

# FY 2026 COPS School Violence Prevention Program

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Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-COPS-2026-172540

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## Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

- 1: Complete SF-424 and Submit in Grants.gov: **August 4, 2026, by 4:59 p.m. ET**
  - 2: Submit full application in JustGrants: **August 11, 2026, by 4:59 p.m. ET**
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**COPS**

*Community Oriented Policing Services*  
*U.S. Department of Justice*

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# 1. BASIC INFORMATION

## Purpose of the Funding

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing and the Administration's priority of Making America Safe Again by supporting the nation's state, local, territorial and Tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the FY26 School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP). This funding opportunity seeks to provide competitive funding directly to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and their public agencies to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the recipient's jurisdiction through evidence-based school safety programs. The COPS Office anticipates that up to \$73,000,000 will be available for up to \$500,000 per award, with approximately 200 awards anticipated. A local cost share (matching funds) of at least 25 percent in the form of cash is required unless a match waiver is requested and approved, and the period of performance duration will be 36 months, with a period of performance start date of 10/1/26.

Approximately \$1 million of the available funding will be reserved for microgrants for school districts, including rural, tribal, and low-resourced schools. Applications for microgrants must not exceed \$100,000, and the COPS Office will waive the 25 percent local cost share (matching funds) requirement for microgrant applicants that are selected for funding. Consideration for microgrant funding does not exclude your agency from consideration from non-microgrant SVPP funding.

Applications should demonstrate a comprehensive approach to school safety and activities must fall within one of the following statutory purpose areas (see 34 U.S.C. § 10551(b)(5)–(9)):

- “Coordination with local law enforcement”
- “Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against others and self”
- “Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures”
- “Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency”
- “Any other measure that, in the determination of the COPS Office Director, may provide a significant improvement in security”

See the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for a nonexhaustive list of allowable and unallowable costs.

**Comprehensive School Safety Assessments:** As a condition of funding, if awarded, recipients must conduct comprehensive school safety assessments during the grant award period for all schools involved in the project. These assessments must inform the measures necessary to improve school safety and ensure a safe and positive learning environment for students.

Note: The Office of Justice Programs’ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program (OJJDP) also provide grants under STOP Act funding. Those programs fund different purpose areas and project types from COPS Office funding. Applicants may submit applications for COPS Office, BJA, and OJJDP funding, but applicants are not permitted to submit the same application to each NOFO—that is, each application must propose distinct projects and costs and must be responsive to the NOFO for which the application is submitted. See the FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide for additional information on the school safety measures that are considered out of scope for the COPS Office FY26 SVPP NOFOs but may be eligible for funding under the BJA and/or OJJDP NOFOs.

See the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for eligibility details.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

## Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.071
Statutory Authority	34 U.S.C. § 10551 et seq
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-COPS-2026-172540
Expected Total Amount of Funding	Up to \$73,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	200
Award Type(s)	Grants
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to \$500,000
Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on October 1, 2026

## Key Dates and Times

<b>NOFO Release Date</b>	June 9, 2026
<b>Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline</b>	04:59 p.m. ET on August 4, 2026
<b>Step 2: JustGrants Deadline</b>	04:59 p.m. ET on August 11, 2026
<b>Anticipated Notification Date</b>	On or after October 1, 2026

See [Questions?](#) at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible Applicants

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 schools and school districts with a single school;
  - › School boards;
  - › Law enforcement agencies.

Note: Individual schools not operating as school districts and independent schools and private schools, including private charter schools, are NOT eligible to apply as primary applicants.

- Government Entities
- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American Tribal governments (other than federally recognized)
- Educational Organizations
- Independent school districts
- Other

**State Government Entities:** For the purposes of this NOFO, “state” means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Other Units of Local Government:** For the purposes of this NOFO, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

**Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement:** This NOFO requires cost sharing (match). See [Program Description: Cost Sharing \(Match\) Requirement](#) for details on the cost sharing (match) calculation and what types of contributions are acceptable.

### Additional Eligibility Factors

- 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 (including licensed mental health professionals, social workers, students, parents, school violence researchers/academics (if practical), 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 including being protective of student privacy and ensuring that students are not discriminated against on the basis of race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex, and
  - › individualized to the needs of each school at which those improvements are to be made.
- As part of your application, your agency will be required to answer questions directly related to this statutory assurance. Applicants that do not provide this assurance will be deemed ineligible.
- State and local governmental entities must comply with 8 U.S.C. §1373, which provides that State and local government entities may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, receiving from, maintaining, or exchanging information regarding citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual with components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any other federal, state or local government entity. This includes any prohibitions or restrictions imposed or established by a State or local government entity or official.
- Applications under which two or more entities (project partners) would carry out the federal award will be considered. However, only one entity may be the primary applicant; any others must be proposed as subrecipients. See the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

- With limited funding, the COPS Office expects a competitive NOFO. The COPS Office may elect to fund applications submitted under this NOFO in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of funding.
- Applicants may not submit more than one application to the COPS Office under FY26 SVPP; only one application for COPS Office funding will be reviewed for each applicant.

### 3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### Statutory Authority

The COPS School Violence Prevention Program is authorized under the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. § 10551 et seq.).

#### Agency Funding Priorities

Consistent with Administration priorities, the COPS Office will provide additional consideration to:

- Applicants that did not receive funding under SVPP in FY23–FY25
- Applicants that faced an unanticipated catastrophic event
- State and local agencies that cooperate with federal law enforcement to address illegal immigration
- Agencies that coordinate and participate with the [Homeland Security Task Force \(HSTF\)](#) or, if awarded, plan to coordinate and participate with the HSTF (law enforcement applicants only)
- State, local, and tribal agencies that submit accurate race and ethnicity information in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for each offender, victim, and arrestee involved in each incident

Additional consideration will also be provided to agencies where each primary and secondary school impacted by the proposed SVPP program have comprehensive school safety plans that promote the use of mental health professionals and resources.

**Note:** Addressing these priorities is one of many factors that the COPS Office considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

**Unallowable Activities:** The COPS Office has identified activities that are unallowable and will not be funded: read the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for details. In addition, refer to the [Budget](#) section in this NOFO for information on allowable and unallowable costs to help you develop your application.

## Goals and Objectives of this Funding Opportunity

Goal: To improve security at schools and on school grounds through the implementation of evidence-based school safety programs and technology. SVPP awards will contribute to this goal by funding 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.

- **Objective 1:** improved information sharing with local law enforcement
- **Objective 2:** increased interaction and improved communications between law enforcement and school officials
- **Objective 3:** reduced notification times to law enforcement; improved response time to threats and events; accurate identification of danger and follow-up
- **Objective 4:** increased knowledge of and use of community policing principles
- **Objective 5:** Increased school safety and sustainability planning efforts

For the purposes of this program, a school is defined as an elementary or secondary school, including a Bureau of Indian Affairs–funded school (as defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. § 2021)).<sup>34</sup> U.S.C. § 10554(1).

## Expected Outcomes

The COPS Office will measure success by reviewing a recipient’s submission of performance reports and data and the extent to which project implementation reflects progress toward the goals and objectives of this NOFO.

## Deliverables

Recipients do not need to submit any deliverables other than the standard items in the [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#) section.

## Cost Sharing (Match) Requirements

This funding opportunity requires a local cost share (match) of at least 25 percent unless a waiver is approved at the time of application. Recipients must satisfy this cost sharing (match) requirement with cash. In-kind contributions are not allowable.

Read the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for additional definitions and requirements of “cost sharing” (match), including the allowable sources of cash cost sharing.

See [Waiver of Local Cost Share \(Matching Funds\)](#) for additional information.

## 4. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

### Application Contents List

The COPS Office will only consider applications that contain all required parts, which are marked **\*REQUIRED\*** below. Refer to the [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) for application instructions. All supporting documents and resources for this program are on the COPS Office Website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SVPP>.

Please **do not** include any content, including attachments or language within your application, commenting, modifying, challenging, and/or editing the grant requirements including the terms and conditions. Such content, if included, will not be **reviewed or considered** when evaluating your application nor will any attachment from an applicant unilaterally change the terms of a grant if awarded.

Application Item	Submission Type
<b>Step 1: Grants.gov</b>	
<a href="#">Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424</a> <b>*REQUIRED*</b>	Online Form
<b>Step 2: JustGrants</b>	
<a href="#">Standard Applicant Information</a> <b>*REQUIRED*</b>	Online Form
<a href="#">Data Requested with Application</a> <b>*REQUIRED*</b>	Online Form
<a href="#">Budget</a> <b>*REQUIRED*</b>	Online Form
<a href="#">Additional Application Components</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Competitive Justification (if applicable)</li> <li>• Consultant Rate Justification (if applicable)</li> <li>• Letters of Support</li> </ul>	Attachment

### Standard Applicant Information **\*REQUIRED\***

Review and edit as needed the information imported from the SF-424 submitted in Grants.gov and add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project.

### Proposal Abstract

In JustGrants, enter a proposal abstract briefly summarizing (in 5–6 sentences / 500 words or less) the proposed project. As abstracts for funded projects are public, do not include any personally identifying information (e.g., staff names). 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). The abstract should be coherent, concise, and able to stand alone as a project summary. The abstract will not be scored but is used throughout the review process.

Write your project abstract for a general public audience without any personally identifiable or law enforcement sensitive information. Avoid using acronyms or terminology unfamiliar to a general public audience. This abstract, along with other federal award information, may be published on publicly available government-wide websites.

## Data Requested with Application **\*REQUIRED\***

A copy of the survey questions required for this NOFO can be found at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SVPP>.

Following is a summary of the questions that applicants will be required to complete.

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

## Budget and Associated Documentation

### Budget **\*REQUIRED\***

- Applicants must complete the Budget Detail Worksheet (Web-Based Form) in JustGrants, providing narrative entries in the “additional narrative” field to describe and justify each proposed cost. Read [Complete the Application in JustGrants: Budget](#) for more information on completing the form.
- Include only costs that are reasonable, allocable, and necessary to implement the project. They must be allowable under the funding statute and agency requirements.<sup>1</sup> See the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for a nonexhaustive list of allowable and unallowable costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Read information on unallowable costs that apply to all funding opportunities in [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#).

- The information in the “additional narrative” field(s) should be mathematically sound and correspond clearly with the information provided in the budget detail worksheets. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs and how those costs are necessary to the completion of the proposed project and demonstrate the efficient use of funding in achieving program goals.
- List each cost needed to implement the project under the appropriate cost category.
  - › Clearly name and describe each cost.
  - › Show the computation of each cost (e.g., cost per unit, number of units, and total cost).
- All items will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine reasonableness and allowability in the context of the allowable and unallowable costs of the program’s purpose areas. Items under the program must be purchased in accordance the requirements set forth by the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. § 10551 et seq.). In addition, each item must programmatically link to the SVPP activities described in your application.
- Budget requests must not exceed the three-year award period. The COPS Office reserves the right to deny funding for items not considered reasonable, allocable, and allowable, even if not specified on the list of unallowable costs.
- Applicants will not have the opportunity to revise their budget if unallowable costs are included. If selected for award, any unallowable costs will be removed from the budget by the COPS Office, and the award amount will be reduced accordingly.
- All final calculations should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Once the budget for your application has been completed, a budget summary page will reflect the total amounts requested in each category, the total project costs, and the federal share and local share amounts.
- Note: Costs incurred by the applicant prior to the start date of the period of performance of the federal award are unallowable. Requests for reimbursement of items purchased or expenses incurred prior to the award start date (i.e., pre-agreement costs) will not be approved by the COPS Office.

## Waiver of Local Cost Share (Matching Funds)

- In the Local Match Details section, you will be presented with the option to request a waiver of the local cost share (matching funds) requirement. If a local cost share (matching funds) waiver is requested by selecting “Yes,” you will be instructed to enter the maximum local cost share you would be able to contribute, if any, and to specify whether the COPS Office should continue to consider the application if the waiver request is not granted.
- Local Cost Share (matching funds) waiver requests will be evaluated based on a demonstration of severe fiscal distress as reflected through the fiscal health data provided in the application and a comparison of your fiscal health data with that of the overall applicant pool. Please indicate whether the COPS Office should continue to consider your application if the waiver request is not granted or whether it should be removed from consideration.

## Budget/Financial Attachments

- **Non-Competitive Justification (if applicable):** Applicants should attach the noncompetitive justification or sole source justification as applicable. Additional guidance can be found in the [Sole Source Justification Fact Sheet](#).
- **Consultant Rate Justification (if applicable):** Applicants should attach the consultant rate justification as applicable. Additional guidance can be found in the [Consultant/Contractor Rate Information for COPS Office Awards Fact Sheet](#).

## Additional Application Components

Attach in JustGrants:

- **Letters of Support:** Letters of support are required 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. If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same document, the COPS Office will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted.

Submit letters of support together as one attachment. The COPS Office strongly recommends that uploaded files be clearly named to indicate the applicant organization name and the file contents to ensure that reviewers can easily locate application documents. Recommended file formats are PDF, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel.

## Disclosures and Assurances

Complete the disclosures, assurances, and certifications in JustGrants. See the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for more information.

## 5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) provides instructions for how to submit by the deadlines. [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) applies to this funding opportunity. See the appendices of the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Read COPS Office policy for applicants to request late submission due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disasters in the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#).

## 6. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) explains the responsiveness review, review criteria, review and selection process, including risk review, and deciding official.

## 7. AWARD NOTICES

Read about the award notification process in the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#).

## 8. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Read the [FY26 SVPP Application Resource Guide](#) for more information about standard award terms and conditions, administrative and national policy requirements, and post-award reporting requirements.

## 9. QUESTIONS?

<b>NOFO Contact</b>	COPS Office Response Center Phone: 800-421-6770 Email: <a href="mailto:AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov">AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov</a> Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday–Friday (closed federal holidays)
<b>SAM.gov Help Desk</b>	Website: <a href="https://sam.gov/content/help">https://sam.gov/content/help</a> Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday–Friday
<b>Grants.gov Help Desk</b>	Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: <a href="mailto:support@grants.gov">support@grants.gov</a> Website: <a href="https://www.grants.gov/support">https://www.grants.gov/support</a> Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)
<b>JustGrants Help Desk</b>	Phone: 833-872-5175 Email: <a href="mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov">JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</a> Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday–Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.