

FY 2018 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Grants to State Entities (CFDA Number: 84.282A)
Project Abstract

Bluum, Inc.

State:
Idaho

PR Award Number:
U282A180005

Duration (Years):
5 Years

Year 1 Funding:
\$3,642,400.00

Total Expected Funding:
\$17,111,111.00

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Idaho is the nation's fastest growing state. Our supply of high-performing school seats is tight, and our student demographics are changing rapidly. Idaho's charter school sector is well-established with over 20-years of work by educators, community groups, parents and students. Gem State charters are high-performing and capable of adding more students. Idaho's families value public charter schools, staunchly support them and want more of them for their children.

A consortium of partners has come together around Idaho's **Communities of Excellence** federal CSP proposal to lead the expansion of high-quality charter schools across our state. Bluum, a Boise-based statewide nonprofit charter school support entity, is project lead. Bluum is organized to seek out, vet and support innovative leaders and high-performing school models. Bluum is joined by Idaho's primary charter school authorizer the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. The Idaho State Board of Education and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation are long-time leaders in Idaho education and school improvement efforts. Both are key members in Idaho's consortium. The nationally-renowned nonprofit charter school facilities finance group Building Hope is the fifth member of Idaho's consortium.

Our efforts to launch, replicate and expand charter schools are aligned to standards for best practices. Idaho is well positioned to leap frog the national charter school movement by applying nationally effective practices, as well as supporting novel innovations that are nationally transferable.

To this end, Bluum proposes a 5-year, \$17,111,111 CSP grant that will meet three ambitious objectives that are well-aligned to CSP competitive priorities:

Objective 1: Increase the number of quality charter school seats by 8,200 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students, through start-up, replication and expansion;

Objective 2: Support the PCSC in expanding its quality authorizing efforts while disseminating and supporting best practices for other authorizers statewide; and

Objective 3: Evaluate and disseminate widely the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system.