

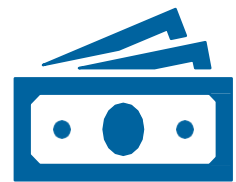
# **CSP Grant Pre-Application Webinar**

September 5, 2024



**NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS  
ASSOCIATION**

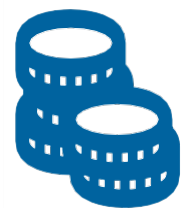
# Agenda



Grant Overview



Application Process



Funding



Q & A

# Grant Overview

# Program Objectives

## Grant Overview

1. Increase the number of high-quality<sup>1,2</sup> charter schools in New Jersey, with a particular focus on Abbot Districts
2. Increase the overall quality of New Jersey's charter sector

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this application, high-quality is defined as a charter school that (a) Shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by the [state of New Jersey]; (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 for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2)of the ESEA.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this application, high-quality is also defined by NJPCSA as a charter school that has (1) One year of Aggregate Math and ELA scores exceeds state average of students meeting levels 3, 4 or 5 as measured by New Jersey Student Learning Assessment administered in Spring 2022; OR (2) One year of Aggregate Math and ELA scores outperform the district average by at least 10 percentage points as measured by the percentage of students meeting levels 3, 4, and 5 on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment administered in Spring 2022; OR (3) One year of Aggregate Math and ELA scores exceeds state average of students meeting levels 2 or 3 as measured by New Jersey Start Strong assessment administered in Fall 2022; OR (4) One year of Aggregate Math and ELA scores outperform the district average by at least 10 percentage points as measured by the percentage of students meeting levels 2 or 3 on the New Jersey Start Strong assessment administered in Fall 2022; OR (5) Graduation rate that is above the district average by at least 10 percentage points AND the percentage of students utilizing graduation pathways 1 or 2 is at least 10 percentage points above the district percentage of students utilizing graduation pathways 1 or 2.

# Eligibility Requirements

## Grant Overview

1. Nonprofit organization;
2. Holding an approved charter application\*;
3. No previous CSP funds in the past 5 years\*\*;
4. For a brick-and-mortar charter school; and
5. Meeting the definition of new school, replication, or expansion.<sup>1</sup>

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\* Must have an approved charter before funds release, but schools are eligible to apply for a grant once a charter application or amendment request has been submitted.

\*\* This does not automatically disqualify you from receiving more funding. Please reach out to Olivia for more information.

<sup>1</sup>Expansion is defined as a school adding an entirely new grade span or significantly expanding a current grade span beyond the capacity approved and open prior to the current CSP Grant application cycle. Significant expansion is defined as adding at least 100 students or 15% of a school's total enrollment. Moving buildings does not qualify as adding a campus for replication or expansion.

# Preferred Eligibility

## Grant Overview

1. Serving 60% or greater economically disadvantaged students.<sup>1</sup>
2. Located in or serving at least 40% of a student population from a QOZ or Abbot zone.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Low-income students are students eligible for free or reduced lunch, identified as “economically disadvantaged.”

2. NJPCSA will identify QOZ and Abbot Zones.

# Preferred Eligibility

## Grant Overview

- These characteristics of preferred eligibility represent the gaps that NJPCSA hopes to target with these funds.
- NJPCSA has prioritized these areas with competitive preference points and additional funding.
- The intent is not to deter schools serving less at-risk students from applying, but rather to build the entire charter sector up as a whole.

# Competitive Priorities

## Grant Overview

### 1. Serving At-Risk Populations

- Weighted Lottery
- 70% or more FRL

### 2. Serving High School Students

### 3. Located in or Serving a Rural Community

### 4. Serving a Diverse Student Population

- 30-70% low income with no one race/ethnicity constituting more than 70%



# Replication & Expansion

## Grant Overview

"Expansion" is defined as a school adding an entirely new grade span beyond those approved and open prior to the current CSP Grant application cycle OR adding a significant increase of students served within existing grade levels (i.e., at least 100 students or 15% of the current total enrollment).

Moving buildings does not qualify as adding a campus for replication or expansion.

# Replication & Expansion

## Grant Overview

Replications and expansions must meet the following definitions of “high-quality”:

- Federal high-quality definition components ESEA § 4303 (8)(A) and (D); and
- NJPCSA high-quality definition.

For applicants implementing credit recovery, dropout prevention, or dropout recovery models, the Selection Committee may also consider performance against benchmarks in the applicant’s agreed upon contract with its authorizer.

# Application Process

# Anticipated Grant Cycles

## Application Process

Cycle	Grant Year	Application Available	Funds Available
1	2021	Winter 2021	Spring 2021
2	2021	Fall 2021	Winter 2022
3	2022	Fall 2022	Winter 2023
4	2023	Fall 2023	Winter/Spring 2024
5	2024	Spring 2024	Summer/Fall 2024
6	2024	Fall 2024	Winter/Spring 2025
7	2025	Spring 2025	Late Summer 2025

# Anticipated Timeline

## Application Process

Date	Activity
September 10, 2024	Application Open
October 30, 2024	Applications Due
January 7-9, 2024	Applicant Capacity Interviews
January 17, 2024	Awards Announced
By April 30 , 2024	First Likely Available Reimbursement with Expenses back to November 1, 2024

# Application Requirements

## Application Process

All eligibility and Letter of Intent information must be submitted in the application portal, [Survey Monkey Apply](#), along with the Executive Summary and Narrative answers outlined in Table I in the RFA. Applicants should be succinct in their responses.

The RFA can be downloaded, and the application portal can be accessed at [www.njcharters.org/csp-grant/](http://www.njcharters.org/csp-grant/)

# Application Requirements

## Application Process

Applicants must submit their application in 2 phases using the application portal-- [Survey Monkey Apply](#):

1. Letter of Intent (to be reviewed in 5 business days by NJPCSA)
2. Full Application
  - a. Executive Summary and all Attachments
  - b. Application Narrative and all Attachments

# Funding



# Award Schedule

## Funding

Target	Amount	Timing
Base Award	Up to \$1,000,000	Upon approval of application
School is located in a QOZ or Abbott District or draws at least 40% of its student population from neighboring QOZ.	\$250,000	After first verified October enrollment count
At least 60% of school's students are economically disadvantaged	\$250,000	After first verified October enrollment count

# Budget Spreadsheet and Narrative Template

## Funding

Applicants must download, complete, and attach into the portal the budget spreadsheet and narrative for their grant request. The budget narrative outline and spreadsheet template are included in the application portal in the executive summary and **MUST** be followed. A formal budget for approval will be created with the CSP team should an award be made.

- Each applicant must complete a budget for each year of the grant to be reviewed by the CSP team.
- Year 1 budget should not exceed \$750,000.
- The CSP budget is scored in section 5 of the rubric based on alignment to CSP goals in the executive summary and the overall school model's sustainability.

# Budget Technical Assistance Workshop

## Funding

*All applicants should save the date for October 3rd at 11am ET.*

This workshop will answer any budget related questions as well as dive deeper into unique allowable expenditures. With this information, schools will be prepared to draft their first planning budget.

You can access this meeting on Zoom. The joining information is hyperlinked in the RFA. Current applicants in Survey Monkey will be invited directly using the email provided as the main contact for the application.

# Funds Release

## Funding

Prior to the funds release, NJPCSA must have a copy of the authorizer approval letter on file and an approved budget must be in place.

Additional documents and information will also be required prior to funds release. Details on these requirements will be provided after a grant is awarded.

# Q & A

For additional questions, please email [csp@njcharters.org](mailto:csp@njcharters.org)