**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

The Educator Certification Program at Education Service Center Region XIII is applying for a FY 2011 Transition to Teaching Local Project (84.350A) Grant under Competitive Priorities 1 and 2. The Language Leaders (L2) in ESC Region XIII project brings together a collaborative of high need Local Education Agencies and a nationally-recognized Educator Certification Program to successfully train, place, and support Bilingual, Bilingual Special Education and teachers of Languages Other Than English (LOTE) in classrooms across nine districts in the Central Texas Region. Of the nine, three are rural, one is a major urban district, and five are non-metropolitan, independent towns. Three key features highlight the Language Leaders Project. First, teacher interns who successfully complete training will form a corps that will be prioritized for hiring for a period up to two years following completion of the ECP program created specifically to address the program requirements and competitive priorities of the FY 2011 Transition to Teaching Grant. Collaborating high-needs districts participating in the L2 Project will select from among this corps to fill their vacant Bilingual, Bilingual Special Education and teachers of Languages Other Than English (LOTE) teaching positions.

Second, the Educator Certification Program will actively broker candidates and open positions to promote job sharing as needed among the collaborating districts. Third, the newly-placed teacher corps will be supported in their positions for a period up to three years through face-to-face and technology-driven mentoring, training, and technical assistance. Texas school districts and charter schools face unprecedented fiscal uncertainties and constraints as the state grapples with biennial budget reductions in public education of $4 to $8 billion. The teacher corps, placement and brokering services, and face-to-face and technology-driven teacher training and support, delivered by a proven and highly successful Educator Certification Program will successfully adapt the FY11 Transition to Teaching Grant to local conditions while ensuring that the requirements of the grant are addressed.