

IDEA B Discretionary Technical Assistance and Support Grant Opportunity

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is actively seeking Letters of Interest (LoI) to provide opportunities for statewide guidance for LEAs regarding appropriate decisions around the **provision of compensatory services**. Interested regional Education Service Centers (ESC) or Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) should submit a LoI in the template included in Attachment A to TEA **by September 14, 2018 at 5 pm CDT**. Funding is allocated from IDEA B Discretionary funds and scheduled for implementation in the 2018-2019 school year.

Eligible Applicants

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

1.1 Program Description

In cases where student eligibility for special education services was delayed or, when areas of eligibility for services were not appropriately identified, the students in question may be eligible to receive compensatory services. The **Compensatory Services Guidance** grant will provide resources and supports to assist Texas LEAs in setting local policies and practices that not only align with state and federal requirements but are also in alignment with best nationally. This grant will additionally provide parents and stakeholders with resources and supports to help them be more informed and better prepared to enter discussions with schools regarding compensatory services.

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, and Spanish 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 goal of the ***Compensatory Services Guidance*** grant is to provide nationally exemplar supports to families and schools through the creation of resources and supports designed to provide clarity around how and when compensatory services would be appropriately required.

1.4 Program Activities

Strong applications will demonstrate the ability and structure for foundational and logistical support to achieve the program goal. The applications will also demonstrate a solid basis of expertise in the provision of compensatory services. Proposals should include plans to produce resources in print and web-based formats at minimum. Additionally, strong applications will include robust plans for thoughtful planning toward effective resource and support implementation across the state.

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

- Robust resources such as videos and pamphlets designed to empower parents and stakeholders to successfully engage in meaningful interactions with schools regarding the provision of compensatory services.
- Resources and training support such as documents and modules designed to ensure that all schools in Texas have the clear understanding and expertise necessary to make recommendations regarding the appropriate provision of compensatory services. This should include when and how compensatory services are required to be provided and what best practices exist in this area. Emphasis must be placed on how to best make recommendations in partnership with parents.
- There must be annotated examples of when compensatory services would be applicable and when they may not be.
- There must be strong public engagement at the front-end of the work, to ensure that the needs of LEAs, schools, and families are met. Listening sessions, focus groups, and/or similar are encouraged.
- Training modules must be created that include legal requirements and best practices. Sample trainings being given must be video-recorded and available for reference.
- Best practices related to the review of compensatory services should be included. This may involve an independent review panel who can help make recommendations for ARD committee decisions, additional participants at meetings, etc.
- Innovation and visioning are encouraged.

1.5 Program Budget

\$250,000

1.6 Timeline

Lols must be submitted electronically to sped@tea.texas.gov by 5pm (CDT) on September 14th, 2018 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 1st, 2018 with the grant period to begin October 15th, 2018. This is a one-year grant.

1.7 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.

Questions regarding the ***Compensatory Services Guidance*** grant should be directed to sped@tea.texas.gov prior to August 15th. An FAQ will be published to www.tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED after that time and will be updated as needed.