



Charter Schools Institute
The State University of New York

June 17, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: All New York State Charter School Leaders

From: David Hruby, Director of School Finance, SUNY Charter Schools Institute

Subject: SUNY Issues 2011-12 RFP for NYS Charter School Stimulus Fund Grants -- Open to ALL Qualified NYS Charter Schools, Regardless of Authorizer

The SUNY Charter Schools Institute, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, is pleased to announce that it will accept applications for grants connected with the New York State Charter Schools Stimulus Fund (SSF), in support of charter school Facility Funding or Technology.

For the first time, SUNY will be independently administering the program and will be accepting applications from all qualified charter schools regardless of authorizer. Specifically, schools authorized by SUNY, the Chancellor of the New York City School District, the Board of Regents/New York State Education Department and the Buffalo Board of Education are all potentially qualified schools under this RFP.

SUNY has available to it, pursuant to a 2011-12 State budget appropriation, funding for the development, implementation, and operation of charter schools. It is expected that \$3.1 million, for the Charter Schools Stimulus Fund (“SSF”) grants, should be available to SUNY to award to eligible charter school applicants regardless of authorizer.

The RFP for NYS Stimulus Fund Grants can be found on the Institute’s website at:
<http://www.newyorkcharters.org/schoolsGrantOpps.htm>

Go to the New York State Stimulus Fund Grants section and click on ‘[RFP for 2011-12 New York State Stimulus Fund \(SSF\)](#).’

PERMISSIBLE USES

A. Facility Financing

The Institute acknowledges that facility financing options for charter schools are limited, and therefore proposes to use the majority of the available grant funds to pay for certain costs associated with the acquisition, renovation, or construction of school facilities with certain restrictions on leasehold improvements.

B. Technology

The Institute also acknowledges that charter schools may have compelling technology needs including equipment that cannot be funded or funded fully by other grant sources, or through school district payments to charter schools. The primary goal of this type of grant is to improve student achievement through the integration and use of technology in the education program including both teacher training and related curriculum development.

The Institute will prioritize proposals that detail a use for technology that will particularly serve English language learners, students with special education needs, over-age and under-credited students, students in the juvenile justice system, and students in the foster care system. Five bonus points (out of 100 total points) will be added to Proposals that successfully address this priority.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Charter schools authorized by the State University of New York, the Chancellor of the New York City School District, the Board of Regents/New York State Education Department and the Buffalo Board of Education are eligible to apply. **Schools that have received more than \$350,000 of stimulus funds at any time prior to 2011-12 are NOT eligible to apply.** Applicants must either hold a charter by the final date for submission or must have had a charter application approved by its charter entity and that charter entity must have submitted the proposed charter to the Board of Regents by the final date for submission. In the event that a SSF grant is awarded but a charter does not follow within 120 days from the date of submission to the Board of Regents, the Institute will rescind the grant and award a SSF grant to the Proposal with the next highest score.

If a school has provided instruction, the school must be a “Charter School in Good Standing” according to the State Education Department’s School Accountability Report, which indicates that the school has not failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two successive years under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, as amended (NCLB). Also, at the time that the RFP is due, an eligible school cannot be: a) on probation; b) in violation of a corrective action plan; or c) planning to or required to cease operations at the end of the current school year.

For Facility Financing grants, schools in public or private, leased space (excluding NYCDOE space) must produce a lease agreement with the grant proposal indicating the school will remain in the space referred to in the proposal for a minimum of THREE years. Charter schools in or planning to be in public school buildings owned or operated by the NYCDOE must include with the proposal at minimum an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) from the NYCDOE indicating the school will be in the space referred to in the proposal for at least THREE years or an executed memorandum of understanding containing the same terms.

In addition, Facility Financing grants that would involve leasehold improvements in facilities owned or operated by the NYCDOE with an estimated value of over \$5,000, the applicant must have secured a letter from the NYCDOE stating that the Chancellor of the New York City School District approves of the expenditure by the charter school and will provide matching funds to all other district (non-charter) schools in the facility per the new requirements in the New York Charter Schools Act. ***Applications of this type that receive an award will have until December 1, 2011 (no extension possible) to produce such a letter***

or will be deemed ineligible and no longer capable of receiving 2011-12 grant funds. In addition, SSF funding cannot be used to pay NYCDOE matching funds or to fund improvements for other schools in NYCDOE space or for common space.

Proposal Due Date: 8/1/2011 3:00 PM

Contract Term: Estimated one-year term – 7/1/2011 – 8/31/2012

Location: Albany, NY

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