Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) Grant
Cycle 3

Grant Overview & Applicant Conference

Agenda

- Module 1: Grant / Application Overview

- Module 2: Closure Model Overview

- Module 3: Restart Model Overview

- Module 4: Turnaround Model Overview

- Module 5: Transformation Model Overview

MODULE 1: GRANT / APPLICATION OVERVIEW

SIG Background

- Section 1003(g) of ESEA authorizes the Secretary to award school improvement grants to State educational agencies (SEAs)

- Subgrants to LEAs to assist Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, restructuring, or priority and other Title I eligible schools who have met the federal eligibility criteria

- SEA must give priority to LEAs with lowest-achieving schools that demonstrate
  - Greatest Need for Funds
  - Strongest Commitment to Use Funds to Substantially Raise Academic Achievement

Grant Purpose - USDE

In conjunction with Title I funds for school improvement reserved under section 1003(a) of the ESEA, School Improvement Grants under section 1003(g) of the ESEA are used to improve student achievement in Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring, or as a priority school so as to enable those schools to make adequate yearly progress (AYP), or meet annual measurable objective (AMOs) and exit improvement, or priority status.

Grant Purpose - TEA

TEA is committed to assisting local education agencies (LEAs) in Turning around Texas's priority schools and improving the academic performances of all campuses eligible for Title I.

Program Goals – CSFs

Critical Success Factors (CSFs) for the TTIPS grant are the same as those supported in the TAIS process:

1. Improve Academic Performance
2. Increase the Use of Quality Data to Drive Instruction
3. Increase Leadership Effectiveness
4. Increased Learning Time
5. Increase Family and Community Engagement
6. Improve School Climate
7. Increase Teacher Quality

Waivers and Eligibility

Texas was granted two waivers for Cycle 3

- Tydings Waiver
  - Extends the life of the funds through the entire 3-year implementation period (2014-2017)

- Priority List Waiver
  - Allows Texas to use the priority schools list established under its ESEA Flexibility Waiver
  - There are no Tier I or Tier II lists for Cycle 3, only priority schools not currently receiving TTIPS funds

Grant Eligibility

- Title I priority schools that are not currently receiving Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) funds.

- An LEA with multiple eligible campuses must submit an application for each eligible campus.

- LEAs may only apply on behalf of schools on the eligibility list.

Application Due Dates

Date	Grant Activity
March 21, 2014	RFA Released
April 28, 2014	•Notice of Intent to Apply Due to TEA •Reviewer Information Form Due to TEA •Last date to submit FAQs
May 6, 2014	FAQs Posted
May 20, 2014, 5 p.m. Central Time	Application due to TEA Document Control Center
May 26 – June 20, 2014	Competitive Review Period
August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2017	Project Period

Funding Information

- State availability of funds for Cycle 3: Approximately $50,000,000

- Project Period: August 1, 2014 - July 31, 2017

- Annual awards: $50,000 – $2,000,000 per campus

- Three-year awards: $150,000-$6,000,000 per campus

Project Period

- Obligation of funds for activities and services shall occur between August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2017
- All goods and services must be provided or delivered in time to substantially benefit the population being served in that current grant period and in no case after the ending date of the grant
- In most instances, goods or services delivered near the end of the grant period are viewed by TEA as not necessary to accomplish the objectives of the current grant program, and TEA may disallow the expenditures
- Retroactive amendments will not be approved

Assistance to Applicants

- Announcement Letter
- General and Fiscal Guidelines
- Program Guidelines
- Program-Specific Instructions
- Eligibility List
- Application
- Webinar (recorded PowerPoint Presentation)
- FAQs
- Errata Notices

Questions

- To assure that no perspective applicant may obtain a competitive advantage because of acquisition of information unknown to other prospective applicants, any and all questions about the RFA must be submitted in writing via email to shayna.sheehan@tea.state.tx.us

- Answers to questions will only be provided via the FAQ document

Submission Process

- Six (6) complete applications must be submitted by the deadline time and date at TEA

- At least three (3) copies must bear the original signature (preferably in blue ink) of the person authorized to bind the organization in a contract, usually the superintendent or CEO

Conditions for Submission

- All statutory requirements must be addressed in order for the application to be funded

- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all schedules are completed and that all copies of the application are complete before submitting to TEA

Disqualifications

- Missing schedules

- Blank required schedules

- Late applications (will not be accepted or considered for funding)

Priority Points

Priority	Maximum Points
Schools with a graduation rate under 60% designated as a qualifying priority reason on the 2013-2014 Priority Schools List	5 points
Schools that have not been previously served with TTIPS SIG funds	5 points
Schools that are Title I Served on the application due date	5 points
Schools in LEAs that have not had TTIPS SIG funding terminated	5 points
Total Maximum Priority Points	**20 points**

Performance Measures

- Specific Annual Performance Goals (APGs) for each of the three years of the program will be established with each campus prior to the start of the 2014-2015 school year

- Critical Success Factors (CSFs) are the foundational program goals for the grant program

- Monitoring reports: Quarterly Implementation Reports (QIRs) and End of Year (EOY) Reports

Grantee Evaluation for Continuation Funding

- TEA will review actual performance data for each APG as a condition of releasing year 2 and 3 funding

- Review criteria:
  - The grantee has met the year's annual performance target for student achievement or made a minimum of 70% progress toward the targeted goal in the year of the grant period.
  - The grantee has met the year's annual performance targets for the state's identified critical success factors and federal requirements or made a minimum of 70% progress toward the targeted goal in the year of the grant period.

Amendments

- All amendments must be submitted to the TEA Document Control Center

- Amendments must be submitted 90 days prior to the ending date of the grant

- TEA will not process or approve an amendment after that date

- TEA will **not** approve **retroactive** amendment requests

Intervention Models

- **Closure**

- **Restart**

- **Transformation**

- **Turnaround**

Two-Year Flexibility

- A grantee campus that has implemented, in whole or part, either the Turnaround, Restart, or Transformation model since the 2011-2012 school year will be allowed to continue or complete the intervention model with TTIPS funds

- Earliest implementation of school intervention model is the start of the 2011-2012 school year

Two-Year Flexibility

- If the grantee has replaced the principal within the last two years, the LEA / campus will not be required to hire another principal

- A school that will implement the turnaround or transformation model during the 2014-2015 school year must replace the principal hired prior to the 2011-2012 school year

Special Considerations

- Pre-award Costs
  - Pre-award costs are permitted for this grant from the grant award announcement date to July 31, 2014.

- Rule of Nine
  - An LEA with nine or more priority schools may not implement the transformation model in more than 50 percent of those schools

Technical Assistance

- The state will select a technical assistance provider to support the turnaround work under this grant program

- Applicants should budget for nominal registration fees and in-state travel costs for a small leadership team to participate in trainings each year of the grant period. All fees will be approved in advance by TEA.

Specific Instructions and Guidance

APPLICATION

Application Overview

- Standard Application System (SAS)
- Instructions are available for Schedules 1-11 and 17-18 via links at the beginning of each schedule
- For Schedules 12-16, instructions are provided in the Program-Specific Instructions document available in the Application and Support Information section of the Grant Opportunities Page

Schedule #5 – Executive Summary

Applicants should ensure that the Program Executive Summary provides a clear description of the intervention model to be implemented on the campus consistent with the final requirements

Schedule #6 – Budget Summary

- This budget schedule should include all costs for the entire **3-Year Project Period**

- The request **may not exceed $2,000,000 per campus per year** (total request may not exceed $6,000,000)

- Summed budget request in **bold boxes must match**

- The **grant award** will be for the amount indicated in the **bold boxes** on Schedule #6

Schedules #7 – 11

- Indicate the **3-Year Budget Amount** for class / object code
- **3-Year Grand Total** for each schedule must **match** total indicated on **Schedule #6**
- The standard application includes line items that may or may not be applicable to each grantee; it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all requested costs are allowable, reasonable and necessary with clear program alignment

Schedule #8 – Professional and Contracted Services

- All contracted services require specific approval

- Contracted services must have a direct alignment to specific strategies indicated in Schedule 16, Part 2

- **Budget schedule should indicate applicant's 3-Year request for indicated class / object code**

Schedule #9 – Supplies and Materials

- All technology purchases require specific approval

- Applicant should use generic item types (no brand names)

- Remaining 6300 – supplies and materials that do not require specific approval are not limited but applicant must provide substantial justification through the program description provided in Schedule 16, Part 2

- **Budget schedule should indicate applicant's 3-Year request for indicated class / object code**

Schedule #10 – Other Operating Costs

- All out-of-state travel requires specific approval *prior* to travel taking place, applicant should provide conference name and location in the application

- Remaining 6400 – other operating costs that do not require specific approval are not limited but applicant must provide substantial justification through the program description provided in Schedule 16, Part 2

- **Budget schedule should indicate applicant's 3-Year request for indicated class / object code**

Schedule #11 – Capital Outlay

- All capital outlay requires specific approval
- Applicant should use generic item descriptions (no brand names)
- Each item must also include a specific purpose
- Substantial justification for each requested item must be indicated through the program description provided in Schedule 16, Part 2
- **Budget schedule should indicate applicant's 3-Year request for indicated class / object code**

Schedule #12 – Demographics and Participants to Be Served

- Data for Parts 1 and 2 should be presented from 2013 accountability reports

- Budget requests must be aligned with number of participants to be served with grant funds

Schedule #13 – Needs Assessment

- Applicant must demonstrate that the LEA has analyzed the needs of the school, such as instructional programs, school leadership and school infrastructure, and selected interventions for each school aligned to the needs each school has identified

- Additional resources around conducting a Needs Assessment are available through TAIS at http://issuu.com/tcdss13/docs/tais_needs_assessment_guidance

Schedule #13 – Needs Assessment

- The top identified needs must serve as the foundation for the selected intervention model and align directly with the grant objective

- All budget requests must align with the identified needs

Schedule #14 – Management Plan

- Part 1: Staff Qualifications
  - Each key personnel position should be listed and the desired qualifications, experience and certifications outlined
  - External consultants to be used in implementing the grant program must also be listed with corresponding qualifications, experience and certifications
  - The DCSI is required a for the grant program and must be addressed in this schedule

Schedule #14 – Management Plan

- Part 2: External Providers
  - Applicant must outline the process used to recruit, screen, and select external providers, if applicable, to ensure their quality
  - This description must include all external providers and partners and is not limited to the Charter Management Organization (CMO) or Educational Management Organization (EMO) when the Restart Model is selected

Schedule #14 – Management Plan

- Part 3: Sustainability and Commitment
  - The applicant should provide a description of how the LEA/campus will provide continued funding and support to sustain the interventions and student performance that resulted from the implementation of the TTIPS grant program.
  - Systems of reform as it relates to the impact on student achievement should be the focus on this description

Schedule #15 – Project Evaluation

- Ensure that the campus systems to use data to inform instruction under the selected intervention are addressed

- Applicants should provide details about the process that will be implemented to modify practices or policies to enable full and effective implementation of the intervention model

Schedule #16 – Responses to Statutory Requirements

- Part 1: Intervention Model to be Implemented
  - Each applicant may only select one intervention model
  - The selected intervention model must be clearly aligned with the needs identified for the school

Schedule #16 – Responses to Statutory Requirements

- Part 2: Intervention Model Requirements and Timeline
  - Applicant should **only** complete the sections of this part of the schedule that applies to the selected intervention model
    - Transformation – pages 33-42 of the original RFA
    - Turnaround – pages 43-49 of the original RFA
    - Restart – pages 50-53 of the original RFA
    - Closure – pages 54-57 of the original RFA

Schedule #16 – Responses to Statutory Requirements

- Part 2: Intervention Model Requirements and Timeline

  - At least one strategy or intervention must be indicated for each CSF, turnaround principle and federal model requirement must be included

  - Applicants are not bound to the number of strategy line items provided

  - The timeline should be differentiated for the anticipated roll out of the full grant program (do not indicate the project begin and end date for all strategies / interventions)

Schedule #16 – Responses to Statutory Requirements

- Part 2: Intervention Model Requirements and Timeline
  - All costs must be aligned directly to selected strategies / interventions
  - Strategies / interventions should not be a copy of the federal requirements, turnaround principles or CSFs, but rather distinct to the school implementation of those requirements
  - All strategies / interventions will become the basis of monitoring the grant program and the school's implementation plan

Schedule #16 – Responses to Statutory Requirements

- Part 3: District / LEA Capacity
  - Describe capacity including the provision of resources and support to the school turnaround efforts
  - Provide details about the district role and support of the school's participation and engagement with the TAIS framework as it relates to turnaround efforts

Schedule #16 – Responses to Statutory Requirements

- Part 4: Pre-implementation Timeline
  - This schedule is **optional**
  - Pre-award costs back to the date of the grant announcement will only be allowed if this schedule has been completed and provides adequate support for requested funds
  - Describe any activities that will be conducted prior to the start of the 2014-2015 school year that are above and beyond those conducted in conjunction with priority school identification under TAIS

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