

**Title III, Part A Online Bilingual Education Certification Preparation Course Grant Opportunity for 2018-2019**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is actively seeking Letters of Interest (LoI) from potential grantees to provide opportunities for specific work toward providing tuition-free online bilingual education certification preparatory courses in Spanish and Vietnamese to teachers across the state of Texas. Interested regional Education Service Centers (ESC), Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), and State or National Nonprofit Organizations should submit their response to the LoI using the template included in Attachment A to TEA **by November 27, 2018 at 11:59pm CDT**. Potential grantees are encouraged to seek cooperative partnerships or collaborative agreements to successfully meet all goals and objectives of the grant. Funding is allocated from Title III, Part A Discretionary funds and scheduled for implementation during the 2018-2019 school year.

**Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity are the 20 regional education service centers, institutions of higher education, and state or national nonprofit organizations. Local education agencies (LEAs), foreign institutions, for-profit organizations, and individuals are not eligible to apply, however, may participate with an eligible applicant as a project partner (encouraged, as applicable).

**I.1 Program Description**

The *Online Bilingual Education Certification Preparation Course* grant is designed to offer tuition-free online bilingual education certification preparatory courses in Spanish and Vietnamese to LEAs across the state of Texas who have a significant need for certified bilingual teachers who serve English learners in the classroom.

TEA will provide the grant awardee the content from the previously offered Spanish courses and the recently developed Vietnamese courses. The awardee will have the opportunity to build off these previously developed courses, but all resources and professional development materials produced through this grant must be firmly grounded in evidence-based literature and explicit citations to the Title III, Part A- English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement section of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) federal statute. All materials and resources developed must be provided in an accessible manner to individuals with disabilities.

Additional considerations for materials and resources produced through this grant:

- TEA maintains the right to final approval on all materials and resources before publication or presentation.
- All materials and resources will carry the TEA logo in addition to the logo of the grant awardee.
- All materials and resources are the property of TEA and must be provided to TEA at the end of the grant period or upon request.
- All materials or resources intended for use with practitioners will be made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, as appropriate to course content and audience.

Grant awardees will make formal quarterly reports to TEA on identified outcomes-based, quantifiable lead measures with lag measure reporting at the end of the grant period. These measures must be mutually approved by the grantee and TEA and should be clearly proposed in LoI response. Additionally, budget proposals and final budget tables must include line-item/deliverable-based pricing.

## I.2 Program Goal

The primary goal of the ***Title III, Part A Online Bilingual Education Certification Preparation Course grant*** is to increase the number of bilingual certified teachers across Texas who provide instruction to English learners in their primary language (Spanish, Vietnamese) and English to better meet the needs of English Learners in Texas in order to increase student achievement and educational outcomes. Teachers who participate in these courses will be better prepared to be successful on the TExES Bilingual Supplemental Exam #164 (<http://www.tx.nesinc.com/Content/Docs/164PrepManual.pdf>), the TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) exam for Spanish (<http://www.tx.nesinc.com/Content/Docs/190PrepManual.pdf>) or the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) exams 620 and 621 for Vietnamese (<https://www.actfl.org/assessment-professional-development/assessments-the-actfl-testing-office>).

## I.3 Program Activities

Strong applications will provide a summary of their approach to the program, including project management and quality assurance approach and evidence-based practices and resources that target the need of increasing effective bilingual certified teachers across the state. The applicant will describe their experience in conducting projects of similar scope and magnitude, including personnel qualifications of course developers (technical, content) and course facilitators. In addition, they will outline their selection process for course facilitators to verify proficiency levels in the desired languages needed along with certification. Applicants will need to present an effective and robust plan to market the courses and to disseminate information to LEAs across the state regarding the purpose of the courses, how to access the courses, what participants can expect from the courses, participant responsibility and course completion expectations, timelines and logistics. Strong applications will identify potential risks and challenges to program success and articulate strategies to mitigate those risks and increase probability of program success. Applicants will seek out and act upon opportunities to collaborate with diverse stakeholders, to include networking with other grantees who have overlapping or related functions. Strong applications will also clearly define the expected outcomes for course participants, the method for collecting and analyzing outcome measure data, and the proposed approach to making program adjustments based on outcomes analysis. Applicants will provide periodic summary reports to the TEA on program success, based on outcomes.

It is required that the proposed program contain at a **minimum**, the following:

The awardee will

- Review the current courses provided by TEA to provide accessible evidence-based preparatory courses for the following TExES certification exams;
  - Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) Spanish #190
  - BTLPT #190 Writing Preparation
  - Bilingual Supplemental Exam #164
  - American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) #620
  - ACTFL #620

- Offer these certification preparation courses tuition-free to LEAs across the state of Texas who have a significant need for certified bilingual teachers who serve English learners in the classroom
- Provide teachers the opportunity to earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit hours for any of the bilingual education certification preparation courses they successfully complete
- Offer multiple cohorts throughout the grant period and provide technical assistance to teachers when needed for the completion of any of the online bilingual education certification preparation courses
- Create a communication system for course facilitators to implement when communicating with teachers throughout the course including how to recognize when a teacher is struggling and how to support the needs of the teacher, so they can successfully complete the course
- Develop a system to follow up with any LEAs who have had teachers participate in these previous courses or the enhanced versions of the courses but were not successful in completing the courses or successful in passing their exams
- Develop an effective process to market the courses and to disseminate information to LEAs across the state regarding the purpose of the courses, how to access the courses, and what participants can expect from the courses
- Provide TEA all materials and resources developed for review prior to disseminating or posting related to this grant
- Provide TEA periodic summary reports on program success, based on outcomes

#### **I.4 Program Budget**

\$300,000 per year

#### **I.5 Timeline**

Lols must be submitted electronically to [EnglishLearnerSupport@tea.texas.gov](mailto:EnglishLearnerSupport@tea.texas.gov) by 11:59pm (CDT) on November 27, 2018 in order to be considered. Hard copy mailed or delivered Lols will not be accepted. Applicants should combine all attachments and documents into one PDF to include a cover sheet and table of contents. Grant awardees will be notified by December 6, 2018 with the grant period to begin January 7, 2019. This is a one-year grant that will be extended for two additional years at TEA discretion.