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TEACHFORAMERICA

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TEACH FOR AMERICA RECEIVES AMERICORPS GRANT FROM ONESTAR FOUNDATION

Grant Will Help Recruit and Develop Leaders Working for Educational Equity throughout the Rio Grande Valley and Texas

MISSION, Texas, September 12, 2019—OneStar Foundation recently announced that it has awarded \$654,000 in funding to support Teach For America’s programs in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio for the 2019-2020 school year. This grant is part of \$17.8 million that Texas received in federal AmeriCorps funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which will be matched by an additional \$42.8 million in local resources. In the Rio Grande Valley, 64 TFA AmeriCorps members serve in Rio Grande Valley schools and the region will receive \$64,000 total in grant funding to support the program.

In the Rio Grande Valley, several elected officials weighed in about the significance of the funding. “In our current competitive job market, a quality education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity; it is a requirement,” said Congressman Henry Cuellar. “This grant will fund more teachers in the Rio Grande Valley, which will strengthen our school systems and increase student outcomes. An investment in our children’s education is an investment in our country’s economic prosperity. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fund education programs, like AmeriCorps, that help prepare our students for a rapidly changing world.”

“Teach For America is an invaluable partner and has brought many service-minded individuals to schools in the Rio Grande Valley,” said Congressman Vicente Gonzalez. “I am pleased the OneStar Foundation has awarded AmeriCorps funding for Teach For America and that we will continue to build on our existing partnership to improve student outcomes.”

“Congratulations to Teach For America on the award for grant funding to continue their important work for students,” said Congressman Filemon Vela. “These teachers will have a long-lasting impact on future generations, and I thank every educator for their unwavering commitment to shape young minds. Each child deserves access to quality learning, and I will continue support programs such as Teach For America to ensure opportunity for all.”

Teach For America works in partnership with urban and rural communities in more than 50 regions across the country to expand educational opportunity for children. The organization has been part of the Texas fabric since 1991, when the first corps members came to the Rio Grande Valley and Houston regions, and became a part of the AmeriCorps network when the program launched in 1994. Today, Teach For America has a presence in Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio as well in addition to alumni leading in Austin and nearly every corner of the state. Sustained partnerships between district leaders, the community, donors and family members, have enabled Teach For America to play a contributing role in increasing student outcomes including graduation rates and student achievement.

This year, more than 650 Teach For America AmeriCorps members are leading local classrooms throughout the state, while an additional 4,000 Teach For America alumni are working in education and

other sectors to expand educational opportunity throughout Texas. Among that alumni leadership force, over 77 percent work in roles impacting education or low-income communities.

“It is a great honor to be awarded this AmeriCorps grant from OneStar Foundation,” said Robert Carreon, Vice President of Public Affairs in Texas for Teach For America. “AmeriCorps education awards made a difference in my life and has impacted my career trajectory and that of so many others at Teach For America. AmeriCorps funding allows organizations like ours to recruit a diverse group of leaders and connect them with opportunities for service. We are honored to be an AmeriCorps Texas program so that we can develop more leaders and change agents with an enduring commitment to improving the lives of children in the state.”

“National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the challenges facing our state,” said Elizabeth Darling, President and CEO of OneStar Foundation. “These AmeriCorps members will strengthen communities as they develop civic and leadership skills to last a lifetime. I congratulate Teach For America and thank all those who serve their communities through AmeriCorps.”

The Corporation for National and Community Service will make available an additional \$13 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for the AmeriCorps members funded by these grants. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members earn an award of approximately \$6,000 that they can use for college or to pay off student loans. The AmeriCorps education award enables Teach For America to recruit a diverse set of corps members to Texas. Nearly fifty percent of current corps members in Texas, and over seventy percent in the Rio Grande Valley, received Pell grants and many are the first in their families to attend college.

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with urban and rural communities in more than 50 regions across the country to expand educational opportunity for children. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding leaders to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to end educational inequity. Today Teach For America is a force of nearly 60,000 alumni and corps members committed to profound systemic change. From classrooms to districts to state houses across America, they’re reimagining education to realize the day when every child has an equal opportunity to learn, to grow, to influence and to lead. Teach For America is a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About AmeriCorps

Every year, 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve through 21,000+ schools, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations across the country. These citizens have played a critical role in the recovery of communities affected by disasters and helped thousands of first-generation college students access higher education. They also tutor and mentor young people, connect veterans to jobs, care for seniors, reduce crime and revive cities, fight the opioid epidemic, and meet other critical needs.

OneStar Foundation is the Governor-designated National Service Commission in Texas and administers the AmeriCorps State grant program. Governor-appointed board members oversee the legal and policy governance of the AmeriCorps Texas program portfolio. Learn more at onestarfoundation.org.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation's volunteering and service efforts. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

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