



Welcome to NC Grow

Office Hours

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Year 1 Planning & Implementation Grants: Budget Snapshot

Year 1 Award Amount

- Up to \$1,000,000 for Planning & Implementation subgrants
- Part of a multi-year award totaling up to \$2,000,000

Year 1 Spending Requirements

- No more than 50% of the total Planning and/or Implementation subgrant may be spent in Year 1
 - Planning activities may last up to **18 months**
 - All costs must be allowable, reasonable, necessary, and allocable
- Funds are reimbursement-based (schools spend first, then request reimbursement)

Purpose of Year 1 Funds

- Support pre-opening activities
 - Build operational capacity before students enroll
 - Implement early phases of the school's CTE/STEM/AI model
 - Recruit staff, students, and establish governance foundations



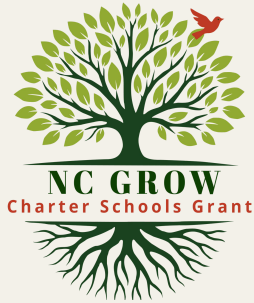
Allowable Expenses in Year 1

Staffing (Planning Period Only)

- Pre-opening salaries for essential roles (school leaders, operations lead, office support)
 - Associated fringe benefits

Supplies & Equipment (Non-Recurring)

- Classroom and office supplies
- Technology: laptops, tablets, printers, servers, software
- Furniture and fixtures for classrooms and offices
 - Educational materials and curriculum tools
 - Equipment under \$5,000 each



Allowable Expenses in Year 1 continued...



Professional & Contracted Services

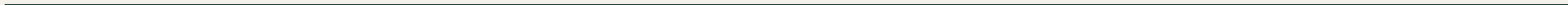
- Governance training, finance fellowship participation
 - Instructional/curriculum planning and development
- Legal, accounting, policy development, board training
- Outreach consultants, marketing for student recruitment
- External evaluators or technical assistance providers

Travel (Must be Grant - Related)

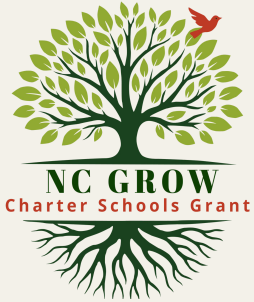
- Professional development aligned to CTE/STEM/AI
- Site visits, conferences, governance/finance training
 - Must follow NCAPCS standard per-diem rates

Community Engagement

- Recruitment materials, website design, outreach events
 - Multi-language materials and accessibility support



Expenses Not Allowed in Year 1

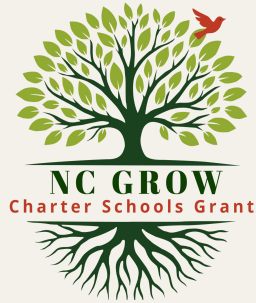


- Construction, renovations, carpeting, painting
 - Capital improvements or any permanent building modifications
 - Food, beverages, incentives, gift cards
 - Athletic or extracurricular equipment
 - Uniforms or promotional merchandise
 - Recurring operating costs (utilities, janitorial, ongoing subscriptions)
 - Salaries after the school opens for students
 - Software renewals or multi-year licenses that create recurring costs
 - Furniture or equipment used for pre-K (unless allowable under state law and charter)
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Creative & Strategic Use of Year 1 Planning and Implementation Grant Funds

Maximize Technology Investment

- Mobile Learning Labs: Purchase laptop carts + tablets that can serve multiple classrooms vs. fixed computer lab
- Dual-Purpose Equipment: Interactive projectors that work for both instruction and community presentations
- Future-Proof Purchases: Buy slightly more capacity than Year 1 needs to support growth in Years 2-3



Strategic Staffing & Professional Development

- Hybrid Roles: Hire a "Curriculum & Operations Coordinator" who can wear multiple hats during planning
 - Training Investment: Send 2-3 key staff to intensive CTE/STEM/AI certification programs -builds long-term capacity
 - Consultant-to-Hire: Contract with specialists during planning, then potentially hire them as staff once operational
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Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Industry Partnership Development: Use outreach funds to build relationships with local employers for future internships
- Bilingual Materials: Develop recruitment materials in multiple languages—shows commitment to diversity
- Community Advisory Setup: Host community forums and listening sessions as part of "outreach"—builds buy-in

Curriculum & Instructional Design

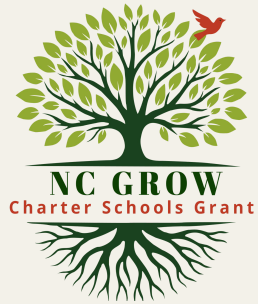
- Modular Curriculum Kits: Purchase CTE/STEM materials that can be reconfigured for different grade levels
- Professional Learning Library: Build a collection of instructional resources that multiple staff can access
- Assessment Systems: Invest in diagnostic tools that will guide instruction from Day 1 (ex: i-Ready Diagnostic or ACT WorkKeys / NCRC Readiness)

Operational Efficiency

- Multi-Function Furniture: Tables that convert from individual desks to collaborative workspace
- Administrative Systems: Purchase student information system, accounting software, and grant management tools during planning
- Governance Infrastructure: Professional development for board members now = smoother operations later

Smart Procurement Tips

- Bundle Purchases: Negotiate volume discounts on classroom supplies across all grade levels
- End-of-Year Timing: Purchase equipment in late spring for better pricing, store until school opens



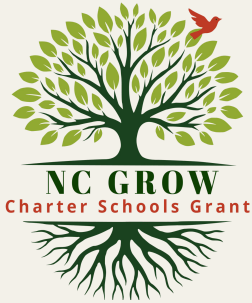
When in Doubt, Reach Out!

Not sure whether a cost is allowable?

Wondering if a purchase fits Planning & Implementation rules?

Thinking creatively but want to stay compliant?

Rules can be nuanced — better to ask early than revise later!



Contact:

LaKisha Cherry —

NCAPCS Budget Specialist

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And always remember:

Before submitting your budget, cross-check with the NC GROW CSP [Allowable Cost Guide](#).
It's your roadmap for what's permitted, what's restricted, and where exceptions may apply.

NC GROW APPLICATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



THURSDAY, APRIL 30TH - 1-2PM

*AGENDA:
HOW TO CREATE A GRANT LOGIC MODEL
GENERAL Q/A*

ZOOM INFORMATION

MEETING ID: 875 3816 5282

PASSCODE: 958428

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Next Office Hour Session