District of Columbia State Education Office

City Build Incentive Grant

Round Two

Pre-Application Conference

City Build Concept

- City Build fosters neighborhood revitalization by promoting academic excellence and encouraging sustainable partnerships between public charter schools and community organizations.

City Build Objectives

- The City Build grant is designed to:
  - Promote excellence in education
  - Foster community development
  - Attract and retain residents
  - Create partnerships between public charter schools and community organizations through the development of Community Schools

Award Details

- Grants will be for a period of two years from date of award.
- Grants may be used for facility and/or programmatic needs.
- Eligible entities may apply for up to $1,000,000 but may also apply for less than $1,000,000.

Eligibility

- A public charter school board of trustees, holding a valid District of Columbia charter, with enrolled District of Columbia students; or
- A District of Columbia non-profit or for-profit organization, representing a public charter school and benefiting that school.
- Previous recipients of City Build grants are NOT eligible to apply.

The First Round

- The first round of City Build received much attention and was featured in an EdWeek report as a groundbreaking initiative that focuses on charter schools as a strategy for revitalizing residential neighborhoods—a concept not employed in other urban areas.

Establishing a Proud Tradition

- The first five City Build schools were chosen for innovative neighborhood engagement strategies, promising academic trends and permanent location need.

- This year the SEO is providing greater flexibility regarding location while maintaining the requirement that grantees use the funds to positively impact the larger community surrounding the public charter school.

Changes from Round One

Round two places more emphasis on:

- educational quality and requires growth gains reports
- sustainability of partnerships and collaborations that are designed to benefit the surrounding community
- greater flexibility regarding location, but applicants must still locate in a community demonstrating the potential for revitalization

Primary Grant Components

- All grant applications are required to include:
  - Growth gains based on standardized tests and other assessments
  - Proof of sustainable neighborhood collaboration
  - Evidence showing target neighborhood is undergoing revitalization or has near term potential for revitalization

Criterion A: Location Identification

- Applications should:
  - Demonstrate the potential for revitalization, either already underway or near term potential
  - Identify demographics and needs of the community
  - Describe how the school will serve as a community school as well as an anchor to attract and retain residents

Criterion B:
Proven Educational Excellence

- Schools must provide proof of educational excellence through growth gains and benchmarking.

- Educational curriculum is based on sound academic research and is designed to promote educational excellence and growth.

Criterion C: Facility Assessment

- Facility Assessment should include:
  - Condition of current location and financial obligation to the current location
  - Suitability of location to handle enrollment growth
  - Clear explanation regarding the need for a new facility or expansion of an existing facility

- If no facility change, then clearly state how the current facility will meet the proposed programmatic initiative.

Criterion D: Expansion of Services

- Applications should identify:
  - how enrollment opportunities will expand and/or how innovative and engaging academic opportunities for students will be provided
  - additional services to be provided to community

- 10 Bonus points awarded for **substantive** educational and/or programmatic initiatives that address:
  - special education
  - career and technical education
  - family literacy
  - college access

Criterion E:
Schools as Centers of Community

Applications must:

- Explain how the design and location of the building will support community partnerships as well as extensive and innovative community use
- Clearly demonstrate how the public charter school will serve as an anchor to the community, both through education and community related benefits
- Clearly demonstrate the sustainability of partnerships, collaborations, and/or programming

Criterion F: Budget

- Line-item budget should:
  - justify each item
  - offers ease of use for project accountability
  - demonstrate benefits to be gained
  - show viability of program beyond the funding years
  - explain how the applicant intends make effective use of public dollars to secure creative financing mechanisms and/or leverage other funding

Review and Award Decision

- Review panel will score all applications and provide recommendation to the State Education Office.
- Based on review panel recommendations, the SEO will decide which applicants will receive funds, and the amounts to be awarded.

Important Submission Details

- Applications must be double-spaced and contain no more than 35 pages (excluding forms and attachments).
- Applications must be received by 5:00 EST on Friday August 25, 2006.
- The SEO cannot make exceptions to these technical provisions.
- **In person submissions are recommended.**