



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

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):

NA

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	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Pathway 2	<input type="text"/>

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.

Rice CISD will adhere to a systemic and sustainable approach to school improvement, focusing on strong school leadership and planning, aligned instructional resources, effective instruction, and positive school culture. We are committed to utilizing grant funds to provide support and resources to Rice Junior High to implement the next steps in their Targeted Improvement Plan. After analyzing various diagnostic data, including the ESF Diagnostic, we will identify the two highest-need areas for capacity support. Rice CISD district leaders will assist campus leaders in planning and implementing their improvement plans.

We will continue to provide oversight, professional learning, resources, a district learning framework and coaching as we build capacity in our teachers and campus leaders. In addition, we will continue to support a district-wide, positive school culture program and provide leadership coaching to strengthen our campus instructional leadership capacity.

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.

Rice CISD will complete monthly campus visits, with a set, but flexible agenda, to monitor Targeted Improvement Plan implementation. These visits will include progress on specific actions outlined in the campus's TIP, discussion and action plans to reduce or eliminate barriers and challenges, and the next critical steps. Notes from the meeting will include discussion points, next steps, the responsible party, and what resources and support the campus needs from the LEA. In the second year of the grant cycle, the TIP meeting will focus on additional actions needed to decrease or eliminate overarching barriers or challenges. In addition, the principal supervisors will provide constant support and coaching and bring in other outside help as needed. The leadership team will also collaborate with other campus leaders through participation in region collaboratives, attending conferences, and observing other campus leaders within the district.

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.

The ESF aligns with district initiatives and improvement efforts, as outlined in the Rice CISD's Learning Framework. The framework, created in the fall of 2022, used the Effective Schools Framework, among other resources, to develop a district system for the learning environment, collaboration, instruction, and assessment systems. Based on the newly created framework, the district initiatives will align with Rice Junior High's TIP efforts. Rice CISD will ensure that any barriers with practices and policies with operational flexibility towards school improvement are minimized or eliminated for the campus to fully and effectively implement the essential actions aligned with their TIP.

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.

Rice CISD's focus has been and will continue to be on capacity building of our campus leaders, teacher leaders, teachers, and staff. Our proposed budget will support the campus initiatives that align with Lever 1: Strong School Leadership and Planning, and Lever 5: Effective Instruction. These levers align with the needs identified in the ESF Diagnostic. Rice Junior High has had 4 principals in the last 4 years. The current principal has been leading the campus since November 2022 with an assistant and counselor who are also new to the campus this year and have no previous experience in their positions. We want to groom, support and strengthen this team through use of grant funds. We want to budget the ESF/TIL training for Lever 1 with Region 3. Last year the campus used their ESF funds to begin the TIL training on Lesson Alignment and Formative Assessment. This training was never fully implemented because of interruptions due to the transition in campus leadership and teachers throughout the school year. The district believes that repeating the training and starting again with implementation with a new team will support the growth in the capacity of the leadership team to guide learning routines across the campus. Throughout our training, we will utilize funds to provide all supplies, materials, and needed extra resources to the campus to effectively implement the TIL strategies. For our work in Lever 5: Effective Instruction, we want to partner with other consultants to support the campus leadership in making most effective use of instructional staff, and to support teachers through coaching from content specialists. Professional learning for teachers will focus on best practices to maximize learning and will support the campus in implementing the district's learning framework. We will adjust support as needed and provide the supplies and materials required as we monitor the progress of our plan.

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.

In addition to quarterly budget meetings, the LEA will work with campus leaders during our monthly or bi-monthly meetings to align grant funding directly to the actions outlined in the campus's TIP. Rice CISD will provide several vetted options and guidance to campus leaders that will assist in meeting the goals of the TIP.

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.

Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>

Appendix I: Amendment Description and Purpose (leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding)

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the [Administering a Grant](#) page. The following are required to be submitted for an amendment: (1) Page 1 of the application with updated contact information and current authorized official's signature and date, (2) Appendix I with changes identified and described, (3) all updated sections of the application or budget affected by the changes identified below, and, if applicable, (4) Amended Budget Request. Amendment Instructions with more details can be found on the last tab of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page

Amended Section

Reason for Amendment