

# Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant Program

**November 2, 2020**

**60x30TX**



Texas Higher Education  
Coordinating Board

# GEER Funds: Support for Students

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds

- Need-based financial aid - \$57M
- Direct student support - \$93M
  - Emergency aid - \$46.5M
  - Up-skilling/Re-skilling - \$46.5M
- Online learning support - \$10M
  - OER development/implementation - \$4.3M
  - Learning analytics - \$4.5M
  - Digital learning clearinghouse - \$1.2M
- Data infrastructure - \$15M
  - Advising support - \$4M
  - Student progress dashboards - \$1M
  - Data modernization - \$10M



# Reskilling/Upskilling Landscape

- **The Most Vulnerable: 4 million Texans** have some college but no credential – 21% of the population ages 25-64; 23% of the population ages 25-34
- **Economic Crisis:** As of October 17, 2020, nearly **3.7 million** Texans have filed for unemployment since mid-March
- **Retraining Capacity: 66,207** Technical Certificate and Associate degrees were awarded in Texas in 2019 as well as tens of thousands short term credentials

GEER Funds can provide crucial financial assistance to Texas students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic who are seeking to reskill or upskill to reenter the job market.

# Checking in with the Field

Interviews conducted with leadership in community colleges, technical colleges, and universities across Texas as well as with Texas employers

- Six Community Colleges
- Five Universities
- TSTC System
- Texas Association of Manufacturers

# Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant Program

## **Funding:**

\$46.5 million

## **Purpose:**

Support for displaced Texas workers who need to reskill or upskill to move quickly back into the workforce and Texas students who have previously stopped out of higher education institutions without completing a postsecondary credential.

## **Coverage:**

Tuition/fees for students pursuing credentials

# Grant Competition

- Open to all public two and four-year institutions and technical colleges in Texas
- Funds to be used exclusively for student tuition and fees (last dollar awards) and deployed as rapidly as possible by grantee institutions
- Grant must be expended by the end of calendar year 2021

# Student Awards

- Last dollar after any federal, state or institutional gift aid received
- Not to exceed an eligible student's demonstrated financial need
- To be used only for tuition and fees
- Be between \$500 and \$2,500 per semester/term but not to exceed \$2,500

RFA Section 5.2

# Eligible Students

- Texas residents eligible for in-state tuition as determined by the institution;
- Have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Have financial need and are eligible for federal Title IV aid. Students who are enrolled in short-term non-eligible Title IV workforce credential programs but who are otherwise Title IV eligible may be included;
- Have affirmed they were affected by COVID-19. Institutions may establish their own processes for determining COVID-19 impact;
- Are enrolled in an eligible undergraduate or short-term workforce credential program on either a full time or part time basis;
- Have not been enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution in the previous academic (long) semester or previous six months; **and**
- Are within twelve months of completing their credential program.

[RFA Section 5.2, Appendix A](#)



# Eligible Programs

- **High-Value Short-Term Workforce Credential Programs**

High-value short-term workforce credential programs of fewer than 60 Semester Credit Hours

Credential programs that may be converted to credit or are stackable to credit-bearing programs, Level 1 Certificates, Level 2 Certificates, Level 3 Enhanced Skills Awards and Advanced Technology Certificates

Eligible high value workforce credential programs must either:

Be aligned with high value occupations in the region as determined by the most recent TWC Target Occupations regional list; or

Be aligned with high value occupations offering above-average wages and strong job placement for the region as determined by the institution following examination of pertinent labor market information in partnership with regional employers and in consultation with the Regional Workforce Development Board.

- **Undergraduate Degree Programs**

Associate's and Baccalaureate programs that an eligible student's prior academic credits will enable the student to complete within twelve months of enrollment in this program

[RFA Sections 5.2, 7.2, Appendix A](#)

# Grant Requests

Award Size	Minimum # of Students Supported	Maximum Number of Awards
\$1,500,000	1,000	15
\$750,000	500	20
\$300,000	200	20
\$112,500	75	20

# Supplemental Awards

- The lead institution for partnerships or consortia may request a supplemental award of up to \$50,000 in addition to the main award covering tuition and fees.
- The supplemental award may be used for additional coverage of student tuition and fees, marketing to potential students, trainings, and institutional research costs directly associated with the support of the partnership or consortium.
- THECB expects to make up to 15 supplemental awards to support partnerships or consortia.

RFA Sections 2.1., 6.2.1

# Selection Criteria – Core Factors

- Degree to which the submitted plan matches program priorities
- Strength/clarity of the rationale supporting the selection of high value credentials and undergraduate degree programs
- Strength/clarity of the aid distribution plan
- Track record/assurances regarding the capacity to identify and track the students provided support

RFA Section 7.3, Appendix C

# Additional Selection Criteria – Bonus Points

- Compelling additional information on the COVID-19 related needs of students and plans for outreach to prospective students
- Plan of action to deploy funds rapidly
- Establishment or expansion of partnerships or consortia with other public IHEs
- 30% or more of enrolled students at the institution(s) hold At Risk status

RFA Section 7.3, Appendix C

# Application

- Certification
- Grant Request
- Contact Information
- Project Summary
  - Credential Programs selected
  - Description of how Credential Programs Selection
  - Description of Distribution Plan
  - Information on Students Identification and Tracking

# Application Continued

- Description of Applicant(s)
  - Rationale for request
  - Level of commitment
  - If applicable, rationale for partnership or consortium and sharing of responsibilities
- Assessment of Need
- Projected Timeline and Estimated Numbers of Students Supported
- At Risk Students

# Resources

- Texas Workforce Commission Target Occupations by Region
- Consultations with Employers, local Workforce Boards, Employer Advisory Committees
- Institutional Research on Labor Market Trends
  - Perkins CLNA or WIOA
- **\*NEW\*** Texas Workforce Development Toolkit

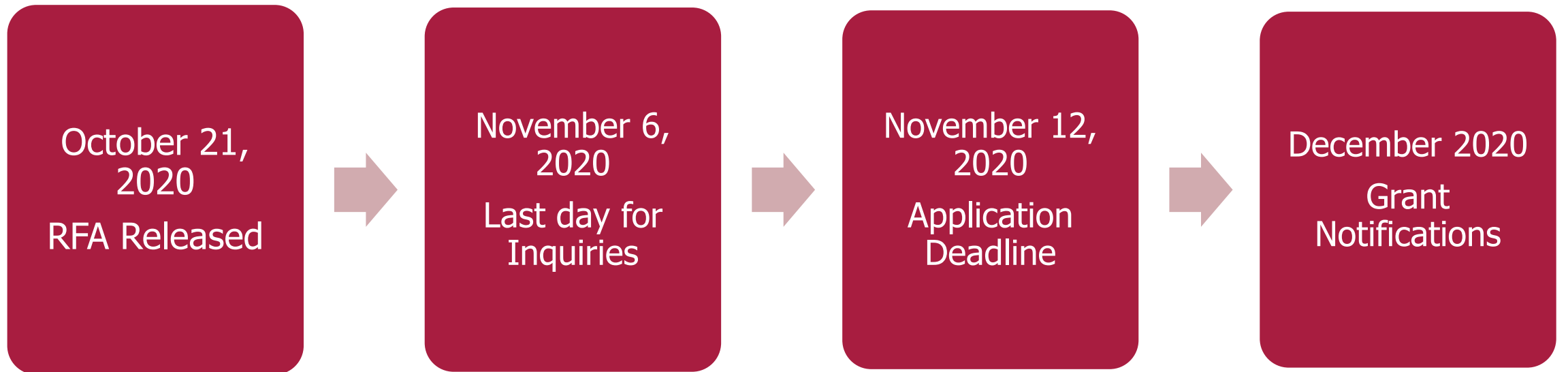


# Grantee Reporting Schedule

- 1<sup>st</sup> Program and Financial Report reporting on January through May 2021 June 30, 2021
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Program and Financial Report reporting on June through July 2021 August 16, 2021
- Final Program and Financial Report reporting on August through December 2021 February 28, 2022

RFA Sections 10.2, 10.3

# Application Calendar



**Questions?**

# Contact Information

[www.highered.texas.gov/reskilling](http://www.highered.texas.gov/reskilling)

Dr. Sheri Ranis  
reskilling@highered.texas.gov