

FY15 Common Core Academy NGO

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Director of Standards**

This Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) supports the development and delivery of a Common Core Academy (CCA). The FY15 CCA is a year-long program intended to increase the academic achievement of students in English language arts and mathematics by enhancing classroom teachers' content knowledge and teaching skills aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and by supporting principals to lead CCSS implementation in their schools.

Common Core
Academy
participants
will be able to
do the
following:

- Identify and learn how to apply effective pedagogical strategies which reflect the shifts of the CCSS;
- Increase content knowledge necessary to meet the depth and rigor of the CCSS;
- Make connections within and across English language arts and mathematics topics as well as grade levels;
- Learn how to make effective use of research on student learning to identify potential learning difficulties, developmental considerations, and common misconceptions associated with English language arts or mathematics content and/or practices; and
- Learn how to expand the implementation work of the CCSS through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) once funding is no longer available.

Main partners:

- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)
- High-need LEAs

Additional partners:

- Other LEAs
- Businesses
- Nonprofit or for-profit organizations interested in supporting CCSS implementation

Eligibility Partnerships

- Common Core Academy is 100 percent funded under Title II-A of the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Up to \$1,296,344 will be made available **pending funding**.
 - A minimum of 4 grants will be awarded – North, Central, South, and the highest scored NGO regardless of geographic region.
 - Grant requests may not exceed \$324,086.
 - Once the geographic set-aside has been satisfied, any remaining awards, contingent on the availability of funds, will be made in rank order regardless of geographic distribution.

Funding:

- A minimum of 65 points must be scored.

	<i>Point Value</i>
STATEMENT OF NEED	10
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	30
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, and INDICATORS	20
PROJECT ACTIVITY PLAN	20
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY	10
BUDGET	10
<i>TOTAL</i>	100

Scoring

Required Activities:

- **Teacher Cohorts – minimum 20 teachers, at least 2 per school**
- **Raise the capacity of teachers and principals to be effective instructional leaders in the work of implementing CCSS.**
- **Identify obstacles and opportunities of CCSS implementation.**
- **Design 1 week summer program focused on needs after year of support. Build action plan.**
- **Build the capacity of participants to utilize collaborative teams of teachers and school leaders for effective implementation of CCSS and the continuous improvement of instruction.**
- **To design programs to increase the capacity of principals as instructional leaders supporting the implementation of CCSS.**
- **To provide additional training and support for LEA principals and teacher leaders as they implement sustainable Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).**
- **Promote strong instructional skills which support the CCSS.**

Project Design Considerations

Required Activities:

- An IHE facilitated PLC for principals participating in the partnership
 - After the grants are awarded, a Project Director Meeting will take place at the NJDOE. An agenda for the principals' PLC will be designed at this time.
 - IHEs must budget for travel to and from meetings in Trenton for the principals participating in the partnership.
- Project Director Meetings
 - Minimum - quarterly

Project Design Considerations

Permitted Activities:

- **To design programs to prepare a teacher leader(s) to provide professional development and/or assist other teachers with implementation of CCSS.**
- **To provide additional training to LEA leaders to support principals and teachers in implementing sustainable Professional Learning Communities.**
- **Provide classroom-based coaching.**

Project Design Considerations

Project Requirements:

- Project Abstract
 - Summary of proposed project (DGA)
- Statement of Need
 - Indicate a clear understanding of how the goals and activities of the program are directly related to needs of participating LEAs and any nonpublic schools. (DGA)

Project Requirements (cont.):

- Project Description
 - Identify key activities, timeframes, resources, and responsible persons. (DGA)
 - Description of how partners collaborated in developing the project plan.
 - Brief explanation of how professional development activities are supported by research and aligned to CCSS.
 - Brief sustainability plan.
 - Brief description how this project will support or enhance existing professional development in the partner LEAs.
 - Provide agendas for each day of training by uploading the agendas in the upload tab.
 - Provide a detailed description of the role(s) of each partner. (Involve teachers in design of grant.)

Project Requirements (cont.):

- Project Description (cont.)
 - Provide agendas for each day of training by uploading the agendas in the upload tab.
 - Upload agendas as 2 documents
- Upload organization:
 - (IHE)_Fall agendas
 - (IHE)_Spring agendas
 - (IHE)_Summer agendas
 - (IHE)_resumes
 - (IHE)_coaching schedule
 - (IHE)_sustainability plan (Summary can be in project description)
 - (IHE)_evaluator quotes

Project Requirements (cont.):

- Goals

- The required goal of the CCA program is to deepen the teachers'/principals' understanding of the English language arts and/or mathematics standards in order to effectively teach the K-12 Common Core State Standards.
- Using the Goals, Objectives and Indicators form found in the DGA, applicants must develop objectives and indicators in support of this required goal. IHE's must define the responsibilities of partners and fully account for how the goal and objectives will be met, including timelines for the activities.

Project Requirements (cont.):

- Desired outcomes of the program:
 - To increase and improve teachers' CCSS content knowledge;
 - To increase integration of reliable research-based and technology-based teaching methods which support the content shifts, depth, and rigor of the CCSS;
 - To increase high quality teaching practices aligned to the CCSS through strong, effective, instructional leadership; and
 - To develop teachers', teacher leaders', and principals' collaboration in support of program implementation.

Project Requirements (cont.):

- Activity Plan Form
 - For each goal and objective, develop a logical sequence of activities to support them. Using the Activity Plan forms in the DGA, for each activity, provide information as to what is to occur, when it will occur, who is responsible for the activity, and the documentation used to establish that the activity occurred.

Project Requirements (cont.):

- **Organizational Commitment and Capacity Form**
 - Using the Organizational Commitment and Capacity form, the IHE must describe and document the IHEs commitment and authority to implement the project, as well as the IHEs resources and experience with comparable initiatives that will support successful project implementation. Describe the professional skills and expertise available within the partnership relevant to project goals.
 - This narrative should also explain the LEA's capacity for supporting participants in implementing what was learned during the summer institute.

Budget Design Considerations:

- The applicant's budget must be well considered, reasonable and supported by the program plan. Costs determined to be excessive, ineligible, or not supported by the program plan will be disallowed.

Budget Design Considerations (cont.):

- The maximum amount a program may apply for is **\$324,086**.
- Applicants must use realistic participation projections to determine the amount of funding they may request. Unrealistic or unsustainable participation projections may result in awards being reduced by the NJDOE as appropriate.

Budget Requirements:

- **Supplement, not supplant requirement.** Funds received under Title II-A (Subpart 2) shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this subpart.
- **Title II-A Section 2132 (c) Special Rule.** No single participant (lead or participating agency) in an eligible partnership may use more than 50% of the funds made available to the partnership under this section. This provision focuses not on which partner received the funds, but on which partner directly benefits from them. All applications must include a certification to this effect (see Appendix G for certification form).

Budget Requirements (cont.):

- **A-5/Chapter Law 53.**

The provisions of A-5/Chapter Law 53 contain additional requirements concerning prior approvals, as well as expenditures related to travel. It is strongly recommended that the applicant work with their business administrator when constructing the budget. The NJDOE applies the A-5 restrictions uniformly to all grantees. Unless otherwise specified, the following restrictions apply to all grant programs:

- No reimbursement for in-state overnight travel (meals and/or lodging);
- No reimbursement for meals on in-state travel; and
- Mileage reimbursement is capped at \$0.31/mile. Grantees or partners may not charge a higher mileage reimbursement rate (i.e. Federal General Services Administration (GSA) mileage reimbursement rate) to grant funds.

Budget Requirements (cont.):

- Allowable Costs

- Cost of presenters; including stipends and travel costs;
- Session materials and duplication;
- Venue/meeting space rental;
- Substitute teachers;
- Participant stipends (limited to \$120 per day per person or the LEAs negotiated contract);
- Rental of audio/visual equipment;
- Resources for virtual professional development (i.e. web development); and
- Equipment purchases must be sufficiently justified, designed to meet the needs of the population being served, directly related to grant activities, and must follow the 'supplement not supplant' guide."

Budget Requirements (cont.):

- Allowable Costs (cont.)
 - Release time for faculty to present at sessions or participate in grant activities;
 - Indirect costs (up to 8% modified total direct cost (MTDC) base). Applicants requesting indirect costs must include a copy of their current, federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement with their application. Applicants who request indirect costs in their budget without providing this documentation may have such costs disallowed during pre-award revisions; and
 - Evaluation costs up to \$15,000.

Please note ~

Under A-5/Chapter Law 53, morning coffee or breakfast for workshop participants may not be included in the budget. Lunch costs may be budgeted **only** if a keynote speaker is speaking during the lunch period.

Budget Requirements (cont.):

- **Unallowable Costs**
 - Entertainment costs;
 - Costs otherwise not supported by the program plan;
 - Costs associated with writing the application;
 - Supporting the research of individual scholars or faculty members;
 - Supporting faculty leave;
 - In-state overnight lodging; and
 - In-state per diem meals and expenses

Nonpublic Participation Requirement:

- When planning the grant, it is required that the IHE consult with all nonpublic schools located within the partnering LEAs boundaries.

Deadlines & Submissions:

The NJDOE administers discretionary grant programs in strict conformance with procedures designed to ensure accountability and integrity in the use of public funds and, therefore, **will not accept late applications.**

The Application Control Center (ACC) must receive the complete application through the online Electronic Web Enabled Grant (EWEG) system at **(<http://homerom.state.nj.us>) no later than 4:00 P.M. on July 31, 2014. Without exception**, the ACC will not accept, and the Office of Grants Management cannot evaluate for funding consideration, an application received after this deadline. An applicant agency will lose the opportunity to be considered eligible for an award if the application is received after the due date and time.

- **Application deadline: July 31, 2014**

- Each eligible applicant must have a logon ID and password to access the system.
- IHE applicants should contact the EWEG help desk at eweghelp@doe.state.nj.us for assistance in completing the registration.
- Please allow 24-48 hours for the registration to be completed.
- Questions regarding access to EWEG may be directed to eweghelp@doe.state.nj.us.

Deadlines & Submissions:

**Thank you for your
attendance!**

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