Educator Wellness Technical Assistance Grant FAQ

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Grant Overview

What is the purpose of the grant?
The purpose of the grant is to address issues responding to the coronavirus by: 1) building the capacity of DC public and public charter schools to adopt and strategically implement educator wellness programs that consider the root causes of educator stress and address those causes through a tiered intervention approach, and 2) supporting OSSE in updating materials and resources for a sustainable educator wellness technical assistance model.

What is the maximum amount of funding available?
The total amount of available funds is $500,000 per year. The dollar amount per award year will depend on the quality of the grant application and the number of schools proposed to be served. OSSE anticipates awarding funds up to five applicants, per funding availability. Applicants must submit a continuation application to be eligible for year two funding.

Who is eligible to apply?
OSSE will accept applications from nonprofit entities in the District of Columbia having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Organizations partnering with applying organizations are not required to be nonprofit entities in the District of Columbia.

Does the applying organization need to be based in the District of Columbia?
Yes. However, organizations partnering with applying organizations are not required to be nonprofit entities in the District of Columbia.

Are nonprofits and for-profits allowed to work together on the grant? If so, will the nonprofit need to submit the application?
Yes, for-profit entities may partner with nonprofit entities on the application. However, the organization with a 501(c)(3) status must be the organization that submits the application. The application then should explain the nature of the partnership to include roles and responsibilities and appropriate budget justification.

Application

How do I get access to the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS)?
New EGMS users must request credentials. Instructions for becoming an EGMS user are available at grants.osse.dc.gov/info/credentials. For technical help with EGMS, contact the EGMS Call Center at (202) 719-6500 or osse.callcenter@dc.gov Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

What is the application deadline?
The deadline for submitting applications in the EGMS system is no later than **3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 29, 2021.**

How do I start an application?
All OSSE grants are managed using EGMS. Please visit grants.osse.dc.gov/ to start an application.

Program-Specific Questions

Do I have to establish all my school partnerships in year one? Or, can I establish some of the required school partnerships in year one and the remainder in year two?
All school partnerships are to be established in year one. However, as some schools may be quicker to onboard with than others, schools can be in different phases at different times.

What if I already have existing school partnerships? Can those partnerships be used for this grant?
Yes! Please see Appendix B of the RFA. This appendix includes a template school commitment letter. If any of your current partner schools are interested in technical assistance to implement educator wellness plan, please provide them with the template letter and directions and included that completed letter as part of your application.

The RFA mentions that awarded grantees will be provided a school list. What is this?
The technical assistance opportunity is being promoted to local education agencies (LEA) and schools in order to build awareness of the upcoming partnership and support opportunity. LEAs and schools that are interested in partnering with the awarded grantees are asked to complete a brief interest form that includes the LEA or school name and a point of contact. This list of interested schools will be provided to the awarded grantees to support the partnering process.

How long will each phase be expected to take?
The four phases are to be completed across the two-year grant award period. The length of each phase may vary be school depending on their level of readiness and what systems or practices they may or may not already have in place regarding educator wellness.

Budget

Is this grant funded with local or federal funds?
This is a federally funded grant. It is authorized and subject to the Section 313(e), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act (Public Law 116-260). In accordance with Section 313(e) of the CRRSA Act, a state may reserve a portion of funds for administrative costs and the remainder for emergency needs as determined by the state educational agency to address issues responding to coronavirus, including measuring and addressing learning loss, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts.

Due to the funding source, do I need to specifically address coronavirus in my application?
Yes. The grant is to support responding to the coronavirus. Specifically, the impact of the coronavirus on educators and how that has exacerbated pre-pandemic stress levels. Please see the background section of the RFA and OSSE Guiding Principles for Continuous Education for additional information.

Is this a reimbursement grant, or will the grantee receive funds ahead of time to cover costs?
OSSE has implemented a reimbursement process for all grantees. Grant award payments are reimbursable on a monthly basis. Program costs must be paid by the grantee to the payee prior to requesting reimbursement; it is insufficient for costs merely to be incurred.

Resources

Please see below for resources that may be useful for your application.

Program Information Resources

- Educator Wellness Technical Assistance Grant webpage
- Educator Wellness: A Whole School Approach to Improve Staff Stress and Retention and Student Achievement
- OSSE Guiding Principles for Continuous Education

EGMS Technical Assistance Resources

- EGMS training guides and videos can be accessed at: egmsfe.osse.dc.gov/info/training
- Vendor and user credential guide: grants.osse.dc.gov/info/credentials
- For technical issues, e.g., error messages, logging on, etc.:
    - Email OSSE.CallCenter@dc.gov; or
    - Contact the OSSE Help Desk at (202) 719-6500