

TEXAS RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the program is to provide matching funds to assist eligible public institutions in leveraging private gifts for the enhancement of research productivity and faculty recruitment.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ “Emerging Research” universities are eligible for funding.
- ◆ State match is allocated based on donation amount.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

In fiscal year 2013, \$52.2 million was distributed to the eligible institutions. This amount included \$17.8 million that was appropriated to THECB in the General Appropriations Act, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011 and \$34.4 million appropriated in House Bill 1025, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Education Code, Section 62.121–62.124

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The Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) allows eligible institutions to vie for state matching funds awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) based on the amount an institution raises in private gifts and endowments to enhance research activities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Pursuant to the Texas Education Code, Section 62.121, only “emerging research universities” as defined by THECB¹, are eligible to receive matching funds through the program. When the Eighty-first Legislature established the program, there were seven institutions classified as “emerging research universities.” These institutions were: Texas Tech University, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Houston, and University of North Texas. In early 2012, Texas State University was designated as an emerging research university.

ALLOCATION CRITERIA

The state match depends on the amount of the gifts or endowments the institution receives. If the total amounts of the gifts and endowments are \$100,000 or more, but less than \$999,999, 50 percent of the donations will be matched. If the total amounts of the gifts and endowments are \$1,000,000 or more, but less than \$1,999,999, 75 percent of the donations will be matched. If the total amounts of the gifts and endowments are \$2,000,000 or more, 100 percent of the donations will be matched. If funds appropriated for the

program are insufficient to provide matching grants for all qualifying gifts, THECB will provide matching grants for the remaining unmatched gifts in the following fiscal year to the extent funds are available. Fig. 1 shows the distributions of funds per institution from fiscal years 2010 to 2013.

FIG. 1
DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL TRIP FUNDS, FISCAL YEARS 2010 TO 2013

INSTITUTION (IN MILLIONS)	2010	2011	2012	2013
University of Texas at Arlington	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.2
University of Texas at Dallas	7.7	7.0	1.7	21.3
University of Texas at El Paso	1.5	1.4	2.0	5.1
University of Texas at San Antonio	1.4	1.3	1.1	3.7
University of Houston	2.4	2.1	8.2	9.1
University of North Texas	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.5
Texas State University	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6
Texas Tech University	10.8	9.7	3.8	9.7
Total	\$25.0	\$22.6	\$17.8	\$52.2

SOURCE: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

¹ Emerging Research universities are educational, scientific, engineering, business and cultural resource centers committed to the three-fold mission of teaching, research, and service. Emerging Research universities offer a wide range of baccalaureate and master’s programs, serve a student population from within and outside the region, and are committed to graduate education through the doctorate in targeted areas of excellence. The institutions award at least 20 doctorate-research/scholarship degrees per year, offer at least 10 doctoral-research/scholarship programs, and/or enroll at least 150 doctoral-research/scholarship students.