

**Funding
Available**

TO THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Request for Application (RFA) #701-06-003
Texas Pre-Kindergarten Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pilot Program

Eligible Applicants:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requesting applications under Request for Applications (RFA) #701-06-003 from governmental organizations (including public school districts, Open-enrollment Charter Schools, Education Service Centers (ESCs), counties, cities, municipalities, Council of Governments (COGs) and state agencies), public nonprofit agencies, or non-profit community-based organizations serving 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds in programs that assure English language learning children receive appropriate activities to enter school prepared to succeed. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

Description of Program:

The purpose of the Texas Pre-Kindergarten Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pilot Program is to implement multi-age programs serving 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds that assure that English language learning children receive appropriate activities to enter school prepared to succeed. The pilot program must provide many opportunities for the acquisition of English while supporting the child's first language, including social services, appropriate training and modeling, and research-based curricula and supplies to enhance the development of both languages. Instruction must be in both languages so children can learn concepts in the language they understand while developing their English skills. Programs must include bilingual education specialists and continued professional education to support the teachers.

Dates of Program:

The Texas Pre-Kindergarten Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pilot Program will be implemented during the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years. Applicants should plan for a starting date of no earlier than February 1, 2006, and an ending date of no later than August 31, 2007.

Project Funding:

This grant is competitive. A total of approximately \$1,500,000 is available for funding the Texas Pre-Kindergarten Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pilot Program. Each project will receive a maximum of \$200,000 for each school year. This project is funded 100 percent from general revenue funds appropriated by the state legislature. If it is determined that continuation funding will be provided, project funding in the second year will be based on satisfactory progress of the first-year objectives and activities and on general budget approval by the commissioner of education, and appropriations by the state legislature.

Selection Criteria:

Applications will be selected based on the ability of each applicant to carry out all requirements contained in the RFA. Reviewers will evaluate applications based on the overall quality and validity of the

proposed pilot programs and the extent to which the applications address the primary objectives and intent of the project. Applications must address each requirement as specified in the RFA to be considered for funding. The TEA reserves the right to select from the highest-ranking applications those that address all requirements in the RFA.

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:

A complete copy of RFA #701-06-003 may be obtained by writing the Document Control Center, Room 6-108, Texas Education Agency, William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701; by calling (512) 463-9304; by faxing (512) 463-9811; or by e-mailing dcc@tea.state.tx.us. Please refer to the RFA number and title in your request. Provide your name, complete mailing address, and telephone number including area code. The announcement letter and complete RFA will also be posted on the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/index.html> for viewing and downloading.

For Further Information:

For clarifying information about the Texas Pre-Kindergarten Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pilot Program RFA, contact Karen Harmon, Division of Discretionary Grants Texas Education Agency, (512) 463-9269. 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 RFA will be provided only in response to written inquiries. Copies of all such inquiries and the written answers thereto will be posted on the TEA website in the format of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/index.html>.

Deadline for Receipt of Applications:

Applications must be received in the Document Control Center of the Texas Education Agency by 5:00 p.m. (Central Time), Tuesday, December 20, 2005, to be eligible to be considered for funding.

Sincerely,



Nora Ibáñez Hancock, Ed.D.
Associate Commissioner
Office for Planning, Grants and Evaluation

cc: Gina Day
Roberto Manzo
Karen Harmon