



U.S. Department of Education
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education
Charter School Programs
FY 2022 Pre-Application Webinar - National Dissemination Grant
Competition (ALN 84.282T)
Session Transcript
Presented July 29, 2022

- [Karen Dorsey Hargrove] Good afternoon and welcome to the FY 2022 National Dissemination Discretionary Grant Program Pre-Application Webinar. I am Karen Dorsey Hargrove. I'm a team lead and a supervisor in the Charter School Programs division at the U.S. Department of Education. Next slide, please.

Next slide, please. As you can see, we have a full agenda this afternoon. I will start with webinar logistics and some reminders and an overview of the National Dissemination Grant competition, eligibility, and application requirements. I will then turn it over to members of the CSP team to present on the absolute priority and selection criteria.

They will also cover general information on goals, objectives, performance measures, and how to pull together components of the grant application. We will close out with guidance about submitting your grant application, what happens after the application is submitted, and then time for questions. We will answer as many questions as we can.

But please know that some questions will require additional consultation, so we won't be able to answer those questions during today's webinar. And we can't answer questions or provide feedback specific to an applicant's proposed approach or plan for their project. Finally, continuous improvement is important, so we will end with a survey asking for feedback about this webinar.

As I said, we have a full agenda, so let's get started. Next slide. Again, welcome. Before moving into content, and my first reminder is to restate the caveat that was on the bottom of the first slide. This slide deck does not contain the full text of the Notice Inviting Applications, the NIA, for the FY 2022 National Dissemination Discretionary Grant competition.

You should use this slide deck, refer to this webinar as a guide when completing and submitting your application. Interested applicants should thoroughly review the program's NIA, which can be accessed from the 2022 competition page.

Also presenting with me today are members of the CSP division: Yianni Alepohoritis, Nicoisa Jones, and Thea Fowles. Also on the slide is the FY 2022 National Dissemination competition mailbox address. So if your question is not answered, you can forward it to the competition mailbox.

Next slide. Now some basic webinar logistics. This session is listen-only. The session is being recorded and will be posted on the National Dissemination competition webpage. We ask that you use the chat function for questions and comments, and again, the mailbox for the National Dissemination competition.

Next slide. At the risk of being repetitive, we want to restate some important reminders. Do not rely solely on this webinar for information and guidance about this grant competition. Please read the entire NIA that was published last Friday in the "Federal Register."

We ask that you submit questions using the webinar's Q&A function. And reminder, if your question is not addressed, please email your question to the competition mailbox using the address on the slide. Next slide, please.

Before we get to the National Dissemination competition, I want to review the purpose of CSP. In summary, the purpose of CSP is to expand opportunities for all children, including children with disabilities, English learners, and other traditionally underserved students to attend charter schools and meet challenging state academic standards.

To provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools. To increase the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the U.S. To evaluate the impact of charter schools on student achievement, families, and communities. To share best practices between charter schools and other public schools.

To encourage states to provide support to charter schools for facility financing and to support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process to improve performance management, including transparency, oversight, and monitoring. Now, onto the main topic.

And beginning with an overview of the National Dissemination Discretionary Grant competition. Next slide, please. And one more. The purpose of the CSP National Dissemination Grants is to award grants to provide funds on a competitive basis to support efforts by organizations to support the charter school sector by disseminating best practices of national significance regarding charter schools, including the development, identification, or expansion of such practices.

Next slide. Aligned to the purpose of the project, the application requirement states that proposed projects should support the development, identification, expansion, and dissemination of information on best practices regarding charter schools.

Next slide, please. This slide includes some basic information about the competition. As we've said, this is a discretionary grant award. Estimated funds available for this discretionary grant is \$4.8 million.

Estimated range of awards is \$500,000 to \$800,000 per year. The average estimated size of award is \$650,000 per year. Estimated number of awards is 6 to 10. And this grant project period can be up to three years. Next slide.

Organizations that may apply for this competition include state education agency, state charter school boards, state governors, charter school support organizations as defined in the NIA, authorizing public chartering agencies, and public and private non-profit organizations that operate, manage, or support charter schools.

Entities that apply for this competition may apply as a partnership or a consortium. Next slide, please. A final reminder, applications are due on or before 11:59 Eastern Time on Monday, August 22nd. We strongly encourage you to submit early since the grants.gov helpdesk is not available on the weekend.

So, this concludes my overview of the National Dissemination competition. For more details, I'm now going to turn it over to Thea Fowles. Thea?

- [Thea] Thank you, Karen. Next slide, please. We are now going to discuss the absolute priorities, selection criteria, and additional notes. Next slide, please. One more. Thank you. So, what is an absolute priority?

An absolute priority is an absolute preference/focus that must be addressed by the proposed project. Applicants must specify which absolute priority their project addresses. Applications

that do not address one of the three absolute priorities will not be considered for funding. The National Dissemination Grant Absolute Priorities are from the "Secretary's Supplemental Priorities" that was published on December 10th, 2021.

Next slide, please. The first absolute priority that we are going to discuss is absolute priority 1, which is addressing the impact of COVID-19 on students, educators, and faculty. Projects that are designed to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic include impacts that extend beyond the duration of the pandemic itself, on the students most impacted by the pandemic with a focus on underserved students and the educators who serve them through one or more of the following priority areas.

I'm not going to read each sub-priority area, but rather summarize each priority area. And so the priority areas for this absolute priority are conducting community asset mapping and needs assessment, providing resources and supports to meet basic fundamental health and safety needs of students and educators.

Addressing students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs using evidence-based instructional approaches and supports. After this webinar, please refer to the NIA for this competition that was published on July 22nd, 2022 to review each priority area for this absolute priority.

Next slide, please. Absolute priority 2 for this competition is supporting a diverse educator workforce and professional growth to strengthen student learning. Meaning that applicants applying under this priority will have to demonstrate that the project is designed to increase the proportion of well-prepared, diverse, and effective educators serving students with the focus on underserved students.

Now we will move on to the final absolute priority for this competition. Next slide, please. Absolute priority 3 for this competition is strengthening cross-agency coordination and community engagement to advance systemic change. For this absolute priority, applicants will have designed projects that take a systemic evidence-based approach to improving outcomes for underserved students in one or more of the following priority areas.

Conducting community needs and asset mapping, establishing cross-agency partnerships or community-based partnerships to meet family well-being and needs. Identifying, documenting, and disseminating policies, strategies, and best practices of effective approaches. Expanding or improving parent and family engagement.

Next, we are going to discuss the selection criteria. Next slide, please. One more. Thank you. So, what are selection criteria? Selection criteria are used by the applicant to shape or design their project or activities to be carried out in the proposal.

Non-federal peer reviewers will review each application, they will be asked to evaluate and score against selection criteria. The maximum possible score for addressing all of the selection criteria under 84.282T is 100 points. Next slide, please.

So, selection criteria A for this competition is significance of the proposed project, and you can earn up to 30 points. The secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the secretary considers the following factors. One, the national significance of the proposed project, which is 15 points.

And the extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population, which you can earn up to 15 points for. Next slide, please. Selection criteria B is the quality of the project design in which you can earn up to 40 points. The secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the secretary considers the following factors: the extent to which the proposed project demonstrates the rationale, the extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable, the extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition, and the mechanisms the applicant will use to broadly disseminate information on its project so as to support further development or replication.

Next slide, please. Selection criteria C is the quality of the management plan and adequacy of resources. The secretary considers the quality of the management plan and the adequacy of resources for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan and adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the secretary considers the following factors.

The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project task and the extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

Next slide, please. And the last selection criteria for this competition is the quality of project personnel. The secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the secretary considers the following factors.

The extent to which the applicant encourages applications or employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, the qualifications, including relevant training and experience of the project director or principal investigator, and the qualifications, including relevant training and experience of key project personnel.

Next slide, please. So on the slide is an example of the point range chart. And this point range chart is also included in the application package for this competition. So, to the right are the suggested point ranges for an evaluation of fully developed, well-developed, and adequately developed, poorly developed, or not addressed for each sub-criterion.

Next slide, please. So now we're going to review additional notes. Next slide, please. As stated in the NIA, applicants must propose project-specific performance measures and performance targets consistent with the objectives of the proposed project and the project outcomes identified in a logic model.

The project-specific performance measures should be sufficient to gauge progress throughout the grant period at least on an annual basis. And to show the results by the end of the grant period, applicants must provide the following information as directed under 34 CFR 75.110(b) and (c). So, first, performance measures.

When thinking about performance measures, consider how each proposed performance measure would accurately measure the performance of the project and how the proposed performance for the program funding the competition.

Next, baseline data. So, when thinking about baseline data, consider why each proposed baseline is valid, or if it's determined that there is no valid established baseline data for a particular performance measure, including an explanation of why there is no established baseline and how and when during the project period when a valid baseline would be established for the performance measure.

When thinking about performance targets, consider determining if each proposed performance target is ambitious as defined in the notice, yet achievable compared to the

baseline for the performance measure, and when during the project period the performance targets would be met. When thinking about data collection and reporting, consider the data collection and reporting methods that would be used and why those methods are likely to yield reliable, valid, and meaningful performance data.

And the capacity to collect and report reliable, valid, and meaningful performance data as evidenced by high-quality data collection, analysis, and reporting, and other projects or research. Again, we strongly encourage you to read the NIA as there is additional information about project-specific performance measures.

Next slide, please. So we also wanted to clarify some terms that are often conflated when discussing performance measures. Goals are high-level statements about what will be achieved by the end of your CSP grant. These should be the end-game statements and should align or even be long-term outcomes identified in your logic model.

One thing to note is that these should be specific to your grant-funded project and not your organizational goals overall. So goals may be more operational such as getting the school opened and operating at full capacity and implementing the school model at scale or adding seats in high-quality chartered schools. Objectives help define the interim steps and strategies that will help lead to achieving the goals.

The objectives must translate the goals into actionable steps, and these should align with the midterm and short-term outcomes of your logic model. The objectives must be written into your CSP grant application, and when funded, these objectives are what grantees are held accountable for achieving.

You should have objectives related to the different aspects of your grant. Objectives could be related to professional development, school culture and climate, academics, and implementing aspects of the school model. Performance measures are the quantitative indicators of metrics that show you are making progress towards your objectives.

Each objective should have associated and aligned performance measures. In this case, more is not necessarily better, and you will need to report on each performance measure annually. So keep to a reasonable number that makes sense for your project. Additionally, each objective must have at least one performance measure that is measured and reported upon each year of the grant.

CSP grantees must regularly provide updates to their program officer related to progress on performance measures. The CSP recently posted a webinar about logic models and SMART goals. Although this presentation was developed for other CSP grant programs, the content is applicable and can be helpful when working on your applications for this grant competition.

Next slide, please. Now, we're going to go over open licensing. All Department of Education grantees awarded competitive grant funds, unless an exception applies, must openly license to the public all copyrightable grant deliverables that are created with department grant funds, including such deliverable as educational software, curriculum materials, professional development training materials, assessment systems, etc.

This requirement applies to CSP developer grants. And now, I'm going to pass this presentation over to Nicoisa.

- [Nicoisa] Thanks, Thea. Next slide, please. So, now we are going to discuss pulling together your application. Next slide, please.

So, where can you find the application? The application can be found on grants.gov if you search 82.282T grants at grants.gov at this URL that will be provided in the PowerPoint after we're done. And the application package and other supported materials can be found on the National Dissemination competition website.

When we provide the PowerPoint to you, you may click the links or search them on grants.gov or the ed website specifically. Next slide, please. In pulling together the application, you want to ensure you provide these three components: the required forms, inclusive of the ed standard form and assurances and certification, the application narrative that includes the abstract narrative form, budget narrative form, and project narrative form, and lastly, the other attachments, which may include three additional attachments.

Next slide, please. So we're now going to go into more detail about the required forms. Next slide, please. The required forms for the National Dissemination Grants program are the ed standard forms, the application for federal assistance, the SF 424, the Department of Education supplemental information form, the SF 424, and the Department of Education budget summary form, the ED 524.

Additional requirements include the assurances and certifications. Applicants must provide assurances for the Non-Construction Programs, so the SF 424B Form, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, the SF LLL Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying, the ED 80-0013 Form, and the General Education Provisions, the GEPA requirement, section 427.

They are available in the application package along with the instructions. We're not going to go over all of them, but we will provide some supplement requirement, section 427. They're our guidance for the SF 424 and the ED 524 forms. All these forms again are available in the application package, along with the other instructions.

Next slide, please. So here you see a screenshot of the ED 524 Form. It's important to note that section A of the 524 Form is required and you should complete all the years, which you will request funding for.

And that's up to three years for this grant. Also, funds requested should match the detailed budget narrative that is required in another segment of this application. Next slide, please. And so, to provide you some additional notes, again, we can't stress enough that section A is required. You want to complete it for all years, for which funds are requested.

And funds requested should match the detailed budget narrative that you'll submit in another segment of the application. And additionally, if you have an approved indirect cost rate, you should provide the details in the budget narrative as well in the bottom of the form and construction is not an allowable cost for this grant. So for lastly in section B of the ED 524 Form, you should only be completing the matching information if you are making a matching commitment and this program does not specifically require a match.

Next slide, please. So, this is a screenshot of the application of Federal Assistance Form, so the SF 424. You can see here the things that are highlighted.

Next slide, please. So, for the SF 424 forms specifically in box 8c, you want to include your organizational UEI. This must be the same UEI number used when you registered in grants.gov. In box 16a-b, you want to include your congressional district.

You enter the district the applicant organization is located in and the district in which the activities will occur. In box 17a-b, the proposed project start and end date. The start date will be October 1st, 2022. And this grant can be again for up to three years. So the end date should reflect how many years you are requesting.

In box 18, estimated funding. This should only reflect the first year of the project. And then in box 19, the executive order, so EO 12372. This program is subject to that executive order and that's hyperlinked in our PowerPoint which relates to intergovernmental review of federal programs.

Next slide, please. So next, we're going to discuss the application narrative. Next slide, please. So, components of the application narrative are the abstract narrative where it is important you identify your selected absolute priority.

The budget narrative, and the project narrative, where you discuss the significance of the project, the quality of project design, the quality of management plan, adequacy of resources, quality of project personnel. And these are the recommended headings that you want to use for organizing your project narrative. Next slide, please.

So, in the abstract narrative, now we're going to go over that section. Next slide, please. So for the abstract narrative, you want to include the name and address of your organization, the name, phone number, and email address of the contact person for the project. And this should not exceed one page.

And the abstract narrative should use language that can be easily understood by a range of audiences. Please also include the project title if applicable, the absolute priority selected, goals, project activities, expected outcomes, and contributions for research, policy, practice, etc. Next slide, please.

So, now we're going to discuss the budget narrative. Next slide, please. So, in the budget narrative attachment, you should provide an itemized budget narrative by project year for each budget category. And the total for each budget category should match what you put on the ED 524 forms.

The level of details should provide a clear insight into each line item cost and the supporting narrative should provide justification for the cost included. And so on this side, as an example, you not only see for the personnel category in each position, their time, as an example as defined as FTE, the full-time employee, you will also see included the budget amount for each year and the anticipated duration that is intended to be paid.

And the budget narrative should include only costs that are allowable, reasonable, and necessary. The CSP recently posted a webinar about developing a grant budget. Although the presentation was developed for another CSP grant program or grant programs, the content is applicable and can be helpful when working on your application for this competition.

Next slide, please. Thank you. Applicants must ensure that all costs included in the proposed budget are authorized under the CSP and are reasonable and necessary in the context of the goals and objectives of the proposed project. The budget should include only costs that are allowable, reasonable, and necessary.

Any costs determined by the secretary to be unauthorized or otherwise unreasonable or unnecessary will be removed from the final approved budget. In the budget narrative attachment, provide an itemized budget narrative by project year for each budget category in addition to a justification for the cost included.

You will find the applicable regulations at the link provided in the chat. Applicants must ensure that all costs included in the proposed budget are reasonable and necessary in light of the goals and objectives of the proposed project. Again, any cost determined to be unreasonable or unnecessary will be removed from the budget.

When considering, is it necessary to complete this project, you also want to think, is it reasonable? Would a prudent person pay this amount for this item? I.e., if it were published on the front page of "The Washington Post," would that be okay with you? Is it allocable?

A cost is allocable to a project if goods or services involved are chargeable or assignable in accordance with the relative benefits received by the project. In order to be allocable, a cost must be treated consistently in like circumstances. And lastly, is it allowable? A cost is allowable to a project if the costs are reasonable, the costs are allocable to the specific project, the costs are treated consistently in like circumstances, and the cost conform to any limitations of the cost principles or sponsored agreement.

Next slide, please. Additionally, applicants approved for funding under this competition must attend a two-day meeting for project directors during each year of the project. Applicants are encouraged to include the cost of attending this meeting in their proposed budgets as an administrative expense.

Next slide, please. Now we review the other attachments. Next slide, please. There are three other attachments. Attachment A is the Individual Resumes Project Director and Key Personnel. Attachment B is Proprietary Information, only if applicable.

This is a note of information that, for example, should be redacted. And lastly, Attachment C, any additional information if applicable. Next slide, please. For directions for the other attachments, applicants should use the other attachments form. For each attachment in your application, the file format must either be in a PDF, portable document format, or Microsoft Word.

See the application package instructions for additional guidance. Label each file with the attachment name, for example, Attachment A Individual Resumes for Project Directors and Key Personnel, and upload the file to the other attachments form. The other attachments form can support up to 10 attachments.

Therefore, please merge attachments into one document as necessary. Please review the application package for details on each of these. Please note special characters could impact your ability to submit because grants.gov does not properly process special characters. Therefore, please do not use colons and backslash when naming your documents.

Now, I will pass things off to Yianni. Next slide.

- [Yianni] Thank you, Nicoisa. I will now go over how to submit your grant application. Next slide, please. Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using grants.gov, unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in the Notice Inviting Applications.

Please register and submit early. Next slide, please. So, grants.gov is an external application system that provides a common website for federal agencies to post discretionary funding opportunities and for grantees to find and apply to them. Next slide, please. So, grants.gov includes a four-part registration process.

First, you register with SAM, the System for Award Management, to obtain your UEI, the unique entity identifier. Next, you set up your Authorized Organization Representative, also known as the AOR profile. Next, you get authorized as an AOR by your organization's e-Biz POC, also known as the e-business point of contact.

Lastly, you track your AOR status. Next slide, please. So, now for an important reminder. The complete grants.gov registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. So, we highly advise you register as soon as possible to be on the safe side. And note, you do not

have to register with grants.gov if you only want to find grant opportunities or just to download application packages, but you must register in order to be able to formally submit an application in grants.gov.

Next slide, please. So, now for some grants.gov submission tips. First, review the grants.gov submission procedures and tips for applicants in the application package. Applicants must download the correct version of Adobe in order to read any grants.gov application packages. In Adobe, applicants must move all mandatory forms from left to right in order to open each form.

Once the form's on the right side, applicants can complete and save each form while in process. The application package is saved offline. Press the final Save and Submit button before the final submission of the application. Once you download the application, multiple people can work on it and you can work offline as well.

Save often. Include both forms and attachments. Submit all documents as PDF files. Once the application is complete, the Save and Submit button becomes active. Users may resubmit an application at any point up until the closing date and time. We will review the most recent submission that was submitted before the due date and time.

Next slide, please. So, now I will go over verifying and tracking your submission. First, verify that your submission is on time and validated successfully. To check, log in to grants.gov and click on the "Track My Application" link.

The date/time received should be earlier than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern on August 22nd, 2022. The application status should be validated. And note, do not rely solely on email to confirm whether your application has been received on time and validated successfully.

Please use the "Track My application" link I referenced earlier on this slide. Next slide, please. Now for some additional submission tips/reminders. Save a copy of your application. Note that we may request original signatures on forms from you at a later date. Applications cannot be unsubmitted.

However, users may resubmit their application at any point up until the closing date and time. The department reviews the most recent submission before the due date and time. Next slide, please. So, again, final reminder. Applications are due by August 22nd, 2022 at 11:59:59 p.m.

Eastern time. An important note is the grants.gov helpdesk is not available on weekends. So, you are strongly encouraged to submit as early as possible. You can always resubmit your application prior to the closing date at 11:59:59 p.m. if you need to update your application. Next slide, please.

If you're experiencing problems submitting your application through grants.gov, please contact the grants.gov support desk at 800-518-4726. You must obtain a grants.gov support desk case number and must keep record of it. If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems within the grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 11:59:59 p.m.

Eastern the following day to enable you to transmit your application electronically by hand delivery or through the mail following the instructions in the NIA. And a caveat here for this point, it's not if you have electronic issues on your side, it has to be a technical glitch within the grants.gov system. Next slide, please.

So, now for the application review process. Next slide, please. So, the first phase of the application review process is the eligibility review. The department will screen the

application submitted in accordance with the requirements in the notice to determine whether applications have met the eligibility requirements.

Next is the peer review. And during this phase, applications are evaluated by a non-federal panel. Each reviewer individually reads, evaluates, and scores their assigned applications based on the selection criteria listed in the notice. The panel's given time to discuss the applications, as well as their respective scores and comments. The reviewer scores are then averaged to create an overall application score.

Following the peer review, the program office creates a rank order list. A rank order list is prepared based on the overall application scores. And following the vetting of the highest-rated applications, the competition manager will prepare and submit a funding slide to the secretary for final review and approval. Next slide, please. So, if your application is successful, we will notify your U.S. representatives and U.S.

senators and send you a Grant Award Notification, commonly known as the GAN. If your application is deemed ineligible or not selected for funding, you will be notified via USPS mail. I will now turn things back over to Karen to wrap up the presentation.

- Thank you, Yianni. So, we've come to the point for question and answers and you've been submitting them all along during the webinar. So we're going to pause here and you'll experience some silence.

We're going to review the questions as a team, and then we'll come back and provide as many responses as we can. Again, want to remind you that we may not get to your question. If we don't get to your question, please send it forward to the National Dissemination FY '22 competition email address.

So hold tight and we will be back. Thank you. This is Karen again. Actually, can we go to the next slide? And we've gotten some questions that I am... Thank you. So, one of the questions is, "Can an applicant submit more than one application under a single absolute priority provided that the activities or the project design is different?"

And the answer is yes, an applicant may submit more than one application under a single absolute priority or a different absolute priority provided the application is proposing different activities.

A very similar or related question is, "Can an applicant submit an application as a lead applicant and also participate as a partner in another application?" So the answer to that is yes. An individual entity, an eligible entity can submit as a lead applicant and also participate in another application as part of a consortium or a partner.

The next question is, "Must an applicant address all subparts of the absolute priorities?" So no, absolute priorities 1 and 3 provide that an applicant must address one or more of the identified priority areas.

Absolute priority 2 doesn't have any subparts to it, but we ask that you note and you clearly identify the absolute priority and all the subparts you plan to address in your application. A question, "Can an applicant use this grant for the creation, replication, or expansion of high-quality public charter school or the high-quality public charter school?"

And so the answer is no. Grant funds must be used for activities of national significance related to the development, identification, expansion, and dissemination of best practices regarding charter schools consistent with the absolute priority to which the applicant is responding.

Additionally, the question included, what is meant by best practices of national significance regarding charter schools? In general, for a project to be of national significance, it would be relevant to charter schools nationwide.

An applicant should address the national significance of its proposed project when responding to the selection criteria A1. What is the role of the absolute priorities in the scoring of applications? How does the integration of the plan to fulfill the absolute priority an applicant chooses affect the criteria rubric used to evaluate the other elements of the selection criteria?

So that's pretty full of things. So to be considered for funding, an application must be for a project of national significance related to the development, identification, expansion, and dissemination of best practices regarding charter schools consistent with the absolute priority to which the applicant is responding.

An application meeting this threshold requirement will be evaluated and scored based on the extent to which the applicant responds to the selection criteria identified in the NIA. There was a question, is there a budget maximum? And/or do you recommend that applicants stay under \$800,000 per year?

Again, the amounts that were given, the range, the estimated range of awards, number of awards, and size of awards are just that, estimates. There are no budget maximum. Your budget will be reviewed to ensure that all costs are allowable, allocable, and reasonable, and costs that are not allowable, allocable, and reasonable will be removed from an awardee's budget.

If you have an existing active CSP grant, are you still eligible to apply for this grant competition? Having an existing and an active CSP grant does not make an applicant ineligible to apply. Does an applicant receive a higher score if they respond to, for example, four subsections of an absolute priority versus one or two?

So no. Additional points are not awarded for absolute priorities. I would direct you to review the selection criteria and the associated points for each sub-criteria. That's what points will be awarded for solely based on selection criteria. And then we had the question, what is the process for notifying us of an applicant's intent to apply?

We ask that you just send an email to the ndfy22competition@ed.gov that's listed on the screen. And let's see, we've gotten a couple of questions about eligibility and I'm going to just re-read the definition and recommend that folks look at the notice for eligibility.

But organizations that may apply for this competition include state education agency, state charter school boards, state governors, charter school support organizations, and there's a definition in the NIA, authorized public chartering agencies, and public and private non-profit organizations that operate, manage, or support charter school.

So, again, that was the definition out of the NIA. So, as I stated earlier, if you didn't get an answer to your question by virtue of the information we presented during the webinar or during this question and answer, it could be that it is a question that we need to further consult with before we can provide a response.

Or the question is leaning towards one that will require us to give you feedback or suggestions regarding your approach or your project design. And we can't answer those questions. So, that brings us now, next slide, to the end of the presentation.

We've gone through the questions that we can answer. Can't say enough that the transmittal date is August 22nd. It would be helpful if you notified us of your intent to apply for planning purposes.

If you do not notify us of your intent to apply, you still may apply. And then to make sure that you are registered in SAM.gov. Next slide. So, I see that our support had dropped the link to a survey.

So if you could take some time and respond to the survey to let us know how we did, we appreciate it. And this now concludes the National Dissemination FY 2022 competition pre-application webinar. Thank you again for joining us.

It's a lovely Friday. And happy to give you back the gift of 30 minutes. Again, this webinar has been recorded and it will be posted along with the slide deck on the competition webpage. Thank you again for joining us. Have a great rest of the day.