



***Application for
FY 2022 - 2023 Launch BTX Grant Program***

***Application Period:
October 1, 2022, through September 31, 2023***

Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC)

A Type A Economic Development Organization

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Program Name: Launch BTX Grant Program (Launch BTX)

Program Goal/Overview: The mission of the Launch BTX Grant Program is to assist and support Brownsville, Texas, start-ups, or established businesses in the Aerospace, NewSpace, Urban Mobility, Technology, Agriculture, Medical, and Advanced Manufacturing through the research and development phases of their new or evolving products or product lines. Success comes from a collaboration with the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC), business partners, and eligible grant applicants comprised of institutions of higher education.

About the Grant: The City of Brownsville, Texas, is quickly becoming a hub for companies with a mission to venture in or expand in Aerospace, NewSpace, Urban Mobility, Technology, Agriculture, Medical, and Advanced Manufacturing.

The Launch BTX Grant Program allocated an initial Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000) by the GBIC Board of Directors for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Given the success of the program, an additional \$450,000 was approved by the GBIC Board of Directors for FY 2022-2023 to provide grants to institutions of higher education that are working in collaboration with targeted key industry companies that are already located, or expanding in the City of Brownsville, Texas. These institutions of higher education include Universities, Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, State Colleges, and High Schools that provide Career & Technical Education that are working in collaboration with Brownsville-based companies, with assistance with the following: providing office or laboratory space, training by professors that are working in collaboration with specialized industry professionals, student research and internships, testing equipment, materials, and development in the launching of new or evolving products within the Aerospace, NewSpace, Urban Mobility, Technology, Agriculture, Medical, and Advanced Manufacturing.

How the Program Works: Launch BTX will provide grants to eligible institutions of higher education to defray the costs associated with providing office and/or laboratory space, training by professors, student research, internships/apprenticeships, testing equipment, and associated services that are meant to develop and launch new or evolving products. Projects must have the ability to evolve from concepts to viable designs, based on science, to commercialize products that can ultimately be scaled.

Eligibility: Start-ups, companies, and businesses in the Aerospace, NewSpace, Urban Mobility Technology, Agriculture, Medical, and Advanced Manufacturing must be developing or evolving a product or product line, be situated in Brownsville, Texas, and must meet the following criteria:

1. To qualify for the Launch BTX Grant Program, companies applying must provide a Certificate of Account Status from the Texas Comptroller's Office and a Print-out of their Filing History Report on the Secretary of State's Website.
2. Collaborate with eligible institutions of higher education located in Cameron County (Universities, Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, State Colleges, and High Schools providing Career & Technical Education), to aid with providing office or laboratory space, training by professors that are collaborating with a specialized industry professional(s), provide student research, training and internships/apprenticeships, testing equipment, development, materials, in the launching of new or evolving products.

3. Disclose if any other local, state or federal funds are being sought or awarded for the proposed plan/program. (This information will only be utilized to assist in finding other funding opportunities /sources for business partners where awarded funds if any, can be leveraged.)
4. Provide a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or similar Agreement or Contract between the start-up, business, or company and the applicant/institutions of higher education (University, Community College, Technical College, State College, and/or High School providing Career & Technical Education) outlining each entity's role and responsibilities under the grant award.
5. Include an itemized budget that identifies the use of funding. For example, course descriptions if requesting training, equipment costs and/or material costs, etc.
6. Verify that the institution of higher education submits a complete application through the GBIC website portal.
7. The company must have a Brownsville address.
8. The company must be able to prove personal or in-kind investments from the principal(s) into the project by the time of application. The company will be required to provide financial statements and other possible documentation to prove its investment in the company.
9. If the company is a start-up a business plan will be required as part of the documentation. Companies with more than a year of existence must provide tax returns and financial statements.
10. The company must provide a certificate of account status.

Project Duration: Launch BTX will be in effect until the end of FY 2023 or until program-allocated funds are depleted.

Evaluation Considerations: All applications will be reviewed each month. The evaluation process will consist of:

- An initial review of the submitted application will be performed by GBIC staff members for completeness and compliance with technical specifications.
- All compliant and complete applications will be evaluated and scored by an internal team of reviewers. Applications will be evaluated on specific criteria by reviewers using a standardized instrument based on the criteria below.

Grants will be scored and awarded based on the following general criteria:

Company and Project Information	10 points
Anticipated Outcomes of the Project	30 points
Programs/Services rendered by the institution of higher education	25 points
Reasonability of Budgeted Costs	20 points
Industry Sector Focus Area	10 points
Institution of higher education located in Brownsville	5 points
Total Possible Score	100 points

Application Process:

Applications that meet Eligibility and Evaluation Considerations will be presented to the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC) Board of Directors for approval. Applicants will be notified and allowed to provide additional information, if necessary. Institutions of higher education may be granted funds for more than one signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), contract, or Agreement. If awarded funding for a Project for Fiscal Year 2023, the start-up, business, or company, is ineligible to reapply under that same Agreement, with the same institution of higher education, until the next fiscal year. Projects that are not granted funds, may reapply if they meet Eligibility and Evaluation Considerations.

How to Apply:

- Complete the online application and upload required the documents at the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC) <https://greaterbrownsville.com>

Other Project Considerations:

- All BTX Launch Grant Program applications must be submitted by an eligible institution of higher education.
- An institution of higher education may apply for more than one Project.

Launch BTX is a competitive process; not all applicants will be awarded funding despite meeting criteria, and funding may be reduced.

- Funds may be utilized for the purchase of equipment and/or supplies and materials necessary for training, researching, developing, and testing. In addition, providing office and/or laboratory space, training by professors, student research and internships/apprenticeships, and associated services that are meant to develop and launch new or evolving products.

If the application is selected for funding, the institution of higher education will enter into a Performance Agreement with the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation to comply with Section 501.101 of the Act, allowing funding for equipment, facilities, expenditures, targeted infrastructure, and improvements that are for the creation or retention of primary jobs.

For questions, please contact:

Karla De La Riva, MBA

Workforce and Business Development Director

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Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation
BTX Launch Application

SECTION I – APPLICANT INFORMATION

Institution of higher education Information: Complete the following information requested.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Type of institution of higher education (University, Community College, Technical College, State College, or High School providing Career & Technical Education)

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Company Street Address (physical location required):

City, State: _____

County: _____

Zip Code: _____

SECTION II – COMPANY INFORMATION

Company Information: Complete the information requested.

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Company Street Address (physical location required):

City, State: _____

County: _____

Zip Code: _____

Total Number of Employees Company-wide: _____

Tax ID #: _____

4-Digit NAICS Code that Identifies Industry (You can find these codes here: [NAICS has moved!](#) [\(census.gov\)](#))

TWC Account Number (Account # under which business partner reports employee wages to TWC Tax Department): * [Unemployment Tax Contact Information - Texas Workforce Commission](#) *Only applicable for companies with an existing TWC Account Number.

SECTION III – FUNDING

A) Type of Industry: Place an “X” next to the type of industry your company belongs to, if other, please type the name of the industry next to other.

Industry Type							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aerospace/ NewSpace	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced Manufacturing	<input type="checkbox"/>	

B) Funding Information Request: Please fill in the information below.

Is Your Company a Start-up? If so, please attached a copy of a 990 Tax Form or Form Business Structure. _____

Please provide your company's Brownsville address.

Total of New Jobs or Internships Created? _____

What is the Average Wage Per Employee/Intern? _____

Please provide a breakdown of the company's total project investment (monetary and non-monetary resources).

What is your funding request? (Maximum request granted per application \$150,000)

Briefly explain in what areas the company will utilize the funds:

Briefly describe how funding will assist in achieving the company's goals:

Disclose if any other local, state, or federal funds are being sought or awarded for the proposed plan/program. (This information will only be used to assist in finding other funding opportunities for business partners where awarded funds if any, can be leveraged.)

SECTION IV – TRAINING

A) Type of Training: Please fill in the information below, if applicable.

Project Description: Please provide a brief description of the training needs and high-level goals.

The submittal document shall not exceed 10 pages for the required information. A page is considered 8.5" x 11", single-sided, 12-point font size (or larger), single-spaced, and in portrait orientation.

Training Needs

Anticipated Start Date: _____

Anticipated End Date: _____

Total Number of Employees/Interns to be Trained: _____

B) Training Courses to Be Provided, if applicable: Please provide training information and budget details below.

Name of Training Provider: _____

Job Title(s): _____

Course Name(s): _____

Number of Trainees: _____

Course Training Hours: _____

Cost per Trainee: _____

C) Trainee Information, if applicable: Please provide the following information.

- The job title of each position for which training is being requested.
- The number of employees/apprentices/Interns to receive training through the proposed project.
- If applicable, the hourly wage range is to be provided to the employee upon the successful completion of training, if applicable. (The minimum wage is the current minimum hourly wage that a trainee is paid, and the maximum wage is the highest hourly wage that a trainee can be paid). Only include hourly wages of those workers who will be participating in training, if applicable.

List the Job Title(s) _____

Number Of employees/apprentice/Interns in the Occupation Receiving Training

Hourly Wage Range Minimum Wage (if Applicable) _____

Hourly Wage Range Maximum Wage (if Applicable) _____

SECTION V – RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TESTING

A) Equipment and Supplies: List the type of equipment, supplies, or material needed for the project and the estimated cost per item, if applicable.

Equipment and/or Supplies

Cost

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

B) SMART objectives: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound

SMART Objective Description

Target Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

C) Technical milestone/challenge: Give details of the milestones below

Technical Milestone/Challenge

Milestone Target Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

To the best of my knowledge and belief, by signing this application, I certify all information provided in this application is true and correct.

Print Name of Applicant (Institution of Higher Education)

Name of Authorized Representative

Title of Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

Collaboration with Company/Start-Up

Company Name

Name

Title

Signature

Date
