

## Notice of Grant Opportunity

### FY21-22 Ohio Charter Schools Program

#### Subgrant Competition

The Ohio Department of Education is announcing the subgrant competition for the Charter Schools Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. 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. In 2019-2020, the Department became eligible to conduct a subgrant competition for existing high-quality community schools looking to increase the number of students enrolled through Expansion.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Department is releasing a Notice of Grant Opportunity for the creation of newly opening high-performing community schools planning or implementing a high-performing educational model or expansion of high-quality community schools.

Interested eligible Ohio community schools must submit an Intent to Apply by Monday, April 12, 2021. Access the [Charter School Program grant website](#) to complete the Notice of Intent to Apply.

The application window opens in the Department's e-grant system, the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), on Monday, April 19, 2021 and closes on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 4:59 p.m. The Department is providing technical assistance training to applicants and sponsors during the application period on Thursday, April 15, 2021. An eligible sponsor, on behalf of developers seeking planning subgrants and/or newly operating schools seeking implementation subgrants, and/or existing schools seeking expansion subgrants must pre-approve 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 5-16, 2021.

#### CSP SUBGRANT TIMELINE

Date	Event
Monday, March 15, 2021	Notice of Intent to Apply available.
Monday, April 5, 2021	Request for Applications available.
Monday, April 12, 2021	Notice of Intent to Apply submission deadline
Thursday, April 15, 2021	Technical assistance available for applicants.
Monday, April 19, 2021	Applications open in the CCIP, the Department's e-grant system.
Monday, May 17, 2021 at 4:59 p.m.	Application deadline.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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, Community Schools Program grant funding may be used only for site-based community schools with general education programs serving any grades K-12.

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 CSP 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.

## ACADEMIC CRITERIA

### General Education Community Schools

A general education school demonstrates at least one of the following three criteria:

1. Value-Added grade of A or B and
  - A Performance Index grade of A, B, or C, or
  - An increase in Performance Index score in each of the last three years; OR
2. Four-Year Graduation Rate grade of A or B and
  - A Performance Index grade of A, B, or C, or
  - An increase in Performance Index score in each of the last three years; OR
3. K-3 Literacy Improvement grade of A or B if no other graded report card measures are available.

## GOOD STANDING CRITERIA REQUIRED OF ALL SCHOOLS

In order to be in “good standing,” a community school must demonstrate:

- The school is not currently on probation;
- The school is not in receipt of a notice of intent to suspend operation from its sponsor;
- The school has not been required by its sponsor to suspend operation; and
- The school is not in receipt of a notice of termination from its sponsor.

## FINANCIAL CRITERIA

A community school must demonstrate that the school meets acceptable standards of accounting and fiscal condition. Specifically, a school must demonstrate:

- The school has not been determined unauditably by the Auditor of State;
- The school has no unresolved findings for recovery;
- The school has not received an unqualified opinion on the most recently released annual fiscal audit; and
- The school demonstrates no other significant issues related to fiscal condition, for example going concern comments in multiple audit reports, material misstatements in the financial statements and/or findings for financial matters related to internal controls or oversight of federal funds.

## ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- A school that is no longer in operation or has merged into another community school and no longer exists as a separate legal entity shall be removed from the list of high-performing community schools.

**For a list of community school implementing a high-performing educational model for the purposes of CSP Implementation, please click [here](#).**

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

- 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
- The applying community school must be sponsored by an eligible sponsor **for the purposes of CSP**

## INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR EXPANSION

To be eligible for an expansion subgrant, applicants must first conform to the federal definition of a public charter school in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) [P.L. 107-110, Section 5210(I1)] and must provide evidence that the community school is a public benefit corporation or nonprofit. In Ohio, public charter schools are known as community schools.

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

- 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;
- 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;
- 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; Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;
- Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;
- Does not charge tuition;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- Meets all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety requirements;
- Operates in accordance with state law; and
- 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. 7221(i)(1).

Secondly, the applicant must seek to expand an already operating high-quality, 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 from kindergarten through 12, which also may include schools primarily serving students with disabilities. Currently, CSP grant funding may be used only for site-based community schools with a general education program serving any grades from K-12. Lastly, for the purposes of this subgrant, the Department defines expansion as a school seeking to increase enrollment by adding by:

1. Add one or more grade level(s) that did not exist prior
2. Add 3 or more educational program(s) or courses in a core academic subject area (i.e., English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography and physical education) and/or

3. Adds additional facility consistent with ORC [3314.05](#). PLEASE NOTE: A school seeking to receiving CSP Expansion funds due to a merger with another community school will be considered on a limited basis to ensure the resulting merger align to the intent and purpose of CSP funds.

In addition, community schools receiving CSP 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 CSP expansion subgrant program, a community school applying for an expansion subgrant must implement a community school based on a model with a track record of high-quality academic performance. The following performance measures are used in the identification of a high-quality community school model for the purposes of the Ohio’s Expansion CSP grant:

### 1. ACADEMIC CRITERIA

1. Has been in operation by the 2018-2017 school year or prior.
2. Received a C or higher for the Overall School Grade based on the results of the 19-20 report card;
3. For the 19-20 school year, received a C or better on the Progress Measure as well as an C or better for the Overall Value-Added Grade. In addition, for the economically disadvantaged students, minority students, students with disabilities and ELL students, the school cannot have a D or F in the Value-Added progress measure and cannot have a D or F letter grade for the 4-year Graduation Rate; and
4. For the 18-19 school year, received a C or better on the Progress Measure as well as a C or better for the Overall Value-Added Grade.

### 2. GOOD STANDING CRITERIA REQUIRED OF ALL SCHOOLS

In order to be in “good standing,” a community school must demonstrate:

- The school is not currently on probation;
- The school is not in receipt of a notice of intent to suspend operation from its sponsor;
- The school has not been required by its sponsor to suspend operation; and
- The school is not in receipt of a notice of termination from its sponsor.
- The school has no unresolved corrective action plans from the prior year Oversight of School Compliance worksheet submitted as part of the Sponsor Evaluation

### 3. FINANCIAL CRITERIA

A community school must demonstrate that the school meets acceptable standards of accounting and fiscal condition. Specifically, a school must demonstrate:

- The school has not been determined unauditible by the Auditor of State;
- The school has no unresolved findings for recovery;
- The school has not received an opinion other than an unqualified opinion on the most recently released annual fiscal audit; and
- The school demonstrates no other significant issues related to fiscal condition, for example going concern comments in multiple audit reports, material misstatements in the financial statements and/or findings for financial matters related to internal controls or oversight of federal funds.

### 4. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

A school that is no longer in operation or has merged into another community school and no longer exists as a separate legal entity shall be removed from the list of high-quality community schools.

To view the school’s identified as eligible for CSP expansion by meeting the above criteria, please click [here](#).

### INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR EXPANSION

Ineligible community school applicants meet any of the following criteria:

- Dropout prevention and recovery community schools, as defined in Ohio statute ORC 3314.35 (A)(4)(a)
- E-schools, as defined in Ohio statute ORC 3314.02 (A)(7)

- Community schools that received CSP grants directly from the U.S. Department of Education or Ohio subgrants for the same activities prior to 2015
- Community schools with designated feeder patterns because their enrollment policies do not align with the federal definition of a community school
- Community schools unable to demonstrate an “arms-length” relationship with its contracted CMO/EMO

## 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. For CCIP technical assistance videos, sign into your **OH-ID Portal** account [here](#).