



U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education  
Charter School Programs  
FY 2023 Pre-Application Webinar - CMO Grant Competition (ALN  
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Session Transcript  
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- [Stephanie] So good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Pre-Application Technical Assistance Webinar for the Fiscal Year 2023 Charter Schools program, CMO Grants Competition. My name is Stephanie Jones and I supervise the CMO and developer grant programs here at the Department of Education.

At last count, we had more than 160 people registered for today's webinar, so it is very exciting to see this level of interest this fiscal year. So, today's webinar is listen-only. We are recording the webinar and the recording, the slide deck, and a transcript will be posted on the CSP Competition website this week.

We have a lot of time for questions throughout the webinar. Use the Q&A feature to submit your questions and comments. Finally, we have identified the new CSP CMO Competition elements where possible and will be discussing them during today's webinar.

So here is today's agenda. As you can see, we have a lot of content to discuss over the next 90 minutes. Our goals with today's webinar are to provide a high-level overview of the Fiscal Year 2023 CSP CMO Grants Competition, reviewing critical components like eligibility, priorities, selection criteria, application requirements, and the process for submitting your application.

We will also highlight what's new in this year's competition as a result of the CSP's final rule that was published in the Federal Register on July 6th of this year. So let's get started with the CSP overview and what's new. So the entire CSP is led by Anna Hinton.

And the CMO program specifically includes two program officers, Patricia Kilby-Robb and Laura Montas-Brown. So today you're going to hear from Laura, who is also serving as this year's competition manager in addition to me.

So this is very important, and I want to emphasize this. This slide deck does not contain the full text of what is in the notice inviting applications that was published in the Federal Register on November 10th, 2022. So before applying for this grant, interested applicants should thoroughly review the NIA, the application package instructions, and the CSP competition website.

So there will be links within the slide deck that's going to be posted online. And we're also going to be posting links in the chat throughout today's presentation. So applicants should not rely solely on this webinar for information and guidance on the NIA. Instead, you should use it in conjunction with the NIA as a resource.

So, regarding your questions, I want to say that once again, we've budgeted time for Q&A at the end of each section. So you should submit your questions through the Q&A feature.

Only submit questions that are relevant to the topics that we have just discussed in the section. We also have a competition email address. So due to time constraints and the number of participants, as I said, again, we had over 160 people register, so we may not answer all the questions submitted. So if your question is not addressed or if you have a follow-up question, send it to our email address, [CMOCompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:CMOCompetition2023@ed.gov).

Also, next week on the 14th at 03:30 p.m. Eastern Time, we're going to host another live webinar to present responses to unanswered and frequently asked competition questions. So that webinar will be posted on the CSP Competition website afterwards, just like this one will be posted after today's presentation.

And a registration link is being shared with you and you can also access it in the slide deck. I also want to point out that if you send an email to that competition email address that we've provided, we'll respond directly to your email, or if it's also a commonly asked question, it will likely pop up in next week's webinar as well.

Now, keep in mind, there are some questions that regardless of when we receive them, we are not going to be able to answer them. For example, we are not able to address questions about the competitiveness of a specific entity or project design, nor are we able to provide a substantive explanation of the rationale behind the inclusion or exclusion of the specific requirements.

In the case of the NPP and the NFP, the NFP being the final rule that I mentioned that was published on July 6, 2022. We actually intend to provide a detailed discussion and rationale for new actions in an upcoming presentation, and so more information will be shared about that from the CSP in the future.

So definitions are very important for what we're going to be discussing today. So we're going to define terms whenever possible during today's webinar. For example, expand and replicate, words that you'll hear frequently when discussing this specific grant. But this slide here lists all the terms that are actually explained in the NIA in the definition section.

So I strongly encourage you to check the NIA for these definitions. So let's take a step back and talk about the entire CSP and the major purposes of the CSP before we get into a detailed discussion of CMO specifically.

So the CSP statute identifies seven major purposes of the CSP. In the interest of time, I'm not going to discuss each purpose in detail, but I will say generally that the CSP provides federal financial assistance for the planning, program design, initial implementation, replication, or expansion of high-quality charter schools, as well as providing assistance with charter school facilities, financing, sharing information about promising practices, and investing in... Next slide, please.

So the CSP consists of six key grant competitions each of which supports activities important to the success of charter schools. So I do want to point out that our ability to run competitions in each program annually depends on a number of factors, including the availability of funds.

So first, the reason why you're here today, let's see, in the first box here is the CMO Grants Program, also known as the Charter School Replication and Expansion Grants Program. And

I also want to point out that for each of our programs, we've provided a link to that specific program's website.

We also have the grants to state entities known as the SE Grants Program that actually makes up the largest CSP grant component. And these grants can be awarded to state education agencies or SEAs, governors, state charter school boards, or state charter school support organizations, which in turn awards subgrants for the planning and initial operation of new charter schools.

Then we have our Developer Grants Program. So under this program, in states where there isn't an active SE Grant Program, individual schools and developers may apply directly to the department for funds to support opening a new school or to replicate or expand a high-quality school.

And continuing down we have National Dissemination grants. So the key purpose of the National Dissemination Grants Program is to increase quality throughout the sector by disseminating best practices related to charter school operations and management. And then we have our Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Grants Program.

So this program provides support for charter schools to acquire or renovate facilities. And then finally, we have our State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants which provide funding for charter school facilities on a per-pupil basis. So once again, we've provided links on each of these, in each of these boxes to the specific program's website so you can learn more about them.

So here's the CMO competition at a glance. So I want to say at the outset competition basics. So this is a discretionary grant program. We currently have an estimated \$95 million available for making awards. The estimated range of awards will be from \$250,000 to \$15 million per year.

The estimated average size of awards will be \$2 million per year. The estimated number of awards will be 15 to 20. The maximum award will be \$1.5 million per school that's included in an application. The maximum planning period is up to 18 months and the project period is up to 60 months or 5 years.

I do want to point out that in the case where it says estimate, these are estimates and the department is not bound by these estimates, but we provide them for some context and information on the competition. Okay.

So this is very important, the application deadline. So the application is due January 3rd, 2023 at 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time. So both the date and time are critical. So you will be submitting through grants.gov. There is a grants.gov applicant support available, a help desk, and it's available 24/7, but not on federal holidays.

So you are strongly encouraged to submit early. You can always resubmit your application up to the closing date and time if you need to update your application. So please make sure to plan around the fact that grants.gov applicant support will not be available on federal holidays, and the time that you'll be working on this will include some holidays.

Next slide, please. So let's talk about what's new this year. On this slide, we're going to talk about the final rulemaking, the new priorities, and the new selection criteria that are relevant for the CMO Competition.

And so on July 6, 2022, the department published a notice of final priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria, also known as an NFP for the CSP program in the Federal Register, and we've provided a link to it. For purposes of the CMO, it included some new priorities and some new selection criteria.

So only one of the two priorities that were proposed in the NFP will impact funding decisions in this year's competition, and that's CPP 3 Competitive Preference Priority 3. So it's promoting high-quality educator and community center charter schools to support underserved students. The other priority, which is collaborations between charter schools and traditional public schools or districts that benefit students and families across schools, that's an invitational priority.

So that's not going to impact any funding decisions. And then there's the new selection criteria. So there are two new selection criteria in this year's competition. The first is quality of the needs analysis, and the second is quality of the management plan. So we're going to be going over these in detail later in the presentation.

But some other things that I do want to point out is that this discussion is not intended to be a review or even a discussion of the rationale for each of these newly established actions of the final rule, instead discussion of only those actions that are being implemented for this CMO competition.

So once again, there will be an explainer webinar on the rules at a future date and that will be advertised. So I also want to point out that these rules, that is the NFP serves to supplement and not replace rules that were previously established for the CMO program in 2018.

So there is a 2018 CMO NFP and this 2022 NFP supplements what was established in that 2018 NFP. Next slide, please. And so there were also new application requirements and new assurances.

So these are, this is a longer list in both cases. So in the case of new application requirements, there are three new application requirements, and here we've only provided an excerpt or a summary of them because they are rather lengthy in some instances, and that's application requirements Q, which has to do with a needs analysis and application requirement R, which has to do with existing or proposed contracts with a for-profit management organization, and then application requirement S, which has to do with charter authorization information and documentation.

And again, we're going to be going over these later in the presentation. And then there were seven new assurances. First, Assurances D and E both have to do with, excuse me, a for-profit contract. And then Assurance F has to do with posting information about that contract online.

And then Assurance G has to do with the disclosure of policies, requirements, and services that could impact a family's ability to enroll or remain enrolled in a charter school.

Assurance H has to do with holding or participating in a public hearing in the community where the proposed charter school will be located.

Assurance I has to do with not using implementation funds until after charter approval and providing acceptable proof of a facility in which to operate. And then finally, Assurance J has to do with posting requirements that must occur within 120 days of the date of the grant award notification. So again, we're going to be going over these later in the presentation, but we did want to highlight what is new with the priorities, selection criteria, application requirements, and assurances.

So with that, I'm going to hand it off to Laura.

- [Laura] Thank you, Stephanie. Hello, everyone. So, CMO Grants Program Purpose and Eligibility. Next slide. The Purpose. The department awards grants to CMOs 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 and add one or more grades to an existing high-quality charter school, open one or more new charter schools or a new campus of a high-quality charter school based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school.

Charter schools that receive financial assistance through the CSP CMO grant provide programs of elementary and/or secondary education, and may also serve students in early childhood education programs or post-secondary students consistent with the terms in their charter. Eligibility.

Next slide. Eligibility. Eligible applicants are CMOs and may apply individually or part of a group consortium. A CMO is a nonprofit 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 nonprofit organization may demonstrate its nonprofit status.

Next slide. No double dipping. A charter school may not receive funds to carry out the same activities if they have previously received funds for a replication or expansion under another CSP CMO Grant program been awarded a subgrant or grant under the SE Grant program, have been awarded a grant under the Developer Grant program.

However, a charter school may be eligible to receive funds through this competition to expand a charter school beyond the existing grade levels or student count. Next slide. Defining replication versus expansion.

To replicate means to open a new charter school or a 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.

So let's define high-quality charter school. It shows evidence of strong academic results and this may include strong academic growth as determined by the state, has no significant issues in areas of student safety, financial and operation management, statutory or regulation compliance.

Has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student achievement, including graduation rates where applicable for all students and for students of individual student subgroups. Next slide.

Pulling your application together. Next slide. The application package can be found in grants.gov. Instructions and other resources can be found in the CSP Competition website I believe was provided in the chat, but we can also provide it again.

In the next couple of slides, I will review the required forms, application narrative, and other attachments. It is very important to note that a complete application consists of all of these components. Next slide. There are five required ED standard forms and three required assurances and certification.

In the next couple of slides, you will see a picture of the form and a couple of highlights of each. Next slide. The required SF-424 Form.

Here is a picture of it. And then as far as highlights, please note that the organizational UEI must be the same UEI number used when you registered with grants.gov. As far as lines 16A-B Congressional Districts.

In this you must enter the district applicant information, where it's located, and the district in which the activities will occur. Line 17A-B proposed project start date and end dates. The start date for this is April 1st, 2023 and you may request funding for up to 60 months, which is five years.

So the end date should reflect the number of years requested. As far as lines 18, Estimated Funding, this should only reflect that amount requested for the first project year. And lastly, the executive order 12372. This is program subject to the executive order. Next slide.

The ED 524 form, this is the budget form, picture is here. Section A, complete all the years for which you're requesting funding. Funds requested must match the detailed budget narrative and that I will discuss later on in the slides.

If you have an approved indirect cost rate, you must provide details at the bottom of the form. Please note construction is not an allowable cost. As far as training stipends, this is not applicable. This line is not applicable for this program. The training stipend line item only pertains to costs associated with long-term training and college or university coursework.

As far as things that are applicable, salary stipends paid to teachers and other school personnel for participating in short-term professional development should be reported in line at one which is personnel. And lastly, please check your math when submitting this document.

Next slide. Abstract and Project Narrative Forms. So for this, please include...for the abstract narrative form, include the name and address of the organization. Include the phone number, email address of the contact, the name of the contact person for the project.

This should not exceed two double-sided pages. It should include the project title if applicable, and a concise description of the following information, objectives, activities applicable priorities, proposed outcomes, number of participants that will be served, location of proposed sites as far as the narrative form.

To facilitate the review of the application, please organize your project narrative in the following order, competitive priorities, invitational priority, section criteria, and application requirements.

The recommended page limit for the narrative is 60 double-sided pages. The table of contents and other attachments do not need to be counted in that page limit. As far as other important things to note here is that the abstract language should range for a variety of audiences to be able to easily understand.

Next slide. Budget Narrative Form and Budget. Grantees under this program must use the grant funds to replicate or expand the charter school model or models for which the applicant has presented evidence of success.

Specifically, grant funds must be used to carry out allowable activities. Applicants must ensure all costs, including the proposed budget, are reasonable and necessary in light of the goals and objectives of the proposed project. Keep in mind, any cost determined to be unreasonable or unnecessary will be removed from the final budget.

The budget must be accompanied by an itemized budget narrative by project year for each budget category in addition to justification of cost included. In the next couple of slides, I will go through funding considerations and restrictions.

Next slide. Funding considerations. Successful applicant projects performance period will start on April 1st, 2023. Applicants should use the budget period of the grant and not a fiscal year budget period. Grant awarded may be for a period no more than 5 years, 60 months.

Grantees may not use more than 18 months for planning and program design. And for this competition, the maximum limit of grant funds that may be awarded is \$1.5 million per replication or expansion per school.

Next slide. I'll restate this again. This is a non-construction grant, so this may not be used for construction that would add value to the property. Grantees must attend a two-day project directors meeting during each project year.

And lastly, please read the funding restrictions in the applicable regulations section of the NIA thoroughly. We also recommend that you review the budget narrative resources in this slide deck. Funding Restrictions and Use of Funds.

Grant funds must be used and carried out allowable activities. Grant funds must be used to carry out one or more of the activities described below. So preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional personnel.

Providing professional development, hiring, and compensating during eligible application planning period. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and educational materials, carrying out necessary renovations, and providing a one-time startup cost associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.

Next slide. Also carrying out community engagement events, activities, providing other appropriate sustained cost. And further, within the context of opening and preparing for operations, a portion of the grant funds can be used for appropriate nonsustained costs

associated with the expansion or improvement of the grantees' oversight or management of this charter school.

Next slide. Allowable Cost Framework. So, when deciding when completing your budget forms, please review this framework and ask yourself, is it necessary for the completion of this project?

Is the cost reasonable? Is that cost...would it be incurred by any prudent person? Is it allowable and is it allocable? It's important to note that proposed cost must be necessary, reasonable, allocable, and allowable in accordance with the federal cost principles to be included in the budget.

Next slide. As far as budget and budget narrative resources, we have...we'll include a link, but we have a pre-application webinar on how to develop a budget and that is also included in our Competition website.

Next slide. Other Attachment Forms. Applicants should attach all applicable appendices to the other attachment forms. Files should be either in Microsoft Word or PDF. Label each file with the appendix's name. And other attachment forms can support up to 10 attachments, therefore merge if you need to.

Next slide. The following seven appendices should be attached using the other attachment forms. So these include assurances, resumes, letters of support, proof of nonprofit status, schools operating by the applicant, and supplemental budgets.

Next slide. Provide information to show that the applicant operates more than one charter school, therefore meeting the application requirements. And there you'll see the requirements.

But please, as Stephanie has reinforced, please review the NIA for specific details. Next slide.

- All right, so this is Section 4. It's on the components of the NIA. You keep hearing Laura and me talk about checking the NIA because it is important. So you should review the NIA and we provide links throughout this slide deck. We've also dropped it into the chat, but you should review it for a complete description of the priorities, selection criteria, application requirements, and assurances.

Next slide, please. So this shows all of the elements for this year's CMO Competition and the points associated with them. So first, there are the competitive preference priorities, or CPPs, and the invitational priority.

So there are three CPPs and each is worth up to seven points. And as we've stated, the invitational priority is not worth any points. Now, the CPPs and the IP are optional. You do not have to write to those. And the points you see here are what you can earn up to.

So it's up to seven for each of the CPPs for a total of up to 21 points. These would, for lack of a better word, be considered bonus points. Then there's the selection criteria. So these are required. There are four selection criteria. Near the start, I pointed out that there are two new ones that haven't been used in past CMO competitions.

But there are four selection criteria. I am going to go through them, but they are worth up to a total of 100 points responding to the selection criteria that is required. And so the total that you could potentially earn for your application is up to 121 points. But again, I do want to stress that the CPPs and the invitational priority are strictly optional.

And then in addition to that, there is a total of 19 application requirements that must be addressed and then there are 10 assurances that you must attest to and we are going to be going through those. So I also want to point out that now that we're going to go through each of these elements, some of them are very lengthy and so we're not going to be able to read all the language associated with them, but we're going to do our best to highlight some things in them.

But again, this is why it's critical for you to read the NIA thoroughly. Next slide, please. So CPP 1 is worth again up to seven points, and it's racially and socioeconomically diverse student bodies.

So under this priority, applicants must propose to operate or manage high-quality charter schools with racially and socioeconomically diverse student bodies. And this CPP does come from the statute. Next slide. CPP 2. This one has been used in past CMO competitions.

It's worth up to seven points and it has to do with high school students. And under this priority, applicants must propose to replicate or expand high-quality charter schools to serve high school students. And it goes as various components associated with that. Preparing students, including educationally disadvantaged students in those schools for enrollment in post-secondary education institutions, providing support for students who graduate from the charter schools and enroll in post-secondary institutions in persisting and attaining a degree or certificate.

Also proposing one or more project-specific performance measures associated with high school students. And finally, for purposes of this priority, post-secondary education institutions include institutions of higher education, and this is also a term that is defined in the NIA. Next slide, please.

CPP 3. This is one of the ones that I highlighted as new, so it's promoting high-quality, educator and community-centered charter schools to support underserved students. That is worth up to seven points. So under this priority, an applicant must propose to open a new charter school or to replicate or expand a high-quality charter school that is developed and implemented.

One, with meaningful and ongoing engagement with current or former teachers and other educators, and two, using a community-centered approach. So in your application, should you choose to write to the CPP, you must provide a high-quality plan that demonstrates how your proposed project would meet the requirements in paragraph A of this priority, accompanied by a timeline for key milestones that span the course of planning, development, and implementation of that charter school or schools.

Next slide, please. Okay, as you can see, this is very long. So this is the invitational priority. There are no bonus points associated with this priority. It is optional if you choose to write to it, this one is collaborations between charter schools and traditional public schools or districts that benefits students and families across schools.

This is new, as I mentioned at the start of the webinar, that came from the final role from July, and the secretary is interested in funding applications that propose a new collaboration or the continuation of an existing collaboration with at least one traditional public school or traditional school district.

And what you'll see here in one through nine are the various implementation components of it. Next slide, please. So, associated with that invitational priority, if you choose to write to it, you must provide a description of the collaboration that provides the information that's listed here in one through seven.

And so, again, I do want to emphasize that this is optional and there are no bonus points associated with it. Next slide, please. Okay, so let's talk about the content that is required. So, once again, the selection criteria and the application requirements.

So, there are four selection criteria, as I stated earlier, that are worth up to a total of 100 points. In the case of the application requirements, there are 19, and you must address all of them and clearly identify where you are addressing them in your narrative. So you must respond to application requirement A in a standalone section in your application or in an appendix.

And then for the other application requirements, you can choose to respond to them separately or within the context of responding to one of the selection criteria. Next slide, please. So, just digging a little deeper into each of the selection criteria. In the case of selection criteria A, it's worth up to 30 points.

And I do want to point out that each selection criteria that we're going to go through has factors and each of those factors or subfactors has points associated with it that ultimately get to the total that you could potentially earn for that selection criteria. So, for example, for quality of the eligible applicant inadequacy of resources, there are four factors and they vary in points.

Factor 1 is worth up to 15 points, Factor 2 is worth up to five points, so on and so forth. And that's the case for all of the selection criteria. So here, in the case of selection criteria A, the four factors that you must address deal with academic achievement results for educationally disadvantaged students the extent to which one or more of the charter schools operated or managed by the applicant have closed, and other issues associated with charters operated by the applicant, the extent to which one or more charter schools operated or managed by the applicant have had any significant issues in the area of financial or operational management or student safety, and the potential for continued support of this project after federal funding ends.

Next slide, please. Selection criteria B. This is one of the ones that was mentioned as new. It's quality of the needs analysis. So this includes three factors worth up to a total of 25 points, and this deals with the extent to which the needs analysis that you provide demonstrates that the proposed charter school will address the needs of all students served by the charter school, including underserved students.

The extent to which the needs analysis demonstrates that proposed charter school has considered and mitigated, whenever possible, potential barriers and the extent to which the proposed charter school is supported by families and the community, including the extent to

which parents and members of the community were engaged in determining the need and vision for the school and will continue to be engaged on an ongoing basis.

Next slide. So, selection criteria C is worth up to 10 points. This has been used in past CMO competitions. It's quality of the project, design and evaluation plan for the proposed project. So this has three factors that you must address, such as the extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework.

The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the proposed project and the extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by your proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. And each of those factors, as I stated before, are worth a different number of points up to that 10 points.

And then finally, selection criteria D, which is worth up to 35 points. This is quality of the management plan. So some of these factors have been used in past CMO competitions. Some are new. So one through three have been used in past CMO competitions, and four, five, and six are new. And so these six factors that you must address deal with the adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of your proposed project on time and within budget.

The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, the extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project. The adequacy of the applicants' plan to maintain control over all CSP grant funds.

This is one of the new ones. The adequacy of the applicant's plan to make all programmatic decisions and then the adequacy of the applicant's plan to administer or supervise the administration of the grant, including maintaining management and oversight responsibilities over the grant.

So this is the final selection criterion of the total of four that you must address. Next slide. All right. So, application requirements. So, as I said before, the competition, excuse me, includes 19 application requirements and some of them are dense.

They take up the next seven slides for us to discuss. And so this is where I cannot say it enough. It is imperative that you read the NIA thoroughly, including the application requirements. So these requirements come from the statute, the CSP statute, that is. They also come from the 2018 CMO NFP that I mentioned and then the one that was issued in July of this year.

So after each application requirement, it actually notes the source for that requirement. And I do want to point out that the department will not fund an application that does not meet each application requirement.

So on this slide, we have application requirements A, B, and C. So these require applicants to describe their objectives in running a quality charter school program and how that program will be carried out, to provide student data, and to describe the educational program that the applicant will implement in each charter school receiving CSP funding.

And most of these application requirements that we're going to be discussing have sub-bullets with them. So again, it's important that you review them thoroughly. Next slide. So this slide goes through application requirements D through H, and this requires that applicants demonstrate that the applicant currently operates or manages more than one charter school.

So we did get some questions about the CMO and how many charter schools you should be operating, and you're required to demonstrate that you operate or manage more than one charter school. Also, they touch on providing information regarding any compliance issues, providing a complete logic model for the grant project, demonstrating compliance with Title IX, and describing how the applicant currently operates or manages the high-quality charter schools for which it has presented evidence of success, and how the proposed, replicated or expanded charter schools will be operated or managed.

Next slide. So this slide is for application requirements I through P, and it requires that applicants describe how the applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community, describe the lottery and enrollment procedures, describe compliance with Idea B.

Describe how the proposed project will assist educationally disadvantaged students in mastering challenging state academic standards, providing a budget narrative which Laura mentioned earlier, and providing the applicant's most recent independently audited financial statements, and finally, describing the applicant's policies and procedures to assist students enrolled in a charter school that closes or losing its charter to attend other high-quality charter schools.

So, while we do not want charter schools to close, your application does need to explain how you would handle it if it should occur. Next slide, please. All right. So this is application requirement Q. It actually takes up the next two and a half slides. This is new application requirements, and this is again dense.

It requires that applicants provide a needs analysis, and we mentioned this also when discussing the selection criteria, but that applicants provide a needs analysis and describe the need for the proposed project, including how that proposed project would serve the interest and meet the needs of students and families in the communities the charter school intends to serve.

So, the needs analysis can consist of information and documents previously submitted to an authorized public chartering agency to address need and must include, but is not necessarily limited to everything that is listed on the next few slides.

And again, it's important that you review this application requirement thoroughly as well as the others. Next slide, please. So, the needs analysis application requirement that I mentioned continues onto this slide. Next slide, please.

And then here we actually get to application requirement R. We are nearly through all the application requirements. So application requirement R is also new and requires that applicants provide information for any existing or proposed contract with a for-profit management organization which includes a nonprofit management organization operated by or on behalf of a for-profit entity without regard to whether the management organization or

its related entities exercise full or substantial administrative control over the charter school or the CSP project.

Next slide, please. And it continues on to this slide. And then finally, application requirement S, which is also new. And here applicants must provide the name and address of the authorized public chartering agency that issued the approved charter or in the case of an applicant that has not yet received an approved charter, the authorized public chartering agency to which the applicant has applied.

Next slide, please. So now we get into the assurances. So the competition includes 10 assurances and these assurances are from the statute as well as from the 2022 NFP and the source of each assurance is provided in parentheses following each assurance.

So, Assurances A, B, and C require assurance that the grantee will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students. The grantee makes certain information publicly available, and the eligible entity has sufficient procedures in effect to ensure timely closure of low-performing or financially mismanaged charter schools.

So these are the things you would attest to. Next slide, please. So this is Assurances D and E, which require assurance that each charter school funds has not and will not enter into a contract with a for-profit management organization, including a nonprofit management organization operated by or on behalf of a for-profit and entity under which that management organization or its related entities exercises full or substantial administrative control over the charter school and also require certain guarantees associated with those contracts.

And this is, again one of the new assurances. Next slide. So here we have Assurance F. This is also new. It requires assurance that each charter school that the applicant funds will post on its website, on an annual basis, a copy of any management contract between the charter school and a for-profit management organization.

Next slide. So here we have Assurances G, H, and I. They're also new and require assurance that each charter school that the applicant funds will disclose as part of the enrollment process any policies and requirements such as purchasing and wearing specific uniforms or other fees.

It also requires that each charter school that the applicant funds will not use any implementation funds for a charter school until after the charter school has received a charter from an authorized public chartering agency and has a contract, lease, mortgage, or other documentation indicating that it has a facility in which to operate.

And finally, next slide, please, to round out our assurances, this is Assurance J, which is also new, and it requires assurance regarding items each applicant must propose on its website within 120 days of the date of the grant award notification. That is, if you're funded, you will receive a grant award notification, such as a list of charter schools receiving CSP funds.

And that covers the application requirements and the assurances. All right. So now let's talk about the GPRA Performance Measures, the Government Results and Performance Act. So, for the purposes of the department reporting, the secretary has established two performance

indicators to measure annual progress toward achieving the purposes of the CSP, which are discussed in the NIA.

So those indicators are, one, the number of charter schools in operation around the nation, and two, the percentage of 4th and 8th-grade charter school students who are achieving at or above the proficient level on state assessments in math and reading/language arts. So, additionally, there's also a measure to examine the efficiency of the CSP, and that is the federal cost per student in implementing a successful school defined as a school in operation for three or more consecutive years.

And should you be awarded funding, these are measures that you would have to report on. Next slide, please. So what I just went over are the measures that are required of all grantees. There are also then the project-specific performance measures which are unique to your program.

So applicants must propose project-specific performance measures and performance targets that are consistent with your proposed project's objectives. And you must provide performance measures, baseline data, and performance targets. And if you're funded as grantees, you will have to submit an annual performance report and there you will provide information that responds to these performance measures.

So the department will use this information to help make substantial progress and continuation award determinations. So, in other words, should you be funded, you will have to submit an annual performance report every year, and we will use what you report in that APR to make a determination on whether or not you are making substantial progress and you should receive your next year's award known as a continuation award.

So if you cannot report on a measure annually, it should not be identified as a project-specific performance measure. So we do have a pre-recorded webinar available on the website for help in developing effective performance measures, so you're encouraged to review it, as well as the department's regional educational laboratory information.

And so I believe, a link will be shared out, but this is again available on the competition website. So we strongly encourage that you view this webinar. Next slide, please. Thank you. Open Licensing.

So all department 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, so including deliverables such as educational software, curriculum materials, professional development training materials.

So this requirement does apply to the CSP CMO Grants Program. And so we've provided a link here where you can obtain more information on open licensing. Next slide, please. So this I will not read, but there are a number of regulations and I've also mentioned a statute that we've referenced during the presentation, so here we have provided links to those resources.

Next slide. So if your application is successful, we will notify your U.S. representative and U.S. Senators and send you a grant award notification, also known as a GAN. If your

application is deemed ineligible or not selected for funding, you will be notified via email and through the mail, through standard mail and awards will be made by March 31st, 2023.

All right. So submitting your application. So, electronic submission is how you will submit your application and you will do so through grants.gov unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement. And the NIA includes instructions on how to qualify for an exception.

So, grants.gov is an external application system. It's used throughout the federal government. Here we've provided a link to grants.gov and also a link that goes directly to this particular funding opportunity on the grants.gov website. Next slide, please.

So there is a registration process for grants.gov. If you have not already started this, we strongly encourage you to start it because it can be time-consuming. So in some instances, it can take weeks. And again, we've provided a link to a site, web page, I should say on the grants.gov website that has more information on the registration process, but here is a summary of how that process works.

I do want to point out though, before going through the process, that you do not have to register with grants.gov if you only want to find grant opportunities or download application packages. However, you must register to submit an application. And first, you want to ensure that you registered with SAM to obtain your UEI or Unique Entity Identifier.

So that's SAM.gov. And we provided a link and then you set up an AOR profile, also known as an Authorized Organization Representative profile on grants.gov. And we've included a link to a web page that goes over the various roles and privileges associated with an AOR and then you get authorized as an AOR by your organization's e-business point of contact.

We've included a link that provides more information on what an eBiz POC is. And then you need to track your AOR status and we've provided a link to where you can track your status. So again, you can see why it could be a very time-consuming process.

So if you haven't already started it, you should start it. Next slide. So we've provided a number of submission tips. So the application package instructions includes grants.gov submission procedures and tips for applicants' section.

We've also included a link to grants.gov application FAQs. A few other things to be mindful of save frequently. Submit all your documents as PDF files and once the application is complete, the Save and Submit button will become active in your workspace. And on the next slide, we will show you what a workspace looks like and you press that button before the final submission of the application.

And as I've stated earlier, you can resubmit an application at any point up to the closing date and time. And the department will review the most recent submission. And you can also download and save a copy of your application. Next slide. So, this is what a workspace in grants.gov looks like.

So a workspace allows a grantee to simultaneously access and edit different forms, the forms that we've discussed during today's webinar within the application. The forms can be filled out online or offline. It's the applicant's choice.

We've provided a link to an overview of what a workspace is and it has various resources on it, like how to get started with a workspace application, resources to help you set up your workspace and how to create a workspace and there are videos. But this is what you will see whenever you have a workspace and how you will submit your application.

So, for example, the forms that we highlighted earlier that you have to submit, you'll see them listed there, it will list to whether or not a form is required, what that form status is, the last time it was updated, so on and so forth. Next slide, please.

So Application Submission. So for a successful submission, you should receive a confirmation email with a time and date stamp and an assigned tracking number from grants.gov. You should then receive a validation email from grants.gov and this means the application is ready for department to pick up, and then an applicant should receive an email with their assigned PR award number.

So in the case of an unsuccessful submission, applicant should receive a confirmation email with a time and date stamp and an assigned tracking number. But of course, always make sure to check if the application is received after the time and date that we have mentioned or validation is not successful, you should receive an error email. The error email may list what the error is or you can also use your tracking number to find information about it.

And here we provided a link where you can learn more about error messages. Next slide. So you can verify and track your submission and ensure that it's on time and validated successfully. So you'll have to be logged in to grants.gov and you'll click on track my application on the applicants drop-down menu.

And we've provided a link here where you can learn more about that. Next slide, please. So finally, we recognize that technical problems may occur. And so here we provided...outlined the process should you have grants, go to technical problems, and whether or not an extension is possible.

So I do want to stress though, these extensions apply only to the unavailability of or technical problems with the grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you fail to fully register to submit your application on grants.gov before the application closing date and time, or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the grants.gov system.

So do not assume that just because you are having some sort of technical issue that it is necessarily one that will result in an extension. So thoroughly read this, and this is why, again, it is so important to submit as early as possible because you never know what could occur.

Next slide, please. I'm going to hand it off to Laura. Laura?

- Hey. Application Review Process. Next slide. So, as Stephanie noted in one of the first slides applications close. They are due on January 3rd, 2023. First, after we receive the applications, we determine an eligibility review.

So this is before making awards, ed will screen the application submitted in accordance with the requirements in the notice to determine whether applications have met the eligibility and other requirements. This screening process may occur at various stages in the process.

Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive a grant regardless of peer review scores or comments. Next, we have the peer review process. During this stage, applications are evaluated by a three-person panel, a non-federal panel. Each reviewer individually reads, evaluates, and scores the applications assigned based on the selection criteria listed in the notice.

The panel is given time to discuss the applications as well as the respective scores and comments. The three reviewer scores are then averaged to create an overall application score. After the peer review, then the applications are ranked in ranked order is created.

The rank is an ordered list and it's prepared based on the overall application scores. ED uses this list to estimate how many applicants will be funded based on the rank order scores. And finally, prior to making final awards, OESC, in consultation with the Office of General Counsel and other offices will work together to develop a funding recommendations and identify any special conditions or terms that may be needed.

Following the vetting process of the highest-ranked applications, the competition manager will prepare and submit a funding slate to the secretary for review and approval. Next slide. So here you can see the suggested point ranges for rating responses. Next slide.

And lastly, these are important reminders for applicants. First is please, please, please review the NIA application package instructions and the Competition website. The NIA, the notice of intent to apply, we strongly encourage you to review. Register in SAM.gov and lastly, review the other webinars that are posted on our Competition website.

Remember, the deadline to apply is January 3rd, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. And next slide.

- So finally, tell us how we did. A link has just been shared out for you to complete a survey and you can also include a question or questions in that survey as well.

So once again, thank you for participating. Thank you for hanging in there with us and good luck with your application.

- Thank you. Bye-bye.