

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY25 Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act Educator Pipeline Grants

Request for Applications Release Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act Educator Pipeline grants. SOAR Act Educator Pipeline grants are available to District of Columbia (DC) public charter local education agencies (LEAs) and third-party nonprofit charter support organizations. The purpose of the grant program is to impact the quality and quantity of the educator supply for DC public charter schools.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria:

Eligible applicants are the following:

- Nonprofit third-party charter school support organizations that have a demonstrated history of success working with DC charter schools on similar educator pipeline programs
- DC public charter LEAs working with nonprofit third-party charter school support organizations that have a demonstrated history of success working with DC public charter schools on similar educator pipeline programs.
- Consortia of DC public charter LEAs working with nonprofit third-party charter school support organizations that have a demonstrated history of success working with DC public charter schools on similar educator pipeline programs.

There are different requirements for each type of applicant.

Nonprofit third-party charter school support organization applicants must use funds to support projects designed to a) recruit, or partner with at least two LEAs or other organizations to recruit, high-quality candidates new to teaching for DC charter school teacher residency, teacher, or school leaders roles, and b) train and/or certify these educators. Applicants are required to submit a letter of commitment from each LEA partner as well as a complete list of all schools and Districts to which the applicant has provided similar services.

Public charter school or charter school consortia applicants must use funds to support projects designed to a) partner with at least one nonprofit third party organization to recruit, high-quality candidates new to teaching for DC charter school teacher residency, teacher, or school leaders roles, and b) train and/or certify these educators. Applicants are required to submit a letter of commitment from a nonprofit third-party charter support organization as well as a complete list of all schools and districts to which the organization has provided similar services.

All applications will be scored on the following criteria: partner data, needs assessment, project description, theory of action, equitable access and participation, logic model, and budget.

Length of Award:

The total award period for the FY25 Educator Pipeline grant is three years from the grant award date.

Available Funding for the Award:

At least \$1,500,000 is available for awards through this RFA. OSSE will provide up to \$500,000 per award. Grant awards will be made on a per-teacher basis and may not exceed \$10,000 per teacher. Awards are limited to one per organization.

Grantees may charge allowable pre-award costs beginning on July 1, 2024. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the grant award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the award where such costs are reasonable and necessary for the efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Grantees must identify pre-award costs in their budget and if awarded, will receive written approval from OSSE on any pre-award costs included in the budget. Pre-award costs are a part of and not in addition to the total grant award. Costs incurred by an applicant before receiving an award are done so at the recipient's risk. OSSE is not obligated to reimburse these costs if the applicant does not receive an award. OSSE must provide written approval for all pre-award costs.

Successful applicants may be eligible to receive up to the same amount of funding as their initial grant award for two additional fiscal years, subject to availability of continued funding and satisfactory completion of grant obligations.

Determinations regarding the number of competitive grant awards will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested. Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized by the relevant statutes and included in the applicant's submission.

Continuation of awards in future years is contingent upon: availability of funds; recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application; recipient's demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient's reports; compliance with District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period.

Application Process: Applications must be submitted prior to 3:00 pm on Monday July 1, 2024. OSSE expects to make awards in early October. Please allow additional time for any issues you may experience, as well as the consistency check to run, prior to submission.

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.

Pre-application webinars will be held on the following dates. Each session will cover the same content.

- Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 1-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 22, 2024, from 10-11 a.m.

Webinar registration links will be included in the RFA. There are programmatic changes this year, including some application components, the scoring rubric, and the award period, so interested organizations are strongly encouraged to have at least one representative attend one of the above webinars. The representative should be someone who is familiar with the organization's past educator pipeline work with charter schools or a representative from the applicant LEA(s).

To receive more information on these grants, please contact:

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The RFA for this competitive grant program will be available on OSSE's website at www.osse.dc.gov and the [District's Grants Clearinghouse](#). All applications must be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at grants.osse.dc.gov.