

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY 23 Middle School CTE Expansion Grant

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: August 19, 2022 at 12:00 PM EST

Career and Technical (CTE) Middle School Expansion Grant

Purpose of Funding: Middle school coursework in CTE subjects provides students with a foundation for success in high school CTE courses. Award recipients will be responsible for creating or enhancing a CTE course on their campus. Middle School CTE provides an opportunity for District of Columbia public and public-charter middle school students to experience hands-on learning, workplace skills, and career exploration. Along with creating or enhancing a CTE course, District of Columbia local education agencies (LEAs) should plan to develop a culture of CTE that expands into core subject areas and supports the curriculum students are already learning. CTE empowers students to explore interests and discover activities that are inspiring. It allows students to experience potential career pathways and gives them an awareness of the many available options.

Eligibility:

The District of Columbia Public Schools or a District of Columbia public charter school (referred to herein as a local education agency (LEA)) serving public and public-charter middle school students in grade five (5) through grade eight (8) within the District of Columbia at the time of application are eligible to apply. This is a competitive grant, and applications will be reviewed and scored by reviewers external to OSSE. All LEAs planning to apply for this grant are required to attend at least one of the virtual pre-application webinars and to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply by the deadline specified in this NOFA to be eligible for funding.

Preference points will be awarded to LEAs with demonstrated need, as documented by any of the following characteristics:

- LEAs with at least 70% of the student population who are at-risk as defined by OSSE. Please visit OSSE's web site and the [DC School Report Card Resource](#) Library to obtain data on percentages of at-risk students at each District school.
- LEAs that have identified a strategic plan for CTE programming that will impact all students in grade five (5) through grade eight (8) served by the LEA and involve community participation. LEAs program plan should not be limited or exclusive to any sub-groups (i.e., one grade level or one after school club)
- LEAs that have created a strategic implementation plan to strengthen the pathways between CTE programming in middle school with 8th grade students and high school career programs. LEAs should be able to identify the feeder schools their students are most likely to transition to and explain how their plan aligns with the career programs offered in those spaces.

- LEAs that currently implement a CTE course on their campus and LEAs that have a set plan to incorporate a CTE course on their campus or to enhance a currently implemented CTE course.
- LEAs who plan to use CTE programming to enhance students' learning and performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math courses.

Length of Award:

To support this work, this grant will provide two (2) years of seed funding and support to middle schools offering at least one (1) career exploration course and support activities described within the application. The grant award period will be from the date of the award through Sept. 30, 2023, and LEAs must commit to obligate all grant funds awarded under this competition by Sept. 30, 2023. Please note that applicants awarded funds in FY22 for two years will need to complete a continuation application for year two. Continuation of awards is contingent upon: availability of funds; recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application; recipient's demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient's reports; compliance with District and federal laws, regulations, and guidance; and appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period.

Available Funding for Awards:

The total amount of anticipated funding available for the FY23 award period is \$400,000. OSSE anticipates awarding funds in FY23 to eight eligible applicants. Awarded LEAs will receive a total of \$50,000 per year for two years (subject to continuation funding received for year two), totaling at \$100,000. All applicants awarded funds in FY23 for two years will need to complete a continuation application to receive funding for year two. Grant funds shall only be used to support activities authorized as relevant statutes allow, as are included in the applicant's submission, and as permitted within the terms and conditions of the Request for Applications and the grant award notice. The award amount is limited to \$50,000 per year, without exception.

The Request for Applications (RFA) release date: August 19, 2022 at 12:00 PM EST. The RFA will be available on OSSE's website at: <https://osse.dc.gov/service/career-and-technical-education-cte> and at the Serve DC grants website.

Two Virtual Pre-Application Webinars (Mandatory): OSSE will host two virtual pre-application webinars on the following dates and times:

- **Pre-Application Webinar #1: August 23, 2022, at 3:45 PM EST:** The registration link for the August 15, 2022 webinar is: <https://dnet.webex.com/dnet/j.php?RGID=r82660bf9fc00cb315470bd5cc7501f88>
- **Pre-Application Webinar #2: August 30, 2022, at 10:00 AM EST:** The registration link for the August 30, 2022 webinar is: <https://dnet.webex.com/dnet/j.php?RGID=r76aa4920633d9671a09babd7f0d3b147>

All LEAs planning to apply for this grant are required to attend at least one of the virtual pre-application webinars hosted by OSSE to be eligible to receive funding.

Note of Intent to Apply Deadline (Mandatory): All LEAs seeking to receive funding under this RFA must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply, signed by an authorized official of the organization, via email to Francesca Glover at Francesca.glover@dc.gov on or before **September 19, 2022 at 3 PM EST**

Deadline for Electronic Submission: Applications are due on or before October 3, 2022 at 3:00 PM EST, and must be submitted through EGMS, OSSE's online electronic grant management system, at: <https://egmsfe.osse.dc.gov/>. The final determination of grant awards will be made within 45 days of the closing application due date (but no later than October 15, 2022).

To receive more information on this grant, please contact:

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