

# **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**RFA # GD0—SATPG—22**

**District of Columbia**

**Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)**



## **Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act Teacher Pipeline Grants**

**Request for Application (RFA) Release Date**

Jan. 28, 2022

**Pre-Application Webinars (Mandatory)**

Feb. 10 and 15, 2022

**Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline (Mandatory)**

Feb. 25, 2022

**Application Submission Deadline**

March 14, 2022

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**Checklist for Application**  
**FY22 SOAR Act Teacher Pipeline Grants**

- The applicant submitted a Notice of Intent to Apply on or before **Friday, Feb. 25, 2022**. The Notice of Intent to Apply form can be found in Appendix A and on the OSSE website.
- The applicant attended one of the two **mandatory** pre-application webinars. Please see Request for Application (RFA) Section 2.2 for webinar dates, times, and registration.
- The applicant completed all steps required by the RFA and submitted a complete application, through OSSE's Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) that contains all the required information and attachments. Please see RFA Section 3 for an overview of the application components.

*Please note: All required application elements must be submitted by entering information directly into the required sections in EGMS. Unless otherwise stated in the application, information submitted via attachment will be considered as supplemental materials only.*

- The application adheres to the directions and criteria of each section of this RFA.
- The application was submitted **by 3 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022**, through EGMS.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**Applications are due by 3 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022.**

**The application deadline will be strictly enforced. Applications submitted at or after 3:01 p.m. EST on Monday, March 14, 2022, will not be reviewed.**

All applications must be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). For more information about EGMS, please visit <http://osse.dc.gov/service/enterprise-grants-management-system-egms>

This application will be open for 30 business days. Please avoid last minute technical submission issues by submitting early. OSSE strongly recommends submitting your application at least one day early to ensure that avoidable technical issues do not cause you to miss the submission deadline.

**Request for Applications**  
**RFA # GDO-SATPG-22**

**Section 1: General Information**

**1.1 Introduction**

**Overview of the SOAR Act**

As a part of a three-sector federal funding approach, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act, Pub. L. 112-10, 125 Stat. 199, as amended, is a federal law that authorizes funding for District of Columbia (DC) public charter schools “to improve and expand quality public charter schools in the District of Columbia” §3004(b)(2). SOAR Act funds for District of Columbia (DC) charter schools are provided to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) through the US Department of Education (USED) as a grant. The SOAR Act also provides funding for District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) for DC students to attend private schools.

**1.2 Purpose of Funds**

Through this RFA, OPCSFS is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for the following grant program:

- **Teacher Pipeline Grants**
  - The purpose of this funding program is to impact the quality and quantity of the teacher supply for DC charter schools. Teacher pipeline projects are initiatives that a) recruit high-quality candidates new to teaching for DC charter school teacher residency or teacher roles, and b) train and/or certify these teachers. All projects should be designed to have direct and rapid impact on academic achievement and outcomes for students.
  - Grant awards will be made on a per-teacher basis and may not exceed \$7,500 per teacher. SOAR grant funds may not be the sole source of funding the proposed project and applications must include a description of how the full costs of the program will be covered, e.g., other grants, philanthropy/fundraising, school contributions, teacher contributions, etc.
  - If a non-profit awardee is partnered with a local education agency (LEA) awardee, SOAR funding for both awardees may not exceed \$7,500 per teacher.
  - The theory of action for each project must be supported by data and research.
  - Priority points may be awarded to initiatives that focus on partnering with schools serving high-need populations, including English language learners and/or students with disabilities, and/or proposals that address hard-to-staff grade levels and subjects.

### **1.3 Source of Funding**

The U.S. Department of Education, through the DC School Choice Incentive Program, 84.370C, Public Law 108-199, III, DC School Incentive Act of 2003; as reauthorized by the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, effective April 15, 2011 (Pub. L. 112-10; 125 Stat. 201), as amended (D.C. Code 38-1853.01 et seq). Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) S370C210001 (\$1,500,000.00).

### **1.4 Requirements of Funding**

This grant award is made subject to the terms, conditions, and provisions of the General Education Provisions Act (PL 90-247), as amended and codified at 20 U.S.C 1221 et seq. This grant is also subject to the regulations in 34 CFR Part 200, as applicable, the Education Department's General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 84 and 99, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 3474, and the Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension regulations in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 3485.

Further, in addition to the requirements of this RFA, the assurances made in the submitted application, and the terms of the Grant Award Notice (GAN) issued by OSSE to the subgrantee, a key condition for receiving these funds is compliance with activities necessary to carry out a mandated evaluation of the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), as specified in Section 3011(a)(1) of the SOAR Act. Pursuant to this section, the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is required to evaluate annually the performance of students who applied to the OSP (Sec. 3009). Because some OSP applicants will be enrolled in public charter schools, it will be necessary for IES and its evaluation contractor to collect data on and from public charter school campuses once each year during the applicable grant period. Please be advised that noncompliance of the organization with the terms and conditions stated in the SOAR Act GAN may result in the withholding of SOAR Act funds administered by OSSE.

### **1.5 Funds Available and Funding Period**

At least \$1,500,000.00 is available for awards through this RFA. OSSE will provide up to \$500,000.00 per award, though OSSE has the discretion to award a greater amount. Awards are limited to one per organization. The duration of the Teacher Pipeline grant is for a period of two years from the grant award date. The awarded entity will need to complete a continuation application within OSSE's EGMS each fiscal year.

Continuation of awards in year two and is contingent upon:

- Availability of funds;

- Recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application;
- Recipient's demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient's reports;
- Compliance with District and federal laws, regulations, and guidance; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period.

### **1.6 Eligibility**

#### Eligible Non-Profit Charter Support Organizations:

- Must be a non-profit organization with a demonstrated history of success working with charter schools on similar projects;
- Must serve under this grant program two or more charter LEAs within DC; and
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from a charter school with direct experience working with the organization as well as a complete list of all schools and districts to which the organization has provided similar services.

#### Eligible DC Charter LEAs:

- Must be a DC Charter LEA, or consortia of DC Charter LEAs, in good standing with the Public Charter School Board;
- A consortia of DC Charter LEAs must apply through a lead applicant and submit a letter of commitment from each of the members of the consortia.
- Must partner under this grant program with one or more non-profit third-party charter school support organizations with a demonstrated history of success working with charter schools on projects that are designed to: a) recruit, or partner with LEAs or other organizations to recruit, high-quality candidates new to teaching for DC charter school teacher residency or teacher roles, and b) train and/or certify these teachers; and
- Must submit a letter of commitment from a non-profit third-party charter support organization as well as a complete list of all schools and districts to which the organization has provided similar services.
- If applying as a consortia, one DC Charter LEA must submit the application and act as the lead fiscal agent, responsible for fiscal and programmatic implementation.

## **1.7 Permissible Use of Funds**

The funds associated with this RFA are available strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period as follows:

- All costs must:
  - Meet requirements of permissible use of federal funds within EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted in 2 CFR Part 3474, 2 CFR Part 180 as adopted in 2 CFR 3485;
  - Align with and support the project(s) described in the organization's application; and
  - Meet the specific needs of each partner charter LEA as identified within the needs assessment(s) conducted.

All grant project budgets will be reviewed by a review panel, as well as OPCSFS staff, to ensure that planned expenditures are allowable and are appropriate, reasonable, and necessary to support the grant objectives.

## **Section 2: Schedule**

### **2.1 RFA Release**

The release date of the RFA is Jan. 28, 2022. The RFA is available online at <https://osse.dc.gov/service/scholarships-opportunity-and-results-soar-act-grant>.

### **2.2 Pre-Application Webinar**

Pre-application webinars will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
  - To register for this webinar, visit:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1947926005982565903>
- Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
  - To register for this webinar, visit:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1947926005982565903>

Each interested organization must have at least one representative attend one of the above webinars in order to meet the attendance requirement for this grant. Webinar attendance is tracked electronically through registration and online attendance. The organization representative should be someone who is familiar with the organization's past teacher pipeline work with charter schools or a representative from the applicant LEA(s).

### 2.3 Intent to Apply

All eligible entities seeking to receive funding under this RFA must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (Appendix A), signed by an authorized official of the organization, via email to [opcsfs.funding@dc.gov](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov) on or before Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

### 2.4 Contact Person(s)

Applicants are advised that the following OSSE staff members are the authorized contact persons for this grant competition:

- Brianna Griffin, Manager, Office of Federal Programs and Strategic Funding ([Brianna.Griffin@dc.gov](mailto:Brianna.Griffin@dc.gov))

### 2.5 Applications Due

Applications are due Monday, March 14, 2022, by 3 p.m. and must be submitted through EGMS. **Applicants are encouraged to submit applications early to avoid any technical difficulties. OPCSFS strongly encourages submitting applications at least one day early to ensure that avoidable technical issues do not cause you to miss the submission deadline.**

### 2.6 Updates

Information and updates regarding the grant competitions will be emailed to all potential applicants that submit a Notice of Intent to Apply or attend a pre-application webinar specific to this grant.

### 2.7 Awards Announcement

Awards will be announced via EGMS, email, and the OSSE website. OSSE will disseminate grant award notifications following the awards announcement.

## **Section 3: Application**

### **3.1 Application Content**

The application in EGMS contains all of the following sections or "tabs." Unless noted, each section must be completed as instructed in the system:

- Section 1 – Overview Pages (*informational; nothing to complete*)
  - General Information (*informational; nothing to complete*)
  - Review Panel (*informational; nothing to complete*)
  - Scoring Rubric (*informational; nothing to complete*)
- Section 2 – Contact Information
- Section 3 – Project Description
  - Brief Project Description
  - Entity Choice

- Section 4 – Project Data Third Party (tab completion for Third Party Applicants)
  - Partner Data
  - Demonstration of History of Success
  - Prior Partners
  - Letter of Recommendation
- Section 4 – Project Data LEA (tab completion for LEA Applicants)
  - Partner Data
  - Demonstration of History of Success
  - Prior Partners
  - Letter of Commitment
- Section 5 – Main Application
  - Needs Assessment
  - Project Description
  - Theory of Action
  - OSSE Priority Question
  - Logic Model
- Section 6 – Budget
  - Budget Overview
  - Summary of Planned Expenditures
  - Salaries and Benefits
  - Professional Services
  - Equipment
  - Supplies and Materials
  - Other Objects
  - Budget Summary
- Section 7 – Supporting Documentation
- Section 8 – Assurances
  - Program Specific Assurances
  - Assurances Agreement Summary
- Section 9 – Submit (*application is not complete until it is submitted through this tab*)
- Section 10 – Application Print (*hard copies of applications may be printed through this tab*)
- Section 11 – Application History (*the history of who has accessed and modified the application may be viewed through this tab*)

## **Section 4: Scoring**

### **4.1 Review Panel**

The grants described in this RFA will be awarded competitively. A panel or panels of external

reviewers will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, and/or related experiences. All external reviewers must sign a Conflict of Interest statement. The application will be scored against a rubric. The complete rubric can be found in EGMS for review. OSSE may convene any panel to conduct a facilitated discussion of the reviewers' scores and comments of a particular application. A reviewer is not required to change their scores or comments after a facilitated discussion. A facilitated discussion only provides an opportunity for reviewers to hear other panel members' reasoning for their scores and comments.

Upon completion of the panels' review, the panels shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The State Superintendent of Education, or his/her designee, will consider those recommendations but all final award decisions are left to the Superintendent's, or his/her designee's, discretion. Winning applicants may be required to make amendments to the Budget or other application sections to meet grant requirements. A denied applicant may file an appeal of OSSE's award determination within 30 days of receipt of award denial notification on the grounds that OSSE violated a District or federal statute or regulation. Denied applicants may contact OSSE's program contact for information on the appeal process.

#### **4.2 Priority**

Funding priority may be given to proposals that focus on serving high-need populations, including English language learners and/or students with disabilities, and/or proposals that address hard-to-staff grade levels and subjects.

The priority area(s) to be addressed by a proposed project should be clearly evident from the content of the submitted application and supported by data and research. Reviewers will independently assess and answer whether a proposed project:

- **Proposes to serve charter LEAs with high-need populations**, as evidenced by all identified partner LEAs having student populations that were, based on SY 2020-21 enrollment audit data:
  1. > 11% English language learners; and/or
  2. > 16% Students with disabilities.
- **Proposes to focus on hard-to-staff grade levels**, as evidenced by provision of a minimum of two years of LEA recruitment, retention, and/or vacancy data for the identified area.
- **Proposes to focus on hard-to-staff subjects**, as evidenced by provision of a minimum of two years of LEA recruitment, retention, and/or vacancy data for the identified area.

OSSE may elect to fund priority projects at a higher level than non-priority projects. In the event that there are more quality applications than available funds, OSSE may elect to fund priority projects instead of one or more nonpriority projects that received a higher score.

## **Section 5: Award Administration**

### **5.1 Decision and Notifications of Awards**

In order to be awarded a grant, organizations must establish eligibility by submitting an application to OSSE in accordance with the relevant program statute(s) and this RFA. Each awarded applicant will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN) generated through OSSE's EGMS that will include the award amount, award agreement, terms and conditions of the award, and any supplemental information required. Once OSSE has fully approved the application and issued an official GAN, grantees may then receive payment for allowable expenditures for which obligation was made during the grant period. OSSE has implemented a reimbursement process for all grantees. Grant award payments are reimbursable on a monthly (and no later than quarterly) basis. Program costs must be paid by the grantee to the payee prior to requesting reimbursement; it is not sufficient for costs merely to be incurred. Compliance with programmatic and fiscal implementation and reporting will be considered in paying reimbursement requests. To receive reimbursement for grant program expenditures, OSSE grantees must complete and submit a reimbursement request electronically using EGMS.

### **5.2 Audits**

At any time, or times, before final payment and during the required record retention period, the District and/or the federal government may audit the applicant's expenditure statements and source documentation.

### **5.3 Monitoring and Reporting**

All awards will be reviewed during the grant period for compliance with programmatic and fiscal requirements. OSSE's Division of Systems and Supports, K-12 uses a coordinated, risk-based monitoring approach. The type of monitoring that the subgrantee will receive (desktop or on-site) will vary depending on its designation as a high, medium, or low risk subgrantee. Please review the annual grants monitoring guidance for more information: <https://osse.dc.gov/publication/risk-based-monitoring-tools-and-resources>.

Monitoring efforts are designed to determine the recipient's level of compliance with federal and/or District requirements and identify specifically whether the grantee's operational, financial and management systems and practices are adequate to account for program funds in accordance with federal and/or District requirements. Failure to maintain compliance with such requirements may result in payment suspension, disallowance of costs or termination of the grant.

The recipient shall be required to cooperate with all requirements and information requests by OSSE relating to evaluation of the program and the collection of data, information, and reporting on outcomes regarding the program and activities carried out with grant funds. The recipient shall be required to reply and acknowledge OSSE's information requests within 48 hours and to provide requested information within ten (10) business days.

#### **5.4 Confidentiality**

Except as otherwise provided by local or federal law, no recipient of the grant shall use or reveal any research, statistical information, or personally identifiable information furnished by OSSE for any person or for any purpose other than that for which such information was obtained in accordance with the OSSE program funded. Any identifiable personal information, and any copy of such information, shall be immune from legal process and shall not, without the written consent of the person identified in the information, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding. The grantee will protect any personally identifiable information (PII) received in administering the grant and follow all applicable laws regarding the protection and use of the PII. Before disclosing PII to any other party, the grantee must first receive approval from OSSE.

#### **5.5 Nondiscrimination in the Delivery of Services**

The recipient shall comply with the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, (D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 *et seq.*) which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, source of income, disability, status as a victim of an interfamily offense, or place of residence or business, or credit information.

#### **5.6 Conflict of Interest**

All grant recipients shall ensure that no individual in a decision-making capacity will engage in any activity, including participation in the selection of a vendor, the administration of an award, or an activity supported by award funds, if a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest would be involved. A conflict of interest would arise when the individual, any member of the individual's immediate family, the individual's partner; or an organization that employs, or is about to employ, any of the aforementioned, has a financial or personal interest in the firm or organization selected for a contract.

#### **5.7 Vaccination Requirements**

The grant recipient must comply with all District laws and regulations and Mayor's Orders regarding District COVID vaccination requirements.

### **5.8 Terms and Conditions**

- Funding for this award is contingent on available funds. The RFA does not commit OSSE to make an award.
- OSSE reserves the right to accept or deny any or all applications if OSSE determines it is in the best interest of OSSE to do so. OSSE shall notify the applicant if it rejects that applicant's proposal. OSSE may suspend or terminate an outstanding RFA pursuant to its own grant making rule(s) or any applicable federal or local regulation or requirement.
- OSSE reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the RFA, or to rescind the RFA.
- OSSE shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of applications in response to the RFA. Applicant agrees that all costs incurred in developing the application are the applicant's sole responsibility.
- OSSE may conduct pre-award on-site visits to verify information submitted in the application and to determine if the applicant's facilities are appropriate for the services intended.
- OSSE may enter into negotiations with an applicant and adopt a firm funding amount or other revision of the applicant's proposal that may result from negotiations.
- OSSE shall provide the citations to the statute and implementing regulations that authorize the grant or sub grant; all applicable federal and District regulations; payment provisions identifying how the grantee will be paid for performing under the award; reporting requirements, including programmatic, financial and any special reports required by OSSE; and compliance conditions that must be met by the grantee.
- If there are any conflicts between the terms and conditions of the RFA and any applicable federal or local law or regulation, or any ambiguity related thereto, then the provisions of the applicable law or regulation shall control and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance.

Appendix A

**Official Intent to Apply Notification**  
**Must be received by OSSE no later than Feb. 25, 2022**  
**PDF Submission Preferred**

**TO:** OSSE Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support  
[opcsfs.funding@dc.gov](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov)

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEA or Organization Name)

**RE:** Intent to Apply for FY22 Scholarships for Opportunities and Results (SOAR) Act  
Teacher Pipeline Grant

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LEA or Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

LEA or Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***I understand that the deadline for these grant applications is 3 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022, and that late applications will not be reviewed.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(LEA or Organization Official)

**Appendix B**

**Scoring Rubric**

Instructions:

Choose the radio button that corresponds with your answer to the rubric question. Justify your answer in the comments section.

| Score Not Assignable   | Limited/ Weak  | Fair   | Good  | Strong/ Exceptional   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| No response or information/<br>information doesn't answer<br>prompt question | Attempts to<br>answer<br>prompt                          | Mostly answers<br>prompt   | Fully answers<br>prompt   | Answers prompt in<br>depth; reviewer has no<br>questions  |
| Information, if provided, is<br>unclear or hard to understand                | Missing a lot<br>of requested<br>information/<br>unclear | Missing some of<br>requested<br>information/ mostly<br>clear           | All requested<br>information<br>provided/ clear                 | All requested<br>information provided/<br>clear, highly focused,<br>coherently integrated<br>answers                        |
| Inappropriate answer   | Appropriate<br>answer with<br>limited details            | Appropriate answer<br>with details; answer<br>is not well<br>expressed | Appropriate answer<br>with details; answer<br>is well expressed | Appropriate, well-<br>articulated answer that<br>is extremely detailed<br>and shows a clear and<br>relevant path to success |
| Strongly disagree  | Disagree   | Slightly agree   | Agree   | Strongly agree  |

| Project Data (12):   | Score Not Assignable | Limited/ Weak | Fair | Good | Strong/ Exceptional |
|--|----------------------|---------------|------|------|---------------------|
| The application identified two or more partner LEAs by name and the applicant uploaded signed letters from partner LEAs. (Yes/No) (max 2)<br><br>OR<br><br>The application identified one or more partner organizations by name. (Yes/No) max 2) | No-0                 | Yes-2         |      |      |                     |

|   |                      |              |      |      |                    |
|---|----------------------|--------------|------|------|--------------------|
|   |                      |              |      |      |                    |
| <p>The applicant demonstrated a history of success working with charter schools on similar projects including providing year-over-year data that demonstrates the impact of the organization on the recruitment and retention of charter school teachers and teacher candidates and how and how the project impacted the academic achievement and outcomes and for students in the partner LEAs. (max 8)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The applicant demonstrated a history of success of the partner in working with charter schools on similar projects including providing year-over-year data that demonstrates the impact of the organization on the recruitment and retention of charter school teachers and teacher candidates and how the project impacted the academic achievement and outcomes and for students in the other LEAs. (max 8)</p> | 0                    | 2            | 4    | 6    | 8                  |
| <p>The applicant has provided a list of all charter schools/LEAs for which the organization is currently providing or has provided similar services. (Yes/No) (max 1)</p>   | No- 0                | Yes- 1       |      |      |                    |
| <p>The letter of support is sufficiently detailed to determine if the past project is similar to the project proposed in this application. (Yes/No) (max 1)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The letter of commitment was included and is sufficient to conclude that the partner organization intends to collaborate on the project. (Yes/No) (max 1)</p>  | No- 0                | Yes- 1       |      |      |                    |
| Needs Assessment (12):  | Score Not Assignable | Limited/Weak | Fair | Good | Strong/Exceptional |
| Partner-specific data has been provided and evidence exists that the needs assessment process incorporated  | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |

|  |                             |                     |             |             |                           |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| input from the partner LEA(s) and the data justifies the need for the project (max 4).<br><br>OR<br><br>LEA-specific data has been provided and the data justifies the need for the project. (max 4)   |                             |                     |             |             |                           |
| The response provides a clear description of how the proposed project will address the needs of the partner LEA(s) based on the data provided. (max 8)<br><br>OR<br><br>The LEA provided a response of how the proposed project will meet the needs of the school based on the specific data provided. (max 8) | 0                           | 2                   | 4           | 6           | 8                         |
| <b>Project Description (24):</b>   | <b>Score Not Assignable</b> | <b>Limited/Weak</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Strong/Exceptional</b> |
| There is a clear link between identified need(s) and the goals and objectives of the project. (max 4)  | 0                           | 1                   | 2           | 3           | 4                         |
| The project is clearly described and planned activities and timelines appear reasonably designed to ensure its success. (max 16)   | 0                           | 4                   | 8           | 12          | 16                        |
| The proposed management plan for the project appears reasonably designed to ensure its success. (max 4)  | 0                           | 1                   | 2           | 3           | 4                         |
| <b>Theory of Action (8):</b>   | <b>Score Not Assignable</b> | <b>Limited/Weak</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Strong/Exceptional</b> |
| The if-then-because statement clearly shows how and why the project will be successful. (max 4)  | 0                           | 1                   | 2           | 3           | 4                         |
| The success of the project is based on credible research and/or demonstrated success. (max 4)  | 0                           | 1                   | 2           | 3           | 4                         |

| General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirement (4)   | Score Not Assignable | Limited/Weak | Fair | Good | Strong/Exceptional |
|---|----------------------|--------------|------|------|--------------------|
| The description of how the applicant, when using grant funds, will ensure that students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs have equitable access to, and participation in, grant-funded activities (max 4).  | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |
| Logic Model (4):  | Score Not Assignable | Limited/Weak | Fair | Good | Strong/Exceptional |
| All elements of the logic model(s) (Inputs, Activities, Outcomes, Outputs, and Measurements/Tools) are well-defined. (max 2)  | 0                    | 0.5          | 1    | 1.5  | 2                  |
| The logic model(s) demonstrate a clear overview of the described project. (max 2)   | 0                    | 0.5          | 1    | 1.5  | 2                  |
| Overall (16):   | Score Not Assignable | Limited/Weak | Fair | Good | Strong/Exceptional |
| The overall project is well thought out. (max 4)  | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |
| The project is likely to result in improved outcomes for students. (max 8)  | 0                    | 2            | 4    | 6    | 8                  |
| The project is designed to ensure that gains are sustainable after the grant ends. (max 4)  | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |
| <p>Based on your review of the overall application, does this proposed project:</p> <p>Propose to serve charter LEAs with high-need populations? All identified partner LEAs have student populations that were, based on SY 2020-21 enrollment audit data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- &gt; 11% English language learners; and/or</li> <li>- &gt; 16% Students with disabilities</li> </ul> <p>Propose to focus on hard-to-staff grade levels, as evidenced by provision of a minimum of two years of LEA recruitment, retention, and/or vacancy data for the identified area?</p> <p>Propose to focus on hard-to-staff subjects, as evidenced by provision of a minimum of two years of LEA recruitment, retention, and/or vacancy data for the identified area?</p> |                      |              |      |      |                    |

**SOAR Teacher Pipeline Grants**

| Budget (20):   | Score Not Assignable | Limited/Weak | Fair | Good | Strong/Exceptional |
|--|----------------------|--------------|------|------|--------------------|
| Budget summary provides a clear description of planned uses of funds, including per-teacher cost, and includes a description of how the full costs of the program will be covered, e.g., other grants, philanthropy/fundraising, school contributions, teacher contributions, etc. (max 8) | 0                    | 2            | 4    | 6    | 8                  |
| Portion of per-teacher cost covered by SOAR grant funds does not exceed \$7,500 per teacher. (Checkbox)  |                      |              |      |      |                    |
| 1. Costs seem allowable (necessary to the project, allocable, and reasonable). (max 4)   | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |
| 2. Budget line items and summary of costs align with the described project. (max 4)  | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |
| 3. Proposed budget can reasonably be expended within two years. (max 4)  | 0                    | 1            | 2    | 3    | 4                  |

**Appendix C**

**Program Specific Assurances**

Applicants will be required to attest to the following program specific assurances:

1. Will comply with activities necessary to carry out a mandated evaluation of the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), as specified in Section 3011(a)(1) of the SOAR Act.
2. Will seek and receive approval from OSSE before implementing any project changes with respect to the purposes for which the proposed funds are awarded. This includes any changes to key personnel specified in the application.
3. Will submit semi-annual narrative reports describing the implementation of the proposal as well as its impact on the quality and quantity of teacher supply for DC charter schools.