**To:** Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Business Managers, and Facility Managers

**From:** Andy Stine

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**Subject:** FY2021-22 Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant application deadlines.

IMPORTANT: Please note, this year we are asking for applicants to submit an intent to apply no later than **November 30, 2020**. And, we have condensed the amount of time the application portal is open to give staff and the Capital Construction Assistance Board (CCAB) more time to review projects.

The schedule is as follows:

* **All** potential applicants should notify BEST of intent to apply no later than **November 30, 2020** by completing a [Grant Manager registration](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftpIDfRaIbp6PDf112IkaIpqm0YvHGdvD4kg4Avv_lXbSkJw/viewform?usp=sf_link), found [HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftpIDfRaIbp6PDf112IkaIpqm0YvHGdvD4kg4Avv_lXbSkJw/viewform)
* The application portal will open on **January 6, 2021.** The application can be accessed [HERE](http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/grantapplicationprocess)
* Applications are due electronically no later than 4 p.m. on **February 5, 2021**
* The CCAB will meet May 19-21, 2021 to review applications and create a prioritized list of projects to recommend to the State Board of Education
* No later than June 25, 2021 the State Board of Education will meet to review and vote on the prioritzed list
* No later than July 15, 2021 the Capital Development Committee will meet to review and vote on those projects recommended for financing through lease-purchase agreements.

Resources:

* [Find your Regional Program Manager](http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/contact)
* [BEST grant homepage](http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/best)
* [FY21-22 grant cycle timeline](http://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/best-timeline)
* Charter Schools eligibility requirements can be found [HERE](https://www.cde.state.co.us/capitalconstruction/cscc)
* All schools buildings included in the applications will be priortized for a facility assessment. Status of assessments can be found on the [Assessment Portal](https://api.vfafacility.com/CDOEDashboard/). If your building does not appear in the portal, contact your Regional Program Manager.

We strongly encourage anyone considering applying for a BEST grant to participate in the self-paced grant application online training. The training will be available in December.

We also offer trainings and informational presentations at many conferences and business meetings around the state. If you have any suggestions for outreach or would like to meet in person, please feel free to contact us.

BEST is a competitive grant program committed to serving students and improving Colorado’s neediest schools. BEST is available to school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind.

By statute, applications are prioritized and awarded by severity of need, as follows:

1. Projects addressing health, safety, security issues, and technology needs
2. Projects that relieve current overcrowding
3. CTE projects, and
4. All other needs.