

TRUE 2026-28 Grant Program

Informational Webinar

July 30, 2026

The **Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Grant Program** was established during the 87th Legislature, Regular Session (Senate Bill 1102) and is in Texas Education Code, Sections 61.881-61.886.

The TRUE Grant Program is also in rule: Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 10, Subchapter SS, Sections 10.890 -10.898. The TRUE Grant Program received biennial funding during the 89th Texas Legislative Session.

TRUE Grant Program **Summary**

- **Funds for two-year public higher education institutions** to expand, redesign, or build short-duration, industry-aligned career and technical education (CTE) programs in high-demand occupations
- **Strategic selection of CTE programs for grant projects**, reflecting local and regional need, in partnership with workforce stakeholders
- **Data collection and reporting** on project progress and outcomes to inform ongoing capacity-building efforts by THECB in postsecondary workforce education.

TRUE Grant Program **Purposes**

- **To provide training** in existing, new, revised, or expanded programs that teach high-demand skills and lead to postsecondary industry-recognized certifications or other certificate credentials valued in high-demand occupations
- **To develop new**, high-demand postsecondary industry-recognized certifications or other CTE certificate programs leading to credentials that can be completed in six months or less;
- **To revise existing** postsecondary industry-recognized certifications or certificate programs of instruction leading to those certifications or credentials to meet the standards under Subdivision (2) of the TRUE Program statute

TRUE Grant Program **Purposes *cont'd.***

- **To expand** institutional capacity to provide high-demand postsecondary industry-recognized certifications or other CTE certificate credentials that can be stacked in high demand career pathways and that address the needs of high demand occupations identified by the Texas Workforce Commission and its applicable local workforce development boards
- **To provide** student aid awards to incentivize enrollment in and completion of industry-recognized certifications or other CTE certificate credentials
- **To track and report** necessary information on enrollment, credential completion, and employment outcomes for students in courses and programs described above to gauge the impact on student success

TRUE Basics

TRUE Grant Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants:

- Texas public, lower-division institutions of higher education (public junior colleges, public state colleges, public technical institutes).
- Consortia composed of two or more Texas public, lower-division institutions of higher education.
- **Please Note:** Local chambers of commerce, trade associations, or economic development corporations partnering with public lower-division institutions of higher education or a consortium of lower-division institutions of higher education are eligible to receive funds **but may not apply as the primary grant holder.**

TRUE 2026-28 Awards

Award Ranges

Up to \$500,000 maximum for
single institutions

Up to \$800,000 maximum for
consortia

- **TRUE 2026-28 will award** approximately \$10 million in grants.
- **Grant periods are** for approximately 24 months.
- **Eligible applicants** may submit a maximum of two applications: one as a single applicant and the other as a member of a consortium.

TRUE 2026-28 Grant Program **Timeline**

- **September 4, 2026** *Last Day for Inquiries*
- **September 9, 2026** ***Applications Due***
- **October 2026** *Grant Notifications*
- **December 2026** *Grant Period Begins*
- **December 2028** *End of Grant Period*

Project Development

TRUE 2026-28 Grant Parameters

- Deliver education and workforce training that leads to postsecondary industry recognized-certifications or other certificate credentials required for high demand occupations.
- Include one or more highly related occupations that can be completed in six months or less duration and result in a credential (OSA, ICLC, Continuing Education (CE) Certificate, or Level 1 Certificate) in a high-demand occupation with an annual regional income threshold of \$30,000 or more.
- Select regional high-demand occupations as determined by the TWC list of regional Target Occupations and THECB's Fiscal Year 2026 High-Demand Occupation Fields list:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/agency/workforce-development-boards>

<https://www.highered.texas.gov/community-college-finance/high-demand-fields/>.

TRUE 2026-28 Grant **Parameters** *cont'd.*

- Develop project in consultation with local employers and other workforce stakeholders who are hiring for the selected high-demand occupations.
- Secure THECB program approval for the CTE program(s) within the first nine months of the grant period and ensure the program(s) are entered into the institution's program inventory.
- Design program(s) as stand alone or embedded in other CTE programs.
- Deliver instruction digitally, face-to-face, or via hybrid instruction.
- Offer the credential program as either a credit-bearing or Continuing Education program.

Workforce Stakeholders

- **Funding** – Certain workforce stakeholders may receive grant funding in partnership with eligible institutions of higher education. They may not be the primary grant holder.
Workforce stakeholders eligible for funding are chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, and trade associations
- **Required project development consultation** – Institutions must consult with workforce stakeholders regarding the selection of high demand occupations.
Consultations should take place with employers, chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, trade associations, and/or local workforce boards
- **Employment Transition Plan** – Institutions receive bonus points for providing a formal written agreement concerning an Employment Transition Plan – work-based learning and/or hiring protocols - for students as part of the TRUE application.
- **Required letters of support** - Two or more Letters of Support from a local Workforce Board and an Employer

TRUE 2026-28 Budgets

Allowable Cost Categories

- Curriculum development and instruction design
- Instructional/training software
- Instructional/training equipment
- Renovations to instructional facilities required for the project
- Student financial aid
- Student supports
- Faculty hiring and training capacity
- Off the shelf credential and training materials
- Project marketing and outreach costs
- Data administration and reporting costs

TRUE 2026-28 Equipment & Facilities

- Total instructional equipment/facilities budget categories **must not exceed 50%** of grant budget total.
- Budget requests with 10% or less for equipment and facilities qualify for bonus points.
- All equipment/facilities expenditures must be completed by December 1, 2027.

TRUE 2026-28 **Student Financial Aid**

- **Eligible students:** Students enrolling or enrolled in the specific program(s) covered by the project during the grant period.
- **Financial aid coverage:** Cost of attendance, tuition, and fees
- **Award cap:** \$2,500 per eligible student per semester or term
- **Other financial aid streams:** Students receiving assistance through the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program or Workforce Pell are not eligible to receive additional financial aid through the TRUE Grant Program.

Considerations for Consortium Proposals

- Provide a **well-articulated rationale** for the formation of the consortium. Ground the rationale in the need for a common regional approach and/or a single high-demand occupational field strategy across consortium partners.
- Clearly state the **criteria for selecting partners**.
- Include in the grant proposal or plan completion of a **formal agreement** between consortium members within three months of grant execution (March 5, 2027). The agreement should detail the role of each consortium/partner member regarding contribution to the grant and achievement of grant outcomes, including procurement, internal consortium/partner program delivery and internal consortium/partner reporting.

Application and Evaluation

TRUE 2026-28 Credential Roster/Outcomes Form

- Provides details about the selected CTE Program(s) that will be the focus of the grant, including 6-digit CIP Code, duration, credential type, mode of instruction and more.
- Organized by CTE program and offering institution.
- Location for numeric, projected targets by program regarding student enrollment, student completion, and student employment outcomes one year after grant start, at the end of grant period, and one year post grant.

TRUE 2026-28 **Activity Form**

- Consider the Activity Form as an activity timeline.
- Outlines projected activities, participants, and completion dates during the grant period.
- Organized by quarter including grant period and closeout period.
- Partially pre-filled with required program reporting and completion deadlines.

TRUE 2026-28 Grant Program **Web Page**

General information and links to application materials are available on the THECB webpage:

- [TRUE 2026-28 Grant Program Webpage](#)
- [TRUE 2026-28 RFA](#)
- [THECB Grants | Sign in](#) (FLUXX)
- [TRUE 2026 Activity Form](#)
- Informational Webinar Slide Deck/Recording

TRUE 2026-28 **Application Packet**

All application/materials must be submitted via the THECB's grant management system (Fluxx):

[THECB Grants | Sign in](#)

Click the following link for guidelines on how to register and submit an application using Fluxx:

[THECB Grants Portal Guide](#)

TRUE 2026-28 Proposal Review Considerations

- Best overall value to the state
- Eligibility requirements met
- Project quality determined by application evaluation criteria
- Projects that are not duplicative of existing programs unless necessary to meet regional workforce needs
- Projects that exhibit priority criteria
- Consideration of location: grants to at least one eligible entity in each region of Texas to the extent practicable

TRUE 2026-28 **Priority Proposals**

- Selection of a **new** credit-bearing or CE credit conversion CTE program. New programs are those that are not currently approved in the state's Program Inventory or have not yet been offered to students.
- Submission of an **Employment Transition Plan** involving work-based learning opportunities, and/or employment placement, organized with employers and/or local workforce boards. A formal, written agreement between participants specific to the TRUE project must be included in the submission to receive points.
- Budget requests with **light/none (10% or less)** in instructional equipment and facilities expenditures
- **TRUE Pathways Design and Planning 2025-26 grantees**

TRUE Proposal Evaluation Criteria

TRUE 2026-28 GRANT PROGRAM SAMPLE EVALUATION FORM		
	Maximum Points	Points Awarded
Core Elements (30 Possible Points)		
Selection of CTE Programs	10	
Credential Roster/Outcomes Form		
Project's Goals and Activities	10	
Credential Roster/Outcomes Form		
Activity Form		
Applicant/Consortium Capacity	5	
Budget Alignment with Project Goals	5	
Bonus Points (17 Total Possible Points)		
New CTE Program	5	
Employment Transition Plan	5	
Light/None Equipment and Facilities Expenditures	5	
TRUE Planning Grantee	2	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	47	

Quality Proposals

Tips for Quality Proposals

- Focus the project on **one credential program or a small set of closely related programs** in a high-demand occupation.
- Demonstrate robust use of **labor market information** during project development – hiring trends data, job postings, and employment outcomes.
- Undertake and describe consultations with **workforce stakeholders** regarding program selection.
- The degree of **engagement with workforce stakeholders** matters. Work-based learning opportunities are strongly recommended, and consideration of employment paths for CTE program completers is required. Bonus points given for submitting in the application packet a formal written agreement with workforce stakeholders regarding an Employment Transition Plan.

Tips for **Quality Proposals** *cont'd*

- **Do not duplicate** existing postsecondary offerings unless there is demonstrable unmet local or regional employer demand for more individuals holding that credential or skills profile. Be sure to state that case.
- Create a budget that demonstrates **necessary and reasonable project costs** and check with your internal legal/sponsored projects team about **state requirements and regulations** on expenditure categories.
- **Completely fill out** the Credential Roster/Outcome Targets Form and [TRUE 2026 Activity Form](#).
- Include at least **two letters of support/commitment** from one or more employers and a regional workforce board.

Questions?

Contacts

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