B.1 Applicant Organization

Open Doors Community Schools, Inc is a subsidiary non-profit established by Arizona Youth Partnership (AzYP). AzYP, an existing 501c3 non-profit organization, was founded in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to bring the quality services and programs for youth and families available in Tucson to the rural areas of Pima County such as Ajo, Marana and Sahuarita. From those three communities in Pima County, AzYP has now grown to serve 29 communities in 9 counties across Arizona while continuing to focus on rural, underserved youth, families, and communities.

The founding of Open Doors Community School fulfills a vision to deliver a quality academic success program in one of our initial communities of focus in Arizona—the Town of Marana. Open Doors Community School's mission, vision and values guide the philosophy of the school and are rooted in the history and programs of AzYP.

Genesis of Charter Pursuit

The Board of Directors of Arizona Youth Partnership has engaged in charter school research and business planning since May 2009. The AzYP charter school board and staff committee went through a research process to evaluate five of our rural Arizona locations to determine the community with the greatest need for educational choices for rural, underserved students and their families.

In November 2010, as part of a strategic plan to deepen the impact of our programs, the AzYP Board of Directors determined to seek a charter from the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools to open a charter school in rural Marana that integrates an academic success program with our proven prevention programs. Our proposed K-8 charter school, ***Open Doors Community School*** represents the culmination of AzYP's 20 years of evidence-based programs for youth and families focused on rural and underserved communities throughout Arizona.

In January 2011, AzYP was **one of five organizations** in Arizona selected for a full-scholarship, two-year Intensive Track, Charter Starter program funded by a U.S. Dept. of Education National Leadership Activities grant awarded to the Arizona Charter Schools Association. The Association's Charter Starter Program, was created "to train and coach teams in developing a quality public charter school that meets the needs of its community, improves student achievement, and maintains a high level of performance throughout its existence."

Arizona Youth Partnership has a 20-year history of implementing evidence-based, community programs and is uniquely equipped to implement a Community School Model that addresses barriers to learning faced by students and their families. Additionally, AzYP has a successful history of managing multi-year federal, state, and local grants and contracts. ***Open Doors Community Schools, Inc was founded by the AzYP board and staff in order to specifically oversee and manage the affairs of the Open Doors Community Charter School.***

Current Status of Open Doors Community School, Inc.

The six-member (five voting members and one non-voting ex-officio member) Open Doors Community School Board was appointed by the AzYP Board of Directors in April 2011 and is

composed of two members who also serve on the AzYP Board and three other community leaders uniquely qualified to oversee the affairs of the school. Articles of Incorporation for Open Doors Community School, Inc. were filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission on May 11, 2011. The application for IRS 501c3 status with the IRS is in process.

Roles and Responsibilities

Open Doors Community School (ODCS) will be responsible for the governance and the operation of the school. ODCS will be staffed as outlined in the B.4 Management and Operation section to achieve shared management and administrative resources that support a high-quality program of instruction and the results-oriented charter school. We will achieve economies of scale with administrative and fiscal staffing from our parent organization, AzYP. Several of the existing AzYP staff are educators and will assist with the planning and development of the school.

AzYP Start-Up and Financial Support

AzYP is committed to provide start-up financial and staff support for Open Doors Community School. Two AzYP board members will serve on the five-member ODCS board to support the start-up and marketing of the school. AzYP's administrative offices will be relocated to the proposed school facility to ensure seamless coordination of efforts and operational support. AzYP will continue to deliver programs in other rural communities across Arizona. However, the AzYP board and leadership will maintain a priority focus on ensuring the viability of Open Doors Community School in Marana during the formative years.

Required Exhibits

Please find Articles of Incorporation for both AzYP (parent organization) and Open Doors Community School in the attachments to this section of our application. By-laws for both AzYP and Open Doors Community School are also attached. The AzYP Board of Directors meeting minutes from an April 9, 2011 authorizing the formation of Open Doors Community School and a resolution of intent to apply for a charter are both attached to this section.