

Office of the Governor State of Colorado
RISE Education Fund Q&A - Updated 09/21/2020

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Q: May a lead applicant (such as a school district) submit more than one application?

A: No, a lead applicant may only submit one application. Lead applicants may collaborate with multiple divisions within a lead applicants organization, but only one application should be submitted by an eligible applicant.

Q: May a non-lead applicant (such as a non-profit) partner with more than one lead applicant (such as a school district)?

A: Yes. A non-lead applicant may partner with more than one lead applicant. However, a non-lead applicant should consider whether they would have the capacity to implement multiple projects with fidelity before committing to more than one application.

Q: May a private college or university apply for RISE?

A: RISE is only open to public degree-granting institutions of higher education (including Area Technical Colleges) as lead applicants. A private college or university may apply as a partner to another eligible applicant.

Q: May a non-public school apply for RISE?

A: RISE is only open to public P-12 institutions, such as school districts, BOCES, and charter schools. A non-public school may apply as a partner to a public P-12 institution.

Q: May an eligible applicant apply for the first round, get feedback, then apply again responding to the feedback in round 2?

A: Yes.

Q: Must a school district submit its application on behalf of all schools (charter and traditional public schools)?

A: No. A school district must designate its service area under its application. This could include just one school or a few schools. Though allowable, a school district's service area is unlikely to include all schools.

Q: May an individual, district-authorized charter school apply for funds outside of its district's application?

A: Yes, an individual, district-authorized charter school may apply on its own (outside of its district) for RISE, pursuant to Section 22-30.5-104(11), C.R.S.

Q: May an individual, CSI-authorized charter school apply for funds outside of the Charter School Institute’s application?

A: Yes, an individual, CSI-authorized charter school may apply on its own (outside of the CSI’s application) for RISE. A consortia of CSI-authorized charter schools may also apply.

Q: If a charter school applies for funds, which entity shall serve as the fiscal manager?

A: If an individual or consortia of charter schools applies for RISE, the charter school’s authorizer shall serve as the fiscal manager. If a charter school submits a separate application and has that application awarded, the funding would first flow to the authorizer as the fiscal manager but then the full award amount would be made available for use by the charter school, consistent with the application’s budget and allowable use of funds.

Q: Are innovation zones (eligible non-profits authorized by the state board eligible to apply?)

A: An innovation zone may consider submitting an application separate from their school district or as part of the school district application. If an innovation zone submits a separate application and has that application awarded, the funding would first flow to the school district as the fiscal agent but then would be made available for use by the zone consistent with the application’s budget and allowable use of funds.

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Q: Are school districts subject to equitable services if they receive a grant?

A: A school district is subject to equitable services if applying on behalf of all schools in the district. In this case, a school district must consult with its non-public schools and provide services to students in eligible private schools as part of the project. A school district applying on behalf of certain or not all schools and a school district applying with a partner (such as a non-profit) is considered an “education-related entity” and not subject to equitable services.

Q: If a school district is required to provide equitable services, what does the process look like for providing services to non-public school students?

A: If a school district is subject to equitable services, a district needs to consult with all non-public schools within the school district boundaries and ask if they would like to participate in the application and program. If so, a school district program must ensure that all participating non-public school students are able to benefit from the program. School districts must maintain a record and complete the [CARES Act Certification of Participation in Equitable Services to Non-public Schools](#) form certifying that meaningful consultation with the participating non-public school has occurred. This report must be submitted when submitting the RISE Application for Funds.

Q: Are BOCES subject to equitable services if they receive a grant?

A: No, for the purposes of this grant, BOCES are not subject to equitable services because they are classified as an “education-related entity”.

EVALUATION

Q: I am interested in participating in the rigorous evaluation discussed in the application. What are the next steps?

A: As part of the review process, a member of our evaluation team will contact you to discuss what a potential evaluation design would look like. If you are awarded a grant, you will work closely with the evaluation team and the Governor's team to evaluate your grant.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Q: What payroll expenses are allowable under RISE?

A: Salaries for positions substantially dedicated to the mission of the RISE Education Fund are allowable costs. Subsidizing administrative and executive salaries and benefits are not allowable.

Q: Are equipment purchases allowed with RISE funds?

A: Equipment purchases are allowed if the equipment directly contributes to the mission of the RISE program. If you have questions about whether such equipment directly contributes to the mission of the RISE program, you may consult the Governor's office.

Q: Are indirect costs considered allowable under RISE?

A: RISE funds must be used by eligible applicants for direct services. Therefore, indirect costs are not considered allowable costs.

Q: What is the last date that funds can be spent?

A: By federal rules, RISE funds are available for use by September 30, 2022.

Q: How will the RISE program distribute funds to its grant recipients?

A: Grant recipients will be authorized to request reimbursements for eligible expenses by submitting reimbursement requests to the Governor's Office at GEER.Reimbursements@state.co.us monthly or on a quarterly basis. Allowable expenditures incurred on or after the award date through 09/30/2022 would be eligible. RISE funds must be fully obligated and fully spent by 09/30/2022.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Q: What are the grant proposal application submission requirements?

A: Applicants should submit their grant proposal using the [PDF application template](#) in order to preserve document formatting and consistent reading experience for reviewers and staff. Please note that the application format was revised on 09/14/20. A Statement of Work should be 5-7 pages total with font size 10/single spaced if you draft responses in Microsoft Word. Attachments are allowed to be included with the application submission in pdf format. Applicants should submit their applications online at GEER.Reimbursements@state.co.us.