



# Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services

For more information and to submit applications:

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Funding Period: Fiscal Year 2022

**Delaware Department of Education  
Opportunity Funding Form  
2021-2022 School Year**

**Application deadline: Friday, July 30, 2021**

**Purpose:** The Opportunity Funding directed to mental health services provides \$5.0 million in FY20, \$2.5 million in HB 225 (Annual Appropriations Act) and \$2.5 million authorized in HB 226 (One-Time Supplemental). With a total supplemental amount of \$7.5 million over three years, the total amount will be \$15 million *contingent on future appropriations*. The Opportunity Fund is to provide additional funding for English Learner (EL) and low-income students.

For FY21, \$2.5 million is appropriated through HB 240 (Annual Appropriations Act). The guiding language regarding these funds and eligibility was amended through HB260 (Grants- In-Aid Act). The \$2.5 million allocated is supplemented with the \$2.5 million from HB 226 as referenced above. A total of \$5 million is appropriated for FY21.

For FY22, \$5.5 million is appropriated through HB 250 (Annual Appropriations Act). The \$5.5 million allocated is supplemented with the \$2.5 million as referenced above. A total of \$8 million is appropriated for FY22.

For FY22, these funds are apportioned and allocated to schools meeting criteria based on the prior year unit count: 1) a grade configuration containing K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade and (2) greater than or equal to 30% percent low-income and/or greater than or equal to 10% English Learner enrollment. There are schools that have been grandfathered because of meeting the threshold in FY21 and not meeting in FY22. This is noted.

This funding shall be used by school districts and charter schools for *mental health services* in the form of school counselors, school social workers or licensed clinical social workers, school psychologists, and/or for additional reading supports for grades K-5. Services may include the employment of staff, where such funding may be used to cover 100 percent of personnel costs on a 10 to 12-month basis and/or contracted services.

**Allocation Method:** Amounts vary per school and that amount is indicated below. Each LEA has already received the first half of the funding; the second amount will be released upon receipt and approval of this application.

DISTRICT/CHARTER NAME: Las Americas ASPIRA Academy
ADDRESS: 326 Ruthar Drive Newark, DE 19711
CONTACT NAME: Margie Lopez Waite
CONTACT PHONE: 302. 292.1463
CONTACT EMAIL: Margie.lopezwaite@laaa.k12.de.us
ALLOCATION AMOUNT: \$177,452

**Questions:**

1. What mental health needs of your identified low-income and English learner students will you be addressing through these mental health services funds? *(Please indicate N/A if these funds are solely being used for reading supports for the two subgroups – EL and low-income.)*

Since opening in 2011, Las Americas ASPIRA Academy (LAAA) has served a large population of English Learners (EL) and low-income students (LI). The percentage of students in these populations has changed from year to year, however, it has remained consistently about 40% EL and 50% LI students. Increasing academic achievement of EL and LI students has been, and will continue to be, a school improvement plan goal. LAAA recognizes and has developed a plan to address the achievement gap reflected in the SBAC and PSAT proficiency levels, however, our EL and LI students encounter other deterrents in their learning process. Many of the families of our EL and LI students have to contend with the daily stress of income, food and shelter instabilities. For some, these struggles are compounded with the uncertainties of a parent's or guardian's immigration status. Many of these families do not seek out state or federal financial support because of their fear of deportation, which limits the options for assistance. Many of the parents/guardians of our EL and LI students are not literate in their first or second language; therefore, they struggle with supporting their children's learning at home. All these factors impact our EL and LI students' ability to attend school ready to learn. During the past two years, LAAA engaged in several activities to strengthen the commitment to EL and LI students. This, however, is not a one or two year commitment. LAAA plans to engage in the following:

- \* Engage the staff in on-going professional development to support the SEL needs of students
- \* Allocate Climate and Culture Specialists to work with staff and students to support a positive learning environment and provide discipline strategies and options that keep students in the classroom. Through the funds provided in this grant we plan to retain a PT Climate and Culture Specialist and hire a climate and culture specialist.
- \* Support students' SEL needs through classroom, small group, and individual sessions with the school counselor. Through the funds provided in this grant we plan to retain a K-4 School Counselor.

- \* Contract with mental health agencies as needed to provide therapy for students
- \* Provide targeted support to families through the LAAA Family Resource Center

To support our EL and LI students, we have made an investment in becoming a more trauma-sensitive school by focusing on the whole child. Building on statewide training that all staff have attended previously we will continue to focus on supporting our school team members in understanding how trauma and other external factors can affect student learning. We have built the infrastructure to support the social and emotional needs of our students through our approach to school discipline and classroom/school climate. However, it is important to engage our employees in continued professional learning to build their knowledge and strategies to support all students, especially those identified as EL and LI.

The LAAA Climate and Culture team oversees our school-wide character development program, as well as addresses the social and emotional needs of our students. They take a proactive approach to helping students with conflict resolution and coping skills. To expand their reach, two years ago through Opportunity/Mental Health Grant Funding we were able to hire a full time Climate and Culture Specialist, a part time Climate and Culture Specialist, and a School Counselor who works with students in the lower school. The Climate and Culture Specialists and School Counselor provide targeted support to our EL and LI students. When needed, we also contract with a mental health agency to provide therapy sessions during the school day. In addition to the Climate and Culture team, the LAAA Family Resource Center Coordinator provides target support to our EL and LI families, which consists of information workshops, literacy classes (English and Spanish), financial assistance (i.e., school uniforms, backpacks, school supplies) and resource referrals.

2. What kind of mental health services personnel are you hiring or contracting (school counselor, school social worker, licensed clinical social worker or school psychologist)?

During school years 20 and 21, LAAA engaged in several activities to strengthen its commitment to EL and LI students. LAAA plans to engage in the following:

Engage the staff in on-going professional development to support the SEL needs of students

\* Allocate Climate and Culture Specialists to work with staff and students to support a positive learning environment and provide discipline strategies and options that keep students in the classroom. Through the funds provided in this grant we plan to retain a PT Climate and Culture Specialist.

\* Support students' SEL needs through classroom, small group, and individual sessions with the school counselor. Through the funds provided in this grant we plan to retain a K-4 School Counselor.

\* Contract with mental health agencies as needed to provide therapy for students

\* Provide targeted support to families through the LAAA Family Resource Center

3. Are you using these funds for reading supports for your identified low-income and English learner students in addition to mental health services or in lieu of mental health services? If so, what types of supports/services will be provided?

During the 2021-2022 school year, LAAA will use these funds to support social emotional learning and mental health services. Funds during SY 22 will not be used for reading supports.

4. How will you know if these services or supports are effective?

The services and supports provided through this funding will be effective as measured by:

- \* Logs kept by the school counselor documenting supports provided for SEL and small group counseling
- \* Reductions in tier II and tier III behavioral interventions
- \* Progress monitoring for students receiving tier II and tier III behavioral interventions
- \* Reductions in student disciplinary actions resulting in student removal from the classroom
- \* Percentage of students increasing in their EL proficiency and meeting their growth target of the ACCESS assessment.

5. Is this money is being used to contract services?

YES  NO

6. Please complete the State Funds Budget Form and State Budget Summary Form (attached).

**Assurances and signatures:**

As the chief school officer of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I am also authorized to obligate the district or charter school to conduct any activity approved under this form in accordance with all applicable state requirements, including statutory and regulatory requirements, and program specific requirements. The information contained in it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

**Chief School Officer (printed name):** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the business manager of the district or school, including the indicated school, I am authorized to submit for the funds identified in this form. I have read this form and reviewed the financial information contained in this form. The information contained in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have reviewed and approve the submission of the budgetary information for this form. By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by all applicable requirements. I further agree that

1. I understand that this funding may not be used to supplant otherwise available funding.
2. I understand that our district shall be authorized to assess a local match to provide for the local contribution of personnel costs associated with this appropriation (districts only).

**Business manager (printed name):** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I am approving the plan submitted by the district or charter.

**Secretary of Education/Designee (printed name):** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Live signature on file at DOE.**







## State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services  
 Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LEA/Agency: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Project Start Date: 7/1/2021  
 Project End Date: 6/30/2022

Expense Types and Account Codes: Salaries (5100) and Other Employee Costs (5120)						
Employee Name	Title	FTE Percentage		State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
<b>PROFESSIONAL:</b>						
Mortimer	Guidance Counselor			\$47,225.00	\$	\$47,225.00
Yancey-Harris	Climate & Culture Specialist			\$22,837.30		\$22,837.30
Waite	Climate & Culture Specialist			\$32,250.00		\$32,250.00
Llamas	Climate & Culture Specialist			\$31,000.00		\$31,000.00
Professional Subtotal				\$133,312.30		\$133,312.30
<b>SUBSTITUTES:</b>						
				\$	\$	\$
Substitutes Subtotal						
<b>SUPPORT STAFF:</b>						
				\$	\$	\$
Support Staff Subtotal						
<b>STUDENTS:</b>						
				\$	\$	\$
Students Subtotal						
<b>SALARY TOTAL:</b>				\$133,312.30		\$133,312.30
<b>OTHER EMPLOYEE COSTS:</b>						
FICA		6.20%		\$8,265.36	\$	\$8,265.36
Medicare		1.45%		\$1,933.03		\$1,933.03
Pension		23.80%		\$31,728.33		\$31,728.33
Workman's Comp		1.55%		\$2,066.34		\$2,066.34
Unemployment Insurance		0.11%		\$146.64		\$146.64
		33.11%				
Health Insurance/Other Non-taxed Benefits			(\$15,391 is the average HI cost for FY22)			
<b>OEC TOTAL:</b>				\$44,139.70		\$44,139.70
<b>SALARY AND OEC TOTAL:</b>				\$177,452.00		\$177,452.00



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State Subgrant: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services

Project Start Date: 7/1/2021

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

LEA/Agency: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Project End Date: 6/30/2022

Expense Types and Account Codes: Travel (5400)					
Destination	Purpose	# of Travelers	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS					

Expense Types and Account Codes: Contractual Services (5500)				
Vendor Name	Service Provided	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
		\$	\$	\$
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES COSTS				

Expense Types and Account Codes: Supplies and Materials (5600)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
			\$	\$	\$
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS					



## State of Delaware Department of Education State Funds Budget Form

State Subgrant: Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services  
 Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LEA/Agency: Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Project Start Date: 7/1/2021  
 Project End Date: 6/30/2022

Expense Types and Account Codes: Capital Outlay (5700)					
Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	State Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Total Funds
<u>Replacement Equipment</u>			\$	\$	\$
<u>New Equipment</u>					
<b>TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS COSTS</b>					

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>State Funds Requested</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	\$177,452.00		\$177,452.00



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET SUMMARY OF STATE FUNDS

LEA/Agency Name:

Las Americas ASPIRA Academy

State Subgrant Title:

Opportunity Funding for Mental Health Services

Project Title:

Account Code	5100	5120	5400	5500	5600	5700	Total
Account Code Name	Salaries	OEC's	Travel	Contracted Services	Supplies & Materials	Capital Outlay	Budget
Total Budget	\$133,312.30	\$44,139.70					\$177,452.00

Completed By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

7-26-21

Chief Financial Officer or Business Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

7-16-21