



STOP School Violence Act 101

BJA Grant Applications



Presenters

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- ▶ **Superintendent Philip Downs**, Southwest Allen County Schools, IN



Today's Agenda

- ▶ ***Feel free to ask questions at any time!***
- ▶ **Brief Overview**
 - ▶ About the STOP School Violence Act
 - ▶ Allowable Uses for Grant Funding
 - ▶ Eligibility to Apply
 - ▶ Award Categories
 - ▶ Deadlines
- ▶ **Example of Evidence-Based Programs**
- ▶ **Detailed Application Process**
 - ▶ Requirements as a federal grantee
 - ▶ What to include in application
 - ▶ Scoring
 - ▶ Details of each section
 - ▶ Logistics of Applying
 - ▶ Tips



Bipartisan STOP School Violence Act passed March 23, 2018 to prevent violence and suicide in schools



- ▶ Before Parkland, Sandy Hook Promise drafted & led this legislation, in coordination with education partners like AASA, to prevent future tragedies

- ▶ Led by bipartisan Members:
 - ▶ **House:** Rep. Rutherford (R-FL), Rep. Deutch (D-FL), Rep. Rogers (R-KY), Rep. Kilmer (D-WA)
 - ▶ **Senate:** Sen. Hatch (R-UT), Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN), Sen. Cornyn (R-TX), Sen. Capito (R-WV), Sen. Murphy (D-CT), Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)

- ▶ The Act authorized grants for the following:
 - ▶ **Violence & Suicide Prevention Trainings** for school personnel, students, and local law enforcement **and** trainings on handling **mental health crises** for school personnel
 - ▶ Development & Operation of **School Threat Assessment Teams & Crisis Intervention Teams**
 - ▶ Development & Operation of **Anonymous Reporting Systems**
 - ▶ **School Security Equipment & technology**



\$100M in 2019 for STOP School Violence Act Grants

Under the Department of Justice:
\$75M for BJA & \$25M for COPS

1. Available BJA Applications:

1. **\$34.3 Million** for BJA STOP School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Grant
2. **\$34.1 Million** for BJA STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Programs
3. **\$6 Million** for BJA Training and Technical Assistance (STOP TTA) Program

Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Grant Allowable Uses



- ▶ **School Threat Assessment & Teams:**
 - ▶ Threat assessment for individuals
 - ▶ Security Surveys
 - ▶ Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) training and implementation
 - ▶ Target hardening prevention programs with the intention to limit access to school property to prevent acts of school violence
- ▶ **Crisis Intervention Teams:**
 - ▶ Coordination with law enforcement, school officials, and possibly other disciplines in the community
- ▶ **Technology that addresses Anonymous Reporting:**
 - ▶ Apps, Hotlines or Website development and implementation
 - ▶ Apps that can assist with school personnel and students during an active shooter incident
 - ▶ Notification and sharing information with first responders

State School Safety Centers (SSSCs)



- ▶ **State school safety centers (SSSCs) provide school districts and staff, parents, and students with training, tools, and technical assistance to enhance the safety and security of American schools.**
 - ▶ Centers may also develop, review, and disseminate school safety resources to local school divisions and law enforcement, facilitate school safety audits, provide technical assistance, and develop partnerships to promote school safety.
- ▶ **The solicitation seeks to support SSSCs in the following activities:**
 - ▶ Assistant state and local school divisions and law enforcement in conducting school threat assessments
 - ▶ Assisting local school divisions in providing training for public school personnel in school safety, in the effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and in need of special services or assistance; and
 - ▶ Assisting in the development of state model standards, policies, protocols for training and risk management strategies

School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Grant Allowable Uses



Training & Education:

- ▶ Educate students and school staff on indications of behaviors that might turn into violence (including suicide)

AND/OR

- ▶ Specialized training sessions for school officials related to responding to related mental health crises that may precipitate violent attacks on school grounds

Who Can Apply



- **Eligible to Submit Grant Applications:**

- ▶ States
- ▶ Cities
- ▶ Counties
- ▶ Schools Districts
- ▶ Federally Recognized Indian Tribes
- ▶ **Applicants with 2 or more entities:**
 - ▶ I.e. local governments or multiple school districts may apply, but only ONE may be the applicant and others must be proposed as subrecipients
- ▶ **Subgrantees/Subrecipients:**
 - ▶ Nonprofits, Local Education Agencies, and Tribal organizations are authorized to be subgrantees
- ▶ *Note: There are no matching/cost-sharing requirements as there were in FY18*

FY19 Geographic Distribution of Funding

- ▶ **Category 1 – State with Pop. Greater Than 5M**
 - ▶ Up to \$1,000,000
- ▶ **Category 2 – State with Pop. Less Than 5M**
 - ▶ Up to \$500,000
- ▶ **Category 3 – Urban Area/Large County With Pop. Greater Than 500K**
 - ▶ Up to \$500,000
- ▶ **Category 4 – Suburban Area/Medium-Sized County With Pop. Between 100-500K**
 - ▶ Up to \$250,000
- ▶ **Category 5 – Rural Area/Small County With Pop. Less Than 100K**
 - ▶ Up to \$150,000
- ▶ **Category 6 – Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**
 - ▶ Up to \$100,000
- ▶ **Category 7 – Technology & Anonymous Reporting**
 - ▶ No Population Requirement **Only for technology and anonymous reporting*
 - ▶ Up to \$200,000
- ▶ **Category 8 – State School Safety Center**
 - ▶ States **Only for technology and anonymous reporting*
 - ▶ Up to \$1,000,000

Awards for:

- **Threat Assessment Program:**
 - Category 1 → 8 awards
 - Category 2 → 8 awards
 - Category 3 → 8 awards
 - Category 4 → 18 awards
 - Category 5 → 13 awards
 - Category 6 → 6 awards
- **Technology-Anonymous Reporting:**
 - Category 7 → 17 awards
- **State School Safety Center**
 - Category 8 → 7 awards
- **School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program:**
 - Category 1 → 11 awards
 - Category 2 → 12 awards
 - Category 3 → 15 awards
 - Category 4 → 21 awards
 - Category 5 → 25 awards
 - Category 6 → 6 awards



Notes on Geographic Distribution of Funding

Note: Applicants applying for categories 1-6, and 8, may also apply for category 7 in a separate application. Applicants applying for categories 1-2 may also apply for category 8 in a separate application.

Note: Some OJP solicitations contain multiple purpose areas, denoted by the Competition ID. Make sure to select the appropriate Competition ID for the intended purpose area of the application (i.e. applying for Category 1 vs. Category 2 has a different Competition ID)



Training and Technical Assistance (STOP TTA) Program

*New Program for FY19

- ▶ **The STOP TTA Program is open to:**
 - ▶ Any
 - ▶ National nonprofit organization
 - ▶ For-profit organization (including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organizations)
 - ▶ Institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education)
 - ▶ That has expertise and experience in managing TTA for evidence-based school safety programs that are national in scope
- ▶ **Program Goal:**
 - ▶ To provide Training and Technical Assistance, on behalf of BJA, and other support to awardees under all three STOP School Violence Grant Programs (BJA Prevention and Mental Health, BJA Technology and Threat Assessment, and COPS Program), in order to develop a knowledge base and technical assistance delivery model for communities seeking to improve school safety.
- ▶ **Important to Note:**
 - ▶ Only 1 STOP TTA Grant will be awarded – for up to \$6 million



Important Dates



- ▶ APPLICATION DEADLINE – Technology and Threat Assessment: **11:59 PM EST, June 11, 2019**
- ▶ APPLICATION DEADLINE – Prevention and Mental Health, STOP TTA: **11:59 PM EST, June 18, 2019**
- ▶ Award Date by **September 30th, 2019**
- ▶ Up to a 36-month performance period beginning October 1, 2019

All Programs are Required to be “Evidence-Based”



Programs (Including Threat Assessment & Crisis Intervention Teams):

Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on:

1. Strong evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
2. Moderate evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
3. Promising evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias;

Technology & Security Equipment

1. Consistent with best practices for school security, including: applicable standards for school security established by a federal or state government agency;
2. Findings and recommendations of public commissions and task forces established to make recommendations or set standards for school security; and is
3. Compliant with all applicable codes, including building and life safety codes;

Example Programs



- ▶ National Institute of Justice's Comprehensive School Safety Initiative
 - ▶ <https://nij.gov/topics/crime/school-crime/pages/school-safety-initiative.aspx#about>
- ▶ Office of Justice Programs Crime Solutions:
 - ▶ www.CrimeSolutions.gov
- ▶ Sandy Hook Promise's Evidence-based Know the Signs and Anonymous Reporting System
 - ▶ **Know the Signs Programs:**
https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/prevention_programs
 - ▶ **Anonymous Reporting System:**
https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/anonymous_reporting_system
- ▶ Likely Many Others that Would Qualify

Example FY18 BJA Application – South Allen County Schools, IN



- ▶ **High Performing District**
- ▶ **7400+ Students**
 - ▶ **6 Elementary Schools**
 - ▶ **2 Middle Schools**
 - ▶ **1 High School**
- ▶ **15% Free/Reduced Lunch**
- ▶ **Bottom 5% for State Funding**
- ▶ **Taxpayer supported General**
- ▶ **Fund Referendum**
- ▶ **Suburban and Rural**



Reason for Applying

- ▶ SACS had growing concern about the increasing number of students and staff with ACES
- ▶ Parkland focused significant attention to school safety and concerns regarding mental health
- ▶ Failure to address mental health concerns have been observed prior to incidents of school violence
- ▶ Metal detectors and arming teachers does not address the root cause leading to school violence
- ▶ SACS decided to focus on preventative programming to address the issues leading up to school violence



Grant Application Experience



- ▶ Decided in early June to apply
- ▶ The writing of the grant was the sole focus and project for the Director of Student Services for approximately 5 weeks
- ▶ SACS reached out to other districts, however due to the timeframe required for completion and the time of year (summer break), SACS was a sole applicant Communication to complete the grant was facilitated through help desk assistance and email communication

Grant Award Notification



- ▶ SACS was notified the last weekend of September that we received the grant and we were awarded the maximum amount possible equaling \$250,000
- ▶ Communication arrived via email from Bureau of Justice Assistance including award details
- ▶ we received the grant and we were awarded the maximum amount possible equaling \$250,000
- ▶ Communication arrived via email from Bureau of Justice Assistance including award details

Grant Goals



- ▶ Purchase research and evidence based social-emotional curriculum and instructional materials
- ▶ Partner with outside agencies to provide access to mental health counseling
- ▶ Hire a district level educational neuroscience coach/coordinator
- ▶ Partner with Dr. Lori Desautels of Butler University to provide professional development, coaching and training in educational neuroscience for all staff

Grant Dollars



- ▶ Grant was approved curriculum purchasing, a district level counselor/mental health counselor and the Desautels partnership; SACS has submitted changes to include a district level neuroscience coach position
- ▶ SACS has been able to bring Dr. Desautels and her team for training eight times so far
- ▶ The P.D. has provided strategies to create optimal learning environments to support students and staff where they are on any given day, regardless of background and experiences

Impact on Community

- ▶ Community support is strong
- ▶ There is widespread support to address the prevention of school violence through proactive programming
- ▶ This approach is seen as our best opportunity to build the healthy relationships necessary to get in front of potentially violent situations within the school setting



Advice for other School Leaders



- ▶ Apply!
- ▶ This grant was highly competitive, we had no idea what we were up against in terms of other applications
- ▶ Focus on prevention; rely on the research and evidence based strategies and resources
- ▶ Take note of the research behind the causes of violence, particularly school violence.
- ▶ Schools can't do it all so develop partnerships in the community



Details of the Grant Application

Important things to consider before applying



▶ **Federal Grant Compliance**

- ▶ Ensure compliance with all federal laws, regulations, and rules – including oversight of subgrantees and procurement contracts
- ▶ Maintain internal financial controls over you and subgrantees/contractors

▶ **Regular Reporting Requirements**

- ▶ Quarterly Financial Reports
- ▶ Biannual Progress Reports Performance Measurements (and M & E) – **See Appendix A**
 - ▶ *I.e.: # Trainings completed, # staff/students trained, school threat assessment completed, etc.*
 - ▶ *Note threat assessment includes demographic data, grade, assessment elements of self-harm and/or harm to others, events that led up to assessment, and interventions or dispositions*
- ▶ OJP strongly encourages applicants to review information on post-award legal requirements and common OJP award conditions **prior to** submitting an application

Restrictions

- ▶ Funds awarded by BJA may not be used for purchase or provision of a firearm or of equipment to secure buildings, or to pay for armed security or School Safety/Resource Officers.
- ▶ No funds will be provided to successful FY 2018 applicants to perform the same work stated in the original application.



What to Include in your Application

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
 - a. Intergovernmental Review
2. Project Abstract
3. Program Narrative
4. Budget Detail Worksheet
5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)
7. Financial Management & System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
8. Disclosure of *Federal* Lobbying Activities
9. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
10. Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees
11. Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
12. Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation
13. Additional Attachments:
 - a. Program Timeline
 - b. Position Descriptions/Resumes
 - c. Sustainability Plan
 - d. *For Technology and Threat Assessment* - Documentation of Anticipated Benefit to Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs)
 - 1) A QOZ is an economically-distressed community where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment.



Application Scoring

75% Weight in Program Narrative



Score	Item	Location in Application
20%	Description of Issue	Program Narrative
30%	Program Design & Implementation	Program Narrative
20%	Capabilities and Competencies of the Applicant	Program Narrative
5%	Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitations' Performance Measurements	Program Narrative
15%	Budget Worksheet & Narrative	Budget Worksheet & Narrative
10%	Sustainability Plan	Other Attachment

Program Abstract



- ▶ Summary of Your Proposed Program
 - ▶ **400 words or less**
 - ▶ Written for general public audience
 - ▶ Separate Attachment
 - ▶ **Single-space, using 12-point font (Times New Roman) and 1 inch margins**
 - ▶ Does not count against Program Narrative Page Limit

Program Narrative

- ▶ **No More than 10 Pages**
 - ▶ Double-Spaced, using 12 point Font (Times New Roman, 1 inch Margin, numbered pages i.e. “1 of 10, 2 of 10”)
 - ▶ At Top: category applying for; justification why you are eligible & population
- ▶ **Elements:**
 - ▶ **Statement of the Problem (20%)**
 - ▶ **Specific** problem in state/community/schools- **DETAILED**
 - ▶ *Note: recommend including tragedies to show need*
 - ▶ **Program Design & Implementation (30%)**
 - ▶ How program will address the problem- identifying project activity
 - ▶ **You’ll include which programs you plan to use here**
 - ▶ Address deliverables (performance measurements)
 - ▶ Note that you’ve consulted with others in community including law enforcement, MH professionals, etc.
 - ▶ **Capabilities & Competencies of the Applicant (20%)**
 - ▶ Why you & subrecipients are capable of managing this federal grant
 - ▶ **Plans for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measurements (5%)**
 - ▶ What your process will be for collecting data- however don’t have to submit measures
- ▶ Note: Applicants are NOT required to submit performance data with the application.



Budget Detail & Narrative

▶ Detailed Worksheet- Excel Document

- ▶ OJP has a pre-designed worksheet that will automatically fill
- ▶ Make sure to itemize your budget
 - ▶ **Note: no pre-agreement costs**
- ▶ Indirect Cost Rate
 - ▶ If you have a federally approved rate- include
 - ▶ If not- 10% is the “de minimis” rate

▶ Narrative

- ▶ Thoroughly describe each category included and why
- ▶ I.e. explaining why in-person meeting or webinar is best for the training



Program Timeline

- ▶ **Applicants should attach a program timeline with:**
 - ▶ Each program objective
 - ▶ Related activities
 - ▶ Expected completion dates
 - ▶ Responsible person(s) or organization(s)



Sustainability Plan

- ▶ How program or technology will continue **after the federal funding ends**
 - ▶ Note we recommend for trainings to have sustainability to have “refresher” courses even after implementation for new staff & students

- ▶ Important:
 - ▶ Don't assume you will receive additional federal funding (however note you can apply or be considered for continuation funding)
 - ▶ Could be other state, local or private funding





Other Federal Grant Tips

Registering as a New Federal Grantee

- ▶ If new to Federal Grants – Need to Apply for Basic Requirements
- ▶ Recommend starting by **May 24, 2019 for Technology and Threat Assessment or May 31, 2019 for Prevention and Mental Health or STOP TTA**
 - ▶ DUNS Number (takes 2 business days)
 - ▶ SAM.gov (can take up to 10 business days)
 - ▶ Transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take 2 business days
 - ▶ Grants.gov and Authorized Organizational Representative
 - ▶ Acquire confirmation for AOR for E-Business point of contact



Congressional Letters of Support

▶ Letters of Support from Member of Congress/Senator

- ▶ Members of Congress are able to send a letter of support for your application to the Department of Justice
- ▶ Coordinate with Congressional staff (often staff in the District Office) to secure one of these letters



Final Tips

- ▶ **Start working on Application NOW**
 - ▶ Average federal grant application takes about a month

- ▶ Follow the grant solicitation to the “T”
 - ▶ Small errors can disqualify an application

- ▶ Designate one person to manage the application drafting “Owner”, and other “helpers” to assist with specific parts

- ▶ Save Files using allowable file (i.e. PDF) and naming
 - ▶ “Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet, Timelines, Memorandum of Understanding, Resumes”

- ▶ Register as a new federal grant applicant by **May 24th, 2019 for Technology and Threat Assessment and by May 31st, 2019 for Prevention and Mental Health or STOP TTA**

- ▶ Submit Application 72 hours before deadline – **June 8th at 11:59 PM EST for Technology and Threat Assessment, June 15th at 11:59 PM EST for Prevention and Mental Health or STOP TTA**
 - ▶ Avoid any issues with unaccepted application & notice
 - ▶ Will receive 2 notices- 1st Receipt and 2nd validated and successful submission



Helpful Resources

- ▶ Grant Applications:
 - ▶ **Trainings:** <https://www.bja.gov/funding/STOPMHT19.pdf>
 - ▶ **Threat Assessment & ARS:** <https://www.bja.gov/funding/Stoptech19.pdf>
 - ▶ **STOP TTA:** <https://www.bja.gov/funding/STOPTTA19.pdf>

- ▶ BJA Grant Writing Manual:
 - ▶ <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/GrantWritingManual.pdf>

- ▶ BJA Grant Writing Academy (training):
 - ▶ <https://www.bja.gov/GWMA/>

- ▶ Budget Detail Worksheet:
 - ▶ <https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Forms/BudgetDetailWorksheet.htm>

- ▶ DOJ Online Financial Management Training:
 - ▶ DOJ Training: <https://ojpfgm.webfirst.com/>



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Questions?



Questions after the Webinar?

- ▶ **Email Sandy Hook Promise Rep:**
 - ▶ Katrina.Velasquez@centerroadsolutions.com

- ▶ **Grants.Gov Customer Support Hotline**
 - ▶ 800-518-4726 or 606—545-5035
 - ▶ [Grants.gov/web/grants/support.html](https://grants.gov/web/grants/support.html)
 - ▶ support@grants.gov