

## ED ABSTRACT NARRATIVE

**Organization Name:** Center for Community Self-Help  
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**Project Title:** Charter School Loan Fund

The Center for Community Self-Help is requesting a \$9 million Credit Enhancement for Charter School (CECSG) grant, which it will leverage at 5:1 to provide at least 20 loans totaling \$45 million over a ten year period. With 95% of financing targeted to startup and early stage schools in low-income communities, Self-Help will build on its record of creating wealthy and opportunity for those left out of the financial mainstream.

Self-Help will combine specialized lending, technical assistance and strong partnerships to support progress towards four outcomes for the charter school field:

- 1) Charter schools provide quality school choice in low-income communities, meeting the needs of diverse populations;
- 2) A full spectrum of charter schools can grow and thrive, including small early-stage innovators;
- 3) Charter schools have greater access to adequate and varied sources of capital;
- 4) Charter schools are financially stable, can navigate facility development challenges, and have the facilities they need to meet their educational goals;

To support these outcomes, Self-Help will continue to provide highly targeted lending to low-income communities and areas in need of educational choice. With this grant we target 100% of lending to startups and early-stage schools in their first three years of operation. In addition, all lending will go to schools that are leasing their facilities or that need high loan-to-value financing, where the collateral they can offer is not adequate for most lenders. We will prioritize lending in districts with under-performing schools and low levels of reading and math proficiency. Self-Help will use its national scale to reach schools across the country, including: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas and Tennessee.

Self-Help is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that has, since 1980, worked to provide \$7.9 billion in financing to more than 148,000 families, businesses, and organizations. We are a successful two-time CECSG program grantee, having more than tripled our performance goals by deploying more than \$300 million to 65 schools. Additional funding from the CECSG program will enhance our ability to reach startup and early stage schools that lack the financial resources and collateral required by conventional lenders. Self-Help works constantly to make sure that charter schools can provide quality education without being limited by the difficult economic circumstances of their communities.