

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY23 Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act Facilities Grant

Request for Applications (RFA) Release Date: May 19, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) will issue Request for Applications (RFAs) for SOAR Act grant funds. SOAR Act funds are available to District of Columbia (DC) public charter local education agencies (LEAs) through the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (Pub. L. 112-10). The purpose of the funds is to support the improvement and expansion of high-quality public charter schools.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: Eligible applicants are high-quality DC public charter schools. Applicants must use funds to support the renovation of facilities occupied by charter schools. Eligible applicants must provide documentation of site control (ownership or at least a 50-year lease). Eligible applicants must attend one of the mandatory pre-application webinars and submit a notice of intent to apply.

Applications will be scored in the following areas: project data, needs assessment, project description, theory of action, equitable access and participation, logic model, and budget.

Length of Award: The award period for this grant is two years, beginning on the initial grant award date and ending on September 30, 2024. Applicants will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year.

Available Funding for Award: At least \$3,500,000 is available for awards through this RFA. OSSE will provide up to \$750,000 per award. Determinations regarding the number of competitive grant awards will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. OSSE anticipates awarding approximately 5 to 8 awards. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested. Awards are limited to one per charter LEA. Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized by the relevant statutes and included in the applicant's submission.

Application Process: A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external, neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). OSSE will make all final award decisions. Applications for this grant must be submitted prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 7, 2023. OSSE expects to make awards by August 30, 2023.

The mandatory pre-application webinars will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 9, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Webinar registration links will be included in the RFA. Each interested organization must have at least one representative attend one of the above webinars to meet the attendance requirement for this grant. Webinar attendance is tracked electronically through registration and online attendance. The organization representative should be familiar with the LEA's past and current facilities needs or a representative from the applicant LEA(s).

The notice of intent to apply will be available in the RFA and must be submitted on or before June 9, 2023.

To receive more information on this grant, please contact:

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The RFA for this competitive grant program will be available on May 19, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. on OSSE's website at www.osse.dc.gov. All applications will be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at grants.osse.dc.gov.