

**An Open Letter to the U.S. Department of Education and California Applicants for the  
Charter School Program State Entity Grant:  
California Charter Authorizing Professional's Commitment of Support**

**The Grant...**

An important part of the U.S. Department of Education's Charter School Program State Entity grant (Grant) is designed to strengthen the charter school authorizing process. We believe this competitive federal grant will attract multiple high-quality applicants from California agencies and organizations. California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP) is committed to supporting the successful applicant in the work of strengthening authorizing in California.

**Who we are...**

CCAP is a California nonprofit dedicated to providing charter school authorizing professionals with support, resources, and a collective voice. CCAP is dedicated to the mission of advancing quality public education for all students by providing charter school authorizers the support, resources, and collective voice necessary to foster high-performing, fiscally sound, autonomous, and accountable charter schools.

CCAP currently serves authorizers throughout California, which has more authorizers than any other state (approximately 337 authorizers). CCAP is partially funded through a three-year federal CSP National Leadership Activities grant in a partnership with the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers and the Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers called the Tri-State Alliance. While the three entities work collaboratively, each organization is focused on the specific needs of authorizers in its respective state, with an emphasis on authorizers with small portfolios and those with portfolios of low performing schools.

**Our work...**

During this fiscal year, among our accomplishments CCAP has completed two major reports.

1. District & County Authorizer Needs Assessment Report – California: This report provides the first statewide assessment of greatest needs and priorities for statewide model authorizing materials and other forms of assistance to strengthen the work of California school district and county authorizers in charter school authorizing. (<https://calauthorizers.org/resource-library/>)
2. An Assessment of the Needs of California Charter Authorizers to Support English Learners: This report describes the results of a needs assessment of California authorizers for strengthening practices to support English learners. A groundbreaking report on English Learner support in charter schools (<https://calauthorizers.org/resource-library/>)

Building on these two reports, CCAP is convening two Action Teams to create:

- Toolkit for Reviews of Charter Petitions (i.e., charter applications); and
- Toolkit on Annual Authorizer Reports to Charter Schools and Site Visit Protocols.

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These toolkits will include:

- High-quality model materials, templates, and best practice procedures that provide greater efficiencies and information for data driven decision-making based on key academic, fiscal (e.g., current fiscal condition and audit review) and operational/governance performance indicators.

In addition, the CCAP Action Team Toolkits will address:

- Changes in law: A wide range of issues require by the recent changes in California law.
- English Learners and Children with Disabilities: CCAP's Toolkits will be the first to provide tools to authorizers to ensure that English Learners and children with disabilities have full access and appropriate educational program support in charter schools.

These Action Teams are being led by authorizing experts using an inclusive, web-based and iterative process that is critical to ensure active participation by all stakeholder groups with high-quality results.

In the third year of our federal grant we will be creating two additional Action Teams on critical needs area. Through a partnership with the Small School District Association, CCAP is building a dynamic infrastructure that will also provide high quality authorizer training for these new tools and ongoing technical assistance to authorizers statewide.

CCAP is excited that a CSP State Educational Agency grant would support high quality tools for California authorizers and significantly increase technical assistance, especially to authorizers with small portfolios. The challenges faced by authorizers in California are large, complex, and long-standing. CCAP draws upon established resources, such as that provided through the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) and other high-quality authorizers in California and nationally. CCAP is hard at work developing California-specific best practices and significantly expanded training opportunities that meet the wide range of authorizer needs, but especially those of small authorizers. CCAP, with its expertise, membership base, and collaboration with the Tri-State Alliance, is uniquely positioned to support this work.

#### **Our commitment...**

Consistent with the CCAP mission and obligations under our current federal grant, CCAP actively seeks partners who share the same commitment to strengthening charter school authorizing and oversight. The CCAP governing board is fully committed to provide assistance and support to strengthen the authorizing function in California with the successful agency or organization that receives this grant.

CCAP looks forward to assisting in the strengthening of authorizing in California as part of our contribution to ensuring every California student attends a high-quality public school.

Sincerely,

Victor Torres  
Executive Director