



**2021-2023 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021**

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), P.L. 114-95, Section 1003, School Improvement

This LOI application must be submitted via email to loiapplications@tea.texas.gov.

The LOI 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, April 21, 2021**.

Grant period from

June 3, 2021-August 31, 2023

Pre-award costs permitted from

Award Date

Required Attachments

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)
2. Pathway 1: Pathway 1 Supplemental Pathway Attachment
3. Pathway 2: Pathway 2 Supplemental Pathway Attachment

NOTE: All applicants MUST submit an appropriate Supplemental Pathway Attachment for EACH CAMPUS on behalf of which the applicant is applying.

Amendment Number

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

Applicant Information

Organization CDN Campus ESC DUNS

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

RFA #

SAS #

Shared Services Arrangements

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are NOT permitted for this grant.

Number of Campuses Included in this Application

Pathway 1	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Pathway 2	<input type="text" value="2"/>

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 LOI 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 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- 5. The applicant provides assurance that they accept and will comply with the requirements of [Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances](#).
- 6. 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.
- 7. Title I served Federally Identified campuses awarded this grant will engage in the Effective Schools Framework (ESF) continuous improvement process and create a plan to be submitted to TEA that addresses the selected pathway aligned to the Essential Actions (EA) from the ESF.
- 8. The applicant ensures it will notify the Vetted Improvement Program provider of intent to apply and, if awarded, will work in good faith with the Vetted Improvement Program.
- 9. For all pathways, the applicant will budget at least the minimum amount indicated in the Budget Object Code 6200 - Profession and Contracted Services.

Statutory/Program Assurances, cont'd.

- 10. The applicant will identify a campus leader, on each awarded campus, who will be responsible for managing the grant project.
- 11. The applicant will provide access to TEA and its Vetted Improvement Partners for on-site visits to the district and campus(es) as appropriate.
- 12. The applicant will attend and participate in grant orientation meetings, technical assistance meetings, other periodic meetings of grantees, and sharing of best practices through the TEA program office.
- 13. The applicant provides assurance it will participate in all grant requirements including but not limited to an ESF Self-Assessment, and ESF Diagnostic, developing a web-based improvement plan, submission of funding and pathway progress reports.

Summary of Program

1. Describe how the LEA will support campus(es) in carrying out school support and improvement activities, including how the LEA will develop a web-based improvement plan for the eligible campuses selected for this grant.

The LEA will support campuses by:

- Strengthening leadership capacity to ensure accountability and effectiveness which will result in improved student outcomes
- Arranging and ensuring professional development activities are conducted as prescribed, especially increasing the leadership abilities of site administrators; summer PD offerings as well as on-going PD throughout the academic year
- Assisting in the development of the campus based Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)
- Establishing and/or strengthening policies and procedures for the operation of the school, especially whole school arrival
- Strengthening the instructional program by enhancing the current curriculum; secure curricular materials, coaching instructional best practices, establish accountability structures to support teachers in changing instructional practice; uniform and coordinated use of instructional materials; accountability structures to ensure fidelity; and increased accountability for staff implementation of increased classroom rigor
- Supporting the improvement process by increasing the effectiveness of data-driven instruction, weekly data meetings; establishment of data collection structures; development of assessment schedule to ensure uniformity and comparability of data results; ongoing generation and review of student data to provide timely reteaching, interventions, as well as daily instruction; facilitate triangulation of data, different assessment tools for different purposes summative/formative, diagnostic/placement, interim/progress monitoring
- Strengthening on-site coaching model, especially for math and ELA; Implementing rubric based observation and feedback cycles
- Reinforce the Implementation of a 3-Tier Intervention model (Response to Intervention- RTI)
- Supporting the revision of the daily schedule to allow for additional instructional time and teacher collaboration as necessary
- Building the capacity of board members to make informed decisions relative to the school improvement process
- Improving of overall climate and culture, including providing tools to ensure 90-100% of students are on-task and engaged in the learning process
- Supporting the creation of (and feedback on) implementation and pacing calendars

The LEA will support campuses in the development of web-based improvement plans and ensure that findings from the ESF diagnostic are included and are the central focus. In addition, the LEA will help analyze/evaluate the current TIPs and action steps and determine which targets were met and which to carryover; a CNA will be conducted to identify current needs; we will collect and review data and communicate discoveries with the schools; staff will be updated on plan implementation and improvement efforts; the LEA, campuses, and Big Rock Educational Services (BRES) will collaborate, establishing goals and action steps centered on leadership coaching.

2. Describe how the LEA will monitor schools receiving the ESF-Focused Support Grant, including how the LEA will: (a) Monitor a web-based improvement plans upon submission and during implementation, and (b) Implement additional action following unsuccessful implementation of such plan after the first year of the grant cycle.

The LEA will monitor implementation of the web-based improvement plan by conducting frequent campus walk-throughs, attend ILT meetings, regularly review student performance data; monitor professional development planning and offerings; request updates from campus leaders; ensure best practices aligned with ESF are being implemented with fidelity; maintain an open line of communication between the LEA and BRES.

Additional action(s), due to unsuccessful implementation of the improvement plan, will be taken after the first year of the grant cycle. These potential actions include, but are not limited to: analyzing/evaluating the previous year's implementation of the improvement plan; identify areas in need of growth and additional support; revisit professional development trainings and make revisions based on targeted needs of the campuses; increase the efficacy of instructional leadership teams through coaching, including observation and feedback; communication and planning with BRES to identify on-going challenges and action steps necessary to counter them.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, Performance and Evaluation

1. Describe how the LEA will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to the awarded campus, that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web-based Improvement Plan.

The campuses are currently implementing targeted improvement plans based on each ESF diagnostic and currently have practices in place that provide operational flexibility that enables full and effective implementation of the ESF Essential Actions, aligned with the improvement plan. The LEA will modify, as necessary, to ensure the continuation of effective implementation of the aforementioned plan.

With the support of BRES, the LEA will continue with strategic planning to ensure all practices and polices continue to provide the necessary operational flexibility, enabling effective implantation of ESF actions.

The LEA will support in the revision of the daily schedule(s) to allow for additional instructional time and teacher collaboration as necessary. In addition, we will focus on building the capacity of board members to make informed decisions relative to the school improvement process and continue to strengthen policies and procedures for the overall operation of the schools.

The LEA will support the hiring, training, and evaluation staff in alignment with expressed goals and action steps. The curriculum/instruction will be tailored to meet the needs of our student population, along with instructional coaching to improve Tier 1 instruction. Upon analysis and evaluation, programs will be implemented, modified, or eliminated and academic support services will be contracted (BRES). The LEA has the ability to select district services and control discretionary funds.

Budget Narrative

1. 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 will meet the needs and goals by funding leadership coaching and implementation program by Big Rock Educational Services (BRES). BRES partners with public/charter schools to create systems, provide professional development and engage in weekly accountability coaching to build capacity of leadership teams to drive student achievement, as well as improve student and staff culture.

Currently, both campuses are utilizing Texas Instructional Leadership (TIL) through ESC 4, focusing on data-driven instruction; funds for TIL were provided by the ESC and are of no cost to the schools or LEA.

Adjustments will be made to help ensure sustainability of BRES school transformation practices. The goal is to increase capacity and build a skill-set that allows for the continuation of the program beyond the grant term. The LEA will prioritize spending and track overall performance, identifying key sustainable actions and forecasting realistic expenditures accordingly; building flexibility into the budget and utilizing up-to-date metrics will better allow for the continued application of learned knowledge from BRES, decreasing the dependence of one-source funding, shifting financial support of the practices to a different funding source embedded in the normal LEA budget.

Budget Narrative, cont'd.

2. Describe how the LEA will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant.

The Title 1, 1003 Effective Schools Framework - Focused Support Grant will cover most, if not all, of the expenses necessary to carry out the activities (BRES) with funds from this grant. Any costs that exceed the awarded grant amount will be subsidized as necessary, by utilizing rollover and additional School Improvement Grant funds (Title 1, 1003 SIG) and/or other federal funds (Title 1, Part A or Title II, Part A) to support the implementation of the improvement plan. In addition, the LEA has the ability to control discretionary funds and will apply them as warranted.

Federal/State/Local funds will be allocated in a manner that is aligned with the web-based improvement plan, focusing on providing effective Tier 1 instruction along with implementing Tier 2 and Tier 3 activities. This will be done through PLC collaboration, data-driven instruction, utilizing interventionists/tutors, instructional coaching, and progress monitoring. Instructional staff will be provided with the necessary professional development trainings along with any required resources for implementation.

Equitable Access and Participation

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this program.

- The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this program.
- Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>

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