



SENIOR DIRECTOR of COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS REPORT

March 27, 2023

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post-secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become lifelong learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP)

Overview

A community school is a “whole-child” school improvement strategy where the local educational agency (LEA) and school(s) work closely with teachers, students, and families. LEAs supporting community schools partner with community agencies and local government to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships “provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.” Many community schools operate year-round, morning to evening, and serve children and adults. Community schools often serve neighborhoods where economic and social barriers to learning are prevalent.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has been charged with implementing the CCSPP in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE). Based on feedback ascertained through a facilitated community input process, the CDE drafted the California Community Schools Framework (Framework) which outlines California’s intentional approach to community schools as a school transformation approach rooted in equity and charged with changing outcomes for students most impacted by present and historical educational disparities. The SBE approved the proposed Framework at its January 2022 meeting. The Framework is the guiding document that informs the expected equity outcomes for all potential grantees.

The CCSPP provides funding for an implementation grant period beginning June 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028. Grant awards to be approved by the SBE in May 2023. To ensure that adequate funds are available for future rounds of implementation grants, the total grant budget for this RFA for Cohort 2 is up to \$750 million.

YPICS CCSPP

In 2022 each YPICS school was awarded a California Community Schools Partnership Program Planning Grant. Total funding per school of \$200,000 supported with hiring 3 Coordinators of Community Schools (CoCS), contract services for data analyses, teachers/staff stipends, parent capacity development, and teacher/staff professional development.

To address the needs of our community school, each school undertook a comprehensive community school planning process that included asset mapping, a needs assessment and gap analysis, and a heavy emphasis on engagement with and leadership by the school community, including students, families, staff, partners, and area residents. Upon being awarded the planning grant, each school site hired a Coordinator of Community School (CoCS); they quickly became essential to school operations and spearheaded planning activities. School Community engagement kicked off in August 2022 with an overview of the CA community school framework and the YPICS vision for its community school to teachers and staff during the beginning of the school year professional development days. Followed by parent-teacher conferences, workshops, and community events during the months of September - December 2022. During parent-teacher conferences CoCS introduced the community school framework to parents and an overview of the assets and needs assessment work ahead. In October and November families were engaged via annual events like Trunk-or-Treat, Día De Los Muertos, and College & Career Parent workshops.

Community school needs assessment activities occurred throughout the year. These included YouthTruth Survey and Focus Groups with stakeholders. In-person focus groups were conducted with students, teachers, and families at each school across grade levels and positions (instructional and supportive staff) to gain a more holistic understanding of the strengths and challenges of our school. Key Informational Interviews with staff and teachers, in-person interviews were conducted with school administrators and teachers to assess successes and challenges with the school culture and the range of services offered at the school. Focus groups explored topics like what makes them feel welcome/unwelcome on campus, their vision for a "community school," if they feel engaged in decision-making, how the school can build more trusting relationships, and what support services are needed.

All assessment activities examine needs and gaps in services, but also school and community assets and resources that can be integrated as part of our community school. The input of stakeholders has been instrumental in the development of our school's development of the Community Schools Implementation Plan; which was required as part of the CCSPP Implementation Grant application.

To understand the needs and gaps the evaluation team conducted sensemaking sessions with the community to better understand the experiences of youth, administrators, teachers, and families. The evaluation team analyzed all of the data collected from October 2022 to January 2023 and shared it with the community. The purpose was to ask about their reactions and experiences with the data. In addition, to pose back to the community the needs shared in all of the data and have them select their top three interests in school investments if our school received the full-service implementation grant. The intended purpose of hosting sensemaking meetings was to share the data collected from the community and collectively analyze it as a team and to inform the implementation plan per school. Upon completion of all assessment activities, priority topic areas were identified per school and will be the areas to focus on by aligning resources, strategies and partnerships.

This planning process prepared YPICS to submit a comprehensive CCSPP implementation grant application on March 21, 2023. The application included our 3 schools: Bert Corona Charter School, Monsenor Oscar Romero Charter School, and Bert Corona Charter High School. If funded we will be awarded \$1,187,500 per school - Grand total of \$3,562,500 for five years. This funding will support improving internal systems and increase alignment to the four **Pillars of Community Schools**: Integrated Student Supports; Family and Community Engagement; Collaborative Leadership and Practices for Educators and Administrators and; Extended Learning Time and Opportunities. Will also improve **Cornerstone Commitments of Community Schools**: A commitment to assets-driven and strength-based practice; A commitment to racially just and restorative school climates; A commitment to powerful, culturally proficient and relevant instruction; and a commitment to shared decision making and participatory practices.