Federal Funding Opportunities

Charter Schools Program
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Innovation and
Improvement

Overview

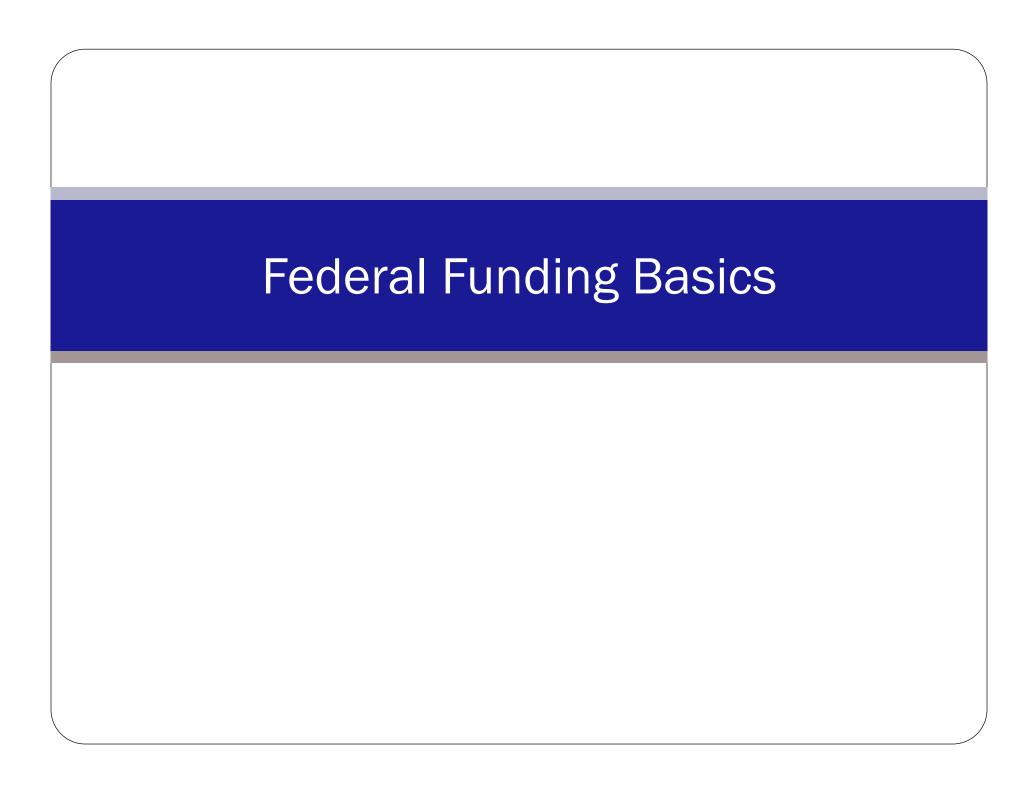What we will discuss today:

- ▸ FEDERAL FUNDING BASICS
    - Office of Innovation Charter Schools Program
    - Federal Funding Sources and the Federal Register
    - Grants.gov
    - Resource Center Database

- ▸ FEDERAL OPPORTUNITIES – WHAT CAN YOU ACCESS?
    - Finding Opportunities
    - Charter Eligible Examples

- ▸ NEXT STEPS IN ACCESSING FUNDING
    - Preparing an Application – things to think about
    - *There is no grant right now/no grant for your needs – other sources of assistance*
    - Other charter school supports

Federal Funding Basics

Overview – Office of Innovation Charter Schools Program

OII Organization Chart

Office of Innovation and Improvement

James Shelton III, Assistant Deputy Secretary

Margo Anderson, Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary

Nadya Dabby, Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary

Executive office	Charter Schools program	Improvement Programs	Parental Options and Information	Teacher Quality programs	Office of Non-Public Education	Investing in Innovation Program Office
Pat Knight, Executive Officer	Stefan Huh, Director	Edith Harvey, Director	Anna Hinton, Director	Peggi Zelinko, Director	Maureen Dowling, Director	Carol Lyons, Director

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CSP – A History

The Charter Schools Program began in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE).

In 1995 the first SEA grant awards were made.

While grants could always be made to charter developers in States without a grant, the first specific non-SEA competition was run in 2002.

By 2003, the Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) had been created. The Charter Schools Program was in Parental Options and Information (POI).

The first National Leadership grant was awarded in 2003; subsequent competitions occurred in 2006 and 2010.

In 2009 the Charter Schools Program became their own division.

CMO awards began in 2010.

Legislative purpose

Part B – Public Charter Schools:
Subpart 1 – Charter Schools Program

Section 5201: It is the purpose of this subpart to increase national understanding of the charter schools model by –

1) Providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools;

2) Evaluating the effects of such schools, including the effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents;

3) Expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation; and

4) Encouraging the States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing in an amount more nearly commensurate to the amount the States have typically provided for traditional public schools.

Mission

To support the creation, expansion, and improvement of high-quality charter schools across the nation.

OII – Charter Schools Program

- Charter School Program State Educational Agencies (SEA)
- Charter Schools Program Non-State Educational Agencies (Non-SEA)
- Charter Schools Program Non-State Educational Agencies (Non-SEA) Dissemination Grant
- Charter Schools Program Grants for Replications and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools
- Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program
- National Leadership Activities Grant
- State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants

CSP Staff

- Director: **Stefan Huh**

- CSP Program Manager: **Erin Pfeltz**

- Program Officers:

  - CSP State Education Agency Grants:
    - **Leslie Hankerson**
    - **Kate Meeley**

  - Non-State Education Agency Grants:
    - **LaShawndra Thornton (LEAD)**
    - **Brian Martin**
    - **Kate Meeley**

  - Replication and Expansion Grants:
    - **Erin Pfeltz (LEAD)**
    - **Brian Martin**
    - **Kate Meeley**

- National Leadership Grants: **Patricia Kilby-Robb**

- Exemplary Charter School Collaboration Awards: **Nancy Paulu**

- Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Grants: & State Facilities Incentive Grants: **Kristin Lundholm**

- Administrative Support: **Cheryl Weekes**

- Intern: **Kareen Currey**

Federal Funding Sources

Federal Funding Sources

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

National Science Foundation

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Commerce

Department of Agriculture

Department of Labor

Environmental Protection Agency

National Endowment for the Arts

Office of Innovation and Improvement

   Artist in Education: Model Development and Dissemination Program

   Charter Schools Program

   Investing in Innovation Program

   Professional Development for Arts Educators Program

   Promise Neighborhoods

   Teaching American History Grant Program

   Transition to Teaching Grant Program

   Full-Service Community Schools Program

   School Leadership Grant Program

   Voluntary Public School Choice Program

   Women's Educational Equity Act Program

Office of Postsecondary Education

Office of English Language and Acquisition

   Foreign Language Assistance Program

   Native American and Alaska native Children in School Programs

Federal Funding Sources cont.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

    Advance Placement Incentive Program

    Early Reading First Program

    Improving Literacy Through School Library Program

    Teacher Incentive Fund

    Alaska native Education

    Migrant Education Even Start

    Impact Aid: Discretionary Construction Grant Program

    Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program

    Smaller Learning: Communities Program

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

    Carol M. White Physical Education Program

    Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs

    Grants for Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems

    Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse

    Grants for Schools0Based Student Drug-Testing Program

    Partnership in Character Education Program

    Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools

    Safe Schools- Healthy Students Initiative

    Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Education Exchange Program

    Mentoring Programs

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

    International Research and Studies Program

    Talent Search Program; Upward Bound Program

ED.gov Resources

- List of Currently Open Grant Competitions: http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html

- Guide to ED Programs: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gtep/index.html

- Freedom of Information Act Reading Room: http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/readingroom.html

- Data. Ed.gov: https://www.data.ed.gov

Other Funding Resources

- Grants.gov: www.Grants.gov

- National Charter School Resource Center: http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/grants

- Foundation Center: http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/

Remember, a charter school is a non-profit and are their own LEA (location dependent)!

The FEDERAL REGISTER
www.federalregister.gov

Federal Register – How to Search

BROWSE BY DATE

BROWSE BY AGENCY

BROWSE BY TOPIC

What is in the Federal Register?

Notices

- Non-rulemaking documents such as notices of meetings, GRANTS, hearings, information collections, and other announcements of public interest

Proposed Rules

- Announcements allowing people to submit comments to improve the final regulations

Final Rules

- The final regulations

Presidential Documents

GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov

- All discretionary grants offered by the [26 federal grant-making agencies](#) can be found on Grants.gov.

- You do not have to register with Grants.gov to *find* grant opportunities. However, once you are ready to *apply* for a grant, you will need to be registered.

  - This process takes 3-5 business days, or up to 4 weeks if you experience any difficulties.

    You do not have to register with Grants.gov if you only want to find grant opportunities or to download application packages – **but you MUST register to SUBMIT!**

Grants.gov

- **Sign up for Grant Email Alerts**

- Possible updates include:
  - Updates on Grants.gov itself
  - Daily notification of ALL grant opportunities
  - **Notices based on criteria**
    - Funding by agency or activity
    - Types of eligible applicants
    - **CFDA Number**
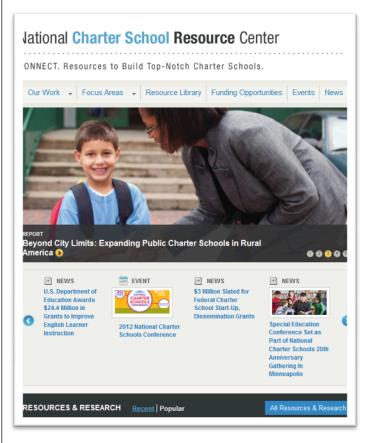   - **For example, 84.282**

Quick Links

Latest News!
Grants.gov Blog ↗
FOR APPLICANTS
- Grant Search
- Grant Email Alerts
- Get Registered
- Applicant Login
- E-Biz POC Login
- Track My Application

FOR GRANTORS
- Grantor Login
- New Agency Users
- Resources

National Charter School Resource Center

- Upcoming grants - http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/grants
- Opportunity type, eligible applicant, key words, funders
- Organized by due date, or categorized as "ongoing"

Now, it's time for a…..

POP QUIZ!!!

Federal Opportunities – WHAT CAN YOU ACCESS?

National Charter School Resource Center

- July 2011 Webinar "Exploring Funding Opportunities for Charter Schools" http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/webinar/exploring-funding-opportunities-charter-schools

Investing in Innovation (i3)

Purpose: to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact

- Improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates
- Increasing college enrollment and completion rates.

Eligible Applicants are:

(1) Local educational agencies (LEAs)

(2) Non-profit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools

Please note that the FY 2012 i3 grant competition is CLOSED

For more information please refer to the i3 website:

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html

Investing in Innovation (i3) – Current Examples from the Field

i3 grantees that serve charters:

- Achievement Network
- New Teacher
- KIPP
- Baltimore City Public Schools
- New Schools for New Orleans

i3 grantees that are charters:

- Aspire Public Schools
- AppleTree Institute

Promise Neighborhoods: April 2012

Summary of FY12 Competition Design

- **Vision and Purpose:** The vision of this program is that all children and youth growing up in Promise Neighborhoods have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career. The purpose of Promise Neighborhoods is to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in our most distressed communities, and to transform those communities by—

  - Identifying and increasing the capacity of eligible organizations that are focused on achieving results for children and youth throughout an entire neighborhood;

  - Building a complete continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions of both educational programs and family and community supports, with great schools at the center;

  - Integrating programs and breaking down agency "silos" so that solutions are implemented effectively and efficiently across agencies;

  - Developing the local infrastructure of systems and resources needed to sustain and scale up proven, effective solutions across the broader region beyond the initial neighborhood; and

  - Learning about the overall impact of the Promise Neighborhoods program and about the relationship between particular strategies in Promise Neighborhoods and student outcomes, including through a rigorous evaluation of the program.

Promise Neighborhoods: April 2012

Summary of FY12 Competition Design

- **Planning Grants:** Planning Grants would support eligible organizations that need to develop feasible plans to create a continuum of solutions with the potential to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in a neighborhood. These grants would support eligible organizations that demonstrate the need for implementation of a Promise Neighborhood strategy in the geographic areas they are targeting, a sound strategy for developing a feasible plan, and the capacity to develop the plan.

- **Implementation Grants:** Implementation Grants would support eligible organizations in carrying out their plans to create a continuum of solutions that will significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in the target neighborhood. These grants would aid eligible organizations that have developed a plan that demonstrates: 1) the need for implementation of a Promise Neighborhood in the geographic area they are targeting; 2) a sound strategy; 3) and the capacity to implement the plan. Specifically, grantees would use implementation grant funds to develop the administrative capacity necessary to successfully implement a continuum of solutions, such as managing partnerships, integrating multiple funding sources, and supporting the data system.

Promise Neighborhoods: April 2012

Eligibility Requirements: Eligible organizations for both Promise Neighborhoods planning and implementation grants include: (1) nonprofit organizations, which may include faith-based nonprofit organizations; (2) institutions of higher education; and (3) Indian tribes.

Timing:

- **Application available**: April 20, 2012
- **Application due date**: July 27, 2012

The deadline for the Department to make awards is December 31, 2012.

Additional details may be found on the Promise Neighborhoods website: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html

Additional inquiries should be submitted to PromiseNeighborhoods@ed.gov .

Examples of Applications from the last competition can be found at: http://www.data.ed.gov/grants/promise-neighborhoods

Promise Neighborhoods: April 2012

Example grantees:

- Athens Clarke County Family Connection (GA)

- Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School (DC)

- Martha O'Bryan Center (TN)

- Neighborhood Centers Inc. (TX)

- Northside Achievement Zone (MN)

- Reading and Beyond (CA)

- Universal Community Homes (PA)

- Westminster Foundation (NY)

- Youth Policy Institute (CA)

Race to the Top District Competition

DRAFT Requirements

Proposed Purpose: With RTT-D the Department is inviting districts to show how they will improve teaching, learning and student supports and ensure each child masters college and career ready standards. In particular, the Department is interested in supporting districts that move beyond one-size-fits-all schools to personalized classroom level instruction that takes full advantage of the tools of the 21st century.

Proposed Eligible Applicants :

Individual local educational agencies (LEAs)(*This includes charter school LEAs and education service agencies (ESA) that the State recognizes as LEAs and meets the ESEA definition of LEA.*) and consortia of LEAs.

- LEAs may apply for all or a portion of their schools, for specific grades, or for subject area bands (e.g., lowest-performing schools, secondary schools, feeder pattern, middle school math, or preschool through third grade).
- LEAs may join a consortium that includes LEAs across one or more states.
- LEAs may only sign on to one Race to the Top District application.

Proposed Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must annually serve a minimum of 2,500 participating students with 40 percent or more qualifying for free or reduce price lunch
- A track record of commitment to the core education assurance areas –
    - The LEA has, at a minimum, designed and committed to implement no later than the 2014-15 school year—
        - A teacher evaluation system
        - A principal evaluation system
        - A LEA superintendent evaluation; and
        - A LEA school board evaluation
    - The LEA has a robust data system that has , at a minimum, --
        - An individual teacher identifier with a teacher-student match; and
        - The ability to match student level P-12 and higher education data.
    - The LEA has policy and regulatory protections in place that ensure Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliant privacy and information protection while enabling access and use by stakeholders.

> **For more information:**
> Blog: **http://www.ed.gov/race-top/district-competition**
> Website: **http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-distrct**
> Email: **racetothetop.distrct@ed.gov**

Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF)

Purpose

The purpose of the TIF program is to provide financial support to develop and implement sustainable performance-based compensation systems (PBCSs) for teachers, principals, and other personnel in high-need schools in order to increase educator effectiveness and student achievement in those schools.

Goals

- Improving student achievement by increasing teacher and principal effectiveness;
- Reforming teacher and principal compensation systems so that teachers and principals are rewarded for increases in student achievement;
- Increasing the number of effective teachers teaching poor, minority, and disadvantaged students in hard-to-staff subjects; and
- Creating sustainable performance-based compensation systems.

The Department is holding **two** separate competitions:

a General TIF Competition and a TIF Competition with a Focus on STEM.

Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF)

Eligible applicants include:
a) Local educational agencies (LEAs), including **charter schools that are LEAs**.
b) States (SEAs) that apply with one or more LEAs.
c) Non-profit organizations that apply in partnership with an LEA or an LEA and a State.

For additional information on eligibly please visit
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/index.html

Competition dates: June 7, 2012 through August 8, 2012
Intent to Apply due date: June 26, 2012
Application due date: July 27, 2012

Example Applications from the FY2010 competition: **http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherincentive/apps/index.html**

List of TIF grants for Cohort 3 (FY2010) with profiles:
http://cecr.ed.gov/TIFgrantees/list.cfm

Please Note: Requirements under the Teacher Incentive Fund have changed since the FY2010 competition.
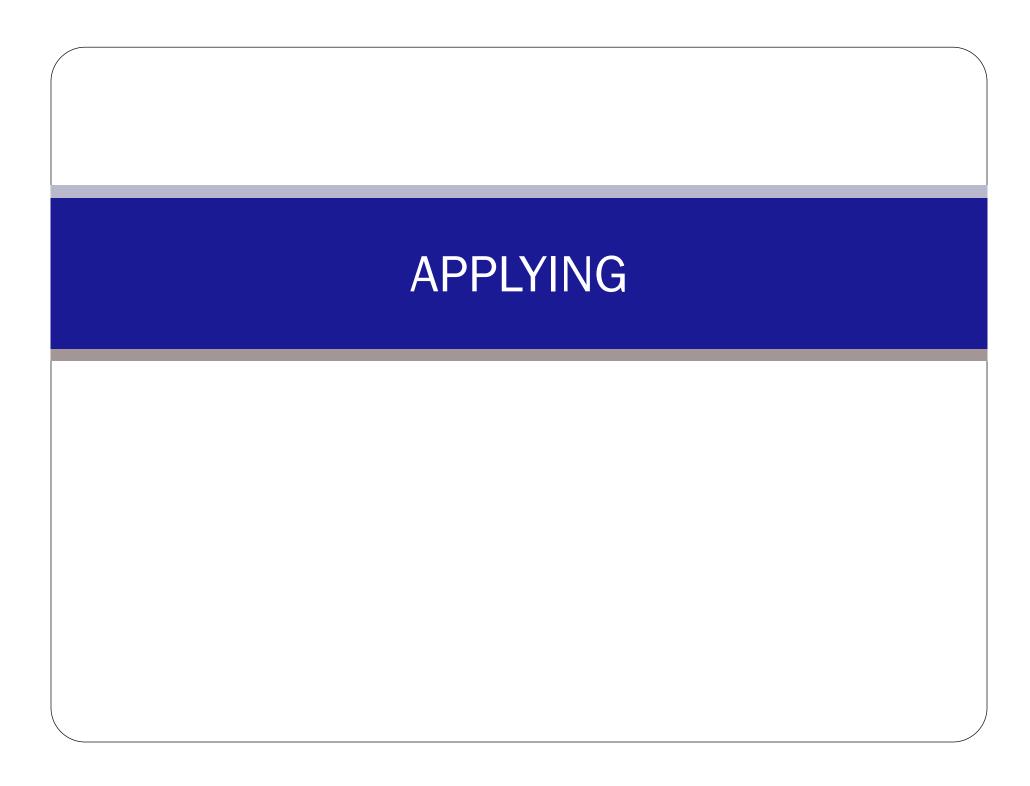
Key Questions when Searching

- Who is eligible?
- Are there any other eligibility requirements?
  - Eligibility Information
  - Absolute Priorities
- What is the award amount per grant? Is there a limit, or is it an estimate?
- How many projects might be funded?
- Is there a pre application meeting?
- How do I ask questions?

Key Questions

- Is there a matching requirement?

- Is there a page limit?

- How will my application be scored?

- Where can I find the application?

- How can it be submitted?

- When is the deadline for submission?

Next Steps: Applying and Other Supports

APPLYING

Establish a Timeline

- Recipe: 2/3 planning and 1/3 writing.

- Research program well in advance.

- Assess time available until deadline.

- Finalize any required partnerships.

- Complete all necessary registrations.

- Submit grant application 24 hours prior to deadline.

Writing the Proposal

- Select the individual or team to write the grant application.

  - Narrative, budget, evaluation, editor

- Leave time at the end for proofreading.

- Ensure that the application is "reviewer-friendly".

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Selection Criteria

- Common examples include:
  - Need for project
  - Project design
  - Project Services
  - Personnel
  - Project Evaluation
  - Budget

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Need for Project

- Explain how community need ties into the grant program's purpose.
- Use the most recent statistics.
- Compare target area to region and nation.
- Demonstrate through facts.
- Avoid jargon and rhetoric.

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Project Design

- Design should meet the stated need.
- Reflect the life of the grant project.
- Demonstrate a well thought out plan.
  - Note studies and research findings.
- Detail recruitment of target populations.
- Build community partnerships.
- Develop contingency plans.

Project Services

- Incorporate proven methods.

- Tailor services to benefit your community.

- Vary methods of meeting the need.

- Emphasize individualized services.

- Cite examples of activities.

Project Personnel

- Provide detailed job descriptions.

  - Paid staff and volunteers

- Highlight qualifications of proposed staff.

  - Include resumes (if applicable)

- Demonstrate staff's ability to relate to target population.

- Address staff's professional development.

- Align salaries with time and effort.

Project Evaluation

- Are your goals and objectives measureable?
- Are your goals and objectives ambitious and attainable?
- What indicators will demonstrate progress?
- Are your goals and objectives clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project?
- Will they produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible?
- What types of data will be collected, and how will it be analyzed?
- How will the applicant use the information collected?

Project Budget

- Budget for the life of the grant:
  - Adequate for all years of the grant
  - Allowable costs
  - Reasonable costs
  - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
  - Administrative costs
  - Budget justification
  - Cost of living increases

- Address any matching requirements.

- Seek non-Federal support.

- Focus on sustainability.

Submitting the Application

- See application notice for submission details.

- Be aware of registration procedures and complete early.

- Allow time for application to be submitted.

- Be aware of the application deadline – including both date and time.

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Grantee Responsibility

- Project success and financial accountability.
- Submission of annual and final performance reports.
  - Annual substantial progress met.
  - Recordkeeping and fiscal accountability.
- A-133 audit: if grantee expends $500,000 or more in Federal awards annually.

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Other Charter Support

How Can I Find Money for Facilities?

Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities

This program provides grants to a public entity, a private, nonprofit entity, or a consortium of entities described above to permit them to enhance the credit of charter schools so that the charter schools can access private-sector and other non-Federal capital in order to acquire, construct, and renovate facilities at a reasonable cost.

Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities

Since June 6, 2002, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded 31 grants totaling approximately $231 million to 19 grant recipients.

The cumulative accomplishments of these grantees ending September 30, 2010, include:

- providing 379 charter schools, about 8 percent of charter schools nationwide, with access to financing to help them acquire, build, lease, or renovate school facilities; and

- supporting or enabling $2.26 billion in total financing for charter school facilities.

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Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Resources

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charterfacilities/resources.html

- Presentations from the 2010 National Charter School Facilities Institute can be found at: http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/event/2010-national-charter-school-facilities-institute.

- *Charter School Facility Finance Landscape*. This link provides access to an updated national survey of private and public providers of funding and finances for charter school facilities. http://www.lisc.org/section/ourwork/national/education/2010landscape.

National Leadership Grantees

- Building Charter School Quality
  - The Colorado League of Charter Schools
  - The Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University
  - The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
  - The National Association of Charter School Authorizers

- Arizona Charter Schools Association:
  Charter Starter Program

- Illinois Network of Charter Schools:
  Building Better Charter Schools Project

Building Charter School Quality

U.S. Department of Education Funding supported the creation of a variety of Publications and Tools for the charter sector:

- Charter School Operators: http://www.charterschoolquality.org/publications-tools/for-charter-schools/

- Charter School Support Organizations: http://www.charterschoolquality.org/publications-tools/for-charter-support-organizations/

- Charter School Authorizers: http://www.charterschoolquality.org/publications-tools/for-charter-authorizers/

- State and Local Policy Makers: http://www.charterschoolquality.org/publications-tools/for-charter-policymakers/

Arizona Charter Schools Association: Charter Starter Program

- Selective cohort
  - Application and interview based on core competencies
- 12 months of intensive support
  - Recorded videos
  - Full-day training workshops
  - Individualized consulting
  - School visits
  - Application and grant writing support

Illinois Network of Charter Schools: Building Better Charter Schools Project

- Regional public interest meetings

- In-depth workshops

- Webinars

- Coach for local groups and design teams

- Orientation sessions for school administrators and boards

- Cross-community meetings.

Illinois Network of Charter Schools

Paving a New Path: A Guidebook for Illinois Charter Public School Development

Providing practical advice for the key phases of planning a charter school http://incschools.org/start_a_charter/charter_starter_program/PNP/

Charter Design Institute

Providing in-depth training on charter school design for those interested in starting charter schools in Chicago and across the state.

http://incschools.org/start_a_charter/charter_starter_program/design_institute/

INCS Charter Starter Consulting Program

Charter Starter delivers customized, ongoing support to propel strong design teams forward in the charter application and post-approval implementation process.

http://incschools.org/start_a_charter/charter_starter_program/consulting/

The Authorizer Primer: A Guide for Illinois School Districts http://incschools.org/docs/AuthorizersPrimer_final2.pdf

U.S. Department of Education Charter Schools Program

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