

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE:  
INCREASING ACADEMIC QUALITY

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITIES AND  
RESULTS (SOAR) ACT COMPETITION  
(RFA #GD0-SA-13)

March 4, 2013

# AGENDA



- ❑ Purpose of Grant & Theory of Action
- ❑ Grant Details
- ❑ Application Content
- ❑ Budget Spreadsheet
- ❑ Appendices and Assurances
- ❑ Evaluation of Applications
- ❑ Q&A

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## Purpose of Grant

The purpose of 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 Grant: Increasing Academic Quality



## 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.

# Theory of Action

**Describe how and why your project will work and provide the strategic thinking behind the change you seek to produce.**

- Use an “If, then” statement
- Must include evidence of success

# Grant Details

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

# Eligibility: Increasing Academic Quality



Eligible organizations are:

- ☐ 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide or will provide support services to public charter schools
- ☐ Non-Profit Charter School Support Organizations
- ☐ Public Charter Schools

# Eligibility: Increasing Academic Quality



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Party Organization/Non-Profits**

- ☐ Must be a non-profit with experience in successfully working with the charter school sector.
- ☐ National organizations.
- ☐ Proven track record of success providing needed support services.
- ☐ Able to provide evidence of the meaningful and positive impact of their services.

## **Charter Support Organization**

- ☐ A non-profit, local organization with experience in providing supports to DC public charter school sector.



# Award Amounts



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

**Increasing Academic Quality-** \$3,600,000

- o 3rd Party/Non-Profits- \$1,750,000 (up to \$100,000 per award)
- o Charter School Support Organizations- \$600,000 (up to \$100,000 per award)
- o 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.

# Important Dates



- ☐ **Intent to Apply:** **March 1, 2013 @ 5:00 pm**
- ☐ **Application Due Date:** **March 22, 2013 @ 5:00 pm**
- ☐ **Expected Awards:** **April 12, 2013\***
- ☐ **End of Grant Program:** **April 2015\*\***

**\*Award announcements for Replication and Growth will be made after the DC Public Charter School Board petition decisions on May 20, 2013**

**\*\* End of grant program for Replication and Growth will be April 2014**

# Important Dates: Additional Pre-Application Conferences



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

# 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.*



## Allowable Expenses: Increasing Academic Quality

Grant funds must be used to increase academic achievement. Funds can be spent to support projects that are linked to the needs assessment. These projects must be supported by evidence.

Examples of Allowable Expenses	Examples of 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 Info
- Tab 3- Increasing 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

# Tab One: Directions



Applicants should review this tab and take note of:

- 1) Deadline for grant application,
- 2) Email address where application should be submitted, and
- 3) Various tabs that should be completed based on which funding the applicant desires.

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

**Organization Name\_Grant Category\_Name of Subgrant**

*Example:* ABC Organization\_Increasing Academic Quality\_3<sup>rd</sup> party organization

*Example:* FOSSE PCS\_Increasing Academic Quality\_Public Charter School

# Tab Two: Contact Information



Applicants should use this section to:

- 1) provide contact information,
- 2) provide grant application information, and
- 3) provide applicant certification of the information contained in the application.



# Application Format



## Each grant section has the same format

- ▣ Narrative
  - Comprehensive Needs Assessment
  - Theory of Action
  - Logic Model
  - Project Description
  - Alignment to the District of Columbia's ESEA Waiver
  - Partnership Collaboration
- ▣ Itemized Expenditures
- ▣ Budget

# Tab Three: Increasing Academic Quality



## Narrative

### □ Comprehensive Needs Assessment:

- 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 those deficiencies.
- Provide any research and evidence that will justify the need for the project.
- Be sure to reference 2012 DC-CAS data used in the needs assessment.
- Complete one needs assessment per school.

# Tab Three: Increasing Academic Quality



## Narrative

### □ Theory of Action:

- ▣ Describe how and why your project will work and provide the strategic thinking behind the change you seek to produce by using an "if, then" statement.
- ▣ The theory of action must include research and evidence of success.

### □ Logic Model:

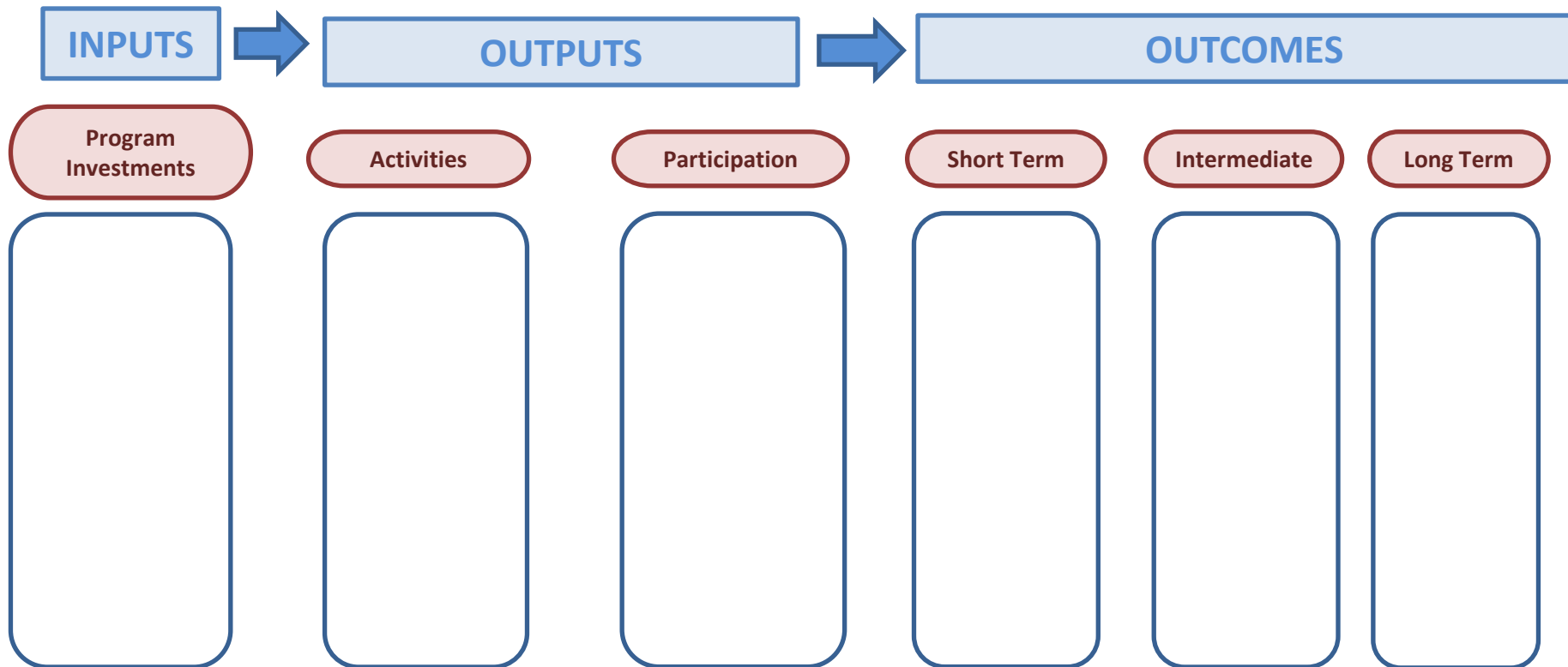
- ▣ Applicant should complete one logic model for each identified objective.
- ▣ Applicant should have a minimum of two (2) objectives.

# Logic Model



## SOAR ACT Grant Logic Model

Category:  
Objective:



# Tab Three: Increasing Academic Quality



## Narrative

### □ Detailed Project Description:

- ▣ A brief history of the organization and its work in the District.
- ▣ Detailed description of the activities that will occur within the project.
- ▣ Effective methods and research-based strategies that support the selection of this particular project.
- ▣ Provide a project timeline from conception to completion.
- ▣ Names of people involved in the project.

# Tab Three: Increasing Academic Quality



## Narrative

- ❑ **Alignment to the District of Columbia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver:**
  - ▣ Describe how this project aligns to DC's ESEA Flexibility Waiver.
  - ▣ Ensure that your description demonstrates familiarity with the ESEA Waiver.
  
- ❑ **Partnership Collaboration:**
  - ▣ Explain who the applicant plans to partner with to implement the project above (if applicable).

# Budget Spreadsheet

## **How will you pay for the proposed project?**

- Align the budget with permissible use of funds and proposed outcomes
- Provide a link between the narrative of the applicant's plan for the use of funds and the budget for the use of these funds

## Tab Three: Increasing Academic Quality



### Itemized Expenditure Spreadsheet:

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

### Budget:

- ❑ This table is a summary of costs by program category and is pre-filled with information from the Planned Expenditures.
- ❑ Summary of costs by program category.



# Tabs Related to Other Grants



## Special Populations Grant

- ☐ Tab 4a – Narrative
- ☐ Tab 4b – Itemized Budget
- ☐ Tab 4c – Budget

## Replication and Growth

- ☐ Tab 6a – Narrative
- ☐ Tab 6b – Itemized Budget
- ☐ Tab 6c – Budget

## Investing in Public Facilities

- ☐ Tab 5a – Narrative
- ☐ Tab 5b – Itemized Budget
- ☐ Tab 5c – Budget
- ☐ Tab 5d – Sources and Uses

# Appendices and Assurances

Failure to submit all applicable appendices and check appropriate assurances will result in the application being deemed “incomplete.”

# Appendices



**The following appendices are required in order for the application to be considered complete:**

- ☐ **Collaboration Letter**
- ☐ **Completed Logic Models**
- ☐ **Signed Assurances**
- ☐ **W-9 Form**
- ☐ **Letter of Conditional Approval (*for Replication and Growth only*)**
- ☐ **Executed Lease/Purchase Agreements (*for Public Facility only*)**
- ☐ **Audited Financial Statements for FY 11 and FY12 (*for Public Facility only*)**
- ☐ **Architectural Plans/Surveys/Appraisals (*for Public Facility only*)**
- ☐ **General Contractor's Detailed Construction Budget (*for Public Facility only*)**
- ☐ **Senior Lender and/or Subordinated Lender Commitment Letter (*for Public Facility only*)**

# Assurances



- The full list of assurances is on Tab 7C.
- Ensure that all applicable assurances are checked.
- Tab 7C contains full list, but some examples are:
  - ▣ The applicant assures the SEA that they will:
    - administer the funds covered by this application in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications.
    - use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds allocated to the applicant, as set forth in all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.
    - expend all funds by two years from the reward date.
    - comply with all applicable OMB Circulars, including, but not limited to: OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments; OMB Circular A-102, Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments; and OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.



# Evaluation of Applications

- ❑ A Review Panel comprised of individuals with expertise in the field of public charter schools will review applications according to the Scoring Rubric.
- ❑ Incomplete 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 Panel: Increasing Academic Quality



- 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 to ensure the proposals being considered for award meet the principles of the District of Columbia’s ESEA waiver.

# Rubric



- 70% of weight on needs assessment/narrative.
- 30% of weight on budget.
- Preference points will be given for addressing specific identified areas of priority.
- Available on OSSE website:

<http://osse.dc.gov/publication/scholarships-opportunity-andresultssoaractcompetition>



# Questions?

For further questions:

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