

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Request for Applications for
Equipment Grants for the
Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program
(RFA# E-G-2)**

**Official Responses to Questions from Potential Applicants
(January 27, 2010)**

- 1. Can you expand on the explanation of application evaluation concerning that “50% of the application valuation will be based upon economic return to the state and calculated by the Comptroller staff”? What type of information should be submitted to assist the staff in their calculations?**

RESPONSE: In evaluating the responses, we will consider the economic return to the state by evaluating the wage information for the industry, grant cost per student and other economic data. The information needed from the applicant is included in the application or will be obtained by the agency.

- 2. Can the funds be used to expand the facility and program by adding to or building a new structure to house a lab?**

RESPONSE: Grant funds may be used to purchase and install equipment necessary for the operation of a new career and technical education program or education course(s), including modifications to structures necessary for the installation of the equipment. Funds may not be use to remodel an existing structure or build a new structure.

- 3. I wanted to confirm with you that (name of college system) is not eligible to make an application in the second round of funding. We applied last fall as a system on behalf of one of our colleges, (name of college), and received an award. I wanted to clarify since I noticed that a couple of systems were mentioned in the application as eligible to apply during the second round.**

RESPONSE: You are correct that you are not eligible for funding in Round 2 if your system received funding in Round 1.

- 4. Is the round 2 application the same as the round 1 application, or are there changes to the application?**

RESPONSE: The Round 2 application is not the same as the Round 1 application; there are changes.

- 5. (Name of college) is applying for the JET Grant for the (name of program). Since the program is 64 semester credit hours and of those credit hours 21 semester credit hours are academic courses which are available to all service area high schools. In addition to these hours 11 semester credit hours are offered as online courses in which dual credit students are allowed to enroll in. Therefore a dual credit student could possibly finish 32 semester hours or 50% of the program of study by the time they graduate high school. We do not plan to use equipment requested in this grant at the area high schools, but since we offer 50% of the other courses at the high schools as dual credit, can we use the dual credit articulation agreements?**

RESPONSE: If the courses offered through the dual credit arrangement are courses that are required in the program that the equipment will be utilized in, the dual credit agreement is eligible to qualify for those points.

- 6. Can an institution submit one application that would expand or revise courses in our nursing program - LVN and RN?**

RESPONSE: Applications will be scored based on a single program; however, grantees will be free to use that equipment for other programs or courses.

7. On Attachment B Question #1: What is the grant request per student to be trained? When determining this cost do we use the number of students we proposed in question 2B through 2014?

RESPONSE: Yes, use the total number of students to be trained, as detailed in 2B.

8. Under Project Plan Funding 3B. Other expenses required (installation, license fees, etc.): If we are proposing purchasing equipment that faculty need to be trained on can we include training cost in this section to be paid for by grant funds?

RESPONSE: Grant funds can only be used for the purchase of equipment and installation. Training fees are not eligible expenditures for grant funds, but could be shown as matching funds.

9. On Attachment B Question 7 Strength of local business participation/Are local businesses offering any of the matching funds: Can these matching funds be in-kind support such as supplies, use of facilities, or personnel?

RESPONSE: Business match can be any of the in-kind categories described in Part 4 of the application.

10. The application information indicates that Personnel Costs Directly Attributable to the Program are permissible for the matching fund requirement (page 5) and that match funding that was expended after 9-1-09 is allowed as matching funds. Are Personnel costs expended after 9-01-09 in the program permissible as matching funds as well as the Personnel Costs that will be expended during the 12 months of the grant implementation period?

RESPONSE: Matching funds must be expended on the same program for which the grant funds are provided, and grant funds are for use in programs that are not offered in their current form. If the personnel costs expended after 9-1-09 are related to the new, expanded or revised course that will be offered utilizing the grant funded equipment, then they would be eligible. For example, if personnel costs were expended after 9-1-09 to develop the new course, those funds would be eligible as matching funds. However, if personnel costs are expended after 9-1-09 to provide instruction for an existing course that will be revised or expanded using the grant funded equipment, those funds would not be eligible to count as matching funds. Instructor salaries that are directly related to instruction for new, revised, or expanded program are eligible as match.

11. Are fringe benefits acceptable as part of Personnel Costs?

RESPONSE: Yes. Please see the response to item number 10 above.

12. In terms of “new programs”, will those include new or expanded or revised programs and courses that began 9-1-09 or after since colleges are in the middle of an academic year?

RESPONSE: Grants will be awarded for a program or course(s) that is not offered in its current form.

13. How will local businesses demonstrate support for expanded or revised courses within an existing program?

RESPONSE: Please include support letters from the local businesses with the application.

14. On page 4, question 4, please define what information is requested in the first blank field. The question reads “The grant will allow the institution(s) to educate and train ____.” Is the first field referring to the number of students trained per period (semester or year)? The following field asks for the total number of students trained.

RESPONSE: The sentence “*The grant will allow the institution(s) to educate and train _____.*” is a misprint and does not have to be completed. Applicants will not be evaluated on information in this blank.

15. On page 7, question 1, are the number of students to be trained the total number of students trained prior to September 1, 2014 (as listed in 2B)?

RESPONSE: Yes.

16. On page 10, question 8, is this referring to employers with a total of 25 employees or 25 employees employed in the occupation the training is focused?

RESPONSE: Total employees.