



U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education  
Charter School Programs  
FY23 Pre-Application Office Hours Webinar – Charter  
Management Organization Competition (ALN 84.282A)  
Session Transcript  
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- [Stephanie] So, good afternoon, everyone. My name is Stephanie Jones and I supervise the CMO and Developer Grant programs, here in the Charter Schools Division in the Department of Ed. Welcome to today's "Office Hours Webinar" for the fiscal year 2023, CSP CMO competition. This is the second live pre-application webinar we've hosted for this year's competition.

Today's webinar will focus on providing answers to your questions which were submitted during the last webinar, as well as through the registration forms and competition inbox. We hope you find today's technical assistance helpful, as you complete your grant application.

So, today's webinar is listen-only. We are recording it and the recording, the slide deck, and a transcript will be posted on the CSP competition website this week.

Please, use the Zoom Q&A feature to submit your questions and comments. Time permitting, we'll answer questions near the end of this presentation. I will say we have a lot to go over. We received a significant number of questions. So, at the end, if we don't have time for questions or we don't get through all of them, you can always submit it through the competition email address and we will be sharing that.

Finally, we have flagged the questions that involve new CSP CMO competition elements where possible. And so, we will be pointing those out. This is today's agenda. We'll begin with a short overview of the competition.

If you participated in last week's webinar, this information will look familiar. However, we want to level set and ensure everyone starts with the same basic understanding of the competition. We'll then move on to providing responses to your questions. We'll wrap up by providing competition resources and answering any final questions. So, let's start with a overview of the competition.

So, the entire CSP is led by Anna Hinton. The CMO program includes two program officers, Patricia Kilby-Robb and Laura Montas-Brown. Today, you'll hear from Laura, in addition to me, and Laura is also serving as this year's competition manager.

It's important to say at the start that this slide deck does not contain the full text of the fiscal year 2023 CSP CMO Grants NIA, also known as the notice-inviting applications, which was published in the Federal Register on November 10th of this year.

Before applying for this grant, interested applicants should thoroughly review the NIA, the application package instructions, and the CSP competition website. And we will be providing links to all of those. Applicants should not rely solely on this webinar for information and guidance on the NIA. Use it in conjunction with the NIA as a resource.

We will define terms when possible during today's webinar. The terms listed on this slide are all explained in the NIA's definitions section. So, please, any term that we use you should always consult the NIA, and in particular these terms are defined in the definitions section.

Okay. So, January 3rd is the day, very important to remember that January 3rd, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, is the due date. Now, grants.gov, the applicants' support, and we've provided a link, is available 24/7 but not on federal holidays.

As I imagine, some of you will be working on your grant application over the holidays. Keep in mind that applicant support is not available on federal holidays, so, you are strongly encouraged to submit early, you never know what could go wrong when working on your application.

You can always resubmit your application up to the closing date in time if you need to make any updates to it. And the department will review the most recent submission. So, the purpose of the CMO grants program. So, through CSP CMO Grants, the department awards grants to CMOs, also known as charter-management organizations, on a competitive basis to enable them to replicate or expand one or more high-quality charter schools.

Grant funds may be used to significantly increase the enrollment of or add one or more grades to an existing high-quality charter school or to open one or more new charter schools or new campuses of a high-quality charter school based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school. And we will be going into this more in responding to some of your questions.

Charter schools that receive financial assistance through CSP CMO Grants provide programs of elementary or secondary education, or both, and may also serve students in early-childhood education programs or post-secondary students, consistent with the terms of their charter. We received a number of questions about eligibility and we will be going through them.

But I do want to point out right at the start, eligible applicants are CMOs, and CMOs may apply individually or as part of a group or consortium. A CMO is defined in the NIA and in the statute as a non-profit organization that operates or manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.

The NIA describes the various ways in which a non-profit organization can demonstrate its non-profit status. Now, you'll hear us use the terms "replicate" and "expand," or "replication" and "expansion," throughout this presentation.

So, that's the purpose of funding, to either replicate or to expand. So, when replicating, for purposes of this competition, means to open a new charter school or a new campus of a high-

quality charter school. When we talk about expansion, we mean significantly increasing enrollment or adding one or more grades.

So, more seats or more grades to the high-quality charter school. So, at this point, I'm going to hand it off to Laura to start us off on the questions.

- [Laura] Good afternoon, everyone. We received a variety of questions via email and during last week's webinar. During this section of the presentation, we will review most of those questions. Next slide. As I mentioned, we received numerous questions and we have categorized them as follows.

"Application Submission." "Eligibility." "Other CSP Grants." "Replication and Expansion." "Allowable Activities and Use of Funds." And the last section is "Priorities, Section Criteria, and Application Requirements." Next slide.

"Application Submission." In this section, we will address general application questions regarding how to apply, the deadline date, and submission process, and other topics. "How do I apply for a CSP FY 2023 CSP CMO Grant?" To apply, applicants should review the NIA thoroughly for a competition purpose, eligibility, and other information.

Additionally, the application package instructions for this competition is available on grants.gov and information on the CSP competition website. Applicants must submit electronically using the governmental website grants.gov. Next slide.

"When will the grants be awarded?" Awards will be made by March 31st, 2023. As stated in the NIA section "Award Notices," "If the application is successful, we will notify your U.S. representative and U.S. senator and send you a GAN. If your application is not successful, we will also notify you."

You can view a list of past awards on the Awards page on our website. Next slide. "How often does the department conduct a CSP CMO Grant competition, and are competitions conducted annually?" To the extent to which ED conducts annual CSP CMO Grant competitions is driven by the program's annual Congressional appropriation.

Every year, after receiving an approved budget from Congress, it updates its grants forecast. You can see the forecast on our website, and we will update those periodically. Next slide.

"Do we need to register on sam.gov and grants.gov, and how do we obtain a UEI, a unique entity identifier, instead of a DUNS number?" Yes, applicants must register with sam.gov and grants.gov and obtain authorization to submit an application.

This registration process can take weeks, so, we recommend that you begin the process well in advance of the application deadline. An entity must register with sam.gov to obtain a UEI and then register on grants.gov to submit an application.

Next slide. "Can we still apply if we miss the "notice of intent to apply" deadline on December 5th?" Yes, applicants are strongly encouraged but not required to submit a notice of intent to apply. Applicants who did not meet this deadline may still apply.

Next slide. "Is it possible to submit an application via mail?" Yes, but only to those applicants that follow the procedures for an exception to the electronic submission requirement.

You can review those exceptions in the NIA and/or the Common Instructions for Applicants to the Department of Education Discretionary Grants program that were published in the Federal Register. Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically. You can review how to do this in the grants.gov "How to Apply for Grants" website for guidance.

If you are experiencing problems on submitting your application through grants.gov, please contact the grants.gov Support Center, there is a toll-free number and you can submit a ticket.

grants.gov support is available 24/7. However, as Stephanie noted earlier, this excepts federal holidays. You must obtain a grants.gov Support Desk number and keep a record of that number in order to submit via mail. Next slide.

"Should an applicant include the Project Director as a contact person in the abstract?" Yes, the Project Director will be contacted on matters involving the application. The next question, "Should we upload each appendix individually or as one large file?" Applicants should attach all applicable appendices to the other attachments form on grants.gov.

The other attachment forms can support up to 10 attachments, therefore merge appendices into one file, as needed. Keep in mind, special characters could impact your ability to submit because grants.gov does not properly process special characters.

So, we do not recommend the use of colons, backslashes when naming your files. You can learn more about special character limitations on the grants.gov website. "Is there a size restriction when you attach a merged document?" As stated in the application package instructions, applicants should limit the size of their file name when attaching files.

Lengthy names could result in difficulties when opening and processing your application. ED recommends that your file name be less than 50 characters. Applicants should limit the size of their file attachments. Documents submitted that contain graphics or scanned materials often increase the size of the attachments. For reference, the average discretionary grant application package with all attachments is less than 5 MBs.

grants.gov suggests limiting the file size of this grant application, including all attachments, to less than 200 MBs. "Are we required to stay within the page limit?" No, as stated in the NIA "Recommended Page Limit" is 60 page limit is only recommended and applies only to the project narrative.

I am now transitioning to Stephanie.

- Thanks, Laura. So, now we're going to talk about eligibility. "Can a one-school charter school planning to expand apply for the competition?" No, only CMOs are eligible to apply, not individual charter schools. And again, earlier I read the definition of a CMO, but once more, the CSP authorizing statute defines a CMO as a non-profit organization that operates or manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.

Please, consider applying through your state's CSP State Entity subgrant competition, if it's available, or monitor the CSP Developer Grants website for the next competition for applicants in eligible states. And again, you're going to be able to download this presentation and access all of these links and resources that we're providing.

"If our CMO is opening several new campuses, do we apply per charter school or per organization in one application?" CMO should submit one application that includes all the high-quality charter schools it is proposing to replicate or expand with CSP CMO grant funds over the project period, which is up to 5 years or 60 months.

"Can the same applicant submit more than one application if applying on behalf of different charter schools?" Yes, as long as the applicant proposes to serve different charter schools and conduct different activities. The key word there is "different," different charter schools and different activities.

So, you should review the purpose, eligibility, allowable activities, and other competition requirements in the NIA. "We have three schools in our district, do we have to apply with another district?" So, if your district is an eligible CMO, you may apply individually or as part of a group or consortium.

Now, I recognize that some CMOs may call themselves a district. And so, that's why we point out here "district..." again, this competition is open to CMOs. So, if your district is an eligible CMO, you may apply and you may do so individually or as part of a group or consortium. Only CMOs are eligible to apply, not traditional public-school districts.

"What documentation is used to verify a CMO's status to ensure we meet the CMO definition and are eligible to apply?" So, once again, in the NIA, it defines what a CMO is.

And what the NIA also includes is it describes what documentation a CMO must submit to demonstrate its non-profit status. And that's in the "Eligible Applicants" section. Here, on this slide, we also list it, not going to read it, but it does contain a list of what you can submit to demonstrate your non-profit status. "Do we have to have an approved charter by the application deadline date to be eligible to apply for the competition?"

No, as long as the applicant qualifies as a CMO, in the NIA, it states, as part of "Application Requirement, s" what you have to have. So, in the case of an applicant that has not yet received its approved charter from an authorized public chartering agency to which you have applied, you can provide a copy of the application.

Of course, if you have received your charter, you provide a copy of that approved charter. But if you have not, you can provide a copy of your application. "Could you provide guidance as to whether an applicant must have submitted an application to their charter authorizer for all of the schools they are applying for funding through this competition? For example, if a CMO is applying for funding for five new schools to open in the five-year period of the grant, do they need to provide evidence they have submitted an application to their chartering authorizer for all five of those schools?"

So, as I stated, if you have not received your charter, you should provide a copy of the application. However, for this specifically, if you're in the situation where you have not secured a charter or applied for a charter for all the schools, you should state that in your application and indicate when you expect to submit the applications for those schools to an authorized public chartering agency.

"If we are anticipating approval from our authorizer in June 2023, are we still eligible to apply based on the maximum 18-month planning period and charter authorization requirements?"

Yes, as long as the applicant qualifies as a CMO, June 2023 does fall within the 18-month planning period. So, remember, the project period for this grant starts April 1st of 2023. "Can a CMO apply for the competition if an entity in our state has a CSP State Entity grant?"

And I should pause for a minute and say that now we've transitioned to the other CSP grants questions, and these questions have to do with applicants who currently have or previously had a CSP grant or sub-grant.

So, I'm going to go over it once more. Can a CMO apply for the competition if an entity in our state has a CSP State Entity grant? Yes, whether a state entity has an active CSP State Entity grant does not impact the eligibility of CMOs in that state.

"We have an active fiscal year 2018 CSP grant that was awarded to start an elementary school, do we qualify to apply for another CSP grant?" So, as you'll hear us state again and again, CMOs are the only eligible applicants under this competition.

So, first, ensure that you are a CMO and an eligible CMO. An eligible applicant with an active CSP CMO Grant may apply under this competition if it meets those eligibility requirements that we keep referring to. Keep in mind, however, that you may not receive funds under this grant to carry out the same activities, this is a phrase you'll hear us use again and again, may not receive funds under this grant to carry out the same activities.

However, such a charter school may be eligible to receive funds through a CSP CMO Grant awarded under this competition to expand the charter school beyond the existing grade levels or student count. And again, this is detailed in the NIA.

Next slide, please. "If we are currently completing a no-cost extension, or NCE, year, are we eligible to apply if the requested funds do not cover the same activities?" So, possibly. An

applicant with an active CSP CMO Grant may apply if they meet the eligibility requirements and the application is not proposing to carry out the same activities.

So, again, you'll hear us say it again and again, if you're not proposing to carry out the same activities. "Can a CMO with an active grant apply for this competition if we have been unable to fully implement the active grant?"

An applicant with an active CSP CMO Grant may apply if you meet the eligibility requirements and it's not for the same activities. However, to the second part of that question about "have been unable to fully implement the active grant," keep in mind that the department may consider a number of factors in determining whether to recommend approval of a grant, including the applicant's administration of prior grants, and that active grant falls under the heading of prior grants.

So, this is stated in the "Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions" section of the NIA and it says that, consistent with two CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under the competition, ED conducts a review of the risk proposed by applicants. And some of the things that are looked at is, "Does the applicant have a history of unsatisfactory performance or has it not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant?"

"We were recipients of a start-up CSP grant and are looking to apply to add additional grade levels to our existing campus, can we apply for this grant?" So, again, as previously stated, non-profit CMOs are the only eligible entities under this program.

So, if you previously received a CSP CMO grant, you may apply under this competition if you meet the eligibility requirements and, again, if it's not for the same activities. So, we strongly encourage you, if you've had other CSP grants, to read the "Other CSP Grants" section of the NIA. And at this point, I'm going to hand it back to Laura to go through replication and expansion.

- In this section, "Replication and Expansion," we will review and address questions regarding replicating and expanding schools, the definition and parameters. The first question is, "Is there a difference in requirements for replication versus expansion schools?"

Yes, grants will be awarded to CMOs to replicate or expand one or more high-quality charter schools. "Replicate," as Stephanie has noted, means to open, and as stated in the NIA, means to open a new charter school or new campus of a high-quality charter school. "To expand" means to significantly increase enrollment or add one or more grades to a high-quality charter school.

Next slide. "Our current proposal specifies that one grade will be added each year, do we need to apply for an expansion grant each year?" No, you may submit one application for funding for a period of up to 5 years, 60 months, and that includes the expansion schools.

"Is there a timeline for opening a replication school?" The maximum planning period is 18 months. "Can I use the grant to add an elementary school to our existing middle and high school?" Yes.

As defined in the NIA, "to replicate" is to open a new charter school or new campus of a high-quality charter school. "Expand" is when you significantly increase enrollment or add one or more grades. The next question, "To expand does a school have to add grades? For example, if a school currently enrolls 400 students in kindergarten through 6th grade, can we propose to expand to 700 through 800 students in kindergarten through 6th grade or do we have to expand our grades served as well?"

No, as the definition, "to expand" means to significantly increase enrollment. So, you can expand without adding grade levels. "What minimum number of seats or schools are you looking for in an application?" The NIA does not prescribe any minimum number of seats or schools for a proposed project.

An applicant should determine what is appropriate to achieve in their project's goals and objectives. "As a CMO with many years of success, we will apply for a new school and a new state. Would this qualify as a replication or expansion?"

Proposing a new high-quality charter school would constitute a replication. And again, the definition of replication means to open a new charter school or new campus of a high-quality charter school based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school.

"Is expanding to Pre-K, example, early childhood, an allowable activity?" Yes, if the school meets each element of the definition of charter school of the ESEA, including providing a program of elementary or secondary education.

Program funds may not be used solely to support a Pre-K program. As stated in the NIA, grants must provide programs of elementary or secondary education or both and may also serve students in early-childhood education programs. "How much funding can be awarded per year?"

The NIA does not prescribe a maximum award amount per project year, nor for the total project. The NIA has established though a maximum award amount per replicated or expanded charter school, which is 1.5 million.

"If we are awarded a grant, when will the funds be dispersed?" Funds will be awarded by March 31st, 2023. However, a new grantee must comply with various specific conditions in its first project year before it is allowed to begin drawing down funds from its G5 account.

For example, every new grantee must complete a post-award performance conference call with the CSP Program Officer that includes reviewing the proposed budget and addressing any necessary changes and requests for additional information or clarification.

"Does ED limit or set a specific dollar amount for the use of planning funds that may be used prior to securing charter approval or leasing or purchasing a facility?" The NIA does not limit the funding amount that can be used specifically for planning costs.

However, the NIA does limit how long planning funds can be used for and for what purposes. A grant may be for a period no more than five years and may use no more than 18 months for planning and program design.

As stated in the "Assurance i," you may include hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, providing training and professional development to staff, and other critical planning activities that need to occur prior to the charter school opening when such costs cannot be met from other sources.

"Are staff salaries allowable expenses? What are other specific allowable expenses?" Yes, staff salaries are, but there are limitations. Personnel involved in projects and identified in approved applications with resumes may be allowable expenses.

Please, see the "Funding Restrictions" section of the NIA. In addition, grant funds may be used to carry out one or more of the activities described below, and you can see the full list in the NIA. And that means preparing teachers, school leaders, specialized instructional support staff, providing professional development, hiring and compensating during the eligible applicant's planning period, etc.

"Can I use this grant for capital projects and construction for my existing charter school?" No, this is a non-construction program. As stated in the NIA, grant funds can be used to carry out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations and minor repairs.

And this excludes constructions. As stated in the "New Flexibilities" under the Every Student Succeeds Act FAQ, ED interprets "new school building" to include an existing building that is new, or first-time, site for a charter school that is operating or expanding.

"Are there updated flexibilities regarding non-construction repairs, improvements?" Applicants can review current flexibilities for non-construction repair costs in the "Nonregulatory Guidance" section of the CSP website.

Under the section 4303 of ESEA, funds may be used for minor repairs. Some examples of minor repairs include repairing a leak in the roof, replacing a broken window, and repairing a furnace or air conditioning unit. In essence, minor repairs neither add to the permanent value of the property nor prolong the life but rather keep it in efficient operating condition.

"Can I use this grant for general operations costs?" Yes, but there are limitations. As stated in the "Funding Restrictions" section of the NIA, within the context of opening and preparing for the operations of one or more replicated high-quality charter schools or expanding one or more high-quality charter schools, a portion of the grant funds can be used for appropriate non-sustained costs associated with the expansion or improvement of the grantees oversight or management of the charter school.

Additionally, an applicant can include indirect costs in its proposed budget, and there is more information about this in the NIA and on our website. "Does this grant require cost sharing or matching?"

No. However, if an applicant chooses to include a match, it must report on that match for the entire life of the grant. "Please, clarify the 'Supplement-not-Supplant' funding requirements for this grant competition." As stated in the "Supplement-not-Supplant" section of the NIA, this competition does not involve supplement-not-supplant funding requirements.

"If you were to hire a new faculty for the new school/location and have them first trained at the existing school/location, would this be an allowable expense that should be included under 'Personnel' and not 'Training Stipends' in the ED 524 form?"

As stated in the "Funding Restrictions" section of the NIA, grant funds can be used for preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including paying costs associated with providing professional development, hiring and compensating during the eligible applicant's planning period, and one or more of the following: teachers, school leaders, and specialized support personnel.

This type of cost should be included in "Personnel" or "Contractual" budget category of the ED 524 form, not "Training Stipends." "If enlisting a partner or consultant for the proposed project, is there a requirement that the applicants go through a formal procurement process, example, soliciting bids from three or more potential vendors/evaluators?"

Applicants must comply with the federal procurement standards, which can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, and we have provided a link. Additionally, please review the requirements in the NIA for any existing or proposed contract for for-profit management organizations, including a nonprofit management organization operating by or on behalf of a for-profit entity.

Now, I'm transitioning to Stephanie.

- Thanks, Laura. So, now I'm going to take us through the last category of questions that we received. And these were around the priorities, the selection criteria, and the application requirements. And so, we're going to touch on topics such as the 2022 NFP, how to meet the priorities, and providing data for the project narrative elements, as well as other topics.

So, to start, "Can you provide a link to the 2022 NFP reference during the Pre-Application webinar?" So, yes, we have and we have provided the link, and I think it's also going to be posted to the chat. But in addition, this presentation has a link to the NFP on the Federal Register website, as well as the PDF version.

"What if I do not meet the Invitational Priority, which is Collaborations between Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools or Districts that Benefit Students and Families across Schools?" So, an applicant does not have to "meet" the invitational priority in this year's competition, it is strictly optional and no additional points are given to applicants that address the priority.

So, as is also stated in the NIA, using an invitational priority allows the department to encourage beneficial collaborations without giving applications that meet this priority

preference over other applications. So, just to reiterate, it is strictly optional and there are no additional points given to applicants that do address this priority.

"Can you apply for Competitive Preference Priority 2, which is High School Students without replicating or expanding a high school but still preparing elementary or middle-school students for postsecondary success? Or must you be replicating or expanding a high school?"

So, no, CPP 2 is applicable to replicating or expanding high-quality charter schools to serve high-school students. "What is the number of years of data the department requires in an application? As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, would it be okay to provide only Spring 2022 data?"

So, this is where it's important to read the priority, the selection criterion, the application requirement or the assurance closely. If it does not specify a time period or number of years, the applicant should provide sufficient data to cover a reasonable time period and may include an explanation of the data for context.

So, again, this is why you will hear us say again and again, you must read the NIA thoroughly. "How large should a student subgroup be to report? Is it 10 students? More than that? Less than that?"

So, the NIA does not prescribe a minimum size for providing data for student subgroups in an application. So, applicants should provide performance and enrollment data for the students it serves by the student subgroups, except if in doing so the size would be too small. "What is allowable evidence of family, educator..."

excuse me, "What is allowable evidence of family, educator, and community input and engagement?" So, there are no prescribed examples of evidence. The NIA references ways to engage families, educators, and the community, including public hearings. "Can you talk more about Application Requirement s4, which states 'To provide a proposed budget, including a detailed description of any post-award planning costs,' is this for the period after the 5-year project period is over?"

So, the term "post-award" in Application Requirement s in the NIA refers to the project period itself, which begins after, i.e. post-award. So, after an award is made. So, the project period can be for up to five years. So, again, when it says "include a detailed description of any post-award planning costs" means, after the award is made by March 31st, 2023, you then would go into the post-award stage.

And so, what costs are included during that stage? It is not for after the five-year period, if you choose to apply for up to five years. "Does an updated list of flexibilities exist to help CMOs build their application budget and budget narrative?"

So, you can review current flexibilities in the "Nonregulatory Guidance" section of the CSP website, but we do also want to encourage you to view the technical assistance webinars,

particularly the one that is on "Budgets," which may be helpful for you in developing your budget and budget narrative.

And again, those are available on our website. "Please explain Appendix E-Schools Operated by Applicant. Is this a new requirement?" No. So, Appendix E is not a new requirement. It describes the type of information that an applicant should provide to demonstrate that it meets Application Requirement d.

Application Requirement d is actually from the November 2018 NFP for CSP CMO Grants, and we've provided a link to it, if you'd like to review it. And so, that is why it was not included in the July 2022 NFP. So, the July 2022 NFP supplements existing statutory and regulatory provisions governing CSP CMO grants, and the other programs that were included in it, and that includes provisions in the November 2018 NFP.

So, again, Appendix E schools operated by the applicant is not new, and it is to provide information, to demonstrate that an applicant meets Application Requirement d. So, "For Appendix E-Schools Operated by the Applicant it states, 'Provide information to show that the applicant operates more than one charter school, therefore meeting Application Requirement d,'" and then it goes on to provide a list.

So, "In this case, we operate numerous schools in multiple regions and are applying as a consortium. Do we have to provide this information and documentation for every school we operate or only those in the regions we are proposing to serve?" So, Application Requirement d requires the applicant to demonstrate that it, quote, "currently operates or manages more than one charter school."

So, at a minimum, the group application, or consortium application, must include sufficient information to demonstrate that each member of the consortium operates or manages more than one charter school. That information may consist of a general overview of each group member's network and specific information on a representative sample of individual charter schools in the network.

"As part of Assurance h, we know we are required to certify that a public hearing has taken place regarding the formation of a replication school and submit a summary of comments. Does this apply to expansion schools as well? Our schools are adding seats to an existing campus and the authorizer did not require us to amend the charter to expand. Are we still required to conduct a public hearing? If so, does the public hearing have to take place before we submit our application?"

So, as stated, this assurance applies to all charter schools funded under the grant, that is expansion and replication schools, regardless of whether the authorizer requires an existing charter school to amend its charter in order to expand. If the required hearing has not been held by the time the application is submitted, then the applicant should state that in the application and indicate when it expects to conduct the hearing.

"How should we think about reporting performance measures when the grant year ends in March, but many assessments happen after March?" So, if you're awarded a grant, you will have to submit an annual performance report or an APR.

And that's due in November of every year. So, grantees will be asked to report on the most recent data available and are instructed to include an explanation if any data are not...excuse me, if any data are unavailable. So, in developing your performance measures, you should review the NIA, you should review the application package instructions.

But once again, we encourage you to look at the technical assistance webinars, and in particular there is one on there specifically on "Logic Models and S.M.A.R.T. Performance Measures" that may be helpful. "Must the designated Project Director attend the Project Director's meeting each year or could someone else from the organization stand in their place?"

So, in the "Project Directors' Meeting" section of the NIA it states that applicants approved for funding under this competition must attend a meeting for project directors. Applicants may include the cost of attending this meeting as an administrative cost in their proposed budgets. And if a Project Director is unable to attend, the Project Director must inform the department and request permission to send an alternate.

Also, applicants may budget for other personnel in addition to the Project Director to attend the Project Director's meeting. All right. So, that's all the questions. So, now we're nearly done. So, we're going to go over some competition resources.

Next slide, please. Okay "Where to Find Competition Materials?" So, we provided links to the NIA, both the PDF version and the HTML version on the Federal Register website. We've also provided a link to the application package instructions. Here we provided a direct link to this funding opportunity on the grants.gov website, as well as a link to the application package instructions on the CSP's competition website.

For registrations, we provided a link to register on sam.gov and grants.gov. And please do so immediately to ensure you can submit an application by the closing date. And once again, that date is January 3rd, 2023. Also, on our Competition Website you can access the recording, slide deck, and transcript for last week's live webinar, the "Pre-Application Competition Webinar."

You can access two pre-recorded webinars, one on "Budgets," the other on Logic Models and SMART Performance Measures. And that's also where we are going to post today's webinar materials. Contact Information.

So, this is the competition email address where you can send your questions. And also we provided the address for grants.gov, as well as the phone number. Okay. So, here we're going to pause to take final questions. Looks like we have about 5 minutes left.

I know we've gone through a lot of information, we received a lot of questions, we responded to the overwhelming majority of them. Any question we didn't respond to was generally

because it was a question that was already addressed by something we would be discussing. However, you can ask questions now and you can also submit them to the competition email address that we have provided.

So, we're going to pause here for a minute to look at questions. Okay, we're going to go through a few of these. "What are the expectations regarding the use of an external evaluator as part of our methods of evaluation?"

The NIA does not stipulate that you have to use an external evaluator. There's a question here about whether or not the application should come from the organization and not the charter school itself.

So, just to reiterate what we've been saying, this competition is open to charter management organizations. So, the application must be submitted by an eligible charter management organization. How do we define significant enrollment? So, once again, the NIA does not define significant enrollment.

So, you should plan for whatever is necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of your project. Okay.

So, at this point, if you still have questions, submit them to the email address that we have provided. And again, please review the NIA, the application package instructions, and the resources that are available on the CSP competition website. Finally, we want to know how we did.

So, please complete the survey, if you have a few minutes, it is a very short survey. And again, thank you for your time, and good luck with your application.