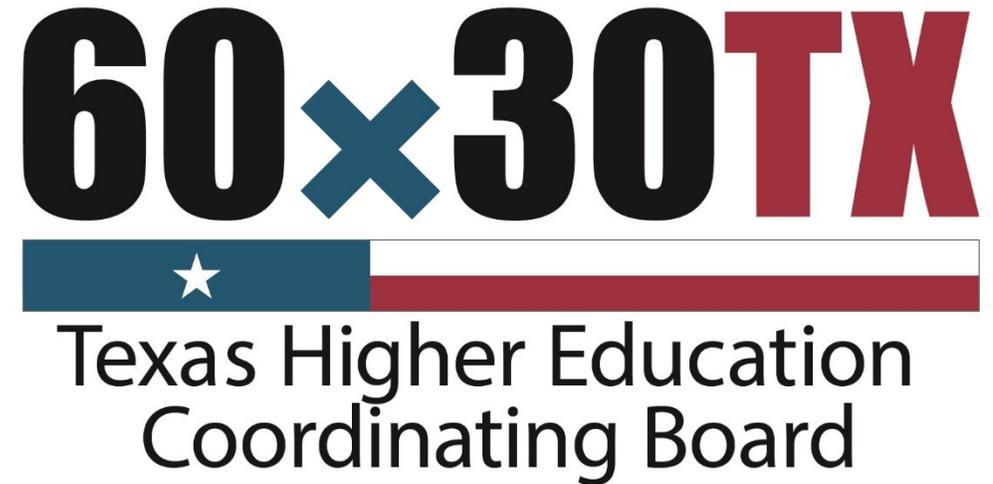# The Texas Emergency Aid Project

Mary E. Smith, Ph.D.
Monique Lee Whitley
Academic Planning and Policy
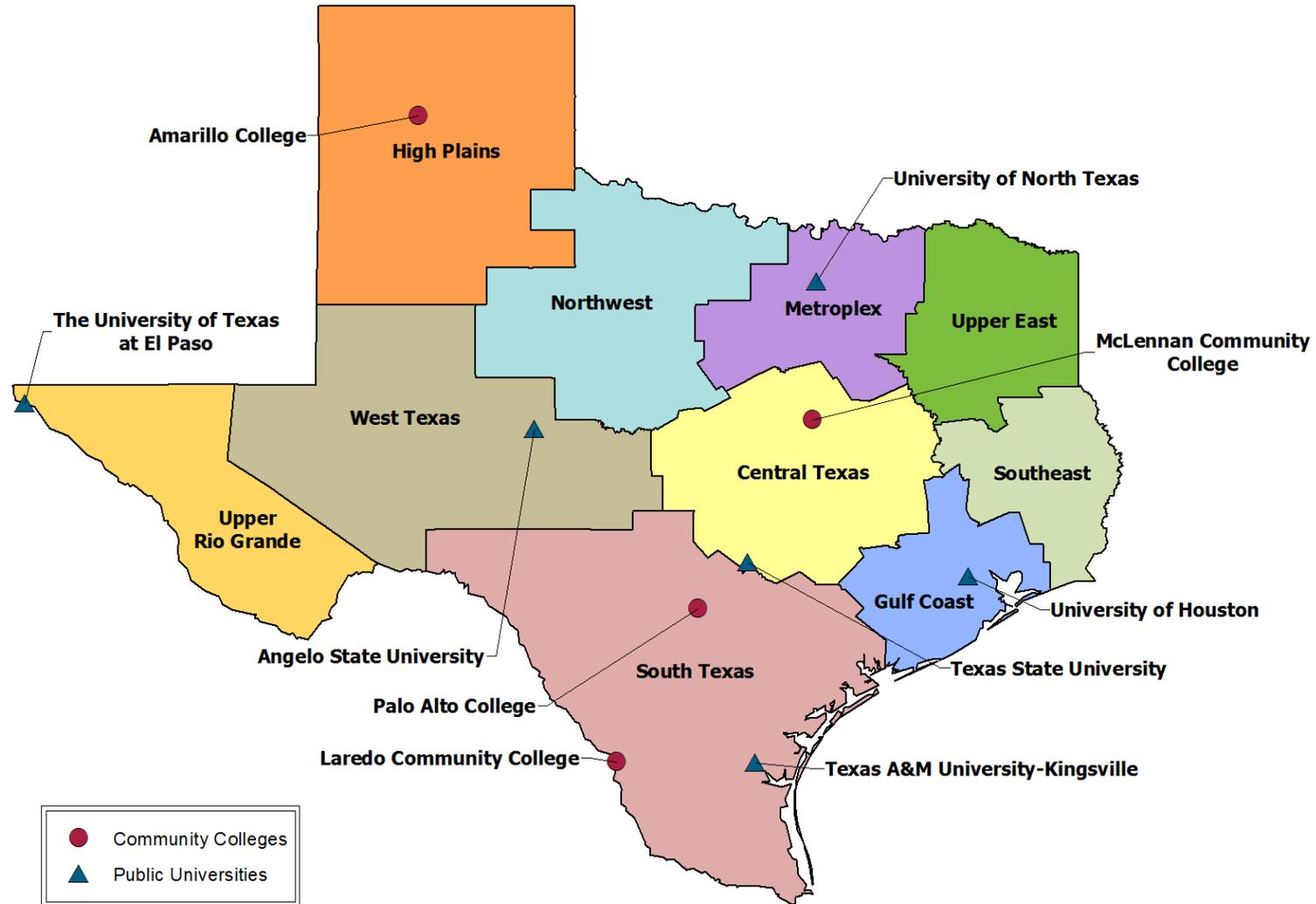November 30, 2018

Emergency Aid Programs

- **Direct small amounts of money**, sometimes as little as $300, to students who are struggling to pay for a financial emergency

- Designed to support students in meeting **unexpected financial needs** and help them **stay on the path to graduation**
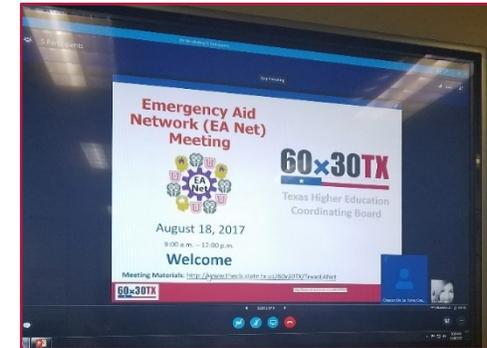
The Texas Emergency Aid Project

4 Phases

- ❑ Landscape Analysis
- ❑ Network Launch
- ❑ Awareness and Dissemination
- ❑ Advocacy

Emergency Aid Network (EA Net)

The EA Net at Work

EA Net Subgroups

Promising & Best Practices:	Community Partnerships:
Communication	Room & Board
Administration	Transportation
Sustainability	Health Care
Automated Technology	Technology

What We've Learned . . .

For effective emergency aid programs, colleges and universities should ...

1. Clearly define emergency for their programs
2. Simplify administration, and train staff and faculty on processes
3. Reach students where they are in modes of communication
4. Form community partnerships for sustainable funding
5. Use automated technology
6. Create a "Culture of Caring"

Some Considerations for Leadership . . .

"If we can remove some of life's barriers (which often don't include academic issues), the students can become more successful in school... The true driver is not the initiative itself, but love for the students."

– Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President, Amarillo College

****

"The strongest predictor of persistence is the student's social/emotional connection to the institution."

– Brad Hershbein, W.E. Upjohn Institute

For More Information . . .

For more information on emergency aid programs and the **Emergency Aid Network**, please visit:

http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/60x30TX/TexasEANet