



**Pennsylvania Charter
Schools Program Grant**

**PACSP Meet and Greet
January 22, 2021
PACSP Project Year 1**

PACSP Project Team

- ▶ PACSP Co-Director: Brandie Karpew

- ▶ Brandie is the Director of Operations and Development at PCPCS. Drawing on her background as a budgetary and statistical analyst, Brandie possesses both intimate familiarity with PA's charter school ecosystem and extensive experience steering complex projects toward completion in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Amongst her many responsibilities for PACSP, Brandie will oversee communication through the PACSP website and the formation and operation of parent steering committees. Brandie is uniquely positioned to provide expert guidance and technical assistance to Project Team members and subgrantees alike throughout the PACSP project.

- ▶ PACSP Co-Director: Abby Dubinchik

- ▶ Abby is the Director of Compliance at Charter Choices, where she coordinates the federal grants programing and reporting for over 35 Pennsylvania schools. She earned her Master's in Education Policy at the University of Pennsylvania and has played numerous roles with the Commonwealth's public education system over the past decade. Abby will oversee the development of the grant management platform, ensure project-wide fiscal compliance, and conduct many administrative and technical assistance duties throughout the PACSP project.

- ▶ Executive Lead: Lenny McAllister

- ▶ Lenny is the Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools. Lenny has been a champion of education equity, civil rights, and policy reforms as a leading voice on local, statewide, and national platforms for years. At Commonwealth Foundation, Lenny provided policy analysis and advocacy on multiple issues that directly impact the lives of Pennsylvanians and indirectly influence others around America. As the Executive Lead, Lenny will serve as a liaison to share information about the program to the legislature and the media.

PACSP Project Team

- ▶ **Community Engagement Lead: Jessica Hickernell**
 - ▶ Jessica is the Director of Public Affairs and Policy at PCPCS and will serve as the Community Engagement Lead for PACSP. She is responsible for organizing the Coalition's advocacy and grassroots efforts, and she has developed strong working relationships with charter school parents and communities across the Commonwealth.
- ▶ **Financial Lead: Mike Whisman**
 - ▶ Mike, the Founder of Charter Choices and the project's Financial Lead, has provided business and financial support services to over 50 schools across the Commonwealth over the past two decades and is nationally regarded as an expert in charter school finance.
- ▶ **Technical Assistance Lead: Jesse Bean**
 - ▶ Jesse, Principal, School Services at Charter Choices, will bring the perspective of a Philadelphia charter school leader, a decade of classroom experience, and a Master's in School Leadership from Harvard to his role as PACSP Technical Assistance Lead.

True and False

- ▶ I have to be a member of PCPCS in order to be eligible to receive PACSP grant funds.
- ▶ Cyber charter schools are eligible to receive PACSP grant funds.
- ▶ New charter school development, expansions, and replications are all eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$1.5 million for 3 years.
- ▶ The PCPCS Board of Trustees will make the subgrant determinations.
- ▶ Applicants must have an approved charter from a Pennsylvania authorizer in order to be apply for PACSP.
- ▶ Subgrantee funds can be used for new building construction.
- ▶ The first PACSP application will open on February 15, 2021 and close on March 18, 2021.

Fast Facts

- ▶ PCPCS was awarded \$30 million for the Charter School Programs (CSP) Grants to State Entities over the period of the next five years, 2021-2025
- ▶ Two overriding outcomes:
 - ▶ Increase the number of high-quality charter schools that educate substantial at-risk student populations, and
 - ▶ Improve student outcomes in PA charter schools, particularly for at-risk students. 90% of funds are to be used for the development, expansion, and replication of 18 high quality brick and mortar charter schools in PA
- ▶ 3% of funds for administrative activities and 7% of funds are for technical assistance activities to provide support to district authorizers, prospective applicants, and subgrantees
- ▶ To see our application submitted to U.S. Department of Education: [CSP Grants to State Entities Program Awards](#)

PACSP Administrative Services

- ▶ **Brandie Karpew and Abby Dubinchik - PACSP Co-Directors**
- ▶ Head activities related to the CSP subgrant process as well as project management over the five years.
 - ▶ Development of PACSP program documents
 - ▶ Development of application and scoring rubrics
 - ▶ Conduct desk and site reviews for subgrantees
 - ▶ Prepare and submit all required documentation to U.S. Department of Education

PACSP Technical Assistance

- ▶ **Jesse Bean, Charter Choices - Technical Assistance Lead**
- ▶ All subgrantees will **receive technical assistance** in the form of workshops, webinars, site visits and coaching for teachers, leaders and board members.
 - ▶ Our GOAL is to help you achieve the purposes of this grant: increased access and opportunity, along with improved outcomes for at-risk students in PA
 - ▶ Format - combination of virtual/in-person training and compliance support (12-15 days/year)
- ▶ **Topics will align to PCPCS' Quality Standards and include:**
 - ▶ Instructional Design & Improvement
 - ▶ Managing Resources - Human & Financial
 - ▶ Managing Federal Grant Funds
 - ▶ Race & Equity in Schools
 - ▶ Building School Culture via Trauma-Informed Practices
 - ▶ Recruitment, Retention and Community Outreach
 - ▶ School Governance & Board Responsibilities
- ▶ **Annual Progress Reports & Formative Evaluations**
 - ▶ Setting goals, Tracking progress

Eligible Applicants

- ▶ Brick and Mortar Charter Schools Only
- ▶ APPROVED charter from a Pennsylvania authorizer; PACSP cannot fund applications throughout the charter application process
- ▶ Applicants do not have to be PCPCS members, however we would love for you to join!
- ▶ Applicants must conform to the federal ESSA definitions: [P.L.114-95, section 4310\(2\)](#)
- ▶ PACSP has developed an Eligibility Guide to help prospective applicants. This guide will be posted to the PCPCS CSP webpage by January 29, 2021.

Development of new CS

- ▶ School must be a brick-and-mortar charter school
- ▶ School must have an approved charter in the state of Pennsylvania
- ▶ School must meet the federal ESSA definition of a charter school

Expansion of existing high-quality CS

- ▶ School must be a brick-and-mortar charter school
- ▶ School must have an approved charter in the state of Pennsylvania
- ▶ School must meet the federal ESSA definitions of a charter school, expansion, and high-quality
- ▶ School can either “significantly increase enrollment”, **OR** add one or more grades to the existing high-quality charter school
 - ▶ PACSP defines “significantly increase enrollment”: a verified increase in overall total enrollment by 20% (rounded to the nearest whole number and not limited to the year in which the prospective applicant intends to apply)

Replication of existing high-quality CS

- ▶ School must be a brick-and-mortar charter school
- ▶ School must have an approved charter in the state of Pennsylvania
- ▶ School must meet the federal ESSA definitions of a charter school, replication, and high-quality
- ▶ Replication is defined: “to open a new charter school, or a new campus of a high-quality charter school, based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school, under an existing charter or an additional charter”

Award Structure for Subgrantees

- ▶ Maximum award size for all subgrantees is \$1,500,000

Grant period for subgrantees is three years:

- ▶ Year 1, subgrantee eligible for up to \$1,100,000
- ▶ Year 2, subgrantee eligible for up to \$200,000
- ▶ Year 3, subgrantee eligible for up to \$200,000
- ▶ Funding amounts are based on conditions seen to the right

Condition	Amount	Timing
Base Award	\$900,000	20% allocated upon preliminary notice of grant award; remainder upon finalized subgrant contract
School either (a) is located in a QOZ or (b) draws at least 40% of its student population from neighboring QOZs	\$200,000	First verified enrollment count in Subgrant Year 1
At least 60% of School's students are economically disadvantaged and at least 75% of a school's students are Black or Hispanic	\$200,000	First verified enrollment count in Subgrant Year 1
School educates at least 150 economically disadvantaged students in CSP-funded grades	\$200,000	First verified enrollment count in Subgrant Year 2

Subgrantee Funds - Allowable Costs

- ▶ PACSP will release “Allowable Cost Guide” by January 29, 2021. Please look out for this!

Allowable Uses:

- ▶ Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel
- ▶ Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials).
- ▶ Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).
- ▶ Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.

Subgrantee Funds - Unallowable Costs

- ▶ Construction of a new facility
- ▶ Lobbying or related expenses
- ▶ Promotional materials
- ▶ Student membership fees and student conferences
- ▶ Athletic (team/afterschool) equipment
- ▶ Addition of permanent structural improvement or restoration of some aspect of a property that will either enhance the property's overall value or increase its useful life

Peer Review Team

A PRT has been established for the Project Year 1 Application review:

- ▶ Disinterested member of PCPCS Board
- ▶ Successful charter school founder
- ▶ Expert in charter school business management and finance
- ▶ Representative from PA institution of higher education
- ▶ Member of the PCPCS Legal Advisory Council

Conflict of Interest:

- ▶ PRT disclosed any potential conflict of interest during application process
- ▶ Co-Directors appointed 2 alternates
- ▶ PRT will disclose conflict of interest again before review based on applications submitted

Scoring Criteria

- ▶ New School/Development Applicants complete three narrative sections
- ▶ Expansion/Replication Applicants complete four narrative sections - Track Record to demonstrate applicant is a high-quality charter school
- ▶ Each applicant will receive one weighted percent for each application section, that is then summed for a final weighted percent for the whole application
- ▶ Eligibility for receiving a subgrant: earn at least 75% of available points AND be among the most highly rated applicants during a subgrant cycle

Application Section	Scoring Rubric	Weighting (Expansion/Replication Applications)	Weighting (New School Applications)
School Model (Qualitative)	PCPCS Quality Standards Four-Point Scale (Exemplary Effective Emerging Absent)	35%	50%
Track Record (Quantitative)	SDP Academic, Organization, and Financial Metrics Three-Point Scale (Meets Standard Approaching Standard Does Not Meet Standard)	35%	N/A
PACSP Project-Specific Narratives	Custom PACSP Scoring Rubric Four-Point Scale (Exceeds Expectations Meets Expectations Partially Meets Expectations Does Not Meet Expectations)	15%	25%
Competitive Preference Priorities	Custom PACSP Scoring Rubric Four-Point Scale (Exceeds Expectations Meets Expectations Partially Meets Expectations Does Not Meet Expectations)	15%	25%

Next Steps!

- ▶ Application for Year 1 Opens on February 15, 2021 and closes on March 18, 2021. PRT review to shortly after window closure. Applicants and Authorizers receive status on application by May 7, 2021
 - ▶ Upon application opening on 2/15 we will release: RFA, budget template, budget sample, Fed Reporting instructions
- ▶ Application Training:
 - ▶ February 16, 2021 at 11:00 am: Link to Eventbrite to register is on the PACSP webpage, <http://pacharters.org/csp-grant-program/>
 - ▶ March 5, 2021 at 11:00 am: Second training for prospective applicants. We will send out notification when this training is available for registration. Will be a repeat of the first training on the 16th.

Next Steps!

- ▶ Today's workshop slides, Today's Q&A responses, Allowable Cost Guide, and Eligibility Guide will all be posted on the PCPCS CSP webpage by January 29, 2021.
- ▶ Many more webinars are being planned in the next few months so please always check the PCPCS webpage for upcoming events!

Questions?

Main Contacts

- ▶ Brandie Karpew: pacspgrant@pacharters.org for Program and RFA questions
- ▶ Abby Dubinchik: pacspfinance@pacharters.org for Fiscal and Budget questions
- ▶ Jesse Bean: pacsptechassit@pacharters.org for Technical Assistance questions

The contents of this presentation were developed under a Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant awarded to the Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.