



# **Pre-Application Conference: Academic Quality and Early Childhood Grants**

July 25, 2019 | Ronda Lasko



# Agenda

- Overview & Purpose
- Grant Details
- Application Submission & Content
- Evaluation of Applications
- Important Dates
- Q&A
- Contact Information



# Overview and Purpose

- Overview of the SOAR Act Grant
- Overall Purpose of SOAR Grant Funding
- Purpose of the SOAR Academic Quality and Early Childhood Grants



# Overview of the SOAR Act Grant

- As a part of a three-sector federal funding approach, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act, Pub. L. 112-10, 125 Stat. 199, as amended, is a federal law that authorizes funding for District of Columbia public charter schools “to improve and expand quality public charter schools in the District of Columbia.” §3004(b)(2).
- The SOAR Act also provides funding for District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) for DC students to attend private schools.



# SOAR Act Grant Administration

- SOAR Act funds for DC charter schools are provided to OSSE through the US Department of Education (USED) as a grant.
- Each year, OSSE's Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support (OPCSFS) submits an application to USED describing how it will administer the funds.
- OPCSFS sought stakeholder feedback last fall, prior to submitting the 2018-20 SOAR application on Nov. 8, 2018.
- USED approved the application and issued a Grant Award Notice (GAN) to OSSE on May 1, 2019.



# Overall Purpose of SOAR Grant Funding

- The overall purpose of the charter school sector SOAR Act funds is “to improve and expand quality public charter schools in the District of Columbia.” § 3004(b)(2).
- OSSE’s overall approach is to administer SOAR Act funds to fulfill this objective through funding projects designed to:
  1. increase the achievement and academic growth of DC public charter school students;
  2. support the improvement and expansion of high-quality public charter schools; and
  3. support DC families by making it easier to take advantage of their school choice options.



# Purpose of Academic Quality Grant

- This grant provides formula-based funding to support eligible charter LEAs.
- Funds must be used for projects designed to have a direct impact on student achievement, either school-wide or for specific subgroups of students.



# Purpose of Early Childhood Grant

- Funds are allocated using the same formula as Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I, Part A and are available for projects designed to assist with implementation of supplementary activities that support school readiness, including the development of literacy and mathematics skills, with emphasis on supports to students to increase academic achievement.
- All activities under this grant program should enhance the quality of preschool or pre-k programming and funds should be used to supplement and not supplant existing programs.





# Grant Details



# Grant Details

- Source of Funding
- Award Amounts
- Eligibility
- Allowable Expenses



# Source of Funding

The United States Department of Education, through the DC School Choice Incentive Program, 84.370C, Public Law 108-199, III, DC School Incentive Act of 2003; Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, effective April 15, 2011 (Pub. L. 112-10; 125 Stat. 201), as amended. Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) U370C190001.

*\*All grant awards are contingent on the appropriation of funding.*



# Award Amounts

- Allocations and program contacts are included in the allocation memo sent on July 19, 2019.
- Allocations are also in EGMS.

LEA Name	Academic Quality Allocation	Early Childhood Allocation	Program Contact
Academy of Hope Public Charter School	\$ 78,175.95		Adam Morris
Achievement Preparatory Academy Public Charter School	\$ 120,026.63		Brianna Becker
AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School	\$ 97,410.73	\$ 262,637.93	Adam Morris
BASIS Public Charter School	\$ 94,856.11		Marie Hutchins
Breakthrough Academy Public Charter School	\$ 56,086.01		Adam Morris
Bridges Public Charter School	\$ 74,644.56		Adam Morris
Briya Public Charter School	\$ 98,387.50	\$ 25,362.04	Adam Morris



# Eligibility

Eligible applicants meet all of the following:

- **Academic Quality Grant:** All charter LEAs who were open and serving students during the 2017-18 school year, including early childhood and adult education charter LEAs, are eligible to submit project proposals for the Academic Quality portion of this grant program.
- **Early Childhood Grant:** All charter LEAs who were open and serving students during the 2018-19 school year and met all of the following criteria:
  - Must have an overall student enrollment that is at least:
    - 40 percent three- and four-year-olds in pre-K program, and
    - 40 percent students who meet the Title I poverty threshold.



# Allowable Expenses

Funds are available strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period.

Allowable Expenses	Non-Allowable Expenses
<p>Costs that are described in the original, approved application, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Costs that support projects that are linked to evidence-based research and have been shown to increase academic achievement.</li><li>✓ Costs that support projects that address the needs identified in the needs assessment.</li><li>✓ Costs must meet requirements of permissible use of federal funds within EDGAR 34 Part 75, Part 76, 2 CFR Part 200, as well as applicable OMB Circulars.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Unallowable costs per federal government guidelines.</li><li>✗ Costs that do not align with the strategies outlined in the application.</li><li>✗ Costs that do not meet the purpose of this grant.</li><li>✗ Indirect costs.</li></ul>



# Application Submission & Content



# Application Submission & Content

- Application Submission
- Application Content
  - *Application Deadline: Aug. 16, 2019, at 3 p.m.*

**\*\*\* All funds allocated to LEAs who elect not to apply by Aug. 16, 2019, will be reallocated to eligible LEAs that timely met the deadline.\*\*\***





# Application Submission

- All applications must be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). For more information about EGMS, please visit <http://osse.dc.gov/service/enterprise-grants-management-system-egms>.
- Avoid last-minute submission issues by submitting early.
  - All applications are due in EGMS on **Aug. 16, 2019, by 3 p.m.** The 3 p.m. deadline ensures that EGMS help desk staff are available to assist applicants as needed.
  - The deadline is firm; to ensure equity, **no exceptions will be made.** Applicants are highly encouraged to submit earlier in the day to ensure smooth submission.



# Application Content

The EGMS application contains all of the following sections or “tabs.” We will briefly review each section.

- General Information
- Contact Information
- Information
- Funding Distribution
- Allocations
- Main Application
- Detailed Planning Expenditures
- Supporting Documentation
- Assurances
- Submit
- Application Print
- Application History



# General Information

- Applicants should review this section to find:
  - General information about the grants

*Please note: This section is informational; there are no fields to complete.*



# Contact Information

- Applicants must provide contact information for:
  - Head of Organization
  - Grant Contact
  - Fiscal Contact
  - If different than the grant contact, please also provide contact information for the person responsible for submitting the application.



- Applicants must use this section to:
- Enter a brief project description.
  - Two to three sentences in length
  - Provide a high-level overview of scope and proposed outcomes



# Funding Distribution

- Please note: This section is informational; there are no fields to complete.*

OVERVIEW PAGES	CONTACT INFORMATION	INFORMATION	FUNDING DISTRIBUTION	ALLOCATIONS	NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND NARRATIVE	DETAILED PLANNING EXPENDITURES	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	ASSURANCES	SUBMIT	APPLICATION PRINT	APPLICATION HISTORY
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Allocations Instructions

The application has been submitted. No more updates will be saved for the application.

	SOAR_EarlyChildhood
Current Year Funds	
Allocation	\$0.00
ReAllocated (+)	\$0.00
Released (-)	\$0.00
Total Current Year Funds	\$0.00
Prior Year(s) Funds	
Rollover (+)	\$0.00
ReAllocated (+)	\$0.00
Total Prior Year(s) Funds	\$0.00
Sub Total	\$0.00
Multi-District	
Transfer In (+)	\$0.00
Transfer Out (-)	\$0.00
Administrative Agent	
Adjusted Sub Total	\$0.00
Funds not applied for (Select the boxes below ONLY if the Organization is electing to release its Program funds back to OSSE to be reallocated to other Organizations.)	
Current Year Funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prior Year Funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Available for Budgeting	\$0.00

	SOAR_EarlyChildhood
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# Allocations

- Please note: This section is informational; there are no fields to complete.*

**Applicant:** 000-0001 District of Columbia Public Schools

**Application:** 2016-2017 SOAR Act-IAQ-EC Combined - 00-  
**Cycle:** Original Application

2016-2017 7/1/2016 - 9/30/2017

GENERAL INFORMATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	INFORMATION	FUNDING DISTRIBUTION	ALLOCATIONS	NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND NARRATIVE	DETAILED PLANNING EXPENDITURES	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	ASSURANCES	SUBMIT	APPLICATION HISTORY	APPLICATION PRINT
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## Allocations

Below, allocations are displayed, provided by the State Education Agency, for each program for which the LEA is applying for funding through this application.

### LEA Allocation for SOAR Act Academic Quality

50,000.00

### LEA Allocation for SOAR Act Early Childhood

50,000.00



# Main Application

- Use this section to substantiate the need for the proposed project.

## **Required Sections:**

- Comprehensive Needs Assessment (select data used and link to substantiate need),
- Project Description,
- Theory of Action (if, then/because statement),
- OSSE Priority Question, and
- Performance Measures (Complete one performance measures table per allocation and upload).





# A Note about Successful Narratives

- Make a clear link between the data, the needs, the project, and research based strategies.
- Be detailed, yet concise.



# Detailed Planning Expenditures

## **Summary of Planned Expenditures:**

- Summarize planned uses of funds.
- Align the summary of expenditures with the project.

## **Itemized Budgets:**

- Provide detailed expenditures for the proposed project.
- Provide a description for each line item.
- Align the itemized budget with permissible use of funds and with the summary of expenditures.

## **Budget Summary:**

- Summary of costs by program category and budget category.
- This table is automatically populated with information from the itemized expenditures tabs.



# Supporting Documentation

- There is no required supporting documentation for the initial submission.
- If funds are awarded, this section of the application will be used for any future amendment requests.



# Assurances

- Read through all Program-Specific Assurances.
- Check the box at the top of the page to certify that the applicant has read, understood, and will comply with all of the assurances.

**\*\*\* Make sure to click on “Save Page” \*\*\***

- Please also note: After the assurances have been submitted, the Assurances Agreement Summary tab will show the date on which the Program-Specific Assurances were submitted.
- This page also displays whether the organization has submitted the “Central Data Collection Common Assurances.” GANs will not be released without these assurances.



# Submit

- Submissions are due by 3 p.m. on **Aug. 16.**
- Make sure to:
  1. Run the “consistency check,” and
  2. Lock the application.
- The submit button will be **unavailable** after 3 p.m. on **Aug. 16.**
- Please avoid technical issues by submitting early!



# Application Print and Application History

- Application Print- Available if you need a hard copy of the application.
  - Please note: EGMS generates PDFs only once per hour.*
- Application History- Available to see all actions involving the application.



# Evaluation of Applications



# Evaluation of Applications

- Review Panel





# Review Panel

- This grant will be awarded via formula funding.
- A review panel will be convened to assess the quality of each application and to determine whether enough detail is provided to ensure that expenditures are reasonable, necessary and appropriate.
- The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals within OSSE who have been selected for their related experiences.
- Upon completion of a review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for approval based on the scoring rubric(s).
- If revisions are needed, the charter LEA will be given an opportunity to make the necessary changes to receive approval.



# Important Dates

Action	Date/Timeline
Application Due	Aug. 16, 2019 by 3 p.m.
Initial Reviews Completed	By Aug. 30, 2019
Grant Period	Aug. 16, 2019 – Aug. 15, 2020



Q&A



## Contact Information



# Contact Information

Program Contact	Contact Information
Brianna Becker, Program Analyst	<a href="mailto:Brianna.Becker@dc.gov">Brianna.Becker@dc.gov</a>
Karin Gilder, Program Analyst	<a href="mailto:Karin.Gilder@dc.gov">Karin.Gilder@dc.gov</a>
Marie Hutchins, Program Analyst	<a href="mailto:Marie.Hutchins@dc.gov">Marie.Hutchins@dc.gov</a>
Ronda Kardash Lasko, Director of Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support	<a href="mailto:Ronda.Kardash@dc.gov">Ronda.Kardash@dc.gov</a>
EGMS Helpdesk	<a href="mailto:OSSE.Callcenter@dc.gov">OSSE.Callcenter@dc.gov</a> (202) 719-6500

*\*Program contacts are listed by LEA in allocation memo.*



# Reminder

- Applications due on or before 3 p.m. on Friday, **Aug. 16, 2019**.
- Submission of a late application will result in reallocation of funds.



## FIND US

### **ADDRESS:**

1050 First St. NE  
Fifth Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

### **POC:**


- Brianna Becker, Program Analyst,  
[Brianna.Becker@dc.gov](mailto:Brianna.Becker@dc.gov)
- Karin Gilder, Program Analyst,  
[Karin.Gilder@dc.gov](mailto:Karin.Gilder@dc.gov)
- Marie Hutchins, Program Analyst,  
[Marie.Hutchins@dc.gov](mailto:Marie.Hutchins@dc.gov)
- Ronda Kardash Lasko, Director, Office of  
Public Charter School Financing and Support,  
[Ronda.Kardash@dc.gov](mailto:Ronda.Kardash@dc.gov)

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