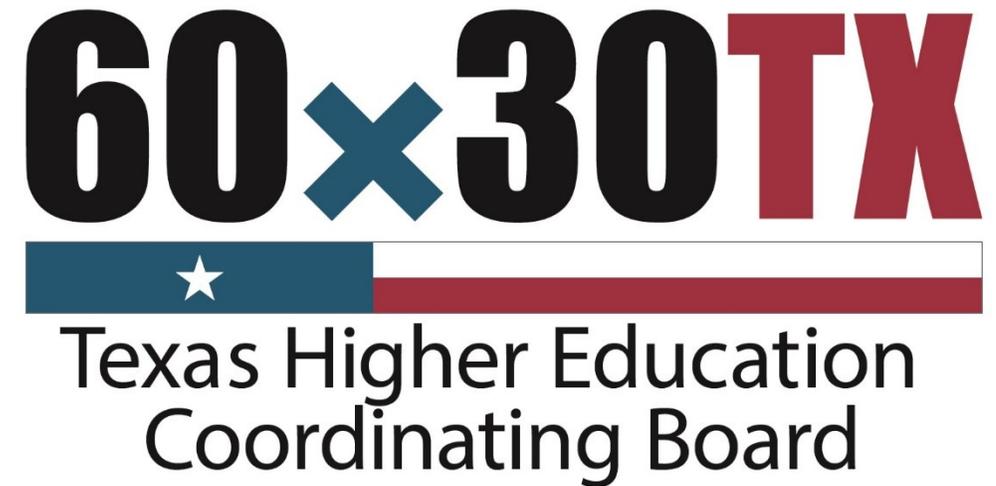


# Overview of the Emergency Aid Project in Texas

Mary E. Smith, PhD  
Monique Lee Whitley  
Academic Planning and Policy  
September 27, 2018



# Emergency Aid Programs

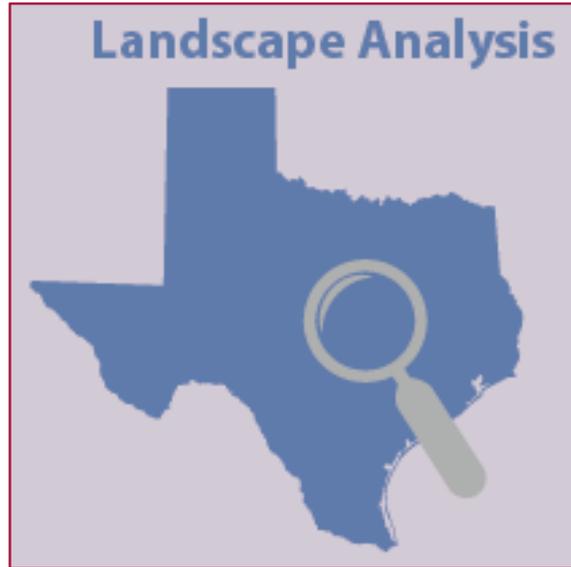
- **Direct small amounts of money**, sometimes as little as \$300, to students who are struggling to pay for a financial emergency
- Designed to support students in meeting **unexpected financial needs** and help them **stay on the path to graduation**

# The Advocating for Emergency Aid in Texas Project

## 4 Phases

- Landscape Analysis
- Network Launch
- Awareness and Dissemination
- Advocacy

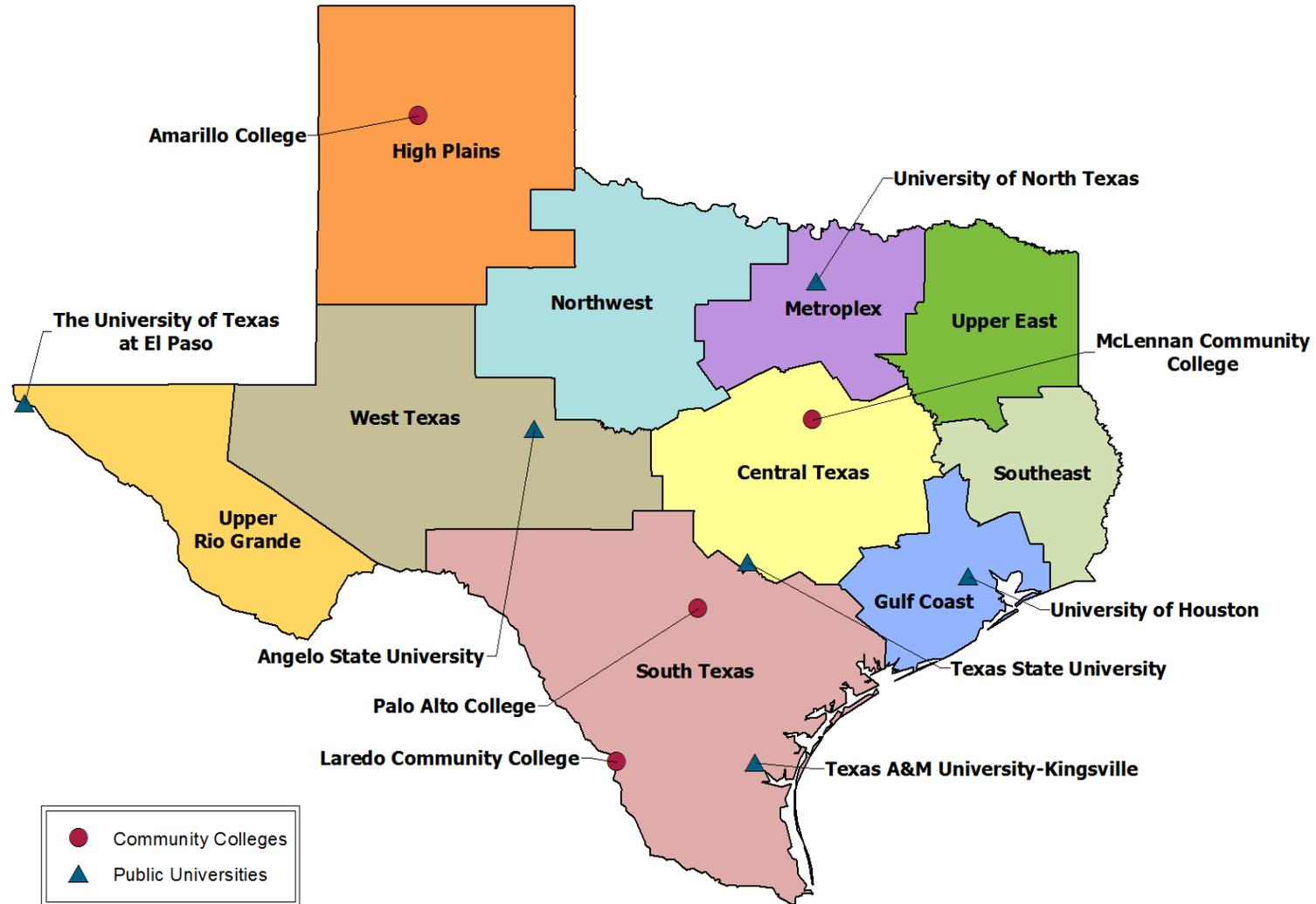
# Phase One



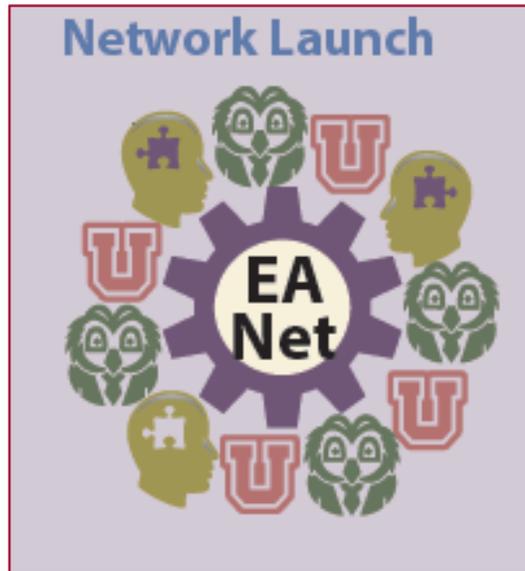
## Activities

- Survey sent
- Emergency aid practices solicited
- Selection of EA Net

# Emergency Aid Network (EA Net)



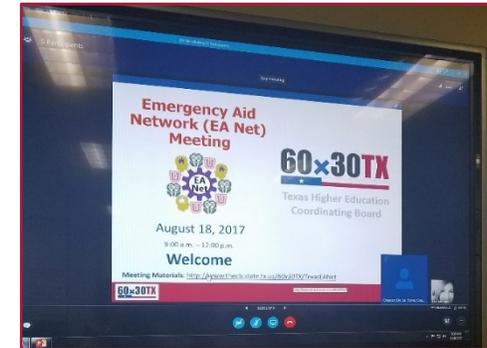
# Phase Two



## Activities

- 10 institutions selected
- Team members identified
- Sharing of best practices/barriers

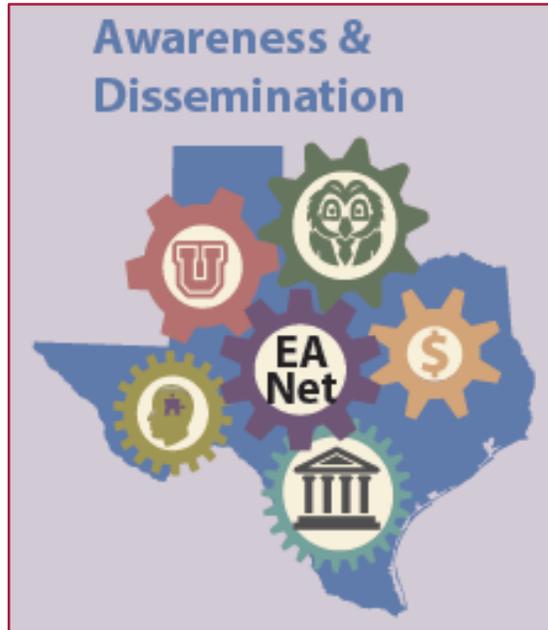
# The Emergency Aid Network at Work



# EA Net Subgroups

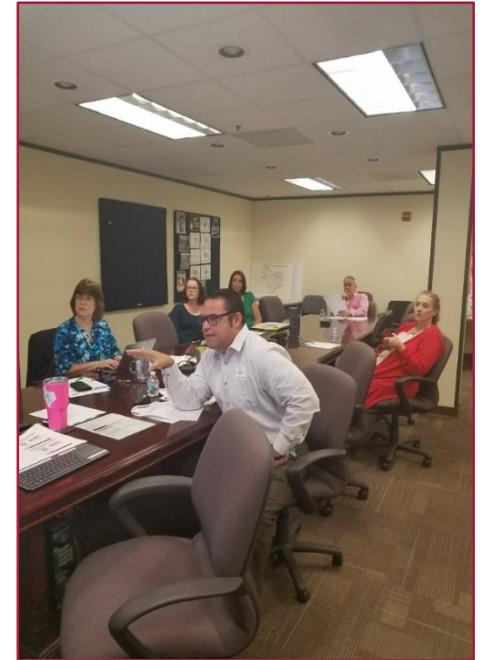
Promising & Best Practices:	Community Partnerships:
Communication	Room & Board
Administration	Transportation
Sustainability	Health Care
Automated Technology	Technology

# Phase Three



## Activities

- Interactions with:
  - Financial Aid Advisory Committee
  - Financial Literacy Advisory Committee
  - Other stakeholders
- Statewide Convening



# Phase Four



## Activities

- Disseminate findings
- Champion best practices

# What We've Learned . . .

## **For effective emergency aid programs, colleges and universities should ...**

1. Clearly define emergency for their programs
2. Simplify administration, and train staff and faculty on processes
3. Reach students where they are in modes of communication
4. Form community partnerships for sustainable funding
5. Use automated technology
6. Create a "Culture of Caring"

# What We've Learned . . .

***"If we can remove some of life's barriers (which often don't include academic issues), the students can become more successful in school... The true driver is not the initiative itself, but love for the students."***

***– Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President, Amarillo College***

\*\*\*\*\*

***"The strongest predictor of persistence is the student's social/emotional connection to the institution."***

***– Brad Hershbein, W.E. Upjohn Institute***

# Questions?

For more information on emergency aid programs and the **EA Net**, as well as all presentations from the *2018 Advocating for Emergency Aid Programs in Higher Education Statewide Convening*, please visit:  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/60x30TX/TexasEANet>

or contact:

[monique.leewhitley@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:monique.leewhitley@thecb.state.tx.us)

512-427-6584