

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RFA # GD0—AA—13

District of Columbia

Office of the State Superintendent of Education



**2013 Appropriations Act Special Populations Grant
to Serve 3 and 4 Year Olds**

RFA Release Date

July 26, 2013

Pre-Application Conference Date

July 30, 2013

Application Submission Deadline

August 15, 2013

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Checklist for Application
2013 Appropriations Act Grant(s) for Special Populations

- The applicant has responded to all sections of the Request for Application (“RFA”) and the application contains all the information and requested. Please see Section 3 for more detail, as well as Application workbook.
 - Tab 1—Table of Contents
 - Tab 2—Information and Certification
 - Tab 3—Assurances
 - Tab 4—Needs Assessment
 - Tab 5—Narrative – Special Populations
 - Tab 6—Expenditures – Special Populations
 - Tab 7—Budget – Special Populations

- The applicant has made certain the application adheres to the direction and criteria of each section of this RFA.

- The applicant has submitted:
 - One (1) electronic copy in Excel and one signature page in PDF, emailed to opcsfs.funding@dc.gov

- Applications received via email at or after 5:01 p.m. EST, on Thursday, August 15, 2013, will not be reviewed.** Any additions or deletions to an application will not be accepted after the deadline of 5:00 p.m. **No hard copies of the application will be accepted at OSSE.**

Request for Application
RFA # GDO-AA-13

Section 1: General Information

1.1 Introduction

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (ELSEC), within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), is soliciting applications from District of Columbia public charter schools. The purpose of the grant is to serve 3 and 4 year-olds in a preschool or pre-k program to develop school-readiness skills. The only LEAs that are eligible to receive a grant are those LEAs that have at least a 40% enrollment of students in preschool and/or pre-k programs and that have met the Title I poverty threshold of 35% of enrollment. Additionally, LEAs must commit to spending all grant funds awarded under this competition by September 30, 2014.

1.2 Purpose of Funds

The purpose of funding is to support LEAs that serve 3 and 4 year-olds to assist with implementation of supplementary activities that support school readiness, including the development of literacy and mathematics skills, with emphasis on supports to students to increase academic achievement. The activities outlined should enhance the quality of preschool or pre-k programming and funds should be used to supplement and not supplant existing programs.

1.3 Source of Funding

The Omnibus Appropriations Act FY2009, Public Law 111-8, enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled through the 111th Congress.

1.4 Requirement of Funding

The most important condition for receiving these funds is compliance with activities necessary to carry out and expand quality public charter schools in the District of Columbia, as specified in Public Law 111-8. LEAs must also follow the conditions outlined in Section 1114 (Schoolwide Programs) of Title I, Part A.

1.5 Funds Available and Funding Period

A total of approximately \$630,000 is available for awards through this RFA. The duration of this grant is for a period from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

1.6 Eligibility

An eligible applicant serves a student population that:

- Identifies at least forty percent of its enrollment as three and four year-olds in a preschool or pre-k program, and
- Identifies at least thirty-five percent of its student body as free or reduced lunch recipients.

ELIGIBLE LEAs:
AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School
Bridges Public Charter School
Creative Minds Public Charter School
DC Scholars Public Charter School
Eagle Academy Public Charter School
Mundo Verde Public Charter School
Shining Stars Montessori Public Charter School

1.7 Permissible Use of Funds

The funds associated with this RFA are strictly on a reimbursement basis and may only be used for allowable grant project expenditures during the grant period as follows:

- Costs must meet requirements of permissible use of Federal Funds within EDGAR 34 CFR Part 75, Part 76 and Part 80 and applicable OMB Circulars,
- Support projects that are linked to evidence-based research and have been shown to increase academic achievement and support school readiness,
- Support projects that apply promising practices to increase academic achievement, and
- Support projects that address needs identified within the Needs Assessment conducted.

All grant project budgets will be reviewed by OSSE to ensure expenditures are allowable and meet the intent of the purposes of this RFA. The teams will review the applications against the selection criteria outlined below. Final funding determinations will be made by OSSE.

Selection Criteria for Preschool or Pre-k programs serving 3 and 4 year-olds:

- The proposal outlines a clear plan for using the funds by the September 30, 2014 obligation deadline,
- The activities outlined support school readiness including the development of literacy and cognitive/mathematics skills,
- The activities outlined enhance the quality of preschool or pre-k programming, and
- The activities outlined are research-based.

Additional guidance about standards for determining costs for federal grants is available from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a087/a087-all.html#attb>.

Section 2: Schedule

2.1 RFA Release

The release date of the RFA is July 26, 2013. The RFA is available online at <http://osse.dc.gov/service/office-grants-management-and-compliance>.

2.2 Pre-Application Conference

Applicants are required to attend a mandatory pre-application conference prior to submitting an application for this grant. The pre-application conference will be held at OSSE headquarters. Absence from this conference will make an applicant ineligible to apply. Details are below:

Mandatory Pre-Application Conference

When: Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30pm

Where: OSSE – 810 First Street, NE, 5th Floor, Room 5014, Washington, DC 20001

At least one representative from each LEA must be present.

2.3 Contact Person(s)

Applicants are advised that the following staff are the authorized contact persons for the grant program:

- Faida Fuller, Interim Director of Fiscal Operations and Grants Management, faida.fuller@dc.gov
- Katie Cox, Education Grants Specialist, katherine.cox@dc.gov
- John Savage, Program Analyst, john.savage@dc.gov

2.4 Applications Due

Applications are due **August 15, 2013** by 5:00pm and must be delivered to opcsfs.funding@dc.gov.

Naming convention of email in subject line: Organization Name_Special Populations Grant. (Example: ABC Public Charter School_Special Populations Grant)

2.5 Updates

Information and updates regarding the competition will be emailed to those who are listed on the Contact Page of the application.

2.6 Awards Announcement

Awards will be announced via email on the OSSE website on **September 30, 2013**. ELSEC will disseminate award letters and grant award notifications within 7-14 days of the awards announcement.

Section 3: Application

3.1 Application Content

The Application includes the following tabs:

- Tab 1—Table of Contents
- Tab 2—Information and Certification
- Tab 3—Assurances
- Tab 4—Needs Assessment
- Tab 5—Narrative – Special Populations
- Tab 6—Expenditures – Special Populations
- Tab 7—Budget – Special Populations

Section 4: Scoring

4.1 Application Review

All grants within this RFA are competitive. EISec staff will review, score, and rank each applicant's application. Upon completion of its review, the reviewers shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). OSSE will make the final decisions.

4.2 Rubric

The rubric will be based on application content. The scoring rubric will be released with the application.