



Effective School Solutions and Powerhouse Planning: Improving Student Success One Grant at a Time

Effective School Solutions (ESS) is a New Jersey-based behavioral and mental health provider working with school districts across the United States to ensure all students have access to the help they need. ESS utilizes a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework that provides districts with a vision for organizing mental health support structures, ensuring students receive differentiated treatment based on the intensity of need. ESS brings mental health professionals directly into the schools they serve and their holistic approach to mental health and behavioral support provides educators and administrators with the knowledge base they need to correctly identify student needs while working closely with families to offer mental and behavioral health support for students both at home and at school, helping every child reach their greatest potential.



Challenge

The client sought assistance in writing several federal grant applications in a compressed timeline of less than a month for client school districts in California, New Jersey, and New York. This truncated timeline coupled with the complex requirements of the grant required additional expertise to ensure the applications were as strong as possible. The unique challenges their students face made these districts ideal candidates for grant funding, but their budgets made it difficult to be competitive against larger school districts in their respective states. By partnering with Powerhouse and its total remote team solution, ESS was able to provide its clients with a team dedicated to quickly completing award-winning grant applications.

Case Study



Effective School Solutions

Business Name: Effective School Solutions

Website: effectiveschoolsolutions.com

Industry or Business Type: School-based Mental Health Provider

Powerhouse Services:

- Team Manager
- Thought Partner
- Grant Writer #1
- Researcher/Grant Writer #2
- Graphic Designer
- Quality Assurance (QA) Specialist

Benefits: The client needed assistance in writing several federal-level grant applications with a compressed timeline to ensure their school district clients had the best opportunity to secure behavioral and mental health grant funding from the Stronger Connections federal grant opportunity. By contracting with Powerhouse and its total remote team solution, the client was able to ensure the grant applications were completed on time and to a level that would make them competitive for funding. The Powerhouse total remote team solution provided holistic grant-writing support designed to effectively complete federal-level grant applications quickly and efficiently.



Powerhouse

Solution

The Powerhouse/Effective School Solutions partnership was extremely successful in its initial one-month retainer contract, proving that when partners come together with a shared goal anything is possible. In a little over one week—and over a federal holiday—the Powerhouse total remote team solution was able to provide a school district with a complete federal-level grant application, making the district competitive for grant funding. The success of that initial grant-writing support contract brought three additional contracts, all with tight timelines. In less than one month, Powerhouse provided federal grant applications for three more school districts. In addition, Powerhouse expanded its contract with ESS to provide grant-writing toolkits for their clients in two states to help them write their own grant applications. Toolkits included draft language to answer application questions, a step-by-step guide on how to complete the applications, and tips on how to be effective and competitive. ESS and Powerhouse expanded their partnership to include a monthly newsletter for ESS' school district clients that encompasses upcoming grant opportunities, legislation to watch, and educational pieces, all designed to ensure schools do not miss out on funding opportunities that will make a critical difference in students' mental and behavioral health.

Results

Over the course of the partnership, Powerhouse Planning has

- Brought in **\$8,254,447+** in funds for 6 school districts through local and state-based grants
- Created a monthly e-newsletter highlighting funding opportunities
- Created 2 toolkits for school districts to use in completing federal grant applications
- Provided more than 386 dedicated hours of grant-writing support in a tightly compressed timeline

By utilizing Powerhouse's total remote team solution, ESS was able to ensure its clients had the opportunity to compete for much-needed grant funding to help their students with mental and behavioral health needs. School districts that would not otherwise have been able to complete grant applications in time had a competitive chance through the ESS partnership with Powerhouse. As a result, ESS will be able to provide their high-level mental and behavioral health programs to at-risk students, improving those students' real-world chances for success. Powerhouse's grant-writing support services are making a real difference in the lives of deserving people every day, as the Powerhouse/ESS partnership proves.

"The Powerhouse team has been great to work with—adding order and structure to a grant-writing process that can otherwise feel chaotic. They have consistently produced great submissions, working often under tight deadlines."

– **Duncan Young, CEO, Effective School Solutions**

"Powerhouse made it incredibly easy to partner on a high-priority grant project that had a short turnaround time. From the communication to the relationship with our team and our customers to the finished product, they delivered."

– **Mike Roseman, Senior Vice President of District Partnerships, Effective School Solutions**

"My favorite things about working with Powerhouse were the team's responsiveness and knowing I wasn't alone in the process. The team was very engaged and informative and created a space of 'anything is possible!' The Powerhouse team took on a project with short notice and some confusion from the district end. This did not deter their professionalism and commitment to the project, which I so appreciated! Their efforts resulted in a \$4 million grant award over three years. Any school district would benefit from a Powerhouse Team Solution to support their grant-writing efforts."

– **Dawn Ortiz, LCSW, Regional Vice President, West Coast, Effective School Solutions**

Powerhouse Planning serves as an affordable, scalable, and targeted resource to assist companies of all sizes in achieving their goals. Our talented freelancers become a team within your team, supporting your company as a whole at no overhead cost to you. Founded in 2012, Powerhouse provides our clients with remote team solutions in the areas of business growth, content creation, and event facilitation while providing careers for military spouses and veterans worldwide.

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