

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 2016, \$102.8 million was distributed to eligible institutions. This amount included \$9.0 million in General Revenue–Dedicated Funds from the Emerging Technology Account No. 5124.

From fiscal years 2013 to 2016, a total of \$190.6 million has been appropriated to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the Texas Research Incentive Program.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

The Texas Education Code, Sections 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 receives 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, seven institutions were classified as emerging research universities. These institutions were: Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, The 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 amount of the gifts and endowments is \$100,000 or more, but less than \$999,999, 50 percent of the donations will be matched. If the total amount of the gifts and endowments is \$1,000,000 or more, but less than \$1,999,999, 75 percent of the donations will be matched. If the total amount of the gifts and endowments is \$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 that funds are available. Figure 1 shows the distributions of funds per institution from fiscal years 2013 to 2016.

FIGURE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL TRIP FUNDS, FISCAL YEARS 2013 TO 2016

(IN MILLIONS)

INSTITUTION	2013	2014	2015	2016
University of Texas at Arlington	1.2	0.2	0.3	7.2
University of Texas at Dallas	21.3	2.6	3.0	32.4
University of Texas at El Paso	5.1	0.1	4.0	1.1
University of Texas at San Antonio	3.7	0.1	0.7	5.2
University of Houston	9.1	0.5	1.4	17.6
University of North Texas	1.5	0.0	0.0	2.3
Texas State University	0.6	1.0	0.2	2.0
Texas Tech University	9.7	13.3	8.1	35.0
Total	\$52.2	\$17.8	\$17.8	\$102.8

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 range of baccalaureate and master 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.