



**U.S. Department of Education**  
**Office of Elementary & Secondary Education**

Charter School Programs

Session Transcript

FY 2023 Pre-Application Competition Webinar for the Developer Program

Recorded June 14, 2023

- [Stephanie] Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Pre-Application Technical Assistance webinar for the Fiscal Year 2023 Charter Schools Program Developer Grants Competition. My name is Stephanie Jones, and I supervise the Developer and CMO grant programs here at the Department of Education.

On behalf of the department, we appreciate your participation in today's webinar. Next slide, please. 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 Developer Grants Competition, reviewing critical components like eligibility requirements, priorities, selection criteria, application requirements, and the process for submitting your application.

We also want to answer as many of your questions as possible, and provide other options for submitting questions, and accessing competition resources. So, let's get started with the logistics, and a CSP overview. So, I want to point out that the CSP division is led by Anna Hinton, and the Developer program includes two program officers, Porscheoy Brice, who's also serving as the competition manager, and Leslie Hankerson, who's actually the longest serving member of the entire CSP division, she's been in CSP for 25 years.

So today, you're going to hear from both of them, in addition to me. A few logistics. So, today's webinar is listen-only, but you will be able to ask questions by entering them in the Q&A. We have allotted time for questions at the end of each section.

We are also recording today's webinar, and the slide deck will be posted on the CSP Developer Competition website by tomorrow, and the recording and a transcript will be posted on the CSP Developer

Competition website next week. So, an important disclaimer that I want to give at the start, this slide deck does not contain the full text of the Fiscal Year 2023 CSP Developer Grants Notice Inviting Applications, also known as an NIA, which was published in the Federal Register on June 5th of this year.

So before applying for this grant, interested applicants should thoroughly review the NIA. And by the way, in this PowerPoint presentation, we've provided links throughout, and that includes a link to the PDF version of the NIA, and the version available on the Federal Register website.

You should also review the application package instructions, and we've provided a link, and the CSP Developer Competition website, and we've provided a link. Applicants should not rely solely on today's webinar for information and guidance on what's in the NIA. Use this webinar as a resource in conjunction with the NIA.

Next slide, please. So, answering your questions. Today's Q&A process, as I said, we've budgeted time for your questions at the end of each section, so submit your questions using the Zoom Q&A feature. Only submit questions, though, relevant to the topics that we've just gone over so that we can keep the presentation moving.

And if you have a question about a topic that hasn't yet been discussed, it's probably coming, and certainly if we don't get to it by the end, you have options for submitting questions. So we do have a competition email address, and that is [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov). So you can submit questions to that email address, and next week we're going to have another live webinar at 2:30 on Thursday, June 22nd, and then we are going to answer any unanswered questions from today's webinar, also any frequently asked competition questions, and of course, you'll be able to submit new questions.

So, you can submit them to that [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov) address. And we've included a registration link in the chat box so you can register for next week's live webinar. So, here are definitions that you will find in the NIA. When possible during today's webinar, we are going to define terms, for example expanded versus replication.

But it is important to familiarize yourself with what is in the NIA, and also the definitions, and this here is a list of all of the terms that are defined in the NIA. So if you haven't already looked at it, you should. So, the major purposes of the CSP, there are seven. So, we expand opportunities for all students, particularly children with disabilities, English learners, and other traditionally underserved students to attend charter schools, and meet challenging state academic standards.

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

We encourage states to provide facility support to charter schools. And we support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process. But what are the programs under CSP? So there are six programs, and here I've provided a link to each of their websites.

So starting with the Charter School Replication and Expansion, also known as the CMO Grants program, so this is where we award grants to nonprofit charter management organizations that have shown evidence of success to help them open new high-quality charter schools, or expand existing high-quality charter schools to serve more students.

There's also the SE, or State Entities Grant program, which actually makes up the largest CSP Grant program, and these grants are awarded to state education agencies, also known as SEAs, governors, state charter school boards, or state charter school support organizations, also known as CSOs.

And those entities in turn award subgrants. So, some of you may be familiar with the SE program because you have received a subgrant from your state or territory's SE grantee. Of course, the reason why we're here today, that's the Developer Grant program. And under the Developer program, in states where there isn't an active SE, or State Entity Grant program, developers may apply directly to the department for funds to support opening a new school, or replicating or expanding a high-quality school.

In addition to that, there's the National Dissemination Grants program, and the key purpose of these grants is to increase quality throughout the sector by disseminating best practices related to charter school operations and management. We also offer facilities financing assistance through the Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities program.

They're actually running a competition now, and that competition closes on June 26th, 2023. And if you want to know more about that competition, if you click on the link to their website, there is a competition webpage that you can visit and learn more. And finally, there's the State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant, which provides matching funds for states that provide funding for charter school facilities on a per-pupil basis.

So, let's talk about this competition at a glance, the Developer competition. So this is a discretionary competition, and we estimate that we will award \$4 million in funds. Now, the estimated range of awards, and I do want to stress these are only estimates, the estimated range of awards will be about \$200,000 to \$400,000 per year for an applicant.

The estimated average size of awards will be \$300,000 per year. The estimated number of awards will be eight to ten. But again, these are only estimates. As far as the award amount, there's a new flag there because this year we have increased the maximum award amount.

Anyone who is familiar with Developer may recall that in previous years, the maximum award per charter school was \$1.5 million. We have increased that to \$2 million. So, please note that change this year. It's a good change, but please note that change this year. And the maximum planning period is up to 18 months, and the project period is up to 60 months, or five years.

Okay, very important, application deadline. Applications are due on July 7th, 2023 by 11:59:59pm. So, please remember this. Mark it on your calendars. If you intend to submit an application, that is the due date and time. Now, you must submit through Grants.gov.

Grants.gov, the website has an applicant support webpage. We provided a link to it. Applicant support is available 24/7, but not on federal holidays, so please keep that in mind with July 4th coming up. We

strongly encourage you to submit early. Please note that you can resubmit your application at any point until that closing date and time, and we will review the most recent submitted version of your application.

So, I'm going to pause there to see if, at this point, there are any questions about the content that we have just presented. And Courtney, could you go over the instructions for the Q&A feature, just for anyone who may not be familiar?

- [Courtney] Yes, absolutely. So you just click the Q&A button, and type in your question, and click Submit, and then CSP will review those questions.

- Okay, so I see some questions. I'm going to get through as many of these as I can. Please know if we don't get to your question, send it to [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov). Also, if we don't get to your question, it may be because it's going to be addressed in upcoming content.

So there's a question, "Can we submit revisions after initially submitting the application?" So as I said, you can resubmit your application up to the closing date and time, and we will review the final version of the application that is submitted. Please keep in mind, though, and we'll talk about this more when we get to the Grants.gov section, but please keep in mind how long it takes to submit through Grants.gov.

Another question is, "Is the June 22nd webinar like open office hours, or will there be a set program?" So, we will have a slide deck, and we will have answers to questions we have received up to that point, but you will also have an opportunity to ask questions during the webinar.

So if something we say prompts another question, or if you didn't get your question in in time for us to prepare the slide deck, then you can ask it during that webinar. Let's see... There's a question, "Due to the short turnaround, if I miss the deadline, when is the next time this grant will be available?"

So, just monitor the Developer website. For this grant, we will make awards by September 30th of this year. And monitor the CSP website for the announcement of the next Developer competition. So there's a

question, "If your state offers startup grants, are you precluded from applying for this competition?"

So, later in the presentation we're going to go over eligibility. There is a table that is available on the competition website, and we're also going to show it on the screen, that highlights which states and territories are eligible to apply. It does matter if your state has an active State Entity Grant, but we will be going into that more.

Let's go ahead and keep going. So with that, I'm going to transition to Porscheoy.

- [Porscheoy] Thanks, Stephanie, and good afternoon, everyone. As Stephanie stated earlier, I'm Porscheoy Brice, one of the program officers on the developer team, and also the competition manager for the 2023 Developer Competition. All right, starting out with the Developer Grants program purpose, and through CSP Developer Grants, the department provides financial assistance to charter school developers to, one, enable them to open and prepare for the operation of new or replicated charter schools, or to expand high-quality charter schools.

And again, that's in states that do not currently have a CSP State Entity Grant under the ESEA. The charter schools then 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.

And then here we have a definition. "Developer" means an individual or group of individuals, including a public or private nonprofit organization, which may include teachers, administrators, and other school staff, parents, or other members of the local community in which a charter school project will be carried out, and that is based on statutory language in ESEA.

And applicants may only propose to support one charter school per grant application. That is important to remember. All right, and here we have the difference between the two grants. So, we have 84.282B, which is for the opening of new charter schools, and then we have 84.282E, which is for the replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools.

And what do we mean when we say expand and replicate? When we say "expand," it's when used with respect to a high-quality charter school, it means to significantly increase enrollment, or add one or more grades to the high-quality charter school. And when we say "replicate," it's when we use with respect to a high-quality charter school, it means to open a new charter school or a new campus of a high-quality charter school based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school under an existing charter, or an additional charter, if permitted or required by state law.

Also, again, just want to reiterate that you can only use this to support one charter school per grant application. All right, and then here we have the eligibility requirements. So, eligible applicants are developers that have applied to an authorized public chartering authority to operate a new charter school, and provided adequate and timely notice to that authority.

And then as far as location requirements, the charter school must be located in a state with a state statute specifically authorizing the establishment of charter schools as defined in the statute, and in which a state entity currently does not have a CSP State Entity Grant. And then as far as charter schools already in operation, as a general matter, the Secretary considers charter schools that have been in operation for more than five years to be past the initial implementation phase, and therefore are ineligible to receive CSP funds under 84.282B, which is for the opening of a new charter school, or under 84.282E, for the replication or expansion of a school.

However, we do want to iterate that such schools may receive CSP funds under 84.282E for the expansion of a high-quality charter school. And then as far as nonprofit status evidence, the NIA describes the various ways in which a nonprofit organization may demonstrate its nonprofit status.

That includes the documentation that must be submitted with your application, so please make sure to read the NIA in its entirety. All right, and so here, so this is what Stephanie was speaking to earlier in the presentation, about the developer eligibility table.

And so, eligibility under the FY2023 CSP Developer Competition is limited to charter school developers in states that do not currently have a CSP State Entity Grant. And then, again just want to reiterate visiting and reviewing the NIA for all of the eligibility information, but what we see here is the table providing a list of states and territories that show that eligibility status.

Also, this table is available on our CSP Developer Competition website, but this is important for you to visit if you're trying to figure out whether or not your state is eligible, or your school is in an eligible state. All right, so our first application requirement, charter approval.

So if you have received an approved charter, you must provide, one, the name and address of the authorized public chartering agency that issued the applicant's approved charter, a copy of that approved charter, and documentation that the applicant has provided notice to the authorized public chartering agency that it has applied for a CSP grant, and a proposed budget, including a detailed description of any post-award planning costs.

And if you have not yet received an approved charter, here's what you must provide. So again, the name and address of the authorized public chartering agency to which the applicant has applied, a copy of the charter application that was submitted to the authorized public chartering agency. That should include the date the application was submitted, and an estimated date by which the authorized public chartering agency will issue its final decision on the charter application, documentation that the applicant has provided notice to the authorized public chartering agency that it has applied for a CSP grant, and a proposed budget, including a detailed description of any post-award planning costs, and any planning costs expected to be incurred prior to the date the authorized public chartering agency issues a decision on the charter application.

All right, so continuing eligibility considerations of the CSP grants. A charter school that previously has received CSP funds for replication or expansion, or for planning or initial implementation of a charter school under an SEA or SE grant, or under a CMO grant may not use funds under this grant for the same purpose.



However, such charter schools may be eligible to receive funds under this competition to expand the charter school beyond the existing grade levels or student count, and beyond the grade levels or projected student count provided in the previous CSP award.

Likewise, a charter school that receives funds under this competition is ineligible to receive funds for the same purpose, and that's from Section 4303(b)(1) or 4305(b) of the ESEA, and that's including opening and preparing for the operation of a new charter school, opening and preparing for the operation of a replicated high-quality charter school, or expanding a high-quality charter school.

All right, so what is a high-quality charter school? So one, it shows evidence of strong academic results, and this may include strong student academic growth as determined by state.

Also has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance. Also has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, that includes graduation rates where applicable, and for all students served by the charter school. And four, has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, that includes graduation rates where applicable for each of the subgroups of students, and that is as defined in Section 1111(c)(2) of the ESEA, except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information, or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

All right, so at this point, we're going to pause again to take questions that you may have about the content that was just presented. All right, we do have a few questions that came in. One is, "It's stated that charter schools that have been in operation more than five years are past the initial implementation phase, and ineligible to receive CSP funds to support the opening of a new charter school. Does that mean that schools that have been in operation for only two years are eligible to apply for the grant to open a charter school?"

So yes, if it's less than that five years. Again, you want to make sure you review on the NIA, depending on which program you're applying for,

whether that's B or E. But yeah, if it's beneath that five-year threshold. The next question is, "What if the application..." sorry, "What if the application period for new charter schools in your state has not yet opened up?" So, I'm not sure I'm understanding this correctly.

I'm sorry, Stephanie, I want to ask you to jump in.

- Sure. So let me reread the question, "What if the application period for new charter schools in your state has not opened up yet?" I think what you mean is perhaps the application period to request a charter in your state, perhaps that period hasn't opened up. So when you apply for a Developer Grant, you have to have either received an approved charter, or submitted an application to receive an approved charter.

The planning period for this grant is up to 18 months, so you should keep those things in mind. And of course, read the NIA, which goes into more details about what we've just stated. And so, again, it depends on what your situation is, and when your state's charter application process begins.

And of course, if you feel that that doesn't get at your question, remember you can submit to [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov). Porscheoy...

- Yeah, thanks, Stephanie. So, the next question is, "If you have applied for your charter and were given conditional approval, but will not signing the charter until before opening in fall 2025, is that considered approved or not?" So since it's conditional, that's not the final approval, so you would need to provide all the documentation that we've listed above. And you can also find that in the NIA.

- And, Porscheoy, I want to answer...there's one more question here. I think it's a follow-up to the first question you asked. And it says, "If a charter school that has been in operation for two years applies for a grant to open a new charter school," so that's under 84.282B, B as in boy, "Are there any additional limits to the performance period?"

So, as Porscheoy had mentioned, there is that five-year implementation phase. So again, not having read the application, so there are requirements outlined in the NIA, so on and so forth, but the other limits would be you could not apply under 84.282B for those two years

that it's already been open. Because there are only three years remaining on that implementation phase, so you would apply for three years.

But again, read the NIA, because there are other eligibility requirements, other requirements around allowable costs, and so it's important that you read the NIA. Porscheoy...

- Yeah, and I think that's all of our current questions. At this time, I'm going to hand it over to my colleague, Leslie.

- [Leslie] Good afternoon, everyone. I am Leslie Hankerson. I'm a program officer in the CSP Developer program, and we are now going to discuss Section 3, Pulling Together Your Application. Next slide. Okay, application, location, and components.

An application consists of these three components. But first, I'd like to say that the application package can be found and submitted using Grants.gov, 84.282B, there's a link provided, or 84.282E, where there is a link provided, and that the application package instructions and other competition resources are also available on the CSP Developer Competition website.

Here we're going to talk about that a complete application consists of these three components, required forms, of which there are ED Standard forms, and assurances and certifications. Next, application narrative, which is required. And there you have the abstract narrative form, project narrative form, and budget narrative form.

And then other attachments that are required unless otherwise noted, there are seven appendices, there is A through G, which I will mention in an upcoming slide. Next slide.

Required forms. For an application, there are required ED Standard forms, and assurances and certification forms. The ED required standard forms are the Application for Federal Assistance, the SF-424, the ED Supplemental Information for the SF-424, the ED Budget Information, Non-Construction Programs, Ed-524.

Next, the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, the SF-LLL, which is an optional form, and then the ED Grant Application form for Project Objectives and Performance Measures Information. And then we have

the required assurances and certification forms, which are the Certification Regarding Lobbying.

Next, this is a new form, the General Education Provisions Act, GEPA requirements, section 427, ED GEPA 427, of which there is the new GEPA 427 instructions and the new GEPA 427 form.

And this form is now electronically integrated into Grants.gov, and therefore applicants no longer must upload a separate PDF document for the GEPA. Next slide. Now we have required form tips, SF-424. For the SF-424 form, the Application for Federal Assistance form, we have some required tips.

First, 8c, the Organizational UEI, and this must be the same UEI number used when you registered on Grants.gov. Next, 16a through b, Congressional Districts. Please enter the district the application organization is located in, and the district in which activities will occur.

We have 17a through b, Proposed Project Start and End dates. The start date is October 1st, 2023. You may request funding for up to 60 months, or five years, so the end date, September 30th, should reflect the total number of years requested.

18, Estimated Funding, and this should only reflect the amount requested for the first project year. Then lastly, 19, Executive Order 12372. This program is subject to the Executive Order. Next slide.

Okay, we have the Required Form Tips, ED 524, Budget Form. And so we'll begin with Section A, which is pictured. This is required. In Section A, you complete all years for which funds are requested, and you can request funds for up to five years.

Funds requested must match the detailed budget narrative, so please check your math and your calculations. If you have an approved indirect cost rate, please provide the details in the budget narrative, and at the bottom of this form. And construction is not an allowable cost for this grant.

The training stipends line item is not applicable. Salary stipends paid to staff for participating in professional development should be reported in

personnel. Section B should only be completed if you are making a matching commitment. This program does not require a match.

However, if you opt to include a match, you must report on it for the life of your grant. Next slide. Abstract and Project Narrative forms. For the Abstract Narrative form, please include the name and address of your organization.

Please include the name, phone number, and email address of the contact person for the project. And it should not exceed one double-spaced page. Also for your Abstract Narrative form, it should include the project title, if applicable, and a concise description of the following information.

One, project objectives and activities, two, applicable priorities, three, proposed project outcomes, four, number of participants to be served, and lastly, location of proposed sites. And for the project narrative form, to facilitate the review of the application, please organize your project narrative in the following order, and include a one-page, double-spaced table of contents.

So for your Project Narrative form, we have the table of contents, next the competitive preference priority, which is optional, the invitational priority, which is optional, the selection criteria, and the application requirements. The recommended page limit for the project narrative is 50 double-spaced pages.

The table of contents, and any attachments, i.e. supporting documentation, do not count for the page limit. And for your Abstract Narrative form, please make sure that your abstract uses language that a range of audiences can easily understand.

Next, Budget Narrative form, and budget. Grantees must use the grant funds to open and prepare for the operation of a new charter school, to open and prepare for the operation of a replicated high-quality charter school, or to expand a high-quality charter school as applicable.

And grant funds must be used to carry out allowable activities described in Section 4303(h) of the ESEA. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.404, applicants must ensure that all costs included in the proposed budget

are reasonable and necessary in light of the goals and objectives of the proposed project.

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

Next slide. Funding considerations. We have under Start, successful applicants' project performance period will start October 1st, 2023. Applications should use the budget period of the grant, i.e.

October 1st to September 30th, not your fiscal year. And we have next, grants awarded may be for a period of not more than 60 months, or five years. And grantees may use not more than 18 months for planning and program design.

Now this is discussed in section 4303(d)(1)(b) of the ESEA. And lastly, an applicant may only propose to support one charter school per application. The maximum limit of grant funds that may be awarded is \$2 million per charter school.

Also, funds can only be used for the grade levels indicated in your application. Next slide. We consider the... First we have funding considerations continues, and first, this is a non-construction grant.

CSP funds may not be used for construction, to add to the permanent value of a property, or to appreciably prolong its life. Rentees must attend a two-day project director's meeting in each project year. Applicants are encouraged to include the cost of attending this annual meeting in your proposed budget.

And lastly, read the funding restrictions in the applicable regulations section of the NIA thoroughly, and a link is provided. Also, we recommend that you review the budget narrative resources provided in this slide deck. Next, Funding Restrictions and Use of Funds.

Grant funds must be used to carry out allowable activities described in section 4303(h) of the ESEA, which include the following, A. preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying costs associated with providing

professional development, hiring and compensating during the eligible applicants' planning period, one or more of the following, teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel.

B, acquiring supplies, training, equipment, including technology and educational materials, including developing and acquiring instructional materials. C, carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs excluding construction.

D, providing one-time startup costs associated with providing transportation for your students to and from the charter school. E, carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.

And F, providing for other appropriate non-sustained costs related to the replication or expansion of high-quality charter schools when such costs cannot be met from other sources. Next slide. We are going to talk about the allowable cost framework.

You should ask your question, is there cost necessary to complete the project? And to answer this question, we have three criteria. One, is it reasonable? Reasonable costs, or costs that would be incurred by any prudent person, and you can find more about this in 2 CFR 200.404.

Next, is the cost allocable? And allocable costs are expended for a particular purpose or time period that benefits the grant. More information can be found in 2 CFR 200.405. And the next, is your cost allowable?

Allowable cost is either permitted, or not specifically prohibited, and necessary for project success. And more information you can find in 2 CFR 200.403. And so, please remember that a proposed cost, it must be necessary, reasonable, allocable, and allowable in accordance with the federal cost principles to be included in the budget.

Next slide, please. Here we... This is about budget, and budget narrative resources. CSP's pre-application webinar on developing a budget, it is available on the CSP Developer Competition website, and you will see the link there.

Next, Uniform Guidance to CFR 200, Subpart D, Post-Federal Award Requirements, and a link is provided. Subpart E, Cost Principles, a link is provided. And Subpart F, Audit Requirements, with a link provided. And lastly, the CSP statute, Title IV, Part C of the ESEA, there is a link provided for that.

Okay, next slide, please. Other Attachments form. Applicants should attach all applicable appendices to the Other Attachments form. Files should be in a portable document format, a PDF, and you can label each file with an appendix name, appendix B resumes, and attach it to Other Attachment forms.

The Other Attachments form can support up to 10 attachments, and therefore merge appendices into one file as needed. And then special characters, of which a link is provided, could impact your ability to submit because Grants.gov does not properly process special characters. Therefore, do not use colons or backslashes when naming your files.

And lastly, applicants should not include substantive project-related information they want peer reviewers to consider anywhere in the application, other than in the Project Narrative form and Budget Narrative form section. Next slide.

Okay, here we go over the seven appendices, and the following seven appendices should be attached using the Other Attachment form. Appendix A, charter school program assurances, signed. Appendix B, resumes or curriculum vitae for project director and key personnel. Appendix C, letters of support, if applicable.

Appendix D, proof of non-profit status or not-for-profit status. Appendix E, schools operated by applicant and student academic achievement. Appendix F, supplemental organizational budgets and financial information. And lastly, Appendix G, additional information, if applicable.

Next slide, please. Okay, Appendix E, schools operated by applicant and student academic achievement, ALN 84.282E. In addition to application requirements A through I, applicable to both ALN 84.282B and ALN 84.282E, applications under ALN 84.282E must provide information to show which charter schools the applicant operates or manages.



And information should include the charter school name, the grade levels, the location, whether the charter school holds a separate charter, and the authorizer for each charter school operated or managed by the applicant. Application requirement A for ALN 84.282E states that for each charter school currently operated or managed by the applicant, provide one.

information that demonstrates that the school is treated as a separate school by its authorized public chartering agency and the state, including for purposes of accountability and reporting under Title I, Part A of the ESEA. Two, student assessment results for all students, and for each subgroup of students described in section 1111(c)(2) of the ESEA.

Three, attendance and student retention rates for the most recently completed school year, and if applicable, the most recent available four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended year adjusted cohort graduation rates. And four, information on any significant compliance and management issues encountered within the last three school years by the existing charter school being operated or managed by the eligible entity, including in the areas of student safety and finance.

Next slide, please. Okay, so we're going to pause here, and to see if you have any questions. Please use the Zoom Q&A feature. Okay, I... Oh, there's one question.

"The section of the NIA on..." Oh, it says "No open questions" again. Okay, well, at this time, I will transfer to Stephanie.

- Thanks, Leslie. So at this point, I'm going to go over the components of the Notice Inviting Applications, also known as the NIA. So just a reminder, this slide deck, this presentation does not contain the full text of the NIA for this year's CSP Developer Grants Competition.

So as we've stated before, and you'll keep hearing us state it, before applying for a grant, please thoroughly review the NIA. And we've provided links to it both in the chat, there are some available on the website, and then they'll also be in this slide deck, which again will be posted to the competition website by tomorrow.

Next slide. So as you heard earlier, CSP Developer has two assistance listing numbers. So there's 84.282B, which is opening of new charter

schools, and there's 84.282E. So starting with B, the competitive preference priority and invitational priority, it's the same actually for B and for E, and the competitive preference priority is promoting high-quality educator and community-centered charter schools to support underserved students, it is worth up to five points.

It is optional, so you do not have to write to the CPP. If you do, it is worth up to five points. There is also an invitational priority, collaborations between charter schools and traditional public schools or districts that benefit students and families across schools. As this is an invitational priority, there are no points associated with it, and again, it is optional.

The selection criteria for 84.282B, there are four. These are required. There is, one, the quality of the charter school's management plan, which is worth up to 40 points, quality of the continuation plan, which is worth up to 20 points, quality of the project design, which is worth up to 10 points, and the need for the project.

And the selection criteria collectively are worth up to 100 points, and again, the selection criteria are required. There are also twelve application requirements under B, and nine assurances under B as well, and those are all required, and we'll be going more into those in later slides. But that is essentially an overview of the elements of the competition NIA for 84.282B.

Next slide, please. So E, replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools. So, the CPP and the IP are the same, and again, they are optional. For the selection criteria, there are five.

Quality of the eligible applicant is worth up to 20 points, quality of the charter school's management plan is worth up to 35 points, quality of the continuation plan is worth up to 10 points, quality of the project design is worth up to 10 points, and the need for the project is worth up to 25 points. Collectively, the selection criteria are worth up to 100 points, and in the case of 84.282E, there are thirteen application requirements, and nine assurances.

So please review the NIA, and make sure you are clear on whether you should apply, and whether you should apply under 84.282B or E, and then what the requirements are under each of them. Next slide, please.

So, let's talk a little bit more about the CPP, which again is promoting high-quality educator and community-centered charter schools to support underserved students, and is worth up to five points. Again, this is optional, and this is the same under B and under E. 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 engagements with current or former teachers and other educators, and two, using a community-centered approach that includes an assessment of community assets, informs the development of the charter school, and includes the implementation of protocols and practices designed to ensure that the charter school will use and interact with community assets on an ongoing basis to create and maintain strong community ties.

So in the application, an applicant must provide a high-quality plan that demonstrates how its proposed project would meet the requirements in (a)(1) and (2) of this priority, accompanied by a timeline for key milestones that span the course of planning, development, and implementation of the charter school.

Again, this is optional. If you choose to write to it, it is worth up to five points. Next slide, please. So then, the invitational priority. As you can see, it's much lengthier, so I'm not going to read everything, and again, this is why it's so important for you to read the NIA.

But again, the IP is collaborations between charter schools and traditional public schools or districts that benefit students and families across schools. So, the Secretary is particularly 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 one through nine outline different ways that one or more activities can be met in order to write to the IP. And so, that could include co-developed or shared curricular and instructional resources or academic

course offerings, evidence-based practices to improve academic performance for underserved students, transparent enrollment and retention practices and processes that include clear and consistent disclosure to families of policies, and any services that could impact those families' ability to enroll, or remain enrolled in a school, a shared transportation plan and system that reduces transportation costs.

It could also include shared English learner collaborative designed to address a significant barrier, or a challenge. But I do again want to point out there are no points associated with this because it's an invitational priority, and this is optional, just like the CPP that I just discussed is optional. Next slide, please.

Now, regarding that invitational priority, something else that's noted in the NIA about this is in an application, an applicant must provide a description of the collaboration, and here it goes through the elements of that description. But for example, it should describe each member of the collaboration, and whether the collaboration would be a new or existing commitment, states the purpose and duration of the collaboration, describes the anticipated roles and responsibilities of each member of the collaboration, describes how the collaboration will benefit one or more members of the collaboration, including how it will benefit students or families affiliated with a member, and lead to increased educational opportunities for students, and meet specific and measurable, if applicable, goals, describes the resources that members of the collaboration will contribute, and contains any other relevant information.

So again, this is what the description of the collaboration should include, if you choose to include it in your application. Also, within 120 days of receiving a grant should you be funded, or within 120 days of the date the collaboration is scheduled to begin, whichever is later, the grantee must provide evidence of participation in the collaboration, which could include but is not required to include a memorandum of understanding.

So, talking about the selection criteria, and again, these are required, and they differ for 84.282B and 84.282E. So I did already list them earlier, so I won't list them again, but please remember that they differ,

depending on if you're applying under B or E, and make sure to review them in the NIA, and write to them.

Next slide, please. So, the next two slides are going to address the application requirements. Now, applicants for grants under both B and E must address the following 12 application requirements. Now, here we have provided shortened versions of them.

Obviously, in the NIA, they are going to...some of them will be longer. So again, this is why we ask that you make sure to read them in the NIA. But for example, A, you must describe the... The eligible applicant, excuse me, must describe its objectives in running a quality charter school program, and how those objectives will be carried out.

B, you must describe the educational program, and how you, as the applicant, will implement that program in the charter school receiving funding under this program. You'll also describe recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students, you'll describe the lottery and enrollment procedures.

You'll have to include a complete logic model, you'll have to include a budget narrative. And if you are proposing a single-sex school, you'll have to demonstrate that proposed single-sex educational program is in compliance with Title IX, and you'll have to provide the most recent available independently audited financial statements.

Next slide, please. Then they continue. So for I, you must provide a request and justification for any waivers of any federal or statutory provisions that you'll be requesting, as well as a description of any state or local rules that will be waived or otherwise not applied to the school.

Next, you'll have to describe how each school that will receive funds meets the definition of a charter school. And for any existing or proposed contract with a for-profit management organization, you'll need to provide information on that contract. And you'll also need to provide evidence of your approved charter, or that you have applied for one and given notice.

Now additionally, if you're applying under 84.282E, you also have to address this additional application requirement, and for each charter school currently operated or managed by the applicant, there's some

information that you'll have to provide. For example, information that demonstrates that the school is treated as a separate school, student assessment results, attendance and student retention rates, four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates, and information on any significant compliance and management issues.

Next slide, please.

- So, all applicants for grants under both B and E must also provide assurances, and there is a form that will have to be signed and submitted with your application, and it includes nine assurances. For example, each charter school receiving funds through the program will have a high degree of autonomy over your budget and operations, including autonomy over personnel decisions.

The eligible applicant will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students, as described in the ESEA. The eligible applicant will ensure that each charter school receiving funds under this program makes publicly available, consistent with the dissemination requirements of the annual state report card required under the ESEA, including on the website of the school, information to help parents make informed decisions about the education options available to their children.

And more is included on that particular assurance in the NIA. Next slide, please. So, the charter school programs assurances again includes those nine assurances, and this is just a clip of what the form looks like that you will have to sign and submit with your application in Grants.gov.

Next slide, please. So, GPRA performance measures. GPRA, the Government Performance and Results Act, so for the purposes of the department reporting on this program, the Secretary has established two performance indicators to measure annual progress toward achieving the purposes of the program.

They're discussed in the NIA, but they are, one, the number of charter schools in operation around the nation, and two, the percentage of fourth and eighth-grade charter school students who are achieving at or above the proficient level on state assessments in mathematics, and

reading, and language arts. And, so this is something that you would have to report on if you do receive a Developer grant.

Additionally, the Secretary has established a measure to examine the efficiency of the CSP, and that's the federal cost per student in implementing a successful school, defined as a school in operation for three or more consecutive years. And so, this again is something that you would have to report on.

Next slide, please. In addition to that, you would report on project-specific performance measures. So, you must propose project-specific performance measures and performance targets that are consistent with your project's objectives.

And again, these are unique to your proposed project. And applicants must provide the following information, performance measures, baseline data, and performance targets. And if you're funded, as grantees you'll submit an annual performance report, also known as an APR, with information that responds to your performance measures.

And we'll use that information to make a substantial progress determination, and determine whether or not you will receive your continuation award, and this, again, will occur annually. And if a grantee cannot report on a performance measure annually, it should not be identified as a project-specific performance measure in your application. So for help in developing effective performance measures for your application, we encourage you to review the department's Regional Educational Laboratory, or REL, which we've included a link to that.

But we have also posted a pre-recorded pre-application webinar called Logic Models and Smart Performance Measures that is available on the website now. And again, this will be on the Developer Competition website. So, all department grantees awarded competitive grant funds, unless an exemption applies, must openly license to the public all copyrightable grant deliverables that are created with department grant funds.

And that includes educational software, curriculum materials, professional development training materials, assessment systems, and this requirement does apply to the Developer grant. And open licensing,

in fact, essentially it promotes efficient dissemination of grant-funded works, and promotes innovation through creative reuse of grant-funded works.

There's more information on open licensing in the NIA, but we have also provided a link to detailed information about it that's in the Federal Register. So, here are some applicable statutory and regulatory requirements that you can consult. You've heard us cite to some things, and particularly when discussing the budget talk about cost principles, and so there are links here where you can go and view that information.

So, EDGAR information, information on cost principles, information on the 2022 Notice of Final Priorities, that applies to the Developer grant, and so these links are provided here as well. Next slide, please. So, award notification.

We get asked this question a lot. So, Congressional notification, if your application is successful, we will notify your U.S. representative and U.S. senators. Also, if your application is successful, or if it's deemed ineligible or not even selected for funding, we will still notify you via email. And if your application is funded, we will send you a grant award notification, also known as a GAN, via email, which will, among other things, state how much you have been awarded.

And award decisions will all be made by September 30th, 2023. So, we're going to pause again and answer questions, so give me a minute here to bring them up. So if you have a question about the content I just presented, please enter it in the Q&A. And please note, given the time, we do have more content to go through, so we may not answer all the questions.

But again, you can submit it to [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov), and we're also going to include questions in next week's Office Hours webinar. Okay, we're going to keep going. If you're typing, go ahead and keep typing, and we can add the question at the next pause for questions.

And I'm going to hand off to Porscheoy.

- All right, great. So now we're going to go through the important piece of actually submitting your application. All right, so electronic



submission requirement. All applications must be submitted electronically via our Grants.gov system unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement, and that would be in accordance with the instructions in the NIA, so please check that.

Also be mindful that Grants.gov is an external application system used throughout the federal government, and you can see links here, one to the general website, and then to the specific grant programs. All right, so the Grants.gov registration process. Note that the complete Grants.gov registration process can take multiple weeks to complete.

This is why we do recommend that you start the process early, as soon as possible. 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 in order to submit an application, and so, here you'll see the steps. So one, you want to register on SAM.gov to obtain your unique entity identifier.

You will need that. Two, you want to set up an AOR profile. So again, you want to go register with Grants.gov, and set up your Authorized Organization Representative profile, and there's a link for you to learn more information about that. And then, once you get authorized as an AOR by your organization's e-business point of contact, so that's the next step, and then you'll want to track your AOR status just to make sure you're on target, and everything is going smoothly.

And again, there are links throughout to make sure that you have access to all of this information. All right, so here are some submission tips. First, you want to review the Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants section in the application package instructions.

The link is there. You want to review the Grants.gov application FAQs, important as well, and there are links throughout this document. Also, applicants must download the correct version of Adobe in order to read any Grants.gov application packages, so please be mindful of that. Once in Adobe, applicants must move all forms from left to right in order to open each form.

Once the form is on the right side, applicants can complete and save each form. You want to make sure you're saving frequently to not lose

information. And you have to submit all documents as PDF files. Once the application is complete, you're going to hit the Save and Submit buttons that will become active at that point.

You'll press the button before the final submission of the application. And note that users may resubmit an application at any point until the closing date and time, and that we will review the most recently submitted application. And then you can also download and save a copy of your application. That is recommended.

I also just want to note that applications cannot be unsubmitted, but as we've stated throughout, you can submit multiple times up to the closing date and time. All right, additional tips. So, Workspace allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application, so that may be useful.

The forms can be filled out online or offline, and it's completely your choice, or the applicant's choice. And the Workspace overview website contains resources, and some of those are getting started for your workspace application, resources to help you set up your workspace, and then a video on how to create a workspace. All right, so how do you know whether you have a successful or unsuccessful submission?

So, let's walk through successful. So, applicants should receive a confirmation email with a time and date stamp, and an assigned tracking number from Grants.gov. You should also receive a validation email from Grants.gov, and this means that the application is ready for the department to pick up.

And the applicant should receive an email with their assigned PR award number, an example of that here, whether it's B or E. The initial part would be the same, but you want to pay attention to B or E. And then an unsuccessful submission. Applicants should receive a confirmation email with a time and date stamp, and an assigned Grants.gov tracking number.

So if the application is received by the deadline, which again is July 7th, 2023, at 11:59:59pm Eastern Standard Time, or validation is not successful, the applicant should receive an error email. So again, on the positive side, successful side, you'll receive a confirmation.

If not, you'll receive an error email. And the email may list the error, or the applicant can use their tracking number to find the submission error, and then there's a link here for you to go and learn more about error messages. All right, so verifying and tracking your submission. So, you want to verify the submission is on time, and validated successfully.

In order to do this, you'll go into Grants.gov, and click on the Track My Application in the Applicants drop-down menu. And the date and time received should be earlier than the deadline, the application status should be validated. And do not rely solely on email to confirm whether or not your application has been received on time and validated successfully.

Please make sure to go into the Grants.gov system and check, double-check. You want to make sure. All right, so technical problems and extensions. So if you find that you are experiencing technical problems when trying to submit your application through the Grants.gov system, please contact the Grants.gov support desk.

There's a link, or you can call them. You must obtain a Grants.gov support desk case number, and keep a record of it. That's very important. If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the system, we will grant you an extension until the following day at 11:59:59.

So same time frame, just an additional day to transmit your application electronically, by hand delivery, or through the mail, following the instructions in the NIA. And if you submit an application after the deadline, please contact the [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov), and explain the technical problem that you experienced with the Grants.gov system, and provide the Grants.gov support case number.

And we will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system, and that a problem affected your ability to submit your application by the deadline. The department will contact you after a determination is made on whether or not your application will be accepted. Also, just note that these exceptions 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. We recognize that technical problems may occur, but here are the guidelines. All right, so at this point, I'm going to pause again for any questions that you may have about what was just covered.

All right, I don't see any at the moment, so for the sake of time, I'm going to hand it back off to Stephanie.

- Thanks, Porscheoy. So I am going to go through the final section, and we will also do a final call for questions at the end. So the application review process, so how do we actually review the applications? Next slide, please. So first, there's the... Well, first, of course, the application closes on July 7th, 2023.

So whatever is submitted into the system, we first conduct an eligibility review. So, we'll screen the applications submitted in accordance with the requirements that are in the NIA to determine whether the applications have met the eligibility and other requirements. This screening process may occur at various stages in the process, but applicants who are determined to be ineligible will not receive a grant regardless of if it is advanced to the peer review stage.

But again, if it is later determined to be ineligible, you will not receive a grant. But eligibility review does generally occur first. Then there is peer review. And during this stage, this is when applications are evaluated by a three-person non-federal panel, and each peer reviewer individually reads, evaluates and scores their assigned applications based on the selection criteria that are listed in the NIA.

And the panel is then given time to discuss the applications collectively, as well as each peer reviewers respective scores and comments, and ultimately, the three peer reviewer scores are then averaged to create an overall application score.

So after the peer review, the rank order is created. So, the rank order list is prepared based on the overall application scores, and we use this list to estimate how many applications will be funded based on the scores. And then finally, prior to making final awards, the department, in

consultation with the Office of General Counsel and other offices will work together to develop funding recommendations, and identify any special terms and conditions that may need to be applied to an award.

And following the vetting of the highest rated applications, the competition manager, Porscheoy, will prepare and submit a funding slate to the Secretary for review and approval. And ultimately, after all of that happens, for those applications that are funded, you will receive notification via email by September 30th, 2023.

Now, we will also notify applicants that are not funded, or that are deemed ineligible via email as well. So, you will hear from us via email. So, some of you who've already looked at the application package instructions are probably familiar with this table.

It is in the application package instructions. These are the suggested point ranges for rating responses, and this table will be provided to peer reviewers. Again, I do want to stress that this is advisory only, but we want you to have a sense of how applicants' responses are rated. But again, this is advisory only.

Peer reviewers are not bound by this. These are suggested point ranges of a not addressed, a poorly developed, adequately developed, well-developed, and fully developed response to a criterion or sub-criterion for the selection criteria, and also for the competitive preference priority, should it be addressed in an application. Next slide, please.

So, let's go over some important reminders. You're probably tired of us saying this, but please review the NIA, and we have provided links to it in the chat box, you'll have it in this presentation. It's also available on the Developer Competition website. But review the NIA, review the application package instructions, a link has been provided, and also review the developer competition website.

If you still have any concerns about whether or not your state or territory is eligible, there is a table, and it was shown earlier in this presentation, but there is a table on the Developer Competition website, at the bottom of that webpage, that lists the states and territories, and which ones are eligible to submit an application.

This is strictly optional, but you can submit a Notice of Intent to Apply to the department. Just send it to [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov), with the subject line, Intent to Apply, and include the applicant's name, a contact person's name and email address, and identify if you are going to be applying under 84.282B or 84.282E.

Again, this is strictly optional. You do not have to submit it, and if you do not submit it, you can still apply. This is strictly optional, but this information is helpful for us to know approximately how many applications may be submitted. But it is strictly optional.

And again, if you haven't done so already, remember you must register on SAM.gov. We provided a link, and Grants.gov immediately to ensure you can submit an application by the closing date. And there are two prerecorded webinars that are on the CSP Developer Competition website, one on budgets, and one on logic models and smart performance measures.

They're available now. We're also going to host, as I mentioned at the start, the Office Hours webinar next week, at 2:30 on June 22nd, and there is a link provided to register. And finally, very, very important, the deadline. The deadline for transmittal of applications is 11:59:59pm Eastern Time on July 7th, 2023.

As we said earlier, we strongly recommend that you submit early. You do not know what can go wrong. You know, technical issues can occur with your computer, you could run into other issues, and so again, it is not advisable to wait until 11:58 to submit on July 7th, 2023.

Again, we encourage you to submit early. Next slide, please. Okay, so last call for any final questions. By the way, if you've submitted a question, we did provide answers either live, or we were typing answers to questions.

If you feel that your question was not answered sufficiently, then please submit it to [developercompetition2023@ed.gov](mailto:developercompetition2023@ed.gov), and you may even see it pop up at next week's Office Hours live webinar. But if you submit a question to us through the website, we will...excuse me, through the email address, we will respond to you.

Okay, so one question that has come in, "When are the funds released?" So, the performance period start date, and a performance period is up to five years, or 60 months, would start on October 1st. So when you receive your GAN, your grant award notification, it would state how much you have received.

However, after October 1st, there are multiple steps that you will have to complete before you will be able to access the funds. You will have to, for example, participate in a post-award webinar, you will have to then submit a revised budget, because generally, there are edits that are needed to budgets because sometimes applicants include unallowable costs, or there's not enough description of a cost, or there are just other issues that need to be addressed in a budget.

So you'll complete the post-award webinar, there will be post-award steps like submitting a revised budget, and this process can take several weeks to months. So, be aware of that, that there's a post-award process before you can actually begin to draw down funds.

But we will explain all of that to you very soon after you receive notification that you have received an award. I will pause to see if there are any other questions. Okay.

Well, with that, thank you again for participating. Please read the NIA, and go on to the Developer Competition website. And we also want to hear how we did, so you'll be able to provide feedback in a survey.

And we can always do better. It's a lot of information, so we want to continue to improve in our delivery of this information, so please do try to complete the survey. And good luck with your application. The survey will pop up as you exit the session.