



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

Rising to the Challenge Scholarship Program

for the year 2010

Call for Grant Proposals

I. Background

Since 2003, Greater Texas Foundation has provided more than \$8.6 million in scholarship grants for post-secondary institutions in the state of Texas. Providing need based aid remains a significant interest of the foundation. Continuing its commitment to remove barriers to education, Greater Texas Foundation announces the fourth and final year of its *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship program. *Rising to the Challenge* will provide selected institutions of higher education grant awards totaling \$200,000 in need based aid in 2010. Fiscal year 2011 will be the last this specific scholarship program is offered.

II. Statement of Purpose

Community colleges play an important role in our state's post-secondary educational environment. Students often find it difficult, however, to make the transition from a community college setting to a four-year institution of higher education. The Greater Texas Foundation *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship program is meant to encourage and support students in making that transition.

III. Eligibility

The *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship program is open to each public four-year post-secondary institution of higher education in the state of Texas. This program is effective for 2010 only. Proposals are due December 14, 2009.

IV. Funding Priorities

The foundation will give greater consideration to innovative proposals that demonstrate how funds will be used strategically to (1) draw one or more target student populations to the four-year institution and (2) ensure success in transitioning. The foundation is especially interested in programs to assist underserved and disadvantaged college students, such as rural and first generation student populations. Proposals that reflect a cooperative or collaborative arrangement between community colleges and four year institutions are encouraged.

V. Application Procedures

All grant proposals must be submitted online at www.greatertexasfoundation.org. To submit your proposal, go to the RFP Information section of the foundation's website. Requirements have changed; therefore, duplicates of proposals submitted in previous years will not be accepted. Questions regarding the scholarship program or the online application procedure should be directed to:

Carol L. Miller, Grant Manager
979-776-7597 (v); carolmiller@greatertexasfoundation.org

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V. Application Procedures (Continued)

The foundation requires applicants to submit no more than a seven page proposal that includes the following:

- A. A brief institutional profile, including the demographics and characteristics of the general student population.
- B. A data or evidence based description of the landscape in which public four-year post-secondary institution of higher education function in Texas. In addition, specifically discuss your institution's role in Closing the Gaps, and its participation in the national impetus for moving students into, through, and to completion of a post-secondary credential.
- C. An explanation of the unique financial needs of the student population or sub-population targeted for this scholarship program, and how this relates to closing the education gap in Texas. Please include an overview of the institution's past successes in supporting these needs and an explanation of the institution's current programs to assist this student population and how these funds would complement existing strategies. Institutions that received *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship finds in previous years should include an overview of the program's successes and failures, lessons learned, and an explanation of how the college, if funded, plans to change, improve, or modify, the program in 2010.
- D. An explanation of how *Rising to the Challenge* funds will be disbursed i.e. in what amount(s), to how many students, over what timeframe.
- E. A description of the institution's approach to providing need based financial aid.
- F. Requestor information to include:
 - a. name of institution, department, contact information—phone, address, and email— for at least one primary contact.
 - b. if the authorized signatory for a grant agreement which might result from this proposal is different from the primary contact, please indicate and include name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address.
 - c. if the fiscal contact for any grant payments which might result from this proposal is different from the primary contact, please indicate and include name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address.
- G. Please include the following attachments:
 - a. on your institution's letterhead, a currently dated affirmative statement regarding your organization's status as a 501(c)(3) or other tax exempt organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code signed by an authorized representative of your organization; and
 - b. a member listing of the institution's board of regents including occupation/profession.

Additional information may be requested to fully understand the grant proposal.

VI. Limitations and Expectations

- A. The *Rising to the Challenge* award to any institution will not exceed \$25,000.
- B. The program as described in this document is effective for 2010 only, and the deadline for proposals is December 14, 2009. This program will not be offered in 2011.
- C. *Rising to the Challenge* funds will be disbursed based on a competitive proposal process until resources allocated for 2010 are exhausted.
- D. The *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship program is a cash, non-endowed program. All funds awarded through the *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship program must be disbursed to students by the 2011 spring semester.

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VI. Limitations and Expectations (Continued)

- E. *Rising to the Challenge* scholarships must be disbursed only to students pursuing a four-year degree and who meet the requirements for the program as stated herein and further outlined in the institution's proposal.
- F. The funded institution is obligated to acknowledge the "Greater Texas Foundation *Rising to the Challenge* Scholarship Program" in any written materials related to the scholarship(s) e.g. student award notifications, advertisements, publications, event programs, or brochures, etc.
- G. Institutions participating in the *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship program will provide Greater Texas Foundation a report each semester (by the 50th class day) with the name, classification, major, mailing address, and grade point ratio (if available) for each *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship recipient.
- H. By June 15, 2011, funded institutions will provide a final report to Greater Texas Foundation including an evaluation of the results obtained through disbursement of *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship funds. The final report should include the total number of students served, the number of students academically eligible to be retained for another year of study with individual end of year grade point ratios, and a statement affirming that all *Rising to the Challenge* scholarship funds were disbursed to students. A report template will be provided to funded institutions.