

IDEA B Discretionary Technical Assistance and Support Grant Opportunity for 2019-2020

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is actively seeking Letters of Interest (LoI) from potential grantees to provide opportunities for specific work toward statewide ***School, Family, and Community Engagement***. Interested regional Education Service Centers (ESC) and/or Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) should submit an LoI in the template included in Attachments A to TEA **by September 1, 2018 at 5 pm 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 IDEA B Discretionary funds and scheduled for implementation in the 2019-2020 school year.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity are limited to the 20 regional education service centers, and all institutions of higher education located in Texas. Other nonprofits or for-profit organizations, foreign institutions, and individuals are not eligible to apply; however, they may participate with an eligible applicant as a project partner (encouraged, as applicable).

1.1 Program Description

The ***School, Family, and Community Engagement*** grant is designed to provide programs which foster authentic collaboration among schools, families and the communities. Emphasis will be placed on a wide variety of on-going services, programs, processes and activities which promote communication, collaboration, and innovative ways to improve family and community partnerships. It is expected that the grantee will create and improve upon systems that facilitate effective stakeholder engagement in the special education process. The grant awardee will leverage the experiences and expertise of stakeholders to significantly increase capacity in local education agencies (LEAs) to partner with parents and families in the development of effective programs for students with disabilities.

The content of all resources and professional development materials produced through this grant must be firmly grounded in current literature and policy on special education best practice with explicit citations. All resources must be made available and accessible to all stakeholders.

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 parents and families will be made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese at minimum.

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.

1.2 Program Goal

The primary goal of the *School, Family, and Community Engagement* grant is to initiate programs that effectively build the capacity of educators and families to work collaboratively in supporting positive outcomes for students with disabilities. Specific goals of this program will include 1) development or refinement of wide outreach efforts to increase meaningful family and community engagement and 2) development or improvement of systems, policies and practices that build authentic collaboration among schools, families, and the community.

1.3 Program Activities

Strong applications will describe a program of evidence-based practices and resources that target needs from across the state. In addition, they will present an effective and robust plan to disseminate resources and collaborate with other stakeholders, as well as networking with other grantees who have overlapping or related functions.

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

- Build LEA capacity to meaningfully incorporate family engagement into all special education processes through professional development opportunities and resource creation.
- Create, or improve upon the existing call center and online systems for accessible and responsive information sharing and support for families and schools (currently provided through SpedTex parent information center and the Texas Project First website). The resulting resource should be easily accessible to all families and LEAs in the state. The design of the resource should focus on a positive user experience. This should include system capabilities to hold and track user provided information and the capability to have the same staff member available to the individual user each time they access the resource. Additionally, proposals should include details around how the grantee will work with TEA to be sure that TEA is consistently updated with the latest information coming from the resource such as call drivers, and areas of concern or opportunities to provide support to LEAs.
- At least two in-person meetings bringing together Parent Coordination Network members and other relevant organizations to establish relationships and communication between parent organizations, network and statewide network members. Proposals should include descriptions of how organizations are selected for network membership.
- Projects identified to meet federal regulations and/or state statutory requirements must include the following:
 - Parent Survey (State Performance Plan Indicator 8)
 - Surrogate Parent Training

1.4 Program Budget

\$1,000,000 per year

1.5 Timeline

Lols must be submitted electronically to sped@tea.texas.gov by 5pm (CDT) on September 1st, 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 October 1, 2018 with the grant period to begin July 1, 2019. This is a one-year grant that may be extended for additional years at TEA discretion.

1.6 Closing and Next Steps

Strong applications with a likelihood of award will be innovative in nature, demonstrate clear planning toward stated goals, and focus on producing desired outcomes rather than simply activity completion.

A virtual applicants' conference will be held the week of July 16, 2018. Questions submitted to sped@tea.texas.gov prior to July 13, 2018, will be answered at that time and an FAQ will be published. When submitting questions, applicants should include the name of this grant in the subject line. Applicants should refer to www.tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED for details and updates regarding the applicants' conference and this request for Lof generally.