The Webinar will be starting shortly.

"Our Texas institutions are making significant commitments to create programs that keep more students on track to enter the workforce with the high-value credentials and education that tomorrow's economy will demand."

– Commissioner of Higher Education Harrison Keller

TRUE Institutional Capacity Grants

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GEER and TRUE Alignment

- To aid in economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, GEER funds are meant to support the rapid reskilling and upskilling of the Texas workforce.

- The purpose of the TRUE Program is fully aligned with this aim as it seeks to build public higher education capacity by supporting the **creation, redesign, and expansion of education and workforce training programs** and the delivery of those opportunities to students in Texas.

- Securing funding and required rulemaking means the full implementation of SB 1102 will take time. GEER will be used to implement the goals of the TRUE program. Operations will be aligned with the spirit and intent of the statute.

TRUE Institutional Capacity Grants with GEER Support

TRUE Institutional Capacity Grants

- Purpose: To accelerate the number of high-value credential opportunities for Texas students.
- Funding for high-value credential projects by public lower division IHEs – single institutions and consortia.
- Funding for data reporting on project progress and outcomes to inform ongoing institutional capacity building efforts by the THECB.

TRUE Uses

Funding for TRUE must be used as follows:

- To support industry-aligned, high-demand postsecondary workforce credentials or industry certifications in growing occupations that can be completed in six months or less;
- To provide training through existing, new, or redesigned programs focused on high-demand skills and leading to workforce credentials or industry certifications in growing occupations;
- To expand institutional capacity to provide stackable postsecondary workforce and industry certifications in high-demand pathways;
- To provide student aid to incentivize enrollment and completion of industry-aligned, high-demand postsecondary workforce credentials and industry certifications; and
- To cover the cost of tracking and reporting enrollment, credential completion, and employment outcomes of students in these courses and programs to gauge student success.

TRUE Awards

- TRUE Award schedule:

TRUE Award Ranges
$50,000 maximum for planning grants
$50,000-$500,000 for single institution projects
$50,000-$2 million for Consortia projects

- Competitive grant award. Applications will be evaluated, ranked and awarded until funds are fully obligated.

- Eligible institutions may submit a maximum of two applications: one as a single recipient and the other as a member of a consortium.

- Grant period ends June 30, 2022.

TRUE Project Focus

- Funding will be provided to eligible applicants that provide a plan for, or execute the creation, expansion, or redesign of, a postsecondary workforce credential program in a growing occupational field.

- Programs must be industry-aligned and developed with the participation of other postsecondary lower-division institutions and workforce actors such as workforce and economic development boards or associations, industry representatives, or employers.

- The proposed project may focus on a particular credential program or several related credential programs in a high-demand occupational area, or a set of knowledge and skills required by a particular high-demand occupational area.

- Selected education and training programs may be for industry certifications, certificate programs, or other workforce credentials that can be completed in six months or less. Sub-Certificate 1 programs selected are encouraged to be developed or scaled to be convertible or stackable to credit-bearing programs.

- Credential programs selected for the project may be stand alone or embedded in other credential programs.

Composing a Quality TRUE Project Proposal

Project rationale:
The project has a compelling rationale for selected credential and training programs. Programs selected are clearly in high-value/high-need fields at the state, regional, or local level as determined by current labor market information and data and workforce stakeholder input. The sources for the high-value/high-need determination are cited in the proposal.

Workforce stakeholder partnerships:
Institutions and consortia project proposals must be developed in collaboration with workforce stakeholders. Applicants are highly encouraged to partner with a workforce entity or entities such as trade associations, local chambers of commerce, local governmental entities, or economic development corporations in undertaking the proposed project.

Priority projects:
Consortia formed by multiple eligible institutions will be given preference in the review process. Consortia may be based on geography and/or specific high-value occupational fields.

TRUE Project Proposal Evaluation Criteria

	Maximum Points
Core Elements (25 possible Points)	
Selection of 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
Project Timeline	5
Bonus Points (0 or 5 Points)	
Consortium Proposed	5
Total Points Awarded	30

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

TRUE Project Budgets: Cost Categories

Allowable uses:

- Curriculum development and instructional design; software, equipment, and infrastructure that support instruction; student financial aid; student supports; faculty hiring and training capacity; off-the-shelf credential and training materials; marketing and outreach costs; and costs associated with data administration and reporting.

- If student financial aid or supports are budgeted, they must be used only for students who are candidates enrolling or enrolled in the specific credential program(s) that make up the grant project. Student financial aid has specific parameters. Please consult the RFA.

Disallowed uses:

- Non-allowable uses of funds include any and all non-allowable costs specified in federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) as well as the following: travel expenses, institutional marketing and/or communications expenses other than those pertaining to the grant project, and technology that is not for instructional use (e.g., laptops for staff).

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

TRUE Project Required Cost Sharing

- Applicants will certify that they have secured cost-sharing funds at 25 percent or more of the value of the grant awarded by this initiative.

- Funding for the required cost sharing may come from a variety of sources, including federal, state, and/or local funding. The requirement may be met through partnerships with local governmental entities, chambers of commerce, community-based organizations, or public-school districts.

- In-kind expenditures by award recipients may be included in the cost-sharing calculation.

- In the case of an application for a consortium, not all participating members need to provide the cost-sharing funds as long as the total funding meets the cost-sharing ratio requirement of 25 percent.

- The time frame for expenditure of the cost-sharing funds may extend up to six months beyond the end of TRUE Institutional Capacity Grants funding.

- The following may not be utilized for cost sharing purposes: previously allocated GEER funds, Perkins Basic Grants, WIOA funding, and allocations of personnel other than programmatic staff and faculty.

TRUE Application Packets

Application packets will be emailed to every THECB CTC liaison during the week of Sept. 13. The packet contains:

- This slide deck
- RFA with required federal certification forms
- Application form and application instructions
- Budget request form and instructions

TRUE Application Calendar

- Public announcement **Sept. 3, 2021**.
- Informational webinar **Sept. 10, 2021**.
- RFA released the week of **Sept. 13, 2021**. Application packets mailed to eligible institutions.
- Last day of inquiries to the THECB **Sept. 27, 2021**.
- Applications due to the THECB **Sept. 30, 2021**.
- Public announcement of awards **mid-October 2021**.

Questions?

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