

UNIVERSITY FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE
IN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS & FIELDS INCENTIVE AWARD

Background

The University Funding for Excellence in Specific Programs and Fields Incentive Awards, established under Texas Education Code §61.0956(a), aims to develop and maintain specific programs or fields of study of the highest national rank or recognition for that type of program or field.

Eligible Institutions

Public institutions of higher education that are general academic teaching institutions as defined in Texas Education Code §61.003(3), other than Lamar State Colleges, that are not research or emerging research universities.

Program Selection

Each eligible institution shall recommend one program to the Coordinating Board for consideration. The program must currently have achieved highest national ranking or recognition for that type of program. After recommending a program, the institution may change its designation with the consent of the Board. Institutions wishing to change their institutional recommendation may do so after submitting, in writing, a request for the change with the recommendation information for the new program.

Establishment of Criteria

On behalf of the Commissioner, Board staff will select qualified out-of-state peer reviewers to evaluate the applications. Reviewers shall not evaluate any application for which they have a conflict of interest. Standards for determining highest national ranking or recognition shall be developed and approved by the Board and peer reviewers. Upon evaluation of requested criteria and with approval from the Legislature, institutions may be granted funding for the program.

Allocation of Funds and Administrative Costs

Institutions may only use awarded funds for faculty recruitment or faculty support for the designated program for which the grant is awarded, including establishment of endowed faculty positions or enhancement of faculty compensation as considered appropriate by the institution. If full funding is not available, funding allocation will be determined by order of receipt of the application and supporting materials.

Institutions participating in this program shall reimburse the Board for costs incurred by the Board in administration of this program. Estimated costs for this award program are \$12,900.

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Review Process

Step One - Recommendations

To be considered for an incentive award, institutions must complete & submit the Recommendation Form and supporting materials via the THECB's Online Submission System* (<https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/proposals/>).

Step Two – Notification of Criteria

Coordinating Board staff and peer reviewers determine specific criteria for evaluation and associated funding levels.

Step Three – Application for Incentive Award

Instructions for completing and submitting the required application will be provided to nominees with the criteria for evaluation. Send the application and supporting materials via the THECB's Online Submission System*. **If full funding is not available, funding allocation will be determined by order of receipt of the application and supporting materials.**

Step Four – Review of Application

The Coordinating Board staff and peer reviewers will evaluate applications to determine if the program meets the criteria established. As necessary, staff and peer reviewers may schedule a site visit to assess the recommended program. The Coordinating Board shall approve one-time awards based upon the recommendation of the staffs' and reviewers' assessment of programs meeting applicable standards. The Commissioner shall report approved awards to the Board for each annual award period. Based upon recommendations of the Board, the Legislature will determine available funding.

* THECB's Online Submission System is a password protected website designed to expedite requests from an institution or system office to THECB. At this time, the chief academic officer (for institutions not within a system) or designated System officer must submit all forms and materials.

For questions or further information, please contact Dr. Andrew Lofters, Program Director, at (512) 427-6239 or via email at lucy.bloor@thecb.state.tx.us