



**2021-2023 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021**

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, 2021**.

Grant period from **July 8, 2021-September 30, 2023**

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 Pathway Attachment
3. Pathway 2: Pathway 2 Supplemental Pathway Attachment

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): [REDACTED]

Applicant Information

Organization CDN Campus ESC DUNS

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="0"/>
Pathway 2	<input type="text" value="1"/>

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 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2021-2023 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. For all pathways, the applicant will budget at least the minimum amount indicated in the Budget Object Code 6200 - Profession and Contracted Services.

Statutory/Program Assurances, cont'd.

- 10. The applicant will identify a campus leader, on each awarded campus, who will be responsible for managing the grant project.
- 11. The applicant will provide access to TEA and its Vetted Improvement Partners for on-site visits to the district and campus(es) as appropriate.
- 12. The applicant will attend and participate in grant orientation meetings, technical assistance meetings, other periodic meetings of grantees, and sharing of best practices through the TEA program office.
- 13. 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 web-based improvement plan, submission of funding and pathway progress reports.

Summary of Program

1. Describe how the LEA will support campus(es) in carrying out school support and improvement activities, including how the LEA will develop a web-based improvement plan for the eligible campuses selected for this grant.

Ft Hancock ISD will support our Benito Martinez Elementary campus in carrying out school support and improvement activities by:

- Allowing operational flexibility by shifting resources, processes, and/or practices in response to critical needs identified.
- Allowing customized approaches, expedition of resources, and departures from standard practice when the need is substantiated.
- Eliminating barriers to improvement and empowering staff to be responsive in support of school leadership.
- Utilizing internal and external human capital and necessary resources to meet defined needs for a successful learning environment.
- Prioritizing teaching and learning by implementing systemic protocols.
- Hiring a literacy coach to work with our teachers to identify issues with students or curriculum, and set goals. Collaboration with staff to develop curriculum and lesson plans as well as to work with high need students be a main focus.
- Communicating a clear, focused vision for continuous improvement aligned with collaborative efforts for student success.
- Developing an improvement plan by
 - *convening a diverse, representative team with assigned roles and responsibilities
 - *reviewing data sources
 - *identifying & supporting priority areas
 - *conducting a root cause analysis
 - *developing goals and strategies for implementation
 - *creating implementation activities for goals

2. Describe how the LEA will monitor schools receiving the ESF-Focused Support Grant, including how the LEA will: (a) Monitor a web-based improvement plans upon submission and during implementation, and (b) Implement additional action following unsuccessful implementation of such plan after the first year of the grant cycle.

Ft Hancock ISD will monitor our Benito Martinez Elementary in the following ways in order to ensure compliance with the web-based improvement plan:

- Quarterly check-ins for formative reviews
- Principal supervision and coaching
- Training and professional development participation
- Campus visits/observation focused on targeted levers
- Direct coaching
- Implementation and support of VIP practices
- Onsite observation visits and feedback

If the campus is unsuccessful in the implementation of the plan in the first year of the grant cycle Ft Hancock ISD and Benito Martinez Elementary will:

- Review all data sources
- Conduct root cause analysis
- Develop strategies for corrective implementation
- Monitor implementation of correction actions and project strategies

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 aligned web-based Improvement Plan.

Ft Hancock ISD will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to Benito Martinez Elementary, that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web based Improvement Plan by:

- Setting a priority to change ineffective practices and processes that hinder student success
- Putting in place explicit and rigorous standards for student learning
- Responding and/or adjusting goals when they are not met in a timely manner
- Interacting with all stakeholders to plan and implement improvement initiatives
- Continuously review systemic, district-wide practices
- Addressing and modifying support based on needs and personnel

Budget Narrative

1. Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

The proposed budget was collectively and collaboratively developed by instructional leaders within our school district to meet the prioritized needs of students and staff as identified during a comprehensive needs assessment process. To increase program effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and reduce fragmentation of instructional programs, our district will coordinate these supplemental funds with federal Title, State, and local funds to provide appropriate programs, instruction, and services to all students while maximizing the impact of available resources.

A large expenditure for the proposed budget will be within the 6200 object code for contracted services to work in strategic partnership with E3 Alliance RAISE-up Texas towards improvement in focus areas of Strong School Leadership & Planning and Effective Instruction. Principal supervisors, principals, campus leaders and instructional staff will engage with E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas facilitators, in activities such as, but not limited to coaching sessions, professional learning, transformative work, connecting to the Effective Schools Framework, enhancing strategic plans, instructional models, the utilization of data to drive best practices, and personalized pathways for supporting instructional staff through the cycles of observation, feedback, coaching and continuous improvement.

In order to build capacity and ensure deeper implementation and improvement, personnel costs (6100 object) will be budgeted for teacher leaders, to be vetted, selected and provided a supplemental stipend to carry out extra duty pay activities as Master Teachers, and for additional days/hours or work to support school-wide improvement. The cost of hiring a literacy coach will be partially covered in order to help assist with coaching and implementation of research based interventions. Upon successful, effective and impactful change, based on the evaluation of a predetermined data set, the two-year grant will allow our district to plan for budgeting for our awarded elementary school to receive supports and provide stipends to teachers for leading the work on our elementary campus. The budget also includes substitute costs which will be budgeted to cover classroom instruction as teachers attend professional learning opportunities at the home campus with E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas.

Supplies/materials (object 6300) will include, but are not limited to: instructional manipulatives, technology hardware/software, supplemental instructional materials, books for professional development, student texts, supplies to enhance student engagement and achievement, etc.

The two-year grant will allow our school district to plan for budgeting the awarded school. Our district will be able to plan for future year's budgets and make priority decisions about spending to ensure we sustain this work and expand to more schools in our district.

Budget Narrative, cont'd.

2. Describe how the LEA will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant.

The proposed budget was collectively and collaboratively developed by district instructional leaders in order to better meet the prioritized needs of students and staff as identified during the comprehensive needs assessment process. To increase program effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and reduce fragmentation of instructional programs, the district will coordinate these supplemental funds with Federal Title 1, Title II, Title III, and Title IV, state and local funds to provide appropriate programs, instruction, and services to all students while maximizing the impact of available resources. Initial planning of schedules, time, available resources will all be taken into consideration prior to the full implementation of services and goods being procured.

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

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