

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY  
Division of Grants Administration

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*Texas 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers  
Grant Program, Cycle 2*

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DATE:	August 1, 2003
TO:	THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT ADDRESSED
SUBJECT:	Request for Application (RFA) 701-03-021 Texas 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Grant Program, Cycle 2

**Eligible Applicants**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requesting applications from local educational agencies (LEAs) including public school districts, open enrollment charter schools and regional education service centers; community-based organizations (CBOs); and other public or private entities, nonprofit or for profit, or a consortium of two or more agencies, organizations, or entities to establish or expand community learning centers. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, nonprofit agencies, city or county government agencies, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and for-profit corporations. A shared service arrangement (SSA) of two or more LEAs is also eligible to apply.

Applications must be submitted through a district/charter system or through the chief governing or executive officer of the entity submitting the application. An application must designate the specific campuses that meet the eligibility requirements of the grant in order to determine the students and families to be served in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center. One application will be limited to not more than five community learning centers (physical hosting sites). If more than one application is submitted from an eligible applicant, the applications will be in competition with each other as well as with all other applications submitted. Existing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers with grants from the United States Department of Education and currently receiving funding may submit an application requesting supplementary services for the existing grant program.

**Program Description**

The purpose of the Texas 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program, Cycle 2, is to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers to: (1) offer academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help children, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, meet state and local student academic achievement standards in core academic subjects, such as reading, mathematics, and science; (2) offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, and physical education and fitness programs, and technology education programs that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and (3) offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for literacy and related

educational development. Program services must be offered only when schools are not in session (before or after school, during holidays or summer recess). Centers can be located in elementary or secondary schools or other similarly-accessible facilities. The program must be carried out in active collaboration with the schools the students attend. Applications must provide for partnerships between an LEA, a CBO, and other public or private organizations, if appropriate. Applicants should plan a starting date of March 1, 2004 and an ending date of no later than May 31, 2005.

### **Project Funding**

The Texas 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Cycle 2 grant program year 1 will be implemented during the summer 2004 and the 2004-2005 school year. A total of approximately \$22,000,000 is available to fund approximately 130 single centers. Applications submitted with multiple centers but not to exceed five, impact the number of grants that can be awarded based on the amount of the funds available for allocation. The grant request may not be less than \$50,000 or greater than \$175,000 per center, not exceeding \$875,000 for a total of five centers. Each community learning center may serve students on more than one campus and a campus may be served through only one community learning center. Project funding in the second and third years will be based on satisfactory progress on the previous year's objectives and activities, on appropriations by the U. S. Congress and on the number of centers established, the number of students and campuses served by each center, and on the activities to be implemented during out-of-school time throughout the grant period. This project is funded 100% from federal funds.

### **Selection Criteria**

Applications will be selected based on the independent reviewers' assessment of each applicant's ability to carry out all requirements contained in the RFA. Reviewers will evaluate applications based on the overall quality and validity of the proposed grant program and the extent to which the application addresses the primary objective(s) and intent of the project. Applications must address each statutory requirement as specified in the RFA to be considered for funding. TEA will not award a grant to an applicant receiving an average score below 70.

Federal or State Competitive Priority Points may be added to applications that receive a score of not less than 70 on the basic scoring criteria. Additional information on priority points may be found in the RFA, in Part 1, Section VIII. Selection of Applications for Funding Consideration.

The TEA reserves the right to select from the highest ranking applications those that address all requirements in the RFA and that are most advantageous to the project.

The TEA is not obligated to approve an application, provide funds, or endorse any application submitted in response to this RFA. This RFA does not commit TEA to pay any costs before an application is approved. The issuance of this RFA does not obligate TEA to award a grant or pay any costs incurred in preparing a response.

### **Requesting the Application**

You may download this RFA by clicking on "REGISTER" at the end of this document. Or a copy may be obtained by: writing the Document Control Center, Room 6.108, Texas Education Agency, William B. Travis Building, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701; calling 512-463-9304; faxing 512-463-9811; or e-mailing [dcc@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:dcc@tea.state.tx.us). Please refer to the RFA number and title in your request. Provide your name, complete mailing address, and phone number including area code.

### **Deadline for Receipt of Applications**

Applications must be received in the Document Control Center of the TEA by **5:00 P.M. (Central Time), Thursday, October 30, 2003**, to be considered for funding.

**Applicants' Conference**

Prospective applicants will be provided an opportunity to receive general and clarifying information from TEA about the scope of the Texas 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Cycle 2 grant program at an Applicants' Conference scheduled for September 3, 2003 from 1-4 p.m. on the Texas Educational Telecommunication Network (TETN) available at each regional Education Service Center (ESC). In order to locate the nearest TETN facility, please contact the TETN site manager at your regional ESC. The purpose of this conference is to clarify information contained in the RFA posted in the Texas Register on August 1, 2003. Pre-conference questions may be sent in writing to [gkidwell@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:gkidwell@tea.state.tx.us) prior to August 25, 2003. These questions will be addressed in the presentation.

Each person attending will be required to sign a register and provide the representative's name, applicant organization represented and its name, address, and telephone number. This Applicants' Conference will be the single opportunity, in a group setting, to ask questions of TEA staff to assist potential applicants in clarifying their understanding of the scope and nature of the work required in this application. The conference will be open to all potential applicants and all questions asked and answered will be in the presence of all attending. The entire Applicants' Conference will be videotaped. Prospective applicants who are not able to attend the Applicant's Conference may request a copy of the videotape at no charge from the Division of Chapter 37/ Safe Schools at the Texas Education Agency.

**Notice of Intent to Apply**

The Notice of Intent to Apply for RFA # 701-03-021 should be received by TEA not later than Thursday, September 25, 2003. The filing of the notice is not mandatory; however, it will assist the Texas Education Agency in anticipating the volume of applications in order to better expedite the review process and finalize awards. The form for response is included in the RFA on page iii.

**Requests for Additional Information**

In order to assure that no prospective applicant may obtain a competitive advantage because of acquisition of information unknown to other prospective applicants, any additional information, that is different from or in addition to, information provided in the Request for Application or at the Applicant's Conference will be provided only in response to written inquiries. Copies of all such inquiries and the written answers thereto will be posted on the Grants Administration website.

Unless otherwise noted, all inquiries for information must be made in writing to the Document Control Center, Room 6-108, Texas Education Agency, William B. Travis Bldg., 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701-1494. The RFA number, located in the lower right corner of the front cover of this RFA, must be identified in the written request for information.

For clarifying information about the RFA, please contact Geraldine Kidwell, Division of Chapter 37/Safe Schools, at (512) 463-9068.

Sincerely,  
Paul Cruz, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Dropout Prevention and Initiatives

*To download a copy of this application or proposal, please register using the button below. Registration is required to facilitate the notification of changes to this RFA/RFP's application/proposal or process.*

*Registration information may be released to the public after the application/proposal period closes.*

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*Texas Education Agency*

***Grants Administration***

***Send comments or suggestions to [dcc@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:dcc@tea.state.tx.us)***