

FY 2020 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Grants to State Entities (CFDA Number: 84.282A)
Project Abstract

South Carolina Department of Education

State:

South Carolina

PR Award Number:

S282A200022

Duration (Years): 5**Year 1 Funding:**

\$433,846.00

Total Expected Funding:

\$31,553,991.00

**South Carolina Department
of Education:**

1429 Senate Street, Suite 1005
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**Project Director (PD) and
Principal Contact:**

Kayla Audette

PD Email:

kaudette@ed.sc.gov

PD Phone:

(803) 734-2781

Now 24 years in existence, the South Carolina (SC) Charter School sector is one of the oldest in the country with 17 authorizers, 83 charter schools in operation, and more than 39,000 students enrolled. Shifting public and political perception of charter schools in SC has aided this growth and will continue to be a focus as the SC Department of Education (SCDE) works to improve the state's charter school landscape. As a prior grant recipient, the SCDE understands the impact the SC Quality Charter Schools (SCQCS) project can have in developing high-quality charter schools.

SCQCS will serve the existing 83 charter schools and their 39,000 plus students, as well as an additional 32 charter schools to be formed and awarded sub-grants through the project. The project also will serve all the charter school authorizers, including their staffs and boards, plus any new authorizers that come into existence during the next 5 years. SCQCS will increase SC's capacity to provide a solid and consistent system of support to serve its charter schools, authorizers, and stakeholders.

SCQCS strives to increase charter school options, particularly for educationally disadvantaged students, to increase the adoption of best practices by charter leaders and authorizers, and to invest in promising practices that increase public awareness and improve perception of charter schools in SC. SCQCS addresses all seven Competitive Preference Priorities by demonstrating how SCQCS will enhance current work in SC. SCQCS objectives are:

1. Increase high-quality charter school options available to all students in SC, especially those who are educationally disadvantaged.
2. Strengthen and support authorizer quality and promote adoption of best practices for authorizers.
3. Increase community awareness and improve perception of high-quality charter schools.

Activities include a robust sub-grant program; needs-based technical assistance for new and existing charter schools, charter authorizers, and stakeholders; an incubator program for new charter schools; and the public dissemination of best practices and information. Expected outcomes are growth of sustainable, high-quality charter schools; improved authorizer policies and practices; and an increase in collaboration among charter schools. SCQCS's proposed activities align with its objectives and will result in an improved charter school experience for South Carolinians.