



2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant
Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 9, 2025

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, Article IX, Section 18.114(c)(v)

This IDC application must be submitted via email to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov.

The IDC 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, April 9, 2025**.

Grant period from **May 29, 2025 - September 30, 2025**

Pre-award costs permitted from **Not Permitted**

Application stamp-in date and time

Required Attachments

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)

See the Program Guidelines for for additional attachment information.

Select Focus Area (Applicants May Select One or Both Focus Areas)

- ☐ Focus Area 1: Career and Technical Education Course
- ☒ Focus Area 2: Work-Based Learning Experiences

Amendment Number

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

Applicant Information

Organization Connally ISD CDN 161921 ESC 12 UEI QHFLNFJXT7L9

Address 200 Cadet Way City Waco ZIP 76705 Vendor ID 74-6003571

Primary Contact Hermann Pereira Email hpereira@connally.org Phone 254-296-6700

Secondary Contact Cory Dickman Email cory@triplewinwaco.com Phone 254-715-3871

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 Jill Bottelberghe Title Superintendent of Schools

Email jrbottelberghe Phone 254-296-6460

Signature *Jill Bottelberghe* Date 4/7/2025

Shared Services Arrangements

☐ Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are 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 NOGA is issued.

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 IDC 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 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant Program Guidelines.
- ☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- ☒ 5. The applicant provides assurance that curriculum will be appropriately aligned to regional labor market supported CTE programs of study.
- ☒ 6. The applicant provides assurance to provide data to TEA on student completion of courses through the Fall PEIMS Collection Process.
- ☒ 7. 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.

Summary of Program (Focus Area 1)

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

Summary of Program (Focus Area 2)

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

Connally Independent School District (CISD), along with TripleWin Waco, Rogue Media Network, Creative Waco, and Startup Waco, has developed a strategic partnership to enhance Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings through work-based learning experiences (WBL) in the Summer 2025. This program aims to address gaps in student access to real-world learning opportunities, particularly in Business/Entrepreneurship, Digital Communications, and Advanced Manufacturing—key high-demand industries in Central Texas. CISD students will engage in two four-week WBL rotations at 1-2 of the following employer sites:

- Manufacturing and Fabrication (TripleWin Waco)
- Audio/Visual Communication (Rogue Media Network)
- Small Business Incubation (Startup Waco)
- Artprenticeship (Creative Waco)

To ensure accessibility and impact, up to 12 students (Levels III & IV) will participate in paid internships, working 10-20 hours per week. Students will have the opportunity to earn course credit, including Practicum in Entrepreneurship (Service ID N1303425), Practicum in STEM (Service ID 13037400), and Practicum in Digital Communication (Service ID 13008700).

By addressing key barriers such as employer partnerships and access to structured WBL programs, this initiative will equip students with technical skills, industry experience, and leadership development—preparing them for successful careers in high-demand fields. The program will measure success through student participation, completion rates, industry partner feedback, and post-program employment outcomes. Additionally, CISD’s collaboration with TripleWin Waco allows engagement with diverse student populations from surrounding districts, expanding the regional impact of the initiative.

Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel (Focus Area 1)

Outline the required qualifications and experience for primary project personnel and any external consultants projected to be involved in the implementation and delivery of the program. Include whether the position is existing or proposed.

Title and Responsibilities of Position	Required Qualifications and Experience

Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel (Focus Area 2)

Outline the required qualifications and experience for primary project personnel and any external consultants projected to be involved in the implementation and delivery of the program. Include whether the position is existing or proposed.

Title and Responsibilities of Position	Required Qualifications and Experience
Grant Manager - existing via Triple Win	Experience in TEA regulations, school finance, and PEIMS reporting systems; capable of coordinating multiple organizations, schedules, and timelines to meet deadlines and ensure program success.
Campus Coordinator - proposed	Experience with Connally ISD and its CTE program; able to help recruit, enroll, and retain students into applicable internship opportunities.
Industry Liaison - existing via Triple Win	Possesses an active network with industry partners; able to facilitate positive and mutually beneficial partnerships for all stakeholders; knowledge of workforce success metrics within specific industry partners.
Student Recruiting/Marketing - existing via Triple Win	Experience with marketing, graphic design, and project management; skills in student enrollment, management, and success tracking for students and partner organizations.
Internship Instructor(s) - existing via Triple Win	Experience in industry manufacturing/fabrication and student management; knowledge of industry safety practices; skills in maintaining a safe and individualized learning environment, maintaining a 6 to 1 student/teacher ratio.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (Focus Area 1)

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (Focus Area 2)

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

Students will develop technical, business, and leadership skills through structured work-based learning (WBL) experiences during the summer of 2025, preparing them for in-demand industries in Central Texas.

Objective 1: Technical & Soft Skill Development

Interns will develop advanced technical skills (e.g., welding, CNC cutting, CAD, broadcasting, graphic design, budgeting, project management) and essential employability skills (e.g., communication, problem-solving, emotional intelligence).

Activities/Strategies:

- Students will work alongside industry professionals on large-scale projects, following industry specifications in a real-world workplace setting.
- Students will apply hard skills in manufacturing, business operations, and digital media production.
- Mentors will provide ongoing feedback and skill development assessments to ensure student progress.

Objective 2: Work-Based Learning & Leadership Development

Up to 12 Level III or IV program of study students will complete structured WBL internships, gaining hands-on experience in business and manufacturing.

Activities/Strategies:

- Industry Mentorship: Key personnel will match students with industry professionals to guide skill development.
- Leadership Training: Triple Win Waco will conduct weekly leadership development workshops focused on entrepreneurial thinking, project management, and workforce readiness.
- Customized Internship Experience: Students will select one or two business units within partner organizations and work 10-20 hours per week in paid internships.
- Academic Credit Opportunity: Internships align with TEA-approved Practicum courses, allowing students to potentially earn credit while gaining hands-on experience.

Performance and Evaluation Measures (Focus Area 1)

Describe the performance measures identified for this program which are related to student outcomes and are consistent with the purpose of the program. Include the tools used to measure performance, as well as the processes that will be used to ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies.

Performance and Evaluation Measures (Focus Area 2)

Describe the performance measures identified for this program which are related to student outcomes and are consistent with the purpose of the program. Include the tools used to measure performance, as well as the processes that will be used to ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies.

The performance measures for this program are designed to assess student learning, workforce readiness, and program impact while ensuring alignment with CTE Summer Grant objectives. Student success will be evaluated based on their mastery of TEKS-aligned skills, with each student potentially completing a practicum course and a culminating project that demonstrates proficiency in industry-relevant skills. Performance will be measured through practicum course completion rates, industry mentor evaluations, and student reflections on learning outcomes. To assess workforce readiness and skill development, employer evaluations will track students' technical skill proficiency, problem-solving abilities, communication, and workplace professionalism. PEIMS reporting will track student participation in approved practicum courses, ensuring alignment with state requirements and measuring program impact.

A combination of quantitative and qualitative measures will be used to evaluate program effectiveness. Quantitative measures will include student participation data, attendance and discipline records, employer evaluations, PEIMS data tracking, and satisfaction surveys from students, employers, and program staff. These measures will provide concrete data on student engagement, skill development, and overall program success. Qualitative measures such as student and employer interviews, focus groups, and reviews of training plans and partnership agreements will offer deeper insights into student experiences and program effectiveness.

To ensure continuous improvement, key personnel will regularly review student progress, employer feedback, and participation data. Stakeholder engagement will play a vital role, with students, employers, and educators providing input to refine program activities. If data indicates low engagement or skill gaps, adjustments will be made to internship structures, mentorship programs, or training content to enhance student learning outcomes. By integrating comprehensive data tracking, ongoing feedback, and adaptive program strategies, this initiative will ensure students develop valuable workforce skills, industry partners remain engaged, and program effectiveness is continuously optimized.

Budget Narrative (Focus Area 1)

Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

Budget Narrative (Focus Area 2)

Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

The proposed budget ensures the success of the work-based learning (WBL) internship program by funding high-quality instruction, student stipends, industry-standard materials, safety equipment, and transportation assistance. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC), including the grant manager, campus coordinators, and the Director of Triple Win, will oversee budget allocation, making adjustments as needed to align with program goals. Biweekly reviews will assess resource use, prioritizing equipment, consumable materials, and student support based on participation data and industry partner feedback.

A key budget focus is securing highly qualified technical instructors from industry partners and local high schools, ensuring students receive hands-on training aligned with TEKS and workforce standards. Funds will compensate educators and provide necessary work attire and PPE for students. Additionally, stipends will be allocated for internship completion and paid project work, enabling equitable access to career training.

During the engineering rotation, Connally students will collaborate with peers through Triple Win Waco and Rogue Media to design, fabricate, and market a broadcasting trailer. The budget supports digital media training, ensuring students gain broadcasting and content creation skills. Essential equipment and consumable materials will be provided, with additional funds allocated for student learning errors to support iterative skill development. Equipment maintenance and new consumables (e.g., blades, abrasives) will maximize safety and efficiency, while non-consumable tools will expand program capacity.

Triple Win Waco will employ students under its workers' insurance policies, and grant funds may cover transportation costs for students facing access barriers. These strategic budget allocations ensure all participants can fully engage in meaningful work-based learning experiences.

Program Requirements

1a. Needs Assessment (Focus Area 1): Applicants must complete a Needs Assessment Summary indicating specific area of need the LEA has that hinders the completion of courses within programs of study. (For example: describing scheduling conflicts, specific program of study teacher availability, etc.)

1b. Needs Assessment (Focus Area 2): Applicants must complete a Needs Assessment Summary indicating specific area of needs the LEA has to offer work-based learning opportunities. (For example: describing transportation limitations, describing scheduling conflicts, specific program of study teacher availability, etc.)

One of the biggest barriers to student participation in work-based learning (WBL) at Connally is scheduling constraints within the traditional school day. As a smaller district, students often struggle to fit practicums or internships into their academic plans. Many, especially those who are credit deficient or involved in extracurriculars, cannot commit the time required for WBL. Connally High School students are also highly involved in extracurriculars and often lack time during the school year for valuable work-based learning. Internal data shows that while many express interest in internships, time conflicts limit participation. Beyond scheduling, disengagement and limited career exploration also hinder involvement. Surveys indicate that although students have strong relationships with staff, negative behaviors are rising, and extracurricular engagement is declining. Without structured career experiences, students struggle to see how school connects to future jobs, reducing interest in enrichment opportunities. Even when students can fit in an internship, they face another challenge: a shortage of teachers with the proper certifications and industry experience to teach practicum courses when needed. The CTE Summer Grant will address these issues by offering flexible, real-world experiences that don't conflict with academic schedules. Through partnerships with Triple Win and local industry professionals, Connally will provide hands-on, paid internships aligned with students' career interests that also allow them to earn practicum credit. This summer model removes school-day barriers, expanding WBL access to students who previously couldn't participate. Students will also collaborate with professionals and peers from other schools, developing technical skills, professional networks, and social-emotional competencies to enhance workforce readiness. By leveraging strong student-staff relationships and integrating career-driven experiences, this initiative will boost engagement, provide structure for at-risk students, and equip them with the confidence needed for long-term success. The CTE Summer Grant ensures that every student—regardless of scheduling conflicts or teacher availability—can access high-quality WBL experiences that directly support college and career readiness.

Program Requirements, cont'd.

2. **Focus Area 1:** Applicants must specify which program(s) of study and the CTE course(s) in the program(s) of study that will be offered (see <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/cte-programs-of-study> for a list of the approved statewide programs of study). Include the number of students who be engaged and supported in this focus area.

3. **Focus Area 2:** Applicants must specify business and industry partners who will be involved in the program. Additionally, specify the work-based learning model(s) which will be utilized and the number of students who will be engaged and supported.

The CTE Summer Grant program will engage up to 12 students in structured work-based learning (WBL) experiences through partnerships with local businesses and industry professionals. These opportunities will provide hands-on career training, technical skill development, and entrepreneurial experience across multiple industries.

-Triple Win Waco will serve as the primary program coordinator, facilitating student placements, ensuring compliance with work-based learning guidelines, and supporting participating students with necessary PPE, consumable materials, and stipends. Triple Win will also provide students access to their fully-equipped makerspace, individualized training on industry-standard software and engineering/manufacturing processes, and coverage under student worker insurance policies for the duration of their internships.

-Rogue Media Network will host up to six students in a hybrid fabrication and digital media internship. Students will collaborate with professionals to design, budget, fabricate, and market a mobile broadcasting trailer. Upon completion, students will receive training on broadcasting equipment and production software, potentially leading to future paid opportunities.

-StartUp Waco will facilitate a business incubator for up to three students interested in entrepreneurship. With guidance from business leaders, students will develop, prototype, and launch small businesses, gaining experience in market research, budgeting, and branding. Triple Win staff will provide additional mentorship.

-Creative Waco will lead the Artprenticeship program, engaging art students in public art and commercial design. Participants will collaborate with professional artists to conceptualize and execute a large-scale mural in downtown Waco while also developing a personalized art portfolio and business strategy for selling their work. This experience will provide students with real-world exposure to the creative economy, portfolio development, and marketing strategies for future artistic entrepreneurship.

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.

You may duplicate this page

Amended Section

Reason for Amendment