Date: August 31, 2023

To: District Administrators with schools identified for CSI or ATSI

From: Ben Ketterer, Director, Title I Continuous Improvement Team

Subject: 2023-24 Formula Grants for Schools Identified for CSI or ATSI

CSI Grant Funding is Available

Grant funding is available again this year to support schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), including schools with new and ongoing identifications. The application for CSI funding is currently open in WISEgrants. Guidelines and allocation spreadsheets are linked below. *For newly identified schools, the plan submission deadline is August 31, 2023.*

CSI Grant is Becoming CSI/ATSI

We are pleased to announce additional funding in 2023-24 to support schools identified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), which will become available later this fall. LEAs with one or more schools identified for ATSI are eligible to receive funding based on formula-driven allocations for each school.

Instead of adding a completely new grant process, we are adapting the existing Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) grant into a CSI/ATSI grant. ATSI functionality in WISEgrants is still under development, and we will notify LEAs when it is ready. In the meantime, you can familiarize yourself with the grant guidelines, take a look at the ATSI Improvement Activities form (linked below), and use the allocation information below to plan for budgeting.

CSI/ATSI Grant Application Basics

For CSI, the application will remain largely the same. For both CSI and ATSI, two primary elements must be approved prior to budgeting:

- An evidence-based improvement strategy (EBIS) must be entered and then linked to the school. This process is unchanged, except that ATSI-identified schools will be included.
- A document must be uploaded for each school receiving funds: for CSI the required document is (as before) a school improvement plan; for ATSI the required document is a form with information about improvement activities and proposed use of funds.

DPI consultants review and approve each EBIS, CSI school improvement plan, and ATSI Improvement Activities form. Budgeting for an EBIS can begin once it has been approved. All budget items must support the development and implementation of an improvement plan that meets requirements for the identification.

Consult the revised CSI/ATSI Grant Guidelines linked below for full information about the process and documentation requirements.

Option for Funding Planning Activities–Available for CSI and ATSI

There is an option to use CSI/ATSI Grant funds for planning activities–for example, to support a thorough needs assessment and root cause analysis.

For ATSI, this option is available during the application process. If the school has not yet selected an EBIS, "Planning" may be entered as the EBIS.

For CSI, the school must still submit an improvement plan, but if the reviewer determines that further planning activities are needed, the option to use "planning" as an EBIS will be offered. CSI-identified schools using the planning option must submit an additional form with information about the proposed use of funds.

For all schools using the "planning" option, the EBIS that is selected through the planning process must be entered into WISEgrants when it is known. This is to ensure that all funding supports the selection and implementation of evidence-based improvement strategies that meet ESSA requirements.

For More Information
If you have questions about ATSI funding and cannot find the answers you need in the grant guidelines, please contact Ronald "RJ" Flowers, Jr. at (608) 264-9324 or ronald.flowers@dpi.wi.gov.

Attachments:
- CSI/ATSI Grant guidelines
- ATSI Improvement Activities Form
- CSI allocation spreadsheet 2023-24
- ATSI Allocation spreadsheet 2023-24
- Schools identified for Comprehensive, Targeted, and Additional Targeted Support spreadsheet
- Brief Guide to ESSA Identifications
- ESSA School Identifications web section
- Equity Mindset Cards