# **Great Schools for Connecticut**

Connecticut's Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant





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### Agenda for Today's Session

What is the Great Schools for Connecticut (GSCT) CSP Grant?

Grant Logistics (Size, Duration, Structure of Grants, Allowable Costs)

What Are the Steps in the Application Process? (Eligibility Check, Application, Peer Review)

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

**Technical Assistance** 

Important Dates, Questions and Closeout





### What is the Charter Schools Program (CSP)?

In September 2022 NECSN was awarded \$24.5 million for the GSCT Project by the U.S. Department of Education under the FY '22 CSPto <u>State Entities</u> Grants Program. The grant is to be administered by the Connecticut Charter School Association (CTCSA).

CSP is authorized by Title IV, part C- Expanding Quality Through Quality Charter Schools of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. CSP is a competitive public charter school grant that can only be awarded to <a href="https://example.com/high-quality">high-quality</a> §4310 (8) schools that meet federal and state definitions of a charter school.





### GSCT's main objectives

- Increasing the number of high-quality public-school seats for educationally disadvantaged students in Connecticut;
- 2. Strengthening the caliber of the state's charter school operation and authorization; and
- 3. Heightening collaboration and resource sharing between and among schools with different governance structures.





### Charter Schools Program (CSP)

The CSP Grant to <u>State Entities</u> §4303 (a)(4) enables CTCSA to award subgrants to:

- Open and prepare for the operation of new high-quality public charter schools;
- **Replicate** and **expand high -quality** public charter schools;
- Provide Technical Assistance (TA) to eligible applicants and authorized public chartering agencies to improve authorizing quality, including developing capacity for, and conducting, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools.





### How \$24.5 million of CSP funding will be spent §4303(c)

90% for subgrant awards (\$22 million)

- Opening new charter schools
- Expanding and replicating existing charter schools

7% for Technical Assistance (\$1.7 million)

- Subgrant TA
- Authorizer TA

3% Administrative Costs (\$0.7 million)

Overheads for grant related activities





### **Grant Logistics**

Size: All subgrantees are eligible for the maximum grant award of \$1,469,250

#### Term and Structure:

Type of	Number of awards	Maximum funding	Proposed split of the available subgrants		
subgrant	for 2023 RFA	available for award	over 36 months		
			First year	Second year	Third year
New school	1	\$1,469,250	\$489,750	\$489,750	\$489,750
Replication	1	\$1,469,250	\$979,500	\$489,750	
Expansion	1	\$1,469,250	\$1,469,250		

New School and Replication Applicants may request a breakdown of award term into Planning and Implementation. Planning periods may not exceed 18 months.





# **Grant Logistics**

#### Base Award and Escalators:

Criterion	Target	Award Amount	Timing
1	Base Award	\$1,250,000	Maximum base award possible. Final award amount is contingent on budget request in grant application and CTCSA input.
2	School enrolls at least 100 educationally disadvantaged students in CSP-funded grades	\$150,000	Verified upon submission of a certificate of occupancy by the school in the first year of full operations
3	School earns competitive preference points on its RFA in connection with the 'collaboration with at least one traditional public school or traditional school district' priority and provides an MOU within the prescribed timeline	\$69,250	Verified upon submission of an MOU or other acceptable documentation outlining the terms of the collaboration with the traditional public school or school district in the first full year of operations.





#### Allowable Costs — refer to Allowable Cost Guide for details

In general, CSP funding is meant to supplement, not supplant other sources of funding.

#### Allowable (2 CFR 200.403)

Necessary and reasonable for performance of the Federal Award, confirms to limitations on what is allowed under federal award principles, be adequately documented, be accorded consistent treatment, and more.

#### Reasonable (2 CFR 200.404)

A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost.

#### Allocable (2 CFR 200.405)

Costs are incurred specifically for the Federal award; benefit both the Federal award and other work of the non-Federal entity and can be distributed in proportions that may be approximated using reasonable methods; is necessary to the overall operation of the non-Federal entity and is assignable in part to the Federal award in accordance with the principles in this subpart.





# Application Process – 2 stages, both on SurveyMonkey Apply platform

#### **Eligibility Check**

Pre-screening mechanism to ensure only eligible applicants move to RFA stage

#### Applicants must:

- Evidence they have been authorized AND appropriated
- Demonstrate <u>high-quality</u> §4310(8)

#### Request for Applications (RFA)

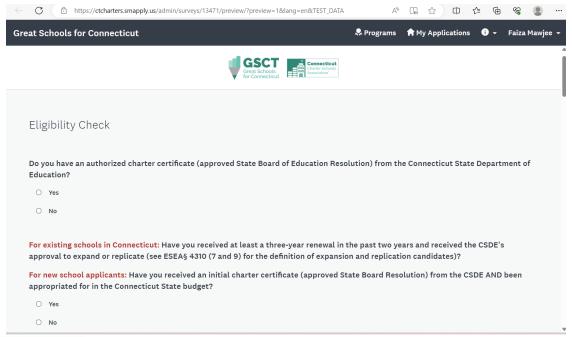
Eligible applicants will be invited to this stage to complete the RFA process

RFA contains project and budget narrative, requires submission of various documents

Applications will be scored using a scoring rubric, applicants are encouraged to use rubric as a guide to structure narrative portion

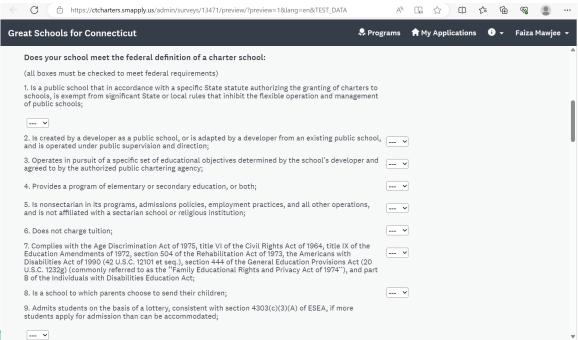






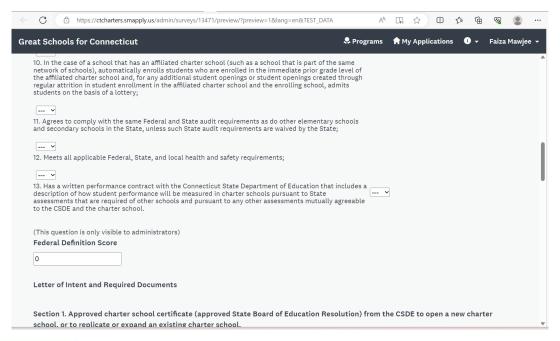






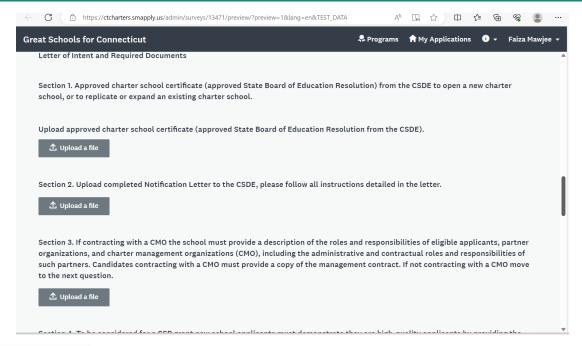






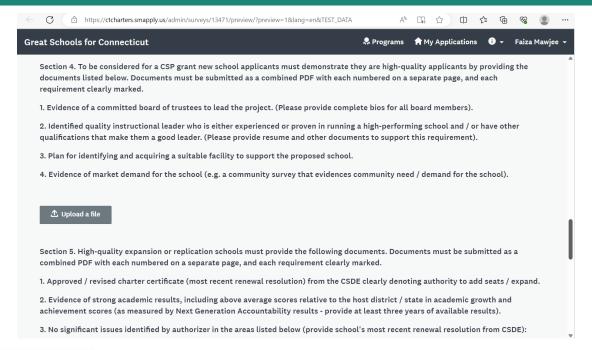






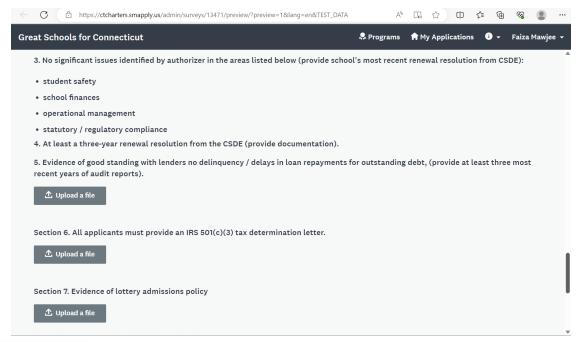






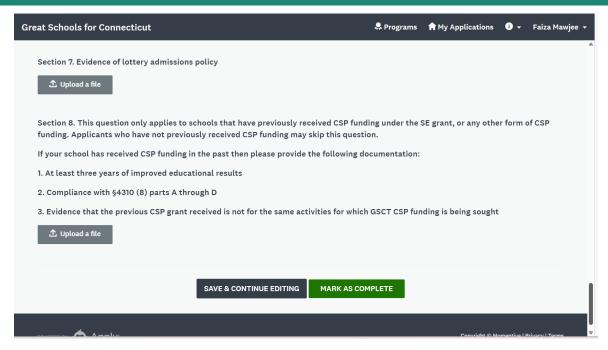
















#### **Notification Letter**

As required by <u>ESEA §4310 (6) (B)</u> (page 267/449) all applicants wishing to apply for the Charter School Program funding under the GSCT Project are required to provide timely and adequate notice to the authorizer, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

This can be done by submitting a **Notification Letter** to the CSDE between **September 8 – 13th, 2023**. **September 13<sup>th</sup> is the deadline** to **submit the Notification Letter to the CSDE**.





#### Notification Letter - Instructions

- 1. Download the Notification Letter template as a MS Word document.
- 2. Complete the template and save it as a PDF document.
- 3. Email the completed PDF document to Felicia Canty at the State of Connecticut Department of Education at the following email address: <a href="mailto:felicia.canty@ct.gov">felicia.canty@ct.gov</a>.
- 4. The GSCT team must be copied on the above email communication at the following email address: <a href="mailto:csp@ctcharters.org">csp@ctcharters.org</a>
- 5. Save a PDF copy of the email to the CSDE, clearly showing both email recipients.
- 6. Combine the Notification letter and PDF email copy into one PDF and upload this combined PDF into the Notification Letter Section of the Eligibility Check on the GSCT application portal.





# Notification Letter - Template

#### Notification Letter

This letter is to notify the Charter School Office at the Connecticut State Department of Education that (Insert school name): intends to apply for the CSP funding in the Great Schools for Connecticut (RFA202301) grant cycle.															
intends t	o appl	y for th	ne CSP	fundir	g in th	e Grea	t Scho	ols for	Conne	ecticut	(RFA2	02301	grant g	cycle.	
GSCT Pro	GSCT Project Grant Budget request \$														
Purpose	Purpose of funding: Choose an item.														
	Charter School Information														
School N	School Name:														
Applican	Applicant Contact:														
Signature	Signature:														
Name of	Name of Proposed School:														
Current Mailing Address:															
Office Phone: () Cell Phone: ()															
Email:															
Type of Charter: State Charter School Local Charter School															
Projected Student Enrollment for the first year of opening: Choose an item.															
Grade	PK	к	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Year	"	"	1	_	,	"			ĺ	"	,	10	11	12	/otal
Year 1															$\Box$
Year 2															
Year 3															
Year 4															





#### Peer Review and Pre-Award Process

#### Peer Review

All applications will be vetted by independent peer reviewers, CTCSA does not determine outcome of grant application

Only applicants meeting cut-off score (70 – 75%) of total score of 126 points will be considered for funding

#### Capacity Calls

Applicants who meet cut-off scores will be invited to capacity call with peer reviewers, CTCSA to observe

Final award will occur post capacity call





### Award and post -award processes

Awarded applicants will sign contract with CTCSA agreeing to abide by federal requirements for the CSP grant, include monitoring and reporting requirements.

Monitoring Guide will provide guidance towards fulfilling monitoring requirements. Monitoring includes submitting annual Monitoring Rubric Sheet, completion of a pre -award self-risk assessment sheet, CTCSA site visits and board meeting attendance, fiscal and programmatic review and more.

Deficiencies in meeting grant requirements will require a Corrective Action Plan and all monitoring findings will be made public on the CTCSA website and shared with CSDE.





#### Award and post -award processes

Programmatic reporting is at regular intervals and frequency will be determined by risk assessment. At a minimum all grantees will submit an annual Monitoring Rubric Sheet, an annual report 90 days after end of grant year, and a final report after the end of the grant period.

Financial reporting will be covered in-depth during the Budget webinar (scheduled for 9/22/2023). CSP is a reimbursement -based grant and all reimbursements will be required on a monthly basis, budget reconciliation will be on a quarterly basis.





### **Technical Assistance (TA)**

GSCT will offer subgrantees TA pre-award and throughout the life of the CSP grant. Aim of TA is capacity building for new and existing schools.

Office hours to be held at each stage of the application process, applicants and eventual subgrantees are encouraged to utilize this time well.

Targeted TA will be offered throughout grant lifecycle based on risk assessment, findings during annual monitoring review, monthly and quarterly budget updates.

Targeted TA will assist subgrantees in developing parent communication, leadership fellowships, board member TA, special ed. TA and more

Authorizer TA will also be offered to offer support to the CSDE





# **Important Dates**

Event	Date
Notification Letter Due to CSDE	September 8 – 13th, 2023
Letter of Intent Submission Window	September 11–18, 2023
Pre-RFA Webinar	Monday, September 18, 2023 (10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.)
Budget Webinar	Friday, September 22, 2023 (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
RFA Submission Window	October 2 – October 27, 2023
Capacity Calls with Peer Reviewers	November 17, 20, 27, 28, 29
Awards to be announced	Dec 11- 13, 2023





#### Questions?

Important emails:

csp@ctcharters.org

cspfinance@ctcharters.org

Website: <a href="https://csp.ctcharters.org/">https://csp.ctcharters.org/</a>







