



# Supporting America's School Infrastructure (SASI) Grant Program



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SASI Grant Program Overview

- Grant Opened on June 5, 2023.
- Grant Closed on August 7, 2023.
- SASI Grants Awarded December 2023.
- \$37,160,012 awarded to 8 grantees over 60 months.
- California Department of Education (CDE) awarded \$4.99 million.
- Grantees are required to create a position to sustain efforts after the federal grant period.
- CDE hired a Manager to implement the Program in May 2024.



## SASI Grant Program Overview

### Purpose:

To increase the capacity of States to support high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in leveraging other available Federal, State, and local resources to improve school facilities and environments through public school infrastructure improvements to ensure that their public school facilities are safe, healthy, sustainable, and equitable learning environments for all students.

## SASI Grant Program Overview – California

- CDE defined high-need LEA as:
  - Small school districts (enrollment under 2,500 pupils)
  - Unduplicated count above 50%
    - English Learners;
    - Meet income or categorical eligibility requirements for free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch Program; or are
    - Foster Youth.
  - No participation in the State School Facility Program (SFP) in the last 10 years



## **SASI Grant Program Overview – California**

### **• Direct Technical Assistance**

- Direct services provided will assist school districts in assessing their infrastructure / facility needs.
- Generate high level cost estimates for infrastructure improvements.
- Generate the Facility Inspection Tool and train district staff on how to assess facilities and complete the document.
- Provide guidance on options and resources for funding facility improvements.

## **SASI Grant Program Overview – California**

### **• State and County Collaboration**

- Collaborate with facilities and maintenance staff at various County Offices of Education to develop a network of facility practitioners to sustain ongoing support to small school districts.
- Quarterly meetings through the County Offices of Education tailored to provide information on challenges faced by small school districts.
- Partner with other state agencies to address the challenges of accessing state funding programs for districts with limited expertise/capacity.



## **SASI Grant Program Overview – California**

- **Centralized Online Resources**

- One location for all LEAs to access resources.
- Create standardized forms, templates, and documents for district use.
- On-Demand library of resources (i.e. webinars, videos).

## **SASI - State and County Collaboration**

- SASI Grant presents an opportunity to bolster state agency / school district facilities relationships.
- Build a network of facility practitioners to sustain support for small school districts (SSD).
- Regional convenings tailored to the needs of SSD facility challenges.
- Some County Offices of Education have supported SSDs in the past...



## **Examples – County Offices of Education Support - Small School Districts**

- **San Diego County Office of Education**
  - Facilities Department created to support small school districts with a variety of tasks related to school facilities (1987-2019). Fee for service model.
- **El Dorado County Office of Education**
  - Facilities Department created to support small school districts with a variety of tasks related to school facilities (1990-1993). Fee for service model.
- **Sonoma County Office of Education**
  - Contracted with School Facility Consultant to assist small school districts with a variety of tasks related to school facilities (2016-2022). The county office funded the services.
- **Kern County Office of Education**
  - Provide direct support to assist small school districts with a variety of tasks related to school facilities. Combination of county office funded & fee for service model.

## **SASI - State and County Collaboration**

What should CDE consider when...

working with County Offices of Education to develop regional networks of facility practitioners to sustain support for Small School Districts?



## **SASI - State and County Collaboration**

What should CDE consider when ...

developing a portal / website that will offer standardized forms / tools for district use, and On-Demand library of resources including webinars, short videos, etc.?

Thoughts? Questions? Feedback?



## Thank You!

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