

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act Third Party Charter Support Organizations

Request for Applications Release Date: Friday, April 28, 2023

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act Third Party Charter Support Organizations grant funds. SOAR Act funds are available to District of Columbia (DC) nonprofit charter support organizations. The purpose of the funds is to increase the achievement and academic growth of DC public charter school students and to enhance the organizational capacity of charter local education agencies (LEAs) to operate as fiscally and operationally sound nonprofit organizations and schools.

Eligibility and Project Types: Eligible applicants are DC-based nonprofit charter school support organizations that have a demonstrated history of success working with DC charter schools on similar projects. Applicants must use funds to support projects designed to have a direct and rapid impact on academic achievement and outcomes for charter school students overall or specific subgroups. Applicants are required to submit a letter of recommendation from a DC charter school with direct experience working with the organization, a letter of commitment from each of the two DC charter schools that the organization intends to serve, as well as a list of all schools and districts to which the organization has provided education-based services.

OSSE will consider two types of projects for funding: “Direct Assistance” and “Indirect Assistance”. **Direct Assistance** projects must be research-based and designed to have a direct and rapid (within two years) impact on the academic achievement and outcomes for public charter school students; must be designed to improve student outcomes across multiple charter LEAs through direct service to students and/or direct professional development and support for teachers and instructional leaders; and must be tailored to meet the specific needs of each partner charter LEA. The project’s theory of action must be supported by LEA-specific data. **Indirect Assistance** projects must be designed to impact student outcomes at multiple charter LEAs indirectly by enhancing the organizational capacity of charter LEAs to operate as fiscally and operationally sound nonprofit organizations and schools; and may include projects that provide professional development for charter LEA leaders or board members in order to improve the charter school’s infrastructure or capacity related to the administration and use of student data, fiscal management, board governance, and overall school administration.

Length of Award: The duration of the award period is two years from the grant award date.

Available Funding for the Award: At least \$1,750,000 is available for awards through this RFA. OSSE will provide up to \$400,000.00 per “direct assistance” award and up to \$300,000.00 per “indirect assistance” award. Determinations regarding the number of competitive grant awards will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. OSSE anticipates awarding approximately five to seven awards. Successful applicants may be awarded

amounts less than requested. Awards are limited to one per organization. Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized by the relevant statutes and included in the applicant's submission.

Application Process: A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external, neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications 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). OSSE will make all final award decisions. Applications must be submitted prior to 3 p.m. on June 12, 2023. OSSE expects to make awards by August 1, 2023.

Pre-application webinars will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 10-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 3-4 p.m.

To register for a webinar, visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5361590762070597467>.

Each interested organization must have at least one representative attend one of the above webinars in order to meet the attendance requirement for this grant. Webinar attendance is tracked electronically through registration and online attendance.

To receive more information on this grant, please contact:

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The RFA for this competitive grant program will be available on OSSE's website at osse.dc.gov/service/scholarships-opportunity-and-results-soar-act-grant. All applications will be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at grants.osse.dc.gov.