



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Applications for New Awards; Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)—Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO Grants)**

**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) 2025 for CSP CMO Grants.

**DATES:**

Applications Available: [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Application Deadline: [INSERT DATE 34 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: [INSERT DATE 94 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

Pre-Application Webinar Information: The Department will hold a pre-application meeting via webinar to provide technical assistance to prospective applicants. Detailed information regarding this webinar will be provided at <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/charter-school-programs/charter-schools-program-grants-to-charter-management-organizations-for-the-replication->

and-expansion-of-high-quality-charter-schools-cmo-grants on the *FY 2025 CSP CMO Grant Competition* tab.

For further information about the pre-application meeting, please reach out to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

**ADDRESSES:** For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to the Application Submission Instructions section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie S. Jones, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5970. Telephone: (202) 453-7835. Email: [CMOCompetition@ed.gov](mailto:CMOCompetition@ed.gov).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Full Text of Announcement*

I. Funding Opportunity Description

1. *Purpose of Program:* Through CSP CMO Grants (ALN 84.282M), the Department awards grants to *charter management organizations (CMOs)*<sup>1</sup> on a competitive basis to enable them to *replicate* or *expand* one or more *high-quality charter schools*. Grant funds may be used to significantly increase the enrollment of, or add one or more grades to, an existing high-quality charter school or to open one or

---

<sup>1</sup> Defined terms are italicized the first time they are used.

more new *charter schools* or new campuses of a high-quality charter school based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school. Charter schools that receive financial assistance through CSP CMO Grants provide elementary or secondary education, or both, and may also serve students in *early childhood education programs* or postsecondary students, consistent with the terms of their charter.

*Assistance Listing Number:* 84.282M.

*OMB Control Number:* 1810-0767.

*Note:* The table below highlights key aspects of the funding opportunity in this NIA. Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly review this notice for a detailed listing and description of all competition requirements before submitting an application.

TABLE 1—Funding Opportunity At-A-Glance

TOPIC	NOTES
Application Deadline	All interested applicants must submit applications in Grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on [INSERT DATE 34 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. Complete instructions on how to register and apply can be found at Grants.gov.
Eligibility <i>Additional information on eligibility is available in the Eligible Applicants for Grants section below.</i>	CMOs are eligible to apply and may apply individually or as part of a group or consortium.  "Charter management organization" means a nonprofit organization that operates or manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.
Funding	Estimated Available Funds: \$72,000,000.

	<p>Estimated Range of Awards: \$300,000 to \$20,000,000 per year.</p> <p>Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$2,500,000 per year.</p> <p>Estimated Number of Awards: 15-20.</p> <p>The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.</p>
<p>Competitive Preference Priority (CPP)</p> <p><i>The full text of the CPP is in the Priorities section below.</i></p>	<p>This notice includes one CPP. We award additional points to an application that addresses the CPP. Responding to the CPP is optional.</p> <p>CPP: Reopening Academically Poor-Performing Public Schools as Charter Schools (up to 8 points)</p>
<p>Invitational Priority (IP)</p> <p><i>The full text of the IP is in the Priorities section below.</i></p>	<p>This notice includes one IP. We are particularly interested in applications that meet the IP but do not give them competitive or absolute preference over others. Responding to the IP is optional.</p> <p>IP: Encouraging Innovative Charter School Models</p>
<p>Application Requirements</p>	<p>Applicants are required to address all application requirements in this notice.</p>
<p>Requests for Waiver</p>	<p>Applicants may include in their applications a request and justification for a waiver of any Federal statutory or regulatory requirements over which the Secretary exercises authority, except for requirements in the definition of "charter school" under the CSP.</p>
<p>Selection Criteria</p> <p><i>The full text of the selection criteria is in the Selection Criteria section below.</i></p>	<p>We evaluate applications using selection criteria. The maximum score for addressing all selection criteria is 100 points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Quality of the Eligible Applicant (up to 40 points)</li> <li>(b) Quality of the Project Design and Adequacy of Resources (up to 30 points)</li> <li>(c) Quality of the Management Plan (up to 30 points)</li> </ul>

## 2. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$72,000,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in subsequent years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$300,000 to \$20,000,000 per year.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$2,500,000 per year.

*Maximum Award:* See section II.3 of this notice, *Reasonable and Necessary Costs*, for information regarding the maximum amount of funds that CMOs may be awarded per charter school.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 15-20.

*Note:* The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice. The estimated range and average size of awards are based on a single 12-month budget period. We may use FY 2025 funds to support multiple 12-month budget periods for one or more grantees.

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

A grant awarded by the Secretary under this competition may be for a period of not more than 5 years, of which an eligible applicant may use not more than 18 months for planning and program design. (Section

4303(d) (1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA)

3. *Eligible Applicants for Grants:* CMOs.

Under section 4310(3) of the ESEA, "charter management organization" means a nonprofit organization that operates or manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.

Eligible applicants may apply individually or as part of a group or consortium.

As a general matter, the Secretary considers charter schools that have been in operation for more than five years to be past the initial implementation phase and, therefore, ineligible to receive CSP funds under ALN 84.282M for the replication of a high-quality charter school; however, such schools may receive CSP funds under ALN 84.282M for the expansion of a high-quality charter school.

*Note:* Under 34 CFR 75.51, you may demonstrate your nonprofit status by providing: (1) proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the applicant as an organization to which contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) a statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that the organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State and that no part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private

shareholder or individual; (3) a certified copy of the applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or (4) any item described above if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

4. *Priorities:* This notice includes one competitive preference priority and one invitational priority.

*Competitive Preference Priority:* For FY 2025, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is a competitive preference priority. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), the priority is from the notice of final priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria for CSP CMO Grants published in the *Federal Register* on November 30, 2018 (83 FR 61532) (2018 NFP) and implements a priority authorized under section 4305(b)(5) of the ESEA. We award up to 8 additional points to an application that meets the Competitive Preference Priority.

An applicant must identify on the abstract form and in the project narrative section of its application the priority for purposes of earning competitive preference priority points. The Department will not review or award points for a competitive preference priority if an

applicant fails to clearly identify it as a competitive preference priority that it wishes the Department to consider for purposes of awarding competitive preference priority points.

The priority is:

*Competitive Preference Priority—Reopening Academically Poor-Performing Public Schools as Charter Schools (up to 8 points).*

Under this priority, applicants must—

(i) Demonstrate past success working with one or more *academically poor-performing public schools*; and

(ii) Propose to use grant funds under this program to reopen one or more academically poor-performing public schools as charter schools during the project period by—

(A) Replicating one or more high-quality charter schools based on a successful charter school model for which the applicant has provided evidence of success; and

(B) Targeting a demographically similar student population in the replicated charter schools as was served by the academically poor-performing public schools, consistent with nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Constitution and Federal civil rights laws. (2018 NFP)

*Invitational Priority:* For FY 2025, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority

is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1), we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

The priority is:

*Invitational Priority—Encouraging Innovative Charter School Models.*

*Background:* Charter schools are a key pillar in providing access to education choice, empowering parents and families to seek the best learning environment for their children and fostering innovation in education models that address the unique needs of students across the country. Through this competition, the Department is interested in supporting further innovation in charter schools, and for this reason, we have included an Invitational Priority to encourage the growth of high-quality charter school models that employ innovative practices to meet the needs of students and provide parents and families with high-quality options for their children.

*Priority:* The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that propose a high-quality charter school model that focuses on one or more of the following: classical and civics education; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, including computer science; career and technical education; or other innovative educational practices with evidence of success;

or serving students with particularly unique needs, such as students with disabilities or receiving special education or related services, military-connected students, students living in rural areas, or Native American students.

Note: Applicants that propose to reopen academically poor-performing public schools as charter schools under Competitive Preference Priority are encouraged to replicate high-quality charter school models with one or more of the focuses listed above, to the extent practicable and appropriate.

5. *Requirements:* The application requirements in this notice are from sections 4303(f)(1)<sup>2</sup> and 4305(b)(3) of the ESEA and the 2018 NFP. The Department will not fund an application that does not meet each application requirement. Applicants must clearly identify the application requirement they are addressing in the project narrative.

*Application Requirements:* Applications for funding under the CSP CMO program must contain the following information:

(a) Describe the applicant's objectives in running a quality charter school program and how the program will be carried out, including—

---

<sup>2</sup> Per section 4305(c) of the ESEA, CSP CMO Grants have the same terms and conditions as grants awarded to State entities under section 4303. For clarity, the Department has replaced the term "State entity" with "applicant" in the requirements that derive from section 4303.

(1) A description of how the applicant will ensure that charter schools receiving funds under this program meet the educational needs of their students, including *children with disabilities* and *English learners* (Section 4303(f)(1)(A)(x) of the ESEA); and

(2) A description of how the applicant will ensure that each charter school receiving funds under this program has considered and planned for the transportation needs of the school's students (Section 4303(f)(1)(E) of the ESEA);

(b) For each charter school currently operated or managed by the applicant, provide—

(1) Student assessment results for all students and for each subgroup of students described in section 1111(c)(2) of the ESEA;

(2) Attendance and student retention rates for the most recently completed school year and, if applicable, the most recent available 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates; and

(3) Information on any significant compliance and management issues encountered within the last 3 school years by any school operated or managed by the eligible entity, including in the areas of student safety and finance (Section 4305(b)(3)(A) of the ESEA);

(c) Describe the educational program that the applicant will implement in each charter school receiving funding under this program, including—

(1) Information on how the program will enable all students to meet the challenging State academic standards;

(2) The grade levels or ages of students who will be served; and

(3) The instructional practices that will be used (Section 4305(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the ESEA);

(d) Demonstrate that the applicant currently operates or manages more than one charter school. For purposes of this program, multiple charter schools are considered to be separate schools if each school—

(1) Meets each element of the definition of charter school under section 4310(2) of the ESEA; and

(2) Is treated as a separate school by its *authorized public chartering agency* and the State in which the charter school is located, including for purposes of accountability and reporting under title I, part A of the ESEA (2018 NFP);

(e) Provide information regarding any compliance issues, and how they were resolved, for any charter schools operated or managed by the applicant that have—

(1) Closed;

(2) Had their charter(s) revoked due to problems with statutory or regulatory compliance, including compliance with sections 4310(2)(G) and (J) of the ESEA; or

(3) Had their affiliation with the applicant revoked or terminated, including through voluntary disaffiliation (2018 NFP);

(f) Provide a complete *logic model* for the grant project. The logic model must include the applicant's objectives for replicating or expanding one or more high-quality charter schools with funding under this program, including the number of high-quality charter schools the applicant proposes to replicate or expand (2018 NFP);

(g) If the applicant currently operates, or is proposing to replicate or expand, a single-sex charter school or coeducational charter school that provides a single-sex class or extracurricular activity (collectively referred to as a "single-sex educational program"), demonstrate that the existing or proposed single-sex educational program is in compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681, et seq.) and its implementing regulations, including 34 CFR 106.34 (2018 NFP);

(h) Describe how the applicant currently operates or manages the high-quality charter schools for which it has presented evidence of success and how the proposed replicated or expanded charter schools will be operated or managed, including the legal relationship between the applicant and its schools. If a legal entity other than the applicant has entered or will enter into a performance

contract with an authorized public chartering agency to operate or manage one or more of the applicant's schools, the applicant must also describe its relationship with that entity (2018 NFP);

(i) Describe how the applicant will solicit and consider input from *parents* and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of each replicated or expanded charter school, including in the area of school governance (2018 NFP);

(j) Describe the lottery and enrollment procedures that will be used for each replicated or expanded charter school if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated, including how any proposed weighted lottery complies with section 4303(c)(3)(A) of the ESEA (2018 NFP);

(k) Describe how the applicant will ensure that all eligible children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education in accordance with part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2018 NFP);

(l) Describe how the proposed project will assist educationally disadvantaged students in mastering challenging State academic standards (2018 NFP);

(m) Provide a budget narrative, aligned with the activities, target grant project outputs, and outcomes described in the logic model, that outlines how grant funds will be expended to carry out planned activities (2018 NFP);

(n) Provide the applicant's most recent independently audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (2018 NFP);

(o) Describe the applicant's policies and procedures to assist students enrolled in a charter school that closes or loses its charter to attend other high-quality schools (2018 NFP);

(p) Provide—

(1) A request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the applicant believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter schools to be replicated or expanded; and

(2) A description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to *public* schools, that will be waived, or otherwise not apply, to such schools (2018 NFP).

*Assurances:* Each applicant for a CSP CMO Grant must provide the following assurances. These assurances are from sections 4303(f)(2) and 4305(b)(3)(C) of the ESEA.

Applicants for funds under this program must provide assurances that—

(a) The grantee will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students, as described in section 4303(f)(1)(A)(x) of the ESEA. (Section 4303(f)(2)(B) of the ESEA)

(b) The grantee will ensure that each charter school receiving funds under this program makes publicly available, consistent with the dissemination requirements of the annual State report card under section 1111(h) of the ESEA, including on the website of the school, information to help parents make informed decisions about the education options available to their children, including—

- (1) Information on the educational program;
- (2) Student support services;
- (3) Parent contract requirements (as applicable), including any financial obligations or fees;
- (4) Enrollment criteria (as applicable); and
- (5) Annual performance and enrollment data for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2) of the ESEA, except that such disaggregation of performance and enrollment data shall not be 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. (Section 4303(f)(2)(G) of the ESEA)

(c) The eligible entity has sufficient procedures in effect to ensure timely closure of low-performing or financially mismanaged charter schools and clear plans and procedures in effect for the students in such schools to

attend other high-quality schools. (Section 4305(b)(3)(C) of the ESEA)

*Waivers:* The Secretary recognizes that CMOs and the charter schools they serve may need additional flexibility in implementing CSP grants to achieve the purposes of the CSP. Under section 4303(d)(5) of the ESEA, the Secretary, in her discretion, may waive any statutory or regulatory requirement over which she exercises administrative authority, except the requirements related to the definition of "charter school" in section 4310(2), provided that the waiver is requested in an approved application and the Secretary determines that granting the waiver will promote the purposes of the CSP.

For example, a CMO applicant may request approval from the Department for a waiver of requirements in section 4303(h) of the ESEA regarding use of funds to use funds for sustained costs (e.g., personnel costs for school leaders or instructional staff, software subscriptions, student assessments, etc.) throughout the life of the grant, provided that such costs are necessary to replicate or expand high-quality charter schools and that the charter school can demonstrate that it will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the subgrant period.

6. *Definitions:* The following definitions are from sections 4310 (20 U.S.C. 7221i) and 8101 (20 U.S.C. 7801) of the ESEA, 34 CFR 77.1, and the 2018 NFP.

*Ambitious* means promoting continued, meaningful improvement for program participants or for other individuals or entities affected by the grant or representing a significant advancement in the field of education research, practices, or methodologies. When used to describe a *performance target*, whether a performance target is ambitious depends upon the context of the relevant *performance measure* and the baseline for that measure. (34 CFR 77.1)

*Authorized public chartering agency* means 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. (Section 4310(1) of the ESEA)

*Baseline* means the starting point from which performance is measured and targets are set. (34 CFR 77.1)

*Charter management organization* means a nonprofit organization that operates or manages a network of charter schools linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight. (Section 4310(3) of the ESEA)

*Charter school* means a public school that—

(1) 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 definition;

(2) 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;

(3) 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;

(4) Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;

(5) Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;

(6) Does not charge tuition;

(7) 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 GEPA (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 (IDEA);

(8) 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, 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);

(9) 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;

(10) Meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;

(11) Operates in accordance with State law;

(12) 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

(13) May serve students in early childhood education programs or postsecondary students. (Section 4310(2) of the ESEA)

*Child with a disability* means—

(1) A child (i) with intellectual disabilities, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance (referred to as “emotional disturbance”), orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities; and (ii) who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

(2) For a child aged 3 through 9 (or any subset of that age range, including ages 3 through 5), may, at the discretion of the State and the LEA, include a child (i) experiencing developmental delays, as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: physical development; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; or adaptive development; and (ii) who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services. (Section 8101(4) of the ESEA)

*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.

(Section 4310(5) of the ESEA)

*Early childhood education program means—*

(1) A Head Start program or an Early Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), including a migrant or seasonal Head Start program, an Indian Head Start program, or a Head Start program or an Early Head Start program that also receives State funding;

(2) A State licensed or regulated child care program;

or

(3) A program that—

(i) Serves children from birth through age 6 that addresses the children's cognitive (including language, early literacy, and early mathematics), social, emotional, and physical development; and

(ii) Is (A) a State prekindergarten program; (B) a program authorized under section 619 (20 U.S.C. 1419) or part C of the IDEA; or (C) a program operated by an LEA.

(ESEA section 8101(16))

*Educationally disadvantaged student* means a student in one or more of the categories described in section 1115(c)(2) of the ESEA, which include children who are economically disadvantaged, students who are children with

disabilities, migrant students, English learners, neglected or delinquent students, homeless students, and students who are in foster care. (2018 NFP)

*English learner*, when used with respect to an individual, means an individual—

(1) Who is aged 3 through 21;

(2) Who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;

(3) (i) Who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;

(ii) (A) Who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and

(B) Who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual's level of English language proficiency; or

(iii) Who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and

(4) Whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual—

(i) The ability to meet the challenging State academic standards;

(ii) The ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or

(iii) The opportunity to participate fully in society. (Section 8101(20) of the ESEA)

*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. (Section 4310(7) of the ESEA)

*High-quality charter school* means a charter school that—

(1) Shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by a State;

(2) Has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;

(3) Has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for all students served by the charter school; and

(4) 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) of the ESEA, 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. (Section 4310(8) of the ESEA)

*Logic model* (also referred to as a theory of action) means a framework that identifies key *project components* of the proposed project (i.e., the active "ingredients" that are hypothesized to be critical to achieving the *relevant outcomes*) and describes the theoretical and operational relationships among the key project components and relevant outcomes. (34 CFR 77.1)

*Parent* includes a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare). (Section 8101(38) of the ESEA)

*Performance measure* means any quantitative indicator, statistic, or metric used to gauge program or project performance. (34 CFR 77.1)

*Performance target* means a level of performance that an applicant would seek to meet during the course of a project or as a result of a project. (34 CFR 77.1)

*Project component* means an activity, strategy, intervention, process, product, practice, or policy included in a project. Evidence may pertain to an individual project component or to a combination of project components (e.g., training teachers on instructional

practices for English learners and follow-on coaching for these teachers). (34 CFR 77.1)

*Public*, as applied to an agency, organization, or institution, means that the agency, organization, or institution, is under the administrative supervision or control of a government other than the Federal Government. (34 CFR 77.1)

*Relevant outcome* means the student outcome(s) or other outcome(s) the key project component is designed to improve, consistent with the specific goals of the program. (34 CFR 77.1)

*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. (Section 4310(9) of the ESEA)

7. *Selection Criteria*: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and the 2018 NFP. The maximum possible total score an application can receive for addressing the criteria is 100 points. The maximum possible score for addressing each criterion is indicated in parentheses following the criterion.

(a) *Quality of the Eligible Applicant (up to 40 points)*.

In determining the quality of the eligible applicant, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the academic achievement results (including annual student performance on statewide assessments, annual student attendance and retention rates, and, where applicable and available, student academic growth, high school graduation rates, college attendance rates, and college persistence rates) for educationally disadvantaged students served by the charter schools operated or managed by the applicant have exceeded the average academic achievement results for such students served by other public schools in the State (up to 20 points). (2018 NFP)

(2) The extent to which one or more charter schools operated or managed by the applicant have closed; have had a charter revoked due to noncompliance with statutory or regulatory requirements; or have had their affiliation with the applicant revoked or terminated, including through voluntary disaffiliation (up to 10 points). (2018 NFP)

(3) The extent to which one or more charter schools operated or managed by the applicant have had any significant issues in the area of financial or operational management or student safety or have otherwise experienced significant problems with statutory or regulatory compliance that could lead to revocation of the school's charter (up to 10 points). (2018 NFP)

(b) *Quality of the Project Design and Adequacy of Resources (up to 30 points).*

In determining the quality of the project design and the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The quality of the logic model or other conceptual framework underlying the proposed project, including how inputs are related to outcomes (up to 15 points). (34 CFR 75.210)

(2) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project and the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project (up to 15 points). (34 CFR 75.210)

(c) *Quality of the Management Plan (up to 30 points).*

In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The feasibility of the management plan to achieve project objectives and goals on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks (up to 15 points). (34 CFR 75.210)

(2) The ability of the applicant to sustain the operation of the replicated or expanded charter schools after the grant has ended, as demonstrated by the multi-

year financial and operating model required under section 4305(b)(3)(B)(iii) of the ESEA (up to 15 points). (2018 NFP)

In addressing the selection criteria and application requirements in this notice, an applicant must clearly identify in its application which criterion or requirement it is addressing. In addition, an applicant must address corresponding application requirements when addressing the specific selection criteria listed in the table below.

Table 2—Alignment of the Selection Criteria and Application Requirements

Selection Criterion	Application Requirement(s)
Quality of the Eligible Applicant (a) (1)	(b) (1), (b) (2), (d) (1), (d) (2), and (h)
Quality of the Eligible Applicant (a) (2)	(e) (1), (e) (2), and (e) (3)
Quality of the Eligible Applicant (a) (3)	(b) (3)
Quality of the Project Design and Adequacy of Resources (b) (1)	(f)
Quality of the Project Design and Adequacy of Resources (b) (2)	(m)

All other application requirements not listed in the table above must be addressed elsewhere in the Project Narrative. This includes all assurances and the following requirements: (a) (1), (a) (2), (c) (1), (c) (2), (c) (3), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (n), (o), (p) (1), and (p) (2).

8. *Performance Measures:* The Department has developed the following performance measures for the purposes of the Department reporting under 34 CFR 75.110:

(a) *Program Performance Measures.* (1) The performance measures for this program are: (i) The number of charter schools in operation around the Nation, and (ii) the percentage of fourth- and eighth-grade charter school students who are achieving at or above the proficient level on State assessments in mathematics and reading/language arts. Additionally, the Secretary has established the following measure to examine the efficiency of the CSP: The Federal cost per student in implementing a successful school (defined as a school in operation for three or more consecutive years).

(2) In accordance with 34 CFR 75.110(b), applications must describe:

(i) The data collection and reporting methods the applicant would use and why those methods are likely to yield reliable, valid, and meaningful performance data.

(ii) The applicant's capacity to collect and report the quality of the performance data, as evidenced by quality data collection, analysis, and reporting in other projects or research.

(b) *Project-Specific Performance Measures.* Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures and performance targets consistent with the

objectives of the proposed project. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.110(c), applications must include the following:

(1) *Project-specific performance measures.* How each proposed project-specific performance measure would: accurately measure the performance of the project; be consistent with the program performance measures established under paragraph (a) of this section; and be used to inform continuous improvement of the project.

(2) *Baseline data.* (i) Why each proposed baseline is valid and reliable, including an assessment of the quality data used to establish the baseline; or (ii) if the applicant has determined that there are no established baseline data for a particular performance measure, an explanation of why there is no established baseline and of how and when, during the project period, the applicant would establish a valid baseline for the performance measure.

(3) *Performance targets.* Why each proposed performance target is *ambitious* yet achievable compared to the baseline for the performance measure and when, during the project period, the applicant would meet the performance target(s).

All grantees must submit an annual performance report with information that is responsive to these performance measures.

9. *Program Authority and Applicable Regulations:*

*Program Authority:* Title IV, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7221-7221j).

*Note:* Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Federal civil rights laws.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474. (d) The 2018 NFP.

II. Supplemental Requirements

1. a. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not require cost sharing or matching.

b. *Supplement-Not-Supplant:* This program does not involve supplement-not-supplant funding requirements.

c. *Indirect Cost Rate Information:* This program uses an unrestricted indirect cost rate. For more information

regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/fo#Indirect-Cost-Division>.

d. *Administrative Cost Limitation:* This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary and conform to Cost Principles described in 2 CFR part 200 subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

2. *Subgrantees:* A grantee under this competition may not award subgrants to entities to directly carry out project activities described in its application.

3. *Reasonable and Necessary Costs:* The Secretary may elect to impose maximum limits on the amount of grant funds that may be used to replicate or expand a high-quality charter school (34 CFR 75.101(a)(2) and 75.104(b)).

For this competition, the maximum limit of grant funds that may be used to replicate or expand a single high-quality charter school is \$2,000,000.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.404, applicants must ensure that all costs included in the proposed budget are reasonable and necessary in light of the goals and objectives of the proposed project. Any costs determined by the Secretary to be unreasonable or unnecessary will be removed from the final approved budget.

4. *Audits:* (i) A non-Federal entity that expends \$1,000,000 or more during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR part 200. (2 CFR 200.501(a))

(ii) A non-Federal entity that expends less than \$1,000,000 during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards is exempt from Federal audit requirements for that year, except as noted in 2 CFR 200.503 (Relation to other audit requirements), but records must be available for review or audit by appropriate officials of the Federal agency, pass-through entity, and Government Accountability Office. (2 CFR 200.501(d)).

5. *Funding Restrictions:* Grantees under this program must use the grant funds to replicate or expand the charter school model or models for which the applicant has presented evidence of success. Specifically, grant funds must be used to carry out allowable activities, as described in section 4305(b)(1) of the ESEA. In addition, grant funds must be used to carry out one or more of the activities described in section 4303(h), which include—

(a) Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying costs associated with—

(1) Providing professional development; and

(2) Hiring and compensating, during the eligible applicant's planning period, one or more of the following:

(i) Teachers.

(ii) School leaders.

(iii) Specialized instructional support personnel;

(b) Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials);

(c) Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction);

(d) Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school;

(e) Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment; and

(f) Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to the replication or expansion of high-quality charter schools when such costs cannot be met from other sources.

Further, within the context of opening and preparing for the operation of one or more replicated high-quality charter schools or expanding one or more high-quality

charter schools, a portion of grant funds may be used for appropriate, non-sustained costs associated with the expansion or improvement of the grantee's oversight or management of its charter schools, provided that (i) the specific charter schools being replicated or expanded under the grant are the intended beneficiaries of such expansion or improvement; (ii) such expansion or improvement is intended to improve the grantee's ability to manage or oversee the charter schools being replicated or expanded under the grant; and (iii) the costs cannot be met from other sources (20 U.S.C. 7221b(h) and 7221d(b)(1)). In order to use grant funds for this purpose, an applicant must describe how the proposed costs are necessary to meet the objectives of the project and reasonable in light of the overall cost of the project (2 CFR 200.403).

*Other CSP Grants:* A charter school that previously received funds for replication or expansion under this program, or that has been awarded a subgrant or grant for opening and preparing for the operation of a new or replicated high-quality charter school, or expanding a high-quality charter school, under the CSP Grants to State Entities (SE Grants) program (ALN 84.282A) or CSP Grants to Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (Developer Grants) program (ALNs 84.282B and 84.282E), may not receive funds under this program to carry

out the same activities (see 2 CFR 200.403). However, such a charter school may be eligible to receive funds through a CSP CMO Grant awarded under this competition to expand the charter school beyond the existing grade levels or student count.

Likewise, a charter school that is included in an approved application for funding under this competition is ineligible to receive a subgrant or grant to carry out the same activities under the CSP SE Grant program (ALN 84.282A) or CSP Developer Grant program (ALNs 84.282B and 84.282E), including opening and preparing for the operation of a new charter school or replicated high-quality charter school or expanding a high-quality charter school (2 CFR 200.403).

*Award Basis:* In determining whether to approve a grant award and the amount of such award, the Department will consider, among other things, the applicant's performance and use of funds under a previous or existing award under any Department program (34 CFR 75.217(d)(3)(ii)) and any other financial resources available to the applicant (34 CFR 75.233(b)). In assessing the applicant's performance and use of funds under a previous or existing award, the Secretary will consider, among other things, the outcomes the applicant has achieved and the results of any Departmental grant

monitoring, including the applicant's progress in remedying any deficiencies identified in such monitoring.

We reference additional regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

### III. Application and Submission Information

1. *Application Submission Instructions:* Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the *Federal Register* on December 23, 2024 (89 FR 104528), and available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-30488>, which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application.

2. *Submission of Proprietary Information:* Given the types of projects that may be proposed in applications for this competition, your application may include business information that you consider proprietary. In 34 CFR 5.11, we define "business information" and describe the process we use in determining whether any of that information is proprietary and, thus, protected from disclosure under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended).

Because we plan to make successful applications available to the public, you may wish to request confidentiality of business information.

Consistent with Executive Order 12600 (Predisclosure Notification Procedures for Confidential Commercial Information), please designate in your application any information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under Exemption 4. In the appropriate Appendix section of your application, under "Other Attachments Form," please list the page number or numbers on which we can find this information. For additional information please see 34 CFR 5.11(c).

3. *Intergovernmental Review:* This competition is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this competition.

4. IV. Application Review Information

1. *Review and Selection Process:* We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, completion of grant activities, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary requires various assurances, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

2. *Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:*

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and, under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

3. *Integrity and Performance System:* If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must

consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds \$10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed \$10,000,000.

#### V. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We also may notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other

requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Open Licensing Requirements:* Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee or subgrantee that is awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

4. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. See the standards in 2 CFR 170.105 to determine whether you are covered by 2 CFR part 170.

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to [www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html).

(c) Under 34 CFR 75.254, the Secretary may provide a grantee with additional funding for data collection analysis and reporting. In this case the Secretary establishes a data collection period.

5. *Continuation Awards:* In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner

that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee's approved application.

In making a continuation award, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

6. *Project Directors' Meeting:* Applicants approved for funding under this competition must attend a meeting for project directors during each year of the project. The meeting may be held virtually or in person at a location to be determined in the continental United States. Applicants may include, if applicable, the cost of attending these meetings in their proposed budgets as allowable administrative costs.

7. *Technical Assistance:* Applicants approved for funding under this competition will be required to participate in all general and certain specified technical assistance offerings, to include but not limited to, other on-site gatherings sponsored by the Department and its

contracted technical assistance providers and partners throughout the life of the grant.

#### VI. Other Information

*Accessible Format:* On request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

**Hayley B. Sanon,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 2025-08657 Filed: 5/14/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/15/2025]