

FY 2018 Directory of Funded Programs:
Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
National Dissemination Grants (CFDA Number: 84.282T)
Project Abstract

Building Hope

State:

District of Columbia

PR Award Number:

U282T180017

Duration (Years):

2 Years

Year 1 Funding:

\$292,513.00

Total Expected**Funding:**

\$550,026.00

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Building Hope, a nonprofit mission-driven Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) located in Washington, D.C., respectfully requests \$550,025 from the Charter Schools Program – National Dissemination Grants. For 15 years, Building Hope has worked to close the education achievement gap by giving students access to high quality public charter schools and providing those schools with technical assistance and facilities solutions. The National Dissemination Grants program offers a unique opportunity for Building Hope to expand its highly successful Florida Charter School Support Unit (FCSU), which has been in operation in Florida since 2012.

This grant application seeks to expand on the success of the FCSU by creating a new Charter Support Unit, referred herein as the Charter Support Unit Expansion (“CSU-Expansion”) for charter school leaders in three new, previously unserved states--New York, Washington, D.C., and Texas--in addition to rural charter schools, generally, across the 45 states and Washington, D.C. that have authorized charter school programs.

The CSU-Expansion project will essentially provide the same services and information provided by the FCSU, except that it will be focused on the new geographic areas and on rural areas in general. In particular, the CSU-Expansion project will develop a website to hold informative content for the target charter school leaders—including a wide range of webinars, peer information forums and best-practice white papers. The project will also have a staffed help-desk to respond to issues quickly from charter leaders located in the target regions. And finally, the CSU-Expansion project will provide one-on-one consultations with a range of Building Hope’s charter experts, as needed and based upon the particular issue at hand. The CSU-Expansion will also collect and analyze the volume and nature of inquiries, so as to better tailor content going forward and to inform support organizations who

advocate on behalf of charter schools. Building Hope is an experienced technical assistance provider. Our work directly working with charter schools these past 15 years, including our work at the FCSU demonstrates a real need for this kind of effort. There is no question that access to facilities and facilities financing is the greatest challenge charter schools face. We also believe there is room and a need for multiple efforts to combat this challenge.

The CSU-Expansion will provide direct, intensive, one-on-one consultation to charter leaders. The CSU-Expansion is designed to build on the proven success of Building Hope’s Florida program and intensively provide services to school leaders in New York, Washington, D.C., Texas, and in rural jurisdictions, and use those results to develop and disseminate best practices in supporting charter schools in accessing and financing facilities.