



January 31, 2019

Greetings PCCD School Safety and Security Grant Applicants:

**\*\*The following information is an important update about your School Safety and Security Program Grant Part B: Competitive Application. PLEASE READ THE TEXT BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY!!!\*\***

Yesterday at the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) meeting, the following communication was adopted.

**As stated in the original funding announcement, all school entities that applied as of October 12, 2018 will now be permitted to revise their applications during a three-week period (Monday, February 4, 2019 to Monday, February 25, 2019) based on all information that is currently available to them.**

Later today, the SSSC will email individual reports to Act 44 school survey participants with their findings from their school safety and security survey (NOTE: Findings will be emailed directly to the person who filled out the survey). These findings can be used to help inform decision-making related to security enhancements; however, the findings should not be interpreted as the SSSC giving priority consideration to the items identified therein.

As during the previous application process, PCCD will operate the [online question and answer system](#). As before, PCCD will not be able to advise applicants on how they should construct/revise their application, other than what is included in this communication. Please email [RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov) if you have any additional questions.

**No additional edits will be permitted after February 25, 2019, at 11:59 pm.** The Egrants system will automatically change the status of all returned applications so that no additional edits are permitted after that time. Grant application content that is in the system at 12:00 am will be reviewed and scored with award recommendations being made to the SSSC.

**If you have decided that you will not apply for Part B: Competitive Application funds, please send an email confirming that your school entity will not be applying for Part B: Competitive Application funds to [RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov) no later than February 25, 2019 at 11:59 PM, so PCCD can remove your school entity from the pool of potential applicants for those funds.**

Schools should be made aware that PCCD received \$318M in request for School Safety: Part B – Competitive Application funding, while only \$40M remains available for distribution. **Applications approved for funding will be approved in their entirety and generally the SSSC will not consider funding a portion of an application.** Given that the SSSC will only be able to fund approximately 13% of the original funds requested, we are strongly recommending that final grant revisions focus on the most critical locally identified safety priorities and that the following items be clearly addressed in the final application:

1. **Articulation of 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.) (Statement of Purpose section).**
2. **Description of why the applicant needs additional financial resources to enhance security (Statement of Purpose section).**
3. **Description of plan for sustaining recurring costs or a statement that there are no recurring costs in the application (Project Description section).**

Due to the highly competitive nature of this process, it is likely that there will not be sufficient funds to support all applications which are recommended for funding by the review teams. Again, we are asking that school entities revise their applications to include only those items that they deem to be critical to the safety of their students so that the SSSC can support as many critical needs as possible.

Again, the SSSC is **not** in a position to prioritize funding to components of an application. Thus, we are requesting that each school entity request funding for only those items that they believe are most needed so that these significant, but limited, resources can address as many locally identified priorities as possible.

Applications will be reviewed and scored in six different regions with target award amounts being established for each region, as Act 44 requires that there be geographic distribution of the grant funds across the state.

**Final recommended projects will be taken to the April 30, 2019 SSSC meeting. Projects receiving awards will be posted online on the School Safety and Security webpage on the [www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov) website no later than May 1, 2019.**

**###**

**Additional Information for School Districts Only:**

- 1) Please ensure that you enter your Part B: Competitive Application budget separately from your Part A: Meritorious Application budget. **Do not in any way edit your \$25,000 Part A: Meritorious Application budget.**
- 2) **For school districts that have submitted a fiscal report in Egrants related to their Part A: Meritorious Application grant award:** Please note that when and if you edit your budgets, you will NOT be able to delete or remove any "line items" that you had originally created. If you intend to delete a line item, please enter \$0 into that line item calculation field.