



**TRIVIUM CONSULTING:
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY BRIEF**



**Office of Innovation and Improvement
Department of Education**

TRIVIUM CONSULTING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)--Grants to State Entities

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2017-06017.pdf>: CFDA number 84.282A

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Date for Pre-Application Webinar: March 30, 2017, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC, time

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 11, 2017 (45 days after publication in Federal Register)

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 10, 2017 (105 days after date of publication in Federal Register)

GRANT FUNDING and PROJECT PERIOD

Type of Award: Discretionary grant

Estimated Available Funds: The Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, would provide, on an annualized basis, \$332,538,640 for the CSP program, of which we would use an estimated \$157,000,000 for this competition. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$2,000,000 to \$23,000,000 per year

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$10,000,000 per year

Expansion grants: 3-8 awards

Project Period: Up to five years

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State entities, meaning (a) A State educational agency;(b) A State charter school board; c) A Governor of a State; or (d) A charter school support organization), in States with a State statute specifically authorizing the establishment of charter schools. Under section 4303(e)(1) of the ESEA, no State entity may receive a grant under this program for use in a State in which a State entity is currently using a grant received under this program. Accordingly, if multiple State entities in a State submit applications that receive high enough scores to be recommended for funding under this competition, only the highest-scoring application amongst such State entities would be funded.

MATCHING FUNDS

This program does not require cost sharing or matching.

PURPOSE of the CSP PROGRAM and BACKGROUND



Through the CSP Grants to State Entities (CSP State Entities) competition, the Department awards grants to “State entities” to enable them to award subgrants to “eligible applicants” to enable such eligible applicants to open and prepare for the operation of new “charter schools and to “replicate” and “expand” “high-quality charter schools”. Grant funds may also be used to provide technical assistance to eligible applicants and “authorized public chartering agencies” in opening and preparing for the operation of new charter schools, or replicating or expanding high-quality charter schools; and to work with authorized public chartering agencies to improve authorizing quality, including developing capacity for, and conducting, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter school.

The CSP State Entities program provides financial assistance to State entities to support charter schools that serve elementary and secondary school students in a given “State”. Charter schools receiving funds under the CSP State Entities program also may serve students in “early childhood education programs” or postsecondary students. The CSP State Entities program is newly authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES for the CSP GRANTS

This competition includes eight competitive preference priorities.

Priority 1— Periodic Review and Evaluation (0 or 5 points). To meet this priority, an applicant must demonstrate that the State provides for periodic review and evaluation by the authorized public chartering agency of each charter school at least once every five years, unless required more frequently by State law, and takes steps to ensure that such reviews take place.

Priority 2— Charter School Oversight (0 or 5 points). To meet this priority, an application must demonstrate that State law, regulations, or other policies in the State where the applicant is located. See RFP for further info.

Priority 3— One Authorized Public Chartering Agency Other than a Local Educational Agency, or an Appeals Process (0 or 2 points). To meet this priority, an applicant must demonstrate that it is located in a State that-- (a) Allows at least one entity that is not a local educational agency to be an authorized public chartering agency for “developers” (as defined in this notice) seeking to open a charter school in the State; or (b) In the case of a State in which local educational agencies are the only authorized public chartering agencies, the State has an appeals process for the denial of an application for a charter school.

Priority 4— Equitable Financing (up to 2 points). To receive points under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the extent to which the State in which it is located ensures equitable financing, as compared to traditional public schools, for charter schools and students in a prompt manner.

Priority 5— Charter School Facilities (up to 2 points). To receive points under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the extent to which the State in which it is located provides charter schools one or more of the following: (a) Funding for facilities; (b) Assistance with facilities acquisition; (c) Access to public facilities; (d) The ability to share in bonds or mill levies; (e) The right of first refusal to purchase public school buildings; or (f) Low- or no-cost leasing privileges.

Priority 6—Best Practices to Improve Struggling Schools and Local Educational Agencies (up to 2 points). To receive points under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the extent to which the State in which it is located uses best practices from charter schools to help improve struggling schools and local educational agencies.

Priority 7— Serving At-Risk Students (up to 2 points). To receive points under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the extent to which it supports charter schools that serve at-risk students through activities such as dropout prevention, dropout recovery, or comprehensive career counseling services.



Priority 8— Best Practices for Charter School Authorizing (up to 5 points). To receive points under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the extent to which it has taken steps to ensure that all authorized public chartering agencies implement best practices for charter school authorizing.

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION POINT of CONTACT

For further information contact - Kathryn Meeley: Telephone: (202) 453- 6818 or by email: kathryn.meeley@ed.gov

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

This summary of the application requirements is from section 4303(f) of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7221b(f)). The Department will reject an application that does not meet the application requirements. Applications for funding under the CSP State Entities program must contain the following:

(I) Description of Program—A description of the State entity’s (meaning: (a) A State educational agency;(b) A State charter school board; c) A Governor of a State; or (d) A charter school support organization) objectives in running a quality charter school program and how the objectives of the program will be carried out to:

- (1) Support the opening of charter schools through the startup of new charter schools and, if applicable, the replication of high-quality charter schools, and the expansion of high-quality charter
- (2) Inform eligible charter schools, developers, and authorized public chartering agencies of the availability of funds under the program;
- (3) Work with eligible applicants to ensure that the eligible applicants access all Federal funds that such applicants are eligible to receive, and help the charter schools supported by the applicants and the students attending those charter schools
- (4) Ensure that authorized public chartering agencies, in collaboration with surrounding local educational agencies where applicable, establish clear plans and procedures to assist students enrolled in a charter school that closes or loses its charter to attend other high-quality public schools;
- (5) In the case of a State entity that is not a “State educational agency”
- (6) Ensure that each eligible applicant that receives a sub-grant under the State entity's program
- (7) Support
- (8) Work with charter schools
- (9) Share best and promising practices between charter schools and other public schools;
- (10) Ensure that charter schools receiving funds under the State entity's program meet the educational needs of their students
- (11) Support efforts to increase charter school quality initiatives
- (12) (a) In the case of a State entity that is not a “charter school support organization”, a description of how the State entity will provide oversight of authorizing activity; (b) In the case of a State entity that is a charter school support organization, a description of how the State entity will work with the State to support the State's system of technical assistance and oversight; and
- (13) Work with eligible applicants receiving a subgrant under the State entity's program to support the opening of new charter schools or charter school models described in application.

(II) Assurances that—

- (A) Each charter school receiving funds through the State entity's program will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations, including autonomy over personnel decisions;
- (B) The State entity will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students, including children with disabilities and English learners;
- (C) The State entity will ensure that the authorized public chartering agency of any charter school that receives funds under the State entity's program adequately monitors each charter school under the authority of such agency in recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and meeting the needs of all students, including children with disabilities and English learners;
- (D) The State entity will provide adequate technical assistance to eligible applicants to meet the objectives described in application requirement (I)(A)(8) above;



(E) The State entity will promote quality authorizing, consistent with State law, such as through providing technical assistance to support each authorized public chartering agency in the State to improve such agency's Start Printed Page 15199ability to monitor the charter schools authorized by the agency

(F) The State entity will work to ensure that charter schools are included with the traditional public schools in decision-making about the public school system in the State; and

(G) The State entity will ensure that each charter school receiving funds under the State entity's program makes publicly available, consistent with the dissemination requirements of the annual State report card

(III) Requests for information about waivers, including—

(A) A request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the State entity believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter schools that will receive funds under the State entity's;

(B) A description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived or otherwise not apply to such schools.

