



Expanding Opportunity Through
Quality Charter Schools
Program – Grants to State
Entities Pre-Application
Webinar: *Assessing
Organizational Readiness for
the State Entity Grant*

MAY 2024



Purpose of today's webinar

Prospective CSP SE grant applicants will gain an understanding of the key considerations in determining whether pursuing a CSP SE grant is a good fit for your organization at this time.



Agenda

1. Brief Overview of the CSP SE Grant Program
2. Organizational Capacity
3. Ability to Meet Statewide Needs
4. Compatible State Context



Brief Overview of the CSP SE Grant Program



Purpose of Grants to State Entities

Competitive grant program that enables State entities to **award subgrants to eligible applicants in their State** to open and prepare for the operation of new charter schools and to replicate and expand high-quality charter schools

Provides financial assistance to State entities to support charter schools that serve elementary and secondary school students

Charter schools receiving funds under the CSP SE program also may serve students in early childhood education programs or postsecondary students



Purpose of Grants to State Entities *(cont.)*

Provide technical assistance to eligible subgrant applicants

Provide technical assistance to authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve authorizing quality, including developing capacity for, and conducting, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools



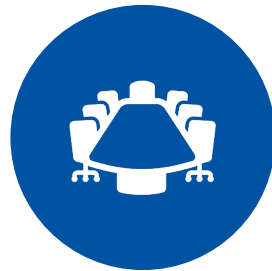
Eligibility

Eligible applicants are State entities with a State statute authorizing the establishment of charter schools.

- *A State entity means:*



A State Education Agency



A State Charter School Board



A Governor of a State

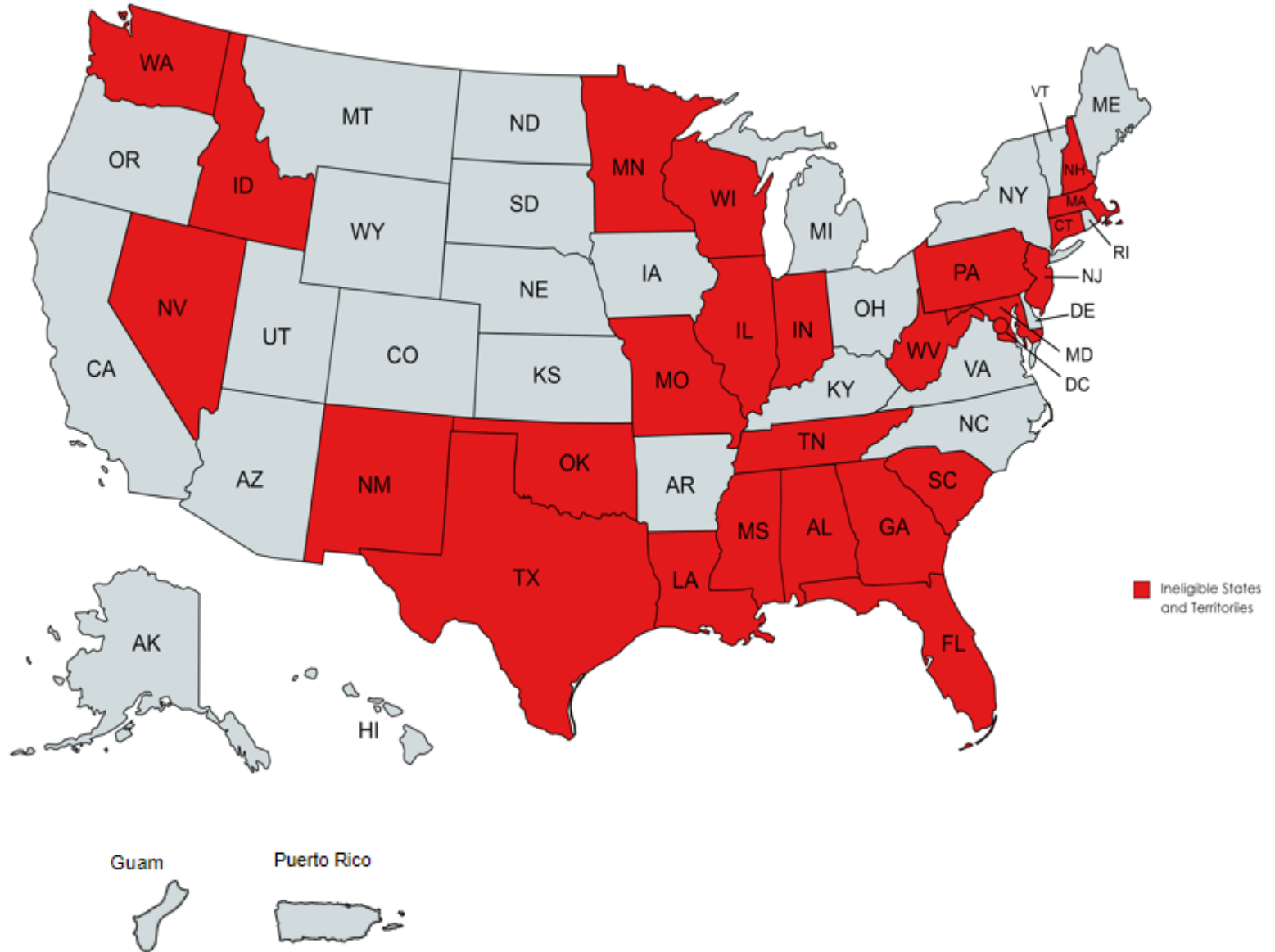


A Charter School Support Organization



Ineligible States and Territories

Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin



* Not to scale



Organizational Capacity



Managing a Federal Grant Project

- Managing a CSP SE grant is a large undertaking, particularly given that this is a pass-through grant
 - SE grantees must be able to manage their grant activities
 - Additionally, SE grantees must be able to manage subgrant competitions and monitor subgrantees
- Successful SE grantees have the organization infrastructure in place on **Day 1** of being awarded the grant to execute both crucial roles



Organizational Infrastructure: Staffing

Internal capacity to manage a Federal pass-through grant

- Staffing to take the lead on all aspects of the SE grant
- Ability to develop internal systems to comply with grant requirements

Expertise in your State's charter sector

- Knowledgeable about the charter schools the State
- Ability to navigate the different systems and stakeholders

Strong knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles

- Budgeting and accounting expertise
- Strong financial recordkeeping skills

Knowledge and skills to manage a Federal grant project

- Setting up accounts
- Familiarity with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)

Clear understanding of the SE's role in working with partners and contractors

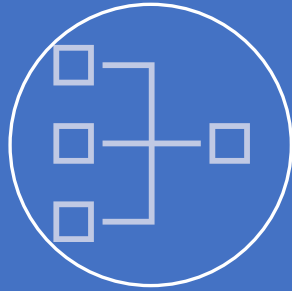
- Ability to oversee contractor deliverables
- Relationship building with partners



Organization Infrastructure: Systems & Procedures



Financial
management
systems



Strong internal
controls built into
the organization's
systems, particularly
financial systems



Written policies and
procedures for core
functions of the
organization (and
potentially the grant
project)



Ability to carry out
the core functions of
the grant internally



Ability to meet Statewide Needs



Understanding Need in Your State

- CSP's SE grant program requires its grantees to have a strong grasp of the needs of the whole State it serves
- Successful SE grantees build their knowledge of the need in their state by:

Understanding
available data

Engaging key
stakeholders



Understanding Available Data

- While SEs may have varying approaches to data analysis depending on their organization structure and goals, CSP sees its most successful grantees leaning into meaningful, available data
- Some examples of key statewide data to fully understand the potential pipeline as you prepare for an SE grant project are:
 - Enrollment trends
 - Student assessment scores
 - Demand for certain educational models



Engaging Key Stakeholders

- Because SE grantees serve their entire state, partnerships and buy-in for the project across the state is critical to success
- The most successful SE grantees have built relationships statewide and meaningfully engage key stakeholders, including:
 - Families
 - Community and political leaders
 - Local educational agencies
 - State educational agencies
 - Charter school authorizers
 - Charter school support organizations
 - Current charter school leaders
 - Potential charter school developers



Compatible State Context



Charter School Climate

- Your State's charter school climate is another key consideration in determining how you propose the pipeline for the CSP SE grant
- Through the work of engaging stakeholders, it is critical to reflect on the current charter school climate in the State as well as where things are heading over the next few years



Is the State Entity Ready?

Consider some key questions about the climate for charter schools in your State context:

- How might facilities and/or school staffing considerations impact an SE grant project?
- Are there population or demographic shifts in the State that may signal changes in the charter school sector in the next few years?
- How does the State's charter school context impact the SE developing ambitious yet achievable goals for the grant project?



Questions

Please use the Q&A feature to submit your questions



Applicant Reminders



- You must register at SAM.gov to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- The deadline to submit an application to Grants.gov is 11:59:59pm on June 13, 2024



Thank you!

REACH OUT TO THE CSP STATE ENTITY TEAM WITH FOLLOW-UP
QUESTIONS AT:

SE_Compensation@ed.gov

