), as defined in Texas Government Code §2161.001(2), during the performance of this Grant Award/Agreement. The goal of the HUB program is to promote full and equal business opportunities for all businesses contracting with the State of Texas.

11.7 RIGHT TO AUDIT AND RECORDS RETENTION

Grantee understands that acceptance of funds under this Grant Award/Agreement, or indirectly through a subcontract under this Grant Award/Agreement, acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor's office, THECB or any successor agency, as well as any external auditors selected by the State Auditor's office, THECB or, in agreements involving federal funds, any auditors selected by the United States, including, but not limited to the cognizant federal agencies and/or federal Offices of the Inspector General (collectively referred to as "Audit Entities"), to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Grantee further agrees to cooperate fully with the above parties in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including promptly providing all records requested. Grantee will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through Grantee and the requirements to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards.

Grantee shall maintain its records and accounts in a manner which shall assure a full accounting for all funds received and expended by Grantee in connection with the Grant Project. These records and accounts (which includes all receipts of expenses incurred by Grantee) shall be retained by Grantee and made available for inspecting, monitoring, programmatic or financial auditing, or evaluation by THECB and by others authorized by law or regulation to do so for a period of not less than seven (7) years from the date of completion of the Grant Award/Agreement or the date of receipt by THECB of Grantee's final claim for payment or final expenditure report or until any litigation/billing issues are resolved, whichever is later. If an audit has been announced, the records shall be retained until such audit has been completed. Grantee shall make available at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, and for reasonable periods, all documents and other information related to the Services provided in this Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee and any subcontractors shall provide any Audit Entities with any information such entity deems relevant to any monitoring, investigation, evaluation, or audit.

Grantee's failure to comply with this subsection (Right to Audit and Records Retention) shall constitute a material breach of this Grant Award/Agreement and shall authorize THECB and the State of Texas to immediately assess appropriate damages for such failure. THECB reserves the right to require the reimbursement of any over-payments determined as a result of any audit or inspection of records on work performed under this Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee shall reimburse THECB for any over-payments within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of THECB's written notice.

Awarded Applicant shall have an accounting system that accounts for cost in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Awarded Applicant's accounting system must include an

accurate and organized file/records system for accounting and financial purposes for providing backup materials for billings.

11.8 TIME AND EFFORT RECORDKEEPING

For those personnel whose salaries are prorated between or among different funding sources, time and effort records will be maintained by Awarded Applicant that confirm the project work provided within each funding source. Awarded Applicant must adjust payroll records and expenditures based on this documentation. This requirement applies to all projects, regardless of funding sources, unless otherwise specified.

11.9 UNIFORM GRANT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (UGMS)

Grantee agrees to follow the UGMS, including all of its applicable conditions and State Assurances (“UGMS”). UGMS is herein incorporated for all purposes into this Agreement. All applicable conditions and uniform assurances can be found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/grant-management/>.

11.10 FORMS, ASSURANCES, AND REPORTS

Awarded Applicant shall timely file with the proper authorities all forms, assurances and reports required by state laws and regulations. The THECB shall be responsible for reporting to the proper authorities any failure by Awarded Applicant to comply with the foregoing laws and regulations coming to the THECB’s attention and may deny reimbursements or recover payments made by the THECB to Awarded Applicant in the event of Awarded Applicant’s failure to so comply.

11.11 SITE VISITS

Throughout the Grant Period, the THECB and/or its representatives shall have the right to make site visits to review the Autism Grant Program operations and accomplishments.

11.12 SUPPLANTING PROHIBITION

A Grant Award may not be used to replace federal, state, or local funds.

11.13 CARRYOVER OF FUNDS

At the THECB’s discretion, unencumbered funds may carry over from each year of the Grant Period.

11.14 APPLICABLE CONDITIONS AND UNIFORM ASSURANCES

The standard financial management conditions and uniform assurances set out in the RFA are applicable to all grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and other financial assistance arrangements executed between state agencies, local governments, and any other sub-recipient not specifically excluded by state or federal law. All applicable conditions and uniform assurances can be found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/grant-management/>.

11.15 STATE AUDITOR’S RIGHT TO AUDIT

The state auditor may conduct an audit or investigation of any entity receiving funds from the state directly under the agreement or indirectly through a subcontract under the Grant Award/Agreement. The acceptance of funds directly under the Grant Award/Agreement or indirectly through a subcontract under the Grant Award/Agreement acts as acceptance of the authority of the state auditor, under the direction of the legislative audit committee, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Under the direction of the legislative audit committee, an entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the state auditor must provide the state auditor with access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit.

11.16 CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION FAMILY CODE (IF APPLICABLE)

By signing this Grant Award/Agreement, Grantee certifies that under Section 231.006, Family Code, Grantee is not ineligible to receive payment under this Grant Award and acknowledges that this Grant Award/Agreement may be terminated, and payment may be withheld or recouped if this certification is inaccurate. If this certification is shown to be false, Grantee is liable to THECB for attorneys' fees, the costs necessary to complete the Grant, including the cost of advertising and awarding a second grant award/agreement, and any other damages provided by law or Grant Award/Agreement. Under Section 231.006 of the Family Code, the vendor or applicant certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Grant Award/Agreement, bid or application is not ineligible to receive the specified grant, loan, or payment and acknowledges that this Grant Award/Agreement may be terminated, and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

11.17 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If THECB determines that any work product is not acceptable, THECB shall notify Grantee of the specific deficiencies in writing. Grantee shall then undertake all steps necessary to correct any deficiencies at no additional cost to THECB. In the event any issues cannot be resolved, the dispute resolution process provided for in Texas Government Code, Chapter 2260 shall be used by THECB and Grantee to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of Contract. The dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260 of the Texas Government Code must be used to attempt to resolve any dispute arising under the Grant Award/Agreement.

11.18 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Prior Notification. Publication, including presentations, is encouraged; however, Awarded Applicant agrees to notify the THECB prior to the publication of any information, including results, findings or reports, regarding the activities being conducted under any Contract/Grant resulting from this RFA. Awarded Applicant shall ensure the following statements are included in any published work:

This work was supported in whole or in part by a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The opinions and conclusions expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the opinions or policy of the THECB.

Potential Publication in News Media of any Type. Should Awarded Applicant be contacted by any news media about any information, including results, findings, or reports regarding activities being conducted under any Contract/Grant resulting from this RFA, Awarded Applicant shall notify its THECB Point of Contact, when possible, before communicating with news media. When not possible, Awarded Applicant shall notify its THECB Point of Contact immediately after concluding the communication with the news media.

Should Awarded Applicant desire to contact any news media about any information, including results, findings, or reports regarding activities being conducted under any Contract/Grant resulting from this RFA, Awarded Applicant shall notify its THECB Point of Contact before communicating with news media.

Any written publication shall be sent electronically to the THECB Point of Contact.

11.19 CONFIDENTIALITY, PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT, AND FERPA

Notwithstanding any provisions of this Grant Award/Agreement to the contrary, Grantee understands that as a Texas state agency, THECB is subject to and will comply with the Texas Public Information Act, Government Code, Chapter 552 as interpreted by judicial opinions and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas. Grantee will cooperate with THECB in the production of documents responsive to any such requests under the Public Information Act at no additional charge to THECB.

11.19.1 Public Information Act

THECB will make a determination whether to submit a Public Information Act request to the Attorney General. This Grant Award/Agreement and all data and other information generated or otherwise obtained in its performance may be subject to the Texas Public Information Act. Grantee will notify THECB's contact within 24 hours of receipt of any third-party requests for information it receives relating to this Grant Award/Agreement. In accordance with Section 2252.907 of the Texas Government Code, Grantee is required to make any information created or exchanged with the State pursuant to this Grant Award/Agreement, and not otherwise excepted from disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act, available in a format that is accessible by the public at no additional charge to the State and shall cooperate with THECB in doing so. Grantee agrees to maintain the confidentiality of information received from THECB and the State of Texas during the performance of this Grant Award/Agreement, including information which discloses confidential personal information particularly, but not limited to, social security numbers. Grantee will not disclose any information to which it is privy under this Grant Award/Agreement without the prior written consent of THECB. Grantee will indemnify and hold harmless the State of Texas, its officers and employees, and THECB, its officers and employees for any claims for damages that arise from the disclosure by Grantee of information also held by the State of Texas or THECB to which Grantee is privy under this Grant Award/Agreement.

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

Any proprietary information included in Applicant's Application shall be subject to disclosure unless such proprietary information was clearly identified by Applicant, and such identification was submitted concurrently with the original submission of the proprietary information. Such identification of proprietary information shall be clearly marked in the Application on each page it appears. Such markings shall be in boldface type at least 14-point font. Additionally, Applicant shall state the specific reason(s) an exception from the Texas Public Information Act is being claimed concurrently with the original submission of the proprietary information.

If Awarded Applicant fails to clearly identify proprietary information with the original submission of the proprietary information, then those Sections will be deemed non-proprietary and made available upon public request after the Grant is awarded. The production of any material under the Grant shall not have the effect of violating or causing the THECB to violate any law, including the Texas Public Information Act.

11.19.2 FERPA

Grantee agrees to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g, and the implementing federal regulations, 34 CFR Part 99.

11.19.3 Protection of Confidential Data (Covered Data and Information)

Grantee agrees to abide by the limitations on re-disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (34 CFR § 99.33 (a)(2)) and with the terms set forth in Section 11, TERMS and

CONDITIONS. 34 CFR 99.33 (a)(2) states that the officers, employees, and agents of a party that receive education record information from THECB may use the information, but only for the purposes for which the disclosure was made.

11.19.4 Acknowledgment of Access to Covered Data and Information (CDI)

Grantee acknowledges that the Grant Award/Agreement allows the Grantee access to CDI.

11.19.5 Prohibition on Unauthorized Use or Disclosure of CDI

Grantee agrees to hold CDI in strict confidence. Grantee shall not use or disclose CDI received from or on behalf of THECB except as permitted or required by the Grant Award/Agreement, as required by law, or as otherwise authorized in writing by THECB. Grantee agrees not to use CDI for any purpose other than the purpose for which the disclosure was made.

11.19.6 Return or Destruction of CDI

Upon termination, cancellation, expiration or other conclusion of the Grant Award/Agreement, Grantee shall return all CDI to THECB or, if return is not feasible, destroy any and all CDI. If the Grantee destroys the information, the Grantee shall provide THECB with a certificate confirming the date of destruction of the data.

11.19.7 Breach

Any violation of these FERPA provisions by Grantee shall be deemed a material breach of the Grant Award/Agreement.

11.19.8 Maintenance of the Security of Electronic Information

Grantee shall develop, implement, maintain and use appropriate administrative, technical and physical security measures to preserve the confidentiality, integrity and availability of all electronically maintained or transmitted CDI received from, or on behalf of THECB. These measures will be extended by contract to all subcontractors used by Grantee.

11.19.9 Reporting of Unauthorized Disclosures or Misuse of Covered Data and Information

Grantee shall, within one hour of discovery, report to THECB any use or disclosure of CDI not authorized by this Grant Award/Agreement or in writing by THECB. Grantee's report shall identify: (i) the nature of the unauthorized use or disclosure, (ii) the CDI used or disclosed, (iii) who made the unauthorized use and who received the unauthorized disclosure, (iv) what Grantee has done or shall do to mitigate any deleterious effect of the unauthorized use or disclosure, and (v) what corrective action Grantee has taken or shall take to prevent future similar unauthorized use or disclosure. Grantee shall provide such other information, including a written report, as requested by THECB.

11.20 INFRINGEMENTS

(THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO STATE AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS)

GRANTEE SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE STATE OF TEXAS, THECB AND THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, OTHER CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, OFFICERS, AND DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS INVOLVING INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS, TRADE AND SERVICE MARKS, AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL OR INTANGIBLE PROPERTY RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCES OR ACTIONS OF

GRANTEE PURSUANT TO THIS GRANT/AWARD AGREEMENT. GRANTEE AND THECB AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM. GRANTEE SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY GRANTEE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF TEXAS IF THECB AND/OR THE STATE OF TEXAS AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, OTHER CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND DESIGNEES ARE A NAMED DEFENDANT IN ANY LAWSUIT AND THE GRANTEE MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. GRANTEE AND THECB AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

Grantee shall have no liability under this section if the alleged infringement is caused in whole or in significant part by: (i) THECB's use of the product or service for a purpose or in a manner for which the product or service was not designed, (ii) any modification made to the product by THECB without Grantee's approval, (iii) any modifications made to the product by the Grantee pursuant to THECB's specific instructions, (iv) any intellectual property right owned by or licensed to THECB by a person or entity other than the Grantee, or (v) any use of the product or service by THECB that is not in substantial conformity with the terms of any applicable license agreement.

If Grantee becomes aware of an actual or potential claim, or THECB provides Grantee with notice of an actual or potential claim, Grantee may (or in the case of an injunction against THECB, shall), at Grantee's sole option and expense; (i) procure for THECB the right to continue to use the affected portion of the product or service, or (ii) modify or replace the affected portion of the product or service with functionally equivalent or superior product or service so that THECB's use is non-infringing.

11.21 OWNERSHIP/WORK MADE FOR HIRE

For purposes of this Grant Award, the term "Work" or "Work Product" is defined as all work papers, work products, materials, approaches, designs, specifications, systems, software, programs, source code, documentation methodologies, concepts, intellectual property or other property developed, produced or generated in connection with the services provided under the contract.

Copyright. When copyrightable material is developed in the course of or under this Grant, Awarded Applicant is free to copyright the materials or permit others to do so. The THECB shall have a royalty-free, non-exclusive, fully-paid up, no cost, transferable, worldwide, and irrevocable right and license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and to authorize others to use for governmental and educational purposes: (1) the copyright in any work developed under the Grant and (2) any rights of copyright to which a Awarded Applicant (or any sub-grantee or subcontractor of the Grantee) purchases ownership with Grant funds. In no event shall the Awarded Applicant (or any sub-grantee or subcontractor to the Awarded Applicant) charge other Texas state agencies, institutions of higher education, or independent institutions of higher education (as the terms "institutions of higher education" and "independent institutions of higher education" are defined in the Texas Education Code) for any license to use any or all copyrights purchased with Grant funds or in any work developed under the Grant.

Data. The THECB has the right to: (1) obtain, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the data first produced under this Grant and (2) authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for governmental and educational purposes. In no event shall the Awarded Applicant (or any sub-grantee or subcontractor to the Awarded Applicant) charge other Texas state agencies, institutions of higher education, or independent institutions of higher education (as the terms "institutions of higher education" and "independent institutions of higher education" are defined in the Texas Education Code) for any license to use any or all data first produced under this Grant.

Grantee shall ensure that this provision, "Ownership/Work Made for Hire," is contained in any subcontract Grantee is authorized by THECB to award. Grantee shall not use, willingly allow, or cause to have such Work used for any purpose other than the performance of Grantee's obligations

under this Grant Award/Agreement without the prior written consent of THECB; provided, however, that Grantee shall be allowed to use non-confidential materials for writing samples in pursuit of work or for other governmental or educational purposes.

11.22 GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

The Grant Award/Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions. The venue of any suit arising under the contract is fixed in any court of competent jurisdiction of Travis County, Texas, unless the specific venue is otherwise identified in a statute which directly names or otherwise identifies its applicability to the Awarded Applicant.

11.23 ADDITIONAL GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations and the orders and decrees of any court or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of this Grant Award/Agreement, including applicable workers compensation laws, compensation statutes and regulations, and licensing laws and regulations. When requested to do so by THECB, Grantee shall furnish THECB with satisfactory proof of its compliance. Grantee shall be responsible for damage to THECB's equipment, and/or the workplace and its contents, by its, or its subcontractors' work, negligence in work, personnel, and equipment. Grantee shall be responsible and liable for the safety and health of its employees and contractors while they are performing work for THECB under this Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee shall provide all labor and equipment necessary to furnish the deliverables or perform the Services. All employees of Grantee shall be a minimum of 18 years of age and experienced in the type of work to be performed. Grantee shall permit no visitors or relatives of Grantee's employees and contractors on THECB's property unless they also are bona fide employees or subcontractors of Grantee.

Grantee hereby covenants, represents and warrants that Grantee (including, for purposes of this section, its employees, consultants, subcontractors, and agents) (1) has the technical expertise and general skills necessary to perform competently and professionally the Services in accordance with this Grant Award/Agreement, (2) is not a party to or bound by any agreement, obligation, or understanding which restricts or limits in any way Grantee's right to enter into this Grant Award/Agreement or Grantee's right or ability to perform Grantee's obligations under this Grant Award/Agreement, (3) shall not use the trade secrets, intellectual property rights, copyrights, or other proprietary rights of any third party in the performance of Grantee's obligations under this Grant Award/Agreement without having first lawfully obtained the right, in writing, to do so, and (4) has the necessary equipment, facilities and workers to perform Grantee's obligations under this Grant Award/Agreement.

11.24 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Grantee represents and warrants that Grantee, its principals, employees, or subcontractors have no potential conflict of interest in providing Services to THECB under this Grant Award/Agreement, and that the provision of Services under this Grant Award/Agreement does not create an appearance of impropriety. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest, at any time during the duration of this Grant Award/Agreement, shall be cause for termination of this Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee represents and warrants that the provision of deliverables and services or other performance under the Grant Award/Agreement will not constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest or reasonably create an appearance of impropriety.

11.25 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

The THECB may not execute a contract/grant requiring approval of the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Chair until the Business Entity has presented a certificate disclosing interested parties. "Business Entity" is defined as an entity (other than a governmental entity or state agency) through which business is conducted, regardless of whether the entity is for-profit or nonprofit. The Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) has an online portal for vendors/grantees. Vendors/Grantees will need to create a username and password to complete the "Certificate of Interested Parties" form. After the form has been completed, print and sign before sending a final copy to the THECB at Contracts@THECB.state.tx.us. The TEC portal link can be found at: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm.

11.26 FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND GIFTS

Grantee represents and warrants that neither Grantee nor any person or entity that will participate financially in this Grant Award/Agreement has received compensation from THECB or any agency of the State of Texas for participation in preparation of specifications for this Grant Award/Agreement.

11.27 ANTITRUST

The undersigned affirms under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that (1) in connection with this Grant Award/Agreement, neither I nor any representative of the Grantee have violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Texas Business and Commerce Code Chapter 15; (2) in connection with this Grant Award/Agreement, neither I nor any representative of the Grantee have violated any federal antitrust law; and (3) neither I nor any representative of the Grantee have directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this Grant Award/Agreement to a competitor of the Grantee or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Grantee.

11.28 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Grantee represents and warrants that it shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, political belief, sex, age, or disability in the performance of this Grant Award/Agreement.

11.29 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Grantee shall be an independent contractor in all matters relating to this Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee and its employees, agents, and subcontractors shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of THECB for any purposes whatsoever. Grantee agrees and acknowledges that Grantee, its employees and agents, and Grantee's subcontractors are independent contractors of THECB and/or the State of Texas and are not employees of THECB or the State of Texas, and Grantee agrees that it shall have complete responsibility in the area of employment law and relations regarding its own employees, contractors, and agents, including but not limited to: wrongful discharge lawsuits, unemployment issues, workers' compensation, employment taxes, any other benefits and reimbursement due to losses in these areas. Consistent therewith, Grantee agrees that it shall make its own arrangements to provide its employees with all necessary employee benefits, including unemployment and workers' compensation benefits, and THECB is, in no way, a party to such arrangements. Regarding its employees, Grantee shall have the sole authority to hire, fire, transfer, train, evaluate, discipline, pay and assign work.

Grantee agrees and acknowledges that Grantee and Grantee's employees or assistants shall not be entitled to any State of Texas benefit on account of the services provided hereunder. If THECB or the State of Texas shall nonetheless become liable for such payments or obligations, Grantee shall promptly pay or reimburse THECB or the State of Texas for such liability or obligation.

11.30 ELIGIBILITY/AUTHORIZATION TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

Grantee shall ensure that all personnel provided to perform work under this Grant Award/Agreement possess proof of eligibility/authorization to work in the United States in compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the Immigration Act of 1990 including any amendments already adopted or as may be adopted hereafter, and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 including any amendments already adopted or as may be adopted hereafter. Grantee shall maintain written records on all personnel provided under the Grant Award/Agreement and shall provide such records to THECB upon request. Failure to maintain and provide records upon request shall represent a material breach of this Grant Award/Agreement and THECB shall have the right to terminate the Grant Award/Agreement for cause. Grantee shall ensure this section is included in all subcontracts it is authorized by THECB to enter.

11.31 TAXES/ WORKERS' COMPENSATION/UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – INCLUDING INDEMNITY

(THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO STATE AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS)

GRANTEE AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS GRANT AWARD/AGREEMENT, GRANTEE SHALL BE ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIABILITY AND PAYMENT OF GRANTEE'S AND GRANTEE'S EMPLOYEES' TAXES OF WHATEVER KIND, ARISING OUT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS GRANT AWARD/AGREEMENT. GRANTEE AGREES TO COMPLY WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS APPLICABLE TO ANY SUCH PERSONS, INCLUDING LAWS REGARDING WAGES, TAXES, INSURANCE, AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION. THECB AND/OR THE STATE OF TEXAS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO THE GRANTEE, ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR OTHERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF TAXES OR THE PROVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND/OR WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR ANY BENEFIT AVAILABLE TO A STATE EMPLOYEE OR EMPLOYEE OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

GRANTEE AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THECB, THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THEIR OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES AND DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEYS' FEES, AND EXPENSES, RELATING TO TAX LIABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND/OR WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN ITS PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS GRANT AWARD/AGREEMENT. GRANTEE SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY GRANTEE WITH THE OFFICE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF TEXAS IF THECB AND/OR THE STATE OF TEXAS AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, OTHER CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND DESIGNEES ARE A NAMED DEFENDANT IN ANY LAWSUIT AND GRANTEE MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. GRANTEE AND THECB AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

Applicant shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations (including the THECB rules relating to Autism Grant Program as codified in Title 19, Part 1 of the Texas Administrative Code) and the orders and decrees of any court or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of the Contract, including, if applicable, workers compensation laws, compensation statutes and regulations, and licensing laws and regulations. When requested to do so by the THECB, Applicant shall furnish the THECB with satisfactory proof of its compliance.

11.32 PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR LOBBYING

Grantee represents and warrants that THECB's payments and Grantee's receipt of appropriated or other funds under this Grant Award/Agreement are not prohibited by Texas Government Code, Sections 556.005 or 556.008.

11.33 BUY TEXAS

In accordance with Section 2155.4441 of the Texas Government Code, Grantee agrees that during the performance of a Grant Award/Agreement for services it shall purchase products and materials produced in Texas when they are available at a price and time comparable to products and materials produced outside this state.

11.34 PROVISION OF SERVICES

If applicable, upon any request by THECB for the provision of any Services for which THECB has made payment, Grantee shall immediately provide such Services to THECB. Any failure to provide such Services immediately shall be considered a material breach of this Grant Award/Agreement.

11.35 FORCE MAJEURE

THECB may grant relief from performance of this Grant Award/Agreement if Grantee is prevented from performance by an act of war, order of legal authority, act of God, or other unavoidable cause not attributable to the fault or negligence of the Grantee. The burden of proof for the need of such relief shall rest upon the Grantee. Grantee shall notify THECB in writing if it believes that a force majeure may have occurred and THECB shall, in its sole discretion, determine if Force Majeure has occurred.

11.36 NOTICE

Form of Notice. All notices and other communications in connection with this Grant Award/Agreement shall be in writing.

Method of Notice. All notices must be given (i) by personal delivery, (ii) by an express courier (with confirmation), (iii) mailed by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested), (iv) facsimile, or (v) electronic mail to the parties at the address specified in this Grant Award/Agreement, or to the address that a party has notified to be that party's address for the purposes of this section.

Receipt of Notice. A notice in accordance with this Grant Award/Agreement will be effective upon receipt by the party to which it is given or, if mailed by registered or certified mail, upon the earlier of receipt or the third business day following mailing.

The THECB shall not be responsible for notices that are captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined, or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by THECB or Grantee's anti-virus or other security software.

11.37 FALSE STATEMENTS AND BREACH OF REPRESENTATIONS

Grantee represents and warrants that all statements and information prepared and submitted to the THECB are current, complete, true, and accurate. Submitting a false statement or material misrepresentations made during the performance of a Grant Award/Agreement is a material breach of contract and may void the Grant Award/Agreement.

11.38 SEVERABILITY AND WAIVER

The invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability of any provision of this Grant Award/Agreement shall in no way affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of any other provisions.

Each and every right granted to the Parties hereunder or under any other document delivered hereunder or in connection herewith, or allowed them by law or equity, shall be cumulative and may be exercised from time to time. Failure by THECB or Grantee at any time to require strict performance of any contractual provision or obligation contained herein shall not constitute a waiver or diminish the rights of either party thereafter to demand strict compliance. Neither THECB’s review, approval, acceptance of, nor payment for any of the Services provided in this Grant Award/Agreement shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under the Grant Award/Agreement, or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of the Services required by the Grant Award/Agreement.

11.39 HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROHIBITION

Under Section 2155.0061 of the Texas Government Code, Prohibition on Certain Bids and Contracts Related to Persons Involved in Human Trafficking, the Grantee certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Grant Award/Agreement is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this Grant Award/Agreement may be terminated, and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

11.40 FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Grantee represents and warrants that it is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization, as prohibited by Section 2252.152 of the Texas Government Code.

11.41 SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT

THECB is federally mandated to adhere to the directions provided in the President’s Executive Order 13224, Executive Order on Terrorist Financing – Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism and any subsequent changes made to it. Grantee certifies that Grantee is in compliance with the State of Texas statutes and rules relating to procurement and that Grantee is not listed on the federal government's terrorism watch list as described in Executive Order 13224. Entities ineligible for federal procurement are listed at <http://www.sam.gov>.

11.42 NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT

(Only applies to Employees of a Texas state agency or any institution of higher education.)

THECB will send notification to the key personnel’s employer, if the personnel are otherwise employed outside of their contracted work with THECB.

11.43 INSURANCE

If required by law, grantee agrees to maintain at its expense insurance as required for the work being performed under this Grant Award/Agreement. Such insurance will protect THECB from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage which may arise out of or result from the performance of the Grantee’s obligations under the Agreement. Grantee represents and warrants that it will, within ten (10) business days of award of contract, provide THECB with current certificates of insurance or other proof acceptable to THECB of the following insurance coverage:

Grantee must maintain Workers' Compensation insurance coverage in accordance with statutory limits.

Minimum Required Amounts of Insurance Coverage	
Type of Insurance	Each Occurrence/Aggregate
Workers’ Compensation	Statutory Limits
Employer’s Liability Bodily Injury by Accident	\$1,000,000 Each Accident

Bodily Injury by Disease	\$1,000,000 Each Employee
Bodily Injury by Disease	\$1,000,000 Policy Limit
Commercial General Liability (occurrence based)	Bodily Injury and Property Damage \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence Limit \$2,000,000 Aggregate Limit \$5,000 Medical Expense each person \$2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate Limit \$1,000,000 Personal Injury and Advertising Liability \$50,000 Damage to Premises Rented
Automobile Liability All Owned, Hired and Non-Owned Vehicles	\$500,000 Combined Single Limit (for each accident)
Umbrella/Excess Liability	\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence

Note: The required insurance coverage must be issued from a company or companies that:

- (1) Have both a Financial Strength Rating of “A” or better from A.M. Best Company, Inc.; and
- (2) Have a Financial Size Category Class of “VII” or better from A.M. Best Company, Inc.

All insurance policies for required coverage must be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Texas and in a form satisfactory to THECB. All required insurance contracts must:

- (1) Be written on a primary and non-contributory basis with any other insurance coverages Grantee currently has in place; and
- (2) Include a Waiver of Subrogation Clause.

All certificates of insurance for required coverage other than workers compensation and professional liability must name the State of Texas and its Officers, Directors, and Employees as additional insureds.

Grantee shall:

- (1) Provide written notice to THECB by e-mail at Contracts@thecb.state.tx.us and by U.S. First Class Mail to 1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752, at least 30 calendar days prior to any cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of a required policy;
- (2) Ensure all insurance policies and certificates of insurance for required coverage are written to include all products, services, and locations related to Grantee’s performance under the Grant Award/Agreement; and
- (3) Deliver to THECB by e-mail at Contracts@thecb.state.tx.us and by U.S. First Class Mail to 1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752, all renewal policies at least ten calendar days prior to any expiration of a required policy. All renewal policies and corresponding certificates of insurance must meet all terms set forth in the Grant Award/Agreement.

Grantee must ensure that all provisions of the Grant Award/Agreement concerning liability, duty, and standard of care, together with the indemnification provision, are underwritten by contractual liability coverage sufficient to include such Grantee’s obligations under the Grant Award/Agreement.

11.44 KEY PERSONNEL

Grantee shall assign only qualified personnel to this Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee, in its reasonable discretion, reserves the right to substitute appropriate key personnel to accomplish its duties so long as the substituted personnel are equally qualified to accomplish the required Services. Grantee shall provide to THECB prior written notice and obtain written approval from

THECB prior to any change in key personnel involved in providing Services under this Grant Award/Agreement. Subcontractors providing services under the Grant Award/Agreement shall meet the same requirements and level of experience as required of Grantee (see “Assignment, Delegation, or Subcontracting” provision for additional conditions regarding subcontracts). No subcontract under this Grant shall relieve Grantee of responsibility for ensuring the required Services are provided. THECB, in its sole discretion, may require Grantee to remove any employee, contractor, subcontractor, or vendor of the Grantee from providing work or services under the Grant Award/Agreement. Grantee shall replace such removed personnel expeditiously so that its services are performed on a timely basis.

Grantee represents and warrants that Grantee has not and Grantee’s employees who will be participating in the funded project/program have not been convicted of a felony criminal offense, or that, if such a conviction has occurred, Grantee has fully advised THECB as to the facts and circumstances surrounding the conviction and has received THECB’s prior written consent to proceed.

11.45 DEBTS AND DELINQUENCIES TO THE STATE

Grantee agrees that any payments due under the Grant Award/Agreement shall be applied towards any debt or delinquency that is owed to the State of Texas.

11.46 DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES; UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES

Grantee represents and warrants that it has not been the subject of allegations of Deceptive Trade Practices violations under Texas Business and Commerce Code, Chapter 17, or allegations of any unfair business practice, in any administrative hearing or court suit, and further, that if it has been the subject of either or both such allegations, that Grantee has not been found to be liable for any such practices in such proceedings. Grantee certifies that it has no officers who have served as officers of other entities which have been the subject of allegations of Deceptive Trade Practices Act conduct, violations thereof, or allegations of any unfair business practices, in an administrative hearing or court suit and further, that if such officer(s) has been the subject of either or both such allegations, that such officers have not been found to be liable for any such practices in such proceedings.

11.47 SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

Grantee certifies that it and its principals are not suspended or debarred from doing business with the state or federal government as listed on the State of Texas Debarred Vendor List maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the System for Award Management (SAM) maintained by the General Services Administration.

11.48 EXCLUDED PARTIES

Grantee certifies that it is not listed in the prohibited vendors list authorized by Executive Order No. 13224, “Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism”, published by the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

11.49 E-VERIFY

U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify System

By entering into this Grant Award/Agreement, the Grantee certifies and ensures that it utilizes and will continue to utilize, for the term of this Agreement, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify system to determine the eligibility of:

All persons employed to perform duties within Texas, during the term of the Grant Award/Agreement; and

All persons (including subcontractors) assigned by the Grantee to perform work pursuant to the Grant Award/Agreement, within the United States of America.

11.50 DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

The Grantee shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and maintain a drug-free work environment; and the final rule, government-wide requirements for drug-free work place (grants), issued by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense (32 CFR Part 280, Subpart F) to implement the provisions of the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988 is incorporated by reference and the Grantee shall comply with the relevant provisions thereof, including any amendments to the final rule that may hereafter be issued.

11.51 NO COMMISSIONS

THECB shall not pay any commissions to Grantee under this Grant Award/Agreement.

11.52 APPLICABLE TAXES

This Grant Award/Agreement shall not be construed so as to supersede the laws of the United States or the State of Texas that accord the State of Texas, THECB, and all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the State of Texas exemptions from payment(s) of all taxes of whatever kind. More specifically, to the extent permitted by applicable law, THECB shall not directly or indirectly be liable for taxes of any kind. Grantee represents and warrants that it shall pay all taxes or similar amounts resulting from this Grant Award/Agreement, including, but not limited to, any federal, State, or local income, sales or excise taxes of Grantee or its employees. To the extent permitted by applicable law, THECB shall provide all applicable tax exemption certificates upon the Grantee's request.

11.53 ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION RESOURCES ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Effective September 1, 2006, state agencies and institutions of higher education shall procure products which comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements for Electronic and Information Resources specified in 1 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 213 when such products are available in the commercial marketplace or when such products are developed in response to a procurement solicitation.

Grantee shall provide Department of Information Resources (DIR) with the URL to its Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) for reviewing compliance with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements (based on the federal standards established under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act) or indicate that the product/service accessibility information is available from the General Services Administration "Buy Accessible Wizard" (<http://www.buyaccessible.gov>). Grantees not listed with the "Buy Accessible Wizard" or supplying a URL to their VPAT must provide DIR with a report that addresses the same accessibility criteria in substantively the same format. Additional information regarding the "Buy Accessible Wizard" or obtaining a copy of the VPAT is located at <http://www.section508.gov/>.

11.54 SMOKING POLICY

THECB has a policy of being a smoke-free agency. The policy reflects THECB's commitment to providing a healthy environment for all THECB employees and visitors. This policy prohibits smoking within any state building. The Grantee, by acceptance of this Grant Award/Agreement, agrees to abide by this policy when on the property of THECB.

11.55 SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are not permitted without the written approval of THECB.

11.56 CONTRACTING INFORMATION RESPONSIBILITIES

(APPLICABLE FOR CONTRACTS \$1 MILLION AND ABOVE)

Grantee represents and warrants that it will comply with the requirements of Section 552.372(a) of the Texas Government Code. Except as provided by Section 552.374(c) of the Texas Government Code, the requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552 of the Government Code, may apply to the Grant Award/Agreement and the Grantee agrees that the Grant Award/Agreement can be terminated if the Grantee knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

11.57 CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

Grantee represents and warrants that it will comply with the requirements of Section 2054.5192 of the Texas Government Code relating to cybersecurity training and required verification of completion of the training program.

11.58 DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Upon request of THECB, Grantee shall provide the descriptions of its business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

11.59 ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

This Grant Award/Agreement consists of the following documents: the final executed Grant Award/Agreement (including its Exhibits and any Amendments), THECB's Request for Applications (RFA), and the Grantee's response to the RFA.

In the event of conflicts, contradictions, or inconsistencies between or among these documents, such conflicts or inconsistencies shall be resolved by reference to the documents in the following order of precedence:

(1) the original Request for Application ("RFA") including any addenda issued, (2) addenda to the Grantee's Application (if any), and (3) Grantee's Application. This Grant Award/Agreement (including its Exhibits and any Amendments) contains the final, complete and exclusive understanding of the Parties, and supersedes all prior contemporaneous, oral or written understandings, representations, and negotiations between Parties relating to the subject matter of this Grant Award/Agreement. The Parties further agree that this Grant Award/Agreement may not in any way be explained or supplemented by a prior or existing course of dealings between the Parties, by usage of trade or custom, or by any prior performance between the Parties pursuant to this Grant Award/Agreement or otherwise.

If language contained in a particular Section of the RFA is found to be in conflict with language in another Section, the most stringent requirement(s) shall prevail.

APPENDIX A: RFA DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply:

1. **Applicant** – An eligible Texas public, private, or independent institution of higher education, as defined in Section 3 of this RFA, submitting an Application in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFA.
2. **Application** – The final, single document submitted by an Applicant to THECB in response to and in accordance with the terms of this RFA.
3. **Awarded Applicant** – The successful recipient ultimately awarded a Grant by THECB who is responsible for performing all activities required to fully comply with Grant performance requirements and all Grant terms and conditions.
4. **NOGA** – Notice of Grant Award – Term applied to the official document used by THECB to notify grantees that funding has been approved. NOGAs include such information as award amount, project and budget periods, and specific award terms and conditions. The NOGA creates a legally binding agreement between the parties and incorporates the RFA and the Application into the agreement. Throughout this RFA the terms “NOGA”, “Contract”, and “Grant” are used interchangeably.
5. **State Fiscal Year** – The period of time beginning September 1 and ending on the following August 31, both dates inclusive.
6. **State of Texas Business Days** – Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 PM CT/CDT, except for scheduled state of Texas and national holidays.
7. **THECB** – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, an agency of the State of Texas.
8. **Uniform Statewide Accounting System (USAS)** – The integrated financial system of record for the State of Texas financial records.

APPENDIX B: ANTICIPATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2022	Request for Applications Published
May 9, 2022	Inquiry Deadline
May 16, 2022 May/	Application Deadline
June 2022	THECB Announces Grant Awards and execution of grant contracts begins. Grant Period begins upon execution of Notice of Grant Award.
June/July 2022	Awardee will receive the first (50%) of three payments
September 19, 2022	First Progress Report is Due to THECB
December 19, 2022	Second Progress Report is Due to THECB
March 20, 2023	Third Progress Report is Due to THECB
June 19, 2023	Fourth Progress Report is Due to THECB
September 2023	Second of three payments (25%)
September 18, 2023	Fifth Progress Report is Due to THECB
December 18, 2023	Sixth Progress Report is Due to THECB
January 2024 March	Third and final payment (25%)
18, 2024 May 31,	Seventh Progress Report is Due to THECB
2024 June 24, 2024	Grant Period Ends - Last Day to Expend Grant Funds
September 12, 2024	Final/Eighth Progress Report is Due to THECB
	Final Financial Report Due

APPENDIX C: APPLICATION EVALUATION FORM

2022-23 AGP Evaluation Form	Project #	Reviewer #	
PART A - Proposal Scoring (priority given for demonstrating an effective approach in meeting the projected number of children served)		Max. Points	Actual Points
<p>I. Project Design and Viability – MAXIMUM POINTS: 90</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is well-defined and has a cohesive design. [15] • The project can be completed within the Grant Period per the timeline for development and implementation. [10] • The project is realistic and appropriate to the challenges identified by the Applicant (the projected number of children served is sufficient and realistic given the project’s design). [20] • The project maximizes benefits to children from different regions of the state and/or different socioeconomic groups via the planned strategies to recruit and serve diverse populations. [5] • The proposed activities and strategies are appropriate and are described in sufficient detail. [10] • There is sufficient evidence supporting treatment strategies. [5] • Project activities would likely continue after the Grant Period ends. [5] • Project meets minimum number of children served per year, and in total in category selected (Parent-Directed Treatment minimum of 190 total/95 annually, and Teacher/Paraprofessional Training minimum of 1,020 total/510 annually). [20] <p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL POINTS</p>		<p>15</p> <p>10</p> <p>20</p> <p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>20</p> <p>90</p>	
<p>II. Resources – MAXIMUM POINTS: 40</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Director(s) and key researchers have the professional qualifications and experience to fulfill the proposal’s goals. [20] • The administrative and management structure is sufficient and realistic to successfully implement the project’s goals. [5] • The existing and planned physical resources, such as equipment and facilities, are adequately described, realistic, and justified. [10] • There is evidence of institutional support of the project, e.g., leadership letters of support, access to institutional resources. [5] <p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL POINTS</p>		<p>20</p> <p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>5</p> <p>40</p>	

<p>III. Budget/Cost Effectiveness – MAXIMUM POINTS: 40</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget items are consistent with the allowable costs and restrictions specified in the RFA. [5] Budget items are appropriate for the project goals. [15] The estimated costs of the budget items are reasonable and are explained adequately. [10] Overall, the project makes effective use of grant funds. [10] <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL POINTS</p>	<p>5</p> <p>15</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>40</p>	
<p>IV. Evaluation and Expected Outcomes – MAXIMUM POINTS: 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed project evaluation for determining the success of the project is described in sufficient detail, including how the evaluation plan will be used to determine the effectiveness of the proposed project. [10] The expected outcomes are realistic. [10] There is a feedback mechanism for improving the project during the Grant Period. [5] There are sufficient staffing and resources to ensure that project evaluation information/data will be properly collected and reported. [5] <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL POINTS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>30</p>	
GRAND TOTAL	200	
<p><i>PART B – Suggested Budget Revision (if applicable)</i></p> <p>Revise Budget to \$ _____</p> <p>Relevant Categories: _____</p> <p><i>Please include comments to fully explain the revision.</i></p>		
<p><i>PART C– Required Reviewer Summary</i></p> <p><i>Include a summary of strengths and challenges with recommendations for improvement, including any essential revisions noted above.</i></p>		

APPENDIX D: CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS

Required Information (See RFA Section)	Application Form / Attachment
COVER PAGE AND CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION INFORMATION (Section 8.1)	Form 1 – Cover Page & Certification
PROJECT NARRATIVE (Section 8.2)	Form 2 – Project Narrative
PROJECT WORK PLAN (Section 8.3)	Form 3 – Project Work Plan
PROJECT BUDGET (Section 8.5)	Form 4 – Project Budget
EVIDENCE OF LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT (Section 8.7)	Allowable Attachment(s)
BIOSKETCHES (Section 8.8)	Allowable Attachment(s)

APPENDIX E: SAMPLE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD



THECB Award Number: {XXXX}
 Appropriation Year (AY): 2022, 2023

**Notice of State Grant Award
 to
 {contracted_party}**

Grantee Name and Address: {contracted_party} {contractedPartyAddress} {contractedPartyCity}, {contractedPartyState} {contractedPartyZip}	Grant Title: Autism Grant Program
	Amount of Award: \$ {total_\$}
	Division: 070 Academic and Health Affairs
	Term of Grant: Upon execution of the NOGA – May 31, 2024. All funds must be expended by May 31, 2024.
	Payment Method: – Funds are payable after execution of the NOGA 50 percent payable upon execution. Two remaining payments of 25 percent each payable upon receipt and approval by THECB staff of reporting requirements as detailed in the RFA. The advancement of funds is necessary to enable the Grantee to fully perform the Services described in its Application. All funds will be disbursed using AY 2022 and 2023 funds.

Authority: **87th Leg., R.S., S.B. 1, G.A.A., Article III, Rider-44 Autism Grant Program**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s (“THECB”) and the Grantee’s (collectively, referred to as “the parties”) execution of this Notice of Grant Award creates a legally binding agreement between the parties. The Program requirements (e.g., objectives, scope, budget, methodology) as stated in (1) the original Request for Application (“RFA”) including any addenda issued, (2) addenda to the Grantee’s Application (if any), and (3) Grantee’s Application are incorporated into and made a part of this Notice of Grant Award for all purposes, supersede any prior or contemporaneous understandings between the parties pertaining to the subject matter herein whether oral or written, and collectively constitute the entire agreement between the parties. In the event of a conflict in the language contained in the incorporated documents, conflicts shall be resolved by reference to the language contained in the documents in the order listed above.

Any changes in the approved Grant must follow THECB’s amendment process as defined in the RFA. If not a strictly reimbursable award, any funds received by Grantee and not expended prior to the end of the grant term indicated above shall be returned to THECB within ninety (90) calendar days unless otherwise agreed by THECB and Grantee.

Approving THECB Official:	Approving Grantee Official:
{signContact} {signContacttitle}	{signed_by} {signed_bytitle}
Date:	Date:

APPENDIX F: FORMS

COVER PAGE WITH CERTIFICATION STATEMENT, FORM 1

Applicant Institution and Name of Autism Research Center (include ASD research center launch date): 	
Name of Project and AGP Category: 	
Total AGP Funding Requested (Upon execution of the NOGA-5/31/2024): \$ 	
Total children with ASD served during Grant Period: 	Children Served in First Half of Grant: _____ Children Served in Second Half of Grant: _____
Project Director's Name (typed): Direct Office Line: Alternate Number (e.g., mobile): Email Address: Mailing Address: 	Co-Project Director's Name (from same institution): Direct Office Line: Alternate Number (e.g., mobile): Email Address: Mailing Address:
Project Director Signature 	Co-Project Director Signature
Contact Person and Title at Office of Sponsored Projects (typed): Phone/Email: Mailing Address: Alternate OSP Contact Person, Title, Phone/Email: 	
Authorized Institutional Representative Name and Title: <hr/>	
I certify that the statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that if AGP program funds are awarded, this institution accepts the obligation to comply with the terms and conditions set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.	
Authorized Institutional Representative Signature and Date: 	
Signed: 	Date:

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT NARRATIVE, FORM 2; AND PROJECT WORK PLAN, FORM 3

Applicant Institution and Project Director(s):

Form 2 - Project Narrative (250-500 words maximum), see Section 8.2: Include a project summary, description of Applicant (and Partners if applicable), and assessment of need.

Form 3 - Project Work Plan (limit 2,000 words for a-d), see Section 8.3: Provide (a) description, goal statement, strategies, and measurement, including a description of the target population and the strategies to recruit and serve diverse populations; (b) Partner roles and contribution to planning and implementation, if applicable; (c) program administration and support; (d) tracking plan to improve and evaluate the project. Form 3 to include methodology, sustainability, evaluation, and timeline.

- **Implementation Methodology (limit 1,000 words), see Section 8.3:** Include the strategies and activities that support achievement of the goals identified in Project Work Plan. Generally, each goal would be supported by more than one strategy and/or activity (Timeline form for development and implementation to provide greater detail).
- **Sustainability Plan (limit 500 words):** Describe how the project or similar activities will continue after the Grant Period ends.
- **Project Evaluation (limit 2,000 words for a-h), See Section 8.4:** Provide responses to the requested information listed below.

Requested Information for Project Evaluation Narrative (limit 2,000 words for a-h)
a. How the evaluation process aligns with specific project goals
b. How the evaluation plan will be used to determine proposed project effectiveness
c. Specific type of information/data to be collected
d. How the evaluation process is linked to the Project Work Plan, including Implementation Methodology
e. Quantitative performance measures that identify major outcomes during the Grant Period
f. Qualitative performance measures that identify major outcomes during the Grant Period
g. Key personnel conducting and evaluating the project, include brief qualifications summary
h. FERPA compliance
h-1. Describe how FERPA laws would be followed
h-2. Describe how outcomes would be made public or disseminated
h-3. Describe how outcomes would be reported pursuant to Section 11.19 of the RFA.

