



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

**Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act
Third Party Charter Support Organizations
Grant Competition
Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22)**

Frequently Asked Questions

(Released May 25, 2022)

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Competition Timeline

Q: Our organization did not attend the pre-application webinars. Are we still eligible to apply?

A: If a representative from your organization did not attend one of the mandatory pre-application webinars, your organization is not eligible to apply under this grant competition. As stated in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#), each interested organization that intends to apply must have at least one representative attend one of the two pre-application webinars. This year, these webinars were held on May 5, 2022 and May 10, 2022. Webinar attendance was tracked electronically via GoToWebinar.

Q: Will applicants receive confirmation of receipt after submitting the Intent to Apply form?

A: Yes. The required Intent to Apply form was due on May 20, 2022. Applicants should have received a confirmation email from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). If you did not receive a confirmation email, email Nicole Clements at Nicole.Clements@dc.gov.

Q: When will awarded applicants be able to begin conducting program activities and expending grant funds?

A: OSSE anticipates making awards no later than Aug. 5, 2022. The award period will be two years from the date awards are made in [Enterprise Grants Management System](#) (EGMS). Applicants who have been awarded will receive an automatic email notification from EGMS when award information is available. OSSE will also send an official award notification via email to the head of each organization and the grants contact listed on the application. Awarded applicants may begin to obligate grant funds as early as the award date but are not required to begin program activities immediately.

Eligibility

Q: Our organization is a current SOAR Third Party grantee. Are we eligible to apply?

A: Yes. Current and former grantees of the SOAR Third Party grant or other OSSE grants are eligible to apply.

Q: Our organization currently only serves one DC charter LEA but is proposing to work with two or three others for this project. Are we eligible to apply?

A: Yes. Nonprofit organizations that serve at least one DC charter LEA are eligible to apply, if they demonstrate success of working with one DC charter LEA on similar education-based projects. However, all projects must include at least two partner charter LEAs to be served throughout the entire two-year award period.

Partnership Requirements

Q: How many LEA partners must a nonprofit organization applying for this grant have?

A: Nonprofit organizations applying as the lead applicant for this grant must partner with at least two DC charter LEAs. Letters of commitment from each partner LEA must be submitted with the application.

Grant Application and Priorities

Q: What is the difference between a direct assistance project and an indirect assistance project?

A: A direct assistance project is designed to improve student outcomes across multiple charter LEAs through a **direct service to students** and/or **direct professional development** and support for teachers and instructional leaders. For example, providing training and curricula to teachers to support their academic content areas or providing on-site tutoring services to students at partner charter LEAs would be considered direct assistance projects.

An indirect assistance project is designed to improve student outcomes at multiple charter LEAs indirectly by enhancing the organizational capacity of charter LEAs to operate as fiscally and operationally sound nonprofit organizations and schools. For example, professional development for charter LEA leaders or board members in order to improve the charter school's infrastructure and capacity would be considered an indirect assistance project.

Q: Should the list of all schools/districts your organization has provided similar services to include schools/districts nationwide or just DC-based?

A: Applicants may include schools served nationwide in their application. This can include both public and public charter schools.

Q: Can the letter of recommendation come from one of the two partner charter LEAs we are proposing to serve for this project?

A: Yes. If the nonprofit organization is already providing services to the charter LEA, they can submit a letter of recommendation in addition to the letter of commitment that is required. If they are not already providing services to the charter LEA, then that charter LEA should not complete the letter of recommendation.

Q: Is our organization required to upload a letter of commitment and logic model for each partner charter LEA?

A: A letter of commitment for each partner charter LEA is required. At least two logic models are required; however, it is not necessary to have one for each partner LEA if your organization will have more than two partner charter LEAs.

Q: If the same project will be done at two or more LEAs, can the two logic models be identical?

A: The two logic models may be identical if the proposed project will be implemented at two or more LEAs. Please note that while the projects may be the same overall, there may be differences between proposed projects in the details of the inputs, outputs, or outcomes sections of the logic model depending on the needs of the partner LEAs.

Q: Are we expected to include data for specific student outcomes in our application?

A: Nonprofit organizations should include any student outcome data in their application that is pertinent to the proposed project. This could include test scores, matriculation into the next grade, etc.

Q: What data should be included in the needs assessment since the last available PARCC test results are from 2019?

A: Applicants may consult with partner LEAs to see what information was submitted in their Assessment Plan to OSSE. This information is also available in the [2021-22 LEA Continuation Education plans](#) submitted to OSSE.

Q: Do applications/projects need to meet both funding priorities?

A: No. Funding priority may be given to projects that address one or each of the two priority areas ([see RFA section 4.2](#)). However, projects may still be considered for funding even if they do not meet any of the funding priorities.

Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS)

Q: Where should I go if I have questions about EGMS or have a technical issue?

A: Potential applicants should contact the EGMS help desk by calling (202) 719-6500 or emailing osse.callcenter@dc.gov for technical issues.

Q: Does the 2022 Central Data application need to be fully approved prior to submitting an application under this competition?

A: No. Applicants must complete all sections of the Certifications and Assurances tab within the Central Data application for 2022 in EGMS, but the full Central Data application is not required to be approved prior to submission of an application for the SOAR Third Party grant. If awarded, applicants will need a fully approved Central Data application prior to submitting their first reimbursement request.

Budgeting and Allowable Costs

Q: Is there a budget cap for this grant?

A: Yes. The maximum award amount for a direct assistance project is \$400,000 and the maximum award amount for an indirect assistance project is \$300,000.

Q: Is this grant eligible for indirect costs?

A: No, the FY22 SOAR Act Third Party Charter Support Organizations grant does not allow indirect costs.