



# Online Orientation Federal Funding Guide





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## Introduction

Tammy Napiontek is Director of Title V Grants at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, WA. As a Hispanic serving institution with a full-time enrollment of 2,000, she first led her school's efforts to apply for two Title V grants and one Title III grant.

"We secured these grants and consolidated the Title V grants under one director, saving salaries along the way," she said. The grants included an initiative to redesign advising to eliminate barriers to access and success specifically for our Latinx students (42% of Big Bend's population). One of the initiatives was to provide a better onboarding experience for students.

According to Tammy, online student orientation is a great fit for federal funding. Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI, full-time enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students) can submit grant proposals using Title V and Title III funds. TRIO grants are another federal funding source, renewable every five years.

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## Inside this Guide

This guide includes information from the U.S. Department of Education and offers a summary of [federal funding programs](#) that have been used for the development and implementation of Advantage Orientation®. Use this guide to explore your funding options with your team and your grant director at your campus. Then, contact your Advantage Design Group® representative for more pricing information.



## Title III Part A Programs Strengthening Institutions

Refer to the

### Tips & Assistance

section on the

Eligibility page for

more information,

webinar schedule,

and presentations

regarding eligibility.

### Program Description

The program helps eligible IHEs to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.

### Type of Projects

Funds may be used for planning, faculty development, and establishing endowment funds. Administrative management, and the development and improvement of academic programs also are supported. Other projects include joint use of instructional facilities, construction and maintenance, and student service programs designed to improve academic success, including innovative, customized, instruction courses designed to help retain students and move the students rapidly into core courses and through program completion, which may include remedial education and English language instruction.

### Eligibility

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) by category or IHEs that meet certain eligibility requirements may apply.

Institutions of higher education must meet both basic and specific eligibility requirements. A basic requirement is that an institution must be legally authorized by the state in which it is located to be a junior college or provide an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree; and be either accredited, pre-accredited, or making reasonable progress toward such accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or organization.

Under specific eligibility requirements, an institution must have at least 50 percent of its degree students receiving need-based assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act or have a substantial number of enrolled students receiving Pell Grants, and have low educational and general expenditures. The Secretary may waive the eligibility requirements under certain conditions which are defined in program regulations.



# Title III Part A Programs Strengthening Institutions

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the purpose of the Title III Part A Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP)?**

SIP provides discretionary grants to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to help them become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students, by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

### **Who may apply for SIP grants?**

IHEs that meet certain eligibility requirements may apply. For additional information about eligibility for SIP, please see the Eligibility page on this Web site.

### **What kinds of activities can be supported with grant funds?**

Grants awarded under this section shall be used for one or more of the following activities:

- Purchase, rental or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;
- Construction, maintenance, renovation and improvement in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities, including the integration of computer technology into institutional facilities to create smart buildings;
- Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, and faculty fellowships to assist faculty in attaining advanced degrees in the field of instruction of the faculty;
- Development and improvement of academic programs;
- Purchase of library books, periodicals, and other educational materials, including telecommunications program material;
- Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success;
- Funds management, administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;
- Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries;
- Establishing or improving an endowment fund; and
- Creating or improving facilities for Internet or other distance learning academic instruction capabilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services.



## Title III Part A Programs Strengthening Institutions

### Frequently Asked Questions *(continued)*

#### How often are competitions generally held?

Generally, we invite applications for SIP grants every other year. For example, in FY 2015 the program had a competition. For FY 2016, the program did not hold a competition; rather, it funded down the FY 2015 slate.

#### What is the duration of the average grant?

The average grant is awarded for a period of five years.

#### What is the average annual grant amount?

The average annual amount is

- \$400,000 for individual development grants; and
- \$600,000 for cooperative arrangement development grants

#### What are a few concrete examples of allowable activities?

- Increasing student retention and progression through college-level courses by re-engineering student support services and supplemental instruction and providing enhanced faculty professional development;
- Building a student tracking system that includes an early alert module and faculty reporting module to improve the institution's information technology systems and ability to track students;
- Strengthening assessment and integrating academic advising, academic support and academic enrichment under a new center;
- Strengthening student information systems including the development of early warning systems with training for faculty and administrators in the new system;
- Developing faculty development, including workshops in high impact pedagogies, technology, and instructional methods for teaching under-prepared students;
- Developing an endowment fund to meet ongoing costs for maintenance and upgrades to technology;
- Expanding access to high-demand STEM Programs through the conversion of high-demand courses, each with a Science, Technology, Engineering or Math emphasis to online and/or hybrid delivery; and
- To develop six online student services—online readiness assessment, orientation, registration, tutoring, library resources, and advising.



# Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program - Title V

Refer to the most recent [Application for Designation as an Eligible Institution](#).

## Program Description

The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

## Applicant Information

Institutions must be designated as an eligible institution of higher education in order to apply for the Title V program and must meet the program-specific requirements to be defined as an HSI.

To be designated as an eligible institution of higher education, an institution must apply for and receive designation through an application process. Please refer to the most recent Application for Designation as an Eligible Institution. You may contact the program office if you have questions regarding eligibility.

## Eligibility

Who May Apply (by category): Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

Who May Apply (specifically): Institutions must be designated eligible for the Title V Part A and the Title III, Part F programs, and each must be defined as an HSI.

## Types of Projects

Funds may be used for activities such as: scientific or laboratory equipment for teaching; construction or renovation of instructional facilities; faculty development; purchase of educational materials; academic tutoring or counseling programs; funds and administrative management; joint use of facilities; endowment funds; distance learning academic instruction; teacher education; and student support services.

## Additional Information

Five-year individual development grants, five-year cooperative arrangement development grants, and one-year planning grants may be awarded.



# Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program - Title V

## The HEOA

The [Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008](#) (HEOA) amended Section 503(b) of the Higher Education Act to include among the authorized activities under the HSI Program: activities to improve student services, including innovative and customized instruction courses designed to retain students and move the students into core courses; articulation agreements and student support programs designed to facilitate the transfer of students from two-year to four-year institutions; and providing education, counseling services, and financial information designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students and their families.

The HEOA also amended the authorized activities to use the term “distance education technologies” in place of “distance learning academic instruction capabilities.”

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## About Advantage Design Group®

Advantage Design Group® is a multimedia production and software development firm established in 1998. This certified, woman-owned small business is the largest online orientation production company in North America, employing over 40 full-time staff. The company's diverse talent includes digital specialists in art direction, UX design, programming, video production, content development, project management and training.

Advantage Orientation®, the company's cloud-based orientation software, is currently deployed by hundreds of higher education institutions in three countries. The platform provides an interactive and video-rich experience to support successful transitions for new students and new hires.

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