

**FY20-21 School Safety and Security Program Grant Funding Framework:**

**1) Timeline for Funding Announcements.**

***a. COVID-19 School Health and Safety Grants***

- i. One solicitation totaling \$150M in CARES Act funding would be released on Tuesday, June 16 to all school entities per Act 30.  
\*NOTE: Pending amendment to the ESSER grant between PA Department of Education and the US Department of Education, \$49.8m will be made available per Act 30.
- ii. Law requires applications to be submitted no later than Tuesday, June 30.
- iii. Awards made no later than Wed., July 15 with direct allocations being made to all entities.
- iv. School entities must expend the \$150M CARES Act allocation no later than October 30, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

***b. COVID-19 Nonpublic School Health and Safety Grants (\$7.5m)***

- i. Solicitation released on Tuesday, June 16.
- ii. Law requires applications to be submitted no later than Wed., July 8.
- iii. Committee will consider recommendations for applications at Wed., July 29<sup>th</sup> SSSC meeting.
- iv. Awards made no later than Saturday, Aug. 1, all awards administered on a reimbursement basis.

***c. Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grants (\$7.5m)***

- i. Solicitation released in September (TBD)
- ii. Applications shall be submitted no later than November (TBD).
- iii. Committee considers recommendations for applications at January SSSC Meeting (TBD).
- iv. Awards made no later than March 1, 2021.

**2) CARES Act - COVID-19 School Health and Safety Grants (FY20-21).**

**a. Funding Availability:**

A total of \$150 million in School Safety and Security Fund funding supported with federal CARES Act funding is being announced for this initiative. Awards will be made to 779 eligible school entities with budgets not to exceed the formula distribution included in the solicitation for an 8-month project period contingent on the school entity making application to PCCD, pending approval of the School Safety and Security Committee.

Funding is being distributed as outlined in Act 30 of 2020. Act 30 provides that each intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school and cyber charter school shall receive \$90,000, and that each school district

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Federal CARES Act funding requires states return unexpended funds no later than December 30, 2020. To ensure enough time to recoup funds as needed, we have been advised that October 30<sup>th</sup> be the deadline for the expenditure of these funds.

receives a base amount of \$120,000 and an additional amount determined by the 2018-2019 average daily membership for each school district out of the CARES Act funds remaining after all entities receive their base funding.

**b. Project Dates:**

**ATTENTION:** Due to federal CARES Act funding reporting requirements, school entities must expend funding under this solicitation no later than October 30, 2020.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis by PCCD as they are received. The project period is for up to 8-months, with a start date of March 1, 2020 and an end date no later than October 30, 2020. Any eligible purchase made by the applicant or any recipient agencies must be made during the project period.

**c. Eligible Applicants:**

This funding announcement is open to eligible school entities only, which are school districts, area career and technical schools, intermediate units, charter schools, regional charter schools and cyber charter schools.

**d. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses:**

Per 24 P.S. §13-1312-B(b), each school entity shall be eligible for a COVID-19 Disaster Emergency School Health and Safety Grant for the following purposes:

- (1) purchasing of cleaning and sanitizing products that meet the centers for disease control and prevention or department of health criteria.
- (2) training and professional development of staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- (3) purchasing of equipment, including personal protective equipment, thermometers, infrared cameras and other necessary items.
- (4) modification of existing areas to effectuate appropriate social distancing to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.
- (5) providing mental health services and supports, including trauma-informed approaches for students impacted by the covid-19 disaster emergency.
- (6) purchasing educational technology for distance learning to ensure the continuity of education.
- (7) other health and safety programs, items or services necessary to address the covid-19 disaster emergency.

**e. Application Procedure:**

Applications must be submitted electronically through PCCD's Egrants system. Applicants must submit the requested information for each section specified below:

**i. Program Activities**

This section is a checklist included in the Egrants application process. Applicants are required to select one or more of the seven items or activities included in 24

P.S. §13-1312-B(b) that directly relate to their application.<sup>2</sup> Applicants should determine which eligible program or expense best fits their project.

ii. **Budget Detail**

All applicants should create one budget that matches the activities selected in the Program Activities section and includes all expenses not exceeding the formula distribution for your school included in the funding announcement as approved by the School Safety and Security Committee. This budget can be for up to 8 months, but budget periods can be for shorter lengths as determined by the applicant.

**NOTE:** Due to the short timeframe for the allocation of these awards, applicants will only be required to provide broad budget line items at the time of application. However, applicants may enter more detailed line items in the budget for the items/services that have been, or they know will be purchased with these grant funds to avoid the need to submit additional documentation at a later date. School entities will be required to provide additional budget and/or expenditure detail and program narrative to PCCD during the award period via project modification requests and/or quarterly fiscal and program reports to meet federal and state fiscal requirements.

**Technical assistance tutorials/guides for the Budget Detail section are posted on PCCD's website and will be referenced in the solicitation.**

iii. **Certification**

Per Act 30, this section requires the applicant to certify in Egrants via a checkbox that the funds will be used for the stated purpose in the grant.

3) **ESSER Funding - COVID-19 School Health and Safety Grants (FY20-21).**

- a. TBD, pending amendment to the ESSER grant between PA Department of Education and the US Department of Education.

4) **COVID-19 Nonpublic School Health and Safety Grants (FY20-21).**

**a. Funding Availability:**

A total of \$7.5 million from the School Safety and Security Fund is being announced to support this initiative. The SSSC may fund up to 29 intermediate units on behalf of nonpublic schools for a project period not to exceed one year.

Budget requests shall be limited to the requirements outlined in Act 30. Intermediate units are eligible for awards of up to \$10,000. Intermediate units making targeted grant applications on behalf of a combination of nonpublic schools are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 for each nonpublic school. For example, an intermediate unit applying on behalf of 20 nonpublic schools in its service area is eligible to apply for up to \$210,000

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<sup>2</sup> **NOTE:** Activities and items under 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(1-21) and (23) are not eligible expenses under this solicitation.

(i.e., 20 schools x \$10,000 maximum budget + \$10,000 for the intermediate unit). Per HB 1210, in carrying out the duties of this application, the intermediate unit may not use more than 2% of the money the intermediate unit receives under this section for targeted grant administration.

Intermediate units requesting funds on behalf of nonpublic schools must include a letter of support from the nonpublic school. Letters of support should be attached to the application in the Required Attachments section.

A workgroup comprised of representatives from the SSSC and PCCD shall review applications and make recommendations for funding at the July 29, 2020 SSSC meeting. To ensure geographic distribution of awards as required by 24 P.S. §13-1313-B(d)(2), funding to intermediate units may be allocated based on the average of both the total percentage of the population of the intermediate unit's region and the total percentage of their funding request in comparison to the state. Final award allocations will be determined by the SSSC.

**b. Project Dates:**

**Applications will be approved at the July 29, 2020 SSSC meeting.** Project period start date will be July 1, 2020 and end date shall be June 30, 2021. Any eligible purchase made by the applicant or any recipient agencies must be made during the project period.

**c. Eligible Applicants:**

This funding announcement is open to intermediate units only. Intermediate units may apply on behalf of nonpublic schools, which are defined by 24 P.S. §9-923.3-A as "any school, other than a public school within this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241)."

**d. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses:**

Per 24 P.S. §13-1313-B(b), targeted grant awards to intermediate units on behalf of nonpublic schools shall be to fund the following programs, items or services which address the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency:

- (1) purchasing of cleaning and sanitizing products that meet the centers for disease control and prevention or department of health criteria.
- (2) training and professional development of staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- (3) purchasing of equipment, including personal protective equipment, thermometers, infrared cameras and other necessary items.
- (4) modification of existing areas to effectuate appropriate social distancing to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.
- (5) providing mental health services and supports, including trauma-informed approaches for students impacted by the covid-19 disaster emergency.
- (6) purchasing educational technology for distance learning to ensure the

continuity of education.

(7) other health and safety programs, items or services necessary to address the covid-19 disaster emergency.

**e. Application Procedure:**

Applications must be submitted electronically through PCCD's Egrants system. Intermediate units must submit the requested information for each section specified below within the defined response fields provided in Egrants. Responses should not be duplicated in multiple sections.

**i. Executive Summary**

All applicants should fill out the following script and paste into the executive summary section:

The name of applicant is requesting \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide a single sentence or two of what you are seeking to implement with your grant funding.

These funds will be used for the following: provide bullet points of what the funds will be used for as well as what nonpublic schools within your service area will receive funds.

Please note that responses in this section may be used in PCCD grant summaries, to fulfill Right-to-Know requests, or be posted publicly. Plain language that clearly describes the intent of the project is most effective.

**ii. Program Activities**

This section is a checklist included in the Egrants application process. Applicants are required to select one or more of the seven items or activities included in 24 P.S. §13-1313-B(b) that directly relate to their application.<sup>3</sup> Applicants should determine which eligible category or categories best fit their project.

**iii. Project Narrative**

The project narrative should be brief, and include the following information:

- Provide a general overview of the intermediate unit's service area, the nonpublic schools that are part of that region, and the need for resources to address COVID-19 within that area;
- Provide a general overview of the programs, items or services requested in the application as a whole and provide justification as to how the application will adequately address identified needs; and
- If applying on behalf of a nonpublic school or multiple nonpublic schools, provide a list of those schools and include an overview of the programs, items or services the nonpublic school intends to utilize.

**iv. Budget Detail**

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<sup>3</sup> **NOTE:** Activities and items under 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(1-21) and (23) are not eligible expenses under this solicitation.

All applicants should create one budget that includes all expenses not exceeding the budget allocations allowed for in Act 30. Intermediate units are eligible for awards of up to \$10,000. Intermediate units making targeted grant applications on behalf of a combination of nonpublic schools are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 for each nonpublic school. For example, an intermediate unit applying on behalf of 20 nonpublic schools in its service area is eligible to apply for up to \$210,000 (i.e., 20 schools x \$10,000 maximum budget + \$10,000 for the intermediate unit).

**NOTE ON INDIRECT/ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:** Per Act 30, in carrying out the duties of this application, the intermediate unit may not use more than 2% of the money the intermediate unit receives under this section for targeted grant administration.

**If intermediate units are applying on behalf of a nonpublic school or schools within their area, each nonpublic school identified to receive funding is to be entered in the “Consultant” category of the budget.** Applicants should use the “Consultant” budget category within the Budget Detail section to provide an explanation of what each nonpublic school is requesting. A letter of support from the nonpublic school that provides a clear understanding of each line item requested, its purpose, and total cost shall also be included with the application.

**Technical assistance tutorials/guides for the Budget Detail section will be found on PCCD’s website and will be referenced in the solicitation.**

v. **Certification**

This section requires the applicant to certify in Egrants via a checkbox that the funds will be used for the stated purpose in the grant.

5) **Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grants (FY20-21).**

- a. Framework for CVP/R Grants to be determined later; see timeline above.