

**Community Schools RFP:
Questions and Answers: Eligibility**

1. Are individual schools able to apply for this grant program?

A. The school district must apply on behalf of an individual school.

2. If we're interested in working with a school building that houses multiple schools, do we have to submit a separate proposal for each school, or can it be one proposal, since it is one building?

A. If services are to be shared among all schools in the building, a single proposal should be submitted that reflects utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners.

3. Can three elementary schools in one school district apply in one application, each with its own community school center?

A. A separate application must be submitted for each community school site.

4. Can NYCDOE apply as one district and include community school sites across the school district? In essence can we apply for one \$6Mil dollar grant (the amount for NYC)? Or does it need to be 12 separate applications for \$500K each?

A. The RFP requires one Community School site per application. Therefore, NYCDOE would need to submit 12 separate applications for 12 separate community school sites.

5. The RFP states that consortia may apply under this competition, however, the RFP also makes mention of a “single site per application” – may consortia propose to establish multiple sites, or may a district propose to establish sites at multiple locations within the district?

A. A consortium may propose to establish multiple sites and submit multiple applications, utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners, with one community school site per application. Each application will be reviewed and scored independently—the success of one application within the consortium does not mean that all will be funded.

6. Must sites be school-based or may they be located within a community partner's facility?

A. The purpose of this RFP is to deliver services at the designated community school site.

7. If three districts partner as a consortium, can they only have one Community School site? Our districts are concerned about having all programming being from one site, since the site will invariably be inconvenient geographically for most program participants, since it won't be right in their community – creating a barrier to families' ability and desire to access the services. Thinking of that statement from page 2 another way, it sounds like consortiums could submit multiple applications if they wanted to have several Community Schools – but does that mean if a consortium of three districts wants to have a Community School in each district, they would need to submit three separate applications?

A. A consortium may submit multiple applications, utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners, with one community school site per application.

8. BCS is considering applying for a Community Schools grant. Is it permitted to apply with a school that is one of four schools in a shared building? Our partner school is a NYC Department of Education public high school but it shares its building with three other schools, which are not our partners. Would this be acceptable for a Community Schools program?

A. Yes. An applicant may apply to support all or some of the schools in a building or district.

9. It states that each eligible applicant may apply, with only one Community School site per application. Could an eligible District submit three applications for three different secondary schools?

A. Yes, an eligible District can submit three applications for three different community school sites.

10. Is there any cap on the number of proposals an agency can submit, and is it considered one application to apply in a multi-school campus?

A. There is not a cap on the number of proposals an agency can submit. However, pursuant to Education Law § 3641 subdivision 6-a, no single school district may receive more than forty percent (40%) of the \$15 million available funding for this initiative. If all schools will be served on the campus using the same basic services and partners, then they should submit one application.

11. Are charter schools, which are LEA's under federal law eligible to apply as districts under this program?

A. As stated in the RFP, public charter schools are not eligible for grants under this initiative.

12. We are considering applying for the 2013 Community Schools Grant Initiative. We currently have 4 schools in our district. Can we apply for \$500,000 for each school? Would a separate application be required for each school?

A. Yes, a district may submit 4 applications for up to \$500,000 each. A separate application is required for each community school site. However, if all schools will be served at the same site, using the same basic services and partners, then they should submit one application.

13. If there are multiple schools on one campus with which an agency wants to partner, does this require one or multiple applications?

A. If services are to be shared among multiple schools on the campus, a single proposal should be submitted that utilizes the same basic programming/services and partners.

14. May a school district submit more than one application in order to establish more than one community school hub?

A. Yes, a school district may submit multiple applications; one per community school site.

15. Can individual schools apply or does the application have to come from the district superintendent?

A. The school district must apply on behalf of individual schools.

16. Are Colleges and Universities eligible to apply?

A. In New York City only, colleges and universities that are registered as non-profit organizations and collaborate with the school district may apply on behalf of the New York City school district with approval of the Chancellor.

17. Are independent charter schools or charter school networks eligible to apply?

A. As stated in the RFP, public charter schools are not eligible for grants under this initiative.

18. If a consortium of districts apply, do we understand the RFP correctly, that they would have to select one site to be the Community School – i.e., they could not select one site in each district?

A. A consortium of districts may select one or multiple sites in each district and submit separate applications for each site, utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners, with one community school site per application.

19. Can a consortium of districts apply for funding for two (or more) sites, by submitting two (or more) applications? In that case, would the consortium be eligible for more than \$500,000?

A. Yes, a consortium of districts may apply for funding for two (or more) sites, by submitting two (or more) applications. Each community school site is eligible to receive up to \$500,000 in grant funding. There is no agency funding cap; however, pursuant to Education Law § 3641 subdivision 6-a, no single school district may receive more than forty percent (40%) of the \$15 million available funding for this initiative.

20. For NYC schools, would we need to propose to serve an entire school district? Or could it be select schools within the district? Also, are these only for K-12 schools?

A. Applicants may choose to serve a select school or schools within a school district, and must submit one application per community school site. Community school sites may serve public school students enrolled in the designated area.

21. Is there a cap on the number of proposals an agency can submit?

A. There is no cap on the number of proposals an agency can submit. However; pursuant to Education Law § 3641 subdivision 6-a, no single school district may receive more than forty percent (40%) of the \$15 million available funding for this initiative.

22. The RFP states that consortia may apply under this competition, however, the RFP also makes mention of a “single site per application” – may consortia propose to establish multiple sites, or may a district propose to establish sites at multiple locations within the district?

A. Yes, consortia may propose to establish multiple sites, or a district may propose to establish sites at multiple locations within the district. The consortia or school district must submit one application for each proposed community school site.

23. I understand the community grants process is competitive; however, I wanted to ask if our district is eligible to apply. We're an average need district (41.76%) and are

considering applying for a community schools grants for three of the schools in our district (56.2%, 54.84% and 54.77%). Are we eligible to apply?

A. As stated in the RFP, **Demonstration of Need:** Any public school district may apply as long as the school district is an average-need school district with a minimum Extraordinary Needs percentage of 50% as most recently calculated by the State Education Department. A list of high- and average-need school districts is available on the State Education Department website at this link:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/accountability/2011-12/NeedResourceCapacityIndex.pdf>.

Extraordinary Needs percentage data can be found at the following link:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2013-community-schools-grant-initiative/districts-and-extraordinary-needs.html> .

24. Does the RFP mean that a school district with three school sites, that wanted to create community schools at two of those sites would have to submit two proposals, with each proposal identifying the sites that the district was seeking to serve? Or if that same district was seeking to provide services for all children and families in the district, at all three sites, would they be have to submit three proposals?

A. The school district must submit one application for each proposed community school site.

25. Could the district choose to offer different elements from the Community Schools Model at each site and serve all of the families across the district according to need? (for example, a dental clinic at the elementary school, open to all children and youth in the district, a health clinic at the high school also open to all children and youth, family education components at the middle school for everyone, etc.) Could those services all be included in one proposal for a total of \$500,000, or would it have to be three separate ones, with each of the three able to apply for up to \$500,000?

A. Three separate proposals must be submitted, with each proposal able to apply for up to \$500,000. Each proposal should be tailored to the specific needs of the site being served and will be scored independently.

26. If the district wishes to serve all of their students with services provided at one building site, I am assuming that is allowable and would be one application, again with a total budget of no more than \$500,000 - correct?

A. Correct. The district would submit one application to serve students at one community school site.

27. In response to the 2013 Community Schools RFP, I'm struggling to determine if our district (or any of our schools) is eligible. We are an average need district but I'm

not sure if we have a minimum 50% or higher Extraordinary Needs percentage. Would you be able to point me in the right direction to determine whether or not we are eligible or if you have access to the eligibility list, indicate whether or not we are eligible?

A. Extraordinary Needs percentage data can be found at the following link:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2013-community-schools-grant-initiative/districts-and-extraordinary-needs.html>

28. On behalf of the Bronx Arts Ensemble, an arts-in-education provider with programs in over 40 high-need public schools in the Bronx, I am writing to inquire whether our proposed services would fall within the scope of services of the 2013 Community Schools Grant Initiative. We would like clarification prior to submitting our proposal.

A. As stated in the RFP: as provided by law, in New York City only, non-profit organizations (including non-profit community-based organizations) that collaborate with the school district may apply on behalf of the New York City school district with approval of the Chancellor of the school district. Your organization must determine whether it can meet the deliverables in the RFP.

29. Does the language in the Additional Eligibility Options in New York City mean that a non-profit organization in New York City cannot apply to this RFP on behalf of one of the 32 Community School Districts in NYC if the New York City Public Schools are applying as the NYC district as a whole?

A. No. As provided by law, in New York City only, non-profit organizations (including non-profit community-based organizations) that collaborate with the school district may apply on behalf of the New York City school district with approval of the Chancellor of the school district. Non-profit applicants must submit with their applications a letter of support signed by the Chancellor. Multiple applications may be submitted by one district (or, in the case of New York City, by or on behalf of the school district).

30. I am representing a nonprofit that is interested in applying on behalf of our charter schools. I understand that public charters are ineligible for grants, but would like clarity on whether or not as a nonprofit application our schools will qualify and if so, could we apply for only one or both of our schools?

A. No. As stated in the RFP, public charter schools are not eligible for grants in this funding initiative.

31. The RFP states that a consortium of public school districts is eligible. It also states that there can only be one Community School site per application. Is NYSED expecting that a single, centralized site would serve multiple school districts?

A. A consortium of districts may choose to submit one application for one community school site that would serve students in multiple districts. Alternatively, the consortium may select one site in each district and submit multiple applications, utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners; with one community school site per application.

32. Can a consortium apply for multiple sites in a single application? If yes, can the consortium budget \$500,000 for each site to be served?

A. No. A consortium may submit multiple applications, utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners; with one community school site per application. A consortium may budget up to \$500,000 for each community school site application.

33. If a consortium of small, rural public school districts submit a single application not to exceed \$500,000, can services be provided at each of the districts? If yes, can students attend the district site closest to their home?

A. No. In this scenario, the consortium must submit one application per community school site in each district.

34. If 6 districts form a consortium to apply and each wants to establish a community school site in a building within the district, then would the Max. award for that application be \$3,000,000 (6 X \$500,000 each)?

A. A consortium of districts may choose to submit one application for one community school site that would serve students in multiple districts. Alternatively, the consortium may select one site in each district and submit multiple applications, utilizing the same basic programming/services and partners; with one community school site per application. A consortium may budget up to \$500,000 for each community school site application.

35. Can a district be a consortium member on one grant application and a lead on their own application for a completely separate proposal and focus?

A. Yes. A district may be a consortium member on one grant application and also submit their own application for a completely separate proposal and focus.