



1—Project Name: Congreso Experiences

2—If this grant is being requested on behalf of an external organization, what is that organization's name and connection with Texas Baptists?

N/A

3—Please request the minimum amount needed—with a maximum of \$20,000 possible—in order to accomplish the project's goals.

\$18,000.00 (*budget attached*)

4—Overview: Give a one paragraph description of the project.

Launched in 2019, Congreso Experiences were created to inspire and equip students to share the gospel throughout the year leading up to our main Congreso event each spring. These one-day, FREE gatherings provide students with a preview of the larger Congreso experience while offering practical training and spiritual enrichment. Hosted in partnership with Texas Baptist universities and churches across the state, each event promotes the value of higher education and includes dynamic worship, hands-on mission opportunities, and workshops designed to build leadership, discipleship, and college readiness.

By bringing Congreso to local communities, we increase accessibility and impact particularly among first-time attendees and churches that may not yet be fully engaged in the broader Congreso movement. Each experience plays a vital role in preparing students spiritually and academically, while cultivating excitement for the main event.

Over the years, Congreso has gathered 1,500–3,000 students annually, alongside 100–150 pastors from over 200 Hispanic churches across Texas and neighboring states. In 2025, we celebrated 61 years of Congreso ministry in Richardson, TX, where more than 1,200 students attended and 129 made life-changing decisions to follow Christ or pursue ministry. These year-round experiences have significantly contributed to increased engagement, stronger discipleship outcomes, and a growing passion for ministry among youth.

5—STRATEGIC: How will this project make Texas Baptists stronger?

The Congreso project plays a vital role in strengthening Texas Baptists by creating meaningful opportunities to impact and disciple the next generation. Through Congreso Experiences, youth and young adults not only get a glimpse of the larger Congreso movement, but they also encounter God in a personal and transformative way. These experiences foster spiritual growth, leadership development, and a deeper connection to the church. By equipping young believers to live out their faith daily, we are investing in the future of our Baptist community. As a result, Texas Baptists are strengthened and unified across generations and empowered to advance the gospel throughout our state and beyond.

6—SIGNIFICANT: What is the anticipated long-term impact of this project?

As a product of Congreso myself, I firmly believe that the long-term impact of this project lies in its ability to empower, shape, and equip the next generation of Christian leaders. By investing in Congreso, we are not just organizing events; we are cultivating future pastors, ministry leaders, and faithful disciples who will carry the mission forward. I recognize that my role is temporary, and my greatest goal is to raise up leaders in Christ who will one day take my place and the places of others currently serving in ministry.

This year, Congreso celebrated 61 years of transformative ministry. Its legacy is clear; thousands of students have grown in faith, answered the call to ministry, and become influential leaders in their communities. With continued support, Congreso will remain a launching pad for leadership development and spiritual formation for generations to come.

7—SUSTAINABLE: How will the grant help this project become self-supporting?

Funding from TBFM plays a crucial role in building the long-term financial sustainability of Congreso Experiences, which are offered free of charge to churches. These experiences serve as powerful outreach and discipleship tools, especially for students exploring a call to ministry. We equip them with resources such as Ready – Responding to God’s Call, along with practical evangelism and discipleship materials to help them share the gospel effectively.

By hosting Congreso Experiences throughout the year, we expand our reach and engage more churches and students, ultimately increasing attendance and participation in our main Congreso event each spring. The growth of this flagship event generates additional revenue that can be reinvested to support Congreso Experiences in the future by paving the way toward self-sufficiency.

TBFM’s generous support has been instrumental in helping Congreso minister to the next generation. With continued investment, we can strengthen our efforts to develop young leaders and build a sustainable ministry model that multiplies impact for years to come.

8—INNOVATIVE: How will this project break new ground?

While Congreso has been a trusted and impactful event for over 61 years, the introduction of Congreso Experiences in the past six years has marked a new chapter of innovation and outreach. These experiences are breaking new ground by taking Congreso beyond a once-a-year event and transforming it into a year-round, relational ministry that meets students where they are.

By bringing Congreso Experiences directly to communities especially underserved or geographically distant areas we remove barriers to access and demonstrate the ongoing presence and accountability of our ministry. These events allow us to walk alongside students and churches in real time, offering discipleship, worship, and resources that address the real-world challenges today’s youth face.

This shift to localized engagement has sparked a hunger for spiritual revival among a new generation. A recent Congreso Experience held in South Texas, for example, created such a powerful impact that it led to the launch of our very first Congreso South event in 2024. These experiences are not just expanding our reach, they are deepening our impact and positioning Congreso as a year-round catalyst for spiritual growth, leadership development, and community transformation.

9—INVOLVING: How will the churches served by Texas Baptists be included in this project?

All Texas Baptists affiliated churches across the state are invited to participate in Congreso and Congreso Experiences. To ensure accessibility and inclusion, we host multiple experiences in various regions throughout Texas. This regional model reduces travel time and financial strain for churches, making it easier for them to engage their youth and leaders.

Congreso is conducted in English to effectively reach and disciple third- and fourth-generation Hispanic students by meeting the needs of a growing segment within our congregations. By bringing these experiences closer to home and tailoring the content for today's youth, we help churches deepen their discipleship efforts, develop future leaders, and strengthen their connection to the broader Texas Baptists family.

How many churches will be involved? To date, over 185 churches have actively participated in Congreso and Congreso Experiences. This number continues to grow each year as more congregations across Texas engage with the program through both the main event and regional experiences. With continued support, we anticipate expanding our reach to even more Texas Baptists churches, strengthening discipleship and leadership development statewide.

10—INTERESTING: How will this project produce helpful stories and encourage donor engagement for future ministry support?

This project generates powerful, real-life stories that demonstrate the life-changing impact of Congreso on students and communities. Through our partnerships, we are able to offer academic scholarships to Congreso participants, reinforcing the value of higher education. In 2026, we plan to expand these efforts by partnering with the Hispanic Education Initiative to increase scholarship opportunities for deserving students.

Additionally, we collaborate with Texas Baptists' River Ministry and local churches to engage students in hands-on mission work such as preparing hygiene kits and writing personalized notes to minister to refugees along the Texas-Mexico border. These service experiences not only deepen students' faith but also allow them to live out the gospel in practical ways.

Stories of students stepping into leadership, pursuing education, and serving others become compelling narratives that inspire donors to give. As donors witness Congreso's holistic investment in the next generation spiritually, academically, and missionally they are moved to support a ministry that is truly growing the kingdom of God.

11—Has this project received previous TBMF grants? If YES, list years and amounts.

2021 = \$15,500

2022 = \$15,000

2023 = \$13,000

2024 = \$15,500

2025 = \$19,500

12—Is this request for an ongoing project with a new name? If YES, what was the former name of the project?

N/A

