



2023-2024 Tri-Agency Grant for Regional Conveners
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, January 13, 2023

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

This LOI application must be submitted via email to loiapplications@tea.texas.gov.

The LOI application may be signed with a digital ID or it may be signed by hand. Both forms of signature are acceptable.

TEA must receive the application by **11:59 p.m. CT, January 13, 2023**.

Grant period from

Pre-award costs permitted from

Application stamp-in date and time

Required Attachments

- Application Part 2: Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)
- Attachment A: Regional Convener Reference Form (Submit up to three forms with Application)

Application Information

Which workforce development area are you located in and applying to represent as a regional convener?

Select your organization type:

Amendment Number

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

Applicant Information

Organization CDN

Address City ZIP Vendor ID

Primary Contact Email Phone

Secondary Contact Email Phone

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

- LOI application, guidelines, and instructions
- Debarment and Suspension Certification
- General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances
- Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name Title

Email Phone

Signature Date

Shared Services Arrangements

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

Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant 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 LOI 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 the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2023-2024 Tri-Agency Grant to Regional Conveners Program Guidelines.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2023-2024 Tri-Agency Grant to Regional Conveners Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- 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 assures to carry out the roles and responsibilities of a regional convener for a geographic region with boundaries identical to those of the workforce development area.
- 7. The applicant assures to identify at least one staff person, who meets the qualifications and experience of a regional convener lead as outlined in these guidelines, with adequate time allocated to the work of this grant project and who will serve as the regional convener lead.
- 8. The applicant assures to identify multiple staff at the regional convener organization to engage in the work and participate in the designation process. This includes someone in an executive leadership position who has decision-making authority on behalf of the regional convener organization.
- 9. The applicant assures to complete all grant activities and deliverables in a timely manner, as described in the description of program and performance and evaluation measures.
- 10. The applicant assures to coordinate with their assigned coach, to be provided by TEA for technical assistance, and meet with their coach frequently throughout the project, including within the first month to align on program priorities and requirements.

Statutory/Program Assurances cont'd

- 11. The applicant assures to convene and engage a cross-sector pathways leadership team in the strategic planning process within the first three months of the grant project.
- 12. The applicant assures to develop an asset map and gap analysis within six months of the grant start date under the direction and guidance of their assigned coach. In addition, the applicant will keep this landscape analysis updated throughout the grant project.
- 13. The applicant assures to develop, in collaboration with members of the cross-sector leadership team, a strategic plan and supporting action plans within the first 12 months of the grant project.
- 14. The applicant assures to plan and execute work-based learning that will address K-12 gaps and will expand upon existing work-based learning within their region.
- 15. The applicant assures to participate and engage in statewide training and convenings during the grant period.

Statutory/Program Requirements

1. Current Regional Landscape - Describe the key career and education pathway initiatives and/or programs currently underway in your region, including those funded by TEA, THECB, and/or TWC, and your current level of involvement in those initiatives. Please also describe the current staff you have in place to support these initiatives and/or programs who will continue to be involved in this project and any new staff you would like to use grant dollars to hire to support this work. Describe the qualifications and experience of the staff person who will serve as the regional convener lead for this grant project.

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend(WFSCB) meets its mission by collaborating with industry, education, economic development, and labor to develop a comprehensive regional workforce strategic plan to develop a trainable and available workforce; and provide workforce-relevant education and training opportunities for youth and individuals with barriers to employment throughout an eleven(11)County Coastal Bend Region. WFSCB’s Youth Opportunities Unlimited(YOU!) has been serving as the over-arching brand and umbrella for all the career and education career initiatives such as: 7th Annual YOU LEARN! Educator Externship, 6th Annual YOU CHOOSE! Career Expo, 5th Annual YOU! Earn and Learn SEAL, and 4th Annual YOU! Navigate Student HireAbility Navigator. In addition to these successful annual initiatives, WFSCB is the Intermediary for South Texas Career Connections(STCC) and a partner for the Rural Schools Innovation Zone(RSIZ) both initiatives funded by Texas Education Agency(TEA) Perkins Reserve Grants. WFSCB has completed two rounds of oversight for TWC Texas Internship Initiative, providing high school students real workforce training and experience through paid internships with local businesses. Directly, WFSCB oversees the day-to-day deployment of Career and Technical Educations Outreach Specialists to provide Texas students with information on careers, labor market, and workforce services. Lastly, WFSCB via its Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act(WIOA) provides an array of services to In-School Youth(ISY) and Out-of-School Youth(OSY) to engage in education, career, and employment services with wrap-around services. WFSCB’s WIOA Contract Manager, Catherine Cole, will serve 47% of her time as the Project Coordinator assigned to work directly with contracted partner(s) to set the priorities for strategic alignment in our Coastal Bend Region. Her experience as a Research Associate at Texas A&M Corpus Christi University allowed her to lead projects from Strada Education Network. Currently, Ms. Cole is responsible for all YOU! Services including all WIOA WBL and also special grants internships and career exploration. Ms. Cole’s day-to-day duties include coordination with internal WFSCBs departments such as Contracting & Procurement, Fiscal, IT, and Public Relations& Communications. Ms. Cole’s experience and qualifications align with the required knowledge and understanding of LMI, employer, education and student needs, and high quality work-base learning. She is well-versed with state, regional and local initiatives related to pathways and related education and training programs. She has demonstrated a track record as a neutral partner and convener of education and employer partners by articulating the needs across various stakeholders. Alba Silvas, WFSCB Director of Programs & Planning will also be part of the regional and leadership team and will have decision making authority to support grant initiatives. With 20 years plus of experience, Ms. Silvas will provide support to Ms. Cole to keep the activities going and without gaps in oversight.

2. Regional Convener Priorities - What are your priorities for strategic alignment across current state, regional, and local pathways initiatives in the WDA? What would be necessary for that alignment to take place?

1. Promptly conduct an inventory of all pathway initiatives and academies for participating school districts. This will assist in the creation of dashboards and clearly see the alignment already taking place. Meeting with ISDs, creation of digital surveys for ISDs, research the Texas Schools and Reports and Data available via TEA’s website will be some of the activities scheduled to take place in order to complete this priority. 2. Strategically develop partnerships with employers and community based organizations to help strengthen the programs/academies identified in priority #1 above in the participating school districts. Focus will be placed on developing relationships with rural employers to establish new WBL opportunities. The Work Based Learning Continuum will be introduced at the on-set of partnership development. 3. Concurrently as partnerships are developed, the specific roles and responsibilities will be outlined so that all partners understand the commitment necessary in order to help prepare students and offer meaningful WBL opportunities. This action priority action will assist in the development of the Coastal Bend “Education Asset Mapping” . Education Asset Mapping will provide a snapshot of strengths and gap in resources for WBL activities. WFSCB will use internal resources such as the CEOP Specialists to provide the students with the information about industry and occupations. 4. Design and deploy a marketing campaign to promote pathways to careers in high-demand occupations in the Coastal Bend. For example. WFSCB’s recent participation with Education to Employment Partners, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi to develop informational posters for 13 in-demand occupations detailing specific high school endorsement information, occupation’s working conditions, employment opportunities, wages and compensation, and courses needed to attain a higher level of certificate and degree. The detailed work and research to produce these posters was a true collaboration amongst all the partners. 5. Capture and Analyze data in order to shift awareness and adjust scope of delivery of WBL activities. This data will ensure alignment to WBL Continuum and specific TEKS. In order for alignment to take place the following are necessary: active involvement from employer and community partners; alignment of career exploration, career preparation and career training activities with in-demand occupations in the Coastal Bend; Engage and increase employer participation in WBL activities emphasizing the importance of on-the-job learning(OJL) to gain specific skills; include post-secondary partners to provide WBL activities related to in-demand occupations such as training, tours, and simulations; increase awareness of current career pathways and those emerging due to new industry and economic growth in region.

Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

3. Regional Alignment Experience - Describe your organization’s experience leading strategic planning to support regional career and education pathways (or related education and training initiatives) in collaboration with stakeholders representing a mix of industry, K-12 education, higher education, and workforce development entities.

WFSCB day to day business approach is 100% strategic planning. We are known in our communities as the “go-to agency” for employment, training and support services. These broad terms services represent and encompasses an array of specific activities to support the regional career and education pathways. WFSCB is the lead entity to convene a diversified group made up of representatives from rural and urban, private industry, adult basic and continuing education, economic development, and other non-profits. The members are provided with information on how WFSCB is serving the public, job-seekers, youth and employers. Policies are presented, reviewed and approved to support employment career and education needs. WFSCB adopted a “Crayons to Careers” planning model, as we seek out opportunities to partner with a mix of industry, K-12 education, higher education. Our model includes strategic planning to provide age-appropriate, work-based learning experiences from prekindergarten through higher education. WFSCB’s Quality Child Care Program curriculum is an example of our early intervention to provide services and set the tone for child care providers to build future workforce. Partnership with economic development entities provides us with real-time and future employment opportunities. Daily, we incorporate our experience in developing plans to train new labor force, retrain and up-skill current labor force. Our actions as the lead planning entity includes career expos, parent engagement, hiring fairs, women entrepreneurial summits, tours of industry, internships, externships, on-the job learning and training, partners convening, membership to chambers, economic development, and school districts advisory boards. WFSCB produces an annual report to illustrate our expertise, capacity, partnerships, success stories, services by the numbers, impact to economy and return on investment for funds spent on career and education training in the Coastal Bend.

4. Regional Data Experience - How do you currently monitor progress and measure quality of career and education pathway programs or initiatives? What do you currently use as metrics or key performance indicators (KPIs) to understand the strength of your region’s pathway programming?

As a recipient of WIOA Funds, WFSCB is required to understand the indicators utilized to monitor performance. TWC provides monthly performance reports(MPRS) that measure the work being done regionally in employment, career and education activities. In that the outcomes reported on these reports are official, WFSCB proactively has set in place activities to project performance outcomes and to monitor the progress and quality of career and education activities. WFSCB generates participant and summary management reports that provide specific activity, the duration of activity, entity where the education training is taking place. These data sets provide us with the information needed to measure not just the participant’s outcome but also the outcome from training programs for performance and/or accountability. WFSCB also utilizes this data for continuous improvement, partner data sharing agreements, and ensure students are receiving quality education and career services. WFSCB serves as liaison for TWC by working with local training providers to provide yearly student data reports(SDR) for outcomes on completions and quality of training. WFSCB has in place regularly scheduled quality assurance activities, such as case files reviews to signal how well the programs provide the necessary support for the completion of training and also to identify potential issues to be addressed prior to a student completing education and career training.

WFSCB is focused on Department of Labor’s (DOL) established WIOA primary indicators of performance: Being employed and median earning rates at a particular time after exit of program, credential attainment rate and measurable skills gains. Along with these key performance indicators for WIOA, WFSCB is required to understand performance indicators for other workforce programs not related to WIOA. WFSCB is also required to know metrics by other federal funding entities such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(SNAP) and US Department of Health and Human Services(HHS) for the Temporary Assistance for needy families(TANF).

WFSCB measures the quality of career and education pathway initiatives by conducting surveys with all stakeholders: students, educators, business/employer partners, and community partners. These surveys provide a true human experience feedback, which in turn allow us to know what is working and understand what needs to be strengthened. Our YOU! Choose Career Expo provided the opportunity to conduct student and employer surveys the day of the actual event. WFSCB ensured these surveys were accessible via user friendly platforms and questions were formulated to capture information efficiently. As a best practice, WFSCB has duplicated CEOPs performance dashboards for other WBL activities.

Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

5. Regional Work-Based Learning Experience – Using the Tri-Agency WBL Continuum attachment available on the TEA Grant Opportunities webpage, describe your experience planning, implementing and/or monitoring work-based learning activities aligned within each of the following categories: a. "Learning about Work"; b. "Learning through Work"; and c. "Learning at Work"

a. Learning about Work- 6th annual YOU! Choose Career Expo. Event brought together over 2400 middle and high school students from urban and rural school districts, allowing students the opportunity to interact with 56 employers and 37 IHE representing Health, Public Service, Professional Skills and Trades and Business Professionals. 5th annual YOU! Learn and Earn! SEAL, WFSCB has joined forces with Vocational Rehabilitation Service to extend Work Readiness Classes to learn about work, prior to entering the learn at work phase. Students with disabilities learn about the essential and hard skills required at work. WFSCB's One-stop contractor recruits business partners to serve as work- site and continue with learning about work activities. The CEOP, CEOP Specialists are deployed to educate, support and provide resources for school-based students 6th-12th grade. Utilizing our strategic outreach efforts, we establish relationships with local educators to serve as a catalyst for career readiness in the region. Students are immersed in a virtual learning experience using state-of- the-art virtual reality(VR) googles! Built-in software gives students an opportunity to learn about the work for in-demand occupations. To date a total of over 2200 engagements with students have been made in 25 school districts and community partners. 7th annual YOU! Learn Educator Externship for 74 Coastal Bend educators participating in a week filled with learning about work by hearing presentations on LMI, tours to key industry partners, and placement at a business to learn about work. In turn these educators produce lesson plans and provide valuable information to students. In cumulative, over 600 educators have participated and received a NEPRIS License. The NEPRIS License stacked with the externship experience provides an ideal package for students to learn about work from their educators. WIOA Youth Services and Elements are assessed as they provide labor market information element defined as information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations available in the local area, such as career awareness, center counseling and career exploration services. Nine years ago, WFSCB launched Career Coach an interactive LMI, career and assessment tool for our undecided seniors part of our service delivery system. WFSCB planned and implemented the Kiewit Education Unveiled by making connections between business and education. 38 CTE Program Instructors from school districts across the region had a unique opportunity to tour Kiewit facilities and align their curriculum to skills needed for employment. WFSCB coordinated a tour at Omni Corpus Christi Hotel as a career exploration event to learn about work for 20 San Diego ISD students in the Leisure and Hospitality industry; specifically Culinary Arts.

b. Learning through Work- 3rd year of Texas Internship Initiative(TII) in collaboration with Education to Employment(E2E) and Industry partners has been provided to 80 students. WFSCB conducts a thorough review to ensure the project provides experience to learn through work, the effectiveness is measured by gauging satisfaction directly from the participating students and also from the industry partner. 5th annual YOU! Earn and Learn, Summer Earn and Learn(SEAL) provides one of the best opportunities for participants to learn through work and increase their knowledge of a field and gain employability skills and entry-level knowledge or skills. As part of WFSCBs WIOA Youth service delivery, paid and unpaid work experience and internships are generated to expose youth to learning through work activities. WFSCB was able to provide work experience to 80 youth. This WBL aligns with the WBL continuum, via the career preparation stage of learning through work as it provides the youth with knowledge of entry level skills as well as employability skills.

c. Learning at Work- Our experience in providing apprenticeship activities by working with Registered Apprenticeship(RA) programs in our ETPL and enrollment in our WIOA Program. Our partnership with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers(IBEW) Local 278 started in 2017 by deploying team members to provide informational sessions to assist with WIOA funds to pay for RA Fees, Tuition , PPE. Additional experience with RA is our collaboration with non-union RAs such as Adaptive Construction Solutions, we've been able to provide funds to pay for RA Fees and support services as well as execution of OJT contracts utilizing WIOA Funds. WFSCB was awarded Apprenticeship Expansion Grant by TWC to work with Kiewit in registering 50 new apprentices in the DOL Rapids System. Implementation of WBL projects occurred by braiding of funds: WIOA and TWCs Skills Development Funds stacked to fund OJT Contracts and Training. The project included Del Mar College responsible for providing Certified Nursing Assistant(CNA) classroom and lab instruction, Corpus Christi Medical Center(CCMC) responsible for providing the employment site for students and WFSCB was responsible for recruitment, identifying potential candidates, setting up interviews, providing funds to purchase work related supplies and executing OJT contracts with CCMC to provide training on the job for CNA occupation.

Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

6. Regional Convener Responsibilities - Describe any current work your organization performs related to the additional functions of regional conveners listed below. If there are functions you do not perform, describe how a partner organization performs the function and your working relationship with them. If there are functions that are not currently performed by either your organization or a partner, provide context for why it has not been a focus of your organization's work to date. a. Analyze labor market information and work on an ongoing basis to ensure career and education pathways are aligned to in-demand industries in the region; b. Convene a cross-sector leadership team made up of education, workforce, and industry stakeholders to develop and implement a regional vision and strategy; c. Engage employers and broker relationships with education and training providers; d. Streamline communicating information across the region; and e. Drive sustainability planning, including coordinated funding strategies, across education and workforce development entities.

a. WFSCB is the lead entity responsible for analyzing labor market information and apply the data to ensure the career pathways are aligned to in-demand industries in the region. As recipient of WIOA Title I funds, WFSCB is responsible for creating four-year strategic planning (and modifications every two years). The strategic planning currently aligns 100% to the in-demand occupations and industries. WFSCB then creates the local Target Occupation List (TOL) and publishes to keep partners, particularly school districts and higher education entities informed on the needs to build training programs or scale back. The creation of the TOL is a joint effort project in that we involve partners via surveys to alert us on increased requests from "public" to build a new training programs. On a monthly occurrence, WFSCB produces the "Workforce Insider" report. This report is distributed via all our social media platforms and mass emails. The messaging includes areas of industry and occupation growth, unemployment rates, hiring trends and also initiatives in place by WFSCB.

b. WFSCB is part of guiding teams in projects led by Education to Employment Partners such as the Upskill Coastal Bend. WFSCB provides LMI, Public Relations, and resource content for the Upskill Coastal Bend initiative. This initiative convenes a cross sector leadership team made up of education, industry, and WFSCB to develop regional activities for success through education, planning, and skills. The Building Rural Community Learning Systems initiative is also led by Education to Employment Partners, WFSCB since the inception of this initiative has provide the support to create asset mapping, LMI to align efforts and improve economic vitality by increasing the educational and job attainment of rural communities. Both of These two efforts are comprised of representatives from Texas A& M University, WFSCB, Council of Governments and Craft Training Center, Industry Partners. Over all goal- to address the regional needs by creating pathways to prosperity for low income learners.

c. Engaging and sustaining partnership with employers to broker relationships with education and training providers the number one work of WFSCB. These efforts are demonstrated via the delivery of hiring fairs, career expos, internships, OJT, and customized activities. WFSCB prides itself in being a leader entity in bringing the needs to employers to training providers to develop customized plans such as our CNA project with Corpus Christi Medical Center and Del Mar College. Another successful project where WFSCB led the efforts in identifying potential funding sources, completed MOUS and submitted application for TWCs Texas Industry Partnership Program. This effort will result in \$150K from TWC and \$150K matching funds from Kingsville Chamber of Commerce to train students for Aviation Mechanics. Coastal Bend College will be the training institution and will receive a total of \$300k for the purchase of equipment.

d. Streamline communicating information across the region; WFSCB produces and distributes regional publications to provide a consistent message, validated by official data from sources such as Department of Labor, US Census, and TWC. This assists in the streamline of communicating accurate and up-to-date data to stakeholders. The data is clearly defined and presented in an easy to read format. WFSCB streamlines the communication by engaging it's board members in committee meetings and relies on members to share information to their communities. Board members and elected officials are our #1 information ambassadors.

e. WFSCB is successful in securing awards due to our ability to present a strong plan for sustainability. The WFSCB Board Team maintains a close and active watch on grant opportunities providing resources for replication and sustainability of successful projects/model. Access to innovating in braiding workforce funding is essential and evident in projects such as Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) utilizing TWC Skills Development Funds and WIOA. Private funds from Walmart Foundation were braided with Texas Internship Initiative funds to provide students with IPADs, stipends and no cost training from the National Retail Federation. In our partnerships with Goodwill of South Texas, WFSCB was able to braid funding from National Dislocated Worker (NDW) Grants, private funds from Walmart foundation and Goodwill's Digital Learning Program. As a result, Goodwill of South Texas, named WFSCB, Partner of the Year. Over-all the braiding of funds allows WFSCB to extend the "life" of services. Co-enrollment provides our customers with holistic and wrap around services for success.

Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

7. **Partnerships** - Describe your current partnership(s), including the specific activities involved, with the following: a. Industry partnerships or specific employer partners (by sector); b. Postsecondary education; c. Secondary education; and d. Workforce or economic development.

a. Industry Partnerships: WFSCB provides year-round WBL activities to promote career exploration, education, employment, advancement, wage increase in the work-place and utilizes the following industry sectors to recruit industry partners: Public Service, Health, Professional Skills and Trades, and Business. Our industry partners join WFSCB in the following annual initiatives: YOU! CHOOSE Career Expo, YOU! Lunch and Learn, YOU! Inspire Symposium, YOU! Learn Educator Externship, Student HireAbility Program, Texas Internship Initiative, PATHS Grant, and WIOA WBL activities such as internships and OJT, hiring and Resource Fairs. Our industry partners provide one or more of the following services to support the specific activities mentioned above: Career exploration, work-site host for work experience and internships, workplace tours, hands-on experience for participant students and/or educators, presentations, and monetary sponsorship. Some of these initiatives require leverage contribution from industry partners; For example, our YOU! Learn Educator Externship requires a 25% in-kind or leverage; for the most current Educator Externship our industry partners provided over \$50,000 in leverage funds for just this one initiative.

b. Postsecondary education: WFSCB values the on-going partnership with our two local community colleges, Coastal Bend College(CBC) and Del Mar College(DMC). Three Workforce Career Centers are located within the grounds of Coastal Bend College in our rural cities of Alice TX, Kingsville TX, and Beeville TX WFSCB hosts monthly meetings to review initiatives, referral systems, and the enhancement of services for all students. Our workforce development area houses two universities : Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Texas A&M Kingsville. The universities have participated in our career expos and hiring fairs; WFSCB in turn participated in projects with Texas A&M Corpus Christi such as the Competency-Based Education Collaborative. All Postsecondary education partners mentioned are currently part of our Eligible Training Provider system, providing training programs for our Local Target Occupations to all eligible WIOA Participants. This past summer, WFSCB Partnered with University of the Incarnate Word(UIW) to create the first annual Student SEAL Signing-day to approximately 65 students with disabilities and also an outing for a group of Foster Care Students.

c. Secondary Partnerships: WFSCB takes lead in executing an annual MOU/IFA agreement with our AEL provider, Education Service Center Region 2(ESC2). Via this agreement we extend our services to students currently attending AEL Crossroads training. WFSCB provides employment opportunities to graduates and/or continuing education via WIOA Program. Our Student HireAbility Navigator works with ESC2 Team to plan and participate in activities such as Charting the Course. Our high schools are our main secondary partners, the deployment of our CEOP Specialists has become a popular and highly requested WBL activity as the CEOP educates, supports and provides resources for school-based students(grades 6-12), to be informed and elevate their knowledge on education and careers. Amongst the many resources and tools available to WFSCB, the team uses the 25 virtual reality(VR) goggles to entice the students to learn about careers. The VR goggles are equipped with state-of-the-art "job" simulation software and provide an experience to learn about in-demand occupations in a "real world setting". WFSCB is an advocate for TWC's Jobs and Education for Texans(JET). In the most recent round of JET grant awards, Coastal Bend ISDs and IHEs have received \$5,602,030.00, representing an 11.20% of the available funds for the entire state. WFSCB has provides LMI data to support the applications submitted by our local secondary entities. Currently WFSCB proudly serves as the TEA Perkins Reserve Grant Intermediary for South Texas Career Connection(STCC) . In our intermediary roles and responsibilities, we support the academies by convening industry partners, providing WBL opportunities in the specific academy career pathways. WFSCB has also provided support to another Perkins Reserve Grant recipient, the RSIZ and continues to stand ready to extend WBL opportunities for the students at these rural school districts.

d. Workforce or economic development: Our economic development partners quickly engage WFSCB to provide data on workforce recruitment, training and labor force status. WFSCB's President & CEO, Mr. Ken Trevino serves as an Ex-Officio member in the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; we are immersed in activities devoted to leadership, education and workforce development. WFSCB, Kingsville Chamber of Commerce(KCC) and with Coastal Bend College(CBC) have secured \$300,000 via TWCs Texas Industry Partnership Program to purchase equipment and supplies to train area students for Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians in the Aerospace, Aviation Defense industry cluster. CBC will provide A.A.S degrees. These students will have access to employment opportunities at Kingsville Naval Air Station with employers such as Rolls Royce and Vertex Aerospace. WFSCB served as lead applicant, responsible for writing the TWC application and creation of MOUs. WFSCB will be the lead for procurement and purchasing of equipment worth \$300,000. This project model will be replicated in other areas of our region in similar or other in-demand occupations.

Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

8. **Budget narrative** - Describe how the proposed budget will support the goals of the program. Please include justification for the specific funding allocations in the proposed budget, including how costs are connected to the grant activities described in this solicitation. Please also describe how each item in the proposed budget will support the needs of the regional team, beyond any one specific regional partner. In addition, include a description of other funding sources the region will leverage, if any, to support implementation of this project and future work.

The budget is structured to provide WFSCB as the convener entity the necessary resources, staffing, and contracting services, to ensure the overarching goals of grant: regional alignment, regional work-based learning and regional data and communication are implemented to create the first ever Tri-agency regional convener for the 11- county Coastal Bend Region. In this first year, the priorities are set to begin the work to create prosperity by linking education and industry.

WFSCB will leverage funding already available to boards(where allowed), universal services available at our one-stop career centers, private industry sponsorships, and braiding funds sought by WFSCB(non-TWC). Students will be encourage to pursue WBL activities currently provided by WFSCB such as paid work experiences and internships. WIOA Funds may be the primary funding source for such activities.

The total amount requested is \$544,500. The break-down by category is as follows:

Category (6100) will be for payroll costs in the amount of \$37K; Project Coordinator 20K, approximately 47% of time will be dedicated to grant oversight. The remaining \$17K in this payroll line item is for current WFSCB team members who will be assigned to provide grant support such as accountant/bookkeeper 6K, Evaluator(procurement) 1K, Public Relations for the creation of marketing collaterals needed 10K.

Category (6200) in the amount \$ 443K for Professional and contracted services is the largest line item request, due to geographical area and the varying needs of urban vs. rural; it may necessary to contract up to two entities. WFSCBs procurement department will expedite the procurement for selection of qualified services to be in place as soon as possible. The work of the grant will begin day one by the Project Coordinator. Remaining funds in Category (6200) in the amount of \$80K will be for contractors, student stipends and transportation.

Category (6300) Supplies and Materials in the amount of \$42K will be used for the purchase of Zoom licenses for project coordinator to distribute in order to expedite virtual meetings amongst stakeholders, general office supplies, Printing of Informational Career Pathway Posters, and Pathful (previously NEPRIS) licenses; these licenses will provide a library of career resources to be used in classrooms.

Category (6400) Operating Costs in the amount of \$22,500 will be used for _travel for Statewide conferences. For Category(6600) Capital Outlay, no funds are being requested.

WFSCB will track all expenditures as required by grant and submit required reports. WFSCB is also aware of the availability to request budget amendments and deadline to do so. WFSCB will work with grant coach to ensure amendment requests are allowable and serve a purpose in grant deliverables.

Appendix I: Amendment Description and Purpose (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. The following are required to be submitted for an amendment: (1) Page 1 of the application with updated contact information and current authorized official's signature and date, (2) Appendix I with changes identified and described, (3) all updated sections of the application or budget affected by the changes identified below, and, if applicable, (4) Amended Budget Request. Amendment Instructions with more details can be found on the last tab of the budget template.

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Amended Section

Reason for Amendment