



2021-26 Florida Public Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant
Request For Proposals (RFP) Questions & Answers

Question 1: If the district and the charter school agree to the CSP Funding Distribution Agreement, full advance distribution, does the school get a check for all the funds (\$800,000.00)?

Answer 1: This is a question related to Stage II of the competition. We will address funding distribution at that time.

Q2: The school I work for is a charter school that was established in 2006. Could these funds be used for an expansion of that same charter school?

A2: No. This is a competition for new schools, or those which were established in the past few years, with their own contract and MSID. For further information, see Answer A4.

Q3: Will this PowerPoint be available on the charter website

A3: Yes. You can find the PowerPoint for the technical assistance webinar for this competition at [Planning & Implementation Grant \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org/Planning-Implementation-Grant)

Q4: Is a school that opened in August 2020 eligible to receive this grant?

A4: Yes. A school is eligible if it submitted a charter school application to a local school district using the Department's model charter school application, which is Form IEPC-M1, effective February 2016 or later, as adopted as State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.0786.

Q5: We had to include a detailed budget as an attachment with our application submission. Do we include that budget attachment still in the Stage 1 application process?

A5: As we shared during the webinar, a budget is not required for Stage I of the competition. It is a Stage II requirement only.

Q6: What format should the attachments be in, i.e., Word, PDF, other?

A6: As we stated during the webinar, a searchable PDF file should be uploaded if at all possible. That makes it easier for reviewers to do their work.

Q7: If we are denied the grant this year can we apply next year? Also, what if the board is different from when the application was filed. Can we give the new board members resume for stage 1?

A7: Yes, you may reapply if denied this year. As to updated information: you cannot update your application, but reviewers may request additional information, if they need it.

Q8: How do we know, or where can we find a resource to determine if we are in an RLIA or Opportunity Zone?

A8: The Department will verify whether a given district is an RLIS. As for Opportunity Zones, applicants can find out more information by visiting the following link: <http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships-for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resource/opportunity-zones>

Q9: Under the qualifications for established operators, you mentioned that the total number of schools included schools that were both open and/or closed for a board of directors. Is this parameter the same for a charter management company? For example, if a CMC took on a school, subsequently closed it, and then opened a new school on the same site (but with a different MSID), would this count as two schools or one school?

A9: If there are extenuating circumstances around the management company's history such as those you have described, that can be brought to the Department's attention. It could be that the school you described is placed in the New Operator review process.

Q10: Can the schools attorney or consultant attend the capacity interview with a board member?

A10: The applicant can bring whomever they choose. But reviewers will be assessing not whether consultants understand what will be happening at the school, but whether the school operators and governing board members have the capacity to do the work they say they're going to do in the application.

Q11: Can a single user, with one account, submit multiple stage one applications in Survey Monkey?

A11: Yes

Q12: When you are adding the attachments, are you only able to add one file per attachment A-z, or can you have multiple PDF's?

A12: You can only add one file.

Q13: Is board approval of applicant required prior to submitted Stage one application online?

A13: No. But the individual who submits a Stage I application must attest that they have the authority from the governing board to submit the application on its behalf.

Q14: Do we need to submit our approved charter contract from local LEA?

A14: No. Many applicants wouldn't have a contract at this stage of the application process.

Q15: If the name of our school has changed since application, where should we include that information? Ours changed once we identified a facility.

A15: Yes, you may type in your new name, but you should retain the name of the school that's on the application that reviewers will be reading. This could be as simple as writing your new school name, but noting that it's "formerly known as ..." This way, reviewers won't be confused by which application they're reading.

Q16: Since this grant lasts 5 years, will allowable expenditures be expanded beyond just planning and start-up?

A16: No. This remains a planning and implementation grant. The difference now than in years past is that a sub-grantee spends a longer time in implementation.

Q17: Can you still apply without MSID number? Our local LEA applied for the number and awaiting the number to be given.

A17: An MSID is not necessary when applying for this grant.

Q18: For EMO - you said you would look at schools run by operator. Will this be the schools operated over last 5 years as indicated in Attachment DD of application?

A18: Yes. Attachment DD is the Applicant History Worksheet.

Q19: Does the capacity interview add points to the overall score for the approval of the grant and if so how many total points can be added?

A19: The capacity interview impacts an overall score, but is part of the reviewing and scoring process, not separate from it. The interview could enhance a reviewer's assessment of the applicant, or any given section of the application, or it could detract from it.



Q20: Is a virtual charter school eligible to apply for a CSP grant

A20: Yes, a virtual charter may receive CSP funds, though the award may not be as high as for a brick-and-mortar charter school.

Q21: Is the webinar recorded?

A21: Yes, you may visit the following page on the Department's website to hear the webinar recording and view the presentation: <http://www.fdoe.org/schools/school-choice/charter-schools/charter-school-program-grant/planning-implementation-grant.html>

Q22: Can charter schools that are in the planning stage apply for this grant, even though they have been approved for a CSP during last competition?

A22: A charter school that has been previously approved for a CSP grant, and is now in the planning phase of that grant, is not eligible for this competition. They have already been approved for a planning and implementation grant. They simply need to give us an implementation budget when that time comes.

Q23: I cannot find the place for submitting the addendum DD.

A23: The program office is aware that applicants submitting an application as a new operator are not able to view the upload tasks for Addendum AA-EE. The system will be updated and program office staff will communicate with applicants affected by this change.

Q24: The RFP is a little vague on which schools are eligible. We have several charters that have been operational for years. They all have district-approved applications. But, we have 1 denied recently but in appeal. Their intended opening date is August 2021. There is also a new school who is just now beginning review and are pending and intends to open in August 2022. Please specify which schools are eligible for this grant. Thank you.

A24: The eligibility criteria are found on page 2 of the RFP. Despite the number of schools in your county, if they did not submit a model charter school application to you that was adopted by the State Board of Education in at least 2016 or later (the date is found on the lower left-hand corner of the application) then they wouldn't be eligible for this. The other criteria, as follows, are also in the RFP and should address the specific instances you raised:

- Charter application has been approved by the district;
- Charter application is pending; or
- Charter application is denied and pending an appeal

Q25: We are looking to apply for a school that is currently a K-5. However, the school recently submitted an application to the district to extend the grades of the school to become a K-12. Because the CSP grant allows you to submit an application for a school that is "pending approval" from the district, should we upload Stage I documentation based off of documents in the K-12 application instead?

A25: As the RFP states on pages 2 and 3, you must submit to the Survey Monkey online application system the same charter application that the district is reviewing, or has reviewed.

Q26: Are there new rules regarding what types of items are allowable expenses?

A26: Yes, but we will provide an updated allowable cost guide when we conduct the Stage II technical assistance webinar.

Q27: Do each of the section of the charter school application need to be uploaded separately, or as a single document?

A27: Applicants should upload the charter school application as a single, searchable PDF document.



Attachments and addenda are uploaded separately.

Q28: What if I have not completed an applicant history worksheet in my application to the school district. Should I complete one for the CSP grant?

A28: You should only upload information that the school district has reviewed, or is reviewing. If the district did not require you to complete the worksheet you described, then you should not prepare one separately for this grant.

Q29: Can we save our work in Survey Monkey and come back to the application at a later date and time?

A29: Yes.

Q30: This is our first time applying for a grant from DOE. Are there any sort of registration requirements we must meet before applying for this grant, apart from the one with SurveyMonkey?

A30: There are no other registration requirements to apply. But there are eligibility criteria that must be met. Please refer to pages 2 and 3 of the RFP.