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

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEA Name</th>
<th>Academic Quality Allocation</th>
<th>Early Childhood Allocation</th>
<th>Program Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy of Hope Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>78,175.95</td>
<td>Adam Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievement Preparatory Academy Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>120,025.63</td>
<td>Brianna Becker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>97,410.73</td>
<td>Adam Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASIS Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>94,856.11</td>
<td>Marie Hutchins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakthrough Academy Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>56,086.01</td>
<td>Adam Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>74,644.56</td>
<td>Adam Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briya Public Charter School</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>98,387.50</td>
<td>Adam Morris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
Funds are available strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Expenses</th>
<th>Non-Allowable Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs that are described in the original, approved application, including:</td>
<td>❗ Unallowable costs per federal government guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Costs that support projects that are linked to evidence-based research and have been shown to increase academic achievement.</td>
<td>❗ Costs that do not align with the strategies outlined in the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Costs that support projects that address the needs identified in the needs assessment.</td>
<td>❗ Costs that do not meet the purpose of this grant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ 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.</td>
<td>❗ Indirect costs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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
• 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please note: the application has been submitted. No more updates will be saved for the application.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SOAR_EarlyChildhood</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReAllocated (+)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released (-)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Year Funds</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior Year(s) Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReAllocated (+)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Prior Year(s) Funds</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SOAR_EarlyChildhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wall DISTRICT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer In (+)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Out (-)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted Sub Total</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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</table>

*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.*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Year Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Available for Budgeting</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Allocations

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date/Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Due</td>
<td>Aug. 16, 2019 by 3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Reviews Completed</td>
<td>By Aug. 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Period</td>
<td>Aug. 16, 2019 – Aug. 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact Information
### Contact Information

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

*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
- Karin Gilder, Program Analyst, Karin.Gilder@dc.gov
- Marie Hutchins, Program Analyst, Marie.Hutchins@dc.gov
- Ronda Kardash Lasko, Director, Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support, Ronda.Kardash@dc.gov

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