



Illinois State Board of Education

100 West Randolph Street, Suite 14-300 • Chicago, Illinois 60601-3223
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Quality School Options (QSO)

What is the Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Quality Schools Options Grant? The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) was awarded \$42 million via the federal CSP grant to increase the number of high-quality **charter schools** in Illinois. ISBE's grant seeks to increase by 48 new charters (24 new charters in Chicago and 24 new charters outside of Chicago) over the next 5 years and will evaluate the effects of charter schools, including their effects on students (in particular, on student academic achievement).

What are the different funding streams and who is eligible to apply?

- Program Design:** Not-for-profit entities with a strong educational background are eligible to apply provided they submit a charter school proposal to the desired authorizer and are **awaiting authorization** are eligible to apply for a program design grant. Additionally, charter schools that are operated by not-for-profit entities, have an executed charter agreement with a local school board and **have not yet opened** for student attendance are eligible to apply for a program design grant.
- Implementation:** Charter schools that are operated by not-for-profit entities, have an executed charter agreement with a local school board and **have been opened** for student attendance for two years or less are eligible to apply for an **implementation grant**.
- Dissemination:** Charter schools that are operated by not-for-profit entities, have an executed charter agreement with a local school board and **have been open for student attendance for three years** or longer are eligible to apply for dissemination grant. There are two dissemination subgrants- Student Body Diversity and Student Achievement and Educational Innovation seeking successful charter schools to assist other schools in adapting the charter school's program (or certain aspects).

Grant Awards:

- Program Design:** up to \$150,000 per award for a maximum of 18 months
- Implementation:** up to \$400,000 per year, for a maximum of 2 years
- Dissemination:** two subgrants 1) up to \$50,000 for Student Body Diversity and 2) up to \$150,000 for Student Achievement and Educational Innovation. Each subgrant is for two years of funding.

Grant Period: Program Design awards will be for a maximum of 18 months. Implementation awards will be for a maximum of 24 months. Applicants will be advised to plan the **program design** and **implementation** activities of each grant according to the time limits established for each grant category such that activities will collectively **span no more than 36 months**. **Dissemination awards** will be a one-time award for eligible applicant.

Timing and Type of RFP: To ensure competitive grant deliverables are met, there will be multiple Request for Proposals (RFP). The tentative timeline for the release of RFP's is:

PROGRAM DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION	DISSEMINATION
• Cohort I - May 2016	• Cohort I - December 2016
• Cohort II - Jan 2017	• Cohort II - February 2017
• Cohort III - August 2017	• Cohort III - Winter 2017
• Cohort IV - Spring 2018	• Cohort IV - Spring 2018
• Cohort V - Spring 2019	• Cohort V - Spring 2019

Find more information at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx>