



Emerging CMO Fund

A fund to increase the number of excellent charter school networks led by entrepreneurs of color

Program Overview

The Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) is looking for the next generation of entrepreneurs from across the country to join the 31 talented leaders of color who have received support through the Emerging CMO Fund to date. Through the Emerging CMO Fund, CSGF will support the growth of the next cohort of high-performing, early-stage charter school networks led by entrepreneurs of color. This program is available to entrepreneurs of color who currently lead a single-site or an early-stage charter school network that they want to grow into two- to five-school networks.

Key Components

- CSGF will make grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 to support costs associated with each organization's growth. Grant recipients have the opportunity to engage in individual and group learning, participate in the annual CSGF Emerging CMO Retreat, and receive mentorship from CEOs who successfully scaled their organizations to become multi-school charter school networks.
- Leaders who receive support through the Emerging CMO Fund join a cohort of entrepreneurs who are leading their networks through an early stage of growth. Their organizations use a variety of educational models and serve students of various ages and backgrounds throughout the country.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants to the Emerging CMO Fund should demonstrate the following:

- **Proven Leadership**
A track record of three to five years of demonstrated success in a leadership role of a charter school or early-stage charter school network.
- **Academic Performance**
A record of operating schools that outperform their local districts and perform well compared to the average school in their state on state-administered assessments.
- **Commitment to Underserved Students**
A commitment to serving students from high-need backgrounds and communities that have few high-quality public schools.
- **Vision for Growth**
A desire to grow a charter school network by adding between one and three schools.



Erika Bryant

Executive Director

Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School

The Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School opened its doors in September 1998. Today, Elsie Whitlow Stokes Freedom PCS serves PK3-5 students across two schools in Washington, DC. Elsie Whitlow Stokes Freedom PCS was founded with the goal of preparing students to be leaders, scholars and responsible citizens who are committed to social justice. Students are taught to think, speak, read, write and learn in two languages: English and French or English and Spanish. With a dual focus on academic excellence and community service, the Stokes School accomplishes its mission by creating an environment of achievement, respect and non-violence.

Erika Bryant has worked in the field of education for almost 30 years. She graduated with a bachelor's from Spelman College and a Master's in Education Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Paul Escala

Executive Director

Grimmway Schools

Grimmway Schools was established in 2011 to provide an opportunity for children to develop skills that allow for successful advancement through each grade and to close the achievement gap for students in the rural areas of Kern County. Grimmway Schools offers a high performing, rigorous academic environment using blended learning and edible education curriculum to deliver outstanding academic results for a high English Language Learner population. Grimmway operates two K-8 schools in Arvin and Shafter, CA.

With over 15 years in education, Paul Escala has served a variety of roles to ensure better educational outcomes for students. Paul earned a Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Application Process

Application Deadline

February 1, 2019

Award Notification

June 2019

Online Application

Applicants should submit an online application at submit.chartergrowthfund.org. Please email emergingcmo@chartergrowthfund.org with any questions.

Data Submission

Applicants will be required to provide the following information: (1) three to five years of state test results; (2) student demographics; (3) three years of audited financial statements; (4) leadership team biographies; (5) charter agreement; and (6) letter of good standing from your charter authorizer. The application portal contains additional information about these requirements.

Written Response

Applicants will need to answer each of the following questions in 300 words or less.

- **LEADERSHIP** What strengths will you leverage as your organization grows? As a leader, what areas will you need to develop as you embark on a phase of growth?
- **GROWTH** Why is your charter school organization pursuing growth? What impact do you wish to have in your community?
- **CHALLENGES** What are 1-3 challenges you expect to encounter as you grow your charter school organization?

Top applicants will be named semi-finalists and undergo a thorough due diligence process. We will learn more about semi-finalist's leaders, academic and organizational models, and potential to scale in spring 2019 and announce finalists in June 2019.

About Charter School Growth Fund

The Charter School Growth Fund is a nonprofit that identifies the country's best public charter schools, funds their expansion, and helps increase their impact. We support a growing portfolio of the nation's leading public charter school networks. This group includes over 60 charter school networks across 28 states that operate more than 870 public charter schools and enroll over 370,000 students. Networks we support typically operate in underserved communities with limited access to high-quality schools. Ninety-two percent of the students our portfolio members serve are students of color, and 81 percent are from low-income families.

We are looking for the next generation of entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and team members to help us grow the nation's best charter schools. To learn more about our work and the charter school networks that we support, please visit chartergrowthfund.org.

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