

# Pre-Application Conference: Replication and Growth

Scholarships for Opportunities and  
Results (SOAR) Act Competition  
(RFA #GD0-SARG-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 Replication & Growth Grant

## **Influencing Replication and Growth Funds will support:**

- The replication and expansion of new charter schools by fund planning and development of a new facility to increase the number of high-quality seats available.
- LEAs will apply for funding for the Planning Year, Implementation Year 1, or Implementation Year 2.

# 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.
- Not an eligible applicant for Title V, Part B funding.
- Seeking to expand into a new campus in the next school year.
  - 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/local educational agency (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.
- Have a Performance Management Framework ranking designation as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 public charter school. *Tier 1 applicants will be given the utmost priority, while Tier 2 schools in the top 20% will be given secondary priority.*
- Never received any Replication and Growth grant either from OSSE (for the same phase) or the US Department of Education (in general).

# Award Amounts

**A total of \$1,154,315 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 the Replication and Growth grant is for a period of 1 year 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, 2015

*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
<p>Costs used for Replication and Expansion efforts may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Planning costs (the year before campus opening)</li><li>✓ Implementation year 1</li><li>✓ Implementation year 2</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Unallowable costs per Federal Government guidelines (EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, Part 76, and Part 80, and applicable OMB Circulars).</li><li>✗ Costs that do not align with the principles outlined in the ESEA Waiver</li><li>✗ Costs that do meet the purpose of this grant</li></ul>

# 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 – Logic Models
- Tab 8 – Appendices
- 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 Public Charter School\_Replication and Growth*

**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 for the chosen year, 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
  - Current enrollment and anticipated enrollment
  - 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

## 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**

- Describe in detail the new campus vision including location, mission, grade levels, targeted student body, and instructional focus.
- Describe the students in the neighborhood or area that the school intends to serve and the educational options available.
- Describe your student recruitment plan, your plans for achieving instructional excellence, and capacity to expand to a new campus.



# 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 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>			<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 9: Appendices

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

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

# 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](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov).
- Please indicate in the subject line that the intent is for the replication and growth 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 one year 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 replication and growth grant program:

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

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



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