

2021-2022 Texas Reading Initiative - Literacy Coaching and Professional Development Grades K-5 Competitive Grant Application: Due 11:59 p.m. CT, June 28, 2021

NOGA ID	Applica	ation stamp-	in date and time
TEA will only accept grant application documents by email, including competitive grant applications and amendments. Submit grant applications and amendments as follows:			
Competitive grant applications and amendments to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov			
Authorizing legislation: U.S. Code Title 20 Chapter 70 Subchapter II Part B Subpa	rt 2 6642	011/18	
Grant period: From 09/24/2021 to 09/30/2022 Pre-award costs: ARE/A		·	
Required attachments: Refer to the program guidelines for a description of any rec	uired atta	chments	3
Amendment Number			
Amendment number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to	apply for	grant fur	ids): N/A
1. Applicant Information		Ha He	
Name of organization Vanguard Academy			
Campus name Multiple Campuses CDN 108808 Vendor ID 74-2971562	ESC 0	1 DUN	S 145690827
Address 1200 E. Kelly Street City Pharr ZIP 7	8577	Phone	956-781-1701
Primary Contact Eleticia Nava Email el_nava@vanguardac.net		Phone	956-781-1701
Secondary Contact Dr. Narciso Garcia Email n_garcia@vanguardac.net		Phone	956-781-1701
2. Certification and Incorporation	LI BIE	HARE Y	
I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or rene	gotiated t	o accept	ance, will form
a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representation.			
a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activit			
accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations	i.		
I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions	of the gra	ant appli	cation, as
applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the gra Grant Award (NOGA):	ant applica	ation and	Notice of
☐ Grant application, guidelines, and instructions ☐ Debarment and Suspe	ension Ce	rtification	1
☑ General Provisions and Assurances ☑ Lobbying Certification			
Application-Specific Provisions and Assurances ESSA Provisions and	A <u>ssuranc</u>	es requii	ements
Authorized Official Name Dr. Narciso Garcia Title Superintendent Ema	il n_garci	a@vang	uardac.net
Phone 956-781-1701 Signature Vaus au		Date	6/23/21
Grant Writer Name Lorenzo Alaniz Signature		Date	6/23/2
Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization. Grant writer is not an emp	loyee of th	ne applica	int organization.
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3. Shared Services Arrangements

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

4. Identify/Address Needs

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

Quantifiable Need	Plan for Addressing Need
teachers. In fact, its teachers on average have half the state's average for years of experience. (VA: 3.5 years	To ensure this lack of experience doesn't affect effective instruction, VA will use grant funds to hire an instructional literacy coach to implement comprehensive high-quality instructional materials & offer continued teacher implementation support at the VA's Rembrandt, Picasso, Mozart, and Beethoven campuses.
classified as economically disadvantaged (ED). Additionally, nearly half of the students are English	Due to these percentages, Vanguard Academy will utilize grant funds to target ELL, children with disabilities, and low-income families with grant funds. (15 pts). Students under these classifications will be targeted to receive intensive and accelerated intervention/support from a grant-funded literacy coach.
and Reading state assessments. Only 34% meet grade level or above on the Reading STAAR (TX Avg: 47%)	Vanguard Academy will train personnel/staff to support, develop, administer, and evaluate high-quality (HQ) K-5 literacy initiatives; offer HQ professional development to teachers/administration; and coordinate early intervention for ELL and Special Education students.

5. SMART Goal

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

SPECIFIC: 1) Hire one instructional literacy coach to provide PD. 2) Target ED, Section 504, and EL students with grant funds. 3) Increase Reading Scores for the targeted students by 10%. 4) Increase Writing scores for the targeted students by 10%. MEASURABLE: VA will measure outcomes utilizing: Writing Rubric, STAAR scores. benchmarks/report cards, sign-in sheets to track PD attendance, and PEIMS data determining demographic of students that received intervention/support. ACHIEVABLE: VA will use a strategic compensation model that enhances the recruitment/retention of a qualified literacy coach. RELEVANT: This program is relevant as the EL students at VA perform lower in Reading, 34%, and Writing, 31%, STAAR tests. In comparison to the state's average of 47% and 38%, respectively. TIMELY: Will be completed by the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

6. Measurable Progress

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant.

First-Quarter Benchmark

- I. Hire the literacy coach for the grant program;
- II. Create and utilize a rubric to assess student baseline data Writing scores, since STAAR Writing will not be required for the 2021-2022 school year.
- III. Create/implement a strategic compensation model that enhances the recruitment/retention of a literacy coach;
- IV. Create a schedule of PD trainings to occur throughout the duration of the grant funding period;
- V. Conduct an initial introduction meeting between the educators and the literacy coach to discuss the program and its purpose; and
- VI. Begin identifying students that should be targeted with the program.

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6. Measurable Progress (Cont.)

Second-Quarter Benchmark

- I. Coordinate 2 sessions between the literacy coach and educators to discuss proposed strategies and high-quality instructional materials to be implemented;
- II. Have 50% of teachers state they feel more equipped to instruct evidence-based initiatives in Reading/Writing;
- III. Provide at least 1 embedded professional development training for the literacy coach;
- IV. Have 30% of the targeted students partake in after-school, before-school, or during-school intervention and support: and
- V. Have 30% of the targeted students demonstrate an academic growth in Reading/Writing (mCLASS software, writing rubric, benchmarks, or report cards).

Third-Quarter Benchmark

- I. Coordinate 2 additional sessions between the literacy coach and educators to discuss effectiveness of strategies and high-quality instructional materials being implemented;
- II. Provide at least 1 additional embedded professional development training for the literacy coach;
- III. Have 100% of teachers state they feel more equipped to instruct evidence-based initiatives in Reading/Writing;
- IV. Ensure a total of 30 educators receive support from the literacy coach.
- V. Have 35% of the targeted students partake in after-school, before-school, or during-school intervention and support; and
- VI. Have 35% of the students demonstrate an academic growth in Reading/Writing (mCLASS software, writing rubric, benchmarks, or report cards).

7. Project Evaluation and Modification

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks or summative SMART goals do not show progress, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

The charter will collect data on a regular basis (every month) to determine if progress is being made towards meeting the SMART goal and quarterly benchmarks. Data to be collected will include the following: Increase in participating educator's efficacy, as measured by educators implementing effective practices; The demographic of students served; Number of educators effectively trained by the literacy coach; Specific areas of support the literacy coach is assisting educators with (support in implementation, videos, artifacts, etc.); The creation of a comprehensive recruitment and retention plan; and Increase in performance of students who were instructed by educators that received literacy coach support. IF BENCHMARKS DO NOT SHOW PORGRESS: Charter administration will meet to identify what can be done to improve outcomes. The data mentioned above will be collected and reviewed to identify where the gaps in the program are. Based on the gap (s) identified, modifications will be made, which could include but aren't limited to: increase dedicated meeting time for the literacy coach, increase number of PD trainings, and increase embedded literacy coach training sessions. By making modifications when needed, along with collecting data throughout the program period, the program is more likely to put the practices/policies needed in place for sustainment once funding has concluded. Additionally, the charter will ensure satisfactory progress of compliance with grant requirements, achievement of stated service, and performance targets. This done proficiently will enable the charter to receive up to 2 years of funding, making the program more effective and giving administration/staff additional opportunity to determine the most effective policies/strategies for implementation. HOW PROGRAM WILL BE MODIFIED FOR SUSTAINABILITY: If it is determined the program is not progressing sufficiently, the project manager will discuss modifications needed to the Superintendent and adjustments will be made accordingly. If the charter requires guidance on addressing a certain issue, they will reach out to TEA and/or other schools implementing a similar grant program to ensure their insufficiency can be addressed properly. If modifications must be made, the charter will send out letters to parents/quardians, community. administrators, and board members to notify them of the intent of the charter to modify the program.

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8. Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee 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 grant 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 that all literacy coaches have or are currently completing the required HB 3 Reading Academies.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance that the placement of literacy coaches ensures they are supported with verifiable capacity via internal resources or external partnerships.
- 5. The applicant provides assurance that each coach will support at least 60 teachers annually if not supporting QOZ or at least 30 teachers annually if supporting QOZ through a mix of in-person and on-line coaching.
- 6. (For literacy conferences) The applicant provides assurance that the content of hosted literacy conferences will Kild focus on knowledge-building curriculum, and that the applicant has experience and expertise in implementation of a knowledge-building program.

9. Statutory/Program Requirements

Please select the type of opportunity being applied for. Select one or both of the following:

X Check this box if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity

Check this box if applying for the regional literacy conferences opportunity

1. Describe how the school, the local educational agency, or a provider of high-quality professional development will provide ongoing high-quality professional development to all teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel (as appropriate), and other instructional leaders served by the school. (Applies to both opportunities)

FOR ON-GOING HIGH-QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Vanguard Academy will work with Leach Literacy Training, LLC. This organization has been providing teachers around the country with the tools they need to be better prepared to create joyous classrooms full of readers and writers.

Leach Literacy will provide Vanguard Academy with unique and dynamic professional development to assist teachers in properly supporting students classified as ELL, children with disabilities, and those that come from low-income families. Additionally, this organization will help Vanguard Academy in implementing a Balanced Literacy Framework that creates an accountability marker for students in reading/writing, as well as, assist them in becoming independent readers/writers. These trainings will be on-going and will be conducted either in-person or via ZOOM, depending on the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals that will partake in these trainings include: instructional literacy coach, teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instruction support personnel, and other instructional leaders served by the school. After trainings have been conducted, the literacy coach will meet individually with charter personnel to ensure what was being is implemented, as well as, to answer any questions that may have arisen during the implementation process.

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

2. Describe how the applicant will identify children in need of literacy interventions or other support services. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

The charter's goal by implementing this grant program is to have all students be able to read on the same grade level. To achieve this goal, the charter will have to identify its children in need of literacy intervention or other support services. IDENTIFY CHILDREN IN NEED OF LITERACY INTERVENTIONS: To identify these students, the charter will utilize their current mCLASS software. mCLASS is a diagnostic software that can identify what reading areas a student is struggling with and then provide them with personalized lesson planning to ensure the best intervention is provided. Literacy assessments will be done at the beginning, middle, and at the end of the year to assess what reading levels a student is currently at (Tier I, Tier II, Tier III). Beyond just utilizing this tracking system, the campuses teachers will be surveyed to determine if they know of any specific students that seem to struggle in reading and writing. Benchmarks, test scores, reading software assessments (Imagine Reading/STAR Renaissance Program), and daily work will also help determine those in need. Parents seeking additional assistance for their child (rent) will also be taken into account for additional intervention services. By utilizing these approaches, the charter will be more effective in identifying children in need of targeted literacy intervention or other support services.

3. Explain how the applicant will integrate comprehensive literacy instruction into a well-rounded education. (Applies to both opportunities)

HOW VANGUARD ACADEMY WILL INTEGRATE COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION INTO A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION: The charter needs to ensure its students have a well-rounded education, therefore, comprehensive literacy instruction must be integrated into their everyday instruction. To do so, the charter will have all its teachers integrate various comprehensive literacy instruction approaches into part of their daily lesson plan. Some of the proposed items to be implemented for well-rounded instruction include, but are not limited to: Reading-Aloud: The purpose of doing this will be to ensure students have a model to appropriate reading behaviors and understand how to properly enunciate words. Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS): Exercises will pair strong and weak readers who will take turns reading, rereading, and retelling. Guided Reading and Writing: Teachers will work with small groups of children that are on the same reading level or need instruction on the same skill to increase student's comfortability when asking questions. and Independent Reading and Writing: Students will be able to select the prompt/text that interest them the most, then read or write about it. This will be used to increase the enjoyment students have towards reading/writing.

By implementing various strategies, such as those listed above, the charter will be able to offer comprehensive literacy instruction, increasing the likelihood for student academic growth.

4. Describe how the applicant will coordinate comprehensive literacy instruction with early childhood education programs and activities and after-school programs and activities in the area served by the local educational agency. (Applies to both opportunities)

Nearly 75% of the students who enter Vanguard Academy come from low-income families, have disabilities, or are ELL. With these high percentages, it comes to no surprise that when entering the school system, students are significantly behind academically, in comparison to their peers.

HOW VANGUARD ACADEMY WILL COORDINATE COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES: Therefore, targeting these students in their early childhood education is paramount to ensure academic success of the student. To do this, the charter will coordinate comprehensive literacy instruction with its early childhood education programs and activities, as well as, with after-school programs and activities in the area. Educators who teach early childhood education will receive professional development trainings, just like other charter staff, as well as, receive supplemental oversight and guidance provided by the grant-funded literacy coach.

To ensure there is effective collaboration throughout the grant funding period, the charter will have monthly meetings (between the literacy coach and early education personnel) where comprehensive literacy instruction is discussed. This will ensure that early childhood education personnel can ask any questions they have and assist with the integration of comprehensive literacy instruction at an early age.

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

5. Provide proof or a plan on recruiting and hiring a literacy coach. Eligible applicants must have preemptively hired a literacy coach for the 2021-22 school year and meet all minimum requirements as set by the Texas State Board of Educator Certification and the requirements of the subgrant. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

PROOF OR A PLAN ON RECRUITING AND HIRING A LITERACY COACH: To ensure that the charter can support TEA's goal of developing a pipeline of literacy coaches, the charter has preemptively hired a literacy coach for the 2021-2022 school year. This individual will be providing targeted intervention and support to staff and students, specifically those students classified as economically disadvantaged, with disabilities, English learners, and/or are highly mobile/at-risk.

NOTE: This individual meets all minimum requirements as set by the Texas State Board of Educator Certification and the requirements of the subgrant. This literacy coach has a master's degree, along with several years of teaching experience. When selecting this instructional literacy coach, the charter looked for individuals who were: 1) Comfortable speaking in front of large groups and classrooms of students; 2) Excellent teachers with teaching experience at the particular level they're coaching; 3) Knowledgeable about reading processes, assessment, and instruction: 4) Masters of their craft and comfortable modeling lessons and teaching techniques in front of other educators; and 5) Experienced in coaching educators and aiding in professional development.

6. Provide the plan for embedded professional development for the literacy coach(es) to support them in providing valuable training. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

EMBEDDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) FOR THE LITERACY COACH: To ensure the newly attained instructional literacy coach receives embedded PD, the charter will work closely with Leach Literacy Training, LLC, the local Region ESC, and other qualified and experienced external professional development providers. These organizations will provide the instructional literacy coach with strategies and activities that can be implemented to assist students classified as ELL, children with disabilities, and those that come from low-income families. Additionally, these organizations, will help the coach implement an effective Balanced Literacy Framework.

To ensure these trainings are then passed down from the coach to educators, the charter has dedicated time for the instructional literacy coach to meet individually with educators, as well as, visit K-5 classrooms during instruction offerings. By doing so, the coach will be able to observe the teacher, model instruction, view teachers' interactions with students, and be able to provide feedback based on evidence-based strategies. This feedback will be a valuable way for teachers to make the necessary adjustments needed to support not just the targeted students, but all Vanguard Academy students.

7. Identify the plan for demonstrating outcomes for increasing student literacy in a school or district. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

To demonstrate an increase in student literacy comprehension, the following activities will be implemented:

- I. Coordination of Staff- The charter will have monthly meetings with early childhood education personnel to ensure they are collaborating in the literacy development of children whose literacy skill are below grade level.
- II. Retention Plan for Literacy Coach- The charter will ensure the instructional literacy coach is retained throughout the duration of the grant and post-funding. This will be done through the use of strategic compensation methods; thereby, helping the charter staff their hard-to-staff location. When teachers feel supported, gain confidence in their instruction, and are given proper training and support, teacher retention increases.
- III. High-Quality Professional Development Trainings for Teachers/Principals- This PD will discuss high-quality evidence-based instructional materials that should be implemented, as well as, provide feedback on how to effectively support students whose literacy skill are below grade level. To ensure the quality of the trainings provided are high, the charter will thoroughly vet the external organizations and training providers to determine if they have the quality and experience needed to provide such trainings.
- IV. Intervention and Support- The charter will provide intensive, supplemental, accelerated, and explicit intervention and support in reading and writing for children whose literacy skill are below grade level.

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements

8. Provide a plan for how you will target schools or districts in Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs), with an additional emphasis on serving low-income, high-need students, including children living in poverty, English Language Learners, and children with disabilities. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

TARGET SCHOOLS IN QUALIFIED OPPORTUNITY ZONES (QOZS): Vanguard Academy campuses are located within one of Governor Greg Abbott's Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs). To be a qualified for one the opportunity zones, that means the targeted campuses (Rembrandt, Picasso, Mozart, and Beethoven) are within an area identified as having chronic unemployment, lower population density, and significant economic disruptors, such as natural disasters. In fact, based on statistics provided by Texas Labor Market Information, the area surrounding Vanguard Academy has an employment rate of 10.6%, which is 4.3% higher than the state's average. SERVING LOW-INCOME, HIGH-NEED STUDENTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: Vanguard Academy students are low-income, high-need students, including children living in poverty, English Language Learners, and children with disabilities. Therefore, the charter will put an emphasis on recruiting and offering targeted activities for these students with the Texas Reading Initiative Grant Program.

9. Describe your organization's capacity for grant management, including data collection and tracking, meeting reporting requirements, and tracking progress towards goals and pre-defined outcomes. List the organization's key individuals that will play a role in grant activities and describe their expertise and experience. Please upload the resume for any individuals within your organization that will be supporting the work of the grant. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

Organization Capacity: Sandra Gonzalez will be dedicated to assisting with the Texas Reading Initiative (TRI) Grant implementation. Ms. Gonzalez is qualified and able to serve in this position. In fact, her long list of qualifications/ experience include but aren't limited to: a Master's in Science of Education in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments; Being bilingual; Serving as a Teacher, TSI tutor, and Curriculum Coordinator; and Obtaining a Principal Certification. In addition to utilizing this high-quality individual, the charter will utilize their previous success with the implementation of numerous grants, to help guide them in the implementation of the TRI Grant. The previous grants the charter has successfully implemented include but aren't limited to: Blended Learning Grant, Lone Star STEM Grant, School Safety and Security Grant, and Summer CTE Grant, which demonstrate its capacity for grant management. CAPACITY: Each of the aforementioned grants, all of which were funded by TEA, required the charter to perform data collection, meet reporting requirements, and track progress towards goals and predefined outcomes. Therefore, based on the previous experience, both by the proposed Program Manager and charter, Vanguard Academy has the capacity needed to properly manage the TRI Grant Program.

10. Provide the plan for literacy conferences including materials to support a knowledge building approach best suited to lead regional conferences. (Answer o	to learning. Include	a rationale as to why your organization is
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9. Statutory	/Program R	equirements		
11. Include	he proposed	conference partici	•	oals and outcomes-focused success metrics for conferences. ferences opportunity)
(QOZs), with English Lan	n an additiona	l emphasis on ser	ving low	or districts to attend conference in Qualified Opportunity Zones r-income, high-need students, including children living in poverty, bilities. (Answer only if applying for the regional literacy
10. Equitab	le Access a	nd Participatio	n	
Check the ap groups that r The ap service Barrier grant,	ppropriate box eceive service oplicant assure es funded by the s exist to equite as described to	below to indicate es funded by this ges that no barriers his grant. table access and	whether grant. exist to participa	r any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any equitable access and participation for any groups receiving ation for the following groups receiving services funded by this
Group			Barrier	
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11. Request for Grant Funds		
List all of the allowable grant-related activities budgeted for each activity. Group similar activity.	s for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the vities and costs together under the appropriate headin our planned expenditures on a separate attachment pro	ng. During
	ervention and support in Reading and Writing.	\$75,000
	11.	
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5.		
Professional and Contracted Services		
6. Provide high-quality professional develop	oment for teachers, literacy coach, etc.	\$15,000
7. For principals/administration to support, or	develop, administer, and evaluate K-5 initiatives.	\$10,400
8. Funds for coordinating early childhood in	volvement of literacy development.	\$1,000
9.		
10.		
Supplies and Materials		
11. Supplies needed to serve the needs of a	Il children (EL, Disabilities, etc.)	\$2,600
12.		
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Other Operating Costs		
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	TOTAL GRANT AWARD REQUESTED	\$104,000
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Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments	

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 of the TEA website and may be mailed OR faxed (not both). To fax: one copy of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to either (512) 463-9811 or (512) 463-9564. To mail: three copies of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to the address on page 1. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

Leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding.

You may duplicate this page.

For amendments, choose the section you wish to amend from the drop down menu on the left. In the text box on the right, describe the changes you are making and the reason for them.

Always work with the most recent negotiated or amended application. If you are requesting a revised budget, please

Section Being Negotiated or Amended Negotiated Change or Amendment	
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