



University of Texas at Dallas 87th Legislature Funding Priorities

Maintain Formula Funding Gains from 86th Legislature

- From 2007 to 2017, UT Dallas was the 2nd fastest growing public doctoral university in the country according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- As a result of the 86th Legislature, general revenue appropriations to UT Dallas grew by \$20.5 million over the previous biennium, ensuring stability for core operations and research support at such a rapidly growing institution.
- Maintaining the formula funding gains made during the 86th Legislature is the top priority for UT Dallas as these funds provide the financial foundation for the University to succeed in its academic mission.

Maintain Funding for Special Items and the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

- UT Dallas's signature special items – Academic Bridge Program and Middle School Brain Years – were both impacted by state reductions in FY 2020. Maintaining funding for these programs is vitally important to the North Texas region.
- TRIP provides matching funds for private gifts given to enhance research activities at Texas' eight emerging research universities. All TRIP funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature have been allocated. However, institutions continue to submit private donations eligible for matching funds. Thus, there is a considerable backlog (\$234M) of pending state matching funding earned by institutions for eligible projects.
- At this time, UT Dallas has \$52M in the backlog, and DFW universities have over \$89M in the queue to receive funding.
- Recognizing that state funding will be strained for FY2022-23, UT Dallas requests that the \$35 million funding level appropriated for FY2020-21 be maintained. This would leave a backlog of about \$200 million, a still very large amount that would need to be addressed in the future.

Restore 5% Cuts

- In May 2020, UT Dallas provided state leadership with requested plans to reduce biennial general revenue appropriations by 5% or \$9.07M. Because the University's state revenue is spent almost exclusively on salaries during the academic year, this 5% reduction in biennial revenue was effectively a budget reduction of 10% in the 2021 fiscal year.
- To achieve this reduction, UT Dallas instituted a reduction in force, eliminated or significantly reduced special items and research funding, suspended an annual merit program, and instituted a hiring freeze for vacant positions.
- UT Dallas is requesting a \$9.07M exceptional item to restore these 5% cuts. Rising expenses, lost revenue, and reduced state appropriations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are impacting every aspect of the University --- irrespective of state appropriations. Restoring the 5% cuts will greatly assist in addressing the financial challenges the University is experiencing from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reimburse COVID-19 Costs

- UT Dallas requests \$10,000,000 in exceptional item funding to offset COVID-19 related operating losses resulting from significant auxiliary refunds to students, rapid conversion to exclusive on-line delivery of coursework, and declining enrollment. COVID-19 related expenses, refunds and lost revenue to date total \$35.9M. Federal funds provided some relief, but outstanding institution costs are substantial and represent unanticipated expenses and liabilities for the University.