

TSR Comprehensive Request for Applications 2023-2025 FAQ FINAL

Updated: May 1, 2023

Lead Agent Questions

When you say "you can define your own community service area" what happens when you have more than one community/lead agent servicing the same area?

Multiple lead agents can serve the same area. For TSR lead agencies that share a specific service area with other TSR lead agencies, CLI is encouraging the impacted agencies to work together and negotiate a defined service area for each lead agency. Each prospective Lead Agent may select a specific community to support, such as more urban area(s), remote/rural areas, or specific neighborhoods or towns.

We have encountered situations where a center in our service area is being serviced by another lead agent. How do we resolve this? Should this be mentioned in the application?

CLI encourages the impacted agencies to work together and negotiate a defined service area for each lead agency. Depending on the size of the communities, we could support multiple lead agencies in some regions. It is acceptable for another agency to serve a site who resides within one agency's boundaries if the agency cannot serve them due to being at capacity if there is collaboration between the two agencies, and it is documented with CLI. CLI will be available to support the negotiations once lead agencies are determined.

How do we request an additional coach in the application?

An additional coach can be requested in the description regarding the organization's infrastructure and proposed implementation plan. (Question 11 for new and returning applicants.)

Service Delivery Questions

Is there only curriculum that is used in TSR?

Based on the site needs assessment, participating classrooms may receive curriculum and classroom materials to support a high-quality learning environment and optimal classroom management. All resources are developmentally appropriate and aligned to the Texas learning standards. Pre-K classrooms needing a curriculum will be provided the CIRCLE Pre-K Curriculum.

Will stipends be available for teachers participating in TSR?

Yes, teachers are eligible to receive incentive payments for completing the TSR Comprehensive components.

I am working with a Texas Rising Star site that is part of an integrated partnership with our ISD. However, I am not working with the preschool. I am working with their toddler classes. Will this count as working with an integration site?

Yes, this counts as working with an integrated partnership with a school district.

Can another Progress Monitoring Tool be used in place of CLI Engage CIRCLE Progress Monitoring tool?

All participating pre-K classrooms will be required to use the CIRCLE Progress Monitoring System and assess the measures we outline in the RFA document. We have almost 900 school districts using CPM (CIRCLE Progress Monitoring), and many Head Start programs, as well. Through our online platform CLI Engage, those organizations can share data for shared classrooms between the ISD, Head Start, and TSR, for instance, if they are all using CPM.

We have some information here on the CLI Engage website:

<https://cliengage.org/public/training/support/collaboration-and-partnership-classrooms/>

Is the lead agent required to purchase Swivl equipment for each staff member or is it one purchase for the community? Is there a cap on the amount?

Selected lead agents will receive specific information on the process for ordering and purchasing all SWIVL-related equipment, which will be reimbursed through the grant. CLI's current planning includes one SWIVL robot for a community to share (larger communities may need additional equipment) and an iPad for each TSR staff member.

For Year 1 teachers who receive 2 visits a month, can the visits be any day within that month, or do they have to be scheduled every 2 weeks?

It is recommended that for Year 1 teachers, coaching visits should be scheduled every 2 weeks to allow the teacher the opportunity to meet and implement the goals selected.

Can the integrated partnership between public schools and childcare be for Pre-K 3 classrooms only? Will these classrooms qualify?

Yes, the integrated partnership between public schools and childcare can be for PreK 3 classrooms only. These classrooms would qualify as participating classrooms.

How would we know if the center serves at least 50% of low-income children? Childcare subsidies? Any other way to tell?

The number of childcare subsidies for a center is a good indicator in determining if a center serves at least 50% of low-income children. Many centers also collect this information, since it is often a requirement for child care-focused state and federal grants.

Will eligible BEECH participants be able to participate 3 consecutive years like the TSR comprehensive teachers? Or will they only be allowed to do only 1 year participating?

Eligible home-based participants will be allowed to participate for up to two consecutive years.

Partner Program Recruitment Questions

In Question #1 on the RFA, where it says, "Do you propose to include site-wide delivery for some partners (pre-K, infant, and toddler classrooms) to build capacity in high quality caregiving?" Does "site-wide" mean that all classrooms at the center are participating? Or does it just mean that we have one classroom from each category (PK, infant, toddler)?

You can choose to recruit one classroom from each age group at that site, or multiple, depending on your community's goals. We recognize that having at least one teacher participating from each age group is a great way to encourage and reinforce quality improvement activities.

Letter of Intent Questions

Will the letters of intent need to be attached when submitting the RFA application or will the letters of intent be received automatically to TSR RFA comprehensive (CLI, TSR)?

No, letters of intent do not need to be attached to the RFA application. The Letters of Intent should be completed electronically through the following link:

https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMky4OL0vu0usQK

Do returning applicants also need to get 20 letters of intent?

Yes, all applicants (returning and new) need to obtain 20 letters of intent.

Do you need 20 letters that confirm 20 classrooms or that confirm 20 sites?

The minimum recruitment requirement is for 20 classrooms to participate. These classrooms may come from 20 sites, or fewer if you select to serve multiple classrooms within one site.

Is the LOI survey available in Spanish?

The letter of intent is only available in English since it may not be possible to deliver all components of TSR Comprehensive with Spanish-speaking providers. We will consider this for future service delivery.

Do the current participating classrooms filling out the letters of intent (LOI) count towards the 20 needed for the application?

Yes, any schools with participating classrooms that would like to continue participation for the next grant cycle can count towards the minimum of 20 LOI for your application. The LOI is also an opportunity for continuing schools to recommend an additional classroom to an existing partner to participate in the future.

We noticed that the LOI does not ask prospective participants the lead agent name. How will this survey keep track of how many classrooms are being recruited per community for the RFA without this information?

The letter of intent survey asks the site to identify who contacted them about participating in TSR Comprehensive. They should include the lead agency representative's email as part of their survey. This will guarantee that a copy of the submission will be emailed to the representative. CLI can provide an export of the survey to confirm submissions. Contact us at tsr.rfa@uth.tmc.edu to request this export.

