

Frequently Asked Questions
Request for Qualifications on Community Partners
2024

What is an RFQ?

An RFQ is a Request for Qualifications. In order to create better alignment around our Four Student Goal Areas (Literacy, Math, College and Career Readiness, and Student Health and Wellbeing) as well as build more equity across the District, we are asking all Community Partners to participate in this process. It will include submitting a proposal for the upcoming school year and then working with our Office of Development and Partnership on your organization's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will outline services and responsibilities for the upcoming school year.

When will the RFP start?

Spring of 2024 – please check our website for more information. Emails will be sent to existing partners that are registered through the Office of Development and we will also be making various social media releases.

How long will this process take?

In order to provide enough time for all organizations to reply, the RFQ will be open for 90 days, a review from a committee of various school and district staff will be made within 30 days, and then MOUs will be presented to the board in 60 days. All Community Partners will be approved before the first day of school.

How will existing Community Partners be impacted?

The RFQ is going to help provide a landscape of resources and opportunities across the District and we are asking all Community Partners who wish to continue with SLPS to participate. This will streamline their processes, help evaluate which schools are best to expand programs, provide additional support and communication, and will create more alignment and collaboration across our school and District.

How will this new process impact long-standing and ongoing partnership programs?

SLPS is asking all partners, new and our loyal longstanding partners to enter into this RFQ. By going through this process, we can identify areas of opportunity with partners and create a more equitable landscape for our students to ensure everyone has equal access to the tremendous support our partners provide.

What will the criteria for partnership be based on?

Community Partners assist with a wide range of programs and services so there is not one overall set checklist but all partners must be aligned with the Four Student Goal Areas (Literacy, Math, College and Career Readiness, Student Health and Wellbeing), use educational standards if providing academic support, be licensed or certified if providing professional or medical services, and there maybe others based on the services or goods provided. For specific questions, please contact the Office of Development.

Will future Community Partnerships be reviewed annually?

Yes, our Board of Education reviews Community Partnership MOUs on an annual basis.

Frequently Asked Questions
Request for Qualifications on Community Partners
2024

Who is part of the review and partner selection process?

There will be a group of individuals from across the District who will be asked to review the RFQ and provide feedback. Those individuals could be school leaders, administrators, educators, program managers, and others who work directly with students and/or partners. In creating the group who will review the RFQ, we want to make sure that we represent our District and that various voices are heard from different levels, offices, schools, and positions.

How many RFPs can an organization have?

Applicants only have to complete one form even if they wish to provide multiple programs or services, they just need to list all information in application.

How will we be able to get signed agreements with individual schools setting up program?

The agreement will be for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year and services can start at the beginning of the school year and run through June 30, 2025.

When the RFQ is completed, all Community Partners will submit an MOU and the Office of Development and Partnership that will go before the Board of Education for final approval. SLPS will release the signed MOUs to the point of contacts at each institution shortly after the Board of Education voting to approve the MOU.

How will we track our metrics?

Metric tracking is up to each individual Community Partner. If you require data from the District, please be sure to include a Data Sharing Agreement in your RFQ.

How do we report our impact?

Community Partners will be asked to submit a Community Partner Performance Report in the Spring of 2025 before their MOU is renewed for another school year. This is where the metrics will be entered, goals will be addressed, and any feedback can be given. School or program leaders will also complete a similar report for the program.

What if multiple partners are provide the same or similar services?

If the program is needed and requested by schools, we can use multiple Community Partners to address the needs. If it is an area of academics, there might have to be alignment in terms of approach or theory.

How will you support Community Partners?

We are all committed to serving our students and our community. It is in our best interest to make sure these relationships are strong and healthy. Community Partners will be invited to onboarding programming before the school year begins to familiarize themselves with school leaders, calendar, and meet other partners in the school. The Office of Development will also be hosting various webinars for Community Partners to help address any questions with data, performance reports, and other topics as they arise.

Frequently Asked Questions
Request for Qualifications on Community Partners
2024

Will staff and volunteers still need to be background checked?

Yes, it is a standing requirement of our MOU that any staff, volunteer, or individual who will be in our schools representing a Community Partner have a background check.

Will there be a specific department communicating the process?

Yes, all communication will come from our Office of Development.

Can individuals be Community Partners?

No, Community Partners is a term for organizations. They can be companies, non-profits, religious organizations, clubs, or other groups however, they must provide good or services free of charge to the District.

Will current Community Partners be listed online?

We are currently working on a plan to have Community Partners listed online by school or program to increase awareness and access across the District.

What is a Community Circle?

Community Circle is for our donors who provide in-kind support (school supplies, computers, jackets, etc) without having a physical presence in the school. These organizations can be for profit, nonprofit, religious organizations, clubs, or other groups and provide support on a non-recurring basis. Community Circle members are asked to complete a Community Circle Agreement form.

What does your process for working with organizations with multi-year grants look like?

We understand that some funders generously provide grants on a multi-year basis and do not want to interrupt that funding stream. In the RFP, there is a section that asks about the organizations funding and if this specific project will be using a multi-year grant of contract and to provide the details.

For Community Partners working on construction related projects that might take multiple years, what is the process?

Construction projects have already been through the MOU process and while we would still like the Community Partners to go through the RFQ, their projects are already approved.

Will there be partnerships that will not continue in 2024?

If an applicant do not fully complete the process or if it does not meet standards, goals, or address a current need in the District, a partnership might not be offered. Similarly, all Community Partners must go through this process, so if an organization does not reply to the RFP, they would not be eligible for a Community Partnership in the upcoming school year.

What advice do you have for a younger organization in establishing partnership with SLPS? Who are our best contacts?

We are excited to learn more about new organizations that are interested in partnering with SLPS and how we can work together to serve our students and families. Please review our Student Goal Areas (Literacy, Math, College and Career Readiness, and Student Wellness) and determine how your

Frequently Asked Questions
Request for Qualifications on Community Partners
2024

program or service will align with our overall District goals. If you feel like we are a match, please reach out to the Office of Development and Partnership to set up an introductory meeting. The Office of Development and Partnership will be your main point of contact for becoming a Community Partner or Community Supporter and will help give you timelines and walk through the process with you.

How will we be able to increase our service area to more schools?

When you complete the RFQ, there is a section that asks if you are a current Community Partner to list the schools you work with and if you are interested or able to expand your services. This will be the first step in expanding into new schools.

What mental health services are you offering?

The District in conjunction with Partners provides a wide array of mental health services from group therapy, programs promoting selfcare and confidence building, mental health interventions, and more. If you have a question about services to a specific age group, school, or area of service, please contact the Office of Development and Partnerships.

What does collaboration look like?

Collaboration can look different in different areas. It could be Community Partners coming together in a school to support the school leaders project, it could be brainstorming, giving actionable feedback, it could be finding where your services end and another Community Partner's begins. The District will not set parameters or guidelines for collaboration as every organization has unique mission and goals but we will provide space for organizations who are interested in getting to know other partners and how we can work together to make the best possible school experience for SLPS students.

What can organizations do to support SLPS in this process?

We understand that this is a new process for everyone and we ask that if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns to share that with the Office of Development.

Is there data that supplies information on what non-school hours programming is need in which areas?

Unfortunately, we do not have data points on that information. However, we do know that afterschool programming, especially academic focused, is critical right now to helping our students recover from COVID learning loss.