

Fred Farias III, OD, MS, FAAO
CHAIR

Donna N. Williams
VICE CHAIR

S. Javaid Anwar
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD


Cage M. Sawyers
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Richard L. Clemmer
Stacy A. Hock
Emma W. Schwartz
Ashlie A. Thomas
Welcome Wilson, Jr.
Daniel O. Wong

Harrison Keller, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER
EDUCATION

November 14, 2023

TO: The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lt. Governor
The Honorable Dade Phelan, Speaker

FROM: Harrison Keller, Ph.D. 

SUBJECT: Annual Reports on the Use of Appropriated Funds related to
Permanent Fund for Minority Health Research and Education and
Permanent Fund for Higher Education Nursing, Allied Health, and
Other Health-related Education Programs

In accordance with Texas Education Code 63.203 and 63.302(f), this letter and the attached financial statements are provided to fulfill reporting requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on budget and year-end financial reports relating to the use of appropriated funds for the Permanent Fund for Minority Health Research and Education (MHR) and the Permanent Fund for Higher Education Nursing, Allied Health and Other Health-related Education Programs (NAH). The Legislature established in 1999 as a result of the state's Comprehensive Tobacco Settlement Agreement and Release.

The THECB continues to use earnings from both funds to award grants in higher education consistent with the language of the enabling statute. As directed, the THECB awards MHR grants to institutions of higher education to conduct research and educational programs on minority health issues and awards NAH grants exclusively to nursing education programs that prepare students for initial registered nursing licensure. The THECB awards grants through a competitive request-for-applications process using a standardized review to select projects to fund that bring the most value to the state. The report below details the expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023, including institutions and awards.

Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program

Academic-Clinical Partnerships

The Academic-Clinical Partnerships grant initiative was first implemented in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to support clinical training experiences undertaken by students in health professions degree programs, while also addressing health disparities, particularly those faced by minority populations in Texas communities. Based on the well-recognized need for mental health services, funding priority was given to disciplines preparing students as providers of such services. Funded projects are required to expand sustainable academic-clinical partnerships with health care facilities in communities experiencing health disparities, to allow students to fulfill clinical placement requirements at the established partnership sites and to increase enrollment, particularly among underrepresented minority students in the degree programs. The projects are also encouraged to incorporate a focus on interprofessional education in health care delivery and to develop a career pathway for clinicians to pursue academic appointments to alleviate faculty shortages.

In FY 2023, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) performed final financial and programmatic monitoring for the three Academic-Clinical Partnerships grants awarded in FY 2019. The grant period began in FY 2020 and concluded in FY 2021 (September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2021). These three awarded grants were approved for a 12-month no-cost extension to address delays primarily due to COVID-19 and completed operations on August 31, 2022.

In FY 2023, the Coordinating Board administered and managed three Academic-Clinical Partnerships awarded in FY 2022, with an initial grant period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023 (24 months). Two of the awarded grants are approved for a no-cost extension to fully complete grant project activities and objectives.

A new request for applications (RFA) for Academic-Clinical Partnerships is currently being drafted and will be released in FY 2024.

FY 2022-2023 Grants

Texas State University, *Attaining Culturally sensitive Counseling Education for Speech, linguistic and trauma-informed Services (ACCESS)* (12-month no-cost extension until December 31, 2024). Award Amount: \$424,761. Primary degree program: Professional Counseling. Interprofessional education partner: Communication Disorders. Project goals include addressing the mental health workforce shortage and health disparities through increased clinical partnerships for student interns earning valuable counseling experience with clients residing in medically underserved communities; increasing student intern knowledge of multicultural competencies, trauma-informed interventions, and linguistically diverse services; and increasing enrollment of racial minority students to increase the diversity of the workforce.

University of North Texas Health Science Center, *Improving Community Access, Resources and Education for Women's Health Needs (I-CARE)*. Award Amount \$233,456. Primary degree program: Physician Assistant. Project goals include improving the provider-patient relationships within underserved communities that provide women's

health services in an effort to rebuild provider trust within the community; increasing patient education on maternal health antenatal, intra-natal, and post-partum to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates; educating the community on the physician assistant profession; increasing the diversity of the physician assistant program with African American and Hispanic students; and expanding women's health clinical partnerships in underserved communities.

The University of Texas at San Antonio, *Counselors Against Sex Trafficking (CAST)* (9-month no-cost extension until September 30, 2024). Award Amount \$396,705. Primary degree program: Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Project goals include increasing academic-clinical partnerships in medically underserved communities for clinical mental health counseling students, increasing prospective student enrollment among Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American students, and increasing the number of clinical mental health counseling students who successfully complete a clinical placement with sex trafficked persons and persons at-risk.

FY 2020-2021 Grants: Extensions, final reports, and payments in FY 2023

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, *Advancement of Clinical Partnerships in Medically Underserved Areas of Texas* (12-month no-cost extension until August 31, 2022). Award Amount: \$500,000. Primary degree program: Physical Therapy. Interprofessional education partners: Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition and Metabolism, and Respiratory Care. Project goals include developing 14 new and 10 existing clinical partnerships in medically underserved areas across Texas for students' clinical placements, providing interprofessional education opportunities to students, increasing overall enrollment and enrollment among African American and Hispanic students for the Physical Therapy program, and creating academic career pathways for clinicians via education and training opportunities.

University of Houston, *Establishing Academic-Clinical Partnerships with Federally Qualified Health Clinics* (12-month no-cost extension until August 31, 2022). Award Amount: \$500,000. Primary degree program: Clinical Psychology. Interprofessional education partner: Counseling Psychology, Social Work, and Medicine. Project goals include establishing partnerships with three targeted, federally qualified health clinics; increasing overall Clinical Psychology program enrollment via expanded enrollment among historically underrepresented minorities; providing students with interprofessional education-focused clinical experiences; and evaluating project effectiveness.

University of the Incarnate Word, *Transformational Learning in Physical Therapy Education: Sustainable Clinical Partnerships to Enhance Student Engagement with Individuals Encountering Health Disparities from Underserved Areas* (12-month no-cost extension until August 31, 2022). Award Amount: \$211,846. Primary degree program: Physical Therapy. Interprofessional education partners: Nursing, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, and Pharmacy. Project goals include expanding clinical partnerships with a focus on serving those with health disparities; implementing interprofessional education and collaborative practice experiences at clinical sites; and increasing overall Physical Therapy program enrollment and enrollment among African

American and Hispanic students for the program, fostering a pathway for clinicians to pursue academic appointments.

Recruitment and Retention

The Recruitment and Retention projects enable more underrepresented minority students, especially African Americans and Hispanics, to enroll in and graduate from degree programs in health professions that previously reported a low percentage of African American and Hispanic graduates.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Coordinating Board managed no Recruitment and Retention grants. Agency staff shortages and staff changes delayed the planned FY 2023 RFA release. A new RFA for Recruitment and Retention is currently being drafted and will be released in Fiscal Year 2024.

Nursing, Allied Health, and Other Health-Related Grant Program

House Bill 1401, passed by the 86th Texas Legislature, extended the Nursing Innovation Grant Program's (NIGP's) exclusive focus on programs preparing students for the initial licensure as registered nurses (RN) from FY 2019 through FY 2023. Senate Bill 25, passed by the 88th Texas Legislature, extended this focus through 2027.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Coordinating Board released an RFA to address the shortage of registered nurses and/or qualified faculty by promoting innovation in education, recruitment, and retention. All grant applications received under the RFA were evaluated using a standardized review process with criteria published in the RFA, and grants were awarded based on the results of the review. A total of 39 awards were made in FY 2023 and are listed in the table below. The grant period began on August 1, 2023, and will conclude on July 31, 2025, for a 24-month grant period.

Innovation in Education, Recruitment, and Retention

Institution	Award Amount
Alvin Community College	\$183,566
Angelo State University	\$197,942
Baylor University	\$200,000
Central Texas College	\$199,978
College of the Mainland	\$195,002
Collin County Community College District	\$198,265
Concordia University	\$199,360
Dallas College	\$199,948
Galveston College	\$172,025

Lamar University	\$186,220
Lone Star College-North Harris	\$143,760
Navarro College	\$57,127
Odessa College	\$160,990
Paris Junior College	\$89,469
Prairie View A&M University	\$197,500
Sam Houston State University	\$199,989
San Antonio College	\$200,000
San Jacinto College District	\$172,731
South Plains College	\$168,000
Southwestern Adventist University	\$200,000
St. Philip's College	\$200,000
Sul Ross State University	\$157,094
Temple College	\$68,790
Texas A&M International University	\$200,000
Texas A&M University-Commerce	\$199,836
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	\$199,917
Texas Southmost College	\$125,287
Texas State Technical College-Harlingen	\$194,415
Texas State Technical College-West Texas	\$198,215
Texas State University	\$197,283
The University of Texas at Arlington	\$192,887
The University of Texas at Austin	\$198,285
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$199,031
Trinity Valley Community College	\$156,000
University of Houston	\$200,000
University of St. Thomas	\$197,387
University of the Incarnate Word	\$191,590
Weatherford College	\$158,818
West Texas A&M University	\$200,000
Total NIGP 2023-2025 Awards	\$6,956,707

Supporting Clinical Learning Experiences to Mitigate Impediments due to COVID-19

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Coordinating Board performed final financial and programmatic monitoring for the 45 awards made in FY 2021 for the Supporting Clinical Learning Experiences to Mitigate Impediments due to COVID-19 grant (grant period November 2, 2020, through November 30, 2022). Seven of the awarded grants were approved for a six-month no-cost extension to address delays primarily due to COVID-19.

FY 2021-2023 Grants Extensions, final reports, and final payments in FY 2023

Institution	Original Award Amount
Alamo District-San Antonio College	\$147,852
Alamo District-St. Philip's College	\$75,000
Alvin Community College	\$118,845
Amarillo College	\$145,238
Angelina College	\$119,990
Baylor University	\$150,000
Brazosport College	\$75,000
Central Texas College	\$119,763
Cisco College	\$89,850
College of the Mainland	\$120,000
Concordia University Texas	\$150,000
Del Mar College	\$150,000
Kilgore College	\$90,000
Lamar University	\$118,161
Laredo Community College	\$89,515
Lone Star College System-Tomball	\$89,993
McLennan Community College	\$89,747
Midwestern State University	\$89,916
Navarro College	\$104,400
Odessa College	\$89,990
Panola College	\$90,000
Paris Junior College	\$90,000
Prairie View A&M University	\$133,170
Ranger College	\$120,000
Southwestern Adventist University	\$90,000
Tarrant County College District	\$89,600
Temple College	\$119,171
Texas A&M International University	\$90,000

Texas A&M University-Commerce	\$89,989
Texas Lutheran University	\$90,000
Texas Southmost College	\$75,000
Texas State Technical College in Harlingen	\$75,000
Texas State Technical College in West Texas	\$78,205
Texas State University	\$120,000
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	\$200,000
The University of Texas at Arlington	\$149,136
The University of Texas at El Paso	\$90,000
The University of Texas at Tyler	\$200,000
The University of Texas Medical Branch at	\$190,277
The University of Texas Permian Basin	\$89,004
Trinity Valley Community College	\$89,846
University of Houston	\$90,000
University of St. Thomas	\$89,042
Victoria College	\$90,000
Wharton County Junior College	\$90,000
Total NIGP 2020-2022 Awards	\$4,940,700

If you should need more information about this report, please contact Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Health Affairs, at (512) 427-6182 or via email at elizabeth.mayer@highered.texas.gov.

c: Members, Texas Legislature
Legislative Budget Board