

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FISCAL YEAR 2024

CAREER READY EARLY SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CRESP) GRANT

Application Release Date: August 30, 2024

Application Submission Deadline: September 13, 2024

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.

Particularly for the Summer program, DOES intends that all eight Wards are represented by at least one grantee with demonstrated presence or ability to provide services in that Ward. In addition, DOES is seeking applicants who have specialized experience with and will provide CRESP to youth participants that have demonstrated behavioral challenges in school.

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 \$3,000,000.00 is available in total for awards through this RFA. DOES intends to issue up to fifteen (15) grant awards. Applicants can apply to provide the CRESP during the school year or during the summer, or both. DOES will award up to \$50,000 to grantees that only seek to provide CRESP during the school year. DOES will award grants in the range of \$280,00.00 to \$575,000.00 to grantees that seek to provide CRESP during the summer or during both the school year and 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 and for how long. 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 grant 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, 2025, with four option years subject to funding availability.

Information Session: To prepare for the RFA, DOES is holding a virtual information session on **August 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Please complete the Notice of Intent to Apply and email it to OGAGrants@dc.gov to receive the meeting invite link. The Notice of Intent to Apply is available at: <https://does.dc.gov/page/grant-opportunities>.

Pre-Application Conference: All interested applicants shall attend the virtual mandatory pre-application conference on September 6, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Please email 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

Deadline for Applications: The deadline for application submissions is September 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM. Late or incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the review panel.