



2022-2024 Charter School Program Grant (Subchapter C and D)
 COMPETITIVE GRANT Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, March 31, 2022

NOGA ID

Application 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:

Grant period: **Pre-award costs:**

Required attachments:

Amendment Number

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

1. Applicant Information

Name of organization

Campus name CDN Vendor ID ESC DUNS

Address City ZIP Phone

Primary Contact Email Phone

Secondary Contact Email Phone

2. 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 grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- Grant application, guidelines, and instructions
- General Provisions and Assurances
- Application-Specific Provisions and Assurances
- Debarment and Suspension Certification
- Lobbying Certification
- ESSA Provisions and Assurances requirements

Authorized Official Name Title Email

Phone Signature Date

Grant Writer Name Signature Date

Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization. Grant writer is not an employee of the applicant organization.

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Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

3. Shared Services Arrangements

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are/are not permitted for this grant.
Check the box below if applying as fiscal agent.

The LEA or ESC submitting this application is the fiscal agent of a planned SSA. All participating agencies will enter into a written SSA agreement describing the fiscal agent and SSA member responsibilities. All participants understand that the "Shared Services Arrangement Attachment" must be completed and signed by all SSA members, and submitted to TEA before the 80% reserve on the NOGA is lifted.

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
The district needs funding to plan for and plot out the initial growth of its new, replicated charter school, as its own funds are all being allocated to existing academic programming and/or Covid-19 relief/mitigation efforts.	Funding from this grant will give the district the financial resources to effectively implement the development of its new, replicated charter school.
There is a need to deliver high-quality programming to more students within the district's boundaries, as the nearby Irving ISD and Dallas ISD achieved "B" ratings in the TEA's recent measures of academic performance.	Universal Academy will faithfully replicate its core program elements at the proposed campus to maximize benefits for administrators, teachers, staff, and students.
Universal Academy needs to provide outstanding educational services to a greater number of youth in the Dallas County, TX area without compromising the small class sizes and individualized attention that are trademarks of its learning experience.	The district will construct a new campus to serve a greater number of students while still maintaining a 15:1 or 16:1 student:teacher ratio within each of its school buildings. Having small class sizes enables educators to enhance student strengths and address learning challenges by providing detailed feedback and differentiated instruction.

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.

In spring 2023, at least 41% of all students who are assessed will be scoring at the "Meets Grade Level or Above" standard on State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests across all subject areas.

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

At least 41% of students at the new high-quality charter school campus will earn scale scores on Interim STAAR assessments that indicate they have a high level of probability of meeting state standards in reading, mathematics, algebra I, english I, and english II.

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8. Measurable Progress (Cont.)**Second-Quarter Benchmark**

At least 41% of students at the new high-quality charter school campus will earn scale scores on Interim STAAR assessments that indicate they have a high level of probability of meeting state standards in science, social studies, biology, and U.S. history.

Third-Quarter Benchmark

At least 41% of students at the new high-quality charter school campus will earn scale scores on Interim STAAR assessments that indicate they have a high level of probability of meeting state standards in reading, mathematics, algebra I, english I, and english II.

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 contracted, independent Program Evaluator will complete regular quantitative (i.e. student achievement results, Texas ACE attendance and participation, school day attendance and behavioral data, etc.) and qualitative (i.e. informal teacher, parent, and student feedback, survey results, interviews, etc.) data analysis and meet with Universal Academy's leadership team on at least a quarterly basis to determine when and how to modify the program.

The evaluation design will link needs assessment, program design, service delivery, and outcomes into a logic model that will monitor process and product for continuous improvement. As a result, even if benchmarks and/or summative SMART goals do not show progress, evaluation data can be used to modify the program as necessary to satisfy the state and federal objectives of expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the state. Evaluation costs are not included as a request in the grant budget for this project; the district will cover them.

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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 to adhere to all Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements, and Performance Measures, as noted in the 2022–2024 Charter School Program Grant (Subchapter C and D) Program Guidelines, and shall provide the Texas Education Agency, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the grant program.
4. The applicant provides assurance that they accept and will comply with Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances requirements
5. 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.
6. The applicant provides assurance that their financial accounting system adheres to the following requirements:
- accommodates the minimum 15-digit account code mandated by the FASRG;
 - generates information needed for PEIMS reporting; and
 - ensures adequate accountability of state and federal funds.
- If the applicant's financial accounting system is not approved by TEA, the applicant assures that it will budget and acquire an acceptable accounting system and training with these grant funds. Additionally, the applicant will be required to submit proof of an acceptable accounting system prior to receiving continued and/or additional funding.
7. The applicant provides assurance that it will maintain clear documentation and data for the school and students served by this grant program, will comply with any reporting and evaluation requirements that may be established by the TEA, and will submit the reports in the format and manner requested by TEA's Division of Financial Compliance. Grantees will be required to cooperate with the team that has been contracted to evaluate the use of the grant funds.
8. The applicant provides assurance that it has on file a certificate of occupancy or the equivalent, for the instructional facility. At any time, should the TEA Charter School Administration Division request a copy, the applicant will provide such copy immediately.
9. According to Title IV, Part C of ESSA, to receive federal grant funds of any type, including U. S. Department of Education funds, the charter school must meet the following definition. By signing Attachment #1 and submitting the application, the authorized official of the public charter school certifies that each of the statements in the definition is true and that the school is in compliance with this definition. A charter school is not eligible to receive any federal funds at any time, formula or discretionary, from TEA if it does not comply with this definition.

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8. Statutory/Program Assurances (Cont.)

10. **Open-enrollment charter holders applying on behalf of a high-quality campus approved by the commissioner of education:** The applicant provides assurance that the existing charter, as approved by the applicable state authorizer (the State Board of Education or the commissioner of education), and the Application for High-Quality Campus Designation, under which the new charter school campus was approved by the commissioner of education, are incorporated by reference into this grant application and address statutory requirements in compliance with PL 114-95, Title IV, Part C, ESSA.

11. Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C: The applicant provides assurance that the campus charter school will:

- a. Maintain documentation which clearly demonstrates the supplementary nature of these funds;
- b. be established according to and in compliance with TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, Sections 12.051-12.065;
- c. be designated as a campus charter in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) organizational database, AskTED, prior to operating as a campus charter, and
- d. be permitted to govern autonomously, as evidenced by the day-to-day decision makers at the campus charter school and their input with regard to the school's curriculum, calendar, budget, and daily operations. This autonomy will be above and beyond the degree of flexibility and autonomy afforded to traditional campuses within the district.

12. Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C, must also comply with the following: As per Title V, Part B, Subpart 1, Section 5204(f)(4)(B), a LEA may not deduct funds for administrative fees or expenses from a subgrant awarded to an eligible applicant, unless the eligible applicant enters voluntarily into a mutually agreed upon arrangement for administrative services with the relevant LEA. Absent such approval, the LEA shall distribute all subgrant funds to the eligible applicant without delay.

13. Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C, for the purpose of replicating an existing high-quality charter school, must also comply with the following: The applicant provides assurance that the school district will:

- a. participate in the Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy (TALA) program;
- b. review and adopt the Texas Education Agency's model Chapter 12, Subchapter C authorizer policies and charter application (Model District Authorizing Policy and Model Local Campus Partner Application can be found at <https://txpartnerships.org/tools/>);
- c. annually publish its authorizer policies;
- d. submit its updated authorizer policies and charter application to TEA, along with the exact web address where this information is posted on the district's website, by October 1, 2022;
- e. work with a high-quality charter management organization (CMO) or create an innovation management organization (IMO) that will have its own independent board, separate and apart from the school district's board of trustees, to oversee management of the originating campus and its replication; and
- f. work with a high-quality charter management organization (CMO) or create an innovation management organization (IMO) that will have an Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (CMO) who is responsible for management of the originating campus and its replication.

4. The applicant provides assurance that they accept and will comply with Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances requirements

5. 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.

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9. Statutory Requirements

1. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the eligible applicant, any partner organizations, and charter management organizations, as applicable, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities of such partners.

Universal Academy is the eligible applicant and will be responsible for designing, implementing, and overseeing all stages of the proposed charter school expansion, including marketing the new school to the public, hiring staff, administering the Charter School Program grant, overseeing the school's construction, and setting forth the new school's curriculum and academic goals, among other tasks.

2. Describe the quality controls agreed to between the eligible applicant and the authorized public chartering agency involved (TEA), such as a contract or performance agreement, how a school's performance in the state's accountability system and impact on student achievement (which may include student academic growth) will be one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school's charter, and how the authorized public chartering agency involved (TEA) will reserve the right to revoke or not renew a school's charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school.

Universal Academy has a performance agreement in place with the Texas Education Agency to maintain its charter and accreditation. The assignment of charter school accreditation statuses is authorized by Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 39, Public School System Accountability, and 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 97, Planning and Accountability, Subchapter EE, Accreditation Status, Standards, and Sanctions. The new school will be held to these guidelines. According to the 2019 Charter School Performance Framework, the last year scores were assigned, Universal earned an A in Accountability and received a passing score for its Charter FIRST rating, which measures charter schools' financial integrity. The district also scored above state averages in terms of students' academic growth in all grade levels and subjects according to 2018-2019 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) progress data; this was the last year such data was available. Universal Academy will ensure its high standards and performance rates translate to its new campus.

3. Describe how the autonomy and flexibility granted to the proposed charter school or high-quality charter school campus is consistent with the definition of a charter school in Section 4310, including how the proposed charter school campus will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations and personnel decisions. Include a detailed description of the ways in which the proposed charter school or high-quality charter school campus will be permitted to govern autonomously, as evidenced by the day-to-day decision makers at the campus and their input with regard to the school's curriculum, calendar, budget, and daily operations. For a charter school campus authorized by the local board of trustees pursuant to TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, describe how this autonomy is above and beyond the degree of flexibility and autonomy afforded to traditional campuses within the school district.

The new school will have the same autonomy, flexibility, rights, and privileges as Universal Academy's other campuses to maintain consistency with Section 4310's definition of a charter school. As noted in its board policies, while the district's Superintendent and the Board of Education can set out general directions for its schools to take and offer suggestions for operation, the key administrators at each campus, including the principal, curriculum leaders, and senior teachers, among others will collaboratively develop the curriculum and arrange day-to-day operations and spending of school dollars as they see fit to help students meet Texas' Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. Each campus will also set their own school calendar with a minimum of 180 days, as required by Texas state law.

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9. Statutory Requirements (Cont.)

4. Describe how the eligible applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the proposed charter school campus.

Universal Academy will hold Zoom meetings, conference calls, and in-person meetings/presentations with parents/guardians, community partners, and other members of the community to gather input on the implementation and operation of the proposed charter school campus. The district will share information on the proposed budget, curriculum, hiring and training decisions as they relate to staff as the campus is developed. As the campus starts to operate, parents and stakeholders will actively participate in the school's decision-making processes through social media outlets, monthly newsletters, and monthly meetings. Stakeholder feedback will be collected through surveys, comment cards, and roundtable interviews, with the board of education and administrators taking the community's responses and input into account as they work to deliver a high-quality education for its students.

5. Describe the eligible applicant's planned activities and expenditures of grant funds to open and prepare for the operation of the proposed charter school or high-quality charter school campus, and how the eligible applicant will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the grant period.

To open and prepare for the operation of the proposed high-quality charter school campus, Universal Academy will carry out the following activities.
Hiring administrative staff, teachers, and support staff, and providing professional development and training for them as necessary; making one-time start-up equipment purchases for the school site, such as desks, chairs, computers and educational technology, storage, furniture, library materials, equipment related to the delivery of additional enrichments (i.e. physical education, art, etc.) and similar supplies and materials; developing plans for handling student transportation once the academic year begins; installing data systems, phones, Internet connections, and technological networks, along with all necessary software (i.e. a schoolwide student information systems, Texas' Public Education Information Management System, financial management software, etc.); and completing any minor facility maintenance and repairs, if needed, before the school officially opens.

Expenditures will fall under the categories of payroll costs for staff and professional and contracted services for required equipment, supplies, materials, and transportation. Universal Academy will maintain financial sustainability after the grant period ends by developing new community partnerships when feasible and applying to federal, state, and local grant-making agencies to support programs for students. The new high-quality charter school campus will open before September 6, 2023, per RFA requirements.

6. Describe how the eligible applicant will support the use of effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies to operate the proposed charter school campus.

Universal Academy's new high-quality charter school campus will launch a Parent Academy to encourage parents/guardians to invest in and engage with their child's development and academic success, while also giving them equitable access to opportunities to continue their own education and gain career development skills. The campus will also engage with parents/guardians by hosting family education nights, inviting them to partake in planning sessions and meetings that guide the school's direction, and by transparently sharing student data so they can track their child's academic progress. The campus will invite community-based organizations, cultural institutions, and colleges to come in for project-based learning opportunities, and will partner with these organizations to develop internships and/or work-based learning opportunities for high school students. Additionally, all board meetings will be open to the public, and constituents' feedback will play a large role in the development of the new campus' annual budget.

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9. Statutory Requirements (Cont.)

7. Describe the eligible applicant’s plan for meeting the transportation needs of the students at the proposed charter school campus.

Per its school board policy, Universal Academy will provide bus transportation to regular education students who live two miles or more from the proposed charter school campus. Special education students will receive transportation as specified in their Individual Education Program (IEP). The district will also provide appropriate transportation services to any homeless student who attends the proposed charter school campus.

8. Describe and justify any requests for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the eligible applicant believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter school, and a description of any state or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that the applicant proposes to be waived or otherwise not apply to the school.

N/A; Universal Academy is not requesting waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions, nor is it proposing any state or local rules to be waived.

9. Statutory Requirements, Subchapter C Applicants ONLY

In addition to the eight requirements listed above, campus charters established under TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools, must also address each of the following requirements (numbers 9-13):

9. Describe the educational program* at the proposed charter school campus, including: a. how the program will enable all students to meet challenging state student academic achievement standards; b. the grade levels or ages of children to be served; and c. the curriculum and instructional practices to be used. *If the district has partnered with an entity to replicate a high-quality charter school model, the description of the educational program should include the name of the high-quality charter school that is being replicated, along with additional pertinent information to demonstrate that the charter school meets the definition of a high-quality charter school.

N/A; Universal Academy is an open enrollment charter school and is not a campus charter established under TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools.

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9. Statutory Requirements Subchapter C Applicants ONLY (Cont.)

10. Describe how the district authorizer will monitor the proposed charter school campus in recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and meeting the needs of all students, including children with disabilities and English learners.

N/A; Universal Academy is an open enrollment charter school and is not a campus charter established under TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools.

11. Describe the manner in which an annual independent financial audit of the campus is to be conducted. The campus charter must have a plan for an audit that is separate and apart from the district's annual financial audit.

N/A; Universal Academy is an open enrollment charter school and is not a campus charter established under TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools.

12. Describe the manner in which the campus will provide information necessary for the school district in which it is located to participate, as required by TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, or by SBOE rule, in public education information systems (PEIMS).

N/A; Universal Academy is an open enrollment charter school and is not a campus charter established under TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools.

13. Describe the manner in which the district will flow other federal and state funds to the proposed charter school campus. Describe the timelines for flowing the federal and state funds to the campus that will ensure students are promptly receiving the benefit of services that appropriate federal and state funds can provide.

N/A; Universal Academy is an open enrollment charter school and is not a campus charter established under TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools.

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TEA Program Requirements

1. Provide the number of students in each grade, by type of school, projected to be served under the grant program in 2022–2023.

Charter School Type	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Replicating District-Authorize	0	100	100	100	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	700

Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2022–2023 school year.

Total Staff 54 **Total Parents** 1,200 **Total Families** 700 **Total Campuses** 1

2. Provide the number of students in each grade, by type of school, projected to be served under the grant program in 2023–2024.

Charter School Type	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Replicating District-Authorize	0	105	105	105	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	765

Total Staff 60 **Total Parents** 1,235 **Total Families** 765 **Total Campuses** 1

3. Provide the number of students to be served in 2022 -2023 who would otherwise attend an F-rated campus (from the most recent accountability ratings) that serves the same grade levels as the proposed charter school. Please click on the [All Campuses by Rating](#) for more information.

Charter School Type	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Replicating District-Authorize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2022–2023 school year.

Total Staff 54 **Total Parents** 1,200 **Total Families** 700 **Total Campuses** 1

4. Provide the names and nine-digit county/district/campus numbers of the F-rated campuses (from the most recent accountability ratings) that serve the same grade levels as the proposed charter school that you will be impacting as described above. Please click on the [All Campuses by Rating](#) link for more information.

#	District Name	Campus Name	9 Digit CDC Number
1.	N/A	N/A	
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2021–2022 school year.

5. Qualified Opportunity Zone: Provide the census tract number if the proposed campus will be located in a [Qualified Opportunity Zone](#). N/A

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10. 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 grant.

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

Group Barrier

Group Barrier

Group Barrier

Group Barrier

11. PNP Equitable Services

PNP Equitable Services **does not apply** to this grant.

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12. Request for Grant Funds

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA.

Payroll Costs

1.	School leader salaries	\$230,000
2.	Teacher salaries	\$150,000
3.	Specialized instructional support personnel salaries	\$120,000
4.		
Payroll Subtotal:		\$500,000

Professional and Contracted Services

6.	Start-up costs for student transportation	\$90,000
7.		
8.		
9.		
Professional and Contracted Services Subtotal:		\$90,000

Supplies and Materials

11.	School equipment (i.e. desks, chairs, computers, equipment related to enrichments, etc.)	\$150,000
12.		
13.		
Supplies and Materials Subtotal:		\$150,000

Other Operating Costs

15.	Installation of computers, data systems, networks, and phones	\$100,000
16.		
Other Operating Costs Subtotal:		\$100,000

Capital Outlay

18.	Renovations and minor facility repairs	\$60,000
19.		
Capital Outlay Subtotal:		\$60,000

Direct and indirect administrative costs: 0

TOTAL GRANT AWARD REQUESTED: \$900,000

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Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments

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 of the TEA website and may be emailed to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov Include all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed copy of page 1 of the application. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

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 include the budget attachments with your amendment.

Section Being Negotiated or Amended	Negotiated Change or Amendment
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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