FY 2024 SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (SVPP) SOLICITATION

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Questions?

Please enter your Questions
in the Q&A chat.

ABOUT THE COPS OFFICE

- The **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)** is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

- The COPS Office awards grants to hire community policing professionals, develop and test innovative policing strategies, and provide training and technical assistance to community members, local government leaders, and all levels of law enforcement. Since 1994, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than $20 billion to help advance community policing.
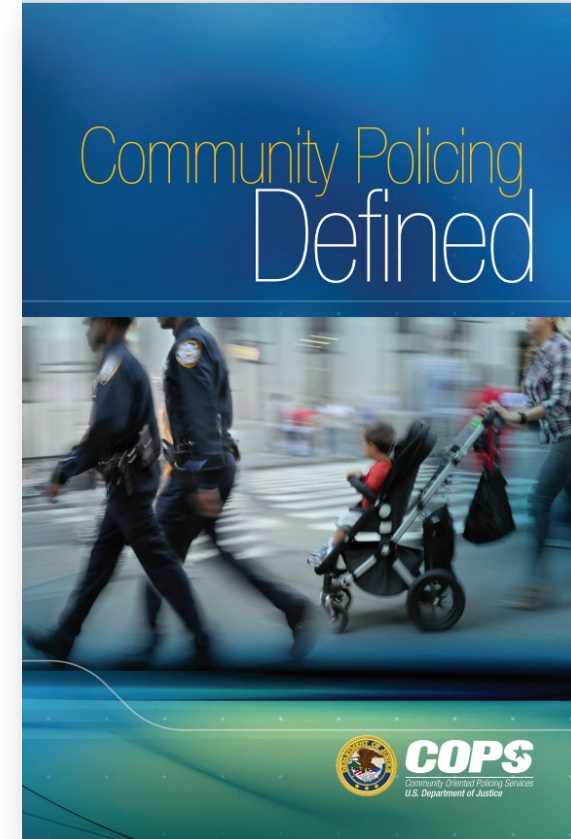
COMMUNITY POLICING

- Community policing begins with a commitment to building trust and mutual respect between police and communities.

- It supports public safety by encouraging all stakeholders to work together to address our nation's crime challenges.

- When law enforcement and communities collaborate, they more effectively address underlying issues, change negative behavioral patterns, and allocate resources.

- To read an overview of the principles of community policing, please see the COPS Office publication *Community Policing Defined*.

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

The COPS Office works to support state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement in three ways: grants, training, and technical assistance.

The COPS Office puts money directly in the hands of the nation's chiefs and sheriffs to reduce violent crime.

All training and technical assistance provided by the COPS Office is designed to reduce violent crime.

GRANTS

- Direct funding to agencies and to organizations supporting law enforcement professionals
- Respects the importance of local control of policing
- Provides funding for the hiring or rehiring of sworn entry-level law enforcement positions
- Other COPS Office grants provide assistance to tribal law enforcement, support school safety, and target the distribution of heroin and other opioids as well as methamphetamine

TRAINING

- Live in-person and train-the-trainer courses
- Active shooter response, tools for tolerance, drug-endangered children, school resource officers, de-escalation
- COPS Training Portal
- Bringing on-demand, self-paced learning options to busy professionals

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC), part of the Collaborative Reform Initiative continuum
- National Blue Alert Network
- Publications and knowledge products: 500+ guidebooks and toolkits available covering different aspects of modern American policing, based on real practice; nearly 100,000 resource requests filled last year

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SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (SVPP)

The COPS Office provides funding through the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) for the following purposes:

- Coordination with law enforcement
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against others and self
- Metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures
- Technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency
- Other measures providing a significant improvement in security

SVPP does NOT provide funding for the hiring of School Resource Officers.

Awards are provided directly to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and other public agencies (school districts, local law enforcement, etc.). Grant recipients may also contract with or make sub-awards to local educational agencies, nonprofit organizations (excluding schools), units of local government, or tribal organizations.

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AVAILABLE FUNDING

Up to $73m available
- STOP Act Funding: $53m
- Bipartisan Safer Communities Act: $20m

Funds up to 75 percent of allowable costs to improve school safety, up to $500,000 over three years (36 months).

Approximately $1 million of the available funding will be reserved for microgrants for school districts, including rural, tribal, and low-resourced schools. Microgrant award requests must be for $100,000 or less.

Minimum 25 percent local cost share or matching funds required unless waiver granted.

ELIGIBILITY

- The following entities are eligible to apply under this program:
  - States, units of local government, Indian tribes, and their public agencies, including
    - school districts, including public charter school districts and school districts with a single school;
    - school boards; and
    - law enforcement agencies.

- The following entities are ineligible to apply as primary applicants:
  - Individual schools not operating as school districts
  - Nonprofit schools and nonprofit organizations that operate schools
  - Private schools, including private charter schools

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ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

- Pursuant to 34 U.S.C §§ 10552(a)(1)-(2) each application shall be accompanied by an assurance that the application was prepared after consultation with individuals not limited to law enforcement officers (such as school violence researchers/academics, licensed mental health professionals, social workers, teachers, principals, and other school personnel) to ensure that the improvements to be funded under the grant are:
  - consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence and
  - individualized to the needs of each school in which those improvements are to be made.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Program Goals:

- To improve security at schools and on school grounds through the implementation of evidence-based school safety programs and technology.
- To fund projects which include funding of civilian personnel to serve as coordinators with local law enforcement, training for local law enforcement officers, purchase and installation of certain allowable equipment and technology, and other measures to significantly improve school security.

All outcomes should be achievable and should ensure a safe and positive learning environment for students free of discrimination and protective of student privacy.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- improved information sharing with local law enforcement
- increased interaction and improved communications between law enforcement and school officials
- reduced notification times to law enforcement
- improved response time to threats and events;
- accurate identification of danger and follow up
- increased knowledge of and use of community policing principles
- and increased school safety and sustainability planning efforts

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- SVPP funding must be for the benefit of K-12, primary and secondary schools, school grounds, and students

- Grant recipients may contract with or make subawards to local educational agencies, nonprofit organizations (excluding schools), and units of local government

- Preferential consideration, if feasible, for jurisdictions with…
  - *demonstrated need for improved security*
  - *demonstrated need for financial assistance*
  - *who will use evidence-based strategies and programs*

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EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

What is meant by evidence-based school safety programs?

The term "evidence-based" means a program, practice, technology, or equipment that meets one of the following criteria:

(A) Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on one of the following:
- Strong evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
- Moderate evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi- experimental study;
- Promising evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias;

(B) Demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such program, practice, technology, or equipment is likely to improve relevant outcomes and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program, practice, technology, or equipment

(C) In the case of technology or equipment, demonstrates that use of the technology or equipment is
  i. consistent with best practices for school security, including
    (I) applicable standards for school security established by a Federal or State government agency;
    (II) findings and recommendations of public commissions and task forces established to make recommendations or set standards for school security;
  ii. compliant with all applicable codes, including building and life safety codes.

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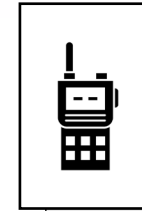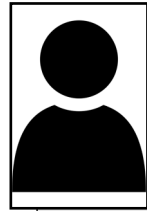U.S. Department of Justice

COMMONLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Camera systems

Access Controls, Doors, Locks

Technology (panic alarms, radios)

Personnel (school safety coordinators, security coordinators, technology managers)

Training for SROs or law enforcement personnel (ALICE, ALERT, NASRO, Reunification, De-escalation, Conflict Resolution)

Visitor management systems

Weapons detection systems (not to be used for vape detection)

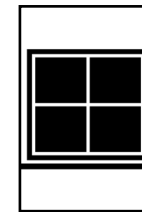Technology/equipment for school buses (cameras, ID scanners)

Lighting

Notification systems

Funding for site and vulnerability assessments

Window film/tint

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APPLICATION ELEMENTS

- ✓ SF-LLL and SF-424 (Grants.Gov)

- ✓ Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants)

- ✓ Proposal Abstract (JustGrants)

- ✓ Data Requested with the Application/Survey Questions (JustGrants)

- ✓ Budget Request and Justification (JustGrants)

- ✓ Letters of Support (JustGrants)

- ✓ Optional: Memorandums of Understandings and other Supportive Documents (JustGrants)

- **Proposal Abstract** - Summarizes how your agency intends to use this award, if funded. The abstract should include names of applicant and partners, project title, purpose of the project (including goal and intended outcome), primary activities for which funds are requested, key partners, and who will benefit (including geographic area to be served).

- **Survey Questions -** Applicants will be required to answer questions related to the following:
  - **Program Impact** - Applicants will respond to questions regarding scope of program impact, including the number of schools and students impacted.
  - **Need for Improved Security/School Climate** - Applicants will provide information on existing school security infrastructure and planning and rate of incidents.
  - **Need for Federal Assistance** - All applicants are required to explain their inability to address the needs identified in this application without federal assistance. Applicants will answer a series of questions about their service population and about the fiscal health of their area.
  - **Proposal Questions -** All applicants are required to respond to these questions to describe their project and detail their proposal for grant funding.

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APPLICATION ELEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- **Narrative Questions -** All applicants are required to respond to these questions to describe their project and detail their proposal for grant funding:

  - School Safety Planning Efforts

  - Funding Request and Integration

  - Management and Implementation Plan

  - Sustainability Plan

WEB-BASED BUDGET FORM

The allowable uses of SVPP funds include the following:

- "Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification (to law enforcement) during an emergency"
- "Coordination with local law enforcement"
- "Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures"
- "Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence"
- "Any other measure that the COPS Office Director determines may provide a significant improvement in security"

- **Allowable Cost Categories**: Civilian/Non-Sworn Salaries and Fringe, Equipment/Technology, Supplies, Travel/Training, Contracts/Consultants, Subawards, Other Costs

- **Local Match/Cost Share Requirement:** *All awards will have at least a 25 percent local match.*

- Total federal funding is capped at $500,000 per award, even if the local match requirement is waived.

- **Local match waivers are not guaranteed, and applicants should develop project budgets accordingly.**

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Letters of support should be from major partners and other significant stakeholders when a proposed project involves coordination with another jurisdiction or agency (city, county, law enforcement agency, school district, etc.).

Letters of support should confirm major partners or significant stakeholders' planned involvement and support of the project.

Letters of support should be separate from the proposal narrative.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Under the STOP School Violence Act, COPS Office funds **cannot** be used for projects that propose threat assessments or intervention teams and/or operate technology solutions such as anonymous reporting systems. Duplicate applications **should not** be submitted to BJA, COPS or OJJDP.

Applicants interested in funding for the items listed above should visit:

Bureau of Justice Assistance Solicitation: **https://bja.ojp.gov/program/stop-school-violence-program/funding**.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Solicitation: **https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ojjdp-2024-172084**.

SVPP APPLICATION REVIEW

Basic Minimum Requirements: e.g., eligibility, completion of requirements, allowable project costs

Data Review:
- Program Impact: 25 percent
- Improved Security Need: 50 percent
- Federal Assistance Need: 25 percent
- Additional priority consideration areas as outlined in solicitation

Narrative Questions Review:
- School Safety Planning Efforts
- Funding Request and Integration
- Management and Implementation Plan
- Sustainability Plan

Financial Integrity and Performance Review

Director Review

SVPP FAQs HIGHLIGHTS

Full FAQs can be found at [SVPP Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Q. Can an agency with an existing grant apply again this year for a different project?

A. SVPP is an open solicitation and previously funded applicants are not restricted from submitting an application.

Q. Can this funding enhance the capacity of a current program aimed at stopping school violence?

A. SVPP does not have a non-supplanting requirement, so funding may be used to support current school safety initiatives and programs provided the project and associated costs are authorized under the STOP Act COPS Office purpose areas.

Q. Are MOUs required to be submitted for partnerships listed in the COPS SVPP grant application?

A. MOUs are not required at time of application; however, one may be required post-award.

Q. Can we do the project over the summer and reimburse ourselves if awarded?

A. Only costs on or after the award start date are eligible to be included for SVPP. Projects submitted prior are ineligible.

SVPP FAQs HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

Q. May we request School Resource Officer (SRO) positions?

A. No, school resource officer positions are not an allowable cost under SVPP. Eligible applicants seeking to hire school resource officers may apply under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP).

Q. May we request funding for security officers?

A. No, security officers are not allowable under SVPP.

Q. Are indirect costs allowable under the SVPP award?

A. No, indirect costs are not an allowable budget request.

Q. Am I able to apply for a waiver of the local match?

A. Applicants may request a waiver in the online application. The COPS Office may waive the 25 percent local cash match requirement in the case of a recipient with a demonstrated financial need. **Local match waivers will be limited, so all applicants should plan their budgets with at least a 25 percent match included.**

HOW TO APPLY

✓ Visit the COPS Office How to Apply page: https://cops.usdoj.gov/how-to-apply

✓ Register and submit the first part of your application in Grants.gov. **Deadline to complete this step is June 11, 2024, at 4:59 p.m. ET.** Applicants must submit an SF-424 through Grants.gov before completing the full application in JustGrants.

✓ Onboard your agency to the Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

✓ Complete and submit the second part of your application in JustGrants (https://www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov).

IMPORTANT: Dual Deadlines!

✓ Complete application packages for are due by **June 17, 2024, at 4:59 p.m. ET.**

For further instructions and explanations of the application process read the Solicitation and Supporting Materials posted on the COPS Office web page: https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp.

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TIPS FOR APPLYING

- ✓ Start early!
- ✓ Register and submit Grants.gov portion as soon as possible.
- ✓ Register with SAM database/Confirm Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number.
- ✓ Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.
- ✓ Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).
- ✓ Register the Entity Administrator (E-Biz POC) and the Application Submitter with DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants).
- ✓ Read the solicitation and supporting materials on the COPS Office website.
- ✓ Be sure that your agency is ready and able to commit to the potential grant funding and grant conditions.
- ✓ Ensure that you have responded to **every** element in the solicitation and all required documents are attached and complete.

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https://cops.usdoj.gov/how-to-apply

Detailed application process document

Solicitation video

SVPP RESOURCES

- **SVPP Solicitation**
- **FY24 Application Resource Guide**
- **FY24 SVPP Fact Sheet**
- **Sole Source Justification Fact Sheet**
- **Consultant/Contractor Fact Sheet**
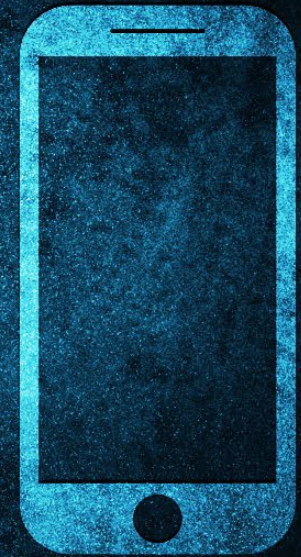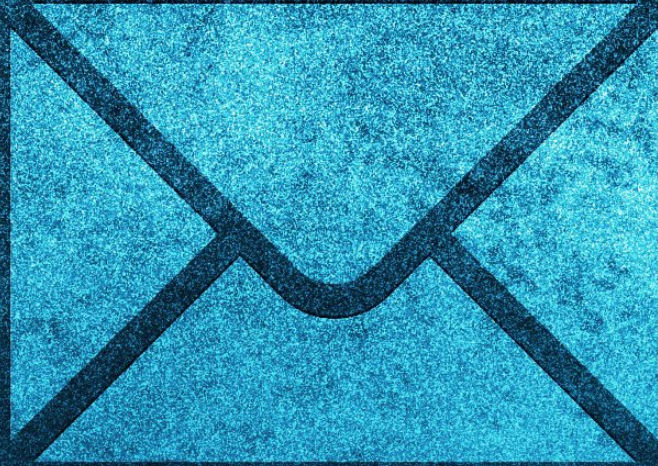- **SVPP Frequently Asked Questions**
- **SVPP Repository Questions**
- **Background Screening**

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For technical assistance with submitting the SF 242 and SF-LLL, please call the Grants.gov customer service hotline at 800-518-4726 or send questions via email to support@grants.gov.

- For technical assistance with submitting the full application in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants service desk at justgrants.support@usdoj.gov or 833-872-5175.

- For programmatic and general assistance with the solicitation requirements, contact the COPS Office Customer Care Center at 800-421-6770 or by email at AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov. The Customer Care Center will remain open on the solicitation closing date until 4:59 p.m. ET.

STAY CONNECTED

The COPS Office produces hundreds of guidebooks, white papers, and publications on the most successful proactive methods for improving public safety.

Visit **https://cops.usdoj.gov/** for the latest COPS Office updates and resources.
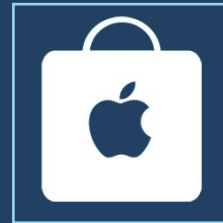
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