

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

STATE PROGRAM SUPPORT TEXAS GRANT PROGRAM



Helping Texas's neediest students achieve their dreams of a college degree.

OVERVIEW

The Toward Excellence Access and Success (TEXAS) grant is awarded to undergraduate Texas students who demonstrate financial need and meet academic eligibility requirements. Continued support of this program is especially important for UTSA's first-generation, low-income students, a population that often has difficulties with accessing and affording a college education.

THE CHALLENGE

The TEXAS grant program allows UTSA to reduce student loan debt for the state's neediest students. In recent years, insufficient funding for the program has meant that many eligible students did not receive TEXAS grant awards. In the 2017-18 award year, UTSA has over 800 students who met all the criteria for the award, but had not receive a grant due to insufficient funds. The university is prepared to provide TEXAS grants to more students in the 2018-19 award year due to an allocation increase. At the same time, UTSA recognizes that students will still need to find other resources to help fund educational costs beyond tuition and fees.

THE IMPACT

UTSA has a 69% overall retention rate for students in the TEXAS grant program, far surpassing the rate for the general population. The financial support provided by the program is having a clear impact on the ability of UTSA students to stay in school and graduate. If appropriations to the TEXAS grant program are cut for the upcoming biennium, UTSA will need to reduce the average award to students, as well as the total number of students receiving the grant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Albert Carrisalez
Assistant Vice President for Governmental Relations & Policy
210.452.7557 | albert.carrisalez@utsa.edu