

Delaware



*Department of
Education*

Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services

For more information and to submit applications:

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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2021

Delaware Department of Education
Opportunity Funding Form
2020-2021 School Year

Opportunity Funding
*Directed funds for mental health services for students identified as
low-income or English Learners*

Application deadline: Friday, July 31, 2020

Purpose: The Opportunity Funding directed to mental health services provides \$5.0 million in FY20, \$2.5 million in HB 225 (Annual Appropriations Act) and \$2.5 million authorized in HB 226 (One-Time Supplemental). With a total supplemental amount of \$7.5 million over three years, the total amount will be \$15 million *contingent on future appropriations*. The Opportunity Fund is to provide additional funding for English Learner (EL) and low-income students.

For FY21, \$2.5 million is appropriated through HB 240 (Annual Appropriations Act). The guiding language regarding these funds and eligibility was amended through HB260 (Grants- In-Aid Act). The \$2.5 million allocated is supplemented with the \$2.5 million from HB 226 as referenced above. A total of \$5 million is appropriated for FY21.

These funds continue to be apportioned to schools which qualify for a Reading Interventionist under the Student Success Block Grant.

This funding shall be used by school districts and charter schools for *mental health services* in the form of school counselors, school social workers or licensed clinical social workers, school psychologists, and/or for additional reading supports for grades K-5. Services may include the employment of staff, where such funding may be used to cover 100 percent of personnel costs on a 10 to 12-month basis and/or contracted services.

Allocation Method: Amounts vary per school and that amount is indicated below. Each LEA has already received the first half of the funding; the second amount will be released upon receipt and approval of this application.

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Las Americas ASPIRA Academy
ADDRESS: 326 Ruthar Drive Newark, DE 19711
CONTACT NAME: Margie Lopez Waite
CONTACT PHONE: 302 - 292 - 1463
CONTACT EMAIL: margie.lopezwaite@laaa.k12.de.us
ALLOCATION AMOUNT: \$182,739

Questions:

1. What mental health needs of your identified low-income and English learner students will you be addressing through these mental health services funds?
(Please indicate N/A if these funds are solely being used for reading supports for the two subgroups – EL and low-income.)

Since opening in 2011, Las Americas ASPIRA Academy (LAAA) has served a large population of English learners (EL) and low-income students (LI). The percentage of students in these populations has changed from year to year, however it has remained consistently about 40% EL and 60% LI students. Increasing the academic achievement of ELs and LI students has been, and will continue to be, a school improvement plan goal. LAAA recognizes and has developed a plan to address the achievement gap reflected in the SBAC proficiency levels, however, our EL and LI students encounter other deterrents in their learning process. Many of the families of our EL and LI students have to contend with the daily stress of income, food and shelter instabilities. For some, these struggles are compounded with the uncertainties of a parent's or guardian's immigration status. Many of these families do not seek out state or federal financial support because of their fear of deportation, which limits the options for assistance. Many of the parents/guardians of our EL and LI students are not literate in their first or second language; therefore, they struggle with supporting their children's learning at home. All these factors impact our EL and LI students' ability to attend school ready to learn.

During the 2019-2020 school year, LAAA engaged in several activities to strengthen their commitment to EL and LI students. This was not a one year commitment. LAAA plans to continue in the following:

- * Engage the staff in on-going professional development to support the SEL needs of students
- * Allocate Climate and Culture Specialists to work with staff and students to support a positive learning environment and provide discipline strategies and options that keep students in the classroom; Retain one full time specialist and hire a part time specialist
- * Support students' SEL through classroom, small group, and individual sessions with the school counselor
- * Contract with mental health agencies as needed to provide therapy for students.
- * Provide targeted support to families through the LAAA Family Resource Center Coordinator

To support our EL and LI students, we have made an investment in becoming a more trauma-sensitive school by focusing on the whole child. Building on statewide training that all staff attended previously we will continue to focus on supporting school employees in understanding how trauma and other external factors can affect student learning. As a Responsive Classroom school, we have built an infrastructure to support the social and emotional needs of our students. However, it is important to engage our employees in continued professional learning to build their knowledge and strategies to support all students, especially those identified as EL and LI.

The LAAA Climate and Culture team oversees our school-wide character development program, as well as addresses the social and emotional needs of our students. They take a proactive approach to helping students with conflict resolution and coping skills. To expand their reach, last year through Opportunity/Mental Health Grant funding we were able to hire a full time Climate and Culture Specialist and a School Counselor who works with students in the lower school. The Climate and Culture Specialist and School Counselor provide targeted support to our EL and LI students. When needed, we also contract with a mental health agency to provide therapy sessions during the school day. In addition to the Climate and Culture team, the LAAA Family resource Center Coordinator provides targeted support to our EL and LI families, which consists of information workshops, literacy classes (English and Spanish), financial assistance (i.e., school uniforms, backpacks, school supplies) and resource referrals.

2. What kind of mental health services personnel are you hiring or contracting (school counselor, school social worker, licensed clinical social worker or school psychologist)?

During the 2019-2020 school year, LAAA engaged in several activities to strengthen their commitment to EL and LI students. This was not a one year commitment. LAAA plans to continue in the following:

- * Engage the staff in on-going professional development to support the SEL needs of students
- * Allocate Climate and Culture Specialists to work with staff and students to support a positive learning environment and provide discipline strategies and options that keep students in the classroom; Retain one full time specialist = \$82,586 and hire a part time specialist = \$41,463.
- * Support students' SEL through classroom, small group, and individual sessions with the school counselor = \$35,687.
- * Contract with mental health agencies as needed to provide therapy for students.
- * Provide targeted support to families through the LAAA Family Resource Center Coordinator

To support our EL and LI students, we have made an investment in becoming a more trauma-sensitive school by focusing on the whole child. Building on statewide training that all staff attended previously we will continue to focus on supporting school employees in understanding how trauma and other external factors can affect student learning. As a Responsive Classroom school, we have built an infrastructure to support the social and emotional needs of our students. However, it is important to engage our employees in continued professional learning to build their knowledge and strategies to support all students, especially those identified as EL and LI.

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3. Are you using these funds for reading supports for your identified low-income and English learner students in addition to mental health services or in lieu of mental health services? If so, what types of supports/services will be provided?

During the 2020-2021 schools year, LAAA will continue the following steps to strengthen our commitment to our EL and LI students specifically:

* Retain the second ESL teacher to provide in class and pull out instruction for EL students to increase their English language proficiency and support them in meeting with success in their content area coursework = \$23,003 which is 22% of the ELL teacher's salary

4. How will you know if these services or supports are effective?

The services and supports provided through this funding will be effective as measured by:

*Logs kept by the school counselor documenting supports provided for SEL and small group counseling

*Reductions in tier 2 and tier 3 behavioral interventions

*Progress monitoring for students receiving tier 2 and 3 behavioral interventions

*Reductions in student disciplinary actions resulting in student removal from the classroom

*Percentage of students increasing in their EL proficiency and meeting their growth target on the ACCESS test

5. Is this money being used to contract services?

YES NO

6. Please complete the State Funds Budget Form and State Budget Summary Form (attached).

Assurances and signatures:

As the chief school officer of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I am also authorized to obligate the district or charter school to conduct any activity approved under this form in accordance with all applicable state requirements, including statutory and regulatory requirements, and program specific requirements. The information contained in it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

Chief School Officer (printed name): Margie Lopez Waite
Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 7/29/20

As the business manager of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I have read this form and reviewed the financial information contained in this form. The information contained in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have reviewed and approve the submission of the budgetary information for this form. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

Business manager (printed name): Greg Panchich
Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 7-29-20

By signing this form, I am approving the plan submitted by the district or charter.

Secretary of Education/Designee (printed name): _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____



**STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

BUDGET SUMMARY OF STATE FUNDS

LEA/Agency Name: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

State Subgrant Title: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health and Reading Supports

Project Title: _____

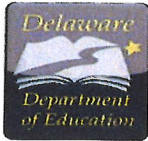
<i>Account Code</i>	<i>5100</i>	<i>5120</i>	<i>5400</i>	<i>5500</i>	<i>5600</i>	<i>5700</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Account Code Name</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>OEC's</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Contracted Services</i>	<i>Supplies & Materials</i>	<i>Capital Outlay</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<i>Total Budget</i>	\$138,166.49	\$44,572.51					\$182,739.00

Completed By: Greg Panchison

Date: 7-29-20

Chief Financial Officer or Business Manager: [Signature]

Date: 7-29-20

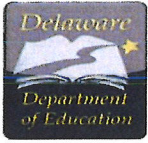


State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health and Reading Supports
 Project Title: _____
 LEA/Agency: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Project Start Date: 7/1/2020
 Project End Date: 6/30/2021

Expense Types and Account Codes: Salaries (5100) and Other Employee Costs (5120)						
Employee Name	Title	FTE Percentage		State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
PROFESSIONAL:						
S. Davis	Climate & Culture Specialist	50%		\$	\$	\$
D. Yancey-Harris	Climate & Culture Specialist	100%		\$11,577.49		\$11,577.49
S. Mortimer	School Counselor	59%		\$82,586.00		\$82,586.00
J. Palmer	ESL Teacher	22%		\$21,000.00		\$21,000.00
				\$23,003.00		\$23,003.00
			Professional Subtotal	\$138,166.49		\$138,166.49
SUBSTITUTES:						
				\$	\$	\$
			Substitutes Subtotal			
SUPPORT STAFF:						
				\$	\$	\$
			Support Staff Subtotal			
STUDENTS:						
				\$	\$	\$
			Students Subtotal			
SALARY TOTAL:				\$138,166.49		\$138,166.49
OTHER EMPLOYEE COSTS:						
FICA		6.20%		\$	\$	\$
Medicare		1.45%		\$8,566.32		\$8,566.32
Pension		22.95%		\$2,003.41		\$2,003.41
Workman's Comp		1.55%		\$31,709.21		\$31,709.21
Unemployment Insurance		0.11%		\$2,141.58		\$2,141.58
		32.26%		\$151.98		\$151.98
Health Insurance/Other Non-taxed Benefits			\$15,013.00			
OEC TOTAL:				\$44,572.51		\$44,572.51
SALARY AND OEC TOTAL:				\$182,739.00		\$182,739.00



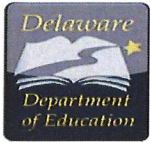
State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health and Reading Supports
Project Start Date: 7/1/2020
Project Title: _____
LEA/Agency: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy
Project End Date: 6/30/2021

Expense Types and Account Codes: Travel (5400)					
Destination	Purpose	# of Travelers	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS					

Expense Types and Account Codes: Contractual Services (5500)				
Vendor Name	Service Provided	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
		\$	\$	\$
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES COSTS				

Expense Types and Account Codes: Supplies and Materials (5600)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS					



State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health and Reading Supports
Project Title: _____
LEA/Agency: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Project Start Date: 7/1/2020
Project End Date: 6/30/2021

Expense Types and Account Codes: Capital Outlay (5700)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
Replacement Equipment			\$	\$	\$
New Equipment					
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS					

GRAND TOTAL	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
	\$182,739.00		\$182,739.00