

Quality Counts Charter School Program (CSP) Innovation Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What is the Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant?

A: This grant is part of Indiana's Quality Counts CSP grant. This grant provides the opportunity for all Indiana Charter Schools to be high-quality through federal grant funding.

Q2: What can Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant funds be used for?

A: There are four main areas of focus under the Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant. Charter schools must utilize funds to target individual needs, as identified in a comprehensive needs assessment (CNA). The four areas are:

1. Supporting All Students
2. Instructional Supplies and Technology
3. Professional Development and Licensing
4. Parent Family and Community Outreach & Empowerment

Please see the menu of example interventions (pages 5-8 of the application) and the IDOE Charter School Program website for federal guidance regarding allowable activities.

Q3: Who is eligible to apply for the Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant?

A: All Indiana charter schools that are open or have Authorizer approval for opening are eligible to apply.

Q4: Do I have to be a Title I school to apply?

A: No.

Q5: How much is my allocation?

A: The Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant is a competitive grant; you will have a budget request as part of your application. The minimum amount requested is \$10,000 for an individual applicant. The maximum amount requested is \$50,000 per applicant.

Q6: How will the grant be scored and awarded?

A: The CSP Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant will be scored by internal reviewers and scored competitively.

Q7: Are there priority points that reviewers will use when awarding the grants?

A: No.

Q8: What are the length and terms of the grant?

A: Year 1 and Year 2 funding will be provided together. The term will be up to 2 years in an amount no less than \$10,000.

Q9: What is the IDOE looking for in an artifact?

A: As part of our mission to make all Indiana charter schools high-quality, we ask applicants to provide and describe examples of future, high-quality activities or programs that can be a resource to other charter schools around the State of Indiana. Some artifact or outcome examples include, but are not limited to:

- a webinar, Moodle, or YouTube video of effective grant implementation;
- professional development offerings to other schools (peer mentorship program);
- evidence of school collaboration

Q10: Do charter schools have to consult with non-public schools or provide an equitable share?

A: No.

Q11: When is the grant effective date?

A: The grant effective date will be the date of award notification. A grant that is submitted in substantially approvable form may still require some revisions or adjustments. (Substantially approvable form means all required elements of the application were complete when submitted and may be approvable).

Q12: How much must be spent on each focus area?

A: Applicants may implement programming in one or more focus areas. Please note that many activities may fit in more than one focus area. A minimum of 40% of the total amount requested must be used toward Professional Development and Licensing.

Q13: Can I pay for salaries with Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant?

A: Yes. However, individuals paid for with innovation grant funding should be carrying out the approved grant activities. Keep in mind funding may not be available to all charter schools in following years. Thus, sustainability will be key; salaried positions paid exclusively through the Quality Counts CSP Innovation Grant would be difficult to sustain in future years without alternate sources of funding. Please be sure to indicate the future sources of funding for salaries in *Part 7: Internal Capacity Building Plan* of the application.

If you have more questions or would like to schedule a technical assistance call, please contact:

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