State:
Arkansas

PR Award Number:
U282A180006

Duration (Years):
5 Years

Year 1 Funding:
$5,600,000.00

Total Expected Funding:
$23,000,000.00

Arkansas Public School Resource Center:
1401 W. Capitol Avenue
Suite 315
Little Rock, Arkansas
72201-2905

Project Director (PD) and Principal Contact:
Scott Smith

PD Email:
lwalters@apsrc.net

PD Phone:
(501) 491-2015

Arkansas Public School Resource Center

The State of Arkansas was a recipient of a federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant in 2011, and in the five-year lifespan of that grant, the state added more high-quality charter schools than ever before. From 2011-12 to 2014-15, Arkansas added nineteen (19) charter schools, ten (10) of which have been designated as either Exemplary or Reward Schools, meaning that the schools ranked among the top 5% and 20% in student achievement respectively statewide. In the recent absence of CSP funding, however, charter growth has stagnated, and as a result, many of the state's educationally disadvantaged students have continued to languish.

As a largely rural state having the second lowest per capita income in the nation, Arkansas has tremendous demand for high-quality school choices that can break the multigenerational cycle of poverty encumbering our students today. To meet those needs, Arkansas is requesting $23,000,000 with an express mission to kick start and sustain the presence of high-quality charter schools throughout Arkansas, specifically for our most educationally disadvantaged students. The project has three (3) objectives designed strategically to accomplish that mission:

Objective 1: Increase the number of high-quality charter schools in Arkansas, with an emphasis on those serving economically disadvantaged students;

Objective 2: Improve student outcomes in Arkansas charter schools, especially for educationally disadvantaged students; and;

Objective 3: Disseminate best practices.