

Statewide SPED Capacity Contracted Services Grant

APPLICATION FAQ

LASTED UPDATED MAY 06, 2024

1. What is the 2023-2024 SPED Capacity Contracted Services Grant?

TEA, as the pass-through entity, is the grantee from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and TEA awards subgrants to various organizations acting as the agency's subgrantees. Region 10 ESC, the subgrantee for the SPED Capacity Contracted Services Grant, is working in collaboration with the TEA to implement the purpose, goals, and objectives of the grant as outlined in the grant's Program Guidelines.

The SPED Capacity Contracted Services Grant allows for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to apply for one-time funding in accordance with allowable expenditures associated with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for securing contracted special education staff.

2. Is my LEA eligible to apply for the funding?

The application is open to all Texas LEAs that had expenses for securing contracted special education providers. The awards will be based on the percentage of the LEAs special education budget used for contracted services, and small and rural LEAs will be prioritized.



Contact Our Team For More Information or Questions:

contractedsvsgrant@region10.org

3. Will these funds count against Maintenance of Effort (MOE)?

***NEW**

Original guidance indicated there would not be an impact to MOE; however; there is potential for these funds to impact an LEA's MOE depending on how the LEA uses this reimbursement.

If an LEA uses 2023–2024 SPED Capacity Contracted Services Grant to reimburse itself for federal expenditures, there will not be an impact to IDEA-B LEA MOE. However, if an LEA uses this funding to reimburse itself for expenditures that were originally coded to Fund 199/420/437 and PICs 22/33/43, there may be impact to the LEA's. The potential impact would be a result of a reduction in state and local special education expenditures, i.e., expenditures coded to Fund Codes 199/420/437 and PICs 23/33/43. If an LEA intends to use these funds to reimburse itself for costs that were originally coded to Fund 199/420/437 and PICs 23/33/43, LEAs are strongly encouraged to use the IDEA-B LEA MOE calculation tool on TEA's [IDEA-B LEA MOE webpage](#) to ensure that it would not impact IDEA-B LEA MOE compliance.

It is the LEA's responsibility to ensure they identify and are aware of any impact to MOE requirements with the acceptance of these funds and decisions around its use. LEAs who are awarded funds will first receive notification which will include an opportunity to accept the total amount of funds, request to accept a partial amount of the funds, or decline the funds based on the potential impact to MOE.

Additional information about MOE can be found [here](#).

4. What code do LEAs need to use when they receive funds from this grant?

***NEW**

LEAs should use Fund Code 289 and Object Code 5919 to code funds they choose to receive from this grant.

5. How should our LEA use funds received from this grant?

***Updated**

Any funding received by the LEA may be used at the discretion of the LEA in accordance with allowable expenditures associated with the [SPED Capacity Contracted Services Grant](#). Local documentation must be retained to demonstrate how the LEA used these funds. The LEA may choose to use a local option code to further track the funds to support documentation of expenditures.



Contact Our Team For More Information or Questions:

contractedsvsgrant@region10.org

6. Is there a limit to the amount of reimbursement that my LEA can request?

You are not limited to a certain amount that you can request, but that does not mean you will receive the full amount in reimbursement. Decisions about LEA reimbursement amounts will be determined following the end of the application window based on the established priorities for small and rural LEAs, as well as the total dollar amount of requests submitted by all LEAs.

Contracted Services expenses that are not related to meeting child find requirements or the provision of services in students' IEPs, such as contracted services for processing Medicaid billing or providing special education document software, will not be an allowable expense for reimbursement.

7. What kinds of contracted services expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

Contracted services include funds used to pay for services delivered by independent contractors who are not on your organizations payroll and who offer services to the public, as aligned with the Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG). The services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Contracted services provided by an evaluation specialist (educational diagnostician, school psychologist/LSSP, speech-language pathologist, etc) to meet the LEA's Child Find requirements.
2. Contracted services provided by an instructional or related services provider for the provision of services in students' IEPs.

The following are examples of unallowable expenses for reimbursement. This list is not exhaustive:

1. Legal services fees for attorneys.
2. Contracted services with an individual or organization providing Medicaid/SHARS coding and billing services.
3. Contracted services with an organization to provide special education document software programs.



Contact Our Team For More Information or Questions:
contractedsvsgrant@region10.org

8. Can I apply for reimbursement if the service is one that we receive SHARS reimbursement on or were included on an application for High Cost Funds?

***NEW**

No, none of the expenses listed in the application for reimbursement should be expenses that have been, or are projected to be included in any additional LEA request and/or application for funding from local, state, or federal program(s), such as SHARS reimbursement, High Cost Funds, IDEA-B Residential, or any similar program, that would constitute an overlap of reimbursed funds.

9. Our LEA has paid employees extra duty pay to work extra on evaluations. This is paid out of 6100. Is this an eligible expense for the grant?

Because the Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG) states that 6100 is for salaries, wages, and benefits for employee services, we do not see this as an eligible object code.

10. We have hired some individuals as part time employees instead of working through a contract agency. Would the funds paid to these individuals be an expense that can be considered for reimbursement?

The FASRG states that 6100 is for salaries, wages, and benefits for employee services, so we do not see this as an eligible object code. The FASRG states that 6200 is for professional, consulting, and contracted services are those services delivered by an independent contractor (individual entity or firm) who is not on your organization's payroll and who offers its services to the public. If the individual was paid using the 6200 object code, those costs can be considered.



Contact Our Team For More Information or Questions:
contractedsvsgrant@region10.org

11. Regarding Question #8 on the application (22-23 percentage of budget allocated to contracted services) and question #11 on the application, (23-24 percentage of budget allocated to contracted services), how do I calculate this?

In order to determine the percentage of your budget that was allocated to contracted services, you will calculate your total expenditures for contracted services and divide that by your total special education budget for the year.

Total expenditures of contracted services should include all expenditures from state, local, or federal sources that fall under 6200 - Professional and Contracted Services that were used to secure contracted special education staff in order to meet the Child Find requirements and provision of services in students' IEPs.

The total special education budget should include all expenditures from state, local, or federal sources associated with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

12. For application questions #9 and #12 regarding the total special education population, what information should I use?

***NEW**

Enter your LEA's Fall Snapshot information for the appropriate year.

13.If our LEA is part of an SSA for special education services, can the SSA complete the application and request funding on our behalf?

***NEW**

If the Fiscal Agent for the SSA is not an LEA, the SSA and the member district LEAs should work in collaboration in completing the request for reimbursement. The fiscal agent for the LEA may submit an application on behalf of the member district LEAs, but the fiscal agent would need to submit separate applications for each LEA so that the SSA expenses are allocated proportionally to the member district LEAs.

If the Fiscal Agent for an SSA is an LEA, the fiscal agent LEA can apply using the SSA expenses for contracted services. If the member district LEAs have additional local expenses for contracted services that are eligible for reimbursement under this program that they wish to seek reimbursement for, they may do so by completing an application as their individual LEA.



Contact Our Team For More Information or Questions:
contractedsvsgrant@region10.org

14. If I am applying as a Fiscal Agent LEA on behalf of the SSA, how do I answer some of the application questions?

***NEW**

We have provided some additional guidance on how to address the application questions as a Fiscal Agent LEA for an SSA [here](#). If you have additional questions not covered, please email us at contractedsvsgrant@region10.org.

15. I am a fiscal agent LEA for an SSA, but I have already completed an application. Is there a way to correct/update my application?

***NEW**

We will be contacting all SSA applicants that completed an application to provide further guidance on how to update their application. If you completed an application as an SSA and have not heard from us, please contact us at contractedsvsgrant@region10.org



Contact Our Team For More Information or Questions:
contractedsvsgrant@region10.org