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**Project Title:** Tennessee Charter School Facilities Program  
**Consortium Members:** Low Income Investment Fund, Tennessee Charter School Center

The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) and the Tennessee Charter School Center (TCSC) have come together to create the **Tennessee Charter School Facilities Program** (The Program) for the purpose of increasing high-quality educational opportunities for low-income students in under-performing school districts in Tennessee.

LIIF and TCSC are requesting up to **\$8MM of Credit Enhancement Program (CEP)** funds to enable the delivery of \$50 million in capital for charter school facilities development, leveraging the CEP grant at least 6.25:1 with private capital over five years, financing 20 schools and serving 7,500 students.

CEP funds will allow LIIF and TCSC to deliver a state-wide program custom-built for Tennessee, one of the highest need states for school choice and one of the fastest growing charter school markets in the nation. For the 2015-2016 school year, Tennessee opened 20 new charter schools to serve an additional 11,000 students. This growth places Tennessee third in the country for new charter school openings. As such, a large majority of our products and services will support early stage schools with less than 4 years of operating history.

LIIF will administer and engineer the CEP award, serving as the capital and facilities financing expert, delivering innovative capital tools and raising capital to build-out a private financing market for Tennessee charter schools. LIIF manages one of the strongest charter school portfolios in the sector, having deployed \$550MM to charter schools to date. Loan loss rates are minimal (<1%) and demonstrate our deep underwriting and asset management experience.

Complementing financing activities, TCSC will work on the ground with schools, delivering a robust capacity building program that is custom designed to guide Tennessee-based charter schools in every step of the facility development process. As the leading expert in the Tennessee charter school market, with deep relationships with each of Tennessee's 107 operating charter schools, TCSC brings nearly 20 years of experience in providing on-the-ground technical assistance to charter schools and effective state policy to advance the charter school movement in Tennessee.

Together, this partnership offers a highly efficient "one-stop shop" that addresses not only the capital needs of Tennessee's charter schools but also the capacity building required to ensure charter school operators realize their growth plans and facility projects are executed to success. This partnership offers unique benefits that only collaboration between one of the strongest CDFIs and the strongest state-wide expert on the needs of Tennessee's charter schools can deliver.

Evidenced by 18 letters of support from organizations across the State, including charter school operators, local philanthropy, banks, and the Tennessee Department of Education, this request has tremendous support from key stakeholders and operators motivated to address a critical issue facing the charter school movement in Tennessee.