



Whole Child and Educator Wellness Grant Pre-Application Conference

Sept. 3, 2025 | Kimberly Thompson

[Whole Child and Educator Wellness Grant Webpage](#)



Welcome and Introductions

Please share your name and organization in the chat.



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Grant Background
- Grant Requirements
- Application Submission
- Application Review
- Q & A



Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the FY26 Whole Child and Educator Wellness Grant Webpage by Sept. 10, 2025.
- Multiple ways to submit questions:
 - Chat
 - Q&A
- Email Kimberly.Thompson@dc.gov by Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. with the subject line: RFA Question: WCEW. Answers to submitted questions will be posted on the FY26 Whole Child and Educator Wellness Grant Webpage by Sept. 17.



Important Dates

| Action | Date/Timeline |
|---|--|
| Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Released | August 8, 2025 |
| Request for Applications (RFA) Released and Application Available in Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) | August 22, 2025 |
| Application Due in EGMS | October 8, 2025 3 p.m. Recommend submitting early. This deadline remains in effect unless a systemic EGMS technical challenge affects all users. |
| Awards Announced | Late November 2025 |



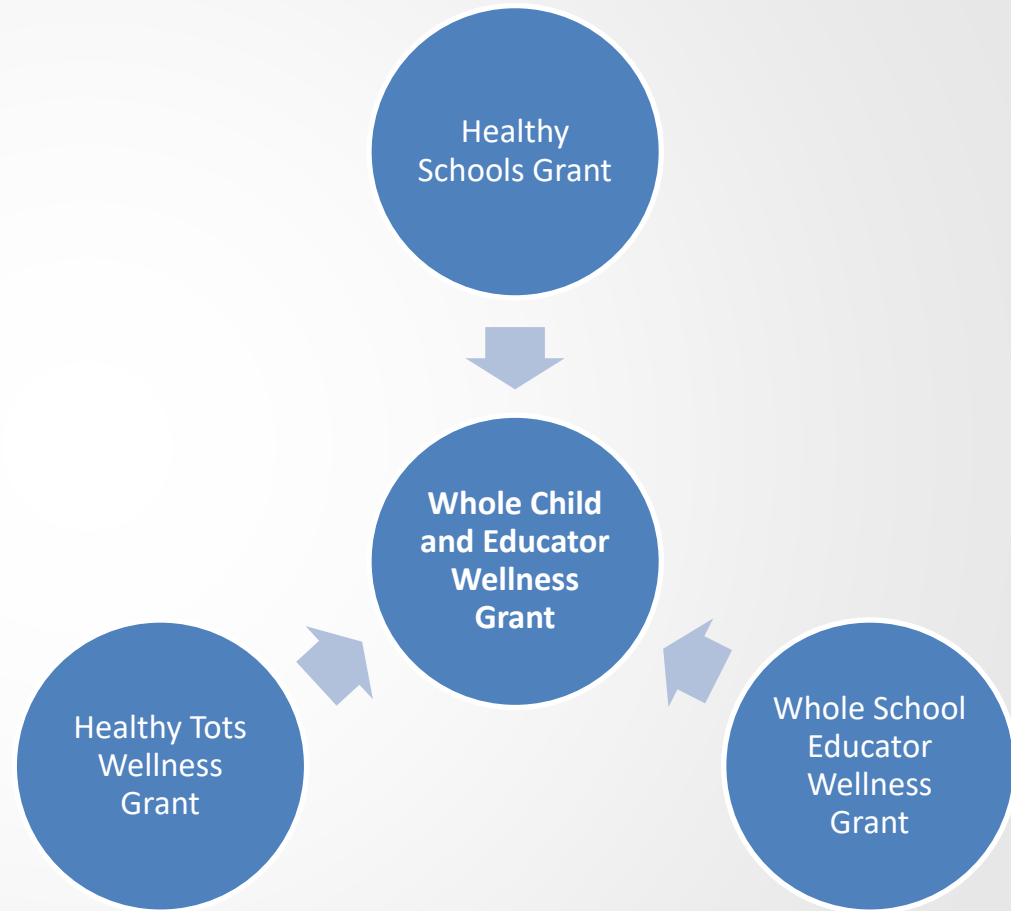
OSSE Statutory Obligations

- Per the **Healthy Schools Act**, OSSE shall issue grants to support: health education, nutrition education, school gardens, environmental literacy and farm-to-school programs
 - Per the Healthy Schools Act, OSSE may issue grants to support physical activity
- Per the **Healthy Tots Act**, OSSE shall issue grants to support: physical activity, nutrition education, gardens, natural play areas and farm to school programs
- OSSE's statutory obligations remain, despite changes in H&W's budget.



FY26 Strategy

- Combine discrete grants under one coordinated program
- Continue to leverage the capacity-building supports provided by community-based organizations (CBOs), rather than the provision of direct programming
- Address additional areas of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model (educator wellness)
- Expand opportunities to sites serving DC's youngest learners
- Blend and braid funding for sustainability





Purpose and Background

- Purpose:
 - Build the capacity of early childhood education (ECE) facilities and public and public charter schools in DC to adopt and strategically implement policies, processes, and practices that integrate health and wellness into the facility or school to support student and staff success.
 - Leverage the capacity of technical assistance (TA) providers to convene ECE/Schools and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the identification and implementation of evidence-based and best practices to create and sustain healthy learning environments based in whole child and whole educator approaches.
 - Cultivate a consortium of experts to elevate trends and opportunities, and to create and enhance existing OSSE materials, TA guides and resources to help improve healthy ECE and school programming across the District.
 - As such, the WCEW grant supports high-quality program implementation with a focus on coordinating policy, process, and practice to improve health and learning, aligned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child \(WSCC\) model](#).

- The WCEW Program supports high-quality healthy schools program implementation with a focus on coordinating policy, process and practice.
- This is aligned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model
 - Emphasis on the "Coordination Ring"





Who is Eligible to Apply?

- CBOs that can demonstrate expertise and success working with DC ECE facilities and/or public and public charter schools to build capacity through the provision of TA in one or more of these following areas:
 - Physical activity, environmental education, garden-based education, or educator wellness
- CBOs will partner with a minimum of five (5) DC ECE facilities and/or public and public charter schools.
- CBOs that are unable to demonstrate their capacity to deliver a TA model are ineligible for funding.



Definitions – Technical Assistance

- Providing trainings (e.g., professional development, webinars, meetings) that develop the necessary knowledge and skills to select and implement a program in their area of need.
- Conducting consultations (e.g., site visits, team meetings, phone calls, emails) to identify challenges, successfully problem-solve, and implement solutions.
- Developing resources (e.g., implementation materials, impact and measurement tools, readiness tools) that provides them the requisite policies, processes, and practices to build healthy and supportive learning environments.
- Supporting quality assurance activities through Improvement Cycles, such as Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) to monitor implementation and inform program improvements.
- Promoting model fidelity (e.g., site visits, work with program developers, fidelity checklists) in alignment with national and local standards and requirements
 - a. [OSSE Wellness Guidelines for Child Care Facilities](#)
 - b. [A Comprehensive Approach to Educator Wellness](#)
 - c. [Healthy School Act Requirements](#)
- Providing coaching in monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities to build data capacity to track progress, assess impact, and use evidence to improve programs.

A majority of the applicant's proposed project must focus on TA and therefore less than 50% of grant funds may support direct delivery of programs or services with students.



Definitions – CBOs

What are CBOs?

- According to 20 USCS § 7801(6)*, the term “community-based organization” means “a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that--
 - (A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a community; and
 - (B) provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.”
- According to § 38–271.01. (1A)^ the term “community-based organization” or “CBO” means a Head Start or early childhood education program operated by a nonprofit entity, faith-based organization, or other entity that participates in federally funded early childhood programs.
- Sources
 - *U.S. Department of Education - <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg107.html>
 - ^Code of the District of Columbia - <https://beta.code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/sections/38-271.01.html>



Definitions – Child Development Facility

What are eligible child development facilities?

The WCEW Grant specifies eligible child development facilities as those that:

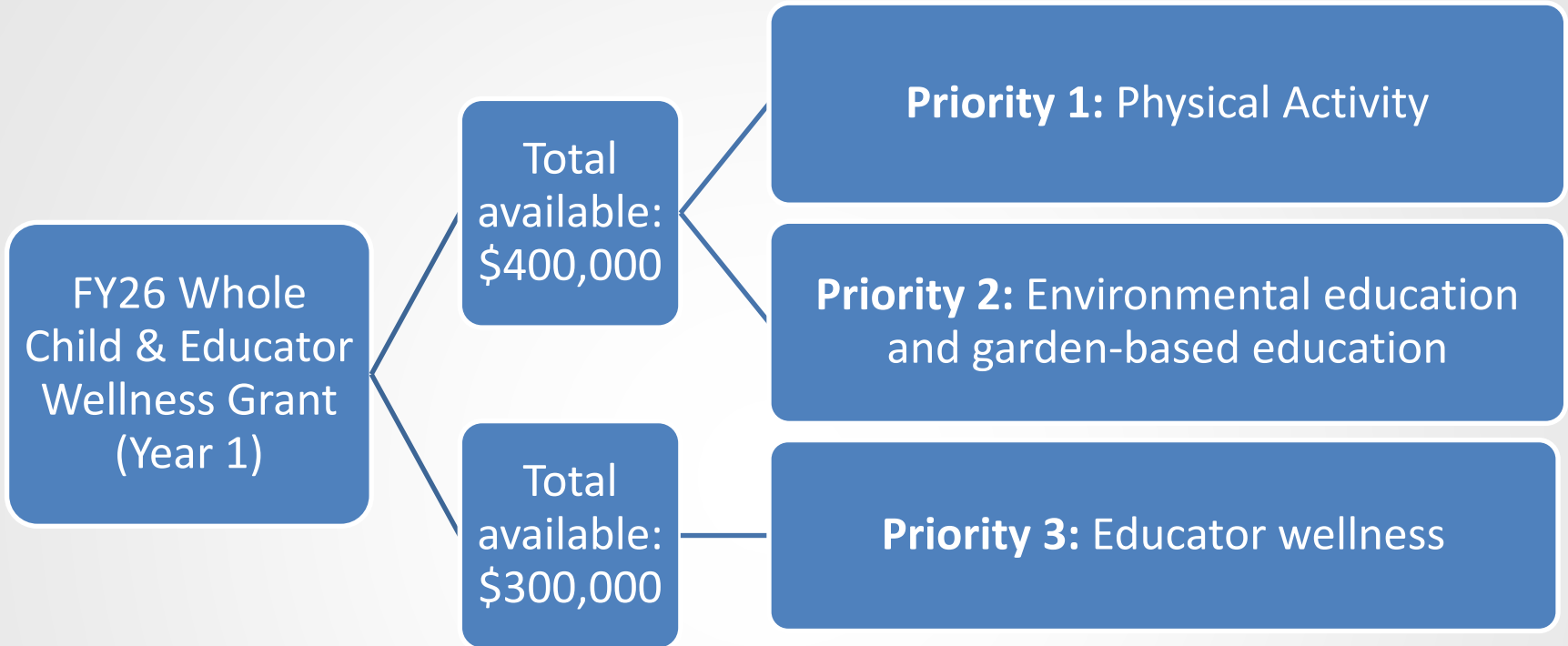
- Identify as a community based child care center or family daycare home
- Operate in the District's most underserved wards (Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8)
- Participate in CACFP
- Are licensed by OSSE
- Serve children between birth and age five
- Accept child care subsidy as payment for at least 25 percent of existing infant/toddler slots

For a list of eligible centers and their contact information:

KimberlyA.Thompson@dc.gov



How much Funding is Available?



- **Length of Award:** Total award period covers two fiscal years. The year 1 grant award period is from Nov. 26, 2025 (or the date of the award if awards are made after this date) to Sept. 30, 2026
- Awarded grantees are expected to receive between \$50,000 to \$150,000 for the grant period.
- OSSE anticipates awarding funds to three to seven applicants, per funding availability.



Permissible Use of Funds

- Personnel
- Stipends to cover replacement staff time during trainings and professional development, and to supplement time covered outside of normal working hours, as allowable
- Materials and supplies to provide training and TA
- Professional services that support the health and wellbeing of students and educators
- Local travel expenses within Washington, DC to and from schools, OSSE mandated trainings, and grant related special events
- No more than 10% of the project budget can be used for purchasing food under certain conditions.



Are there any funding restrictions?

Funding MAY NOT be used for:

- Travel expenses (ex: hotels, airline tickets, and per diem)
- Equipment or other valuable electronics (phones, computers, printers) that are not part of the program
- Property construction or renovation

- No more than 10 percent of the project budget can be used for purchasing food under the following conditions:
 - Snacks at grant-related trainings or meetings with school leaders, educators, and school staff requires prior authorization
 - Food for demonstration/educational purposes (e.g., cooking demo, taste test of healthier food choices), is allowable.
 - All snacks/foods purchased with WCEW grant funds must meet the nutrition standards for the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\) and School Breakfast Program \(SBP\) Meal Pattern Guidelines](#) and [Smart Snacks in School Standards](#).



General Program Requirements



General Program Requirements

- CBOs will partner with a minimum of five ECE and/or DC public and public charter schools.
- CBOs must include in their application a minimum of five letters of commitment from the schools that the CBO plans to use as partners. (*See RFA Attachment A*)
- Applicants who choose to work with more than five schools should submit:
 - A plan that reflects how they will manage the number of proposed schools;
 - Their organizational capacity for managing the proposed schools; and
 - A budget commensurate with project scope.
- CBOs that were awarded the FY25 WCEW grant from OSSE/HW (FY25 WCEW grantees) are permitted to partner with the same ECE facilities and schools in FY26. CBOs that previously received an OSSE/HW grant cannot propose working with the same ECE facilities and schools for more than two school years (SY) (i.e., a CBO who received an OSSE/HW in FY24 and FY25 and who partnered with the same sites cannot partner with a site for a third SY).



General Program Requirements (Cont)

- If partnering with DC ECE facilities, the facilities must meet the following criteria:
 - Are currently licensed by OSSE.
 - Participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and be in good standing.
 - At least 25 percent of enrollment must be children occupying childcare subsidy slots.
- Applicants may propose to partner with: 1) a mix of DC ECE facilities and public and public charter schools; 2) only ECE facilities; or 3) only DC public and public charter schools.
- OSSE will accept one application per CBO; a lead organization may contract with other organization(s) that can provide services in another program. (Contracted organizations can only appear on one application.)
- Applicants must designate one fiscal sponsor to oversee administration and reporting of funds. Applicants may not designate more than one fiscal sponsor.



Physical activity

- K-12 - [Healthy Schools Act](#) - review physical activity section of guidance on areas of local legislative requirements in which schools may need support.
- ECE - [OSSE Wellness Guidelines for Child Care Facilities](#) review for local best practice guidance.
- Facilitate focus groups with ECE facility or school health educators, physical education teachers, and other stakeholders (e.g., principals, classroom teachers, support staff)
- Grantees will pilot promising strategies in the Implementation and Sustainability Plan with partner ECE facilities and schools to build their capacity.
 - Capacity-building supports provided to schools and staff (e.g., training, TA, consultation);
 - Participation in school team planning, data review, monitoring, and evaluation; and
 - Direct provision of evidence-informed student-facing services which must be actively coplanned and co-facilitated with school staff not to exceed 50 percent of grant activities.



Environmental Education or Garden-based Education

- K-12 – Review Environment section of [Healthy Schools Act](#)
- ECE- Review Physical Environment and Environmental Sustainability section of [OSSE Wellness Guidelines for Child Care Facilities](#)
- The Implementation and Sustainability Plan will include:
 - Foundational strategies to deliver high-quality environmental education or garden-based education in ECE facility or pre-K 3 through grade 12 school settings;
 - Efforts should be made to incorporate opportunities for adults (staff) to learn how to accessibly incorporate nature activities into their lives outside of work as a method to promote stress reduction and staff; and
 - Strategies to increase the number of students that engage in high quality environmental education and garden-based education. Educator Wellness section of [OSSE's Wellness Guidelines for Child Development Facilities](#)



Educator Wellness

- Implement a program that is in alignment with [OSSE's Comprehensive Approach to Educator Wellness](#)

- The Implementation and Sustainability Plan will include:
 - Quick wins, and short-, medium- and long-term goals that will move the partner toward sustainable implementation and identifies how the plan will be integrated into the work of the ECE facility or school partner to ensure successful implementation and accountability.
 - Review the plan feasibility and capacity requirements to ensure the goal(s) can be reached. Identify the TA and capacity building resources the grantee will provide to support the ECE facility or school in achieving the plans goals.
 - Foundational strategies to deliver high-quality and comprehensive educator wellness programs in ECE facility or pre-K 3 through grade 12 school settings. Examples of strategies in alignment with OSSE's Approach to Educator Wellness can be found in Appendix D of the [Blueprint to a Whole School Approach to Educator Wellness](#) and in the Educator Wellness section of [OSSE's Wellness Guidelines for Child Development Facilities](#)



Additional Grantee Responsibilities

- Collaborate with OSSE/HW program specialist(s) to deliver one virtual 60-minute professional development session, hosted by OSSE, on evidence-based and best practices to implementing ECE facility and school health and wellness programming.
- Participate in OSSE/HW-sponsored training programs that assist the grantees' staff and assures OSSE/HW that the grantees' staff is adequately trained to increase the capacity of schools to implement healthy ECE facility and school programming, Quick wins, and short-, medium- and long-term goals that will move the partner toward sustainable implementation and identifies how the plan will be integrated into the work of the ECE facility or school partner to ensure successful implementation and accountability.
- Work with the OSSE/HW grant manager, providing information such as positive outcome stories, information about special events, issues/concerns, etc., as needed;
- Schedule with OSSE/HW program specialist(s) a minimum of one site visit per year.
- Based on the need and population to be served, ensure OSSE/HW that culturally sensitive activities will be utilized, and that competent staff will be part of the proposed program; and



Additional Grantee Responsibilities

- Grantees will be required to submit regular reports for OSSE to track the grantee's performance and to include a final report on the effectiveness of the grant activities to include formal recommendations to OSSE on the implementation of program area specific training and TA to schools.
- Quarterly: Grantees will be required to attend a meeting with OSSE in-person and virtually. These meetings will be an opportunity to share their learnings, highlight successes, discuss and problem-solve challenges, collaborate with other grantees, and receive TA from OSSE on best practices for coordination of policies, practices, and procedures as championed by the WSCC model.
 - There will be a culminating meeting at the end of the award period, hosted by OSSE, to showcase the overall work and accomplishments of the grant.
- Evaluation of grant reporting deliverables and amendments/reimbursement request deadlines.



Application Submission and Checklist



Submission Requirements

- All applications must be submitted through EGMS: grants.osse.dc.gov
 - To submit an application, all applicants must annually complete the Central Data Application with a valid System for Award Management (SAM) registration in EGMS
 - Emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted
 - Upon submission of an application, an applicant may not revise the application
 - OSSE will notify applicants if the application is or is not selected for funding
- Applications must be received no later than 3 p.m. on **Oct. 8, 2025**
 - Start early
 - Late submissions will not be accepted
 - **EGMS Help:** OSSE.CallCenter@dc.gov (202) 719-6500
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday



EGMS Application

- The grant application in EGMS will consist of the following tabs:
 - Overview and Contact Information Tabs
 - Program Requirement Tabs
 - Program Proposal (Abstract, Logic Model Program Plan, Implementation and Monitoring and Budget Description)
 - Required Attachments
 - Application Review
 - Budget
 - Award Administration/Assurances Tabs
 - Submit Tab



Budget

A majority of the applicant's proposed project must focus on TA and therefore less than 50% of grant funds may support direct delivery of programs or services with students.

| DIRECT COSTS | | Budget Categories (sub-tabs in EGMS) | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | Salaries and Benefits (100) | Contracted Professional Services (300) | Equipment (500) | Supplies and Materials (600) | Fixed Property Costs (700) | Other (800) |
| <p>INSTRUCTION (10)</p> <p>The direct instructional interaction between teachers and students. This instruction may be provided to students in a school classroom, in an alternate location (i.e.: home or hospital), or in other learning situations, including those involving co-curricular activities. The activities of teacher aides or classroom assistants of any type (i.e.: clerks, graders, teaching machines) who assist in the instructional process are also in this category.</p> | | Teachers, Tutors, Coaches, Substitute Teachers, Teacher's Aides, Reading Specialists, Classroom Paraprofessionals (all positions are on staff) | Contracted Teachers / Instructors or Substitute Teachers (those that are not an official employee) | Machinery, Furniture, Fixtures, Technology-related Hardware more than \$5,000 per unit (according to OSSE's equipment policy) | General Supplies, Textbooks, Instructional Aids, Instructional Software, Internet Fees - Site License | Rental of Instruction Equipment | Dues and Fees, Reimbursement of Tuition, Teacher Aide Education, Approved Conference/Training Fees, Travel Costs, Non-Payroll Taxes, Miscellaneous |
| <p>(program categories within each sub-tab)</p> <p>SUPPORT SERVICES (20)</p> <p>The technical and logistical support to facilitate and enhance instruction. These are services within programs that aid in fulfilling that program's instructional objectives or community service goals, rather than being full-service entities. Such services include activities or stipends associated with providing professional development to the instructional staff, assessing and improving the well-being of students, and supplementing the teaching process.</p> | | Site Coordinators, Instructional Staff Trainers, Librarians, Counselors, Audiovisual Services, Curriculum Consultants, Program Evaluators, Psychologists, Social Workers, Nurses, Attendance Personnel, Record Clerks, Chief Academic Officer, Dean of Students (all positions are on staff) | Contracted Consultants, Contracted Evaluators, Counselors, Therapists, Doctors or Instructional Staff Trainers. Fees for Professional Development, In-service Training, or Conference Registration | Machinery, Furniture, Fixtures, Technology-related Hardware more than \$5,000 per unit (according to OSSE's equipment policy) | General Supplies, Books, Library Books, Periodicals, Testing Materials | Rental of Support Services Equipment | Dues and Fees, Reimbursement of Tuition, Teacher Aide Education, Approved Conference/Training Fees, Travel Costs, Non-Payroll Taxes, Miscellaneous |



Application Checklist

Applicants must complete the following tasks to successfully submit an application:

- Obtain EGMS login credentials, which can take up to three days to process. Credentials include:
 - Access to a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number;
 - A System for Award Management (SAM) expiration date; and
 - Central data information.

- All required components of the application are completed, including the five (5) letters of commitment from partner schools.
 - *Attachment A:* Letter of Commitment (provided in RFA)
 - For ECE facilities only, include the table questions regarding child care subsidy to ensure the ECE facility meets the requisite eligibility criteria.
 - *Attachment B:* Whole Child and Educator Wellness RFA Logic Model (provided in RFA)

- The completed application must be submitted, including all narrative responses and uploaded documents, by or before the deadline. Once submitted, an applicant may not amend the application.



Submit

- Before you submit, you must hit Consistency Check to see if all parts are complete. Missing elements are in red.
- Then, lock the application and submit.

Assurances must be reviewed and approved before you can submit your application.

CONSISTENCY CHECK

LOCK APPLICATION

UNLOCK APPLICATION



EGMS Tips

- **Save early and often** – EGMS times out after 60 minutes of inactivity.
- **Contact the EGMS help center.**
(Note: a record of contact with EGMS will not excuse missing the review submission deadline.)
- **Printing?** If you would like to print the application, go to the “Application Print” Tab. The application will be available for you to print at the top of each hour.
- **Start and submit early.** Avoid last minute technical submission issues by submitting early to ensure there is time to address issues if they arise.
- **Narrative responses may not exceed the stated word count.** If you cut and paste from a Word document, double-check that final sentences/paragraphs are not cut off.
- **EGMS Help:** OSSE.CallCenter@dc.gov (202) 719-6500
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday



Application Review Procedures



Application Review Process

Application Deadline

- Applications are due no later than *Oct. 8, 2025* (3 p.m. EST)
- Applications must be submitted through EGMS
- Late applications will not be accepted

Application Review Period

- Applications are scored by external reviewers. (3)

Award Announcement

- Grantees will be announced on *Late Nov. 2025*



What is the review process for Applications?

Applications will be screened initially by OSSE staff to determine whether all application and eligibility requirements have been met. Only applications that meet all eligibility and application requirements will be evaluated, scored, and rated by the review panel.

OSSE will use external peer reviewers to review and score the applications received for this RFA. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field or the subject matter. Scoring and recommendations of the review panel are advisory only.

After reviewing the recommendations of the review panel and any other information considered relevant, OSSE shall decide which applicant to fund, as well as the funding amount.



How are Applications Scored?

All applications for this RFA will be objectively reviewed and scored* against the following application areas and key criteria:

1. Logic Model (attachment B) (16 points)
2. Program Plan (32 points)
 1. Organizational Capacity (8 points)
 2. Needs Assessment (8 points)
 3. Technical Assistance Plan (8 points)
 4. Evidence-Based, High Quality Programming (8 points)
3. Program Implementation and Monitoring (16 points)
 1. Organizational Management Plan (4 points)
 2. School Leadership and Team Engagement (4 points)
 3. Data Collection and Monitoring (4 points)
 4. Program Sustainability (4 points)
3. Budget (24 points)
 3. Financial Management (8 points)
 4. Budget Narrative (8 points)
 5. Budget description (8points)

Total # of Points = 88

*All applications that meet the application criteria will be reviewed and scored by an external review panel using the following criteria. This criteria allows the external peer reviewers and OSSE staff to determine an applicant's justification of need for grant funds, the soundness of its proposed service delivery plan, the adequacy and reasonableness of proposed resources needed, and demonstrated capability for managing the proposed program.



Award & Grantee Expectations



When are the Grant Recipients Notified?

OSSE reviews all applications for grant funds in accordance with DC competitive funding regulations. OSSE will notify all applicants of the final award decision no later than **Late November 2025**. The awarded applicants will receive a GAN that will include the award amount, award agreement, terms and conditions of the award, and any supplemental information required.



What are the expectations of grant recipients?

- Finalize partnerships, begin relationship building and establish communication norms
- Confirm partner team(s) and point of contact
- Conduct needs assessment
- Develop an implementation and sustainability plan using the results of the needs assessment
- Pilot program area specific strategies with partner schools. This may include:
 - Capacity-building supports provided to schools and staff (e.g., training, TA, consultation).
 - Participation in school team planning, data review, monitoring, and evaluation.
 - Direct provision of student-facing services which must be actively co-planned and co-facilitated with school staff, not to exceed 50 percent of grant activities.
- Monitor and evaluate the Outputs and Outcomes described in the Logic Model
- Submit regular reports to OSSE and attend quarterly grantee meetings



What are the expectations of grant recipients? (cont)

- **WCEW Grant Monitors**

- Receive monthly TA support from assigned monitors

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Health Education | Robyn Blake |
| Environmental Education | Grace Manubay |
| Garden-based Education | Sam Ullery |
| Educator Wellness | Celeste Brown |

Dependent upon the final grantees awarded!



EGMS: Completing the Application

- Helpful Resources
 - [Training videos](#)
 - [User Manual](#)
 - [EGMS Training and Video Guides](#)
- Let's try it out [here](#)
- Things to Remember
 - [Requesting EGMS Credentials](#)
 - Save every page



Enterprise Grants Management System



District of Columbia Office of the
State Superintendent of Education



Important Dates



Important Application Period Dates

Application Release Date: **August 22, 2025 at 12 p.m.**

Pre-Application Information Session: **September 3, 2025**

Pre-Application Questions Due Date: **September 10, 2025**

*(Send all questions to OSSE.HYDT@dc.gov with the subject line, RFA Question: WCEW Grant.)

Answers to Pre-Application Questions will be made available: **September 17, 2025**

Application deadline for submission: **October 8, 2025 at 3 p.m. EST**

No late applications will be accepted.

Award Period

- This grant award period is from **Late November 2025, to September 30, 2026.**
- Total award period covers two fiscal years. Year 1 grant award period is from ~ Nov. 26, 2025 to Sept. 30, 2026 and funded applicants must commit to obligate all grant funds awarded under this competition by Sept. 30, 2026.
- Applicants must apply for continuation awards for second-year funding for Year 2 (Oct. 1, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2027)



Contact Information

FIND US

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[Whole Child and Educator Wellness Grant Website](#)



Q&A