Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Federal Grant
Overview for Eligible Conditionally Approved Charter Applicants

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Agenda

- CSP Planning and Implementation Grant Overview
- Eligibility
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- Receiving a CSP Grant from OSSE
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Upon conditional approval from the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) to open a public charter school, an application will also be conditionally approved to receive a federal CSP planning and implementation grant from OSSE.

The purpose of the CSP is to “expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation by providing federal financial assistance for charter school program design, initial implementation, and planning” (CSP Non-regulatory guidance, 2014).
CSP Planning and Implementation Grant

- In 2019, OSSE will administer CSP grants of approximately $800,000 to be used over 36 months for planning and initial implementation of a new public charter school.

- An additional $215,000 will be made available to newly approved public charter schools that aim to serve educationally disadvantaged student populations.

- All OSSE grant funding is paid on a reimbursement basis.
To be eligible for a CSP Planning and Implementation Grant, a charter school:

- Must have received a conditional approval notice from PCSB;
- Must meet the requirements set forth in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
  - Includes meeting the federal definition of a charter school (ESEA Section 5201);
- Must serve students in grades between pre-K3 and 12 or offer a high school diploma;
- Public charter schools receiving CSP funds through a Charter Management Organization (CMO) grant from the U.S. Department of Education will not be eligible to receive additional CSP funds from OSSE.
Planning Phase

• The first 18 months of the 36-month award period are the planning phase.

• Obligation of costs may begin on the date of conditional approval by PCSB.

• During the planning phase, CSP subgrantees may use funds to:
  – Clarify or refine the desired educational results for your school;
  – Develop the tools or methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and/or
  – Provide professional development for teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school.
Implementation Phase

• The final 24 months of the award period are the implementation phase.

• During the implementation phase, CSP subgrantees may use funds to:
  – Develop marketing materials to inform the community about your school;
  – Obtain equipment and educational materials and supplies necessary for instruction;
  – Acquire or build curriculum materials; and/or
  – Cover other initial operational costs that are not met through the use of local funds.
• OSSE strongly encourages applicants to set aside funds to cover costs associated with:
  – Board of Trustees training and development;
  – Establishment of a data system compatible with OSSE and PCSB data system(s);
  – Development and production of a fiscal management manual; and/or
  – Addressing any stipulations or conditions mandated by PCSB within the conditional charter approval letter.
• More complete information on permissible uses of CSP grant funds will be provided at a mandatory in-person grant onboarding session at OSSE.
CSP Grant Timeline

- Planning Phase – 18 months
- Overlap – six months
- Implementation Phase – 24 months
- CSP Grant – three years
After you have been conditionally approved to receive a CSP grant, OSSE will schedule an in-person grant onboarding session.

You will submit the grant application in OSSE’s Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS), including:

- Contact information;
- Itemized budget and budget narrative;
- S.M.A.R.T. (*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Reasonable, and Time-bound*) performance and fiscal management goals;
- Logic models; and
- Current Board of Trustees roster.

Following receipt and approval of the grant application and other documents, OSSE will provide a grant award notification (GAN) outlining terms and conditions.
Grant Monitoring

• Monitoring mechanisms include the following:
  – Performance agreement: outlines requirements and responsibilities of the subgrantee.
  – Semi-annual reports: narrative reports detailing progress toward stated project activities and goals
  – On-site monitoring: subgrantees identified as high-risk will receive an on-site monitoring visit to measure compliance with programmatic and fiscal requirements.
  – Desktop monitoring: electronic review of programmatic and fiscal documents.
Partnership with OPCSFS

• OPCSFS will provide support during and after the grant period, including:
  – Providing competitive and formula grant funding opportunities for obtaining facilities, improving academic programs, supporting replication and expansion of the charter school, and forming partnerships with third-party education support groups;
  – Providing technical assistance with grants management;
  – Serving as a liaison between the subgrantee and other OSSE teams; and
  – Coordinating start-up support with PCSB.
Additional Resources

• 2019 CSP Grant Overview

• U.S. Department of Education Overview of Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title V, Part B

• CSP Non-regulatory Guidance (updated January 2014)

• OSSE OPCSFS

• Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200)

• Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)
Contact Information

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