

Funding Opportunity Announcement for School Safety Improvement Funding for PK-12 Schools

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Education has opened the application period for School Districts throughout Iowa to apply for funding for school safety improvements. To be eligible to apply for School Safety Improvement funding, a current vulnerability assessment is required.

Vulnerability Assessment

This program makes available school safety experts to review individual PK-12 school buildings for vulnerabilities that could be exploited in an active assailant/armed intruder scenario. School districts (public and private) can request a vulnerability assessment for their individual PK-12 school buildings through completion of the “School Safety Vulnerability Assessment” survey issued by the Iowa Department of Education in the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA) system. NOTE: All vulnerability assessments offered through this program must be requested and completed no later than December 31, 2023.

School Safety Improvement Funding

Upon completion of a vulnerability assessment(s), School districts (public and private), may apply for the School Safety Improvement grant funding. Each School district may apply for up to \$50,000 per school building to make capital security improvements aligned with each building’s completed vulnerability assessment recommendations.

The period of performance begins at the time of receipt of the approved subaward documentation and ends on December 31, 2024. Therefore, all costs incurred prior to the approved subaward and after December 31, 2024, are not eligible uses of these funds.

School districts (public and private) must indicate and provide their Notice of Interest (NOI) in the School Safety Improvement grant funding opportunity through completion of the “School Safety Improvement Funding NOI” survey issued by the Iowa Department of Education in the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA) system. Once a school district (public and private) has indicated their notice of interest through the CASA survey, further instructions on how to apply for the funding will be provided to the school district’s POC designated within their survey response.

Successful applicants to this funding opportunity must submit the following:

1. Verification of current vulnerability assessment completed for each school building for which funds are being sought.
 - a. Please note that any vulnerability assessments completed prior to the application cannot be more than 3 years old. Vulnerability assessments must include defined vulnerabilities and options for consideration to mitigate vulnerabilities.
 - b. A vulnerability assessment must be completed by one of the three options listed below:
 1. Assessment by the State of Iowa and/or the State of Iowa contracted 3rd party entity
 2. Assessment by Law Enforcement
 3. Assessment by Vulnerability Assessment Services Providers*
- *Contracting with a vulnerability assessment service provider will not be a reimbursable expense under this School Safety Improvement Funding.
- c. A vulnerability assessment completed utilizing a school self-assessment tool or vulnerability assessment service provider other than the State of Iowa and/or the State of Iowa contracted 3rd party entity will be required to have an official letter from local law enforcement validating the vulnerabilities and options for consideration identified from the self-assessment.
- d. A copy of a valid vulnerability assessment and/or other documentation, as outlined above, must be submitted as part of the completed application.

2. Completion of an application in the format provided by HSEMD.

Provisions of the Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200) and Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities

All applicants must follow the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Single Audit Act Requirements.

1. Uniform Administrative Requirements – Successful applicants also known as subrecipients are responsible for ensuring that all procured goods and services using Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funds, or payments under procurement contracts using such funds, are consistent with the procurement and contracting federal requirements set forth in the 2 CFR, Subpart D, 200.318 through 200.327, including Appendix II. The Uniform Guidance establishes in 2 CFR 200.319 that all procurement transactions for property or services must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, consistent with standards outlined in 2 CFR 200.320, which allows for non-competitive procurements only in certain circumstances. A subrecipient will need to update its written procurement policies and procedures if they do not conform to these federal requirements.
2. Cost Principles – The subrecipient is responsible for the efficient and effective administration of this subaward through the application of sound management practices. The subrecipient assumes responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal subaward. The application of these cost principles should require no significant changes in the internal accounting policies and practices of the subrecipient.

However, the accounting practices of the subrecipient must be consistent with the cost principles in 2 CFR Part 200 and support the accumulation of costs as required by the principles, and must provide for adequate documentation to support costs charged to the Federal subaward.

3. Single Audit Act - Subrecipients that spend more than \$750,000 in federal awards during the entity's fiscal year, including ARPA funds, must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year compliant with 2 CFR 200 Subpart F. This audit must cover the compliance of the entity with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award, as well as the fair presentation of the entity's financial statements, pursuant to the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200).
4. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Guidance on Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities – The subrecipient is responsible for understanding the requirements of the Guidance document and terms and conditions of the subaward.

Program Objective:

As a response to the increase in mass shootings exacerbated by the pandemic, the State of Iowa has designed this program as a proportional response to the harm experienced. This program addresses the overall pandemic trend of increased mass shootings, and more specifically school shootings. This program allows schools to:

1. Perform security assessments in concert with local authorities and assist the schools in creating and improving school security plans,
2. Invest in minor capital improvements for security enhancements from one or more of the six categories identified as eligible minor capital improvements. The six categories of eligible minor capital improvements are entry control, electronic security and communication systems, barriers, perimeter security, illumination and building envelope.

Examples include and are not limited to:

- Locks, ID actuated systems, duress alarms, intrusion detection systems, radios, mass notification systems, cameras, video servers, fixed or moveable barriers, fencing, security lighting, blast/safety film, reinforced doors, doorframes and windows, call buttons, door prop sensors, etc.