

**2021 GEER Completion Repayment Grant Program (CRGP)**

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
We are interested in applying for the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program; however, I wanted to verify with you that we are indeed eligible to apply. We recently applied for the Texas Reskilling Support Fund Round 3 and is waiting to hear if awarded or not. Given the language on page six of the RFA, "Completion Grant funds shall not be substituted for any other funds available to Applicant or any program or program partners" would our previous THECB application make us ineligible to apply?	Thank you for your inquiry. Your application submission for the Texas Reskilling Support Fund Round 3 does not impact your eligibility to apply.
I sent in a request for information and help on my situation with my college financial aid situation. I received an email sent on behalf of Dr. Harrison Keller, Commissioner, THECB about Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program on Tuesday 11/23/21 and I am not sure how to proceed? I read through all the information and the I am not sure if I am supposed to complete the application because it looks like an application for the college to complete? If so, I am at a loss because I have been begging the school for assistance for weeks and have not been able to get any assistance. If someone could please let me know how to proceed? Thank you for your assistance	Thank you for your inquiry. For a student to receive funding through this opportunity, an eligible institution must first submit an application. If the application is awarded, the institution would then be able to disburse funds to students in line with program goals and details of the funded application. A list of awarded institutions will be posted the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program's webpage on or about January 7, 2022 at <a href="https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/">https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/</a> .
Good morning! I have a question/request for clarification about the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program: The language in the RFA seems to suggest this program may only target students in their first undergraduate/CTE program leading to a certificate or degree. Is this a correct reading, or is eligibility also open to students who were seeking an additional degree/certificate in a different program or even a graduate degree, but who have stopped out without earning their second degree/certificate or graduate credential?	The Completion Grants program is designed for students who have not yet completed a degree or certificate, as outlined in the RFA. For purposes of this RFA, a student with some college, no credential is defined as: "a current or prospective student who has completed a minimum of one college-level course of at least one semester credit hour, as verified via formal or informal college transcript, and has not earned a credential. Credential is defined as a completed degree at least at the Associate's level or a completed Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate at level 1, 2, or advanced. This definition of credential specifically excludes short-term certificates less than level 1, including, but not limited to Occupational Skills Award (OSA), and non-credit industry-recognized credentials."
For the Texas Completion Grants RFA BMS# 25873, is THECB defining "some college, no credential"? Does credential include credit OSAs, Certs, and degrees, as well as noncredit industry-recognized credentials? Or only some of these?	For purposes of this RFA, a student with some college, no credential is defined as: "a current or prospective student who has completed a minimum of one college-level course of at least one semester credit hour, as verified via formal or informal college transcript, and has not earned a credential. Credential is defined as a completed degree at least at the Associate's level or a completed Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate at level 1, 2, or advanced. This definition of credential specifically excludes short-term certificates less than level 1, including, but not limited to Occupational Skills Award (OSA), and non-credit industry-recognized credentials."
How is "some college" defined? Does that mean at least one credit course completed?	For purposes of this RFA, a student with some college, no credential is defined as: "a current or prospective student who has completed a minimum of one college-level course of at least one semester credit hour, as verified via formal or informal college transcript, and has not earned a credential. Credential is defined as a completed degree at least at the Associate's level or a completed Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate at level 1, 2, or advanced. This definition of credential specifically excludes short-term certificates less than level 1, including, but not limited to Occupational Skills Award (OSA), and non-credit industry-recognized credentials."
I am currently an Austin Community College student that will be graduating from the LVN program on December 10th. I am also a Capital Idea student. Due to Covid, I have reduced my work schedule to part-time to stay home with my son with underlying conditions. Because of this, I am behind on all of my bills. I would like to apply for the Texas completion repayment grant, but I can't access the application. I also have class today at 2 pm , so I will not be able to attend the zoom meeting. If you can provide me with any information in regards to where to apply, that would be great. Thank you for your time and have a great Tuesday!	Thank you for your inquiry. For a student to receive funding through this opportunity, an eligible institution must first submit an application. If the application is awarded, the institution would then be able to disburse funds to students in line with program goals and details of the funded application. A list of awarded institutions will be posted the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program's webpage on or about January 7, 2022 at <a href="https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/">https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/</a> .
i need some assistance completeing the application can yu help. it say i need a signature	Thank you for your inquiry. For a student to receive funding through this opportunity, an eligible institution must first submit an application. If the application is awarded, the institution would then be able to disburse funds to students in line with program goals and details of the funded application. A list of awarded institutions will be posted the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program's webpage on or about January 7, 2022 at <a href="https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/">https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/</a> .
. I am reaching out to inquire if non-profit education entities such as IDEA Public Schools are eligible for this grant. We are not a private/independent higher education institution, but we do have an HQ division focused on supporting IDEA Alumni who attend universities across the state of Texas to persist and ultimately graduate from their chosen institutions. Additionally, we have a team trained to support students who have stopped-out due to COVID-related incidences.  With this context, would we be able to qualify for participation?	Eligible applicants for this grant opportunity are limited to Texas public and private/independent institutions of higher education, as defined in Texas Education Code § 61.003(2)(3)(15)(16). School districts are not eligible to apply.
I would like to know if the webinar for the Texas Completion Repayment Grant was recorded? If so, is it possible for me to obtain a copy session. Unfortunately, I had a prior obligation that prevented me from attending webinar before it concluded.	Yes, the webinar was recorded. To access the recording, please click on the following link, scroll down to "Informational Webinar (Optional)," and click on "link to recording."
Is "credential" inclusive of noncredit/continuing ed credentials, or could we ignore those & screen only for credit credentials? If a student has completed coursework but could not apply for graduation and cannot access their transcript now due to institutional debt, could clearing that debt so they can graduate/receive their degree & transcript be considered "reenrollment" or otherwise be allowable? Could currently-enrolled students with old debt still be eligible if they have a credential (such as one of our LVN-to-RN students), assuming their education was disrupted by the pandemic? Section 3.2 only lists SCNC in the first two categories, stopped-out students.	For purposes of this RFA, a student with some college, no credential is defined as: "a current or prospective student who has completed a minimum of one college-level course of at least one semester credit hour, as verified via formal or informal college transcript, and has not earned a credential. Credential is defined as a completed degree at least at the Associate's level or a completed Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate at level 1, 2, or advanced. This definition of credential specifically excludes short-term certificates less than level 1, including, but not limited to Occupational Skills Award (OSA), and non-credit industry-recognized credentials." Yes, a student who has completed all coursework but cannot apply for graduation due to institutional debt is eligible for this award in order to release the transcript and graduate. Current students with a completed credential as defined above are not eligible for this award.

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<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
<p>1. are current or former dual credit students eligible? Example: dual credit student who owes balance from Spring 2020 and did not enroll in further college classes after high school. Example: Fall 2021 dual credit student with balance from Spring 2020 but intending to register for more dual credit courses in Spring 2022.</p> <p>2. will we only verify students' intent to enroll at another institution, or will we have to track and document their enrollment at another institution (e.g. course schedule, enrollment verification, or a transcript sent/received)?</p> <p>3. will debt owed to the institution for VA students the college had to pay the federal government be eligible similar to PATA debt owed to the institution?</p>	<p>1. Current dual credit students are not eligible for this award. For students with some college, no credential, it is not relevant if the student's college credits were earned via dual credit. 2. For students with some college, no credential who have institutional debt at your institution but would like to attend another institution, we recommend that students sign a written agreement of their intent, at which time your institution can release the transcript so students can enroll. Upon verification from the student of actual registration, your institution can then use the grant to forgive the outstanding institutional balance. Your institution may choose how to verify students' registration at the other institution. 3. All institutional-level debt is eligible for this grant program.</p>
<p>1.Are Non-Credit/Lifelong learning students eligible for these funds?</p> <p>2.Does the award amount have to go against cost of attendance/estimated financial aid? Can we have the Business Office apply it directly to the student account, or do we need to award it on the financial aid side and transfer it over (as we would any other awards)?</p>	<p>1. Students must be degree/certificate-seeking students. 2. Repayment of institutional-level debt does not impact students' financial aid. Your Business Office may apply the grant directly to the student account.</p>
<p>I attended the informational webinar regarding the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program on 11/30 and reviewed the Texas Education Code § 61.003(2)(3)(15)(16). However, I wanted to follow up to see if I could confirm the eligibility our three institutions to apply. The Art Institute of Houston, The Art Institute of Austin and The Art Institute of San Antonio I believe are all eligible as defined in Texas Education Code § 61.003(2)(3)(15)(16), but before completing the application is there someone I can speak with to confirm?</p>	<p>Correct, all three institutions are eligible to apply.</p>
<p>Hello I stumbled upon this article could you help me. I'm a peace officer for the state of Texas and have student loans that I would like to get paid so that I can further my education in mental health.</p>	<p>This Request for Applications is for Texas institutions. For information on the Peace Officer Loan Repayment Assistance Program, please click on the following link: <a href="http://www.hhloans.com/index.cfm?objectid=E32BBAB0-37DF-11EA-87D10050560100A9">http://www.hhloans.com/index.cfm?objectid=E32BBAB0-37DF-11EA-87D10050560100A9</a></p>
<p>We have an institutional program where we allowed students to come back to school if they had a debt of less than \$500. If they complete their degree or certificate, we would forgive that debt.</p> <p>Would we be able to use the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program to pay off the debt those student's owe the institution that are in that program? All the debt of those students is from before Fall 2021.</p>	<p>Yes, as long as all qualifications as outlined in the RFA are met, your institution may move students from your program to the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program.</p>
<p>We are interested in applying for this grant opportunity but missed the zoom call on Tuesday. Do you have slides or other info that you are able to share?</p>	<p>The Zoom webinar call was recorded. To access the recording, please click on the following link, scroll down to "Informational Webinar (Optional)," and click on "link to recording."</p>
<p>I wanted to ask a question about the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program. I did attend the recent webinar. It is my understanding that these grant funds can only be used to help pay outstanding balances prior to Fall 2021. We are able to run reports to identify students who have a balance from prior to Fall 2021. So, we know how many students could potentially be served and the dollar amount we could potentially use if awarded. But what I do not understand is how we could know now which of those students would plan to re-enroll (either at SAGU or another school) in Spring 2022, Summer 2022, or Fall 2022. And how does this program help assist current students if the balances have to be from a semester prior to Fall 2021. I hope you can understand the nature of my questions. I'm just not sure how to fill out the chart I have pasted below from the application. Can you help clarify or give some suggestions of what THECB is looking for on this? Thanks for your help!</p>	<p>Institutions will need to create an application that includes verification of enrollment in one or more of the required semesters. For students with some college, no credential who have institutional debt at your institution but would like to attend another institution, we recommend that students sign a written agreement of their intent, at which time your institution can release the transcript so students can enroll. Upon verification from the student of actual registration, your institution can then use the grant to forgive the outstanding institutional balance. Your institution may choose how to verify students' registration at the other institution.</p>
<p>I was just checking to see if the webinar was recorded and if that recording link would be sent out when it's available. I wanted to make sure someone who couldn't attend was able to get the information from the webinar.</p>	<p>The Zoom webinar call was recorded. To access the recording, please click on the following link, scroll down to "Informational Webinar (Optional)," and click on "link to recording."</p>
<p>Our university is preparing an application in response to the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program.</p> <p>We have a few questions for this application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Are salaries/fringe allowed?</li> <li>•Are indirect costs allowed?</li> <li>•If indirect costs are allowed, does THECB have a limit or may we use our Federally-Negotiated rate?</li> </ul>	<p>The items listed are allowable costs. However, please note that your application will be evaluated based on the following: "how the budget is structured to maximize the impact of available funds and limits or excludes direct and/or indirect administrative costs to administer the grant award." You may use your Federally-Negotiated rate for indirect costs.</p>
<p>1.It is our impression that the goal of the CR grant program is to support students that have stopped-out and to encourage students to persist. We have many students that owe the college well beyond the \$1,000 maximum award. Those students that owe, for example, \$4,000 are unlikely to enroll even if they receive the maximum award. Understanding that the maximum award is unlikely to result in students returning to school, can the college award funds to students with less debt realizing that they would be most likely to return and register for classes. Students that owe less than \$1,000, for example, will likely register for class if they are helped with their debt.</p> <p>2.The CR grant program has a mechanism for schools to apply for more than \$250,000. If a college applies for more than \$250,000 with a rationale they believe is realistic, what happens if you don't agree with their rationale? Would they be eligible for \$250,000 or would the application be disallowed?</p>	<p>1. Your institution may choose how to distribute grant awards, and your intent to use funds for students who most likely will return is a logical approach. Your institution should also create an application in order to verify students' continued enrollment or re-enrollment. For students with some college, no credential who have institutional debt at your institution but would like to attend another institution, we recommend that students sign a written agreement of their intent, at which time your institution can release the transcript so students can enroll. Upon verification from the student of actual registration, your institution can then use the grant to forgive the outstanding institutional balance. Your institution may choose how to verify students' registration at the other institution. 2. The application will continue to be considered for the \$250,000 award. Please indicate in the justification section of the application that your institution would still like to be considered for the \$250,000 award if the request for an amount exceeding is not granted.</p>
<p>1.Concerning Texas residency status, is this at the time of initial enrollment at the institution or at the time of awarding of a \$1,000 or less grant?</p> <p>2.If an institution applies for one of the two larger grant amounts, will they be considered for a smaller grant amount if they do not meet the threshold for awarding with the amount applied for?</p>	<p>1. Texas residency status should be determined at the time of the awarding of the \$1000 or less grant.</p> <p>2. Yes, an institution may be eligible for a smaller grant amount. Please indicate in your application that your institution would still like to be considered for a smaller amount if the original request is not granted.</p>

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Can you clarify how evaluations will work? If we apply for the \$125K award for 125 students, will we be scored only against other institutions applying in that category? Or if we don't score high enough for an award there, can we still be considered for an award in the \$75K category?	Your application will be scored as outlined in the RFA against all other applicants, with final award sizes based on submitted applications and awards made based on rank order of reviewed applications until funding runs out.
I have another question I'm hoping you can help me with. On RFA p. 4 where it states "This grant program will target funds to clear students' institutional-level financial hold(s) and/or other related areas up to \$1,000 per eligible student"- is this referring to debt prior to fall 2021? More specifically, does this mean we apply funds to these outstanding balances first and then funds can be applied to continued enrollment in spring 2022, etc.?	All awarded funds must be used to repay institutional-level debt, up to \$1000, incurred for the eligible students prior to fall 2021. No funds can be used for debt incurred in fall 2021 or later.
1.If we apply for a \$250,000 grant, will we still be considered for the lesser amounts? 2.If a student transferred in with an associate's degree, are they eligible for this? They have a credential, but not from us. 3.COVID – if I understood the discussion in the webinar recording correctly, the debt does not necessarily have to have been incurred during the COVID semesters. The inability to pay the pre-COVID debt back due to impact from COVID is a valid reason for a student to qualify....correct?	1. Yes. Please indicate in the justification section of the application that your institution would still like to be considered for the \$250,000 or lesser award if the request for an amount exceeding is not granted. 2. No, students with completed credentials, including an associate's degree, are not eligible. For purposes of this RFA, a student with some college, no credential is defined as: "a current or prospective student who has completed a minimum of one college-level course of at least one semester credit hour, as verified via formal or informal college transcript, and has not earned a credential. Credential is defined as a completed degree at least at the Associate's level or a completed Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate at level 1, 2, or advanced. This definition of credential specifically excludes short-term certificates less than level 1, including, but not limited to Occupational Skills Award (OSA), and non-credit industry-recognized credentials." 3. You are correct: the debt could have been incurred anytime prior to fall 2021.
1.May the completion repayment grant cover balances for students who owe because of Federal Regulations 34 C.F.R § 668.22 (Return of Title IV)?	Yes.
I am interested in the inquiry for these funds.  I read the memo on your website and it appears you needed an email requesting the RFA for this purpose.  Is that correct?	Note only Texas public and private/independent institutions, as defined in the Request for Applications (RFA), are eligible to apply for this program. The Request for Applications is available on the following webpage: <a href="https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/">https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/</a>
Are the Q&As from the Webinar available for viewing? I attended the webinar but would like to have access to the Q&As if possible. Is it correct that student's institutional-level debt must have occurred before Fall 2021 (we have a large number of students who have debt for Fall 2021). The instructions go on to say we should anticipate the average institutional-level student debt amounts to be cleared each semester. I assume this means Spring '22, Summer '22, and Fall '22?  Is it acceptable to offer scholarships/stipends to eligible students who have stopped out or who need incentives to enroll/re-enroll to finish their credential?  Does the marketing and outreach need to be specifically for students who are non-completers or who have stopped out?  Can we use the funding for tutors/tutoring, supplemental instruction, or other means to help retain students through to completion?  This funding can basically be used for more than the students with institutional-level debt?	1. The Zoom webinar call was recorded. To access the recording, please click on the following link, scroll down to "Informational Webinar (Optional)," and click on "link to recording." 2. For this grant program, funds must be applied to institutional-level debt incurred prior to fall 2021. 3. Yes, the anticipated amounts should reflect the eligible period of spring, summer, and fall 2022. 4. This grant program is limited to repayment of institutional-level debt, up to \$1000 per eligible student, incurred prior to fall 2021. For purposes of this RFA, a student with some college, no credential is defined as: "a current or prospective student who has completed a minimum of one college-level course of at least one semester credit hour, as verified via formal or informal college transcript, and has not earned a credential. Credential is defined as a completed degree at least at the Associate's level or a completed Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate at level 1, 2, or advanced. This definition of credential specifically excludes short-term certificates less than level 1, including, but not limited to Occupational Skills Award (OSA), and non-credit industry-recognized credentials." 5. Marketing and outreach can be for any eligible students, including SCNC or current students, as outlined in the RFA. 6. See #4 above. Funds cannot be used for students without institutional-level debt.
We used HEERF institutional funds to forgive the debt students incurred during the COVID19 response. We would be using the funds solely to encourage those students to return to MC. No funds would be needed to forgive the amounts. Without the student debt, would Midland College be eligible to apply?	Applications should be submitted by institutions who need funding for the purpose of repayment of students' institutional-level debt, as outlined in the RFA.
If we can't serve the minimum of 75 students/\$75,000 through previously incurred institutional debt can we still apply?  What if we can serve other "anticipated" students through Student Support Services for retention and completion, etc., can those students be included in the 75 students? If we can't serve the minimum of 75 students/\$75,000 through previously incurred institutional debt can we still apply?  What if we can serve other "anticipated" students through Student Support Services for retention and completion, etc., can those students be included in the 75 students?	1. Yes, the RFA award schedule provided in Section 2.1 is for guidance only. 2. Anticipated students served should only include those who would be recipients of the repayment, as outlined in the RFA.
Can you inform me how to go about getting the application for the Texas Completion Repayment Grant Program? Your help would be greatly appreciated.	The Request for Applications can be found at the following link: <a href="https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/">https://www.highered.texas.gov/institutional-resources-programs/institutional-grant-opportunities/texas-completion-repayment-grant-program/</a>
1.If a student has all requirements satisfied for completion, but outstanding balance would they qualify? (graduated with balance due—diploma held by our institution) 2.Are graduate students eligible?	1. A student who has completed all coursework but cannot apply for graduation due to institutional debt is eligible for this award in order to release the transcript and graduate. Current students with a completed credential, including graduate students, are not eligible for this award.
I have a question I'm hoping you can help me with. On RFA p. 4 where it states "This grant program will target funds to clear students' institutional-level financial hold(s) and/or other related areas up to \$1,000 per eligible student"- Does this mean we apply funds to outstanding balances incurred prior to Fall 2021 first and then funds can be applied to continued enrollment in spring 2022, etc.?	All awarded funds must be used to repay institutional-level debt, up to \$1000, incurred for the eligible students prior to fall 2021. No funds can be used for debt incurred in fall 2021 or later.

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<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
<p>1.Are Non-Credit/Lifelong learning students eligible for these funds?                  2.Are Dual Credit/High School students eligible for these funds?                  3.Does the award amount have to go against cost of attendance/estimated financial aid? Can we have the Business Office apply it directly to the student account, or do we need to award it on the financial aid side and transfer it over (as we would any other awards)?</p>	<p>1. Students must be degree/certificate-seeking to be eligible. 2. Dual credit/high school students are not eligible. 3. The award amount, up to \$1000, can be used for any institutional-level debt incurred by eligible students prior to fall 2021. The Business Office may apply it directly to the student account.</p>
<p>•The application document continues to transfer information from field boxes on the application to subsequent boxes (example: If we enter contact information, the name inserted as primary, phone numbers, position/title transfers to the secondary contact). This also occurs when completing boxes such as providing our rationale for question (4) four. Do we overwrite this form to insert information as opposed to utilizing the fields incorporated within the original document?                  •When we move to the Budget Request Form, the budget narrative section areas only allow for one line of narrative. Should we use the empty place at the bottom of the page to provide the narrative or is the narrative only meant to be provided as a brief explanation that must fit in the one line area?</p>	<p>1. Please overwrite the form to insert information that is applicable for your application. 2. Yes, please use the empty space at the bottom of the page to provide the narrative if you need additional room.</p>
<p>If we award a student less than \$1,000, can we award more students than the number we list in our Students Served table? I understand that the total amount awarded cannot exceed the amount we are requesting, but we have a lot of students who owe less than \$1,000.                   On the Budget Request Form, is there a maximum word count for Section Two: Budget Narrative responses? Are we able to use responses from our Application narrative that are applicable?</p>	<p>1. The maximum amount per eligible student is \$1000. However, you may apply any amount less than \$1000 for the purposes of this grant program. When calculating anticipated number of students served and total amounts, your amounts should reflect the actual anticipated amounts you expect to award. 2. Word count for all components of the application responses should be limited to 250 words or fewer. Yes, you may use responses from the Application narrative as appropriate.</p>