

“By Building a Talent Strong Texas, our state will play a leading and unprecedented national role in prioritizing credentials of value.”

THECB Strategic Plan: Building a Talent Strong Texas, March 2022

**The TRUE Grant Program Informational Webinar
will begin shortly.**

TRUE Grant Program

Informational Webinar

May 2, 2022

Building a Talent-Strong Texas

ATTAINMENT
of Postsecondary
Credentials

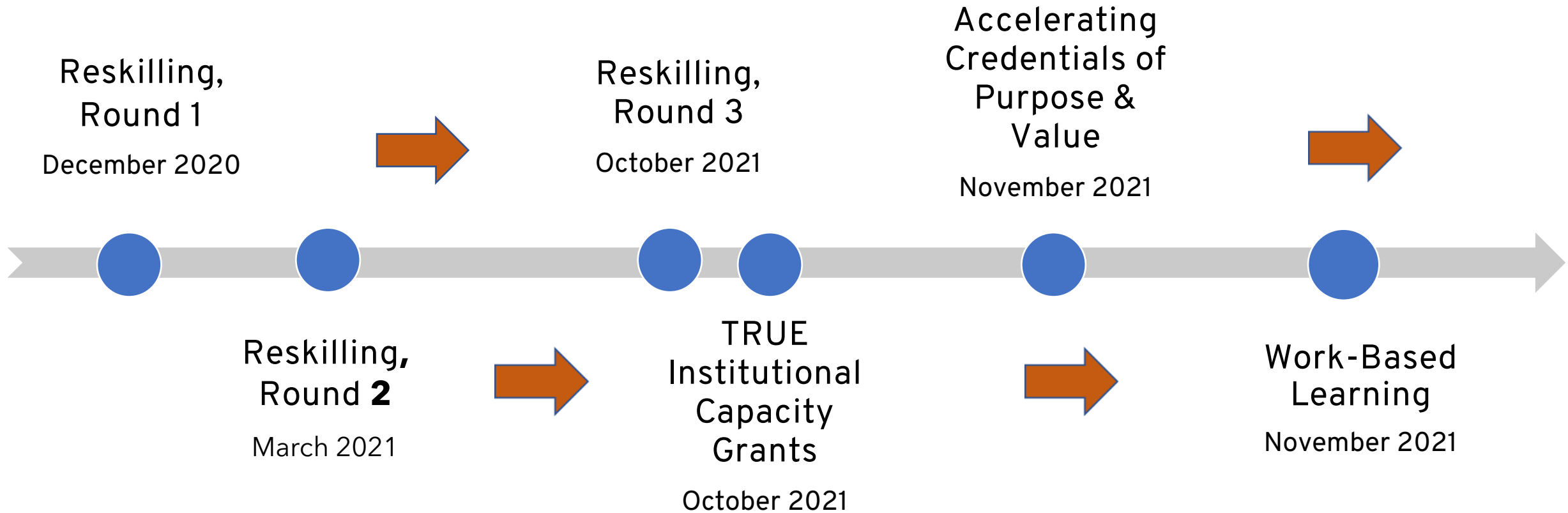
Postsecondary
CREDENTIALS
OF VALUE

RESEARCH,
Development &
Innovation

EQUITY: Data will be disaggregated & tracked by race, gender & income

COORDINATION: Across public and private sectors, with input and support from educators, institutional leaders, policy makers, employers, and students

Direct GEER Investments in Workforce Education 2020-21



**The TRUE Grant Program is a new effort
in 2022 and should not be mistaken for
the fall 2021 GEER-funded TRUE
Institutional Capacity Grants initiative**

TRUE Origins

- The Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program was established during the 87th Legislature Regular Session (S.B. 1102).
- As codified in Texas Education Code §§ 61.881-61.886, the Texas Legislature provided appropriations to implement the TRUE Program during the Third Special Session of the 87th Legislature through SB 8.
- SB 8 provides funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. TRUE was appropriated \$15 million through SB 8. THECB has applied for and been awarded the funds for TRUE under SB 8 from the Office of the Governor.

TRUE Grant Program Purposes

Texas Education Code §§ 61.883

- To provide training in existing, new, or redesigned accelerated programs that teach high-demand skills and lead to postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials valued in growing and/or high-need occupations;
- to develop new industry-aligned, high-demand postsecondary certifications or other workforce credentials and certificate programs or other courses of instruction leading to those certifications or credentials that can be completed in six months or less;
- to redesign existing postsecondary industry certifications or credentials and certificate programs or other courses of instruction that are industry-aligned, high-demand and can be completed in six months or less;
- to expand institutional capacity to provide high-demand postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials that are stackable in high-demand career pathways and address the needs of high-demand occupations identified by the Texas Workforce Commission or applicable local workforce development boards;
- to provide student aid awards to incentivize enrollment in and completion of industry-aligned, high demand postsecondary industry certification or other workforce credentials and certificate programs or other courses of instruction leading to those certifications or credentials; and
- to track and report enrollment, credential completion, and employment outcomes for students in courses and programs describe above to gauge the impact on student success.

TRUE Grant Program Awards

TRUE Award Ranges
\$50,000 maximum for planning grants
\$50,000-\$500,000 for single institution projects
\$50,000-\$1,000,000 for Consortia projects

- This is a competitive grant award. Applications will be evaluated, ranked and awarded until funds are fully obligated.
- Eligible applicants:
 - Texas public lower division institutions of higher education (public junior colleges, public state colleges, public technical institutes)
 - Consortia composed of three or more Texas public lower division institutions of higher education
 - 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
- Eligible applicants may submit a maximum of two applications: one as a single recipient and the other as a member of a consortium.

TRUE Project Tasks & Activities

- Plan, Redesign/Expand or Create credential programs/courses of study that can be completed in six months or less
- Select programs in high demand (high value/high need) occupational areas in consultation with workforce stakeholders
- Programs may be for certifications, certificate programs or other workforce credentials or courses of study
- Sub-Certificate 1 programs are developed to be convertible or stackable to credit-bearing programs
- Programs may be delivered in person, on-line or in hybrid mode

TRUE Project Proposal Review Considerations

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

TRUE Priority Proposals

- Priority in application review will be given to
 - Proposals for new or existing consortia of three or more eligible institutions
 - Projects by single institutions or consortia that incorporate partnerships with chambers of commerce, trade associations, economic development corporations or local workforce boards
 - Projects that offer affordable options for students
 - Projects that prioritize displaced workers

TRUE Project Budgets

Cost Categories

- Curriculum development and instruction design
- Instructional software
- Instructional equipment
- Other infrastructure supporting instruction
- Student financial aid
- Student supports
- Faculty hiring and training capacity
- Off the shelf credential and training materials
- Project outreach (up to \$50,000)
- Data administration and reporting

TRUE 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

Calculation: “Middle dollar” calculation that subtracts state and institutional aid first, leaving federal aid such as Pell Grants out of the calculation.

TRUE Application Packets

Application materials are available on the THECB website
highered.texas.gov

- RFA with federal certification forms
- Application form and instructions
- Budget request form and instructions
- Slide deck from this informational webinar

TRUE Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Maximum Points

Core Elements (30 possible points)

Selected Project Education and Training Programs	5
Description of Project Program Selection	5
Description of Project Goals and Activities	5
Description of Applicant and/or Consortium Members	5
Alignment of Funding with Project Goals	5
Project Timeline	5

Bonus Points (0 or full points)

Consortium	5
Workforce Entity Partnership	5
Affordability	2
Displaced Worker Opportunity	2

Total Possible Points 44

Roles for Workforce Stakeholders

- Eligible applicant – May be a grantee or receive grant funding in a partnership
 - Eligible workforce applicants are defined as Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Corporations, and Trade Associations
- Required project development consultations
 - Employers, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Corporations, Trade Associations, local Workforce Development Boards
- Project partnerships with workforce stakeholders get priority
 - Employers, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Corporations, Trade Associations, local Workforce Development Boards

TRUE Grant Program Timeline

- April 25, 2022 Program Announcement
- May 2, 2022 Informational Webinar
- May 18, 2022 Last Day for Inquiries
- **May 23, 2022** Application Due Date
- July 2022 Announcement of Grantees
- August 31, 2023 End of Grant Period

Tips for Quality Proposal Composition

- Demonstrate robust use of Labor Market Information during project development
- Undertake and describe consultations with workforce stakeholders regarding program selection focused on growing occupations
- Focus the project on one program or a closely related set of programs in a growing occupation

Tips for Quality Proposal Composition

cont'd

- Create a budget that demonstrates necessary and reasonable project costs and check with your internal legal/sponsored projects team about federal requirements and regulations on expenditure categories
- Make sure the project timeline reflects the tasks and activities described in the proposal
- For consortia and partnerships, get documentation such as letters of support/partnership agreements from institutional and workforce partners concerning their roles in the project

Questions?

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