

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act Charter Support Grant

Request for Applications Release Date: June 4, 2021, 4:30 PM

As authorized by the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (SOAR), as amended, (Pub. L 112-10; D.C. Code §38-1853.01 et al.) the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) will issue Requests for Applications (RFAs) for SOAR Act grant funds. SOAR Act funds are available to District of Columbia (DC) charter local education agencies (LEAs) and third-party nonprofit charter support organizations. The purpose of the funds is to increase the achievement and academic growth of DC public charter school students and to support the improvement and expansion of high-quality public charter schools. This notice provides information regarding the following competitive opportunity: Grants to Non-Profit Third-Party Charter Support Organizations (Charter Support Grants)

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: Eligible applicants are DC-based nonprofit third-party charter school support organizations that have a demonstrated history of success working with DC charter schools on similar projects. Applicants must use funds to support projects designed to have a direct and rapid impact on academic achievement and outcomes for charter school students overall or on the achievement of historically underperforming subgroups. Applicants are required to submit a letter of recommendation from a DC charter school with direct experience working with the organization, a letter of commitment from each of the two DC charter schools that the organization intends to serve, as well as a list of all schools and districts to which the organization has provided education-based services.

Applications will be scored in the following selection criteria: (1) project data; (2) needs assessment; (3) project description; (4) theory of action; (5) OSSE's priority of meeting the needs of students with disabilities; (6) logic model; (7) an overall description of the project; and (8) the application's budget.

Length of Award: OSSE anticipates that the duration of this grant will be for two years from the award date. However, availability of funds from the period of April 15, 2022 to the end of the two-year period is contingent upon federal approval. If federal approval is not granted, the grant period will be from the award date to April 15, 2022.

Available Funding for the Award: The amount available under the Charter Support grant is \$2,000,000. OSSE will provide up to \$400,000.00 per "direct assistance" award and up to \$300,000.00 per "indirect assistance" award. Determinations regarding the number of competitive grant awards will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. OSSE anticipates awarding approximately seven to 10 awards. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested. Awards are limited to one per organization. Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized by the relevant statutes and included in the applicant's submission.

Application Process: A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external, neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). OSSE will make all final award decisions. Applications must be submitted prior to 3 p.m. on July 19, 2021. OSSE estimates that it will award the grant by Aug. 13, 2021; however, this date may change.

The suggested pre-application webinar will be held on the following dates:

- Monday, June 14, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3150451971514825998
- Wednesday, June 16, 2021, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
 - To register for this webinar, visit:
attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5194182403783030542

To receive more information on this grant, please contact:

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The RFA for this competitive grant program will be available on OSSE's website at www.osse.dc.gov. All applications will be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at grants.osse.dc.gov.