

# EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 11

The purpose of the Texas Sensory Support Network (TXSSN) is to support infants and students to age 22 with sensory impairments, their families, and the professionals who serve them. These supports are provided through collaborations with appropriate agencies and organizations responsible for the education of students under 22 years old who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. The network provides information and strategies for communication development, mobility, tactile skills, and environmental adaptations.

Historically, funding for various projects under the TXSSN umbrella has been awarded based on projects that have been supported in previous years, need assessments, and evolutions in education policy and practices. In addition, over the past three years, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has required the network to provide more data on the efficacy of the projects that receive funding rather than simple participation numbers. This has also led to an inability for new projects to be presented and funded. To address the requirement to better align projects with state needs and the limitation of available funds, a new process is being implemented for requesting funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

Moving forward, applications will be available for those providing sensory supports across the state of Texas. Applications will be reviewed by a committee assembled by the Texas Sensory Support Network and chosen based on the quality of the product/project being proposed and how it will meet the needs of the state.

Applications will be posted on the TXSSN website no later than April 30, 2023, and will be due by 5:00 PM on June 1, 2023. Funding is not guaranteed to all applicants. Preliminary funding amounts should be available no later than July 15, 2023.

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