

FY 2018 Directory of Funded Programs:
Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
National Dissemination Grants (CFDA Number: 84.282T)
Project Abstract

NACA Inspired Schools Network

State:

New Mexico

PR Award Number:

U282T180018

Duration (Years):

3 Years

Year 1 Funding:

\$780,000.00

Total Expected Funding:

\$2,373,400.00

NACA Inspired Schools Network:

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Goals: The goal of NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN's) proposed project is to expand educational opportunities for underserved students by developing and disseminating information and best practices in accessing, planning, and funding facilities for charter schools. The project focuses on schools serving Native American and other historically marginalized communities in rural, tribal, and other under-resourced areas. Together with our partners, Grow New Mexico and The Grant Plant, NISN will analyze the unique facility needs and the knowledge, resource and capacity gaps of 15 charter schools serving target populations in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado and link them to technical assistance, advisory services, and funding opportunities. This comprehensive assessment and coordination of supports will allow us to develop and document best practices in sustainable facilities planning and management related to the real-world circumstances of schools with significant infrastructure and capacity deficits, applicable to all charter schools serving traditionally underserved communities. A key feature of this project is placing the empowerment of students and families at the center by applying NISN's culturally responsive community outreach and engagement model to the facilities planning process, integrating locally driven needs while building a sense of trust and ownership within the community. All materials developed (a total of 8 discrete outputs) will be directly and indirectly disseminated through at least 10 specified mechanisms by the end of the 36-month grant period.

Expected Outcome: Educators and administrators in regional and national charter schools have increased knowledge of, and access to, a suite of adaptable best practices tools and resources to assess their facilities' needs; engage local communities in facilities planning; build their management capacity; and access facilities funding and technical assistance.

Contributions for Research, Policy, and/or Practice: Charter schools are increasingly viewed as the best option for a quality education for Native American students on tribal lands. The proposed NISN, Grow New Mexico, and The Grant Plant project is groundbreaking in its efforts to develop a comprehensive set of resources addressing the unique facilities needs of these schools. The concepts and materials (templates, guidebooks, and other tools) developed as part of this project will be designed to be both specific and portable, with the potential to be used as templates for tribal charter school work around the country for many years to come.