



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
*focus on achievement*

## New School Development Program

The League's New School Development Program supports the growth, expansion and development of high quality charter schools. We believe that by providing support for schools from their first meetings as a founding committee through their first year of operations, we can better equip them for success—thereby furthering the League's mission of improving student achievement and expanding choice among high quality public schools. The New School Development Program offers a variety of services as follows:

### General Support for Developing Groups

This takes the form of general technical assistance available through having a League representative meet with your group to help structure a planning process, as well as on-going support via subsequent follow-up meetings, phone and email communications. Technical assistance is available in a variety of areas including: goal setting and the accountability process, data and assessment, leadership and capacity building, business operations, instructional design and curriculum development, governance, charter application development, facilities planning and financing and more. Support is also available through a variety of guiding documents that are available to developing groups including Quality Standards for Developing Groups (which includes detailed checklists for charter application components), a Charter School Planning and Implementation Template, board resources, sample documents, etc. available on the New School Development page of the League's website: <https://coloradoleague.org/page/nsdsupport>.

### Grant Opportunities

The League offers two grant opportunities for developing charter schools:

- **Walton Family Foundation (WFF) Grant Partners Program**--The League works with the Walton Family Foundation (WFF) in order to help the Foundation identify promising charter schools in Colorado. The Walton Family Foundation's focus is on high-quality, high-potential network and individual school options that will serve a significant number of students from low-income backgrounds, and must draw a majority of its students from one of the Foundation's targeted districts. The foundation is investing in cities where conditions support system-wide educational improvement, where they can have the greatest impact, and includes Denver. School can reach out directly to the Walton Family Foundation at [www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/grants/public-charter-startup-grants](http://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/grants/public-charter-startup-grants)
- **Planning Grants**— The Colorado League of Charter Schools offers five planning grants that are designed for groups that are in the process of developing high-quality charter school models and are writing a charter application. These grants are designed to assist groups who haven't been able to access other planning funds to assist with development costs such as hiring consultants, outreach, etc. There are no deadlines associated with these planning grants; grant proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis. More information is available at: <https://coloradoleague.org/page/grantopportunities> In addition to other listed requirements, a developing school must participate or plan to participate in the League's two-part application review process to be eligible for this grant opportunity.

### **Charter Application Review**

The League offers a charter application review process as part of its New School Development Program. A team of reviewers will carefully read each section of the draft application and provide constructive feedback on the quality of the application as measured against the Quality Standards for Developing Charter Schools. In order for the League to cover the costs of this service, we just ask that developing groups submit a Stage 4 Planning Grant, with enough lead time for the grant application to be reviewed and approved, prior to the draft application deadline. Upon being approved for the planning grant, developing groups can participate in the Charter Application Review process, by submitting **a high-quality, completed draft application. We ask that the application be emailed to the League at least two months prior to the district or authorizer's deadline** for application submission. A near final draft of the school's proposed budget (in Microsoft Excel), and other key attachments should also be included. Please, be sure to schedule this review ahead of time so we can plan for it. Application review participants will receive a report from the review team, and may then use that feedback to revise their application, resubmit the revised proposal for a second read-through and a final round of suggested revisions, and use that information in any final application revisions prior to submission to their authorizer.

### **Charter Starter Webinars**

The League offers free webinars for new charter school developers. These 90 minute webinars are generally introductory in nature and are designed for people who are in the process of developing a charter school application. Each webinar focuses on an area of critical importance to groups in the process of designing a school and writing a charter application. Archived webinars are available on the League website on an ongoing basis, are included as required viewing in the planning grant process, and live webinars will be offered when updates need to be made to these webinars. To view the calendar of upcoming webinars or watch recordings of past webinars, go to: <https://coloradoleague.org/page/nsdtrainings>

### **For additional information about these services, contact:**

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