Summary of Changes in Revised RFA (as of 5/5/25)

1. **Formatting and Style Adjustments**
   o Revised document includes updated headers, consistent formatting, and improved organization throughout the sections.
   o The document cover page now includes "**Rev 2.2**" to distinguish it from the original.

2. **Updated Deadlines and Dates**
   o Some timelines and submission dates have been updated (e.g., Letter of Intent and application deadlines).
      - Eligibility Form disabled as of 4/16/2025 due to high volume of calls and concern for Failure/ineligible results
      - Letter of Intent (LOI) form not required in terms of submission requirement or guided by a deadline; however, the Applicant Information is what is entered into Foundant as the necessary step that must be manually accepted by grant team staff in order for the remainder of the application can be accessed by the applicant.
      - Please review the timeline section carefully.
         - **April 11 – May 28:** Submit your application during this period.
         - **April – May:** Attend a Prospect Cohort Meeting and/or Q&A Webinar(s).
         - **May 28:** Deadline - Application period closes.
         - **May – June:** Be prepared for a two-phase review:
            - **Phase 1**: Eligibility Screening by Grant Team.
            - **Phase 2**: Capacity Interview by Peer Reviewers ~June 12-16
         - **June 23–27:** Watch for **Notice of Awards (provisional)**
         - **June – September:** Attend a meeting with your assigned Grant Manager; Participate in Budget Trainings; Undergo Risk Management Reviews.

      Ongoing Requirements (if awarded)
      - **Quarterly**: You may submit updated budgets for review.
      - **Monthly**: Submit reimbursement requests for approved activities.

3. **Clarified Eligibility Criteria**
   o Wording was clarified to better define which schools qualify as "new," "replicating," or "expanding."
   o Greater emphasis was placed on eligibility alignment with federal definitions under the CSP grant.

      To be eligible, applicants must meet all the following criteria:
      - **Type of Charter School:** Must be a new public charter school, a replicated high-quality charter school, or an expanded high-quality charter school.

- **Authorized Status:** Must be authorized by a Local Education Provider (LEP) or the Charter School Institute (CSI).
- **Operational Timeline:** Must not have received CSP funds previously for the same school. Also, must have a start date no earlier than one year prior to the grant award or be planning to open within 18 months of the award date.

- **High-Quality Definition:** Must demonstrate evidence of academic success, financial viability, and effective governance to be classified as a "high-quality" replication or expansion school.

- **Enrollment & Autonomy:** Must operate with autonomy in decision-making (e.g., staffing, curriculum, budget). Also, must enroll students through a lottery if applications exceed capacity.

4. **Application Instructions Modified**
   o More specific instructions were added regarding formatting, page limits, and required documents.
   o Language around electronic submission and naming conventions for files was improved for clarity.
     - 🎬 **Narrative Length**:
       - Max 2 pages for Executive Summary (Narrative Section A) for all applicants
       - Max 35 pages for Narrative Sections C-N for New schools and 40 pages for expanding or replicating schools
         - *Applicants are to save narrative section separately as a PDF and upload to corresponding section in Foundant*
     - 🎬 **Formatting Requirements**:
       - Standard letter size (8½" x 11")
       - Single-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Arial (or equivalent)
       - No table of contents or divider pages
     - 🎬 **Content Requirements**:
       - Address all sections A through N in order (was previously just A-J)
       - Attachments must follow the sequence in the Appendices
       - Program Assurances and Financial Risk Assessment Forms must be signed
       - Add School Performance Framework report to Appendix L in addition to their Performance Management Plan
     - 🎬 **Signatures**:
       - Scanned or digital signatures (e.g., Adobe Sign, DocuSign) are acceptable if in-person signing is difficult
       - No funding will be awarded until all required signatures are submitted
     - 🎬 **Other Notes**:
       - Approved attachments are not counted in the page limit
       - Do not attach unrequested materials (e.g., curricula, invoices)

- References and footnotes are optional, unscored, and should go in the appendices if used
- Contact the RFA team with any questions about formatting or page limits

5. **Evaluation Criteria Streamlined**
   - Some evaluation rubrics and criteria were reorganized or reworded for clarity without changing the substantive requirements.

Previous Narrative Sections	Score	Updated Narrative Sections	Score
A) Executive Summary	5	A) Executive Summary	5
B) Community Needs and Project Goals	15	B) Subgrant Project Goals and Objectives	15
C) Standards Aligned Curriculum and Research-based Educational Model	30	C) Project Design	30
D) Serving Educationally Disadvantaged Students	15	D) Enrollment and Lottery	15
E) Staffing and Professional Development	10	E) Student Transportation	5
F) Accountability and Accreditation	15	F) Educationally Disadvantaged Students	15
G) Board Capacity and Governance Structure	10	G) Professional Development	5
H) Parent and Community Involvement	10	H) Governance Plan and Accountability	5
I) Business Capacity, Operations, and Partners	10	I) Parent and Community Involvement	5
J) Transportation Plan	5	J) Management Plan and Leadership Team	5
		K) Partners	5
		L) Facility	5
		M) Sustainability	5
		N) Student Demand and Community | Local & Family Support	5
TOTAL Application Part II	**125**	**TOTAL Application Part II**	**125**

6. **Assurances and Certifications**
   - Some assurance language was refined to meet updated compliance or legal requirements.
   - Signed forms to be uploaded under the new Appendix O.

7. **Resources and Appendices**
   - Certain appendices were renamed, reordered, or consolidated for clarity.
     Appendix E: included instruction for what the plan should include

Appendix F: included instruction for what the plan should include
Appendix I: added instruction for what the plan should include
Appendix J: updated this to no longer call out as a 3-year plan but rather just Implementation
Appendix L: Clarified the intention of providing the School Performance Plan but also where to upload the SPF Reports for those Exp/Rep Schools
Appendix O: New for the Program Assurances and Certification Forms

8. **Miscellaneous Edits**
   o Minor grammatical corrections and phrasing changes for clarity and tone.
   o Repetitive language was reduced in some sections.