

Charter School Resource Guide



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

5/20/2024

Overview

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Recovery Support Functions (RSF) are comprised of six coordinating structures for key areas of recovery assistance that include: Community Planning & Capacity Building (CPCB), Natural & Cultural Resources (NCR), Health & Social Services (HSS), Economic (ECON), Housing (HSG), and Infrastructure Systems (INF). The RSFs support local governments and entities by facilitating problem solving, improving access to resources, and fostering coordination among state, tribal, territorial and federal agencies, nongovernmental partners, and stakeholders.

The Cal OES HSS RSF has developed the Charter School Resource Guide to provide funding and technical assistance to California Charter Schools.

Charter schools in California are publicly funded independent schools that operate under a charter, or contract, that outlines the school's mission, program, students served, performance goals, and methods of assessment.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools receive public funding based on student enrollment. However, they often have more flexibility in how they use these funds, allowing them to innovate in curriculum design, teaching methods, and school management. In exchange for this flexibility, they are held accountable for achieving specific academic and operational outcomes outlined in their charter. Charter schools in California are authorized by a local school district, a county office of education, or the State Board of Education. Authorizers are responsible for overseeing charter schools to ensure they comply with the terms of their charter and state education laws.

The resources provided below cover a broad range of support. This guide's grant funding, technical assistance, and support resources are intended to assist with current recovery activities and build resiliency for the future.

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California State Grant & Loan Resources

California School Finance Authority (CSFA): Charter School Facilities Credit Enhancement Grant Program	
Application Deadline	Ongoing application period
Program Description	The federally-funded Charter School Facilities Credit Enhancement Grant Program provides grants to fund debt service reserve accounts fully or partially on bond transactions issued through the Authority. The grant is intended to reduce the overall cost of borrowing for charter schools as it eliminates the need to fund the reserve through bond proceeds.
Eligibility	Funds are available to charter schools operating in the state of California.
Maximum Award	Dependent. The authority may award up to \$1.5 million per application.
Application Process	Credit Enhancement Application
Website	CSFA Credit Enhancement Grant Program (ca.gov) CSFA Credit Enhancement Grant Program (ca.gov) Eligible Use of Funds
Contact Information	Email: csfa@treasurer.ca.gov Phone: 213-620-4608 CSFA Contact Information (ca.gov)
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing Grant Program

CSFA: Charter School Facilities Grant Program	
Application Deadline	2024 – 2025 Funding Round deadline June 5, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Late applications not accepted.
Program Description	Facilities grant to cover costs associated with sites not owned by a School District or County Office of Education. Associated costs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent or lease • Remodeling and/or initial install of service systems i.e., HVAC • deferred maintenance • site improvements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> classroom based instruction
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 55% students meeting Free and Reduced Priced Meals (FRPM) criteria; or Located in attendance area of an elementary schools with at least 55% FRPM along with preference in admission. Compliance with charter agreement; No pending corrective actions or notice of intent to revoke; If good standing is restored by the end of the fiscal year, Applicant will be eligible; No response from Authorizers will be presumed as acknowledgment of Good Standing
Maximum Award	2024 – 25: \$170,610,000 Funding formula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,432 x Average Daily Attendance; or 75% of costs associated with rent/lease costs
Application Process	Online applications only. Applications are available on CSFA website: https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/csfa/csfgp/index.asp Application Frequently Asked Questions: 2024-25-powerpoint.pdf
Website	Charter School Facility Grant Program
Contact Information	CSFA Northern and Southern CA Contact List

CSFA: The Charter School Revolving Loan Fund Program	
Application Deadline	June 30, 2024, Time 5:00 pm
Program Description	The Charter School Revolving Loan Fund (CSRFL) Program provides low-cost loans of up to \$250,000 to charter schools, with priority given to schools opening in the current fiscal year. The Authority conducts extensive credit evaluations, makes funding recommendations, executes loan agreements, creates payment schedules, disburses funds, offsets loan payments, collects delinquent or defaulted loans, and develops program fund reconciliations and projections.
Eligibility	Schools that have their charter in place, have a charter number, have a CDS Code, and are currently in operation with enrolled students.

Maximum Award	Up to \$250,000
Application Process	Online, see website: Log in - CSFA (ca.gov)
Website	CSFA CSRLF (ca.gov)
Contact Information	Email: csfa@treasurer.ca.gov Phone: 916-651-7710 CSFA Contact Information (ca.gov)
Timeline for Funding Availability	Repayment of a 2023-24 Funding Round loan will begin Fall 2024, or Fall 2025, dependent on the Fiscal Year the loan is disbursed.

Qualified Public Educational Facility Bond Program	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	The Qualified Public Educational Facility Bond Program (QPEFB) provides tax exempt private activity bond allocation to developers on behalf of public elementary and secondary schools with financing for the construction or improvement of their facilities. These bonds are designed to provide tax-exempt conduit financing for turnkey private development of both public education and student and workforce housing facilities.
Eligibility	Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
Maximum Award	Dependent
Website	https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/csfa/qpefb/index.asp
Contact Information	Contact Katrina Johantgen: Phone: (213) 620-4608 Email: Katrina.Johantgen@treasurer.ca.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Philanthropic Grants

Facilities Investment Fund	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	The Facilities Investment Fund (FIF) is a groundbreaking partnership between Walton Family Foundation and Civic Builders, bringing over \$300 million in affordable loan capital to finance facilities for high-performing public charter schools and networks nationwide. FIF offers public charter schools 5-year fixed-rate loans for new construction, acquisition and facility renovation. FIF loans feature low, fixed interest rates, size up to \$25 million and can fund up to 90% of project costs.
Eligibility	Public Charter Schools
Maximum Award	Dependent
Application Process	Contact a team member: Contact – FIF Lending You can also contact them via phone or email at: Phone: 212-571-7260 Email: info@civicbuilders.org
Website	FIF Lending – Innovative Philanthropy+Commercial Capital
Contact Information	Phone: 212-571-7260 or 212-659-1061 Email: info@civicbuilders.org or Intake@civicbuilders.org
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Technical Assistance

California School Finance Authority Charter School Bank Loan Program (CSBLP)	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	The Authority's Bank Loan Program encourages banks and other financial institutions to make low-cost loans to charter schools seeking financing for working capital, permanent facility acquisition or renovations.

	The website contains template documents for the bank loan program. These template documents will be used for this program. Charter schools and their lenders may contact the Authority with questions or comments regarding the template documents.
Eligibility	Charter Schools
Maximum Award	Dependent
Application Process	See website
Website	https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/csfa/csblp/index.asp
Contact Information	For more information, please contact the CSFA Executive Director: Katrina Johantgen at (213) 620-4608 CSFA Contact Information (ca.gov)
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

National Charter School Resource Center

Program Description	The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) funding opportunity database. The database includes one-time and ongoing national grants, fellowships, and scholarships that are currently active. Sponsors include the U.S. Federal Government and philanthropic organizations. This page is updated frequently as charter school funding opportunities are announced. Funding opportunities are displayed below in order of due date, i.e., opportunities with the most imminent deadlines are listed first and alphabetically within the same due date range.
Eligibility	Charter Schools
Website	Funding Opportunities NCSRC (ed.gov)
Contact Information	For more information, please contact the CSFA Executive Director: Katrina Johantgen at (213) 620-4608

A Guidebook for Charter School Operators and Developers

Program Description	This guidebook provides basic information about accessing the range of federal programs and resources available to charter schools. Primarily it provides brief and helpful guidance so that charter school operators and developers can identify and access funds available to qualifying public districts and schools
Eligibility	Charter Schools
Website	Front NCSRC (ed.gov) Accessing Federal Programs: A Guidebook for Charter School Operators and Developers
Contact Information	For more information, please contact the CSFA Executive Director: Katrina Johantgen at (213) 620-4608 Contact NCSRC (ed.gov)