



FY2022 State Entity Grant Competition *Office Hours Webinar* ALN 84.282A

JULY 18, 2022

Note: This slide deck does not contain the full-text of the notice inviting applications (NIA) for the FY 2022 State Entity Grant Competition. Before applying for a State Entity grant, interested applicants should thoroughly review the program's NIA published in the Federal Register. The State Entity NIA and other FY 2022 State Entity competition related resources can be found here: <https://oese.ed.gov/fy-2022-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>.

Agenda

1. Welcome

- Presenter introductions
- Meeting logistics
- Notes and important reminders

2. Overview of the State Entity Grant Competition

- Award and funding estimates
- Eligibility

3. Office Hours: Responses to Submitted Questions

- Eligibility
- Use of funds
- Priorities
- Application requirements
- Other

4. Application Resources

5. Closing Question and Answer



U.S. Department of Education,
Office of Elementary and Secondary
Education, Charter School Programs

Co - Presenters

- ❖ Dr. Anna Hinton, CSP Director
- ❖ Dr. Jill Gaitens, Program Officer
- ❖ Sareeta Schmitt, Program Officer

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Meeting Logistics



Session is listen-
only



Use Q&A function
for questions and
comments



Session will be
recorded and
posted



Email follow-up questions to
[fy2022_se_competition@
ed.gov](mailto:fy2022_se_competition@ed.gov)



Notes & Important Reminders



- Applicants should always refer to the CSP SE competition website (<https://oese.ed.gov/fy-2022-csp-state-entities-se-competition>) for the most up-to-date information.
- Interested applicants should refer to the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) in the Federal Register at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-07-06/pdf/2022-14442.pdf> for a complete listing of the eligibility and application requirements, priorities, definitions, and selection criteria. *Applicants should not rely solely on this webinar for information and guidance on the State Entity NIA.*



Application Deadline Reminder



August 5, 2022 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET

Important Note: The Grants.gov helpdesk is not available on weekends. You are strongly encouraged to submit early! You can always resubmit your application (prior to the closing date at 11:59:59 p.m.) if you need to update your application.



Overview of the State Entity Competition



Award and Funding Estimates

Purpose: Provides financial assistance to State entities to support charter schools that serve elementary and secondary school students

Estimated Funds Available:
\$73,000,000

Estimated Number of Awards: 8

Estimated Range of Awards:
\$2,000,000 to \$25,000,000 per year

Average Estimated Size of Award:
\$10,000,000 per year

Project Period:
Up to 5 years



U.S. Department of Education,
Office of Elementary and Secondary
Education, Charter School Programs

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state entities with a state statute authorizing the establishment of charter schools.

A State Entity means:



A State Education Agency



A State Charter School Board



A Governor of a State



A Charter School Support Organization



Eligibility

Under section 4303(e)(1) of the ESEA, no State entity may receive a grant under this competition for use in a State in which a State entity is currently using a CSP State Entity grant.

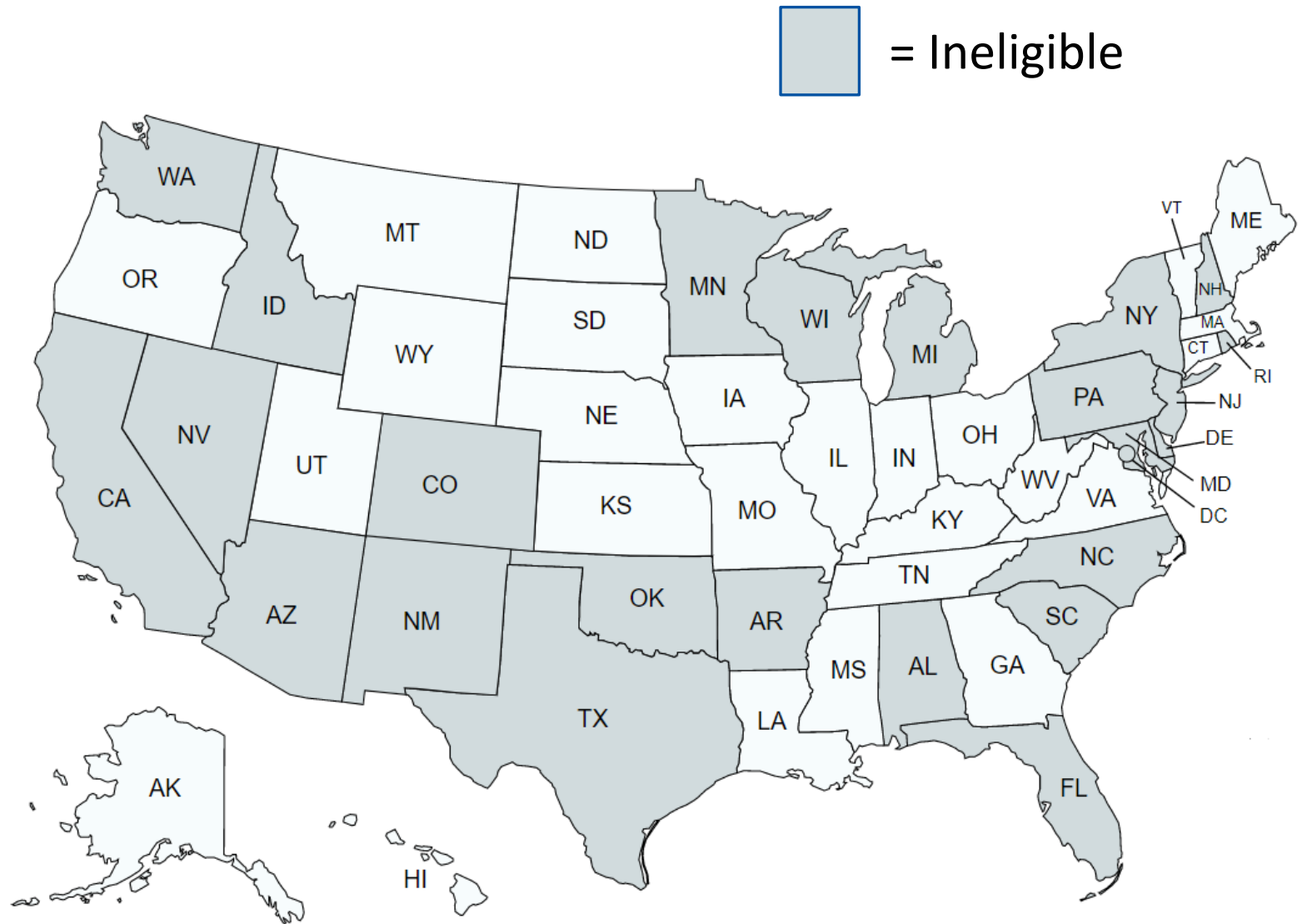
Accordingly, State entities in States in which a State entity has a current CSP State Entity grant that is not in its final budget period (nor operating under a no-cost extension in accordance with 34 CFR 75.261 3) are ineligible to apply for a CSP State Entity grant under this competition.

- States falling under this provision are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin



Ineligible States

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin



U.S. Department of Education,
Office of Elementary and Secondary
Education, Charter School Programs

Office Hours: Responses to Submitted Questions



Pre-Submitted Questions by Category

1. Eligibility
2. Use of funds
3. Priorities
4. Application requirements
5. Other



Eligibility #1

Who is eligible to apply for a State entity grant?

State entities are eligible to apply. State entities consist of State educational agencies, State charter school boards, Governors, and charter school support organizations.



Eligibility #2

What are the states in which State entities are ineligible to receive new awards this year?

Under section 4303(e)(1) of the ESEA, there cannot be two active State entity grants in the same State at the same time. Therefore, State entities in States with current CSP SE grants that are not operating under a no-cost extension are ineligible to apply, unless the current State entity grantee is in its final budget period and has notified the Department that it does not intend to request a no-cost extension. Currently, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin have active CSP SE grants.



Eligibility #3

If two eligible State entities apply for this grant, can they both be funded? Should entities within the same State coordinate?

Multiple State entities from the same State may apply for the grant. Because of the prohibition on more than one active CSP SE grant in a State, the grant can only be awarded to one State entity from a particular State. If multiple State entities in a State submit applications that receive high enough scores to be recommended for funding under this competition, only the highest scoring application among such State entities would be funded.



Eligibility #4

If we are an eligible charter school support organization in an eligible state and apply, and our State Department of ED also applies, could we possibly both get funded? Should we try and find out if our state is applying?

As previously noted, multiple State entities from the same State may apply for the grant; however, only one grant will be awarded per state.



Eligibility #5

May a charter school developer apply for a subgrant under the State entity grant program while awaiting approval of a charter from an authorizer?

Yes. A charter school developer may apply for a CSP SE subgrant from the State entity while waiting on charter approval from the authorizer. To be eligible, the charter school developer must have applied for a charter and provided timely and adequate notice of its CSP SE subgrant application to the authorizer. An eligible charter school developer may use planning funds to conduct authorized planning activities under a CSP SE subgrant prior to receiving an approved charter; however, subgrantees may not use implementation funds for a charter school until after the charter school has received an approved charter from the authorizer and has documentation (e.g., a contract, lease, mortgage, etc.) indicating that it has a facility in which to operate.



Eligibility #6

If my charter school is slated to open in 2024, would I apply now for funding or wait until next year?

Each applicant must decide the appropriate time to apply for a subgrant. Under section 4303(d)(1)(B), however, subgrantees are limited to no more than 18 months for planning activities.



Eligibility #7

Where may prospective applicants find more information on State entity eligibility for this grant?

Full information about the grant competition, including eligibility, is available in the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published in the July 6, 2022 edition of the Federal Register and on the Department's CSP SE Competition webpage: <https://oese.ed.gov/fy-2022-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>. Questions relating to the specific needs of a particular State entity may be directed to the CSP SE Competition email: FY2022_SE_Competition@ed.gov.



Eligibility #8

Are current State entity grantees with grants in a no-cost extension period eligible to apply? If no, why not?

Yes. If there is a new State Entity grant awarded for use in a State in which a State entity has a current CSP State Entity grant that is operating under a no-cost extension, consistent with section 4303(e)(1), the current State entity grantee must obligate all grant funds prior to the end of the current budget period. In other words, the current State entity grantee must complete all grant activities and begin the grant closeout process (i.e., liquidating the grant and not incurring new costs) prior to the expiration date of the no-cost extension.



Eligibility #9

If a State entity grantee is operating under a no-cost extension and another State entity is awarded a grant, what happens to schools that have not concluded their CSP subgrant activities? Will the new entity be able to serve them?

In such a case, the charter schools would have to apply to the new State entity grantee for a subgrant to enable the charter school to complete the subgrant activities under its previously-approved subgrant. If the subgrant application is approved, the new State entity grantee would have to request a waiver from the Department to enable it to award a second subgrant to the charter school to enable it to complete the subgrant activities.



Use of Funds #1

Can grant funds be used to support charter schools that are not new but have been in operation for several years?

Yes. Under section 4303(b)(1)(C) of the ESEA, State entities may award competitive subgrants to eligible applicants to enable such eligible applicants to expand high-quality charter schools. Section 4310(7) defines “expand” as “significantly increase[ing] enrollment or add[ing] one or more grades to the high-quality charter school.” Please review the NIA for the full requirements of the grant program.



Use of Funds #2

Can planning funds be expended before securing a lease, or are all funds held (not issued in a subgrant award) until a charter has been granted and the school has a facility?

Yes, charter school developers that are approved for subgrants may use planning funds to conduct authorized planning activities prior to receiving an approved charter and securing a facility in which to operate. Subgrantees may not use implementation funds for a charter school, however, until after the charter school has received a charter from the authorizer and has documentation (e.g., a contract, lease, mortgage, etc.) indicating that it has a facility in which to operate.



Use of Funds #3

Is it correct that at least 90% of CSP SE program funds must be used to award subgrants to charter school developers and charter schools, and that efforts to improve authorizing quality can be funded with the 10% that must be reserved for technical assistance (TA) and grant administration?

Yes, grantees must use at least 90 percent of their grant funds to award subgrants to eligible applicants and must reserve at least 7 percent of program funds for TA and activities to improve authorizing quality.



Use of Funds #4

Applicants approved for funding under this competition must attend a two-day meeting for project directors during each year of the project and are encouraged to include this cost in their proposed budgets. Where is the Project Directors' Meeting held?

The Project Directors' Meeting will be held in Washington, DC. The exact dates have not yet been determined.



Priorities #1

How should charter school support organizations (CSOs) address the absolute priority? Should they describe how they will ensure best practices once they have the grant? Additionally, how does application requirement (a)(1)(xii)(B) in the NIA, which requires CSO applicants to discuss how they will work with the State to support the State's system of TA and oversight of authorizing activity, interact with the absolute priority?

A CSO should describe any steps it has taken to ensure that all authorized public chartering agencies implement best practices for charter school authorizing. Such steps may have included working with the State educational agency in the State to promote best practices in charter school authorizing. Application requirement (a)(1)(xii)(B) requires the State entity to describe how it will work with the State to support the State's system of TA and oversight of the authorizing activity of authorized public chartering agencies. Thus, the absolute priority focuses on what the State entity has already done to ensure that authorizers implement best practices for charter school authorizing, whereas the application requirement focuses on TA and monitoring with respect to how the State entity will work with the State in the future.



Priorities #2

What is an Invitational Priority and how does it work?

The purpose of an invitational priority is to encourage applications that address an issue or priority that is of particular interest to the Department. For an Invitational Priority, no additional points are awarded in the competition, and applicants are not required to respond to it. Invitational Priorities are primarily designed to better understand the field's capacity to address the priority.



Priorities #3

If a State entity establishes charter-district collaborations as a priority in the local subgrant competition, can subgrant funds be used to support that activity?

If a State entity establishes a priority for charter-district collaborations in the local subgrant competition, applicants that address the priority may use program funds to conduct authorized activities that are necessary to implement the charter-district collaboration



Application Requirements #1

Some of the application requirements and assurances address the same issues. What is the difference between an application requirement and an assurance? Do peer reviewers evaluate applicant responses to both?

Generally, an application requirement requests specific information or documentation from applicants that must be included in the application in order for the application to be approved for funding. An assurance is a promise, or certification, that the applicant will take a specific action or meet a specific requirement if it receives federal funding. Peer reviewers do not evaluate the quality of an applicant's responses to application requirements or whether an applicant provides the required assurances. CSP staff, however, review applications to ensure that all application requirements have been met and that all required assurances have been provided prior to an application being approved for funding.



Application Requirements #2 (slide 1 of 3)

Applicants must provide an assurance that they will not hamper desegregation efforts. It is unclear what constitutes a valid desegregation effort. How will applicants know if valid desegregation efforts are happening, and more importantly, if their proposal will hamper any existing desegregation efforts?

To address this assurance, subgrant applicants should first determine if the surrounding school district(s) from which the proposed charter school is likely to draw students is under an existing court order. Some school districts have desegregation obligations under plans or court orders that could affect or be affected by the establishment of the charter school, even if the charter school is its own LEA. Typically, desegregation plans and court orders are resolutions of past segregative discrimination by school districts determined by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or by the courts, in some instances with the participation of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (CRD). If the jurisdiction in which the proposed charter school is located is under a desegregation plan or order, there are steps you can take to ensure compliance.

(response continues)



Application Requirements #2 (slide 2 of 3)

Applicants must provide an assurance that they will not hamper desegregation efforts. It is unclear what constitutes a valid desegregation effort. How will applicants know if valid desegregation efforts are happening, and more importantly, if their proposal will hamper any existing desegregation efforts?

(continued response)

If a subgrant applicant is uncertain whether the proposed charter school is in a jurisdiction that is covered by an existing desegregation plan or court order, the subgrant applicant may contact several entities for assistance. First, to determine if there is an applicable court order where the United States is a party to the case, the subgrant applicant may contact the appropriate LEA or SEA, or CRD. To assist with this process, the CRD has provided each chief state school officer a list of the LEAs in their state that are subject to such a court order. Second, to determine if there is an applicable OCR Title VI desegregation plan, the subgrant applicant may contact the appropriate LEA or the OCR office that serves its state. Please note that there are other desegregation plans and orders that do not involve CRD or OCR. These desegregation plans and orders only involve private parties in state or federal courts, or state agencies that have ordered districts to desegregate.

(response continues)



Application Requirements #2 (slide 3 of 3)

Applicants must provide an assurance that they will not hamper desegregation efforts. It is unclear what constitutes a valid desegregation effort. How will applicants know if valid desegregation efforts are happening, and more importantly, if their proposal will hamper any existing desegregation efforts?

(continued response)

In some states and school districts there may also be other obligations under state or local laws or policies, such as those to promote integration or diversity, that could affect or be affected by the proposed charter school. In these cases, the subgrant applicant should consult the SEA or the appropriate LEA to determine whether the jurisdiction has a desegregation obligation.

In the end, applicants and subgrant applicants should give their best assessment of the impact of the proposed charter school on any existing desegregation efforts, assuming this assessment is based on the best available, and reasonable, information obtainable by the applicant and subgrant applicant.



Application Requirements #3

Are State entities required to award points based on their evaluation of an applicant's needs analysis? If the applicant's authorizer reviews the information, can the State entity take that into consideration and not require resubmission? Will you tell State entities that they are not required to award points based on proposed demographics?

Although State entities must require subgrant applicants to submit a needs analysis, the State entity is not required to award points based on the quality of the needs analysis. If an applicant has submitted the information required in the needs analysis to its authorizer, then the applicant may submit the same information to the State entity.



Application Requirements #4

What do states do with the information about a school's projected demographics? Is it just for monitoring by CSP?

We are requiring State entities to collect this information to help ensure that charter school subgrantees are taking appropriate steps to establish and maintain racially and socio-economically diverse student bodies and to ensure that they are not increasing racial or socio-economic segregation or isolation. When monitoring subgrants for compliance with program requirements and the terms of the subgrant application, State entities will be able to review the demographic information provided in the subgrant application to ensure that the subgrantee is complying with the terms of its approved application.



Application Requirements #5

For the public hearing requirement, is each charter school required to have a public hearing or can the authorizer have a hearing for all schools?

The authorizer may hold public hearings for the charter schools that it authorizes, provided that the public hearing meets CSP SE program requirements.



Application Requirements #6

How should we handle situations where state policy does not require a public hearing? Should the SE require it?

Regardless of state policy, applicants must meet all CSP SE program requirements in order to qualify for funds.



Other #1

Which sections of the application will be peer reviewed?

Applicants' responses to the selection criteria and certain competitive preference priorities will be evaluated and scored by peer reviewers. The Application Review Information section of the NIA outlines the selection criteria for the grant competition along with the maximum point values for each criterion that the peer reviewers will score. You can find that section of the NIA here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-14442/p-350>



Other #2

Where can prospective applicants get more information about the grant requirements?

Full information about the grant competition including the grant requirements is available in the NIA published in the Federal Register and on CSP SE Competition webpage: <https://oese.ed.gov/fy-2022-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>. Questions relating to the specific needs of a particular State entity may be directed to the CSP SE Competition email: FY2022_SE_Competition@ed.gov.



Application Resources



Application Reminders

The application package can be found at grants.gov:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=341765>

Note: This link takes you directly to Opportunity Number ED-GRANTS-070622-001

The application package and other supporting materials may be found on CSP's website:

<https://oese.ed.gov/fy-2022-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>

Entities must be registered in SAM.gov



Where to Find Previously Funded Applications

You can find previously funded applications our website:

Award in FY 2017-2020: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/state-entities/awards/>

Awards in FY 2016 and earlier: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/charter-school-program-state-educational-agencies-sea/awards/>



Closing Question and Answer



CSP Contact Information:

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(800) 518-4726



Survey Responses Requested: Tell Us How We Did





THANK YOU!

