

# Notice of Grant Opportunity

## 2018 Ohio Charter Schools Program

### Subgrant Competition

The Ohio Department of Education is announcing the subgrant competition for the Charter Schools Program for Fiscal Year 2018. This program is a competitive subgrant that enables the Department to provide financial assistance to eligible and qualifying applicants for planning, program design and initial implementation of new, high-quality community schools in the state. The objectives of the grant are to increase the number of high-performing community schools and the percentage of community school students enrolled in these schools. Additionally, the grant will prioritize serving students who are educationally or socioeconomically disadvantaged.

For the 2017-2018 school year, the Department has approximately \$32 million available for subgrant awards to carry out the following goals within Ohio:

1. Provide high-quality educational options to Ohio's most disadvantaged students by stimulating the creation of high-quality applications for the creation of new schools;
2. Stimulate the creation of high-performing community schools that operate successfully under the Charter Schools Program using quality practices; and
3. Increase academic performance of students attending community schools, with focus on schools opened under this grant.

The Ohio Department of Education will monitor progress toward these goals on an annual basis.

Interested eligible Ohio community schools must submit an Intent to Apply by May 1, 2017.

The application window opens in the Department's e-grant system, the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), on May 18, 2017, and closes on June 15, 2017, at 4:59 p.m. The Department is providing technical assistance training to applicants and sponsors during the month of April. An eligible sponsor, on behalf of developers seeking planning subgrants and/or newly operating schools seeking implementation subgrants, must preapprove a submitted Charter School Program subgrant by completing the sponsor assurances document in the request for application packet. The subgrant award notifications will be made to successful applicants meeting the quality threshold during the week of July 3-7, 2018.

### CSP SUBGRANT TIMELINE

| Date                               | Event   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Friday, April 7, 2017              | Notice of Intent to Apply available.                            |
| Thursday, April 20, 2017           | Request for Applications available.                             |
| April/May 2017                     | Technical assistance available for applicants.                  |
| Monday, May 1, 2017                | Notice of Intent to Apply submission deadline.                  |
| Thursday, May 18, 2017             | Applications open in the CCIP, the Department's e-grant system. |
| Thursday, June 15, 2017, 4:59 p.m. | Application deadline.   |

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible for a planning or implementation subgrant, applicants must first conform to the federal definition of a public charter school in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [P.L. 107-110, Section 5210(11)]. In Ohio, public charter schools are known as community schools.

The term charter school, or community school, means a public school that:

- a. Is in accordance with a specific state statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempt from significant state or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the requirements in paragraphs a through l of this definition;
- b. Is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;
- c. Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school's developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;
- d. Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;
- e. Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;
- f. Does not charge tuition;
- g. Complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- h. Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that admits students on the basis of a lottery, if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated;
- i. Agrees to comply with the same federal and state audit requirements as do other elementary schools and secondary schools in the state, unless such requirements are specifically waived for the purpose of this program;
- j. Meets all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety requirements;
- k. Operates in accordance with state law; and
- l. Has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the state that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to state assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school [20 U.S.C. 7221i(1)].

Secondly, the applicant must plan or implement a high-performing, site-based general education school. For the purposes of this subgrant, the Department defines a site-based school as a school where students primarily receive their instruction under the supervision of teachers in physical classroom settings. Additionally, for the purposes of this subgrant, the Department defines general education schools as community schools serving any grades kindergarten through 12, which also may include schools primarily serving students with disabilities. Currently, only site-based community schools with general education programs serving any grades K-12 may use this grant funding.

In addition, community schools receiving Charter School Program funds must provide all students in the community with an equal opportunity to attend the charter school [20 U.S.C. 7221-7225g].

Furthermore, under the state's subgrant program, a developer/founder requesting a planning subgrant or a newly established community school applying for an implementation subgrant should consider a community school model with a track record of high-quality academic performance.

The following performance measures are used in the identification of a high-performing community school model for the purposes of Ohio's Charter School Program grant.

If the community school serves:

- Any combination of grades 9 through 12, the Four-Year Graduation Rate must meet the equivalent of A or B and the Performance Index<sup>1</sup> must meet either the equivalent of A, B or C or must have increased for the previous three years of operation on the Ohio School Report Cards;
- Any combination of grades 4 through 8, the overall value-added<sup>2</sup> measure must meet the equivalent of A or B and the Performance Index must meet either the equivalent of A, B or C or must have increased for the previous three years of operation on the Ohio School Report Cards; or
- Only a combination of grades kindergarten through 3, the K-3 Literacy measure must meet the equivalent of A or B on the Ohio School Report Cards.

Additional eligibility requirements for Ohio's Charter School Program subgrantees include:

- The rating for an applying community school's sponsor must be at least "effective overall" or higher on the 2015-2016 Sponsor Evaluation posted [here](#) and confirmed by the Department;
- A community school developer/founder applying for a planning grant must hold a preliminary agreement describing the intention of an eligible sponsor and the developer to pursue, in good faith, the execution of a community school contract and:
  - Be in its first year of operation (opened for the first time in the fall of 2016) at the time of the Charter School Program subgrant application submission if applying for an implementation subgrant;
  - Be in its first year of operation (open for the first time in the fall of 2017) if applying for an implementation subgrant;
  - Be in its second year of operation (open for the first time in the fall of 2015) at the time of the subgrant application submission (note: applicants meeting this criterion will only be eligible for one year, or 12 months, of implementation subgrant funds); or
  - Hold a preliminary agreement between the sponsor and the governing authority, adopted prior to March 15, 2017, with an intention to open for the first time in the fall of 2018 if applying for a planning grant.

## INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Ineligible applicants are any of the following:

- Dropout prevention and recovery community schools, as defined in Ohio Revised Code 3314.35 (A)(4)(a);
- E-schools, as defined in ORC 3314.02 (A)(7);
- Community schools that received Charter School Program grants directly from the U.S. Department of Education or Ohio subgrants prior to 2015;
- Community schools that have been open for more than three years at the date of this request for application;
- Community schools under contract with sponsors receiving ratings of "ineffective" or below on the most recent sponsor evaluation ratings;
- Community schools under contract with sponsors that received ratings of "effective" or above on the most recent sponsor evaluation ratings but scored two or below on the standards "Oversight and Evaluation: Report to Schools" and "Termination and Renewal Decision-Making: Renewal and Non-Renewal Decisions" of the quality practices rubric; or
- Community schools with designated feeder patterns that do not demonstrate separate and distinct schools.

## RESOURCES

1. [Charter Schools Program Nonregulatory Guidance \(updated January 2014\)](#);
2. Education Department General Administrative Regulations ([EDGAR](#)), 34 CFR Parts 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, 99;
3. [Guidance to obtain a required IRN](#);
4. [Guidance on setting up a SAFE account](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The Performance Index measures the achievement of every student on state achievement assessments, not just whether the student reaches "proficient." Schools receive points for every student's level of achievement.

<sup>2</sup> The overall value-added measure of the report card looks closely at the growth that all students are making based on past performance.