

# **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**RFA # GD0—SACSO—25**

**District of Columbia**

**Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)**



## **Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act**

### **Third Party Charter Support Organization Grants**

**Request for Application (RFA) Release Date**

Friday, June 14, 2024

**Pre-Application Conference Webinars (Encouraged)**

Tuesday, June 25 and Wednesday, June 26, 2024

**Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline (Encouraged)**

Friday, July 5, 2024

**Application Submission Deadline**

Monday, August 5, 2024

Please allow additional time for any issues you may experience, as well as the consistency check to run, prior to submission.

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**Checklist for pre-Application**  
**FY 25 SOAR Act Third Party Charter Support Organization Grants**

- The applicant submitted an optional Notice of Intent to Apply on or before **Friday, July 5 19, 2024**. The Notice of Intent to Apply form can be found in Appendix A and OSSE website.
- The applicant attended one of the two **optional** pre-application webinars. Please see Request for Application (RFA) Section 2.2 for webinar dates, times, and registration.
- The applicant completed all steps required by the RFA and submitted a complete application through OSSE's Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) that contains all the required information and attachments. Please see RFA Section 3 for an overview of the application components.

*Please note: All required application elements must be submitted by entering information directly into the required sections in EGMS. Unless otherwise stated in the application, information submitted via attachment will be considered as supplemental materials only.*

- The application adheres to the directions and criteria of each section of this RFA.
- The application was submitted **by 3 p.m. EST on Monday, August 5, 2024**, through EGMS.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**Applications are due by 3 p.m. EST on Monday, August 5, 2024.**

**The application deadline will be strictly enforced. Applications submitted at or after 3:01 p.m. EST on Monday, August 5, 2024, will not be reviewed.**

All applications must be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). For more information about EGMS, please visit <http://osse.dc.gov/service/enterprise-grants-management-system-egms>.

This application will be open for 30 business days. Please avoid last minute technical submission issues by submitting early. OSSE strongly recommends submitting your application at least one day early to ensure that avoidable technical issues do not cause you to miss the submission deadline.

## **Request for Applications**

### **RFA # GDO-SACSO-25**

#### **Section 1: General Information**

##### **1.1 Introduction**

###### **Overview of the SOAR Act**

As a part of a three-sector federal funding approach, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act, Pub. L. 112-10, 125 Stat. 199, as amended, is a federal law that authorizes funding for District of Columbia (DC) public charter schools or DC-based nonprofit organizations “to improve and expand quality public charter schools in the District of Columbia” §3004(b)(2). SOAR Act funds for DC charter schools are provided to OSSE by the US Department of Education (USED) as a grant. The SOAR Act also provides funding for District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) for DC students to attend private schools.

##### **1.2 Purpose of Funds**

Through this RFA, OSSE is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for the following grant program:

- **Grants to Third Party Charter Support Organizations**
  - The purpose of this funding program is to provide support to DC-based nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated history of success working with DC public charter schools on projects that are designed to: 1) have a direct and rapid (within two years) impact on the academic achievement and outcomes for public charter school students across multiple charter LEAs; or 2) designed to impact student outcomes at multiple charter LEAs indirectly by enhancing the organizational capacity of charter LEAs to operate as fiscally and operationally sound nonprofit organizations and schools.
  - The theory of action for each project must be supported by data and research, when available, or other evidence of success.
  - Funding is available for two types of assistance to charter schools, **direct assistance** projects and **indirect assistance** projects. Applicants will be asked to identify which category of funding they seek but the final determination of the category under which an application will be considered will be made by the external review panel.
  - **Direct Assistance Projects:**
    - Must be research-based and designed to have a direct and rapid (within two years) impact on the academic achievement and outcomes for public charter school students;

- Must be designed to improve student outcomes across multiple charter LEAs through **direct service to students** and/or **direct professional development** and support for teachers and instructional leaders; and
- Must be tailored to meet the specific needs of each partner charter LEA. The project's theory of action must be supported by LEA-specific data.
- **Indirect Assistance Projects:**
  - Must be designed to impact student outcomes at multiple charter LEAs indirectly by **enhancing the organizational capacity of charter LEAs to operate as fiscally and operationally sound nonprofit organizations and schools**; and
  - May include projects that provide professional development for charter LEA leaders or board members in order to improve the charter school's infrastructure or capacity related to the administration and use of student data, fiscal management, board governance, and overall school administration.

### **1.3 Source of Funding**

The U.S. Department of Education, through the DC School Choice Incentive Program, 84.370C, Public Law 108-199, III, DC School Incentive Act of 2003; as reauthorized by the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, effective April 15, 2011 (Pub. L. 112-10; 125 Stat. 201), as amended (D.C. Code 38-1853.01 et seq). Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) S370C220001.

### **1.4 Requirements of Funding**

This grant award is made subject to the terms, conditions, and provisions of the General Education Provisions Act (PL 90-247), as amended and codified at 20 U.S.C 1221 et seq. This grant is also subject to the regulations in the Education Department's General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 84 and 99, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements in 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted at 2 CFR Part 3474, and the Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension regulations in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 3485.

Further, in addition to the requirements of this RFA, the assurances made in the submitted application, and the terms of the Grant Award Notice (GAN) issued by OSSE to the subgrantee, a key condition for receiving these funds is compliance with activities necessary to carry out a mandated evaluation of the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), as specified in Section 3011(a)(1) of the SOAR Act. Pursuant to this section, the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is required to evaluate annually the performance of

students who applied to the OSP (Sec. 3009). Because some OSP applicants will be enrolled in public charter schools, it will be necessary for IES and its evaluation contractor to collect data on and from public charter school campuses once each year during the applicable grant period. Please be advised that noncompliance of the organization with the terms and conditions stated in the SOAR Act GAN may result in the withholding of SOAR Act funds administered by OSSE.

### **1.5 Funds Available and Funding Period**

At least \$2,00,000.00 is available for awards through this RFA. OSSE will provide up to \$400,000.00 per “direct assistance” award and up to \$400,000.00 per “indirect assistance” award. Awards are limited to one per organization. The total award period for this grant is three years, beginning on Oct. 1, 2024, or upon award if awards are made after this date. Pre-award costs must be approved in writing by OSSE. Grantees may charge allowable pre-award costs back to July 1, 2024. Please see Section 1.6 for more details on 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.

Funds that are not expended during a fiscal year may carry over to the subsequent fiscal year until the end of the award period on Sept. 30, 2027. Grantees must spend unspent carryover funds first. The awarded entity will need to complete a continuation application within OSSE’s EGMS each fiscal year.

Continuation of awards in year two and three 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.

### **1.6 Pre-award Costs**

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.

Allowable pre-award costs in each program area include costs related to activities required to stand up or continue a third-party charter support program:

1. Salaries and benefits for individuals involved with standing up or continuing a charter school support program.
2. Professional services related to standing up or continuing a charter school support program, such as contracts for online systems/programs or trainings utilized by or offered to LEA partners at the start of the school year.
3. Equipment or supplies and materials related to standing up or continuing a charter school support program such as physical materials offered to LEA partners at the start of the school year.
4. Other Objects related to training (venue rental, travel) of LEA partner participants at the start of the school year.

OSSE will make individual determinations for costs not on this list.

### **1.7 Eligibility**

Eligible Third Party Charter Support Organizations:

- Must be a DC-based nonprofit organization with a demonstrated history of success working with DC charter schools on similar projects;
- Must serve under this grant program two or more charter LEAs within DC for the entirety of the award period;
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from a DC charter school with direct experience working with the organization as well as a list of all schools and LEAs to which the organization has provided education-based services; and
- Must submit a letter of commitment from two distinct charter LEAs within DC that the organization intends to serve with funds from this program.

### **1.8 Permissible Use of Funds**

The funds associated with this RFA are available strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period as follows:

- All costs must:
  - Meet requirements of permissible use of federal funds within EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted in 2 CFR Part 3474, 2 CFR Part 180 as adopted in 2 CFR 3485;



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- Align with and support the project(s) described in the organization's application; and
- Meet the specific needs of each partner charter LEA as identified within the needs assessment(s) conducted.

All grant project budgets will be reviewed by a review panel, as well as OSSE staff, to ensure that planned expenditures are allowable and are appropriate, reasonable, and necessary to support the grant objectives.

### **Section 2: Schedule**

#### **2.1 RFA Release**

The release date of the RFA is Friday, June 14, 2024. The RFA is available online at <https://osse.dc.gov/node/1640741>.

#### **2.2 Pre-Application Webinar (Encouraged)**

Pre-application webinars will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ([Register here](#))
- Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Interested organizations are encouraged to have at least one representative attend one of the above webinars. The organization representative should be someone who is familiar with the organization's past work with charter schools. Attendance is highly encouraged, as there are multiple changes to the application, scoring rubric, and award period.

#### **2.3 Intent to Apply (Encouraged)**

All eligible entities seeking to receive funding under this RFA are encouraged to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (Appendix A), signed by an authorized official of the organization, via email to [opcsfs.funding@dc.gov](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov) **on or before Friday, July 5, 2024**. Submission of a Notice of Intent to Apply allows the grants management specialist to effectively plan for the remainder of the competition and provide information to applicants.

#### **2.4 Contact Person(s)**

Applicants are advised that the following OSSE staff members are the authorized contact persons for this grant competition:

- Jessica Mardo, Grants Management Specialist, Office of Federal Programs and Strategic Funding ([Jessica.Mardo@dc.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mardo@dc.gov))

## 2.5 Applications Due

Applications are due Monday, August 5, 2024, by 3 p.m. EST and must be submitted through EGMS. **Applicants are encouraged to submit applications early to avoid any technical difficulties. OSSE strongly encourages submitting applications at least one day early to ensure that avoidable technical issues do not cause you to miss the submission deadline. Applicants must agree to EGMS' Central Data Assurances prior to creating a grant application.**

## 2.6 Updates

Information and updates regarding the grant competitions will be emailed to all potential applicants that submit a Notice of Intent to Apply and attend a pre-application webinar specific to this grant.

## 2.7 Awards Announcement

Awards will be announced via EGMS, email, and the OSSE website. OSSE will disseminate grant award notifications following the awards announcement.

## **Section 3: Application**

### **3.1 Application Content**

The application in EGMS contains all of the following sections or "tabs." Unless noted, each section must be completed as instructed in the system:

- Section 1 – Overview Pages (*informational; nothing to complete*)
- Section 2 – Contact Information
- Section 3 – Brief Project Description
- Section 4 – Partner Data
  - List of Project Partners
  - List of Current/Previous Partner Schools
  - Demonstration of Success in the District of Columbia
  - Upload Letters of Recommendation and Commitment
- Section 5 – Main Application
  - Data Sources
  - Project Need
  - Project Description
  - Theory of Action
  - Equitable Access and Participation
  - Logic Model
- Section 6 – Budget
  - Budget Overview
  - Summary of Planned Expenditures

- Salaries and Benefits
- Professional Services
- Equipment
- Supplies and Materials
- Other Objects
- Budget Summary
- Section 7 – Supporting Documentation
- Section 8 – Assurances
  - Program-Specific Assurances
  - Assurances Agreement Summary
- Section 9 – Submit (*application is not complete until it is submitted through this tab*)
- Section 10 – Application Print (*hard copies of applications may be printed through this tab*)
- Section 11 – Application History (*the history of who has accessed and modified the application may be viewed through this tab*)

## **Section 4: Scoring**

### **4.1 Review Panel**

The grants described in this RFA will be awarded competitively. A panel or panels of external reviewers will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, and/or related experiences. All external reviewers must sign a Conflict of Interest statement. The application will be scored against a rubric. The complete rubric can be found in EGMS for review. OSSE may convene any panel to conduct a facilitated discussion of the reviewers' scores and comments of a particular application. A reviewer is not required to change their scores or comments after a facilitated discussion. A facilitated discussion provides an opportunity for reviewers to hear other panel members' reasoning for their scores and comments. A reviewer is not required to change their scores or comments after a facilitated discussion.

Upon completion of the panels' review(s), the panels shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The State Superintendent of Education, or his/her designee, will consider those recommendations but all final award decisions are left to the Superintendent's, or his/her designee's, discretion. Winning applicants may be required to make amendments to the Budget or other application sections to meet grant requirements. A denied applicant may file an appeal of OSSE's award determination within 30 days of receipt of award denial notification on the grounds that OSSE violated a District or federal statute or regulation. Denied applicants may contact OSSE's program contact for information on the appeal process.

## 4.2 Priority

Funding priority will be given to proposals that meet one of the following priority areas:

- **Priority 1:** Reducing chronic absenteeism, reengaging youth ages 16-24 who have dropped out of school to attain a high school diploma or GED, and/or building positive school cultures and inclusive learning environments
- **Priority 2:** Implementing effective teaming models between community -based organizations (CBOs) and charter schools to fully integrate health clinicians into their school communities and provide tier 1 (universal) behavioral health promotion, prevention, and education strategies
- **Priority 3:** Implementing whole school approaches to educator and staff wellness

The priority area(s) to be addressed by a proposed project should be clear from the content of the submitted application and supported by data and research. Reviewers will independently assess whether a proposed project met one of more of the priority areas, though OSSE will make all final determinations regarding the funding priorities.

OSSE may elect to fund priority projects at a higher level than non-priority projects. If there are more quality applications than available funds, OSSE may elect to fund priority projects instead of one or more non-priority projects that received a higher score.

## **Section 5: Award Administration**

### **5.1 Decision and Notifications of Awards**

In order to be awarded a grant, organizations must establish eligibility by submitting an application to OSSE in accordance with the relevant program statute(s) and this RFA. Each awarded applicant will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN) generated through OSSE's EGMS that will include the award amount, award agreement, terms and conditions of the award, and any supplemental information required. Once OSSE has fully approved the application and issued an official GAN, grantees may then receive payment for allowable expenditures for which obligation was made during the grant period. OSSE has implemented a reimbursement process for all grantees. Grant award payments are reimbursable on a monthly (and no later than quarterly) basis. Program costs must be paid by the grantee to the payee prior to requesting reimbursement; it is not sufficient for costs merely to be incurred. Compliance with programmatic and fiscal implementation and reporting will be considered in paying reimbursement requests. To receive reimbursement for grant program expenditures, OSSE grantees must complete and submit a reimbursement request electronically using EGMS.

## **5.2 Audits**

At any time, or times, before final payment and during the required record retention period, the District and/or the federal government may audit the applicant's expenditure statements and source documentation.

## **5.3 Monitoring and Reporting**

The recipient will cooperate with any evaluation of the program, such as providing OSSE requested data and access to records and pertinent staff. OSSE's Division of Systems and Support, K-12 uses a coordinated, risk-based monitoring approach. The type of monitoring that the recipient will receive (desktop or on-site) will vary depending on its designation as a high, medium, or low risk recipient. Please review the risk-based monitoring guidance for more information: <https://osse.dc.gov/publication/risk-based-monitoring-guidance>.

Monitoring efforts are designed to determine the recipient's level of compliance with federal and/or District requirements and identify specifically whether the grantee's operational, financial and management systems and practices are adequate to account for program funds in accordance with federal and/or District requirements. Failure to maintain compliance with such requirements may result in payment suspension, disallowance of costs or termination of the grant.

The recipient shall be required to cooperate with all requirements and information requests by OSSE relating to evaluation of the program and the collection of data, information, and reporting on outcomes regarding the program and activities carried out with grant funds. The recipient shall be required to reply and acknowledge OSSE's information requests within 48 hours and to provide requested information within ten (10) business days.

## **5.4 Confidentiality**

Except as otherwise provided by local or federal law, no recipient of the grant shall use or reveal any research, statistical information, or personally identifiable information furnished by OSSE for any person or for any purpose other than that for which such information was obtained in accordance with the OSSE program funded. Any identifiable personal information, and any copy of such information, shall be immune from legal process and shall not, without the written consent of the person identified in the information, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding. The grantee will protect any personally identifiable information (PII) received in administering the grant and follow all applicable laws regarding the protection and use of the PII. Before disclosing PII to any other party, the grantee must first receive approval from OSSE.

### **5.5 Nondiscrimination in the Delivery of Services**

The recipient shall comply with the District of Columbia Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, (D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 *et seq.*) which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, source of income, disability, status as a victim of an interfamily offense, place of residence or business, or credit information, or homeless status.

### **5.6 Conflict of Interest**

All grant recipients shall ensure that no individual in a decision-making capacity will engage in any activity, including participation in the selection of a vendor, the administration of an award, or an activity supported by award funds, if a conflict of interest would be involved. A conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest would arise when the individual, any member of the individual's immediate family, the individual's partner; or an organization that employs, or is about to employ, any of the aforementioned, has a financial or personal interest in the firm or organization selected for a contract.

### **5.8 Terms and Conditions**

- Funding for this award is contingent on available funds. The RFA does not commit OSSE to make an award.
- OSSE reserves the right to accept or deny any or all applications if OSSE determines it is in the best interest of OSSE to do so. OSSE shall notify the applicant if it rejects that applicant's proposal. OSSE may suspend or terminate an outstanding RFA pursuant to its own grant making rule(s) or any applicable federal or local regulation or requirement.
- OSSE reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the RFA, or to rescind the RFA.
- OSSE shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of applications in response to the RFA. Applicant agrees that all costs incurred in developing the application are the applicant's sole responsibility.
- OSSE may conduct pre-award on-site visits to verify information submitted in the application and to determine if the applicant's facilities are appropriate for the services intended.
- OSSE may enter into negotiations with an applicant and adopt a firm funding amount or other revision of the applicant's proposal that may result from negotiations.
- OSSE shall provide the citations to the statute and implementing regulations that authorize the grant or sub grant; all applicable federal and District regulations; payment

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provisions identifying how the grantee will be paid for performing under the award; reporting requirements, including programmatic, financial and any special reports required by OSSE; and compliance conditions that must be met by the grantee.

- If there are any conflicts between the terms and conditions of the RFA and any applicable federal or local law or regulation, or any ambiguity related thereto, then the provisions of the applicable law or regulation shall control and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance.

**Appendix A**

**Official Intent to Apply Notification**  
**Submission encouraged no later than July 5, 2024**  
**PDF Submission Preferred**

**TO:** OSSE Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support  
[opcsfs.funding@dc.gov](mailto:opcsfs.funding@dc.gov)

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Organization Name)

**RE:** Intent to Apply for FY25 Scholarships for Opportunities and Results (SOAR) Act  
Third Party Charter Support Organization Grant

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Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***I understand that the deadline for these grant applications is 3 p.m. EST on Monday, August 5, 2024, and that late applications will not be reviewed.***

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Appendix B**

***Scoring Rubric***

The purpose of the table below is to provide clarity on the phrases compelling, clear, and complete, which appear throughout the remainder of the rubric. Applicants and reviewers should reference this table when reaching sections in the rubric where one of these three words is underlined. Please see the rest of the rubric below.

<b>Criterion/Level</b>	<b>Score Not Assignable</b>	<b>Weak</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Strong</b>
<b>Compelling</b>	Inappropriate/off-topic answer; no evidence-based ideas; approach does not seem at all feasible	Approach is somewhat few evidence based; significant portions of approach do not seem feasible	Approach is evidence based; though some parts of the proposal may not seem feasible	Highly evidence-based project or approach; shows an extremely detailed and relevant path to success
<b>Complete</b>	No response or information/ information doesn't answer prompt question	Attempts to answer prompt; includes some details	Fully answers prompt; provides relevant details	Answers prompt in depth; extremely detailed
<b>Clear</b>	Very difficult to comprehend; very little or none of the response is clear	Mostly difficult to comprehend; contains moments of clarity	Answers prompt with clarity and specificity throughout	Highly focused and provides exceptional clarity on the proposed project

**Abstract/Partner Data (Maximum 10 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
The applicant has correctly identified their project as direct assistance or indirect assistance	No – 0	Yes – 2		
The applicant identified two or more partner LEAs and uploaded signed letters of commitment from each partner	No – 0	Yes – 1		
The applicant provided a list of all schools/districts that the organization has provided similar services	No – 0	Yes – 1		
The applicant demonstrated a <u>compelling</u> history of success working with public charter schools on similar projects, including data that demonstrates the impact of the organization on student outcomes across multiple charter LEAs or the organizational capacity of charter LEAs within the past three years	0	2	4	6

**Needs Assessment (Maximum 20 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
For each public charter school involved in the project, the applicant demonstrated a <u>clear</u> , specific, and <u>compelling</u> need for the proposed project	0	4	8	12
The applicant used recent quantitative and/or qualitative data to substantiate the need:  <b><u>STRONG</u></b> = 3+ data points are student academic outcomes or organizational capacity of charter LEAs.  <b><u>GOOD</u></b> = 2-3 data points are student academic outcomes or organizational capacity of charter LEAs.  <b><u>WEAK</u></b> = 1-2 data points are student academic outcomes or organizational capacity of charter LEAs.  <b><u>SCORE NOT ASSIGNABLE</u></b> = 0-1 data point is student academic outcomes or organizational capacity of charter LEAs.	0	2	4	6

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Data is provided from the 2022-2023 school year at a minimum	No – 0	Yes – 2		
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**Project Description (Maximum 27 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
The applicant provided a <u>compelling</u> and <u>clear</u> description of the proposed project, including the detailed plan and activities, how the activities will meet the identified needs of each charter LEA, and a project timeline	0	5	10	15
The applicant included a <u>compelling</u> management plan to ensure success of the project that outlined roles and responsibilities for each party	0	2	4	6
The applicant included a <u>clear</u> internal monitoring and evaluation plan describing how program activities and anticipated outcomes will be tracked and reported	0	2	4	6

**Theory of Action (Maximum 12 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
The theory of action statement uses sound logic to demonstrate how and why the project will be successful in improving academic outcomes for students or organizational capacity for charter LEAs	0	2	4	6
<p>The theory of action is based on credible research and/or evidence</p> <p><b>STRONG</b>= 3 pieces of evidence, with at least 2 pieces of evidence being less than 10 years old AND from an academic source</p> <p><b>GOOD</b> = 2 pieces of evidence, with at least 1 piece of evidence being less than 10 years old AND from an academic source</p> <p><b>WEAK</b> = 1 piece of evidence, being less than 10 years old AND from an academic source</p>	0	2	4	6

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<b>SCORE NOT ASSIGNABLE</b> = The applicant does not use any evidence and/or all evidence provided is more than 10 years old and/or no academic source is provided				
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**Equitable Access and Participation (Maximum 6 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
The applicant <u>clearly</u> described how it will ensure equitable access to and participation in grant-funded activities	0	2	4	6

**Logic Model (Maximum 12 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
There is one logic per LEA partner and all elements of the logic model (SMART goal, inputs, outputs, outcomes, assumptions, and external factors) are complete and well-defined and align with LEA needs	0	2	4	6
The logic model <u>clearly</u> demonstrates how the proposed project will produce the intended student academic outcomes or organizational capacity of charter LEAs.	0	2	4	6

**Budget (Maximum 13 points)**

Criterion	Score Not Assignable	Weak	Good	Strong
A complete budget is included in the application. This includes both the narrative and specific budget tab portion.	No – 0	Yes – 1		
The budget describes specific costs that <u>clearly</u> align with the proposed project	0	2	4	6
Budgeted costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed project	0	2	4	6

**Funding Priority (Maximum 10 points)**

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Score Not Assignable</b>	<b>Weak</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Strong</b>
<p>Does the proposed project address at least one priority area? If yes, please award ten points. If no, please award zero points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing chronic absenteeism, reengaging youth ages 16-24 who have dropped out of school to attain a high school diploma or GED, and/or building positive school cultures and inclusive learning environments</li> <li>2. Implementing effective teaming models between community -based organizations (CBOs) and charter schools to fully integrate health clinicians into their school communities and provide tier 1 (universal) behavioral health promotion, prevention, and education strategies</li> <li>3. Implementing whole school approaches to educator and staff wellness</li> </ol>	No – 0	Yes – 10		

**Appendix C**

***Program Specific Assurances***

**As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant, if awarded the grant:**

- Will comply with activities necessary to carry out a mandated evaluation of the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) as specified in Section 3011(a)(1) of the SOAR Act;
- Will submit semi-annual narrative reports describing the implementation of the proposal as well as its impact on educational outcomes;
- Will expend all funds by the end of the grant period;
- Will submit at least one reimbursement request per quarter in which the grant recipient makes an expenditure;
- Acknowledges and agrees that the completion of this application, or the approval to fund an application, will not be deemed to be a binding obligation of OSSE until such time as the Grant Award Notification (GAN) is delivered to the recipient;
- Recognizes that OSSE approval of an application does not relieve the public charter school of its responsibility to comply with all applicable requirements;
- Will administer each program covered by the application in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans and applications;
- Will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds paid to the grant recipient under each program;
- Will make reports to the state agency and to the Secretary as may reasonably be necessary to enable the state agency and the Secretary to perform their duties and that the grant recipient will maintain such records, including the records required under section 1232f of the General Education Provisions Act and provide access to those records, as the state agency or the Secretary deem necessary to perform their duties;
- Will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by teachers, parents and other interested agencies, organizations and individuals in the planning for and operation of each program;
- Agrees that any application, evaluation, periodic program plan or report relating to each program will be made readily available to parents and other members of the general public;
- Agrees that none of the funds expended will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization