



## FY2024-25 Building Opportunity through Out of School Time (BOOST) Funding

### Funding Announcement Q&A Tracker

Funding Announcement Link:

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>

About this Document:

This guide will provide an overview of questions and answers regarding the [Building Opportunity through Out of School Time \(BOOST\) funding announcement](#) and application process, which opened on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Responses will be provided as staff is able to process questions through close of business, Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Questions?

Please contact PCCD staff at [ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov](mailto:ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov) with BOOST FA in the subject line.

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## 1. Eligible Applicants

- a) *Are charter schools eligible to apply for the recently announced BOOST funding? We also have a 501(c)(3) status. Does this make us eligible to apply?*

**Answer:** Charter schools are not considered to be eligible to make direct application for BOOST funds. However, nothing precludes a charter school from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included 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.

- b) *I am an eligible applicant under both the VIP and BOOST funding announcements and am trying to decide which funding announcement to apply under – VIP or BOOST? How do I decide?*

**Answer:** It is incumbent on the applicant to determine which funding announcement to apply under. As stated in the VIP funding announcement, while PCCD strongly encourages eligible applicants seeking funding for prevention-focused projects to apply through the BOOST solicitation, PCCD will not penalize applicants who submit through the VIP Tracks. We encourage you to read through all the funding announcement materials to determine which funding announcement fits your project best.

- c) *Are Intermediate Units (IUs) eligible to apply for the recently announced BOOST funding?*

**Answer:** Intermediate Units (IUs) are not considered to be eligible to make direct application for BOOST funds. However, nothing precludes an Intermediate Unit from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included 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.

- d) *Are licensed school-age-child care (SACC) providers eligible to apply for the BOOST program funding?*

**Answer:** As noted on page 4, child care centers are not considered to be eligible to make direct application for BOOST funds. However, nothing precludes a child care center from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included 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.

- e) *My agency has received VIP funding in the past and/or has current funding. Am I eligible to apply under BOOST? What if it's for a separate program?*

**Answer:** Entities that have previously received funding under the VIP program may be eligible to apply under the BOOST program, dependent upon the entity's overall eligibility and upon the program type your organization is seeking funding to support. For example, eligible organizations providing mainly prevention-based, after- or before-school programming, may want to consider the BOOST application. Programs with a broader focus than prevention/afterschool, and may include elements of intervention or transformation, may want

to consider the VIP application. Please refer to the one-page summaries included on PCCD's website for a breakdown of each solicitation type that may be applicable to your particular organization and select the appropriate solicitation that best fits your program needs.

- f) *My organization is a current VIP grantee with funding for our out-of-school-time program. The BOOST funding announcement mentions that organizations that have not received PCCD funding will receive priority consideration. We have new/uncovered expenses related to our violence prevention programs. Is it worth applying?*

**Answer:** It is incumbent on the applicant to determine if a solicitation is a good fit. Applicants will be asked to describe any funding sources, including PCCD grants, that currently support proposed programs or similar activities, including the amount and impact of those funds. As stated in the funding announcement, there are a number of factors that may be considered as part of the review process, including the applicant's compliance history with fiscal and program reporting (if applicable), their historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals (if applicable), and available funding. For current grantees, please keep in mind PCCD has a process for submitting project modification requests if you need to make adjustments to your current project. We encourage participation in the BOOST webinar scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3-4 pm. Sign up using this [link](#).

- g) *Are townships eligible to apply for the BOOST program funding?*

**Answer:** Townships are not considered to be eligible to make direct application for BOOST funds. However, nothing precludes a township from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included 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.

- h) *We are interested in applying for the BOOST funding. The funding announcement mentions that those who have not previously received funding from PCCD or another state agency will receive priority consideration. We received funding from PCCD for the SAEDR grant in previous years. Are we still eligible to apply?*

**Answer:** Yes. Prior awards from PCCD or other sources do not preclude the applicant from pursuing an application under BOOST; however, prior performance may be taken into consideration during the review process. Applicants will be asked to identify any current and/or pending funding source(s) that would support similar programs, services, and/or activities to reduce potential for redundancy.

- i) *We have a statewide alliance that represents more than 50 associations across the Commonwealth. Based on our interpretation of the solicitation, our local associations and branches can apply for Track 1 monies and the State Alliance can also apply as a statewide entity, with or without sub-recipients. Is our interpretation correct?*

**Answer:** No. As stated on page 2 of the funding announcement, statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations must apply, at a minimum, for funding on behalf of at least three subrecipients (e.g., community-based member nonprofit organizations) providing out-of-school

programming serving at-risk youth. Applicants may not submit more than one funding request for BOOST (e.g., you cannot submit an application under the Local BOOST track and the Statewide BOOST track). In addition, organizations that are included as proposed subrecipients under a Statewide BOOST Project application may not submit an application under the Local BOOST track.

- j) *We are a school district and community-based organizations located in our service area have asked us to collaborate on this opportunity. Should these organizations submit their own applications, or should they coordinate? Which option would make their application(s) more competitive?*

**Answer:** Due to the competitive nature of this funding, PCCD cannot weigh in on what approach is appropriate for individual proposals; however, please note one of the priority consideration areas includes, "Proposing to develop and maintain community coordination and partnerships."

- k) *Would multiple community-based organizations listing the same school district as a project partner hurt their chances of getting funded?*

**Answer:** Not necessarily, so long as the applicants clearly delineate between their proposed projects; however, please note that geographic diversity and other applications received for similar activities in the same region may be taken into consideration during the review process.

- l) *We have a 501(c)(3) designation and are a club/organization under the umbrella of a University. Can the University be the applicant agency?*

**Answer:** No. Universities are not an eligible applicant under the BOOST funding opportunity; organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply for BOOST Grant funding.

- m) *Are non-public schools eligible to apply for BOOST or VIP?*

**Answer:** Non-public schools are not eligible to make direct application under BOOST or VIP. Each funding announcement provides information on the types of entities who are eligible to make direct application for grant funding under each solicitation. Nothing precludes a non-public school from being included as a proposed partner or subrecipient within an eligible applicant's VIP or BOOST proposal.

## 2. Eligible Program Activities & Approaches

- a) *Will there be any evaluation activities as part of this BOOST OST funding? If so, will you be issuing an RFP looking for an external evaluator?*

**Answer:** While technical assistance and evaluation are allowable activities under this solicitation for eligible applicants to utilize BOOST funds to support, the primary focus of this solicitation is supporting the provision of OST programming. At this time, PCCD does not anticipate releasing a dedicated solicitation for an external evaluator. On page 5 of the funding announcement, under section 7. Allowable Grants Expenses, it outlines that applicants can request a portion of their BOOST grant funding to support project-specific technical assistance, which would include

evaluation activities. If your organization is not an eligible applicant, nothing precludes you from being included 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.

b) *Would a teen court be an eligible program under this funding announcement?*

**Answer:** Due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, PCCD cannot weigh in on specific proposed activities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review all open and available funding announcements to determine which funding announcement and track best fits the organization and its proposed programming goals. As an example, eligible organizations providing mainly prevention-based, after- or before-school programming, may want to consider the BOOST application. Programs with a broader focus than prevention/afterschool, and may include elements of intervention or transformation, may want to consider the VIP application. Please refer to the one-page summaries included on PCCD’s website for a breakdown of each solicitation type that may be applicable to your particular organization and select the appropriate solicitation that best fits your program needs.

### 3. Budget/Allowable Expenses

a) *Would these be allowable expenses?*

- *an indoor playground as part of a community center and a library*
- *sports equipment to outfit a gymnasium*
- *Library furniture*

**Answer:** Given the competitive nature of the BOOST funding solicitation, PCCD cannot weigh in on specific proposed costs or activities. As stated in the funding announcement, grant funding can support expenses associated with direct project activities, including program implementation. These expenses must be justified and align with the activities outlined under Section 6. Eligible Program Activities & Approaches. Applicants are required to outline these expenses in the Budget Table and Narrative. As mentioned in the template, a brief description of what is included in the expenses by category is required. These expenses must be clearly justified on how they relate to the project and BOOST solicitation goals and criteria. If an applicant's funding request is successful and recommended for approval by PCCD, applicants might get asked to remove items from their budget as part of the formal award process. PCCD will determine whether each expense is appropriately explained and justified and will have final approval of all budget requests.

### 4. Target Population

a) *What age range does PCCD consider to be school-age for this opportunity?*

**Answer:** In general, PCCD defines school-age youth to mean 6 years of age until 18 years of age. In the SurveyMonkey form, you will be asked to select the age groups/grade spans that will be served by the proposed programming, starting from i. Grade 1 (6-7 years old) to xii. Grade 12 (17-18 years old). There is also a “Other” option for applicants to enter a response, if needed.

b) *Please define 'at-risk'. Would youth located in 'at-risk' areas count?*

**Answer:** For the purpose of this funding announcement, 'at-risk youth' is defined as school-age youth who are at an educational disadvantage because of limited English proficiency, poverty, homelessness, foster care, housing instability, academic difficulties, or economic disadvantage.

## 5. Awards & Funding

a) *How does PCCD handle payment? Is it reimbursement only?*

**Answer:** Per Commonwealth guidelines, PCCD reimburses actual expenditures incurred. PCCD does not provide grant funds upfront. To request reimbursement, grantees are required to submit [fiscal reports](#) in Egrants which provide line-item detail on actual grant expenditures. Fiscal reports are required at least quarterly and can be submitted more frequently to assist organizations with cash flow, if needed. Reimbursement cannot occur until the fiscal report is reviewed and approved by PCCD.

## 6. Application Requirements

a) *Is it recommended to solicit and include letters of support from state & local elected officials within the application package?*

**Answer:** While it is required that applicants attach letters of commitment/support from any and all named locations/project partners as part of their initial funding request, letters of support from state and local officials are optional.