



CSP SE Subgrant Information

Subgrant opportunity provided by the:



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CSP Subgrants

Grant Info

Subrecipient Name:	State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia	Subrecipient Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):	H184CU472HL6
Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN):	S282A220006	Federal Award Date:	09/28/2022
Name of Federal Awarding Agency:	U.S. Department of Education	Assistance Listing Number:	84.282A

Background & Purpose

The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF) was awarded a FY2022 Charter Schools Program (CSP) State Entity grant to support the goals of the Georgia Strategic Charter School Growth Initiative. The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) were co-applicants for this CSP award.

The Initiative seeks to support the creation, replication, and expansion of high-quality charter schools in Georgia, particularly in communities where charter schools do not already exist. Subgrants and technical assistance opportunities will be offered to charter schools and networks authorized by a local board of education or SCSC.

The FY2022 CSP SE Grant objectives for Georgia include the following:

1. Support the opening, replication, or expansion of 32 high-quality charter schools in Georgia.
2. Educate communities about charter schools through events and FindaGaCharter.org.
3. Promote quality charter school authorizing and support the Georgia Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizing.
4. Disseminate charter school best practices to high-need public schools.

More than 90% of CSP grant funds will be used to award subgrants to charter schools / networks, with total subgrants exceeding \$34 million over five years.

All information about this CSP SE Grant will be posted on [FindaGaCharter.org](https://findagacharter.org).

Key Information

All information about Georgia CSP Subgrant opportunities through the SCSF will be posted on FindaGaCharter.org.

Applicants will be required to submit their subgrant application through the SCSF's electronic grant portal. For instructions on using the portal, please visit FindaGaCharter.org. A copy of the application may be accessed from these websites for purposes of planning a response.

All questions should be submitted to info@findagacharter.org. Please use the subject line "CSP Question."

Subgrant Opportunities

The SCSF will award CSP subgrants to entities with an approved charter from an authorizer in Georgia to support the creation, replication, and expansion of high-quality charter schools.

Subgrants will be awarded to carry out one of the following eligible subgrant activities (per ESEA § 4303(b)(1) requirements):

- a. open and prepare for the operation of new charter schools;
- b. open and prepare for the operation of replicated high-quality charter schools; or
- c. expand high-quality charter schools.

New Charter Schools

New charter schools may be eligible for up to \$1.5 million of CSP subgrants as indicated below. The total subgrant award to any school may not exceed \$1.5 million, based on fund availability.

Pre-opening Supplement	Implementation Grant Base	Supplement for Rural/Priority Communities	Supplement for High School
\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

Replication Charter Schools

Replication charter schools may be eligible for up to \$1.5 million of CSP subgrants as indicated below. The total subgrant award to any school may not exceed \$1.5 million, based on fund availability.

Pre-opening Supplement	Implementation Grant Base	Supplement for Rural/Priority Communities	Supplement for High School
\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

Charter School Expansions

Charter schools preparing for an expansion may be eligible for up to \$1 million of CSP subgrants as indicated below, based on fund availability.

Implementation Grant Base	Supplement for Rural/Priority Communities	Supplement for High School
\$500,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

Subgrant Terms & Periods

Subgrants will have a term of 36 months.

For new and replicating schools, the Planning period will begin on the first day of the subgrant term and end after 12 months or the day before the school opens, whichever comes first. The

Implementation period will begin on the day the school opens for the first academic year. See the Allowable Cost Guide for details on allowable expenses during each period.

Subgrantee Priorities

The SCSF has adopted three priorities for consideration of subgrant awards. Priority consideration will be given to the following:

1. Applicants planning to locate/located in a priority community.
2. Applicants planning to start, replicate, or expand a high school.
3. Applicants planning a collaboration with a local public school or district to share resources and/or otherwise serve vulnerable populations in coordination with each other.

Eligibility

Only authorized schools meeting the federal definition of charter schools are eligible to apply. Applicants must have received authorization from a Georgia authorizer to open, expand, or replicate a high-quality charter school to be eligible for a subgrant award.

Applicants must describe the steps school has taken or will take to ensure it will not hamper, delay, or negatively impact desegregation efforts, and will not increase racial or socioeconomic segregation/isolation in the schools from which students are drawn.

Furthermore, to be eligible to receive an award, all applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Meet the federal definition of a charter school and/or developer.
2. Have received authorization to operate as a charter school from a Georgia authorizer (approved charter) and have provided adequate and timely notification to that authority that the school is applying to the Georgia CSP subgrant.
3. Provide evidence of nonprofit status. Applicants must be a nonprofit organization to be eligible for a CSP subgrant.
4. Provide evidence of a clear separation of duties and powers between the charter school and any for-profit management organization (see application for details).
5. Provide evidence of a needs analysis and description of need for the charter school in the community, including description of local community support and other information (see application for details).
6. Complete the Assurances form in the application, agreeing to all terms and conditions of any CSP Subgrant.

Additional requirements for Replication and Expansion Subgrant awards:

1. Meet the federal definition of “high-quality” as described under ESEA § 4310 (8). Data will be required in the application to confirm applicant’s compliance with this definition.

ESEA § 4310(8) HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term “high-quality charter school” means a charter school that— (A) shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by a State; (B) has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance; (C) has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for all students served by the charter school; and (D) has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

2. Must not have received a subgrant under this CSP program for a 5-year period unless the applicant can prove 3 years of improved educational results for enrolled students.

ESEA § 4303(e)(2) Subgrants. - An eligible applicant may not receive more than one (1) subgrant under this section for each individual charter school for a 5-year period, unless the eligible applicant demonstrates to the State Entity that such individual charter school has at least 3 years of improved educational results for students enrolled in such charter school with respect to the elements described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 4310(8). Any new subgrant award must not be for the same activities funded by a previous CSP subgrant.

3. Demonstrate academic performance, meeting expectations for the SCSC's Comprehensive Performance Framework for academics or academic expectations of the school's authorizer or otherwise demonstrating performance at least as good as the schools where charter school students would otherwise attend based on attendance zone or the state average.
4. Demonstrate fiscal accountability with an approved budget following required budget processes and meeting district requirements and GaDOE accountability measures or SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework for operations.
5. Demonstrate history of serving students with disabilities in accordance with IDEA requirements and Georgia law regarding serving children with disabilities, considering the percent of students receiving Special Education and related services, and English language learners.
6. Demonstrate compliance with Georgia Open Meetings Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et. Seq) and Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et. seq) requirements.

Permissible Subgrant Activities

All requested budget items must be reasonable, necessary, allowable, and allocable as defined in the Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200). All costs must be justified for the specific purposes of this CSP grant, be one time and nonrenewable, necessary to complete grant objectives, supported with justification for reimbursement, and aligned with state and federal law.

Federal non-regulatory guidance indicates "If the charter school can show that the state or local funds it has received are necessary to meet expenses other than the one at issue, then the charter school has met its burden of showing that the 'other initial operations costs' cannot be met from state or local sources and, therefore, is allowable under the CSP grant." Costs incurred must be one-time in nature, obligated during the grant project period, correlated to a grant objective, and may not include ongoing operational costs.

An applicant receiving a subgrant under this program may use the subgrant funds only for allowable activities as defined in the ESSA Section 4303(h):

1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying the costs associated with—
 - a. Providing professional development; and
 - b. Hiring and compensating, during the eligible applicant's planning period specified in the application for subgrant funds that is required under this section, one or more of the following:
 - (i) Teachers.
 - (ii) School leaders.
 - (iii) Specialized instructional support personnel.
2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials).
3. Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).
4. Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.

5. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.
6. Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to the opening, replication, or expansion of a charter school when such costs cannot be met from other sources.

Note: Personnel expenses are only permitted during the Planning period for new and replicating schools.

Please see the Allowable Cost Guide for more detailed information.

Subgrantees must comply with the general cost principles set forth in federal regulations, 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 74.27 and 34 CFR Section 80.22, and the Office of Management and Budget circulars that are applicable. CSP subgrantees must develop and use written procurement / contract administration policies and procedures that conform to applicable federal and state standards when awarding contracts with federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) funds. All grant recipients will be required submit these policies and procedures to the SCSF upon subgrant award. Goods and services paid for with CSP funds must be selected through an open and fair procurement process.

Regulations and Guidance

The following are additional resources for federal guidance related to the CSP program:

- U.S. Department of Education (ED) Charter Schools Program (CSP) Nonregulatory Guidance: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/nonregulatory-guidance.html>
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/08/08/00-19653/omb-circular-a-21-cost-principles-for-educational-institutions>
- Uniform Guidance: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1>
- This may also be helpful: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/uniform-guidance/index.html>
- CSP ESSA Flexibilities FAQ document: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/CSP-ESSA-Flexibilities-FAQ-2017.pdf>

Definitions

Federal Definitions

1. Charter School ESEA § 4310 (2) - The term “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 of this paragraph;
 - 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;
 - g. Complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 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;
- h. Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that: admits students on the basis of a lottery [see Appendix 1], consistent with section 4303(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 clause (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.
2. Developer ESEA § 4310 (5) - The term “developer” means an individual or group of individuals (including a public or private nonprofit organization), which may include teachers, administrators and other school staff, parents, or other members of the local community in which a charter school project will be carried out.
 3. Expand ESEA § 4310 (7) - The term “expand”, when used with respect to a high-quality charter school, means to significantly increase enrollment or add one or more grades to the high-quality charter school.
 4. Replicate ESEA § 4310 (9) - The term “replicate”, when used with respect to a high-quality charter school, means to open a new charter school, or a new campus of a high-quality charter school, based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school, under an existing charter or an additional charter, if permitted or required by State law.

High-quality Charter School ESEA § 4310 (8) - The term “high-quality charter school” means a charter school that—

- a. shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by a State;
- b. has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;
- c. has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for all students served by the charter school; and
- d. has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

Georgia CSP Subgrant Definitions

1. **New Charter School** - For the purposes of this CSP Subgrant opportunity, a new charter school is defined as a new start-up school that did not previously exist and is authorized to operate, as evidenced by a charter secured within the 18 months prior to submission of the application. New charter schools that have received another CSP subgrant for the start-up of a new charter school will not be eligible for this CSP subgrant opportunity.
2. **Expansion** - For the purposes of this CSP Subgrant opportunity, an expansion is the addition of a grade band or enrollment cap increase of at least 100 students as evidenced by a charter contract amendment or as a part of a charter contract renewal approved or effective within the 18 months prior to submission of the application. Grade bands include K-5, 6-8, 9-12. A school adding at least three grades in elementary or high school shall be considered eligible if the authorizer approved a partial grade band expansion.
3. **Educational Service Providers** - Schools choosing to engage a for-profit or nonprofit educational service provider (ESP) or educational management organization (EMO) or charter management organization (CMO) must demonstrate that they and their governing boards are independent of the provider, and that all fees and agreements are fair and reasonable. The ESP, EMO, or CMO does not qualify as an eligible applicant nor may it hold or manage a subgrant awarded to a school. Schools must exercise special care to ensure that a direct representative of the applicant school, independent of the ESP, EMO or CMO, is identified to administer the grant, as required per 34 CFR 74.40-48, 75.524-525, and 80.36 (procurements) and articulated in the federal CSP January 2014 Nonregulatory Guidance. Contracts between schools and ESPs will be subject to review as part of the application and eligibility processes per ESEA § 4303 (f)(1)(C)(i)(I).
4. **Priority Communities** - For the purposes of this CSP Subgrant, priority communities include the following: communities with no other charter schools serving the same grade band in a ten-mile radius, including rural communities; census tracts designated as low-income; communities with low-performing public schools according to CCRPI; and areas outside of Greater Atlanta.