

Quick recap

Tanesha, Bright, and Dave discussed the functionality of their meeting platform, the budget worksheet for the Great Schools Colorado project, and the budget requirements for charter school grant applications. They also clarified the financial risk assessment survey, the funding structure and timeline for new and expanding schools under the League's grant program, and the use of the grant management system. Lastly, they addressed the need for specific, detailed cost calculations and explanations in the budget, the distinction between planning and implementation years, and the possibility of funds not passing through the authorizer.

Next steps

Applicants to have conversations with their authorizers about fiscal agent arrangements for the grant.

League team to update and repost the RFA with corrections, including fixing incorrect links and dates.

League team to provide clarification on eligibility quiz results and add related FAQs to the website.

League team to share updated allowable cost guide with proper attribution.

Applicants to review RFA for naming conventions when uploading documents to the grant management system.

Applicants to attend next Monday's session on the Foundant grant management system walkthrough if interested.

League team to post recording of this meeting within 24 hours.

Summary

Great Schools Colorado Budget Overview

Dave provides an overview of the budget worksheet for the Great Schools Colorado project. He explains that the worksheet has color-coded tabs, with green tabs for input and blue tabs for summaries. The cover sheet allows schools to input their name and project goals, which then populate other tabs. Dave emphasizes the importance of entering all project goals before filling out budget details. He demonstrates how to enter budget items, including budget codes, goal alignment, and descriptions. The worksheet covers three federal fiscal years (25, 26, and 27), with separate tabs for each. Dave explains that the summary tabs automatically calculate totals by goal and budget code, and the final tab shows the total grant amount requested. He advises participants to ensure that the totals match their intended request and to enter all project goals before starting the budget details.

Budget Planning for Continuation Schools

The discussion focuses on budget planning and implementation timelines for continuation schools and new applicants in a grant program. Tanesha and Dave explain that continuation schools, like Chris's Ascent schools, will resume their implementation year 2 and have until September 30, 2025, to complete it. They clarify that schools need to choose the appropriate fiscal year and school year in the budget tabs, even if spending occurs in different periods. For new applicants, the performance period begins upon final approval, expected around June 20th. The conversation also addresses specific concerns about expansion grants and the timing of expenditures relative to the grant approval date.

Budget Worksheet for CSP Sub-grantees

Tanesha clarified that the budget worksheet is similar to the one used for CSP sub-grantees in previous years, with categories for instructional and support costs. She emphasized that these categories are broad and should be used to identify project goals and budget allocations. Tanesha also explained that the 90-day look-back period starts once the application is approved, and that the budget should only cover expenses for the coming school year. She encouraged applicants to use the email link provided for any questions or feedback.

Budget Requirements for Charter School Grants

The summary discusses the budget requirements for charter school grant applications. Tanesha explains that applicants must use the provided budget template to calculate and build their budgets, identifying planning versus implementation periods. The budget and narrative should be uploaded to the grant management system and demonstrate sufficient resources to implement the proposed program plan. Tanesha emphasizes the need for specific, detailed cost calculations and explanations in the budget, aligning with the project narrative. She also notes that the planning period cannot exceed 18 months, and the budget should justify expenses and explain how costs were estimated.

CSP Budget Guidelines and Template

Tanesha discussed the budget guidelines for the CSP project, emphasizing that grant-funded expenditures should supplement, not supplant, local funding. She explained the distinction between planning and implementation years, noting that salaries are a notable expense in this context. Tanesha also clarified that the budget worksheet is applicable to all applicants, and tables can be used in the budget narrative. She mentioned that the RFA will be updated to fix a link issue and that the CSP budget template should be used for the annual budget.

Federal Fiscal Year and Risk Assessment

Tanesha clarified that the Federal fiscal year runs through September 30th, correcting an earlier statement. She also explained the financial risk assessment survey, which is intended to collect information about the capacity and ability of the applicant to manage Federal and State grants. Tanesha emphasized that the school and the authorizer can determine the fiscal responsibilities and who will be responsible for them. She also clarified that the applicant can choose to identify themselves or their authorizer as their fiscal agent. Brett asked about the possibility of funds not

passing through the authorizer, to which Tanesha confirmed this possibility and recommended that the school have a conversation with their authorizer to determine their interest in this arrangement.

Grant Funding Structure and Timeline

The discussion focuses on the funding structure and timeline for new and expanding schools under the League's grant program. Tanesha clarifies that the grant covers up to three years: a planning year (up to 18 months) and two implementation years. The previously available performance incentive year is no longer offered. Regarding salaries during the planning year, there's no set percentage limit, but reasonableness will be assessed. The grant amount won't increase if enrollment exceeds projections, but schools can reallocate funds within their budget. Tanesha also explains that implementation years align with the school year, while expenses are recorded based on the federal fiscal year.

Grant Management System Demonstration

In the meeting, Tanesha and Igor discussed the grant management system, focusing on the budget narrative and worksheet. Igor demonstrated how to use the system, emphasizing its user-friendly nature. Tanesha also mentioned the upcoming office hour block for next Monday, which will focus on the grant management system. She encouraged questions and promised to address them in the FAQs. Dave expressed his willingness to support the applicants as best he could. The team also appreciated the work of their extended partners in the marketing team.