Advancing Charter Collaboration and Excellence for Student Success (ACCESS)

The CSP Grant in North Carolina

Agenda

- Charter School Program (CSP) Grant
- Overview of NC ACCESS Program
    – NC ACCESS Subgrant Program
    – Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations
    – NC ACCESS Fellowship
- Subgrant Application and Timeline
- Technical Support and Training

CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CSP) GRANT

Charter School Program (CSP) Grant

- The Charter School Program (CSP) Grant is a competitive federal grant issued each year by the US Department of Education to state and local education agencies as well as individual charter schools

- Grants are awarded to help charter schools meet the needs of educationally disadvantaged students

- North Carolina was one of eight (8) states to receive a grant in 2018

OVERVIEW OF THE NC ACCESS PROGRAM

Overview of the NC ACCESS Program

- ## NC ACCESS Program
    - Advancing Charter Collaboration and Excellence for Student Success

- ## 5-year, $26.6 million federal grant

- ## In 2019, the program was awarded a $10 million supplement

- ## Major priorities include school-level subgrants, dissemination of best practices, and professional development

NC ACCESS Subgrant Program

- All subgrants are intended to support a significant increase the EDS population in charters schools

- Applicants must provide
  - Aggressive EDS recruitment plan, including a weighted lottery
  - SMART goals and statement on how the school will eliminate barriers
  - Education, discipline, and school climate plan tailored to ED students
  - Implementation of a parent/community advisory council
  - Budget and budget narrative for the duration of the grant
  - Marketing and recruitment plan
  - Plan to provide transportation
  - Plan to provide comprehensive school lunch program
  - School closure plan

NC ACCESS Subgrant Program (cont.)

- Charter School Subgrants
  - The majority of the CSP funds are allocated for subgrants
  - Competitive subgrants will be available for charter schools in four categories:
    - Planning and Implementation
    - Implementation Only
    - Expansion
    - Replication
- Plan to award 60 subgrants over 5 years
  - 9 subgrants were awarded in 2019
- Awards can range up to $1.25 million

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Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations

- Planning and Implementation
  - Approved schools entering their planning year
  - Schools will not have school accountability data to support their potential for success
  - Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to and comprehensive plan for recruiting and effectively serving educationally disadvantaged students

Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations

- Implementation Only
  - Schools entering years 1-3 of operation
  - Must have a comprehensive plan for recruiting and serving a high ED population
  - School performance data will be factored in, if available
    - Must have achieved at least "B" SPG and met or exceeded growth for at all years of available data

Subgrant Eligibility and Expectations (cont.)

- ## Eligibility Requirements
  - ### Expansion and Replication
    - Available to high quality charter schools operating for at least 3 years that meet one of the following eligibility criteria:

"A/B" school and "Met/Exceed" growth for two (2) of the past three (3) years. Applicants must:	1. have maintained at least a "B" SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for at least two (2) out of the three (3) years prior to their application cycle; 2. have met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, for at least two (2) out of the three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and 3. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.
"A/B" school for the past three (3) consecutive years. Applicants must:	1. have maintained at least a "B" SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and 2. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.
"C" school and "Met/Exceed" growth for the past three (3) consecutive years. Applicants must:	1. have maintained at least a "C" SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; 2. have met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and 3. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.

NC ACCESS Fellowship

- Leaders from schools awarded subgrants will complete the year-long ACCESS Fellowship

- Immersive professional development experience intended to provide leaders with the support and technical assistance they need in order to effectively develop, expand, and replicate their schools

- By the end of year 5, the program will have created a community of 160 charter school leaders who have developed and demonstrated best practices in serving educationally disadvantaged students

NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- NC ACCESS Fellowship Components
  - Monthly convenings (in-person and virtual)
    - Speakers, activities, excellent school visits, case studies, panels, discussions, reading, etc.
  - Present at a state or national conference
  - Completion of a portfolio of strategies, best practices, and lessons learned that will be posted publicly
  - Host a collaborative event at your school
  - Provide mentorship and development to future fellows

NC ACCESS Program (cont.)

- Learn best practices from nationally recognized experts on topics like:
    - Equity/Serving all Students
    - Parent/Community Engagement
    - School/Teacher Leadership
    - Intentional Marketing and Recruitment
    - Social Emotional Learning and Adverse Childhood Experiences
    - Literacy and Differentiated Instruction
    - Data-Driven Decision-Making
    - Culturally Responsive Instruction

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SUBGRANT APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

Subgrant Application Timeline

November 15: The subgrant RFA will be posted on the OCS website

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November – March: ACCESS team provides ongoing technical assistance to prospective applicants

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January 15: Subgrant letters of intent (LOI) due; ACCESS team reviews LOI and determines eligibility of applicants

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March 1: Subgrant applications due

Subgrant Timeline (cont.)

March – May: Application reviews conducted and recommendations are made by CSAB

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June : SBE approves subgrantee awards

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July : Subgrantee orientation and ACCESS Fellowship begin; Subgrantees can begin spending funds

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July – end of award: Monitoring and reporting

*This timeline is subject to change for subsequent grant cycles.

NC ACCESS Subgrant Application

- Subgrant applications must include:
    - Applicant Contact Information and Signed Assurances
    - Enrollment Projections
    - Application Narrative (see slide 4 for details)
    - Budget, Budget Narrative, and Logic Model
    - Competitive Preference Standards
    - Priority Consideration Status
- Eligible applications are reviewed by a team of NC ACCESS staff and trained external evaluators
- Applications are recommended to CSAB for approval
- CSAB will review all recommendations and make final award recommendations to SBE

NC ACCESS Subgrant Rubric and Scoring

- Applications are scored based on the following rubric:

Standards	Elements	Criteria
General Standards	Application Contact Information, Signed Assurances, and Certification	Must be complete to meet standard
Technical Standards	Enrollment Projections	Up to 10 points
	Application Narrative	Up to 60 points
	Budget, Budget Narrative, and Logic Model	Up to 30 points
	Competitive Preference Standards (4 possible standards)	Up to 3 points per standard
Priority Standards	Priority Consideration Status (4 possible standards)	Used for priority status, if applicable

- In order to pass, the application must meet all General Standards and score at least eighty (80) points on the Technical Standards.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING

Technical Support and Training

- Visit the NC ACCESS website: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/innovative-school-options/charter-schools/nc-access-program

- Download and review all application and guidance materials:
  - Request for Application
  - Budget Template
  - Application Process Guidance Document

- Attend NC ACCESS webinars and in-person training sessions

- Office hours

CONTACT US

Please reach out to the NC ACCESS Team at
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(919) 807-3491

Learn more about the NC ACCESS Program on our website:
https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/innovative-school-options/charter-schools/nc-access-program