



**Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and  
Educational Policy  
Office of School Innovations**

**Maryland Charter School Program  
Grants for the Start-up, Replication, and Expansion of  
Public Charter Schools**

Issue Date: March 2019

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**What is the purpose of the grant program?**

The purpose of the Maryland Charter Schools Program is to award grants to eligible applicants to open and prepare for the operation of new charter schools, for the replication of high quality charter schools, or the expansion of high quality charter schools.

**What organizations are eligible?**

- An organization developing a charter school that has been approved by the local board of education.
- An organization that has submitted a complete application to the local board of education.
- An existing charter school that is seeking to expand.
- An existing charter school that is seeking to replicate.
- A new charter school in Year 1 or Year 2 of operation. Note that grant funds can only be requested for expenses related to start-up as described below. Ongoing operating costs or costs that are covered by other public funds are not allowed.

**When will grants be available?**

The next competition will be open in spring 2019. It is projected that a Request for Grant Applications will be issued in March and that the grant term will begin in September 2019. Updates will be posted here:  
<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Charter-Schools/index.aspx>

**What is the size of the grant?**

The exact size of any award will vary according the size and needs of the charter school, the proposed timeline, and other factors. The maximum award to any one charter school is \$900,000 over three years.

**How can grant funds be spent?**

An eligible applicant receiving a subgrant shall use the funds for one or more of the following:

- Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying the costs associated with providing professional development, and hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel during the planning period.
- Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials.
- Carrying out necessary repairs 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.
- Carrying out community engagement activities which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.
- Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to the opening and preparation to open, replicate or expand a charter school.

Federal and State guidelines will impact what is an allowable cost and what is not. Guidance on allowable costs will be provided with the Request for Grant Applications.

**Is there a matching funds requirement?**

No.

**What is the length of the grant period?**

The total grant period will not exceed three years. Grant funds can be used for one-time expenses related to a planning period of up to 18 months before the opening of the school, and /or for up to the first two years of operation. Examples:

- 12 months of planning pre-opening and 24 months of implementation = 36 months total.
- 3 months pre-opening and 24 months of implementation = 27 months total.
- 6 months pre-opening and 24 months of implementation = 30 months total.
- 18 months pre-opening and 18 months of implementation = 36 months total.

**How many grants will be made?**

For this, the projected number of awards is 5 based on an average award of \$700,000. This is an estimate.

**Is there technical assistance available?**

Yes. MSDE will host an information session about the application before its release. In addition, the MSDE will seek an organization to provide technical assistance opportunities to existing and developing charter schools.

The [Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools](#) is providing technical assistance to charter school developers and operating charter schools.

**How do I keep up-to-date?**

Check the website, [MSDE Charter Schools Page](#).

Send a request to [carol.beck@maryland.gov](mailto:carol.beck@maryland.gov) to be added to the mailing list for announcements and news.

**Contact**

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