



Public Schools of North Carolina

Advancing Charter Collaboration and Excellence for Student Success (ACCESS)

The CSP Grant in North Carolina

Agenda

- Charter School Program (CSP) Grant
- Overview of NC ACCESS Program
- Key Features of the Program
- Subgrant Timeline
- Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations
- Subgrant Application and Scoring Rubric



CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CSP) GRANT



Charter School Program (CSP) Grant

- The Charter School Program (CSP) Grant is a competitive federal grant issued each year by the US Department of Education to state and local education agencies
- Grants are awarded to help charter schools meet the needs of educationally disadvantaged students
- NC was one of 8 states to receive a grant in 2018



OVERVIEW OF THE NC ACCESS PROGRAM



Overview of the NC ACCESS Program

- NC ACCESS Program
 - Advancing Charter Collaboration and Excellence for Student Success
- 5-year, \$26.6 million federal grant
- Major priorities include school-level subgrants, dissemination of best practices, and professional development
- Four additional, grant-funded positions have been allocated to implement the program



Overview of the NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- ACCESS Program team:
 - Program Administrator
 - Implement and oversee the NC ACCESS Program
 - Program Coordinator
 - Provide programmatic, monitoring, and reporting support as well as technical assistance
 - Budget Specialist
 - Coordinate all program subgrant budget and financial activities
 - Technical Assistance Specialist
 - Provide technical assistance and support to potential applicants and subgrantees



KEY FEATURES OF THE NC ACCESS PROGRAM



Key Features of the NC ACCESS Program

- Charter School Subgrants
 - The majority of the CSP funds are allocated for subgrants
 - Competitive subgrants will be available for charter schools to help fund:
 - Planning and Implementation (12 over 5 years)
 - Implementation Only (10 over 5 years)
 - Expansion (18 over 5 years)
 - Replication (10 over 5 years)
 - The SBE and CSAB will approve all eligibility criteria and granting of awards



Key Features of the NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- Subgrants will be awarded on the following schedule:

Subgrant Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Project Total	Maximum Award Amount
Planning and Implementation	3	3	3	3	0	12	\$400,000
Implementation Only	2	2	2	2	2	10	\$250,000
Expansion	3	3	4	4	4	18	\$600,000
Replication	2	2	2	2	2	10	\$600,000



Key Features of the NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- NC ACCESS Fellowship
 - Leaders from schools awarded subgrants will complete the year-long ACCESS Fellowship
 - Immersive professional development experience intended to provide leaders with the support and technical assistance they need in order to effectively develop, expand, and replicate their schools
 - By the end of year 5, the program will have created a community of 100 charter school leaders who have developed and demonstrated best practices in serving educationally disadvantaged students



Key Features of the NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- NC ACCESS Fellowship Components
 - Four-day Fellows Institute in the fall
 - Two-day policy summit in the spring
 - 12 PLC meetings (4 in-person, 8 virtual)
 - Present at a state or national conference
 - Completion of a portfolio of strategies, best practices, and lessons learned that will be posted publicly
 - Host a collaborative event at your school
 - Provide mentorship and development to future fellows



Key Features of the NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- Accounting, Monitoring and Reporting
 - As with any federal grant, accurate accounting, monitoring, and reporting is critical
 - ACCESS Program team will work with USED, DPI, charter schools, and other stakeholders to set up processes for disbursement and accounting of funds to ensure accurate reporting
 - ACCESS Program team will monitor schools to ensure appropriate use of funds
 - ACCESS Program team will provide technical assistance to schools throughout the entire ACCESS Program



SUBGRANT TIMELINE (2018-2019)



Subgrant Timeline (2018-19)

January 15, 2018: The subgrant RFA will be posted on the OCS website



January – March 2019: ACCESS team provides ongoing technical assistance to prospective applicants



February 15, 2019: Subgrant letters of intent (LOI) due; Access team reviews LOI and determines eligibility of applicants



March 31, 2019: Subgrant applications due



Subgrant Timeline (cont.)

April – May 2019: Application reviews conducted and recommendations are made by CSAB



June 2019: SBE approves subgrantee awards



July 2019: Subgrantee orientation and ACCESS Fellowship begin; Reimbursements are accepted starting July 31st



August – end of award: Monitoring and reporting

*This timeline is subject to change for subsequent grant cycles.



SUBGRANT ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS



Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations

- Four types of Subgrants
 - Planning and Implementation
 - Approved schools in their planning year
 - Implementation Only
 - Schools in years 1-3 of operations
 - Expansion
 - Expanding enrollment or grade levels at an existing high quality charter school operating for at least 3 years
 - Replication
 - Replicating the model of an existing high quality charter school operating for at least 3 years



Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations (cont.)

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Planning and Implementation and Implementation Only
 - Approved schools in their planning year or operating schools in years 1-3
 - Must have a comprehensive plan for recruiting and serving a high ED population.
 - School performance data will be factored in, if available
 - Must have achieved at least “B” SPG and met or exceeded growth for at least 2 of the last 3 years
 - Schools operated by a CMO or EMO will be required to submit performance data for other schools operated by the organization



Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations (cont.)

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Expansion and Replication
 - Available to high quality charter schools operating for at least 3 years
 - Must have achieved at least “B” SPG and met or exceeded growth for at least 2 of the last 3 years
 - If applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average
 - Priority consideration is given to schools:
 - serving greater than 40% ED;
 - grad rate greater than the state average;
 - Title I status;
 - ED, EL, and SWD proficiency rates greater than the state average; and
 - “A” or “A+NG” SPG and met or exceeded growth for 3 consecutive years.



Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations (cont.)

- All grants are intended to support a significant increase the EDS population in charters schools
- Applicants must provide
 - Aggressive EDS recruitment plan, including a weighted lottery*
 - SMART goals and statement on how they will eliminate barriers
 - Education, discipline and school climate plan tailored to ED students
 - Implementation of a parent/community advisory council
 - Budget and budget narrative for the duration of the grant
 - Marketing and recruitment plan
 - Plan to provide transportation
 - Plan to provide Free and Reduced of Comprehensive Lunch Program
 - School closure plan*



SUBGRANT APPLICATION AND SCORING RUBRIC



NC ACCESS Subgrant Application

- Subgrant applications must include:
 - Applicant Contact Information and Signed Assurances
 - Enrollment Projections
 - Application Narrative (see slide 4 for details)
 - Budget, Budget Narrative, and Logic Model
 - Competitive Preference Standards
 - Priority Consideration Status
- Eligible applications are reviewed by a team of NC ACCESS staff and trained external evaluators
- Applications are recommended to CSAB for approval
- CSAB will review all recommendations and make final award recommendations to SBE



NC ACCESS Subgrant Rubric and Scoring

- Applications are scored based on the following rubric:

Standards	Elements	Criteria
General Standards	Application Contact Information, Signed Assurances, and Certification	Must be complete to meet standard
Technical Standards	Enrollment Projections	Up to 10 points
	Application Narrative	Up to 60 points
	Budget, Budget Narrative, and Logic Model	Up to 30 points
	Competitive Preference Standards (4 possible standards)	Up to 3 points per standard
Priority Standards	Priority Consideration Status (4 possible standards)	Used for priority status, if applicable

- In order to pass, the application must meet all General Standards and score at least eighty (80) points on the Technical Standards.



QUESTIONS?

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