

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RFA # GD0—SA—13

District of Columbia

Office of the State Superintendent of Education



2013 SOAR Act Grant(s)

RFA Release Date

February 22, 2013

Intent to Apply Deadline (Mandatory)

March 1, 2013

Pre-Application Conference (Mandatory)

March 4-7, 2013

Application Submission Deadline

March 22, 2013

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Checklist for Application
2013 SOAR Act Grant(s)

- ☐ The applicant submitted the Intent to Apply form by (date). Please see application, tab (x)
- ☐ The applicant attended the appropriate mandatory pre-application conference. Please see Section 2 in Request for Application (RFA).
- ☐ The applicant has responded to all sections of the Request for Application (“RFA”) and the application contains all the information and appendices requested. Please see Section 3 for more detail, as well as Application workbook.
 - Tab 1- Directions
 - Tab 2- Contact Info
 - Tab 3- Improving Academic Quality
 - Tab 4 - Addressing Special Populations
 - Tab 5- Investing in Public Facilities
 - Tab 6- Influencing Replication and Growth
 - Tab 7 - Assurances
 - Tab 8 - Rubric
- ☐ The applicant has made certain the application adheres to the direction and criteria of each section of this RFA.
- ☐ The applicant has submitted:
 - One (1) electronic copy in PDF, emailed to opcsfs.funding@dc.gov
- ☐ **Applications received via email at or after 5:01 p.m. EST, on Friday, March 22, 2013, will not be reviewed.** Any additions or deletions to an application will not be accepted after the deadline of 5:00 p.m. **No hard copies of the application will be accepted at OSSE.**

Request for Application
RFA # GDO-SA-13

Section 1: General Information

1.1 Introduction

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (ELSEC), within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), is soliciting applications from District of Columbia public charter schools, charter support organizations and District of Columbia-based non-profit organizations representing and/or partnering with a District of Columbia public charter school for the following funding opportunities:

- **Increasing Academic Quality**
- **Addressing Special Populations**
- **Investing in Public Facility Projects**
- **Influencing Replication and Growth**

1.2 Purpose of Funds

The purpose of funding is to address the two impact areas within ELSEC:

- Innovative funding to improve school performance and educational outcomes; and
- Effective facility financing and funding to increase the number of high-quality public charter school seats.

Through this RFA, ELSEC is soliciting proposals for:

- **Increasing Academic Quality**
 - Funds will support a direct and rapid (within two years) impact on overall charter school academic achievement or on the achievement of historically under-performing subgroups.
- **Addressing Special Populations**
 - Funds will support implementation of special education classrooms by existing OSSE grantees and/or funding to serve special populations (e.g., English Language Learners, homeless, foster, etc.) with high achievement gaps.
- **Investing in Public Facility Projects**
 - Funds will support renovation/reconstruction of former DCPS or other District-owned facilities released by the District for lease by public charter schools.
- **Influencing Replication and Growth**
 - Funds will support the replication and expansion of new charter schools by funding planning and development of a new facility to increase the number of high-quality seats available.

1.3 Source of Funding

The United States Department of Education, through 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).

1.4 Requirement of Funding

The most important condition for receiving these funds is compliance with activities necessary to carry out a mandated evaluation of the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), as specified in Section 3011(a)(1). Pursuant to the SOAR Act, the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is required to evaluate annually the performance of students who applied to the OSP (Sec. 3009(a)(1)(A)). Because some applicants will be enrolled in public charter schools, it will be necessary for IES and its evaluation contractor to collect data on and from public charter school campuses once a year, 2013-2016. Please be advised that noncompliance of the charter school with the terms and conditions stated in the SOAR Act requirements acceptance document may result in the withholding of further federal grant funds administered by OSSE.

1.5 Funds Available and Funding Period

A total of \$8.9M is available for awards through this RFA. The itemization is as follows:

- **Increasing Academic Quality-** \$3,600,000
 - 3rd Party/Non-Profits- \$1,750,000 (up to \$100,000 per award)
 - Charter School Support Organizations- \$600,000 (up to \$100,000 per award)
 - Public Charter Schools- \$1,250,000 (up to \$100,000 per award)
- **Addressing Special Populations-** \$300,000 (up to \$50,000 per award)
- **Investing in Public Facility Projects-** \$4,000,000 (up to \$750,000 per award)
- **Influencing Replication and Growth-** \$1,000,000 (up to \$100,000 per award)

The duration of this grant is for a period of two (2) years from the grant award date, except for Replication and Growth which is for one (1) year.

1.6 Eligibility

An eligible applicant meets all of the following criteria based on abovementioned categories:

- Increasing Academic Quality*
 - 3rd Party/Non-Profits
 - Must be a non-profit organization with experience in successfully working with charter school sector
 - Charter School Support Organizations
 - Must be a local organization with experience in providing supports to DC public charter school sector
 - Public Charter Schools
 - Must be a DC public charter school

- Addressing Special Populations
 - Must be recipient of 2012 Division of Specialized Education Co-Located Classroom (Options PCS only), and/ or
 - Address the following Special Populations (Pre-K, College & Career Readiness, ELL, Homeless, Neglected & Delinquent, Foster Care).
- Investing in Public Facility Projects
 - Site control evidence prior to any disbursements
- Influencing Replication and Growth
 - Not an eligible applicant for Title V, Part B funding
 - Seeking to expand into a new campus
 - An application is submitted for each campus applying for funding. A campus is defined as a school possessing a School NCES ID separate from the main campus/LEA and possesses a DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) Accountability Plan. If not, the application will provide for a written justification on the planning process to obtain the abovementioned requirements.
 - DC public charter school or a not-for-profit with final or conditional approval from sole authorized public chartering authority (PCSB).
 - Have a Performance Management Framework score of over 50%, or met 50% of Accountability Plan targets as outlined in the Performance Management Report.

****If multiple applicants are planning to provide services to the same school, each applicant must show how services are building upon each other to ensure maximum impact.***

1.7 Permissible Use of Funds

The funds associated with this RFA are strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period as follows:

- **Applicable to all grants**
 - Costs must meet requirements of permissible use of Federal Funds within EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, Part 76 and Part 80 and applicable OMB Circulars.
 - Align with and support the principles outlined in the ESEA Waiver.
- **Increasing Academic Quality**
 - Support projects that are linked to evidence-based research and have been shown to increase academic achievement
 - Support projects that apply promising practices to increase academic achievement
 - Support projects that address needs identified within the Needs Assessment conducted
- **Addressing Special Populations**
 - Support and implement SPED Co-Located Therapeutic Classroom Model classrooms by existing OSSE sub-grantees
 - Support programs and initiatives designed to increase student educational outcomes administered by schools serving special populations

- **Investing in Public Facility Projects**
 - Support renovations and reconstruction, both soft and hard costs, that may include exterior reconstruction, interior reconstruction, upgrades to systems, and the creation of new or improved academic and/or physical fitness space
- **Influencing Replication and Growth**
 - Support replication and expansion efforts by funding planning and implementation (year 1 and year 2) activities of a new campus* the year before campus opening

** A new campus is defined as a school possessing a School NCES ID separate from the main campus/LEA and a Public Charter School Board (PCSB) Accountability Plan. If this is not the case, please provide a written justification with application on the planning process to obtain a School NCES ID and PCSB Accountability Plan*

All grant project budgets will be reviewed by a peer review panel, as well as ELSEC staff to ensure expenditures are allowable and meet the intent of the purposes of this RFA.

Additional guidance about standards for determining costs for federal grants is available from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a087/a087-all.html#attb>.

Section 2: Schedule

2.1 RFA Release

The release date of the RFA is February 22, 2013. The RFA is available online at www.osse.dc.gov.

2.2 Pre-Application Conference

The mandatory pre-application conferences will be held at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, located at 810 First Street, NE as follows:

- Increasing Academic Quality- March 4th, 1:00-4:30pm, 9th Floor, Rm. 9014
 - 1:00-2:30pm - Public Charter Schools
 - 3:00-4:30pm - Charter School Support Organizations & 3rd Party/Non-Profits
- Addressing Special Populations
 - March 4th, 11:00am-12:30pm, 9th Floor, Rm. 9014– Sub-groups
 - March 7th, 9:00am-10:30am, 9th Floor, Rm. 9014– Co-Located Classroom
- Investing in Public Facility Projects- March 7th, 2:30-4:00pm, 9th Floor, Rm. 9014
- Influencing Replication and Growth (Planning & Implementation)- March 5th, 2:30-4:00pm, 9th Floor, Rm. 9014

2.3 Intent to Apply

All eligible entities seeking to receive funding under this RFA, must submit their Intent to Apply notification form (please see Tab 7), signed by an authorized signer, via email to opcsfs.funding@dc.gov by 5:00pm on March 1, 2013. **Failure to submit the Intent to Apply notification will result in**

disqualification of the Applicant prior to review.

2.4 Contact Person(s)

Applicants are advised that the following staff are the authorized contact persons for the grant program:

- Increasing Academic Quality- Katie Cox, Education Grants Specialist, katherine.cox@dc.gov and Damon Jones, Program Analyst, damonz.jones@dc.gov
- Addressing Special Populations- Damon Jones, damonz.jones@dc.gov
- Investing in Public Facility Projects- Alina Tsanova, Financial Program Specialist, alina.tsanova@dc.gov
- Influencing Replication and Growth- Alina Tsanova, alina.tsanova@dc.gov

2.5 Applications Due

Applications are due **March 22, 2013** by 5:00pm and must be delivered to opcsfs.funding@dc.gov
Naming convention of email in subject line: Organization Name_Grant Category_Name of Subgrant.
(Example: ABC Organization_Increasing Academic Quality_3rd party organization)

2.6 Updates

Information and updates regarding the four (4) categories will be emailed to those that submitted an Intent to Apply form(s) and attend the mandatory Pre-Application Conference(s).

2.7 Awards Announcement

Awards will be announced via the OSSE website on **April 12, 2013**. *Those applying for Replication and Growth, announcement will be made after the DC Public Charter School Board petition decisions, May 20, 2013.* ELSEC will disseminate award letters and grant award notifications within 7-14 days.

Section 3: Application

3.1 Application Content

- Increase Academic Quality
- Address Special Populations
- Invest in Public Facility Projects
- Influence Replication and Growth

The Application includes the following tabs:

- Tab 1- Directions
- Tab 2- Contact Information
- Tab 3- Improving Academic Quality
 - Needs Assessment
 - Theory of Action
 - Logic Model
 - Project Description

- Relation to Principle 1, 2, or 3 of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver
- Partnership / Collaboration
- Itemized Expenditure List
- Budget
- Tab 4 – Special Populations
 - Needs Assessment
 - Theory of Action
 - Logic Model
 - Project Description
 - Relation to Principle 1, 2, or 3 of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver
 - Partnership / Collaboration
 - Itemized Expenditure List
 - Budget
- Tab 5 – Public Facilities
 - Needs Assessment
 - Theory of Action
 - Logic Model
 - Project Description
 - Relation to Principle 2 of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver
 - Partnership / Collaboration
 - Sources and Uses Statement
 - Itemized Expenditure List
 - Budget
- Tab 6 – Replication & Growth
 - Needs Assessment
 - Theory of Action
 - Logic Model
 - Project Description
 - Relation to Principle 1, 2, or 3 of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver
 - Partnership / Collaboration
 - Itemized Expenditure List
 - Budget
- Tab 7 – Appendices
 - Intent to Apply
 - Signed Assurances
 - Letter of Conditional Approval from PCSB (*for Replication and Growth Projects only*)
 - Executed Lease/Purchase Agreements (*for Public Facility Projects only*)
 - Senior Lender and/or Subordinated Lender Commitment Letter or Term Sheet (*for Public Facility Projects only*)
 - Audited Financial Statements for FY11 and FY12 (*for Public Facility Projects only*)
 - Architectural Plans / Surveys / Appraisals (*for Public Facility Projects only*)

- General Contractor's Detailed Construction Budget (*for Public Facility Projects only*)

Section 4: Scoring

4.1 Review Panel

All grants within this RFA are competitive. A review panel for all categories will be convened to review, score, and rank each applicant's application. The review panel will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals who have been selected for their unique related experiences. Upon completion of its review, the panel shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). ELSEC will make the final decisions.

In addition, select applicants in the "Increasing Academic Quality" category will be required to present their application to a committee of OSSE staff before awarding of grant. The OSSE review committee will be composed of professional individuals who are familiar with the District's ESEA waiver and/or are involved in the Cross Functional Team to ensure the proposals being considered for award meet the principles of the District's ESEA waiver.