



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Center on Disability
& Development



TEXAS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

TAMU Work-Based Learning Project

2021-2022 Request for Proposal (RFP)

For Technical and Financial Support to

Develop A New Work-Based Learning Model (Stage 1)

Or

Expand an Existing Work-Based Learning Model (Stage 2)

This project is supported in part by Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) with a contract totaling \$2,464,552.00 to the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University. The contents are those of the project and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by TWC, VR, or the Texas Government. For more information, please visit cdd.tamu.edu for more information.



ABOUT TAMU WORK-BASED LEARNING PROJECT:

The purpose of the TAMU Work-Based Learning Project is to offer work-based learning (WBL) opportunities to high school students with disabilities in Texas. Specifically, we will work with selected high schools to implement one or a combination of WBL programs, with an emphasis on school-based enterprises, so that these students develop the necessary skills for transition to employment. Project staff will select high schools, provide training and technical assistance to the high schools to choose an appropriate WBL model for implementation, provide funding support to the high schools to implement the WBL model so that students who are connected with VR services can learn and practice employment skills by participating in the program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR SUPPORT

Applicants can be public, private, or charter schools/districts. Students to benefit must have active IEP or 504 plans. The process involves the following steps:

1. RFP distribution beginning summer of 2021.
 - TAMU WBL Project is ongoing, with applications reviewed monthly. The deadline is the 1st of each month to be included in that month's review cycle.
2. Inquiries of interests sent to jsturner@tamu.edu or eric.roberts@tamu.edu
3. An electronic copy of completed proposal submitted to jsturner@tamu.edu or eric.roberts@tamu.edu
4. The selection committee will review all stage 1 and stage 2 proposals and identify the qualifying candidates
5. Inquiries or a notice of the review decision sent to the proposal contact person
6. Inquiry responses reviewed by the selection committee and a notice of review decision sent to the contact person
7. Agreement processes completed by awardees
8. Financial award issued and technical support scheduled by TAMU Work-Based Learning Project
9. Periodic inquires and reviews of the WBL model completed by TAMU Work-Based Learning Project
10. Follow-up technical support needs to be determined by TAMU Work-Based Learning Project and the RFP awardee contact person



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WORK-BASED LEARNING

WBL is an instructional approach that uses a campus, community-based worksite, or a business setting to provide students with disabilities the knowledge and skills that will help them connect school instruction to real-life work activities and future career opportunities. The opportunities are meant to engage, motivate and augment the learning process. A WBL model can be done in conjunction with private, for-profit, public, or nonprofit businesses in a community or through web-based resources. Direct employer or community involvement must be a component of a qualifying WBL model to ensure in-depth engagement. In addition, WBL requires an in-depth commitment of youth and an evaluation of work skills (see NTACTION's [Student Progress Monitoring Toolkit](#) for examples). Skills the students gain through the model must include one or more [Pre-Employment Transition Services \(Pre-ETS\)](#). Pre-ETS for the model might include 1) career exploration, 2) postsecondary opportunities, 3) work-place readiness, and 4) self-advocacy.

WBL models may be on-campus or off-campus, during school or after-school, and the experiences can be outside the traditional school setting (e.g., internships). A qualifying WBL model allows students to operate a small business, perform work for other businesses, or complete tasks for volunteer or non-profit organizations. Qualifying WBL proposals must include an integrated setting with real-world application and incorporate sustainability measures such as the use of profits to repurchase products or business sponsorships.

Examples of a WBL model may include one or more of the following: career mentorship, career-related competitions, volunteering, paid or non-paid internships, practicums, student-led models, and paid or non-paid work experiences (see [Pre-ETS Catalog](#) for examples). Qualifying applicants must comply with [Fair Labor Standards](#) and [Section 511 of WIOA Title IV](#). Applicants may apply for funding up to \$10,000 and technical support(s) to include extensive one-on-one assistance, scheduled troubleshooting sessions, general overview training, etc. All qualifying RFP applicants must identify Planning Team Committee members who participate in the application process and proceeding WBL model planning and evaluation. Suggested Planning Team Committee members include but are not limited to a school administrator, transition specialist, teacher(s), paraprofessional(s), student(s), business partner(s), TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or Transition Program Specialist, Chamber of Commerce board member, and family member(s) of a person with a disability. The Planning Team Committee must include at minimum one member not directly associated with the school or district. Stage 2 applicants, schools applying to expand on an existing WBL model, must meet all the requirements described above. Stage 2 applicants should specify how the current model meets the criteria and how the expansion will further improve student outcomes.



Applicants new to WBL may want to familiarize themselves with this approach to learning by participating in the NTACTION module series [Work-based Learning 101 Training Module](#). Applicants are also welcome to contact the TAMU Work-Based Learning Project to review any part of the application before submitting the RFP application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

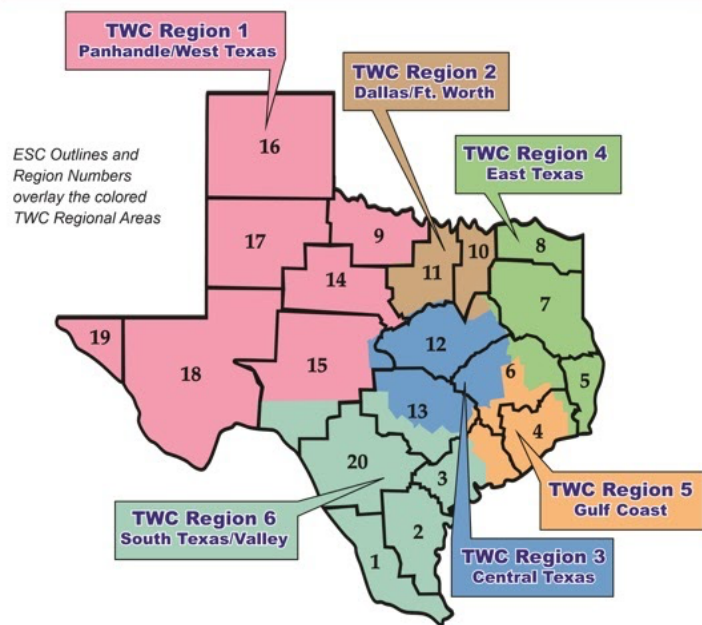
Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

List the TWC Region for the WBL model: _____

List the ESC Region for the WBL model: _____





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**Work-Based
 Learning Project**

List the Planning Team Committee members (At least one community/business partner is required):

NAME	TITLE (e.g., teacher, transition specialist, business owner, family member, VR counselor, etc.)

WBL MODEL DEMOGRAPHICS *(Add pages as needed)*

1) Select the appropriate designation for the applicant:

- Stage 1 Applicant (developing a new WBL model)
- Stage 2 Applicant (expanding an existing WBL model)

2) Students to participate in the WBL model receive support services through (select all that apply):

- Special Education
- 504
- Other

If you marked "Other," list the support service(s).

3) Describe the target population for the WBL model to include any specific programs, disability categories, or locations.



Work-Based
Learning Project

4) List the age range of the students you expect to participate in the WBL model.

5) The WBL model will take place (select all that apply):

- On-campus
- Off-campus
- During school hours
- After-school hours
- Outside of the traditional school setting (e.g., internships)

If you marked "Outside of the traditional school setting," describe the setting below:

6) The WBL model will allow students to (select all that apply):

- Operate a small business
- Perform work for other businesses
- Complete tasks for volunteer or non-profit organizations
- Other

If you marked "Other," describe model below:



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Work-Based
Learning Project

- 5) Explain in detail the model's approach to students gaining each of the Pre-ETS skills marked in question 3.

- 6) Specify how the team will evaluate the students' work-skills.



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Work-Based
Learning Project

- 7) Provide detailed steps your team will need to take to develop the WBL model. If your team will expand on an existing model, provide detailed steps your team will need to take to expand the WBL model.

- 8) Specify the steps your team will employ to ensure the sustainability of the WBL model.



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Work-Based
Learning Project

- 9) Provide any additional information your team would like the selection committee to know.

WBL MODEL SUPPORT REQUEST

- 1) Provide the total financial amount requested. (up to \$10,000)

- 2) Provide an itemized list of budgeted expenses and purchases the financial request will cover.



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Work-Based
Learning Project

- 3) Specify technical support request. TAMU Work-Based Learning Project can provide support for the development, maintenance, or expansion of the WBL model.