

NYC Grant Opportunities for Charter Schools

Every year, the City of New York makes millions in public funds available to public schools and non-profit organizations. As both, NYC charter schools are eligible to apply. Below is information regarding the two most accessible funding sources.

We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities! The Charter Center's Policy & Advocacy team is here to help. Contact Patricia Tudosa at ptudosa@nyccharterschools.org for further information.

FUNDING FROM THE NYC COUNCIL (*DISCRETIONARY FUNDING*)

Types of Projects that Qualify:

1. **YOUTH PROGRAMS:** School services and programs qualify as long as they are provided after the official school day has ended. Examples of previously-funded programs include:
 - A partnership between a charter school and a local tutoring CBO to provide after-school services. Program received \$5,000.
 - A charter school received \$8,000 to support its summer enrichment program, including staff, educational materials, supplies and parent workshops.

2. **LOCAL INITIATIVES:** School initiatives can get funded if the application demonstrates that the scope of the program serves a larger geographical area (beyond the school itself), or the services offered exceed the school's individual ability to fund. Co-located schools can take advantage of this type of funding if they're collaborating on a program. Examples of previously funded programs include:
 - A charter school received \$5,000 to hire outside experts to start programs (such as coding and chess), and provide professional development for teachers so that they could create clubs (such as debate and video production).
 - A charter school received \$5,000 to provide staffing, administrative and operational support for an after-school initiative designed to address two critical needs: academic support for students who fall behind, and on-site after-school activities.

Funding Amount: Awards average \$5,000-\$10,000

Timeline: Applications must be submitted from January 4, 2016 through February 22, 2016. Check the [City Council's website](#) for details

Easy to Apply! You can apply on your own, or in conjunction with a partnering school (district or charter) or non-profit organization

Required: Write your Council Member a [one-page letter](#) describing the program in detail and include proof of your non-profit status. Whether you are applying to fund a youth program or a local initiative, you have to prove that the initiative serves a city purpose and is open to all constituents within the appropriate age group

FUNDING FROM THE BOROUGH PRESIDENTS' OFFICES (*CAPITAL FUNDING*)

Types of Projects that Qualify:

1. **MOVEABLE PROPERTY:** Equipment or furniture that is not attached or minimally attached to real property. The City may fund the total costs. Examples of previously funded programs include:

- Multiple schools have received \$35,000 each for mobile science labs. (*The Charter Center urges all schools to apply for mobile science labs!*)
- One charter school in private space received \$200,000 (\$150,000 from the BP and \$50,000 from a Councilmember) to outfit its new building with quality furniture that is durable enough to withstand daily use by adolescents.

Funding Amount: Minimum \$35,000

Timeline: Deadline for submission is February 12, 2016, 5:00 pm

Easy to Apply! Check your Borough President's Office website for details. **Find your BP here.**

2. **REAL PROPERTY:** Acquisition, construction or reconstruction of land/buildings or fixtures. While no charter school has yet received funding through this revenue stream to our knowledge, sample projects include:

- In Brownsville, Brooklyn BP Eric Adams apportioned \$513,000 to Community Solutions for the build out of the Greg Jackson Center for Brownsville, a multi-service space focused on job training.
- In East Flatbush, \$513,000 has been awarded to SUNY Downstate Medical Center for specialized infrastructure in its biotechnology incubator, enabling start-up and early-stage companies to conduct research and create products.

Funding Amount: Minimum \$500,000

Timeline: Deadline for submission is February 12, 2016, 5:00 pm

Who Can Apply? This is a complicated, though not impossible application. Contact us if you're interested—we're here to help!

Note: You can supplement your application for funding to the Borough President's Office with an application to your local Councilmember. This is common practice, and requires sending two separate letters. The Borough Presidents' websites provide detailed guidance on the process.

SAMPLE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS REQUEST LETTER
[Put on school stationery]

Contact Information

- The Higher Performance Charter High School (HPCHS)
- 123 Our Street
- Red Hook, Brooklyn
- School population: 450 students
- Grades: 9-12
- Tax ID # is: 12345678
- Contact person: Principal Mary Smith, 718-123-4567; email smith@hpchs.org

Date

Dear Councilmember,

We are writing this letter to request a \$7,500 grant appropriation from the City Council to support an afterschool chess program, open to all students regardless of the school they attend. HPCHS is a public school in your district serving XXX students in grades A – B. We serve a diverse, predominantly minority population, YY% of which are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Virtually all of the families we serve live in the surrounding neighborhoods and our after school programs are open to all members of the community.

We believe in chess instruction as a supplement to traditional classroom instruction because of its proven track record helping to develop critical and strategic thinking skills. Our community, as do most in New York City, suffers from a severe dearth of programs to support families' after school needs. HPCHS is committed to helping fill this void and your financial support for our program will go a long way to helping ensure that every family in the XXth Council district has access to the support they need.

Funds Requested:

Instructors and fees: 50 sessions @ \$100/session (to cover two instructors) = \$5,000
Materials & misc. expenses: \$2,500

TOTAL REQUESTED: \$7,500

For more information about this program and request, please contact HPCHS Principal Mary Smith at 718-123-4567 or smith@hpchs.org.

Thank you for considering our request.