

Funding Opportunity Name: ***Open Educational Resources and Low Costs/No Costs Educational Support Materials - LGI Grant***

Opportunity Description

Summary and Purpose:

Grants targeting digital education initiatives and creation of educational support materials that are low or no cost to undergraduate and/or graduate students are available for new or existing campus services or programs that target historically underserved student populations including, but not limited to, students of color, low income students, adults, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and traditionally underrepresented gender by discipline/CTE program. The primary purpose of this grant initiative is to increase equity in access to quality digital education initiatives and educational support materials (textbooks, articles, printed or electronic documents documents.) by:

- a) Reducing the costs or identifying “no costs” textbooks and other educational support materials via creation of Open Educational Resources or adoption of materials available at no costs;
- b) Closing the digital divide in the state of Tennessee via increased access to technologies;
- c) Demonstrating innovation and transformation of in the requirements and/or use of textbooks; and
- d) Developing course content and educational materials that are culturally responsive, inclusive, focused on equity and social justice that will produce pedagogical transformation.

The grant proposals should be designed to achieve one or more of the following:

- close gaps in student academic outcomes, particularly success rates in course completion and grades;
- result in increases in retention, persistence and graduation rates via increased access to required texts/readings and other educational materials;
- have the potential to significantly increase and/or impact access levels or further equity/diversity initiatives at the institution; or
- produce outcomes that relate to the goal(s) of the campus's strategic plan regarding Diversity and Inclusion.

Areas of Potential Focus:

Ideas/themes for grant activities could include but are not limited to:

- Course content and educational materials that are culturally responsive, inclusive, focused on equity and social justice that will produce pedagogical transformation;
- Increased accessibility and availability of digital educational initiatives and educational support materials;
- Increased accessibility and availability of requisite technologies for online learning;
- Pilot different approaches in courses for textbook transformation including adoption, adaptation, and creation of Open Educational Resources (OER) and/or identification and

adoption of materials already available in university libraries that could lead to a more inclusive pedagogy;

- Provide support to libraries, and their institutions to implement these approaches; and/or
- Lower the cost of college for students and contribute to their retention, progression, and graduation.

Projects should demonstrate collaborations across departments to ensure an institutional approach to supporting these outcomes.

Program Types and Funding Levels:

Grants are designed to provide short-term funds to augment or supplement campus funding (non-A&D funding) for campus services or programs – not to substitute for ongoing funding from the institution. There is no guarantee of continued funding post the grant award year. There are two types:

- Pilot Program (new programs) maximum \$100,000
- Program Enhancement (programs currently funded by Institutions) maximum \$100,000

Pilot program grants allow institutions to test programs, initiatives, or interventions with the intention of scaling the program with institutional funds if the program outcomes are promising or successful. Pilot programs proposals must include sustainability plans.

Program Enhancement grants permit institutions to continue to implement programs, initiatives, or interventions that have demonstrated effectiveness in this area.

Ineligible costs include:

- Purchase of furniture, equipment, or software that does not primarily benefit current year program participants;
 - Speaker fees or honorariums, unless such fees are part of a broader workshop/seminar or training program;
 - Scholarships and tuition/maintenance fee costs;
 - Funds for campus personnel, unless specifically authorized in the grant award notice.
- Requests for funds to cover faculty release time while engaged in the project must be accompanied by a strong justification in the narrative and budget.

Submission Requirements and Timeline:

All proposals must be completed via the [TBR Webgrants System](#) by November 1st. Recipients will be notified of their status by December 18th. All funds will be available for Spring 2021 semester.

Proposal Requirements:

Proposals must include the following information to be considered for funding.

- **Proposal Team:** provide names, titles, and contact information for team members, including one or more individuals from grants and sponsored programs at your institution.
- **Purpose:** explain the purpose of the project, including a description of how and why diversity, equity, and underrepresented student populations will be supported by this project.
- **Project Outcomes:** explain the expected academic and/or social impacts of the newly developed or redesigned course project on underrepresented student groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, ability, geographic location, etc.)?
- **Project Actions:** explain the actions to be completed to achieve desired outcomes, specifically describing the organization of your project. Outline all steps required to complete the project, including information about any pilot phases and their purposes and goals.
- **Timeline:** provide your timeline for project implementation, including how you will complete all aspects of the project from implementation to assessment.
- **Assessment:** provide an overview of how outcomes will be measured (recommended at least three different measures for overall project). If this is an existing program, provide data to demonstrate how previous implementation has been effective.
- **Results Dissemination and Use:** offer an overview of how data will be shared with key stakeholders to influence institutional change.
- **Budget:** provide a budget that explains the primary expenses toward which funds will be spent. Include all personnel and projected expenses.
- **Future Implementation:** explain the plan for sustaining the project post initial grant award year as funding for continuing projects will near to be encumbered by your institution. Please note, the funding will be provided for implementation beginning in spring 2021. Therefore, the grant funds, which will last for the calendar year, will cross two fiscal years.

Timeline:

Notification of grant awards will be by December 18th with funds available beginning January 15, 2021. All funds must be used by December 31, 2021. A final report on the project must be submitted by January 15, 2022. The report will address all of the aforementioned components of the proposal. A template for the report will be provided in with grant notification.

Criteria for Review:

Each submission will be evaluated based on the aforementioned proposal requirements. The committee will use a rubric to evaluate the extent to which the proposal addresses each of the grant proposal requirements.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval:

All grant applications should come with verification that, if applicable, the project has been submitted to the institution's IRB. Documentation of the submission of the proposal to IRB is sufficient for grant application purposes. Verification of approval, if applicable, is required to receive grant funds. Each institution should consult with their respective IRB to determine if this grant-funded project is research and would require approval.