2022 Student Success Implementation Grant
FAQ

Questions	Answers
How quickly would we get a response if we sent an email?	Responses to inquiries will be posted to the grant webpage on Oct. 4 and Oct. 10, 5:00pm (CT). Note, the inquiry deadline is Oct. 7, 5:00pm (CT).
Under the different program areas, the application allows us to check more than one box. Can we select more than one?	Applicants are asked to select one primary area and may select all that apply under additional area(s).
How do we verify that our submission to the Student Success inventory is complete?	Applicants that submitted the survey should have received a confirmation email from Christy McDaniel at some point between 9/26 – 9/30. The confirmation email would have come from christy.mcdaniel@ithaka.org or ssiTexas@ithaka.org. Applicants may also inquire directly about their survey submissions using the emails above.
Are we required to focus on credit programs/students or can we include noncredit (continuing education) courses/students?	No, the applicant is not required to focus only on credit programs. Applicants may submit a non-credit (CE) program and/or targeted students for the purposes of this grant. However, the applicant should be able to show how its selected program will impact overall completion and other success metrics at the insitution.
If the president signs the forms, can the project director submit to the CRI@highered.texas.gov email address? Does the project director need to be appointed by the president?	Each applicant should follow its institutional protocols with regard to application submission and project director selection.
Same question – can we use this grant for Continuing Education Programs?	Yes. (also see response for Item 4)
For Some College, No Credential Reengagement and Finances/Cost, are scholarship dollars/aid to students allowed as part of the budget? And if so, since it is CRRSA money is it fair to say Title IV eligibility is not required?	Yes, grant funding may be used to support SCNC students; Title IV eligibilty is not a requirement.
Clarification: number of students served indicates serving in AY 2023-24 but the grant ends Sept. 2023, correct?	Correct.
Are indirect costs allowable? Asking since I don't see it on the budget template.	Indirect costs are not allowed. See RFA Subsection 5.2.2.
If a consortium submission, how many of the 3 require to be MSI to say yes on that bonus section?	All of the institutions that are part of a consortium must be an MSI institution in order for the consortium application to be eligible for the MSI bonus points.
Can you clarify – did you say there is no evaluation component in the grant narrative/package submission?	Correct. There is not a project evaluation component required at the time of applicaiton submission. See RFA Subsection 7.5
Hello- How soon will the recording be available in the RFA webpage?	The RFA recoriding is avalaible on the SSAP-IG webiste at

2022 Student Success Implementation Grant FAQ

Questions	Answers
There's an expectation that program staff participate in MDRC led focus groups – one of which is stated to be held "early Fall 2022" – do you have any additional details about this item?	Details regarding specific dates for focus groups and other events related to this grant program are not yet established and are anticipated to be announced to the awarded applicants within one month of the grant implementation date.
You say funds must be expended prior to September 30. Does that mean actually expensed, or is there provision for obligated funds where you have 90 days to complete purchases that were initiated prior to the deadline?	All grant funds must be expended on and/or all purchases completed or before September 30, 2023.
Those of us who participated in the planning grant had to submit our action plan for review. When will we get feedback on those?	Planning grant coaches are working directly with planning grantees to complete their Action Plans.
Please provide a definition of "credentials of value" on the FAQ if possible.	For more information on "credentials of value," please see https://www.highered.texas.gov/about-us/talentstrong/
Can you please address the requirements for section 10.56. Cybersecurity Training?	Subsection 10.56 would only apply in the event the grantee is accessing the THECB secure network.
In the FAQ can you address whether or not we can utilize funds for student stipends for internships?	Yes, grant funds may be used to support stipends for internships.
For some college, No credential reengagement and finances/cost, are scholarship dollars/aid to students allowed as part of the budget? If so, since it is CRRSA money is it fair to say Title IV eligibility is not required?	See response to #7
I have a question related to the timeline. Some of our Implementation budget is for Student Instructors that we wanted to start in September, but we have been awaiting the RFA to drop. Will we be able to reimburse ourselves for pre-award expenditures for the Implementation grant, as we were able to do in the Planning grant?	Yes, pre-award expenditures incurred on or after August 1, 2022 that are allowable costs under this grant program are reimburseable.
I am writing regarding the Student Success Acceleration Program – Implement Grant RFA. Our institution received an Accelerating Student Success planning grant. Should the proposal title be exactly the same for the Implementation Grant to receive the priority points?	The name of the submitted program for the Implementation Grant should match the name of the program addressed in the Planning Grant Action Plan.

2022 Student Success Implementation Grant
FAQ

Questions	Answers
We are planning to stock our food pantry and supply closet with food for students and school supplies and hygiene items with the grant funds. We noticed in the RFA that food and beverages are prohibited. Is that in relation to a reception or luncheon or can we purchase food for our food pantry that assist students with basic needs?	Expenditures related to food and beverages are not allowable costs under this grant program.
We missed the webinar yesterday and were curious if we could get the recording to watch today?	A link to the informational webinar is found on the RFA webpage at https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/student-success-acceleration-program-implementation-grants/
I have a follow-up question about the awarding of the priority points. Can you confirm that A&M System would qualify for all three categories of priority points? Since the A&M System is listed as a public institution of higher education per Texas Education Code 61.003 (8), I understand that the System would qualify for priority points under Category Three. Additionally, the System would qualify for a Category One, as long as submission of all documents related to the Student Success Planning Grant are submitted by the established deadlines and the new application builds off the work of the Planning Grant. Would the System also qualify for the Category Two priority points, as a majority of our institutions are federally recognized as "Minority Serving Institutions?"	Applicants applying as a system would need to ensure all the institutions within the system are MSIs in order to qualify for priority points under Category Two.
I have budget questions about the Student Success Acceleration Program - Implementation Grants. • Are marketing and advertisements for outreach related to the grant activities an allowable cost? • Is student financial aid an allowable cost? Such as for tuition & fees, books, transportation assistance, childcare assistance, emergency aid?	1) Yes, institutional marketing, outreach, and/or communication expenses are allowable provided they are directly related to the submitted program. 2) Yes, applicants may use funds for direct awards to students. Applicants must ensure federal/state financial aid guidelilnes, as applicable, are addressed.

2022 Student Success Implementation Grant FAQ	

Questions	**Answers**
To clarify my question from the chat during the webinar, I am referring to section 3.4, where it says "Applicants that are individually accredited may apply as an individual Applicant. Institutions that are separately accredited are considered an eligible individual institution." All our institutions contributed to developing the plan, so I am just trying to wrap my arms around whether each can or should apply separately (and if the bonus points would apply to all or one).	The language is Section 3.4 is correct. Regarding bonus points, each individual IHE indentified in the Action Plan as a collaborator, but now applying separately, would be eligible for bonus points.
In Appendix D: Checklist of Required Forms and Attachments, the last box under "Required Information" lists "Awarded Grantee Research Participation - Appendix M". Appendix M seems to reference questionnaires and data sets that "Awarded Grantee Institutions" will be providing. • Just for clarification, since it is listed among the Required Information, is there some aspect of Appendix M or some statement concerning Appendix M that must be submitted as a part of the grant application?	No. Appendix M is for reference only and should not be completed or submitted with the applicaiton. See RFA Section 5.4 for more infomation.
The RFA says equipment is allowable but capital expenditures are prohibited. Does "equipment" mean non-capital equipment only? Or does "capital expenditures" mean construction/renovation only? What I'm really asking is whether capital equipment (items valued at $5K or more) is allowable.	No. Capital equipment expenses are not an allowable cost.
Are contractual/consulting costs allowable?	Yes, provided the costs are directly related to the implementation of the selected program.
will you confirm what documentation needs to be submitted as part of the inquiry?	None. Inquiries are any questions or concerns you may have regarding the RFA that you would like clarification on from THECB staff. It is not a "Letter of Intent" to apply. Submitting an inquiry is not a requirement to submit an application.

2022 Student Success Implementation Grant FAQ	
Questions	**Answers**
Is furniture purchases for the establishment/development of learning space (i.e. math lab) allowable under "other direct cost"?	Yes. However, capital equipment/expenditures are prohibited.
Can funds be spent to 1. purchase laptops that would be available for check-out to student participants in the program 2. purchase t-shirts for faculty, staff, and student participants in the program 3. pay for memberships to organizations focused on mentoring to gain access to conferences and other mentoring resources and professional development materials 4. pay for off-site Internet services for the computers when they are checked out	Yes. All items listed are allowable costs.
We just received a Title V grant that will provide the staffing we were going to request in the Accelerate Implementation grant. May we change our budget and utilize the funds to support our Accelerate implementation grant efforts, directing the staffing funds instead to faculty and staff training costs and stipends for faculty and staff?	We cannnot address questions related to other programs (e.g., Title V). However, funds may be used for facaulty and staff training costs and stipends for this grant.
the webpage you reference below includes a link to "RFA Inquiry Responses 10.04.2022," but clicking on this link brings me to the FAQs PDF document. Is this the correct target for the link or am I looking in the wrong place? We at ICUT are curious if any of our institutions have submitted inquiries for this opportunity.	Correct. The link is to the list of questions received during the inquiry period and answered by THECB staff. We do not disclose the names of individuals or institutions that submit inquiries.
In going over the RFA, p.13 lists the first interim reports due on February 3, 2023. However, in Appendix B: Calendar of Events, p. 35, the first interim reports are due January 3, 2023. Which of these is correct?	February 3, 2023 is the correct date for both the first Interim Progam and Interim Expenditure Reports

2022 Student Success Implementation Grant
FAQ

Questions	Answers
"I have a question about allowable and prohibited costs. Our project is based on mental health and launching a mental health and wellness program on campus which includes counseling. Would furniture used for creating a comfortable inviting space for all students for one-on-one therapy, group therapy, and psychoeducational workshops be allowable. According to the UGG in 200.1, general purpose equiptment includes office equipment and furnishings as an allowable cost; however, in review of the RFA I don't find where items such as these are specified as either allowable or prohibited. I just wanted to clarify if this would be an allowable cost on this grant due to other grants specifying it as unallowable.	General purpose equipment is allowed. Capital equipment/expenditures are prohibited.
We plan to submit a SSAP Implementation Grant proposal based on our SSAP Planning grant. Our proposal will be the development of a financial wellness program. Part of our proposal will be using proven financial literacy tools such as iGrad (https://www.igradfinancialwellness.com/). iGrad's annual cost is approximately $20,000. My question – is it possible to purchase a multiple year license with this grant? We could purchase several years and remain within the grant's budget. I'm guessing the answer is no, but just in case …	No. Funds cannot be used to purchase multiple year licenses/access for time periods beyond grant end date.
Can SSAP – Implementation Grant funds be used to contract with a nonprofit, community-based organization to provide case management and basic needs services to additional students?	Yes, provided the costs are directly related to the implementation of the selected program.

2022 Student Success Implementation Grant
FAQ

Questions	Answers
I have several questions regarding how funds can be spent for the Student Success Acceleration Program. Our program will involve extending an existing faculty/staff mentoring program for students to include student peer mentors. Can funds be spent to 1. purchase laptops that would be available for check-out to student participants in the program 2. purchase t-shirts for faculty, staff, and student participants in the program 3. pay for memberships to organizations focused on mentoring to gain access to conferences and other mentoring resources and professional development materials 4. pay for off-site Internet services for the computers when they are checked out	Yes. All items listed are allowable costs.
We just received the following information late on Thursday, Oct. 6. Please accept this email as a genuine inquiry and an indication of our wish to participate if possible. What would be our next best step?	Inquiries are any questions or concerns you may have regarding the RFA that you would like clarification on from THECB staff. It is not a "Letter of Intent" to apply. Submitting an inquiry is not a requirement to submit an application.