

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Texas A&M International University

GEAR UP IV-Creating a Vision

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Program Manager/Partner Liaison

Applicable Cost Principles:

▶ Allocable

- ▶ necessary for project success

▶ Allowable

- ▶ either permitted or not specifically prohibited

▶ Reasonable

- ▶ cost that would be incurred by a prudent person

Our GEAR UP grant

- ▶ Texas A&M International University-
GEAR UP IV Creating a Vision
- ▶ TAMIU's 4th GEAR UP grant
(Same PI, different director)
- ▶ Third largest grant in the nation-
- ▶ Largest grant at host institution
- ▶ 31 high schools and over 9,000 students
- ▶ Rural & urban, along the Texas-Mexico border
- ▶ 19 School Districts
- ▶ 10 Counties

External Partnerships

- ▶ School districts
- ▶ County & City Departments
- ▶ Private companies
- ▶ Colleges & Universities
 - ▶ Your host institution
- ▶ Transportation providers
- ▶ Lodging providers
- ▶ Meal providers
- ▶ Volunteers
 - ▶ School employees or others

Cost Share/Match

- ▶ **School Districts** -GEAR UP Offices are located in each of the schools, at \$1.75 per square foot designated for GEAR UP, we arrive at a total amount per year provided as in-kind by the school districts we work with.
- ▶ **County & City Departments** -We partner with various departments to provide specific activities for our cohort, such as 'park beautification project' -time and effort on behalf of the City's Environmental Services staff was counted as match. The project was a two pronged approach at job shadowing and service to the community. City employees included the students in the planning process and they saw what could be done with a small budget and collaboration; they noticed the type of skill and educational qualifications are required for certain jobs within the Environmental Services Department.
- ▶ **Private Companies** -Local companies donate softdrinks/meals for student and parent meetings. Moreover, they add to the students college visits by purchasing tickets for students to attend athletic events.

Cost Share/Match

- ▶ Colleges & Universities (and your host institution)
 - ▶ **Collaborate with college/university** departments on summer programs for GEAR UP Cohort. A professor at a large university and I touched on recruitment efforts of our underrepresented demographic and a summer program with 7 camps co-sponsored by private construction companies was born.
 - ▶ If you're in the State of Texas, colleges & universities report square footage for every single room available at the university. Work in conjunction with your grants management office to arrive at the value of your office space, etc. (The Texas Higher Ed Coordinating Board)
 - ▶ For example, TAMU provides us with a confirmation when we book rooms for GEAR UP initiatives and the confirmation already comes with the estimated value of that room or computer lab for the number of hours we use. (Document meetings by providing a meeting agenda to your match form).

Cost Share/Match

- ▶ **Transportation** - Discounts for charters are discussed as we request a quote. Companies already include a typical 20%-30% GEAR UP specific discounts per charter.
- ▶ **Lodging** -Upon booking lodging for your groups college visits or other education related activity, request a discount. Your discount should be stated at GEAR UP discount. You can count the difference between the regular rate offered to everyone else and the rate offered to GEAR UP as match.
- ▶ **Meals** -Once you contact a restaurant for your student meals, request a GEAR UP discount. Explain what GEAR UP is about, most restaurants on our contact list (Luby's, Golden Corral, etc) will not charge us for soft drinks, or they provide a small discount. Any amount counts towards your match requirement.

Volunteer rates

- ▶ http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time
 - ▶ Be sure to check the independent sector website periodically, the volunteer rate for Texas was updated in 2014.
 - ▶ Remember, you only count teacher's time while they volunteer prior to and after their regular work hours during weekday.
 - ▶ School administrator's time counts for match all day, even on weekdays.
- ▶ <http://www.bls.gov/>
 - ▶ Just about any occupation is listed on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Training

- ▶ Provide professional development for staff regarding match & cost share. Match is everyone's responsibility.
- ▶ Provide information to GEAR UP and non-GEAR UP staff regarding match and consequences of not meeting the match requirement:
 - ▶ Reduction of grant funds, but expected to continue serving your cohort
 - ▶ Refund of grant funds to Department of Ed
 - ▶ Possible termination of grant

Meeting your Match

- ▶ Your institutions grants manager will be key to your success. Meet with them frequently. We meet every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. to review our progress in reference to our grants match requirement.
 - ▶ Document, document, document.
- ▶ Match can be counted retroactively as long as it's reported during the grant period. If after your second or third year managing your GEAR UP grant you find out there was activity that could count towards match, you can include it in subsequent reports.
 - ▶ Maintain detailed records. The more detailed, the better.
- ▶ If you find that you're not making "substantial progress" towards meeting your grants match requirement, contact your program office immediately.
- ▶ Questions on whether something can count for match?
 - ▶ Contact your program officer
 - ▶ Network & contact other program directors/staff members

Contact information

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