

Grantee Name:

Horizon Science Academy
Des Moines

Grant Award Number:

S282B230006

ALN:

84.282B – Opening a New
Charter School

State:

Iowa

Project Duration:

5 Years

Year 1 Funding:

\$370,200

Total Expected Funding:

\$1,714,950

Grantee Address:

4801 Franklin Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Project Director Name:

Dr. Christopher Murphy

Project Director Email:

cmurphy@conceptschoools.org

Horizon Science Academy Des Moines

Horizon Science Academy Des Moines – Empowering Future Generations

Horizon Science Academy Des Moines (Horizon) is a charter public school located at 4801 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310. Horizon is in the racially and socioeconomically diverse northwest quadrant of Des Moines, Iowa, where several traditional public schools are identified by the State Department of Education as high-priority and needs-improvement. Horizon will open in August 2023 and serve 190 kindergarten- through third-grade students. Per its charter agreement with the Department of Education, Horizon will increase the opportunity of a high-quality education by adding one grade level per year, ultimately serving 640 K-12 students.

Horizon's **project objectives** are:

- **Objective #1: Implement Horizon's STEM-focused educational model.** Approaches include an extended school day/year, robotics clubs, and providing data-driven academic interventions.
- **Objective #2: Implement Horizon's diverse, equitable, and inclusive (DEI) model.** Approaches include partnering with non-profits and engaging with neighborhood associations.
- **Objective #3: Implement Horizon's staff development and school culture model.** Sample approaches include teacher feedback and support processes, and competitive salary/benefits.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Iowa was ranked #3 in the nation in public K-12 education in 1992. By 2019, it had slipped to 24th. According to the 2023 Stanford CREDO study, charter schools like Horizon are proven to help low-income students of color achieve at higher rates than their traditional public-school peers. Horizon will help Iowa return to being one of the top public educational states in the country.

Competition Priorities Addressed: *Competitive Preference*

Priority – Promoting High-Quality Educator- and Community-Centered Charter Schools to Support Underserved Students.