



FY2023 State Entity Grant Competition *Office Hours Webinar* ALN 84.282A

MAY 4, 2023

Note: This slide deck does not contain the full-text of the notice inviting applications (NIA) for the FY 2023 State Entity Grant Competition. Before applying for a State Entity grant, interested applicants should thoroughly review the program's NIA published in the Federal Register. The State Entity NIA and other FY 2023 State Entity competition related resources can be found here: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/state-entities/fy-2023-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>.

Agenda

1. Welcome

- Presenter introductions
- Meeting logistics
- Notes and important reminders

2. Overview of the State Entity Grant Competition

- Award and funding estimates
- Eligibility

3. Office Hours: Responses to Submitted Questions

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

4. Application Resources

5. Closing Question and Answer



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

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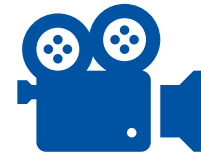
Meeting Logistics



Session is listen-
only



Use Q&A function
for questions and
comments



Session will be
recorded and
posted



Email follow-up
questions to
[fy2023_se_competi
tion@ed.gov](mailto:fy2023_se_competition@ed.gov)

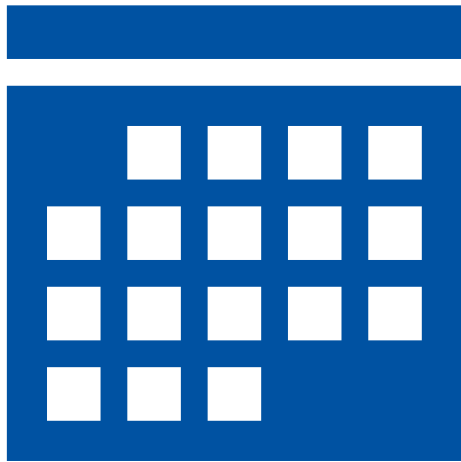


Notes & Important Reminders

- Applicants should always refer to the CSP SE competition website (<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/state-entities/fy-2023-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>) for the most up-to-date information.
- Interested applicants should refer to the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) in the Federal Register at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-03-20/pdf/2023-05612.pdf> for a complete listing of the eligibility and application requirements, priorities, definitions, and selection criteria. *Applicants should not rely solely on this webinar for information and guidance on the State Entity NIA.*



Application Deadline Reminder



June 5, 2023 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET

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



Overview of the State Entity Competition



Award and Funding Estimates

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

Estimated Funds Available:
\$173,000,000

Estimated Number of Awards: 8-10

Estimated Range of Awards:
\$2,000,000 to \$20,000,000 per year

Average Estimated Size of Award:
\$8,000,000 per year

Project Period:
Up to 5 years



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

Eligibility

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

A State Entity means:



A State Education Agency



A State Charter School Board



A Governor of a State



A Charter School Support Organization



Office Hours: Responses to Submitted Questions



Pre-Submitted Questions by Category

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



Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for a State entity grant?

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



Eligibility

What constitutes a charter school support agency? Does the agency have to have a statewide footprint?

A charter school support organization is a nonprofit, nongovernmental entity that is not an authorized public chartering agency and provides, on a statewide basis—

- (1) Assistance to developers during the planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and,
- (2) Technical assistance to operating charter schools (section 4310(4) of the ESEA).



Eligibility

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

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



Eligibility

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

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



Eligibility

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

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



Eligibility

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

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



Use of Funds

Is it correct that at least 90% of CSP SE program funds must be used to award subgrants to charter school developers and charter schools? What about the set asides for technical assistance and administrative costs?

Yes, at least 90% of grant funds must be used to award subgrants to eligible applicants, at least 7% of funds must be used to provide TA to subgrantees and to improve authorizing quality, and up to 3% of funds can be used for administrative costs.



Use of Funds

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

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



Use of Funds

Can state entities prohibit virtual schools and for-profit schools from applying for CSP funds under the State Entity grant program?

Only charter schools that meet each element of the CSP definition of charter school are eligible to receive CSP funds. The CSP authorizing statute defines a charter school as a public school that, among other things, does not charge tuition, admits students on the basis of a lottery if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated, and operates in accordance with State law. Thus, for-profit entities are not ineligible to receive CSP funds. While the CSP statute does not specifically prohibit virtual charter schools from receiving CSP funds, a State entity must specify in its grant application any intent to support virtual charter schools and must implement appropriate safeguards to mitigate the risk of funds being misspent.



Use of Funds

Can a state entity propose to make new 5-year subgrant awards in years 3 through 5 of the SE grant, knowing the SE grant will likely end before the subgrant awards?

Yes, a State Entity grantee may award subgrants to eligible entities in Years 3 through 5 of a State Entity grant. Under the Department's regulations, grantees that are in the final budget period of their grants may request a one-time extension of the budget period for up to 12 months (34 C.F.R. 261(a)). A grantee also may request additional no-cost extensions (or a waiver if another State entity is approved for an award), which the Department will review on a case-by-case basis.



Priorities

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

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



Priorities

What is an Invitational Priority and how does it work?

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



Application Requirements

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

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



Application Requirements

Applicants must provide an assurance that they will not hamper existing desegregation efforts.

How will applicants know if valid desegregation efforts are happening, and more importantly, if their proposal will hamper any existing desegregation efforts?

To address this assurance, subgrant applicants should first determine if the surrounding school district(s) from which the proposed charter school is likely to draw students is under an existing court order. Some school districts have desegregation obligations under plans or court orders that could affect or be affected by the establishment of the charter school, even if the charter school is its own LEA.

Typically, desegregation plans and court orders are resolutions of past segregative discrimination by school districts determined by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or by the courts, in some instances with the participation of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (CRD). If the jurisdiction in which the proposed charter school is located is under a desegregation plan or order, there are steps you can take to ensure compliance.

(response continues)



Application Requirements

(continued response)

If a subgrant applicant is uncertain whether the proposed charter school is in a jurisdiction that is covered by an existing desegregation plan or court order, the subgrant applicant may contact several entities for assistance.

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



Application Requirements

(continued response)

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

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



Application Requirements

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

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



Other

Will the TA be provided in Washington, DC? Will there be webinars, calls, communities of practice in addition to the PD meeting which will be in Washington, DC?

Applicants approved for funding under this competition will be required to participate in all technical assistance offerings, to include project directors' meetings and other on-site gatherings sponsored by the Department and its contracted technical assistance providers and partners throughout the life of the grant. Technical assistance opportunities may be conducted virtually and/ or onsite. Onsite technical assistance may be located in Washington, DC or another city.



Other

Can you share examples of waivers that were approved in the past?

Examples of waivers the Department has approved in the past include waivers to extend the project period from three years to five years, to enable the State entity to award a second subgrant to a charter school that was unable to complete activities under the first subgrant, and to enable the State entity to award subgrants to charter schools in the State that did not have current subgrants to enable them to implement remote learning programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Other

Can a state entity partner with a third party to implement proposed activities or specific aspects of the grant proposal (e.g., the provision of technical assistance)?

Applicants must follow the procurement requirements in the Uniform Guidance when seeking assistance from a third party as a contractor. Under 2 CFR 200.317, when procuring property or services under a Federal award, a State must follow the same policies and procedures it uses for procurements from its non-Federal awards.

Therefore, applicants must use appropriate procurement procedures to select contractors. Applicants should generally not include information in their grant applications about specific contractors that may be used to provide goods or services for the proposed project. Instead, we suggest that applicants describe qualities and requirements needed from a service provider to carry out activities as proposed in the grant, but not name a specific contractor or vendor.

Regarding the use of MOUs and other agreements with another party to carry out proposed grant activities, applicants should consult with their State's procurement office to determine the extent to which those actions qualify as legally binding procurement transactions.



Other

Can you provide some context for the application package instructions and how to use it, in particular the application requirements crosswalk table on pages 66-81? Some sections seem duplicative.

The application package is designed to provide instructions on the procedures for submitting an application. The application requirements crosswalk table provides a frame for how you might want to format your responses in addressing the priorities, selection criteria, and application requirements. The crosswalk table provides a visual of the alignment between the selection criteria and application requirements. It is not mandatory for applicants to use the requirements crosswalk table format. However, an applicant must respond to all required priorities, selection criteria, and application requirements.



Application Resources



Information about Grant Requirements

Full information about the grant competition including the grant requirements is available in the NIA published in the Federal Register and on CSP SE Competition webpage: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/state-entities/fy-2023-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>.

Questions relating to the specific needs of a particular State entity may be directed to the CSP SE Competition email: [FY2023 SE Competition@ed.gov](mailto:FY2023_SE_Competition@ed.gov).



Application Reminders

The application package can be found at grants.gov:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=346883>

Note: This link takes you directly to Opportunity Number ED-GRANTS-032023-001

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

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/state-entities/fy-2023-csp-state-entities-se-competition/>

Entities must be registered in SAM.gov



Where to Find Previously Funded Applications

You can find previously funded applications on our website:

Awards in FY 2017-2022: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/charter-school-programs/state-entities/awards/>

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



Closing Question and Answer



CSP Contact Information:

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(800) 518-4726



Thank You!

