



FY 2021 Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) Grants Funding Announcement Q&A Tracker

Funding Announcement Link:

[FY 2021 Violence Intervention & Prevention \(VIP\) Grants](#)

About this Document:

This guide will provide an overview of questions and answers regarding the VIP [funding announcement](#) and application process, which opened on September 3, 2021. Responses will be provided as staff is able to process questions through October 14, 2021.

Questions?

Please contact PCCD staff at RA-PCCD_ExecutiveOfc@pa.gov with 'FY 2021 Violence Intervention & Prevention Grants' in the subject line.

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1. Eligible Applicants

- a) *Are entities that were recently recommended to move forward with PCCD's FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funding process eligible to apply for VIP funding?*

Answer: Yes. Under PCCD's VIP funding guidelines, entities that have previously received funding from the agency, including 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funds, are eligible to apply under the VIP solicitation. Please note that PCCD is requesting applicants provide information within the initial funding online request form regarding any prior, current, and/or prospective funding sources related to gun violence prevention (including those recommended to receive FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funds) so that PCCD can take that information into account when reviewing VIP funding requests.

- b) *Are organization that have requested extensions for PCCD's 2019 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program eligible to apply for VIP funding?*

Answer: Yes. Under PCCD's VIP funding guidelines, entities that have previously received funding from the agency, including 2019 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funds, are eligible to apply under the VIP solicitation. Please note that PCCD is requesting applicants provide information within the initial funding online request form regarding any prior, current, and/or prospective funding sources related to gun violence prevention (including those recommended to receive FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funds) so that PCCD can take that information into account when reviewing VIP funding requests.

- c) *We are in the process of obtaining our 501(c)(3) status. As this is a lengthy application and we do not foresee the IRS replying prior to the October 15, 2021 application deadline, would we still be required to have a fiscal sponsor in order to apply for VIP funds? We are applying as a Category 4 applicant.*

Answer: Yes. Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status are required to have a fiscal sponsor or 'umbrella' organization (i.e., a non-profit with 501(c)(3) status or other eligible entity under this solicitation) in order to be eligible to make application. For-profit businesses and organizations are NOT eligible applicants. Applicants of this type will be required to provide the contact information of their sponsoring agency within the initial request application. PCCD will contact the sponsoring agency to verify sponsorship.

- d) *I am seeking confirmation that schools licensed by the State Board of Private Licensed Schools, as institutions of higher education, are eligible to apply under this solicitation.*

Answer: VIP funding is limited to the following entities that may submit an initial request/application:

- Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status (with a required fiscal sponsor or 'umbrella' agency in place);
- Community-based or nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status;
- Institutions of higher education;
- Municipalities;

- Counties; and
- District Attorney's Offices.

For purposes of this solicitation, 'institutions of higher education' include entities found in the PA School Code's definition (Article I, Section 118):

- (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.
- (2) A university within the State System of Higher Education.
- (3) The Pennsylvania State University.
- (4) The University of Pittsburgh.
- (5) Temple University.
- (6) Lincoln University.
- (7) Any other institution that is designated as "State-related" by the Commonwealth.
- (8) Any accredited private or independent college or university.
- (9) Any private licensed school as defined in the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the "Private Licensed Schools Act."

e) We have a new non-profit that received initial approval and all paperwork is submitted. Our understanding is that the IRS is potentially delayed several months at least in sending official written notification given COVID-19 and several other factors. We were informed we will be given official approval. I wanted to know if our organization can apply given the situation beyond our control with the IRS and delay in official, written notification.

Answer: Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status are required to have a fiscal sponsor or 'umbrella' organization (i.e., a non-profit with 501(c)(3) status or other eligible entity under this solicitation) in order to be eligible to make application. For-profit businesses and organizations are NOT eligible applicants. Applicants of this type will be required to provide the contact information of their sponsoring agency within the initial request application. PCCD will contact the sponsoring agency to verify sponsorship.

f) Are residential programs eligible for VIP funding?

Answer: Under the VIP funding guidelines, eligible applicants include community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorney's offices. Applicants should carefully review the [VIP Funding Announcement](#) to determine if their organization is eligible under this solicitation as well as other information regarding eligible activities and application procedures.

g) Can a K-8 school apply for VIP funding?

Answer: K-8 schools cannot be a direct applicant under this solicitation but can partner with an eligible applicant on a funding request.

h) Does an Institution of Higher Education working with a local agency and/or school district must be in the state of Pennsylvania to be an eligible applicant?

Answer: There is no restriction within the VIP Funding Announcement related to the physical/geographic location of eligible applicants; however, proposed activities to be supported with VIP grant funding must occur within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Applicants should provide additional information about their organization and proposed activities, including any local partners who would be involved in implementation efforts, within their initial funding request form.

- i) *Regarding the tiered eligibility criteria for organizations, is annual budget ultimately the sole criteria for orgs to determine which tier they fall within? For example, if an org's budget is slightly over the parameters in one tier, but the rest of the org's criteria meet that tier, is there flexibility in which tier they would be considered?*

Answer: PCCD will not make these determinations for organizations, but eligible applicants must determine where their organization fits on that tiered system based on the information and criteria provided in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#) and should base this determination primarily on the organization's operating expenditures. Please note that in the Attachments section of the SurveyMonkey initial request form, applicants are able to provide additional information and/or justification regarding their application.

- j) *Are partnership proposals/applications viewed more favorably than those programs operated by a single org?*

Answer: No; however, PCCD encourages eligible applicants to consider partnering with other programs in their service area, including partnerships that can allow for additional funding and resources to support program activities, such as partners in education, workforce development, social service providers, law enforcement and public safety, etc.

- k) *Are organizations that received extensions on previously granted awards still eligible if the grant period overlaps?*

Answer: Yes. Any entities that have previously received (or are about to receive) PCCD funding of any kind are eligible to apply for VIP funding under this solicitation. Further, there is no restriction for entities that have funding from other sources (local, state, federal, etc.). However, PCCD asks that eligible applicants provide information within their initial funding request form (SurveyMonkey) about whether or not they have previously received funding from PCCD or any other federal, state, or local source to support gun or group-related violence prevention or intervention efforts. Information provided by eligible applicants regarding current, prior, or pending funding sources may be taken into consideration during the review process.

- l) *Can public libraries apply?*

Answer: Under this solicitation, only community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorney's offices are eligible to apply for VIP funds. Applicants should carefully review the [VIP Funding Announcement](#) to determine if their organization is eligible under this solicitation as well as other information regarding eligible activities and application procedures.

m) Is it possible for two different departments within a university to submit separate applications?

Answer: As this is a highly competitive application process, eligible applicants (including institutions of higher education) should only submit one request each under this funding announcement.

n) If my organization is currently run by all volunteers and does not have a budget, am I eligible to apply for VIP funds?

Answer: Yes. Small-sized organizations (defined as those with under \$100,000 in annual operating expenditures relying primarily on volunteers to operate and who may have no full-time employees) are eligible to seek VIP funds. These applicants are seeking funding to support small-scale, neighborhood-level activities.

Please note: Any community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status are required to have a fiscal sponsor or 'umbrella' organization (i.e., a non-profit with 501(c)(3) status or other eligible entity under this solicitation) in order to be eligible to make application. Applicants of this type will be required to provide the contact information of their sponsoring agency within the initial request application. PCCD will contact the sponsoring agency to verify sponsorship.

o) If we are working with DA's Office as a partner, but we are a nonprofit applying, do we need the county to make application?

Answer: No. Only a funding request submitted directly by a district attorney's office that is recommended to move forward in the formal application process would require a county to make application on its behalf.

p) Should a local police department apply or should we apply under our city?

Answer: Under the VIP solicitation, only community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorney's offices are eligible to make application. However, a local law enforcement agency can be listed as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant.

q) Is the VIP grant available to faith-based programs?

Answer: Yes if the organization is an eligible entity as described below:

VIP funding is limited to the following entities that may submit an initial request/application:

- Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status (with a required fiscal sponsor or 'umbrella' agency in place);
- Community-based or nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status;
- Institutions of higher education;
- Municipalities;
- Counties; and
- District Attorney's Offices.

For purposes of this solicitation, 'institutions of higher education' include entities found in the PA School Code's definition (Article I, Section 118):

- (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.
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- (4) The University of Pittsburgh.
- (5) Temple University.
- (6) Lincoln University.
- (7) Any other institution that is designated as "State-related" by the Commonwealth.
- (8) Any accredited private or independent college or university.
- (9) Any private licensed school as defined in the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the "Private Licensed Schools Act."

r) *Can you confirm that 501c4 organizations would be considered an eligible entity to apply for this program on behalf of eligible 501c3 organizations?*

Answer: Under this solicitation, only nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply for funds; therefore, 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply.

s) *Our nonprofit organization has several locations. Can we have multiple locations apply in separate applications for this opportunity?*

Answer: Yes, as long as an entity is an eligible applicant, you are eligible to submit an initial request under the [VIP Funding Announcement](#).

t) *How should an organization calculate which tier it's eligible for if the program that the organization is submitting for has not existed in the past. This grant would be used to expand programming significantly, which will expand costs significantly. In this case, should the organization use the projected annual budget even though this budget isn't for the period between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 or should the organization use its fiscal sponsor's budget to calculate which tier it is eligible for?*

Answer: Eligible applicants should refer to their organization's expenditures for the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to determine their total annual organizational expenditures.

u) *Is a city health department considered to be a 'municipality' or 'county' for purposes of VIP applicant eligibility?*

Answer: Under PCCD's guidelines, a "county" or "municipality" must be the applicant for funds. A county/municipality department receiving the funds can be listed as a recipient agency.

v) *Can a school district apply on their own for VIP funding or do they have to fall under an application submitted by an eligible entity (e.g., city/municipality, etc.)?*

Answer: A school district is not an eligible applicant under the VIP solicitation. Only community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorney's offices are eligible to make application. Nothing precludes a school district or school entity from receiving services from an eligible applicant.

2. Application Process

a) *What is the link to register for the VIP informational webinar for prospective applicants?*

Answer: You can sign up for the informational webinar on September 14, 2021 from 11:00-12:00 p.m. using this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_VIP_info_webinar.

b) *If we are asked to submit a full proposal, will that be due in Egrants December 31, 2021?*

Answer: Eligible organizations should submit an initial request for funding using an online request form (SurveyMonkey). Applicants selected in the initial round of requests will then be contacted by PCCD staff with an invitation and instructions to complete a formal application in PCCD's Egrants System, including information about application submission deadlines.

c) *Please clarify the submission role of the fiscal sponsor. They must submit on a sponsored organization's behalf or can the organization submit and note the fiscal sponsor's information in the application?*

Answer: The expectation is for the umbrella organization to submit an application on behalf of each of the entities they sponsor.

d) *Does our Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) have a role (e.g., are they to review all the applications from our area and weigh-in)?*

Answer: This is not a requirement under the VIP Funding Announcement; however, PCCD recognizes the value of CJABs and any inclusion or input from these entities within the funding request process is certainly welcomed.

e) *Do you know how many awards for each size category you anticipate making?*

Answer: We do not have a set threshold for the number of awards that will be made for each size category (or 'tier'); therefore, there is no estimate available. Under the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), eligible applicants can request maximum awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$2 million total.

f) *Can you partner with more than one organization to apply for funding?*

Answer: Yes; however, one partner must be identified as the lead applicant (i.e., organization submitting the initial funding request form).

- g) Do narrative questions in the application have character limits or recommendations for suggested length?*

Answer: Yes. Generally speaking, most comment boxes/fields within the SurveyMonkey initial request form are restricted to 500 characters or less, unless otherwise noted. Character limits for specific narrative fields/comment boxes are described within the online form, and are also provided within the written reference documents outlining the questions and information asked in PCCD's VIP initial request form ([Word](#), [PDF](#)). Please note that 'characters' includes all letters, spaces, and punctuation marks.

- h) Once we complete our application through Survey Monkey, how will we get a copy of the submission?*

Answer: Unfortunately, Survey Monkey does not automatically generate a copy of your application. We suggest filling out a written copy for your records using the reference documents available on PCCD's website (Word, PDF) and then completing the Survey Monkey application using that content. If necessary, PCCD staff can also provide a copy of your submitted survey response form upon request.

- i) What does the review and scoring process look like (specifically an evidence-based program)*

Answer: We will review the content and the overall program description to make a determination. There is not currently a determined scoring difference between research based, evidence-based or evidence informed programs.

- j) Please explain the "referral" - what is an example of this? The question asks how participants in your project will be referred to specific services, supports, and other resources within the community. I do not understand what this is referring to, and an example would be very helpful*

Answer: We are looking for information on how organizations plan to identify potential program participants and the pathways you plan to use to direct them to additional services and supports, if applicable to your proposed project activities. Eligible applicants should explain how you receive referrals, who you receive them from, and how you will direct people to those services provided within the initial funding request form (SurveyMonkey).

As an example, an organization proposing to utilize VIP funds to support a street outreach program would describe how they plan to deploy credible messengers and/or 'case workers' to engage participants, including how individuals would be initially identified as potentially needing outreach. The applicant would also describe how 'case workers' would document an individual participant's needs (e.g., housing, education, employment, mental/behavioral healthcare, etc.) and then the process for making appropriate referrals to services, resources, and supports provided by partners within the community aligned with those needs.

- k) Is it possible for two different departments within a university to submit separate applications?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the VIP solicitation, PCCD staff cannot weigh in on specific categories or application procedures but would encourage entities to provide additional

information and/or justification within the supplemental section of the initial funding request form. Need more detail

l) What are the character limits within the VIP SurveyMonkey initial request form?

Answer: Text fields vary in format within the SurveyMonkey initial request form. In most cases, specific character limits associated with longer narrative response fields are noted next to the question text in SurveyMonkey (i.e., 'NOTE: This section is limited to 500 characters or less.'). Letters, spaces, punctuation marks, and other text components count towards character limits. PCCD encourages applicants to utilize the *VIP Initial Funding Request Online Survey Application Questions Summary* reference documents available to download in PDF and Word formats on PCCD's Gun Violence Grants & Funding webpage to formulate responses to these questions. You can then utilize tools within Word that can do a Word Count/Character Count/etc. to give you a rough idea of the size of your response.

m) Should letters of reference/recommendation from the three individuals be provided with the application?

Answer: Letters of reference/recommendation are optional. They may be provided as attachments within the SurveyMonkey online request form in the "Attachment Section (Optional)" if so desired. Applicants can also provide the names and contact information of individuals who can serve as references within the 'References Section' of the SurveyMonkey form using the prescribed fields.

n) To whom should letters of reference/recommendation be addressed?

Answer: Letters of support/reference/recommendation, if included, can be addressed to PCCD Executive Director Michael Pennington.

o) Where should letters of reference/recommendation be addressed?

Answer: Letters of support/reference/recommendation, if included, can be addressed to PCCD's mailing address: 3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or can simply be scanned and uploaded as part of the "Attachments Section (Optional)."

p) Would a reference from an elected or appointed federal, county, or municipal official who is familiar with our work be accepted?

Answer: References should come from stakeholders (e.g., patrons, oversight organizations, current or previous contract holders, etc.) that are familiar with the applicant organization and its work. Organizational members or family members should not be used as a reference.

q) *Is the limitation really characters where the section limitation is indicated? For instance, the organization background section is limited to 500 characters or less, which equates to approximately 80 words, depending on if you count the characters with/without spaces. If the section is grounded in a character limit is the limit based on the number of characters with or without spaces?*

Answer: Yes, text field limitations are for characters, where indicated. Text fields vary in format within the SurveyMonkey initial request form. In most cases, specific character limits associated with longer narrative response fields are noted next to the question text in SurveyMonkey (i.e., 'NOTE: This section is limited to 500 characters or less.'). Letters, spaces, punctuation marks, and other text components count towards character limits. PCCD encourages applicants to utilize the *VIP Initial Funding Request Online Survey Application Questions Summary* reference documents available to download in PDF and Word formats on [PCCD's Gun Violence Grants & Funding webpage](#) to formulate responses to these questions. You can then utilize tools within Word that can do a Word Count/Character Count/etc. to give you a rough idea of the size of your response.

w) *Should applicants provide additional justification within the 'Attachment Section (Optional)' for each line item in the budget or generally for the overall request? Is the verbiage limit in total or for each item?*

Answer: The additional comments portion of the 'Attachment Section (Optional)' in the SurveyMonkey initial request form allows applicants to provide any additional information, context, or justification regarding any component of their application. Applicants should utilize relevant portions of the 'Budget Section' of the SurveyMonkey form to enter the cost or best estimate for the budgetary categories listed and provide a short narrative about the expenditure(s) proposed.

Regarding the character limits for that section, text fields vary in format within the SurveyMonkey initial request form. In most cases, specific character limits associated with longer narrative response fields are noted next to the question text in SurveyMonkey (i.e., 'NOTE: This section is limited to 500 characters or less.'). Letters, spaces, punctuation marks, and other text components count towards character limits. PCCD encourages applicants to utilize the *VIP Initial Funding Request Online Survey Application Questions Summary* reference documents available to download in PDF and Word formats on [PCCD's Gun Violence Grants & Funding webpage](#) to formulate responses to these questions. You can then utilize tools within Word that can do a Word Count/Character Count/etc. to give you a rough idea of the size of your response.

x) *I write to ask whether it would be possible to postpone the deadline for my colleagues' and community partners' initial funding request. We only learned of this grant about a week ago, and given that we are part of a University, the process for internal approval for applying for this grant will take us another two weeks. If there's any way we could have those extra two weeks we'd appreciate it. If not, will there be another granting cycle, perhaps 6 months from now?*

Answer: The VIP online initial request form in SurveyMonkey, which is due on Oct. 15th, is just one step in the application process for this competitive grant program. The initial funding

request form is more “concept” oriented and, since it is housed outside of PCCD’s Egrants System, does not require many of the documents and signatures that are typically associated with our solicitations. Final sign off by the university would need to occur if your institution submitted an initial request form and were selected to continue in the application process.

- y) *How many separate attachments or individual pages of attachments are allowed for the VIP Initial Request? Are we allowed to include copies of current affiliation agreements between our University and sites in the target communities?*

Answer: The VIP online initial request form in SurveyMonkey provides space for applicants to upload up to three attachments. Please note: The maximum file size accepted for each uploaded attachment in SurveyMonkey is 16MB.

- z) *We are wondering how to capture a partnership with another organization in the initial application process given the character constraints. Should both organizations be captured under the 'organizational background'? Or should this just be the lead organization? Would it be better to capture the partnership in the project narrative or submit additional information in the supplemental information section?*

Answer: The ‘Organizational Information and Background’ section of the online initial request form asks applicants to provide relevant information about the organization with primary responsibility for implementing activities that would be funded through VIP. Please note: Applicants are encouraged to utilize the ‘Attachment Section (Optional)’ of SurveyMonkey to attach or include any additional informational items they believe will supplement their application.

4. Eligible Activities

- a) *Can the Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant funding be used to cover a gunshot detection system?*

Answer: Given the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, activities, or approaches. Under this solicitation, eligible applicants may request funding to support the implementation of eligible activities and approaches detailed in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#). Eligible applicants should describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 VIP Grant Program within the initial request form.

- b) *Can funds from the VIP grant be used to cover emergency relocation housing in the event that a client needs emergency relocation due to being a victim of a crime?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD staff cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, and/or activities. We encourage applicants to carefully review the information provided in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), especially the overview of ‘Eligible Program Activities and Expenses’ on pages 3-5 and the discussion of ‘Ineligible or Limited Program Activities and Expenses’ on page 5, to make a determination regarding whether a model, program, and/or activity is aligned with funding goals and eligibility criteria.

Eligible applicants should utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 VIP Grant Program.

c) *Is there a priority for youth participant for VIP funding?*

Answer: There is no age priority . Eligible applicants are encouraged to utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to provide a description of any target population(s) a proposed project would serve.

d) *Can a County/Municipality and their District Attorney's Office apply separately for VIP funding or can only one entity apply?*

Answer: Yes, both can apply but the review will take all proposed projects into consideration. The county will be expected to make the application on behalf of the District Attorney if a funding request is selected to move forward in a formal Egrants application process.

e) *If an organization was working with healthcare providers, would the budget permit us to offer those providers a stipend to attend training or conferences?*

Answer: Yes, the [VIP Funding Announcement](#) allows for eligible applicants to build in costs for technical assistance and training for program or model implementation aligned with eligible programs, models, and approaches. These expenses should only be a portion of the overall budget. Eligible applicants should clearly describe the training including how it connects to your proposed project’s objectives and approach, who may attend/participate, and the specific costs associated with the training that would be supported using VIP funds.

Please note: PCCD reserves the right to have approved applicants remove or reduce items from the proposed budget that are deemed ineligible or not sufficiently related to the project.

f) *If an agency serves two counties, are they able to apply for both or only one?*

Answer: Under the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), eligible applicants are not restricted to a single geographic area (i.e., neighborhood, municipality, county). Therefore, eligible applicants may request funding to support proposed project activities, aligned with VIP funding goals and eligibility criteria, within one or more counties. In addition, eligible applicants should provide a clear description within their initial funding request form of the geographic area(s) where proposed project activities will take place.

g) *In regard to the ‘model type,’ does the applicant need to have a specific ‘curriculum’? If current services to the community are closely aligned with the Chicago CRED model, for instance, is that sufficient?*

Answer: Grants and technical assistance supported with VIP funds must align with the list of eligible activities identified in [Section 1306-B\(j\)\(22\) of the PA Public School Code](#) (see pages 3-4 of the [VIP Funding Announcement](#)). Applicants will be asked to identify the category from that

list that is most applicable to the project they are proposing. Further, applicants will also be asked what model type (from the suggested list of examples provided on p. 4 of the VIP Funding Announcement) most closely aligns with their project's description.

While the [VIP Funding Announcement](#) identifies several model types and programs that were endorsed by the SSSC's VIP Workgroup, strict adherence to a specific model or program is not required under this solicitation. In other words, a proposed project/activity does not necessarily need to utilize a specific 'curriculum' or set of approved standards in order to be considered 'closely aligned' with an example model/approach. Applicants should select the model/approach they believe best fits with their proposed activities. NOTE: If your program model type is not listed, please select 'OTHER.'

h) Is VIP funding available for evidence-based programs?

Answer: Under the solicitation, VIP funding can be used to support a number of eligible activities and approaches, which are described on pages 3-4 of the [VIP Funding Announcement](#). Evidence-based programs aligned with these eligible activities and approaches could be supported using VIP funds.

i) Will rent for office space be considered operational funding?

Answer: Yes, rent for office space is considered to be an operational expense and will be counted toward an eligible applicant's indirect or 'overhead' costs. Note: Under this solicitation, eligible applicants can request no more than 10% of the total project budget to support indirect costs. Entities serving as an 'umbrella' organization or fiscal sponsor are eligible for up to 33% on top of the collective budgets of the organizations they are supporting; however, this reserved funding must be directly tied to activities/expenses that support subgrantees'/subrecipients' specific projects (i.e., not general overhead).

j) Wages are identified as an allowable expense. Does this include hiring new staff?

Answer: Yes, VIP funding can be used to support the hiring of new employees (full- or part-time).

k) If a program model falls within more than one category of eligible activities, can an applicant choose more than one approach?

Answer: No. Applicants must select a single eligible activity and model/program/approach that most closely aligns with their project's description. Please note that if your program model type is not listed, you should select the 'OTHER' category.

While selections are restricted in this section of the request form, applicants may provide additional information regarding their proposed project, including additional categories of eligible activities and approaches that would be implemented, within other sections of the form, if needed.

l) If we are a violence prevention organization, can we use this funding for general operating?

Answer: Grants and technical assistance supported with VIP funds must align with the eligible activities and approaches described within pages 3-4 of the [VIP Funding Announcement](#). Note: Under this solicitation, eligible applicants can request no more than 10% of the total project budget to support indirect costs (i.e., general operating expenses).

m) Under the VIP funding, is an organization able to create new programs, who may have difficulty providing effectiveness/outcomes, or is the funding solely for preexisting programs?

Answer: Yes, the VIP funding can be used to develop new projects/programs. If you are proposing a new initiative, please be sure to identify how the proposed activities within the new project/program are aligned with the eligible activities within the VIP funding announcement.

n) Would costs associated with clean up and greening of vacant land that would become publicly accessible green space be an eligible project activity and expense? This would NOT include purchase of land nor construction of buildings on the land.

Answer: Given the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, activities, or approaches. A number of eligible activities and approaches are described on pages 3-5 of the [VIP Funding Announcement](#). Applicants should utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities and the approach they will utilize if awarded funding and how that approach aligns with the goals of the VIP Grant Program.

o) For the violence and intervention grant application, is it okay to define the community of the hometowns of our student population or does it have to be the physical location of the higher education institution?

Answer: Funding is intended to prioritize support for effective local intervening and preventive measures to stop gun and group violence that is occurring across the state. Eligible applicants are encouraged to utilize relevant portions of the initial funding request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities that would be supported with VIP funding, including listing the geographic areas and target populations for your project, among other information.

p) Are we allowed to request funding to cover the therapy fees for participants?

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD staff cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, and/or activities. We encourage applicants to carefully review the information provided in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), especially the overview of 'Eligible Program Activities and Expenses' on pages 3-5 and the discussion of 'Ineligible or Limited Program Activities and Expenses' on page 5, to make a determination regarding whether a model, program, and/or activity is aligned with funding goals and eligibility criteria.

Eligible applicants should utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 VIP Grant Program.

q) *Looking to see if this funding could be awarded to a new entity looking to purchase space and create a “club” for area youth to teach them self-sufficiency skills, safety, general life skills in order to keep them from moving towards a life of crime or violence. I believe our youth would benefit from this type of grass roots organization in our part of our county.*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD staff cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, and/or activities. We encourage applicants to carefully review the information provided in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), especially the overview of ‘Eligible Program Activities and Expenses’ on pages 3-5 and the discussion of ‘Ineligible or Limited Program Activities and Expenses’ on page 5, to make a determination regarding whether a model, program, and/or activity is aligned with funding goals and eligibility criteria.

Eligible applicants should utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 VIP Grant Program.

r) *Is it possible to use some of the grant funding as stipend payments to mentees in a mentorship program?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD staff cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, and/or activities. We encourage applicants to carefully review the information provided in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), especially the overview of ‘Eligible Program Activities and Expenses’ on pages 3-5 and the discussion of ‘Ineligible or Limited Program Activities and Expenses’ on page 5, to make a determination regarding whether a model, program, and/or activity is aligned with funding goals and eligibility criteria.

Eligible applicants should utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 VIP Grant Program.

s) *Are community murals eligible projects?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD staff cannot advise prospective applicants on specific models, programs, and/or activities. We encourage applicants to carefully review the information provided in the [VIP Funding Announcement](#), especially the overview of ‘Eligible Program Activities and Expenses’ on pages 3-5 and the discussion of ‘Ineligible or Limited Program Activities and Expenses’ on page 5, to make a determination regarding whether a model, program, and/or activity is aligned with funding goals and eligibility criteria.

Eligible applicants should utilize the initial request form (SurveyMonkey) to describe their proposed project activities and explain how this approach aligns with the goals of the FY 2021 VIP Grant Program.

5. Fiscal Sponsor & 'Umbrella' Organizations

- a) *Can you please clarify whether applicants intending to utilize an 'Umbrella Sponsor' can make application or if the 'Umbrella' organization is expected to make application on behalf of the entities they sponsor?*

Answer: The application process was set up to be flexible. The expectation is for the umbrella organization to submit an application on behalf of each of the entities they sponsor; however, nothing precludes a community-based organization that does not 501(c)(3) status from filling out the application on their own, so long as they identify a fiscal sponsor or umbrella agency within their application. Please note that regardless of how the request form is filled out, PCCD will be confirming that the fiscal sponsor or umbrella agency will be responsible for the community-based organization.

- b) *Is there a minimum or maximum number of community-based organizations that can partner with the "umbrella" organization under Category 5?*

Answer: No. Under the VIP funding guidelines, there are no minimum or maximum number of community-based organizations that can be supported by an 'umbrella' organization, however an assessment of the umbrella organizations capacity will be completed prior to any award being issued.

- c) *I am classified as a small organization and have a fiscal sponsor. If I have a viable plan that exceeds the budget amount for small organizations, will this request still be considered?*

Answer: Under the VIP Funding Announcement, organizations with fiscal sponsors are only eligible to receive the maximum amount of funds based on their designated category. 'Umbrella' organizations serving as a fiscal sponsor or applicant on behalf of a community-based organization are eligible for up to 33% on top of the collective budgets of the organizations they are supporting. For example, an 'umbrella' organization that applies to support a community-based organization that is eligible for \$50,000 can request up to 33% of that amount (\$16,500) to support their agency's costs in providing fiscal/administrative support. Please note: the funding set aside for a fiscal sponsor or 'umbrella' organization must be directly tied to activities/expenses that support subgrantee(s)/subrecipient(s)' specific projects (i.e., not general overhead).

- d) *Do all the organizations that fall under an umbrella organization have to all have the same specific projects? For example, would individual communities be permitted to develop their own strategies related to ending gun violence or does everyone have to have the same strategies as outlined in the application?*

Answer: No, they do not have to be the same.

- e) *Can an LLC partner with a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization to apply for VIP funds, such as having a nonprofit organization serve as an 'umbrella' agency or fiscal sponsor?*

Answer: For-profit businesses and organizations are NOT eligible applicants under the [VIP funding announcement](#). Under the VIP solicitation, only community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorney's offices are eligible to make application. However, a for-profit organization can be listed as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project.

- f) *If my organization is included under a Category 5: "umbrella" application, can I still apply on my own under Category 2: Small-to-midsize organizations? I was planning to apply for a project that my organization is interested in, but an "umbrella" is interested in my organization being supported by them, but it would be for a different project than what I'm proposing under Category 2. Please advise.*

Answer: PCCD established funding limits based on the expected capacity to implement projects and programs. Applicants are not permitted to exceed the maximum allowable budget for their organization type. If an organization is interested in submitting a VIP funding request for themselves and is also part of an 'umbrella' application, each application should acknowledge the other request and make clear what the organization's role would be in each project so that PCCD can take that information into consideration as part of the application review process.

- g) *I had a question regarding the categories of organizations defined in the Funding Availability section. Our organization intends to apply to support a collaborative of organizations in Lancaster PA. We are planning sub-contractor out services that address violence and trauma. We are a large organization with an operating budget over \$1 million. We are also submitting on behalf of other organizations as well. Can you provide guidance on whether we would apply under the Large organization or the Umbrella organization category due to the collaborative nature of the application?*

Answer: The application process was set up to be flexible. The expectation is that entities serving as an 'umbrella' organization or fiscal sponsor submit an application on behalf of each of the entities they sponsor; however, nothing precludes a community-based organization that does not have 501(c)(3) status from filling out the application on their own, so long as they identify a fiscal sponsor or umbrella agency within their application. Please note that regardless of how the request form is filled out, PCCD will be confirming that the fiscal sponsor or umbrella agency will be responsible for the community-based organization.

- h) *We are planning to submit as an umbrella org that supports other community-based organizations that have a 501(c)3 status. The goal is provide a collaborative grant that aligns with an ongoing and collaborative place-based community revitalization strategy. Are there any issues submitting on behalf of another non-profit?*

Answer: No issues. In addition to supporting community-based organizations and nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status, umbrella organizations/fiscal sponsors are allowed to submit on behalf of nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status.

- i) *Can an organization with a fiscal sponsor apply? I watched the webinar but need further clarification. We have a fiscal sponsor, are we able to apply or should the application be submitted by our fiscal sponsor?*

Answer: The application process was set up to be flexible. The expectation is that entities serving as an ‘umbrella’ organization or fiscal sponsor submit an application on behalf of each of the entities they sponsor; however, nothing precludes a community-based organization that does not have 501(c)(3) status from filling out the application on their own, so long as they identify a fiscal sponsor or umbrella agency within their application. Please note that regardless of how the request form is filled out, PCCD will be confirming that the fiscal sponsor or umbrella agency will be responsible for the community-based organization.

6. Other PCCD Funding Sources

- a) *Is VIP funding an extension of the 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program?*

Answer: No; this is a separate funding announcement and grant program. VIP funds and the current open solicitation are separate from the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program funding opportunity that was opened on May 18th and closed June 30th.

- b) *If I already have a PCCD grant will it be count against me for a VIP grant opportunity?*

Answer: No, an organization who has received another PCCD grant is still eligible to apply. Prior award(s) may be taken into consideration and should be listed in the initial funding request form (SurveyMonkey).

- c) *Can you please explain the relationship between this VIP funding stream and Community Violence Prevention and Reduction funding? Will there be a funding announcement in the fall?*

Answer: PCCD’s School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) did not receive any Community Violence Prevention and Reduction (CVPR) funding in the FY 2021-22 budget, so PCCD will not issue a CVPR funding announcement this year.

7. Awards & Funding

- a) *How soon will VIP funds be available upon approval?*

Answer: Once the award has been officially made, payments to grantees will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Grantees will have to submit financial information/expenditures into PCCD’s Egrants System and payments will be processed after the reports are approved. PCCD understands that all grantees may not have enough cash on hand to be able to purchase more expensive items or services on a reimbursement basis; in those cases, PCCD will work with grantees in those situations to provide funding in a timely manner. It is anticipated that projects will have start dates of January 1, 2022.

8. Budget

- a) *For an organization's budget, is it an annual max or can you spread out the costs unevenly over the two years? For example, if an organization is eligible to request \$2 million total over two years, can they only spend up to \$1 million per year or can they do \$500K in Year 1 and \$1.5 million in Year 2?*

Answer: The maximum eligible applicants can request under the VIP Funding Announcement is over a total two-year project period. There are no annual caps or prescribed budget amounts within that maximum.