



**Organization:** University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley (EPP)  
**Campus/Site:** N/A  
**Vendor ID:** 1465292740

**County District:**  
**ESC Region:** 01  
**School Year:** 2026-2027

SAS#: TMSTEM26

## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### General Information GS2000 - Certify and Submit

**Due:** 01/13/2026 11:59 PM  
**Application Status:** Submitted

**Amendment #:** 00  
**Version #:** 01

Description	Required	Status	Last Update
<b>General Information</b>			
GS2100 - Applicant Information	*	Complete	01/12/2026 03:45 PM
GS2300 - Negotiation Comments and Confirmation		New	
<b>Program Description</b>			
PS3013 - Program Plan	*	Complete	01/12/2026 03:47 PM
PS3014 - Program Narrative	*	Complete	01/13/2026 01:28 PM
<b>Program Budget</b>			
BS6001 - Program Budget Summary and Support		Complete	01/13/2026 11:47 AM
BS6101 - Payroll Costs		Complete	01/13/2026 01:37 PM
BS6201 - Professional and Contracted Services		Complete	01/13/2026 12:10 PM
BS6401 - Other Operating Costs		Complete	01/13/2026 12:11 PM
BS6501 - Debt Services		Complete	01/13/2026 12:11 PM
BS6601 - Capital Outlay		Complete	01/13/2026 12:15 PM
<b>Provisions Assurances and Certifications</b>			
CS7000 - Provisions, Assurances and Certifications	*	Complete	01/13/2026 01:41 PM

#### Certification and Incorporation Statement

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 further certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations; application guidelines and instructions; the general provisions and assurances, debarment and suspension certification, lobbying certification requirements, special provisions and assurances, and the schedules submitted. It is understood by the applicant that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by the Texas Education Agency or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement.

#### Authorized Official

Select Contact:  or

First Name: Thomas Initial: B Last Name: Spencer Title: Sr Assoc VP for Research Ops  
 Phone: 956-665-3883 Ext: E-Mail: sponpro@utrgv.edu

#### Submitter Information

First Name: Thomas Last Name: Spencer  
 Approval ID: thomas.spencer2 Submit Date and Time: 01/13/2026 01:45:12 PM



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### General Information GS2100 - Applicant Information

#### Part 1: Organization Information

A. Applicant
Organization Name: University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley (EPP)
Mailing Address Line 1: 1201 W UNIVERSITY DR
Mailing Address Line 2: null
City: EDINBURNG      State: TX      Zip Code: 78539

B. Unique Entity Identifier (SAM)
UEI (SAM):

#### Part 2: Applicant Contacts

A. Primary Contact	Select Contact: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Select One ▼</span> or <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;">Add New Contact</span>
First Name: Julia      Initial:      Last Name: Cuevas	
Title: Assistant Professor	
Telephone: 956-665-7475      Ext.:      E-Mail: julia.cuevas01@utrgv.edu	

B. Secondary Contact	Select Contact: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Select One ▼</span> or <span style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;">Add New Contact</span>
First Name: Eryka      Initial:      Last Name: Duberney	
Title: Research Services Coordinator	
Telephone: 956-665-3299      Ext.:      E-Mail: eryka.duberney01@utrgv.edu	



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### General Information GS2300 - Negotiation Comments and Confirmation

#### Part 1: General Comments

##### General Comments (TEA Use Only)

#### Part 2: Negotiation Items

This schedule is for TEA to document any required changes and communications to the applicant in the event this application requires negotiation. It will also require applicants to acknowledge that they have made the changes requested.

Applicants: For all negotiation notes below, please make the requested changes in the grant application itself.

- Please do check the "Change Completed" box.
- Please do not enter information in the "Grantee Comments" section, unless you are specifically instructed to do so.

Negotiation Items	
1.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Date: <input type="text"/></div> <div>Schedule: <input type="text" value="Select One"/></div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>TEA Negotiation Note:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Grantee Comments:</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> LEA Completed Change</div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #f0f0f0; height: 50px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>

Add Row

Delete Row



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Description PS3013 - Program Plan

#### A. Service Area Selection

The 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant funds 8 Service Areas across the state. Please choose which area or areas you are applying for from the below selections. The Education Service Center regions associated with the Service Areas are indicated in parenthesis.

1. My organization is applying for the following Service Areas:

- Service Area 1 (ESC Regions 1 and 2)
- Service Area 2 (ESC Regions 3-5)
- Service Area 3 (ESC Regions 6, 7, 12)
- Service Area 4 (ESC Regions 8 and 10)
- Service Area 5 (ESC Regions 9 and 11)
- Service Area 6 (ESC Regions 13 and 20)
- Service Area 7 (ESC Regions 14, 16, and 17)
- Service Area 8 (ESC Regions 15, 18, and 19)

#### B. Statutory/Program Assurances

1. The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant must comply with these assurances. Selecting all assurances is required.

- The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this LOI will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- 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.
- The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Program Guidelines.
- The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- 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 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA.



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Description PS3014 - Program Narrative

Please include complete responses for each question below.

#### A. Summary of Program

1. Provide an overview of the program management for the operation of the mobile lab in the targeted service area. The summary must describe the project plan, including project activities (5 pts), timelines (5 pts), budgeting (10 pts), management (10 pts), and reports to be generated during the 2026–2027 grant period, and relate them to the stated purposes and specifications of the program requirements. The summary shall include the recruiting plan to hire two full-time instructors for the laboratory including the Lead Instructor and the Novice Instructor. In addition, the budget should outline grant deliverables as well as employee insurance and coverage.

Region One (South Texas) is a predominantly Hispanic, economically disadvantaged area facing persistent STEM education challenges. Key needs include improving academic achievement, strengthening educator preparation, and ensuring equitable access to high-quality STEM resources. The STEM on Wheels: Igniting Innovation Across South Texas initiative, featuring the Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory, will deliver free, TEKS-aligned mobile STEM experiences to at least 30 campuses across Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata counties during the 2026–2027 grant period. UTRGV will provide outreach, faculty expertise, and oversight to address:

- Academic Achievement: Enhance STEM outcomes starting in early education.
- Educator Development: Offer sustained training for effective STEM integration, technology use, and support for diverse learners, including Emergent Bilinguals and students with disabilities.
- Access & Opportunity: Reduce socioeconomic barriers, promote equity, and encourage female participation in STEM.
- Curriculum & Resources: Expand engineering programs and technology literacy in rural communities.
- Workforce Development: Align education with regional STEM labor market needs.
- Mentorship & Aspiration: Inspire STEM career pathways for future success.
- Activities: Deploy mobile labs, deliver inquiry-based engineering design challenges, provide TEKS-aligned curricula, host Family STEM Nights, distribute 200 STEM kits, train educators, and collect data.

2. Summary of Program cont'd.

Monthly Timeline | Key Activities

Mar–May 2026 (Planning)

- Launch TEA-approved marketing; capture campus interest and finalize 30 visits.
- Campus application window: April 1–May 29; secure Letters of Agreement.
- Create waitlist for replacements.

Jun–Jul 2026

- Notify campuses by July; onboard instructors with PD on curriculum, safety, and scheduling.
- Complete vehicle checks, procure consumables, and attend TEA/statewide STEM trainings.
- Service Area Manager meets biweekly with Statewide Program Manager; instructors complete virtual training.

Aug 2026

- Begin school-year visits; baseline data collection; campus orientations.
- Restock consumables; submit monthly reports and surveys; post visit photos.

Sep–Dec 2026

- Continue biweekly meetings and training; conduct 14 visits (Sept–Dec).
- Host Family STEM Night (Nov 8–13) with UTRGV STEM Center and Marketing support.
- Quarterly instructor evaluations (Aug–Oct).

Jan–May 2027

- Continue visits (17 total); mid-year PD refresh; quarterly evaluations.
- Host Family STEM Night (Apr 5–9) during Week of the Young Child.

Jun–Aug 2027

- Complete remaining visits; conduct final evaluations; close out data, inventory, and budget.
- Submit annual report by Aug 25.
- Total anticipated visits: 32.
- The proposed \$225,000 budget supports successful project implementation while meeting grant guidelines and institutional policies, balancing personnel, administrative support, program operations, and indirect costs. See Section E for the detailed budget narrative.

3. Summary of Program cont'd.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) serves as the pass-through entity, with UTRGV as the grantee responsible for implementation. Under UTRGV, the Service Area Manager (SAM), a full-time Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, will act as Principal Investigator and oversee all aspects of program management, including planning, scheduling, budgeting, compliance, and risk management. The SAM will leverage UTRGV resources such as Marketing and Communications, Human Resources for hiring, Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management for lab safety training and equipment, the Center of Excellence in STEM Education for family night collaborations, and the Division of Research for grant-related support. To ensure focus on program goals, the SAM will request course releases and summer stipends. Reporting to the SAM is the Lead Instructor, who will manage program delivery, instruction, logistics, safety, and mentor the Novice Instructor. The Novice Instructor will assist with implementing activities, managing materials, and supporting safety and data collection. Together, the team will ensure instructional quality, compliance, accurate reporting, and continuous improvement while delivering 30 mobile STEM lab visits to campuses as provided by TEA. The positions will be developed in collaboration with UTRGV Human Resources using existing job codes and titles, with recruitment beginning in March 2026 and hiring completed by June 1, 2026, to ensure readiness for the 2026–2027



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Description PS3014 - Program Narrative

#### 4. Summary of Program cont'd.

service year. The budget includes salaries, insurance, and benefits. The Lead Instructor (Program Coordinator) requires a bachelor's degree in education or STEM, three years of teaching or STEM facilitation experience, familiarity with TEKS and inquiry-based learning, strong classroom management, and a valid driver's license; bilingual skills are preferred. The Novice Instructor (Program Assistant) requires an associate or bachelor's degree, experience working with students or adults in educational settings, teamwork and communication skills, and a valid driver's license; bilingual skills are preferred. The process includes finalizing job descriptions (March 3–10), posting positions (March 11–31), screening applicants (April 1–19), interviews with demo lessons (April 22–May 3), offers and checks (May 6–20), and onboarding with professional development (June 1–July 31). Retention strategies include mentoring, TEA statewide STEM training, ongoing coaching, and quarterly evaluations aligned to program goals to ensure instructional quality, compliance, and continuous improvement. For reports and grant deliverables, progress reporting will include weekly and monthly updates detailing campuses, students, and teachers served; survey collection; student participation metrics; event photos; and geographic coverage of visits. Inventory and incident reports, research data (teacher interviews, observations, family STEM night surveys, and engagement photos under IRB Protocol IRB-24-0353),

#### 5. Summary of Program cont'd.

and professional development (PD) metrics (hours, engagement, feedback, observation checklists) are required. Monthly vehicle reports must include mileage, trips, fuel and maintenance costs, and receipts. Quarterly reports will track STEM family night attendance by stakeholder group, continuous improvement notes, and instructor evaluations. Data collection will utilize TEA surveys, Google Forms or Qualtrics, photo documentation, interviews, and observation rubrics, with secure storage in UTRGV or TEA-approved systems. Annual impact reports will summarize student reach, PD impact, instructional quality, demographics served, DLL inclusion, inventory, sustainability recommendations, and research findings. Financial reports, prepared in coordination with UTRGV Grants and Contracts, will include budget expenditures, reimbursements, and compliance documentation.

#### 6. Summary of Program cont'd.

N/A



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### Program Description PS3014 - Program Narrative

#### B. Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel

Outline the required qualifications and experience for the proposed project personnel Service Area Manager (10 pts), Lead Instructor (5 pts), and Novice Instructor (5 pts). Include whether the position exists or proposed.

1. Service Area Manager

Dr. Julia Cuevas: PI and SAM for Texas Mobile STEM Lab brings extensive expertise in bilingual early childhood STEAM education, mobile lab operations, and project management, ensuring fidelity to the TEA STEM Framework. A Texas EC-6 certified bilingual teacher with 10+ years of classroom experience, two years as a mentor coach, and five years in higher education, she offers:

**Qualifications**

Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction (Language, Diversity, Literacy) and M.Ed. in Bilingual Education (Early Childhood)

Expertise in engineering design process and inquiry-based, play-driven STEM for PK-3

Proven integration of Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Dual Language Learners in STEAM

To strengthen STEM credentials, Dr. Cuevas will attend the Early Childhood Winter Conference (Jan. 30, 2026) and Statewide STEM Teacher Training (Feb. 3-4, 2026), earning TEALearn and Texas Ecosystem STEM Badges.

**Relevant Experience**

Led nine STEAM course sessions and community events, serving 300+ children and 94 pre-service teachers

Managed Mobile Literacy Unit operations for five years under \$40K grants

PI on multiple grants (EHS-CCP \$8.7M; PNC Grow Up \$20K; HEB-UTRGV \$20K)

Published six manuscripts; conducts IRB-approved STEAM research (Protocol 24-0353)

Dr. Cuevas's integrated expertise aligns with TEA STEM Framework and ensures excellence in leadership, community engagement, and data-driven improvement.

2. Lead Instructor

The positions of Lead Instructor and Novice Instructor will be aligned with existing UTRGV job listing codes (Program Coordinator and Program Assistant) in collaboration with UTRGV Human Resources. Job functions, scope, duties, and education and experience requirements will be modified to reflect the roles and responsibilities specific to this program. A meeting with the UTRGV HR Talent Development Director has been initiated, and they have been notified to begin the process upon award notification, ensuring a rapid turnaround to hire two full-time staff members by June 1, 2026, in preparation for the 2026-2027 service year. The approved budget includes base salary, employee insurance coverage, professional development funding, and mileage reimbursement.

**Lead Instructor – Required Qualifications and Experience**

- Education: Bachelor's degree in education and/or STEM education or related field
- Teaching Certification Preferred
- Experience: Minimum 3 years of teaching or STEM facilitation experience
- Professional Skills:
  - o Experience modeling lessons and/or providing teacher professional development/trainings
  - o Familiarity with TEKS and inquiry-based learning approaches
  - o Strong classroom management skills
- Additional Requirements:
  - o Valid driver's license and ability to travel extensively
  - o Bilingual (Spanish/English) preferred

3. Novice Instructor

**Novice Instructor – Required Qualifications and Experience**

- Education: Associate degree or Bachelor's degree (preferred) in education and/or STEM education or related field, or equivalent experience
- Experience: Experience working with students/adults in educational or informal settings
- Professional Skills:
  - o Trainings skills
  - o Strong teamwork and communication skills
  - o Familiarity with TEKS preferred
  - o Classroom management skills
- Additional Requirements:
  - o Valid driver's license and ability to travel extensively
  - o Bilingual (Spanish/English) preferred

Both positions require strong educational and STEM content knowledge, instructional experience, and the ability to deliver inquiry-based learning, training, and professional development. Candidates must demonstrate flexibility for extensive travel and a commitment to engaging diverse learners, including Dual Language Learners, in mobile STEM environments. They will also participate in ongoing professional development by attending statewide STEM teacher trainings, which is supported in the budget narrative.



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### Program Description PS3014 - Program Narrative

#### C. Goals, Objectives and Strategies

1. Describe the goals and objectives of the grantee for managing a service area grant(s) for the Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory program. (5 pts)

The goal of this program is to transform STEM education in the Rio Grande Valley by delivering equitable, high-quality STEM learning experiences through the Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory program. Supported by TEA funding, this initiative will provide free, mobile STEM experiences to at least 30 campuses across Region One. The program ensures access to TEKS-aligned, STEM hands-on instruction for students, educators, and families, aligning with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and College of Education's mission to promote equity and community transformation.

**Objectives**

1. Deliver Mobile STEM Experiences
  - a. Serve at least 30 campuses and at least 3,000+ K-8 students with TEKS-aligned activities.
  - b. Achieve a 20% increase in student confidence in STEM problem-solving.
2. Promote Access & Opportunity
  - a. Ensure 50% of campuses are Title I schools.
  - b. Engage 500 Dual Language Learners (DLLs).
  - c. Increase girls' participation in STEM by 15%.
3. Engage Families and Communities
  - a. Host 2 family STEAM nights.
  - b. Distribute 200 free STEAM kits/books.
  - c. Achieve 80% positive feedback from families and participants.
4. Build Educator Capacity
  - a. Conduct onsite professional development, modeling, and/or training sessions for teachers.
  - b. Document a 20% increase in teacher confidence in STEM instruction.
5. Ensure Sustainability and Impact
  - a. Submit quarterly and annual reports to TEA.
  - b. Disseminate findings through final reports, one conference presentation, and one peer-reviewed

2. Please continue the Goals, Objectives and Strategies response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

**Impact**

This initiative will ignite curiosity, inspire creativity, and prepare learners for future STEM careers, while promoting equity and closing opportunity gaps across the Rio Grande Valley.



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#### D. Performance and Evaluation Measures

1. Describe the methods that will be used to collect data aligned with the performance measures identified for this program. Include the types of data that will be collected to measure the performance of the instructor and how program data will be collected monthly.

**1. Progress Reports**

**Weekly & Monthly Reports**

- Number of campuses, students, and teachers served
- Number of student and teacher surveys collected
- Student participation metrics (attendance, grade levels served) after each visit
- Photos documenting each event
- Geographic coverage with campus visits (dates, locations, frequency)
- Inventory & incident reports
- Research data: Teacher interviews, observations, community family STEM night surveys, and photos documenting engagement and activities (IRB Approval Protocol IRB-24-0353 - STEAM in Early Childhood Education)
- Professional Development (PD) metrics (hours delivered, teacher engagement, feedback summaries.; observation checklists)

2. Please continue the Performance and Evaluation Measures response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

**Monthly Vehicle Data Report**

Submit to the Statewide Program Manager by the last week of each month with the following:

- End-of-month mileage
  - Number of trips for the vehicle
  - Monthly fuel costs
  - Monthly maintenance costs
  - Monthly repair costs
  - Monthly fuel and maintenance receipts
- Quarterly Reports**
- Number of attendees at STEM family night events, with breakdown by stakeholder groups
  - Continuous improvement notes (lesson refinements, safety compliance updates)
  - Instructor evaluations
- Data Collection Tools**
- Surveys: TEA pre-developed teacher and student surveys
  - o Google Forms or Qualtrics for STEM family night surveys/feedback
  - Artifacts & Photos: photo documentation and student work samples
  - Research data collection
  - o Interviews: Semi-structured interview protocols recorded via Zoom or audio device
  - o Observations: Rubrics aligned to TEA standards
  - Data Management: Password-protected UTRGV Excel or TEA-approved data system for aggregation and reporting

3. Please continue the Performance and Evaluation Measures response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

**2. Annual Impact Report**

- Summative Outcomes: Student reach, teacher PD impact, instructional quality scores
- Access Measures: Demographics served, DLL inclusion strategies, access for high-need campuses
- Inventory reports: Comprehensive data report, vehicle usage report, consumables report
- Sustainability Plan: Recommendations for scaling, resource needs, partnerships for continuation
- Research Summary: Analysis of teacher interviews, observation data, family survey results, and visual documentation

4. Please continue the Performance and Evaluation Measures response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

**3. Financial Reports in assistance with UTRGV Office of Grants and Contracts Financial Reporting & Billing**

- Budget expenditures by category (personnel, travel, consumables, maintenance)
- Expense Reimbursement records
- Compliance documentation (invoices, receipts, vendor contracts)



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#### E. Budget Narrative

1. Describe the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 grant year including staff, insurance, program management requirements, and performance requirements. (15 pts)

The proposed budget of \$225,000 for the 2026–2027 grant year is designed to ensure the effective implementation, management, and sustainability of the Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program in alignment with TEA guidelines. This allocation supports staffing, insurance, program operations, and performance requirements necessary to deliver high-quality, TEKS-aligned STEM experiences to students, educators, and families across Region One. The budget reflects a strategic balance between personnel, administrative support, program operations, and indirect costs, ensuring compliance with grant requirements and institutional policies. Indirect costs are calculated at 8% of direct costs, totaling \$16,667, in compliance with sponsor requirements. These funds cover institutional overhead and administrative support necessary for fiscal accountability and reporting. Direct administrative costs support the Principal Investigator’s responsibilities as Service Area Manager, including one course release for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 (academic request: \$18,520) and summer stipends for 2026 and 2027 (summer request: \$15,141). This ensures adequate time for project oversight, reporting, coordination, and compliance with TEA guidelines. The budget prioritizes personnel and programmatic resources to provide high-quality, equitable learning experiences while maintaining fiscal responsibility and compliance with grant requirements. Costs include a fringe benefit rate of 26% for faculty salary requests,

2. Please continue the budget narrative response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

as established by UTRGV’s federally negotiated fringe benefit agreement. Personnel costs represent the largest portion of the budget at \$157,678, reflecting the need for qualified instructors to deliver high-quality programming. This includes salary and fringe (health insurance) benefits for a Lead Instructor (\$69,098) responsible for curriculum development and instruction, and a Novice Instructor (\$54,919) to assist with program delivery and support. Both positions include a fringe benefit rate of 38.60% for full-time staff salary requests, as established by UTRGV’s federally negotiated fringe benefit agreement. These positions are critical for ensuring that students and educators receive engaging, TEKS-aligned STEM experiences. Program operations total \$50,655 and include essential resources for program delivery. Allocations cover supplies and materials (\$5,000) for STEM kits and tools, safety lab equipment (\$2,000), and curriculum and assessments (\$4,000) to meet state standards. Marketing and outreach (\$2,000) will support printing and media services to engage diverse communities, while administrative technology and supplies (\$3,137) will provide computers, printers, and office materials for program management. Capital outlay (\$20,000) is designated for possible unit maintenance/upgrades to ensure reliable program delivery.

3. Please continue the budget narrative response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

Travel (\$12,000) will support mileage and staff training for professional development and outreach events, and community engagement activities (\$4,000) will fund STEAM nights, kits, and free books to foster family involvement. The total direct costs amount to \$209,815, with indirect costs of \$15,185, bringing the overall budget to \$225,000. This investment prioritizes personnel and programmatic resources to ensure high-quality, equitable learning experiences while maintaining fiscal responsibility and compliance with grant requirements. The budget also supports program management and performance requirements, including staffing and oversight by the Service Area Manager and two instructors, daily operations for mobile lab activities and community events, and compliance with TEA reporting guidelines. Performance metrics include delivering STEM experiences to 30 campuses and over 3,000 students, conducting professional development for educators, hosting family STEAM nights, and distributing 200 STEAM kits and books. Measurable outcomes will document increased student confidence and teacher capacity, ensuring the program’s impact and sustainability.

4. Please continue the budget narrative response here if needed. Please enter N/A if the additional space is not needed.

N/A

#### F. Marketing Plan for Service Area

1. Describe the marketing strategy for recruiting school systems in the targeted service area(s) to apply for a mobile STEM lab visit during the application window of April and May 2026. (10 pts) Include ways to promote the community STEM nights and strategies for getting STEM-related community members to attend the events to promote STEM careers in the local areas. (5 pts)

The April–May 2026 recruiting campaign will drive applications for lab visits through targeted outreach and digital engagement. Key strategies include personalized emails and follow-up calls to superintendents, STEM coordinators, and principals emphasizing TEKS alignment and hands-on learning; a dedicated UTRGV College of Education landing page launching March 15 with application details; and boosted social media posts showcasing lab activities. Branded flyers and brochures designed by UTRGV Marketing and Communications (UMC) will be distributed through community partners, while virtual info sessions in late March and early April will guide district leaders. Partnerships with school districts will amplify reach via newsletters and school board meetings to increase engagement. To promote Community STEAM Family Nights and engage STEM professionals, UMC will draft press releases, create event hashtags (#TexasMobileSTEM, #STEMNightRGV), and coordinate outreach through schools, libraries, and community centers. Industry engagement will include booths, demos, and career spotlights in collaboration with the UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Education. Marketing services will ensure branding consistency through strategic coordination, creative design, digital marketing, and media relations. The timeline spans February–May, concluding May 31, with additional STEM Family Nights planned for September–November and February–April 2027.



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Description PS3014 - Program Narrative



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SAS#: TMSTEM26

## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Budget BS6001 - Program Budget Summary and Support

**Statutory Authority: General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 54, 89th Texas Legislature, 2025 Mobile STEM Laboratory Grant Program**

#### Part 1: Available Funding

Available Funding								
Description	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 ESC Reg's 14,16,17	ServArea8 ESC Reg's 15,18,19
1. Fund/SSA Code	489							
2. Planning Amount								
3. Final Amount	\$225,000							
4. Carryover								
5. Reallocation								
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	\$225,000							

#### Part 2: Budget Summary

A. Budgeted Costs									
Description	Class/ Object Code	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 ESC Reg's 14,16,17	ServArea8 ESC Reg's 15,18,19
1. Consolidated Administrative Funds		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No							
2. Payroll Costs	6100	\$157,678							
3. Professional and Contracted Services	6200								
4. Supplies and Material	6300	\$12,137							
5. Other Operating Costs	6400	\$20,000							
6. Debt Services	6500								
7. Capital Outlay	6600	\$20,000							
8. Operating Transfers Out	8911								
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>		\$209,815							
9. Indirect Costs		\$15,185							
<b>Total Budgeted Costs</b>		\$225,000							
<b>Total Funds Available Minus Total Costs</b>		\$0							
10. Payments to Member Districts of SSA	6493								

#### B. Pre-Award Costs

Part 2B Pre-Award Costs is hidden because it does not apply to the funding source(s) for this grant application.



**Organization:** University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley (EPP)  
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SAS#: TMSTEM26

**2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application**

**Program Budget  
 BS6001 - Program Budget Summary and Support**

**C. Breakout of Direct Admin Costs**

Enter amounts in Direct Admin Costs fields if applicable.

Description	Class/ Object Code	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)		
		Program Costs	Direct Admin Costs	Total Costs
1. Payroll Costs	6100	\$157,678	\$0	\$157,678
2. Professional and Contracted Services	6200	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Supplies and Material	6300	\$12,137	\$0	\$12,137
4. Other Operating Costs	6400	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
5. Debt Services	6500	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Capital Outlay	6600	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
7. Operating Transfers Out	8911			
<b>Total</b>		\$209,815	\$0	\$209,815



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**2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application**

**Program Budget  
 BS6101 - Payroll Costs**

**Part 1: Total Payroll Costs**

Payroll costs entered on BS6001								
Total Payroll Costs	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 (ESC Reg's 14,16,17)	ServArea8 (ESC Reg's 15,18,19)
\$157,678								

**Part 2: Number and Type of Positions**

A. Administrative Support or Clerical Staff								
Position Type	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 (ESC Reg's 14,16,17)	ServArea8 (ESC Reg's 15,18,19)
1. Administrative support or clerical staff (integral to program)	3							

B. LEA Positions								
Position Type	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 (ESC Reg's 14,16,17)	ServArea8 (ESC Reg's 15,18,19)
1. Professional staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Paraprofessionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Administrative support or clerical staff (paid by LEA indirect cost)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Campus Positions								
Position Type	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 (ESC Reg's 14,16,17)	ServArea8 (ESC Reg's 15,18,19)
1. Professional staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Paraprofessionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Administrative support or clerical staff (paid by LEA indirect cost)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part 3: Substitute, Extra-Duty, Benefits**

Substitute, Extra-Duty, Benefits	Any Fund Source
1. For schoolwide personnel (includes staff salary, extra-duty pay/beyond normal hours, and substitutes for staff positions at schoolwide campuses)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Extra duty pay/beyond normal hours for positions not indicated above	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Substitutes for public and charter school teachers not indicated above	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Stipends for positions not indicated above	<input type="checkbox"/>



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Budget BS6101 - Payroll Costs

#### Part 4: Confirmation of Payroll Requirements

##### Confirmation of Payroll Requirements

- The grantee certifies the federally funded portion of this position and duties are reasonable, necessary, allowable and allocable under the applicable federal fund source. The grantee further certifies that it is in compliance with the federal supplement, not supplant provision applicable to each federal fund source. The grantee assures the grant-funded portion of this position and duties meet the purpose, goals, and objectives of the federal fund source. Documentation must be maintained locally by the grantee that clearly demonstrates the allowable and supplemental nature of the position, as required by each federal fund source, and will provide such documentation to TEA upon request.



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**2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application**

**Program Budget  
 BS6201 - Professional and Contracted Services**

**Part 1: Professional and Contracted Services**

Budgeted Costs									
Description	Class/Object Code	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 ESC Reg's 14,16,17	ServArea8 ESC Reg's 15,18,19
1. Rental or Lease of Buildings, Space in Buildings, or Land	6269								
2. Professional and Consulting Services	6219 6239 6291								
<b>Subtotal Professional and Contracted Services Costs</b>									
<b>Remaining 6200 Costs That Do Not Require Specific Approval</b>									
<b>Total Professional and Contracted Services Costs</b>									

**Part 2: Direct Administrative Costs**

Part 2 Breakout of Direct Administrative Costs is hidden because it does not apply to the funding source(s) for this grant application.

**Part 3 : Itemized Professional and Consulting Services**

Itemized Professional and Consulting Service (6219, 6239, 6291)									
Description	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 ESC Reg's 14,16,17	ServArea8 ESC Reg's 15,18,19	
1. Service: <input type="text"/>									
Specify Purpose: <input type="text"/>									
<input type="button" value="Add Item"/>					<input type="button" value="Delete Item"/>				
<b>Total Professional and Consulting Services Costs</b>									



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**County District:**  
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SAS#: TMSTEM26

**2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application**

**Program Budget  
 BS6401 - Other Operating Costs**

**Part 1: Other Operating Costs**

Budgeted Costs									
Description	Class/ Object Code	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1- 2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3- 5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6- 7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 ESC Reg's 14,16,17	ServArea8 ESC Reg's 15,18,19
1. <b>Out-of-State Travel for Employees</b> LEA must keep documentation locally.	6411								
2. <b>Travel for Students to Conferences (does not include field trips)</b> LEA must keep documentation locally.	6412								
3. <b>Educational Field Trips</b> LEA must keep documentation locally.	6412 6494								
4. <b>Stipends for Non-employees other than those included in 6419</b> LEA must keep documentation locally.	6413								
5. <b>Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members</b> Allowable only when such costs are directly related to the grant. If Out-of-State Travel, LEA must keep documentation locally.	6411 6419								
6. <b>Non-Employee Costs for Conference</b> LEA must keep documentation locally.	6419								
7. <b>Hosting Conferences for Non-Employees</b> LEA must keep documentation locally.	64xx								
<b>Subtotal Other Operating Costs</b>									
<b>Remaining 6400 Costs That Do Not Require Specific Approval</b>		\$20,000							
<b>Total Other Operating Costs</b>		\$20,000							

**Part 2: Direct Administrative Costs**

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**Organization:** University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley (EPP)  
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SAS#: TMSTEM26

**2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application**

**Program Budget  
 BS6501 - Debt Services**

**Part 1: Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) and Capital Lease Liability Costs**

Budgeted Costs									
Description	Class/ Object Code	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 (ESC Reg's 14,16,17)	ServArea8 (ESC Reg's 15,18,19)
1. SBITA Liability - Principal	6514								
2. SBITA Liability - Interest	6526								
3. Capital Lease Liability - Principal	6512								
4. Capital Lease Liability - Interest	6522								
5. Interest on Debt	6523								
<b>Total Debt Service Costs</b>									

**Part 2: Description of SBITA**

**Subscription**

1. SBITA Description:

Subscription Cost:

Fund Source:

Contract Start Date:  Contract End Date:

**Part 3: Description of Property**

**Property**

1. Property Description:

Property Value:

Fund Source:

Contract Start Date:  Contract End Date:



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SAS#: TMSTEM26

## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Program Budget BS6601 - Capital Outlay

#### Part 1: Capital Expenditures

Budgeted Costs								
Description	ServArea1 (ESC Reg's 1-2)	ServArea2 (ESC Reg's 3-5)	ServArea3 (ESC Reg's 6-7, 12)	ServArea4 (ESC Reg's 8, 10)	ServArea5 (ESC Reg's 9, 11)	ServArea6 (ESC Reg's 13, 20)	ServArea7 (ESC Reg's 14, 16, 17)	ServArea8 (ESC Reg's 15, 18, 19)
1. Library Books and Media (Capitalized and Controlled by Library)								
2. Capital Expenditures for Additions, Improvements, or Modifications to Capital Assets Which Materially Increase Their Value for Useful Life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance)	\$20,000							
3. Furniture, Equipment, Vehicles or Software Costs for Items in Part 2	\$0							
<b>Total Capital Outlay Costs</b>	\$20,000							

#### Part 2: Furniture, Equipment, Vehicles or Software

**Items**

1. Generic Description:  Number of Units:

Fund Source:  Total Costs:

Describe how the item will be used to accomplish the objective of the program:



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## 2026-2027 Texas Mobile STEM Laboratory Program Grant Application

### Provisions Assurances CS7000 - Provisions, Assurances and Certifications

Provisions, Assurances and Certifications	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify my acceptance and compliance with all General and Fiscal Guidelines.	<a href="#" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px; text-decoration: none;">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a>
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify my acceptance and compliance with all Program Guidelines.	<a href="#" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px; text-decoration: none;">Program Guidelines</a>
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify my acceptance and compliance with all General Provisions and Assurances requirements.	<a href="#" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px; text-decoration: none;">General Provisions and Assurances</a>
4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I also certify my acceptance and compliance with all Debarment and Suspension Certification requirements. I certify I am not debarred or suspended.	<a href="#" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px; text-decoration: none;">Debarment and Suspension Certification</a>
5. Choose the appropriate response for Lobbying Certification:	
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify this organization does not spend federal appropriated funds for lobbying activities and certify my acceptance and compliance with all Lobbying Certification requirements.	<a href="#" style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px 10px; border-radius: 5px; text-decoration: none;">Lobbying Certification</a>
b. <input type="checkbox"/> This organization spends non-federal funds on lobbying activities and has attached the required OMB Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form, as described below.	
Instructions for completing and attaching the <a href="#">Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</a> form. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print and sign the form.</li> <li>Scan the signed form and save it to your desktop.</li> <li>Click the <b>Attach Files</b> icon on the Table of Contents page to attach your signed form to this eGrants application.</li> </ul>	

# SSA Funding Report

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Region	County District	Organization	ADC Submitted Date								
				R:							
<b>Total:</b>				R:							
				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0