



**2023-2024 New Career and Technical Education State Student Organizations
Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) Due 11:59 p.m. CT, February 12, 2024**

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (PL 115-224)

This IDC application must be submitted via email to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov.

The IDC application may be signed with a digital ID or it may be signed by hand. Both forms of signature are acceptable.

TEA must receive the application by **11:59 p.m. CT, February 12, 2024**.

Grant period from **March 18, 2024-August 31, 2024**

Pre-award costs permitted from **Not Permitted**

Application stamp-in date and time

Required Attachments

- 1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)

See the Program Guidelines for for additional attachment information.

Amendment Number

Amendment number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds):

Applicant Information

Organization CDN ESC UEI

Address City ZIP Vendor ID

Primary Contact Email Phone

Secondary Contact Email Phone

Certification and Incorporation

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the LOI application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the LOI application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- LOI application, guidelines, and instructions
- Debarment and Suspension Certification
- General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances
- Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name Title

Email Phone

Signature  Date

Shared Services Arrangements Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are NOT permitted for this grant.**Statutory/Program Assurances**

The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant must comply with these assurances.

Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this IDC will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
- 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2023-2024 New Career and Technical Education State Student Organizations Grant Program Guidelines.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2023-2024 New Career and Technical Education State Student Organizations Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- 5. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.
- 6. The applicant provides assurance to adopt and adhere to TEA CTSO oversight policy. (See *TEA CTSO Oversight Policy* posted with this RFA)
- 7. The applicant provides assurance to Agree to abide by existing TEA CTSO grant guidelines, requirements, and performance measures, including non-profit (501 c3) status.
- 8. The applicant provides assurance to agree to not duplicate any of the nine existing state CTSOs or their services.
- 9. The applicant provides assurance to accept Perkins funding up to \$27,077.

Summary of Program

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

The Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program by The Sanders Hand is committed to empowering at-risk youth through entrepreneurial education, aiming to foster financial stability and reduce poverty. In pursuit of this mission, grant funds play a pivotal role in addressing specific organizational needs. The funds will support comprehensive curriculum development covering vital subjects like marketing, entrepreneurship, professional etiquette, and financial literacy. Mentorship initiatives, backed by the grant, will connect at-risk youth with successful entrepreneurs, offering guidance and real-world insights. Technological integration will bring digital learning modules, enhancing the educational experience for program participants. Furthermore, the grant will facilitate internship opportunities, allowing students to apply their acquired knowledge in a practical setting. Lastly, the funds will aid in expanding outreach efforts, forming partnerships with schools and community organizations, ensuring the YBC program reaches a broader demographic. Through these strategic initiatives, the YBC program, enriched with grant support, will effectively fulfill its mission of empowering at-risk youth and promoting economic mobility within the community.

Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel

Outline the required qualifications and experience for primary project personnel and any external consultants projected to be involved in the implementation and delivery of the program. Include whether the position is existing or proposed.

Title and Responsibilities of Position	Required Qualifications and Experience
Sebastian Sanders - Executive Director/Founder	Former pepscico sales manager and supply chain manager, graduate from University of Texas at San Antonio, youth empowerment speaker, social entrepreneur.
Marel Felder	CTE Teacher for 10 plus years at Aldine ISD, current Cy Fair ISD - CTE Business Ed Instructor Former military
Novate Creeks	Former Harris county program coordinator, currently UT Public Health program coordinator

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

The major goals and objectives of The Sanders Hand's proposed Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program are multifaceted, aiming to empower at-risk youth through a transformative entrepreneurial education. Firstly, the program seeks to enhance the educational curriculum by providing 1-3 weekly sessions throughout the academic year, covering crucial topics such as entrepreneurship, business planning, product identification, digital marketing, pricing strategies, customer service excellence, funding options, and investor pitching. These sessions, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes, constitute a holistic approach to equip participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills essential for entrepreneurial success.

Additionally, the program emphasizes the importance of effective mentorship by ensuring daily access to program coordinators and field experts. This mentorship component aims to provide personalized guidance, instill confidence, and foster holistic development among participants. The integration of digital learning modules further modernizes the educational experience, catering to diverse learning styles and embracing technology as a tool for empowerment.

Furthermore, the program incorporates a unique aspect by educating students on funding outlets, enabling them to kickstart their entrepreneurial endeavors. Workshops and modules on business plan development, pricing, and accessing funding sources are strategically implemented to translate participants' ideas into viable ventures. The culmination of the program involves a student business pitch contest, incentivizing creativity and innovation, and offering successful participants the opportunity to become Sanders Hand community leaders.

In summary, the YBC program's major goals include comprehensive education, effective mentorship, technological integration, financial literacy, and fostering creativity. The activities and strategies implemented encompass a well-rounded curriculum, personalized mentorship, technological tools, and practical experiences to empower at-risk youth with the skills, knowledge, and mentorship needed for a transformative and sustainable future.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

Describe the performance measures identified for this program which are related to student outcomes and are consistent with the purpose of the program. Include the tools used to measure performance, as well as the processes that will be used to ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies.

The Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program by The Sanders Hand is committed to rigorous performance measurement, aligning closely with its primary focus on student outcomes. To assess the impact of the program, a robust combination of pre/post-test data and comprehensive feedback surveys for both students and parents will be employed. The pre/post-tests are meticulously designed to quantitatively measure the growth and comprehension of participants in key entrepreneurial concepts, providing valuable insights into their evolving knowledge and skills.

In tandem with quantitative assessments, the program places great emphasis on qualitative feedback through surveys. Students and parents will be invited to share their perspectives on the program's effectiveness, relevance, and overall experience. These surveys will delve into aspects such as the perceived improvement in entrepreneurial knowledge, the practical applicability of learned skills, and the overall satisfaction with the program's structure and delivery.

Continuous monitoring forms an integral part of the evaluation strategy, allowing for ongoing engagement with participants. Regular check-ins, both formal and informal, will provide real-time feedback, enabling prompt adjustments to ensure the program remains responsive to the evolving needs of the students. Additionally, a comprehensive program evaluation at the end of each academic year will analyze aggregated data from pre/post-tests and feedback surveys. This holistic evaluation approach will inform evidence-based adjustments and improvements for subsequent iterations of the program.

Stakeholder involvement is a cornerstone of the evaluation process. Regular communication with students, parents, mentors, and educators will foster a collaborative approach to understanding the program's effectiveness and addressing any challenges that may arise.

Budget Narrative

Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

The proposed budget of \$27,000 for The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program is strategically allocated to meet the diverse needs and ambitious goals of the program. The largest portion of the budget, \$11,000, is allocated to payroll, ensuring the recruitment and retention of qualified staff crucial for effective program delivery. This investment in personnel is central to achieving the program's educational objectives and fostering a supportive learning environment.

Office space rental, accounting for \$4,000, addresses the need for a conducive and organized workspace where program coordinators can collaborate, plan, and execute program activities. The allocation for supplies, totaling \$8,000, ensures that students have access to necessary educational materials, tools, and resources essential for a comprehensive and engaging learning experience.

To facilitate the program's reach and impact, a budget of \$1,800 is allocated for travel and stipends. This component acknowledges the potential financial constraints participants may face and aims to mitigate barriers to program engagement. The budget also allocates \$1,200 for devices, recognizing the importance of technology in modern education and ensuring that participants have access to the digital tools required for effective learning.

The proposed budget is crafted with efficiency and efficacy in mind, addressing key pillars such as personnel, workspace, educational materials, and technological resources. The allocation for each category is aligned with the program's goals of providing high-quality entrepreneurial education to at-risk youth. Future adjustments to the budget will be guided by ongoing assessments of program needs, participant feedback, and changes in external factors. Flexibility is built into the budgeting process to accommodate unforeseen challenges or opportunities that may arise, ensuring that the YBC program remains adaptive, impactful, and financially sustainable.

Program Requirements

1. Describe the vision and mission of the proposed CTSO, how the proposed CTSO will support Texas CTE programs of study, the proposed level of statewide presence, and any national level affiliation.

The vision of The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program as a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) is to be a pioneering force in transforming the lives of at-risk youth through entrepreneurial education and leadership development. Our mission is to inspire, equip, and connect students pursuing Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, fostering a community where innovation, financial literacy, and sustainable career pathways thrive.

The YBC CTSO seeks to support Texas CTE programs of study by actively collaborating with educational institutions, industry partners, and community leaders. The program aims to align with and complement existing CTE initiatives, contributing to the evolution of curriculum and ensuring students receive practical, industry-relevant skills.

To establish a robust statewide presence, the YBC CTSO will engage with schools, educators, and students across Texas. Regional chapters will be established, promoting inclusivity and creating a network for sharing insights and experiences. By fostering healthy competition and collaboration, the YBC CTSO aims to become an integral part of the Texas CTE community.

At the national level, the YBC CTSO envisions affiliating with renowned organizations dedicated to advancing CTE. This affiliation will provide opportunities to contribute to national conversations, stay informed about industry trends, and further advocate for the vital role of CTE in shaping the future workforce.

In essence, The Sanders Hand's YBC program, as a CTSO, aspires to be a transformative influence, empowering at-risk youth to thrive in their chosen career paths and contributing to the advancement of CTE both in Texas and on a national scale.

Program Requirements, cont'd.

2. Describe a plan for sustainability after the first year of funding.

The sustainability plan for The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program extends beyond traditional funding sources, encompassing diversified revenue streams and strategic initiatives. The YBC Thrift Store, a cornerstone of the sustainability model, will see an extensive expansion of its product lines, embracing categories like electronics, furniture, and unique finds. This deliberate diversification aims to capture a broader market, generating increased foot traffic and enhancing the store's financial resilience.

Community engagement is crucial for sustainability. The YBC Thrift Store will actively seek partnerships with local businesses, not only for sourcing inventory but also for collaborative events and promotions. Such partnerships contribute not only to the store's revenue but also to its integration within the local business ecosystem, fostering long-term sustainability.

Entrepreneurial initiatives within the YBC program will create multiple revenue streams. Encouraging students to develop and sell their products within the thrift store introduces a unique angle, fostering innovation and aligning with current market trends. Simultaneously, the introduction of an online sales platform extends the store's reach, enabling it to tap into digital markets and demographics.

Financial education programs will diversify revenue through fee-based workshops catering to community members and corporate partnerships focused on financial wellness programs. These initiatives not only provide valuable education but also contribute directly to the financial sustainability of the YBC program.

Grant diversification remains a key focus, with active pursuit of grants from various sources, including foundations, corporate entities, and government funding. Simultaneously, community fundraising events will engage local residents, fostering a sense of collective responsibility and support for the YBC program.

3. Describe a plan on how they will conduct leadership activities for student membership.

The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program is committed to cultivating transformative leadership skills among its student membership through a multifaceted approach. Regular leadership workshops serve as foundational pillars, addressing essential skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. The program goes beyond theoretical learning by inviting influential community leaders as guest speakers, providing students with tangible examples of successful leadership in various contexts. To bolster individual growth, mentorship programs connect students with experienced mentors who offer personalized guidance and support.

Engaging students in community projects empowers them to take leadership roles in planning and execution, fostering a sense of responsibility and impact. The annual leadership retreats offer immersive experiences, combining team-building activities, workshops, and reflective sessions to deepen students' understanding of their leadership potential. The establishment of a student council or leadership board formalizes leadership roles, giving students the opportunity to engage in decision-making and collaborative leadership.

Incorporating business pitch competitions into the program encourages students to develop and present their entrepreneurial ideas, honing skills in strategic thinking and persuasive communication. Internship opportunities within The Sanders Hand or through partnerships provide hands-on leadership experience in a professional setting. Recognizing and acknowledging exceptional leadership through recognition programs creates a culture of appreciation and motivation.

Continuous learning is embedded in the program through skill-building modules that cover emotional intelligence, adaptability, and resilience. Peer-to-peer learning environments facilitate the exchange of leadership experiences, challenges, and successes among students, fostering a collaborative community.

Program Requirements, cont'd.

4. Describe a plan to include leadership opportunities for student members, including positions at local, district/area, and state levels.

The leadership development plan within The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program is designed to offer students a multifaceted approach to honing their leadership skills at different levels. Internship opportunities within The Sanders Hand and the YBC thrift store form the cornerstone of practical experience. These internships provide students with a real-world context to apply their entrepreneurial knowledge, marketing strategies, and financial literacy skills. The application-based learning from the program seamlessly transitions to on-the-job training at the thrift store, allowing students to actively contribute to retail management, customer service, and inventory control.

In addition to practical experiences, the program envisions a structured leadership hierarchy with positions available at the local, district/area, and state levels. At the local level, students can take on leadership roles within their YBC chapters, organizing events and leading workshops. District/area-level positions empower students to broaden their impact, coordinating inter-chapter collaborations and extending community outreach. The pinnacle of leadership lies at the state level, where top-performing students can influence the program's strategic direction and represent the YBC on a larger scale.

Structured training programs underpin this leadership initiative, covering essential topics such as team management, effective communication, and strategic planning. Mentorship support is integral, connecting students in leadership roles with experienced mentors who provide guidance and insights into effective leadership practices. This holistic approach ensures that students not only grasp theoretical concepts but also gain hands-on experience and mentorship to navigate real-world leadership challenges.

5. Describe a plan for how you will use resources providing recognition and scholarship opportunities for student membership.

The recognition and scholarship plan within The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program is meticulously crafted to empower and celebrate the achievements of student members. The allocation of resources will facilitate a multifaceted approach to recognition, encompassing regular award ceremonies, personalized acknowledgments through social media and other channels, and the establishment of an online platform to showcase students' accomplishments.

Award ceremonies will be held periodically, recognizing outstanding achievements in entrepreneurship, community engagement, and academic excellence. Personalized recognition through various communication channels will not only highlight individual successes but also inspire a culture of continuous improvement and motivation within the YBC community.

A portion of the resources will be dedicated to providing scholarship opportunities for deserving students. These scholarships will be designed to support their educational pursuits, whether through covering tuition expenses, providing funds for educational materials, or offering seed funding for entrepreneurial endeavors. The scholarship application process will be transparent, inclusive, and merit-based to ensure fairness and equal opportunity.

Beyond monetary rewards, resources will be channeled into organizing events that provide students with exposure to industry leaders, successful entrepreneurs, and networking opportunities. Participation in conferences and mentorship programs will enrich students' experiences and broaden their horizons, contributing to their personal and professional development.

The recognition and scholarship plan aligns with the program's broader mission of creating a positive and supportive environment for students. By investing in their achievements and educational pursuits, The Sanders Hand's YBC program aims to instill a sense of pride, motivation, and empowerment among its members.

Program Requirements, cont'd.

6. Describe a plan for how you will support local chapter efforts to increase student engagement, increase memberships, and increase inclusion of special populations CTE students.

The Sanders Hand's Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program is strategically designed to bolster local chapter efforts in enhancing student engagement, expanding memberships, and promoting inclusion of special populations in Career and Technical Education (CTE). Recognizing the importance of a vibrant and diverse community, the program will allocate resources to support local chapters in organizing compelling activities and events that resonate with students' interests. Through effective communication channels such as newsletters and social media, the program aims to cultivate an engaged community where success stories and upcoming events inspire active participation.

To fuel membership expansion, a targeted outreach strategy will be implemented, leveraging partnerships with schools, community organizations, and local businesses. Local chapters will receive recruitment toolkits, promotional materials, and guidance on impactful outreach strategies to attract a diverse array of students, ensuring that the YBC community reflects the rich tapestry of local talent.

In parallel, the program is committed to fostering the inclusion of special populations within CTE students. Local chapters will be equipped with resources and training to create an inclusive environment, providing tailored mentorship programs and support structures to address the unique needs of special populations. This approach aims to foster a sense of belonging and empowerment among all participants.

Moreover, The Sanders Hand will invest in the ongoing professional development of local chapter advisors and leaders. Workshops, webinars, and collaborative platforms will serve as avenues for sharing best practices, ensuring that local leaders are well-prepared to navigate the evolving landscape of student engagement and inclusivity. This holistic plan underscores the commitment of the YBC program to empower local chapters as catalysts for dynamic, inclusive, and engaging environments for students in CTE.

7. Describe a plan for how you will demonstrate commitment to recruiting and serving special population students and non-traditional students.

The Sanders Hand is committed to inclusivity within the Young Billionaires Club (YBC) program for special population students and non-traditional participants.

Our strategy includes targeted outreach to specialized schools, community organizations, and advocacy groups. Collaborative partnerships will be forged to amplify information about YBC, ensuring accessibility to those who stand to benefit the most.

Tailoring our programming is key, addressing the unique needs of special populations through customized curriculum components, additional support resources, and mentorship programs tailored to diverse abilities and backgrounds. This fosters an inclusive learning environment that promotes the success of all participants.

Communication efforts will prioritize accessibility, providing information in multiple formats, including braille, large print, and translated materials. Our online presence, including the website and social media, will be optimized for inclusivity.

Active collaboration with organizations specializing in serving special populations enhances our ability to cater effectively to diverse student needs. Inclusion of mentors and role models representing varied backgrounds aims to inspire confidence and motivation.

Feedback mechanisms will be established to gather input from special population students and advocates, guiding continuous improvements for better support.

Program Requirements, cont'd.

8. Describe a plan for how you will support statewide efforts to increase student engagement, increase memberships, and increase inclusion of special populations CTE students.

The Sanders Hand's strategy to support statewide efforts revolves around collaborative engagement with key educational entities such as the Texas Education Agency (TEA). By aligning our initiatives with statewide goals, we aim to contribute significantly to the broader vision of enhancing student engagement, increasing memberships, and promoting inclusion, especially for special populations in Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Our approach includes targeted outreach campaigns across the state, utilizing diverse communication channels and establishing partnerships with schools and community organizations. Through these efforts, we seek to raise awareness about the unique benefits and opportunities offered by The Sanders Hand's programs, attracting a diverse range of students and increasing overall program participation.

Specifically addressing special populations in CTE, we commit to customizing our programming to cater to their unique needs and interests. This involves developing tailored curriculum components, mentorship programs, and support resources designed to accommodate diverse abilities and backgrounds. Our goal is to create an inclusive learning environment that resonates with special populations, fostering active engagement and participation.

Active involvement in conferences, workshops, and events focused on CTE and student empowerment is a key component of our strategy. By being present and engaged in these forums, we aim to contribute to the collective knowledge base, share best practices, and stay informed about the latest developments in the field.

In essence, The Sanders Hand's commitment to supporting statewide initiatives is rooted in a collaborative, tailored, and proactive approach. Through these efforts, we aspire to make a meaningful impact on student engagement, memberships, and the inclusion of special populations in CTE throughout the state of Texas.

Appendix I: Amendment Description and Purpose (leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding)

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the [Administering a Grant](#) page. The following are required to be submitted for an amendment: (1) Page 1 of the application with updated contact information and current authorized official's signature and date, (2) Appendix I with changes identified and described, (3) all updated sections of the application or budget affected by the changes identified below, and, if applicable, (4) Amended Budget Request. Amendment Instructions with more details can be found on the last tab of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page

Amended Section

Reason for Amendment