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Community Funding Accelerator Supports DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education with \$4.1 Million+ Victory for Enhanced Postsecondary Employment Opportunities

District of Columbia – [The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education \(OSSE\)](#), with support from The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA), **was awarded \$4.1M from the Department of Education over a three-year period**—with the opportunity for two years of continuation of funding worth an additional \$2.95M—to increase high school students’ access to healthcare and cybersecurity career pathways. In a concerted effort to fortify postsecondary employment and education prospects for students in the District of Columbia, this groundbreaking initiative is set to provide students equitable educational opportunities with a clear path to post-graduation employment, building the necessary expertise in their chosen field before graduation. This endeavor, centered around the District of Columbia’s Advanced Technical Center (ATC), will engage students by providing fee-free dual enrollment programming. Both the healthcare and cybersecurity pathways provide participating students with work-based learning opportunities like paid internships and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials.

The primary objective of this ambitious project is to significantly increase the number of students participating in career and technical education and fee-free dual enrollment programs offered by the ATC to 300 students per year. Additionally, OSSE seeks to expand the network of schools and local education agencies collaborating with the ATC.

The Department of Education’s Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grant Program is poised to revolutionize the landscape of career-connected high school education. This visionary program seeks to not only expand existing models but also to strengthen the essential connection between K-12 education, postsecondary education, and workforce programs.

During the application process, CFA provided the OSSE team with strategic advisory sessions with an experienced Department of Education grant writer and grant review to identify opportunities to further strengthen their application.

“The technical assistance provided by CFA was incredibly helpful as we developed our proposal.” Said Kilin Boardman-Schroyer, OSSE’s Deputy Assistant Superintendent of

Postsecondary and Career Education and one of the lead authors of the grant proposal. “The draft templates, the timelines, and the proposal review helped ensure we were developing a strong proposal over a short period of time. Our CFA representatives were always responsive and were able to provide expert guidance that helped us put together a compelling proposal that was successful in securing this critical funding.”

About CFA:

[The Community Funding Accelerator](#) (CFA) helps underserved communities [access competitive federal grants](#). With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA pilot is led by [Delivery Associates](#), a public sector consulting firm.