

DOJ School Safety Intervention Teams and Mental Health Training

Summary

DOJ's Office of School Safety announces an advanced initiative focusing on student mental health and the creation of local collaborative teams of educators, counselors, and law enforcement officers to address school safety, identify and interview students that may need help, and respond to threats. The goal of this program is to train 10% of all teachers in advanced mental health issues, and to install school safety intervention teams in every school. The program is supported by an incentive-based grant program that covers the costs of mental health training, school safety intervention teams, and additional physical security upgrades and innovations. This round of grants will award approximately \$45 million of the \$100 million School Safety Grant Initiative.

Application Process

Every interested public school district, charter school, tribal school, and governing board of private schools must submit a mandatory "intent to apply" before the actual application. This will allow DOJ to forecast the approximate award each applicant will receive, and then notify the applicant of the anticipated award amount. This procedure will allow the applicant to properly prepare the budget in their application.

In the "intent to apply," the applicant will certify that they will meet all of the prerequisites below in order to receive their award.

Existing grantees (i.e. those who applied in the first round of grant funding) will apply with a short pre-filled application by simply updating the information originally submitted in the first round, appending their new budget expenditures. New applicants will complete a full grant application. Specific information on how to perform these steps will be published in the grant announcement.

Funding Formula

Among other information, applicants will provide their most-recent student enrollment, as reported by DPI, in their "intent to apply." Award amounts in this round will be calculated using a per-student formula.

Almost every school registered with Wisconsin DPI is eligible to receive funds.¹ No awardee will receive less than \$10,000 nor more than \$2.5 million dollars, ensuring all applicants will receive sufficient funding to make meaningful advances in school safety.

The award amount ultimately depends on the number and size of schools that apply. *For illustrative purposes only*, assuming the same applicants applied as in the first round, awards would amount to *approximately* \$50/student. Actual award amounts will be calculated based on

¹ Virtual schools, Department of Corrections schools, and juvenile detention centers are ineligible for funds.

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the amount of money available after all first round awards are processed; after the “intent to apply” period is over; and incorporating the aforementioned caps.

Prerequisites to Receive Award

Applicants must satisfy all prerequisites from the first round of grant funding, whether or not they applied for funds in that process. (Applicants who participated in the first round of grants have already agreed to meet these requirements.) In addition, all applicants for this round of grant funding must agree to meet additional requirements. The prerequisites are summarized below—they will be explained in detail in the grant announcement.

1. Prerequisites from the first round of grant funding:
 - a. Provide a minimum of 3 hours of ACE/Trauma Sensitive Schools training to all full-time teachers, aides, counselors, and administrators by the end of the 2018-2019 school year
 - b. Applicants must certify that both of the below security practices will be met:
 - i. All entrances to the school are locked during the school day; *and*
 - ii. A designated staff member is present to visually screen everyone entering the school through an unlocked point of access whenever an exterior entrance is unlocked prior to, during, or immediately after the regular school day.
 - c. Applicants must certify that each school has a written visitor protocol
 - d. Applicants must demonstrate responsible fiscal budgeting by describing efforts to contain costs
 - e. Applicant submits letters of support from all of the local law enforcement agencies (police departments and sheriff’s offices) that have jurisdiction over a school building
 - f. Applicant coordinates with local law enforcement agency to ensure that applicant’s door security practices are reviewed and, if appropriate, immediately improved
2. Additional prerequisites new to this round of grant funding:
 - a. Minimum training requirements (all applicants)
 - i. Agree to send 10% of full-time teachers and counselors to a DOJ-approved 12-hour Adolescent Mental Health training program by August 31, 2020. Grant funds may be used to pay this expense (see “financial incentives,” below).
 - b. Establish an ongoing School Safety Intervention Team (SSIT) by August 31, 2020, following the DOJ’s standardized guidelines
 - i. SSIT performs ongoing violence-related threat assessments, behavior monitoring, and intervention. SSIT tracks, monitors, assists, intervenes with at-risk youth.
 - ii. Threat Assessment Team (TAT)
 1. Utilize standardized DOJ TAT process, format, and organization
 2. Utilize standardized DOJ Violence Risk Assessment (VRA)

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3. Report VRA data from specific, plausible, and imminent threats to the DOJ utilizing DOJ reporting form
- iii. SSIT members must include:
 1. At least one member that has completed the 12-hour Adolescent Mental Health training
 2. At least one member that has completed Threat Assessment Team training
 3. At least one member of a local law enforcement agency
- iv. Schools would typically have a SSIT in each middle and high school, with multiple elementary schools perhaps sharing an SSIT. However, due to unique school differences, SSITs may be a multi-school, district-wide, or regional team with case-by-case approval from the Office of School Safety
- v. Applicant submits a letter of support from the law enforcement agency that will be part of the SSIT
- vi. SSIT must meet at regular intervals, in person, no less than once per quarter, but more regularly if determined necessary by the SSIT
- c. Participate in and promote the DOJ confidential reporting application or tip line, when this is developed and deployed

Financial Incentives

Public, private, charter, and tribal schools that agree to the prerequisites will receive funding. Funding is limited to the following eligible expenditures:

1. Training cost reimbursement, including the National Institute for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice/National Association of School Resource Officers Adolescent Mental Health training and Wisconsin DOJ Threat Assessment Team training. Eligible expenditures include:
 - a. Tuition
 - b. Mileage, lodging, and meals at state rates
 - c. Regular substitute teacher pay rate for substitutes covering classes for teachers attending training. Reimbursement is the school's short-term/daily substitute rate for substitute teachers directly employed by a school; or the actual cost to the district for contracted short-term/daily substitute services (such as Teachers On Call™, etc.). [Examples: Metro School District directly pays substitute teachers \$157.27/day, so is eligible for \$157.27 reimbursement. Happy School District contracts with Teachers On Call, through which substitutes are paid \$105—but Happy SD pays a 27% surcharge to Teachers On Call, generating an actual district cost of \$133.35 eligible for reimbursement.]
 - d. Hourly pay for teachers attending training outside of school contract days, at the school's standard hourly rate for such activity, for actual hours in training.
 - e. Other training topics eligible for reimbursement include:
 - i. Emergency Operation Plans and/or Standard Response Protocol
 - ii. Student resiliency/school climate & culture, assisting students in adapting well to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant stress

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- iii. DOJ-approved school resource officer training for school SROs (paid for by school)
 - iv. Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Sensitive Schools
 - v. Youth Mental Health First Aid
 - vi. PREPaRE
 - vii. Evidence-based violence prevention programs
 - viii. How to respond during an active shooter event
 - ix. Security assessment training
 - x. “Train-the-trainer” courses to enable ongoing/recurring training in any of the above topics
2. Physical infrastructure improvement
- a. Relocating or remodeling entry ways to enhance security
 - b. Door locks, including electronic locks, for classrooms; and/or door replacement or upgrades necessary to increase security
 - c. Video intercom systems
 - d. Exit door alarms
 - e. Intrafacility emergency communication systems such as PA systems, radios, phone apps, etc.
 - f. Security cameras
 - g. Signs such as “Emergency Exit Only”, “Visitors Register at Front Office”, “No Entrance”, exterior door numbering, etc.
 - h. Fences and gates
 - i. Shatter-resistant film with necessary glass-frame bonding agent for entry doors, interior classroom door glass, and/or door sidelites that are more than 12” wide and allow easy floor-level access adjacent to doors. Applications for interior shatter-resistant film should address why barricading glass entry points is not a feasible alternative. [Security film expenditures capped at \$15/sq. ft. installed.]
3. Novel expenditures
- a. Incident command/emergency operation equipment, software, or student reunification tools
 - b. Law enforcement direct notification systems; panic buttons; and/or visual signaling equipment
 - c. First-aid kits and/or training
 - d. Vehicle bollards
 - e. Lockdown shades or similar visual obscurements
 - f. Visitor management & screening systems

Timetable

Announcement	July 24, 2018
Intent to Apply period opens	July 24, 2018
Intent to Apply deadline	August 13, 2018
Grant application period opens	August 15, 2018
Grant application deadline	August 30, 2018
Grants announced/awarded	October, 2018