

**DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)**

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**

**FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**CAREER READY EARLY SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CRESP) GRANT**

**Application Release Date: August 15, 2025**

**Application Submission Deadline: September 8, 2025**

The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Career Ready Early Scholars Program (CRESP) Grant. The RFA will be online on the Serve DC Grants Clearinghouse and on the DOES website at the following page: <https://does.dc.gov/page/grant-opportunities>.

In accordance with the Career Ready Early Scholars Program Amendment Act of 2024 (D.C. Act 25-0550; D.C. Code § 32-242(a)(6) *et seq.*), the purpose of the CRESP grant is to provide District youth ages 9-13 with comprehensive career and educational exploration activities such as occupational skills, academic enrichment, life skills, work readiness, and youth development trainings during the school year, particularly during winter and spring break, and over the summer. The grantees shall provide an in-person innovative workforce-related program –at an approved D.C. school (public, charter, private or post-secondary institute), provide \$125 weekly incentives to each participant, and lunch and snacks. During the summer, the program shall take place over a six week period, Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. and include at least four field trips.

**Eligibility:** DOES will make these grants available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit and for-profit organizations eligible to do business with the District government, including but not limited to community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and post-secondary institutions. Applicants shall have demonstrated effectiveness providing the requested services and meeting the needs of the target population.

**Available Funding for the Award:** Up to \$300,000.00 is available in total for awards through this RFA. DOES intends to issue up to two (2) grant awards for \$140,000.00 each. Applicants can apply to provide the CRESP during the summer. The maximum amount of grant award funding that can be applied for is based on how many participants the applicant projects to serve. For the summer, DOES plans to award applicants based on a rate of up to \$7,000 per participant for six weeks of in-person CRESP programming. The CRESP Grant is funded 100% through local funds from the District of Columbia.

DOES will use the applicant's grant proposal to identify the number of participants the applicant plans to serve and determine an award amount. However, DOES maintains the right to adjust the grant award and amount based on funding availability. Determinations regarding the number of

competitive grants to be awarded will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested.

A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge, or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The Director of DOES or her designee will make all final award decisions.

**Length of Award:** The award period for this grant starts on the date of the grant award notification and ends on September 30, 2026, with three option years subject to funding availability.

**Pre-Application Conference:** All interested applicants shall attend the virtual mandatory pre-application conference on **August 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** Please email [OGAGrants@dc.gov](mailto:OGAGrants@dc.gov) if you will be attending the pre-application meeting to receive the meeting invite link.

**Contact:** For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

Vanessa Black  
Department of Employment Services  
Office of Grant Administration and Resource Allocation (OGARA)  
Email: [OGAGrants@dc.gov](mailto:OGAGrants@dc.gov)

**Deadline for Applications:** The deadline for application submissions is September 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.