California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 19, 2022

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Update on the California Community Schools Partnership Program

## Summary of Key Issues

The purpose of this communication is to update the Board on significant developments in the California Community School Partnership Program (CCSPP) in advance of a full update at the November Board meeting.

The key areas for this Memo will include:

* Status Report on Cohort 1, 2021-22 CCSPP planning and implementation grants and lead Technical Assistance Center contract
* Regional TAC RFA release, scoring and award timeline
* Proposed timeline for 2022-23 CCSPP planning and implementation grant RFAs for Cohort 2
* Interim Technical Assistance Plan for Cohort 1: Fall, 2022

## Background

### **2021 California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP)**

In 2021, the California Legislature allocated $3,015,997,000 for the CCSPP to establish new, and expand existing, community schools. Statute and the SBE-adopted California Community Schools Framework (Framework), Agenda Item 02, (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/agenda202201.asp>) establish the CCSPP as a critical equity program that prioritizes schools with more than a 80 percent unduplicated pupil count. The core practices that guide the community schools’ strategy are assets-based and justice-driven to address longstanding opportunity gaps and disparities in student academic outcomes. For general background on the community schools approach, see the October 2021 memo to the SBE (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/infomemooct2021.asp>).

The 2021 legislation established three different grant opportunities and regional Technical Assistance Centers (TACs), starting in the 2021–22 program year and continuing through the 2027–28 program year, as follows:

* Planning grants (at least 10 percent of total funding = $287,416,400)[[1]](#footnote-1) for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 program years. Grants are up to $200,000 per qualifying entity for LEAs with no community schools. Planning grants have a matching requirement of one-third, with grant periods of up to two years.
* Implementation grants (up to 70 percent of total funding = $2,011,914,800)[[2]](#footnote-2) for the 2021-22 through 2027-28 program years. Annual grants of up to $500,000 per school site are available for new, expanded or continuing community schools, with a matching requirement of one-third. New community schools are eligible to receive funds for five years with a demonstration of progress toward the goals articulated for the program services and student outcomes.
* Coordination grants (at least 20 percent of total funding = $574,832,800)[[3]](#footnote-3) for the 2024–25 through 2027–28 program years. Grants are up to $100,000 annually per community school with a one-to-one matching funds requirement. (Note: Current legislation now refers to these grants as ‘extension grants.’)
* Up to $141,833,000 was allocated to contract with LEAs to create a minimum of five regional TACs.

In 2022, the California Legislature amended statute to reconfigure coordination grants as implementation grant extensions, extending the implementation grant period from five to seven years (referred to as ‘extension grants’) for continuing coordination costs to local educational agency implementation grantees of up to one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) annually per community school site, beginning in the 2025–26 fiscal year, through the 2030–31 fiscal year.

In 2022, the Legislature allocated an additional $1,132,554,000 for implementation and extension grants. This brings the total allocation for the CCSPP up to $4,146,551,000. These additional funds extend the program timeline through the 2030–31 fiscal year. Of this additional amount, up to $140,000,000 was allocated for county offices of education (COEs) to coordinate county-level governmental, nonprofit community-based organizations, and other external partnerships to support community school implementation. COEs with at least two CCSPP grantees will be eligible for these funds.[[4]](#footnote-4)

An updated CCSPP Program Timeline is attached (Attachment 1). This calendar provides estimated overall allocations per grant type over the initial seven years of the program. Total allocation amounts among the different grant programs in the later years of the program timeline will be determined based on uptake of the grant types and total amounts remaining in the CCSPP budget.

## 2021-22 CCSPP Status Report

### **Planning Grants – Round 1**

On March 1, 2022, the CCSPP Planning Grant RFA for the first round of planning grants was released for LEAs with no existing community schools (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/profile.asp?id=5708&recID=5708>). To allow for future rounds of applications, the total grant budget for the first round of planning grants was up to $134,741,350 (half of the total planning grant allocation: $287,416,400).

The CDE received 203 complete applications for a total application request of $41,567,510.28. Applicants included: 100 school districts, 15 county offices of education, 87 charter schools and one joint powers agreement. All applications were reviewed and evaluated according to a demonstration of need score (utilizing a set of data elements based on the competitive priorities set out in statute) as well as by a team of scorers using criteria set forth in the rubric and provided in the RFA. The 192 grant awards proposed for approval at the SBE’s May were reviewed based on both the statutory qualifying guidelines and the statutory priority guidelines. All applicants that met eligibility criteria and committed to the Framework driven community schools design elements were recommended to receive a planning grant.

In May, the SBE approved all 192 planning grants for a total of $38,200,122.40, leaving a balance of $96,541,227.60 remaining for future rounds. The majority of planning grant awardees have unduplicated pupil counts over 70%.

### **Implementation Grants – Round 1**

On March 11, 2022, the CCSPP Implementation Grant RFA for the first round of implementation grants was released for LEAs seeking to establish new or continue or expand existing community schools. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/profile.asp?id=5707>) The award amount for the CCSPP implementation grant range is $150,000 to $500,000 per school annually, depending on the size of the school, as follows:

| Enrollment Category | Annual Grant Amount  *Years One through Four* | Annual Grant Amount  *Year Five* | Total Grant Amount over Five Years |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very Small:  25-150 students | $150,000 | $112,500 | $712,500 |
| Small:  151-400 students | $250,000 | $187,500 | $1,187,500 |
| Medium:  401-1,000 students | $300,000 | $225,000 | $1,425,000 |
| Medium/Large:  1,001-2,000 students | $400,000 | $300,000 | $1,900,000 |
| Large:  2,001 or more students | $500,000 | $375,000 | $2,375,000 |

The CDE received 90 applications for a total of approximately $749,000,000. Applicants included: 59 school districts, 11 county offices of education and 20 charter schools. The total number of school sites identified in the applications was 652. All applications were reviewed and evaluated according to a demonstration of need score (utilizing a set of data elements based on the competitive priorities set out in statute) as well as by a team of scorers using criteria set forth in the scoring rubric provided in the RFA. The grant awards proposed for approval by the SBE at the May meeting gave priority to applicant LEAs with schools in which 80 percent or more of the total student population was included in the unduplicated pupil count. Per prioritization of rural and small school approved by the SBE in January 2022, qualifying LEAs with rural and small schools which had unduplicated pupil counts of 70 percent or higher were also included in proposed grant awards.

In May 2022, the SBE approved implementation grants to 76 LEAs for a total of 438 schools – 427 of the 438 schools awarded implementation grants had unduplicated pupil counts of 80% or higher. Eleven LEA applicants identified small rural schools with between 70% and 80% unduplicated pupil counts. The total amount awarded for implementation grants was $611,087,500.

### **Lead Technical Assistance Center Contract**

Per SBE action at the January 2022 SBE Meeting, the lead TAC will act as a hub of the CCSPP technical assistance system and be responsible for working closely with the CDE to accomplish the following; including, but not limited to:

* Building content and overarching methodology for CCSPP technical assistance.
* Building a developmental implementation rubric to articulate community school implementation benchmarks.
* Facilitating a community of practice among the regional TACs.
* Coordinating and maximizing areas of expertise among the regional TACs. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/documents/jan22item02.docx>)

Per statute, the regional TACs are charged with the following responsibilities that, per SBE approval, the lead TAC will take a leadership role in accomplishing:

* Supporting the CDE to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data to assess and evaluate the implementation of community schools and the overall effectiveness of the CCSPP.
* Supporting the CDE to align the CCSPP technical assistance system with the Statewide System of Support and other school improvement and professional development support systems.

On April 4, 2022 the RFA for the lead TAC contract was released. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/profile.asp?id=5815>) The total budget for the lead TAC contract is up to $24,000,000. The 2022 RFA was for $12,000,000 for a 3-year contract. The application window for the lead TAC closed on April 29. The CDE recommendation to award the lead TAC contract to a consortium led by the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) was approved by the SBE at the May 2022 meeting. The ACOE consortium includes the UCLA Center for Community Schools, Californians for Justice (CFJ) and the National Education Association (NEA). The ACOE application detailed a powerful, but balanced approach that blended research expertise with a potent ground game strategy and strong experience providing technical assistance for other CDE programs.

The ACOE team has worked throughout the summer to hire staff, convene a broader set of potential contributors and advisors, and develop the initial elements of the CCSPP TA design. They have also formed an Advisory Board and have held initial meetings with their partner organizations.

## Regional Technical Assistance Centers - RFA

Per statute, at least five Regional Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) will be charged with sharing best practices and assisting both prospective applicants and grant recipients with tasks, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

* Conducting a comprehensive school and community assets map and needs assessment.
* Improving authentic family and community engagement in the languages spoken in the community.
* Developing programming and strengthening relationships to promote positive, supportive and racially just school climates.
* Establishing and supporting collaborative leadership and shared decision-making practices at the LEA and School Site levels.
* Creating, deepening and expanding community partnerships.
* Developing sustainable funding sources.
* Coordinating services across child-serving agencies, municipalities, governmental entities and schools.
* Accessing and combining funding for services from multiple revenue sources.

In addition, the RTACs will contribute to a statewide community of practice and support the Lead to develop the following:

* Technical assistance content for the CCSPP technical assistance system;
* An implementation rubric;
* Data collection and analysis, assessment and evaluation of effectiveness, and related improvement systems for the CCSPP through participation in a community of practice among the Regional TACs and led by the Lead TAC; and
* Alignment of the CCSPP to the Statewide System of Support and other school improvement and child supporting systems and programs.

A request for applications for the RTAC contracts was released on July 7, 2022 (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r17/ccspptac21rfa.asp>). Up to $117,833,000 in contracts may be awarded to LEAs or LEA consortiums. LEA applicants receive preference if they partner with institutions of higher education or nonprofit community-based organizations. The award amount for each CCSPP Regional TAC contract is set at a minimum of $5,000,000 for each contract period for an LEA or LEA consortium to serve as an CCSPP Regional TAC. Funding in excess of $5,000,000, if any, for each contract period will be determined by the CDE based on the following factors, which include, but are not limited to:

* Number of Regional TACs awarded,
* Number of qualified and prioritized schools within the region assigned, and
* Number of grants awarded within the region.

The tentative contract periods and funding amounts are as follows:

Contract Period 1: March 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025 (a minimum of $5,000,000)

Contract Period 2: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028 (a minimum of $5,000,000)

The applications in response to the current RFA will be for Contract Period 1. The contracts may be renewed based upon successful completion of contract outcomes as described in the approved contract.

The CCSPP Regional TAC contracts may be awarded to an LEA or a consortium of LEAs in the following general areas/regions:

| Region | Counties |
| --- | --- |
| Northern California | Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity |
| Capitol Area | Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba |
| Bay Area | Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo,  Santa Clara, and Sonoma |
| Central Coast | Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura |
| Central Valley | Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne |
| Greater Los Angeles | Los Angeles |
| Southern Coast | Imperial, Orange, and San Diego |
| Southern Inland | Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino |

CDE identified these regions after reviewing data that identified geographic concentration of eligible students based on criteria identified in statute. If a region has no successful applicants for this competitive process or if the CDE determines the needs in a region outweigh demonstrated capacity outlined in grant applications for that region, the CDE may combine or reconfigure the regions. These regions may be reconfigured by the CDE with consideration of the following factors:

* Geographic proximity
* Alignment with complimentary state initiatives
* Concentration of existing planning and implementation grants
* Concentration of potentially qualifying and prioritized LEAs and School Sites

Applications are due on September 9, 2022. The CDE will bring recommended contract awardees to the Board in November.

## 2022-23 CCSPP Timeline

A round of applications for both planning and implementation grants will occur in the 2022-23 school year. The proposed timeline allows time for: outreach to potential applicants, updates to critical eligibility data, and first round planning grant awardees time to complete implementation plans within the first year of their planning grants and apply in the second round of implementation grants. Outreach to potential applicants will be coordinated by CDE.

### **Planning Grants – Round 2**

The following is the proposed timeline for the second round of planning grant applications

| **Date** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| November 1, 2022 | RFA Release Date |
| December 20, 2022 | Applications must be received at the CDE, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) |
| January 2023 - February 2023 | Scoring of Applications |
| March 2023 | Proposed grantees Announced and Presented to the SBE for Approval |
| Two weeks after the March SBE meeting | Appeals must be received at the CDE |
| April 2023 | GAN Letters Released |
| May-June 2023 | Disbursement of Funds |
| May 1, 2023 | Project Term Begins |
| June 30, 2025 | All Funds Must be Expended |

### **Implementation Grants – Round 2**

The following is the proposed timeline for the second round of implementation grant applications:

| **Date** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| January 15, 2022 | RFA Release Date |
| March 17, 2023 | Applications must be received at the CDE, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) |
| March 2023 - April 2023 | Scoring of Applications |
| May 2023 | Proposed grantees Announced and Presented to the SBE for Approval |
| Two weeks after the May SBE meeting | Appeals must be received at the CDE |
| June 2023 | GAN Letters Released |
| July - August 2023 | Disbursement of Funds |
| July 1, 2023 | Project Term Begins |
| June 30, 2028 | All Funds Must be Expended |

## Interim Technical Assistance Plan for Cohort 1 Grantees

The Lead TAC partnership is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for transformative assistance for the CCSPP. The CDE has also worked with key partners to develop interim supports for Cohort 1 planning and implementation grantees.

Planning grantees are required to complete several activities as a condition of their grant, including conducting a comprehensive school and community needs and asset assessment, developing partnerships with community-based organizations, and preparing a community school implementation plan. Implementation grantees are required to execute community school implementation plans by entering into contracts with service providers, engaging in training with grantee and contractor personnel, collecting program impact data, and securing long-term funding streams, among other activities. The CDE interim technical assistance plan includes a variety of strategies to assist grantees in performing these activities.

### **The CDE Interim Plan has three key elements:**

* **Webinars:** A series of informational webinars for both planning and implementation grant recipients that cover critical elements of the needs assessment, asset mapping and other planning processes, with an emphasis on building capacity for participatory planning and program design relevant to both planning and the implementation grantees. These will be held bi-weekly and co-hosted by CDE and ACOE. We anticipate the webinars to begin in late September and run through the end of the calendar year.
* **Call Centers/Email Boxes:** Technical Assistance call centers and email addresses will be created, where grantees can call or email with questions and receive consultative responses within 48 hours or have a team consultation meeting within a week of their initial inquiry. The call centers and email addresses will be jointly staffed by ACOE and CDE staff.
* **Interdisciplinary Guidance Teams:** The CDE is developing interdisciplinary TA guidance teams that will be virtually deployed to assist grantees with planning and implementation questions and issues that arise during the fall 2022 semester. Teams will be available for planning grantees and for implementation grantees and will provide guidance on all elements of initial planning and implementation grant operations. These teams will be available for consultation meetings throughout the semester.

### **Staffing the Interim Plan**

In order to ensure that CDE has the capacity to implement this baseline interim TA plan, the Department will use three key internal and external resources throughout the fall 2022 semester to staff the elements of the plan. CDE may augment the roster below as staff are hired through allocations in the latest state budget to support CCSPP implementation.

* **Internal CDE Team:** To support implementation of the CCSPP, the CDE will dedicate key staff towards this interim baseline TA process. Deputy Superintendent Steve Zimmer, Senior Advisor Brooklyn Williams and Division Director Pete Callas will co-lead the three elements of TA options. Deanna Niebuhr will coordinate content area information for webinars, the CDE CCSPP email and the guidance teams. Lisa Reimers and Rachel Moran will assist with questions related to grant awards, budget and contracts. CDE staff will be represented on each interdisciplinary guidance team.
* **Alameda County Office of Ed Lead TAC Team:** The ACOE team has already begun to operate a call center for Cohort 1 members. The call center opened on August 1st and has already begun to address programmatic questions from both planning and implementation grant recipients. ACOE and CDE are in constant communication as these processes launch. The ACOE Call Center will operate parallel to the CDE CCSPP email to address the full spectrum of initial assistance and guidance LEAs and School sites will need as they begin the community schools planning and implementation processes. The ACOE team is developing content webinars that CDE will adapt to meet interim TA needs of LEAs for Fall semester. ACOE staff will also join the interdisciplinary guidance teams. Members of ACOE partnership (UCLA Center, NEA and CFJ) have also committed staff to the interim TA efforts once that staff is in place.
* **WestEd:** WestEd has been the technical assistance provider for the original 2020 CCSPP grant cohort (20 awardees). The team that has led this work is interested in supplementing CDE and ACOE capacity to increase responsiveness and ability to address the CCSPP Cohort 1 interim TA needs. CDE requested and received funding in the 2022-23 budget act to extend the WestEd TA contract to increase the Department’s capacity to respond to technical questions from grantees until the Regional TACs are operational. The WestEd team will assist in staffing the ACOE Call Center and responding to CDE CCSPP email box inquiries. They will also assist with the logistics and outreach for the informational webinars. When appropriate WestEd staff will supplement or augment staffing for the interdisciplinary guidance teams. Further details on the WestEd contract extension will be forthcoming.

### **Operationalizing the Plan**

The CDE and ACOE are currently aligning the ACOE Call Center with the CDE CCSPP email box and solidifying roles and collaboration norms for the interim TA period. CDE will update a draft FAQ document and elevate emerging questions that have been addressed to the Call Center and the CCSPP inbox as a training guide is developed for all team members who will be staffing elements of this interim TA plan.

The CDE and ACOE will begin weekly collaborative meetings on Friday August 19, 2022. When appropriate Lead TAC partners and WestEd will join these meetings. The goal of these weekly meetings is to facilitate the seamless launch of the 2022 CCSPP technical assistance resources and collaborate on all elements of the subsequent implementation. Beginning Monday August 22, 2022, CDE and ACOE will meet twice weekly to coordinate the call center/email box responses to ensure there is consistent messaging and congruent information shared with grantees. The Department anticipates that staff will meet with this frequency throughout the fall 2022 semester.

The CDE will be in ongoing communications with SBE staff and SBE community school liaisons throughout this interim TA process. CDE will also be in regular communication with the county offices of education which will play a key coordination role especially during the interim TA period. The process will be dynamic and CDE expects to be in a consistent feedback loop, holding itself accountable to listening to the field and making course corrections as the technical assistance system is built out.

At the November SBE meeting, the Deputy Superintendent will report to the Board about progress for the inaugural cohort. We will also bring the selected RTAC awardees to the Board for approval. The CDE will also invite the Alameda County consortium to report directly to the Board on the progress of the transformative assistance model.

## Attachment(s)

* **Attachment 1:** California Community Schools Partnership Program Timeline (3 pages)

1. This amount represents 10 percent of $2,874,164,000 – the total amount of funding, $3,015,997,000, minus the amount of funding set aside for technical assistance, $141,833,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This amount represents 70 percent of $2,874,164,000 – the total amount of funding, $3,015,997,000, minus the amount of funding set aside for technical assistance, $141,833,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This amount represents 20 percent of $2,874,164,000 – the total amount of funding, $3,015,997,000, minus the amount of funding set aside for technical assistance, $141,833,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Per statute, COE grant award amounts shall be determined based on the number of community schools and the number of pupils served in those schools, using an allocation formula determined by the Superintendent. Amounts will be at least $200,000 and up to $500,000 annually, for seven years, for each qualifying county office of education. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)