

Pre-Application Conference: Investing in Public Facilities

Scholarships for Opportunities and
Results (SOAR) Act Competition
(RFA #GD0-SAF-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 Public Facility Grant

Investing in Public Facility Projects Funds will support:

- The renovation/reconstruction of former DCPS or other District-owned facilities released by the District for lease by public charter schools.

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 organizations:

- Must be a DC Public Charter School.
- Must possess site control evidence prior to any disbursements.

Award Amounts

A total of \$5,000,000 is available for awards:

- OSSE will provide up to \$750,000 per award.
- Number of awards and amounts will depend on the number of quality applications received.
- The duration of the Public Facility grant is for a period of 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 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
<p>Costs used for Renovations and Reconstruction of former DCPS or other District-owned facilities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Both hard and soft costs✓ Exterior reconstruction, interior reconstruction, upgrades to systems, and the creation of new or improved academic and/or physical fitness space✓ Costs must have an enduring benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Unallowable costs per Federal Government guidelines✗ Costs that do not align with the principles outlined in the ESEA Waiver✗ Costs that do meet the purpose of this grant

Application Content

- Tab 1 – Directions
- Tab 2 – Contact Info
- Tab 3 – Comprehensive Data
- Tab 4 – Needs Assessment & Narrative
- Tab 5 – Detailed Expenditure Summary
- Tab 6 – Budget Summary
- Tab 7 – Sources and Uses
- Tab 8 – Logic Models
- Tab 9 – Appendices
- Tab 10 – Intent to Apply Form
- Tab 11 – 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 Public Charter School_Public Facilities

Late applications will not be considered

Tab 2: Contact Info

Applicants should use this section to:

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

Tab 3: Comprehensive Data

LEA 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.

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

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
- Partnership Collaboration

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.
- This tab is worth 55% of the total score.

Successful Narratives

Needs Assessment and Project Description

- Be sure to substantiate the need for the proposed project, describe the facility needs and options, and how this specific project will add to providing high-quality education to students in high-need areas.
- Justify the suitability of the proposed site as an educational facility in terms of location, demographics, space, and affordability.
- Include a timeline from conception to completion.

Tab 5 through 7: Detailed Expenditures, Budget Summary, and Sources & Uses

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.

Sources and Uses:

- List all project sources and uses in detail.
- Total sources should equal total uses.

Tab 8: 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>			Performance Measures	
Inputs	Activities/Timeline (Please provide completion dates for each activity)	Immediate	Within one year of project completion	After one year of project completion	What will show you're getting there?	
		Short Term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes	Outputs	Measurement Tool

Tab 9: Appendices

The following appendices are required with the application:

- Collaboration letter(s) from partner(s)
- Completed logic models
- Signed assurances
- Executed Lease/Purchase Agreements
- W9 Form for any vendor not currently in the DC vendor system
- Architectural plans/surveys/appraisals
- Senior lender and/or subordinated lender commitment letter or term sheet
- Audited financial statements for FY12 and FY13
- General contractor's detailed construction budget

Tab 10: Intent to Apply Form

Due today by 5:00 pm for those who have not already submitted!

- Send a signed PDF to opcsfs.funding@dc.gov.
- Please indicate in the subject line that the intent is for the public facilities grant.

Tab 11: Assurances

All assurances (19 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 certifies that they have obtained pre-approval from the Public Charter School Board for opening of a new campus.
 - 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-ff-2013>

Questions?



Contact Information

The following staff are the authorized contact persons for the public facilities grant program:

- Alina Tsanova, Financial Program Specialist, alina.tsanova@dc.gov
- Faida Fuller, Acting Director, Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support, faida.fuller@dc.gov.

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