

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

Colorado Charter School Institute

State:
Colorado

PR Award Number:
U282T180011

Duration (Years):
3 Years

Year 1 Funding:
\$883,648

Total Expected Funding:
\$2,669,053

Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI):
1580 Logan St, Suite 210
Denver, Colorado 80203

Project Director (PD) and Principal Contact:
Janet Dinnen

PD/Principal Contact Email:
JanetDinnen@csi.state.co.us

PD/Principal Contact Phone:
(303) 866-4643

Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) proposes the Tri-State Alliance for Improving District-Led Charter Authorizing to strengthen authorizing by school districts and small and rural authorizers. This proposal addresses Absolute Priority 1 and proposes to create and disseminate replicable best-practice resources that will initially be used in Colorado, California, and Florida, with a plan to share them widely on a national scale over time, especially in states in which districts are the predominant authorizers, states that have enacted charter laws in the past five years, and states with many small/rural authorizers. The three states partnering in this project represent 40% of the nation's authorizers who oversee 30% of all charter schools in the country.

The Tri-State Alliance has four goals:

- 1) Strengthen authorizing in states with predominately district authorizers.
- 2) Educate districts and other key stakeholders about districts' ongoing authorizing and oversight responsibilities under state law as an effective way to expand options for all students, thereby improving access and services for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English Learners.
- 3) Engage and provide support to a larger proportion of district authorizers in Colorado, Florida, and California, including small and rural districts and districts that authorize a significant number of charter schools experiencing significant low performance or non-compliance with academic, financial, governance, or operational requirements.
- 4) Support states outside the Tri-State Alliance that seek to establish statewide associations for charter authorizers.

Through intentional work by leaders and their teams within the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA), the Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers (FACSA), and the California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP), as well as purposeful collaboration among the three states, the Alliance will improve the quality of the charter school sector by addressing the current gap in best practice resources, training and professional development for district and small/rural authorizers.