Pre-Application Conference: Academic Quality and Early Childhood Grants

July 14, 2017 | Ronda Kardash

Agenda

- Overview & Purpose

- Grant Details

- Application Submission & Content

- Evaluation of Applications

- Important Dates

- Q&A

- Contact Information

- 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, is a federal law that authorizes funding for District of Columbia (DC) 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 2016 SOAR application on Dec. 9, 2016.

- USED approved the application and issued a Grant Award Notice (GAN) to OSSE on May 25, 2017.

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.

Move to Formula Academic Quality Grants

- This year the Academic Quality grant is being distributed as a formula grant.

- Ensures that all charter LEAs have access to funds, which is important because the overall purpose of SOAR is to improve academics.

- 79 percent of charter local education agency (LEA) respondents to last year's stakeholder survey agreed or strongly agreed that a substantial portion of SOAR funds should be allocated on a per-pupil basis.

- Based on stakeholder feedback, the distribution formula awards a base grant of $50,000 to each charter LEA. The remainder of the budgeted Academic Quality funds are distributed on a per-pupil basis.

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

- 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). Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) U370C170001.

All grant awards are contingent on the appropriation of funding.

- Allocations and program contacts are included in the allocation memo sent on July 7, 2017.

- Allocations are also in EGMS.

LEA Name	Academic Quality Allocation	Early Childhood Allocation	Total	Grant Contact
Academy of Hope Public Charter School	$ 73,762.73		$ 73,762.73	Adam Morris
Achievement Preparatory Academy Public Charter School	$ 96,671.70		$ 96,671.70	Brianna Becker
AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School	$ 96,458.27	$ 295,013.14	$ 391,471.41	Adam Morris
BASIS Public Charter School	$ 92,616.39		$ 92,616.39	Marie Hutchins
Breakthrough Academy Public Charter School	$ -	$ 35,794.16	$ 35,794.16	Adam Morris
Bridges Public Charter School	$ 73,691.58	$ 59,487.19	$ 133,178.77	Adam Morris
Briya Public Charter School	$ 85,359.51	$ 24,247.65	$ 109,607.16	Adam Morris
Capital City Public Charter School	$ 119,794.12		$ 119,794.12	Brianna Becker
Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School	$ 193,074.38		$ 193,074.38	Adam Morris
Cedar Tree Academy Public Charter School	$ 76,039.40	$ 132,087.12	$ 208,126.52	Adam Morris
Center City Public Charter School	$ 152,307.79		$ 152,307.79	Brianna Becker
Cesar Chavez Public Charter School	$ 151,027.16		$ 151,027.16	Marie Hutchins

Eligible applicants meet all of the following:

- **Academic Quality Grant**: All charter LEAs who were open and serving students during the 2015-16 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 2015-16 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
Costs that are described in the original, approved application, including: ✓ Costs that support projects that are linked to evidence-based research and have been shown to increase academic achievement. ✓ Costs that support projects that address the needs identified in the needs assessment. ✓ 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.	✖ Unallowable costs per federal government guidelines. ✖ Costs that do not align with the strategies outlined in the application. ✖ Costs that do not meet the purpose of this grant.

Application Submission & Content

- Application Submission

- Application Content

  - *Application Deadline:* **August 4, 2017 at 3 p.m.**

All funds allocated to LEAs who elect not to apply by August 4, 2017 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 **August 4, 2017 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
- Needs Assessment and Narrative

- 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.*

Allocations

- Use this section to select a drawdown schedule.

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

<u>Required Sections:</u>

- Comprehensive Needs Assessment (select data used and link to substantiate need),

- Project Description,

- Theory of Action (if, then/because statement), 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." <u>GANs will not be released without these assurances.</u>

- Submissions are due by 3 p.m. on August 4.

  - Make sure to:

    1. Run the "consistency check," and

    2. Lock the application.

  - The submit button will be **<u>unavailable</u>** after 3 p.m. on August 4.

  - 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 who have been selected for their related experiences.
- Upon completion of a review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards 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.
- The state superintendent, or her designee, will make all final award decisions.

Important Dates

Action	Date/Timeline
Application Due	Aug. 4, 2017 by 3 p.m.
Initial Reviews Completed	By Aug. 18, 2017
Grant Period	Aug. 4, 2017 – Aug 3, 2018

Questions?

Contact Information

Program Contact	Contact Information
Brianna Becker, Program Analyst	Brianna.Becker@dc.gov
Adam Morris, Program Analyst	AdamE.Morris@dc.gov
Marie Hutchins, Program Analyst	Marie.Hutchins@dc.gov
Ronda Kardash, Director of Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support	Ronda.Kardash@dc.gov
EGMS Helpdesk	Osse.Callcenter@dc.gov (202) 719-6500

Program contacts are listed by LEA in allocation memo.

Reminder

- Applications due on or before 3 p.m. on Friday, August 4, 2017.

- Submission of a late application will result in reallocation of funds.