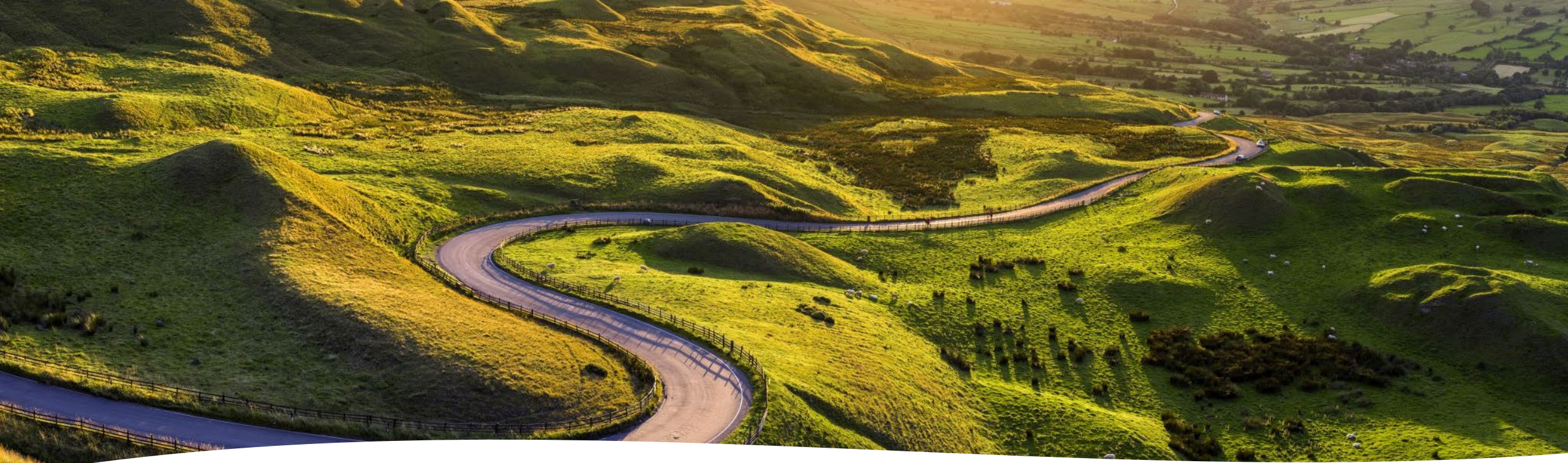




# **PCCD Applicants Webinar: FY 2024-25 School Safety & Mental Health Grants**

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency

*September 13, 2024*



# What We'll Cover Today

1. **PCCD Overview**
2. **Review of Funding Announcement and Application Process**
3. **Anticipated Funding Timeline**
4. **How to Ask Questions & Seek Support**





*Since 1978, PCCD has supported justice system improvements, victim services and compensation, and other initiatives responsive to the needs of practitioners, communities, and the Commonwealth.*



# General Overview and Getting into the Funding Announcement

# FY24-25 School Safety & MH Grants

For FY24-25, the School Safety & Mental Health Grants provide noncompetitive, formula-based grants to eligible school entities to support physical security enhancements, behavioral health improvements, or both.

Eligible applicants are school districts, charters, IUs, and area CTCs.

Level 1 Baseline Criteria should be met prior to expending funding on any other eligible activity.



# Funding Availability

- A total of **\$100 million** in state funds are available for the non-competitive, formula-based FY24-25 School Safety & Mental Health Grants solicitation.
- Funding is based on a formula established under Section 1314.1-B of the PA Public School Code:
  - School districts = \$100,000 base amount + additional amount based on 2022-23 Adjusted Average Daily Membership (AADM)
  - Other eligible school entities = up to \$70,000 total
- Funds can support activities over a two-year period (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026).



**NOTE:** Check out **“Appendix A” - Budget Allocations** table in the written funding announcement for a breakdown of each eligible school entity’s maximum award.



# Eligible Applicants

- Only the following eligible school entities may apply for these noncompetitive funds:
  - School Districts
  - Intermediate Units
  - Area Career and Technical Schools
  - Charter Schools
  - Regional Charter Schools
  - Cyber Charter Schools





PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME & DELINQUENCY (PCCD)  
 SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE (SSSC)  
**Revised Behavioral Health Baseline Criteria (2023)**

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
<b>A. Student Assistance &amp; Behavioral Health Support Assessment</b>		
<i>NOTE:</i> For the purposes of grant funding use, school entities may address gaps identified as part of a recent Student Assistance and Behavioral Health Assessment conducted by an individual recognized to perform such assessments on the <a href="#">PCCD School Safety and Security Assessor Registry</a> .		
Student Assistance and Behavioral Health Support Assessment (aligned with <a href="#">standards and guidance</a> adopted by the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC)) has been conducted that is representative of the school entity.	Student Assistance and Behavioral Health Support Assessment (aligned with <a href="#">standards and guidance</a> adopted by the SSSC) has been conducted at each educational level (elementary, middle, and high).	Student Assistance and Behavioral Health Support Assessment (aligned with <a href="#">standards and guidance</a> adopted by the SSSC) has been conducted school-entity wide.  Conduct ongoing/follow-up assessments at regular intervals or when new programs, services, or initiatives are implemented.
<b>B. Student Assistance Program (SAP)</b>		
School entity has a process in place for coordination of services and referrals as part of a Student Assistance Program.	School entity's Student Assistance Program (SAP) teams work closely with their SAP liaison agency* and/or coordinates with community providers of behavioral health services and other child-serving agencies to assist students in removing barriers to their education.  SAP team members are trained to coordinate with other school-based processes, procedures, and/or policies (threat assessment, Safe2Say, Act 71 suicide prevention, etc.).	SAP teams include representative liaisons from county/community provider drug & alcohol and behavior/mental health services as standing members.  School entity regularly evaluates its SAP process in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders (including parents/families, students, etc.) to identify any gaps or areas for improvement.



# Eligible Activities: Baseline Criteria Level 1

- As with previous school safety solicitations, eligible school entities should review the Level 1 Baseline Criteria and determine if they meet all of the standards.
- **If a school entity does not meet all Level 1 criteria, they may use their grant funding to help meet Level 1 gaps or be limited in expending funding on Level 1 eligible items.**



**NOTE:** For purposes of grant funding use, school entities can request funds to address gaps identified as part of a recent Assessment conducted by an individual recognized on PCCD's School Safety and Security Assessor Registry or PSP RVAT unit.





# Eligible Programs & Activities

*If Level 1 Baseline Criteria is met, school entities can use their grant to support activities identified in statute and funding announcement, such as:*

School counselors + mental health personnel / services	Security-related equipment and technology	Student + staff training programs	Security Planning, Assessments	SAP + Behavioral Health Assessments (schoolwide)
Visitor or Guest Management Systems	PBIS + MTSS implementation	Interior Improvements, including Doors, Locks, Vestibules, and other items	Exterior Improvements, including Lighting, Bollards, entrance construction	<b>*NEW* to FY24-25 – Cell Phone Bags</b>



**NOTE:** Eligible activities can be found on pages 5 through 8 of the written funding announcement.





# Ineligible Program Activities & Expenses

- Any item or activity outside the scope of 24 P.S. 13-1306-B(j) may be deemed ineligible.
- Expenses/activities deemed ineligible by the School Safety and Security Committee detailed on page 9 of the written funding announcement.



**NOTE:** Eligibility of items or activities may be dependent upon whether the applicant meets 'Level 1' of the Baseline Criteria. Applicants are limited to selecting appropriate, eligible activities as allowed for by law if they already meet Level 1 criteria.

# Financial Considerations

- See “***Competitive Bidding/Sole Source Procurement***” section of written funding announcement (page 14) for important procurement related information and requirements.
- ***PCCD has approval of all final budgets.***
- Grant funds must be used to ***supplement, not supplant***, existing spending within a school entity.

# What's "Supplantation"?

## Supplantation IS:

- Requesting funding for activities, personnel, and/or items currently included in the school entity's annual 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).

## Supplantation IS NOT:

- Requesting school safety funds for the same purpose in a previous PCCD School Safety Grant.
- Items/personnel that are currently funded but not included/reoccurring in the school entity's budget (*e.g., other grant funds, etc.*).
- Requesting additional funds to increase hours of personnel currently part-time or increase program activity/capacity.

# Other Considerations

- ***Incident Reporting & MOU Compliance:*** If a school entity fails to comply with 24 P.S. 13-1319-B (annual school safety incident data reporting and MOU with local law enforcement), the school entity may not be awarded any grant administered by the SSSC until the school district has come into compliance with this section.
- Per the PA Public School Code, PCCD staff have the authority to ***randomly audit and monitor grant recipients*** to ensure appropriate use of grant funds and compliance with provisions of the grant program, including verifying and satisfying Level 1 Baseline Criteria.

# School Districts Only: School Security Personnel Requirement

- ***\*NEW\* Act 55 of 2024 Requirement:***
  - ***Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, all School Districts must have at least one full-time school security personnel (can be a School Resource Officer, School Police Officer, or School Security Guard) on duty during school hours.***
  - ***School Security Personnel must all have completed their respective training required under Article XIII-C of PA Public School Code.***
  - ***If School District does not meet this requirement, they can apply for a waiver, good for one-year, from the School Safety & Security Committee.***



***NOTE: School safety funding can be used to help meet this requirement.***

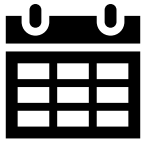


# Navigating the Application Process



# Application Process

School entities must submit applications using PCCD's Egrants System in order to receive funding.



**Applications must be submitted electronically in PCCD's Egrants System by 11:59 p.m. on September 26, 2024.**



# E-Signature

- **\*NEW\*** Egrants was recently updated to allow for E-Signature!
- To electronically sign the application, at least one person from your school entity must have the E-signature role in Egrants. Please use the link below to access instructions which explain how to request the E-signature role.
  - [E-signature Access Request Instructions](#)
  - [E-signature Access Request Form](#) (This must be attached to your access request in Egrants)

***Should you need any assistance in this process, we recommend contacting the Egrants Helpdesk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).***



# What's in the Egrants Application?

- ✓ **Executive Summary** – *script*
- ✓ **Program Activities** – *checklist with eligible activities, select all that apply*
- ✓ **Baseline Criteria** – *certify whether school entity meets Level 1 Baseline Criteria or address clarifying questions about each standard*
- ✓ **Assessment Information**
- ✓ **Budget Detail** – *budgets cannot exceed the minimum allocation for your school entity (Appendix A).*



**NOTE:** Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to carefully read and review the written [funding announcement](#) document prior to starting their application in PCCD's Egrants System.



# How to Ask Questions



Check the online Q&A page – we might have already answered your question.



Email PCCD staff ([RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov)) if you don't see a similar question & response.



Answers are posted on PCCD's [Active Funding Announcements](#) webpage.



Q&As are updated on a routine basis.



Read the online Q&A page before submitting your application.

Maybe someone else asked a question that you didn't know you needed the answer to...

# FAQs

- **Do we have to meet all Level 1 standards of the revised Baseline Criteria in order to use these funds for Level 2/3 or other eligible project activities?** Yes. Level 1 Baseline Criteria represents the most basic elements a school entity should have in place. If your school entity does not meet all Level 1 Baseline Criteria, you should use grant funding to meet the Level 1 standard OR explain to PCCD how other resources are being utilized to satisfy this criteria. Once Level 1 is met, school entities can expend funding on any other eligible mental health-related project activity.
- **We have had a security officer for the past 6 years and contract out with a security company to supplement. As I read this, are we now allowed to use PCCD Safety Grant money to pay for the service, or part of the service?** Yes, under 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(18), costs associated with the training and compensation of school security personnel are an allowable expense. However, schools cannot use these funds to replace funding that is being used for a specific item or activity already in their budget (supplantation). \*Please note that Activity 18 falls under the Physical Security section.



# FAQs (continued)

- **If we already have a position or program funded / budgeted for (e.g., mental health personnel) but it's funded through a previous grant that is ending, can we use this grant to cover costs?** Yes. Generally speaking, requesting School Safety & Mental Health Grant funds for the same purpose in a previous PCCD School Safety Grant is not considered supplantation. Please note that PCCD staff will cross-reference applications with all submitted applications/grants.
- **With the tight timeline, will we be able to send a tentative plan (may not have all the details such as identified vendors or board approval) and then update/revise after the submission deadline?** School entities need to submit an application to us by the deadline and we are requesting that the application be as complete as the is possible. If your information is incomplete or needs revision, PCCD staff will be reaching back out to you to resolve those issues past the deadline. Please note that this may delay the approval of the award.



# FAQs *(continued)*

- **Would this grant permit our school to purchase cell phone lock bags?** Act 55 of 2024 added a new mental health activity (activity #31) that allows school entities to apply for funding to support the purchase of cell phone lockable bags. A school entity that applies for funding for these bags must adopt a policy relating to prohibiting the use of cell phones during the school day. Please note that school entities will need to meet all other Level 1 behavioral health criteria prior to being eligible to select this activity for grant funding.
- **Does the policy for school entities related to cell phone bags need to be a standalone policy or can it be part of our already existing device policy?** School entities may adopt policies in whatever format they choose to meet this requirement. PCCD just needs to confirm that a policy or statement exists that the school entity prohibits the use of cell phones during the day.



# Active Funding Announcement Documents

## 2024 NCA Member Child Advocacy Centers

Application due date: 9/30/2024

- [Funding Announcement](#)

## 2024-25 School Safety & Mental Health Grants

Application due date: 9/26/2024

- [Funding Announcement](#)

 [Funding Announcement Q&A](#) (Updated 9/5/2024)

**Questions?**

**Email [RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov)**

# Check Out the Q&A

[pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Active-Funding-Announcements.aspx](https://pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Active-Funding-Announcements.aspx)





**Thank You!**