



2023-2025 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2023

NOGA ID [Redacted]

Authorizing legislation Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), P.L. 114-95, Section 1003, School Improvement

This LOI application must be submitted via email to loiapplications@tea.texas.gov.

The LOI 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 21, 2023**.

Grant period from **July 3, 2023-September 30, 2025**

Pre-award costs permitted from **Award Date**

Required Attachments

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)
2. Pathway 1: Pathway 1 Supplemental Attachment
3. Pathway 2: Pathway 2 Supplemental Attachment
4. Memo of Discussion

NOTE: All applicants MUST submit an appropriate Supplemental Pathway Attachment for EACH CAMPUS on behalf of which the applicant is applying.

Amendment Number

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

Applicant Information

Organization CDN Campus ESC UEI

Address City ZIP Vendor ID

Primary Contact Email Phone

Secondary Contact Email Phone

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 Title

Email Phone

Signature  Date

Shared Services Arrangements

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

Number of Campuses Included in this Application

Pathway 1

Pathway 2

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 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.
- 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 2023-2025 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2023-2025 Title I, ESF-Focused Support 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 they accept and will comply with the requirements of [Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances](#).
- 6. 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.
- 7. Title I served Federally Identified campuses awarded this grant will engage in the Effective Schools Framework (ESF) continuous improvement process and create a plan to be submitted to TEA that addresses the selected pathway aligned to the Essential Actions (EA) from the ESF.
- 8. The applicant ensures it will notify the Vetted Improvement Program provider of intent to apply and, if awarded, will work in good faith with the Vetted Improvement Program.
- 9. The applicant will identify a campus leader, on each awarded campus, who will be responsible for managing the grant project.

Statutory/Program Assurances, cont'd.

- 10. The applicant will provide access to TEA and its Vetted Improvement Partners for on-site visits to the district and campus(es) as appropriate.
- 11. The applicant provides assurance it will participate in all grant requirements including but not limited to an ESF Self-Assessment and ESF Diagnostic, developing a Targeted Improvement Plan, and submission of funding and pathway progress reports.
- 12. The applicant provides assurance it will provide awarded campuses access to grant funding and funding information in a timely manner, so that funding can be used to meet the needs and action steps of the campus during the grant period.

Summary of Program

1. Describe how the LEA will support campus(es) in carrying out school improvement activities, including how the LEA will help develop a Targeted Improvement Plan for the eligible campus(es) selected for this grant.

Arlington Independent School District (AISD) will support 9 campuses (1 comprehensive Support, 8 Targeted Support), in completing school support and improvement activities to: strengthen campus systems, build staff capacity, & improve school outcomes. AISD will provide Focused Support to continue implementation and/or support of improvement efforts, and respectfully requests funding of \$900,000 from the Title I, 1003 Effective Schools Framework Focused-Support grant. Funds will directly benefit 9 Title I-served, federally identified Comprehensive and Targeted Support campuses: Sam Houston HS, Carter JH, Crow Leadership Academy, South Davis ES, Thornton ES, Short ES, Sherrod ES, Miller ES, & Larson ES.

AISD district/campus leaders have chosen to partner with Texas Instructional Leadership (TIL) through PATHWAY 1- Participation in an External Vetted Improvement Program (VIP) to meet the program/grant objectives including the development and use of a web-based improvement plan for selected campuses. Partnering with TIL in other AISD-Title I initiatives, TIL is a TEA-vetted and approved training program that can support the district and identified campuses in high-quality contracted services aligned with foundational essential actions within the Effective Schools Framework (ESF). TIL will partner with AISD campuses in the areas of Observation and Feedback, School-wide Culture and Routines, and DDI dependent upon campus needs identified through ESF Diagnostic and Self-Assessment results. Executive training focuses on implementation of campus systems and developing campus leadership in key practices aligned to each of the Prioritized Focus Areas listed in campus web-based improvement plans. Training and coaching are designed to accelerate student growth through targeted observation and feedback cycles with teachers, campus leaders, and TIL staff. Practices are purposefully aligned to the key practices of ESF 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 and are continuously enacted so campus leaders have clear roles and responsibilities that show regular support for successful implementation.

AISD campus principals and district leaders (Chief Academic Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, Director of School Improvement, Director of State/Federal Programs, Executive Directors) support the campus' participation in each phase of the improvement process including: data analysis, needs assessment, and developing, implementing, and monitoring a customized Targeted Improvement Plan that meets each campus' needs/plan for improvement aligned to ESF focus area(s) and VIP pathway of choice. In addition, TIL will meet regularly with district and campus staff to monitor progress and review data, infusing job-embedded professional development to ensure fidelity of implementation and growth.

2. Describe how the LEA will monitor schools receiving the ESF-Focused Support Grant, including how the LEA will: (a) Monitor Targeted Improvement Plans upon submission and during implementation, and (b) Implement additional actions as needed to meet barriers and challenges, after the first year of the grant cycle.

AISD, TIL, & 9 identified campuses (Sam Houston HS, Carter JH, Crow Leadership Academy, South Davis ES, Thornton ES, Short ES, Sherrod ES, Miller ES, Larson ES) will create an Implementation Timeline to ensure all components of Statutory Requirements, Program Specific Assurances, financial, & programmatic goals are met with fidelity. In collaboration with TIL (ESF Approved VIP), AISD notified them of Intent to Apply, received a signed Memo of Discussion, and will work in good faith to meet program objectives. Using ESF Diagnostic/self-assessment data for ESF Prioritized Focus Areas, each campus completed the Pathway Specific attachment as required. Campus Project Contact is the principal. Based on data/assessments, funds will be allocated to best meet grant objectives.

Each awarded campus will engage in grant requirements/submissions, including: • ESF self-assessment, • ESF Diagnostic (ESF-D) visit, if campus has not had one in the last 3 years, • Develop ESF-aligned web-based improvement plan to address needs & participate in progress submissions during school year, • Engage in capacity-building pathway(s) including ongoing feedback, coaching/ implementation support from Div of School Improvement, progress reports, • Participate in differentiated trainings on ESF Framework Overview (if not yet attended, web-based improvement plan development, grant spending & coaching, • Provide access to VIP &/or TEA for on-site visits, • Attend/participate in meetings: grant orientation, technical assistance, & share best practices.

Using compliance measures -- data review & regular check-ins with TIL (PATHWAY 1 VIP), district/campus stakeholders, AISD will a) Monitor web-based improvement plans upon submission/during implementation, & b) Implement additional action in event the plan is unsuccessful. Ensuring leader/teacher growth at each identified campus is aligned to Essential Action (EA) Key Practices, is a high priority for the state as well as AISD & TIL. To ensure fidelity of implementation for campus web-based improvement plans, Exec Directors/DCSI participate in campus visits to observe & support implementation of TIL and monitoring of the TIP. The Exec Directors/DCSI collaborate with principals on adjustments to implementation strategies throughout the year to ensure successful implementation demonstrated through teacher growth and student achievement gains.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, Performance and Evaluation

1. Describe how the LEA will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to the awarded campus, that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions and aligned Targeted Improvement Plan.

AISD is applying for the ESF Focused-Support grant to benefit 9 Title I-served, federally identified Comprehensive and Targeted Support campuses: Sam Houston HS, Carter JH, Crow Leadership Academy, South Davis ES, Thornton ES, Short ES, Sherrod ES, Miller ES, Larson ES (2022 ratings). In addition, the district is applying for PRIORITY POINTS for campuses with: 1) High-need Campus State Accountability Rating, 2) Economically Disadvantaged Campus (2021-2022 TAPR), and 3) Geographic Location (NCES).

All identified campuses are Title I school wide status, and have the federal support label "Comprehensive" or "Targeted Support". Campus results for priority points are as follows in each of three areas:

- Sam Houston HS: NR:SB1365/ CSI, 89%, City, 26 points
- Carter JH: C/Targeted, 91%, City, 16 points
- Crow Leadership Academy: C/Targeted, 96%, City, 16 points
- South Davis Elementary: C/Targeted, 94%, City, 16 points
- Thornton Elementary: C/Targeted, 95%, City, 16 points
- Short Elementary: B/Targeted, 87%, City, 16 points
- Sherrod Elementary: C/Targeted, 87%, City, 16 points
- Miller Elementary: D/Targeted, 69%, City, 6 points
- Larson Elementary: B/Targeted, 87%, Suburb, 20 points

AISD will assist awarded campuses in all aspects of the continuous improvement process for: data analysis, needs assessment, development, implementing and monitoring a plan for improvement. AISD and TIL will develop SMART GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & STRATEGIES to monitor and measure the program's impact over time for each of the identified campuses for the 2023-2025 ESF grant project, and will update as needed based on evaluation results. AISD campuses will collect data and report on the following mandatory PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

- Participation in an ESF Diagnostic
- Participation in ESF-aligned differentiated trainings, as necessary and required
- Development of a web-based Improvement Plan and progress submissions
- Participation in feedback and coaching from the Division of School Improvement
- Participation in grant spending coaching and training

Required PATHWAY 1 PERFORMANCE MEASURES to be monitored and reported to TEA via the web-based improvement plan include (but will not be limited to):

- Training and professional development participation
- On-site observation visits and feedback
- Direct coaching
- Implementation of VIP practices

EVALUATION: Based upon the review/evaluation of formative and summative results, benchmarks and progress attained toward SMART GOALS, campuses that do not show improvement will receive additional targeted support in year 2. To provide OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY to awarded campuses, AISD/TIL will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies that enable full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework EA-aligned web-based Improvement Plan. The DCSI and TIL facilitators work with Principal Supervisors on specific critical moves for supporting campus leaders related to each focus area to ensure continuity and long-term sustainability of continuous improvement processes across all improvement required campuses. TIL facilitators will align training and coaching outcomes to the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web-based improvement plans.

Budget Narrative

1. Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

Arlington Independent School District requests \$900,000 from the ESF Focused-Support grant to benefit 1 high school, 1 junior high, and 7 elementary schools. These funds are supplemental, and will not supplant existing federal, state, or local funds available. Direct costs, and direct administrative costs are reasonable and necessary for the program implementation. AISD has vast experience in managing grant programs and the capacity to administer the Texas Education Agency Title 1 ESF Focused-Support grant with fidelity to meet all objectives, both programmatically and fiscally. District policies are in place to ensure that activities are completed on time, within budget, and with quality results. AISD will follow local, state, federal and funder guidelines and policies for staff, fingerprinting and background checks, accounting, and purchasing.

Program costs for the grant cycle (July 2023 through September 2025), include:

- Contract Services with external TEA-approved Vetted Improvement Program (VIP) Texas Instructional Leadership, to engage in Pathway 1 Training Programs*: \$450,000 (\$50,000 x 9 campuses)

BELOW AMOUNTS ARE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL CAMPUS AND WILL BE ADJUSTED WHEN TOTAL CAMPUSES IS KNOWN
6100 • Extra Duty pay for professional staff (\$18,000), Extra Duty Pay for Paraprofessional staff (\$2,000), Substitute Pay (\$6,000), and Fringe Benefits (\$3,069).

6300 • Supplies/Materials for instructional materials directly aligned to the ESF-Prioritized Focus areas for each campus, and supplies/materials to implement grant activities (\$17,360)

6400 • Travel reimbursement for teachers/principals to attend training(s) (\$500)

Direct Costs: 9 campuses (\$46,929). Total Direct Costs for all campuses (\$422,361)

- Indirect Costs, based on AISD's current TEA-approved Restricted Indirect Cost Rate of 3.492% (\$26,639)
- Total grant amount requested: \$900,000

*TEXAS INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP COMPONENTS:

- Principal Supervisor Training and Coaching. TIL will provide training for Principal Supervisors through a two-day Coaches Academy, followed by monthly campus implementation sessions with a focus on specific critical moves for supporting campus leaders related to each of the prioritized Focus Areas listed in campus web-based Improvement Plans.

- Executive Training and Coaching for Campus. Principal Supervisors, Principals, Assistant Principals, and other campus leaders receive orientation and 4 days of training throughout the year. There is an initial two day training with two follow up days throughout the year to support implementation.

- Teacher Training and Coaching. Identified teacher leaders will attend the 4 days of training that campus leadership receives. Teachers will receive the majority of their support from campus leadership after campus leadership is trained and coached through TIL. Teachers will participate in and received feedback on the campus implementation visits with the TIL specialist, Principal, and Principal supervisor.

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY ADJUSTMENTS

With the understanding that the overall shape and scope of the program is dependent upon funding and resources available at the time, AISD actively seeks additional funding streams and sustainability for programs. AISD is committed to providing research-based leadership programs and building effective leadership from within the district and hopes to increase internal funding of this program over time. In order to meet future needs, funding needs will be evaluated and requests adjusted to ensure long-term sustainability.

Budget Narrative, cont'd.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure campus leaders have direct access to grant funding to ensure alignment to the Targeted Improvement Plan.

FUND ALIGNMENT

The goals for the Effective Schools Framework are in alignment with that of AISD to:

- strengthen the instructional core by supporting effective teachers,
- provide high-quality curriculum, and
- provide a positive school culture at campuses throughout the district.

AISD will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant. We seek to maximize grants and partnership investments to increase the capacity and impact of the ESF-Focused grant goals and objectives. The nine identified campuses (Sam Houston HS, Carter JH, Crow Leadership Academy, South Davis ES, Thornton ES, Short ES, Sherrod ES, Miller ES, Larson ES) receive funds from several other fund sources for similar programs. Programs/fund sources include (but are not limited to):

- Title I, Part A;
- Title I, School Improvement Program;
- Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction;
- Title III, ELA;
- IDEA-B, Formula/ Preschool/Discretionary grants; and
- ARP/ESSER III.

SHORT-TERM GOAL

Integrate ESF Focused-Support grant funding with state and local initiatives to maximize resources and meet annual shared goals.

LONG-TERM GOAL

Reduce gaps in support to improve school-level efforts which directly benefit the AISD campuses labeled: Comprehensive Support/Improvement, Targeted Support/Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement schools.

Understanding the importance of long-term sustainability, Arlington Independent School District's staff and board are constantly developing and implementing plans to increase discretionary funding in order to improve effective instruction and ensure an excellent education for all students. The overall goal of district Fund Development is to sustain and/or increase student academic outcomes over time, rather than programs. Building strong campus leadership teams through focused training enables AISD to build the organizational capacity to improve student outcomes.

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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