



## School Safety and Security Committee

### 2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants

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#### Fiscal Year 2023-24 Solicitation

**Please Note:** Applications are *only* accepted through PCCD's Egrants system. Applicants must register in Egrants prior to submitting an application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Egrants system and allow adequate time to prepare and submit an application.

**Recommended [Egrants Agency Registration](#) Date:**

Thursday, February 15, 2024

**Recommended [Egrants User Registration](#) Date:**

Thursday, February 22, 2024

**Mandatory Egrants Application Deadline:**

Thursday, February 29, 2024

This funding guideline contains information not appearing in the Egrants application. Applicants are advised to print and review this document and refer to it while completing your Egrants application.

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize PCCD's [GENERAL APPLICATION GRANT GUIDES](#) on our website for assistance in navigating the Egrants registration and application process.**

If you have a question seeking clarification of the funding announcement, questions should be sent via email to [RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov) with "2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants" in the subject line. PCCD staff will post responses to the questions, as they are received, on [PCCD's Funding Announcement Q&A](#) webpage. Select the appropriate funding announcement to view questions and answers.

For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).

**PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**  
**School Safety and Security Committee**

**Funding Announcement Title: 2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants**

**Funding Stream: School Safety and Security Fund and  
Safe Schools Initiative Funding**

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**PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**  
**School Safety and Security Committee**

**Funding Announcement Title: 2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants**

**Funding Stream: School Safety and Security Fund and  
Safe Schools Initiative Funding**

**Submission Requirements for Applications:**

- **Due Date** – Applications must be submitted electronically through PCCD’s Egrants system no later than 11:59 PM on Thursday, February 29, 2024. All applications received will be [competitively reviewed and scored](#) based on the applicant’s adherence to the funding announcement guidelines and timely submission in the PCCD Egrants system.
- **Technical Assistance** – Grant application and administrative guides can be accessed on [PCCD’s website](#) under the Funding section. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the application and administrative guides before calling the Egrants Help Desk for assistance. The Egrants Help Desk is available to assist with technical or system questions Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, and may be reached by calling (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).
- **Egrants Submission** – An application submitted in Egrants by the deadline is not considered complete until PCCD has received the original signature page, as well as any other required documents.
- **Administrative Rejection** – An application that does not meet all the listed requirements in this competitive funding announcement may be administratively rejected.
- **Corrections** – If PCCD returns an application for corrections, the final application (including all corrections and required documents) must be returned to and approved by PCCD for the requested funding to be awarded.
- **Non-supplantation** – Funding must not be used to supplant/replace state, federal, or local funds that would otherwise be available to provide for program-related services. PCCD funding is to be used in addition to other funds that are made available for services.
- **Keywords** – Applicants are required to select “Keywords” from the dropdown menu located on the Main Summary screen in Egrants. The required keywords are below. Applicants may also select other keywords that apply specifically to their application.

Keyword: School Safety

**PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY  
School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC)**

**Funding Announcement Title: 2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants**

**1. Overview:**

The School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) is now accepting applications for competitive school safety and security funding under [Article XIII-B \(relating to school safety and security\)](#) of the Public School Code of 1949.

With the recent enactment of [Act 33 of 2023](#), the PA Department of Education’s Targeted School Safety Grant Program was formally transferred to the SSSC and PCCD for administration in FY 2023-24 and thereafter. This competitive solicitation blends that funding opportunity with funding made available for PCCD’s School Safety and Security Grant Program to create a single competitive application process for school safety funding in the Commonwealth.

This competitive funding announcement is specifically for school districts, intermediate units, area career and technical schools, charter schools, cyber charter schools, regional charter schools, approved private schools, chartered school for the education of the deaf or the blind, or private residential rehabilitative institutions; and municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and approved vendors applying to provide school security personnel services within schools as eligible under [24 P.S. §13-1306.1-B](#).<sup>1</sup>

The goal of this solicitation is to make school entities within this Commonwealth safer places. To support that goal, priority consideration under this competitive funding announcement will be to support applicants seeking to meet ‘Level 1’ of [Baseline Criteria](#) (revised and adopted by the SSSC, May 2023), which are standards that assist school entities in guiding their decisions about their physical security and behavioral health needs. Developed with input by school safety and behavioral health experts across Pennsylvania, the Baseline Criteria organize policies, programs, activities, equipment, and trainings into a multi-leveled chart from Level 1, which are the most basic physical and behavioral health-related security elements a school entity should have, to Level 3, which are the most advanced elements. A priority focus of the SSSC is to ensure that all school entities, at a minimum, meet a basic, Level 1 standard of safety for students and staff.

**Additional PCCD Grant Opportunities Related to School Safety & Mental Health**

**Note:** This funding announcement is part of a broader package of funding opportunities recently announced by PCCD related to school safety and security and school mental health, including two noncompetitive/formula-based funding announcements: the “2023-24 School Mental Health Grants” solicitation for eligible school entities and the “2023-24 School District Meritorious Grants” for school districts.

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<sup>1</sup> **Nonpublic schools** seeking school safety funding should refer to [PCCD’s active funding announcement webpage](#) and scroll down to the “Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools” solicitation within the Active Funding Announcement Document section. Please note that municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and approved vendors may apply to provide security services to nonpublic and public schools under this solicitation.

School entities should refer to those individual solicitations for guidance on how to apply and receive your formula-based award. Nothing precludes an eligible applicant for noncompetitive/formula-based funding from applying for additional school safety grant funding under this competitive solicitation; however, the proposals should not be duplicative and must fund separate and unique activities. Please note that PCCD staff will cross-reference applications with all submitted applications that may be submitted during the January 2024 school safety funding rounds.

Please see PCCD's ['Active Funding Announcements' webpage](#) for more information regarding these solicitations.

## 2. Funding Availability:

A total of \$32,179,000, which includes \$26,345,000 from the \$50 million allocated for the School Safety and Security Grant Fund and \$5,834,000 allocated from the FY23-24 Targeted School Safety Grant Program, is being announced to support this initiative.

Per the definition of school entity under 24 P.S. §13-1301-B, a school district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter school, regional charter school, approved private schools, chartered school for the education of the deaf or the blind, or private residential rehabilitative institutions is eligible to submit an application under this solicitation. **Subject to the requirements of 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(g), maximum awards for school entities are limited to \$450,000 for an up to two-year project, except for the School District of Philadelphia (\$1,844,150 or 7% of the \$26.3 million available from the School Safety and Security Fund) and Pittsburgh School District (\$790,350, or 3%).**

**All other eligible applicants (i.e., municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and approved vendors) will be limited to a maximum award of \$150,000 for an up to two-year project.**

Award letters will be available in Egrants as soon as possible after the applications are approved. PCCD is not liable for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award.

## 3. Project Dates:

Applications approved at the April 2024 SSSC meeting will be up to 24-month projects with a projected start date of May 1, 2024. The end date for each project may vary, but budgets shall not exceed a two-year project period. The end date for each project may be extended with no additional funding through the submission of a Project Modification Request to PCCD.

## 4. Eligible Applicants:

This funding announcement is specifically for school districts, intermediate units, area career and technical schools, charter schools, cyber charter schools<sup>2</sup>, regional charter schools, approved private schools, chartered school for the education of the deaf or the blind, or private residential rehabilitative institutions; and municipalities, law enforcement

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<sup>2</sup> Cyber charter schools shall be limited to the safety and security needs of students at facilities where tutoring, testing, supplemental programs and services or instructions for students with disabilities occur.

agencies, and approved vendors applying to provide school security personnel services within schools as eligible under [24 P.S. §13-1306.1-B](#).<sup>3</sup>

Classification of school entities is based on the PA Department of Education designation which can be found on the [Educational Names and Addresses](#) page. Eligible approved vendors are those that were previously approved by the PA Department of Education or PCCD's [School Security Guard Vendor List](#).

Incident Reporting and Memorandum of Understanding: Per Act 33 of 2023, if a school entity or law enforcement agency fails to comply with the provisions of [24 P.S. §13-1319-B](#) (relating to reporting and memorandum of understanding), the school entity or law enforcement agency may not be awarded any grant administered by the SSSC until such time as the school entity or law enforcement agency has complied with the reporting requirements of that section of law.

## **5. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses:**

Municipalities, law enforcement and approved vendors are limited to apply to provide school security personnel services within schools. School security personnel services include school police officers, school resource officers, and school security guard services. Applicants should be aware that all provisions of [Article XIII-C](#) (relating to school security) are applicable to projects supported under this solicitation.

School entities can apply for any eligible activity allowed under [24 P.S. §13-1306-B\(j\)\(1-30\)](#) as revised by Act 33 of 2023, as noted below:

(j) Specific purposes.--The committee shall provide grants to school entities for programs that address safety and security, including:

(1) Safety and security assessments that meet the committee's criteria.<sup>4</sup>

(2) Conflict resolution or dispute management, including restorative justice strategies.

(3) School-wide positive behavior support that includes primary or universal, secondary and tertiary supports and interventions in school entities.

(4) School-based diversion programs as defined in section 1301-A, including costs associated with the hiring of qualified professional staff members to provide assistance and services related to the programs.<sup>5</sup>

(5) Peer helper programs.

(6) Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention curricula, including dating violence curricula, restorative justice strategies, mental health early intervention, self-care and suicide awareness and prevention curricula.

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<sup>3</sup> Nonpublic schools seeking school safety funding should refer to [PCCD's active funding announcement webpage](#) and scroll down to the "Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools" solicitation within the Active Funding Announcement Document section. Please note that municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and approved vendors may apply for funding under this solicitation to support costs associated with providing school security personnel to public and nonpublic schools.

<sup>4</sup> School entities seeking funding to perform safety and security assessments must utilize the criteria adopted by the SSSC. Further, the SSSC has developed a registry of vendors that perform the safety and security assessment utilizing the SSSC's criteria. The criteria and registry can both be found online at PCCD's website at <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> Act 33 of 2023 revised the definition of "school-based diversion programs" to mean programs and interventions designed to redirect youth who commit minor offenses in school from exclusionary disciplinary practices or formal processing in the juvenile justice system, while still holding the student accountable for the student's actions. These programs include, but are not limited to, youth aid panels, positive youth development programming, teen/youth courts, restorative justice interventions, truancy prevention and intervention programs, mentoring programs and intervention programs and educational practices to assist students with persistent disruptive and serious problem behaviors.

- (7) Classroom management.
- (8) Student codes of conduct.
- (9) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of risk factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among students.
- (10) Development and implementation of research-based violence prevention programs that address risk factors to reduce incidents of problem behaviors among students, including, but not limited to, mental health early intervention, self-care, bullying and suicide awareness and prevention.
- (11) Thorough, districtwide school safety, violence prevention, emergency preparedness and all-hazards plans, including revisions or updates to such plans and conducting emergency preparedness drills and related activities with local emergency responders.
- (12) Security planning and purchase of security-related technology, which may include metal detectors, protective lighting, specialty trained canines, surveillance equipment, special emergency communications equipment, automated external defibrillators, electronic locksets, deadbolts, trauma kits and theft control devices and training in the use of security-related technology.<sup>6</sup>
- (13) Institution of student, staff and visitor identification systems, including criminal background check software.
- (14) Provision of specialized staff and student training programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team members in the referral of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate community-based services and behavioral health services and training related to prevention and early intervention.
- (15) Counseling services for students, including costs associated with the training and compensation of mental health staff or expanding contracts with mental health providers that provide support to students in a school setting.
- (16) A system for the management of student discipline, including misconduct and criminal offenses.
- (17) Staff training programs in the use of positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques, appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention and trauma-informed treatment for mental health providers in schools.
- (18) Costs associated with the training and compensation of school resource officers and school police officers.
- (19) Costs associated with the training and compensation of certified school counselors, licensed professional counselors, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers and school psychologists.
- (20) Administration of evidence-based screenings for adverse childhood experiences that are proven to be determinants of physical, social and behavioral health and provide trauma-informed counseling services as necessary to students based upon the screening results.
- (21) Trauma-informed approaches to education<sup>7</sup>, including:
  - (i) Increasing student and school employee access to quality trauma support services and behavioral health care, including the following:
    - (A) Hiring or contracting with certified school counselors, licensed professional counselors, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social

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<sup>6</sup> Under Act 33 of 2023, school entities are no longer required to provide a letter of support from the school entity's board of school directors to support security planning and purchase of security-related technology under Activity 12.

<sup>7</sup> Any school entity applying for a grant under 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(21) (i.e., trauma-informed approaches to education) shall utilize a trauma-informed approach plan that meets the criteria established in statute and through a [Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan](#) adopted by the SSSC on August 28, 2019. Applicants may utilize their own existing plan, provided it meets the SSSC's Model Plan criteria, or may seek funding to support the development of their own plan aligned with this criteria.

workers, school psychologists and other professional health personnel to provide services to students and school employees.

(B) Developing collaborative efforts between the school entity and behavioral health professionals to identify students in need of trauma support and to provide prevention, screening, referral and treatment services to students potentially in need of services.

(C) Partnering with community-based organizations for peer or family support.

(D) Training on youth-focused mental health first aid for school employees to help recognize signs of mental health distress in students.

(E) Providing activities to improve mental health in a school entity and after-school programming.

(ii) Programs providing:

(A) Trauma-informed approaches to education in the curriculum, including training of school employees, school directors and behavioral health professionals to develop safe, stable and nurturing learning environments that prevent and mitigate the effects of trauma.

(B) Services for children and their families, as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, involved in the child welfare system or involved in the juvenile justice system.

(22) Programs designed to reduce community violence, including:

(i) Increasing access to quality trauma-informed support services and behavioral health care by linking the community with local trauma support and behavioral health systems.

(ii) Providing health services and intervention strategies by coordinating the services provided by eligible applicants and coordinated care organizations, public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers and community-based organizations.

(iii) Providing mentoring and other intervention models to children and their families who have experienced trauma or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, in foster care, involved in the criminal justice system, unemployed, experiencing a mental illness or substance abuse disorder or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution.

(iv) Fostering and promoting communication between the school entity, community and law enforcement.

(v) Any other program or model designed to reduce community violence and approved by the committee.

(23) The implementation of [Article XIII-E \(relating to threat assessment\)](#).<sup>8</sup>

(24) Expanding telemedicine delivery of school-based mental health services, including equipment.

(25) Providing technical assistance for a school entity related to billing insurance providers in order to better provide mental health services in a school setting.

(26) Creating or expanding Statewide programs and intervention frameworks, such as school assistance programs, positive behavioral intervention and supports and multitiered systems of support.

(27) Training and related materials for school employees or students that are evidence based and focus on identifying the signs and signals of anxiety, depression, suicide or self-harm in students and best practices for seeking appropriate mental health assistance.

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<sup>8</sup> For more information about Threat Assessment Teams, please see PCCD's [Threat Assessment \(pa.gov\)](#) webpage for resources and training opportunities.



(28) Providing, increasing or enhancing partnerships between a school entity and a community-based nonprofit organization, a Statewide youth-serving nonprofit or a library for out-of-school programming for at-risk school-age students.

(29) Coordinating and integrating local and county mental health services and programs for school employees or students.

(30) Providing online programs, educational materials and applications to provide supplemental mental health services to students that may include peer support, self-guided evidenced-based therapeutic tools and clinical interactions.<sup>9</sup>

All expenses must be described in the Justification box located in the Egrants Budget Detail section. Please note that PCCD has approval of all final budgets.

School entities are strongly encouraged, but not required, to review the Committee's adopted Baseline Criteria Standards for Physical Security and Behavioral Health to help inform their request for competitive funding under this solicitation. Priority consideration will be given to school entities seeking grant funding to address 'Level 1' gaps for [Physical Security and/or Behavioral Health Baseline Criteria](#).

Due to the competitive nature of this funding announcement, PCCD is unable to answer questions about specific proposals. Funding can be used to support activities listed under this section of the funding announcement. School entities may propose projects that address one or more eligible activity areas. (See "Program Activities" section under "8. Scoring" on page 10 for additional information.) It is incumbent upon the applicant to select the correct activity/ies.

## **6. Ineligible Program Activities and Expenses:**

Municipalities, law enforcement and approved vendors may only apply to provide school security personnel services within schools. Items or activities outside the scope of school security personnel services may be deemed ineligible.

For school entities, any item or activity not included in [24 P.S. §13-1306-B\(j\)\(1-30\)](#) may be deemed ineligible.

The SSSC has also previously determined that retractable safety batons for classroom staff, "Framework for Understanding Poverty" book and workbooks, tactical handcuffs and nylon restraints, and school safety hotlines are ineligible expenses.

## **7. Required Egrants Sections/Documents:**

- a. Required Egrants Sections – All sections identified in Egrants are required. Applicants will not be able to submit their grant application in Egrants until all sections are marked as complete.
- b. Required Signed Documents – A successful application must be accompanied by the following:
  - The executed signature page (page 2 of the application). An individual with documented authority to sign contracts on behalf of your organization must sign on the top, right side of the page (typically the President or Chair of the Board). The Attesting Officer signature can be another organization official that can attest to the validity of the person signing (Typically the Secretary or Treasurer of the

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<sup>9</sup> NOTE: In the PCCD Egrants system, certain items/activities on this list are summarized and will appear truncated.

Board of Directors of the nonprofit). Signature pages must be scanned and attached to your application.

## 8. Scoring:

Applicants must submit the requested information for each section specified below within the defined response fields provided in Egrants. **The specific questions that will be asked in the Project Description section in PCCD's Egrants system can found in Appendix B.** Responses should not be duplicated in multiple sections. *Due to the competitive nature of this funding announcement, PCCD is unable to answer questions about specific proposals.*

In addition to reviewers' scores, other factors that will be considered include geographic diversity (see Appendix A), the applicant's compliance history with fiscal and program reporting, their historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals, and available funding. Priority consideration shall be given to school entities designated as persistently dangerous schools as defined in 22 Pa. Code §403.2 (relating to definitions) and applicants with Baseline Level 1 requests (i.e., those applicants with the greatest need related to safety and order). Requests being made to satisfy professionally completed assessments (e.g., physical security assessment conducted by PSP RVAT or an individual on the SSSC's registry) shall receive additional consideration within the project description section.

### a. Executive Summary (Not Scored)

All applicants must fill out the following script and paste it into the executive summary section:

The name of applicant is requesting \$\_\_\_\_\_ to [provide a single sentence or two of what you are seeking to implement with your grant funding].

These funds will be used for the following: [provide bullet points of what the funds will be used for].

Please note that responses in this section may be used in PCCD grant summaries or be posted publicly. Plain language that clearly describes the intent of the project is most effective. **NOTE:** Per the Right-to-Know Law and 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(g.3), PCCD will redact any information submitted by applicants as part of the grant application the disclosure of which would be reasonably likely to result in a substantial and demonstrable risk of physical harm or the personal security of students or staff.

### b. Program Activities (Not Scored)

This section is a checklist included in the Egrants application. School entities will be required to select one or more of the items or activities included in 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(1-30) that directly relate to their application.

**School entities** should determine which eligible program or expense best fits their project and select the activity/ies that best align with their proposed project. It is incumbent upon the applicant to select the correct activity/ies.

**Municipalities, law enforcement agencies and approved vendors** should select Activity #18, as it relates to school security personnel. Once an application is submitted, PCCD will review each project and activity section(s) selected for accuracy and work with each applicant to finalize the activity areas.

c. **Applicant Overview (20 Points)**

The following shall be included in the Applicant Overview section:

- Provide a short description about your organization.
  - If the applicant is a school entity, please provide information about your school, including location of the school entity, total number of student-occupied buildings, and total student enrollment figures.
  - If the applicant is a municipality, law enforcement agency, or approved vendor, please provide information related to you, including location and the schools you supply or are seeking to supply security personnel.
- Describe your organization’s experience and efforts related to improving school safety, including any current or recent initiatives.
- Explain current funding gaps for the proposed project and how these funds will help fill that gap. Include a description of why additional financial resources are needed to enhance security. This description should give the reviewer a general sense of the applicants overall financial situation.

d. **Project Description (60 Points)**

These sections within Egrants are set up to address individual project areas applicants are interested in pursuing. Applicants should only respond to questions in the category or categories that align with their proposal.<sup>10</sup>

**School Entity Applicants: Physical Security Enhancement Request**

- School entities will be asked about Baseline Physical Security Level 1 Criteria and whether they meet those requirements. If they do not, they will be asked how they intend to meet those requirements and/or if they are using funding to meet that requirement.
- School entities will be asked to provide justification for their request, which should include describing the problem that the project will address and articulate why the requested item(s) are needed and how the need was identified (i.e., cite school safety assessment, recognized best practices, developed strategy based on local data, etc.). Supporting data and facts should be provided and be specific to their project and relevant to the problem and their proposed request. Data could be used from:
  - Any pre-existing school safety and security assessment that was completed within the last three years (i.e., 2020 to present);
  - School statistics from the school entity’s School Safety Report reported to the PA Department of Education;
  - School Climate Survey;
  - Pennsylvania Youth Survey;
  - Disciplinary records;
  - Community crime rates reported to the PA State Police’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI);
  - School Safety and Security Committee survey findings; or
  - Any other relevant data source.
- School entities will be asked if the request(s) being made was noted as a deficiency within a professionally completed assessment (e.g., physical security assessment conducted by PSP RVAT Unit or an individual on the SSSC’s registry).

**School Entity Applicants: Behavioral Health Enhancement Request**

- School entities will be asked about Baseline Behavioral Health Level 1 Criteria and whether they meet those requirements. If they do not, they will be

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<sup>10</sup> **NOTE:** Applicants will not need to fill out Category sections that do not pertain to their project proposal.

asked how they intend to meet those requirements and/or if they are using funding to meet that requirement.

- School entities that self-certify that they meet Level 1 requirements will be asked to provide narrative on their project request and provide justification for their request (see Justification Note above).
- School entities will be asked if the request(s) being made was noted as a deficiency within a professionally completed assessment (e.g., behavioral health assessment conducted by an individual on the SSSC's registry).

### **Municipalities, Law Enforcement and Approved Vendors: School Security Personnel Request**

- Applicants will be asked about the following requirements:
  - Are they utilizing school security personnel who have completed the training and qualifications required under Article XIII-C?
  - If applying for a school police officer, do they satisfy all the following:
    - (a) are retired federal agents or retired state, municipal, or military police officers.
    - (b) are independent contractors of the school entity or nonpublic school.
    - (c) are compensated on an hourly basis and receive no other compensation or fringe benefits from the school entity or nonpublic school.
    - (d) have completed annual training as required by the municipal police officers' education and training commission under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subchapter D (relating to municipal police education and training).
    - (e) the requirements of Section 111 of the PA Public School Code.
    - (f) in the case of a school entity, have been indemnified by the school entity under 42 Pa.C.S. § 8548 (relating to indemnity).
    - (g) are utilized by a school entity or nonpublic school that has not employed a school police officer within the three years immediately preceding the effective date of this section.
- Eligible applicants under this section will be asked to provide narrative on their project request and provide justification for their request (see Justification Note above), including providing information on past funding used to support school security personnel.
- Applicant will be asked if the request(s) for school security personnel being made was noted as a deficiency within a professionally completed assessment of the school entity requesting personnel services (e.g., physical security assessment conducted by PSP RVAT Unit or an individual on the SSSC's registry).

#### **e. Budget Detail (20 Points)**

Each line-item of the Budget requires an explanation in the Budget Detail justification section which is found under each budgetary category (e.g., Personnel, Employee Benefits, Travel (Including Training), etc.). The explanation should provide the reviewer with a clear understanding of each line item in that budgetary category, the purpose of the item, and what is included in the cost. See the [Budget Detail Walkthrough](#) for a full description of how to navigate and fill out this section.

For salary and benefits, the applicant shall provide a clear description of all costs for which grant funds will be utilized. Each benefit must be listed as a separate line item. If a school entity is budgeting for benefits, please take into consideration the state-issued rebates for FICA and retirement if your school entity participates in this rebate program.

Sustainability planning is not a necessary component of an application under this solicitation.

Per the PA Public School Code, grant funds shall be used to supplement and not supplant existing spending on school safety and security. Requested funds should be used to enhance and add to security within each school entity. The following provides examples to assist in determining whether the requested activities are considered supplantation.

Supplantation is NOT:

- Requesting school safety funding in a subsequent year for the same purpose and amount awarded in a previous PCCD school safety grant.
- Requesting items/personnel that are currently funded but not currently included/reoccurring in the school entities budget (e.g. other grant funds, temporary funds, etc.).
- Requesting additional funding to increase the hours of personnel currently part-time or increase program/activity capacity (e.g. adding additional cameras above and beyond what is currently budgeted).

Supplantation is:

- Requesting funding for activities/personnel/items currently included in the school entity's yearly budget.
- Utilizing grant funds to retroactively support expenses already procured (e.g., using grant funds to pay ongoing expenses as part of a previously executed contract or purchase order).

The SSSC, in its discretion, may award in whole or in part a request made by a school entity in its grant application based upon the merit of a specific item requested. Please note that PCCD has approval of all final budgets and may require budget reductions or modifications.

PCCD may also randomly audit and monitor grant recipients to ensure the appropriate use of grant funds and compliance with provisions of the grant program, which includes confirming grant funds were used to satisfy Level 1 Baseline Criteria (if applicable).

## **9. Performance Measures:**

Under this funding announcement, successful applicants are required to comply with all reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements as prescribed by PCCD and federal or state guidelines.

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include performance measures that are specifically related to the activities outlined in their application. Applicants not submitting performance measures as part of their application will need to change the performance indicator section status in Egrants to "Complete" in order to submit their application.

Please note that award recipients will be required to adopt and report on performance measures as defined by the SSSC. PCCD staff will communicate required performance measures to applicants.

Successful applicants will also be required to submit Quarterly Fiscal and Program Reports via the PCCD Egrants System while the awarded grant remains open.

## 10. Competitive Bidding/Sole Source Procurement:

All procurement transactions shall be conducted in a manner that provides open and free competition. Grant recipients must follow all applicable Commonwealth of Pennsylvania procurement guidelines. School entities must maintain documentation to support all procurement transactions and adherence to all applicable guidelines. Supporting documentation must be provided when requested.

Procurements by noncompetitive proposal are strongly discouraged and must demonstrate an economic benefit or lack of alternate resources to be justified. If a request is made, the prospective applicant must identify the request as a procurement by noncompetitive proposal and provide a substantial justification for the request within their funding request (See PCCD's [Applicant's Manual](#) for Procurement by Noncompetitive Proposal Approval Procedure).

Please note that using the cooperative purchasing mechanism does not, itself, comply with bid requirements. It is the responsibility of the school entity to retrieve the minimum number of quotes or solicited bids required. Documentation must be maintained and made available upon request to support compliance.

## 11. Administrative Requirements:

### a. Egrants Agency and User Registration:

Prior to submitting a grant application, both the applicant agency and at least two users from the applicant agency must be registered in Egrants. Applicants are strongly advised to allow adequate time to work on application documents in Egrants prior to the submission deadline. Please go to the [Registering in Egrants](#) on PCCD's website for further information. If you need assistance with this process, please contact the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).

### b. Fiscal Accountability:

See the [Fiscal Accountability](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

### c. Time and Effort Reporting:

See the [Time and Effort Reports](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

### d. Grant Payments:

- Payments will not be released until all applicable special conditions on the grant award have been satisfied.
- All grantees are required, at a minimum, to submit quarterly fiscal reports. PCCD will only make payments to reimburse actual expenditures reported on the fiscal reports. An agency experiencing cash flow problems may submit fiscal reports monthly and PCCD will reimburse reported expenditures. Non-submission or late submission of the required reports will result in payment delays.
- ACH Payments:
  - All payments to grant recipients will be made through ACH.
  - Either before or at the time an application is submitted to PCCD, the applicant agency must [register as a Non-Procurement Vendor](#) with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### e. Federal Transparency Act Certification:

This section is required for both state and federal funding streams. See the [Federal Application Requirements](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

- f. Reporting Requirements:
- Programmatic reports are due on a quarterly basis.
  - Fiscal reports are due quarterly.
  - Late submission of programmatic and fiscal reports may delay payments.
  - All reports must be submitted through the Egrants system.
- g. UCR Reporting (for Law Enforcement Agencies):  
Every law enforcement agency which is required to submit Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data and is participating in this project must submit UCR (or NIBRS) data to the Pennsylvania State Police. If a law enforcement agency is not submitting UCR (or NIBRS) data, the agency may be ineligible for funding.
- h. **\*NEW\*** School Incident Reporting and Memorandum of Understanding: If a school entity or law enforcement agency fails to comply with the provisions of [24 P.S. §13-1319-B](#) (relating to reporting and memorandum of understanding), the school entity or law enforcement agency may not be awarded any grant administered by the SSSC until such time as the school entity or law enforcement agency has complied with this section.

## **12. PCCD Contact Information and Resources:**

- a. Staff Contacts:  
Questions regarding this funding announcement should be directed as follows:
- E-mail funding announcement questions to [RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov) with "2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants" in the subject line.
  - All questions and answers will be posted under this funding announcement title on the [Funding Announcement Q&A](#) page of the PCCD website.
- Questions should be received by close of business on **Tuesday, February 27, 2024**. All questions and answers will be posted under this funding announcement title on the [Funding Announcement Q&A](#) page of the PCCD website.
- b. Egrants Funding Announcement:  
Log into the Egrants system and search under the "Funding Announcement" tab for **2023-24 Competitive School Safety Grants**.
- c. PCCD Guidelines and Documents:  
Applicants should be familiar with the [Applicant's Manual](#), Standard Subgrant Conditions, and other documents common to PCCD's grant application process, all of which are available on the [Grant Information](#) page of the PCCD website. Additionally, grant application and administrative guides can be accessed on [PCCD's website](#) under the Funding link.
- d. Egrants Technical Questions:  
For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).
- e. PCCD Webmaster:  
Please address any technical problems you may have with the website or online forms to the [PCCD Web Master](#).
- f. Reporting Potential Fraud, Waste and Abuse:  
Information about waste, fraud, abuse, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or other similar misconduct, or whistleblower reprisal relating to a PCCD employee, program,

contract or grant, may be reported to the PCCD Fraud Hotline at (717) 525-5031. For more information, visit the [Reporting Fraud, Waste and Abuse](#) page on PCCD's website.

**13. Submission Information:**

The application must be entered into Egrants **no later than Thursday, February 29, 2024 by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time.**

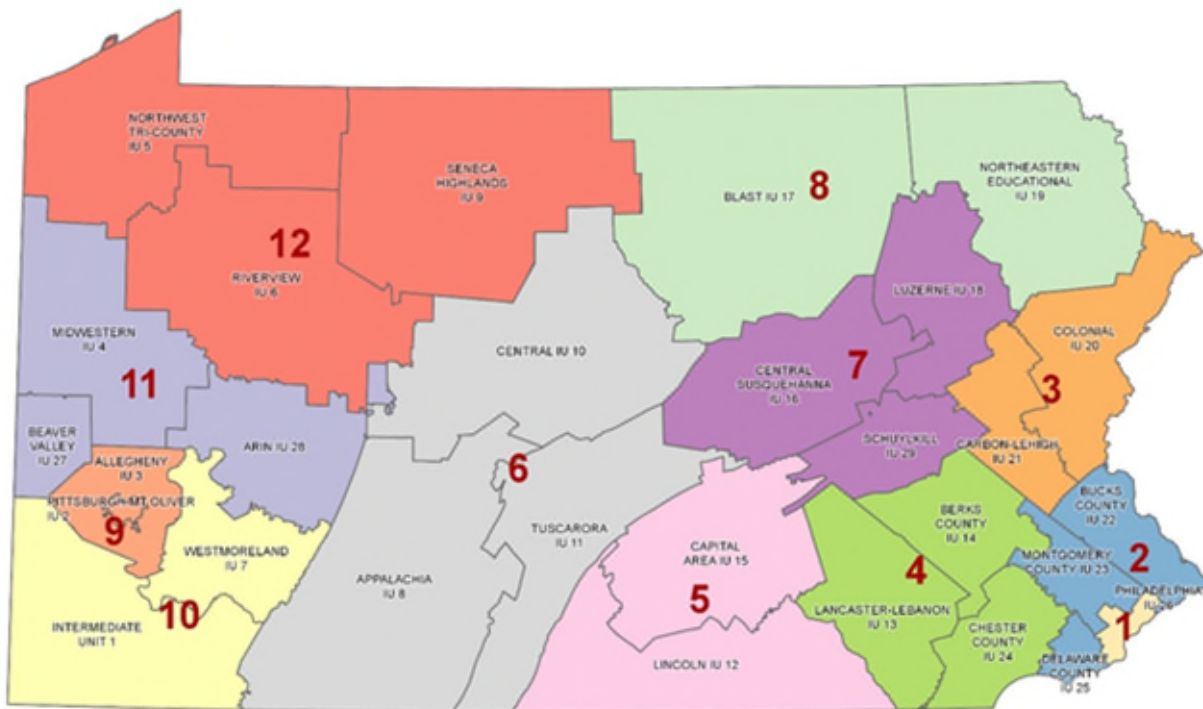
The executed signature page (page 2 of the application) must be uploaded to the Project Summary section of your application. A guide to assist you with this is available on our website at [Signature Page Instructions](#).

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is an equal opportunity employer.



## APPENDIX A Geographic Distribution

To ensure geographic distribution of awards as required by 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(c), the SSSC adopted a 12-region model of Pennsylvania in FY2019-20 to assist in determining awards for competitive school safety grants. Regions have been organized based on population, contiguous intermediate units, and the total number of possible grant requests. Funding allocated to each region will be determined based on the average of both the total percentage of the population of the region and the total percentage of the funding requests of the applicants for that region.



**APPENDIX B**  
**Project Description Section Questions from Egrants**

These sections within Egrants are set up to address individual project areas applicants are interested in pursuing. Applicants should only respond to questions in the category or categories that align with their proposal.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> **NOTE:** Applicants will not need to fill out Category sections that do not pertain to their project proposal.