

FY 2020 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)—  
Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools  
(CFDA Number: 84.282B)  
Project Abstract

## LEAP Social Enterprise, Inc.

**State:**

New Jersey

**PR Award Number:**

S282B200012

**Duration (Years):** 2

**Year 1 Funding:**

\$939,300.00

**Total Expected Funding:**

\$1,458,490.00

**LEAP Social Enterprise, Inc.:**

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Grant funds will facilitate the planning, program design and initial implementation of the STEM+E Academy of San Juan charter school, including work to bring staff early to work in curriculum and instruction, hire a Chief Academic Officer ahead of time to lead the planning for the school, offer a Summer Academic Enrichment Program for children the summer of 2021 and engage with community and parents. The planning efforts will focus on four critical areas of school development:

(1) **Strategic Alignment and Governance Management:** developing operational structure for the school's board; engaging the board in the process of mission alignment; refining and developing governance principles; engaging the board in establishing the management structure for the school; developing a five-year sustainability plan; and developing a self-evaluation protocol focused on measuring outcomes and processes.

(2) **Operations Management:** establishing operational processes in critical areas such as personnel, student services, scheduling, facilities, food services, and fiscal management; effective and efficient budgeting; establishing fiscal procedures and controls; planning for resource development; and developing student recruitment and enrollment strategy.

(3) **Stakeholder Management:** conducting stakeholder analysis; cultivation of partners; applying SWOT to identify resource gaps; developing a strong family engagement program that is grounded on the needs of the community; establishing the mechanisms and partnerships to provide school-based services so the school becomes a

community hub; and developing extended and weekend programming for the local community.

(4) **Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Achievement Management:** finalizing selection of curricular programs; engaging experts to work with teachers in designing a multi-disciplinary instructional curriculum; recruiting school teaching staff and providing them with quality professional development ahead of the school opening; developing support mechanisms to sustain students' learning and family engagement; selecting instructional resources and materials; and developing a design for academic support services.

The STEM+E Academy of San Juan is intended to serve as a locally based effort to foster social change and economic impact in Puerto Rico. By creating for the first time an integrated, feasible pipeline to promote education, a pathway to college, industry-driven workforce development, and resiliency in low income communities, the school has the capacity to provide holistic results and solutions to entire regions and fill an important gap, the lack of access to quality educational options, for this community.

The development of this school will also provide a resource for potential educational research and practices in the future. Utilizing the students in this community, the school, much like LEAP Academy in NJ can serve as a functioning learning laboratory where curriculum and services will be heavily determined by the needs of those in the community.