

NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Division of Postsecondary and Career Education

Fiscal Year 2022

SY21-22 College Rising Mentorship Grant (FY22)

Request for Applications (RFA) Release Date: September 10, 2021

As authorized by FY 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021 and the FY 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) – Division of Postsecondary and Career Education, is soliciting grant applications for the District of Columbia College Rising Mentorship Grant 2022. The goal of the College Rising Mentorship Grant is to support programs that mentor high school students who are enrolled in District of Columbia public or public charter schools, and assist them in navigating high school, taking dual enrollment courses, and selecting and applying to college.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: OSSE will make these grants available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations who shall maintain a focus on high school students particularly those working with first generation college students, from underserved communities and provide a research based approach to mentoring said students that is equitable, high-quality, measurable and aligned to college and career best practices between December 3, 2021 (or award date) and September 30, 2022 (FY22):

- *Research Based Approach to Mentoring Students:* OSSE will fund mentoring programs that serve students who are enrolled in DC public and public charter schools, especially those students who participate in OSSE sponsored dual enrollment programs. The mentoring services provided should be grounded in a research based approach.
- *Equitable:* OSSE will fund mentoring programs in which supports are tiered and differentiated such that said students receive supports that meet their specific needs.
- *High-quality:* OSSE will fund mentoring programs that rely on well-trained advisers to provide information and assistance to students using resources, curricula, tools and delivery models that have been demonstrated to be effective.
- *Measurable:* OSSE will fund mentoring programs that meaningfully contribute to and accelerate student progress toward measurable postsecondary outcomes.
- *Aligned to College and Career:* OSSE will fund mentoring programs that contain supports that enable said students to explore multiple pathways to achieving postsecondary success, including a range of college and career options and especially dual enrollment programs.

Applications will be scored on the following selection of criteria: goals and objectives, program logistics and narrative, priority areas, budget details and narrative, and program evaluation.

OSSE will be holding an information session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. to answer questions about the RFA and grant competition. To RSVP, please email Christina.Beal@dc.gov no later than Monday, September 13, 2021. Please see full RFA for a detailed timeline of events.

Length of Award: The FY22 grant award period is from December 3, 2021 (or award date) to September 30, 2022.

Available Funding for Awards: The total funding available for the FY22 award period is \$695,000 to be divided amongst one to three subgrantees. Eligible applicants may apply for any amount up to the full amount but may be awarded amounts less than requested. Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized as relevant statutes and included in the applicant's submission.

OSSE anticipates that there will continue to be funds available through this grant program through fiscal year 2025 (SY24-25).

The applicant will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year. Funding in future fiscal years is contingent on the following:

- Availability of funds;
- Recipients demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring of the recipient and reporting from the recipient; and
- Compliance with the District and federal laws, regulations and guidance.

Application Process: An external review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. The application will be scored against a rubric and each application will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The State Superintendent, or her designee, will make all final award decisions. Applications must be submitted by Friday, October 22, 2021 by 3pm. OSSE estimates it will award grants by December 3, 2021; however, this date may change.

For additional information regarding this competition, please contact:

Christina Beal, Director, College and Career Readiness

Email: Christina.Beal@dc.gov

Phone: (202) 247 - 6390

The RFA will be available on the District of Columbia Office of Partnerships and Grants Services website and the [Office of College and Career Readiness](#) website. Applications will be submitted through the [Enterprise Grants Management System \(EGMS\)](#).