	er Career and Technic y Competition (IDC) Appl			CT, April 9, 2025
Texas Education Agency NOGA ID	BUINTES, BES	to the later		
	tions Act, House Bill 1,	Article IX, Se	ection 18	.114(c)(v)
This IDC application must be submitted via email to co r	npetitivegrants@tea.texas.g	ov.	Applic	ation stamp-in date and time
The IDC application may be signed with a digital ID or it are acceptable.	may be signed by hand. Both	forms of signatur	e	
TEA must receive the application by 11:59 p.m. CT, Appl Grant period from May 29, 20	ril 9, 2025. 25 - September 30, 2025			
Pre-award costs permitted from	Not Permitted			
Required Attachments 1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget sched See the Program Guidelines for for additional att	-	form on the TI	EA Grants	Opportunities page)
Select Focus Area (Applicants May Select		as)	FX 'V	35,5,8
∑ Focus Area 1: Career and Technical Education	n Course			
☐ Focus Area 2: Work-Based Learning Experier	ices			
Amendment Number				
Amendment number (For amendments only; er	nter N/A when completing	this form to ap	ply for gra	ant funds): N/A
Applicant Information				
Organization Freer ISD	CDN 066903 E	SC 2	UEI	
Address 905 S. Norton Ave.	City Freer	ZIP 7	8357	Vendor ID 74159618
Primary Contact Conrad Cantu	Email ccantu@freerisd.	net		Phone 361-394-6025
Secondary Contact Rick Ruiz	Email eruiz@thersiz.org	9		Phone 210-789-9261
Certification and Incorporation				
I understand that this application constitutes an binding agreement. I hereby certify that the info and that the organization named above has authorized contractual agreement. I certify that any compliance with all applicable federal and state I further certify my acceptance of the requirement and that these documents are incorporated by r	rmation contained in this a norized me as its represent rensuing program and act laws and regulations. nts conveyed in the follow	application is, to a tive to obligative to obligativity will be considered from the constant of the constant o	o the best te this org nducted in the LOI ap	of my knowledge, correct anization in a legally a accordance and oplication, as applicable,
				ension Certification
☐ General and application-specific Provisions a	A A	∑ Lobbying C	ertification	า
<u></u>	ind Assurances			
Authorized Official Name Conrad Cantu	ind Assurances	Title Superin	tendent	

Conto

Signature

49/25

Date

Amendment #	N/A
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CDN 066903	Vendor ID 74159618
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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.

The Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) is a collaborative partnership among five rural school districts in South Texas: Agua Dulce ISD, Benavides ISD, Brooks County ISD, Freer ISD, and Premont ISD. RSIZ was established to expand educational opportunities for students in small, rural communities by providing access to specialized career-themed academies that align with regional workforce needs. These academies include:

- 1. Ignite Technical Institute (Brooks County ISD) Prepares students for careers in welding, HVAC, heavy equipment operation, and electrical trades.
- Grow Your Own Educator Academy (Premont ISD) Develops future teachers through dual credit coursework and field-based experiences.
- 3. Next Generation Medical Academy (Freer ISD) Trains students for careers in healthcare professions through hands-on learning and industry-aligned coursework.
- 4. STEM Discovery Zone (Premont ISD) Equips students with skills in cybersecurity, robotics, and drone technology. Each academy is open to students from all RSIZ member districts at no direct cost, ensuring equitable access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) pathways.

The Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) was founded to address the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in South Texas by equipping students with the foundational skills, knowledge, and certifications needed for success in the medical field. NGMA serves as a strategic workforce development initiative to build a pipeline of skilled professionals who can contribute to the local healthcare ecosystem.

One key barrier to student progression in healthcare pathways is limited scheduling flexibility, which can prevent students from taking advanced courses, dual credit opportunities, and industry certification exams. To address this need, Freer ISD proposes a summer program under Focus Area 1 to allow NGMA students to complete the Principles of Health Science course (Service ID: 13020200) and/or the Medical Terminology course (Service ID: 13020300) during Summer 2025.

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.

The Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) is a collaborative partnership among five rural school districts in South Texas: Agua Dulce ISD, Benavides ISD, Brooks County ISD, Freer ISD, and Premont ISD. RSIZ was established to expand educational opportunities for students in small, rural communities by providing access to specialized career-themed academies that align with regional workforce needs. These academies include:

- 1. Ignite Technical Institute (Brooks County ISD) Prepares students for careers in welding, HVAC, heavy equipment operation, and electrical trades.
- Grow Your Own Educator Academy (Premont ISD) Develops future teachers through dual credit coursework and field-based experiences.
- 3. Next Generation Medical Academy (Freer ISD) Trains students for careers in healthcare professions through hands-on learning and industry-aligned coursework.
- 4. STEM Discovery Zone (Premont ISD) Equips students with skills in cybersecurity, robotics, and drone technology. Each academy is open to students from all RSIZ member districts at no direct cost, ensuring equitable access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) pathways.

The Focus Area 2 summer program, led by Freer ISD, will provide Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) students with work-based learning experiences in partnership with CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital System. Up to 25 students will complete 100 hours of supervised internships at CHRISTUS Spohn hospital and clinic locations in Alice, Kleberg, Beeville, and Freer, gaining hands-on exposure to patient care, patient access, HIPAA regulations, and workplace expectations.

The mission of NGMA is to prepare students for healthcare careers through industry-aligned instruction and hands-on training. This summer internship program supports that mission by providing real-world experience that bridges the gap between classroom learning and professional practice. Working alongside healthcare professionals, students will deepen their understanding of medical roles, strengthen technical and soft skills, and improve their readiness for postsecondary education and careers.

This initiative addresses a regional workforce need by building a pipeline of future healthcare professionals in South Texas. Rural areas often face healthcare worker shortages, and this program equips students with the skills and experience to pursue careers and support their local workforce. RSIZ and Freer ISD are committed to ensuring students gain valuable industry exposure and take meaningful steps toward healthcare careers, strengthening the region's healthcare workforce.

CDN 066903 | Vendor ID 74159618

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

Medical Terminology Instructor, will be responsible or instructional planning and delivery of the summer course

Experienced, credentialed instructor. Knowledge of instructional delivery and assessment best practices.

Juan Puig, Principal of Freer High School, will bversee instructional delivery

Experience implementing and monitoring state grant programs; Strong understanding of the Next Generation Medical Academy goals.

Conrad Cantu, Superintendent of Freer ISD, will coordinate financial aspects of grant activities

Experience implementing and monitoring state grant programs; Experience strengthening programs and relationships.

Michael Gonzalez, Executive Director of Rural Schools Innovation Zone, will coordinate logistics and support student recruitment

Experienced intermediary; Understands scheduling, logistics, and student populations for all five RSIZ districts.

Principles of Health Science Instructor, will be responsible for instructional planning and delivery of the summer course

Experienced, credentialed instructor. Knowledge of instructional delivery and assessment best practices.

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

Next Generation Medical Academy Lead Teacher/Academy Director, will support pre-internship training and will formalize relationships with hosts

Certified teacher currently teaching health science courses in NGMA. Trained in work-based learning best practices. Experience formalizing relationships with business and industry partners.

Next Generation Medical Academy Teacher, will supervise interns and communicate with internship host sites

Certified teacher currently teaching health science courses in NGMA. Trained in work-based learning best practices. Experience monitoring work-based learning experiences. Knowledge of career advising practices.

Juan Puig, Principal of Freer High School, will bversee instructional delivery

Experience implementing and monitoring state grant programs; Strong understanding of the Next Generation Medical Academy goals.

Conrad Cantu, Superintendent of Freer ISD, will coordinate financial aspects of grant activities

Experience implementing and monitoring state grant programs; Experience strengthening programs and relationships.

Michael Gonzalez, Executive Director of Rural Schools Innovation Zone, will coordinate logistics and support student recruitment

Experienced intermediary; Understands scheduling, logistics, and student populations for all five RSIZ districts.

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?

The primary objective of the proposed summer program at Freer ISD is to provide students in the Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) with the opportunity to complete the Principles of Health Science course (Service ID: 13020200) and/or the Medical Terminology course (Service ID: 13020300) during Summer 2025. This initiative will allow up to 25 students from RSIZ member districts to earn course credit before the school year, increasing their flexibility to take additional dual credit courses and healthcare certifications.

Beyond earning course credit, the program strengthens students' foundational knowledge by equipping them with essential medical terminology needed for advanced coursework, clinical experiences, and certification programs. By freeing up space in their academic schedules, students can enroll in dual credit courses such as Anatomy & Physiology and pursue industry-recognized credentials like Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) and Patient Care Technician (PCT) certifications. The program also fosters engagement in healthcare careers by offering mentorship and career planning sessions with industry professionals, helping students align coursework with future aspirations.

To achieve these objectives, the program will implement a structured, instructor-led summer course using interactive tools, case studies, and digital medical simulations. A combination of virtual and hands-on learning will enhance student comprehension. Regular assessments and progress monitoring will identify students needing additional support, with tutoring available as needed. Guest speakers and industry professionals will provide insights into healthcare careers, reinforcing the connection between coursework and career opportunities. By offering a flexible, structured, and career-aligned learning experience, this summer program will help students build a strong academic foundation, explore postsecondary healthcare opportunities, and advance along career pathways in high-demand medical fields. This initiative directly supports the Next Generation Medical Academy's mission to develop a skilled healthcare workforce in South Texas.

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?

The work-based learning program for the Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) expands student access to hands-on healthcare experiences while providing a realistic understanding of medical careers. Open to NGMA students from any RSIZ member district, this initiative partners with CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital System to offer structured, supervised internships that give students meaningful exposure to the healthcare field.

During Summer 2025, up to 25 advanced NGMA students will complete 100 hours of supervised work at CHRISTUS Spohn hospital and clinic locations in Alice, Kleberg, Beeville, and Freer. This program immerses students in daily healthcare operations, providing hands-on experience in patient care, patient access, HIPAA regulations, and workplace expectations. By working alongside professionals, students will develop technical, ethical, and interpersonal skills, refine career interests, and gain early insight into the demands of the field.

This initiative bridges classroom learning with real-world application, reinforcing key coursework concepts and enabling students to apply knowledge in professional settings. Structured internships and industry mentorship help students develop technical skills while strengthening soft skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

To ensure a high-quality experience, NGMA instructors will serve as work-based learning coordinators, working with employer partners to shape student learning objectives and monitor progress. Hospital and clinic supervisors will provide oversight, while structured debrief sessions allow students to reflect on experiences and refine career aspirations. By integrating academic knowledge with hands-on learning, this program equips students with the skills, experience, and confidence to pursue postsecondary education, certifications, and careers in healthcare. Ultimately, it strengthens the healthcare workforce pipeline in South Texas, preparing students to meet regional workforce demands and succeed in the medical field.

N/A

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.

The program will utilize multiple performance measures to assess student outcomes and ensure the effectiveness of project objectives. Student demographic data will be collected through the Fall PEIMS submission, providing insights into the backgrounds of students served and allowing for ongoing alignment with the needs of diverse populations.

Enrollment tracking will monitor the number of students participating in the summer program, with a real-time tracking system in place to capture trends and address any enrollment challenges. Program completion rates will be assessed by recording the number of students who successfully complete the Principles of Health Science course (Service ID: 13020200) and/or the Medical Terminology course (Service ID: 13020300), ensuring that students meet the intended learning outcomes. In addition, participant feedback will be collected to gauge student engagement and identify areas for program improvement.

To maintain accuracy and compliance, all required PEIMS data will be systematically compiled and verified before submission. Internal audits will be conducted to ensure data integrity, and periodic program evaluations will assess progress toward objectives. RSIZ staff will oversee data collection and reporting across member districts, ensuring consistency in performance tracking.

Through these measures, the program will provide actionable insights into student success while continuously refining strategies to enhance educational outcomes. The goal is to successfully enroll up to 25 students in the summer Medical Terminology course, equipping them with foundational healthcare knowledge and improving their ability to pursue advanced coursework and certifications.

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.

Freer ISD and RSIZ have established key performance measures to assess student outcomes and ensure alignment with program objectives. These include tracking the number of students participating in internships, student demographic data via Fall PEIMS submissions, a list of business and industry partners, total and average hours worked, total and average hourly earnings, evidence of student training plans, partnership agreements, and culminating assessments or skill recognition for each student.

To measure these outcomes, the program will use attendance records and internship participation logs to track student engagement, PEIMS submission data for demographic insights, and a comprehensive list of business and industry partners to monitor employer participation. Timekeeping records and program databases will track student work hours, while payroll records and financial documentation will verify earnings. Each student will have an individualized training plan, and all industry partners will sign formal agreements outlining work-based learning expectations. Culminating assessment reports and skill recognition documentation will provide evidence of student competency gains.

To ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies, the program will maintain updated business partner lists and internship placements, consistently track and document student hours and earnings, develop individualized training plans, secure partnership agreements, and implement culminating assessments. Ongoing program evaluations, stakeholder feedback sessions, and industry collaboration will drive continuous improvement. This structured approach ensures that performance metrics are effectively measured and that the program delivers meaningful work-based learning experiences that prepare students for success in healthcare careers.

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.

The proposed budget for Freer ISD's Focus Area 1 Summer Program is designed to effectively support the Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) Medical Terminology course, ensuring high-quality instruction, necessary learning materials, and essential program resources while remaining fiscally responsible. The budget strategically allocates funds across key categories, prioritizing staffing, instructional resources, and operational support, with a total request of \$48,750.

A portion of the budget, \$11,800, is allocated for extra duty pay and benefits for instructors teaching the summer Principles of Health Science and Medical Terminology courses. This ensures students receive instruction from qualified educators while compensating staff for their additional workload. The largest share of the budget, \$30,950, is dedicated to instructional materials, textbooks, workbooks, and digital resources tailored for health science instruction. This funding will also support training equipment to enhance hands-on learning experiences and improve student engagement. To cover essential operational expenses, \$6,000 is set aside for miscellaneous costs related to program coordination, administrative support, and student resources. No funds are allocated to professional services, capital outlay, or indirect costs, as the program will leverage in-house instructional capacity without requiring external contracts or significant infrastructure investments.

This budget ensures that all critical program components are fully supported while maximizing the impact of grant funds. If adjustments are needed, funding may be reallocated based on enrollment trends, student needs, and available resources. For example, cost savings in instructional materials could be redirected toward tutoring support or enrichment activities, while other operational funds could be adjusted to enhance student engagement. By maintaining a flexible and needs-driven approach, this budget supports the NGMA summer program's goal of enrolling up to 25 students, equipping them with foundational healthcare knowledge and expanding their access to advanced coursework and certifications.

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 for Focus Area 2 is strategically allocated to support the program's objectives and operational needs, ensuring a high-quality work-based learning experience for students.

- In the Payroll category (6100), totaling \$15,930, \$10,000 is allocated for professional staff extra duty pay, covering Work-Based Learning (WBL) coordination and monitoring. An additional \$3,500 is designated for paraprofessional support, ensuring reliable student transportation to WBL sites. Benefits contributions total \$2,430 to support personnel costs.
- Professional/Contracted Services (6200) account for \$31,250, with the majority allocated for student intern stipends. These stipends recognize and reward successful program completion, fostering student engagement, motivation, and achievement while helping remove potential financial barriers to participation.
- In Supplies/Materials (6300), \$1,000 is dedicated to pre-internship training materials and supplies, ensuring students are well-prepared with essential resources for a meaningful internship experience.
- Other Operating Expenses (6400) total \$570, covering miscellaneous costs that may arise during program implementation.
- No funds are allocated to Capital Outlay (6600) or Indirect Costs, as current program assessments indicate these investments are not immediately necessary.

This strategic budget approach effectively supports payroll, contracted services, supplies, and operational needs, demonstrating a commitment to fiscal responsibility and program success. Future budget adjustments will be guided by ongoing program evaluations, student and stakeholder feedback, and emerging needs, ensuring optimal resource allocation and continuous program improvement.

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.)

A key barrier to student progression in healthcare pathways at Freer ISD is limited scheduling flexibility, which brevents students from enrolling in advanced courses, dual credit opportunities, and industry certification programs. To address this, Freer ISD proposes a summer program under Focus Area 1, allowing students in the Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) to complete the Principles of Health Science course (Service ID: 13020200) and/or the Medical Terminology course (Service ID: 13020300) during Summer 2025. This initiative will open space in students' schedules during the academic year, enabling them to pursue additional dual credit healthcare courses and industry-recognized certifications.

These courses provide essential language and concepts needed for success in upper-level healthcare courses and clinical experiences. By completing this foundational course over the summer, students will have more flexibility to advance in healthcare pathways and take courses leading to Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or Patient Care Technician (PCT) certifications, increasing their employability upon graduation. This program will support up to 25 students across RSIZ member districts, ensuring equitable access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) opportunities.

By proactively addressing scheduling constraints, this initiative strengthens student preparation for healthcare careers, expands access to dual credit and work-based learning, and enhances students' ability to earn industry-recognized credentials. Ultimately, this program supports the long-term goal of developing a skilled healthcare workforce in South Texas, ensuring that students graduate prepared for postsecondary education and career success.

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.)

The Needs Assessment for Focus Area 2 highlights a significant challenge faced by Freer ISD and RSIZ in providing meaningful work-based learning opportunities, particularly internships during the school year. The primary obstacle is transportation limitations, which make it difficult to efficiently transport students to high-quality internship sites, such as CHRISTUS Spohn locations. This logistical barrier reduces the feasibility of offering immersive, on-the-job learning experiences within the constraints of the regular academic schedule.

Because travel time cuts into students' available internship hours, work-based learning experiences during the school year are less effective and more difficult to sustain. To address this, Freer ISD and RSIZ propose shifting internships to the summer, eliminating scheduling conflicts and allowing students more dedicated time for hands-on experiences. This adjustment enables students to shadow healthcare professionals, engage in daily operations, and maximize their exposure to medical careers without the constraints of a school-day schedule.

By adapting the timing of internships, this approach removes transportation barriers, enhances the overall quality of work-based learning, and ensures students gain deeper, more meaningful professional experience. This solution aligns with RSIZ's broader mission to provide high-quality, career-aligned learning opportunities that prepare Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) students for success in the healthcare field.

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.

The Focus Area 1 summer program, organized by Freer ISD, is designed to support students enrolled in the Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) by providing targeted academic intervention within the Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services program of study. This initiative is open to students from any Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) member district who are enrolled in NGMA and meet the participation criteria.

The program will offer Principles of Health Science (Service ID: 13020200) and/or Medical Terminology (Service ID: 13020300) during Summer 2025; foundational courses essential for students pursuing careers in healthcare. These courses equip students with the necessary language and concepts for success in advanced coursework, dual credit opportunities, and industry certification programs. By completing a course over the summer, students will free up space in their academic schedules, enabling them to take additional dual credit healthcare courses and progress toward industry-recognized certifications such as Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Patient Care Technician (PCT).

The summer program will engage and support up to 25 NGMA students, ensuring they gain valuable course credit while enhancing their ability to deepen their knowledge and skills within the Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services program of study. By proactively addressing scheduling constraints, this initiative allows students to advance more efficiently through their healthcare pathways, better preparing them for postsecondary education and career success. Freer ISD remains committed to fostering high-quality healthcare education within the RSIZ community, ensuring that students have the resources and opportunities needed to excel in the medical field.

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.

In the Focus Area 2 initiative, Freer ISD is partnering with CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital System to provide valuable work-based learning opportunities for Next Generation Medical Academy (NGMA) students. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to preparing South Texas's future healthcare workforce by offering real-world learning experiences in medical settings.

The work-based learning model for this initiative is a supervised internship program, ensuring structured, guided, and educational experiences for students. Under the mentorship of experienced healthcare professionals, interns will gain hands-on exposure to patient care, patient access, HIPAA regulations, and hospital operations. This work-based learning approach bridges classroom instruction with practical application, equipping students with critical industry skills and career readiness.

Up to 25 NGMA students will participate in the program, with placements at CHRISTUS Spohn hospital and clinic locations in Freer, Beeville, Alice, and Kleberg. The multi-location model provides students with diverse experiences across various healthcare settings, enhancing their understanding of different medical roles and work environments.

By leveraging this strategic partnership, Freer ISD and CHRISTUS Spohn will ensure that students gain meaningful work-based learning experiences, develop career-aligned skills, and take important steps toward postsecondary education and employment in healthcare. This initiative directly supports the broader mission of building a skilled and knowledgeable healthcare workforce in South Texas.

CDN 066903

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
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April 8, 2025

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

On behalf of Christus Spohn, we are pleased to submit this letter to express our continued support for the work of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone and Freer ISD. Our various locations have hosted students from the Next Generation Medical Academy in previous summers and we'd be delighted to host students as interns again this summer.

Depending on students' skills, certifications, and our own internal capacity, some students may be eligible to serve in a hospital setting and other students may be eligible to serve in our clinic settings.

Please accept this letter of support to show our commitment to this career learning opportunity. We look forward to partnering with you, your faculty, and your students to execute a successful summer learning experience.

Sincerely,

Richard Morin President

CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Alice/Beeville/Kleberg



Agua Dulce Independent School District

One Longhorn Drive PO Box 250 Agua Dulce, Texas 78330 https://www.adisd.net



March 7, 2025

To: Freer Independent School District

From: Agua Dulce Independent School District

Subject: Partner District Letter of Support for 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical

Education Grant - Focus Area 1

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

Agua Dulce ISD will partner with Freer ISD as part of the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant. We are looking forward to this grant opportunity, which will allow students from all RSIZ districts to take either Principles of Health Science or Medical Terminology over the summer months. By taking a course over the summer, our students will free up time in their schedules during the school year to take more advanced health science courses.

Since Freer ISD will be serving as the fiscal agent, our school district will work with your staff to finalize logistics to allow students to access the program.

Sincerely,

Jmmy E. Padilla Superintendent April 7, 2025

To: Freer Independent School District

From: Benavides Independent School District

Subject: Partner District Letter of Support for 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical

Education Grant - Focus Area 1

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

Benavides ISD will partner with Freer ISD as part of the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant. We are looking forward to this grant opportunity, which will allow students from all RSIZ districts to take either Principles of Health Science or Medical Terminology over the summer months. By taking a course over the summer, our students will free up time in their schedules during the school year to take more advanced health science courses.

Since Freer ISD will be serving as the fiscal agent, our school district will work with your staff to finalize logistics to allow students to access the program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samuel Bueno Superintendent April 8, 2025

To: Freer Independent School District
From: Brooks County Independent School District
Subject: Partner District Letter of Support for 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical
Education Grant – Focus Area 1

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

Brooks County ISD will partner with Freer ISD as part of the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant. We are looking forward to this grant opportunity, which will allow students from all RSIZ districts to take either Principles of Health Science or Medical Terminology over the summer months. By taking a course over the summer, our students will free up time in their schedules during the school year to take more advanced health science courses.

Since Freer ISD will be serving as the fiscal agent, our school district will work with your staff to finalize logistics to allow students to access the program.

Sincerely,

Scott Rogers
Superintendent

Mike A. Barrera, Ed. D. Superintendent P.O. Box 530 Premont, Texas 78375 (361) 348-3915 Phone / (361) 348-2882 Fax

April 8, 2025

TO:

Freer Independent School District

FROM:

Premont Independent School District

SUBJECT:

Partner District Letter of Support for 2024-2025 Summer Career and

Technical Education Grant - Focus Area 1

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

Premont I.S.D. will partner with Freer I.S.D. as part of the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant. We are looking forward to this grant opportunity, which will allow students from all RSIZ districts to take the General Employability Skills course over the summer months. By taking a course over the summer, our students will free up time in their schedules during the school year to take more advanced health science courses.

Since Brooks County I.S.D. will be serving as the fiscal agent, our school district will work with your staff to finalize logistics to allow students to access the program.

Sincerely,

Mike A. Barrera, Ed. D. Superintendent of Schools



Agua Dulce Independent School District

One Longhorn Drive PO Box 250 Agua Dulce, Texas 78330 https://www.adisd.net



March 7, 2025

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

On behalf of Agua Dulce ISD, we are pleased to submit this letter to express our continued support for the work of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone and Freer ISD. Our students have been placed in various locations and have hosted students from the Next Generation Medical Academy in previous summers and this opportunity would be amazing to entice students as interns again this summer.

Please accept this letter of support to show our commitment to this career learning opportunity. We look forward to partnering with you, your faculty, and your students to execute a successful summer learning experience.

Sincerely

Jimmy E. Padilla Superintendent April 7, 2025

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

On behalf of Benavides Independent School District, we are pleased to submit this letter to express our continued support for the work of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone and Freer ISD. Our students have been placed in various locations and have hosted students from the Next Generation Medical Academy in previous summers, and this opportunity would be amazing to entice students as interns again this summer.

Please accept this letter of support to show our commitment to this career learning opportunity. We look forward to partnering with you, your faculty, and your students to execute a successful summer learning experience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samuel Bueno Superintendent April 8, 2025

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

On behalf of Brooks County Independent School District, we are pleased to submit this letter to express our continued support for the work of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone and Freer ISD. Our students have been placed in various locations and have hosted students from the Next Generation Medical Academy in previous summers, and this opportunity would be amazing to entice students as interns again this summer.

Please accept this letter of support to show our commitment to this career learning opportunity. We look forward to partnering with you, your faculty, and your students to execute a successful summer learning experience.

Sincerely,

Scott Rogers
Superintendent



Mike A. Barrera, Ed. D.
Superintendent
P.O. Box 530
Premont, Texas 78375
(361) 348-3915 Phone / (361) 348-2882 Fax

April 8, 2025

TO:

Freer Independent School District

FROM:

Premont Independent School District

SUBJECT:

Partner District Letter of Support for 2024-2025 Summer Career and

Technical Education Grant - Focus Area 2

Dear Superintendent Cantu,

Premont I.S.D. will partner with Freer I.S.D. as part of the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant. We are looking forward to this grant opportunity, which will allow students from all RSIZ districts to take the General Employability Skills course over the summer months. By taking a course over the summer, our students will free up time in their schedules during the school year to take more advanced health science courses.

Since Brooks County I.S.D. will be serving as the fiscal agent, our school district will work with your staff to finalize logistics to allow students to access the program.

Sincerely,

Mike A. Barrera, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools