

# Pre-Application Conference: Non-profit Third-party/Charter Support Organizations

Scholarships for Opportunities and  
Results (SOAR) Act Competition  
(RFA #GD0-SACSO-14)



January 14, 2014

# Agenda

- Purpose of Grant
- Grant Details
- Application Content
- Evaluation of Applications
- Q&A

# Purpose of SOAR Act Grant

The purpose of SOAR Act funding is to improve school performance and educational outcomes and to provide facility funding in order to increase the number of high-quality public charter school seats.

# Purpose of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Grant

## Grants to Non-profit Third-Party and Charter Support Organizations That:

- Will have a direct and rapid impact on overall charter school academic achievement or on the achievement of historically under-performing subgroups.
- Partner with three or more local educational agencies (LEAs).
- Will have and detail a plan to disseminate best practices to the broader public charter sector.

*\*Priority points will be given to applicants that partner with LEAs designated as "Focus" or "Priority" per the ESEA Flexibility Waiver.*

# Grant Details

- Source of Funding
- Eligibility
- Award Amounts
- Important Dates
- Allowable Expenses

# 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).

*\*All grant awards are contingent on the appropriation of funding.*

# Eligibility

## **Eligible 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Organizations:**

- Must be a non-profit organization with experience in successfully working with the charter school sector; and
- Have the capacity to serve at least three (3) or more LEAs within DC and their underserved special populations, and/or engages underperforming “Priority” and “Focus” schools.

# Award Amounts

**A total of \$2,350,000 is available for awards:**

- OSSE will provide up to \$100,000 per award.
- Number of awards and amounts will depend on the number of quality applications received.
- The duration of this grant is for a period of two (2) years from the grant award date.

# Important Dates

Deliverable	Due Date
Intent to Apply	January 14, 2014 by 5:00 pm
Application Due	January 31, 2014 by 5:00 pm
Expected Awards	February 21, 2014
End of Grant	February 21, 2016

*The intent to apply form and application are due via email to [opcsfs.funding@dc.gov](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov) by 5:00 pm on the due date.*

# Allowable Expenses

Funds are strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period.

Allowable Expenses	Non-Allowable Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Costs that support projects that are linked to evidence based research and have been shown to increase academic achievement</li><li>✓ Costs that support projects that address the needs identified in the needs assessment</li><li>✓ Costs must meet requirements of permissible use of Federal Funds within EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, Part 76 and Part 80, as well as applicable OMB Circulars</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Unallowable costs per Federal Government guidelines, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Alcohol</li><li>✗ Entertainment Expenses</li><li>✗ Lobbying or Public Relations</li><li>✗ Goods or Services for Personal Use</li></ul></li></ul>

# Application Content

- Tab 1 – Directions
- Tab 2 – Contact Information
- Tab 3 – Comprehensive Data
  - Project Data
  - Academic Data
- Tab 4 – Needs Assessment & Narrative
  - Comprehensive Needs Assessment
  - Summary Project Description
  - Theory of Action
  - Alignment to the District’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver
- Tab 5 – Detailed Expenditure Summary
- Tab 6 – Budget Summary
- Tab 7 – Logic Models
- Tab 8 – Appendices
  - Collaboration Letters
  - Completed Logic Models
  - Signed Assurances
  - W-9 Form for any entity not currently in the DC vendor system
- Tab 9 – Intent to Apply Form
- Tab 10 – Assurances

# Tab 1: Directions

**Applicants should review this tab and take note of:**

- Deadline for grant application,
- Email address where application should be submitted, and
- Various tabs to be completed.

**\*\*Important note—Naming convention of application email subject line:**

**Organization Name\_Grant Category**

*Example: ABC Organization\_3<sup>rd</sup> Party*

**Late applications will not be considered**

## Tab 2: Contact Info

### **Applicants should use this section to:**

- Provide contact information,
- Provide the amount that the organization is requesting, and
- Provide applicant certification of the information contained in the application.

# Tab 3: Comprehensive Data

**Third Party applicants will be required to provide a comprehensive data summary. This data will be tracked throughout the life of the grant to determine if objectives were met.**

- Request Project Data includes:
  - Current project status
  - Current enrollment and anticipated enrollment
  - Projected student enrollment demographics
  - Location of project and community status
  
- Requested Academic Data includes:
  - PMF scores and number of targets met
  - DC CAS scores
  - Attendance and graduation rates
  - Teacher retention rates

# Tab 4: Needs Assessment & Narrative

**Section should justify the need for the project.**

## Narratives:

- Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Project Description
- Theory of Action
- Alignment to DC's ESEA Flexibility Waiver

## Tips:

- Be detailed, yet concise.
- Respond to all the prompts.
- Use the narratives to demonstrate that this project will address the needs of the LEA/students in DC.
- Highlight your organization's experience in working in the charter sector.

# Successful Narratives

## **Needs Assessment and Project Description**

- This section should be used to substantiate the need for the proposed project, describe the data that led you to the determination of need, and describe how this specific project will address deficiencies identified.
- Provide any research and evidence that will justify the need for the project.
- Be sure to reference 2013 DC-CAS or relevant testing data used in the needs assessment(s).
- Complete one needs assessment narrative per school.

# Tabs 5 and 6: Detailed Expenditures and Budget Summary

## **How will the SOAR funds be spent?**

- Provide a link between the needs assessment and narratives, the proposed project, and the use of funds.
- Align the budget with permissible use of funds and proposed outcomes.

# Budget Details

## **Itemized Budget Spreadsheet:**

- Provide detailed expenditures for the proposed project.
- Provide a description for each line item.
- Align the budget with permissible use of funds and with the needs assessment.

## **Budget:**

- Summary of costs by program category.
- This table is automatically populated with information from the Itemized Expenditures Tab.

# Tab 7: Logic Models

LEA must complete at least 2 logic models.

Project Goal:

Project Objective(s):

<i>What do you contribute?</i>	<i>What are you going to do?</i>	<i>What do you want at the end of the day?</i>			<b>Performance Measures</b>	
<b>Inputs</b>	<b>Activities/Timeline (Please provide completion dates for each activity)</b>	<b>Immediate</b>	<b>Within one year of project completion</b>	<b>After one year of project completion</b>	<i>What will show you're getting there?</i>	
		<b>Short Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Medium Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Long Term Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Measurement Tool</b>

# Tab 8: Appendices

**The following appendices are required with the application:**

- Collaboration letter(s) from partner(s)
- Completed logic models
- Signed assurances
- W9 Form for any vendor not currently in the DC vendor system
- Any other significant information deemed necessary by the applicant

# Tab 9: Intent to Apply Form

**Due January 14, 2014, by 5:00 pm for those who have not already submitted!**

- Send a signed PDF to [opcsfs.funding@dc.gov](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov).
- Please indicate in the subject line that the intent is for Non-profit Third-Party Organizations/Charter Support Organizations

# Tab 10: Assurances

**All assurances (18 total) must be checked for the application to be considered complete.**

- Assurances include:
  - The applicant will administer the funds covered by this application in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications.
  - The applicant will expend all funds by two years from the award date. The applicant assures timely (at least quarterly) submissions of reimbursement workbooks.

# Evaluation of Applications

- A review panel comprised of individuals with expertise in the field of public charter school financing will review applications according to the Scoring Rubric.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.

# Review Panel

- All grants 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).
- OSSE will make the final decisions.

# Review Rubric

- 80% of the weight will be on the data summary, needs assessment, and narratives.
- 20% of the weight will be on the budget.
- Rubric will be available on the OSSE website at:  
<http://osse.dc.gov/service/scholarships-opportunity-and-results-soar-act-grant-ffy-2013>

# Questions?



# Contact Information

The following staff are the authorized contact persons for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party grant program:

- John Savage, Program Analyst, [john.savage@dc.gov](mailto:john.savage@dc.gov)
- Faida Fuller, Acting Director, Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support, [faida.fuller@dc.gov](mailto:faida.fuller@dc.gov).

# Thank You

[www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov)



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