Request For Proposals

Context:

Recently, bi-partisan legislation introduced by Governor Lombardo, passed during the 2023 Legislative Session has expanded existing law (NRS 388A) to include allowing cities and counties in the State of Nevada to serve as an eligible authorizer of charter schools in Nevada. The existing law (NRS 388A.220) also requires any eligible authorizer such as a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education to submit an application to the Nevada Department of Education to be approved to begin serving as an authorizer. The Department of Education is in the process of developing an application, application process and plan for implementation that is expected to be posted by December 2023.

Through this RFP, Opportunity 180 is sourcing for partners who can provide technical assistance to potential applicants (such as a city, county or higher education institution) to apply to the Nevada Department of Education to be deemed a charter school sponsor.

Opportunity 180 Background:

In 2020, Opportunity 180 was approved by the US Department of Education to serve as the Nevada State administrator for the State Entity Charter School Program Grant (CSP). The Great Schools for Nevada CSP is designed to lead the launch and expansion of high-quality public charter schools as well as expand and maintain quality charter school authorizing practices across the state. We’re inspired by schools that are proving every child can succeed, and we’re committed to ensuring that more kids have access to these great schools. Under the CSP grant Opportunity 180 will provide technical assistance to:

- Improve state charter school authorizing practices including developing capacity for, and conducting, evaluations of diverse community-centered school models, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools
- Establish Nevada’s charter sector as a leader in authorizing quality and academic performance
- Evaluate and support the success of state charter school authorizer and single-site charter school board members to enhance their board governance practices
Opportunity 180 will work in partnership with any eligible, but not yet approved, charter school sponsor (authorizer) to provide technical assistance to support the development of competitive application to the Nevada Department of Education to become an approved charter sponsor. Opportunity 180 will solicit third-party subject matter experts via this Request for Proposals. Identified eligible applicants will work with Opportunity 180 to select the most appropriate partner.

Opportunity 180 requests proposals from organizations or individuals with demonstrated experience with high quality charter school authorizer practices and the articulation of those practices into a comprehensive plan.

Application to Sponsor Charter Schools in Nevada

To accelerate the number of high-performing public charter schools in Nevada, we seek a partner with eligible charter school sponsor applicants to:

- Develop a comprehensive plan to sponsor charter schools in the State of Nevada aligned to all statutes and regulations (NRS 388a & NAC 388a).
- Prepare and submit an application to sponsor charter schools in the State of Nevada (per NRS 388A.220).
- Revise and re-submit the application, as needed.

Services to be performed:

1) Facilitate a formal process to lead the applicant in designing and developing their approach to charter school sponsorship that builds on national best practices, meets the needs of Nevada’s diverse student population and meets the requirements set forth by the Nevada Department of Education (including all laws and regulations).

Deliverables:
- Outline of the facilitation process and protocol for leading applicant in the design process
- Approach to engaging critical stakeholders, identified by the applicant, in the design process, including formal briefs as required
- Documentation of applicant’s approach
2) In partnership with the eligible applicant, complete a comprehensive charter school sponsorship application for submission to the Nevada Department of Education in accordance with the timeline outlined.

Deliverables:

- Completion of a formal application package prepared for submission, inclusive of all appendices
- Conduct a minimum of two preparation sessions to ensure the applicant is ready for a formal interview or presentation to the State Board of Education regarding their application
- If needed, provide technical support to update the application following a denial to re-submit within 30 days of the decision announcement
- Documented set of considerations, based on national best practices, to support the applicant in successfully operationalizing their plan.

Proposal must include:

- Detailed description of your organization’s mission, background, and experience
- Detailed description of the proposed support (for each component) based on articulated goals and service needs
- Implementation plan for each required component should build out the detailed initiatives, timeline, budget, and communication approach to execute on each deliverable
- Demonstration of how NRS and NAC will be referenced in each required component
- Ability to consider the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of Nevada families in the context of supporting the applicant
- Proposed process for working in partnership with the applicant team through course of project
- Proposed process for engaging with O180 team through course of project, including progress check-ins and metrics of engagement success
- Total budget for the proposed services with specific line items for each component

Note: If your organization envisions having additional deliverables to support the goals articulated, we encourage you to submit a proposal that articulates your proposed process. Please include the proposal elements articulated above.
TIMELINE FOR REQUIRED COMPONENTS:

- August 15, 2023: RFP released
- September 15, 2023: Final day for RFP Submission (5pm PST)
- September 29, 2023: Approved Partners Notified
- October 2-October 13, 2023: Approved Partner and Eligible Applicant Matching
- October 16, 2023: Partner Selections Made
- October 17-December 7: Partner & Eligible Applicant Work time
  - Facilitate process for designing charter sponsorship approach
- December 7, 2023: Eligible Sponsor Application Released by Nevada Department of Education
  - Develop final Eligible Sponsor Application
- March 1, 2024: Eligible Sponsor Applications Due
- March 1-March 15, 2024: Host interview prep
- April 9, 2024: Eligible Sponsor Application Determinations Released
- May 20, 2024: Denied Eligible Sponsor Application Resubmittals Due (per regulatory requirements)
- July 1, 2024: Secondary Eligible Sponsor Application Determinations Released

All proposals must be received no later than September 15, 2023, by 5pm PST. For questions and submission of final proposal contact Jana Wilcox Lavin, jana@opportunity180.org.

About Opportunity 180:

Launched in 2015, Opportunity 180 works to transform the lives and futures of Nevada kids by providing them with equitable access to the best possible public educational opportunities. Opportunity 180 strives to bring together all community stakeholders—families, educators, and community leaders—to ensure students have access to a high-quality education. Through its efforts, Opportunity 180 has the vision to ensure 100,000 more kids can access a great school by 2030.