

Louisiana Public Charter Schools Program Grant Quick Reference Guide

Program Description

In September 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) was awarded a \$55.5 million federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant to support Louisiana's charter school movement. Through the Louisiana Public Charter Schools Program (LPCSP), the LDOE will catalyze charter growth in other high-need communities to meet insistent parental demand for these schools. Over the five-year project period, LDOE will support the addition of over 5,000 seats at 25 new, expanding, or replicating charter schools that meet grant objectives and priorities.

What are the grant objectives?

1. Broadening access to high-quality public school seats for educationally disadvantaged students throughout Louisiana.
2. Improving educational outcomes for educationally disadvantaged students attending Louisiana charter schools.
3. Enhancing the quality of charter school authorization across Louisiana. Through LPCSP, LDOE will work on a systematic basis to solicit parental input; cultivate pipelines of innovative, capable charter school developers; provide essential start-up support, impactful technical assistance, and efficient monitoring; and systematically build the human, organizational, policy, and resource capacity of all public chartering agencies across the state.

What are the grant priority areas?

- Serving rural communities;
- Serving systems with limited choice;
- Serving communities with high concentrations of schools that have earned Academically Unacceptable Status (AUS) for at least three consecutive years; and
- Serving students residing in 'D' or 'F' rated school districts.

Subgrant Awards

Who can apply for the LPCSP Subgrant Awards?

- BESE Authorized Charter Schools: Type 2, Type 4, and Type 5
- Locally Authorized Charter Schools: Type 1, Type 3, and Type 3B

How does an organization apply?

School Status	How to Apply
New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Charter Application • Complete the CSP Request for Applications (RFA) and submit it to LDOE
Expansion/ Replication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the CSP RFA and submit it to LDOE

How much are subgrantees awarded?

Awards for new, expansion, and replication subgrants are up to \$2 million.

How can LPCSP funds be used?

Planning funds may be used during the Pre-opening period before the launch of the charter school. If the school is planning to open that upcoming school year, funds may be used for a minimum of six months and a maximum of nine months. If the school is planning to open the following school year, funds may be used for a minimum of six months and a maximum of 18 months. During the planning period, sub-grant recipients may only spend funds on federally permitted planning activities:

- Pre-opening salaries for essential staff;
- Refinement of the desired educational results and the method for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and
- Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school.

Implementation funds may be used during the first 24 months of operation, in which year one does not exceed the first 12 months of operation and year two does not exceed the second 12 months of operation. During an implementation period, sub-grant recipients may only spend funds on federally permitted implementation activities, including but not limited to:

- Informing the community about the school;
- Acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials, and supplies;
- Acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and
- Other initial operational costs, such as
 - Support costs associated with wireless infrastructure (which is costlier in less densely populated areas);
 - 1:1 student and staff technology;
 - Pre-opening salaries for essential staff;
 - Student and staff recruitment;
 - Professional development;
 - Classroom supplies and materials; and
 - One-time investments in transportation (e.g., the purchase of buses).



What performance measures will be used to monitor subgrant awardees?

In addition to academic performance, subgrant recipients will also be required to participate in specific activities and oversight and meet performance measures.

Where can I find out more about LPCSP?

The RFA provides greater detail and instructions.

For additional information on the LPCSP, please contact the Executive Director of New School Strategy, Tammy Morgan, at Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov or send inquiries to cspgrant@la.gov.