

FY 2020 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Grants to State Entities (CFDA Number: 84.282A)
Project Abstract

Opportunity 180

State:
Nevada

PR Award Number:
S282A200009

Duration (Years): 5

Year 1 Funding:
\$3,244,443.00

Total Expected Funding:
\$22,755,555.00

Opportunity 180:
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Nevada consistently ranks at the bottom for overall K-12 public education, most recently placing 50th in the nation on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), with an overall score of a D+ in 2019. The systemic underperformance and overcrowding of public schools across Nevada disproportionately affect students of color and students who live in poverty.

In response to school quality and growing equity issues, during the 2015 legislative session, the state of Nevada adopted a series of education reforms as part of a comprehensive school improvement strategy. These reforms included a competitive grant for a "harbormaster," to utilize \$5 million over two years in state match funds to grow and launch high quality charter schools that meet the academic needs of Nevada's most disadvantaged students (Senate Bill 491, 2015). Opportunity 180 (O180) is a Charter Support Organization (CSO) that launched in 2015 with a similar goal to expand the number of quality public schools in Nevada. In O180's launch year, the organization won the bid to serve as the state's harbormaster. Harbormaster funds, in conjunction with private funds raised by Opportunity 180, were used to accelerate the growth of high-quality charter schools serving at-risk students, complementing the work of the state's original Charter School Program (CSP) managed by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE).

O180 is leading a long-term journey towards a north star where *every kid in Nevada graduates from high school college and career ready*. To accelerate its existing work to increase the number of quality seats accessible to students in neighborhoods of greatest need, O180 is requesting \$22,755,555 in CSP funds to meet the following Nevada CSP program objectives:

1. Increase the number of quality public charter schools (new, replicated, and expanded) serving the most at-risk student populations by at least 24 over the next five years.
2. Position Nevada's charter sector as a leader in authorizing quality and academic performance.

The proposed *Great Schools for Nevada* Charter School Program (or "NV CSP") will meet its stated objectives through activities under the following major streams of work:

1. Running sub-grant competitions.
2. Providing technical assistance to quality sub-grant applicants.
3. Monitoring sub-grantees for fiscal, operational, and academic performance.
4. Providing technical assistance to authorizers to ensure quality oversight and accountability practices.
5. Providing TA to charter schools to improve performance of low performing schools and capture best practices of high-performing schools.
6. Conducting a charter sector performance analysis and assessment of the NV CSP program.
7. Disseminating best practices across charter and district sectors.