**Kickstart School Restart**

*Promoting successful school restarts by supporting authorizers to implement effective practices*

***Kickstart School Restart Application Due June 10, 2016.***

***Contact Public Impact at*** ***schoolrestarts@publicimpact.com*** ***with any questions* *or to sign up for the***

***Kickstart information webinar on Wednesday, May 25 @ 4pm EDT***

The Kickstart School Restart (KSR) program exists to support the challenging work of restarting low-performing schools. KSR targets the school districts and authorizers who are working to restart failing schools under the management of high-quality restart operators, with the support of their local communities. KSR aims to help authorizers implement proven strategies and/or improve their current practices so that their school restarts are easier and more successful. KSR offers grant-funded support to authorizers who expect to embrace school restart as a key strategy for school turnarounds in the coming years and who are willing to dedicate the time to improving their restart authorization practices.

**Where did this come from?**

Kickstart School Restart follows an earlier initiative to research and catalog authorizer practices and then create detailed guidance on how to effectively authorize school restarts. This earlier work produced the [*School Restart Authorization Process Guide*](http://www.schoolrestarts.org) and its companion resource database. The guide outlines a series of recommendations for how to approach a restart, from early community engagement efforts to the transition to post-opening supports for the new school. KSR is designed to support a select group of authorizers in adopting the process recommendations from the guide and adapting the tools from the resource database. KSR is generously underwritten by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

**What does the Kickstart School Restart program offer?**

The KSR program is designed to run for up to a year, providing access to personalized consulting and peer learning facilitated by Public Impact and EdPlex. The key features of the programs are as follows:

* **Participant Self-Assessment & Implementation Plan**. Participants will first inventory their authorization practices, partnership organizations, and supply of potential restart operators. Supported by the [*School* *Restart Authorization Process Guide*](http://www.schoolrestarts.org), participants will identify a preliminary list of practices that they plan to implement. The implementation plan will guide the participant’s work throughout the program and will include specific goals, activities, timelines, responsible parties, key stakeholders, and anticipated outcomes.
* **Consultant-Facilitated SWOT Analysis**. Building on the self-assessment, a consultant will visit the authorizer to conduct interviews and create with the authorizer a detailed analysis of the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to the current restart authorization efforts. The SWOT analysis will be used to revise the implementation plan, and in planning for the cohort gatherings outlined below and the personalized consulting support throughout the program.
* **Personalized Consulting.** Each participating authorizer will be assigned a consultant who has direct experience authorizing or operating restarts schools, and deep content knowledge of the [*School* *Restart Authorization Process Guide*](http://www.schoolrestarts.org). The authorizer’s implementation plan will identify dedicated support from the consultant(s) to provide a mixture of coaching and direct technical assistance in the development and adaptation of policies, practices, and tools. Consultant support will include in-person site visits and regular phone and email correspondence. The timeline for providing direct consulting support can vary according to the needs and preferences of the authorizer; for example, as an intensive 3-month engagement, or a more protracted engagement that takes place over a 12-month period.
* **Peer Learning through Cohort Meetings (possible).** The KSR program may include cohort meetings for its authorizers. Cohort meetings would be dedicated to learning more about key areas of the restart authorization process, sharing effective practices and implementation challenges, and developing critical professional skills through specific training programs. The frequency and design of the cohort meetings will be customized based on input and priorities from authorizers at the start of the program.

**Who should apply?**

The KSR program targets authorizers who are willing to extend or improve their practices for authorizing school restarts and who have a demonstrated need and anticipated volume of school restarts in the coming years. The authorizer will be asked to designate a lead contact and a team of three to four people who will participate throughout the program. The team may include a representative from a partner organization and/or school district where applicable. Both new and experienced restart authorizers are eligible.

**What is expected of each participating authorizer?**

The primary expectation for each participating authorizer is that they implement new or improved practices, per guidance in the *School* [*Restart Authorization Process Guide*](http://www.schoolrestarts.org)and materials collected in the resource database. Each participant will establish customized goals, timelines, activities, and milestones for the program in their implementation plan, described above. The full Kickstart Restart Program is offered as a free, grant-funded initiative to each participant through the sponsorship of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. The value of the grant-funded services is approximately $25,000–40,000 per participating organization, although funds will not directly flow to the participant. If cohort meetings are part of the program, participants will be asked to cover their travel costs to/from any cohort meetings, including airfare, transfers, and incidentals. The KSR program will cover the cost of hotel rooms for participants while attending any cohort meetings.

**When will this happen?**

The KSR program begins in summer 2016, with applications due by June 10, and concludes approximately one year later, so that authorizers can introduce new practices into their new school review/approval processes that will start in the late fall or winter of 2016–17.

**How do I apply?**

Interested parties should complete and submit the attached application **by June 10, 2016.** The application asks applicants to introduce their local context for school restart, identify their preliminary goals for the program, identify the team of participants, and commit to the expectations for active and consistent participation.

**Kickstart School Restart Application**

Please complete and submit the attached application **by June 10 2016.** Applications should be submitted to Public Impact (schoolrestarts@publicimpact.com). Eligible applicants will be invited to participate in a follow-up interview.

1. **Organization Name:**
2. **Name and contact information for submission:**

 Name:

 Email:

 Phone:

1. **Background information about past and future restart plans.** Please include the following details:
* *Objectives for your restart initiative.*
* *Relevant state and local policies that provide authority to restart schools.*
* *Past: Brief description of restarts conducted within the past five years (if applicable); number and types of schools (district, charter) that underwent restart, brief summary of outcomes.*
* *Future: Brief description of plans to restart schools within the next two years; number and types of schools (district, charter), and planned timeline for opening restart schools.*
* *Brief assessment of school operators that may be available to lead restarts in your community.*
1. **Partner organizations and funders.** Please identify and explain role of any partner organizations, grant funds, or funder organizations that you expect to support restarts in your community.
2. **Objectives for Kickstart technical assistance.** Please identify preliminary goals for participation in the Kickstart program, including a description of any priority areas (e.g., accountability framework, operator recruitment, community engagement) for technical assistance and/or peer learning.
3. **Proposed team members.** Please list names and title for your proposed project lead, plus 2-3 additional members of project team (may include individuals outside of your organization.)