



State Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG) Program Competition ALN 84.282D

*FY 2024 Pre-Application Frequently Asked
Questions Slide Deck
July 2024*

Note: This slide deck does not contain the full-text of the notice inviting applications (NIA) for the FY 2024 SFIG Grant Competition. Before applying for a SFIG grant, interested applicants should thoroughly review the program's NIA published in the Federal Register.





SFIG Program Team

- Anna Hinton, CSP Director
- Adrienne Hawkins, Supervisor
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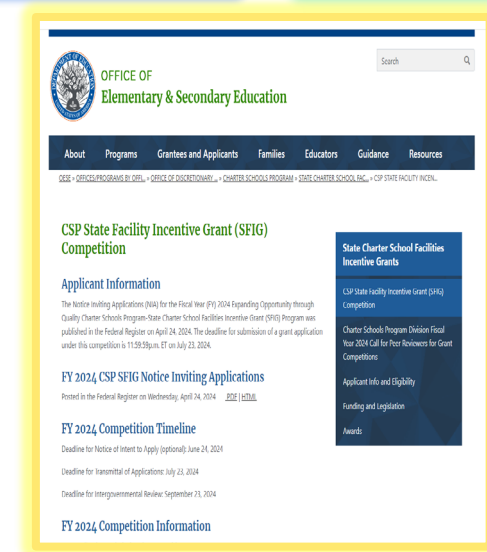
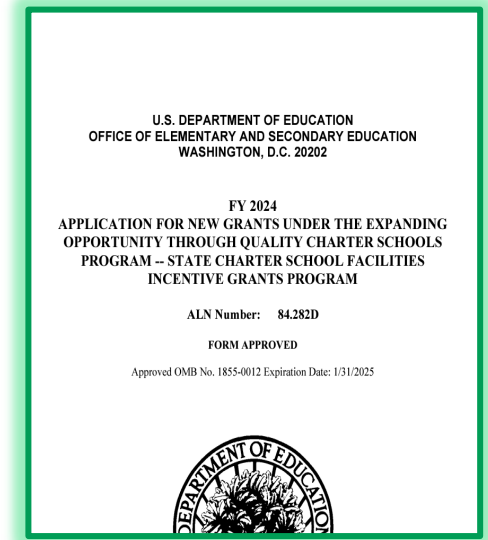
Email Contact:
charter.facilities@ed.gov

Agenda

- Presentation Disclaimer
- Competition At-A-Glance
- Responses to Submitted Questions
 - Definitions and Eligibility
 - Appropriations
 - Funding and Cost Sharing/ Matching
 - Subgrants
- Resources and Reminders

IMPORTANT – Disclaimer

- This slide deck does not contain the full text of the FY 2024 CSP SFIG NIA published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2024.
- Before applying for this grant, interested applicants should **thoroughly review** the—
 - [NIA \(link\)](#)
 - [Application Package Instructions \(link\)](#)
 - [CSP SFIG competition website \(link\)](#)
- Applicants should not rely solely on this slide deck for information and guidance on the NIA. Use the webinar as a resource in conjunction with the NIA.



Competition At a Glance

Competition Basics

- Type of Award: Discretionary
- Estimated Number of Awards: 1-3
- Estimated Available Funds: \$30,000,000
- Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000
- Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$10,00,000
- Project Period: Up to 60 months (not more than five years)

Application Deadline



July 23, 2024, at 11:59:59 p.m. ET

Both the date and time are critical!

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Grants.gov Support Center ([link](#)) is available 24/7 but not on federal holidays. You are strongly encouraged to submit early! You can resubmit your application at any point until the closing date and time. ED will review the most recent submitted application.

Grants.gov Support
QR Code




Technical Assistance Resources

Please Review Before You Continue

FY2024 Pre-Application Technical Assistance Webinars:

- **SFIG General Overview - Competition Webinar**
 - During the webinar, the Department reviewed the competition eligibility requirements, priorities, selection criteria, application requirements, and assurances. Also, the Department reviewed what is new in this year's competition and the steps required to complete the Grants.gov registration process and answered participants' questions.
- **Understanding the Cost-Sharing Requirement & Developing the Project Budget.**
 - During the webinar, the Department provided information to help potential applicants understand the program cost-sharing requirements and develop a comprehensive budget that aligns with their proposed project.

The program office strongly encourages applicants to review the FY 2024 Pre-Application Webinars before reviewing this slide deck. The webinars can be found on our Competition Website here: 

Competition Website
QR Code





Technical Questions & Answers

Charter School Eligibility

Question:

May charter schools apply directly to the U.S. Department of Education for State Facilities Incentive Grant funds?

Answer:

No, charter schools may not apply directly to the U.S. Department of Education for State Facilities Incentive Grant funds. Only States may apply.



Charter Authorization for SFIG Charter Schools

Question:

Does a charter school need to have a charter or be operating to receive an SFIG subgrantee?

Answer:

So long as the charter schools served meet the definition of a charter school as outlined in the NIA, applicants may determine the additional requirements a charter school must meet, such as the date by which charter schools must have a charter or be open, to receive assistance through their proposed grant projects.

NOTE: Pursuant to the definition of authorized public chartering agency in section 4310(1) of the ESEA, for a school to qualify as a charter school under section 4310(2) and receive Federal CSP funds, the grantee must assure that each charter school served was authorized by an "authorized public charter agency" as defined in section 4310(1) of the ESEA. Section 4310(1) of the ESEA defines an "authorized public charter agency" as "a State educational agency, local educational agency, or other public entity that has the authority pursuant to State law and approved by the Secretary to authorize or approve a charter school."



Charter Schools & Weighted Lotteries

Question:

Are charter schools that implement weighted lotteries eligible to receive subgrant funds?

Answer:

Charter schools receiving SFIG subgrant funds must meet all subparts of the statutory definition of a charter school. In particular, subpart "h".



Charter Schools & Weighted Lotteries *(continued)*

Question:

Are charter schools that implement weighted lotteries eligible to receive subgrant funds?

Answer:

Subpart H of the definition of a charter School:

(h) Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that—

(i) Admits students on the basis of a lottery, consistent with section 4303(c)(3)(A) of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7221b(c)(3)(A)), if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated; or

(ii) In the case of a school that has an affiliated charter school (such as a school that is part of the same network of schools), automatically enrolls students who are enrolled in the immediate prior grade level of the affiliated charter school and, for any additional student openings or student openings created through regular attrition in student enrollment in the affiliated charter school and the enrolling school, admits students on the basis of a lottery as described in paragraph (h)(i);



Complete definition of a Charter School

Charter schools receiving SFIG subgrant funds must meet all subparts of the statutory definition of a charter school. Charter School means a public school that—

- (a) In accordance with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempt from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the other requirements in section 4310 of the ESEA;
- (b) Is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;
- (c) Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school's developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;
- (d) Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;
- (e) Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;
- (f) Does not charge tuition;



Complete definition of a Charter School

- (g) Complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly referred to as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”), and part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.);
- (h) Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that—
 - (i) Admits students on the basis of a lottery, consistent with section 4303(c)(3)(A) of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7221b(c)(3)(A)), if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated; or
 - (ii) In the case of a school that has an affiliated charter school (such as a school that is part of the same network of schools), automatically enrolls students who are enrolled in the immediate prior grade level of the affiliated charter school and, for any additional student openings or student openings created through regular attrition in student enrollment in the affiliated charter school and the enrolling school, admits students on the basis of a lottery as described in paragraph (h)(i);
- (i) Agrees to comply with the same Federal and State audit requirements as do other elementary schools and secondary schools in the State, unless such State audit requirements are waived by the State;
- (j) Meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;
- (k) Operates in accordance with State law;
- (l) Has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the State that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to State assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school; and
- (m) May serve students in early childhood education programs or postsecondary students.



Match Requirement & the Base Year

Question:

What is the base year for states, including states with biennial legislatures when calculating the state match requirement?

Answer:

States have the flexibility to choose their base year as doing so may increase the state's ability to fulfill the SFIG match requirement. For example, states may use the prior fiscal year as their base comparison year. States with biennial appropriations may consider using the State's facility funding for FY 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) as the base year for this SFIG competition to calculate the match.

Once a State calculates the matching funds for year 1, any State, including a state with biennial appropriations, may project the amounts it anticipates in subsequent years to enable it to carry out the performance period across the whole five years.



Match Deadline

Question:

Can the Department extend the September 1, 2024 state match deadline to provide additional time for states, particularly states with biennial legislatures, to secure the match?

Answer:

No. All SFIG funds must be obligated by the end of FY2024.

September 1, 2024, is the latest possible date the Department could offer applicants to conclude the peer review, obligate all grant funds, and process the new awards by September 30, 2024.



State Per-Pupil Facilities Aid Program

Question:

Must a State per-pupil facilities aid program serve every charter school in the State to be eligible for a grant?

Answer:

No, a State does not need to serve every charter school in the State to be eligible for a grant. For instance, a State could choose not to fund charter schools that are on probation. As a second example, a State might provide funds only to schools with high proportions of students in poverty.



State Per-Pupil Facilities Aid Program

Question:

If a State is newly creating a per-pupil facilities financing program, how far along in the legislative process must a State be to become eligible for these funds?

Answer:

To be eligible to receive funds, a program must be authorized or enacted into law by the deadline for transmitting applications indicated in the application notice. In addition, a State applicant needs to demonstrate by September 1, 2024, for example, that its non-Federal match funds will be available for the upcoming State fiscal year in order for an applicant to be eligible to receive the ED grant funds in FY 2024.



Supplement Not Supplant

Question:

How does the “supplement not supplant” requirement work in SFIG?

Answer:

At the State level:

All State applicants, but in particular those that are enhancing existing charter school facilities programs, must ensure that neither they nor their charter school recipients violate this program’s statutory non-supplanting requirements. A State may use these grant funds only to the extent that the grant funds and the required non-Federal match would supplement the total amount of funding provided to charter schools for any type of cost, including operating and capital costs.

Example of supplanting: If a State has been providing \$100 million per year on behalf of charter schools for their facility expenses and operating expenses and intends to continue that level of funding in future years, it would be supplanting if it reduced the level of its financial contribution to charter schools after it received the Federal grant.



Supplement Not Supplant *(continued)*

Question:

How does the “supplement not supplant” requirement work in SFIG?

Answer

At the local or school level:

At the local level, charter schools may use these grant funds only to the extent that the grant funds and the required non-Federal match would supplement the total amount of State and local funding provided to charter schools.

Example of supplanting: If a school district has been providing \$1 million per year on behalf of a charter school for its facility expenses and operating expenses and intends to continue that level of funding in future years, it would be supplanting if it reduced the level of its financial contribution to the charter school after it received grant funds from the State.



SFIG Grantee 5% Administrative Set-Aside

Question:

Is the 5% administrative set-aside calculated based on the Federal share or local share?

Answer:

Administrative funds are calculated based on the Federal share.



Subgrant Application Process

Question:

Does the SFIG grantee have to create a subgrant application and then reimburse schools for expenses in issuing subgrants to schools?

Answer:

SFIG grantees must be especially careful when awarding grant funds to subrecipients and act in accordance with the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200).

SFIG grantees should establish a subrecipient application process to ensure that all subrecipients meet the definition of a charter school and other applicable grant rules, requirements, and conditions.



Subgrant Monitoring

Question:

What is the expectation for the SFIG grantee to monitor subgrantees or charter schools' use of funds?

Answer:

SFIG grantees are expected to regularly perform subgrantee monitoring to ensure proper implementation of subgrant projects and subgrantee use of funds. The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Section 200.331 (d), requires Federal grantees to "Monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward".



Infrastructure Project or Activity

Question:

Is there a definition of what an infrastructure project or activity means?

Answer:

This program is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (Pub. L. 117-58) domestic sourcing requirements. According to 2 CFR Part 184.3 Definitions, infrastructure project means any activity related to the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States regardless of whether infrastructure is the primary purpose of the project. See also paragraphs (c) and (d) of § 184.4.

Accordingly, under this program, grantees and contractors may not use their grant funds for infrastructure projects or activities (e.g., construction, remodeling, and broadband infrastructure) unless—

1. All iron and steel used in the infrastructure project or activity are produced in the United States;
2. All manufactured products used in the infrastructure project or activity are produced in the United States; and
3. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States.

Grantees may request waivers to these requirements by submitting a Build America, Buy America Act Waiver Request Form. For more information, including a link to the Waiver Request Form, see the Department's Build America Buy America Waiver website at: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/buy-america/index.html>.



FFATA Requirement

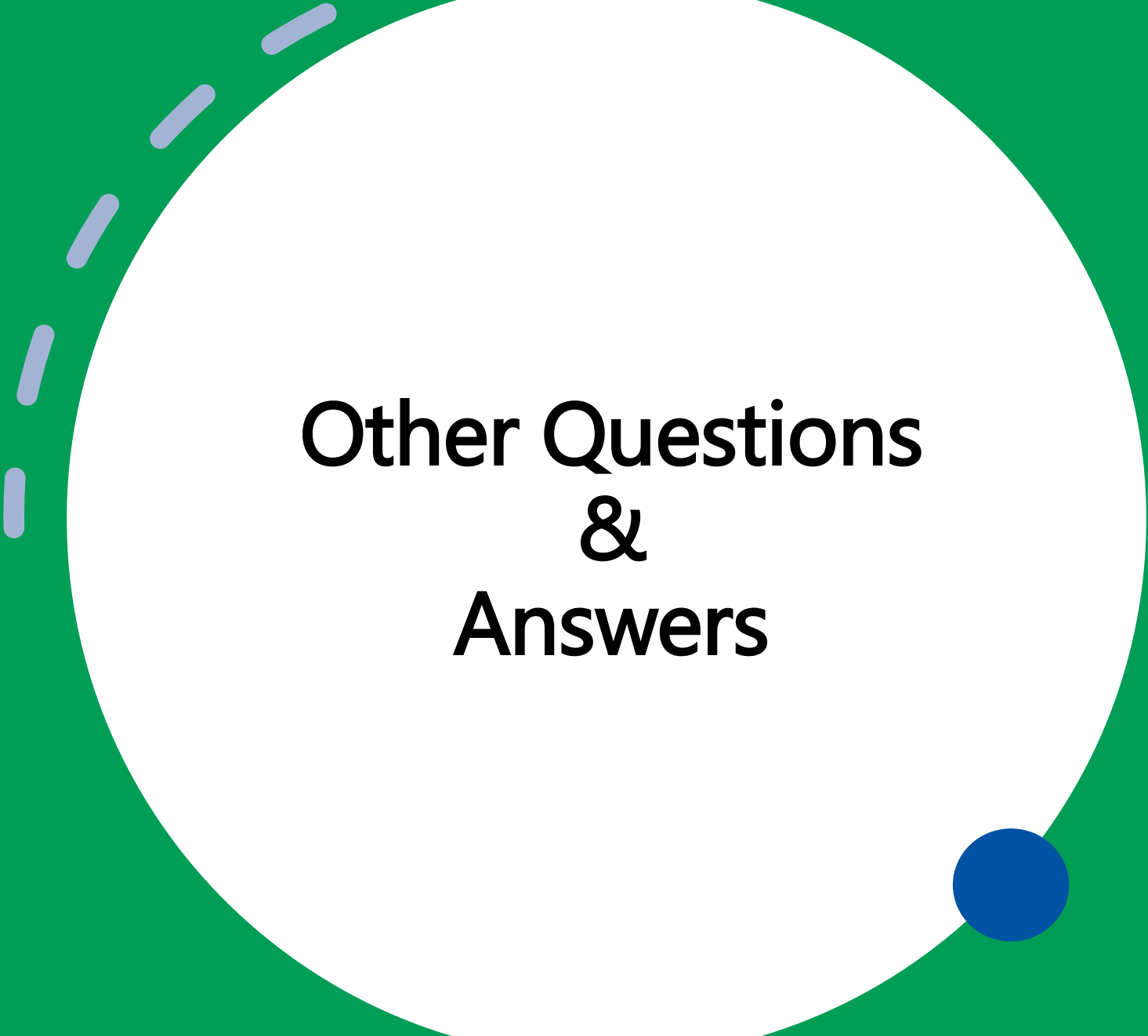
Question:

What is FFATA and does it apply to SFIG?

Answer:

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) under CFR Title 2 Part 170 requires all grantees passing more than \$30,000 to a subaward to publish the award information in the FFATA Subaward Reporting System. Only SFIG subgrant awards \$30,000 or above require reports for prime grant awards.





Other Questions & Answers

Letters of Support

Question:

Can applicants ask for letters of support from their Senators or Congressmen?

Answer:

Yes. Applicants may ask for letters of support from public officials. These letters must be included as part of the official grant application for peer reviewers to consider them.



Grant Funding

Question:

Is an application always funded for the entire amount requested?

Answer:

No. The Department is required to conduct cost analyses to ensure that all funds requested by applicants are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary. Costs identified by the Department as excessive, unallowable, or unnecessary are reduced from the original amount requested, leading to a budget reduction in the grant award.



Timeline for Future SFIG Grant Competitions

Question:

In the future, can the Department ensure that SFIG grant competitions are scheduled during odd years?

Answer:

No. The Department cannot guarantee that future grant competitions will be scheduled during odd years because funding for the SFIG program is based on annual Congressional appropriations. We do not have the authority to commit to future years' competitions in advance of an annual appropriation from Congress.

For FY 2024, the Department plans to award an estimated \$30,000,000 in SFIG grants. Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications received in this competition, the SFIG program may make additional awards in subsequent years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.



Priority Funding for States with Biennial Legislatures

Question:

Can the Department give priority to applicants from states with biennial legislatures?

Answer:

No. The current SFIG program statute does not prioritize funding for any state, including one with biennial appropriations. Therefore, the Department cannot give priority funding to one particular state without the necessary statutory or regulatory actions.



Intentional Support for States with Biennial legislatures

Question:

The FY2024 Appropriations Bill included a directive for the Department to provide intentional support to ensure that states with biennial legislatures who only meet in odd years aren't always left out of SFIG participation.

Does the Department have personnel available to provide the required technical support states with biennial legislatures need to apply for SFIG grants?

Answer:

The Department has provided technical support to all interested SFIG applicants, including those in states with biennial legislatures, through its multiple pre-award technical assistance webinars. The Department's protocols limit the extent to which we can provide targeted and intentional support to applicants, including a subset of potential applicants, to ensure equal access to competition information for all potential applicants.

Our support for applicants is limited to clarifying and addressing technical questions or general guidance concerning the program or application submission process. We cannot address questions about the competitiveness of a specific entity, project design, or applicants.





Resources and Reminders



Resources At a Glance

Notice Inviting Applications [\(link\)](#)

**FEDERAL REGISTER**
The Daily Journal of the United States Government



Notice

Applications for New Awards; Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)-State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG) Program

A Notice by the Education Department on 04/24/2024

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT DETAILS


Printed version:

AGENCY:
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education

ACTION:
Notice.

SUMMARY:
The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2024 for the SFIG Program. The notice relates to the collection under OMB control number 1855-0012.

DATES:



Application Package Instructions [\(link\)](#)


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

FY 2024
APPLICATION FOR NEW GRANTS UNDER THE EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM -- STATE CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES INCENTIVE GRANTS PROGRAM


ALN Number: 84.282D

FORM APPROVED

Approved OMB No. 1855-0012 Expires 07/23/2024



SFIG Competition Website [\(link\)](#)

**OFFICE OF Elementary & Secondary Education**

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CSP State Facility Incentive Grant (SFIG) Competition

State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants

CSP State Facility Incentive Grant (SFIG) Competition

Applicant Information

The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Expanding Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Program-State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG) Program was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2024. The deadline for submission of a grant application under this competition is 11:59:59p.m. ET on July 23, 2024.

FY 2024 CSP SFIG Notice Inviting Applications

Posted in the Federal Register on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 PDF | HTML


FY 2024 Competition Timeline

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply (optional): June 24, 2024

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 23, 2024

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 23, 2024

FY 2024 Competition Information





Additional Resources

Federal Register NIA

34 CFR 226 —State Charter School
Facilities Incentive Program Regulations

The Elementary and Secondary
Education Act of 1965, as amended by
the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015
(ESSA) (20 U.S.C. 7221c)

Uniform Guidance:

- Subpart D – Post Federal Award Requirements
- Subpart E – Cost Principles
- Subpart F – Audit Requirements
- Title 2 CFR Part 3474
- Part 180: OMB Guidelines for Debarment and Suspension
- Part 3484: Non procurement Debarment and Suspension



Reminders

- ✓ **Notice of Intent to Apply (optional):** We strongly encourage potential applicants to notify us of their intent to apply. Email Charter.Facilities@ed.gov with the subject line “Intent to Apply,” and include the applicant’s name, a contact person’s name and email address, and identify whether you are applying under Assistance Listing Number 84.282D.
- ✓ **Registrations (required):** Register on SAM.gov ([link](#)) and Grants.gov ([link](#)) immediately to ensure you can submit an application by the closing date.
- ✓ **Technical Assistance:** Utilize CSP’s technical assistance webinars and other resources ([link](#)).
- ✓ **CLOSING DATE!!!** The deadline for the transmittal of applications is 11:59:59 p.m. ET on July 23, 2024.



