



**Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS)
State Scaling Grant
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

1. If we enter into other Federal Funds, will that be an issue?
 - a. Entering into additional federal funds while also participating in the FSCS project should not be an issue. ACT Now is the grantee of this funding, any participating districts will act as partners on this project and will not be listed as grantees of federal funding. LEAs must act in accordance with the federal provisions of supplement not supplant¹ in the expenditure of these funds.
2. When is the new NOFO expected to open?
 - a. The Interest Form for the FSCS project opened on May 9, 2024 and will close on May 31, 2024 at 5:00pm CST.
3. As a school district who will choose which 2 schools to advance to ACT Now, should we prioritize
 - a) A school with hard core needs and/or can connect most readily to the pipeline services (i.e., early childhood or juvenile crime or postsecondary workforce readiness); versus b) A school that still has needs that you have identified (Title school, minority students) and strong momentum underway with school leadership, partners, etc. that meet your comments of "commitment" and who can "build FSCS infrastructure within the district"?
 - a. ACT Now intends to leverage this project as an opportunity to gather data to communicate the effectiveness of the community schools model in Illinois. Further, a goal of this project is to sustain the implementation of these pillars past the five-year grant cycle in the schools chosen. As such, we recommend determining which schools would be best set up to accomplish these goals when submitting forms of interest.
4. If you currently have a 21st CCLC grant but will be ending at the end of FY25, can we still apply?
 - a. Yes, schools and/or LPAs that have active 21st CCLC grants are eligible to participate in the FSCS project. The provisions of supplement not supplant² must be met in the expenditure of these funds.
5. One of the requirements of each coalition member is to develop high quality early childhood education. We are a CBO that serves only high school students. If we developed linkage agreements with local child care providers and area grammar schools where we would refer families who have young children, would that satisfy the requirement?
 - a. Yes, a partnership with a community provider will satisfy the pipeline service offering.
6. Does the Full Time Community Schools Coordinator compensation come from the \$500,000 per school allotment or from a different source?
 - a. The Full-Time Community Schools Coordinator position compensation is included in the annual \$500,000 per school allocation.
7. Is the training from Community Schools Coordinator provided by ACT Now?

¹ The supplement not supplant provision requires that federal funds be used to augment the regular services provided. LEAs must use federal funds to add to (or supplement) and not replace (or supplant) other funds (state/local) in providing general educational service (www.ed.gov).

² See footnote 1.

- a. ACT Now has established a linkage agreement with Community School Partners (CSP) who will provide coaching and training to each Coordinator. Coaching opportunities will also be made available to district and school level staff pertinent to the success of the project. Onboarding for these positions will be done in tandem by ACT Now and partnering school districts. ACT Now will also be providing professional development opportunities to Coordinators and the larger field of community schools providers throughout this project.
8. Will each school receive \$500,000 annual funding for 5 consecutive years?
 - a. Yes, each school selected will receive \$500,000 of annual funding over the five-year grant period.
9. Based on NCES, Rantoul is Town-Fringe. Does this definition make the Rantoul schools eligible to apply for the rural district application?
 - a. Please use this [document](#) to access the list of Rural eligible school districts as identified by the Federal Department of Education.
10. What are the start and end dates of this grant?
 - a. The FSCS grant period began on January 1, 2024 and concludes on December 31, 2028. Funding for districts will be distributed following the final selection and acceptance, anticipated mid- to late-July 2024. Additionally, a 6-month extension opportunity will be available to fund participating schools through the rest of the 2028-2029 school year.
11. Are there any budgets that we would be required to submit as part of the final application process?
 - a. No. Budget submission is not a requirement of interest application process. Participating districts will work with ACT Now to draft a budget proposal that satisfies the requirements of the grant after being selected.
12. Do you have an allowable use of funds document to help us better understand exactly what grant funds can be spent on?
 - a. Please reference this [document](#) to identify the eligible uses of this funding as determined by the Federal Department of Education.
13. We are a CBO that partners primarily with alternative schools. Those schools are mostly charter schools within Chicago and the students are considered CPS students. Would these schools be considered "District 299" schools in the 2 schools per district limit?
 - a. Yes, these schools would be considered District 299 schools and within the 2 school per district limit. However, ACT Now would still encourage submitting an interest form for your schools as this information will be reviewed as selection for CPS occurs.
14. We are a K-12 district with one school per grade span (K-5, 6-8, 9-12), serving approximately 800 students. Although our JH/HS are technically two separate schools with their own principals, the two buildings are connected and share teaching staff. Would it be possible to consider our JH/HS as one school for the purposes of this grant, or would they have to be considered 2 schools?
 - a. Due to the separate administration teams, these would be considered two separate schools.
15. I work in a small elementary district with only 1 school in the district. If the grant is designed to cover two schools, can a 1-school district like mine partner with another school or would my district essentially be eliminated right from the start?

- a. A single-school district can apply to participate in this project independently. Additionally, if there is a neighboring district that includes a feeder school or serves the same community, these two districts can apply jointly with one school each. If districts choose to partner on this project, ACT Now asks that each district submit a separate Interest Form and indicate in the form that they are applying jointly with another district and name the intended partner. This information can be included in Question 32 on the Interest Form: “Is there anything else that would be important for ACT Now to know when considering your district’s interest in this project?”.
16. Last year we applied for the full-service community schools grant, and we did not make the cut score, is this the same grant or different?
 - a. This is a FSCS grant, however, this project is administered by ACT Now who are the grantees of this federal grant. If your district applies for this project, the district will not be a grantee of the Federal Department of Education, rather, the district will be supporting ACT Now’s project as a partner.
17. The interest form asks for all disciplinary actions, does this mean every referral?
 - a. No, this does not mean every referral. Rather, this metric should count every reported discipline incident occurring over the previous school year. Discipline incidents should include: (i) expulsion—received educational services; (ii) expulsion—did not receive educational services; (iii) in-school suspension; (iv) out-of-school suspension; and (v) removals to alternative settings.
18. Can one LPA or school district apply for both projects?
 - a. ACT Now encourages LPAs and districts to identify which project best aligns with the communities being served and choose a single project to submit interest for.