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
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
SUBGRANT APPLICATION AND TIMELINE
Subgrant Application Timeline

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

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

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

March 1: Subgrant applications due
Subgrant Timeline (cont.)

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

June: SBE approves subgrantee awards

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

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:

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

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 NCACCESS@dpi.nc.gov or (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