



FY 2024-25 BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (BOOST) FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Solicitation Period:

Monday, September 9, 2024 to Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 8:00 PM

Application Materials and Reference Documents Available Here:

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

Link to Electronic Submittal Form (SurveyMonkey):

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024BOOSTGrants>

Introduction

For FY 2024-25, a total of \$11.5 million in state Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) funding has been directed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the new *Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time* (BOOST) grant program. The goal of BOOST is to expand out-of-school time (OST) structured programming opportunities for at-risk school-age youth. For the purpose of this solicitation, the definition of ‘out-of-school programming’ neither includes nor in any way supplants instructional services provided by school entity employees. Programming also may not satisfy compulsory education requirements nor result in academic credit for students. Additionally, for the purpose of this funding announcement, ‘at-risk youth’ is defined as school-age youth who are at an educational disadvantage because of limited English proficiency, poverty, homelessness, foster care, housing instability, academic difficulties, or economic disadvantage.

The School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC), which is responsible for the oversight of VIP funding, approved the FY 2024-25 BOOST Framework on September 4th, 2024.

School districts, area career and technical schools, libraries, statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations, and community-based nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

This document outlines the process to apply for BOOST funding using designated Proposal Narrative templates and an online SurveyMonkey form. Please read it carefully prior to making application.

Questions regarding this announcement can be sent to ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov with “BOOST FA” in the subject line. Responses to all questions will be posted on [PCCD’s Funding Announcement webpage](#).

Please note: Due to the competitive nature of the BOOST solicitation, PCCD staff are unable to answer questions about specific proposals.

1. Funding Availability & Maximum Budgets:

Approximately \$11.5 million in state VIP funding is announced to support applications submitted under this competitive BOOST Grants solicitation. There are two ‘tracks’ eligible applicants can submit proposals for under this solicitation:

- **Track 1: Local BOOST Projects.** Maximum award amounts for FY 2024-25 Local BOOST Grants will be based on applicants' current annual actual operating expenditures, with no applicant able to request more than 50% of their actual operating expenditures, up to \$250,000 total, over an up-to-24-month project period. There is no match requirement.
- **Track 2: Statewide BOOST Projects.** Maximum award amounts for FY 2024-25 Statewide BOOST Grants will be up to \$250,000 per subrecipient to a maximum of \$1,500,000 over an up-to-24-month project period. There is no match requirement. Additional requirements under this track are as follows:
 - Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations must apply, at a minimum, for funding on behalf of at least three sub-awardees (e.g., community-based member nonprofit organizations) providing out-of-school programming serving at-risk youth.
 - Each proposed sub-awardee's budget may not exceed 50% of that sub-awardee organization's annual operating expenditures or \$250,000, whichever is less.
 - Statewide BOOST applicants will be responsible for the performance of all sub-grantees for the duration of the project period, including ensuring compliance with all program and fiscal reporting, monitoring, and other requirements.

How Much Can My Organization Apply for in BOOST Funds?

Maximum award amounts will be based on an applicant's current annual actual operating expenditures (not actual or budgeted revenue or budgeted expenditures). **Applicants may not request more than 50% of their total actual operating expenditures for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, or the maximum allowable amount for each BOOST Track, whichever is less.** **Note:** This limit applies to your entire BOOST funding request (e.g., over the entire project period, not a per year max).

Examples: As an example, an organization that had \$250,000 in actual expenditures between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 applying under Track 1 (Local BOOST Project) would be allowed to request a total of up to \$125,000 for their whole project. Another organization with \$1.2 million in total expenditures between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 applying under Track 2 (Statewide BOOST Project) could not ask for more than \$600,000 total for their entire BOOST request, with each proposed subrecipient limited to 50% of their own organization's total actual operating expenditures for the same time period, up to \$250,000 each.

Please note: As this is a competitive application process, it is incumbent on the applicant to request the appropriate and allowable amount of funding. PCCD will not pre-determine which funding levels your organization qualifies for but will verify this information through the review process. Proposals seeking funding that significantly exceeds allowable amounts may be administratively rejected. Applicants will also be required to provide documentation confirming their organization's total annual operating expenditures to confirm their funding request is allowable. Examples of documentation that would be sufficient to verify the grant amount requested include:

- Statement of Activity, Profit/Loss Statement, or similar report from the organization's accounting system
- Form 990
- Audited Financial Statement

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

Applicants will also be asked to provide information about whether the applicant and/or proposed subrecipients have received funding previously from PCCD or other sources to support similar project

activities, including any programs or strategies related to OST programming and other youth-serving programs.¹

PCCD is not liable for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award. Applicants are required to follow PCCD's procurement guidelines (see page 17 of [PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#)).

2. FY2024-25 BOOST Funding Priorities:

Priority consideration under this competitive solicitation will be given to eligible applicants:

1. Who have not previously received funding from PCCD or another state agency (e.g., PA Department of Education).
2. Proposing to serve the highest number or highest percentage of at-risk school-age youth, students experiencing homelessness, foster care youth, and students with a disability.
3. Proposing to reduce barriers to access, including transportation and enrollment costs, for at-risk school-age youth and students with a disability.
4. Demonstrating a commitment to serve and increase access for historically underrepresented and underserved school-age youth.
5. Proposing to develop and maintain community coordination and partnerships.
6. Engaging prospective school-age youth participants and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of OST programming.
7. Integrating trauma-informed approaches into the program curriculum and professional development curriculum of personnel who have regular contact with school-age youth.
8. Seeking funding for programming providing learning and development opportunities that are evidence-informed, high-quality, and otherwise unavailable in the proposed service area, including programming that will fill a documented 'gap' or area of interest among youth (e.g., identified in a needs assessment, survey, etc.).

In addition to reviewers' scores, other factors that may be considered include geographic diversity, other applications received for similar activities in the region, the applicant's compliance history with fiscal and program reporting (if applicable), their historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals (if applicable), and available funding.

3. Non-supplantation:

Per state law, BOOST Grant funding cannot be used to replace ("supplant") state, federal, or local funds that would otherwise be available for program-related services. PCCD funding must be used in addition to other funds that are made available for services.

Supplanting occurs when an entity reduces funding budgeted for an activity because grant funds are available to support that same activity. Requesting funding for activities, personnel, and/or items currently included in the entity's annual budget, including salaries for existing positions, would be considered supplantation.

Supplementing occurs when grant funds are used to enhance existing funds for program activities. Examples of supplementing may include items/personnel that are currently funded but not included or re-occurring in the entity's budget (e.g., funded with other grant funds that are ending, etc.), hiring new staff, increasing hours of part-time personnel above and beyond current budgeted/authorized levels, increasing salaries/compensation for existing full-time staff, and increasing program activity/capacity.

¹ Note: Prior awards from PCCD or other sources do not preclude the applicant from pursuing an application under BOOST; however, prior performance may be taken into consideration during the review process. Applicants will be asked to identify any current and/or pending funding source(s) that would support similar programs, services, and/or activities to reduce potential for redundancy.

4. Project Dates:

Applications awarded will be up to 24-month projects with an anticipated start date of February 1, 2025 and an anticipated end date of January 31, 2027. **Note:** Project dates are contingent upon availability and authorization of funds. There should be no expectation that funding will be extended past these periods.

5. Eligible Applicants:

BOOST funding is limited to the following entities that may submit an initial funding request/application:

- Community-based or nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status²
- School districts
- Area career and technical schools
- Libraries
- Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations³

Note: Child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes are not eligible to apply under this solicitation.

Other Available VIP Funding Opportunities

Eligible applicants for BOOST Grants who are also eligible under the FY 2024-25 VIP Grants funding announcements may only submit one VIP or BOOST application to PCCD (e.g., you cannot submit an application under both funding announcements). While PCCD strongly encourages eligible applicants seeking funding for prevention-focused projects to submit an application through the BOOST solicitation, PCCD will not penalize applicants who submit through VIP Tracks or vice versa. In addition, while an eligible entity cannot submit a direct application under both VIP and BOOST, nothing precludes an entity from being included as a proposed subrecipient within another eligible applicant's funding request under VIP. Please see the [FY 2024-25 VIP Grants funding announcement](#) for additional details on this funding opportunity.

6. Eligible Program Activities & Approaches:

All grants supported through BOOST are to align with the following list of eligible activities included in Act 54 of 2024 (PA Fiscal Code):

- Out-of-school programming⁴ for at-risk school-age youth, including structured programs or activities with engaged mentors and evidence-based or evidence-informed practices provided to school-age youth before school, after school, or during the summer to:

² Community-based nonprofit organizations must have active 501(c)(3) status and provide out-of-school-time programming to school-age youth to be eligible to make application under this solicitation. Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status providing out-of-school-time programming may use a fiscal sponsor to apply for funds or may be included as a proposed subrecipient within another eligible applicant's proposal. In the application, information related to the nonprofit's operations (e.g., number of employees, board structure/membership, minutes, Form 990/annual financial statement, etc.) will be requested to verify eligibility. In addition, PCCD will ask nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status to provide the link to your organization's nonprofit notation in [GuideStar.org](#), [IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search](#) or another similar nonprofit data source engine to confirm said status. If that notation is not available, you may receive follow-up communications from PCCD staff to confirm your organization's 501(c)(3) status.

³ For purpose of this solicitation, 'statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization' is defined as a statewide association that is qualified for exemption under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(4); serves community-based nonprofit organizations; is affiliated and in good standing with a nationally-recognized nonprofit; and provides facility-based out-of-school time programming designed for recreational, educational and character-building purposes for school-age youth.

⁴ For purposes of this solicitation, the definition of "out-of-school programming" neither includes nor in any way supplants instructional services provided by school entity employees. Programming also may not satisfy compulsory education requirements nor result in academic credit for students.

- Improve social, emotional, academic, or career readiness;
- Prevent and reduce teenage pregnancies;
- Reduce negative behaviors;
- Provide safe out-of-school environments;
- Engage in career exploration or formal or informal work-based learning; or
- Promote any OTHER activity approved by the School Safety and Security Committee.

Applicants will be asked to identify the category from the list above that is most applicable to the project they are proposing. Applicants seeking funding for ‘OTHER’ programs/models should clearly describe how proposed activities align with BOOST funding goals, objectives, and priorities.

Applicants will also be asked to identify the type(s) of OST programming that will be offered using grant funding (e.g., before school, after school, summer programs).

7. Allowable Grant Expenses:

Generally, grant funding can support expenses associated with direct project activities, including program implementation. All BOOST Grant funding (regardless of application track) can be used to support the following allowable grant activities and expenses:

- Salaries and benefits for personnel (full-time or part-time), including overtime;
- Contractors/consultants;
- Supplies and equipment;
- Training and technical assistance;
- Travel/transportation expenses; and
- Other activities and expenses necessary to meet the needs of programs and participants.⁵

NOTE: PCCD recognizes that offering meals, incentives, and participant supports can help increase participation among clients/individuals engaged in services. Therefore, funds may be used to purchase meals or snacks, items or activities used as program/participant incentives, and participant support items, provided that these incentives are used to encourage these outcomes (e.g., rewards for participants meeting certain documented milestones, celebrating program completion, etc.). In all cases, there must be a direct and documented link to grant-funded activities. PCCD will determine whether each expense is appropriately explained and justified and will have final approval of all budget requests. In addition, PCCD requires that grantees who utilize grant funds to support the purchase of gift cards and similar incentives comply with documentation requirements prescribed by PCCD. Information on gift cards and similar incentives can be found here: [Gift Cards and Near Cash Items Policies and Procedures](#).

Applicants can request a portion of their BOOST Grant funding to support project-specific technical assistance for program or model implementation (e.g., training staff and consultants in a given approach, establishing data collection/reporting protocols, etc.). In addition, applicants may request grant funding for costs associated with enhancing readiness/capacity to effectively administer grant funds, such as related business/administrative functions (i.e., contracted services for administrative or accounting support to manage bookkeeping functions), if needed.

Applicants approved for FY 2024-25 BOOST Grants by the Committee/PCCD will be required to complete a more formal application and a detailed budget in PCCD’s Egrants system outlining specific costs and expenditures as part of the award process. PCCD staff will be available to assist approved applicants with the Egrants process, including sharing budget detail instructions and support as needed.

⁵ This includes costs associated with grant management, technical assistance, and related activities. PCCD staff recommend budgeting approximately 10 hours of staff time for orientation and onboarding activities in Year 1, as well as for staff time commensurate with involvement in grants administration (e.g., program reporting, evaluation and technical assistance activities, fiscal reporting and oversight, etc.).

PCCD has approval of all final budgets and may require budget adjustments.

8. Indirect Costs:

Indirect costs are limited to 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC).⁶ If an applicant's indirect request exceeds 10%, and the grant moves forward, it will be reduced to 10%. Administrative costs that are not clearly justified to be direct project costs within the applicant's proposed budget detail will be considered indirect and will be counted toward the 10% maximum indirect rate.

How Do Indirect Cost Limits Apply if My Organization is Seeking Funds for the Statewide BOOST Projects Track?

For Statewide BOOST projects (Track 2), total indirect costs for the state-level organization (e.g., applicant) and any subrecipients may not exceed 10% of the entire proposed project budget. This means if a statewide organization requested \$1.5 million, the most that could be used for indirect by both the statewide organization and all its locals/subrecipients collectively would be \$150,000. It would be up to the statewide organization/applicant to appropriately distribute their available indirect to their locals/subrecipients.

9. Ineligible or Limited Program Activities & Expenses:

In addition, grant funds may not be used for:

- Construction;
- Land acquisition;
- Lobbying and political contributions;
- Honoraria or bonuses;
- Vehicle purchases; and/or
- Any expenses that fall significantly outside of the scope of the funding announcement.

PCCD reserves the right to require that approved BOOST applicants remove items from the project's proposed budget that are deemed ineligible.

Funding cannot be used for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award.

10. Additional Funding Considerations:

- Sustainability planning is not a necessary component of applications submitted through the BOOST Grants Program.
- Grant money received by a school entity under this solicitation may not be included when calculating the amount to be paid to a charter school under PA Public School Code Section 1725-A.
- The School Safety and Security Committee, in its discretion, may award in whole or in part a request made by an applicant based upon the merit of a specific item requested.

⁶ Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) is the base to which indirect costs rates are applied. MTDC includes direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for rent, tuition remission, participant support costs (e.g., gift cards, stipends), and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.

11. Application Process:

The online SurveyMonkey form serves as an applicant's initial request for BOOST funding and can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024BOOSTGrants>
A PDF of the [SurveyMonkey form questions and application instructions](#) are available to view and download on PCCD's website to help you formulate your responses and prepare your application materials in advance.

Applicants are required to develop and upload a separate Proposal Narrative using a Word/PDF template provided by PCCD as part of their online SurveyMonkey request form submission in order to be considered for BOOST Grant funding. The Proposal Narrative will provide additional details regarding an applicant's proposed project, need for funding, and other details.

BOOST Grants Proposal Narrative can be viewed/downloaded here:

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

The template provides specific questions not found in this funding announcement or in the online SurveyMonkey request form.

INITIAL REQUEST FORM & PROPOSAL NARRATIVE AREAS:

The initial funding request form and attached Proposal Narrative/Budget will ask all BOOST applicants, regardless of "track", to address the following areas:

1. General information about the organization (e.g., name, contact information, organization type, organization's annual operating expenditures, etc.).
2. Asking which BOOST "Track" the organization is applying under (e.g., Local BOOST Projects vs. Statewide BOOST Projects).
3. Total amount of grant funding requested.
4. Affirmation that the organization can manage grant-funded projects, as evidenced by criteria outlined in PCCD's [Applicant Readiness Checklist](#).⁷
5. General information about the geographic area(s) and population(s) that the organization is seeking grant funding to provide services in/for, including:
 - a. How the program will reach/serve at-risk youth;
 - b. Whether their proposed activities align with any BOOST funding priorities;
 - c. Identifying specific school entities and/or community-based programming locations where OST programming will occur;⁸
 - d. Identifying the estimated number or percentage of at-risk school-age youth, students experiencing homelessness, foster care youth, and/or students with a disability who will be served by the proposed program.
6. Describing the applicant's current programs and services, and history working within the communities where proposed programming would take place, including any known participant outcomes or other impacts.
7. Identifying the overall type(s) of OST program(s) the applicant is seeking funding to support (i.e., before school, after school, summer programs).
8. Questions related to the proposed project and what the organizations is seeking to accomplish with grant funding, including identifying the type(s) of models or approaches the organization plans to support with BOOST funding.

⁷ Entities that cannot meet these requirements are **strongly** encouraged to consider fiscal sponsors and/or partnerships with an eligible applicant who can include the organization as a subrecipient in their proposed budget.

⁸ Note: Applicants must provide letters of commitment/support from any and all named locations/project partners as part of their initial funding request.

9. Questions related to why proposed programming is needed to fill current “gaps” or to address needs identified by youth, families, and other local stakeholders, such as through a needs assessment, survey, or similar mechanism.
10. Questions related to whether the applicant and/or proposed subrecipients have received funding previously from PCCD or other sources to support similar project activities, including any programs or strategies related to OST programming and other youth-serving programs.
 - a. All applicants will be asked to describe how funding does not overlap with or supplant other funding sources for proposed programming, including state and federal funding provided by the PA Department of Education (e.g., 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, other state or federal funds).
 - b. **Note:** Applicants who have not previously received funding from PCCD or PDE will be given priority consideration under the BOOST solicitation.

Applicants must provide a completed Proposal Narrative and Budget Table(s) within their SurveyMonkey submission form using the designated attachment/upload fields. BOOST Proposal Narratives may not exceed 15 pages total. Proposal Narratives must be **double spaced** using a standard 12-point font, with 1-inch page margins.

Applicants must also complete the designated Budget Table and Narrative information within their submitted Proposal Narrative document. A Budget Table and Narrative should be provided for the applicants AND for any proposed subrecipients and should not exceed three (3) pages each. As an example, an applicant seeking funding in partnership with another subrecipient would submit a single Proposal Narrative document (up to 15 pages, double spaced) with two Budget Tables and Narratives, one for the applicant and one for the proposed subrecipient organization, not exceeding an additional six (6 pages); the total page count of this applicant’s Proposal Narrative and Budget Tables document would be no more than 21 pages.

Applicants are also encouraged to submit additional information using supplemental attachments, if desired. **Please note: File uploads in SurveyMonkey are limited to 16MB each.**

The online SurveyMonkey initial request form with the uploaded Proposal Narrative and Budget Table(s) document must be submitted to PCCD no later than Thursday, October 31, 2024 by 8:00 PM (ET).

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

1. Applicants must upload a completed BOOST Grants Proposal Narrative as part of their online funding request using the template provided by PCCD (Word/PDF). Applicants must include relevant budget information for their proposed project, including any information regarding proposed subrecipients, using the designated Budget Table and Narrative template. (This should be included in your Proposal Narrative and uploaded as a single file in DOC/DOCX or PDF format.)
2. Applicants must also provide communications of support (e.g., letters, videos, etc.) or other mechanisms demonstrating commitment of named partners to the proposed project.
 - a. Eligible non-school entity applicants (e.g., libraries, community-based organizations, statewide youth-serving organizations) will be required to provide a letter of support/commitment or similar documentation from school entity/ies where OST programming will take place, if applicable.

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS/INFORMATION:

1. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to provide the following:

- a. Additional information about their organization and/or proposed initiative by submitting a short, 2-5 minute video or providing other supplemental materials/information that can support their funding request. The initial request form in SurveyMonkey will include optional ‘Attachment’ fields where applicants can upload video files (maximum of 16 MB) or other materials (e.g., photos, newsletters, annual reports, etc.), as well as text fields to link to YouTube, Vimeo, or other video or social media platforms.

All applicants will also be required to complete acknowledgments that the initial request is only the first step, and that selected entities will be required to develop a more formal application in PCCD’s Egrants system as part of the grant award process if they are recommended for funding by the Committee/PCCD; that performance metrics will be required for all grant-funded projects; and that the applicant may be required to participate in webinars, calls, technical assistance, and/or virtual meetings as part of their award.

Applicants do not have to complete the SurveyMonkey form in one sitting; however, to continue working on your application, you must use the same computer/device/system (e.g., web browser) that you started the application on. **To reduce the risk of lost work, applicants are strongly encouraged to develop their funding request responses and application content outside of the SurveyMonkey form first before entering final information, uploading attachments, and submitting the online application.** Please refer to the [online SurveyMonkey form questions](#) and Proposal Narrative templates for questions applicants will be asked to respond to in the initial funding request form. Please note that you must hit “Next” on each section to save your information for the previous screen. Once you hit the “Submit/Done” button, you will not be able to modify your request. Additionally, SurveyMonkey will not provide a confirmation or a copy of your submission.

12. Application Review & Award Process:

The BOOST Grants application review process will commence once the initial funding request period in SurveyMonkey closes on Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (ET). PCCD staff will verify if the applicant is an eligible entity during a preliminary review. Applicants may be contacted by PCCD staff during the review for additional information or clarification, if needed.

Using review teams comprised of internal and external scorers, PCCD conducts a review of eligible applications using criteria to gauge alignment of proposals with BOOST Grant goals, objectives, and funding priorities.

Subject to availability of funds, organizations/entities recommended and approved for FY 2024 BOOST Grants by PCCD’s School Safety and Security Committee will be notified sometime between mid-December 2024 to early January 2025 (TBD). **Approved entities will be required to complete and submit an Egrants application in order to receive a grant award.** The sooner approved applicants complete their Egrants application, the sooner PCCD can process their award. Any approved applicants that do not submit an application within 45 days risk forfeiting their award. Egrants technical assistance supports will be available to all approved entities, if needed. Approved entities that fail to complete an Egrants application, including responding to issues flagged by PCCD staff in a timely manner, may risk forfeiting their award.

Approved applicants may need to make programmatic and/or fiscal modifications from what was proposed in their initial funding request to comply with state fiscal requirements, conditions from reviewers and/or PCCD staff, or this funding announcement. PCCD reserves the right to make final budget determinations and modifications as part of this process.

Approved applicants will also be asked to participate in pre-award onboarding activities to prepare for project implementation, including technical assistance and training activities, as needed/required.

Subject to completion of the Egrants application and availability of funds, approved BOOST Grant projects will have a start date of February 1, 2025 and will run through January 31, 2027.

13. Additional Resources & Assistance for Applicants:

Questions regarding this solicitation or the application process can be directed to PCCD staff at ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov with “BOOST FA” in the subject line. Responses to all questions submitted will be posted on PCCD’s [Funding Announcement webpage](#).

Pre-Application Resources: Interested applicants who are community-based nonprofit organizations are also strongly encouraged to review and complete a [PCCD Grants Readiness Self-Assessment Checklist](#). This interactive document provides an overview of the minimum requirements nonprofit organizations must have in place to directly apply for and receive grant funding from PCCD, as well as recommended (but not required) practices for grantees. You can also learn more about these and other requirements by reviewing the [PCCD Grant Application Pre-Award Checklist](#).

Informational Webinar for Applicants: In addition, interested applicants are invited to register for a virtual webinar on this funding announcement.⁹ During these webinars, PCCD staff will provide an overview of the BOOST Grants program, including the competitive solicitation requirements and application process. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive instructions on accessing the online SurveyMonkey initial application, developing and uploading the required Proposal Narrative, and other application tips. Other topics may include, but are not limited to, eligibility criteria, funding goals and priorities, and an overview of other programmatic and fiscal requirements.

Webinar for Interested BOOST Grant Applicants

October 2, 2024 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. (ET)

Webinar Registration Form:

<https://forms.office.com/g/6kekSiwZH>

**Note: Webinar recordings and any related materials will be posted on [PCCD’s Gun Violence Grants and Funding webpage](#) for reference.

Data Resources: PCCD encourages applicants to reference the following data tools and datasets as they develop their Proposal Narrative and other application materials:¹⁰

- [Youth.gov \(Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs\)](#) – Federal website offering interactive tools and resources to assist youth-serving organizations and community partnerships plan, implement, and participate in effective programs for youth. This includes resources related to mentoring, out-of-school time programming, and evidence-based practices, such as planning guides, activity ideas, and a comprehensive collection of programs that are proven to be effective in supporting youth development and well-being.
- [PA Youth Survey \(PAYS\) 2023 \(PCCD\)](#) – PCCD’s website includes links to the latest PAYS reports (statewide and county-level) available based on results from the 2023 survey administration. PAYS data cover topics like substance use, mental health, school climate, and risk and protective factors for youth.

⁹ **Note:** While encouraged, participation in these informational webinars is not a requirement to apply for VIP funding. In addition, no preference is given to applicants who register for or attend webinars. Recordings of webinars will be made available on [PCCD’s Gun Violence Grants & Funding webpage](#) and [PCCD’s YouTube channel](#) following the conclusion of virtual sessions.

¹⁰ This list of resources is not exhaustive and is not indicative of an endorsement by PCCD.

- [Prevention \(PCCD\)](#) – Provides information and resource links on a range of evidence-based prevention programs.
- [Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support \(EPIS\)](#) – A technical assistance initiative supported by PCCD housed at the Pennsylvania State University’s Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center offering a wide range of resources to support evidence-based prevention initiatives across PA.
- [The OST Collection of Evidence-Based Strategies \(pa.gov\)](#) – The Out-of-School Time Collection is a specialized segment of the PA Evidence Resource Center. The goal of this collection is to support providers of before school, afterschool, and summer, supplemental services in selecting and using relevant, practical, evidence-based practices for their learning settings.
- [21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant \(PA Department of Education\)](#) – Provides information on programs supported through federal funds and resources related to afterschool programming.
- [PA Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network \(PSAYDN\)](#) – Statewide afterschool network providing resources for Pennsylvania afterschool and out-of-school time programs.
- [Afterschool Alliance Research \(Afterschool Alliance\)](#) – Provides a summary of research and data resources related to afterschool programs.
- [National Institute on Out-of-School Time \(NIOST\)](#) – Provides tools, research, and other resources related to summer programs, out-of-school time programs, and other afterschool programming.
- [Afterschool Tools & Best Practices Resources \(National Association of Elementary School Principals\)](#) – A collection of websites for resources related to K-12 afterschool initiatives.
- [Resource Library \(Every Hour Counts\)](#) – Offers resources on afterschool programming, including [data frameworks](#), best practices, and tools for improving program quality and impact.

Additional PCCD Funding Opportunities: If you haven’t already done so, please sign up for email notifications of future PCCD funding announcements [HERE](#). You can also view all open funding announcements and related Q&A documents on PCCD’s [Active Funding Announcements webpage](#).