



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

August Newsletter

SCSC Staff Announcements

The SCSC was pleased to welcome three new staff members in the month of July.

Daniela Belton

Business and Operations Manager

Daniela.belton@scsc.georgia.gov

Terence Washington

Accountability Manager

Terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov

Lauren Wright

Director of Organizational and Resource Development

Lauren.wright@scsc.georgia.gov

The new SCSC staff members look forward to supporting SCSC schools and petitioners. For job descriptions and biographies of staff members, please visit <http://scsc.georgia.gov/commission-staff>.

Reminder – Complete Needs Assessment Survey!

In an effort to provide state charters with meaningful training opportunities throughout the coming academic year, the SCSC has developed a survey to assess the professional development needs of SCSC schools' leadership, staff, and governance board.

All SCSC school board chairs and school-level administrators (principals, assistant principals, business managers, etc.) are invited to respond to the online survey. **If you have not yet responded to the survey, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible.** It should not take more than 10 minutes to complete, and your input is immensely important as we begin to plan for upcoming trainings.

You may access the survey by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9T8V5MQ>.

Funding Opportunities for SCSC Schools

SCSC staff have identified the following grant opportunities that may be of benefit to SCSC schools.

United States Department of Education 2013 Race to the Top District Competition

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/>

The purpose of this approximately \$120 million program is to build upon the lessons learned from previous state- and district-level competitions and support bold, locally directed improvements in teaching and learning that will directly improve student achievement and educator effectiveness. Applicants are invited to demonstrate how they can personalize education for all students in their schools. The Department plans to support high-quality proposals from applicants across a varied set of school districts, including rural and non-rural as well as those already participating in a Race to the Top grant and those not currently participating.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs), **including public charter school LEAs** and consortia of LEAs, are eligible to apply, subject to the other eligibility requirements outlined in the notice. In FY12, there were three public charter school individual awardees: Harmony Public Schools, Idea Public Schools, and KIPP DC.

Webinars will be offered over the coming weeks to provide technical assistance (a schedule will be posted at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/>), and interested districts are requested to submit their intent to apply by August 23. **Applications are due October 3.** Awards will be announced no later than December 31, 2013.

Questions may be directed to 2013.racetothetop.district@ed.gov.

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office Community Facilities Grant

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-CF_Grants.html

Community Programs provides grants to **assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population.** Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. In addition, applicants must have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility and also be unable to obtain needed funds from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms.

Fund Uses: Grant funds may be used to assist in the development of essential community facilities. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. A grant may be made in combination with other CF financial assistance such as a direct or guaranteed loan, applicant contributions, or loans and grants from other sources. The Community Facilities Grant Program is typically used to fund projects under special initiatives, such as Native American community development efforts; child care centers linked with the Federal government's Welfare-to-Work initiative; Federally-designated Enterprise and Champion Communities, and the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative area.

Maximum Grant: The amount of grant assistance for project costs depends upon the median household income and the population in the community where the project is located and the availability of grant funds. In most instances, projects which receive grant assistance have a high priority and are highly leveraged with other loan and grant awards. Grant assistance may be available for up to 75% of project costs. Grant funding limitations are based on population and income, economic feasibility, and availability of funds.

For more information about this program, or to file an application, contact the local [Rural Development](#) office in your area.

**United States Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research
Science, Technology, Engineering Grant**

<http://www.onr.navy.mil/~media/Files/Funding-Announcements/BAA/2013/13-007.ashx>

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is interested in receiving proposals for **developing innovative solutions that directly support the development and maintenance of a robust STEM workforce**. Successful efforts will be targeted towards one or more of the following: K-12, Undergraduate, Graduate STEM education. The goal of any proposed effort should be to provide "game changing" solutions that will establish and maintain a diverse pipeline of U.S. citizens who are interested in participating in Naval STEM education programs and who ultimately will be interested in STEM careers. This BAA also separately requests proposals for the evaluation of current and future Naval STEM programs. This includes implementing methodologies and processes for data collection, analysis, and reporting, as well as methods for effectively evaluating programs and calculating return on investment for chosen programs. Only proposals invited following review of corresponding white paper will be considered for review.

Eligible applicants include: For profit organizations other than small businesses; Small businesses; Private institutions of higher education; Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments); **independent school districts**; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.

Current Closing Date for Applications: Sep 30, 2013

Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$3,000,000
Award Ceiling:	\$200,000
Award Floor:	\$25,000

Please direct questions to Elizabeth Ford, Grants Management Specialist, at (703) 696-2576 or elizabeth.ford@navy.mil.

Georgia Department of Education

2014 Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School Award Applications

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Georgia-Family-Friendly.aspx>

The Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards are annual awards that recognize **K-12 Title I schools** for their exceptional commitment to fostering welcoming environments that encourage families to become active partners in improving student achievement and success. The GaDOE launched the Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative in the summer of 2010 to assist schools, families and communities in working together to create welcoming environments throughout Georgia's varied school communities. A welcoming environment increases family engagement which, in turn, helps students earn better grades, graduate from high school and enroll in post-secondary education. This award takes the initiative a step further by recognizing schools that have gone above and beyond to create an environment where families and community members feel they belong, and in turn, play an important role in supporting their school student success.

For complete information on the Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School initiative along with information on the 2013 Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Award Winners please visit: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Georgia-Family-Friendly.aspx>. **Applications must be received on or before 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013.**

Please address questions to Michelle Sandrock, GaDOE Parent Engagement Program Manager, at msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us.

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