

## Round 3 Community School Grants

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ▼ 1. Is my Community School eligible?

A list of eligible community schools and operators can be found [here](#).

#### ▼ 2. If my school received a grant in Round 1 or 2, can I apply for a grant in Round 3?

Yes. Eligible Community Schools that received grants in Round 1 and/or Round 2 are eligible to apply for a grant in Round 3. Eligible Operators that received grants for specific schools in Round 1 and/or Round 2 are eligible to apply for grants for those same schools in Round 3.

#### ▼ 3. What criteria will be considered in the grant award?

Only Projects whose scope is for the purchase, construction, reconstruction, renovation, remodeling or addition to classroom facilities will be considered.

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (Commission) and the Department of Education (Department) staff will verify that the Project scope will be used to purchase or support classroom facilities construction or modifications that:

- a. Increase the supply of seats in high performing schools;
- b. Service specific unmet student needs through community school education; and
- c. Show innovation in design and potential as a successful, replicable school model.

The overall cost of the Project may include, but is not limited to, professional design and construction fees, facility construction, fixtures, furniture, and equipment costs.

#### ▼ 4. When will applications be available/due?

Applications are *tentatively* scheduled to be available on December 3, 2019 and accepted until January 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Please check the [OFCC website](#) for the latest information.

#### ▼ 5. How much funding can I receive?

That will depend on several factors including the quantity and quality of grant applications received. The Community School will submit to the Commission a project cost estimate and schedule prepared by a design or construction professional. This estimate will be used as the basis for full funding. The Commission staff reviews the Project costs and the available funding to determine whether the Project can be constructed with the available funds. The Commission and Department reserve the right to offer grant awards in the entire amount of the application, or for a lesser amount at their sole discretion.

▼ 6. When will my Community School be notified of an award?

It is the intent of the Commission that all awards will be published the week of March 2, 2020. All awards will be posted on the [OFCC website](#).

▼ 7. What is considered an appropriate "local match"?

The Community School must demonstrate that it has local contributions amounting to not less than 50 percent of the cost of the Project. Appropriate contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Written fundraising pledge letters or pledge cards signed by donors to a capital campaign;
- Documentation that other grants have been fully approved for the Project, and are not subject to other, still unmet qualifications;
- Certification of cash on hand or in a capital fund account;
- Endowment funds, which must be newly raised and restricted or designated for operations and/or maintenance of the Project;
- Substantiated value of in-kind contributions of goods or services to the capital Project

▼ 8. What happens if the funding is exhausted before my application is considered?

Unlike other OFCC grant programs, this is a competitive program with a single application deadline. All applications received by the application deadline will be considered.

▼ 9. When must schools must spend the money?

Assuming funds get re-appropriated in the next biennium, schools would have until June 30, 2022 to complete the reimbursement process, including spending the money, providing appropriate documentation to OFCC, and receiving the grant funds.

▼ 10. Will this be the last opportunity for my school to apply for funding, or is this an ongoing program?

The funding for this program has been made available by a specific allocation from the Ohio General Assembly. Once current funding is exhausted, any opportunity for future funding would be dependent on a decision of the General Assembly whether to make additional funding available.

▼ 11. Does my school have to have a minimum number of students in order to be eligible?

No. This grant does not impose any additional obligations as to the minimum number of students, other than those existing in law.

▼ 12. How many grants do you expect to award?

Since these are competitive grants, the number that are awarded and the allocations for each grant will be based on the quality and quantity of the applications received and the project costs. Because these factors are currently unknown, we cannot give an estimate at this time.

▼ 13. Does a school have to be high performing for just one year, or do they have to continue to be high performing to keep the money?

The law states that in order to be eligible for grant funding, the community school must be high performing at the time of application submission.

▼ 14. Who oversees the construction?

Oversight of the project is the responsibility of the grantee and its selected construction professionals. The OFCC approves the funding and approves the pay requests; however, the grantee oversees the project in the field. OFCC reserves the right to conduct reviews or inspections of the project to determine compliance with the grant agreement.

▼ 15. Does the OFCC have a list of pre-approved Design Professionals or Construction Firms that can do the work?

It will be up to the Community School Governing Authority to select design and construction professionals for their projects. As a practice, OFCC does not recommend firms or maintain a list of approved contractors or construction professionals, as we want all companies to have equal access to business opportunities with the Commission. All of our selections for these positions, however, are listed on the opportunities page on our website (<http://ofcc.ohio.gov/Opportunities.aspx>) and we would recommend schools review those awards to see who is bidding and who has been awarded contracts.

▼ 16. Where can I find more information? / Who do I contact?

Website: <https://ofcc.ohio.gov/Services-Programs/Grants/Community-School-Classroom-Facilities-Grants-Round-3>. Information on the grant program, including the application, grant agreement template and other important information are available on the OFCC website under Services/Programs.

Send inquiries to:

Community Schools Classroom Facilities Grant Program Round 3

[communityschools@ofcc.ohio.gov](mailto:communityschools@ofcc.ohio.gov)