

Texas GEAR UP

College & Career Readiness Advising

Request for Letters of Interest

Questions

Districts/Schools to be served		
Question Received	Response	Date
Is it possible to apply for multiple funding streams with different district partners? We serve 3 school districts.	This funding opportunity is specific to the 6 school districts indicated in the request. These districts have been selected through a selection process for the Texas GEAR UP program. It is hoped that through this grant, each advising organization will innovate and build capacity to serve more students in Texas.	2/7/2019
Do you think there would be interest in other funding for expanding into other Texas cities?	These funds are targeted to providing services only to the 6 Texas GEAR UP districts. One of the reasons that these school districts were selected is that college & career advising services are not equally available in rural communities.	2/7/2019
Will each grantee serve one school/district?	Applicants will apply to serve a geographic service area (West Texas, East Texas, Coastal Bend Texas). There are two school districts in each service area. Applicants may apply to serve one or multiple geographic service areas. School districts will be assigned in the notice of grant award.	2/15/2019
Who can apply?		
Question Received	Response	Date
Is an outside non-profit eligible to apply?	Yes. "Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education." LOI pg. 7	2/7/2019
We do not work in Texas. Does that disqualify us from the grant process?	We are encouraging all providers, inside or outside of Texas, to apply for this opportunity. Advising organizations not currently working in Texas may use this opportunity to serve Texas students.	2/7/2019
Scope of Service		
Question Received	Response	Date

We know that most GEAR UP grants limit the students who are eligible for services. Our organization philosophically believes every student benefits from college and career coaching regardless and would hate to limit our services to a targeted few. Will that be the case for this opportunity?	This grant opportunity addresses the issue of all students, grades 9-12, receiving college and career advising services. Our research has found that while there are several providers of CCR advising services, many limit the students served. This grant program will require that all students at the high schools are served.	2/7/2019
Our organization focuses on the cohort model. Will funding be allocated to teams that currently work within the cohort model and is there an expectation to develop a program specific to meet the needs of this grant.	Grantees will be expected to meet all the grant requirements (e.g. serve all 9th-12 th grade students). If an organization historically focused on a cohort model, they would need to propose a model or collaborate with another organization to meet all grant requirements.	2/15/2019
Is it true that for the first 3 years of the grant, the pilot will include only the 6 schools listed on page 6 of Attachment 1?	For the 3-year grant period, these grant funds can only be used to serve the six school districts listed in the LOI. Advising organizations are encouraged to expand services to additional schools and districts at any time during the grant period.	2/15/2019
Our program squarely aligns with the overarching intent of this project and with many, many of the requirements outlined in Attachment 4. Does an organization need to be able to perform all of the requirements listed in Attachment 4 in order to be eligible to apply?	The expectation is that the advising organization grantees will meet all the required activities listed in Attachment 4. Collaborations between advising organizations to meet all grant requirements are encouraged.	2/15/2019
Is AY 2022-23 the earliest date that the program would be expanded beyond the initial 6 pilot schools?	Advising organizations are encouraged to expand services to additional schools and districts at any time during the grant period at their own expense.	2/15/2019

Funding Award		
Question Received	Response	Date
Will the total funding amount being dispersed equal: 100k+85k+75K= 260 over three years?	Based upon the initial funding request, the funding award will be dispersed at 100%, 85% and 75% over the three years of the program.	2/15/2019
If an organization proposes to serve multiple sites, does the funding have to be used equally across schools or if you serve more than one area can the amount be based on the student population at the school?	Yes, it is expected that budgets will be based upon the student population at each school. If an applicant is applying to serve multiple geographic service areas, there will be some shifting of funds allowed to address service delivery economy of scale and other factors.	2/27/2019

My understanding is that the first 17-month period one year of funding (not 1 year and 5 months' worth). Is that correct?	The first year of funding will be from the award date through July 2020. It is expected that the grant awards will be made in March. From March through July 2020 is 16 months. It is expected that from the award date through the start of the 2019-20 school year, funds will be used to set up the program and complete the required activities (see Attachment 4).	2/25/2019
Is there additional GEAR UP funding available for college visits (i.e. bussing, student lunch, etc)?	Yes, there are additional funds available. College visit costs will be shared between the districts and the advising organizations.	2/25/2019
Data Collection and Reporting		
Question Received	Response	Date
Will TEA or the participating district or high schools handle all of the data collection and reporting in the project?	Both the advising organization and schools will have shared responsibilities for data collection and reporting. The student and parent advising data collection and reporting will be the responsibility of the advising organization.	2/15/2019
Contact with District		
Question Received	Response	Date
Will there be an expectation to develop a relationship with the school district before the funding is received?	There is not an expectation that the advising organization will establish a relationship with the school district prior to receiving a notice of grant award.	2/15/2019