

# Application to Provide Services to CCSD

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 authorized the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to provide substantial relief to students and educators who have been profoundly affected by COVID-19.

From the ESSER Fund, the US Department of Education (US ED) issued \$2,112,051,487 to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to support schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will enable the SCDE and school districts to support students who have been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities in our communities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

CCSD will receive \$163,231,134 through September 2024 for activities under ESSER III. Surveys and stakeholder outreach indicated that the top 6 priorities for activities should address:

1. Needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care
2. Learning loss
3. Summer learning and afterschool programs
4. Mental health services and support for students
5. Educational technology for students
6. Improve indoor air quality in schools

High quality, evidence based activities provided to the school district by established Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) is both an allowable and recommended use of these funds. CCSD intends to contract with CBOs to support students in our school district. Interested CBOs may submit a proposal detailing services they propose to provide to CCSD. Proposals should a) reflect a detailed funding request, b) exclusively support CCSD students and their families, c) address priority #1 above and at least of one the other top 6 priorities, d) identify measures of success and, e) reflect a strategy of enduring impact beyond the term of the ESSER III program.

The deadline for proposal submission is October 11, 2021. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this form, please contact us at [partnerships@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:partnerships@charleston.k12.sc.us).

Your Organization

Please indicate which best describes your organization:

- I am an existing partner with CCSD.
- My organization would like to become a CCSD partner.
- Other: RISE has worked with the CCSD and families in it since 2017

Type of Organization

- Nonprofit (501c3 status)
- College/University
- Governmental Agency
- For-Profit Business
- Other:

Name of Program (if applicable)

If your organization provides a specific program, write the program name here. Otherwise, write N/A.

Charleston RISE Fellowship & Education Program

Point-of-Contact in Your Organization

Individual whom we can contact for clarification or additional information.

Lisa Ruda

Point-of-Contact Job Title

Executive Director

Point-of-Contact Email Address

lruda@charlestonrise.org

Point-of-Contact Telephone Number

2164404286

### Program Information

Please describe how you offer the program/service to students.

## Vision: State your intended outcome of the partnership for the future

Charleston RISE proposes to offer its hallmark fellowship and education program to a cohort of parents, grandparents and caretakers of students currently attending CCSD's Acceleration Zone schools. RISE proposes to modify its traditional 12-week education program to include specific sessions on the Acceleration Zone initiative, the school turnaround process and the specific programs and supports provided to schools during this process. For ease of implementation and alignment, RISE proposes to offer the program to ten (10) Acceleration Zone schools under the supervision of the Director of Acceleration Zone schools with the exception of Burke High School.

By way of background, Charleston RISE has served families in Charleston County for the past five years. Our program has two primary components. The first component is a fellowship or education program, which is 12-weeks long and consists of a weekly training program designed to give the participants a strong foundation on community education issues through guest speakers, data deep dives and crafting advocacy campaigns. Since we began our work in 2017, Charleston RISE has held seven cohorts of parents and grandparents and today Charleston RISE includes an alumni network of over 200 fellows. Cohort 8 launched in August, and we expect the thirty-five participants to graduate in December 2021.

The second component of the Charleston RISE program converts our fellow's passion for excellent schools and their newfound knowledge on educational issues into action that supports our students and their families. Our fellows participate in one of our committees, each with a specific focus identified activities and measurable goals. Our active committees include the following:

- 1). School Board Accountability Committee. Our School Board Accountability Committee attends and reports out on all regular, subcommittee and special task force meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District (CCSD). In addition, they attend all meetings sponsored by the School District Superintendent.
- 2) Endorsement and Elections Committee. School board elections have the lowest participation of county elections and Charleston RISE seeks to ensure that parents and community members are aware of those elections, the duties and responsibility of those seeking to serve on the school board and the skills and experience of the candidates running for school board seats. This Committee has recently expanded its works to include tracking legislation at the State level that will impact the ability of families to access high quality schools.
- 3) Community Outreach and Alumni Engagement. This Committee seeks to engage and inform the larger community about the performance of schools and students attending them. Parents and communities often do not know how their neighborhood school performs or that Black students lag their white counterparts by fifty percentage points on each of the SC Ready assessments. In addition, many families, particularly families attending historically failing schools, do not trust the school district or information shared by it.

Charleston RISE intends three primary outcomes from this partnership:

- 1). More families will engage with their student's assigned school. Annually, RISE's outreach efforts touch over 10,000 households and families. Since May 2021, RISE has reached 5,100 families and shared valuable information with them about the state of schools in their neighborhoods and supports available to

them. RISE alumni are experienced in parent outreach and through this outreach, RISE expects the number of families currently engaged with their student's Acceleration Zone school will increase significantly through our partnership.

2). All families attending the fellowship program outlined above would understand the changes impacting their student's school and would be better able to support their student while at an Acceleration Zone school. Our fellowship and education program are 12-weeks long and consist of a weekly training program designed to give the participants a strong foundation on community education issues through guest speakers, data deep dives and crafting advocacy campaigns. Upon completion of our program, we would expect that families increase their knowledge of the Acceleration Zone initiative as well as other education programs and that they are better able to support their students while in school. The foregoing would be measured by surveys that gauge knowledge, satisfaction with their student's learning and satisfaction with the relationship between their family and their student's school.

3). Families attending the fellowship program would support CCSD's Acceleration Zone initiative. We would expect that families would be more satisfied with their student's learning environment when compared to the 2021 parent survey results included in the 2021 SC Report Card.

#### Mission: Describe what you'll do and who you do it for under this partnership

Charleston RISE seeks to support CCSD and its Mission Critical initiatives by educating, communicating, and supporting families of students attending one of CCSD's Acceleration Zone schools. RISE wholeheartedly supports and champions CCSD's "Acceleration Zone" initiative. Like CCSD, RISE believes that drastic action is required to change the trajectory of failure that has plagued these schools and that traditional interventions have done little to improve student achievement. Most students attending these schools identify as Black and live-in homes which are defined as being in poverty. As such, supporting this student population at these specific schools is essential if CCSD is to ever close the achievement gap between Black and other CCSD students.

RISE seeks to take its established education program and community outreach work and tailor it to families of students attending acceleration schools to ensure that they have the information, support, and resources they need to support their students turning CCSD's turnaround efforts. Knowing that school turnaround typically takes 3-4 years, RISE proposes to provide support during the duration of the turnaround.

**Impact:** Briefly describe the intended impact your plans for this partnership in meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students who have been most severely impacted by the pandemic in the Charleston County School District.

Currently, Acceleration Zone schools receive a plethora of academic interventions for students and professional development for staff. What they do not receive is timely communication, reliable information, and dedicated support for families of students attending the schools. Moreover, parents of students who identify as Black have historically been less trusting of CCSD and less likely to engage with CCSD.

The 2021 SC State Report Card includes a parent survey. The survey asks parents of all students at the highest grade level served by the school to return an annual survey through which the State measures how satisfied parents are with their student's learning and school-home relations. The number of parents returning surveys at Acceleration Zone schools was less than one-half of the District's overall response rate and one-quarter of the response rate of parents whose students did not attend Acceleration Zone schools. Less than three hundred of the 4,000 parents surveyed at Acceleration Zone schools completed and returned the surveys with more than one-half of the schools having less than twenty parents respond. At Julian Mitchell ES, only one parent of the 265 students enrolled returned the survey.

Table 1 School Name, (School Enrollment,/Number of Parent Surveys Returned as reported in 2021 SC State Report Card)

Chicora (332/17)  
 Hunley Park (402/84)  
 Mary Ford (213/22)  
 Mitchell (265/1)  
 Morningside (693/21)  
 North Charleston ES (350/28)  
 Pepperhill (523/42)  
 Simmons-Pinckney (264/30)  
 Stono Park (428/17)  
 W.B. Goodwin (380/12)  
 Total of Above Schools (3850/274)

When CCSD asked families whether they wanted students to return to in-person instruction in Fall 2020 during the COVID-pandemic, few parents responded to the survey and, of those who did, few identified as Black. The lack of response or parent engagement resulted in the CCSD needing to adjust its plan to offer virtual instruction.

The same pattern of a low response rate at the Acceleration Zones schools in the larger context of the mistrust and lack of communication families who identify as Black have with CCSD, limits the value of the resurvey results related to parents. With few parents completing the survey, the results of the survey are extremely limited, if any, value which ultimately impacts the decisions that CCSD makes based on that survey.

Through RISE's outreach efforts and education program, we can increase parent engagement and participation in Acceleration Zone schools and provide CCSD with more reliable information upon which to

make decisions for those schools and the students attending them.

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### Program Delivery Format

Check all that apply.

- 1-on-1
- Small Group
- Whole Class
- Workshop/Assembly
- Field Experience
- Workplace Student Internship/Apprenticeship
- After-school Programming
- Other: .....

## Program Frequency

How often do you meet with students?

1-2 times during the school year

1-2 times each semester

1-2 times each quarter

Monthly

Bi-weekly (every two weeks)

Weekly

Daily (or multiple times every week)

Other:

RISE's Fellowship & Education program targets families of students attending Acceleration Zone schools. We would meet weekly with participants in the program for a total of 12 weeks.

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### Program Grade(s)

Check all that apply.

- All Grades
- Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

## Program Target Students

Check all that apply.

- All Students
- Males
- Females
- Low-Income or Title I Schools
- Students with Disabilities
- Non-native English Speakers
- High School Students (Grades 9-12)
- Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)
- Elementary School Students (Grades K-5)
- Early Childhood Students (preK)

Other:

Our program targets families of students attending Acceleration Zone schools, with have a disproportionate number of students who identify as Black and over 90% of students living in poverty as defined by State measures (homelessness, TANF, foster care etc.)

## Program Service Type

Select the primary area of impact for your service/program.

- Academic Enrichment or Tutoring (Reading/English, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Arts & Cultural Enrichment
- Attendance and Truancy
- College & Career Readiness
- Dropout Prevention
- Financial Literacy
- Health/Nutrition/Fitness
- Leadership
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Mentoring
- STEM
- Other:

Our program seeks to educate families of student attending Acceleration Zone schools to families are better able to meet all needs of students (including many of those listed above) while CCSD continues its turnaround initiatives within the school.

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## CCSD Schools Served

Please select the CCSD schools where you would like to provide your service/program this school year.

- A.C. Corcoran Elementary
- Academic Magnet High
- Angel Oak Elementary
- Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary
- Baptist Hill Middle-High
- Belle Hall Elementary
- Buist Academy
- Burke High
- C.E. Williams Middle School for Creative and Scientific Arts
- Camp Road Middle
- Carolina Park Elementary
- Charles Pinckney Elementary
- Charleston County School of the Arts
- Charleston Progressive Academy
- Chicora Elementary
- Daniel Jenkins Academy
- Deer Park Middle
- Drayton Hall Elementary
- E.B. Ellington Elementary
- Early College High School
- Edith L. Frierson Elementary
- Edmund A. Burns Elementary
- Harbor View Elementary
- Haut Gap Middle
- Hunley Park Elementary

- James B. Edwards Elementary
- James Island Elementary
- James Simons Montessori
- Jane Edwards Elementary
- Jennie Moore Elementary
- Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science
- Julian Mitchell Elementary
- Ladson Elementary
- Laing Middle
- Lambs Elementary
- Laurel Hill Primary
- Liberty Hill Academy
- Lucy Beckham High
- Malcolm C. Hursey Montessori
- Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary
- Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center
- Matilda Dunston Elementary
- Meeting Street Elementary at Brentwood
- Meeting Street Elementary at Burns
- Memminger Elementary
- Midland Park Primary
- Military Magnet Academy
- Minnie Hughes Elementary
- Montessori Community School
- Morningside Middle
- Moultrie Middle
- Mt. Pleasant Academy

- Mt. Zion Elementary
- Murray LaSaine Montessori
- North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary
- North Charleston Elementary
- North Charleston High
- Northwoods Middle
- Oakland Elementary
- Pepperhill Elementary
- Pinehurst Elementary
- R.B. Stall High
- Sanders-Clyde Elementary
- Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy
- Simmons-Pinckney Middle
- Springfield Elementary
- St. Andrew's School of Math and Science
- St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle
- St. John's High
- Stiles Point Elementary
- Stono Park Elementary
- Sullivan's Island Elementary
- Thomas C. Cario Middle
- Turning Point Academy
- W.B. Goodwin Elementary
- Wando High
- West Ashley High
- Cooper River CAS
- East Cooper CAS

- West Ashley CAS
- West Ashley Head Start
- Virtual Academy
- Allegro Charter School for Music
- Carolina Voyager Charter School
- Charleston Charter for Math and Science
- Charleston Development Academy
- East Cooper Montessori Charter School
- Greg Mathis Charter High School
- James Island Charter High School
- Orange Grove Elementary Charter School
- Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education

### Students Served

Estimated number of students that this program would like to serve this school year. If none, type "0."

Families of the 3850 students attending the identified Acceleration Zone Schools would be eligible to participate.

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### Program History

How many years has your program been in CCSD schools?

Please only list a number. For example, 5. If less than 1 year or never before, enter 0.

Charleston RISE has offered its Fellowship & Education Program for the past 5 years.

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### Who is your main point-of-contact at CCSD?

Please indicate the name and department/school of your existing contact.

Karolyn Belcher, Chief Academic Officer

### Program Need

#### What specific student need(s) does this program/service address?

Our program serves the needs of students attending CCSD's poorest performing schools which have a disproportionate number of students who identify as Black and who experience chronic poverty. By supporting and engaging families of this specific group of students, RISE believes that the turnaround initiatives implemented at Acceleration Zone schools will be significantly more successful.

#### How was the need(s) identified?

Please see the earlier question which described the 2021 SC Ready Parent Satisfaction Rates as well as the challenges CCSD had firsthand assessing family preferences in planning for a return to school during the 2020 pandemic. In addition to the low parent response rate, the 2021 SC Ready Parent Satisfaction Survey also highlighted a major paradox with how satisfied students are with their student's learning environment and how students perform academically. Notwithstanding the incredibly low student learning rates, parents of Acceleration Zone schools are satisfied with their student's learning. Over 84% of parents are satisfied with their student's learning when only 13% of students attending these schools met or exceeded SC Ready standards in ELA. Schools like W.B. Goodwin boosted a 100% satisfaction rate when only two students met or exceeded the SC Ready math standards. While Goodwin is an extreme example, the overall pattern of high parent satisfaction and incredibly low student achievement at those same schools are achievement rates no one should be satisfied with and highlights the need to provide families with the information and tools they need to help their students achieve.

### Program Impact

## Student Impact

What is the impact of your program based on data?

- An independent evaluation (research study) has found our program to have a STRONG impact
- Our organization's data has found our program to have a STRONG impact
- Our organization's data has found our program to have a MODERATE impact
- Our organization does not have data to determine impact
- Other: .....

How will you measure the success of your proposal if implemented?

We would measure success by counting the number of parents who engage with each school (compared to the number that currently engage), the number of engagements by parents, surveys of parent knowledge both before and after the fellowship program and comparing the results of the 2022 SC Ready Report Card with those from 2021.

If you would like to share recent outcomes data, please upload a very brief executive summary.

RISE Executive S...

## Program Funding

### Program Budget

What is the anticipated cost (your anticipated budget) to operate your program? If there is no cost, please indicate \$0.

\$40,600

### Funding Source(s)

What are the anticipated funding source(s) for your program/service? Check all that apply.

No Funding

Grants

Donations

Fee-for-Service (families/participants pay)

Invoicing a Third-Party (e.g., Medicaid)

Invoicing CCSD

Other:

RISE would defray some of the costs via in-kind contributions (providing some services to CCSD at no cost to it).

### Funding Request(s)

If you plan to invoice CCSD, how much funding do you anticipate needing?

\$34,100

What is your organization's staffing for the program/service?

Individuals will volunteer to provide services

Individuals will be paid to provide services

Both volunteer and paid

Other: .....

What CCSD resources (e.g., transportation, facility use, point-of-contact at school) would it take to implement the program?

Please be as specific as possible.

We would request the following:

- 1). Names and addresses of families attending Acceleration Zone schools as outreach (door knocking, emailing, texting) would be included in our plan to attract families to the fellowship program,
  - 2). Facility use if we are not able to secure space at another site near the Acceleration Zone school; and
  - 3). Information (District or School-Level speakers) to inform RISE and participants of Acceleration Zone initiatives.
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### Funding Plan

Describe your funding needs and the justifications for these resources including supervision, materials, transportation, etc.

Please provide your proposed budget using the format in the sample shown here.

CCSD ARP ESSER III PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL (SAMPLE)

Organization XYZ

| Budget Item/Activity         | Year 1     | Year 2     | Year 3     | Year X     | Total      |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Staff Salaries               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Overhead costs               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Transportation               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Materials                    | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Facilities                   | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Operations                   | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Marketing and Communications | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| Other items...               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        | \$0        |
| <b>Total Budget</b>          | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> |

RISE Proposed B...

Policies & Procedures

Will your organization be able to comply with CCSD policies and procedures regarding certificate of insurance (COI), legal documents, and clearances?

Yes ▼

Additional Comments

Is there anything else that you'd like to share?

While we realize this proposal may be slightly unorthodox in that it supports families as a way of supporting students in our lowest performing schools, we believe it is critical, particularly as we know that turnaround in any school takes 3 to 4 years. Charleston RISE fully supports the Acceleration Zone initiative and believes it can support CCSD this partnership would allow CCSD to maintain a laser focus on providing rigorous instruction and high-quality professional development to school staffs.

Finally, this is a only a proposal. If CCSD has ideas how to strengthen this proposed partnership, Charleston RISE is eager and willing to consider any adjustments that may better support our families.

Thank you for completing the CCSD ESSER III Program Partner Application. Your responses will be reviewed and you will be contacted if the team has questions or would like more information.

If you have any questions, please email [partnerships@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:partnerships@charleston.k12.sc.us) or call (843) 937-6303. Thank you!

This form was created inside of Charleston County School District.

Google Forms