Texas Title I Priority Schools Grant Program, Cycle 4

TEA is requesting applications under Request for Applications #701-15-107 for the *Texas Title I Priority Schools Grant Program, Cycle 4 (TTIPS)* from eligible local education agencies. <u>Your district is currently listed on the eligibility list for this grant for one or more of your campuses!</u>

The application must be received by TEA no later than <u>5:00 p.m.</u>, <u>August 20, 2015</u>. Applicants should plan for a starting date of January 1, 2016, and an ending date of July 31, 2020. Preaward costs are permitted from October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. <u>Maximum funding per year for an applicant is \$2,000,000</u>.

I would like to offer my services to assist you with your *TTIPS* application. I have written several successful school improvement and comprehensive school reform grants during the past 12 years including TTIPS Cycle 2 grants, TTIPS Cycle 3 grants, THSSR grants, High School CSR grants, as well as technology and 21st CCLC grants.

The purpose of the Texas Title I Priority Schools grant program is to provide funding to LEA's for use in Title I schools identified for improvement, in order to substantially raise the achievement of their students and enable the schools to meet annual goals and program-term measurable objectives. Funding is intended for LEAs that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to provide adequate resources that will enable schools to meet the criteria to exit priority or focus status.

Program interventions under this grant program are designed to: improve the academic programs in schools, increase teacher and leader effectiveness, increase use of data to drive instruction, increase learning time for students and educators, increase the level and quality of family/community engagement, and improve school climate. High-quality and effective implementation of these interventions can impact these Commissioner priorities:

- Student readiness and ability to earn postsecondary credits in their high school years;
- LEA and school expertise in administering the best campus and district accountability system, with great emphasis on ending the academic performance gap;
- Local administration of a holistic teacher evaluation system that includes support and continued feedback for educators;
- Schools' opportunity and capacity to support reading/writing mentors through an intense focus on curriculum and instruction, coupled with increased family and community engagement;
- LEA's experience in flexibilities around using federal funds to advance state, agency and commissioner goals.

During TTIPS, Cycle 2, I worked with a San Antonio school district as their District Coordinator for School Improvement (DCSI) for their TTIPS, Cycle 2 grant. My duties included:

- Ensure the campus is provided operational flexibility
- Ensure effective implementation of all components of the transformation process
- Monitor the progress of 90-day action plans

- Regular communication with the transformation campus
- · Regularly scheduled meetings with the transformation campus
- Remove LEA barriers that may hinder the transformation process
- Provide support and feedback to the principal and teacher leaders when needed or requested
- Take an active role in problem-solving with the principal and teacher leaders
- Attend campus leadership meetings
- Assist in the replacement and recruitment of qualified staff
- Assist in efforts to increase community and parental involvement
- Support the placement of social service resources at the campus
- Partner with campus to generate a positive school culture
- Attend required trainings
- Assist and/or prepare all Required Programmatic Reports such as: Activity/Progress Reports,
 Final Evaluation Report, and Expenditure Reports.

Please feel free to give me a call at (979) 323-8408 (home office), (979) 248-2879 (cell) or email me at plw943@gmail.com. I will provide references and information regarding past grant awards upon request.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Williams, Consultant

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