



**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 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):

N/A

**Applicant Information**

Organization **Hidalgo ISD**

CDN **108905**

ESC **1**

UEI **E2AK6NV9LY5**

Address **P.O. Box 8220**

City **Hidalgo**

ZIP **78557**

Vendor ID **746001085**

Primary Contact **Judith Dimas**

Email **judimas@hidalgo-isd.org**

Phone **956-785-1657**

Secondary Contact **Erica Alvarez**

Email **eralvarez@hidalgo-isd.org**

Phone **956-854-5812**

**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 **Gregorio Solano**

Title **Interim Superintendent**

Email **grsolano@hidalgo-isd.org**

Phone **956-843-4404**

Signature *Gregorio Solano*

Date **04-09-2025**

**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.

**OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:** Hidalgo ISD is seeking grant funding for a Summer Bridge Program with a focus in the field of CTE Health Science particularly in the Diagnostic & Therapeutic Program of Study as described in TEA's Statewide and Regional Framework. Rising 11th and 12th graders will have the opportunity to earn a CNA certificate from South Texas College. The program will take place from June 2-July 23 (30-day program). The CNA certificate will provide the students the opportunity to attain a stackable credential that could lead to a higher certification such as a Registered Nurse, an occupation that is listed in the targeted occupation list of The Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development Board, or other nursing related fields. Hidalgo ISD is also seeking grant funding for an additional Summer Bridge Program to introduce rising 9th graders who selected a program of study in the Health Science cluster, to a pre-HESI A2 exam preparation for Health Science programs in college. The areas of focus of the pre-HESI A2 exam will be English Language, Science and Math. Students will become familiar with the components of the exam and apply their knowledge through hands-on activities and practice real-world scenarios in the classroom. The program will take place 4 weeks in June with a projected enrollment of 20 students. To further address the shortage of Healthcare and Technical employees in the region. Hidalgo ISD also requests to include a Summer Bridge Program for rising 11th and 12th graders for Law Enforcement camp for 30 students to also take place in the month of June. This program will provide the students with hands-on instruction and simulate a training similar to what the students would experience in a law enforcement academy. Activities will include the components of physical requirements, exam questions, soft-skills, and other employment related skills for the jobs at the various local, state and federal levels.

**OVERALL MISSION AND NEEDS:** The mission of Hidalgo ISD is to inspire students to become college, career or military readiness. This will help them strive in future possibilities of careers as well as academic achievement. According to 2024-2025 as of report Hidalgo ISD, the district has: 11th graders 84.46% economically disadvantages students 70.52% at risk, 53.7% are CTE completers; 8th graders 86% econ. dis. 82.12% at risk. The district has increased its efforts in ensuring more students are provided the opportunity to earn an industry-based certification. Due to scheduling and transportation issues during the school year, there are limited opportunities for students to gain highly valuable hands-on knowledge in their specific program of study. **ADDRESSING NEEDS:** Hidalgo ISD will benefit from these grants with the opportunities it will provide to build on the students' interest in their program of study.

**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.

**OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:** Hidalgo ISD is seeking grant funding to implement a Summer CTE Grant to focus on area 2. The Summer CTE Grant will consist of six weeks starting June 2- July 10, to target of 20 rising 11th and 12th graders to have a Work Based Learning Program in a variety of programs such as but not limited to: Business, Health Science, Welding/Manufacturing and Education. The Work Based Learning Program will participate in paid internships and job-shadowing experiences.

**OVERALL MISSION AND NEEDS:** The mission of Hidalgo ISD is to inspire students to become college, career or military readiness. This will help them strive in future possibilities of careers as well as academic achievement.

According to 2024-2025 as of report Hidalgo ISD, the district has:

Rising Seniors

84.46% economically disadvantages students

70.52% being at risk students

**ADDRESSING NEEDS:** Hidalgo ISD will focus to help student learn soft work skills, employment skills, and preparation to have a pathway for a rewarding high paying career. The Work Based Learning Program will help support and address the needs of our students to learn the basis of pathways to post education and career readiness.

**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**

Summer Grant Project Manager- Assist with oversight of grant related services

Minimum of Bachelors in related field and two years of experience in CTE program of studies

Superintendent- Supervise personnel involved in the grant and ensure all the data is reported to TEA

Minimum of master's degree in education or related field; and Superintendent Certification. Experience of at least two years in a leadership role.

Campus Staff/Teachers- Provide Summer Bridge instruction and daily tasks involving students

Minimum of bachelor's degree in related fields to be taught.

Campus Counselors- Support participants in Summer Bridge programs

Minimum of bachelor's degree in School Counseling or related field. Must have experience in assisting students in selective career paths.

Campus Principals- Manage day to day activities with above mentioned staff for great turnout.

Minimum of master's degree in education or related field; and Principal Certification. Must have experience in managing and overseeing staff and students.

**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**

Summer Grant Grant Project Manager- Assist with oversight of grant related services

Minimum of Bachelors in related field and two years of experience in CTE program of studies

Superintendent- Supervise personnel involved in the grant and ensure all the data is reported to TEA

Minimum of master's degree in education or related field; and Superintendent Certification. Experience of at least two years in a leadership role.

Campus Staff/Teachers- Provide Summer Bridge instruction and daily tasks involving students

Minimum of bachelor's degree in related fields to be taught.

Campus Counselors- Support participants in Summer Bridge programs

Minimum of bachelor's degree in School Counseling or related field. Must have experience in assisting students in selective career paths.

Partnering/Business Liaison- Will support by providing work-based learning experiences to the upperclassmen in the program.

Offer targeted CTE hand-on experience and training, while overseeing work activities. Must have a minimum of two years of work-based experience in the program of study.

**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?

**Major/Goals**

Hidalgo ISD major goal and objective is to offer rising 12th graders, the opportunity to enter the CNA program, practice and learn the procedures to take the state exam for CNA. Once they take the exam Hidalgo ISD expects 10 students to earn their IBC before the start of their senior year. The objective in the additional two programs is to prepare students for post-secondary enrollment in the nursing and law enforcement field. The goal for the bridge programs is to have 90% of students continue with their program of study in the 2025-2026 school year.

**Activities/Strategies**

Hidalgo ISD is committed to supporting students in achieving the necessary growth for success in Summer Bridge Programs. To facilitate this, we will be hosting a tour and orientation meeting at the South Texas College facility for students, parents, and staff. Additionally, campus tours will be provided for 8th grade students, parents, and staff to introduce the benefits of HESI A2 material for future courses.

Furthermore, Hidalgo ISD will offer guidance and training on physical requirements for students interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. These programs will align with Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework, taught by qualified professors or trainers. Students will have the opportunity to meet with counselors to plan their course schedules for either their senior or freshman year, depending on their grade level.

Overall, Hidalgo ISD is dedicated to providing comprehensive support and resources to ensure the success of all students in their academic and career pursuits.

**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?

**Major/Goals**

Hidalgo ISD major goal is to offer up to 20 students' opportunity to learn work-based learning. This objective will align with the grant program goals and district overall mission of inspiring students to become college, career or military readiness. They will see personal growth, become lifelong learners and prepare them for success.

**ACTIVITIES/STRATEGIES:** Hidalgo ISD will have the following activities as part of the work-based learning.

Hidalgo ISD plans to involve 20 students with internships and job shadowing. These opportunities will be supported by local business in the work-related program. Students will gain an understanding of soft skills and requirements for a transition in the workforce in the future. Hidalgo ISD will need to create a network and bridge the workforce needs in the field and relate it to the classroom to achieve success. Hidalgo ISD will arrange the need of transportation for the students to go and come back from the area of work, with the addition of the pay for the Hidalgo ISD staff member that will oversee the students during travel and work hands on. Hidalgo ISD staff will collect the necessary data, training and exposure for the students to have a work-based experience a successful one.

In addition, Mock interviews will take place with the students having an opportunity to "seek employment" with agencies where the work-based learning will take into place. The interviews will first be conducted in small groups, then proceed to second round, one-to-one interviews. This activity will provide the exposure of different soft skills, communication, and help students of getting exposure to the particular program of studies in the future to succeed in the workforce.



**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.

Hidalgo ISD will begin announcing about the CNA program through PA announcements and among the three health science teachers and ask for those who are interested in providing name, ID and pick-up in-house paper application. Once about 20 applicants come forward there will be an orientation meeting with parent and student about the program and what is expected from student. Internal meeting with Health Science teachers and Executive Director to select the top 10 students and invite them to the STC CNA program, where another orientation will take place with the facility.

Tools Used to Measure Performance: the facility of South Texas College will be providing assignments, homework and practicum to be ongoing evaluation of student performance.

For the Health Science Summer Bridge program being held on campus, A diagnostic pre- exam for HESI A2 will be administered during the second day of class. A middle and end of program exam will be administered for all students enrolled in the Health Science Bridge Program.

The law enforcement students will also be administered a pre-test to gather data for the physical fitness component of a law enforcement academy. A middle and end of program exam will determine growth for each of the students. Ensuring Effectiveness: The data will be ongoing and collective, which will allow the district to determine if the programs are being effective and productive with goals and objectives. Long term data collection will also indicate the impact the program had on CTE completer status found in the annual TEA TAPR and Perkins Performance reports.

**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.

Hidalgo ISD will start announcing about the Summer CTE Grant- Work Based Learning through PA announcements and among the CTE teachers and staff. The data collected will measure the identified need of program related to the student outreach. Then the department head of CTE will collect the needed information to include but excluding:

\*Number Serving: This will define how many students are participating the Work-Based Learning Program

\*Student Diversity: This will include student information to determine the demographics of the students.

\*Hourly Earnings: This will be collected to track students total and average hourly earnings.

\*Training Plans: Developed to provide training for students for each program of study implemented.

\*Business Partnerships/Agreements: Recordkeeping of the name and number of business and industry partners offering work-based learning opportunities to enhance student positive outcomes. Agreements will be demonstrated by evidence of student participation.

\*Hours Needed by the Partnerships: Monitor the total and average hours worked in the businesses in the industry.

\*Assessment: Provide evidence of student participation by totality of hours, average per week and/or photo evidence.

Students will also have to take a pre/post assessment regarding soft and employability skills provided by third-party(such as but not limited to: ICEV) or in house assessment.

\*Recognition: Soft and employability skills for each student will improve within the duration of program by 50%.

The Hidalgo ISD Staff member will utilize various tools needed to complete tasks: such as and not limited to in-take surveys, reports, questionnaires, attendance sheets, meeting with both students and business partners liaisons. The tools will help assessing the work-based learning summer grant in a continuing matter and change route if needed be.

Hidalgo ISD will ensure effectiveness and analyze performance after each day, week and end of program for each month.

This kind of overview will determine if project objectives and strategies are being achieved to ensure student success. Data collection is a dire need to evaluate the program goals and objective in order to implement effective strategies in the work-based learning program.

**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.

Hidalgo ISD has carefully considered the needs and milestones that are essential for student development and success. Costs for staffing, supplies, materials, curriculum, software, uniforms, transportation and meals are all being accounted for: Payroll (\$16,685.20) \$35 an hour plus 18 %fringe benefits. This allocation which does not exceed the 75% of the requested grant funds, will cover the salaries of the teacher as well as the benefits for all professional and support staff. Professional and contract services (\$16,517)- STC Contract with Continuing Education and Workforce Development for 10 students.

Supplies and Materials (\$12,386.10) Consisting of backpacks, pens and necessary items for full experience, textbooks, law enforcement supplies, technology devices.

Indirect Cost Rate (\$1,803)- Hidalgo ISD has determined the indirect costs rate (3.606%) utilized to cover associated overhead costs.

Transportation (\$2,608.70) 12 miles \*1.98 = \$23.76 per day for 30 days + transportation before and after programs.

Adjustments to the programs may be necessary in the future, stakeholders will meet to discuss the program's successes.

**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.

Hidalgo ISD has carefully considered the needs and milestones that are essential for student development and success. Costs for staffing, supplies, materials, curriculum, software, uniforms, transportation and meals are all being accounted for: Payroll (\$19,824) \$35 an hour plus 18 %fringe benefits. This allocation which does not exceed the 75% of the requested grant funds, will cover the salaries of the teacher as well as the benefits for all professional and support staff.

Supplies and Materials (\$2,000)- Instructional supplies and resources essential materials for real world experiences

Other Operating Costs (\$26,373) Cost of internships by allowing of \$10 an hour for a 5-hour max per day for 4 days per week for 6 weeks. Cost of transportation will also be included to this cost for student travel \$1.98 per mile.

Indirect Cost Rate (\$1,803) Hidalgo ISD has determined the indirect costs rate (3.606%) utilized to cover associated overhead costs

SNAPSHOT OF FUNDS CURRENTLY ALLOCATED: Hidalgo ISD currently has not offered paid internships. Funds are currently used to facilities, buses, cafeteria personnel, computer/software and classrooms. All the above mentioned expenses are being covered with local funds for facilities and maintenance, state transportation fund, Texas Dept. of Agriculture for Summer meals, and IMA for hardware and software.

ADJUSTMENTS: Adjustments for the work-based learning program will be done on a needed basis, including but not limited to stakeholders necessary updates for programs success and use the assistance from TEA if needed. In the case of a modifications the district will send out letter of intents to those needed personnels and amendments will follow any TEA rules and regulations.

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.)

Hidalgo ISD has a high percentage of minority population and a very high percentage of economically disadvantage and/or at risk to graduate.

Hidalgo ISD Currently sits at

Rising 12th graders

84.46% economically disadvantages students

70.52% being at risk students

53.7% are CTE completers(Class of 2024)

Rising 9th Graders

86% economically disadvantaged students

82.12% being at risk students

While we have achieved high rates of student enrollment in four-year colleges, we also recognize the importance of preparing students for immediate entry into the workforce after high school. At Hidalgo ISD, we are committed to equipping our students to be both college-ready and workforce-ready. Work-based experiences play a crucial role in shaping students' lives and preparing them for the challenges of the professional world.

Our three summer bridge programs represent a significant milestone in our students' journey towards success. These programs provide students with a valuable head start on their path to achieving their goals. By participating in these programs, students will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in their chosen career paths.

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.)

Hidalgo ISD has a high percentage of minority population yet a very high percentage of economically disadvantage and/or at risk to graduate.

Hidalgo ISD Currently sits at

Rising Seniors

84.46% economically disadvantages students

70.52% being at risk students

Hidalgo ISD attempts to provide students with an immense amount of opportunities during high school and post education. This work-based learning program will allow students to achieve success more than just a classroom setting. This program will provide classroom and hands -on learning experience. In turn the students will learn soft and employability skills in order to achieve success with Hidalgo ISD mission of inspiring students to become college, career or military readiness, overcoming barriers such as transportation and partnerships with local businesses. This work-based learning program will have better outcomes for smoother transitions from education to workforce, enhancing annual earnings and increase post-secondary attendance. Hidalgo ISD is seeking support for our at risk and economically disadvantaged students by offering a way to open doors for the path to career, college and military readiness in high demand and wage jobs in their chosen 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.

Hidalgo ISD will be offering

1. CNA certification course for 10 rising senior students at South Texas College facility. Under the Health Science Career Cluster, Program of Study Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services.

2. Offer Pre-HESI A2 course study for rising freshmen. Under the Health Science Career Cluster, Programs of study Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, Exercise Science, Health Informatics, Nursing Science, and Biomedical Science.

3. Law Enforcement Camp. Under Law and Public Service, Program of Study Law Enforcement.

The two programs offered at the campus will be taught by highly qualified staff. Hidalgo ISD aims to provide students a head start to a smoother transition to high school and post-secondary education that is aligned to Hidalgo ISDs mission to preparing our students for college, career, or miliary readiness.

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.

Hidalgo ISD will be offering

1. Work Based Learning for 20 rising 11th and 12th graders in multiple pathways such as, and not excluding: Health Science Cluster, Business, Marketing and Finance Cluster, Education and Training, Manufacturing/Welding .

The work-based learning program will provide an alignment of curriculum exposure to students with job opportunities. By offering the work based learning program, Hidalgo ISD will allows students the chance to have hands-on experience, real on the job training, discover career opportunities, while getting paid through internships and activities. This program will help partnering employers and classroom teachers to support what is needed in the industry and teaching them soft and employability skills.

Hidalgo ISD wants to provide support and opportunities for the students to get a head start to gaining confidence in interviews and working in the field of study they choose to pursue. Upperclassmen start focusing on college and career readiness and this will be a great point in time to have approaching the end of their high school career. The hands-on experience they will achieve out in the field will support any coursework, certification or post-education they have been trying to complete in high school, community college, 4- year college or career that are trying to complete.

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