

**2025-2027 Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative****Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, July 21, 2025**

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

**ESEA of 1965, as amended by the ESSA, Sec. 1111(g)(1)(A)-(2)(N)**This application must be submitted via email to [competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov](mailto:competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov)

Application stamp-in date and time

The 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, July 21, 2025**.

Grant period from

**September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2027**

Pre-award costs permitted from

**Not Permitted****Required Attachments**

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

**Amendment Number**

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

N/A

**Applicant Information**

Organization Region XIV Education Service Center

CDN 221-950

UEI

PX6SCA5K4L

Address 1850 Highway 351

City Abilene

ZIP 78601

Vendor ID 1-751247833

Primary Contact Emilia Moreno

Email emoreno@esc14.net

Phone 325-675-8674

Secondary Contact Emily Jeffrey

Email ejeffrey@esc14.net

Phone 325-675-8003

**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 IDC application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the ICDC application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

☒ IDC application, guidelines, and instructions☒ Debarment and Suspension Certification☒ General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances☒ Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name Chris Wigington

Title Executive Director

Email cwigington@esc14.net

Phone 325-675-8037

Signature

Date

7-21-25

RFA # 701-25-120

SAS # 489-26

2025-2027 Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative

Page 1 of 9

**Shared Services Arrangements**

☐ Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are NOT permitted for this grant.

**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.

- ☒ 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.
- ☒ 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 2025-2027 Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative Program Guidelines.
- ☒ The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2025-2027 Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A Capacity Building Initiative Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- ☒ The applicant provides assurance they accept and will comply with Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances requirements.
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ The applicant acknowledges that Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Fingerprinting Requirement.
- ☒ Any personnel or consultant travel approved in this grant must be reimbursed according to the applicant's written policies and procedures; however, reimbursement may not exceed State of Texas mileage allowance, General Services Administration (GSA) hotel rate, and per diem rate existing in the current Texas State Appropriations Act.

**Summary of Program**

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 mission of the Region 14 Statewide ESSA Title I, Part A (TIPA) Capacity Building Initiative is to build and sustain the capacity of school systems through education service centers (ESCs) across Texas to effectively implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) TIPA requirements. The initiative seeks to improve academic outcomes for all students, especially those who are most at risk of educational failure, by investing in targeted professional development, systems-level collaboration, and tools that promote consistent implementation of best practices through innovative approaches and meaningful partnerships. Region 14 has a proven track record of successful grant management and program implementation. We have consistently met or exceeded the goals of our funded initiatives, demonstrating strong fiscal stewardship and effective program delivery. Region 14 ESC was awarded the Title IV, Part A Capacity Building Initiative in 2020, and successfully maintained and managed the initiative, which provided us with valuable insight and experience, as well as a hub for collaboration between initiatives. This history of success, coupled with our deep understanding of the communities we serve, positions us as an ideal candidate for this grant.

The TIPA State Initiative will support the diversity of ESCs by increasing statewide consistency in Title I implementation, improving outcomes for economically disadvantaged students through stronger leadership and program alignment, and strengthening underserved and rural districts. The following needs have been identified:

- Inconsistent Implementation of TIPA Requirements: School systems lack the internal capacity or expertise to implement and evaluate TIPA program goals with fidelity and align the goals to federal requirements.
- Limited Access to High-Quality Professional Development: Under-resourced and rural districts often face geographic or financial barriers to professional learning opportunities that are aligned with the unique needs of TIPA campuses.
- Data-Driven Decision-Making Support: School systems need guidance in analyzing multiple sources of student, programmatic and financial data which guide Title I decision-making and continuous improvement efforts.
- Leadership Turnover and Knowledge Gaps: Frequent leadership transitions or turnover create knowledge gaps and disrupt continuity in TIPA programming. New leaders often need foundational knowledge and coaching.

The State Initiative will collaborate with TEA through completion of the program elements to provide guidance and assistance that will empower ESCs to deliver quality information to their regional school systems, as well as to those school systems that equitably serve Private Nonprofit (PNP) schools.

## Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel

Provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows: **-At least** (3) three years' working experience with Title I, Part A, program requirements, programs, and/or activities; **-At least** (3) three years' experience facilitating and/or leading ESC workgroups and projects that focused on Title I, Part A, related requirements, programs, and/or activities; **-At least** (2) years' experience providing ESCs and LEAs statewide training and/or technical assistance in Title I, Part A, requirements, programs and/or activities; **-Collaborative** and established working relationship and experience with other ESCs to complete Title I, Part A, related goals and/or outcomes; and **-Proven capacity** to develop and deliver high-quality professional development trainings with large-scale audiences, hybrid/blended models, and demonstration of successful implementation.

Program Lead (1 FTE): - Oversees project management, training implementation, and stakeholder communication.

- 20+ years in education as a secondary teacher and counselor; 3+ years with Federal Program experience
- Manages TIPA compliance training and technical assistance for 42 districts, collaborating with state agencies and maintaining documentation.
- Orchestrates federal program implementation through statewide agency collaboration and internal project management for the TIVA State Initiative.
- Delivers statewide professional development to ESC/LEA professionals via in-person, hybrid, and large-scale conference presentations such as at the Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Conference, TEA Grant Compliance & Administration (GCA) Conference, and Association of Compensatory Educators in Texas (ACET) Conference.
- Contributes to and helps manage the development and maintenance of digital resources and communication platforms.

Program (Instructional) Consultant (1 FTE): - Deliver training, technical assistance, and content development.

- 5+ years teaching experience and 12+ years of Campus Administration in Title I schools
- 12+ years of experience as a TIPA Coordinator at the campus/district level, managing program requirements, Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Committees, Parent Advisory Committees, and developing key plans like the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and Campus Improvement Plan (CIP), Parent Compacts, and Family Engagement Policies.
- Experience in leading program activities, demonstrating the capacity to apply similar leadership and facilitation skills to ESC workgroups.
- Scheduled and conducted TIPA training at the campus/district level, provides statewide professional development training for ESC and school system professionals, and ongoing and continuous technical assistance and support.
- Experience in conducting professional development training using face-to-face and hybrid online models for large scale audiences, with a focus on accurate documentation and successful implementation.

Program (Fiscal/Instructional) Consultant (.5 FTE): - Deliver training, technical assistance, and content development.

- 17+ years teaching experience. 15+ years working with Title I districts while working for the ESC. 7+ years experience with Title I districts as a business manager.
- Experience in school business working as a school business consultant for ESC.
- ESSER consultant for Region 14. Provided technical assistance and program support. Assisted in ESSER annual reporting in Smartsheet WorkApps and drawdowns in Expenditure Reporting in TEA Login (TEAL).
- Experience with Smartsheet WorkApps. Provide technical assistance to submit compliance reports, submit documentation for validations, technical assistance in learning how to maneuver through Smartsheet WorkApps, how to maintain contacts in Smartsheet WorkApps, etc.
- Assisted with providing technical assistance to Title I districts in the areas of programs and budget.
- Provided technical assistance in Expenditure Reporting, in TEAL, on drawdowns.

Digital Media Consultant (.5 FTE): - Scheduling, webpage development, document preparation, data entry, marketing.

- 10+ years teaching experience in TIPA schools and 6+ years district-level experience supporting projects that include TIPA programming, plus broad experience with various federal programs
- Currently provides statewide professional development to ESC and school system professionals on Title IV, Part A and offers technical assistance on policy updates including presentations at the PFE Conference, ACET Conferences, and TEA GCA Institute
- Collaborates with statewide agencies and TEA on various projects
- Extensive experience in developing and delivering professional learning workshops, including statewide training for large audiences, using face-to-face and hybrid/blended models
- 10+ years of experience in content creation and management of websites, social media accounts, marketing materials, and electronic communications for a variety of organizations (professional, nonprofit, social)

**Goals, Objectives, and Strategies**

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

- (1) Improve consistency and effectiveness in TIPA program implementation by:
  - (a) Creating a collaborative environment among ESCs and TEA to best serve all school systems
  - (b) Developing specialized resources for small and rural school systems
  - (c) Spotlighting TIPA, Title I, Part D, and PNP best practices in action
  - (d) Creating a working collaborative environment between the fiscal and program components of federal programs
- (2) Foster sustainability through statewide collaboration and innovation by:
  - (a) Fostering innovative approaches to programming and deliverables
  - (b) Modernizing the website to be user-friendly and contain valuable resources
  - (c) Interactively approaching professional development opportunities
  - (e) Regularly collaborating between state agencies and other state initiatives
  - (f) Standardizing the look of all materials, tools, and digital media to increase program and fiscal awareness
  - (g) Formatting digital resources for a variety of audiences and learning styles (e.g. video, podcast, social media)
- (3) Build relationships with other state initiatives to serve ESCs by:
  - (a) Collaborating on presentations for conferences and programming events
  - (b) Developing shared resources, both programmatic and fiscal, that serve multiple federal programs
  - (c) Facilitating or hosting combined programming events

**Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, cont'd.**

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

**Performance and Evaluation Measures**

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 Region 14 Statewide ESSA TIPA Capacity Building Initiative is designed to indirectly impact student outcomes by increasing the capacity of systems through ESC staff in designing and implementing effective Title I programs.

The following performance measures will be tracked to determine the effectiveness of the initiative:

- Collaboration and planning through regular Initiative meetings including Initiative staff, TEA, other state agencies or initiatives, and/or Region 14 staff
- Surveying stakeholders through electronic forms to receive feedback on conference presentations, program meetings, training, and resources/tools.
- Collecting and analyzing data regarding relevant website engagement, newsletter engagement, program meeting attendance, presentation evaluations, and social media engagement.
- Conducting annual TIPA Needs Assessments electronically submitted by ESC stakeholders.
- Monitoring time and effort statistics of Initiative staff, including technical assistance, professional development with participants, and professional development of ESC staff (i.e. program and leadership training to increase Initiative staff's knowledge and self-efficacy in implementing Title I programs).
- Producing quarterly reports to TEA spotlighting completed deliverables and relevant data summaries.

**Budget Narrative**

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 is strategically designed to support the implementation, delivery, and sustainability of the Initiative's goals. Adjustments to the proposed budget allocations may be required based on: TEA or ESC feedback to the Initiative program elements, goals, and strategies; emerging needs (such as legislative changes or growth in event participation); special requests from TEA; underspent/overspent budget areas; and evaluation data showing areas of impact or improvement. Funds may be reallocated to expand access to training in a virtual format. Below are our proposed expenditures based on the \$380,000 funding per year:

(1) 6200 Professional and Contracted Services \$272,402

(a) Personnel/Staff expenditures totaling \$237,734 for two (2) full-time FTEs and two (2) part-time FTEs.

(b) Building Use Fee allocated based on square footage of FTEs space multiplied by the building use rate of \$4.50 for an annual fee of \$18,900

(c) Network Access Fee charged per FTE annually of a rate of \$5,256 to provide software, internet, and technology to perform duties. Total costs of \$15,768.

(2) 6300 Supplies and Materials \$45,000

(a) Supplies/Materials/Resources expenditures to provide statewide support, training, professional development, resources, and tools, including printing of toolkits, resource guides, and software licenses for collaboration/data tracking.

(3) 6400 Other Operating Costs \$44,503

(a) Travel expenditures to attend required training, conferences, and meetings.

(4) Indirect Costs \$18,095

Currently, Region 14 ESC is the recipient of the Title IV, Part A Capacity Building Initiative. Therefore, we have provided current funding allocations established based on current expenditures for the Title IV, Part A Capacity Building Initiative of \$592,000 on an annual basis.

The funding is allocated as follows:

(1) 6200 Professional and Contracted Services \$406,810

(a) Personnel/Staff expenditures totaling \$237,734 for two (2) full-time FTEs and two (2) part-time FTEs.

(b) Building Use Fee allocated based on square footage of FTEs space multiplied by the building use rate of \$4.50 for a fee of \$18,900 each year.

(c) Network Access Fee charged per FTE annually of a rate of \$5,256 to provide software, internet, and technology to perform duties. Total costs of \$15,768.

(d) Training space and meeting room rental fees totaling \$50,000 to provide equipped learning environments.

(e) Professional services totaling \$84,408.

(2) 6300 Supplies and Materials \$117,000

(a) Supplies/Materials/Resources expenditures totaling \$40,000 to provide statewide support, training, professional development, resources, and tools including printing of toolkits, resource guides, and software licenses for collaboration/data tracking.

(b) Training and events expenditures totaling \$30,000 to provide high-quality training and presentations and host program meetings, events, and conferences.

(c) Technology expenditures totaling \$47,000 of equipment (laptops, monitors, keyboard/mouse, webcam, and mobile presentation equipment for staff members)

(3) 6400 Other Operating Costs \$40,000

Travel expenditures totaling \$40,000 to attend program required training, conferences, and meetings.

(4) Indirect Costs \$28,191

## Equitable Access and Participation

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this program.

- ☒ The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this program.
- ☐ Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

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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

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