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

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is actively seeking Letters of Interest (LoI) to provide statewide guidance and training to LEAs regarding requirements and implementation of *Effective Child Find Practices.* Interested applicants should submit a LoI in the template included in Attachment A to TEA by **April 12, 2019 at 5 pm CDT**. Funding is allocated from IDEA B Discretionary funds and scheduled for implementation in the 2019-2020 school year.

Eligible Applicants

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

1.1 Program Description

The *Effective Child Find Practices* grant is intended to develop training materials and resources for Texas educators, administrators, and other school personnel. The goal of the training is to build a strong understanding of best practices for identifying students that should be referred for special education evaluation.

The content of all resources and professional development materials produced through this grant must be compliant with relevant statutes, rules, and regulations and firmly grounded in current literature and policy on special education best practice. 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

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 this grant is to create resources to advise districts on IDEA requirements and best practice implementation of Child Find activities. More specifically, the project should create a nationally exemplar framework by which districts can determine which students should be considered for evaluation or further monitoring and review.

1.3 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 expertise in understanding and implementing Child Find responsibilities. Additionally, strong applications will include robust plans to effectively disseminate resources.

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

- Resources that help LEAs assess and monitor implementation of best Effective Child Find Practices and activities. These must include:
    - LEA self- assessments tools to identify areas of strength and weakness in current Effective Child Find Practices
    - Risk assessment rubrics or tools for LEAs to indicate likelihood that students in need of special education have not been identified
    - Fidelity of implementation monitoring tools or checklists
- Resources that help LEAs identify the students or groups of students needing further consideration for evaluation. Situations must include:
    - Students who are receiving supports or interventions under Section 504 (including dyslexia intervention programs) or within intervention frameworks such as Response to Intervention (potential misidentification)
    - Students who are in foster care, homeless, highly mobile, in the juvenile justice system, or other at-risk context (potentially not identified)
    - Other logical student groups or situations, based on research and stakeholder feedback
    - Frameworks, rubrics, or other tools that help LEAs make objective determinations over whether an evaluation is necessary
- Recorded on demand videos and other instructional materials that walk users through the proper use of resources and tools
- Additional ideas and considerations are welcome

1.4 Program Budget
$ 250,000 has been budgeted for this grant program.

1.5 Timeline

LoIs must be submitted electronically to sped@tea.texas.gov by 5pm (CDT) on April 12, 2019 to be considered. Hard copy mailed or delivered LoIs 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 electronic mail upon finalization of review process, with the grant period to begin July 1, 2019. This is a one year grant that may be extended for additional years at TEA discretion.

1.6 Closing and Next Steps

Questions regarding this request for LoI should be sent to sped@tea.texas.gov prior to March 8, 2019 and will be answered through an FAQ that will be posted to www.tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED/ and updated regularly as questions come in. When submitting questions, applicants should include the name of this grant in the subject line. Applicants should refer to www.tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED for details and updates regarding this request for LoI.